

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

October 2020



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

From the Editor

As you browse each month's Gleanings, exposing the myriad of environmental challenges from the pressures of climate change to invasive species (Jumping Worms? Come on, man!), the world can feel like a dark place indeed. Yet we have made a great deal of progress. Twenty years ago, only biologists were collecting climate and biodiversity data. Today scientists have enlisted citizen scientists throughout the world to collect data and paint a clearer picture of what is happening in our natural world. Nature can turn this global calamity around if we all do our part, and ELA is here, to educate, guide, and inspire you. This fall we present three [extraordinary conferences](#) (register early for discounts) and a terrific [Focus on Sustainability webinar series](#). When we unite for a common cause we get things done!! Oh, and don't forget to VOTE.

Tying into ELA's [2020 Season's End Summit](#) this month's newsletter features an article by Neil Diboll who has championed the use of native plants in the landscape for over 25 years. Neil is dedicated to increasing diversity for generations to come. We also have a contribution from Emma Marris, featured speaker at the [Regenerative Solutions for Resilient Landscapes](#) in early November, who shares her views on what we consider wildness in our world today. I hope you enjoy reading this month's articles as much as I enjoyed bringing them to you. *GRH*



Photo: Nick Novick

North American Prairie Species of New England by Neil Diboll

Many flowers and grasses commonly associated with Midwestern prairies also occur in the meadows of New England. While some species are widely distributed throughout the region, others are only occasional or rare. Most are more common in the prairie region, but some are abundant in the Northeast. Many are good garden plants or members of eastern meadows. [Read the article.](#)

On October 28, Neil provides two presentations on this topic at ELA's [2020 Season's End Summit](#).



Urban Wilderness and the "High Line Problem" by Emma Marris

In October of 2013, I toured three miles of disused railroad line in Philadelphia. The entire line was covered with spontaneous vegetation alive with butterflies and ladybugs. Here nature was showing us her resilience and her wild beauty and offering to meet us where most of us live now, in the city. What is tricky about urban wildness is what I call the High Line Problem.

[Read the article.](#)

On November 12, Emma will present at [Regenerative Solutions for Resilient Landscapes](#).

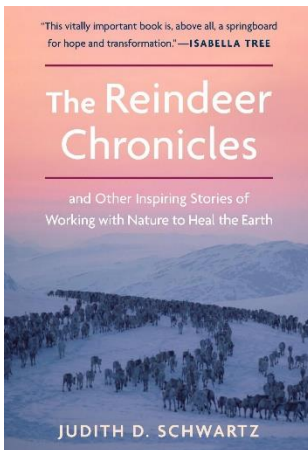


A Stick in the Spokes by Laura Kuhn

What if humans disappeared tomorrow? The temperate forest of the US Northeast would quickly return to the forest it wants to be. Every garden is, by virtue of human influence, an interventionist act. We as ecological designers face a balancing act of pleasing our clients and letting nature be wild.

[Read the article.](#)

On November 9, Laura presents on this topic as part of ELA's ongoing [A Focus on Sustainability](#) webinar series.



Book Review The Reindeer Chronicles

Written by Judith Schwartz

Published by Chelsea Green Publishing, 2020

Reviewed by Margot Taylor

You've got to love people who can find, understand, and interpret patterns and relationships. Judith Schwartz is this type of person as I've learned reading her new book. An engaging and skilled storyteller, Judith lays out an ecological rehabilitation process for our broken ecosystems, communities, and financial foundations. And she shows us how the power of inspiration can lift the human spirit, open the heart, and restore our American "can do" attitudes. [Read the review.](#)



Invasive in the Spotlight: Jumping Worms by Emma Erler

Conventional wisdom tells us that earthworms are good for the soil. Now there's a new worm in town that is not beneficial to our landscapes. JUMPING WORMS!! You read correctly. Jumping worms are an invasive worm from Asia that can quickly change soil structure and reduce biodiversity. Don't panic, but be on the lookout for Jumping Worms in your garden. [Read the article.](#)



Leave the Leaves!

by Catherine Carney-Feldman

Though fall cleanup can be a hard habit to break, there are ample reasons to leave those leaves. Most native pollinator species overwinter right in your leaf litter and dead stems of your perennials. Leaf compost can greatly enhance the quality of your soil, help it retain moisture, and protect young plants from fluctuating winter temperatures. Consider your leaves as a resource rather than as a problem. [Read the article.](#)



How Can Composting Enhance Soil and Benefit Your Business?

by Adam Jankauskas

Compost is recognized as a valuable component of the ecological landscape and many ecological landscape practitioners utilize compost in the management of their properties. Compost has a place in a more sustainable world but providing composting services for clients can be unsustainable. How can composting be made easier without the added expense? [Read the article.](#)

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ELA News

It's a Bountiful Fall

Our fall conferences will be conducted entirely online this year, utilizing tools that facilitate attendees' interactive collaboration and offer an engaging and inspiring experience. Join us!

Seasons End Summit - October 28

We look back at a season that has truly been like no other. As our landscapes wind down in the northern hemisphere, join us in an exploration of fresh perspectives and inspiring discussions of tools and techniques that help us build healthy and healing landscapes.

Regenerative Solutions for Resilient Landscapes - November 12

Early discounts through October 19. At this all-day event, we consider future landscapes and the importance of regenerative solutions to meet climate change challenges. Featuring

author **Emma Marris**, we take a hopeful look at the evolution of landscapes managed by humans, and we consider what the future portends.

Ecological Plant Conference - December 4

Early discounts through November 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 five experts delve into plants for small urban spaces, plants that feed us, plants that thrive in shade, and carefree plants that rein in maintenance.

Conference Sponsorships Available

Showcase your company in front of ELA's ecologically focused audience by becoming a conference sponsor. There's still time to share your company's products and services. To find out more, click on an event:

~ [Season's End Summit](#) ~ [Regenerative Solutions](#) ~ [Ecological Plant Conference](#) ~

We offer a special thank you to those who have already become sponsors!

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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 October 21

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 on October 21. 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

What Is Rewilding?

The Wild Seed Project (WSP) begins a new initiative to help rewild not only suburban lawns but urban spaces as well. Rewilding begins with recognizing native plants as the basis for local food chains. WSP provides helpful renderings to illustrate what rewilding may look like in different settings. You can join the rewilding pledge to learn more helpful practices and receive guidance as you make your little bit of earth a diverse habitat. Read more at [The Wild Seed Project](#).



Spotted Lanternfly: Calling All Citizen Scientists

Native to China, Japan, and Vietnam, the spotted lanternfly was first seen in this country in Pennsylvania in 2014. It is spread by people moving infected materials or items containing egg masses. The spread of this invasive insect throughout the US could significantly affect US orchards, grape, and logging industries. Read more from the US Department of Agriculture [here](#) and [here](#).



In Massachusetts report sightings at [Massachusetts Natural Resource Council](#). In Rhode Island report spotted lanternfly sightings at [Department of Environmental Management](#). Elsewhere, contact your local Extension service.



Time-Release Drugs Offer Solution for More Targeted Insect Control

Researchers have developed an alternative pest control that can reduce indiscriminate spraying of pesticides on farms. This new method uses insect pheromones to attract insects into traps instead of food crops and is considered more sustainable than conventional pesticides. Read more at [Anthropocene Magazine](#).



Is There an Antidote to Shifting Baseline Syndrome?

What is "shifting baseline syndrome?" It is a term used to describe how generations lose what the world may have looked like even fifty years ago in terms of wildlife abundance. It may be hard to image that once there were bird flocks that could block out the sun or that the spring shad run was so plentiful the rivers appeared to be silver. The article talks not only about loss but has a hopeful message. When people have knowledge about species, they are more apt to protect those species. Read more at [Anthropocene Magazine](#).

Seagrass Restoration Speeds Recovery of Ecosystems

Some good news. The reintroduction of seagrass along Virginia's coastal bays is one of the most exciting and successful stories in marine restoration. Spanning two decades scientists and volunteers have broadcast over 70 million eelgrass seeds over previously barren seaside lagoons. These areas have now become the single largest eelgrass habitat between North Carolina and Long Island Sound. Read the summary at [William & Mary News](#). Full article at [Science Advances](#).



More Reasons to Leave Those Leaves

If you need more evidence to support leaving the leaves on your property, here's the article for you. Not only are you saving yourself a lot of time and money by not removing fall leaves, you are also keeping more than 13 percent of solid waste out of our landfills. Read more at [National Wildlife Federation](#).



What's Green and Soggy and Fights Climate Change?

In a European study, scientists found that protecting intact peat bogs and restoring degraded bogs could counter the effects of climate change. Peat bogs sequester large amounts of carbon though they only make up about three percent of global land area. These bogs could

help the world achieve climate goals that are part of the 2015 Paris agreement. Read more at [New York Times](#).



Scientists Fight Tree-Killing Beetles with Beetle-Killing Wasps

Without natural enemies in the US, the emerald ash borer has ravaged elm trees across the country. A release of parasitic wasps that prey on emerald ash borers shows promise. Read more in [EcoRI News](#).



Natural Debate: Do Forests Grow Better With or Without Our Help?

Nations around the world are pledging to plant billions of trees to grown new forests. But a new study shows that the potential for natural forest regrowth to absorb carbon from the atmosphere and fight climate change is far greater than previously estimated. Read more in [YaleEnvironment360](#).



Beech Leaf Disease Arrives in Rhode Island

The nematode that causes a leaf disease in beech trees was discovered in Rhode Island in June. The mechanism for disease transfer is not yet known, and no treatment is available. RI Department of Environmental Management asks those with a likely infected beech tree to [file a report](#). Read more about beech leaf disease in RI in [EcoRI News](#). Learn more about the disease in [Science](#).



NOFA Accreditation Course Online for Fall

Northeast Organic Farming Association goes "virtual" with its accreditation course this year. Course offers full professional instruction, one-on-one office hours with instructors, and on-line exam to qualify participants as NOFA Accredited Organic Land Care Professionals. Learn more at [organiclandcare.net](#).



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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.

October

October 17 **ELA Class**→[Propagation - Native Seeds](#); 10:00am-2:00pm ET.

October 17 - [9th Annual Riverkeeper Sweep](#); Brooklyn to the Adirondacks; times vary.

October 19-29 - [Mass Arborist Online Learning Class](#) 8:00am-12:00pm ET

October 21 **ELA Webinar**→[Meadows - If You Build It They Will Come](#); 12:00-1:00pm ET.

October 21 - [Designing with Plant Communities](#); 7:00-8:30pm ET.

October 21 - [Implications of Climate Change for Invasive Species in the Northeast](#); 7:00-8:00pm ET.

October 21 - [Caterpillars, the Whole Story](#) (Newton Conservators Annual Meeting); 7:00-9:00pm ET.

October 21 - [Imagine a Day Without Water](#); 12:00 noon ET.

October 22 - [Spill the \(Compost\) Tea: Greenway Conservancy Organic Practices](#); 1:00-2:00pm ET.

October 26 - [School Garden Conference](#); 9:00am-4:00pm ET.

October 27 **ELA Class**→[Native Species, Cultivars, and Selections: What's the Difference?](#) 10:00am-12:00pm ET.

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

October 29 - [Virtual Garden Tour with CWEL](#); 1:30-3:00pm MT.

November

November 4,11,18 & December 2 - [Resilient Landscapes in Build Environments, Part 2: Plants and Practice](#); 2:30-5:30pm ET each day.

November 4-December 16 - [The Northeast Greenhouse Conference and Expo](#) (Wednesday webinar series); 12:00-1:00pm ET.

November 5 - [Building Pollinator Habitat in Towns and Cities: Great Lakes Region](#); 12:00pm CT.

November 5 - [Planting for Biodiversity: Examples via Landscapes](#); 4:00-5:00pm ET.

November 5,10,12,17 - [2020 Southeast New York Stormwater Conference](#); 9:00-11:30am ET each day.

November 6 **ELA Class**→[Climate Change and Native Plants](#); 10:30am-12:30pm ET.

November 9 **ELA Webinar**→[A Stick in the Spokes: Meaningful Interventions in Landscape Systems](#); 12:00-1:00 ET.

November 10 - [Green Infrastructure](#); 2:00pm MT.

November 12 **ELA Virtual Conference**→[Regenerative Solutions for Resilient Landscapes](#); 8:30am-5:00pm ET.

November 12 - [Growing from Seed for the Landscape](#); 4:00-5:00pm ET.

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

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

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](#); 12:00-1:00 ET.

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

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.

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 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 8 **ELA Webinar**→[What's Growing on at Monticello](#); 12:00-1:00 ET.

December 17 - [Building Pollinator Habitat in Towns and Cities: Southwest Region](#); 11:00am MT.

Anytime

[URI Cooperative Extension Learn at Home Webinar Series](#)

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



Wainscott, NY -- Property/Project Manager

An extensive property in Wainscott, NY (Hamptons) with multiple dwellings and an assortment of nature-based gardens, seeks an experienced property/project manager with knowledge and love of organic gardening to supervise and assist staff in house and garden maintenance and occasional new projects. Position is full time, year-round. Lodging included. Please visit www.perfectearthproject.org for full job description and requirements, then email resume and cover letter to: info@edwinavongal.com

Offshoots, Inc -- Charlestown, MA -- Multiple Positions Available Field Supervisor/ Landscape Foreman

We are seeking a highly motivated and experienced Landscape Foreman/Field Supervisor to oversee installations and run a small crew on residential and commercial landscape and garden installations. Candidates must have previous field experience working on landscape

installation teams. A degree in Landscape Contracting, Horticulture or similar experience is preferred. Offshoots, Inc. is a landscape architecture and horticultural installation practice focusing on ecological and productive landscape strategies. Offshoots is a growing company, and there is significant room for advancement. The installation side of the company focuses on horticultural installations (soil work and planting), therefore we are looking for applicants who have a strong interest and knowledge in plants and productive landscape practices. Candidates will be working directly with the Director of Landscape Operations to lead in the installation of projects, do site visits and purchase materials. Jobs will include planting and softscape installations and maintenance. Please visit our website for more information on our horticulture installation services: www.offshootsinc.com.

Landscape Laborer

We are seeking a seasonal landscape laborer to work on residential and commercial landscape and garden installations with our horticulture team. We focus on creating sustainable, ecologically sound landscapes and are looking for hard working individuals to join our team in Boston. Qualified candidates will have experience in the landscaping industry and the ability to work in a variety of weather conditions. Jobs will include planting and soils installation and maintenance. Contact Director of Landscape Operations Joe Shafner at joe@offshootsinc.com with a resume and work references.

Experience Gardener/Horticulturist and Entry-Level Gardener

Offshoots Inc. is looking for 2 candidates to join our garden maintenance team: 1) an Experienced Gardener and 2) an Entry-Level Gardener (with no previous required work experience required.) Both positions require individuals eager to work with and learn about plants with a strong interest in gardening; can be either part-time or full-time roles. Team members will be required to carry out instructions from our Lead Gardener as well as communicate priorities, plans, expectations, and issues with other staff. Candidates must be an independent self-starter able to track hours. Job involves working directly with plants, turf, mulch, and irrigation. Contact Director of Landscape Operations Joe Shafner at joe@offshootsinc.com with a resume and work references.

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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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