



"Advocating for responsible stewardship of land and natural resources in landscaping and horticultural practices."

Not a Member Yet?  
Click here to join ELA today and support this important mission!

## August

Every year, the "Edibles" issue of the ELA newsletter is one of my favorites. It's satisfying to plan additions to my landscape that will feed family and friends. Authors of this month's articles take a diverse look at edibles and permaculture. From medicinals to honey to micro-greens and unusual fruits, this issue presents lots of inspiration for introducing another source of food into a corner of our landscapes. We'll reap the delicious benefits, but so will the bees and other visitors to the land in our care. *MS*



### The Case for Native Medicinal Plants in the Landscape

by Todd Lynch

In the wellspring of DIY that has made permaculture and edible landscapes household terms, native medicinal plants are outside many conventional conversations about edibles. Although institutions and homeowners rarely consider the value of these plants when weighing their options for a "productive" or self-sustaining landscape, medicinal plants are a valuable landscape resource that can provide multiple benefits to both landscape and land owner. [Read the article.](#)



### Three Hardy Additions to the Edible Landscape

by Dan Furman

At Cricket Hill Garden, we have sought over our two decades of operation to introduce American gardeners to Chinese tree peonies. In recent years I have worked to expand our offerings of interesting edible landscape plants. With the tumult and uncertainty which exists in the world unceasingly beamed to little screens in the palms of our hands, I think there is a certain sense of security and stability in knowing that the yard is planted with a few long-lived fruiting trees and shrubs. [Read the article.](#)



### Pink Pearl Apple: An Heirloom Surprise

by Joy Albright-Souza

Designing edible landscapes is a privilege. During the design process for an edible garden I am often asked what I enjoy most in my own garden. While there are a number of possible answers, when the subject is apples, I have to hand the top prize to the variety "Pink Pearl." Sometimes people think they know this rare variety, but usually they are thinking of an apple that's pink on the outside, like the popular "Pink Lady." But "Pink Pearl" is pink on the INSIDE. [Read the article.](#)



### It's Time to Tell the Bees

by Michelle, Ray, and Sebastian Wright

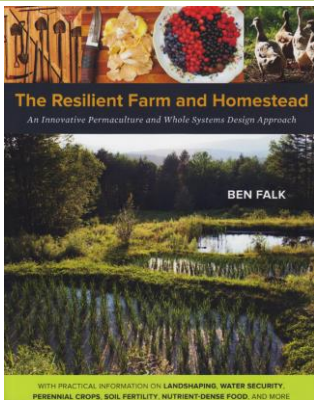
"Telling the Bees" is a beautiful, old English country tradition. In the 1800s, honeybees were an integral part of family and community landscapes. Informing the family beehive of changes such as a birth, death, or marriage was customary - and if the owner of the hive died, the bees had to be told of the death or they would leave the hive. Not only did backyard hives invigorate garden productivity and provide a bounty of honey, but the family apiary was considered a quiet sanctuary.... [Read the article.](#)



### Growing Permaculture at Greenfield Community College

by Shannon Dry and Abrah Jordan Dresdale

Permaculture can be explained as a two-step practice: 1) observing the beneficial relationships, patterns, and processes found in ecosystems, and then, 2) mimicking those relationships in the design of systems that meet human needs equitably while regenerating the land. The student initiated and implemented permaculture garden at Greenfield Community College (GCC), Greenfield, MA, mimics the patterns and processes of nature.... [Read the article.](#)



### Book Review: The Resilient Farm and Homestead

Written by Ben Falk; Published by Chelsea Green Publishing, 2013  
Reviewed by Kerry O'Kelly

Another title for *The Resilient Farm and Homestead* by Ben Falk could be "Permaculture in Practice" as the value of this book is primarily through examining the 10-year case study of Mr. Falk's Whole Systems Research Farm. This is where the book captured my interest - in seeing how permaculture ideas are applied, evaluated, and modified. [Read the article.](#)



### Integrating Edibles into Every Project

by Kathy Litchfield

Every landscape Patty Laughlin plants has at least one low-bush blueberry. She considers the blueberry a "gateway fruit" as it is low maintenance, easy to grow and delicious, and seems to quickly lead to a client's discovery of other wonderful edible plants. Even if clients don't ask for edible landscaping, she finds a way to integrate something low maintenance that will provide food for wildlife as well the humans inhabiting the land. [Read the article.](#)



## 2014 Community Project: Arcola Park Rehab

Tucked away off a side street in the Hyde Park Square area of Jamaica Plain, Arcola Park was a rough-cut gem until July 22nd when the Ecological Landscape Alliance (ELA), Boston Natural Areas Network (BNAN), and the Landscape Institute at Boston Architectural College (BAC) met to polish the park into a fine jewel. [Read the article.](#)

## Gleanings

### Save the Trees - Spot their Enemies

**August is Tree Check Month. Be on the lookout for invasive forest pests in your parks, schools, urban forests, and where you live!**



August 2014 marks the sixth anniversary of the discovery of Asian Longhorned Beetle in Massachusetts. Since that fateful day in 2008, more than 30,000 hardwood trees have been removed because of this invasive pest. Emerald Ash Borer has most recently been found in the Arnold Arboretum, jeopardizing many Ash specimens there, and threatens millions of trees in Berkshire and Essex counties, everywhere in between in Massachusetts, as well as those in 22 other states. Join your fellow citizens during the month of August and check your trees for signs of damage caused by Asian Longhorned Beetle and Emerald Ash Borer, and learn to recognize the beetles themselves. For more detailed information, visit <http://bit.ly/TreeCheck2014> or contact Stacy Kilb,

ALB Outreach Coordinator at [stacy.kilb@state.ma.us](mailto:stacy.kilb@state.ma.us) or (617) 626-1764.



### NOFA Offers New Online Lawn Care Course

In collaboration with Three River Community College, NOFA has introduced a 9-unit course to qualify for their Organic Lawn Care Certificate. The program runs through June 30, 2014 and covers pesticide and fertilizer runoff harms to water quality, provides technical training on organic lawn care practices, and discusses successful business and marketing strategies for organic practitioners. Find out more at <http://organiclandcare.net/lawncertificatecourse>.



### Set Up Your ELA Members Only Account

ELA Members can now access the Member's Page on the ELA website. Member accounts are already set up; you just need to go to the [ELA Website](#) and click on the Member Login link at the top of the homepage. Your username is the email address that you used when you joined or renewed your ELA membership. Now you can update your company contact and service information at any time. ELA member information is available to web visitors who are searching for ecological professionals with the [Find an Eco-Pro](#) member search function.

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

August 15-17 - [Wild Ones Annual Conference](#); Neenah, WI.

August 18 **ELA EVENT** → [The Edible Landscape at Wellesley College](#); Wellesley, MA; 5:00-7:00pm.

August 19 **ELA EVENT** → [Caring for Trees at the Rose Kennedy Greenway](#); Boston, MA; 1:00-3:00pm. (Rain Date August 20)

August 20 **ELA EVENT** → [The Beautiful and Functional Raingarden at St. George's School](#); Middletown, RI; 6:00-8:00pm.

August 23 - [New Hampshire Permaculture Gathering](#); Dorchester, NH; 9:00am-5:00pm.

August 27 - [Pollinator Conservation Short Course](#); Kingston, RI; 9:00am-4:30pm.

September 1 - [Practical Options for Food Production Resilience in an Increasingly Variable Climate](#); Newton, MA; 10:00am-4:00pm.

September 2 - [Practical Options for Food Production Resilience in an Increasingly Variable Climate](#); Amherst, MA; 10:00am-4:00pm.

September 8 - [Invasive Plants 2014: Where Are We Now?](#) Early registration ends.

September 8-10 - [Water Education Summit](#); Asheville, NC.



September 15-19 - [Field Study: Botanic & Aesthetic Composition of Native Plant Communities](#); Cornwall, NY.

September 19 **ELA EVENT**→[The Trees at Brooklyn Botanic Gardens](#); Brooklyn, NY; 10:00am-noon.

September 19 - [UMass Winter School for Turf Managers](#); applications due for international students

September 23 **ELA EVENT**→[Organic Lawns at the Rose Kennedy Greenway](#); Boston, MA; 1:00-3:00pm.

November 12 **ELA EVENT**→[Season's End Summit: Restoring the Beauty and Function of Residential Landscapes](#); Crane Estate, Ipswich, MA; 8:30am-4:30pm.

*Each author appearing herein retains original copyright. Right to reproduce or disseminate all material herein is otherwise reserved by ELA. Please contact ELA for permission to reprint.*

*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.*



ANNE PENNIMAN  
ASSOCIATES LLC  
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

35 Pratt Street  
PO Box 181  
Essex, CT 06426  
860.767.7540  
annepenniman.com

## ELA Member - Company Profile

Award-winning landscape architecture firm, Anne Penniman Associates, LLC, has been creating inventive, sustainable and site sensitive designs for public, institutional and residential projects since 1991. Site planning ranging from detail design and regulatory coordination to master planning, construction documentation and administration. Interdisciplinary design that engages a range of experts including artisans and local craftspeople, architects, engineers and ecologists.



**Field-Grown Perennials - Litchfield, NH  
Going Out of Business - Close-out Sale!**

**The Gardens at Rosewood Fields  
Daylilies, Grasses, Phlox, & More**  
[Contact ELA](#) for more details.

ELA wants to express appreciation to Lynda Morrow and Wendy Turner, owners of The Gardens at Rosewood Fields for the generous contribution of plant material donated to ELA Community Action projects.

**AIR-SPADE 2000**  
AIR EXCAVATION TOOL

The tool no professional arborist should be without!

[www.air-spade.com](http://www.air-spade.com)

**Organic Plant Magic**  **THE ORGANIC ALTERNATIVE TO CHEMICALS**  
 For Trees, Shrubs, Lawns, Flowers, Container Gardens, Veggies and House Plants

*"Your product is like "black gold". I use it on all of my landscape installations."*  
 Nancy DuBrule Clemente, Northford, CT

*Want me? Win me. Boom!*

**The totally awesome GIC 25th Anniversary Corvette Sweepstakes** 

**PLANET** Professional Landscapers Network GREEN INDUSTRY CONFERENCE  
 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Sweepstakes Supporting Sponsors:    

GIC Platinum Sponsor: 

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 Landscaping Association 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. We welcome your comments at [ela.info@comcast.net](mailto:ela.info@comcast.net). Maureen Sundberg, ELA Newsletter Editor