



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

From The Editor

As June fast approaches, remember to submit your favorite photos to ELA's **Spotlight on Natives Photo Contest**. It's a fun time of year for the ELA judges, and with the fantastic images submitted, it's no simple task to pick the winners. Anyone can submit photos; however, it's an excellent time to become an **ELA member**. ELA members received an email invitation to two member-exclusive webinars. The first webinar is **Beautiful and Tough Natives Shine in Uncertain Times** with Teri Speight, on June 23. Teri highlights the beauty and environmental value of native plants and encourages us to spend more time in our gardens. Teri believes our reconnection with the soil, nature, and our roots leads us to respect the earth's bounty. Then on June 30, Deborah Chud presents **A Piet Oudolf Story**. Follow Deborah's five-year journey creating her garden in the Oudolf style.



This month the newsletter's focus is on problems and pests. How do we respond to the Spotted Lanternfly (SLF), a recently introduced species destroying orchards and ornamental gardens at an alarming rate? Learn to identify SLF and report all sightings. How do deer and your prized natives exist in the same space? The book *Deer-Resistant Gardening* offers insight into dealing with these hungry herbivores. Have a construction project but need to avoid soil compaction from heavy machinery. Helical piles might be just the solution you need. Why are bees becoming too sleepy to return to their hives? Answer: neonicotinoids, according to scientists studying the effects of neonics on bees. What can we do when our energy flags after a long day in the garden? Look to proper nutrition for answers. Enjoy this issue, and I'll look forward to photos from your garden. *GRH*



Spotted Lanternfly: Invasive Insect Report

by Joshua Bruckner

Spotted lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*, "SLF") is an emerging invasive insect of concern in New England. SLF was first detected in Pennsylvania in September 2014. It feeds on a wide range of fruit, ornamental and woody trees, with tree-of-heaven being one of the preferred hosts. We must stop SLF before it seriously impacts the country's grape, orchard, and logging industries. **Read the article.**



Helical Piles

by Bruce Wenning

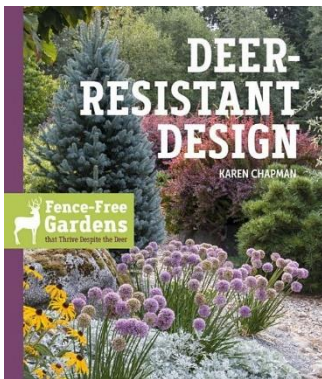
Want to construct an addition to your home but are afraid of damaging treasured mature trees and plantings, not to mention the damage from heavy machinery to the soil structure? Helical piles could be the answer. This little-known pier foundation system requires less time and physical effort than "dig and pour" cement footings and continuous cement foundations. **Read the article.**



Insomniac Bees

by Sara Novakey

Insomnia weighs heavily on humans, and the same is true of bees. They depend on their circadian rhythms – their natural sleep-wake cycle – and when it's disrupted, they become confused. For a bee, that doesn't just mean overeating or losing patience with a spouse. It means never making it back to the hive. [Read the article.](#)



Book Review:

Deer-Resistant Gardening

Reviewed by Kerry O'Kelly

Dealing with deer is one of the biggest design challenges in gardening. Deer limit the design plant palette and cause untold damage, especially in the fall and winter. They can require costly fences, increase the maintenance burden, and exacerbate health risks from Lyme disease. This book has a lot of good deer guidance, especially for those new to dealing with deer. [Read the review.](#)



Proper Nutrition for Increased Activity Levels

by Samantha McCarthy

In landscape and gardening design, spring means a change from a more sedentary winter lifestyle to a sudden increase in physical activity. This quick transition can be a challenge for the body, so optimizing your nutrition throughout the Spring and Summer can help you feel better, increase energy levels, and prevent inflammation and pain in the joints. [Read the article.](#)

Highlighting Our Company Members

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. Learn more at [horsleywitten.com](https://www.horsleywitten.com).



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ELA News

Share Your Expertise!

As ELA begins scheduling fall and winter virtual conferences, we're reaching out to our community for speakers. Our members have hundreds of years of combined 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 seek speakers on a great variety of topics, and ELA programs 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 submit a proposal.](#)

Not a speaker, but maybe you heard a great talk this past year? We'd like to hear about that, too. Just send an email to penny@ecolandscaping.org.

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.](#)

Special Member Thank You in June

ELA members, check your inbox for the **May 10 Member Engagement email** from Membership Liaisons Kristen Andres and Julie Snell. In addition to announcing two special June events for members only, they are asking members to share some of their projects. We hope you'll share your landscape!

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

Controlling Invasive Japanese Knotweed

Japanese knotweed was probably introduced to the U.S. in the late 1800s. It is found near water sources, such as along streams and rivers; in low-lying areas; waste places; utility rights-of-way; and around old homesites. It can quickly become an invasive pest in natural areas after escaping from cultivated gardens. Learn effective management options at [CISMA](#).

No Mow May

The Pollinator Pathway wants you to take the challenge: let your lawn grow for the whole month of May. That's right – Do Nothing! Leave your mower in the garage until June. Let your green lawn turn into a riot of color with buttercups, clover, dandelions, and daisies that will offer much-needed food for our beleaguered bees and butterflies who are starving after a long winter. Read more at [Pollinator Pathway](#).

How and (Why) to Use Native plants

You know they support pollinators and native wildlife, but you may not have a meadow where they'll feel at home. Learn how to create a pollinator garden no matter what your land or time constraints might be. Any native planting can help – at least in a small way – to bridge the gaps in our fragmented, overdeveloped habitat. Read more at [New York Times](#).

Is There A Market for Blue Carbon

Seagrasses, mangrove forests, and coastal wetlands store vast amounts of carbon, and their preservation and restoration hold great potential to bank CO₂ and keep it out of the atmosphere. But can the blue carbon market avoid the pitfalls that have plagued land-based programs? Read more at [Yale Environment 360](#).

Significant Scale Restoration on Gulf Coast

After the BP oil disaster, Deepwater Horizon Trustees in charge of the Gulf Coast restoration announced nearly \$100 million in new projects to ensure birds and other migratory wildlife are healthy and protected across the entire Gulf Coast. Fantastic news because bird species don't obey state lines. Read more at [National Audubon](#).

Lights, Camera, Action

The eighth annual Yale Environment 360 Video Contest is now accepting entries. The contest honors the year's best environmental videos, especially work from around the globe that has not previously been widely seen. Read more at [Yale Environment 360](#).

Dialogue Between Art and Nature

Yayoi Kusama's work has been described as transformative for both the observer and her exhibit's surroundings. The Japanese artist's latest exhibition, postponed initially because of the pandemic, aptly uses a 250-acre landscape of the New York Botanic Garden as the setting for her exhibit "Cosmic Nature." Read more at [New York Times](#).

Massachusetts Bans the Use of Neonicotinoids

The Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) recently announced that the Massachusetts Pesticide Board Subcommittee passed a ruling in March regarding the registration and use of neonicotinoids in the Commonwealth. The ruling will ultimately eliminate access to neonicotinoids for non-agricultural outdoor applications by not licensed or certified people. Read more at [UMass](#).

The Dirt Beneath Our Feet

The Xerces Society has been working for over a year on a project to focus more conservation attention on one of the darkest, most enigmatic ecosystems on our planet: the ground beneath our feet. Soils support the most biologically rich animal communities on earth, outside of our oceans. Read more at [Xerces Society](#).

Coffee May Help Reforestation

Researchers dumped tons of coffee pulp on degraded lands. The reforestation jolt was dramatic. Using agricultural waste as fertilizer led to healthier soils, fewer invasives, and more tree canopy cover. Read more at [Anthropocene Magazine](#).

Let Go of the Perfect Lawn Created By Fossil Fuels

The amount of pollution, from noise to air to water, created to maintain green carpets and immaculate yards is jarring. Instead of putting public health at risk and degrading the environment with a chemically treated lawn, create a yard with a diverse mix of [native trees, shrubs, and plants](#); it is cheaper to maintain, easier to take care of, environmentally beneficial, and more attractive. Read more at [EcoRI News](#).

Don't Be Impulsive

There's a reason the gardening industry fondly refers to this time of year as the "100 days of hell." The pandemic has only made spring plant shopping more challenging. Before stepping into a garden center be prepared, make a list, and try to avoid impulse buys. Remember you need color all season, not just spring. Read more at [New York Times](#).

Composting 101

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) has developed a new "why to compost" infographic, presentation, and updated list of home compost bin distribution programs. All of these materials and more can be found online. Read more at [Mass Gov](#).

Everything's Comin Up Compost!

Food scraps and biodegradable utensils are standard fodder for compost, but in Colorado, human remains could soon be transformed into soil too. If Colorado Governor signs the bill into law, Colorado would be the second state to allow composting of human remains in lieu of traditional processes like burial and cremation. Read more at [New York Times](#).

UConn Produces Native Plant Guide

The University of Connecticut introduces its new "Native Plant and Sustainable Landscaping Guide." This is a new go-to, essential resource for planting in Connecticut. Find plant recommendations and information for attracting pollinators, tolerating deer, nursery list, and further resources. Read more at [UConn.edu](#).

Dark Skies Protect the Birds

In dozens of American cities, buildings, landmarks, and monuments are turning off lights to prevent fatal impacts as birds set off on spring migration. Read more at [New York Times](#), [Dark Sky](#), and [National Audubon](#).

Gardens, Art and Activism Together

Between May and September, artists and activists Ekua Holmes (African American) and Elizabeth James-Perry (Aquinnah Wampanoag) will create a "Garden for Boston" outside the MFA's main entrance. The

installations transform the MFA's Huntington Avenue lawn into a growing, blooming summer garden representing the resilience, strength, and hope of both artists, their communities, and their ancestors. Read more at [MFA Boston](#).

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.

May

May 18 - **Spotted Lanternfly Quarterly Webinar Series**; 10:00am ET.

May 18 - **Ecological Forest Stewardship: Goals, Inventory, and Planning**; 6:00-7:30pm ET.

May 19 - **I Have a Butterfly Garden, Now What?** 6:30-7:30pm ET.

May 19 **ELA Webinar**→**Designing Naturalistic Landscapes and Water Features**; 12:00-1:00pm ET.

May 20 - **Plastic Purge with Dr. Michael SanClements**; 7:00-8:00pm ET.

May 20 - **Conway School Student Info Session**; 7:00-8:30pm ET.

May 20 - **Diseases of Landscape Trees**; 12:00pm 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**→**Rain Garden Primer: A Good Option for Your Landscape?**; 12:00-1:00pm ET.

June 8 - **Managing Phosphorus Pollution with Stormwater Bioretention Systems: A Soil Study**; 10:30am-12:00pm ET.

June 8 - **Tick Education Day**; 10:00am 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 13 - **Music in Bloom at Tower Hill Botanical Garden**; 6:00pm ET.

June 15 - **Mosquito Education Day**; 10:00am ET.

June 16 **ELA Webinar**→**Fundamentals of Garden Layers**; 12:00-1:00pm ET.

June 23 **ELA Member Event**→**Beautiful and Tough Natives Shine in Uncertain Times**; 12:00-1:00pm ET.

June 30 **ELA Member Event**→**A Piet Oudolf Story with Deborah Chud**; 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.

The Conway School, a small, independent graduate school of planning and design, seeks a part-time Admissions Manager. Excellent communication skills a must; awareness of the ecological design and planning fields preferred. BIPOC, immigrants, women, and LGBTQIA candidates are

encouraged to apply. [Find full job description and application details here.](#)

Connecticut College Arboretum seeks a horticulturist to care for the Native Plant Collection (NPC) and dedicated natural areas. The NPC, established in 1931, is a 30-acre collection of trees and shrubs native to eastern North America and features a series of special collections including the wildflower garden, a Plant Collections Network accredited azalea garden, dwarf conifer collection, greenhouse and nursery. Natural areas includes 600 acres of mixed deciduous forests, restored meadows, a bog, salt marsh and wooded island in the Thames River. The Arboretum seeks a dynamic individual with a passion for native flora, experience cultivating indigenous plants and skills in natural areas management to join the horticulture team. [Find full job description and apply here.](#)

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.](#)



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