

NH LA

NEWSletter

Vol. 40 No. 7

Informing and educating members of the Green Industry

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2024 Fall Field Day Coming September 18

We're looking forward to seeing you at the 2024 Fall Field Day September 18 at the Belknap County Fairgrounds in Belmont, New Hampshire! This year's event will feature even more vendors, demonstrations, and educational sessions than last year's event.

At only \$25 per person (lunch included!), this is a great value! Take advantage of this opportunity to send your staff to learn about emerging issues, experience hands-on skill building, network with industry peers, and earn professional credits.

Whatever your focus, we've got something for you at the Fall Field Day:

• **Matrix Planting: A Guide to Mimicking Natural Plant Communities in the Built Environment;** Meg Herndon, M Herndon Landscape Architecture, LLC

Matrix planting is a low-maintenance, layered technique that emphasizes creating plant communities rather than collections of individual species. In this session,

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The *NHLA Newsletter* is published by the New Hampshire Landscape Association for its members, free of charge, 10 times a year.

Memberships:
 See enclosed application or the website for a membership application.

Additional Subscriptions: Firms desiring additional subscriptions, can purchase them at \$40.00 each. Contact Pamela Moreau.

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The *NHLA Newsletter* seeks to encourage a lively discussion of topics of concern to NHLA members. Opinions and proposals presented in the newsletter are those of the writers to whom they are attributed and are not a statement of official policy by NHLA, unless so stated.

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President's Notes

by Andrew Pelkey

The Importance of Continuing Education in the Landscape Industry

The landscape industry is ever-evolving, necessitating continuous education to maintain expertise and competitiveness. For members of the New Hampshire Landscape Association (NHLA), continuing education aligns perfectly with the organization's mission to advance the Green Industry through knowledge enhancement and high standards.

The landscape sector continuously sees new trends, technologies, and sustainable practices. Continuing education ensures professionals are knowledgeable about the latest advancements, such as eco-friendly landscaping techniques and smart irrigation

systems, allowing them to offer clients cutting-edge solutions.

Comprehensive skill development is crucial in landscaping, covering horticulture, design, project management, and environmental stewardship. NHLA provides numerous educational opportunities, helping members to deepen their knowledge and stay proficient in their field.

Landscape regulations and standards evolve, focusing on environmental concerns and safety. Continuing education helps professionals stay compliant, avoiding legal issues and ensuring their work adheres to current industry standards. NHLA promotes legislation beneficial to

the industry, aiding members in navigating regulatory changes.

Clients prefer knowledgeable and up-to-date professionals. Continuing education, often provided through NHLA's certification programs, enables landscape professionals to showcase their expertise and attract more business.

Exposure to new ideas and techniques through continuing education can inspire innovative and creative solutions in landscaping. NHLA events and workshops offer platforms for members to learn and share innovative practices.

Continuing education through NHLA includes workshops, seminars, and conferences where professionals can network with peers and industry leaders. These connections are invaluable for career growth and knowledge sharing.

The landscape industry plays a vital role in environmental sus-

tainability. NHLA's focus on sustainable landscaping practices in continuing education helps professionals address climate change challenges effectively.

In conclusion, continuing education is crucial for landscape professionals to stay relevant, skilled, and competitive. NHLA's commitment to promoting knowledge, standards, and professional relationships underscores the importance of ongoing learning, benefiting both the professionals and the broader community. By investing in continuing education, NHLA members can ensure they are at the forefront of the industry, delivering exceptional and sustainable landscaping solutions.

For more information about NHLA's educational opportunities and membership benefits, visit NHLA's website at nhlaonline.org.

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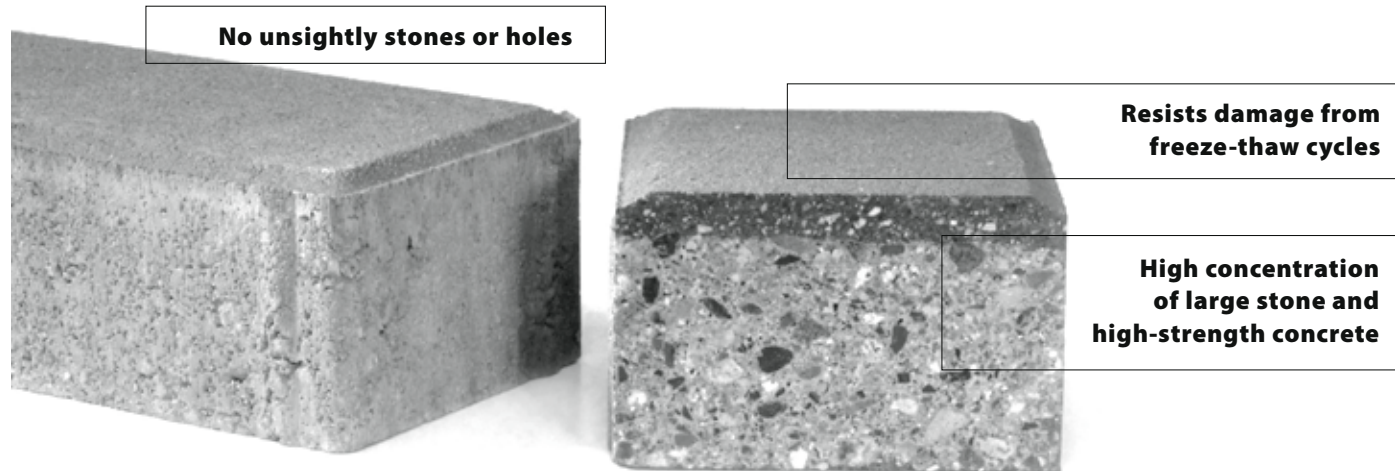
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LANDSCAPE AFTER HOURS

Experience the Industry!



Join us for the final *Landscape After Hours* event of the season. Wednesday, August 21, 5:30-7 pm at Shin-Boku Nursery in Wentworth, NH.

Landscape After Hours (LAH) are free NHLA events that provide opportunities for landscape professionals to get together in a casual atmosphere while getting out and seeing interesting and innovative projects, sites, and services in NH's green industry.

There is no fee to attend LAH, but we do ask that you RSVP so we know how many people to expect. RSVP for one or multiple LAH events at bit.ly/4cMTVRf.

August 21, 5:30-7 pm
Shin-Boku Nursery, Wentworth, NH

Shin-Boku Nursery follows a 1500+ year tradition of Japanese garden tree trimming in the production of truly unique stock. Owner Palmer Koelb and his team painstakingly trim the most cold hardy conifers, carefully selected to be hardy in the harsh winters of northern New England, to produce a shape and personality consistent with the finest trimmed trees found in Japanese gardens. We'll tour the nursery and the traditional Japanese Stroll Garden with Palmer, learning about production and use of these trees in the landscape, from design to installation and maintenance.

Contact Amy Papineau with any questions education@nhla-online.org

... find out about Japanese garden tree trimming for New England gardens... tour the nursery... learn about production, installation, maintenance ...

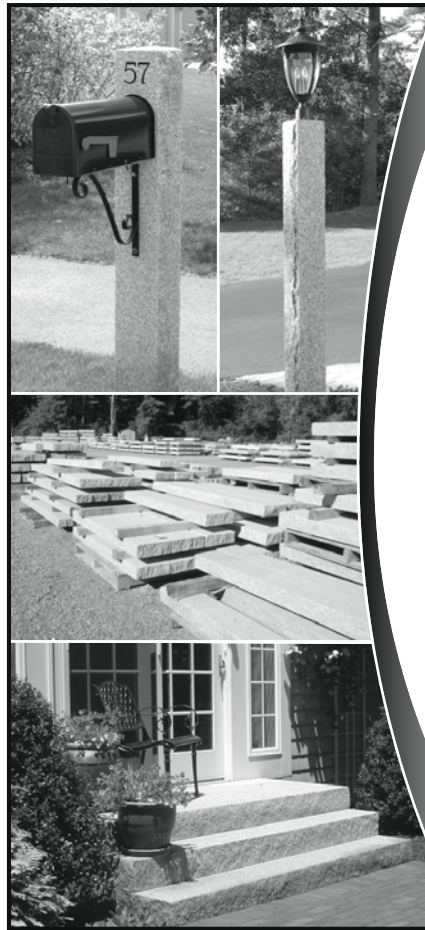


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Certification Corner

by Abby Zuidema, NHCLP

Certification Coordinator

Next Certification Exam

The written and Plant ID portions of the NHCLP Exam are offered in March and September. Advance registration is required.

The next exam date is September 21, 2024, 1-4 pm at Millican Nurseries, 187 Pleasant St., Chichester. The written portion only will be offered on that date.

Prospective NHCLPs must register for the exam by September 14, 2024 at nhlaonline.org/how-to-become-certified/. The written portion of the NHCLP exam is based on the NHLA Certification Manual. The manual, as a pdf file on a thumb drive, is included in your certification

application fee. All the exam questions come directly from the manual so a comprehensive study of the manual is highly recommended. (A Manual Review Course is offered each year in January/February).

If you would like to receive a manual without registering for the exam they can be purchased by sending a check for \$30.00, made payable to NHLA, to: Abby Zuidema, NHLA Certification Coordinator, 126 Burkitt St., Portsmouth, NH 03801.

If you have questions, please contact Abby Zuidema, 603-502-4894, certification@nhlaonline.org.



The NHCLP designation provides credibility that helps customers choose who to work with in an industry with a wide range of skills and competencies. An NHCLP must commit to continuing education to learn the latest industry developments, newest products, and best practices. They go the extra mile to make sure their customers are successful.

Find out more at nhlaonline.org/how-to-become-certified/

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What's Happening to the Conifers?

by Amy Papineau, UNH Extension Field Specialist, Landscape Horticulture

Over the past several years, we've seen more and more trouble with conifers in the landscape. Insect pests, fungal diseases, and weather-related stresses are making care and maintenance of these trees a challenge.

At the 2024 Fall Field Day, UNH Extension's plant disease diagnostician, Tyler Edwards, will be on hand to discuss some of the many diseases we see affecting landscape trees. Stop by the UNH Extension table to chat with Tyler and learn how to identify and manage some common conifer diseases.

Rhizosphaera needle cast is most damaging to blue spruce and white spruce. Other species of spruce, fir, pine, and other conifers may also be affected, but to a lesser degree. Infection usually starts in the interior needles low in the canopy and moves upwards year after year. Trees lose their interior needles, and eventually may lose all but the needles at the tops of the trees.

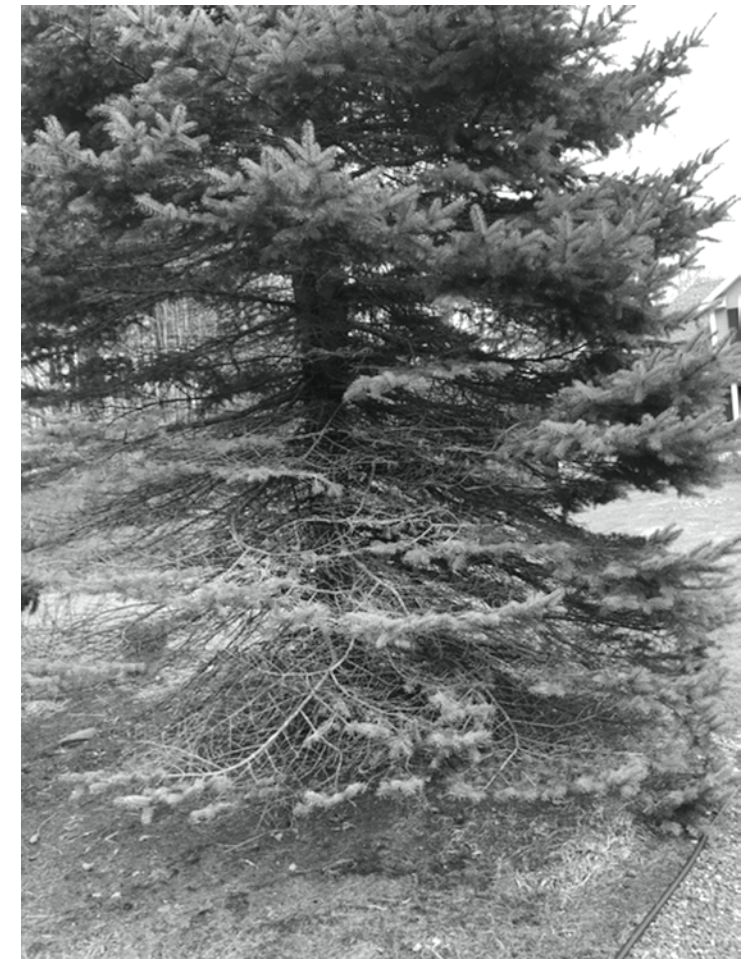
Diplodia tip blight (Sphaeropsis sapina) is common in pines. All species of pine are susceptible, although Austrian pine (Pinus nigra) seems to be most severely affected. Douglas-fir, white, Norway, and blue spruce are also susceptible, especially when injured or under stress. This fungus causes browning

and stunting of the new growth on branch tips. Damage is seen first in the lower branches and may progress to cause deformed growth, cankers, stem dieback, and in advanced cases, tree death.

Rhabdocline needle cast causes browning and defoliation in Douglas-fir only. Infection is first seen in the current year's needles in the lower canopy, with brown patches appearing on needles in the late summer and early fall. Damage will be most evident the following spring on the previous year's needles with browning and needle drop.

Cytospora canker affects many conifers, especially spruces and Douglas-fir. Infection is usually first noticed as entire branches die back, usually older branches. Sunken areas with resin oozing can be seen along the branch or at the point of branch attachment on the trunk.

These are just a few of the common fungal diseases affecting conifers. The UNH Plant Diagnostic Lab can help you figure out what is causing damage to conifers (or other plants) in your landscapes and can provide management recommendations specific to your situation. Contact the Plant Diagnostic Lab at unh.pdl@unh.edu or 603-862-3043.



Insect pests, fungal diseases, and weather-related stresses are making care and maintenance of conifers a challenge.



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NHLA's 2024 FALL FIELD DAY

Continued from page 1

landscape architect, Meg Herdon, will cover the benefits of working with landscape plugs, the concept of plant sociability, and techniques for ensuring staggered bloom sequences throughout the growing season.

• **Setting a Natural Stone Patio, Peter Ryder, The Stone Trust**

Last year, Pete Ryder and other members of The Stone Trust led a hands-on demonstration of proper stone wall building practices. This year's demonstration will expand on that with the construction of a natural stone patio behind the wall. Learn how to construct the base, proper techniques for strapping and setting of large slabs, and the use of hand tools to cut and shape the flagging.

• **The Need for Grade Control in Today's Market; Alan LaRose, Jon LaRose, Gus LaRose, New England Laser**

Having grade control on your excavator is a game changer. If you pay someone to hold a grade rod or spend hours each day climbing in and out of your machine to check grade, you're throwing money into the hole that you're digging. Jump into an excavator during this session to see for yourself how having a 2D or 3D system installed on your machine can make you more profitable.

• **Cultivating Resiliency in Landscape Trees; Lindsay Watkins, UNH Extension**

Extreme weather, new pests and diseases, and a myriad of other stresses are causing noticeable damage to landscape trees. Learn about the causes of current tree decline and "best guess" speculations on what to expect going forward.

• **What Can we do About Jumping Worms?; Amy Papineau, UNH Extension**

Jumping worms are a new pest that's taking a heavy toll on landscapes and psyches of landowners and gardeners across the US, including all over New Hampshire. Learn what we know about these destructive worms and what options we have for management.

• **NH Pesticide Regulatory Review and Update, David Rousseau, NHDAMF, Division of Pesticide Control**

• **Climbing Safety; Chat with Chad and Try Out Climbing Gear, Chad Gagnon, Enviro Arbor Solutions**

• **Treat Your Clothes for Tick & Mosquito Protection, Matt Cahillane, Ecological Solutions**

• **Japanese Gardens in America, Palmer Koelb, Shin-Boku Nursery**

• **Safety in Chainsaw, Tree Felling, and Chipping, Neil**

Warner, Enviro Arbor Solutions

• **IPM for Tree Fruit and Berry Crops in New England Landscapes, Jeremy Delisle, UNH Extension**

• **Preparing Your Backpack or Handheld Sprayer for Consistent Coverage, Rachel Maccini, UNH Extension**

• **Large Perennial Planter Demo, Ben Huntington, Pleasant View Gardens**

• **Understanding Construction Lasers, Alan LaRose, Jon LaRose, Gus LaRose, New England Laser**

The full agenda and registration information are posted at NHLAonline.org. Registration deadline is September 9. Contact the NHLA Education Committee with questions or suggestions or for information about sponsoring this event: education@nhlaonline.org. 🦋



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The Role of Technology in Modern Landscaping

In the world of landscaping, where nature's beauty meets human creativity, technology is proving to be a game-changer. Gone are the days of relying solely on manual labor and guesswork to create and maintain stunning outdoor spaces. The integration of technology, from drones to smart irrigation systems, is revolutionizing modern landscaping practices, enhancing efficiency, precision, and sustainability.

1. Drones: A Bird's-Eye View of Landscape Design

Drones, once associated primarily with aerial photography and cinematic shots, have found their way into the realm of landscaping. These unmanned aerial vehicles are now invaluable tools for surveying and designing landscapes. By capturing high-resolution images from above, landscapers can obtain a comprehensive view of the terrain, enabling them to plan layouts and designs with remarkable accuracy. Drones also aid in identifying potential challenges, such as drainage issues or shading concerns, before they become major problems.

2. Virtual Reality (VR) and Augmented Reality (AR): Visualizing the Possibilities

Virtual reality and augmented reality technologies are changing the way landscaping ideas are conceived and presented. Designers and clients can now immerse themselves in virtual landscapes, taking virtual tours before the first plant is even placed. This technology allows for better communication between designers and clients, as they can visualize how different elements will come together and make informed decisions.

3. Smart Irrigation Systems: Watering with Precision

Water conservation is a critical concern in modern landscaping. Smart irrigation systems utilize sensors, weather data, and even soil moisture measurements to tailor watering schedules to the specific needs of the landscape. This results in reduced water wastage and healthier plants. These systems can be remotely controlled and adjusted, ensuring that landscapes receive just the right amount of water, even when no one is on-site.

4. Soil Monitoring Sensors: Nurturing Plant Health

Healthy landscapes start with healthy soil. Soil monitoring sensors provide real-time data on soil moisture levels, temperature, and nutrient content. Landscapers can use this information to make informed decisions about irrigation and fertilization, promoting optimal plant growth while minimizing resource waste.

5. Automated Maintenance: Robotic Precision

Robotic technology is making its mark in landscaping maintenance. Robotic lawnmowers are capable of autonomously trimming grass while navigating obstacles, ensuring an even and well-kept lawn. These robots not only save time and labor costs but also provide consistent results.

6. Plant Identification Apps: Knowledge at Your Fingertips

For both professional landscapers and enthusiastic gardeners, plant identification apps have become invaluable tools. These apps use image recognition technology to identify plants based on photos, providing information about care requirements and compatibility with specific climates.

7. Energy-Efficient Outdoor Lighting: Illuminating Elegance

Technology has also transformed outdoor lighting. LED lighting systems are energy-efficient, providing bright and beautiful illumination that highlights landscape features while minimizing energy consumption and costs.

8. Electric Vehicles (EV): Unleashing the Future

Landscaping efficiently is not only about time management and staying organized, it is also about the type of tools, machines, and vehicles being used. Using electric helps work stay efficient and sustainable.

As technology continues to

evolve, its role in landscaping will only grow more significant. From streamlining design processes to ensuring efficient resource use, technology is reshaping the way we interact with and create outdoor spaces. This marriage of nature and innovation is ushering in a new era of breathtaking and sustainable landscapes.

Whether you're a professional landscaper or a homeowner with a green thumb, embracing these technological advancements can help you create outdoor spaces that are not only visually stunning but also ecologically conscious. The future of landscaping is here, and it's an exciting blend of creativity and cutting-edge technology. 🌱



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—Denise Levertov, 1923-1997,

British-born naturalized American poet



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Calendar

■ **AUGUST 19**

Using Herbicides to Manage Invasive Plants, with UNH Extension, Register at: <https://bit.ly/4dzuGLO>

■ **AUGUST 21**

NHLA Landscape After Hours, Shin-Boku Nursery, Wentworth, see page 5

■ **SEPTEMBER 13**

Introduction to Recognizing and Improving Wildlife Habitat, Sanborn Mills Farm, Loudon, NH, 9 am - 5 pm; daylong workshop providing a unique opportunity to immerse yourself in the basic skills necessary to recognize important wildlife habit components on your land, how different habitat features are used by specific wildlife species, and understand what you can do to create and enhance habitat opportunities. sanbornmills.org/events-calendar/

■ **SEPTEMBER 18**

NHLA Fall Field Day, Belknap County Fairgrounds, cover and page 13