

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



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

From The Editor

To say 2020 has been a year like no other is an understatement. As so much changed so suddenly, ELA adapted with creativity and loads of excellent content. The three “virtual” fall conferences sparked great conversation and created a vital sense of community. That great educational content continues in 2021 with the **Focus on Sustainability** webinar series and when ELA hosts the 28th **ELA Conference & Eco-Marketplace**, virtually, on March 3-4. Look for the conference schedule at the end of December.

Nature has been a balm the last several months as we connected with our gardens large and small and found joy in the simple pleasures of being outside. We wrap up the year with newsletter articles to get you thinking about insects, plant diseases, and your own backyard. We also learn about Philadelphia’s Green Stormwater project, which may become a blueprint for coastal cities throughout the U.S. Enjoy this issue along with a healthy and joyful winter season. *GRH*



Green Stormwater Infrastructure

by Anna Shipp

Our current economic downturn caused by COVID-19 and ongoing social and climate crisis demands a transformational change in everything from business practices to public policy, including how we approach stormwater management. In rebuilding our economy, the government must prioritize green stormwater infrastructure because it’s a tool that fosters job growth, public health, community well-being, and resiliency. **Read the article.**



Pest Alert

Pitch Canker on White Pine

by Bruce Wenning

This past September I noticed, far off in the distance, a dying white pine (*Pinus strobus*) located on the edge of our driving range at The Country Club. After much research, I concluded that this white pine was infected by the pitch canker pathogenic fungus, *Fusarium circinatum*. Golf balls repeatedly hit into the pine had caused wounds to needles, branches, and bark creating ports of entry for pathogenic spores of pitch canker. Learn how pitch canker spreads and signs to look for on your property. **Read the article.**



Could We Manage Backyards to Increase Biodiversity?

by Christopher Neill

Woodwell Climate Research Center and a group of scientists across the country report on groundbreaking research into how American homeowners shape the structure and ecology of yard ecosystems. The project team contacted homeowners, took measurements in their yards, and conducted homeowner surveys. The report examines not only how homeowners shape their yard ecosystem, but also why they do what they do. [Read the article.](#)



When Trouble Follows You Indoors

by Nadia Ruffin

Winter is here and we have all moved our plants indoors. Everything is fine—for a few weeks. Then you notice a few leaves falling off your plants. You don't think anything of it at first, but then your vibrant plants start to go downhill fast. After a careful inspection, you discover your plants are infested with insects. Learn the most common house plant pests and how to manage them. [Read the article.](#)



Eco Answers from the Pros

Recommendations for Conifer Screening

Contributors: Christie Dustman and Amanda Sloan

I'm struggling to find a good resource for conifers and cultivars that are well suited for a Maine landscape. I would like to plant evergreens for a privacy screening that doesn't get above twenty feet. Could you recommend any good reference books with plenty of images? Would you recommend planting strictly native evergreens rather than cultivars from other parts of the world? [Read the Pros' Advice.](#)



Do I Need Mulch With Groundcover?

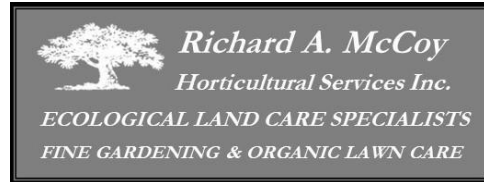
Contributors: Randi Eckel, Missy Fabel, and Anna Fialkoff

In areas where I am trying to grow ground covers that self-spread, I haven't been using mulch, thinking the mulch will hinder the self-spread of the desired ground cover. Thus weeds and other things I didn't want to grow in that space do fill in. Is it recommended to use mulch even when the ultimate goal is to have the ground covered with plants? Mulch would save me a lot of weeding time. [Read the Pros' advice.](#)

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 EcoPros. Send your question to ela_new@verizon.net. And if you need additional help, refer to our [Member Directory](#).

Highlighting Our Company Members

Richard A. McCoy Horticultural Services Inc. has emerged as a premier leader in ecological horticultural practices in New Jersey. We continually seek to utilize native plant species that ecologically outperform invasive plants without compromising a client's aesthetic. With a steadfast commitment to electric landscape equipment, organically managed turf systems, soil and plant health care, and green infrastructure, we provide beautiful, functional, ecologically impactful landscapes.



Nature  Nurture

Our integrated approach includes site evaluation, design, construction and long-term maintenance for a variety of clients and programs. We navigate between the needs of human behavior and protecting and enhancing a bio-diverse landscape, and combine our skills and knowledge to design landscapes that address the complexities of each site.



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Featured instructors:
Piet Oudolf
Darrel Morrison
Laura Hansplant
Charles Birnbaum
Daniela Shebitz

January - March, 2021

American Horticultural Society | Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center | Wild Ones - Native Plants, Natural Landscapes

ELA News

Virtual NGICP Class Scheduled in February

Learn Stormwater Solutions - Expand Your Opportunities

This program provides foundational understanding needed to properly design and oversee construction, inspection, and maintenance of green stormwater infrastructure and gives candidates the technical skills necessary to successfully incorporate Green Infrastructure (GI) into projects. LA CES and NOFA CEUs also available.

Find out more and register.

Volunteer with ELA

Spanish Translation Project

Are you proficient in the Spanish language and have some time to spare for ELA? We seek a few people to help translate select articles from ELA's archive. If you are interested in helping with this ongoing project, contact maureen@ecolandscaping.org.

Volunteer Positions

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)

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.

Virtual Coffee on Hiatus

ELA's Virtual Volunteer Coffee won't be meeting in December, but if you have an idea for a program, heard a terrific speaker, or learned about a great resource we want to hear! Drop us a line at: Maureen@ecolandscaping.org.

Enjoy all the ELA Membership Benefits - including free and discounted events.

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Gleanings

Pritzker Emerging Environmental Genius Award Finalist

Clara Lee-Pratte, **Kathy Jetñil-Kijiner**, and **Leah Penniman** were selected from a pool of 21 **candidates** to move on to the final round of judging for the Pritzker Environmental Genius Award. The finalists represent a vast range of environmental issues and approaches. Join Leah Penniman at **ELA Conference & Eco-Marketplace**; read more at **UCLA Institute of Environment & Sustainability**.

Non-native Plants Cause Collapse of Native Insects

The impact of introduced plants on native biodiversity has emerged as a hot-button issue in ecology. But recent research provides new evidence that the displacement of native plant communities is a key cause of a collapse in insect populations and is affecting birds as well. Read more at **Yale 360**.

Six Plant People Take Over NYC

For New Yorkers during the pandemic, plants have been a lifeline—a source of inspiration and a form of personal and political expression. As a fresh crop of local green thumbs reveals, there has never been a better time to turn over a new leaf. Read more at **Architectural Digest**.

The Harvest of 2020

Magic in the Dirt presents three very different and inspiring stories, all beautifully filmed. This article follows three farms during this very challenging year. We learn of the hope and the sweetness that comes from working with the earth. Read more at **The New York Times**. Join Soul Fire Farm Founder Leah Penniman at **ELA Conference & Eco-Marketplace**.

Fabled Honey Forest

In northeastern Turkey, the beekeeping traditions of the Hemshin people, an ethnic minority originating in Armenia, are both evolving and at risk of vanishing. Read more at [The New York Times](#).

Movement Education Gets Youth Outdoors

Joann “Jo” Ayuso, founder of [Movement Education Outdoors](#) (MEO), an organization with a mission to provide outdoor experiences for community-based organizations serving Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) youth. She teaches participants about nature and how to de-colonize the land, to make their own memories, and personally connect with the land. Read more at [EcoRI News](#).

New Solar Array Provides Space for New Pollinator Meadow

The new solar array at the Weld Hill Research and Education Building, Boston, MA was installed in 2019. The array is the largest and most advanced on Harvard's property, capable of providing approximately 30 percent of the facility's power needs. In addition, the array is specifically engineered to accommodate a diverse, native pollinator meadow around, between, and beneath the panels. Read more at [The Arnold Arboretum](#).

If Winter Comes - A Virtual Gallery Walk

Enjoy a winter gallery walk online with artist Tony Apesos's beautiful oil paintings, inspired by frequent walks through the Arboretum. Read more at [The Arnold Arboretum](#).

Deer and Earthworms Threaten Native Plants

Rhode Island botanists warn that an overabundance of deer who eat primarily native plants are causing native plant communities to be devastated before they reach maturity. Earthworms generally thought of as good indicators of soil health, actually speed up the slow cycling of nutrients that native plant communities depend on. Read more at [EcoRI News](#).

Can Gen Z Tackle the Lawn Problem?

Gen Z is taking to social media sharing anti-lawn memes on the grounds that lawns lack biodiversity, demand excessive natural resources, and pour toxins into the environment. Young people around the country overwhelmed by COVID and growing concern over the environment use their collective power to make their voices heard. Read more in [Sierra](#).

Indigenous Park of Peace Comes to Myanmar

The Karen people of eastern Myanmar have long fought for autonomy over their lands. In a bold move, they have turned a war zone into a protected area that respects their cultural traditions and looks to save the Salween, one of the world's last free-flowing international rivers. Read more at [Yale 360](#).

Collaborative Effort to Restore Floodplain

Where there is a river, there are floodplains. Where there are floodplains, there is fertile soil. Mass Audubon, The Nature Conservatory, and Mass Division of Ecological Restoration join forces to restore a floodplain along the Connecticut River. Watch the video [here](#).

Landscape Story Slam

Native Plant Trust presents *Tales from the Field*. Have a story to tell? Join fellow plant geeks as they share their most riveting and hilarious tales from the field, then cast your vote for the night's best storyteller! Submit your stories here [NPT 2021 Story Slam Submission](#) or join the audience for a night of stories and fun. Read more at [Native Plant Trust](#).

Calling All Artists

Tower Hill Botanic Garden is soliciting proposals for Wild Hideaways: Designed for Adventure, a temporary outdoor exhibit showcasing artistic, interactive, outdoor structures, that bring joy, inspire imaginative play, and spark a curiosity for the natural world and its connections to the built environment. Wild Hideaways will run June 1-September 30, 2021. Read more at [Tower Hill Botanic Garden](#).

Events to Note

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.

December

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.

December 17 - **Leaving Off the Leaves - Arnold Arboretum**; 2:00pm 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.

January 14 - **Water Management in Urban Landscapes**; 4:00-5:00 ET.

January 15 - **Building Pollinator Habitat in Towns and Cities: Pacific Northwest Region**; 10:00am PT.

January 19 - **Pesticides & Pollinators in the Landscape: Understanding the Risks, Choosing Solutions**; 8:30-10:30 PT.

January 20&27; February 3&10 **ELA Class**→**History and Principles of Landscape Design**; 1:30-4:30pm ET.

January 21&22 - **Guiding Theory into Reality: It Don't Mean a Thing if the Landscape Don't Sing**; 1:00-4:30pm ET.

January 22 **ELA Webinar**→**Grassroot Seed Propagation of Native Plants**; 12:00-1:00pm ET.

January 25, March 1, May 15 - **Natural Landscape Design**; 9:30am-12:30pm.

January 27 **ELA Webinar**→**Expanding Biodiversity – Attracting Birds to Your Yard**; 12:00-1:00pm ET.

January 28 - **Landscaping with Wild Edibles**; 4:00-5:00pm ET.

January 28&29 - **Guiding Theory into Reality: It Don't Mean a Thing if the Landscape Don't Sing**; 9:00am-12:30pm ET.

February

February 1-22 **ELA Class**→**NGICP: National Green Infrastructure Certification Program**; 7 days 12:00-5:00pm ET.

February 3 **ELA Webinar**→**The American Oaks: Diversity, Ecology, and Identification**; 12:00-1:00pm ET.

February 5&12 **ELA Class**→**Garden Design for Child Development**; 10:30am-1:30pm ET.

February 7,14,21 **ELA Class**→**Plant Nutrients**; 10:30am-12:00pm ET.

February 8 **ELA Webinar**→**Regenerative Design – How Living in Agreement with Nature Helps Organizations Thrive**; 1:00-2:00pm ET.

February 10 **ELA Webinar**→**Oak Red-List Project – Main Threats to Oaks and Saving Oaks from Extinction**; 12:30-1:30pm 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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