

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

August 2021



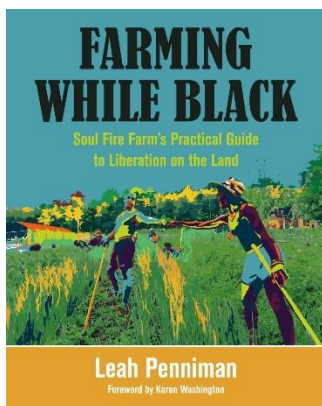
Advocating for ecological landscape practices  
through education, collaboration, and outreach.

## From The Editor

In my garden this season, I've celebrated plant combinations – both planned and serendipitous. I'm drawn again and again not to a singular plant but to an entire bed of plants and the juxtaposition of color and light. The sound of buzzing bees and the scent of *Clethra alnifolia* add yet other dimensions to the experience. In this month's newsletter, Todd Haiman discusses the importance of considering scent in a garden design in addition to aspects appealing to the other senses. Also, we hear from ELA members about their favorite native plants and hope they'll spark ideas for your gardens. Finally, we offer an excerpt from Leah Penniman's *Farming While Black* and an article about the ways landscaping can bring beauty and dignity to low-income housing.

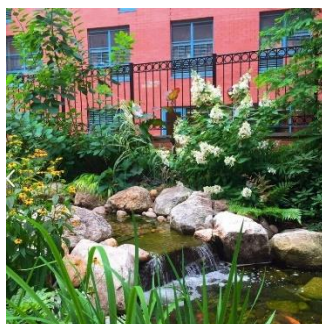


Remember, Season 9 of the **Focus on Sustainability (FOS)** webinar series begins on September 8 with a presentation on stone walls. New this year, **many FOS live webinars will qualify for CEUs**; check each event for details. The FOS series is free to members as is the members-only series Eco-Answers from an ELA Eco-Pro. On August 25, you can quiz the Eco-Pro with your **Landscape Design** questions; then on September 29, our Pro addresses **Native Plants**. Don't delay; sign up now! In the meantime, grab a cold drink and enjoy this edition of the newsletter. See you in September. *GRH*



### Farming While Black by Leah Penniman

I never imagined that I would become a farmer. In my teenage years, as my race consciousness evolved, I got the message loud and clear that Black activists were concerned with gun violence, housing discrimination, and education reform, while white folks were concerned with organic farming and environmental conservation. **Read the article.**



### Landscape Brings Beauty and Dignity to Low-Income Housing by Shanti Nagel and Meral Marino

Suppose you pop your head into the courtyard on 53rd street, a lush interior garden shared by 86 affordable housing units in Midtown Manhattan. In that case, you are likely to find Ursula parked in her wheelchair amidst the flowers and sunshine. When asked why this garden is so important to her, Ursula said, "It is a magic place!" **Read the article.**



## An Interview With Botanist Walter Kittredge

Interview conducted by John Kittredge

What new skills or activities did you try during COVID lockdown? Walter Kittredge began an entirely new venture after retiring from his 45-year career at the world-renowned Gray Herbarium at Harvard University. He opened a native plant nursery called Oakhaven Sanctuary. [Read the review.](#)



## Members Share Their Favorite Native Plants

Favorite plants that a gardener can depend on year in year out are the hallmark of sustainable gardens. Whether it's a workhorse in the garden or it shines when other plants have drooped, we all have beloved plants. Learn about some ELA members' favorite native plants. [Read the article.](#)



## Gardens Are Ephemeral and Transitional

by Todd Haiman

The experience one encounters within the garden are ever-changing and evanescent. Sound and scent are spatial and temporal. Two people in the same situation will likely have a uniquely different commentary on the same landscape experience. More so than other arts, garden design and landscape design can summon all our sensual responses. [Read the article.](#)

## Highlighting Company Members

Ideal has been providing over 98 years of experience in quality, service, and reliability to Municipalities, Design/Engineering Professionals and Dealers.

As a manufacturer of Concrete Interlocking Pavers, we began

producing Permeable Pavers and Segmental Retaining Walls in the 1980's and are proud to be one of New England's leading manufacturers.



## ELA News

**SUMMER  
BOOK SALE  
AND MORE**

**We Clean Out the Cabinets; You Get the Discounts!**

Had your eye on an ELA tee shirt? Or a book in the ELA store that you wish you'd purchased? Don't hesitate now! We have limited stock and have cut prices deeply. First come; first served. [Find all available products here.](#)

## Letter from the President

Dear ELA Community:

I'm reaching out today to share with you the news that ELA's long-time Executive Director, Penny Lewis, will be stepping down next year. Thanks to Penny's dedication and passion for our mission over the last 16 years, ELA has grown from a small grass-roots volunteer-run organization to the professional organization that it is today.

During Penny's tenure, ELA has grown in size, reach and impact. Membership has doubled in the last eighteen months. We've expanded regionally and added annual conferences in the Mid-Atlantic and New York City. We've offered free webinars through the Walk in the Garden series in 2020 and 2021. The monthly newsletter is distributed to more than 11,000 recipients. We have had successful year-over-year financial growth. This positive trajectory is thanks to Penny's incredible and tireless efforts to spread the mission and work of ELA to as many folks as possible.

The ELA Board is grateful for everything Penny has given to ELA and the larger ecological community and we wish her well on her future endeavors. Penny's hard work has left ELA well positioned to continue future growth and the board has convened a Leadership Transition Task Force to guide the process of determining the best path forward. While we can never replace Penny, we recognize that ELA's mission has never been more important and we're excited about what the future holds for your organization.

Sincerely,  
Rie Macchiarolo  
ELA Board President

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

**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](https://smile.amazon.com) for your shopping.

## Thank You to Our Conference Sponsors



914.586.3733 | [info@penningtongrey.com](mailto:info@penningtongrey.com)  
NATIVE MEADOWS CLASSIC HORTICULTURE ROOFTOP GARDENS





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](http://Planterschoice.com)

ejprescott.com    Founded in 1955

**Local.  
Organic.  
Peat-Free.**

redbudnative.com

redbud  
native plant nursery

# Gleanings

## Can We Save Ourselves?

The Climate panel warns that a hotter future is unavoidable, but we can change how hot it will be. Some devastating impacts of global warming are now inevitable, a major new scientific report finds. But there is still a short window to stop things from getting even worse. Read more at [New York Times](#).



## The Plant That Cannot Die

Events in the genome of the Welwitschia plant have given it the ability to survive in an unforgiving desert for thousands of years. The genetic lessons Welwitschia has to offer in a warming world may help humans breed hardier, less thirsty crops. Read more at [New York Times](#).

## Snakes on a Plane!

Some 55 million people pass through San Francisco International (SFO) during a typical year, the nation's seventh busiest airport. At some point during their journey, each traveler will pass by a seemingly unremarkable 180-acre parcel of land. It may look like any other overgrown vacant lot, but this one is home to the world's largest population of the strikingly beautiful and highly endangered San Francisco garter snake. Read more at [Yale Environment 360](#).

## Should Geoengineering Science be Used to Combat Climate Change?

The [U.N. climate report](#) just released presents a major leap forward in predicting how geoengineering to limit global warming might affect the planet, although scientists said the most significant hurdle remains to decide whether to use the controversial methods. Read more at [Reuters](#).

## Pesticide Sprays Harm Grassland Birds

As swarms of grasshoppers chew through grasslands, environmentalists worry chemical pest controls hold unintended consequences for wildlife. Environmentalists fear that this effort to spray more than 1.5 billion acres with pesticides to protect farmers and ranchers comes at the cost of harming wildlife. Read more at [Audubon](#).

## The Guardian Changes Use of 'Climate Change' to 'Climate Emergency'

Instead of "climate change," the preferred term is "climate emergency." The phrase "climate change" sounds gentle and passive when scientists talk about the destruction of ecosystems that support all life on earth. The world scientists' landmark reports have laid bare the scale of the climate and wildlife crises. Read more at [The Guardian](#).

## Who Are We to Decide an Owl's Fate?

Gunning down a common owl to save an endangered one worked. Are we willing to keep doing it? Barred owls are, in a way, the Terminator of owls, built to win out in a human-influenced world. Spotted owls are not. Do we have the stomach to kill one species in favor of an endangered species? Read more at [Anthropocene Magazine](#).

## More and More and More Plastics in Our Oceans

The overuse of plastic is changing the composition of Rhode Island's marine waters. These petroleum byproducts don't biodegrade; they remain in the environment for centuries. Their long-term impacts on environmental and public health aren't close to being fully understood. Read more at [EcoRI News](#).

## What NYC's Little Island Says About Parks and Inequality

The Little Island, one of Manhattan's newest public parks, officially opened in spring. It sits on the edge of Chelsea's Pier 51 – a small patch of green floating above the Hudson River on a forest of mushroom-like concrete pilings. Access to the Little Island may be free, but daily attendance is limited, and the park will regularly close for private events. Is this park equitable for all? Read more at [The Sierra Club](#).

### **Saving the Western Monarch**

During the 20th century, millions of Western Monarch butterflies clustered along the California coast during their winter migration. But just last fall, during the 2020 annual **Xerces Society Thanksgiving Count**, fewer than 2,000 butterflies showed up, a 99.9% drop since the 1980s. A coalition of scientists and conservation experts have joined forces to extend a helping hand to these iconic butterflies. Read more at [San Francisco CBS](#).

### **Rhode Island Confronts Access to Public Coast**

Using a method known as “equity mapping,” researchers examined census data to determine whether different populations within Rhode Island’s cities and towns had equal access to opportunities for recreation on the coast. Read more at [EcoRI News](#).

### **Tracking Species Recovery**

What if we tracked a species recovery, not just its extinction risk? A team of 200+ scientists ran a first test to see whether the new International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) green list, which focuses on recovery, actually helps conservation efforts. Read more at [Anthropocene Magazine](#).

### **Facebook Snafu Spells Trouble for Gardening Group**

Moderating a Facebook gardening group in western New York is not without challenges. And then there’s the word “hoe.” Facebook’s algorithms sometimes flag this particular word as “violating community standards.” Thus putting the Gardening FB group endanger of being shut down. Read more at [The Seattle Times](#).

### **Invasive Moth, Caterpillar Could Devour Boxwoods**

The Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources is alerting residents that nurseries statewide received Canadian boxwood shrubs that may be infested with invasive box tree moths. Read more at [Mass Live](#).

### **Get Reacquainted with the Browntail Moth**

The browntail moth (*Euproctis chrysorrhoea*) is an insect that was accidentally introduced to Massachusetts from Europe in 1897. The caterpillars of this species feed on oak, shadbush, cherry, beach plum, apple, rugosa rose, and other trees and shrubs. While feeding damage of this moth may be problematic, the real danger is that it can cause a poison-ivy-like rash or a more severe reaction in humans. Read more at [UMass Landscape News](#).

## **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.

#### **August**

August 19&26 **ELA Class**→**Navigating Public Design, Part 2**; 1:00-3:00pm ET.

August 20-22 - **Boston GreenFest**; Boston, MA; 12:00-6:00pm.

August 25 **ELA Member Event**→**Eco-Answers with an ELA Eco-Pro: Landscape Design**; 6:30-8:00pm ET.

August 31 - **Spotted Lanternfly Trapping Update**; 10:00-11:30am ET.

#### **September**

September 8 **ELA Webinar**→**Designing for Dry Stone Walling in the Landscape**; 3:00-4:00pm ET.

September 10 - **Insect Pests of the Landscape**; 12:00pm ET.

September 13,28,20,25 - **2021 MA Gardening Symposium “Inspiration for Next Year: Specialty Gardens.”**

September 15,19,22 **ELA Class**→**Cultivating Your Plant Communities**; times vary.

September 15 **ELA Webinar**→**Water Infiltration and Improved Soil Carbon Storage**; 12:00-1:00pm ET.

September 15 - **Mass Arborists Field Day**; Framingham, MA; 9:00am-1:00pm.

September 22 **ELA Webinar**→**Forest Bathing 101: Tapping into Everyday Nature**; 12:00-1:00pm ET.

September 24 - **Wild & Scenic Film Festival**; West Chester, PA (Hybrid Event); 5:30pm.  
September 29 **ELA Member Event**→**Eco-Answers with an ELA Eco-Pro: Native Plants**;  
6:30-8:00pm ET.

#### **October**

October 6 **ELA Webinar**→**Implications of Climate Change for Invasive Species**; 12:00-1:00pm ET.

October 6-9 - **APLD International Design Conference**; save the dates for this virtual event.

October 13 **ELA Webinar**→**Understanding Soil Health and Its Principles for Improving Landscape Resilience**; 12:00-1:00pm ET.

October 18 **ELA Webinar**→**Practical and Accessible Stretches for Your “Every” Day**;  
7:00-8:00pm ET.

October 19 - **Life from the Ashes: Exploring the Impact of Prescribed & Natural Fire on Insects and Other Invertebrates**; 11:00am-5:00pm ET.

October 20 **ELA Webinar**→**Rewild in 10 Action Steps**; 12:00-1:00pm ET.

October 20 - **Protecting Monarchs and Other Pollinators in Your Community**; 5:30-6:45pm PT.

October 27 **ELA Conference**→**2021 Season’s End Summit**; 8:30am-4:30pm ET.

#### **Anytime**

**URI Cooperative Extension Learn at Home Webinar Series**

**Deep Roots: Native Plants at Noon**

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.

**Refugia Design/Build** is an ecological landscape design/build and stewardship firm, with our design office located in Narberth PA. 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. We are seeking the following:

**\*\*Master Gardener** to join our Stewardship team that collaboratively manages 100+ residential properties throughout PA, DE and NJ. Ideal candidate has 3+ years professional experience working with native landscapes, the initiative to lead seasonal team members, and excellent client-facing and team communication. \$20-28/hr plus benefits.

**\*\*Stewardship/Install Team** We are also seeking keen hands-on individuals excited about working within ecological landscape stewardship + installation. Responsibilities include: native landscape maintenance; assistance with new installations (residential and commercial) and site prep; assistance potting, weeding, and watering in the greenhouse. This is a trainable position; team-player and strong work ethic are a must. \$15-20/hr plus benefits.

**\*\*We strongly encourage applicants with diverse backgrounds/skillsets. Aug/Sept start date. These are full-time, non-seasonal positions with opportunity for advancement within an innovative landscape design/build.**

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

**Flower Power Gardens**, a fine-gardening landscape company with a focus on sustainable, native, and pollinator-

friendly plantings, is hiring! We're looking for plant-loving, motivated people to join our team as crew members or a crew leader. Serving gardens and pollinators in Watertown and surrounding communities. Hourly rates start at \$18. Job duties, qualifications, and application are available at <https://www.flowerpowergarden.net/joinourteam>.



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