

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

November 2020



From The Editor

As I write this, we are having an unseasonably warm November day in Massachusetts. What I hear from many of you working in the landscape is that this year has been busier than ever. COVID was a new challenge, climate change challenges were not. November is traditionally a time to pause, reflect, and give thanks. As always ELA is thankful to its members and supporters who have helped us swerve to better serve our community during this pandemic. Personally, I am thankful for ELA's A Walk in the Garden Webinar Series. Every week I could tune in for inspiration despite what was happening in the world. As gardeners, landscapers, and designers we spend a lot of time taking care of the landscape and at this time of year, we are thankful for all of the other land stewards who are helping to create healthier landscapes.

ELA had two very successful virtual conferences this fall, and we are thrilled to have one last offering **ELA Ecological Plant Conference 2020** on December 4 featuring two ELA board members who also authored articles this month. Take a moment, breathe, grab a hot beverage, and enjoy this issue of the newsletter. *GRH*

PS If you are looking for a special gift this season, please consider a **Membership** to ELA. It's a gift that gives year round.



Season in Review

As Things Always Change, the Nature of Nature Remains the Same by Kelsey Skaroff

2020 was obviously a remarkable year for many in adjusting work, relationships, and life in general in response to a pandemic, social justice movements, the economy, climate change, and politics. After a brief moment of uncertainty, my job as Head Gardner went on as normal in this most unusual year. **Read the article.**



What Is Native?

by Dan Jaffe Wilder

The recent interest in ecologically-minded landscapes has created a growing interest in native plants with more interest comes the question, what exactly does native mean? To simply state a plant is native is to make certain assumptions, and qualifiers are needed in order to make the statement, namely time and place. **Read the article.**



More than Pollinator Friendly

by Uli Lorimer

Pollinator friendly is certainly a buzz word these days and for good reason. Both birds and insects are being impacted by climate change, habitat loss and fragmentation, and invasive species. This reality makes our choices in the garden that much more crucial. **Read the article.**



Wellness, One Yard at a Time

by Kelly Cartwright

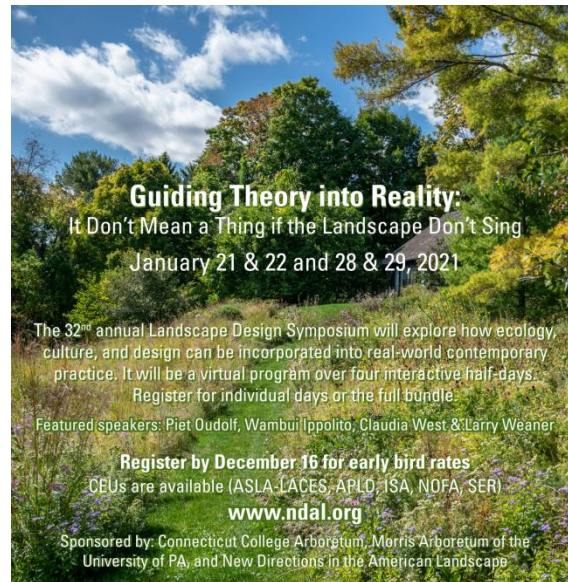
When I started researching native landscaping and eco-friendly yard care, my primary motivation was in its ecological and wildlife benefits. As I researched the topic further, I became interested in the connection to human well-being. I never imagined the soul-supporting connection I would form with my yard and the species with whom I interact. [Read the article.](#)



Small Native Shrubs to Replace Commonly Used Exotics

by Sarah W. Middleler

What do Japanese spirea, burning bush, boxwood, and forsythia all have in common? They are all, non-native common garden plants that can be invasive and do not support native pollinators. Growing native plants helps foster biodiversity, feed bees, and other pollinators. Many of our northeastern native shrubs are fantastic substitutes for commonly used exotics. [Read the article.](#)



Highlighting Our Company Members



Equinox provides sustainable solutions for a full range of planning, design and ecosystem services in the southeast. From a watershed to a backyard landscape, we embed environmental science and ecology into our planning and design solutions to help build landscapes that are resilient to climate change and other environmental pressures facing our region.



A 501(c)(3) non-profit, Wild Seed Project sells native plant seeds and educates the public through engaging events, an interactive website, and its *Wild Seed* publication. WSP encourages the use of native plants in all landscapes to conserve biodiversity, safeguard wildlife habitat, and foster resilience in a changing climate.

Ecology-Based Landscapes
A Virtual Education Series
Developed by Larry Weaner

Sponsored by:
NDAI NEW DIRECTIONS IN THE AMERICAN LANDSCAPE

Cosponsors | American Horticultural Society
Wild Ones - Native Plants, Natural Landscapes

Registration opens in November
ndal.org

Featured speakers:
Piet Oudolf
Darrel Morrison
Ujiji Davis
Charles Birnbaum
Daniela Shebitz

January - March, 2021

ELA News

It's a Bountiful Fall

Ecological Plant Conference - December 4

Spend a day reconnecting with familiar plants, learning new plant options, exploring garden insects, and reconsidering how humans and plants interrelate. This year's experts delve into plants for small urban spaces, plants that feed us, plants that thrive in shade, and carefree plants that rein in maintenance. **Find out more.**

Sponsorships Available

Showcase your company in front of ELA's ecologically focused audience by sponsoring the Ecological Plant Conference. There's still time to share your company's products and services. **Find out more.**

Thank you to our Fall Conference Sponsors

Ecological Plant Conference

- **Planters' Choice**, Sustaining Sponsor
- **Pennington Grey**, Restoration Sponsor
- **New Moon Nursery**, Restoration Sponsor
- **Ernst Seeds**, Conservation Sponsor

Regenerative Solutions for Resilient Landscapes:

- **New Moon Nursery**, Keynote Sponsor
- **Redbud Native Plant Nursery**, Speaker Sponsor
- **Organic Mechanics**, Restoration Sponsor
- **Kind Earth Growers**, Restoration Sponsor
- **North Creek Nurseries**, Conservation Sponsor
- **Babikow Wholesale Nursery**, Conservation Sponsor

Season's End Summit

- **Tech Terra Environmental**, Speaker Sponsor

NGICP Class Added in December

Learn Stormwater Solutions - Expand Your Opportunities

Designed to meet international best-practice standards, certification through the National Green Infrastructure Certification Program (NGICP) advances the establishment of sustainable communities by promoting Green Infrastructure (GI) as an environmentally and economically beneficial stormwater management option, by supporting the development of proficient green work-forces, and by establishing a career path for skilled GI workers. The program provides the foundational understanding needed to properly design and oversee construction, inspection, and maintenance of green stormwater infrastructure. This program provides candidates with the technical skills necessary to successfully incorporate GI into projects. LA CES and NOFA CEUs.

The 35-hour class will be offered from 12:00-5:00pm on Monday 11/30, Tuesday 12/1, Tuesday 12/8, Thursday 12/10, Tuesday 12/15, Thursday 12/17, and Tuesday 12/22. **Find out more and register.**



Call for Speaker Proposals - All Levels

Are you an expert on an ecological topic? Have you compiled photos for a case study of a great project? Do you enjoy sharing your expertise? ELA is seeking speakers on topics that run the gamut of sustainable landscapes. And, we need speakers for all audiences, from the advanced-level green industry professional to the home gardener/plant enthusiast. If you have an idea for a presentation, send a topic description and your bio to ela.info@comcast.net. If one of your presentations has been recorded, please share the link.



Share Your Program Ideas on November 18

If you have an idea for a program, heard a terrific speaker, or learned about a great resource, share your findings during ELA's Virtual Volunteer Coffee. We'll meet between 12:30 and 1:00. You can call in for 5 minutes or stay for 30. Email Maureen@ecolandscaping.org for the call-in number. Hope to talk to you then.

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Gleanings

Conserving Native Pollinators Across New England

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Xerces Society, and other partners have developed a habitat-based, multi-state conservation strategy to address the decline in native pollinator populations across New England by improving pollinator habitat. Landowners in New England are invited to participate in the New England Pollinator Partnership (NEPP) to help restore populations of bumble bees and the monarch butterfly. Read more at [USDA](#).



Piney Grove Preserve Re-establishes Woodpecker Populations

In only 16 years, from 2001 to 2017, the Piney Grove Preserve, managed by The Nature Conservancy in Sussex County, VA, has shifted from receiving woodpeckers from other populations to donating woodpeckers to establish a second population in Virginia. This transition represents an amazing turnaround in a very short time. Read more at [The Center for Conservation Biology](#).



Sound of Silence

Quiet time in nature is good for everyone. For humans, natural sounds can be part of what the authors call a “psychologically restorative environment.” Researchers seeking to improve the soundscape of Muir Woods found that reducing the noise made humans happy and more turned into the wildlife around them. Read more at [Anthropocene magazine](#).



When Health Care Becomes a Climate Solution

A new analysis reveals how a rural clinic helped save more than 27 square kilometers of tropical Indonesian forest – equating to more than \$65 million worth of avoided carbon emissions. Read more at [Anthropocene magazine](#).



Snake Safari in Honk Kong?

On nighttime hikes in Hong Kong’s surprisingly lush forests, a snake catcher teaches city slickers about the reptiles – and their bites. The hikes highlight the scale of biodiversity in Hong Kong, a bustling city of 7.5 million people. Read more at [NY Times](#).



Portugal's Endemic Plants in Danger of Extinction

Years of “rogue developments” in protected areas has caused 53 of the 110 plant species found only on mainland Portugal to face possible extinction. Plants preserved by legal statutes are invariably dug up, burnt, or otherwise destroyed. Read more at [The Portugal Resident](#).



Brooklyn Botanic Garden Gets a Meadow

Toby Wolf, former ELA President, worked with the Brooklyn Botanic Garden (BBG) to design a meadow on a long neglected 1.25-acre slope. Wolf created an area of small ecological habitats that provide visual interest throughout the seasons. Read more at [NY Times](#).



Checklist for Pollinator Habitat

The Xerces society brings us a list of land care, plants, and community actions that you can follow to help pollinators throughout the United States. Find out more at [Xerces Society](#). Inspired by the Xerces Society, communities across the country are creating pollinator initiatives. Read about one local community's new sustainable action plan at [Lexington Living Landscapes](#).



EPA Approves Two Pesticides Harmful to Bees

A previously banned insecticide, which was approved for agricultural use last year in the United States, is harmful for bees and other beneficial insects that are crucial for agriculture, and a second pesticide in widespread use is also found to harm these insects. Read more at [The Kerr Center](#).



Australian Bees Forage at Night!

Australian bees are known for pollinating plants on beautiful sunny days, but a new study has identified two species that have adapted their vision for night-time conditions for the first time. Read more at [Phys org](#).



Time in Nature = Good Health

How long does it take to get a dose of nature high enough to make people say they feel healthy and have a strong sense of well-being? Precisely 120 minutes. A growing body of research points to the beneficial effects that exposure to the natural world has on health, reducing stress, and promoting healing. Read more at [Yale Environment 360](#).



Living Soil: A Documentary

Living Soil tells the story of farmers, scientists, and policymakers working to incorporate agricultural practices to benefit soil health for years to come. Enjoy movie time with your family. Grab some popcorn and watch *Living Soil*. Read more at [Soil Health Institute](#).



Arnold Arboretum Launches “Gathering Historias”

As a community resource in the heart of Boston, the Arnold Arboretum strives to make its landscape and programming accessible to people across Boston’s diverse population. Developed by Steven Fisher, the *Gathering Historias* project recognizes that the diverse voices of Latino communities can contribute to our cultural narratives of the environment. Read more and contribute your story at [Arnold Arboretum](#).



Need Some Zen

Watch this beautiful documentary about Les Quatre Vents, Frank Cabot’s 20-acre garden in Charlevoix County, Quebec. While his garden might be very different from our own, the film manages to capture Frank Cabot’s love of nature and its impact on our lives. Read more at [The Garden Conservancy](#).



Grant Opportunities

Mass Trails Accepting Grants for Community Trails

MassTrails provides matching grants to communities, public entities, and non-profit organizations to design, create, and maintain the diverse network of trails, trail systems, and trails experiences used and enjoyed by Massachusetts residents and visitors. Applications are accepted annually for a variety of well-planned trail projects benefiting communities across the state. Find out more at [Mass Gov](#).



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

At this time, most events are being held online; however, check with organizations to confirm the most up-to-date information.

November

November 15&22 - [Rooted In Place Ecological Gardening Symposium](#); 11:00am-2:00pm ET.

November 16 - [NGICP Exam Review](#); 5:00-6:30pm ET.

November 16 - [Carbon Sequestration in the Landscape Series: Protect Water and Air Quality to Reduce Emissions](#); 12:00-1:00pm PT.

November 16 [ELA Webinar](#)→[Deer-Resistant Native Groundcovers](#); 12:00-1:00pm ET.

November 16-19 - [NOFA Agricultural Literacy Week](#) 6:00-7:30pm EST

November 17 [ELA Webinar](#)→[Challenges and Complexities of Ecological Gardens - A 5-year Journey](#); 12:00-1:00 ET.

November 18 [ELA Webinar](#)→[Evaluating Soil Health](#); 12:00-1:00pm ET.

November 18 -[TickReport: Babesiosis](#); 12:00-1:00pm ET.

November 18 - [Soak Up the Rain Series. Greener Streets: The Burlington VT Great Streets Initiative](#); 1:00-2:30pm ET.

November 18&19 - [Resilient Regenerative Firescaping Qualification Training](#); 9:00am-1:00pm PT.

November 19 - **Building Pollinator Habitat in Towns and Cities: South Central Region**; 12:00pm CT.
November 19 - **Who's Got Compost**; 4:00-5:00pm ET.
November 27-December 20 - **MA Horticultural Society Festival of Trees**; times vary.
November 30-December 22 - **National Green Infrastructure Certification Program**; 7 afternoons; 12:00-5:00pm ET.

December

December 2 - **Fall Wrap-Up: Woody Ornamentals**; 8:30am-12:00pm ET.
December 3 - **Building Pollinator Habitat in Towns and Cities: North Central Region**; 12:00pm CT.
December 3 - **Turnip to Turf – Gardens Are In. Grass Is Out.** 12:30-1:00 MT.
December 4 **ELA Virtual Conference**→**2020 Ecological Plant Conference**; 8:00am-4:00pm ET.
December 4 - **Fall Wrap-Up: Turf** ; 8:30am-12:00pm ET.
December 6-9, 2020 - **2020 Virtual Perennial Farm Gathering**; Times Vary
December 8 **ELA Webinar**→**What's Growing on at Monticello**; 12:00-1:00pm ET.
December 8 - **Green Stormwater Infrastructure & Managing Urban Stormwater**; 8:30am-12:30pm PT.
December 10 - **Reduce Waste & Create Habitat: Using Natural Systems as a Model for Enhancing Biodiversity**; 8:30am-12:30pm PT.
December 14 **ELA Webinar**→**Creating Outdoor Spaces that Connect Children to the Natural World**; 12:00-1:00pm ET.
December 15 - **Saying Yes to Wildlands and Woodlands**; 4:00-5:30pm ET.
December 17 - **Building Pollinator Habitat in Towns and Cities: Southwest Region**; 11:00am MT.
December 17 - **What is Natural Design?** 4:00-5:00pm ET.

January

January 4-March 26 - **Turf Winter School** - an online offering.
January 6 **ELA Webinar**→**The Green Industry's Black Thumb: Pollution from Use and Disposal of Plastic Plant Pots**; 12:00-1:00pm ET.
January 13 **ELA Webinar**→**The Challenges of Restoring Urban Native Habitat**; 12:00-1:00pm ET.

Anytime

URI Cooperative Extension Learn at Home Webinar Series

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.
Georgia Harris, ELA Newsletter Editor

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