

NH LA

NEWSletter

Vol. 40 No. 8

Informing and educating members of the Green Industry

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Common OSHA Safety Violations to Avoid

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration's mission is to ensure workers have safe and healthy working conditions. As such, they conduct workplace inspections regularly and when standard violations are found, citations and monetary penalties are issued.

Below is a list of some of the frequently cited OSHA standards for landscape businesses from October 2022 through September 2023.

Standard 19100132: There were 50 citations for this standard, which calls for personal protective equipment to be provided, used and maintained in a reliable condition whenever hazards or processes are capable of causing injury or impairment.

PPE typically necessary in landscaping applications includes, but is not limited to: gloves; steel-toed boots; hearing, eye, and face protection; hard hats; respirators; and chemical-resistant boots and gloves.

Stress the importance of PPE to your team and outline which tasks require what type of protective equipment. If crew members are consistently not wearing PPE, determine if it is uncomfortable,

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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

As we step into the heart of summer, I am thrilled to update you on the progress of our highly anticipated 2024 Fall Field Day. This year's Field Day promises to be our most dynamic and engaging yet, and I wanted to take a moment to share some exciting developments and key information.

Event Date and Location: Mark your calendars for September 18 when we will gather at The Belknap County Fair Grounds. Our event will run from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

We have an incredible lineup of activities and speakers planned: **Innovative Workshops:** Our workshops will cover a range of topics from advanced landscaping techniques to sustainable practices. Each session is designed to provide valuable insights and hands-on experience.

Industry Experts: We are thrilled to welcome a distinguished group of experts who will share their knowledge on emerging trends, best practices, and the future of landscaping.

Networking Opportunities: Field Day is not only about

learning but also connecting with fellow professionals. Enjoy ample networking opportunities throughout the day, including our networking lunch and evening mixer.

Exhibitor Showcase: Explore the latest products and services from leading industry suppliers. Our exhibitor showcase will feature a variety of tools, equipment, and innovations that can benefit your business.

Registration and Tickets: Registration is still open. Be sure to keep an eye on your inbox and our website for more details on how to secure your spot. Early registration will offer discounted rates, so don't miss out! Visit our website today to register.

Stay Connected: For the latest updates, event details, and behind-the-scenes peeks, follow us on Facebook.

I am excited about what we have in store and look forward to seeing you all at our Fall Field Day. Thank you for your continued support and commitment to our Association. Together, we can make this event a memorable and valuable experience for everyone involved.

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More On Fall Field Day

by Amy Papineau, UNH Extension Field Specialist

It's time for the 2024 Fall Field Day, September 18 in Belmont, NH! We hope to see you there!

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.

The 2024 Fall Field Day is a joint effort of NHLA, NHAA, and UNH Extension. If you attended last year's Fall Field Day, you know that this is an event that provides lots of opportunity for learning and connecting with others in the industry. The event is held outdoors at the Belknap County Fairgrounds, with a full field of vendors, educational sessions throughout the day, demonstrations, and opportunities to try out tools and equipment. And this year, lunch is included!

Pesticide credits, ISA credits, and NHCLP credits are available at sessions throughout the day. Whatever your focus, we've got something for you at the Fall Field Day:

Climbing Safety: Chat with Chad and Try Out Climbing Gear, Chad Gagnon, Enviro Arbor Solutions

Conifer Diseases, Tylor Edwards, UNH Extension

Cultivating Resiliency in Landscape Trees, Lindsay Watkins, UNH Extension

How to Become a NH Certified Landscape Professional (NHCLP); Abby Zuidema, NHLA

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

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

Large Perennial Planter Demo, Ben Huntington, Pleasant View Gardens

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

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

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

Production Management: What Works, What Doesn't, and the Tools to Help make Managing a Team Easier, lunch panel discussion

Safety in Chainsaw, Tree Felling, and Chipping, Neil Warner, Enviro Arbor Solutions

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

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

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

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

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

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



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Remembering Dr. Stan Swier

UNH Extension

Dr. Stan Swier passed away on August 5, 2024 after a lengthy illness. Stan was a dedicated entomologist, serving as a professor and specialist with UNH Extension from 1978 until his retirement in 2011. He authored dozens of fact sheets on insects of turf, trees, and other ornamental plants, many of which are still used in pesticide certification training. He conducted annual field trials for many years in cooperation with industry and University colleagues, comparing methods of controlling turf and ornamental insect pests. This work resulted in over 75 research reports and countless presentations at state and regional conferences. Stan was a friend to turf managers, landscape professionals, and foresters, always available for individual consultations and problem-solving. Stan was kind, caring, and fun to work with. 🦋



Stanley R. Swier Obituary

Stanley R. Swier, born on July 17, 1947, in Utica, NY, passed away at home on August 5, 2024, surrounded by family and leaving behind a legacy of dedication and service. Stan graduated from Utica College and later earned a master's degree from Northern Arizona University and a Ph.D. in entomology from Ohio State University. He served in the Army Reserves and was honorably discharged in 1976.

Stan's professional career included teaching math and science at Hancock Central School from 1969 to 1970 and working as a Cooperative Extension entomologist at the University of New Hampshire from 1978 until his retirement in 2011. He was deeply involved in his community, serving as the treasurer and a founding member of the Barrington Food Pantry for over 30 years and as the Town Moderator of Barrington for 33 years, until 2018. In recognition of his contributions, he was named Barrington Citizen of the Year in 2018. He was also a founding commissioner of the Swains Lake Village Water District, where he served for several decades.

Stan is survived by his loving wife of 52 years, Frances; his son, Robert; his sister, Sandra; nephews Shawn and Michael Smith and their families; and brother-in-law, Raymond Schwenk.

Memorial contributions in Stan's memory may be made to the Barrington Community Food Pantry or to Cornerstone VNA of Rochester. 🦋

A Tribute to Stan Swier

by Alan R. Anderson

My personal thoughts and memories:

I am deeply saddened to know that Stan Swier has passed. Stanley was as professional as they come. His dedication to being the "bug" guy at UNH Extension was a true gift to those in the landscape and golf industry. His knowledge of insects and bugs was unlimited and he was very generous in sharing his expertise and passion for his work.

I can not count how many times I have attended an educational meeting or conference where Stanley was a speaker who got to the nitty gritty on insect pests. There are only a few facts to describe life cycles of insects, but every time I listened to Stan, he added more facts, had new slides, and captured the attention of the audience. He really knew his stuff. We are all fortunate that he was so willing to give us the benefit of his knowledge, not only on the local level, but also on a national scale. He offered his insights to many horticultural events and conferences.

I can't say enough about the professional side of Stanley. He was genuinely passionate about his work and unrelenting in supporting the landscape and golf industry.

I also got to know the personal side of Stan and we shared several beers together over the years. His sense of humor was infectious. He was as serious about telling stories as he was about talking bugs, and just a fun guy to hang with. He was a member of the elite group called Seacoast Horticulture Society. We would have a meeting from time to time and discuss newsworthy topics centered around the landscape and golf industries.

Stan always brought interesting tidbits of concern to the table. Most of which turned into belly laughter with purposeful meaning.

I will cherish the memories I have with Stan and hope to catch up with him on the other side.

Rest in Peace good friend. 🦋



Alan Anderson, Jesse O'Brien, Stan Swier, Rick Simpson, Booth Hemingway, and Paul James



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Emerald Ash Borer is Here to Stay, and More

by Phil Caldwell

A couple of months ago I had a nice lunch visit with Alan Anderson to catch up on all the latest news from him. Alan is always a great source of what's going on, who has done what, and where so-and-so has gone — all the dirt!

I think I've known Alan since my early days of what was then called the Maine Nurserymen's Association, now MELNA, in the late '70s or early '80s. I believe Alan worked for Tuckahoe Turf at that time. This was long before I lived in New Hampshire, the formation of NHLA, and our active days in NHLA. We were both on the NHLA Board as time went on — hard to believe we've kept in touch for probably 45 years!

Alan told me, and shortly thereafter I read in the *Newsletter*, that the Ruth E. and Leon E. Pearson Memorial Scholarship has come to an end. This fund was a very generous gift from the Pearsons, and I'm sure they would be heartbroken to hear the scholarship was terminated. I recall applying for any grant or scholarship I qualified for while in college at Stockbridge and lived in some pretty rough places to survive! Thanks to Alan, Chuck Simpson, and all of you others who have put many hours in over the years to work on keeping these funds available to students as long as you did.

I see quite a few notes from various Maine groups about the concern of Emerald Ash Borer. (EAB). Fourteen of Maine's sixteen counties have been found to have EAB, and last I heard all but Coos county in New Hampshire had infected areas. It has

spread into Maine from both New Hampshire and Canada. We all have to do our part to inform the proper authorities of signs of EAB when we see it. It is not just the ash trees that are at stake from an ornamental standpoint, but also the spread into forest areas will be very damaging for wood (that could become extinct) that's used for everything from baseball bats to very high-end native American baskets. Please do your part to keep up on reporting the spread, and maybe we can all reduce EAB a little.

In the Spring of 2024, the City of Portland started to identify dead trees from EAB on "the peninsula." The peninsula is the area closest to the waterfront that includes many of the tourist attractions such as ferry terminals, spendy hotels, several James Beard eateries, corporate businesses, and the like. With the peninsula being the highest priority area, at least 450 diseased ash trees will be removed in the next 2-3 years by the City. This does not include any privately funded tree take downs.

The peninsula is the most urbanized area of the city. The City is trying to tag the trees with an information tag/small sign about a year before removal to forewarn the public of tree removal as well as enlighten folks that EAB is here to stay. All 450 of these locations will all be replanted, hopefully about one year after ash tree removal.

Many citizens, I'm sure, don't realize that EAB will be the largest issue we have had affecting trees since Dutch Elm Disease or Chestnut Blight. As I mentioned, the first area to be targeted with a re-planting is the peninsula,

which is only from I-295 to the waterfront. Area wise, this is a very small section of the city and not a major residential area.

At one time I subscribed to three or four trade magazines. The primary magazine I read was *American Nurseryman* which came twice a month and was one that required a paid subscription, but it was the most significant publication of the Green Industry. Like many other publications, I believe they maybe went on line first, and I think they are now out of business.

A couple of free-bees were hard copies (I always preferred a hard copy!), which I still receive. One is *Digger*, published by the Oregon Association of Nurseries (OAN). I started getting *Digger* when I belonged to OAN; now they still send it at no charge. *Landscape Architecture* and *Lawn and Landscape* are a couple more free-bees. Both of those sometimes contain too much southern or warmer climate info than I care about, but picking and choosing I can find a few

good reads. *Lawn and Landscape* usually doesn't write that much about landscaping or nursery growing, more about lawn care and maintenance and also quite a few ads, to offset the "no charge," I assume. I do usually try to kind of thumb through it however. Lately the *NHLA Newsletter* has mentioned a couple of workshops or publications by Jim Huston. Huston has written an article in *Lawn and Landscape* for years, which I occasionally read. My interest has always been more toward the nursery and plant areas, but if you are interested in the lawn business, Huston does write some very helpful articles on pricing and estimating.

I don't think too many people can complain about this year being too wet! For me, if anything, it's been a bit dry, but early August seems to help green things up a little. I hope you all have had a busy and prosperous year, and make sure to keep up on watering newly planted landscaping jobs. 🪴

— Phil Caldwell is a past president of NHLA (1989) who now lives and works in Maine.

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10th Annual NHLA Golf Tournament

by Pam & Jim Moreau

On behalf of the New Hampshire Landscape Association and the Golf Committee, we extend our sincerest gratitude to everyone who contributed to making NHLA's 10th Annual Golf Tournament a resounding success! Despite the rainy weather, it was another outstanding year for us. We are thrilled to announce that we set a new record, selling out in an impressive 8.5 hours — an achievement that highlights the tremendous support from our sponsors and dedicated golfers. The final accounting is not complete yet, but estimates show a healthy profit. Proceeds go directly to the Association to support programming and to keep us fiscally sound.

Your participation and generosity are truly invaluable to us, as they ensure the continuation of this cherished event. Despite the challenging conditions, it was heartwarming to witness everyone enjoying themselves throughout the day. Please save the date for next year's tournament on August 5, 2025 — we look forward to seeing you all again for another memorable day of golf and camaraderie!

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our major sponsors whose generous support was instrumental in making this event possible: Millican Nurseries, Inc. as Tournament Sponsor; Read Custom Soils as Dinner Sponsor; J.M. Hayden Equipment as Snack Bag Sponsor; Pierson Nurseries, Inc. as Break the Glass Sponsor; Milton Cat as Scorecard Sponsor; Bayberry & Company as Coffee



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Sponsor; Casella Organics as Hot Dog Sponsor; Unilock as Hydration Sponsor; and Walker Mower as Golf Ball Sponsor. We deeply appreciate your ongoing partnership and commitment to our organization.

We extend a special thank you to our Tee Sponsors whose contributions are ensuring the tournament's success: Alliance Outdoor Lighting, Blue Ribbon Landscaping, Bobcat of NH, Cambridge Pavingstones, Chappell Tractor, Gallo & Associates, GPS Fleet Consulting, Hunter/FX Luminaire, Ideal Concrete Block, Illumicare Group, Jeff Desrosiers Irrigation Co., Milton



Putting Contest Volunteers: Molly Miles, Lou-Ann Poor, and Bill Gardocki

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We are grateful to our raffle prize sponsors whose generous donations added excitement to the event: NHLA for the \$200 VISA Gift Card and Candia Woods Foursome; PJM Consulting LLC for the Tommy Bahama Rolling Cooler; Pam & Jim Moreau for the Odyssey Putter; Read Custom Soils for the Digital Rangefinder; and the NHLA Golf Committee for the Sun Mountain Cart Bag. Your dedication to NHLA is greatly valued.

A special thanks to the dedication of our volunteers who play a crucial role in the smooth execution of the tournament. We extend our gratitude to Bill Gardocki, retired hardscape educator; Molly Miles and Lou-Ann Poor from Simpson Landscaping Co.; Bryan Sanderson from Hunter/FX for their invaluable assistance; Anthony LaCarrubba from Illumicare Group; and to everyone involved — it takes a village!

My favorite part of the day is engaging with all the teams. We have a number of golfers who have been with us since day one, and we truly enjoy learning about them and their families. It's wonderful to witness everyone having such a great time. Golfing is an excellent choice for a company outing, and we're grateful for your participation. Thank you for your continued support!

We extend our sincere gratitude to our committed Golf Commit-



Dedication in the Rain: Matt Tomassetti, Eric Burgess, and Mike Therrien

tee members: Jim Moreau representing Gallo & Associates, Pam Moreau as NHLA Golf Tourney Manager, Matthew Tomassetti from Cambridge Pavingstone, Chuck Simpson from Simpson Landscaping Co., and Alan Anderson from Portsmouth C.C. Their leadership and dedication are integral to the success of this tournament. Lastly, a big thank you to ALL our golfers! It was a pleasure to see each of you, and we hope you had a wonderful day.

We eagerly anticipate welcoming you all back next year. Golfer registration usually starts May 1. Your continued support and participation are greatly appreciated. Thank you for your commitment to building, developing, and maintaining outstanding landscapes in our beautiful state. 🌳

Tournament Winners!

1st Place – Stephens Landscaping
John Stephens, Benoit Crowell, Brent Leighton, Jon Koch

2nd Place – GPS Fleet Consulting
Corey Fongemie, Tim Boyle, Matt Deloge, Jeff Levigne

Most Honest Team – Chappell Tractor
Jeff Morse, Dave DeJohn, Keith Anastasy, Matt Mckerley

Straightest Drive
Paul James, Lwandscape Matters

Break the Glass
Jeff Toomey, Read Custom Soils

Putting Contest – 50/50
Brian Nowak, Nowak Landscape Construction

“Always make a total effort, even when the odds are against you.”

— Arnold Palmer

More on the next page

More Memories from the 10th NHLA Golf Tournament



Oldest Team: Paul James, Chuck Simpson, Barry Robertson, and Alan Anderson



Golfing for ALL Ages: Ben Huntington, Mac Huntington, Geno Conor, and Mark Killens

Join Us Next year on August 5 – Registrations Usually Begin Around May 1



Got the Memo! Team Shirts: Justin White, Derek Jackson, Mike Sarcione, and Ryan Morrisey



Fun in the Rain: Michael Burns, Elyas Jenkins, Zak Wilcox, and Weston Trombly



Just Goofing Around: Alex Stewart, Brian Nowak, Paul Rosa, and Scott Walker

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 Pam Moreau, NHLA Golf Tourney Manager
 Matthew Tomassetti, Cambridge Pavingstone, Inc.
 Chuck Simpson, Simpson Landscaping Co.
 Alan Anderson, Portsmouth C.C.

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The 2024 Perennial Plant of the Year

J'eana' is an exceptional garden phlox renowned for its impressive flower show, tall sturdy habit, and pollinator-friendliness. Dense, domed trusses crown stiff stems from midsummer to early fall. Individually, the fragrant lavender-pink flowers are significantly smaller than typical garden phlox—only about half an inch wide—but the show at peak is eye-popping, nonetheless. This is a case where bigger is not better, from a pollinator's perspective anyhow. In trials at Mt. Cuba Center in Delaware, the nectar-rich flowers of 'Jeana' attracted more butterflies—Eastern Tiger Swallowtails were especially plentiful—than any other garden phlox in their study. Hummingbirds and other pollinators are fans too.

Topped with flowers, 'Jeana' can reach five feet tall and four feet wide, although size will vary geographically. Its bright green leaves are highly resistant to powdery mildew, so 'Jeana' has a striking summer look with or without flowers.

Tall garden phlox provide structure and color in summer gardens and are good bridging plants between early and later flowering perennials. 'Jeana' is at home in traditional borders and meadows and is a natural in pollinator gardens. Mix 'Jeana' with other tall perennials such as Amsonia, Shasta daisy, and switch grasses (*Panicum virgatum*). Or let its foliage be the backdrop for shorter companions such as Echinacea, Allium, and Salvia nemoros.

Hardiness: USDA Zones 3 to 8; AHS Heat Zones 4 to 9

Light: Full sun; afternoon shade in hot climates

Size: 36-60 inches tall; 36-48 inches wide

Soil: Moist, fertile, well-drained soils. Avoid dry conditions.

Maintenance: Divide clumps every 3-5 years in spring. Deadheading promotes continued bloom and prevents self-seeding, which can produce inferior seedlings. Powdery mildew and spider mites may be foliar problems in hot or dry conditions. Thinning out stems to improve air circulation may guard against mildew. Deer and rabbits can be pests.

Grower Notes:

- Schedule similar to other Phlox paniculata cultivars.
- For early spring sales, best potted early fall and overwintered as slow to bulk in spring. Ensure better branching / fuller gallon with an early pinch on any pot with fewer than 3 shoots.
- Does not require vernalization to flower; pot in spring and summer for summer and fall sales, respectively. Late spring / early summer pruning results in bench-friendly bloom height.
- Grower-friendly: powdery mildew resistant with no special media, fertilizer, or water requirements for finishing!



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OSHA Cont'd from p. 1

interfering with their ability to work or if they don't have the right mindset about safety. All PPE is designed to protect employees' lives, health, and senses.

Standard 19100133: A related frequently violated standard is eye and face protection. As an employer, you need to ensure workers wear eye protection when exposed to flying particles, liquid chemicals, or other threats. Each day, approximately 2,000 U.S. workers suffer job-related eye injuries that require medical treatment.

Make sure workers aren't substituting regular glasses or sunglasses for safety glasses.

Standard 13101200: If your company utilizes chemicals to treat properties, proper hazard communication is required. All chemicals need to comprehensively list their hazards and the

appropriate protective measures.

Chemicals are considered hazardous if they pose a threat to human health, are a physical hazard (flammable, explosive), or have environmental hazards. Make sure your team knows to read product labels before using a chemical and where to find safety data sheets.

Standard 19261153: This standard relates to workers who are at an increased risk of developing serious silica-related diseases. Employers are responsible for taking steps to protect employees from exposure to respirable crystalline silica.

Breathing crystalline-silica dust can cause lung cancer and silicosis, a nonreversible, often-fatal disease. Approximately 250 people in the United States die annually from silicosis, and hundreds more become disabled.

When workers cut brick or stone, or mix or cut concrete, they

can be exposed to crystalline-silica dust. Wet-cutting masonry is the best method for reducing airborne silica dust. If wet cutting isn't available, a vacuum dust collection system should be used.

Don't use a leaf blower to move dusty material or clean up gravel dust, concrete dust, or construction dirt. Instead, use a vacuum or a power broom with water. Provide respirators when dust controls cannot limit exposures to the permissible exposure limit.

Standard 19100028: This standard requires employers to provide protection to employees exposed to fall and falling object hazards. Falls are one of the leading causes of work-related deaths. Falls can be fatal even from heights of 10 feet or less.

Some ways to protect employees from falls are to educate them on when and how to properly use ladders, provide personal fall protection systems, and evaluate

fall hazards before work begins. Stress to crew members that they should not work from heights alone or if a ladder shows excessive wear or damage.

Being struck by falling objects is another risk landscape employees can encounter if they work on a job site where other trades are present on tall buildings or if an arborist is cutting tree limbs.

These hazardous zones should be roped off and head protection should be required when working in these areas.

All of these can seem like common sense safety practices, but it's easy to let things slip. Be vigilant in putting safety first in your operations to avoid unexpected fines.

— From the *National Association of Landscape Professionals newsletter, The Edge*, <https://blog.landscapeprofessionals.org/common-osa-safety-violations-to-avoid/>

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“Where crooknecks are coiling and yellow
fruit shines,
And the sun of September melts down
on the vines...”

—John Greenleaf Whittier, “The Pumpkin,”
American Quaker poet and abolitionist (1807-1892)

See the NHLA website for Newsletter copy and advertising deadlines:
nhlaonline.org/nhla-newsletter/



Calendar

■ **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 habitat 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, see page 2 and the NHLA website: nhlaonline.org/event/2024-fall-field-day/