

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

November 2021



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

From The Editor

It's November, time to reflect and spend time with family and friends. Time to finish our outside garden chores and to be thankful for another year in the garden. Shout out to Bruce, Kathy, Angela, Maureen, and Leslie. They proofread articles every month before the newsletter goes to press. You guys are the best, and you never complain. I also owe enormous gratitude to our authors, their expertise, and their enthusiasm to educate us; without your contributions, the *ELA Newsletter* would be less lively, vibrant, and informed. Of course, the newsletter would be meaningless without our readers; thank you for opening this email every month.



November features our annual Year in Review articles. These meaty articles look at the entire season through photographs and stories. Pack your bags as we head west to St. Louis, MO, to learn how one landscaping company is "Adjusting to the New Normal." Come along south to the Florida panhandle for "Visual Storytelling of Florida Gardening." Then we head to the Big Apple to explore urban gardening with Veronica Tyson-Strait's piece "Feathers Everywhere." Veronica will be speaking at ELA's **Ecological Plant Conference**, the last conference of 2021 and where you'll want to have pen and paper in hand to make notes of new plants to add to your garden in 2022. After learning what to plant, you need to find plants. Find new native plant resources in "Supply and Demand of Native Plants." Then hone your design skills with **Advanced Ecological Design Workshop with Larry Weaner**. And finally, this month continues our focus on health series with "Ways to Improve Your Nutrition and Health During the Offseason." Happy Thanksgiving. *GRH*



Adjusting to a New Normal

by Cody Hayo

Throughout 2021 we have struggled to get back to a "New Normal." The "normal" we had grown accustomed to since 2016 involved very active participation with a local stormwater grant program. This program aims to capture stormwater runoff before it reaches rivers and streams, emphasizing garden-based solutions. During the pandemic in 2020, our local stormwater grant program, which is open to residential property owners, hit a major roadblock, and the program did not accept any applications at all. **Read the article.**



Visual Storytelling of Florida Gardening

by Joelle O'Daniel-Lopez

When we purchased our home ten years ago, it had the typical suburban NW Florida yard with a mix of the good, the bad, and the ugly. We were fortunate to have several well-established “good” trees, including live and laurel oaks, southern magnolia, and black cherry trees. In support of the “good” plants and trees, we quickly got rid of the “bad” and “ugly” nonnative invasive species. [Read the article.](#)



Feathers Everywhere

by Veronica Tyson-Strait

Biodiversity is a priority for the immigrant city dweller who may have left behind a landscape of tropical or temperate forests in the Caribbean, South America or Cambodia. I design and garden in New York City, but I grew up in Trinidad and Tobago. My situation is not unique. Immigrants make up more than a third of the population of New York City, and many adapt to and suffer from the loss of connections to plants and the wildlife they sustain. [Read the article.](#)

Ms. Tyson-Strait will present "Biodiversity Here and Now: Creating Urban Habitats" on December 3, 2021 at ELA's [2021 Ecological Plant Conference](#).



Focus on Health

Ways to Improve Your Nutrition and Health During the Offseason

by Samantha McCarthy

Fall is now upon us. While physical activity is still a part of the daily job, it may not be as intense or strenuous as spring days. Eventually, winter will arrive again, and activity levels will drop significantly. Now is an excellent time to start changing your eating habits to reflect your activity levels. [Read the article.](#)

Ms. McCarthy will present [Eco-Friendly Healthy Eating](#) on December 10, at noon.



Supply and Demand of Native Species

by Marie Chieppo

The demand for native plants by homeowners, designers and people in the green industry is steadily rising. Enhancing our properties' wildlife support functions doesn't require an absence of ornamentals and other plantings we enjoy. Some straight species and cultivars with high ecological value can provide a lot. Taking it a step further, Doug Tallamy advocates repurposing "America's lawnscapes" for ecologically productive use. [Read the article.](#)

Our Advertisers



Nature Works Land Care Is Hiring! (Lee, MA)

Nature Works, an ecological landscape company (Lee, MA) is hiring for the following positions: Project Manager, Fine Gardener/Horticulturist, Organic Lawn Care Technician, Landscape Construction and Garden Maintenance Team Members and Leaders. Seeking responsible, self-motivated, and team-oriented individuals. Excellent pay and benefits including PTO, 401 K, health insurance contribution, annual bonus and ongoing educational opportunities. Opportunity for growth in all positions. Please email work history and references to natureworksorganiclandcare@gmail.com. Learn

more at www.natureworkslandcare.com.

ELA News

Ecological Plant Conference - December 3

If you haven't yet enjoyed one of ELA's fall conferences, you have one more chance! Join us for the 6th annual Ecological Plant Conference as we delve into five plant-centric topics to educate, entertain, and inspire. We hope you'll join us as we take a deep dive into plants we love.

Advanced Ecological Design Workshop with Larry Weaner

Space still available for this online opportunity

December 1 and 15, 1:00-4:30pm ET

This design workshop will provide concrete, real-world guidance for selecting and arranging native plants in the landscape (gardens and restoration projects), as well as offering the opportunity to employ these techniques through an assignment between the first and second sessions. [Click to read the details!](#)

Get Eco-Answers to Your Questions

If you haven't yet attended Eco-Answers, join ELA's next conversation on December 1 to ask your questions about End of Season Maintenance. Generally a member benefit, we've opened this conversation to all. Which tasks should you prioritize in the fall? Which can wait? How should I manage all these leaves? [Send in your questions](#) any time and then join the conversation. [Click here to register.](#)

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Gleanings

Xerces Society Bee City Reports

Since 2016, Decatur, GA's Bee City USA committee has worked throughout the community to raise awareness about bees and other insect pollinators' essential roles in the ecosystem. In autumn 2019, UM-Dearborn was certified as a Bee Campus USA affiliate, becoming the first public university in Michigan to do so. Read more at [Xerces Society](#) and [Xerces Society Bee Campus](#).



Create a Low Maintenance Gravel Garden

After experimenting with the technique at work, Jeff Epping, horticulture director at [Olbrich Botanical Gardens](#) in Madison, WI, quickly became a fan of gravel gardening. So, when the city put in a new street and tore up his front lawn, Epping decided it was the perfect time to plant a gravel garden. Read more at [Midwest Living](#).

Some Good News! Western Monarch Numbers Rising

Migratory western monarchs are being reported at their overwintering sites in coastal California in greater numbers than last year, giving hope for the struggling population. At overwintering sites in Pacific Grove, Pismo Beach, and a private site in Big Sur, over 10,000 monarchs have been counted at each site. Last year, these three sites had fewer than 300 monarchs in total. Read more at [Xerces Society](#).

Save Farmland: Synthesize Starch from CO2

Researchers have found a way to produce the ubiquitous product starch, using carbon dioxide. Their discovery not only finds a use for this harmful gas, but could also save the huge amounts of land, water, and fertilizer typically used to grow corn for this ingredient. Read more at [Anthropocene Magazine](#).

Beyond Extinction: A New Emphasis on Species Recovery

Scientists have long drawn up a Red List to alert officials about wildlife and plant species threatened with extinction. Now some say it's time to flip the script and create a "green status" category that identifies how to bring these species back to sustainable levels. Read more at [Yale Environment360](#).

Growing Figs in a Cold Climate

It looked like the best fig year ever, with maybe 20 fruits forming on my potted tree as the season progressed. But frost is coming any day, and many of those figs are still hanging there, undersized and hard and green, destined never to achieve ripeness. How to grow figs in a northeastern climate? Read more at [The New York Times](#).

Light Pollution Glare Threatens All Wildlife

The ever-increasing glow of artificial light from streetlights, especially LED lights, was found to have detrimental effects on the behavior of moths, resulting in a reduction in caterpillar numbers by half. And since birds and other wildlife rely on caterpillars as an important food source, the consequences of this decline could be devastating. Read more at [EcoRI News](#).

A Pioneering Garden Designer Inspired Vogue's Fall Fashion Fantasy

A pioneering American landscape architect, Beatrix Farrand's most enduring contribution to the American aesthetic is how she re-envisioned university campuses, creating the open quads recognized today and espaliering the Gothic buildings with magnolia. Read more at [Vogue](#).

InsectXaminer Video Series

The InsectXaminer short video series hopes to increase the visibility of the beautiful world of insects, even those we consider to be pests in our managed landscapes. InsectXaminer will showcase the complexity of insect life cycles, cataloging as many life stages for each species as possible. Read more at [UMass Extension](#).

Colorado River Delta Springs To Life!

Thanks to a historic U.S.-Mexico binational agreement, water flowing this year provides hope for the future of a key ecosystem. After prolonged neglect, Mexico's Colorado River Delta is teeming with life. Read more at [The National Audubon Magazine](#).

What's a Forest Worth?

Reducing carbon emissions has been a primary focus of governmental action in addressing the climate crisis. But when it comes to mitigating global warming and protecting the planet's delicate balance, little attention is paid to the importance of not clear-cutting forests. Read more at [EcoRI News](#).

Kill All Leaf Blowers

Gasoline-powered leaf blowers are invaders, the most maddening of all the maddening environment-destroying tools of the American lawn-care industry. They come in a deafening, surging swarm, blasting from lawn to lawn and filling the air with the stench of gasoline and death. Read more at [The New York Times](#).

Mosquito Spraying Kills Pollinators

Rhode Island's rainy summer produced a bumper crop of mosquitoes, and property owners annoyed by biting insects are increasingly turning to companies that spray yards to rid them of pesky insects. Read more at [EcoRI News](#).

Refugees in Cameroon Plant a Forest

Refugees received training on using "cocoon technology," developed by [Land Life Company](#), to give seedlings the best chance of survival in the harsh environment. It involves burying a doughnut-shaped water tank made from recycled cartons. The device surrounds the plant's roots and feeds it using a string to connect to the young shoot. Read more at the [UN Refugee Agency](#) and [Euro News](#).

Rhode Island Plants New Street Non-Native Trees on Purpose

By the end of this month, the Providence Parks Department and its partners will have planted up to 550 trees on public and private land. Trees provide all kinds of benefits but not necessarily equally, so selecting a species depends on location and several other factors. Read more at [EcoRI 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.

November

November 16 & 18; December 7 & 9 **2021 Southeast New York Stormwater Conference**; 9:00am-12:30pm ET.

November 17 **ELA Webinar**→**Nature's Sanctuary – Challenges of and Solutions for a SITES Gold Landscape**; 12:00-1:00pm ET.

November 17 **Managing Pests While Protecting Pollinators**; 7:00-8:00pm ET.

November 17 **Plant Native Trees that Support Local Food Webs**; 7:00-8:00pm ET.

November 18 **Seed Sowing 101**; 5:30-6:00pm ET.

November 19 **UMass Turf School Application Deadline**

November 22, 29, December 6, 13 **Resilient Landscapes in the Built Environment**; 9:30am-2:30pm ET.

December

December 1 **ELA Member Event**→**Eco-Answers with an ELA Eco-Pro: End of Season Maintenance**; 6:30-8:00pm ET.

December 1 **Pollinator Friendly Neighborhoods – With Your City's Blessing and Help**; 6:30pm CT.

December 1-4 **APLD International Design Conference**; virtual event.

December 1 & 15 **ELA Advanced Workshop**→**Ecology-Based Design for New England Gardens and Restoration**; 1:00-4:30pm ET.

December 3 **ELA Conference**→**Ecological Plant Conference – Plants Old and New to Educate and Inspire**; 8:30am-4:30pm ET.
December 8 **ELA Webinar**→**Taking on the Big Places: How to Build and Maintain Self-Sufficient Landscapes**; 12:00-1:00pm ET.
December 8 **Seed Sowing 101**; 5:00-5:30pm ET.
December 10 **ELA Webinar**→**Eco-Friendly Healthy Eating: Nutrition to Support Landscape Professionals and Gardeners**; 1:00-12:00pm ET.
December 15 **ELA Webinar**→**Sharing the Adventure – Design Communications for Ecological Landscapes**; 1:00-12:00pm ET.

January

January 12 **Seed Sowing 101**; 12:30-1:00pm ET.
January 15&16 **NOFA/Mass Winter Conference**; online.
January 19 **ELA Webinar**→**Forest Ecosystems and the Winds of Change - Forests as a Cog in the Earth's Climate System**; 12:00-1:00pm ET.
January 25 **ELA Class**→**Climate Change and Native Plants**; 12:30-3:00pm ET.
January 26 **ELA Webinar**→**Engaging Landowners in Sustainable Stewardship**; 12:00-1:00pm ET.
January 27 **ELA Class**→**Recording the Garden**; 12:30-2:00pm ET.
January 29 **ELA Class**→**Plant Nutrients**; 10:00am-12:00pm ET.

February

February 9 **ELA Webinar**→**Regenerating Suburbia One Garden at a Time**; 12:00-1:00pm ET.
February 17 **ELA Class**→**Finding Your Environmental Ethic**; 6:00am-7:00pm ET.
February 23-24 **ELA Conference & Eco-Marketplace**; 8:00am-5:00pm 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.

Grow Native (Waltham, MA) Executive Director Opening - Pay Range \$80,000 - \$100,000. Small, Massachusetts-based nonprofit and a leader in the native plant community, seeks an Executive Director to further the movement on behalf of native plants; and serve as a manager, mentor, partner, and supporter for Grow Native's small staff.

Qualifications:

Demonstrated experience with the role of native plants; nonprofit management experience; budget management, and strong communication skills; volunteer management experience; fundamental understanding of nonprofit fundraising; previous experience working with a board of directors; nonprofit budgeting experience; expertise with Salesforce, or experience with a complex database; a willingness to learn, take feedback, and help Grow Native to meet its full potential.

Benefits include a significant contribution toward the cost of **health insurance, 3 weeks paid vacation, and additional holidays and sick days.**

Grow Native Massachusetts is an equal opportunity workplace and is committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in its hiring, workplace, and work.

Read the full job description here.

Nature Works Land Care (Lee, MA) Multiple roles available. Seeking responsible, self-motivated, and team-oriented individuals. Excellent pay and benefits including PTO, 401 K, health insurance contribution, and annual bonus. Opportunity for growth in all positions. Please email work history and references to natureworksorganiclandcare@gmail.com. Learn more at www.natureworkslandcare.com.



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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 office@ecolandscaping.org. Georgia Harris, ELA Newsletter Editor