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biodiversity • conservation • lawn care  
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## June

Edibles are definitely in fashion with more and more suburban front yards are sporting a fruit tree or a border of berry bushes. Community gardens pop up alongside schools and senior residential centers. Garden fresh produce just outside the door is ripe for the picking, and this issue of the Newsletter offers you some new perspectives as you mull edible options.

And while you're mulling, remember that ELA is always looking for landscapes that inspire and inform. Whether it's an edible urban oasis, a park fighting off invasive plants, a suburban retreat replete with native trees and shrubs, or an urban site struggling with stormwater, landscapes have a message to share. Do you own or work on a property that has a story to tell and a lesson to teach? If so, please [Contact ELA](#). MS



### Fruit in the Landscape

by Allison Houghton

Fruit has traditionally been in gardens or orchards separate from the yard, but this does not have to be the case. Many perennial fruits do well in the landscape and can fit in as ornamental plants. As you prune, mulch, fertilize, and maintain your landscape, why not use edibles to give you a return on your investment in the form of sweet fruit and a sense of self-reliance? [Read the article.](#)



### Roadside Beach Plums

by Tricia Diggins

I garden on a yard that is about one third of an acre. Most of the land is in the back yard and is maintained as a semiformal garden of trees, shrubs, perennials, and beds for annual vegetables. The front yard is very small (about 45' x35') and is located on a busy state highway. Until recently the front yard was very shady because of three street trees, so I planted shrubs that could at least take partial shade, mainly a bottlebrush buckeye (*Aesculus parviflora*), but no fruiting plants because there wasn't enough sun to bother. [Read the article.](#)



### DVD Review: *Holistic Orchard*

With Michael Phillips  
Chelsea Green Publishing, 2013

Reviewed by Penny Lewis

Generally when you've read and enjoyed a book, the movie version is a disappointment. But the recently released DVD, *Holistic Orchard*, from Michael Phillips, author of *The Holistic Orchard*, is a wonderful exception. This five-hour video is subdivided into twenty-one sections that follow Phillips through a full year in his orchard and is packed with information you won't want to miss. [Read the review.](#)



**Beginner's Mind: Starting an Ecologically-based Farm Business on Marginal Lands in the Highlands of Western MA**  
by Kate Kerivan

The rough-mowed trail led through an old field of asters and goldenrod edged with native high bush blueberry and American cranberry, humming with native pollinators. The trail continued through a stand of multiple-trunked ash, red maple, and beech typical of New England's often cut woodlands. At woods' edge, native water lilies, and yellow water poppy bloomed in a goodly sized pond. [Read the article.](#)  
Join Kate & ELA to [tour of Bug Hill Farm](#) on July 18 (rain date, July 25).



**Are Neonicotinoids Killing Bees**

by Jennifer Hopwood, Mace Vaughan, Matthew Shepherd, David Biddinger, Eric Mader, Scott Hoffman Black, and Celeste Mazzacano

A possible link between neonicotinoids and honey bee die-offs has led to controversy across the United States and Europe. Beekeepers and environmentalists have expressed growing concern about the impact of neonicotinoids, concern based on the fact that neonicotinoids are absorbed into plant tissue and can be present in pollen and nectar, making them toxic to pollinators. [Read the article.](#)  
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**Diversitree: Polyculture in Action**

by Rebecca Leung

During the summer of 2012, one of the projects undertaken by the Environmental Horticulture and Sustainable Agriculture interns at Wellesley College was the planning and implementation of a permaculture garden at Ashland Middle School located about ten miles west of Wellesley College. [Read the article.](#)  
*Reprinted with the author's permission from the Spring 2013 [Wellesley College Botanic Gardens News](#).*



**Pawpaw Asimina triloba - Native Tree for Residential Landscapes**

by Karyl Seppala

Pawpaw Asimina triloba is a lovely little understory tree I would not be without. I first discovered it in my oak woods, happily naturalized and looking like something a bit more tropical than belonged there. Soon I fell in love with its bright green, large, drooping leaves that caught the light and glowed on moonlit nights. [Read the article.](#)  
*This article first appeared in Volume 96 of [Wren Song](#).*

**Gleanings**

**National Wildlife Federation (NWF) Survey**

If you are a landscape professional, NWF wants to hear from you. Provide your insights into wildlife-friendly practices by taking their survey: <http://poll.nwf.org/landscaping-professionals-survey>.



**Invitation to NRC Project Unveiling**

Attend the public unveiling of a National Resources Commission (NRC) project in the Town of Wellesley on Saturday, July 17, from 10:30 until noon. The project includes installation of a rain garden and other Low Impact Development (LID) features, including porous pavers near Duck Pond on the Town Hall grounds.

The public event will feature opportunities to plant part of the rain garden and to participate in a plant raffle. Wellesley NRC extends a special invitation to landscapers residing and/or working in Norfolk County. For more information, please call the Wellesley NRC office at 781-431-1019, ext. 2294 or email NRC Director Janet Bowser at [jbowser@wellesleyma.gov](mailto:jbowser@wellesleyma.gov).



### **UMass Looks for Your Feedback**

UMass Extension wants to know what you are seeing in the landscape. The current question relates to what problems you are seeing in the landscape given all the soggy weather. Go to the [Landscape Message](#) page, and look for the "What Are YOU Seeing?" block on the right-hand side.



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

- [Bigelow's Best Botany](#); Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge, MA; June 16, 10:00-11:30am.
- [ELA EVENT Foraging for Edibles in the Landscape](#); Belmont, MA; June 17, 6:00-8:00pm.
- [Controlling Invasive Plants in Newton Yards and Parks](#) (Green Decade Environmental Speaker Series); Newton Free Library, Newton, MA; June 18, 7:00pm.
- [Urban Agriculture: Lateral Benefits, Good Neighbors, and Relish](#); 290 Congress Street, Boston, MA; June 20, 6:30-8:00pm.
- [USACE Wetland Delineation Workshop](#) (pdf); Loudon, NH; June 21, 8:30am-4:30pm.
- [NH Method Workshop](#); Keene State College, NH; June 21, 9:00am.
- [The Garden Faire](#); Sky Park, Scotts Valley, CA; June 22, 9:00am-5:00pm.
- [Practical Orchard Health with Michael Phillips](#); New London & Ledyard, CT; June 25, 10:00am-4:00pm.
- [Hands-on Wetland Restoration Workshop for Professionals](#); Long Pasture Wildlife Sanctuary, Barnstable, MA; June 25-26. Email [iives@massaudubon.org](mailto:iives@massaudubon.org).
- [ELA EVENT Spicket River Greenway Tour](#); Lawrence, MA; June 26, 1:00-3:00pm.
- [Identification of Turf Damaging Insects Workshop](#); Agricultural Engineering Building, UMass Amherst, MA, June 26, 8:00am-12:00noon.
- [ELA EVENT Pond Renovation](#); Watertown, MA; June 29, 10:00am-1:00pm.
- Seeds of a Nation; Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge, MA; July 7, 10:00-11:30am.
- [NOFA Summer Conference](#); UMass, Amherst, MA; Early Bird Registration ends July 9; Conference dates: August 9-11.
- [ELA EVENT Stormwater Solutions at Mount Auburn Cemetery](#); Cambridge, MA; July 10, 10:00am-noon.
- [Summer Blooming Trees and Shrubs](#); Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge, MA; July 16, 5:30-7:00pm.
- [ELA EVENT Bug Hill Farm: Edible Landscape with Permaculture Roots](#); Ashfield, MA; July 18 (rain date July 25), 1:00-3:00pm.
- [ELA EVENT The Edible Landscape Oasis: Permaculture in Practice](#); Holyoke, MA; July 19, 10:00am-noon.
- [Ferns and Their Allies](#); Portsmouth, NH; July 19, 9:00am-4:00pm.
- [Wetland Restoration & Enhancement](#), US Fish & Wildlife Service National Conservation Training Center; Middlebury, VT; July 22-26.
- [NOFA Lawn Certificate Course](#); Waterbury, CT; July 26, 9:00am-5:00pm.
- [ELA EVENT Yardscaping: Beautiful & Ecological Garden Inspiration](#); Portland, ME; August 1, 4:00-6:00pm.
- [ELA EVENT Bioremediation at Blackstone River Canal with Optional Meadow Tour](#); Grafton, MA; August 6, 10:00am-noon.
- [ELA EVENT Penobscot River Restoration: Great Works and Veazie Dam Removal](#); August 8, 10:00am-4:00pm.
- [ELA EVENT Lake George Westbrook Walking Tour: A Constructed Stormwater Wetland and Porous Paving Project](#); Lake George, NY; August 14, 10:00am-noon.



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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