Massachusetts Urban & Community Forestry Program

The Citizen Forester

APRIL 2014

UMass Community Tree Conference

By **Rick Harper**

On Tuesday, March 11, the University of Massachusetts Amherst hosted its annual Community Tree Conference in the Bowker Auditorium of Stockbridge Hall. In attendance were 275 arborists, tree wardens, community volunteers, committee members, and arboriculture and urban forestry students. In addition to networking opportunities, attendees had the occasion to hear from informative and enlightening speakers from across Massachusetts and the Northeast. Dr. Dave Bloniarz, U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Urban Forest Researcher and Director of the Urban Natural Resources Institute (UNRI), kicked-off the day with a lecture about the benefits of trees and outlined how he and others from the USFS have worked tirelessly to advance methods and strategies to better understand the ecosystem and economic services associated with our urban forests and how they can be translated to stakeholders and the general public. Amherst Tree Warden, Alan Snow – the 2013 Massachusetts Tree Wardens' and Foresters' Association (MTWFA) Tree Warden of the Year – delivered an update about some of the innovative community forest practices in the Town of Amherst. He discussed important initiatives like the current campaign to plant over 2,000 trees in Amherst that the town is funding through a bond (see the October 2013 *Citizen Forester* for details) and how he is working with University of Massachusetts students and faculty and the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) to not only better understand the benefits of the community trees of Amherst, but also to identify how those benefits will change and improve as the community forest of Amherst continues to grow and appreciate in size and value. After delivering the final morning lecture on the importance of proper early tree establishment, Dave Lefcourt, City of Cambridge Tree Warden and President of the MTWFA, proceeded to hand out MTWFA scholarship awards to deserving UMass students. Rich Herfurth and Bruce Duffy were also on hand to award student scholarships on behalf of the Massachusetts Arborists Association (MAA) and Southeast Tree Wardens' and Arborists' Association (SETWAA), respectively.

Conor Laffey, Nicolette Eicholtz, and Tyler Ames (far right) recipients of scholarships from the Southeast Tree Wardens' and Arborists' Association, represented by Bruce Duffy.

Afternoon speakers included Mike Lueders, principal of Lueders Environmental, who discussed the importance of selling the benefits of trees to customers. Lueders was quick to point out that he attended not only to offer his talents as a speaker, but because he felt this conference was immensely beneficial to commercial tree care practitioners, "It was a great conference with all the topics well connected to each other…the added bonus of multiple credits is appreciated," said Lueders. Patrick Parker, Plant Health Care program manager at Sav-A-Tree spoke about the importance of using pesticides safely and proper storage of pesticides, and finally, the day closed with a spirited presentation from the ever-engaging Melissa LeVangie. She outlined the "lofty" perspectives she and her fellow climbers on the Asian Longhorned Beetle Cooperative Eradication Program have on the discovery and identification of ALB in the quarantine zone in Worcester. Summing up the day's events, LeVangie offered this analysis: "The UMass Tree Conference provides yearly information as bright as the event's perennial sunshine!"

Congratulations to everyone involved in producing this renowned annual event, with special thanks to the sponsors: UMass Extension, the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, and the USDA Forest Service and to the event host, the Stockbridge School of Agriculture. Go UMass!

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Species Spotlight—Corneliancherry dogwood, *Cornus mas*

By **Mollie Freilicher**
MA-DCR
Community Action Forester

Many of us hold a special place in our hearts for those early-blooming trees that dot the landscape in late March or early April, and, even more so, when those early-blooming trees are full of showy blossoms like our featured tree this month, Cornelian cherry dogwood (which we'll refer to as "Cornelian cherry.") Cornelian cherry comes to us from central and southern Europe, where locals have eaten, appreciated, and cultivated it for thousands of years. Archaeologists have found charred pits from Cornelian cherries among the contents of a Neolithic site in Greece. In *Metamorphosis*, Ovid writes of gathering Cornelian cherries and other fruits on a mountainside, and the tree also appears in works of Virgil and Homer, where Cornelian cherries were fed to pigs. From central and southern Europe, Cornelian cherry made its way into monastery gardens across Europe throughout the Middle Ages and, by the 1500s, to Great Britain, where it became a popular tree for English gardens. The red fruit resembles the semiprecious cornelian (sometimes spelled "carnelian") quartz in color, hence the common name.

In its native range, Cornelian cherry grows in dry woodlands, especially those with calcareous soils. In the planted landscape, Cornelian cherry will grow in part shade or full sun and can tolerate a range of soil types and pH, but like many plants, will do best in well-drained soil. Cornelian cherry is hardy in U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) zones four to eight, but does not flower or fruit as well in the warmest parts of its range. It is a small tree or multi-stemmed shrub, reaching heights of 20-25 feet, with a 15-20-foot spread, often with branches to the ground.

Like other dogwoods, Cornelian cherry has opposite branching. Leaves are two to four inches long, one to one-and-a-half inches wide, and simple and ovate or elliptic in shape. The leaves are dark green above, paler below, and usually have three to five pairs of veins. In the fall, the leaves can turn purple, but often the leaves will fall off before they have a chance to change. Flower buds are yellow-brown in color and are stalked, valvate, and globose. The leaf buds diverge a bit from the stem and are small and pointed. Twigs are slender, and first-season growth emerges green and becomes reddish on top of the stem and remains green below. The pith is white and solid. Bark of Cornelian cherry has ornamental characteristics and is gray to brown and exfoliating and scaly.

The flowers of Cornelian cherry are yellow, blooming in late March to early April in our area and lasting for three weeks. The flowers, which bloom before the leaves emerge, are on stalked umbels about 3/4-inch wide, and appear on the previous year's wood. It is the profusion of flowers before the leaves, as well as the timing of the bloom, that contributes to the specialness of Cornelian cherry. The fruit, a 5/8-inch-long red drupe, matures in mid-summer and can be used for preserves, jams, and syrups. The fruit fresh off the tree, even when ripe, can be pretty sour and variable in flavor.

Cornelian cherry is easy to transplant and is not susceptible to any serious pests (with the exception of dogwood anthracnose), making it a great choice for urban landscapes where it can be used in parks, yards, and lawns for screening, hedges, or

Photos: Tree form: Wikipedia; Shrub form: Auburn University; Leaf, Bark, Flower, Fruit: Virginia Tech; Twig: UConn.

(Continued on page 3)

Species Spotlight—Corneliancherry dogwood, *Cornus mas*

(Continued from page 2)

foundation planting or simply to add some color and interest to an area. Michael Dirr recommends planting it against a dark green or red background to bring out the color of the flowers. It can be pruned to a small tree form or left as a multi-stemmed shrub. There are also cultivars that exhibit a stronger tree form, such as 'Golden Glory' and 'Spring Sun.' Many cultivars in the U.S. are grown for ornamental value, but some cultivars are turning up that favor strong fruit production. Some of these heavy-fruiting cultivars include 'Elegant,' 'Pioneer,' 'Redstone,' and 'Yellow.' While not suitable for industrial production, Cornelian cherry is a great choice for the edible landscape.

Whether for eating or ornamentation, Cornelian cherry makes a great addition to the landscape and can bring some much-needed color to bleak landscapes in early spring.

Thanks to Russ Cohen for comments on edibility of Cornelian cherry.

References

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Recent Videos

Climate Change and Philadelphia's Urban Forest

Landscape architect Barrett Doherty explores the importance of trees in the response of cities to climate change and some strategies that communities can adopt to improve canopy and canopy equity in communities. In the video, Doherty explores benefits of urban trees, U.S. Forest Service research into species adaptation to climate change, and ways communities can start to incorporate tree planting and shading to meliorate urban heat island effects and impacts of climate change. Watch the 24-minute video on Vimeo.com. (Video seen in *The Dirt*, from the ASLA.)

Where Does the Rain Go?

This animated video from UK-based www.susdrain.org demonstrates how changes to the natural water cycle caused by development can be positively managed, and, how SuDS (Sustainable Drainage Systems) turns this challenge into an exciting opportunity contributing to better places. 3:33 min. Watch the video: http://youtu.be/LMq6FYiF1mo

Growing Greener—in Petersham

One cool, but sunny day in early March, DCR's Urban and Community Forestry (UCF) program spent a few hours with Melissa LeVangie, the new Tree Warden of Petersham, conducting an i-Tree inventory of trees on the north and south common. Also on the inventory team were Travis Knechtel, the Tree Warden in nearby Athol, and Tom Ingersoll, from the Sheffield Tree Project. After a quick briefing on using the i-Tree mobile data collection site for the data collection (we were using a Samsung Galaxy Tab 2), we were off—onto and into the snow on the commons. The team used the i-Tree default fields for the inventory and collected information on all the trees on the commons. In just three-and-a-half hours, we had inventoried 38 trees. Analysis of the data in i-Tree Streets revealed that the trees on the two commons intercept over 72,000 gallons of stormwater and are storing nearly 260,000 pounds of carbon. i-Tree also showed that each tree on the commons gives the town at least $100.00 in annual benefits on average, with one tree, a large American elm, providing over $250.00 in annual benefits. LeVangie will use the inventory data to request additional support from the town for tree management and to plan future tree work on the common.

Growing on Trees

From the Tree Care Industry Association

March 2013—"**Climate Change and Woody Plant Diseases in the Northeast: What's Next**." By Tamsin Venn. In this article, based on Gary Moorman's session at this year's New England Grows, Venn explores the impacts of a changing climate on diseases of trees. As the climate changes and events like drought become more frequent, we may see more pathogens that occur in drought-stressed plants. Hotter summers, earlier loss of snow cover, and earlier leaf out, combined with a static last frost date, will result in conditions ripe for various diseases that will impact woody plants. Read the full article in the New England and Mid Atlantic Regional Supplement of the March issue of Tree Care Industry Association Magazine (pp. RS1-RS4).

Also check out "**Did Polar Vortex Deal Death to Insect Pests of Trees and Shrubs**?" by Michael J. Raupp, Professor of Entomology at the University of Maryland, College Park. Read about the impacts of the cold on some pests, including mimosa webworm, emerald ash borer, hemlock wooly adelgid, and others. (Page 40-44).

Patrick Administration Announces Quarantine of Essex County to Halt Spread of Invasive Emerald Ash Borer

Boston –Wednesday, March 26, 2014 – Officials from the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) today announced that a quarantine will be established in Essex County to stop the spread of the invasive Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). The quarantine will take effect Tuesday, April 1st, 2014. This decision comes after the December 2013 discovery of EAB in North Andover as well as an extensive survey of the affected area and public hearings. "The Emerald Ash Borer poses a very serious threat to ash trees across the Commonwealth," said DCR Commissioner Jack Murray. "We believe a county-wide quarantine of Essex County provides the best chance for slowing the spread of this invasive species."

The quarantine order means that certain products will be regulated from moving outside the contained area, including all hardwood firewood (any piece of wood smaller than 48"), all ash nursery stock and any ash lumber that has not been treated. Proper wood treatments include the removal of bark and half an inch of wood, dry kiln sterilization, fumigation and heat treatments.

Massachusetts is one of 22 states to have discovered EAB within its borders. In August 2012, EAB was detected in Dalton, leading to a quarantine of Berkshire County.

Read the complete press release at mass.gov.

Growing on Trees

Climate Change

View the Climate Change Atlas

The Climate Change Atlas documents the current and possible future distribution of 134 tree species and 147 bird species in the eastern United States and gives detailed information on environmental characteristics defining these distributions. The Climate Change Tree and Bird Atlases have been updated with several new online features. New features include options for viewing and comparing maps, searching species, and visualizing species traits that will affect responses to climate change. Access the atlas here: http://www.fs.fed.us/nrs/atlas/
(Seen in the Northeast Climate Science Center Newsletter)

"Beyond the Basics" Website Shares Best Practices in Local Mitigation Planning

This website is designed to help guide users through the process of developing or updating a local hazard mitigation plan that will meet the requirements for approval by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Check out the Beyond the Basics website and read mitigation plans from around the country. (*Seen in the Northeast Climate Science Center Newsletter*.)

Trees on the Move As Temperature Zones Shift 3.8 Feet a Day

In this blog post from *Krulwich Wonders*, Robert Krulwich explores species shifts and climate change with spirited illustrations. Check it out at: npr.org.

Arbor Day Happenings

April 18: Poster Contest Deadline (see page 8)

April 25: Arbor Day in Massachusetts!

April 25: Arbor Day of Service (massarbor.org)

Need ideas for Arbor Day?

Go to arborday.org

Growing on Trees

From the Ecological Landscape Alliance (ELA) (Formerly the Ecological Landscape Association)

Tick-borne Disease: Awareness, Prevention, and Treatment

Sunday, April 6, 2014, 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Instructors: Jeanne Hubbuch, M.D., and Dori Smith, M.Ed.
Garden in the Woods, Framingham, MA
$20.00 ELA / NEWFS Member - $25 Non-Member
More information: http://www.ecolandscaping.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Tick-Bourne-Disease.pdf

Tour: Harvard Forest: Reflecting on the Past, Researching for the Future

April 10, 2014 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., Petersham, MA
Comprised of 3,750 acres of forests, ponds, streams, wetlands, and agricultural fields in picturesque Petersham, Massachusetts, the Harvard Forest has served as Harvard University's rural laboratory and classroom for ecology and conservation since 1907. Join the ELA for this tour of diverse natural ecosystems and cultural landscapes and learn about the country's oldest intensively researched landscapes.
Learn more! Register online today!

Call for Proposals: Partners in Community Forestry

Announcing the 2014 Partners in Community Forestry Conference Call for Proposals

The Partners in Community Forestry National Conference serves as the annual, national gathering for urban forestry professionals and advocates. The 2014 Conference will be held November 5-6 at the Westin Convention Center in Charlotte, North Carolina.

- The Call for Proposals will be open through **April 7, 2014.**
- Desired presentation formats include general session, concurrent/breakout session, panel discussion, and "Lightning Round" options.
- You can view examples of last year's presentations and topics **here**.

Visit **www.arborday.org/pcfproposal** to submit your Partners in Community Forestry Conference presentation proposal.

MassDOT Extends Deadline for Commercial Driver's License Self-Certification to April 30, 2014

MassDOT Registry of Motor Vehicles announced it is extending the January 30 deadline for Commercial Driver's License (CDL) holders to meet the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's requirement that CDL & Commercial Permit holders provide their licensing jurisdiction with their self-certification information and a copy of the US DOT Medical Certificate. For more information go to Online Services Link to CDL Self-Certification.

Failure to complete driver self-certification by April 30, 2014, or failure to re-certify by the self-certification expiration date thereafter, will result in the downgrade of the driver's CDL to a Class D License. How to do it: The RMV has made compliance with this rule easy for drivers from the convenience of their home computer by using the RMV's Online Services Link to CDL Self-Certification.

Thanks to the Massachusetts Tree Wardens' and Foresters' Association for this update.

Growing on Trees

National Forest Guild Meeting 2014

Date: June 19–21, 2014
Location: Burlington, Vermont, at the ECHO Lake Aquarium and Science Center

The Forest Guild National Meeting is making a long-awaited return to New England in June of 2014. Join fellow members, colleagues, and future friends in this three-day gathering. Prepare for an exciting program of engaging speakers, stimulating field workshops, and lively discussions on the theme of adapting forests to the changing climate. The three-day program will integrate field workshops, presentations, and a hands-on application of a climate change response framework. We strongly encourage you to participate in the entire program.

Thursday, June 19—Field Workshops (A selection is below)
Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park – Woodstock, VT
Proctor Maple Research Center – Underhill Center, VT
Urban and Community Forestry Walking Tour – Burlington, VT

Friday, June 20 — Presentations and Discussions on Science and Management
Keynote: Climate forecasts and expected impacts on forests
Dr. George Jacobson, Professor Emeritus, University of Maine

Plenary Panel and afternoon sessions on forest adaptation to climate change

Saturday, June 21 — Saturday morning will be a unique opportunity to test out the Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science's Climate Change Response Framework at Shelburne Farms. Maria Janowiak, Co-coordinator, Northwoods Climate Change Response Framework, will lead this hands-on field session.

For more information, go to the Forest Guild website.

We do our best to ensure that listings are accurate, but please check with program organizers for the most up-to-date information.

From UMass Extension

Nutrient Management Regulations Pending in Massachusetts

Landscapers, turf practitioners, and agricultural producers in Massachusetts are advised to stay up to date with changing nutrient management requirements in the state.

In 2012 the Massachusetts Legislature passed Chapter 262 of the Acts of 2012, An Act Relative to the Regulation of Plant Nutrients. This new law directed the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture (MDAR) to develop regulations for fertilizer and nutrient management. MDAR has completed proposed state-wide regulations which will be subject to public comment in the coming weeks. ***[Hearings are April 1, April 3, and April 4 in locations around Massachusetts.]*** Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket retained the option to develop unique local regulations, and are currently at various stages in the process.

For current, detailed information in regard to the regulations, including information on upcoming public hearings, go to:
http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/agr/ or
http://ag.umass.edu/agriculture-resources/nutrient-best-management-practices

UMass Extension has reviewed, revised and expanded its technical information regarding the management of nutrients, fertilizers and soils. This information can accessed at the location listed above.

Western Mass Master Gardeners

The Berkshire County group of the Western Mass. Master Gardeners is having their 10th annual Berkshire Garden Symposium at the Lenox Memorial Middle and High School on Saturday, April 12, 2014. This year's topic is "*Ten Years of Beautiful Berkshire Gardens.*"

Attendees choose from 12 different gardening topics, and the fee of $30.00 covers three classes, lunch, and breakfast snacks. As this fills up quickly, registrations should be sent in as soon as possible. Registration and further information can be found at: www.wmmga.org.

Growing on Trees

Grants Available

DCR Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Grants

Application Deadline May 1

The next round for our Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Grants is fast approaching.

Challenge grants are **50-50 matching grants** (75-25 for environmental justice projects) to municipalities and non-profit groups in Massachusetts communities of **all sizes** for the purpose of building local capacity for excellent urban and community forestry at the local and regional level.

The USDA Forest Service provides funding for the grant program, and DCR administers the grants with guidance from the Massachusetts Tree Wardens' and Foresters' Association. The DCR Urban and Community Forestry Program assists communities and nonprofit groups in their efforts to protect and manage community trees and forest ecosystems, with the ultimate aim of improving the environment and enhancing livability of all of Massachusetts's communities.

For more information on the Challenge Grants (including our NSTAR Go Green grants and National Grid Partnership Grants) go to the DCR website or contact Julie Coop 617-626-1468 or julie.coop@state.ma.us or Mollie Freilicher 413-577-2966 or mollie.freilicher@state.ma.us.

Community Groves℠ Grants

At a time when over 90% of the U.S. population lives in urbanized areas, far too many communities suffer from limited access to fresh, healthful, and affordable food. Alliance for Community Trees (ACTrees) launched Community Groves℠ to offer a new path to improve the health and livability of neighborhoods through planting, maintaining, and harvesting fruit and nut trees. Community Groves℠ demonstrates that the urban forest can play a critical role in urban agriculture. Community Groves℠ of fruit and nut trees will provide fresh food, educate residents about nutrition and agriculture, bring neighbors together, and revitalize vacant or derelict urban lands.

Community Groves℠ Grants provide funding to help local organizations grow fruit and nut trees. In 2014, ACTrees is pleased to offer Grants up to $2,500 for ACTrees members to plant Community Groves℠ in their communities. Grants require a 1:1 non-federal match.

For more details, click the "Apply Now" link below to review the Grant RFP. The deadline to apply is **April 11, 2014**.

For eligibility and other information go to ACTrees.org.

APPLY NOW for 2014 Community Groves℠ Grants

2014 MASSACHUSETTS ARBOR DAY POSTER CONTEST
"TREES ARE TERRIFIC AND GOOD FOR OUR HEALTH!"

Each year, over 1500 Massachusetts fifth graders participate in the Arbor Day Poster Contest. The winners reap rewards, including art supplies, ice cream, and a tree for their school. Each year there is a theme, such as "Trees are Terrific…from acorn to oak!" (2003) or "Trees are Terrific....In Cities and Towns!" (2009), selected to encourage students to think about trees in new ways.

The 2014 theme, ***Trees are Terrific and Good for Our Health!*** is designed to increase students' understanding of trees, the role trees play in their community, and the impact of trees on health and well-being. The deadline for this year's entries is April 18, 2014. Submit one entry per school.

Download – Poster Contest Rules and Information Packet
For more information, contact Mollie Freilicher 413-577-2966 or mollie.freilicher@state.ma.us.

Growing on Trees

Upcoming Courses from the New England Wildflower Society

Pruning Shrubs with the Pros

Early spring is an excellent time to prune many woody plants. In this hands-on workshop, participants work in small groups for guided practice on woody members of the Garden in the Woods's shrub collection. Discover ways to enhance a plant's vigor, health, and appearance and learn which tools to use, when to prune, and how the plant responds. Bring hand-pruners and dress for working outdoors, rain, snow, or shine.

Saturday, April 5, 2014, 1:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m., Garden in the Woods, Framingham, MA
Instructor: Deborah Howe, landscape architect, principal of Lighthall Co.
Fee: $36 (Member) / $43 (Nonmember)

Tree ID Using Bark and Habitat Clues

Have you ever looked at a tree in winter and wondered what it might be? For almost half the year, bark provides the best clue to tree identification. In this class, which is part of a series on the trees found in different habitats, you will use bark to key out tree species in the field and become familiar with the characteristic bark of trees in different habitats and at different stages of growth. Bring binoculars, water, layers of very warm clothes, lunch, waterproof boots, and the book *Bark*, by Michael Wojtech, if you have a copy.

Choose from two sessions:

Saturday, April 12, 2014, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Wellesley, MA
Instructor: Nancy Goodman, naturalist
Fee: $20 (Member) / $25 (Nonmember)

Saturday, April 26, 2014, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Cummington, MA
Instructor: Nancy Goodman, naturalist
Fee: $20 (Member) / $25 (Nonmember)
Cosponsor: Hitchcock Center for the Environment

Three Handy Tools for Accurate Plant Identification

Simplify plant identification with three useful tools! We will use the traditional Newcomb's *Wildflower Guide*, the user-friendly digital guide *Go Botany*, and the technical *Flora Nova Angliae* to identify plants. Each method has its advantages, both in the field and working off-site with specimens. This class is an essential and practical botanical primer for anyone wanting to improve their ability to identify and recognize plants.

Thursday, April 17, 2014, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Garden in the Woods, Framingham, MA, Instructor: Neela DeZoysa, Ph.D, Botanist and Author
Fee: $40 (Member) / $48 (Nonmember)

Tree Care Basics

Certified arborist and horticulturalist Jim McSweeney demonstrates arboricultural basics based on two decades of experience working with trees. Jim separates fluff from the facts. He will cover site evaluation, plant selection, planting techniques, watering, mulching, pruning, natural pest control, and more. This workshop will take place at Jim's home/office, where he has planted dozens of edible and ornamental trees over the past ten years. All participants will receive a copy of the USDA guide, *Tree Owner's Manual,* which covers the topics you will discuss and more.

Saturday, May 10, 2014, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Chesterfield, MA
Instructor: James McSweeney, Arborist and Horticulturalist; **Fee:** $26 (Member) / $32 (Nonmember)

Native New England Shrubs

Native New England shrubs come in many shape, sizes, and colors, and vary widely in their bark, flowers, and fruits. Familiarize yourself with almost 50 species growing in this region. We emphasize identification and familiarity with family characteristics and historic plant uses. Bring a hand lens to each class. Weekend classes are held in locations off-site, and directions will be provided at the first class.

Wednesdays, May 28, June 4, and June 11, 2014, 6:30 p.m.-8:45 p.m., and Saturdays, May 31 and June 7, 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Garden in the Woods, Framingham, MA, and field sites.
Instructor: Roland "Boot" Boutwell, naturalist
Fee: $215 (Member) / $258 (Nonmember)

Edible Wild Plants: A Suburban Foray

The greater Boston area is home to over 150 species of edible wild plants, many of which are more nutritious and flavorful than their cultivated counterparts. Over the course of this three-mile hike in Weston, MA, you will encounter more than two dozen edible wild plant species (and possibly edible mushrooms.) Keys to the identification of each species will be provided, as will information on seasons of availability, nutritional value, preparation methods, and guidelines for safe and responsible foraging. Following the hike, the group will convene at a nearby home to sample several recipes made from wild edibles. Bring water and writing materials.

Saturday, May 10, 2014, 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m., Weston, MA
Instructor: Russ Cohen, Author and Naturalist
Fee: $40 (Member) / $48 (Nonmember)

Growing on Trees

Upcoming Courses from the New England Wildflower Society

Rain Gardens and More: Effective Uses of Rainwater

Would you like to learn to protect our precious water resources while creating lush gardens using native plants that attract birds and butterflies? Using water flowing from your roof, driveway, or lawn, rain gardens take full advantage of our natural rainfall, rather than wasting it as runoff. You will tour a beautiful twenty-acre, 24-home cohousing community in a rural setting, where a varied, mostly native plant landscape has been in place for 17 years. You'll explore site features that include rain garden terraces, rain barrels, retention basins, swales, and durable, no-water, organic lawns. You will also learn about rainwater design options and construction methods and discuss strategies for solving runoff problems such as erosion, icy walkways, or wet basements.

Saturday, June 21, 2014, 10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Acton, MA

Instructor: Dori Smith, M.Ed., Designer, Gardens for Life, Acton, MA ; **Fee:** $26 (Member) / $32 (Nonmember)

New England Trees: A Workshop

A familiarity with trees is fundamental to understanding the temperate forests of New England and to making informed tree planting decisions for your yard or natural area. This workshop is an abridged version of the NEWFS Framework Trees curriculum. It covers the trees of New England and their place in natural communities and successional history. We begin with a classroom survey of the topic. Then, following a break for lunch, we continue our study in the field, where we will see over 40 native tree species, review their identification, and learn which attributes suit different trees for use in the landscape.

Wednesday, June 25, 2014; 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Tiverton Four Corners, RI

Instructor: Garry Plunkett, Certificate Program Graduate, Conservation Land Manager; **Fee:** $66 (Member) / $80 (Nonmember)

New England Plant Communities

The diversity of plant communities in New England is truly astounding, including multiple forest types, freshwater wetlands, coastal dunes, grasslands, heathlands, tidal marshes, and montane communities. Understanding the dominant canopy species, indicator species, and range helps us to interpret our own landscape's ecological identity. Lectures cover effects of soils, topography, moisture, geological conditions, and glaciation. Field trips to study the composition and structure of some distinctive plant communities complement the lectures. Extensive handouts included.

Wednesdays, June 18, 2014, 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m., June 25, 5:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m., July 2, 5:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m., July 9, 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m., July 16, 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m., Garden in the Woods, Framingham, MA and field sites

Instructor: Pat Swain, Community Ecologist, MA Natural Heritage Endangered Species Program

Fee: $227 (Member) / $267 (Nonmember)

Revisions to MassDEP Wetlands, Waterways, and Water Quality Certification Regulations

After more than two years of extensive work reviewing and incorporating public comments, receiving input from advisory committees and other stakeholders, MassDEP will be promulgating wetlands and waterways regulatory revisions in early 2014. Prior to the effective date, application forms will be revised. Contact your Regional Wetland Circuit Rider for more information and plan to attend one of these informational workshops.

April 14, 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m., MassDEP Southeast Regional Office , Main Conference Room, 20 Riverside Drive, Lakeville

April 15, 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m., MassDEP Western Regional Office , 3rd floor Courtroom (NO food or drinks allowed), 436 Dwight Street, Springfield

April 16, 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m., MassDEP Central Regional Office , Main Conference Room, 627 Main Street, Worcester

April 17, 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m., Billerica Public Library, Meeting Room, 15 Concord Road, Billerica

Pre-registration is required for certain regions and should be directed to the appropriate Wetland Circuit Rider for that region. For more information, go to: http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/water/watersheds/wetlands-protection.html#1

News

Gathering 'Wild' Food in the City: Rethinking the Role of Foraging in Urban Ecosystem Planning and Management

In the U.S., influential landscape architects of the nineteenth and early twentieth century, such as Frederick Law Olmsted and his student Charles Eliot, advocated the creation of networks of urban parks connected to each other and, through river corridors, to green spaces beyond the boundaries of urban settlements. These planners argued that public spaces with large amounts of vegetation were essential elements of healthy, functional cities. These new landscapes emphasized aesthetics, relaxation, recreation, and refuge, reinforcing emerging notions about which human–nature interactions belonged in the city and which in the country. Read about the current studies on foraging at Phys.org.

Three Questions: Urban Studies Professor on Helping Cities Plan for Climate Change

by Peter Dizikes

February 18, 2014— Because cities hold a growing portion of the world's population, they are an increasingly important locus of planning for climate change. JoAnn Carmin, an associate professor in MIT's Department of Urban Studies and Planning, has surveyed urban leaders worldwide on the subject. Now, in a new report commissioned by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, Carmin outlines the strategies city officials—from Tokyo to Boston to Maputo—are employing as they seek more progress. And while some cities have implemented policies, such as home energy-efficiency programs, to limit greenhouse-gas emissions in the first place, her report focuses more on how they are planning for and coping with both existing and projected climate problems. MIT News recently spoke to Carmin, who is also a contributor to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Read more at Phys.org.

Rain Tax

From the radio program *Living on Earth:* The EPA wants to limit the stormwater run-off going into rivers and streams to help clean up the Chesapeake Bay. Some towns are charging citizens a fee to upgrade storm drains. As Julie Grant of the Allegheny Front reports, locals call it a "rain tax". Listen to the story or read the transcript at Living on Earth.

Bitter Cold Helps in Battle Against Adelgid

By Bradford L. Miner

March 2, 2014—A predicted return to polar temperatures this week could find even the hardiest New Englanders grumbling, but not those who value the hemlock. Besieged by a tiny insect pest from Japan for the last 25 years, hemlock forests across Massachusetts will benefit from this winter's subzero cold spells, according to University of Massachusetts at Amherst Professor Joseph Elkinton. Albeit a temporary reprieve, global warming and warmer New England winters over time would allow the hemlock woolly adelgid to thrive and ensure the hemlock's eventual demise, Mr. Elkinton cautioned. "This winter has been a godsend for the hemlock. Overnight temperatures dipped to minus 15 here in Amherst, and that's cold enough to guarantee almost complete adelgid die-off," he said. Read the full story at the *Worcester Telegram*.

Rare Redwood Faces Chopping Block in Cotati, CA

By Lori A. Carter, *The Press Democrat*

March 11, 2014—Standing inconspicuously beside a block wall across the street from a glass shop in Cotati is one of the rarest living life forms in the world, an albino chimera coast redwood tree. Researchers say fewer than 10 of the genetically mutated trees are known to exist. But if SMART's rail plans proceed, the tree — the largest of its kind — soon will be cut down so commuter trains can safely zoom past. […]The tree is a scientific treasure, said Zane Moore, a botany student at Colorado State University and a widely known researcher in chlorophyll-deficient, or albino, redwoods. Coast redwoods are the only conifers in the world with more than 100 documented occurrences of albinism, he said. "So understanding albino plants as a whole hinges on this species," Moore said. Cotati's tree isn't just an albino, but a chimera — a phenomenon seen in only a handful of naturally occurring redwoods in the world. "A chimera means the plant has two genotypes, two sets of DNA growing in one plant," Moore explained. "This tree is one of very few known chimeric redwoods in the world, and there is only one chimeric redwood known to exhibit the same style of albinism." Read the full story at *The Press Democrat*.

On the Horizon

April 1 Deadline: Intent to Apply: Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Grants

April 1 Tree Planting Professional Development Series, MTWFA, Sturbridge, MA, www.masstreewardens.org

April 2 Evening with Experts Lecture: American Oaks: A Genus to Love, Cambridge Public Library,

April 4 MCA Exam, Massachusetts Arborist Association, Wellesley, MA, www.massarbor.org

April 5 ISA Exam, Amherst, MA, www.newenglandisa.org

April 5 Mass Forest Alliance, Annual Meeting, Sturbridge, MA http://massforestalliance.org/

April 8 The Invasive Plant Issue and Invasive Plant Identification (A3), UMass Extension, Milford, MA, www.umassgreeninfo.org

April 17 Sustainability: Systems and Solutions for Campus and Community, Conference, Lowell, MA, http://masustainablecommunities.com/

April 18 **Deadline**: MA Arbor Day Poster Contest

April 23 Scouting for Early-Season Landscape Pests and Problems, UMass Extension, UMass Amherst, www.umassgreeninfo.org

April 24-25 Designing for Success: Ecological Restoration in Times of Change; Amherst, MA

April 25 **ARBOR DAY in Massachusetts!**

April 25 MAA Arbor Day of Service, Check www.massarbor.org for listings

April 25 Arbor Day Event, Childs Park, Northampton, Contact Jay Girard for info

Apr 29-30 EHAP Training, MTWFA, www.masstreewardens.org

May 1 **Deadline for Applications**: Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Grants

May 15 'Plant Something' Planting Campaign, Massachusetts Nursery and Landscape Association, www.mnla.com

May 19-21 Conference: Local Solutions: Northeast Climate Change Preparedness Conference, Antioch University, Antioch, NH,

May 30 New England Chapter-ISA Tree Climbing Championship, Burlington, VT www.newenglandisa.org

June 4 Tree City USA Award Ceremony and Luncheon, Andover, MA

July 16 DCR Webcast: Tree Campus USA in Massachusetts: How and Why your College or University Should Participate, (Sponsored by DCR and the Arbor Day Foundation. Stay tuned for details.)

July 24 Massachusetts Nursery and Landscape Association Summer Trade Show, Deerfield, MA, www.mnla.com

Oct 24-25 SAVE THE DATE:
DCR Tree Steward Training, Petersham, MA

Bureau of Forestry
Department of Conservation and Recreation
251 Causeway Street, Suite 600
Boston, MA 02114

Julie Coop, Urban and Community Forester
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If you have a topic you'd like to see covered or want to submit an item to *The Citizen Forester* (article, photo, event listing, etc.), please contact Mollie Freilicher or click here.

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