

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

April 2021



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

From The Editor

It's officially spring, and the earth renews herself as we collectively come out of COVID hibernation. Bees are buzzing around the *Amelanchiers*, robins are queuing up for a bath in my small pond, and Virginia bluebells are popping through the leaves in surprising new locations. As you make your own spring observations, be sure to bring your camera along and snap some photos to enter in ELA's **2021 Spotlight on Natives Photo Contest**.

April 22, Earth Day, marks the anniversary of the modern environmental movement's birth in the 1970s, which ushered in the Clean Air, Clean Water, and Endangered Species Acts. Newsletter articles honor Mother Earth this month with ecological approaches to lawns. Articles also highlight echinacea species that attract the most pollinators and large native shrubs to layer into your landscape. We also offer Eco-Actions you can take for Earth Day, a review of *The Gardeners Botanical*, and the second article in our healthy body series – ways to warm up before you pick up that shovel. Let's celebrate Earth Day Every Day. GRH



Lawn Murder

by Leslie Duthie

Americans love their lawns, yet they provide minimal habitat or ecological value for anything other than humans. From an environmental standpoint, I started to rethink the importance of the "lawn" and consider a smaller lawn or lawn alternatives that do not require fertilizer, water, or much mowing. Ultimately, I decided the best solution would be to replace the lawn with new gardens. [Read the article.](#)



Five Reasons Synthetics Are No Longer Considered Best Practices

by Chip Osborne

All industries eventually arrive at best practices that represent the most productive and efficient method to deliver desired results while at the same time minimizing negative impact. While it is understood that all practices are subject to change over time, our industry changes have been motivated by the knowledge that the synthetics we use may have unintended consequences at times. [Read the article.](#)



Echinacea Trials at Mt. Cuba Center

by Sam Hoadley

Echinacea, commonly known as coneflower, is experiencing a horticultural renaissance thanks to plant breeders' hybridization work resulting in the flood of new *Echinacea* cultivars to the horticultural market. While many of these plants look fantastic on paper, Mt. Cuba aimed to assess their actual garden performance and document their ability to attract insect pollinators. [Read the article.](#)

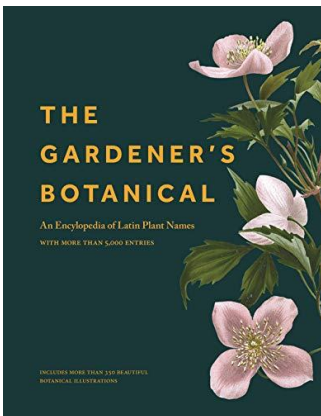


Celebrate Earth Day Every Day - Get Started with these Eco-Actions!

Celebra el Día de la Tierra todos los días - ¡Empiece con estas Eco-Acciones!

As we approach Earth Day 2021, share ELA's list of ecological steps with colleagues, friends, and family. Here are actions all of us can take to make our landscapes more earth friendly. [Read the list.](#)

A medida que nos acercamos al Día de la Tierra 2021, comparta la lista de pasos ecológicos de ELA con colegas, amigos y familiares. Aquí hay acciones que todos podemos tomar para hacer que nuestros paisajes sean más amigables con la tierra. [Lea la lista.](#)



Book Review:

The Gardener's Botanical: An Encyclopedia of Latin Names

Reviewed by Henrietta Hung

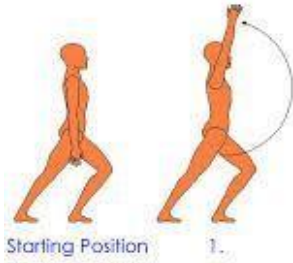
The Gardener's Botanical (Princeton University Press) by Ross Bayton is a delight for anyone who has ever been curious about plant names. It is beautifully bound and presented, and its gorgeous old botanical prints from the Royal Horticultural Society on every page make it a sheer pleasure to leaf through. [Read the Review.](#)



Notable Natives: Large Shrubs and Small Trees

by Sarah Middleleer

Proponents of ecological gardening are urging gardeners to reduce lawn areas and add native plants. Native shrub borders are lower maintenance than perennial borders, making them an excellent solution to this challenge. These plants often provide multi-season interest, including showy flowers, fruit, and fall foliage. Perhaps their best feature is the habitats and food they offer birds and pollinators. [Read the article.](#)



Preserving the Body for Occupational Longevity

by Diana Kiesel

The landscaping professions' seasonal demands will continually challenge one's ability to balance work, family life, and social obligations, leaving little time for self-care. Explore how you can incorporate self-care into your daily life, particularly your work life, for a better tomorrow. **Read the article.**

Highlighting Our Company Members

Read Custom Soils is New England's largest and most experienced precision blender of engineered soils. Our products include lightweight soils for green roofs, bio-retention soils, permeable and ADA-compliant paving material, and structural soils for urban trees. Backed by rigorous testing, our soil blends are the gold standard of engineered soils used on golf courses, athletic fields, and high-performance landscapes.



Everett J. Prescott, Inc. was founded in 1955 in Gardiner, Maine. As the first waterworks distributor north of Massachusetts, we offered water-main tapping and installation, and underground boring.



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The American Public Gardens Association announces Go Public Gardens Days, an international celebration of public gardens, May 7-17, 2021.



Go Public Gardens Days is the annual Spring observance of the American Public Gardens Association's ongoing Go Public Gardens campaign to drive attention and attendance to botanical gardens and arboreta across North America and the world. Many of the Association's 600+ members in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Canada, and around the world join in this celebration with public events and special offers during the week. To learn more, visit gopublicgardensdays.org.



June - August 2021 Series
Speakers include:

Leslie Sauer | Thomas Woltz
Tom Wessels | Wambui Ippolito

Details to come
in April/May

NDAL.org

ELA News

Looking for a Few Good Speakers

As a community, ELA has hundreds of years of experience designing, developing, and maintaining all manner of ecological landscapes. If you have an ecological expertise or field experience, consider sharing with the ELA audience. We are always looking for speakers on a great variety of topics and ELA program are geared to audiences from general gardener to advanced professional.

If you have a topic you'd like to present with ELA, take a minute to let us know by providing a little information. [Click here to fill out a brief form.](#)

Special Member Thank You in June

ELA members, be sure to keep an eye out for the **May Member Engagement email** from Membership Liaisons Kristen Andres and Julie Snell. They'll be announcing two special June events for members only.

Submit Your Native Plant Photos by May 31

ELA's fourth **Spotlight on Natives Photo Contest** is in progress. Entries will be accepted until May 31 at 5:00pm. Submit your photos of native plants, both individual specimen and plants in garden settings. First Prize Winners receive a one-year ELA Professional Membership. Photographers receiving Honorable Recognition will earn \$50 credit toward ELA merchandise, including books. Winners will be announced in June. [Find all the details here.](#)

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

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Green Streets Guidebook, 2018
Michelle Carlson, Wika Cahagney, Helle Ward

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Gleanings

Tallamy Forms HomeGrown National Park Initiative

Doug Tallamy and partners created HomeGrown National Park as a grassroots call-to-action to restore biodiversity and ecosystem function by planting native plants and developing new ecological networks. The effort aims to catalyze individual homeowners, property owners, land managers, farmers, and anyone with some soil to start a new HABITAT™ by planting native plants and removing invasive plants. It is the largest cooperative conservation project ever conceived or attempted. Read more at [HomeGrown National Park](#).

Resolution to Declare April Native Plant Month

A national resolution recognizes native plants that help birds, pollinators, and other wildlife to thrive. The National Audubon Society is encouraging citizens to add native plants to their landscaping, buoyed by a bipartisan [resolution](#) in the U.S. Senate that declares April 2021 as National Native Plant Month. Read more at [Audubon Magazine](#).

Drilling Arctic Refuge Will Release Double Dose of Carbon

In the renewed debate over drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, one troubling impact of oil development has been overlooked: disrupting the annual caribou migration will profoundly affect the soil and release even more greenhouse gas into the atmosphere. Read more at [Yale Environment 360](#).

Spotted Lanternfly Alert

The spotted lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*, "SLF"), a sap-feeding pest recently introduced to the US, has become an invasive insect of great concern in New England. Green industry workers, arborists, and landscapers serve as an important first defense line against the introduction and spread of spotted lanternflies. Click through to Trouble Maker of the Month at [Umass Extension](#).

Cities Take Action to Limit Loud and Polluting Lawn Care

Fossil-fuel-powered leaf blowers spew noise and pollutants – and people working at home are noticing more. More than 100 U.S. cities and towns now ban gas-powered leaf blowers or limit their use. Read more at [Audubon Magazine](#).

Irrigation Canals Covered in Solar Panels is a Win/Win

This one simple trick generates renewable energy, saves billions of gallons of water, and shrinks farmers' carbon footprint – all at the same time. Shading California's irrigation canals with solar panels will reduce water loss from evaporation and keep aquatic weeds down. Read more at [Anthropocene Magazine](#).

Amelanchiers: A Native to Brighten Any Garden

Amelanchiers, a native spring shrub, blooms along the leafless branches in early spring. It's also a small tree with varieties native to every state except Hawaii. But many Americans do not recognize Amelanchier because non-native plants have dominated our spring for so long it's skewed our experience. Read more at [New York Times](#).

Study Shows Carbon Emissions Across Entire Food Production Chain

Our food systems pump out one-third of global greenhouse emissions – 34% – every year, according to new research published in Nature Food. This new study allows researchers to pinpoint different aspects of farming, providing precise datasets and revealing surprising findings. Read more at [Anthropocene Magazine](#).

Leaf Litter: Love It and Leave It

It's so confusing. When is precisely the right time for a gardener to do a thorough spring removal of leaves? Doug Tallamy answers this all-important question, addressing when different insects emerge from their winter resting sites. The answer may surprise you. Read more at [HomeGrown National Park](#).

Carex flacca Found to Be Invasive

North Creek Nurseries has eliminated the sale of *Carex flacca* and its cultivars, like 'Blue Zinger.' It came to the nursery's attention that these European species have been found in natural environs outside of human cultivation in the woods of [Connecticut](#), [Vermont](#), Kentucky, [Michigan](#), and New York, and the Canadian provinces of Nova Scotia, Ontario, and Quebec. Read more at [North Creek Nurseries](#).

Healthy Pots, Healthy Planet

Plastic pots significantly contribute to the proliferation of plastic pollution, with numerous adverse environmental effects. Thus, APLD created the Healthy Pots, Healthy Planet initiative dedicated to finding a more sustainable product for growing, shipping, and selling plant material. Read more at the [Association of Professional Landscape Designers](#).

Twenty-Seven Year Study of Buzzards Bay Water Quality

The Buzzards Bay Coalition published the first 27 years' worth of its Baywatchers water quality data in the international scientific journal, *Scientific Data*. The publication will improve access to the information for researchers worldwide who may use it to develop new insights into protecting Buzzards Bay and other coastal waterways. Read more at [Buzzards Bay Coalition](#).

Virtual Democracy to Protect the Little Things That Run the World

When state legislatures started virtual sessions, this pandemic-driven change opened up the democratic process, making it much easier for people to participate in important decision-making opportunities. It also gave Xerces staff better access to help craft legislation and provide expert testimony no matter the state. Read more at [Xerces Society](#).

How Do Maple Trees React to Climate Change

At the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University, two scientists are examining how maple trees (*Acer*) are responding to climate stress and what that means for the future of the genus. Read more at [Arnold Arboretum](#).

Sci-Fi Eco Thriller

BBC Radio 4's innovative new podcast – Forest 404 – is set in the 24th Century in a world where forests have been erased from history. An immersive sci-fi thriller, it follows a young protagonist who uncovers a set of sound recordings from the early 21st century of the rainforest, which no longer exists. Read more at [BBC](#).



Events to Note

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

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

April

- April 16 - **Enchanted Gardens – Stunning Spring Perennials**; 11:00am ET.
- April 19 - **Online Environmental Poster Making Event for Kids**; 4:00-5:00pm ET.
- April 21 **ELA Webinar**→**Creating Community with Our Insect Neighbors**; 12:00-1:00pm ET.
- April 21 - **The Ecological Value and Sustainability of Yards**; 6:00-7:00pm ET.
- April 21 - **Pollinator Plants by Plant Community**; 6:30-7:30pm ET
- April 22 - **Ask the Entomologist**; 10:00-11:30am ET.
- April 22 - **Gardening for Wildlife & Pollinators**; 7:00-8:30pm.
- April 22 - **Insect Apocalypse? What is Really Happening, Why It Matters and How We can All Be a Vital Part of the Solution**; 10:00-11:30am PT.
- April 22 - **Earth Day Webinar 'Save the Planet and Your Health with a Plant-Based Diet'**; 7:00-9:00pm ET.
- April 23 - **The Value of Nature: Our Climate Reality**; 5:30-6:30pm ET.
- April 23 - **Enchanted Gardens – Design a Sunny Perennial Border**; 11:00am ET.
- April 27, May 4 **ELA Class**→**Eco-Restorative Garden Design**; Framingham, MA; 2:00-4:00pm.
- April 28 **ELA Webinar**→**Going Underground: Unearthing the Role of Soil Organisms in Plant Health**; 12:00-1:00pm ET.
- April 28 - **New Naturalism: Lessons from Wild Plant Communities**; 7:00-8:30pm ET.
- April 29 - **Wildflowers of New England**; 7:00-8:30pm ET.
- April 30 - **Enchanted Gardens - Pots with Pizzazz**; 11:00am ET.

May

- May 2,16,23 - **Solving Complex Site Grading Problems**; 3:00-5:00pm ET.
- May 4 -25 - **Tower Hill -Foundations of Vegetable Gardening**; 6:00-8:00pm ET.
- May 5 **ELA Webinar**→**Beauty and Biodiversity at Cornell's Mundy Wildflower Garden**; 12:00-1:00pm ET.
- May 6 - **Saving Our Trees: Preventing Imported Forest Pests**; 7:00-8:00pm ET.
- May 6 - **Supporting Pollinators Over Time: How to Maintain Wildflower Diversity**; 10:00-11:30am PT.
- May 12 **ELA Webinar**→**The Journey of Edible Landscapes**; 12:00-1:00pm ET.
- May 19 **ELA Webinar**→**Designing Naturalistic Landscapes and Water Features**; 12:00-1:00pm ET.

May 22 - **Native Meadow Establishment**; 1:00-2:30pm ET.

May 26 - **Cultivating Wildlife Conservation with Native Plants**; 7:00-8:30pm ET.

May 26 **ELA Webinar**→**Growing Vertically with Edible and Ornamental Plants**; 12:00-1:00pm ET.

June

June 2 **ELA Webinar**→**Thriving Soils: How the Soil Foodweb Helps Our Gardening**; 12:00-1:00pm ET.

June 9 **ELA Webinar**→**Native Plants for Bird Friendly Communities**; 12:00-1:00pm ET.

June 10 - **COGdesign presents a Tour of the Rose Kennedy Greenway**; Boston, MA; 10:00am,

June 12 **ELA Class**→**Deer-Tolerant Landscapes**; 1:00-3:00pm ET.

June 16 **ELA Webinar**→**Fundamentals of Garden Layers**; 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.



ELA shares job posts as a courtesy to our community, no endorsement implied. Postings will run for two months. Employers are asked to notify ELA if jobs fill before the second posting.

Southwest Boston Community Development Corp seeks a Summer Crew Leader, June 21-August 20, 30 hours per week. The position calls for working with and supervising youth ages 15-18 to restore Hyde Park's urban wilds and assist with job readiness training and environmental education. Must have youth experience and interest in woodland restoration/landscaping/gardening. [Find full job description and apply here.](#)

Meadowscaping for Diversity's Youth Environmental Entrepreneurship Program

High School students age 15-19 learn real-world applications for school subjects; they earn an hourly wage while learning and working; and they return biodiversity and good stewardship practices to the Earth. [Find more information here.](#)

NatureWorks Landscape Services is looking for a Landscape Designer to join our staff. At NatureWorks, you get a trifecta – passionate, collaborative teammates; botanic-garden-quality properties; and industry-busting compensation. Plus, we're highly organized, structured, and thoughtful. The Landscape Design position provides high level garden design across our portfolio of high-end residential clients. [Read full job description and apply here.](#)

Mid-Atlantic Field Operations Coordinator

Larry Weaner Landscape Associates (LWLA) seeks a versatile landscape professional who can assist with the installation and maintenance of meadow, woodland, and garden projects in the mid-Atlantic region (New Jersey, Delaware, Washington D.C., Maryland, and Virginia). Support to LWLA projects in Connecticut and New York (Southeastern NY and Long Island) will be required as individual projects dictate. This is a year-round, full-time position that reports to the jobsite

directly. Salary based on experience. Benefits to include health, dental, retirement contribution and funding for continuing education. This is a new position with room for advancement for the right person. [Find more information here.](#)

Permaculture Contractor Company Manager, Park City, Utah
Red Ant Works, Inc. - Park City, Utah

Founder stepping away from daily operations after 20 years and seeks company manager.

Permaculture landscape contracting company at 7k' elevation - winters off.

Must have three (3) years in a related field, PDC (permaculture design certificate) and a sense of humor. Salaried position with benefits and paid summer holidays & vacation.

For complete job description and additional requirements:

redant@xmission.com

Stone Barns Center, Pocantico Hills, NY, seeks a Groundskeeper as a member of the Stone Barns Center Ecosystems Team, reporting directly to the Ecosystems Director. The work of this team encompasses Stone Barns Center's landscaping, gardening, compost and fertility cycles, beekeeping/pollination work, ecological monitoring, and forestry program. In coordination with the Ecosystems Director, the Groundskeeper will play an essential role in caring for the diverse, ecologically managed grounds and landscape. Additionally, this role will support the livestock, compost and crops operations as needed. A desire to steward land for beauty, ecological health, and resilience is essential. With the focus on R&D at Stone Barns Center, there are many opportunities for collaborative and exploratory projects. [Click here for more information.](#)

Nadia Malarkey Garden Design, LLC seeks Landcare Team Member/Seasonal. Nadia Malarkey Garden Design is a professional regenerative landscape design company based in Yellow Springs, Ohio. NMGD employs a dynamic systems approach to landcare that enhances biodiversity and biomass while enriching clients' experience of the beauties of the changing seasons. We are looking for a candidate who would like to join our team of passionate plant and environmental enthusiasts. If you appreciate the dual role that a bio-diverse landscape plays in creating lovely and healthy eco-systems and if you would enjoy being a part of a hardworking team that shares a love of learning and working outdoors, then we might just be a good fit. Preferred, minimum of two years of experience in one or more of these fields: Gardening, horticulture, landscape management, regenerative/organic farming, environmental science, ecology. For more information, [view full job description here.](#)

BlueFlax Design, LLC, a design/build firm located in Harwich, Massachusetts (on Cape Cod) specializing in a blend of landscape and ecological restoration design and implementation, seeks a Design Director to collaborate with and direct our design team in the development of ecologically based landscape design and master planning plans, and coastal and

inland wetland mitigation/restoration and land management projects. [To find out more and apply, click here.](#)

Lawn Care Technician/Plant Health Care Technician

Mayer Tree Service/Finest Green Services in Essex, MA, is looking for an experienced Lawn Care/Plant Health Care Technician with a valid driver's license and core pesticide license. We require a high school diploma, or equivalent GED, good physical condition, excellent verbal, written, good customer service skills, and the ability to work independently. Salary commensurate with experience. **More Information: David Anderson, danderson@mayertree.com, 978-880-0803**

Turtle Habitat Management – Mendon, MA

I'm looking for an environmentally sensitive landscaper who can brush hog a turtle management area this year before April 15. The area is subject to NHESP Turtle Habitat Management, and we have a specific map of the conservation land that requires mowing every 7 years. The location is off Gaskill Street in Mendon MA. The land is owned by the town, and the conservation commission is responsible for the mowing, and has money set aside for the project. Metacomet Land Trust will be the grantee of the conservation restriction, and is available to answer contractor questions.

For more information, contact: Patrice Murphy, patrice.murphy@metacometlandtrust.org or 508-561-6838.



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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. Georgia Harris, ELA Newsletter Editor

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