



**“Advocating for responsible stewardship
of land and natural resources in
landscaping and horticultural practices.”**

From Quercus in hedgerows to wild blue indigo in bioswales, native plants are a valuable addition to any landscape. This month newsletter authors look at different ways to incorporate native plants into a variety of landscapes and also look at succession in the planned landscape.

As you work in your landscapes this spring, are you using smartphone technology to help with your job? Are you utilizing an app to identify plants or report invasive species? Which apps have you tried? Which work best or are most useful? We'd like to hear your recommendations about the landscape-related apps you find most helpful. Drop us a line at ela_new@verizon.net. MS



Designing Hedgerows to Connect Habitat

by Rebecca Lindenmeyr

Habitat fragmentation is a serious problem across the country and a significant contributor to the loss of biodiversity worldwide. Here in Vermont, development in the Burlington area continues to fragment the habitat blocks that remain. Preserving as much forest and open land as possible is of course the first line of defense, but in many situations the damage has already been done and then the goal becomes finding ways to reconnect the fragments. [Read the article.](#)



The Lives of Spring Wildflowers

by Carol Gracie

Our spring wildflowers, many of them ephemerals that grace our woodlands for only a brief period each year, are intricately tied to other organisms in the environment. Their flowering time evolved over millennia in woodlands that once cloaked most of the eastern part of the country. During colonial times the forests were cleared for building and heating materials, and the land converted to farmland. When greener pastures and richer soils were discovered in the Midwest, many early settlers moved west allowing much of the eastern farmland to slowly regenerate to forest. It is in these forests and woodlands that our spring wildflowers are found. [Read the article.](#)



Planning or for Succession in a Residential Landscape

by Dan Peterson

I often see new landscapes that look great immediately after installation, and continue to thrive for five to ten years. Beyond those five to ten years, I find that a majority of landscapes, especially the plantings, look tired, thin, and lacking in vitality. When I first started working in the industry during the early 1990s, common practices included either installing a landscape and then planning on 're-installing' the planting areas after a period of time, or selling intensive maintenance plans with the installation. A majority of designs often lacked forethought as to how the project would look and perform beyond five to ten years, or how the areas would look if not intensively managed. [Read the article.](#)



Native Plant Selection for Biofilters and Rain Gardens

by Catherine Neal

Modern storm water management systems rely on vegetation to hold the soil, filter contaminants, absorb nutrients, intercept and transpire water, and support healthy and diverse soil biology. Engineers are only beginning to appreciate the contribution that landscapers can make to help green infrastructure survive and thrive. Selecting appropriate plants for biofilters, bioswales, rain gardens and other vegetated storm water management systems is a critical first step to their success. But remember that plant selection only goes so far; though not discussed here, for long-term success a maintenance plan must be implemented. [Read the article](#)



MV Wildtype: Acting Locally on the Island of Martha's Vineyard

by Tim Boland

There are many good reasons for growing native plants: Native plants are adapted to local growing conditions; they promote biodiversity and support local wildlife; and, in general, they need less maintenance. Besides, native plants are "Vineyard vernacular": they just look right in our gardens and landscapes. The best native plants for Vineyard landscapes are local ecotypes - plants grown from seed collected from Island plant populations, not plants brought from off-Island or grown from seed collected elsewhere. But whether gardening with native plants or using them to restore habitat, you need more than good intentions - you need plants!

[Read the article.](#)

This article first appeared in the Spring 2009 issue of *Meristems*, the newsletter of Polly Hill Arboretum.



An Environmental Vision

MA Horticultural Society Wins 2014 Environmental Vision Award

The Massachusetts Horticultural Society's exhibit "Eden on the Charles" at this year's Boston Flower & Garden Show (March 12-16, 2014) received the Ecological Landscape Alliance Environmental Vision Award. "Eden on the Charles" illustrated the show theme, "Romance in the Garden," with a design that highlighted two love stories that took place at Mass Hort's Elm Bank Estate in Dover, MA. [Read the article.](#)

Gleanings

National Soil Project - Your Sample Is Needed!

Dr. Elham Ghabbour and Professor Geoffrey Davies, Northeastern University, Boston, MA, are leading a study of humic acid, fulvic acid, and humin in the nation's top soils. They are seeking soil samples from all types of landscapes under cultivation. The samples will be subjected to spectral and elemental analysis and tested to determine the sequestered carbon and ash contents. Testing is completed at no charge to the participants; results will be shared with donors and will go into a database. Information about how to submit samples may be found at <http://www.northeastern.edu/hagroup/national-soil-project/>.



Professional Management Guide for Diseases of Trees and Shrubs

The newly revised and updated guide for 2014 is available online from UMass Extension. The guide addresses most of the disease pathogens known to be pests of Northeastern woody ornamentals. Includes host plant information as well as methods for management. Refer to the website: <http://extension.umass.edu/landscape/diseaseguide>.



Professional Management Guide for IPM in Turf for MA

The 2014 edition of UMass Extension's Professional Guide for IPM in Turf is available online. View or download a copy of this comprehensive document at <https://extension.umass.edu/turf/proguide>.



Call for Papers: "Celebrating Corporate Conservation"

Wildlife Habitat Council seeks presentations for conservation and community-engagement topics, including habitat remediation and ecological restoration; climate change; outdoor classrooms; employee and community engagement; using and/or propagating native plants; invasive species control, landscape-level conservation initiatives; and connectivity between habitats, corporations, and communities. Submissions are due by April 30, 2014. Find additional information and download the application form at www.wildlifehc.org.



Urban Naturalist

Carrying on the tradition of the journal *Urban Habitats* published by the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Eagle Hill Institute, Steuben, ME, has announced that it will begin publishing the *Urban Naturalist*. Focused on natural history science of urban areas worldwide, *Urban Naturalist* is now accepting original manuscripts. Find out more on their website:

<http://www.eaglehill.us/programs/journals/urna/urban-naturalist.shtml>.



MAA Arbor Day of Service

Find information about the Mass Arborists Association Arbor Day of Service scheduled for April 25, 2014. Find a project in your community or search for ideas on the [MAA website](#).



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

- April 16 - [Building Techniques and Technologies that Protect Clean Water](#); Marion, MA; 8:30am-2:00pm
- April 16 - Permaculture Design for Regeneration; BAC, Boston, MA; 7:00-9:00pm.
- April 19 - [Northern Gardening Symposium](#); Randolph, VT; 9:00am-3:00pm.
- April 22-23 - [Raising the Bar: Green Stormwater Infrastructure Planning and Design Workshop](#); So. Burlington, VT.
- April 23 - [Scouting for Early-season Landscape Pests and Problems](#); Amherst, MA; 4:30-6:30pm.
- April 25 - [Migratory Dragonfly Short Course](#); Sterling, NY; 9:30am-4:00pm.
- April 25-26 - [Designing for Success: Ecological Restoration in Times of Change](#); Amherst, MA.
- April 26 - [15th Annual Charles River Earth Day Cleanup](#); various sites; 9:00am-noon.
- April 26 - [MA Audubon Work for Wildlife](#); various sites; 9:00am-noon.
- April 26 - [Day of Gardening Skills Workshops for the School Garden](#); Rehoboth, MA; 9:00am-3:00pm.
- April 28 - [Population and the Planet](#): Nature Conservancy's Boston Speaker Series; Boston, MA; 6:30-8:00pm.
- April 30 - [Keeping Clean Water in Your Community](#); East Wareham, MA; 8:30am-2:00pm.
- May 3 - [Rain Garden Celebration](#); Brewster, MA; 10:00am.
- May 5 - **ELA EVENT** → [Alewife Reservation Constructed Wetland](#); Cambridge, MA; 6:00-8:00pm.
- May 6 - **ELA EVENT** → [The Mulch Matters: Tips for Building Healthy Soil](#); Holliston, MA; 6:00-8:00pm.
- May 9 - [Pollinator Conservation Short Course](#); Cutchogue, NY; 9:00am-4:30pm.
- May 12 - [Investing in Nature: Conservation and the Bottom Line](#): Nature Conservancy's Boston Speaker Series; Boston, MA; 6:30-8:00pm.
- May 13 - **ELA EVENT** → [Bartholomew's Cobble Restoration: The Future Is Bright](#); Ashley Falls, MA; 10:00am-2:00pm.

May 19-21 - [Northeast Climate Change Preparedness Conference](#); Antioch University of New England, Manchester, NH.

May 21 - **ELA EVENT** → [Exploring the Native Trees of Mount Auburn](#); Cambridge, MA; 10:00am-noon.

May 24-25 - [Greenhouse Design](#); Warren, VT.

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