

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

September 2021



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

From The Editor

It's September again - the month you're either happy to be rid of sweltering evenings or wish for more beach days. For everyone, September promises new adventures and educational opportunities. To meet those needs, ELA has three virtual fall conferences designed to inspire, and you don't have to leave your home. Lessons learned five years after landscape design and construction is the focus of this year's **Season's End Summit** on October 27. Then, November 11 is all about connections at **Regenerative Solutions for Resilient Landscapes** when we explore many critical landscape connections and investigate our roles in ensuring their success. The December **Ecological Plant Conference** is, as the name implies, a day of plant-centric exploration.



Before we get to the conferences, enjoy this month's look at trees and forests. You'll find new information about pruning not simply for beauty but for tree health. Then, get a peek at Doug Tallamy's latest book, *The Nature of Oaks*, and revisit Forest Bathing to reacquaint yourself with the healing power of the forest. After that, find inspiration in a riverfront restoration that brings beauty and wildlife back to a degraded landscape and find advice from the Eco-pros for eliminating English ivy. Still, looking for a challenge? Here's a quiz? Do you know what happens when ecological folks get together? We learn, we collaborate, we change the world. *GRH*

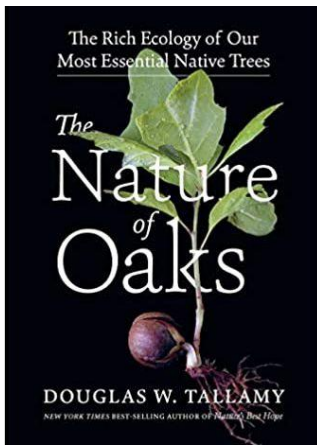


Conservation Pruning Concepts

by Norm Helie

The next time you stroll through your favorite tree-lined street, park, or woods, consider yourself a part of the tree canopy. As a natural interpreter and contributor, you meditate on your surroundings. Trees need our help! Consider trees as large extensions of the organic layer under your feet, which puts you right inside their strategic world. **Read the article.**

Want to learn more about trees? Join Normand and Christine Helie on March 9, 2022 for **Ulmus Americana Saving an American Icon**



Book Review **The Nature of Oaks**

Reviewed by Maureen Sundberg

In *The Nature of Oaks*, Doug Tallamy hopes to encourage appreciation of the diversity in the web of life by focusing on a single tree that began as an acorn he planted in a pot and transplanted into his yard. Now 18 years old, still very young for an oak, the tree becomes the subject of Tallamy's close observation as he describes a few of the many species supported by oak trees in general and this one tree in particular. [Read the review.](#)



From the Archives **Forest Bathing: Tap into the Healing Power of Forests**

by Judie Beaudette

Better than a pill, forest bathing is said to offer medicinal benefits without negative side effects - aside from not wanting to get back to your desk. Find out more about this growing practice and the physical and mental benefits it offers. [Read the article.](#)

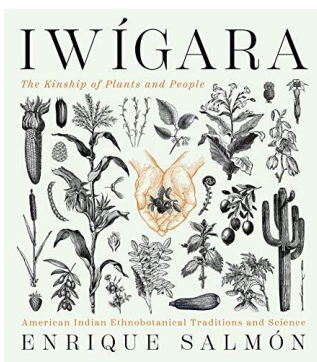
Want to know more about Forest Bathing? Join Judy on September 22 for [Forest Bathing 101: Tapping into Everyday Nature.](#)



The Challenges and Opportunities for Riverbank Restoration

by Reed Pugh and Miles Connors

Winchester, Massachusetts, is situated on the banks of a tranquil, winding river. Like many waterways in New England, the Aberjona River has become home to many non-native and invasive plants that have largely overwhelmed our native plant palette. The Aberjona Initiative, a working group of the Conservation Commission, is tasked with restoring the river and pond banks in town center. [Read the article.](#)



Book Review **Iwigara**

Reviewed by Amanda Sloan

Dr. Enrique Salmón, a member of the Raramuri tribe, is an ethnobotanist and expert on indigenous cultural concepts of the natural world. In his book *Iwigara*, which is presented as a traditional botany book, he writes about eighty native plants. He mixes scientific and horticultural information, cultural uses, stories handed down, and his personal memories of the plants. [Read the review.](#)



Eco-Answers from the Pros Removing English Ivy

Contributors: Mike Bald, Bruce Wenning, Przemyslaw Walczak

We would like to grow a woodland garden under some shade trees on our property where there currently is heavy growth of English Ivy. What is the best approach to remove the ivy?

Read the Eco-Pros' answers.

ELA members have spent hundreds of hours learning the best ecological solutions to problems in the landscape. You can benefit from all that accumulated knowledge by posing a question to our experts. If you are stumped by a problem in your landscape or are looking for a second opinion on a potential solution, ask ELA's EcoPros. Send your question to newsletter@ecolandscaping.org. And if you need additional help, refer to the listing of ELA Professionals.

ELA News

SUMMER BOOK SALE AND MORE

We Clean Out the Cabinets; You Get the Discounts!

Thanks to everyone who has helped up clear our shelves. There's still time to shop the sale before October 15. We have limited stock and have cut prices deeply. [Find all available products here.](#)

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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Gleanings

Generations Working Together to Solve Climate Crisis

A new study provides a nuanced – and ultimately hopeful – view of the climate generation gap. Older cohorts started out less concerned (circa 2009), but worry has increased across all age groups at a similar rate over the last decade. Climate concern is increasing among all age groups, raising hopes that different generations can work together to solve the climate crisis, the authors of a new study say. Read more at [Anthropocene Magazine](#).



Insect Apocalypse

Insects have declined by 75% in the past 50 years – and the consequences may soon be catastrophic. Biologist Dave Goulson reveals the vital services they perform. Few people seem to realize how devastating this decline will be, and not only for human wellbeing. We need insects to pollinate our crops, recycle dung, leaves and corpses, keep the soil healthy, control pests, and much more. Read more at [The Guardian](#).

The World's Climate is in Our Hands/El Clima Mundial Está en Nuestras Manos

In 30 years, history books will mention August 9, 2021, as a crucial date in the fight against the climate crisis. That day, the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) **issued** a landmark science report that dispelled once and for all any doubt or speculation about the severity or the origin of the existential crisis we all confront. Read more at [The Sierra Club](#).

Rich Desert River Struggles to Keep Flowing

The Gila was once a vibrant desert river, providing a lifeline for the riparian habitat and wildlife that depended on it in the U.S. Southwest. But population growth, agricultural withdrawals, and, increasingly, climate change have badly diminished the river and threaten its future. Read more at [Yale Environment 360](#).

Las Vegas Gets Aggressive Grass Removal Policy

The story of how Las Vegas became a leader in water conservation is driven, in part, by necessity. Not only is Nevada the driest state in the nation, but it also has a legal right to the smallest share of the Colorado River, a lifeline for much of the Southwest that supports about 40 million people. Read more at [The Sierra Club](#).

Is Your Garden Ecologically Sound?

Some gardeners react to any mention of ecological landscaping – the merging of environmental science and art – as if it were a compromise or concession meant to limit their creativity. Darrel Morrison begs to differ. Mr. Morrison, the elder statesman of the ecological landscaping movement, offers some advice for gardening in a changing world. Read more at [The New York Times](#).

Do U.S. Food Systems Leave Behind People of Color?

Narragansett Indian Tribe member Summer Gonsalves knows the ins and outs of the U.S. food system, and she knows exactly who it leaves behind. She says the system has purposefully and unfailingly disconnected people of color from nutritious and affordable foods. Read more at [EcoRI News](#).

Update on Mysterious Bird Deaths

This summer, [sick and dying birds](#) were documented in several states in the Mid-Atlantic, Midwest, and South. The main symptom was swollen, crusted-over eyes in fledglings of blue jays, robins, grackles, and several other species. There's some good news. According to the latest update from the [Cornell Wildlife Health Lab](#), it seems this bird mortality event is beginning to subside without significant impact to bird populations overall. Read more at [The National Wildlife Federation](#).

Electric Lawn Care Sweeping the Nation

Can it be true there's a bipartisan movement and it's lawn care? Lawn care is going electric. And the revolution is here to stay. From conservative Alabama to crunchy California, electric lawn equipment is quietly sweeping the nation. Read more at [The Washington Post](#).

Tips for Hiring an Arborist

Hurricanes, hail, thunderstorms and tornadoes: Mother Nature's season of wild weather is upon us. Here's what you need to know about hiring a tree care and removal service. It's important to hire a trained arborist for both the tree health and protection of your property. Read more at [The Washington Post](#).

Observation is the New Rule for Gardens

Conventional wisdom says you should do the same tasks in the same order every year. The director of horticulture at Brooklyn Bridge Park has a better idea. Gardening is not so much about following rules, as it is about following rules of observation. Read more at [The New York Times](#).

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.

September

September 16 [Wildfire in the Western U.S.: Causes, Consequences, and Adaptation](#); 7:30pm ET

September 22 [ELA Webinar](#)→[Forest Bathing 101: Tapping into Everyday Nature](#); 12:00-1:00pm ET.

September 22 [Houseplants: Bring the Outdoors In](#); 9:30-11:30am ET.

September 23 [Biological Control in Urban Parks: A Study in Bogota](#); 10:00-11:00am PT.

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 13 [ELA Webinar](#)→[Understanding Soil Health and Its Principles for Improving Landscape Resilience](#); 12:00-1:00pm ET.

October 14 [Envisioning Landscapes – The Transformative Environments of OJB with James Burnett](#); 2:00pm 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.
October 22 **ELA Class**→**A Holistic Guide for the Modern Land Steward**; 12:30-4:30pm ET.

November

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 19 **UMass Turf School Application Deadline**.

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.

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 Fairmont Indigo CDC Collaborative (FICC), which includes Dorchester Bay EDC, Codman Square NDC, and Southwest Boston CDC. Fairmont 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](#).

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/skillssets. 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 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>.



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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. Georgia Harris, ELA Newsletter Editor