

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

June 2021



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

## From The Editor

It's June again! The mad rush of spring planting is behind us, and the glorious sun-filled days of summer are bright on the horizon. I hope that like me, you have a rainy day to sit back and enjoy the rewards that the hard work of the season has brought and observe the gardens you have created. Of course, with rain come questions about how to handle rainwater on a property. To answer all your rain management questions, jump into ELA's members-only live Zoom **Eco-Answers with the ELA Eco-Pros: Water in the Landscape** on June 30th.



Not only does June feature International **Pollinator Week** (June 21-27), it's also time to announce the winners of our Spotlight on Natives Photo Contest in the *ELA Newsletter*. Articles this month also venture down to the foothills of the Blue Ridge mountains to visit the Quarry Gardens at Schuyler and then travel northward to the Delaware Valley where we learn about landscape niches. This month's book review, *The Ecological Gardener*, takes us across the pond to be inspired by rewilding and a lack of neatness in garden designs. Closer to home, the article *Think like a Forest* teaches us to use a forest ecosystem as a rubric to bring maximum biodiversity to the human landscape. Congratulations to all the photo contest winners; thank you for inspiring us with your beautiful work. Wishing you a brilliant summer. *GRH*



### ELA Names Winners of 2021 Spotlight on Natives Contest

Photographers from across the country submitted nearly 200 images to ELA's 2021 Spotlight on Natives Photography Contest. Each sought to capture the special allure of native plants – the unique structure of trunks, stems, leaves, blossoms, seeds; the juxtaposition of native plants in groupings; and the interaction of pollinators with native plants. This year's entries again encompassed an outstanding array of plants and habitats. [See the winning entries.](#)



### The Quarry Gardens at Schuyler

by Cynthia Wood

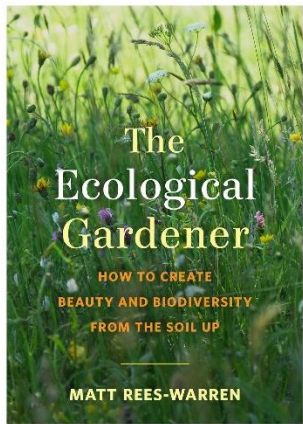
In the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains in Nelson County, Virginia, the Quarry Gardens at Schuyler offer a unique opportunity for nature lovers to learn about native plants and their ecosystems. Opened to the public in 2017, the Quarry Gardens occupy 40 acres within a 440-acre natural preserve and support a vibrant diversity of species. [Read the article.](#)



## Planting Landscape Niches

by Susan Barton

In today's rapidly urbanizing environment, we have a unique opportunity, if not a duty, to create livable landscapes that are attractive, easily managed, and provide a rich complement of plants to support diverse ecosystems. Let's adapt a naturalistic design aesthetic that allows us to use native plants in home gardens, reflecting our regional spirit of place. [Read the article.](#)



### Book Review:

## The Ecological Gardener: How to Create Beauty and Biodiversity from the Soil Up

Reviewed by Molly Kerker

Keeping an orderly garden while planting native plantings can be challenging. Seeking intentionality in my gardening practice and hungry for new ideas, I picked up *The Ecological Gardener: How to Create Beauty and Biodiversity from the Soil Up*. This well-organized book provides a very clear philosophy of ecological gardening, along with many helpful tutorials and ideas. [Read the review.](#)



## Think Like a Forest

by Anna Failkoff

Forest trees are not singular specimens but are interdependent players in a dynamic natural community. The tree canopy casts critical shade, moderates moisture and temperature, drops leaf litter to help build living soil, and provides sustenance for a diversity of life on roots, trunks, branches, and leaves. Using forest ecosystems for inspiration, we can bring maximal biodiversity, resilience and biomass back into human landscapes. [Read the article.](#)

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## **ELA News**

### **Eco-Answers with an Eco-Pro**

Introducing a new interactive **Q&A with ELA's Eco-Pros**. Each month, one of our Pros will focus on a general ecological topic and open the discussion up for questions from ELA members. We welcome our members to join this **free 90-minute Zoom conversation** from wherever you are to get the inside scoop from a Pro.

**June Eco-Answers: Water in the Landscape** - Battling persistent drainage problems? Suffering raingarden angst? Considering a permeable replacement for your patio? Meet with one of ELA's Eco-Pros for ecologically-focused answers to your landscape questions. In June, our Pro dives into stormwater and water related problems and concerns in the landscape. Join Trevor Smith on June 30, 6:30-8:00pm, to ask your questions about stormwater and green infrastructure. [Register here.](#)

**July Eco-Answers: Edible Landscapes** - Is your vegetable garden letting you down? Are you unsure about non-toxic pest and disease controls? Suffering from tomato envy? Meet with one of ELA's Eco-Pros for ecologically-focused answers to your landscape questions. In July, our Pro bites into your questions about edibles in the landscape. Whether you are nurturing a single potted tomato or an acre, join Dan Jaffe Wilder, native edible plant specialist, on July 28, 6:30-8:00pm, to ask your questions about managing and maintaining edible plants. [Register here.](#)

### **ELA Members: Vote for Your Board**

Check your email inbox for the ELA Annual Meeting notice that includes your ballot for members of the 2021-22 Board of Directors. Completed ballots must be returned by July 15, 2021. Again this year, we will not hold an in-person summer workshop as the ELA Board spends the time on future planning for the organization.

### **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.](#)

If you aren't a speaker, but you heard a great talk this past year, we'd like to hear about that, too. Just send an email to [penny@ecolandscaping.org](mailto:penny@ecolandscaping.org).

**Enjoy all the ELA Membership Benefits - including free and discounted events.  
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This advertisement for redbudnative.com is presented in a horizontal banner format. On the left, there is a close-up photograph of a vibrant purple flower with a white center. In the middle, the website address "redbudnative.com" is displayed in a black, sans-serif font above a stylized logo consisting of a grey leaf and a branch. Below the logo, the text "redbud native plant nursery" is written in a black, sans-serif font. On the right side of the banner, there is a photograph of a cluster of bright red, tubular flowers.



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## **Firefly Summer**

Chasing after the blinking glow of fireflies on a warm summer evening is a favorite childhood memory for many. Unfortunately, recent assessments have shown that several firefly species in the U.S. and Canada are at risk of extinction due to habitat loss, light pollution, and climate change. The assessments identified some key actions that need to be taken to protect and better understand fireflies from coast to coast. Read more at [Xerces Society](#).

## **Celebrate Pollinator Week June 21-27**

Pollinator Week is an annual event celebrated internationally in support of pollinator health. It's a time to celebrate pollinators and spread the word about what we can do to protect them. The great thing about Pollinator Week is that you can celebrate and get involved any way you like! Read more at [Pollinator Partnership](#).

## **Should We Help Endangered Species Move?**

The conservation community has fiercely debated whether to help species move as climate change and habitat loss threatens more extinctions. Now, scientists are calling on an upcoming international conference to set guidelines for this complex – and potentially risky – challenge. Read more at [Yale Environment 360](#).

## **New Hampshire Team Works to Create Living Shoreline**

The Great Bay Living Shoreline Project in New Hampshire aims to create new living shoreline projects in the Great Bay Estuary that protect salt marsh habitat and coastal communities from erosion, sea-level rise, and flooding. Project partners have obtained grant funds to support professionals looking to gain hands-on experience with living shoreline design. Read more at [New Hampshire Great Bay Living Shoreline Project](#).

## **A New Invasive Tick to Worry About**

This year's tick season has brought an unwelcome development beyond the usual concerns about the disease-bearing arachnids with the confirmation of what one scientist said is a new invasive species in the Northeast. The Asian Longhorn Tick poses a risk to livestock but doesn't seem to like people. Read more at [EcoRI News](#).

## **Be on the Lookout for the Invasive Box Tree Moth**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has confirmed the presence of box tree moth, *Cydalima perspectalis*, in the continental United States. APHIS is taking action alongside state partners and industry to contain and eradicate the invasive pest that was imported on nursery plants shipped from Ontario, Canada. Read more at [US Department of Agriculture](#).

## **Tree-Smart Trade**

Invasive pests attack urban, suburban, and rural trees and can decimate entire species of trees in a matter of decades, but there is a path forward. Our government can be smart and prevent the introduction of new pests to stop further damage. Read more at [Cary Institute](#).

## **Plants Forced to Adapt to Rapidly Changing Climate**

New research published found that humans have stressed plant ecosystems more severely, and for longer, than previously thought. Many of the forests we have now are dying because those trees established under cooler, moister conditions. As the climate becomes hotter and more extreme, we have to plant species that can handle that. Read more at [Nations of Change](#).

## **Could Dandelions Make More Sustainable Tires?**

The Russian dandelion helped supply the Allied forces with rubber through the Second World War. Now, tire makers are hoping it could make a commercial comeback. Over recent years, projects in Europe and the US have been taking a fresh shot at making dandelion rubber commercially viable. Many issues still exist, but this could help reduce deforestation from natural rubber plantations in Southeast Asia. Read more at [DW](#).

## **A Ticky Situation**

They say the best way to protect yourself from ticks is avoiding their habitat, which can be very tricky for gardeners, especially since New England, New York, and Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Michigan are all Lyme disease hotspots. Experts swear by tick repellent clothing and body tick checks after being in a tick-infested habitat. Perhaps the most promising solution is a preventative shot called [Lyme PrEP](#), developed at the University of Massachusetts and recently approved for clinical trials. The shot could come to market as soon as 2023. Read more at [Sierra Club Magazine](#).

### **How Best to Restore the Natural World?**

What's the best way to protect nature and restore what has been lost? A series of new scientific papers offer conflicting views on whether efforts should focus on individual species or ecosystems, and they point to the role human inhabitants can play in conserving landscapes. Read more at [Yale Environment 360](#).

### **Rethinking Forest Carbon Offsets**

A critical examination of markets for forest carbon offsets in the United States suggests that offset deals provide little if any true "additionality" that enhances rates of forest carbon sequestration. The majority of credits sold on those markets, particularly for credits based on unrealistic baselines, provide no real offset to greenhouse gas emissions at all. Read more at [The Cary Institute](#).

### **Wolves Have a Place in Healthy Ecosystem**

Wolves were an essential part of promoting biodiversity and the overall health of ecosystems. Since wolf reintroduction in Yellowstone, other plants and animal species are thriving. Yet newly-passed laws in Montana and Idaho – intended to reduce the wolf populations in those states by 80 percent and 90 percent, respectively – are taking us back 100 years to when wolves were driven to near extinction in this country. Read more at [Sierra Club Magazine](#).

### **The EU Moves to Slash Plastic Waste**

As part of a broader effort to create a circular economy that reduces waste and greenhouse gas emissions, the European Union will ban a host of throwaway plastic items next month and is working to create an expansive and lucrative market for recycled plastics. Read more at [Yale Environment 360](#).

### **Citizen Scientist Track Fireflies**

Firefly Watch combines an annual summer evening ritual with scientific research. Join a network of community scientists around the country by reporting observations from your own backyard and helping scientists map fireflies. Read more at [Mass Audubon](#).

## **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.

#### **June**

June 15-July 1 - [Mass Ag Photo Contest](#) (ongoing).

June 16 [ELA Webinar](#)→[Fundamentals of Garden Layers](#); 12:00-1:00pm ET.

June 17 - [Human Dimensions of Pollinator Conservation](#); 10:00am PT.

June 22 - [Survival of New England's Plant Diversity](#); 10:00am ET.

June 23 [ELA Member Event](#)→[Beautiful and Tough Natives Shine in Uncertain Times](#); 12:00-1:00pm ET.

June 23 - [Pollinator Week Panel & Happy Hour: Ask Us Anything About Pollinators](#); 5:00pm PT.

June 24 - [Let's Meditate in Nature](#); 12:30pm ET.

June 24 - [Science for the Future of the Hudson River](#); 7:00-8:00pm ET.

June 30 [ELA Member Event](#)→[A Piet Oudolf Story with Deborah Chud](#); 12:00-1:00pm ET.

June 30 - [The State of Our Urban Forests](#); 12:00pm ET.

June 30 [ELA Member Event](#)→[Eco-Answers with an ELA Eco-Pro: Water in the Landscape](#); 6:30-8:00pm ET.

#### **July**

July 6-7 - [Engaging Young People Around Climate Change](#); 9:00am-12:00pm ET.

July 6-9 & 12-16 - [At-home Art + Science Cary Institute](#); 10:00 am ET.

July 6-9 & 12-16 - [At-home EcoQuest Cary Institute](#); various times.

July 28 [ELA Member Event](#)→[Eco-Answers with an ELA Eco-Pro: Edible Landscapes](#); 6:30-8:00pm ET.

July 30-August 6 - [NOFA Summer Conference](#).

#### **Anytime**

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

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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.](#)



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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](mailto:ela.info@comcast.net).  
Georgia Harris, ELA Newsletter Editor

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