

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

April 2022



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

From The Editor

"Just living is not enough...one must have sunshine, freedom
and a little flower" — Hans Christian Andersen

April showers, Earth Day, celebrating new beginnings? What does spring mean to you? For me, it is time to be outside, engulfed by the sensory inputs only nature can provide. In working on the newsletter Gleanings every month, it is difficult not to be overwhelmed by all the challenges we face in the environment. The actions of so many folks across the country are heartening as they work to bring positive change. The Earth Day 2022 theme is to invest in our planet. While it takes a village to raise a child, it will take all villages joined together to save our planet armed with our education on responsible land stewardship.



This newsletter issue looks first at creating habitat corridors using climate change projections and then at a highway pollinator project that created migration corridors to provide resting areas for the migrating species in the South Dakota prairie. Did you know ferns were a sign of wealth and intellect in the Victorian era? Read along with Leslie Duthie's intriguing article "What's Missing? Ferns for your Garden." We also offer a review of two new books: *The Woodchip Handbook* by Ben Raskin and *BEES: An Identification and Native Plant Forage Guide* by Heather Holm. Enjoy! GRH



Corridor Ecology: Linking Landscapes for Wildlife Conservation

by Annika Keeley

Building is usually a positive sign of economic growth, but for wildlife, these roads and structures – even fences around parks and other green spaces – represent barriers to the daily and seasonal movement they rely upon for survival. So how can we coexist with wildlife as we enjoy the resources our communities have to offer? [Read the article.](#)



What's Missing? Ferns for Your Garden

by Leslie Duthie

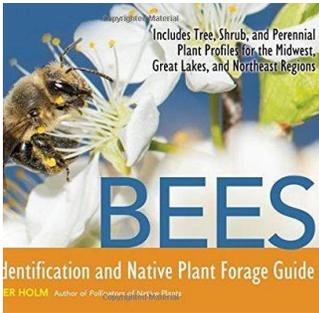
Ferns are the ancient plants in our landscapes. Every time we walk into the woodlands or drive along a country road, we see them. They cover old stone walls and flourish in wetlands and meadows. Yet, how often do we think of using them in our gardens? [Read the article.](#)



The South Dakota Pollinator Project

by Paul Clinton

Over the past several years, one of my favorite landscape architecture projects has been developing and monitoring five pollinator plots at the South Dakota Department of Transportation (SDDOT) rest areas in the eastern part of the state along Interstate 29. As a landscape architect, it is satisfying to witness the return of native prairie plant communities and be a part of diverse projects – and working in South Dakota has allowed me to do both. [Read the article.](#)



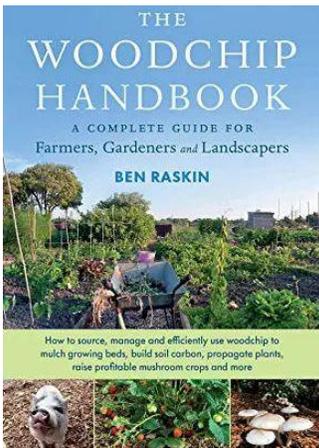
Book Review

BEES: An Identification and Native Plant Forage Guide

Written by Heather Holm

Reviewed by Bruce Wenning

Heather Holm has written another beautiful book for pollinator gardening enthusiasts. She combines Jane Goodall's style of long-term field observations with library research. Her photographs and illustrations capture your interest and increase your appreciation for bees, their natural history, and their host plants. [Read the review.](#)



Book Review

The Woodchip Handbook: A Complete Guide for Farmers, Gardeners, and Landscapers

Written by Ben Raskin

Reviewed by Dan Jaffe Wilder

The Woodchip Handbook is a small (~200 page) book dedicated to using woodchips on the landscape. Practicality is a key concept that runs throughout the book. Topics are introduced generally and quickly, followed by varying versions of how-tos, including case studies, common problems, and solutions. [Read the review.](#)



From the Archives

The Spotted Lanternfly Has Arrived in Massachusetts

by Tawny Simisky

Since this article's publication in October 2021, Spotted Lanternfly has continued to be a threat. The Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) recently issued a message about Spotted Lanternfly (SLF) to the nursery trade. We all should learn the life stages of spotted lanternfly and be able to identify their eggs, immatures, and adults. Most importantly, we need to watch out for any invasive species hitchhiking on plants, pots, equipment, firewood, and virtually any material we transport. Refer to the MDAR notice [here.](#) [Read the article.](#)

Company Member Profile



Ecosystem health is dependent on the natural web of interactions between plants, animals, bacteria and fungi. Native plants have co-evolved to play a critical role as a source of food, a place for shelter, and a fabric for soil retention. At **Weston Nurseries**, we have been helping gardeners improve their homes for a century and it is our hope that this line of native plants will now help make your gardens even more enjoyable knowing that it's contributing to the overall health of the environment.

Over the past 97 years Weston Nurseries has evolved in diverse and unexpected ways. We remain true to our commitment to providing the best selection of hardy landscape-sized plant material in our area along with accurate advice on what will work best for our customers. More recently, we have begun to focus on hard good products in order to meet the needs of today's customers. Much of what we practice today derives directly from Peter J. Mezitt who founded Weston Nurseries and started growing landscape plants in Weston in 1923.

ELA News

Volunteer with ELA

Want to share your talents and expertise as an ELA volunteer? Our member-driven organization is always looking for your expertise, guidance, and help. We are looking for people to help with a few specific needs, plus we have some ongoing opportunities for volunteers.

If you are comfortable presenting to groups, familiar with virtual presentation tools, and quick with a quip, consider becoming a webinar moderator. We'll provide training, and you can choose 2-3 webinars to help with (fall, winter, and spring event dates).

If you don't want to moderate, maybe you'd like to present a webinar. Submit your proposal by [clicking here](#).

If you're not interested in presenting, you could:

- Write an article for the ELA Newsletter (newsletter editor will help define topic & timing)
- Post/Share ELA events on Facebook and Instagram (coordinated with a small group throughout the year)
- Serve on a regional committee to plan ELA conferences. You'll help define programming, identify speakers, and reach out to sponsors and exhibitors. Our three regional conferences are centered around New York, Philadelphia/Delaware, and Massachusetts.

Let us know your interests. Email maureen@ecolandscaping.org.

Eco-Answers with an Eco-Pro

We invite ELA Members, to join us for Q&A with ELA's Eco-Pros, a monthly discussion focused on a general ecological topic of interest. We welcome our members to this free 60-minute Zoom conversation to get the inside scoop from a Pro.

Coming up on April 20: Soil and Compost. Do you have questions about compost, mulch, fertilizers and soil health? Meet virtually with Andrew Brousseau, Black Earth Compost, 6:30-7:30pm, to ask your soil questions. Members can [login and register here](#).

Share Your Expertise!

As ELA begins scheduling fall and winter virtual conferences, we're reaching out to our community for speakers. Our members have thousands of years of combined experience

designing, developing, and maintaining all manner of ecological landscapes. If you have an ecological expertise or field experience, consider sharing with the ELA audience. We seek speakers on a great variety of topics, and ELA programs are geared to audiences at all levels, from general gardener to advanced professional. If you have a topic you'd like to present with ELA, take a minute to let us know by providing a little information. [Click here](#) to submit a proposal. If you aren't a speaker, but you heard a great talk recently, we'd like to hear about that, too. Just send an email to office@ecolandscaping.org.

Enjoy all the ELA Membership Benefits - including free and discounted events.

Become a Member!

It's easy to support ELA year round when you shop on Amazon.

Sign Up with [Amazon Smile](#)!

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Featured Conference Sponsors





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Gleanings

Spotted Lanternfly and Nursery Stock

Last year, the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources detected populations of the invasive pest known as **spotted lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*)** in multiple locations throughout the state. Since this is the time of year when nurseries are receiving stock shipments for the spring planting season, we are sending this notice to remind growers and landscapers to inspect any plant material coming from states where SLF has been found. Read more at [Mass Department of Agricultural Resources](#).

Become a Xerces Kid!

Who can become an X Kid? Anyone! The program was created for kids from 3rd to 5th grade, but all are welcome to participate. This program stars invertebrates and can be completed by individuals or used in a group setting such as a classroom, camp, or afterschool program. Read more at [Xerces Society](#).



How to Tell Apart Sound-Alike Warblers

Bird song provides one of the greatest pleasures of spring. Using these songs to track down your favorite species requires knowing the singer. Some species can sound very similar to their cousins. Let's consider a few of these confusing songs – and their spectrograms – in preparation for our upcoming migrant arrivals. Read more at [National Audubon](#).

Deadliest U.S. Bird Flu Outbreak in 7 years

The fast-spreading bird flu is now threatening the livelihood of New England farmers. In the two months since the first outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza was reported in Indiana, farmers across the country have **killed nearly 23 million chickens and turkeys** to limit its spread. With recent outbreaks of viruses in New England, farmers in the region take precautions to prevent their flocks from meeting the same fate. Read more at [WGBH](#) and [ABC / WKBW](#).

Does the Ecosystem Hinge on a Single Keystone Gene

In the 1960s, a scientist revolutionized ecology with the idea of keystone species. Now scientists say they have found a keystone gene. The findings demonstrate the importance of combining genetic and ecological tools to understand how changes might influence ecosystems. Read more at [Anthropocene Magazine](#).

Now for Something Completely Different

Octopuses are nothing if not resourceful, whether they're mimicking venomous creatures or shooting jets of water at aquarium light switches to turn them off. An analysis of underwater images suggests octopuses are increasingly using discarded bottles, cans, and other human rubbish as shelter or as a sanctuary for their eggs. Read more at [Yale Environment 360](#).

Leave Stems for Native Bees

About 30% of New England's native bees build nests above ground. Besides bee hotels (many of which have their own issues), a great way to support these above-ground nesting bees is to leave dead plant stems standing in gardens. Gardeners often ask Tufts Pollinator members, "when is the best time to cut down stems?" The answer is after at least two years (ideally never), which is longer than you might think. Read more at [Tufts Pollinators Initiative](#).

Why Gravel Gardens Are Better Than They Sound

In the way that rock gardens aren't all about the rocks, gravel gardens aren't all about gravel. Gravel plays the essential supporting role. The plants, which can be primarily native grasses and flowering perennials evocative of natural prairie plant communities, do the showing off. Read more at [New York Times](#).

Tree Equity

Trees in cities provide health, employment, and climate resiliency benefits that everyone should have. They help fulfill our basic needs, such as breathing fresh air and drinking clean water. But a map of tree cover in America's cities is too often a map of income and race. Due to decades of redlining and other discriminatory policies, trees are often sparse in neighborhoods with more low-income families and people of color. Read more at [American Forest](#). Find your town's [Tree Equity Score](#).

Plants in the UK Flower a Month Earlier Due to Rising Temperatures

Global temperatures are rising at an unprecedented rate, but environmental responses are often difficult to recognize and quantify. Long-term observations of plant phenology, the annually recurring sequence of plant developmental stages, can provide sensitive climate change measures and essential information for ecosystem services. Read more at [Royal Society Publishing](#).

Hush, Hush, Listen to the Soil

Life in the soil was thought to be silent. A handful of scientists have started to train their ears to the worms, grubs, and roots underground. They were not prepared for what they heard. Read more at [Knowable Magazine](#).

Growing Greener Podcast

Environmental challenges are the defining crisis of our age. Addressing them, according to Thomas Christopher, begins at home, literally in our own backyard. In his Growing Greener podcast, Christopher shares interviews with gardening experts who are also leaders working and living in harmony with nature. Listen to the Podcast at [Thomas Christopher Gardens](#).

Events to Note

Events to Note (listings indicate local time unless otherwise noted)

Many events continue to be held online; check with organizations to confirm the most up-to-date information.

April

April 18 [Native Plants, Phytoremediation & Green Infrastructure](#); 6:00pm CT.

April 20 **ELA Webinar**→**Lawn to Meadow, or How I Killed My Lawn During Covid**; 12:00-1:00pm ET.
April 20 **ELA Eco-Answers**→**Soils and Compost**; 6:30-7:30pm ET.
April 21 **To Which We Belong** screening & Q&A; 8:00pm ET.
April 21 **Unearthed History of Black Garden Clubs in America**; 11:00am-1:00pm ET.
April 21 **How Trees Speak to Us: The Human-Tree Connection**; 12:00-1:15pm ET.
April 21 **Ecological Horticulture in an Evolving World**; 2:00pm ET.
April 22 **Earth Day 2022**; find or start an event near you.
April 23 **Unexpected Spring Foraging**; 11:30am-12:30pm ET.
April 23-24 **Gardens of Folsom** – Garden Tour & Plant Sale.
April 25 **Management of Eastern White Pine in the Landscape**; 6:30-7:30pm ET.
April 28 **Structure and Ornament in the Garden**; 7:00pm ET.

May

May 4 **Urban Landscape Inspirations from Native Plant Communities**; 7:00-8:30pm ET.
May 11 **ELA Webinar**→**Soil – It's What Plants Crave**; 12:00-1:00pm ET.
May 12 **What Bee Is That? An Introduction to Commonly Encountered Bees of the US**; 1:00-1:00pm ET.

June

June 15 **ELA Webinar**→**Restoring the Heirloom Apple Orchard at Tower Hill**; 12:00-1:00pm ET.
June 18 **ELA Eco-Tour**→**Gardening for Insects: Native Pollinator Garden**; Kittery, ME; 9:30-aa:30am.

Anytime

URI Cooperative Extension Learn at Home Webinar Series

Deep Roots: Native Plants at Noon

FIRST Fridays; 4:00-4:40 ET on **Instagram Live**, experienced Black women farmers answer audience questions about gardening, livestock, agroforestry, plant medicine, and food preservation.

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.

Mountain Top Arboretum in Tannersville seeks full-time Horticulturist who will participate in all aspects of plant care and grounds maintenance with a particular focus on the Arboretum's displays and natural areas. A qualified candidate is passionate about plants and nomenclature, has a discerning eye, a strong work ethic, enjoys interacting with the public and would like to gain broad experience in a small but high-quality organization. **Find full job description here**, or contact Marc Wolf, Executive Director, marc@mtarboretum.org The Arboretum is an equal opportunity employer. Start date March-April 2022.

Botanica Fine Gardens

Ecological Landscaping and Fine Gardening

Implementing a lasting ecological impression in various landscapes throughout New England. We are looking for an individual who would like to learn and share knowledge geared towards helping the wildlife and environments within our client's backyards. Connecting multiple elements such as orchards, vegetable gardens, seasonal planters, pollinator gardens,

organic plant health care, and cutting gardens to one another with a holistic approach. Please contact

jmartin@rparzilli.com, ekutchmanich@rparzilli.com,
asidar@rparzilli.com. Explore our website to see our services. We truly look forward to meeting you!

Come grow with Local Roots Landscapers! Minneapolis Twin Cities Metro

We are looking for hard-working, creative, nature-loving people to join our team for the 2022 landscaping season. Local Roots Landscapers has been installing and maintaining sustainable, ecological landscapes in and around the Twin Cities since 2003, with new ownership as of 2020. Our small team of 3-5 individuals installs beautiful and beneficial native prairie, woodland, savannah, and raingarden plantings. We also install finely crafted natural flagstone patios, pathways, and stone walls. It is challenging, physical work, but also very rewarding. We are currently hiring for the following positions: Crew Members, Crew Leader. To express interest or get more information, email local_roots@yahoo.com.

Laurel Gardens seeks new team members who have a passion for plants, an appreciation of good landscape design, and wonder at the natural world. Laurel Gardens' quality driven teams are eager to welcome in more hard-working and fun-loving members. Our teams work collaboratively and value teamwork, professionalism, attention to detail, and creativity. We are dedicated to supporting our team members through good management, a supportive work environment, opportunities for advancement, and generous benefits including paid time off, paid holidays, a matching 401(k), and more. To apply, email Kerry@laurelgardendesign.com.

Tower Hill Botanical Garden - Manager of Adult Education

Under the direction of the Director of Education, the Manager of Adult Education is charged with attracting and serving a diverse population of new and existing adult audiences through a comprehensive suite of existing and new learning opportunities including but not limited to in-person and online programs, hands-on workshops, series classes, lectures, symposia, and trips. The Manager of Adult Education works to strengthen curriculum, diversify instructional strategies, hire new teaching staff, and helps shape our overall growth strategy by analyzing enrollment data and student evaluations. The ideal candidate is strategic, creative, highly organized, an excellent communicator, and has extensive experience with adult program planning and logistics. Find more information on [our website](#); or apply at <https://towerhillbg.isolvedhire.com/jobs/>.

RP Marzilli Landscape Contractors

Since 1985, **R. P. Marzilli & Company** has delivered the highest quality residential landscapes across New England. We are a full service landscape contractor that strives to elevate the possibilities of landscape construction, masonry, and

maintenance. We are hiring multiple positions within the company through the maintenance and construction division. Both divisions are willing and able to speak to anyone who is interested in learning more information about us and where you believe you desire to begin your career. **Find career openings here.** RP Marzilli touches a wide geography throughout MA and New England, so never believe the opportunity doesn't exist in the case of location. Reach out to us; we would like to chat.

The Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy, Boston MA

Turf and Irrigation Specialist: Full-time, non-exempt

The Turf and Irrigation Specialist will use best ecological practices to lead and perform the daily care and maintenance of 5 acres of turf on The Greenway under the direction of the Ecology and Horticulture Supervisor; and maintain the park's irrigation system in good working order. This position oversees the mowing of the park's lawns by subcontractors, and coordinates lawn use with other departments such as Programs, which coordinates approximately 400 events per year, and Public Art. **Find full job description here.**

Terrascares Landscape Design and Fine Gardening Needham/Sherborn, MA.

Type of Position: 9 month, Full-time, non-exempt
Experienced Seasonal Horticulturists (3-5 years experience) are needed for residential fine gardening in Metro West areas, Needham, Wellesley, Natick, Newton, Milton, Sherborn, and surrounds. We maintain small to large gardens organically and promote sustainable healthy landscapes. Terrascares is a compassionate company and provides livable wage structure and understands flexibility in hours for family driven lifestyles, company learning opportunities, uniform stipends, field trips and a lovely group of passionate gardeners with plant loving personalities. Contact or submit your resume and cover letter to Hannah Traggis. **Find out more about us here.**

Designer of Greens Seeks Gardener

Small, independent landscape gardening company needs a reliable and competent person to work part-time at all aspects of garden installation and maintenance. We care for mostly residential properties using ecologically responsible gardening techniques and will train you in organic/ecological and environmental methods of land-care; plant, pests etc. We work outside of Boston, and in Metro-West. Flexible hours; pay based on experience and skill sets. Must have own vehicle, a valid US driver's license, ability to communicate, and a positive attitude! Contact us at **DesignerOfGreens@gmail.com** 508-561-0532

Job with Offshoots: Experienced Gardener/ Horticulturist

MARCH 2022 START DATE (Weather Dependent)

Offshoots Inc. is looking for an experienced gardener with prior organic gardening or sustainable landscaping experience to join our garden maintenance team. The individual shall be eager to work with and learn about plants with a strong interest in native

and novel plant communities including meadows; it can be either a part-time or full-time role. Team member will be required to carry out instructions from our Lead Gardener as well as communicate priorities, plans, expectations, and issues with other staff. Candidates must be an independent self-starter able to track hours and take digital photos to track plant community development on job sites. Job involves working directly with plants, mulch, and irrigation systems. **More information here.**

Job with Offshoots: Field Supervisor/ Landscape Foreman

MARCH 2022 START DATE (Weather Dependent)
Offshoots is seeking a highly motivated and experienced Landscape Foreman/ Field Supervisor to oversee installations and run a small crew on residential and commercial landscape and garden installations. Candidates must have previous field experience working on landscape installation teams. A degree in Landscape Contracting, Horticulture or similar experience is preferred. Offshoots, Inc. is a landscape architecture and horticultural installation practice focusing on ecological and productive landscape strategies. We are a growing company, and there is significant room for advancement. The installation side of the company focuses on horticultural installations (soil work and planting), therefore we are looking for applicants who have a strong interest and knowledge in plants and sustainable organic landscaping practices including native plants. Candidates will be working directly with the Director of Landscape Operations to lead in the installation of projects, do site visits and purchase materials. Jobs will include planting and softscape installations and maintenance. **More information here.**

The English Gardener Ltd – Buffalo, New York

We're Hiring! Do you love to create beautiful natural environmentally sustainable outdoor spaces? We have openings for Gardeners, Designers and Hardscape Artists. At The English Gardener, we take pride in building and maintaining some of the most beautiful gardens in the Buffalo New York area. We are currently hiring for the Garden Planting and Maintenance Team, Hardscape Construction Team, and Crew Leaders. Preference given to candidates with relevant experience. Find more under Careers at www.englishgardener.com. To apply, email **EnglishGardenerServices@gmail.com**. Questions: 716-833-8000.



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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 **office@ecolandscaping.org**. Georgia Harris, ELA Newsletter Editor