

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

December 2021



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

## From The Editor

Looking back through 2021's newsletter articles, I'm impressed by the range and depth of topics. We covered everything from blue carbon sequestering to nutrition and injury-averting stretching to the intricate details of trees' life cycles and their value to the environment. ELA articles are a great resource year round; remember that they are always available in the archives **by topic** or **by date**.



While you peruse articles on the website, be sure to check out the lineup for ELA's two-day virtual **28<sup>th</sup> Conference & Eco-Marketplace**. Wednesday's speakers will offer insights and information on developing landscapes to support pollinators, with one track focused on urban pollinators. Thursday's lineup of presentations includes a broad range of topics with a track focused on design and another on practice. A third track digs into several thought-provoking topics. Don't miss out on early discounts (available until January 31) for this signature event!

This month's article on "Rewilding for our Mental Health" explores how essential nature is for our wellbeing and encourages participation in a movement that takes back the yard, vanquishes the noise and toxins, and values being a part of the symphony of the natural world. We also take a look at the power of our purchases in "More Than Just Buying Stuff," which asks us to take a closer look at our spending behaviors around our land care services and products. We also offer insights into Miyawaki Forests, a new technique involving planting a forest on a city dump, and delve into the dilemma of sourcing local seed material. If you haven't gotten your hot cocoa yet, pour yourself a cup and dream about next year's landscapes as you read "There is Always More." Let's all put away last year's problems and relish a quiet moment for contemplation. Happy Solstice. *GRH*



### More Than Just "Buying Stuff"

by Michael Baczewski

We buy stuff every single day, and it has never been easier. While conveniences abound, ethical questions remain, especially as we think critically about the murkier side of consuming this way. When strategic procurement and sustainable sourcing are used together, organic land care professionals can be at the forefront as environmental stewardship leaders and perpetuate transformative change. **Read the article.**



## Miyawaki Forests: Boosting Biodiversity and Climate Resilience

by Maya Dutta

Miyawaki Forests are dense, biodiverse pocket forests that aim to recreate the relationships and succession of a natural forest. By densely planting a very biodiverse array of native species, such forests encourage collaboration between the plants, fungal and microbial life in the soil, resulting in fast-growing forests with high survival rates. [Read the article.](#)

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## Eco-Answer from the Pros: Sourcing Native Seeds

Contributors: Dan Wilder, Neil Diboll, Mark Fiely

I am currently working on a pollinator project in Staten Island, NY. I'm planning on growing native plants from seeds. Suppose I were to procure seed from Prairie Moon Nursery (Winona, MN) in order to add more diversity. Would I be helping or hindering as these seeds originate from a different ecoregion? [Read the 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 asking 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. [Click to send your questions](#), and if you need additional help, refer to the listing of ELA Professionals.

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## Rewilding Is Good for Our Mental Health

by Lillian Harris

We know that rewilding is good for nature. But is that the only reason we should get on board with rewilding? I'd like to share some reasons why rewilding is not just good for nature, it is also good for *us*. Specifically, for our mental health. [Read the article.](#)

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## There's Always More

by Cathy Weston

No matter how thorough the weeding job, there are always more — weeds, invasives, or garden thugs. Sometimes it seems like the work is never-ending. “There is always more” could be the sub-title of this gardener’s life and the life of every gardener I know. When I get discouraged, I try to remember that there is always more joy to gardening, too. [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](mailto:natureworksorganiclandcare@gmail.com). Learn

more at [www.natureworkslandcare.com/careers](http://www.natureworkslandcare.com/careers).

## ELA News

### 28th ELA Conference & Eco-Marketplace - February 23 & 24, 2022

Plans for ELA's two-day virtual **28<sup>th</sup> Conference & Eco-Marketplace** are well underway. If you haven't yet explored the schedule, there are lots of interesting topics and presenters to pique your interest.

Two tracks on Wednesday will offer insights and information on developing landscapes to support pollinators:

- **Ecological Lessons from Pollinator Habitat**
- **Strategies for Supporting Urban Pollinators**

Thursday's lineup of presentations includes a broad range of topics with a **Focus on Design** track and a **Focus on Practice**. A third track of **Idea Exchanges** digs into four thought-provoking topics.

Don't miss out on early discounts for this signature event! **Register now.**

### Email to ELA

As our Executive Director Penny Lewis ends her tenure at ELA on December 31, make a note that business emails will be handled by Maureen Sundberg ([maureen@ecolandscaping.org](mailto:maureen@ecolandscaping.org)) and Michael Opton ([office@ecolandscaping.org](mailto:office@ecolandscaping.org)). Many people still use the [ela.info@comcast.net](mailto:ela.info@comcast.net) email address, which will be discontinued. Please update your files so that we do not miss any important correspondence from you.

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## Gleanings

### Rediscovering Our Connection to the Web of Life

As climate change intensifies and human activity impacts every corner of the planet, repairing our world increasingly means realizing that our fate is intertwined with that of other animal and plant species – not separate from theirs – and that we must think and act accordingly. Read more at [Yale Environment 360](#).

### Planting Trees in Underserved Neighborhoods

Chicago will invest \$46 million in tree planting over the next five years. Mayor Lori Lightfoot says the city will plant 75,000 trees and prioritize neighborhoods that have been underserved and disproportionately impacted by climate change. It's part of an effort to increase tree canopy coverage throughout the city. Read more at [WTTW](#).



### **America the Beautiful Initiative**

NOAA is asking for input on what actions NOAA should take to advance President Biden's **America the Beautiful** initiative. Now through December 28, a new notice in the **Federal Register** gives the public an opportunity to contribute ideas on ways NOAA can work with community partners to advance the goals and recommendations in the report on **Conserving and Restoring America the Beautiful**, including conserving at least 30% of U.S. lands and waters by the year 2030. Read more at **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**.

### **Think Like a Wolf**

Thinking like a footloose wolf might be a recipe for land conservation success. Nearly three decades after the ambitious campaign launch to connect wildlife habitat from the Yukon in northern Canada to Yellowstone National Park, researchers say such big ambitions and lots of hype can pay off. Read more at **Anthropocene Magazine**.

### **Mural Project Brings Birdsong to Life in Washington Heights**

An eye-catching and abstract new mixed-media mural by artist Jessica Maffia is the first public-art project to focus on sound. The National Audubon Society has produced more than 100 bird-themed public artworks – an initiative that has now expanded from New York City to as far away as Washington State. Read more at **The National Audubon**.

### **Natural Community Fact Sheets**

Are you looking for a good source of information to learn what species you should expect to see in certain conditions? State natural community factsheets are an excellent resource for understanding what native plant species you should expect to see in certain conditions. Read more at **Maine Gov**, **Maine Gov Community Fact Sheets** and **Mass Gov Community Fact Sheets**.

### **City Forests and Residential Areas Can Benefit Birds**

Often ignored, cities contain many small forest fragments and residential areas that offer tree canopy cover and a variety of native plants, which are both ideal environments for an array of species. Mark Hostetler, professor within the Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, focuses on how cities can be planned and managed to maintain species richness. Read more at the **University of Florida**.

### **Seven Simple Actions to Help Birds**

In 2019, scientists documented North America's staggering loss of nearly 3 billion breeding birds since 1970. Helping birds can be as simple as making changes to everyday habits. Here's our quick list of Seven Simple Actions you can take to help birds. Read more at **Cornell Lab of Ornithology**.

### **Early Indigenous Land Use**

For over 7,000 years, the land on which the Arnold Arboretum now sits has been inhabited and used by diverse societies and cultures of Indigenous Peoples, including most recently the **Massachusetts Tribe**. Indigenous Peoples visited here occasionally and might have had seasonal camps. They probably came to hunt deer and other mammals. Read more at **Harvard Arnold Arboretum**.

### **Finding Rhode Island Old Growth Forest**

This pocket of forest between a Warwick golf course and dispersed houses on Country View Drive doesn't look like much, at least to the untrained eye. But some of the trees have stood relatively untouched at least as far back as the Civil War. Proforestation, the practice of growing out an existing forest to its full ecological potential, could provide many benefits in maximizing carbon storage and sequestration. Read more at **Eco Rhode Island News**.

## **California Launches the Largest Food Waste Recycling Program in the U.S.**

Seeking to cut down on methane pollution from organic waste, California is launching a statewide food waste recycling program in January, the largest initiative in the United States. Read more at [Yale Environment 360](#).

## **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.

#### **December**

December 16 **The Quiet Transition - Leading by Example in Lean Quiet Land Care**; 12:00-2:00pm ET.

#### **January**

January 12 **Seed Sowing 101**; 12:30-1:00pm ET.

January 13 **America's Public Gardens: A Resource for Native Plants**; 6:00pm CT.

January 13 **Wild & Scenic Film Festival**; times vary.

January 13,20,27 **QGIS for ALL: From LiDAR to Topos with QGIS**; 3:00-4:30pm 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 20,21,27,28 - **Expanding the Scope of Landscape Design: People, Ecology & Time**; 1:00-4:30 ET.

January 23,30, **February 6,13,27 Site Grading Fundamentals: Go Back to Basics and Sharpen Your Skills**; 3:00-5:00pm ET.

January 26 **ELA Webinar**→**Engaging Landowners in Sustainable Stewardship**; 12:00-1:00pm 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 10,17,24 **QGIS for ArcMap Users: Making the Transition**; 3:00-4:30pm ET.

February 15 **ELA Class**→**Climate Change and Native Plants**; 6:00-8:30pm 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.

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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 High Line** - Director of Horticulture

The High Line seeks a strong, intuitive leader with a passion for urban horticulture and public space management for our next director of horticulture. The director of horticulture will lead the team of talented urban horticulturists who together are responsible for all aspects of the management and long term care of the High Line's landscape. The director of horticulture is a key contributor to the overall Park Operations team, and a champion of our horticulture program. They also, critically, support the integration of horticulture with the work of the rest of the organization and day-to-day operations of our active public space. This is a full-time, exempt position that reports to the vice president of park operations. **Find full job description and details 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 [office@ecolandscaping.org](mailto:office@ecolandscaping.org). Georgia Harris, ELA Newsletter Editor

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