

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

March 2022



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

## From The Editor

"We can't solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them." — Albert Einstein

I'm reminded of Einstein's words as the spring season inundates me with seed and nursery catalogs that tempt me with the latest manufactured plants. Hot new colors, shorter statures, gold leaf colors, and more double blossoms designed to entice. Every year it's the same. The sellers of these dreams do not specifically mean harm, but it's magical thinking. We can no longer plant for the beauty of one species (namely, the human species). We have to think of ourselves as part of the ecosystem. And think of land stewardship as the little bit we can do for a balanced ecosystem. Plus, how many hybridized hydrangeas does one need? Wouldn't it be nice if next year's nursery catalog covers featured native plants, tried and true performers sure to bring abundant life to your garden?



While I was perusing catalogs, March roared in like a lion. Though not as loud, it's time to be on the lookout for two smaller aggressive non-native creatures in your garden this spring. Follow Brooklyn Botanical Garden's handy Invasive Mantids article to identify and remove this charismatic predator. Then, learn how an invasive species specialist deals with the emotions of having her own garden invaded by jumping worms. We also look at a home composting alternative and the latest research into the benefits of backyard wildlife on our mental health. Lastly, we travel to western Wisconsin and on to Denver, Colorado, to learn about two unique and wicked cool projects. Enjoy the articles before taking some deep breaths and getting outside to enjoy the wonder of nature's annual rebirth. *GRH*



### Backyard Habitats for the Birds and the Bees

by Susannah B. Lerman

The birds and the bees represent some of our most familiar wildlife. Unfortunately, with increased pressures from residential development, bird, bee and other wildlife habitat have disappeared, leading to severe population declines. Nonetheless, after the development phase, the novel habitat within the new landscape (both intentionally planted and remnant habitat) can support wildlife communities. [Read the article.](#)



## Emotions Matter: Even when Dealing With Jumping Worms

by Angela Gupta

In October 2018, I found jumping worms in my vegetable garden two days after attending a professional conference and participating in a whole afternoon dedicated to jumping worms. It was saddening and disheartening, a bit hopeless. A few weeks before, I learned that jumping worms were found at my local municipal yard waste site, where I'd gotten cheap, local compost for years. [Read the article.](#)

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## Managing Pollinator Habitat: Reducing Invasive Mantid at Brooklyn Bridge Park

by Bella Ciabattoni and Pawel Pieluszynski

Large, charismatic, and bold, praying mantids are ferocious micropredators that delight anyone who stumbles across them. However, mantids, especially the larger species, are indiscriminate predators consuming large amounts of beneficial insects such as bumblebees, flower flies, butterflies, and other pollinators. [Read the article.](#)

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## Demonstration Garden Beautifies Area, Teaches Others About Native Plants

by Lisa Olsen

In an active Denver neighborhood, volunteers proposed the Greenverien Garden to improve the neighborhood's livability. They saw an opportunity to beautify the area by transforming the asphalt-covered strip on a busy street corner into a low-maintenance landscape to be enjoyed by residents, pollinators and visitors alike. [Read the article.](#)

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## The Joy of Bokashi Composting

by Boris Kerzner

About five years ago, while living in a small house with a small backyard, I was fortunate to be introduced to bokashi composting. Whereas standard compost piles rely on the presence of oxygen for decomposition to occur, the bokashi method is a two-step process in which the first step occurs in the absence of oxygen. This composting method takes less space and less tending than a traditional compost pile. [Read the article.](#)

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## Native Habitat Restoration on an Old Wisconsin Farm

by Marcie O'Connor

Our adventure began in early 2000 when my husband and I bought 500 acres of an old farm in the Driftless Area of western Wisconsin. The Driftless Area is the part of the Midwest that was never covered by glaciers, so the land is beautiful – with steep hills and narrow valleys. I'm interested in native plants and natural landscapes, so I thought it would be fun to return the land to prairie and how it looked before it was farmed. [Read the article.](#)

## ELA News

### 28th ELA Conference & Eco-Marketplace

Thank you to all the speakers, attendees, exhibitors, and volunteers who made our 28th Conference & Eco-Marketplace an incredible success.

#### Special thanks to our 2022 Conference Sponsors:

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### Passing of a Friend: Michael Phillips

Michael Phillips, longtime proponent of organic orcharding, passed away unexpectedly on February 27. Michael envisioned how we could better grow and manage fruit trees and held a commitment to inspire and teach others to follow that vision. A contributor to a number of ELA programs, Michael will be greatly missed by all who knew him and by our community. The family has established a [GoFundMe site](#) with the hope of continuing Michael's legacy.

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SOUTHERN  
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**MARCH 25, 2022**  
**9AM-3PM EST**  
VIRTUAL WINTER CONFERENCE

Register Today!



SWCS SNEC's annual virtual conference is on Friday, March 25<sup>th</sup>. This year's theme is soil carbon sequestration and climate change mitigation. The keynote speaker is Dr. Rattan Lal, the globally renowned soil scientist and recipient of the 2020 World Food Prize. Join this network of environmental professionals and **register today**.

## Gleanings

### Home Is Where the Pollinators Should Be

Pollinators play a significant role in maintaining the function and diversity of ecosystems through their unique relationship with native flowering plants. But the ongoing degradation of native pollination systems, coupled with the continued loss of insect biodiversity, poses a significant threat to human health and well-being and the world's future. Read more at [EcoRI News](#).

### Seeds for Tomorrow

Artist Laura Fantini illustrates "hope" in each seed she discovers, draws, and records. Her "hope" is for the future of our world. Each of her drawings bears her plea to hope for each plant to endure and thrive through the life of its seed. Read more at [Harvard's Arnold Arboretum](#).



### Western Megadrought is Megabad

A new study found that over the last two decades, the Western US and northern Mexico are experiencing their driest period in at least 1,200 years. Two of the largest reservoirs in the US, Lake Mead and Lake Powell, are down to one-third of their capacity. The researchers attribute about one-fifth of the drought to human-caused climate change. Read more at [National Public Radio](#).

### Roadside Milkweed for Monarchs

Researchers have identified a species of milkweed that holds promise for planting on roadsides to improve conservation habitat for migrating monarch butterflies. Researchers surveyed the poorly studied bract milkweed (*Asclepias brachystephana*). The findings confirm that the species is a good candidate for planting within roadside or rights-of-way conservation projects. Read more at [PHSY ORG](#).

### Braiding Seeds Fellowship Applications Open

The Braiding Seeds Fellowship, a project of Soul Fire Farm Institute in collaboration with the Federation of Southern Cooperatives, carries on the legacy of the braided seeds by providing beginning farmers with resources, professional development, and mentorship to support their livelihood on the land. 2022 Applications are now open. Read more at [Soul Fire Farm](#).

### US Sea Levels Rise at an Alarming Rate

America's coastline will see sea levels rise in the next 30 years by as much as they did in the entire 20th century, with major Eastern cities regularly hit with costly floods even on sunny days, a government report warns. Read more at [AP News](#).

### **National Butterfly Refuge Becomes Target for the Far-Right**

For nearly two decades, the National Butterfly Center has provided a place of wonder along the banks of the Rio Grande. Recently, the butterfly center has become the latest unlikely victim of wild misinformation and outright lies spreading rapidly online. Read more at [The New York Times](#).

### **Nature Is Truly a Balm for the Soul**

Research has found that feelings of overcrowding increased loneliness by an average of 39%. But when people could see trees or the sky, or hear birds, feelings of loneliness fell by 28%. Feelings of social inclusion also cut loneliness by 21%, and when these feelings coincided with contact with nature, the beneficial effect was boosted by a further 18%. Read more at [The Guardian](#) and [The Tree Hugger](#).

### **Urban Bees Face a Flower Deficit**

Researchers compared beehive density in Swiss cities with available green space – based on a model, one square kilometer of available green space could support 7.5 beehives. Using that measure, researchers found none of the 14 cities under inspection had enough forage to satisfy the appetite of all pollinators. The honeybees outcompeted wild bee species that depend on city trees and plantings for food. Read more at [Bloomberg CityLab](#).

### **Cute Plants on Antarctica Spell Trouble**

Some cute little plants in Antarctica are flourishing in warmer temperatures – an ominous sign for the rest of the continent and the world. A [study](#) recently published in Current Biology finds that the continent's only flowering plants have grown rapidly in the past decade, thanks to warmer temperatures. Read more at [Gizmodo](#).

### **Why We Need to Revive Global Food Diversity**

The Green Revolution helped feed a surging global population but at the cost of impoverishing crop diversity. Now, with climate change increasingly threatening food supplies, the need for greater agricultural resilience means restoring endangered crop and food varieties. Read more at [Yale Environment 360](#).

### **ALERT! Deadly Avian Flu Heading for Rhode Island**

The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM) warns commercial poultry producers and backyard chicken keepers that a contagious, virulent avian flu detected in Massachusetts and Connecticut is likely headed to Rhode Island. The virus is lethal to poultry but is not considered a threat to people or public health. Read more at [EcoRI News](#).

## **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.

#### **March**

March 16 **Native Species, Hybrids and Cultivars: What Is Best for My Garden?** 7:00-8:30pm ET.

March 17 **The Labor Day Garden with Robert Clyde Anderson**; 7:00pm ET.

March 17 **Trees and Design in the Urban Environment**; 12:00pm 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 23 **Tree ID for Beginners**; 7:00pm ET.

March 23 **Weed Ordinances**; 6:00pm CT.

March 24 **The Ecology of Segregation**; 7:00pm ET.

March 24-26 **MA Land Conservation Conference** – virtual.

March 26 **Growing Blueberries**; 10:30am-noon ET.

March 26 **Earth Hour** 8:30-9:30pm everywhere.

March 26 **Seasonal Containers for Food and Beauty**; 11:30am-12:30pm ET.

March 29-30 **Spring Kickoff for Landscapers: UMass Extension's Landscape Education Day**; 8:30am-12:15pm ET.

March 31- April 1 **ArborEXPO**; times vary.

## April

April 7 **Climate Change and Biodiversity: A Critical Nexus for Conservation**; 1:00-2:00pm ET.

April 13 **A New Garden Ethic: Cultivating Defiant Compassion for an Uncertain Future**; 7:00-8:30pm ET.

April 20 **ELA Webinar**→**Lawn to Meadow, or How I Killed My Lawn During Covid**; 12:00-1:00pm 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.

## 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.

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.

## 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.

**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](mailto: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@rparmarzilli.com](mailto:jmartin@rparmarzilli.com), [ekutchmanich@rparmarzilli.com](mailto:ekutchmanich@rparmarzilli.com),

[asidar@rparmarzilli.com](mailto:asidar@rparmarzilli.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](mailto: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](mailto: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.](#)

**Seasonal Zone Horticulturist: 9 month, Full-time, non-exempt**  
Seasonal Zone Horticulturists will use best ecological practices to perform the daily care and maintenance of landscape plants on The Greenway under the direction of the Lead Horticulturist, and lead volunteers and interns in performing horticultural tasks. Each Zone Horticulturist focuses on one of four park zones: Chinatown, Fort Point, Wharf District, and North End, and assumes responsibility for the care and maintenance of their zone. [Find full job description here.](#)

### **Terrascope 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. Terrascope 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](mailto: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.english-gardener.com](http://www.english-gardener.com). To apply, email [EnglishGardenerServices@gmail.com](mailto:EnglishGardenerServices@gmail.com). Questions: 716-833-8000.

## **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.](#)



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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**. Georgia Harris, ELA Newsletter Editor