

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

February 2022



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

## From The Editor

Plummeting temperatures and icy walkways make February feel long. Many gardeners spend the month dreaming of an early spring to beat the winter blues. Whether you are perusing books on native gardens or flipping through seed catalogs, you are undoubtedly looking to escape this time of year. This month's newsletter has the remedy for the wintertime blues with a review of *Community Eco-Gardens* and excerpts from books by our conference speakers: Ted Elliman's *Grasses, Sedges, Rushes* and Benjamin Vogt's *The New Garden Ethic*. Native plant diversity is a hot topic, so we're updating "Sowing Native Seeds," a 2018 article by conference speaker Heather McCargo, to help you get a start on growing the most genetically diverse plant palette possible. Another conference speaker, Nahal Sohbaty, addresses vacant lots that can be downtrodden eyesores in an article highlighting Ridge Lane, a tiny strip of land reinvented to bring pride of place to a San Francisco neighborhood.



It wouldn't be winter without ELA's **28th Conference & Eco-Marketplace - February 23rd & 24th**. This year's virtual online conference promises to inspire you to expand your knowledge from vacant lots to remediating urban soils. Concurrent sessions offer a great breadth of education, and perhaps best of all, you will have access to recordings of all presentations post-conference. The hardest decision you will have is deciding which great lectures to attend live and which to listen to later. If you haven't registered already, do so now to reconnect and get inspired for the upcoming season. See you at the conference. *GRH*



### Ridge Lane: The Butterfly Effect of an Urban Vacant Lot

by Nahal Sohbaty

Located in the Ingleside neighborhood of San Francisco, Ridge Lane is a vacant public right of way owned by the city. Vacant lands can serve as a public space and can significantly contribute to social engagement. Community members often take charge of these vacant lots and activate them through community gardening, guerrilla gardening, and other artful representations. **Read the article.**

Ms. Sohbaty presents on the Ridge Lane project on Thursday, February 24 at **ELA's Conference & Eco-Marketplace**.



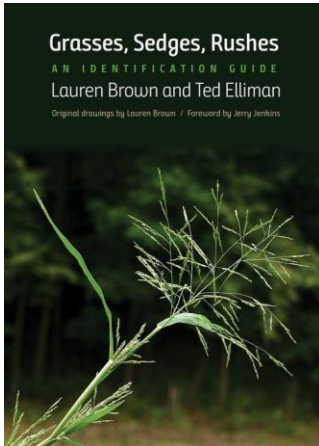
## A New Garden Ethic

by Benjamin Vogt

Based on the number of genetically unique ecological niches, the loss of overall biodiversity is our most significant threat to a livable world. Loss of habitat can be partially overcome if species move and share their genetic material. Diverse and linked ecosystems that allow migration are crucial, acting as a climate change buffer by helping as many species as possible adapt. [Read the article.](#)

Mr. Vogt presents "A New Garden Ethic" on Thursday, February 24 at [ELA's Conference & Eco-Marketplace.](#)

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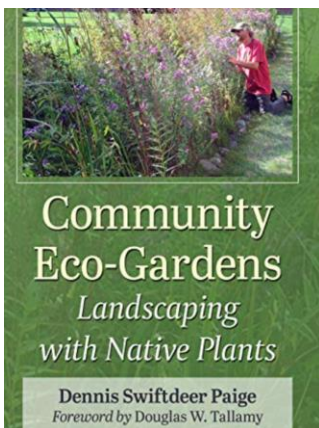
## Grasses, Sedges, Rushes

by Lauren Brown & Ted Elliman

Grasses are everywhere. They cover vast areas of the earth, yet they also grow out of the cracks of city sidewalks. Yet few people - even those who are passionately interested in nature - take the trouble to learn the names of grasses. Here are but a few types of grasses, sedges, and rushes to whet your appetite to discover the wonders of these plant species. [Read the article.](#)

Mr. Elliman explores grasses, sedges and rushes on Thursday, February 24 at [ELA's Conference & Eco-Marketplace.](#)

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## Community Eco-Gardens

by Dennis Swiftdeer Paige  
reviewed by Georgia Harris

In his book *Community Eco-Gardens*, Dennis Swiftdeer Paige brings an optimistic and can-do attitude to his twenty-year project of creating a native landscape in a five-acre condo complex outside of Chicago. Paige, always entranced by the natural world, gradually develops a native natural habitat in his residential Town Square Condominium Complex. [Read the review.](#)

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## Sowing Native Seeds

by Heather McCargo

The seeds of wild plants have different needs than those of typical garden and vegetable species. However, understanding the specific requirements for successful propagation and knowledge of some propagation techniques will help assure success. [Read the article.](#)

Ms. McCargo presents "Urban Pollinator Corridors" on Wednesday, February 23 at [ELA's Conference & Eco-Marketplace.](#)

# ELA News

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

There's still time to join us for ELA's two-day virtual **28<sup>th</sup> Conference & Eco-Marketplace**. 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** track. A third track of **Idea Exchanges** digs into four thought-provoking topics.

CEUs have been granted by APLD (4/day), ASLA LA CES (4/day for specific tracks), NOFA OLCF (4/day), SER (2/day), MALP MCLP (2/day), and MCH (1).

Registrants will receive recordings of presentations after the conference. Don't miss out on early discounts for this signature event! **Register now**.

### Thank you to our 2022 Conference Sponsors!

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## Gleanings

### **Bee Mine: A Pollinator Love Story**

Love is in the air. Learn about love, heartbreak, and romance in the world of pollinators; bees that wear perfume; hawkmoths that don't pull their weight in the relationship; what happens when humans meddle with pollination; and more. Read more at [Tufts Pollinator Initiative](#).



### **Delightful Photos Highlight How Native Plants Support Birds**

Capturing a crisp image of a bird in flight, two mates lovingly preening each other, or an intense predator-prey interaction are coveted shots for any photographer. However, photographing birds with native plants – not just any plant – offers an exciting and captivating challenge. Read more at [The National Audubon Society](#).

### **Why Gardeners Should Stop Using Peat Moss**

Environmental leaders and other high-profile voices like Monty Don, the British horticulturist, author, and broadcaster, have been sounding the cry: Gardeners should stop using peat, because the consequences of its continued harvest on diverse peatland habitats, and the native plants and animals that inhabit them, are too high. Read more at [The New York Times](#).

### **Fireflies, Jewels That Need Protecting**

State, provincial, and local wildlife agencies have a vital role to play in coordinating firefly conservation. To that end, Xerces is excited to announce the release of a new publication to help agencies respond: *State of the Fireflies of the US and Canada: Distribution, Threats, and Conservation Recommendations*. Read more at [Xerces Society](#). Watch YouTube: [Fireflies Jewels of the Night](#).

### **How Old is Zimbabwe's Big Tree?**

Patrut, who has been studying ancient trees for decades, and his team made the pilgrimage to Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe, to study the growth, age, and architecture of the "Big Tree." The Big Tree is a colossal structure, soaring over 80 feet in the air, around 75 feet in circumference, with bulky branches, many stems that make up its trunk, and a wide, gaping hole at its core. The Big Tree is thought to be one of the largest and oldest African baobab trees in the world. Read more at [Atlas Obscura](#).

### **Into the Red: How the Boston Globe Will Cover Climate Change**

To report on the most pressing issue of our time, the Globe's climate team is expanding and rethinking its coverage. It's been three decades – the span of an entire generation – since a NASA scientist named James Hansen sat before Congress and testified that human-caused

global warming was not only real but “already happening now.” We view this moment as historic and one that demands intensive journalistic scrutiny. Read more at [The Boston Globe](#).

### **Increase in Marine Heat Waves Threatens Coastal Habitats**

Heat waves – like the one that blistered the Pacific Northwest last June – also occur underwater. A new study paints a worrisome picture of recent and projected trends in marine heat waves within the nation’s largest estuary, with dire implications for the marine life and coastal economy of the Chesapeake Bay and other similarly impacted shallow-water ecosystems. Read more at [The College of William & Mary Science News](#).

### **Setting Underground Rivers Free**

Exhuming waterways that run beneath developed areas and restoring their natural flow and width is known as “daylighting.” In the Northeast, you don’t have to look far to find formerly lost rivers that have been brought back into the light. From Providence to New York to Boston’s Emerald Necklace, these forgotten waters are being surfaced to rejuvenate parks, revive local economies, and create bigger reservoirs that can prevent flooding during increasingly dangerous storms. Read more at [The Boston Globe](#).

### **When Rewilding Confronts Common Perceptions of Nature**

All parks possess preconceived ideas about what defines “nature” and the role it should have in public parks. They have expectations for how nature bound by the culture of the city should look – expectations rooted in a lifetime of experiencing urban parks with close-cropped lawns modeled after European pleasure gardens. Read more at [The Sierra Club](#).

### **Air Pollution Makes Life Difficult for Pollinators**

Insects rely on a flower’s odor to locate a plant, but atmospheric pollutants alter these smells, making foraging more difficult. A new study in environmental pollution tested how much of an impact pollution has on pollinators in the field. They found a reduction in insect pollinators by up to 70 percent and a reduction in their flower visits by up to 90 percent. Read more at [Smithsonian Magazine](#).

### **What Do Birds Eat?**

This is a truly incredible online tool that tells you what birds eat. The Avian Diet Database was created by [Dr. Allen Hurlbert](#), Professor of Biology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The database currently focuses on North American birds but will eventually encompass data for all species globally. Read more at [Avian Diet Database](#).

### **Searchable Systemic Insecticides List**

As a group, insecticides are perilous for insect life, including bees and other beneficial insects. Those insecticides designed to permeate plants from within – systemic insecticides – move through plants and may be present in all tissues after application, including pollen and nectar, posing unique risks for pollinators. Given their widespread use, Xerces decided to offer an easily accessible reference to the insecticides currently registered in the U.S. that are known to – or possess the potential to – show systemic movement in plants. Read more at [Xerces Society](#).

### **Can Forest Change Children’s Immune Systems?**

Playing through the greenery and litter of a mini forest’s undergrowth for just one month may be enough to change a child’s immune system, according to an experiment in Finland. Read more at [Science Alert](#).

### **Do Pollinators Prefer Dense Flower Patches?**

Historically, entomologists have concluded that bees and other pollinators select flowering plants according to the density of those plants in a given location. But other research has shown that pollinator visits do not decrease when isolated from same-species plants, suggesting that flowers in dense formations compete for pollinators. Read more at [Entomology Today](#).

## **Making Rhode Island's Food Systems Sustainable**

While the state's food sector is one of the largest employers in Rhode Island, the Ocean State is still overly reliant on outside food producers. Experts in agriculture, aquaculture and fisheries, policy experts and stakeholders discussed ways to improve and better support the state's food system. Read more at [Eco RI News](#).

## **Spotted Lantern Fly Mapping In Massachusetts**

The Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) announced that a small stand of trees was found to be infested in Shrewsbury, MA (Worcester County) with invasive spotted lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*; SLF) earlier in January by MDAR surveyors. This is the second detection of the population of this insect in Massachusetts, following confirmation of SLF in the city of Fitchburg, MA in 2021. For a map of these locations visit [UMass SLF Detections Map](#). Remain vigilant and report any sightings of SLF in Massachusetts to [Spotted Lanternfly Report Reporting Form - Massachusetts Introduced Pests Outreach Project](#).

# 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.

### **February**

February-March [NDAL 2022 Winter Virtual Education Series](#).

February 12- March 20 [Prismatic, An Orchid Exhibition - Tower Hill Botanic Garden](#); times vary

February 15 [ELA Class](#)→[Climate Change and Native Plants](#); 6:00-8:30pm ET.

February 16 [Financial Success with Organic Land Care](#); 7:00-8:00pm ET.

February 16 [The Forest Edge: Design and Ecology](#); 4:00-5:30pm ET.

February 16 [Genetic Diversity and Plant Preservation](#); 6:00pm CT.

February 16 [Oh Deer! How Deer Shape Forests in the Catskills & Beyond](#); 7:00pm ET.

February 16-18 [Invasive Insect Webinar Series](#); 9:00-11:45am ET each day.

February 17 [ELA Class](#)→[Finding Your Environmental Ethic](#); 6:00am-7:00pm ET.

February 18 -May 15 [Art Show | Seeds for Tomorrow: Woody Plants of the Arnold Arboretum](#); times vary.

February 19 [Home Orchard Establishment](#); 10:30am-12:00pm ET.

February 19 [Exploring Invasive and Non-Native Plants \(Live Webinar\)](#); 6:30-7:30 ET.

February 20 [Seasonal Pruning Workshop: Late Winter](#); 1:00-2:30pm ET.

February 23 [Ecotypes, Ecoregions + Ecological Restoration: Fortifying the Living Seed Bank](#); 9:00-10:30am ET.

February 23-24 [ELA Conference & Eco-Marketplace](#); 8:00am-5:00pm ET.

February 24 [Low Risk Herbicides](#); 7:00-8:00pm ET.

February 24 [Practical Tips for Tree and Shrub ID](#); 11:30am-1:00pm ET.

February 24 [It's Night Time - It's Supposed to be Dark](#); 7:00-8:30pm ET.

February 26 [Pruning the Home Orchard](#); 10:30am-12:00pm ET.

### **March**

March 1 [Composting & Compost Tea with Monique Bosch](#); 8:30-10:00am ET.

March 1-2 [A System's Approach to Natural Turf Management Professional Training](#); Bordentown, NJ; 8:00am-5:00pm.

March 2 [Navigating Public Design, Part 1](#); 6:00-8:00pm ET.

March 1-3 [Best Practices for Pollinators](#); 9:00am-2:00pm ET each day.

March 3 [43rd Community Tree Conference](#); 8:45am-3:45pm ET.

March 3 [How to Make Your Life Easier with Native Plants](#); 6:00-7:30pm ET.

March 3 [Talking with Our Children About Climate Crisis](#); 7:30pm ET.

March 6 [NOFA/RI Winter Conference](#); 11:00am-4:00pm ET.

March 9 **Composting 101 with Monique Bosch**; 6:00-7:30pm ET.  
March 9 **Ulmus Americana – Saving an American Icon**; 6:00-7:00pm ET.  
March 12 **Growing Brambles**; 10:30am-noon ET.  
March 15 **Going Native with Dan Jaffe Wilder**; 8:30-11:30am ET.  
March 19 **Plant, Grow, Nurture: Gardening in Rhythm with Nature**; 9:00am.  
March 23 **For Us and Them: How Edible Native Plants Can Feed Us and Wildlife Together**; 6:00-8:00pm ET.  
March 24 **Kill Your Lawn with Dan Jaffe**; 7:00- 8:30pm ET.  
March 26 **Growing Blueberries**; 10:30am-noon ET.  
March 31- April 1 **ArborEXPO**; times vary.

## 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.

**Wild Seed Project** is excited to hire a Seed Program Manager to lead our native seed collection, processing, and growing program. The Seed Program Manager will work closely with our Founder in their first year to learn our seed program and then will take on full management of our seed-based work. Central to the role will be the development of our new Seed Farm and Nursery, which the Seed Program Manager will help design and then manage ongoing. We are looking for someone who can hit the ground running with a healthy mix of experience in the field and passion for this work. Applications due on March 11, 2022. [Read the full description here.](#)

### **Refugia Design/Build**

Refugia is an ecological landscape design/build and stewardship firm located in Bala Cynwyd 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 habitat connectivity throughout PA, NJ and DE. Currently seeking:

#### **Landscape Designer\*\***

Seeking an innovative Landscape Designer with 3-5+ years residential design experience and proven in-the-field project management. Must be passionate about ecological design-build and excited to work within a highly collaborative team. Immediate start.

#### **Junior Landscape Designer\*\***

Entry level role assisting lead designer on diversity of projects at all stages of the design process. Must have BLA, BSLA, MLA and 1-3 years relevant field/design experience. Immediate start.

#### **Stewardship/Install Team\*\***

We are also seeking keen hands-on individuals excited about working within ecological landscaping, with a minimum of 2

years professional gardening experience. Responsibilities include: native landscape maintenance; assistance with new installations (residential and commercial) and site prep; assistance potting, weeding, and watering in the greenhouse. Starting in March.

\*\*All positions are full-time. Competitive salary and benefits package (including healthcare stipend, 401k and paid time off) commensurate with qualifications and experience. Visit [www.refugiadesign.com/recruit](http://www.refugiadesign.com/recruit) for all details.

### **Southwest Boston CDC Green Team**

Job Title: PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Hours: March 1 – Sept 30, 2022, 30 hours per week with possibility of continuing year-round to work on additional climate change projects.

Southwest Boston Community Development Corporation (SWBCDC) is a non-profit organization serving Boston's diverse neighborhoods of Hyde Park and Roslindale. We create and preserve affordable housing to prevent displacement of low and moderate-income residents. We work with businesses to strengthen the commercial base of the neighborhoods. We work with residents to develop and implement strategies for climate change mitigation and resiliency, and transit equity along the Fairmount Commuter Rail Line. We employ Boston youth to restore local conservation woodlands and to prepare them for future success. For job details, email Patricia at [palvarez@swbcdc.org](mailto:palvarez@swbcdc.org).

**Weston Nurseries**, located in Hopkinton, MA is looking for a Landscape Lead Designer. The person in this role: Interfaces with clients and ensures that all of client's concerns are addressed in a timely and professional manner; Produces quality landscape designs that are based on client's needs and ensure plantings success; Partners with entire garden center staff to ensure all facets of the design and installation process are efficient and meet the client's expectations. We offer extremely competitive wages and one of the best benefit packages in the industry. [Read the full job description here.](#)

**Weston Nurseries**, located in Hopkinton, MA is looking for several individuals to install plant material at customers' sites. A partial list of duties and responsibilities include: Must be able to follow directions easily and complete the requests of the crew foreman. Assist with unloading of work trucks and delivery trucks. Assist with site set up of plant materials. Maintain job site staging area clean and organized. Assist in keeping the job site tidy, organized and safe. Use all installation tools according to company safety policy. Comply with company safety policy at all times. We offer extremely competitive wages and one of the best benefit packages in the industry. [Read the full job description.](#)

### **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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