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July 2012

Whether it's garlic mustard blooming in the vacant lot down the street, tendrils of Asiatic bittersweet waving from the raspberry patch, or euonymus sprouts under a maple tree, it seems I witness, if not actively wrestle with, invasive species nearly every day. Non-native plants are pushing for more and more space in the landscape, and this issue of the Newsletter focuses on some local groups and individuals who are finding creative and very personal ways to push back against the invaders.

I think all of this month's contributors would agree that fighting invasives is hard work with sometimes intangible rewards; however, this month that work could yield you the title of Bittersweet King or Queen if you live West of Route 495 in MA. Compete in [Lincoln Fish's Bittersweet Challenge](#) by submitting the largest cross-section of vine (the current champion has a six-inch diameter) and you could be a winner. But even if you don't win, the trees you save will.
M.S., Editor



Lessons of GROVE

by Louise Barteau Chodoff

GROVE is located in Carpenter Woods, a birding park in Philadelphia. It is a small scale restoration project that evolved from an art project that began with paper trees and ended with real trees. There may be no better way to learn about plants - native and non-native - than to try to transform a mature Japanese knotweed stand

into a native oak grove using little more than art and hand tools. [Read the article.](#)

Creative Uses for Invasive Plants

The positive results of removing invasive plants are often evident in the return of native species to an area. But what happens to the plant material that has been removed? Does it have to be destined for the incinerator or landfill? Apparently not: artists and others are finding responsible ways to utilize the invasive plant material they remove. Highlighted here are three innovators who have found ways to creatively utilize the invasives they remove from the landscape. [Read the article.](#)



S.W.E.E.T. - Sudbury's Homegrown Invasives Effort by Rebecca Chizzo

The Sudbury Weed Education and Eradication Team (S.W.E.E.T.) was established in August 2009 to make people aware of the harm that invasive plant species do to our historic and environmentally sensitive natural areas and parks. A second goal of the organization was to encourage responsible removal of invasive plants. Along with

area residents and a Boston University graduate student, we selected removal sites within the town of Sudbury with the guidance of the Town of Sudbury Conservation Commission and secured funding for initial start-up from the Sudbury Assabet Concord Watershed and the Cooperative Invasive Management Area (SuAsCoCISMA). [Read the article.](#)

**Multiflora Rose: An Exotic Invasive Plant Fact Sheet
by Bruce Wenning**

Multiflora rose is an exotic invasive perennial shrub native to China, Japan, and Korea. Introduced into the United States in the 1860s, multiflora rose was used in the horticultural industry as readily available rose root stock for rose breeding programs and as an ornamental garden plant. By the 1930s it was widely planted in the Midwest and northeastern states at the encouragement of the USDA, Soil Conservation Service for erosion control programs, wildlife habitat enhancement programs, and as a natural barrier to roaming farm animals (i.e. "living fence"). [Read the article.](#)



**Timing Control of Invasive Woody Plants
A Guide to Flowering and Fruiting Times of Common Exotic
Invasive Woody Plants in Eastern Massachusetts
Compiled by Bruce Wenning**

For exotic invasive plant infestations, control efforts are maximized just before the plant goes into the fruiting stage. Recognizing the specific biology of the exotic species you are trying to control will help you achieve control with the least amount of effort. [Read the](#)

[article.](#)

**Product Review: Weed Wrench
Reviewed by Maureen Sundberg**

You're clearing and widening a trail at a local park, or you're clearing an overgrown area to expand a perennial bed. All is going well until you come upon a grove of buckthorn. You can grab a shovel and start digging, pulling, digging, pulling. Or you can grab a Weed Wrench. [Read the article.](#)



July Gleanings

[Principles and Fundamentals of Weed Science](#); Doubletree Hotel, Milford, MA; July 19, 9:00am-3:30pm.

[Hydric Soils Workshop: Field Identification, Documentation and Delineation](#); Sharon Community Center, Sharon, MA; Thursday, July 19, 8:30am-4:00pm.

[Solar Fest 2012](#); Tinmouth, VT; July 20-22.

[MNLA/MFGA Great Ideas Summer Conference & Trade Show](#); Elm Bank Horticulture Center, Wellesley, MA; July 26, 9:00am-4:00pm.

[The Invasive Plant Issue & Invasive Plant Identification](#); Doubletree Hotel, Milford, MA; August 14, 9am-3:30pm.

[SER World Conference on Ecological Restoration](#); Madison, WI; October 6-11.

[Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group Symposium](#); UConn at Storrs, CT; Thursday, October

25.

Earlier this year MA Arborists Association announced the release of the newly updated Massachusetts Certified Arborist (MCA) Study Guide version 2.0. The first exam based on the material found in the new MCA Study Guide version 2.0 will be held on Friday, October 5, 2012. To obtain the Study Guide, register for the MCA exam, or obtain further information please visit the [MAA website](#) or call (508) 653-3320.

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

Maureen Sundberg, ELA Newsletter Editor