

Enjoy this issue as you explore principles and practices that support the living landscape.

July 2020



Advocating for ecological landscape practices  
through education, collaboration, and outreach.

## From the Editor

The seed that grew into the *ELA Newsletter* formed in 1993 as a print publication - *The Ecological Landscaper*, distributed to members only. Over time, *The Ecological Landscaper* moved online, morphed into a monthly E-news version, and ultimately emerged as the *ELA Newsletter*, a free publication available not only to ELA members but to anyone interested in learning about ecological landscapes.

For more than eleven years, it has been my pleasure to help grow the *ELA Newsletter* into the publication it is today, and this month I pass editorship to Georgia Harris. We welcome Georgia's gardening enthusiasm, passion for the environment, and dedication to connecting and communicating with the ecological community. I'm looking forward to watching Georgia grow the *ELA Newsletter* in new and different directions, fulfilling the needs of our ever-expanding audience. Both the newsletter and I have benefited from the sustenance provided by Penny Lewis, ELA's Executive Director; ELA Board members; and the extremely generous and attentive ELA community. I know Georgia will enjoy the same support, and I look forward to continuing my engagement with ELA as Executive Assistant.

This month the newsletter continues the exploration of native plant gardens with our native plant tours. We also explore a wetlands restoration project and learn more about mason bees and pollinator victory gardens. Perhaps most exciting of all, we announce the winners of the 2020 Spotlight on Natives Photo Contest. Thank you to the many photographers who presented a wonderful array of native plants. Their stunning photos embody their affection for these beautiful plants and are truly inspirational. *MPS*



Linda Gurgone;  
*Cimicifuga racemosa*



Barbara Conolly;  
*Betula nigra*

## Spotlight on Natives: Photo Contest Winners 2020 by Georgia Harris

This year our Spotlight on Natives Photo Contest garnered over 200 photos from across the country. While it is exciting every year to see so many lovely photographs of native plants, in this year's climate of uncertainty, it is wonderful to have such a substantial response from our community. We hope this groundswell of interest in native plants and habitat continues to grow and blossom throughout the coming year. [Read the article.](#)



## Restoring the Wetlands of Morris Arboretum by Eloise Gayer

Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania is well known for its abundance of mature trees and horticultural displays. In 2001, the Arboretum began the restoration of a drained wetland that would not only serve as a blueprint for other wetland restoration projects but also create more educational opportunities for the entire community. Learn about the history of this wetland, that was farmland at the turn of the century then one hundred years later was converted back into a natural wetland. [Read the article.](#)

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## Celebrating Natives Garden Tour - Amesbury, MA

Hosted by Nanette Masi

When Nanette and her husband Mike purchased their two-acre property in 1994, the landscape was overrun with invasives, including Japanese knotweed, honeysuckle, barberry, burning bush, and more. Take a walk through Nanette's gardens to savor what 26 years of loving care and native plant choices can bring to an environment. You'll find inspiration in the sanctuary she's created for people, animals, and plants. [Read the article.](#)

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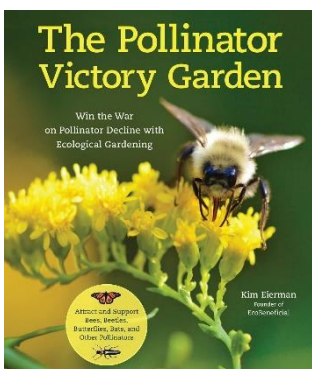


## Celebrating Natives Garden Tour - Andover, MA

Hosted by Willow Cheeley

Fifteen years ago, this homeowner drew on her degree in natural resources and experience as a landscape architect as she began to transition the traditional suburban landscape around her house into an oasis supporting native plants and animals. [Read the article.](#)

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## Book Review

### The Pollinator Victory Garden

Written by Kim Eierman, Quarry Books (2020)

Reviewed by Georgia Harris

I first heard about Kim Eierman's book *The Pollinator Victory Garden* at the beginning of the COVID-19 lockdown. While Eierman could not have predicted that the release of her book would coincide with a pandemic, the timing is particularly appropriate as more people are finding time to work in and enjoy their yards and gardens. [Read the Review.](#)

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## Eco-Answers from the Pros Man-made Houses for Bees with Thomas Berger

I was given a house for bees, but the literature seems to say it is inadequate because the length of tubes is only 3 inches long and should be 7 inches minimum. Is this correct? Why do the tubes need to be so deep? [Read the Eco-Pro's answer.](#) ELA members have spent hundreds of hours learning the best ecological solutions to problems in the landscape. You can benefit from all that accumulated knowledge by posing a question to our experts. If you are stumped by a problem in your landscape or are looking for a second opinion on a potential solution, ask ELA's Eco-Pros. Send your question to [ela\\_new@verizon.net](mailto:ela_new@verizon.net). And if you need additional help, refer to the listing of ELA Professionals.

## Our Advertisers



[Front Stoop Pocket Gardens \(FSPG\)](#) is an ecological landscape design company based in Upstate NY.

Owner and Landscape Designer, [Kate Brittenham](#) is dedicated to providing sustainable landscape designs using native plants and applying ecological principles.

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Join us for the first ever **Open Space unConference** for Landscape Architecture on July 23-24. This is an online conference where **YOU** - the participants - set the agenda and propose discussion topics. The purpose of this conference is to help us identify the changes we want to make to our own profession during this unprecedented time of a global pandemic and civil unrest from racial injustices.

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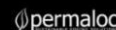
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Larry Weaver, FAPLD, Douglas Tallamy, Ph.D., Chad Adams, AICP, and a diverse group of expert instructors will discuss an eclectic array of landscape topics including the art of naturalistic design, ecology-based landscape creation, organic landscape development, and the representation of African American traditions in landscaping.

**NDAL**  
NATIVE DIRECTIONS IN THE AMERICAN LANDSCAPE

## ELA News

### ELA Welcomes New Board

ELA members recently voted in a slate of officers for a two-year term. The new officers are Rie Machiarollo, President; Mark Highland, Vice-president; Michael Opton, Treasurer; and Dan Jaffe Wilder, Secretary.

Outgoing president Toby Wolf oversaw two years of incredible growth for ELA. Toby recaps his time as ELA Board President and incoming Rie Machiarollo previews the year to come in their [letters to the community](#).

The 2020-2021 ELA Board welcomes two new members, Uli Lorimer and Molly Kerker, who will each serve a three-year term. You can learn more about the newest board members [here](#).

We also thank and bid farewell to two retiring board members, Cindy Goulder and Kevin Staso, both of whom were instrumental in growing ELA's programs in New York and the Mid-Atlantic.



### Your Skills Needed!

Although the Board of Directors oversees ELA's operation and management, many of the events and activities are assisted by the generous help of volunteers. Over the next few months, we hope to fill three volunteer positions listed below. If one of these opportunities resonates with you, please [email us](#) to get more information:

- ~ Treasurer - Helps the Executive Director maintain monthly financial records (~4 hours/month)
- ~ Outreach Coordinator - Looks for opportunities to extend the reach of ELA (~4 hours/month)
- ~ Website Steward - Helps us keep our website refreshed and up-to-date (~4 hours/month)



### ELA Webinars in Two Series Remain Free Through August

A Walk in the Garden webinar series, introduced during the initial stages of COVID-19 quarantining, received an unprecedented response from participants around the world. Over 8,400 individuals registered for the webinar series, and registrations came in from over 1,600 cities ([check this map to see attendee locations](#)). Thank you to our creative and knowledgeable presenters, and thank you to everyone who took time on a Wednesday to stroll through a garden with ELA.

If you missed A Walk in the Garden, the webinars will be available for viewing by non-members through the end of August. Members will continue to have access. [Find the webinar list here](#).

Also through August, ELA is opening up seven seasons of the [Focus on Sustainability](#) webinar series for viewing by non-members. Over 80 webinars explore topics

on a wide range of ecological principles and practices. To access the webinars, viewers simply complete a [quest registration](#).

ELA members enjoy year-round member discounts on the many [talks, tours, and webinars](#) that ELA offers each year on a wide range of topics. Check the ELA website for the list of [Upcoming Events](#) and to [join ELA](#).



### **Volunteer Coffee Is Back - July 22 (New date)**

We're anxious to hear from you. Volunteer for a few minutes this month, or any month, by calling in for virtual coffee with ELA. If you have an idea for a program, heard a terrific speaker, or learned about a great resource call in to share any time between 12:30 and 1:00 on July 22. Email [Maureen@ecolandscaping.org](mailto:Maureen@ecolandscaping.org) for the call-in number. Hope to talk to you then.



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## Gleanings

### **NOFA Moves Classes Online**

Northeast Organic Farming Association will offer its professional accreditation course in organic land care online in August. As demand for organic practices grows, find out how you can transition to organic practices, or learn the latest in chemical-free options. Learn more from [NOFA](#).



### **Black Farmers Fight Against Racism**

Black farmers have ancestral ties to the land - to caring for it, nurturing it, loving it, and allowing it to heal individuals and communities - but they have faced immeasurable discriminatory practices and policies. While community urban farms might seem like the new trendy thing, Black farmers have been tied to and fighting for the right to farm for decades. Read more in [Environmental Health News](#).



### **The Protective Value of Nature**

The National Wildlife Federation just produced a report on the effectiveness of natural infrastructure to lower risk to communities facing damaging weather and climate-changing events. Both models and empirical evidence gathered during weather events point to the fact that having natural infrastructures such as wetlands, reefs, etc have a huge positive impact helping humans mitigate negative effects of weather and climate natural disasters. Find more information and download the report at [nwf.org](#).



### **More Than Pretty Flowers**

Lovely blooming plants are pleasing to the human eye while also providing essential nutrients for pollinators, but pollinators need more than just another pretty flower. Pollinators need nesting spots and messy gardens to live and thrive. Unfortunately, the manicured lawns of suburbia provide little in the way of habitat for our native pollinators. Read more at [Xerces](#).



### **Easing Shoreline Erosion**

Working with The Nature Conservancy and several other local nonprofits, the Coastal Resources Management Council is testing an experimental "living shoreline" to lessen coastal destruction from rising seas due to climate change. Learn more at [ecoRI News](#).



### **Let the Crafts Begin**

While we are all doing staycations this year, it might be a great time to do some arts and crafts with your kids or just for fun. Check out this fun upcycle use of an old tire and let the creative juices flow. Read more in [Birds and Blooms](#).



### **How to Water Lawns During the Summer**

Here's a hint: less is more and timing is critical. Remember we need to move away from the goal of a perfect English Country Manor lawn and embrace a more natural faded look of grass during the hot summer months. Learn more at [Green Newton](#).



### **Plants Love Music Too!**

The Liceu, one of the most important opera houses in the world, hosts its prelude of the 2020/2021 season with this creative and unique concert to an audience filled with plants. The concert is intended to explore our close and essential relationship with nature at this very painful time in the world's history. Read and listen to [EcoWatch](#).



### **The Sounds of Silence**

Scientific studies show having a quiet place to retreat from the noise of everyday life is essential to good health. Quiet Parks International is a nonprofit working to establish certification for quiet parks to raise awareness of the need to preserve the world's quiet places. Read more at [YaleEnvironment360](#).



### **Become a Citizen Scientist**

Xerces Society offers you a chance to contribute to science by contributing meaningful data to further the scientific understanding of key issues. By engaging community members, scientists can collect large amounts of data over diverse areas to help them better understand what is happening in the environment around them. Do your part at [Community Science](#).

### **Firefly Watch Citizen Science Project**

Join Mass Audubon in helping track numbers of fireflies in your own backyard and enjoy a peaceful summer ritual all at the same time. With your help scientist hope to be able to track whether firefly numbers are increasing or decreasing. Find out more at [Firefly Watch Citizen Science Project](#).



### **Love That Dirty Water**

Can microorganisms that eat algae bloom make the Charles swimmable again? Charles River Conservancy has worked to maintain the Charles River and its parks for decades and has visions of people swimming in the water or fishing with friends from the bank on sweltering summer days. Their dream is to restore the river to pre-development days, and they've created a floating island of native plants to help with the effort. Find out more in the [Boston Globe](#).



### **UMASS to Reopen Plant Diagnostics Lab**

Diagnosing plant problems is the first step to economically treating pests and diseases. The University of Massachusetts has set up new protocols and is ready to help farmers, greenhouses, and other greens professionals with pest diagnosis problems. Read more at [UMass.edu](#).



### **Healthy Soils Forums with HSAP**

The Massachusetts Healthy Soils Action Plan (HSAP) hopes to provide evidence-based recommendations that help people better manage soils of five major land types: Forests, Wetlands, Agriculture, Turf and Ornamental Landscapes (developed open space), and Impervious and Urbanized Lands. Through targeted conservation, soil-smart development, and better soil management, the recommendations of the HSAP will propose a coordinated approach to protecting the productivity of working lands and diverse wildlands while assisting cities and towns to improve resilience and reduce their vulnerability to natural hazards and climate change.

A virtual public meeting will be held July 29, 6:00-7:30 pm. This meeting will focus on land management practice recommendations and is intended for land managers and homeowners. Join via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85902685893>



### **Mass Pollinator Resource Guide**

NOFA/Mass (the Northeast Organic Farming Association, Mass Chapter) is part of a statewide ecosystem of groups and individuals working together to create healthy landscapes that feed our communities and restore our environment. When asked the question, "What are the different ways Mass residents can help pollinators?" NOFA was cast on a journey to create a guide to connect different resources to protect all pollinators. Find the [Guide here](#).





## Call for Presentations

### Southeast New York Stormwater Conference 2020

The Lower Hudson Coalition of Conservation Districts is accepting proposals for presentations through July 31. The associated trade show gives attendees a chance to check out the latest and greatest trends in stormwater management technology and professional services. Read more at [Stormwater Conference](#).



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## Events to Note (listings indicate local time unless otherwise noted)

### July

July 16 **ELA Class**→[Class: Soil: The Solution Beneath Our Feet](#) (conducted online);- 10:30am-1:30pm ET.

July 16 - [Gardening with Native Plants: Learn from our Mistakes...and our Successes!](#) (webinar); 1:00pm ET.

July 18 **ELA Class**→[Structural Plant Combinations](#) (conducted online); Framingham, MA; 10:30am-1:30pm ET.

July 20-31 - [Cary Institute At-home Art + Science](#) (e-course for all ages) 10:00am ET.

July 22 - [The Dirty Truth about Plastic Pots](#) (webinar); 2:00 pm ET.

July 23 - [Trees in Trouble - Cary Science Conversation](#) 7:30-8:00pm ET.

July 23-24 - [Cut/Fill, Open Space unConference for Landscape Architecture](#) (virtual platform).

July 29 - [Massachusetts Healthy Soils Action Plan 3 Public Meetings to Introduce Results of Analysis](#); 9:30am-7:30pm ET.

### August

August Tuesdays & Thursdays - [NOFA Organic Land Care Accreditation Course](#) (conducted online); 4:00-7:00pm ET.

August 5 **ELA Virtual Workshop**→[Advanced Design Workshop with Patrick Cullina](#); 8:30am-5:00pm ET.

August 6 - [Managing the Pests in Your Garden](#) (webinar) 1:00pm ET.

August 12 **ELA Virtual Workshop**→[Advanced Design Workshop with Patrick Cullina](#); 8:30am-5:00pm ET.

August 20 [Your Insect Allies: Meet the Beneficial Insects Controlling Pests in Your Garden](#) (webinar); 1:00pm ET.

August 22 **ELA Class**→[Class: Shade Gardens: Embracing the Dark Side](#) (conducted online); 1:00-4:00pm ET.

### September

September 3 [Beyond Plants: What Else Do Insects Need to Thrive?](#) (webinar); 1:00pm ET.

September 10 - [Insect Pests in the Landscape](#) (webinar); 12:00pm ET.

September 14 **ELA Webinar**→[Deer-Resistant Native Groundcovers](#); 12:00-1:00pm ET.

September 23 **ELA Webinar**→[Why Rain Gardens Fail and Tools for Success](#); 12:00-1:00pm ET.

September 28 **ELA Webinar**→[Field Notes - A Holistic Guide for the Modern Land Steward](#); 12:00-1:00pm ET.

### October

October 28 **ELA Virtual Conference**→[Season's End Summit](#); 9:30am-4:30pm ET.

Submit events by the 10th of the month for inclusion in the upcoming newsletter.

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Whether you are located in the area of our upcoming events or in some distant landscape, you are invited to participate in ELA collaborations and discussions by joining the Ecological Landscape Alliance discussion group on LinkedIn. The ELA discussion group is open to both ELA members and non-members from around the world and participation is growing each week. Through these discussions you can share information, get answers to landscape problems, and learn new perspectives on challenging ecological issues. Joining LinkedIn is free and it is easy to join. [Join the ELA LinkedIn Discussion](#). We look forward to hearing from you soon!

We hope that you enjoy this edition of the ELA newsletter and welcome your comments at [ela.info@comcast.net](mailto:ela.info@comcast.net). *Maureen Sundberg, ELA Newsletter Editor*

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