

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

October 2021



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

From The Editor

What do NPR, Trevor Noah, Stephen Colbert, and the University of Massachusetts have in common? Over the last month, they all informed the public of a highly invasive insect, Spotted Lanternfly (SLF). This small insect is wreaking havoc on agricultural crops and ornamental gardens in states north to Massachusetts, south to Virginia, and west to Indiana. Learn how to identify and report SLF in this month's article "Spotted Lanternfly Has Arrived in Massachusetts." Then enjoy two fascinating articles from speakers at the **Regenerative Solutions for Resilient Landscapes Conference** on November 11. Jane Slade discusses light pollution and how the lack of dark nights impacts all living creatures, and Dr. Yujuan Chen investigates whether soil can mitigate current and future climate problems. We also offer a review of *Sedges, Grasses, and Rushes* – a resource that will help even a novice identify what's growing outside their back door.



I am looking forward to seeing many of you online on October 27 at the **2021 Season's End Summit** when presenters will investigate landscape lessons learned through the lens of time. Then, if you are a plant nerd like me, you don't want to miss the **Ecological Plant Conference** in December. This conference will delve into five plant-centric topics sure to delight the most discerning plant enthusiasts. Happy Gardening. *GRH*



The Needs Assessment of Los Angeles Soils: Current Status, Community Needs, and Future Directions

by Yujuan Chen, Ph.D.

Soil is the brown infrastructure for Los Angeles. It has great potential to mitigate current and future climate impacts by sequestering carbon, improving water supply and water quality, supporting plant growth, enhancing food production, and maintaining healthy communities. This study aims to understand the current status of LA soils, identify soil issues, and work with partners to provide a framework to move forward. **Read the article.**

Learn more about Human-Natural System Connections: Soil, Water, and Trees at the **2021 Regenerative Solutions for Resilient Landscapes Conference - Connections**



Starving for Darkness

by Jane Slade

Darkness is disappearing from the face of the Earth, blinding wildlife in the light. Since life began, the Earth's rotation has created cyclical darkness by which living things evolved, tuning instincts and behaviors over millennia. The loss of darkness has inhibited the sensory experience of wildlife, changing the behavior of species and how species interact with one another. [Read the article.](#)

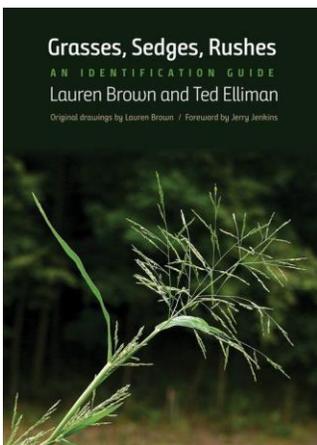
Learn more about Reconnecting with Natural Light Cycles at the [2021 Regenerative Solutions for Resilient Landscapes Conference - Connections](#)



The Spotted Lanternfly Has Arrived in Massachusetts

by Tawny Simisky

The MA Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) announced on September 28, 2021, that a small, established, and breeding population of the invasive spotted lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*) was detected in Worcester County, MA, in the city of Fitchburg. Residents and professionals living and working across the Commonwealth should learn the life stages of the spotted lanternfly and be able to identify their eggs, immatures, and adults. [Read the article.](#)



Book Review

Book Review: Grasses, Sedges, Rushes: An Identification Guide

by Lauren Brown and Ted Elliman

Reviewed by Charlie Wyman

Grasses have always scared me. Too many species, the flowers too small, the terminology strange and unfamiliar. As an amateur naturalist and very part-time at that, as the demands of work and family limited my wanderings, I had come to terms with the fact that I'd die without knowing my grasses. No longer. Lauren Brown and Ted Elliman's little book, *Grasses, Sedges, Rushes: An Identification Guide*, has changed everything.

[Read the review.](#)

Learn more about Grasses, Sedges, and Rushes from Ted Elliman at the ELA Conference & Eco-Marketplace on February 24th. [More details available soon.](#)



For the Love of Moths

by Candace Fallon

As someone who spends a lot of her time trying to convince others that insects are incredible animals worth saving, I can still be surprised to hear so much moth disgust. Moths are an incredibly diverse group of insects. North America is home to more than 12,000 species—an astonishing number compared to our relatively paltry 800 or so species of butterflies! Before I start waxing poetic on moths, let's dive into some basics.

Read the article.

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

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ELA News

Get Ready for Fall Conferences!

Again this year, ELA will offer three conferences online. We hope to see you at one...or all three...as we dig deep into ecological landscapes.

→**Season's End Summit** - October 17

Landscapes Over Time - Lessons Learned

Four expert designers look back at landscapes installed five or more years ago. We'll be treated to an inside view as they share their findings and observations.

→**Regenerative Solutions for Resilient Landscapes** - November 11

When we recognize and support the critical connections in our landscapes and ecosystems, we can truly appreciate and steward the land effectively for future generations. Find out more about the connections and how to encourage and enhance them.

→**Ecological Plant Conference** - December 3

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.

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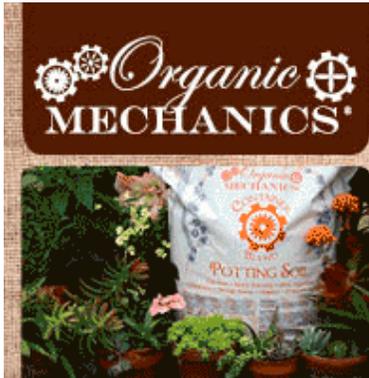


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Gleanings

Take Notes Now for a Healthier Garden Next Year

Reflecting on your garden successes and mistakes from the past year can help you grow healthier and more enjoyable gardens in the future. Take notes now while this season is fresh in your mind. Read more at [The University of Minnesota Extension](#).



What Does Organic Mean?

COVID-19 stimulated a huge uptick in gardening interest, exhibited by the massive demand for seeds of every type. Many people are confronting the term “organic” in a new way, as they strive to fit garden techniques into their worldviews and philosophies. The term “organic” has been tagged with so many intents and variations over the years that its meaning has become a little murky. Read more at [Mother Earth News](#).

Plant Hope for the Future

We are in prime tree-planting season, and even modest urban gardens will have room for a fresh tree. Look to the future and plant small trees, which will be better adapted to their new homes. Read more at [The Washington Post](#).

Growing Wildflowers Isn't Difficult. And It's Urgent.

In a shifting climate, with environmental diversity at risk, it's never been more important to propagate native plants. Gardeners can nurture the next generation by collecting seeds of milkweeds, asters, Joe Pye weed and others, and propagate more of their favorite wildflowers. Read more at [The New York Times](#).

Landscapes for a Living World

As we become more aware of the impact human activities can have on our world's environment, landscape professionals are increasingly inspired to create beautiful designs that coexist well with their surrounding ecosystems. One result is a growing use of native species in landscape design, plus gardens specifically made to attract and sustain birds, insect pollinators, and other local wildlife. Watch the video at [Boston Design Week](#).

Can The Wealthy and Well-Connected Play an Outsized Role in Climate Action?

In climate debates, fingers often point to the extravagant energy use and consumption by the world's wealthy. Yes, there are conspicuous consumers, but researchers have identified five example-setting behaviors that individuals of high socioeconomic status could adopt to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Read more at [Anthropocene Magazine](#).

How Adding Rock Dust to Soil Could Help Get Carbon into the Ground

Researchers find that when pulverized rock is applied to agricultural fields, the soil pulls far more carbon from the air and crop yields increase. More studies are underway, but some scientists say this method shows significant benefits for farmers and the climate. Read more at [Yale Environment 360](#).

Biden Restores the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments

President Joe Biden restored more than 2 million acres to Utah's Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments. The move hints at a new, collaborative land-management process between tribal nations and the federal government. Read more at [Sierra Club Magazine](#).

Google Bans Ads With False Claims About Climate Change

Google said it would no longer display advertisements on YouTube videos and other content that promote inaccurate claims about climate change. The decision means that it will no longer permit websites to earn advertising money via Google for content that “contradicts well-established scientific consensus around the existence and causes of climate change.” Read more at [The New York Times](#).

Invasive Spotted Lanternfly Found in Massachusetts

Spotted lanternflies are highly invasive and incredibly troublesome insects that can decimate crops and cause damage to native trees and shrubs. They've **wreaked havoc in parts of the Northeast**, forcing **local quarantines** in some cases. Read more at **The Boston Globe**.

Bumblebee Has Vanished from Eight States!

The American bumblebee (***Bombus pensylvanicus***) – once abundant and found lazily floating around throughout the United States in grasslands, open prairies, and some urban areas– now faces a rapidly declining population. Researchers can trace the bee's plummeting population numbers back to multiple threats, including pesticides, habitat loss, climate change, diseases and competition from non-native honeybees. Read more at **The Smithsonian Magazine**.

Ozone Pollution: An Insidious and Growing Threat to Biodiversity

Ground-level ozone has long been known to pose a threat to human health. Now, scientists increasingly understand how this pollutant damages plants and trees, setting off a cascade of impacts that harms everything from soil microbes to insects to wildlife. Read more at **Yale Environment 360**.

Philadelphia Chefs Combat Hunger Through Gardening

Restaurateur Ben Miller has transformed 30 abandoned plots of land in Southwest Philly into vegetable gardens to feed the community. The gardens also grows produce for The People's Kitchen, where chefs like Miller and his wife Cristina Martinez prepare meals to combat hunger in underserved communities across the city. Read more at **Axios Philadelphia**.

We Need to Stop Treating Soil Like Dirt

Hidden under our feet is a miniature landscape made up of tunnels, caves and decaying matter. Soil is where a quarter of the species on our planet are believed to live, and in this dark, quiet, damp world, death feeds life. Read more at **The Guardian**.

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.

October

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 22 **ELA Class**→**A Holistic Guide for the Modern Land Steward**; 12:30-4:30pm ET.

October 25 **Gardening as an Ecological Tool in a Changing Climate**; 7:00-8:00pm ET.

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

November

November 2 - 4 **International Erosion Control Association Regional Convention**; Plymouth, MA; 7:30am-6:30pm.

November 3 **ELA Member Event**→**Eco-Answers with an ELA Eco-Pro: Specialty Gardens**; 6:30-8:00pm ET.

November 5 **UConn Native Plants and Pollinators**; 9:00am-1:45pm ET.

November 11 **ELA Conference**→**2021 Regenerative Solutions for Resilient Landscapes**; 8:30am-4:30pm ET.

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

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

November 19 **UMass Turf School Application Deadline**.

December

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

December 3 **ELA Conference**→**Ecological Plant Conference** – Plants Old and New to Educate and Inspire; 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.

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.

Offshoots seeks a seasonal fall landscape laborer to work on residential and commercial landscape and garden installations with our horticulture team. We focus on creating sustainable,

ecologically sound landscapes and are looking for hard working individuals to join our team in Boston. Qualified candidates will have experience in the landscaping industry and the ability to work in a variety of weather conditions. Jobs will include planting and soils installation and maintenance. Please visit our website for more information on our horticulture installation services: www.offshootsinc.com.

Fairmont Indigo CDC Collaborative seeks a community organizer to conduct outreach to residents and educate people on issues related to climate change.

The FICC Climate Justice Initiative is a three-year project of the Fairmount Indigo CDC Collaborative (FICC), which includes Dorchester Bay EDC, Codman Square NDC, and Southwest Boston CDC. Fairmount Climate Justice Initiative (FCJ) is a community-led climate justice and health equity community organizing effort to increase climate change resilience and improve health outcomes in FICC neighborhoods. We will target winnable legislation at the city and state levels. We will advocate for budget, regulatory and policy changes that help meet our climate justice goals. In FICC neighborhoods, there is high prevalence of chronic health conditions, particularly respiratory illnesses and mental illness. Heat island effect, poor air quality, and lack of tree cover, shade, and green spaces all threaten the well-being of our neighborhoods. Find more information [here](#).



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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