

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



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

## From The Editor

With cold firmly gripping the north, it's a great time to mull the array of winter educational programs. Virtual offerings have proliferated; now, far-flung speakers are a click away. As proponents of ecological landscapes, we educate ourselves, seeking new information and perspectives, and we enjoy sharing broadly with others. This year's **ELA 28th Conference & Eco-Marketplace**, Wednesday, February 23, and Thursday, February 24, features a lineup of exceptional speakers addressing a rich palette of ecological topics. Register by January 31 to take advantage of early discounts; ELA members receive additional discounts. And, if you want to promote your company to an ecologically committed audience, become a conference sponsor/exhibitor. [Details here.](#)



This month's newsletter features articles by two conference speakers: Sandra Albro examines projects that turn vacant lots into ecologically rich greenspaces, and Linda Hwang, Wednesday's Keynote, addresses the disparity of greenspace availability. Additional articles take a closer look at plant metabolism, trees and forests, fungi's survival strategies, and meadow creation. Enjoy the articles!



### Q&A: How Data Helps Close the Park Equity Divide

Interview with Linda Hwang

Parks are essential for public health, climate resilience, and strong connected communities; however, 100 million people in the U.S. – including 28 million kids – don't have a park within a 10-minute walk of home. We have the data to pinpoint where parks are needed the most. Linda Hwang, the Trust for Public Land's director of research and innovation, talks about how data is helping to close the park equity divide. [Read the article.](#)

Ms. Hwang presents the Luncheon Keynote on Wednesday, February 23 at [ELA's Conference & Eco-Marketplace.](#)



## Winning Community Support for Green Infrastructure

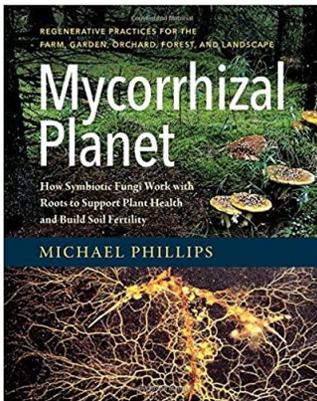
by Sandra Albro

In this adapted excerpt from *Vacant to Vibrant: Creating Successful Green Infrastructure Networks* (Island Press, 2019), author Sandra Albro shares lessons from a multidisciplinary project team that built nine green stormwater parks on small vacant lots in three post-industrial cities – Gary, Indiana; Cleveland, Ohio; and Buffalo, New York. The project, “Vacant to Vibrant,” replicated similar processes across three Great Lakes states with the goal of discerning site-specific considerations from more generalizable lessons.

[Read the article.](#)

Ms. Albro presents on the topic of connecting communities with green space on Wednesday, February 23 at [ELA's Conference & Eco-Marketplace](#).

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## Healthy Plant Metabolism

by Michael Phillips

Healthy plant metabolism begins with a molecule of water, a breath of carbon, and light energy from our nearest star. The tangible science behind all this unlocks the righteous way to farm and garden, give honor to trees, and plain do right by this earth. Nothing has ever excited me more. [Read the article.](#)

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## Finding Mother Earth Tree

by Suzanne Simard

Working to solve the mysteries of what made the forests tick and how they are linked to the earth and fire and water made me a scientist. I watched the forest, and I listened. I followed where my curiosity led me, I listened to the stories of my family and people, and I learned from the scholars. I poured everything I had into becoming a sleuth of what it takes to heal the natural world. [Read the article.](#)

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## **Mycological Strategies for Surviving**

by Paul Stamets

Today, we only have 10-15% of the forest debris that nature has needed to build the food webs for sustainable ecosystems. Widespread deforestation, factory farming, population expansion, industrialization, and concomitant pollution are ongoing threats imperiling our ecosystems and the foundation of our food webs at a time when unprecedented waves of humans walk the Earth needing water, sustenance and shelter. What do I recommend? **Read the article.**

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## **Creating Wildflower Meadows from Scratch... Or by Simply Changing Mowing Regimes**

by Alina Harris

When someone asks for help to increase pollinators in their landscape, the initial request is often to start a pollinator meadow from seed. We love thriving wildflower meadows that began from scratch – but they can take several years of work. In the right place, reducing mowing can improve conditions for pollinators. **Read the article.**

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# ELA News

**28th ELA Conference & Eco-Marketplace** - February 23 & 24, 2022  
Early Discounts through January 31.

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** track. A third track of **Idea Exchanges** digs into four thought-provoking topics.

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

## **Join ELA as a Conference Sponsor!**

Though the virtual experience isn't the same as being in person, the ELA community still enjoys engaging with our conference sponsor-exhibitors. Plus, you receive conference tickets, membership discounts, and more. ELA's conference is a great way to get your company's name in front of an ecologically engaged audience, to showcase your work, and to network for job prospects, collaborators, and future employees. Check out the **sponsorship opportunities** and email your questions to [rie@ecolandscaping.org](mailto:rie@ecolandscaping.org).

## **2022 Conference & Eco-Marketplace Sponsors**

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## **Email to ELA**

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## Gleanings

### It's 2022. Let's Make it the Year of the Oak

Happy New Year. Let's all plant oak trees in 2022. Oaks support more life-forms than any other North American tree genus, providing food, protection, or both for birds to bears, as well as countless insects and spiders, among the enormous diversity of species. Read more at [The New York Times](#).

### Invaders For Sale

The sale of nonnative ornamental plants is a primary pathway of invasive plant introduction into the US. As a result, many nonnative



plants have been identified as noxious weeds by federal and state governments or as problematic invasive plants by agencies and nonprofit organizations. However, it is unclear whether identifying a species as invasive has curtailed its sale as an ornamental. Read more at [ESA Journals](#).

### **Protecting Earth: If 'Nature Needs Half,' What Do People Need?**

The campaign to preserve half the Earth's surface is being criticized for failing to take account of global inequality and human needs. But such protection is essential not just for nature but also for creating a world that can improve the lives of the poor and disadvantaged. Read more at [Yale Environment 360](#).

### **Treeline: A Story Written in Rings**

Patagonia Films presents *Treeline: A Story Written in Rings*, available in full for the first time. Follow a group of skiers, snowboarders, scientists, and healers to the birch forests of Japan, the red cedars of British Columbia, and the bristlecones of Nevada as they explore an ancient story written in rings. Watch the film on [YouTube](#).

### **Is Ocean Plastic a New Kind of Island?**

Giant patches of plastic floating in the ocean have become home to an experiment in a new hybrid ecosystem made up of stowaway species from coastal environments and of organisms that dwell in the middle of the Pacific. Meet the "neopelagic" world. Read more at [Anthropocene Magazine](#).

### **Dawn to Dusk Beneath the Bird Feeder in Pictures**

A former comedian and ventriloquist, Carla Rhodes' life was transformed when she discovered a passion for wildlife conservation photography. Last winter, she placed a camera trap in her garden in the Catskill Mountains in New York, with heartwarming results. Enjoy the photographs at [The Guardian](#).

### **Upgrade Energy Efficiency; Retrofit Old Buildings – with Plants**

According to a new study, a living wall composed of pockets of greenery installed on the outside of a building can shrink the amount of heat lost through an un-insulated wall by nearly one-third. The findings suggest a new strategy for making older buildings more energy efficient. Read more at [Anthropocene Magazine](#).

### **Monarch Butterflies Flock to California Coast**

Monarch butterflies spend every winter along the California coast, clustering in groups on Monterey pines and eucalyptus trees, glittering orange as light filters through the forest. In recent years, their numbers dropped dangerously low, which is why their unexpected population boom this season is a welcome surprise. Read more at [San Francisco Chronicle](#).

### **Too Many Palm Trees In Florida?**

Florida is known for its beaches, sunshine and palm trees. But in communities that are responding to climate change, palm lovers are being forced to face an inconvenient truth. Palms, which really aren't trees at all, don't do well in capturing carbon or in providing shade in overheated urban areas. Read more at [NPR](#).

### **Favorite Female Bird Photos!**

Female birds are some of the more underappreciated and challenging birds to see – many eschew the showy plumage and attention-grabbing behaviors that bring others into the limelight. This stunning collection celebrates the beauty and ingenuity of 15 birds that do not often get the spotlight. Read more at [The National Audubon](#).

## **San Diego Hermes Copper Butterfly Declared Threatened Species**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service declared one of Southern California's rarest butterflies – the Hermes copper butterfly – as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. They also issued a special rule that will provide flexibility for our partners engaged in important wildfire prevention and species research activities while protecting this rare butterfly. Read more at [KPBS](#).

## **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.

#### **January**

January 15&16 **NOFA/Mass Winter Conference**; online.

January 18 **Environmental Art in the Landscape: From Idea to Installation**; 3:00-4:30 ET.

January 18-23 **NOFA-NY 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 19 **Soil Nutrients**; 7:00-8:00pm ET.

January 19 **Ching-Fang Chen: New Aesthetics for Public Spaces**; 6:00-7:00pm 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 25 **Role Cation Exchange in Nutrient Management**; 12:00-1:00pm ET.

January 26 **ELA Webinar→Engaging Landowners in Sustainable Stewardship**; 12:00-1:00pm ET.

January 26 **Regenerative Turf Systems**; 7:00-8:00pm ET.

January 29 **ELA Class→Plant Nutrients**; 10:00am-12:00pm ET.

January 31 **Old Forests: What They Are, Why They're Important, and Opportunities for Management**; 7:00-8:30pm ET.

#### **February**

February 4 **Urban Tree Symposium**; 9:00am-3:00pm ET.

February 5 **Insects: Pests and Beneficials**; 10:30am-12:00pm ET.

February 6-12 **NOFA NH Winter Conference**; online.

February 9 **ELA Webinar→Regenerating Suburbia One Garden at a Time**; 12:00-1:00pm ET.

February 9 **Organic Control of Grubs and Beetles**; 7:00-8:00pm ET.

February 10 **Using Soil Microbes to Improve Fertilizer Efficiency and Soil Health**; 11:00am CT.

February 10,17,24 **QGIS for ArcMap Users: Making the Transition**; 3:00-4:30pm ET.

February 12 **Orchard Diseases**; 10:30am-12:00pm ET.

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 17 **ELA Class→Finding Your Environmental Ethic**; 6:00am-7:00pm ET.

February 19 **Home Orchard Establishment**; 10:30am-12:00pm ET.

February 23-24 **ELA Conference & Eco-Marketplace**; 8:00am-5:00pm ET.  
February 24 **Low Risk Herbicides**; 7:00-8:00pm ET.  
February 26 **Pruning the Home Orchard**; 10:30am-12:00pm 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.

**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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