

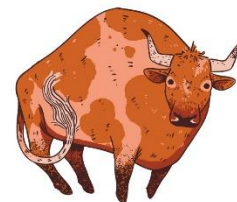
Enjoy this issue as you explore principles and practices that support the living landscape.



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

## From The Editor

Happy Year of the Ox. Many cultures appreciate oxen for their calm ability to work hard without seeking praise. The ox can serve as inspiration for a hardworking 2021. ELA has worked diligently these past months to develop this year's **ELA Virtual Conference & Eco-Marketplace**. The conference platform will let you connect with exhibitors and network with colleagues in specially designated rooms. Concurrent sessions offer great breadth of education, and perhaps best of all, you will have access to recordings of most presentations post conference. Notably, the **Idea Exchanges** track explores a wide range of thought-provoking topics, from rewilding landscapes and reconsidering the concept of *native* to the intersection of the landscape professions and issues of diversity, inclusion, and social justice. If you haven't registered already, do so now to reconnect and get inspired for the upcoming season.



新年快乐  
HAPPY NEW YEAR  
(Illustration by Abe Ray)

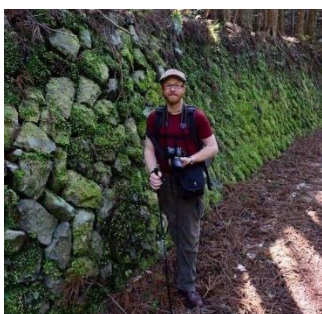
This month's newsletter showcases a few of the 2021 conference presentations. We learn to appreciate and build a stone wall, see how coastal wetlands could be key to storing carbon, and look at the importance of connecting not only to nature but to other people. Being remote doesn't mean being disconnected. Enjoy the articles and then join ELA as we reconnect, network, and discover more ways forward with sustainable living landscapes...even during a pandemic. See you at the conference. *GRH*



### The Beauty of Blue Carbon

by Hilary Stevens

Coastal wetlands are a valuable component of our landscape for many reasons. They provide habitat to many species that are important for fisheries and recreation. They reduce wave energy and help mitigate coastal flooding. It turns out that they also help control the rise of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere by trapping carbon dioxide in plants and in soils. [Read the article.](#)



### Dry Stone Wall Art

by Dan Peterson

In 2018, UNESCO inscribed the art of dry stone walling knowledge and techniques in its Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity list. Dry stone has been used by virtually every culture worldwide for thousands of years. My journey with stone started at a very early age on a farm in central Minnesota and then progressed into using stone in the landscape. [Read the article.](#)



## Reconnecting with the Forest

by Dr. Thomas RaShad Easley

How can we reconnect with the forest as well as ourselves and our communities? How can we steward forests as a resource in a neutral manner? We can all find ways to invite others into forested land by looking through a relationship lens rather than a personal ideal lens. [Read the article.](#)

---



## Climate Change and Invasive Species

by Carrie Brown-Lima

Invasive species are on the rise as trade and travel accelerate the introduction and spread of new species in a way never seen before. Simultaneously, our climate is changing at an unprecedented rate resulting in climate extremes. While these two phenomena are each a daunting challenge to biodiversity, their impacts can act synergistically and present additional hurdles for conservation and sustainability. [Read the article.](#)

---



## Nature's Sanctuary: Creating a Diverse Native Plant Palette While Dealing with Deer

by Gregg Tepper

West Laurel Hill Cemetery features a unique space called Nature's Sanctuary. This one-acre space, which previously served as the cemetery's dumpsite, now uses a managed successional plan that will gradually transition from a sunny meadow to a meadow/woodland combination and, finally, a mature forest. Learn about the range of native plant species grown in this space – with deer pressure. [Read the article.](#)

---



## What Is Rewilding?

by Heather McCargo and Anna Fialkoff

The term rewilding first appeared in the conservation world in the 1980s with a continental-scale vision to protect large tracts of wilderness and connect these areas with migration corridors. Maine's Wild Seed Project considers rewilding to be not just for the large wilderness areas or charismatic megafauna like wolves. Instead, they focus on actions that people can take right outside their doors. [Read the article.](#)

---

## Highlighting Our Company Members

Parkland Nurseries, LLC is a family owned landscaping business. Established in 1953, it has since been managed by three generations of devoted horticulturalists and landscape architects. Today, Parkland



Nurseries focuses on integrating sustainable practices into their work. Their goal is to create beautiful designs that promote and preserve native ecosystems.

Horsley Witten Group provides comprehensive sustainable design solutions. Our diverse staff excels in the integration of environmental conservation principles with engineering, planning, ecology, and landscape architecture through a holistic design process. Our commitment to this approach allows us to create functional and vibrant places in balance with nature.



## Our Advertisers

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

Sponsored by:  
**NDAL** NEW DIRECTIONS IN THE AMERICAN LANDSCAPE  
Cosponsored by:

Registration open!  
[ndal.org](http://ndal.org)

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

#### What Our Board Is Reading

As winter storms blanket many parts of the country, it's a great time to settle in with a good book. Members of ELA's Board of Directors offer titles of some of the books they've been enjoying recently.

Kristin Andres, Association to Preserve Cape Cod

***Gathering Moss: A Natural and Cultural History of Mosses*** (2003) by Robin Wall Kimmerer. Mosses have always fascinated me since childhood when my sister and I would make terrariums from bits of the forest life we'd gathered. There's a platter full of incredibly interesting scientific facts about mosses, represented in an easily digestible manner, woven together with the author's personal insights and stories. This read provided me with inspiration



and the permission to feel the spiritual connection and love of nature with greater appreciation of the biology of mosses.

Molly Kerker, Brooklyn Botanic Garden

***Why Fish Don't Exist*** by Lulu Miller. In this part-memoir and part-biography, the author finds herself becoming obsessed with the taxonomist David Star Jordan. She traces his life from a budding naturalist, to a plucky ichthyologist, to an odious eugenicist, as she seeks an answer to the question: is it possible to bring order to a seemingly chaotic world?

Rie Macchiarolo, Parterre Ecological

I've been "reading" ***Woody Plants of the Northern Forests*** by Jerry Jenkins. It's a photographic guide to plants using very high quality images to help identify trees and shrubs. This is great for winter bud ID work! He also has a lot of this and other information on his website <https://northernforestatlas.org/> that can be purchased or downloaded. Excellent resources for those wanting to improve their plant ID skills!

Amanda Sloan, Raingarden Design Studio

I've been savoring ***Braiding Sweetgrass***, by Robin Wall Kimmerer. The book was given to me by my daughter, an archeologist whose research focuses on a native Alaskan Yup'ik community where recently excavated artifacts are studied using a combination of science and listening to the teachings of the community Elders. Dr. Kimmerer, a college professor, botanist, and member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, weaves "indigenous wisdom, scientific knowledge, and the teachings of plants" to reveal the adjacencies of ancient knowledge and modern science, and how these discovery and belief systems can compliment each other. It's poetic, wonderfully told, and exudes truth!

Julie Snell, TEND Landscape

***Underland*** by Robert Macfarlane is a hard to put down examination of things below or beyond surface. It was so interesting and led me to his other works, *The Old Ways* and *Landmarks* which I also enjoyed. I especially loved *Landmarks* - a book about the words that we use to describe landscape.

Angela Tanner, Jenick Studio

I recently listened to the audio version of ***The Entangled Life*** by Merlin Sheldrake, read by the author. He explains the multifaceted dimensions of what goes on below the soil: the interconnected worlds of fungi and plants, including how these networks affect humans biologically, culturally, and artistically. I found it both poetic and informative.

I also recently read ***Underland*** by Robert Macfarlane. He overlaps on a few of the same subjects as Merlin Sheldrake's *Entangled Life*, but most of the other chapters dive into quite different territory, talking more about the physical and emotional experiences of being in different underground places and their connections to us through history and time.

Dan Wilder, Norcross Wildlife Sanctuary

***Winter World*** by Bernd Heinrich. A fascinating look at how different animals have adapted to survive the winter season. From frogs freezing (almost) solid to why chipmunks dream this book was equal parts informative and magical.

***The Rambunctious Garden: Saving Nature in a Post-Wild World*** by Emma Marris. A new look at conservation. Forget the days of trying to restore the world to some pre-human period and instead look at how we can build healthy landscapes in the real world.

## Our Changing Emails

You may have noticed that more ELA emails are coming from @ecolandscaping.org addresses. As staff and board members transition to these accounts, we hope you'll add us to your Safe Sender list so that we can stay in touch. We'd hate to lose you!

### Join Our New Wednesday Walks

The Ecological Landscape Alliance (ELA) announces a return of **Wednesday Walks in the Garden**. For 12 weeks beginning on March 31st, ELA will again offer free webinar presentations as respite to gardeners across the country and beyond who continue to struggle with the stress of the COVID pandemic. Presentations will cover a wide range of gardening topics from the mysteries of soil microbes to foliage-framed focal points. This series will inform, delight, and inspire gardeners and designers of all backgrounds. We hope that you'll join our Wednesday Walks in the Garden for a nature-filled diversion as we introduce new plants, new practices, and inspiration to get outdoors – a sanctuary in the midst of continuing lockdowns.

**It's easy to support ELA year round when you shop on Amazon.  
Sign Up with Amazon Smile!**

It just takes a minute to sign up and start using smile.amazon.com for your shopping.

### Virtual Coffee February 17

ELA's Virtual Volunteer Coffee continues on Wednesday, February 17, 12:30-1:00. Call in to tell us your idea for a program, or about the great speaker you heard or book you read. To get the call-in number email [Maureen@ecolandscaping.org](mailto:Maureen@ecolandscaping.org).

**Enjoy all the ELA Membership Benefits - including free and discounted events.  
Become a Member!**

## Thank You to Conference Sponsors

**TOP TRENDING**  
"Cool Season" Turf Program  
**REGENERATIVE**  
Turf System



Visit us at our new location in Woodstown NJ.  
We keep growing for you!

**NEW MOON**

NURSERY

910 Kings Highway  
Woodstown, NJ 08098

[www.NewMoonNursery.com](http://www.NewMoonNursery.com)



Bunchberry *Cornus canadensis*

## Planters' Choice Nursery

*New England's premier grower and  
re-wholesaler of quality nursery stock  
including a full line of native trees,  
shrubs and perennials*

Newtown, CT Watertown, CT  
203-426-4037

Planterschoice.com

## Gleanings

### **Minnesota Teen Becomes Butterfly Whisperer**

Olivia Nienaber, 18, has become an avid gardener for pollinators at her family's 10-acre homestead in Scandia, MN. Over the past year, she has planted more than 400 flowers, shrubs, and trees in 16 gardens on her family's homestead, attracting a riot of birds, bees, and butterflies. Read more at [Star Tribune](#).

### **Easy Ways to Create Wildlife Gardens**

Create striking home landscapes that benefit wildlife and you. This site provides practical, educationally-sound information on native landscaping developed specifically for first-time native plant gardeners looking for help getting started, including free downloadable native plant designs. Read more at [The Wild Ones](#).

### **Western Monarch Population in Grave Danger**

Western Monarch population is closer to extinction as the wait continues for Monarchs' protection under the Endangered Species Act. The monarch has declined so much in North America that in 2014 the Xerces Society and their conservation partners submitted a petition proposing listing the species under the U.S. Endangered Species Act. Six years later, the monarch is still not on the endangered species list. Read more at [Xerces Society](#).

### **A Poignant Reading Journey**

The librarian at Longwood Gardens (PA) offers a few suggestions to delight both in the gardens' changing beauty and their cultural and historical connections. Each book gives its perspective of the African American experience, and each is a source of inspiration. Read more at [Longwood Gardens](#).

### **Resilience: Art in the Time of COVID**

Resilience is defined as "an ability to recover from or adjust easily to misfortune or change." Exhibiting artist Lois Cremmins sought solace in the Arnold Arboretum (MA). Looking at Cremmins' art – vivid combinations of paint and collage on paper – one senses her spirit's uplifting. Read more at [Arnold Arboretum](#).

### **Can Our Coastal Ecosystem Be Saved?**

America's coastal saltwater wetlands are on a course toward functional extinction in the coming decades. Their demise will come at the hands of steadily accelerating sea-level rise and relentless coastal development. The Biden administration has an opportunity – and a responsibility – to help save the coastal ecosystems that protect us. Read more at [The Revelator](#).

### **Avoiding a 'Ghastly Future'**

A group of the world's top ecologists have issued a stark warning about the snowballing crisis caused by climate change, population growth, and unchecked development. Their

assessment is grim, but big-picture societal changes on a global scale can still avert a disastrous future. Read more at [Yale Environment 360](#).

### **World's Biggest Wildlife Crossing Reaches Funding Milestone**

The fundraising campaign by National Wildlife Federation to create a wildlife crossing over the 101 Freeway in Agoura Hills, CA has reached the \$18 million mark, putting groundbreaking within sight. The crossing is intended to save the local population of mountain lions from extinction and is funded mostly from private donations. Read more at [FOX LA](#).

### **Grass as Portraits**

Dan Harvey and Heather Ackroyd work in a medium that's not found in any art supply store. They create literal living sculptures and portraits out of grass. The pair applies germinated grass seed in a thick layer and wait for the art to grow like the classiest Chia pet imaginable. Read more at [Nerdist](#).

### **Are Rising Sea Levels Only Cause for Coastal Loss?**

Although climate change is often blamed for coastal inundation in places like the Bay of Bengal, other factors such as dam building and urbanization play an important role. Scientists say that more sustainable development policies can help blunt the impacts of rising seas. Read more at [Yale Environment 360](#).

### **Experiencing Nature Hands-On Digitally**

Arnold Arboretum (MA) moved their popular field studies program online to create Digital Nature Buddies (DNB). DNB is a 40-minute weekly program designed to share nature with children virtually. Read more at [Arnold Arboretum](#).

### **Does Pollution and Economic Growth Move in Synch?**

In a first, researchers use two decades of satellite data on pollution to show the potential to break the links between growth and emissions. Read more at [Anthropocene Magazine](#).

### **Calling All Landscape Designers**

COG Design seeks landscape architects/designers and project liaisons for three 2021 projects in Greater Boston. COG is seeking at least two designers for each project, and often matches new professionals with those who have more experience in the field. Read more at [COG Design](#).

### **ME Invasive Plant Management Class**

Attention Woodland Owners and Natural Resource Professionals: Invasive plants choke out native trees, shrubs, and wildflowers and harm wildlife habitat in your woods. This program provides training for natural resource professionals through a multi-day training academy. Read more at [Maine Gov](#).

## 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.

#### **February**

February 17 - [Tower Hill: Foundation Gardens and Native Plants](#); 6:30-7:30pm ET.

February 17,24, March 10,17 - [Certificate in Resilient Landscapes in Built Environments](#); 9:30am-12:30pm ET.

February 17 - [Bird-Friendly Home Landscapes](#); 1:00-2:15pm ET.

February 17 - [Foundation Gardens and Native Plants: A Winter View](#); 6:30-7:30pm ET.

February 18 - [Redesigning the Systemic Garden](#); 6:30-7:30pm ET.

February 20 - [Home Orchard Pruning](#); 10:30am-12:00pm ET.

February 22 - [The Pecan: A History of America's Native Nut](#); 7:00pm ET.

February 24 - **WMBSLA Climate Positive Design Lunch and Learn Series**; 12:00-12:45pm ET.

February 25 - **Fruit Vines & Strawberries: What's New?** 4:00-5:00pm ET.

February 27 - **(Micro) Organisms in the Orchard**; 10:30am-12:00pm ET.

### **March**

March 2 - **New Technologies – The Cutting Edge of Tree Care**; 8:00am-3:30pm ET.

March 3-4 →**ELA Conference & Eco-Marketplace**; 8:00am-5:30pm ET.

March 5 - **Native Green Roofs: Natural Applications for Artificial Conditions**; 1:00-4:30pm ET.

March 5,6,13 **CT&RI NOFA Winter Conference**; all virtual.

March 5,6,9,11 - **MA Urban Farmer Conference**; 8:30am-4:00pm ET.

March 6 - **Insects: Pests and Pollinators**; 10:30am-12:00pm ET.

March 7,14,21,28, April 11 - **Site Grading Fundamentals: Go Back to Basics and Sharpen Your Skills**; 3:00-5:00pm ET.

March 9 - **Environmental Art in the Landscape: Connecting People to Place**; 3:00-4:30pm ET.

March 10 - **WMBSLA Climate Positive Design Lunch and Learn Series**; 12:00-12:45pm ET.

March 10 - **Planting and Managing Ecology-Based Landscapes**; 1:00-4:30pm ET.

March 11 - **Fruit Trees: Yielding Beauty and Flavor**; 4:00-5:00pm ET.

March 13 - **Backyard Brambles**; 10:30am-12:00pm ET.

March 15 - **Places for Pollinators**; 8:45am-1:00pm ET.

March 18 - **Foundational Factors for Sustainable Turf**; 4:00-5:00pm ET.

March 19 - **The Future of the Past**; 1:00-1:30pm ET.

March 19-20 - **Land Conservation Conference: Building a Stronger Land Movement through Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion**; online both days.

March 20 - **Plant, Grow, Nurture: Gardening in Rhythm with Nature**; 9:00am-3:15pm.

March 23 - **Close Encounters with Nature: Native Design in the Residential Landscape**; 1:00-2:30pm ET.

March 24-25 - **Spring Kickoff for Landscapers**; 8:30am-12:00pm ET.

March 29 **ELA Class**→**Expanding Your Business with Green Infrastructure: Five Tools to Incorporate this Season**; 12:00-2:30pm ET.

March 31 **ELA Webinar**→**Foliage & Focal Points: Ideas for Budgets and Gardens of All Sizes**; 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.



**Wild Seed Project** is searching for a new executive director to succeed founder Heather McCargo and lead the organization beyond the successful startup phase! A comprehensive set of skills and abilities is required to lead Wild Seed Project during this exciting period of organizational development. The new executive director will partner with the board in strategic planning, oversee all aspects of the project's operations, drive development and serve as the primary spokesperson. Read the [full job description here](#).

**Native Plant Trust** seeks a full-time Nursery Assistant to work as part of a small team that collects seed for and propagates approximately 50,000 New England native plants per year for retail sale, ecological restoration, and display at Garden in the Woods, its botanic garden in Framingham, MA. The position is based at Nasami Farm, located in Whately, MA, which is a 75-acre property with a Native Plant Center, eight greenhouses, and related support structures. Maintenance of the grounds and facilities is shared by all nursery staff. Read the [full job description here](#).



### **Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy**

We seek several individuals to join our talented and passionate Horticulture team doing ground-breaking ecological Horticulture. This person will contribute to the care of The Greenway landscape, helping to provide a safe, clean park with beautiful horticulture for the public to enjoy. The Greenway Conservancy is an award-winning national leader in sustainable landscape care, with organic compost tea brewing, beehives, and more.

### **Seasonal Horticulturist**

The primary role of the Irrigation Technician is to monitor and maintain The Greenway's irrigation systems. This includes troubleshooting and repairing problems, scheduling based on weather and plant conditions, and assuring that the system is working properly and sustainably. Additionally, small-scale design and installation projects, along with the record-keeping tasks are included in this role. The candidate will report to the Horticulture Field Manager and work closely with the Ecological Health Care Horticulturist and the Superintendent of Horticulture. [Find more information here.](#)

### **Horticulture Intern**

The primary role of the Horticulture Intern is to assist with all responsibilities involved with the Horticultural maintenance and care of The Greenway Parks, including participation in and assistance with Horticultural volunteer events. This requires basic understanding of, desire to learn about and the implementation of best Horticultural practices for a wide variety of herbaceous and woody plant material in an urban park setting. As an employee they will also represent the Conservancy in a positive and professional manner with the public. [Find more information here.](#)

### **Seasonal Horticulturist/Irrigation Technician**

Working under the direction of the Horticulture Field Manager, the Seasonal Horticulturist will assist with all of the responsibilities involved with the Horticultural maintenance and care of The Greenway's garden areas. This requires the ability to recognize and perform best Horticultural practices for a wide variety of herbaceous and woody plant material in an urban park setting. [Find more information here.](#)

### **Refugia Design/Build - Seeking Landscape Architect**

Refugia is an ecological landscape design/build and stewardship firm, with our design office located in Narberth PA, serving the Greater Philadelphia Area and Jersey Shore.

Annual exhibitors and award-winners at PHS's Philadelphia Flower Show, Refugia is known for an immersive, naturalistic design aesthetic, meadow expertise and their innovative Greenway Network mapping native habitats.

Currently seeking a licenced Landscape Architect to support design projects and project management at varied scales, throughout multiple phases of built environment/landscape design work. Projects may include new landscape designs, additions and alterations of existing designs, and restorations. We strongly encourage applicants from all backgrounds. Start date February/March 2021.

Visit [www.refugiadesign.com/recruit](http://www.refugiadesign.com/recruit) for details.

### Perfect Earth Project

Head Gardener/Educator The Perfect Earth Project, an East Hampton based 501 (c)(3) nonprofit that promotes toxic-free, nature-based lawns and landscapes is looking to hire an experienced gardener to care for our 4-acre experimental/teaching landscape in Springs (East Hampton) NY and to assist with educational and outreach activities. Position is year-round, full time and includes nearby housing. [Click for more information.](#)



Each author appearing herein retains original copyright. Right to reproduce or disseminate all material herein, including to Columbia University Library's CAUSEWAY Project, is otherwise reserved by ELA. Please contact ELA for permission to reprint.

Mention of products is not intended to constitute endorsement. Opinions expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily represent those of ELA's directors, staff, or members.

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). Georgia Harris, ELA Newsletter Editor

[About Us](#)

[Get Involved](#)

[Events](#)

[Eco-Directory](#)

[Articles](#)

**Ecological Landscape Alliance**  
Post Office Box 3  
Sandown, NH 03873  
617-436-5838

[Contact ELA](#)

