



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

## From The Editor

"To all of you who choose to look the other way every day because you seem more frightened of the changes that can prevent catastrophic climate change than the catastrophic climate change itself. Your silence is worst of all." — Greta Thunberg

May is finally here. I sit on my patio, astonished by this seemingly new technicolor world. I marvel at the bees buzzing around my spring ephemerals and early blooming *Zizia aurea*. These spring gifts are happening, and I haven't lifted a finger to clear or clean my garden. Unfortunately, not all ecological actions are this laid back. Right now, our planet needs us to be advocates. Let's put on our Lorax hats and speak for the trees if we are worried about clear-cutting old-growth trees for development. Let's champion greater protections to protect herbicide drifts from farmlands to non-crop plants in backyards and natural areas. Let's educate our neighbors about the benefits of No Mow May for our native pollinators. And let's know that we are not alone. When the news is filled with extinctions and habitat losses, we can all take action to mitigate this trajectory of crisis.



In this issue, we have a timely article on controlling invasive knotweed. In an herbicide drift article from the Xerces Society, we learn how to send information on drifts to the EPA. If you buy new trees this season, *How and Why Trees Die After Planting* will help you troubleshoot and prevent many transplant shock issues. We also feature three different Eco-Answers and a book review of *Garden Allies: The Insects, Birds & Other Animals That Keep Your Garden Beautiful and Thriving*. Remember, ELA is your ally, educating you about the pests, problems, and invasives that crop up in every garden. *GRH*



### How and Why Trees Die After Planting

by Normand Helie

Many trees die during the first season at the new site. Watering transplanted trees is not the same as watering crops or a perennial garden. Small annual and perennial plant root systems require less oxygen than the delicate fine root systems of the tree. [Read the article.](#)



### A Community-Based Program for Management of Japanese Knotweed

by Mike Bald

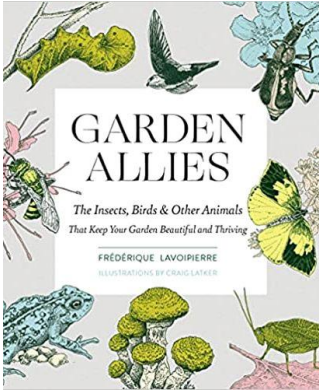
Like a handful of other invasive plant species, Japanese knotweed is tenacious and persistent on the one hand but economically useful and often medicinally beneficial on the other. Landowners and town leaders know that invasive species are impressive colonizers, and without a comprehensive plan to manage large corridors on the landscape, re-infestation is virtually unavoidable. [Read the article.](#)



## Herbicide Drift: How to Monitor and Report Damage to Wild Plants

by Emily May

As you watch backyard plants and trees green up and leaf out, it's also time to start observing those plants for symptoms of injury from herbicide drift. Over the past five years, many trees and broadleaf plants in backyards, farms, and natural areas across the Midwest have been injured by drift from volatile plant growth regulator herbicides. **Read the article.**



## Book Review

### Garden Allies: The Insects, Birds & Other Animals That Keep Your Garden Beautiful and Thriving

Written by Frederique Lavoipierre

Reviewed by Molly Kerker

In *Garden Allies: The Insects, Birds & Other Animals That Keep Your Garden Beautiful and Thriving*, Frederique Lavoipierre encourages a perspective shift towards the critters in our gardens. Instead of considering garden inhabitants as good or bad, she encourages us to think of them in their ecological roles, with a food-web perspective. **Read the review.**



## Eco-Answers from the Pros

### Will Deer Repellent Repel Native Insects?

I have deer that visit my property and need to use various deer repellents on my native plants. Does this repel the native insects that would like to chew on the leaves of these native plants? **Read the Pro's Advice.**

### Creating a Native Tree and Shrub Layer

Which species of native trees and shrubs are best to plant next to one another to take advantage of and have them benefit the most from the sharing of their roots and fungi? **Read the Pro's Advice.**

### Replacing Runaway Ferns with Native Habitat

I have a 35-year-old retaining wall running the length of my driveway behind my house. I would like to get rid of the ferns and plant something to attract birds/bees/etc. How can I do this without digging up and disturbing the soil sitting above the retaining wall? **Read the Pro's Advice.**

ELA members have spent hundreds of hours learning the best ecological solutions to problems in the landscape. You can benefit from all that accumulated knowledge by posing a question to our experts. If you are stumped by a problem in your landscape or are looking for a second opinion on a potential solution, ask ELA's EcoPros. Send your question to [office@ecolandscaping.org](mailto:office@ecolandscaping.org). And if you need additional help, refer to the listing of **ELA Professionals**.

## 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](mailto:office@ecolandscaping.org).

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## Gleanings

### **Saving the World's Threatened Trees**

*The State of the World's Trees*, published in September 2021, shares the results of the Global Tree Assessment – the first conservation audit of most of the world's nearly sixty thousand species. The results show that 30 percent of all tree species – more than 17,500 species – are threatened with extinction. Read more at [Harvard Arnold Arboretum](#).

### **Skills for Bees in Scotland's Cairngorms**

A three-year project (November 2021 – October 2024), Skills for Bees: Scotland, will provide training opportunities and mentoring to communities in the Cairngorms, enabling them to contribute valuable data and help us understand how bumblebees are faring in a vast but traditionally under-recorded area of Scotland. Read more at [Bumblebee Conservation Trust](#).



### **Birds inspire Art, Awe, and Action**

The Aviary is an evolution of *The Illustrated Aviary*, which ran from 2013 to 2021 and invited artists to reinterpret John James Audubon's original watercolors through their own unique style. In its new iteration, we've widened the series to include artists in any medium who are motivated to educate and inspire people to take action on behalf of birds. Read more at [Audubon](#).

### **Noticing What's Going On**

We've grown up in a prairie-dismissive world, and to remedy the idea that not much happens in grasslands, we can get up close and see what's happening beneath our very noses. But, as I often forget when exploring, there's a world equally as vast and potentially even more mysterious beneath our feet. Read more at [The Prairie Ecologist](#).

### **Navigating Nurseries this Spring**

A significant challenge for local garden centers with regional horticultural experience is that big-box stores have cut their profit margins and have jumped into the market with cheap plants. Across the country, from the steamy South to the cool North and the arid West, the same mass-produced plants are offered for sale with no hint of their place of origin. Read more at [Wild Seed Project](#).

### **For Gen Z, Climate Change Is a Heavy Emotional Burden**

Britt Wray is a leading researcher on the mental health impact of climate change. In an e360 interview, she talks about the rise of climate anxiety in young people, how social media exacerbates this trend, and why distress about the climate crisis can spur positive change. Read more at [Yale Environment 360](#).

### **No Mow May**

Thousands of people participate in Plantlife's annual Every Flower Counts (EFC) citizen science survey, the largest ever study of garden lawns in the UK. The charity says the results show a "radical shift in attitudes towards lawn management is underway." It says 78.8% of

2,157 EFC participants last year did not mow for a month before taking part in the survey, an increase from 33.6% in 2019. Read more at [The Guardian](#).

### **Superbloom in Tower of London**

This summer, a visit to the Tower of London will be even more special as we celebrate the Platinum Jubilee year of HM The Queen. Over 20 million seeds have been sown in the famous moat which will develop and morph over the course of the summer. The Tower's superbloom is the first stage of a legacy project that will turn the moat permanently into the biggest resource for bees and other pollinators in central London. Read more at [Historic Royal Palaces](#).

### **Support Spring Pollinators: Think Big**

How can you support pollinators in April and May? Think big. Plant native flowering shrubs or trees. In New England, you'll be hard-pressed to find better forage for insects than these woody plants. Not only do these larger plants produce copious amounts of flowers, but they are often important host plants for caterpillars of moths and butterflies. Read more at [Tufts Pollinator Initiative](#).

### **Improvements Still Needed in Lawn Care**

Despite improving products and a growing ecological consciousness, Rhode Island lawns are still awash in fertilizer and chemicals. What harm this causes depends on who is asked, but it's generally agreed that there have been quantum improvements since Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* era when straight carcinogens were sloppily applied by the metric ton. Read more at [Eco Rhode Island](#).

### **Bringing Controlled Burns**

For millennia, North American ecosystems benefited from fire, set mainly by Indigenous people. Now, a movement is growing, particularly in the eastern U.S., to reintroduce controlled burns to forests and grasslands and restore the role of fire in creating biodiverse landscapes. Read more at [Yale Environment 360](#).

### **Developer Buys 10,000 Suns Property**

An empty parcel of land on the city's East Side that has burst with sunflowers every August for the past six summers as part of an art project will remain fallow this year. The parcel of land that hosted 10,000 Suns has been sold to a developer with plans to build a mixed-use apartment building. Read more at [Eco Rhode Island](#).

### **Are Nature-Based Solutions on Climate Being Overlooked?**

Nature-based initiatives, such as planting mangroves and revitalizing wetlands, have proven effective in making communities more resilient to climate change. But international funding has shortchanged such solutions in favor of more costly and less efficient engineering projects. Read more at [Yale Environment 360](#).

### **Shop Your Garden First**

Instead of making a trip to the nursery, why not shop your yard first. Armed with a Japanese weeding knife and my favorite trowel, I'm currently shopping in my own garden, as I do each spring, carefully scouting for the raw material of more cohesive, eye-catching beds and borders – all at no charge. Read more at [The New York Times](#).

### **Organic Farming Podcast**

If you care about food, where it comes from, and how it's grown, check out this podcast series on organic farming, sustainability, and equitable food systems. Brought to you by the Massachusetts chapter of the Northeast Organic Farming Association (NOFA/Mass). Read more at [NOFA Podcast](#).

# 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.

### May

May 20 **Savor the Season: Foraging for Plants in Spring**; 12:00-1:00pm ET.

May 21 **Growing Fun Vining Vegetables the Easy Way**; Keene, NH; 10:00am.

May 21 **Birds and Bees: Real Talk on Native Plant Pollination**; Stockbridge, MA; 11:00am-12:00pm.

May 24 **Landscape Pest and Problems Walkabout: Diseases and Weeds**; Jamaica Plain, MA; 4:00-6:00pm.

May 26 **Earth Equity and Design for Freedom Landscapes Forum**; Grace Farms, CT; 9:00am-4:00pm.

May 26 **Sustainable Landscape Designs: Nature's Best Hope**; 7:00pm ET.

### June

June 2 **Outdoor Living Space Design**; Philadelphia, PA; 6:30-8:00pm.

June 4-6 **Pollinators & Beneficial Insects Intensive**; Sterling College, Jeffersonville, VT.

June 10 **Supercharging Your Soil**; Keene, NH; 10:00am.

June 11 **Gardening in Heat and Drought: A Visit to a Designer's Home Garden**; Chestnut Hill, PA; 10:00am-12:00pm.

June 15 **ELA Webinar**→**Restoring the Heirloom Apple Orchard at Tower Hill**; 12:00-1:00pm ET.

June 15 **In the Field: Duke Farms**; Hillsborough, NJ; 9:00am-4:30pm.

### July

July 6 **Traditional Indigenous Knowledge and Ecological Science: A Restorative Pairing**; 2:30-4:45pm ET.

July 14 **Down to Earth, MNLA Summer Conference**; Hopkinton, MA; 7:30am-1:00pm.

July 19 **Landscape Lessons Learned: The Educational Value of "Mistakes"**; 2:30-3:45pm ET.

June 22 **ELA Eco-Answers**→**Going Electric in the Landscape: Battery-Powered Options**; 6:30-7:30pm ET.

July 27 **The Perennial Ground Layer: Context and Creativity**; 9:30-11:45am ET.

July 27 **Cultivating Community Through the Creation of Nourishing Gardens**; 2:30-3:45pm ET.

### 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 next 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.

**Offshoots** seeks a highly motivated and experienced Landscape Foreman/Field Supervisor to oversee planting installations and run a small horticultural installation crew on residential and commercial landscape and garden installations. Candidates must have previous field experience working on landscape installation teams. 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. Please visit our website for more information on our horticulture installation services: [www.offshootsinc.com](http://www.offshootsinc.com). Focused on creating productive landscapes that provide ecological, social, and economic benefits, Offshoots, Inc. is a landscape architecture, planning and horticultural installation company in Boston. For more information, contact email [nelle@offshootsinc.com](mailto:nelle@offshootsinc.com).



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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