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May

When the landscape greens up, it's not long before the invasive plants and garden pests show up. This issue of the newsletter looks at a few problem areas: grubs, tree-of-heaven, ALB and EAB, and deer. For the first time we are including an article in both English and Spanish from Stacy Kilb, MA Department of Agricultural Resources, that we hope will be widely shared. Let us know if translated articles interest you and what topic areas are of greatest need.

This summer, ELA offers members a couple of new opportunities detailed below: [Members' Receptions](#) will provide members with a combined social, networking, and educational event in an interesting setting and the **ELA Speakers Bureau** will connect our members with groups seeking information about ecological landscapes. Be sure to take advantage of these new opportunities. *MS*



Controlling Grubs: Milky Spore Disease or Beneficial Nematodes by Paul Sachs

Both milky spore disease and beneficial nematodes help control grubs in lawn and garden. Depending on the species of grub, you may want to use both.

Scarab grubs, the broad group of white grubs that feed on grass roots, are difficult to differentiate. The only sure way to identify one positively is to look at the raster pattern on its rear end. [Read the article](#)



Keep an Eye Out for Invasive Forest Pests by Stacy Kilb

The Massachusetts Department of Resources is encouraging everyone to check trees for signs of invasive forest pests. Tree-killing insects like Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB) and Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) are a serious threat to forest ecosystems across Massachusetts. [Read the article](#)

Manténgase alerta para plagas invasivas forestales por Stacy Kilb

El Departamento de recursos agrícolas de Massachusetts les solicita a todos a chequear los árboles para los indicios de plagas invasivas forestales. Insectos que matan a los árboles, tales como el Escarabajo asiático de antenas largas y (ALB por su sigla en inglés) el Barrenador esmeralda del fresno (EAB por su sigla en inglés), son una amenaza grave a los ecosistemas forestales a través de Massachusetts. [Read the article](#)



Tree-of-Heaven: An Exotic Invasive Plant Fact Sheet

by Bruce Wenning

Tree-of-heaven is a fast growing, deciduous, exotic invasive tree that is able to germinate and grow in a wide variety of soil and site conditions proving that it has been and still is troublesome from urban landscapes to woodlands. It can reach a height of 80 plus feet tall, has become naturalized in most of the United States, and grows in a wide variety of other habitats including, but not limited to, forest edges and gaps, grassy fields, roadsides, backyards, local parks, agricultural fields, and reclaimed surface-mined lands (Miller, 1990; Somers, Kramer, Lombard, and Brumback, 2006). [Read the article](#)



Tree-of-Heaven Is No Angel

by ecoRI News Staff

This article first appeared in [EcoRI News](#), May 4, 2014.

A team of researchers led by a University of Rhode Island professor has completed a five-year study of the Appalachian Trail and developed a satellite-based system for monitoring and forecasting ecological conditions along the trail. One of its initial conclusions is that the invasive species tree-of-heaven is expected to expand northward into New England because of climate change. [Read the article](#)



Deer Proliferation Disrupts a Forest's Natural Growth

by Blaine Friedlander

This article first appeared in the [Cornell Chronicle](#), March 10, 2014. It is reprinted with permission.

By literally looking below the surface and digging up the dirt, Cornell researchers have discovered that a burgeoning deer population forever alters the progression of a forest's natural future by creating environmental havoc in the soil and disrupting the soil's natural seed banks. [Read the article](#)



Connect with ELA at a Members' Reception Near You

You asked for more opportunities to gather and talk with other ELA members about projects and strategies, and ELA listened. This summer ELA introduces *Members' Receptions*.

Tour the Stevens-Coolidge gardens at ELA's first Members' Reception. Our inaugural event takes place at 6:30pm on June 24th in northeastern Massachusetts at the [Stevens-Coolidge Place](#) in North Andover. [Read the article](#)

Gleanings

ELA Introduces Speakers Bureau

As interest in ecological solutions continues to grow, ELA is receiving an increasing number of requests for speakers with an expertise in various areas of ecological landscape design and maintenance. The ELA Board of Directors recently voted to create the ELA Speakers Bureau in order to connect our knowledgeable membership with garden clubs, green councils, and other groups looking for speakers. To learn more about this opportunity, any ELA member who would like to be listed should contact [Penny Lewis](#).



Pollinator Conservation Short Course

Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation will hold a number of full day training sessions teaching how you can attract native pollinators to your orchard, farm, or garden. Offering the latest science-based approaches to reversing the trend of pollinator declines, this course provides you with information about protecting and managing habitat for these vital insects. Find the full schedule of events on the Xerces website: <http://www.xerces.org/event/>.



Free UMass Newsletters

You can sign up to receive UMass Amherst's Agriculture & Landscape Program offers free education newsletters; you just have to sign up. The Landscape, Nursery & Urban Forestry Program offers a periodic Landscape Message that reports on growing conditions and pest activity across Massachusetts. Sign up at <http://extension.umass.edu/landscape/landscape-message>. Free turf management updates are also available from the Turf Program at <https://extension.umass.edu/turf/management-updates>.



Dealing with Mosquitoes

Is your community confronting another summer of mosquito spraying? The Xerces Society has produced a new booklet, [How to Help your Community Create an Effective Mosquito Management Plan](#), that offers insight into ecologically sound mosquito control. They have a related document: [Ecologically Sound Mosquito Management in Wetlands](#). General information about personal protection from mosquitos is available from the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#).



National Soil Project - Your Sample Is Needed!

Dr. Elham Ghabbour and Dr. 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/>.



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

May 17 - [Pine Fest: A Pine Barrens Multicultural Celebration](#); Myles Standish State Forest, MA; 10:00am-8:00pm.

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 21 - [Risk and Resilience in the Built Environment: Planning for Operational Resiliency](#), Webinar; 12:30-1:30pmEDT.

May 22 - [Propane Landscape Equipment Workshop](#); Tukwet Canyon, CA; 9:00am-noon.

May 22 - [Introduction to Permeable Pavements](#), Webinar; 2:00pmEDT.

May 24 - [Beneficial Insects in the Garden](#); Hillsborough, NJ; 10:00am-2:00pm.
May 24-25 - [Greenhouse Design](#); Warren, VT.
May 29 - [Weed Walkabout](#); Elm Bank, Wellesley, MA; 5:00-7:00pm.
May 31 - [Introduction to Permaculture Design and Site Assessment Workshop](#); Naples, NY; 9:00am-2:00pm.
June 3 **ELA EVENT**→[The Rose Kennedy Greenway: Organic Practice, Beautiful Results](#); Boston, MA; 1:00-3:00pm. Spanish translation offered.
June 5-7 - [Native Plants in the Landscape Conference](#); Millersville University, PA. Check the website for assistantship opportunities.
June 5 - [Inland Wetland Plant Identification](#); UMass Amherst, MA; 9:00am-4:00pm
June 7 - [CCMNH Gardens Alive! Plant Marketplace](#); Brewster, MA; 9:00am-3:00pm.
June 8-14 -[Trees and Shrubs of Northeastern North America: A Comprehensive Introduction to their Identification and Ecology](#); Eagle Hill, ME.
June 9 **ELA EVENT**→[Shoemaker Green: SITES Pilot Project at University Pennsylvania](#); Philadelphia, PA; 6:00-8:00pm.
June 9 - [Weathering the Storm: Boston's Future Climate](#): Nature Conservancy's Boston Speaker Series; Boston, MA; 6:30-8:00pm.
June 10 **ELA EVENT**→[Innovations in Landscape Maintenance](#); Lincoln, MA; 5:00-7:00pm.
June 10 - [Broadleaf Weed Identification Workshop](#); UMass Amherst, MA; 9:00am-3:00pm.
June 12 **ELA EVENT**→[Native Plant Gardens for Beauty and Bounty](#); Amesbury, MA; 10:00am-12:30pm.
June 15-21 -[Sedges and Rushes: Identification and Ecology](#); Eagle Hill, ME.
June 15-21 -[Wetland Identification and Delineation, and Associated Ecology](#); Eagle Hill, ME.
June 19 - [Identifying Inland Wetland Soils](#); UMass Amherst, MA; 9:00am-4:00pm.
July 6-12 - [Plants of the Eastern Maine Coast: Field Botany, Ecology, and Natural History](#); Eagle Hill, ME.
July 12 - [Getting to Know Your Native Bees](#); Hillsborough, NJ; 12:00-3:00pm.
July 13-19 - [Climate Change: Seas Level Rise and Temperature Change](#); Eagle Hill, ME.
July 20-26 - [Native Bees as Pollinators: Diversity, Ecology, Conservation, and Enhancing Pollinator Habitats](#); Eagle Hill, ME.
July 21 **ELA EVENT**→[Project Native: The Balance and Beauty of Natural Ecosystems](#); Housatonic, MA; 10:30am-12:30pm.
July 21-27 - [Tidal March Restoration: A Travelling Course from Rhode Island to Maine](#); sites from Providence, RI to Steuben, ME.
July 31 **ELA EVENT**→[Found Well Farm: Native Plant Nursery with Permaculture Roots](#); Pembroke, NH; 4:00-6:00pm.
August 12 **ELA EVENT**→[The Trouble with Earthworms](#); Framingham, MA; 6:00-8:00pm.
August 18 **ELA EVENT**→[The Edible Landscape at Wellesley College](#); Wellesley, MA; 5:00-7:00pm.

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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