



ecological
landscaping
association

biodiversity • conservation • lawn care
maintenance • meadows • rain gardens
pest management • restoration
soil • trees • urban landscaping
water quality & recycling • wildlife habitats

July

It's hard to travel the country without noticing invasive non-native plants alongside roads or train tracks. Kudzu, bittersweet, Canadian thistle, cheat grass...the list of invaders is very long and, unfortunately, growing. Articles in this month's Newsletter take a look at managing non-native plants. To check the status of alien plants in your area, here are a few good websites:

[Plant Conservation Alliance](#), [Center for Invasive Species](#), [Invasive Plant Atlas](#)

If you're in the Northeast this week, follow up on last month's issue on edibles in the landscape with a look at permaculture in practice. [Eric Toensmeier](#) shares his Holyoke, MA, "edible oasis" with ELA on July 19th. And Kate Kerivan, who wrote about her [Bug Hill Farm](#) last month, is offering a tour in Ashfield, MA, on the 18th. [Please send us your event suggestions.](#) MS



Successfully Managing Phragmites

by Tim Simmons

Non-native Phragmites has been described as perhaps the most widely distributed and abundant grass on earth. For more than 25 years I have observed Phragmites' effects on important habitats and attempted to control it without causing any harm to the habitats I work in, all of which support species and communities of conservation concern in Massachusetts. [Read the article.](#)



Ripple Effect: Controlling Invasive Species in a Changing Climate

by Jed Winer

As climate change causes species to move northward, ecologist Bethany Bradley is keeping a close eye on invasive plants in the United States. Bradley, an Assistant Professor in the Department of Environmental Conservation at UMass Amherst, says the key to mitigating impacts from invasive species is early detection. "The big key with invasive species - and this is true with plants, animals, insects, anything - is that if you catch them early, you actually have a chance to eradicate them or stop them. But once they've gained a foothold, the odds go down markedly." [Read the article.](#)

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A Synopsis of Prescribed Fire in New England

by Joel R. Carlson

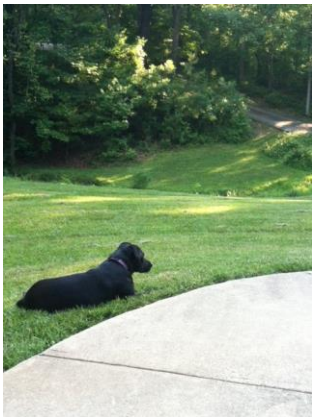
Prescribed fire has been defined as any fire ignited by management actions to meet specific objectives, additionally a written approved prescribed fire plan must exist with all applicable regulatory requirements being met (NWCG 2012). New England is not commonly known as a region with fire influenced landscapes, yet actually it has a long history of wildfire and prescribed fire. Prescribed fire has been used for over 30 years by federal, state, county, municipal, and nongovernmental land managers in the region to meet varied management goals and objectives. [Read the article.](#)



Changing the Conversation on Ecological Design

by Lisa Cowan

Recent destructive storm events have focused public attention on climate change, sustainable site design, and resiliency. As ecological design practitioners, we have an opportunity to build on this paradigm shift and take the lead in promoting a more sustainable approach to water management. To help our new ideas take root quickly, we must bring together new ways to frame our discussion of ecologically-based design, and we must follow through with beautiful spaces that resonate. [Read the article.](#)



Celebrity Rehab for Lawns and Soil

by Phil Haynes

Everyone can empathize with the trauma a person must go through to withdraw from chemical dependencies, and I believe there are some real similarities with rehabilitating your lawn and soil, though not as bad as what you might see on Celebrity Rehab! Converting a lawn from traditional (chemical) care to organic care requires an ongoing discussion, and I use it as an opportunity to talk with potential and existing customers about what is actually happening with their lawns and what they can expect from me as their service provider. [Read the article.](#)

Gleanings

Save the Trees - Spot their Enemies

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

August 1, 2013 marks the 5th 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. Recently, another wood-boring beetle, the Emerald Ash Borer, was found in Berkshire County, and now threatens millions of Ash trees in the state. 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 the website](#) or email [Stacy Kilb](#), ALB Outreach Coordinator or call (617)780-1371.



Campaign to Create Resilient Communities

More frequent and extreme heat waves, droughts, floods, and storms threaten our communities. Are local governments prepared for the challenge? What steps is your town or city taking to become stronger and more resilient? You can play a role in making your own community more resilient.

- Talk to your local officials about what they are doing new in response to climate change and extreme weather and how they are addressing energy security through renewable energy and energy efficiency initiatives.
- Ask your local elected officials to sign the Resilient Communities for America Agreement and join other leading cities and counties to protect their communities.
- Become a more resilient community member by knowing your neighbors and becoming involved in your community.

Find out more at [Resilient Communities for America](#).



Late Blight Update from UMass Plant Diagnostic Lab

Late Blight (LB) was confirmed in Franklin County, MA, on tomato July 11, 2013; in Erie County, NY, on tomato July 10th; and on potato July 9th. Previous reports in (FL, WV, LA, TN, MD, KY, VA, NC, WI) have been confirmed as *Phytophthora infestans* strains US-23 and US-7. Track disease progress at [USA BLIGHT](#).

Advice for home gardener clientele: At this point in the season, if symptoms begin appearing on plants, remove plants, place in a plastic bag, seal, and discard in the trash or completely bury plants deep enough underground so plants decompose and will not re-sprout. Do not put the plants in a compost pile as spores will still spread from this debris. [Visit the website](#) for more details, images, and management options.

Commercial tomato and potato growers should be spraying those crops with protectant, curative, and locally systemic fungicides labeled for oomycetes to prevent disease establishment and spread. [Visit the website](#) for pictures and more information.



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

July 17, [Summer Blooming Trees and Shrubs](#); Cambridge, MA.

July 18, **ELA EVENT**→[Bug Hill Farm: Edible Landscape with Permaculture Roots](#); Ashfield, MA.

July 18, [Hydric Soil Workshop: Field Identification, Documentation, Delineation](#); Sharon, MA.

July 19, **ELA EVENT**→[Edible Landscape Oasis: Permaculture in Practice](#); Holyoke, MA.

July 19, [Ferns and Their Allies](#); Portsmouth, NH.

July 20 & July 23, [Stormwater Advocates Training](#); MA Watershed Coalition training for "citizen scientists"; Worcester, MA.

July 22-26, [Wetland Restoration & Enhancement](#); US Fish & Wildlife Service; Middlebury, VT.

July 24, [Wetland Plant and Community ID](#); Topsfield, MA.

July 25, [MFGA & MNLA Summer Conference & Trade Show](#); Boylston, MA.

July 26, [NOFA Lawn Certificate Course](#); Waterbury, CT.

July 27, **ELA EVENT**→[Brooklyn Bridge Park: Hurricane Aftermath & Restoration](#); Brooklyn, NY.

July 29-August 2, [5th National Conference on Ecosystem Restoration](#); Greater Chicago, IL.

July 30-August 1 [2013 Community Involvement Training Conference](#); Boston, MA.

August 1, **ELA EVENT**→[Yardscaping: Beautiful & Ecological Garden Inspiration](#); Portland, ME.

August 4-10, [Native Bees as Pollinators: Diversity, Ecology, Conservation, and Enhancing Pollinator Habitats](#); Eagle Hill, Steuben, ME.

August 6, **ELA EVENT**→ [Bioremediation at Blackstone River Canal with Optional Meadow Tour](#); Grafton, MA.

August 7, [In Search of Butterflies & Dragonflies](#); Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge, MA.

August 8, **ELA EVENT**→ [Penobscot River Restoration: Great Works and Veazie Dam Removal](#).

August 9-11, [NOFA Summer Conference](#); Amherst, MA.

August 9, [Rain Gardens and More](#); Framingham, MA.

August 10, [Weed Patrol](#); Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve Visitor Center, New Hope, PA.
 August 10, [Mount Auburn's Organic Cut-Flower Gardens](#); Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge, MA.
 August 13, [Turfgrass Selection & Identification Workshop](#); UMass Amerst.
 August 14, **ELA EVENT** → [Lake George Westbrook : Constructed Stormwater Wetland and Porous Paving Project](#); Lake George, NY.
 August 15-17, [Boston GreenFest 2013](#); Boston, MA.
 August 17, [Know the Host Plants, Find the Caterpillars](#); Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve Visitor Center, New Hope, PA; 10:00-11:30am.



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LAND ESCAPES

Create an everyday getaway

We hope that you enjoy this edition of the ELA newsletter.

We welcome your comments at ela.info@comcast.net.

Maureen Sundberg, ELA Newsletter Editor