



SPRING 2017

# Green Words

THE NEWSLETTER OF TREE • TURF • GARDEN • LAND • FOREST

I love a good spring cleaning. Throwing open all the windows, sweeping the cobwebs from the corners, and chasing the dust bunnies from their haunts is a great way to begin this season of renewal, physically and mentally. Every year at Chippers we focus on a core values theme and this year it's *Positive Thinking*. We're opening our minds, finding where negativity lurks, and house-cleaning to make space for positive thinking and conversations.



Conversations ultimately form the foundation for everything we do as an organization. When we're engaging in positive interactions, energy and enthusiasm is created and spreads. Negativity, if we let it pull us in, does just the opposite. Focusing on the positive, even in the face of challenges, can lead to outcomes and opportunities that we could never have imagined. As the Antarctic explorer Ernest Shackleton said, "Optimism is true moral courage." His astonishing odyssey proved he lived by those words.

I remain the perpetual optimist, even as change takes me outside my comfort zone. On a related note, after 14 years of publishing *Green Words*, this will be the last issue of our newsletter in this format. It's time for a freshening to make space for new ideas and approaches—next year we'll debut a new rendition. Thank you for your patronage, and as always, let's continue the conversation: [mundy@chippersinc.com](mailto:mundy@chippersinc.com).

—Mundy Wilson Piper

## Invasive Plant Control and Ecosystem Restoration

**Invasive species** may seem like an unstoppable force, but there's a lot we can do to fight back. Growing awareness coupled with public outreach efforts are helping to counteract the spread of invasives. State and federal agencies have published reams of information regarding their biology, distribution, levels of impact, and management strategies. To make things a bit easier, let's focus specifically on invasive plants (*see definitions that follow this article*).

As the negative effects of invasive plants become more apparent, they continue to gain attention every year. We are witnessing firsthand the damage being incurred to our native ecosystems as invasive plants displace native vegetation and reduce biological diversity. This loss of native plants can severely affect many species, from insects, birds, fish, amphibians and mammals.

Invasive plants can significantly lower property value by creating aesthetically displeasing monocultures, interfering with commercial crops and requiring considerable efforts to control infestations.

It's ironic that many of our worst invasive plants were originally brought here by horticulturists and gardeners with good intentions! For example,

*Every thought is a seed. If you plant crab apples, don't count on harvesting Golden Delicious.* ~BILL MEYER

Japanese knotweed was brought to the US for ornamental planting and erosion control, and garlic mustard was introduced as a culinary herb in the 1800's. Now these are two of the most devastating invasive plants that we battle in North America.

### WHAT CAN YOU DO TO FIGHT BACK?

Don't buy or plant anything that has been documented as invasive. Learn to identify the most common invasives. Vermont and New Hampshire state agencies have excellent online resources for learning about all things invasive. Remove and destroy mature seed-bearing plants. Always be on the lookout and hand pull young plants before they mature. Be careful bringing in soil from an unknown source—it might be full of invasive plant seeds. If you're just not sure where to start, call us for help.

### WHAT CAN CHIPPERS DO TO HELP?

By far the most cost effective and successful approach is called *Early Detection Rapid Response* (EDRR). This involves examining, correctly identifying

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## 2017 Dates to Note

April 22 *Earth Day*

April 28 *Arbor Day NH*

May 5 *Arbor Day VT*

May 6 *Green Up VT Day*

June 21 *1st Day of Summer*

September 22 *1st Day of Autumn*



### Think Like a Tree

Soak up the sun

Affirm life's magic

Be graceful in the wind

Stand tall after a storm

Feel refreshed after it rains

Grow strong without notice

Be prepared for each season

Provide shelter to strangers

Hang tough through a cold spell

Emerged renewed at the first signs of spring

Stay deeply rooted while reaching for the sky

Be still long enough to hear your own leaves rustling.

~ Karen I. Shragg

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the presence of invasives and mapping your property. There is a clear advantage to identifying and eliminating small or scattered infestations before they spread and become a much bigger problem. We can employ a variety of control methods involving removal and herbicide applications to kill invasive plants and prevent them from re-sprouting. Periodic monitoring and spot treatment following the main control effort is also important to knock out survivors and gauge the success of the treatment.

Chippers can take it one step further and replant treated areas with native trees, shrubs and herbs. By matching the correct plants to your soil type, we can greatly improve the health and longevity of the plantings, while reducing the need for fertilizer or pesticides. With this strategy, you really can make a positive and lasting impact on your landscape.

Invasive plant management is no easy task, but is essential for the long-term health of our land. As more people address the spread of invasives on their own properties, we can all work towards the collective goal of restoring our surrounding ecosystems. The sooner we can identify infestations, the easier and more economical it is to employ control measures. *We not only care about your life outside, but also the life of your outside!*

**NH Invasive Plants:** [www.agriculture.nh.gov/publications-forms/documents/prohibited-invasive-species.pdf](http://www.agriculture.nh.gov/publications-forms/documents/prohibited-invasive-species.pdf)

**VT Invasive Plants:** [www.vtinvasives.org](http://www.vtinvasives.org)

**Visit:** [www.plantnative.org](http://www.plantnative.org) for a list of NH and VT nurseries that carry native plants

### DEFINITIONS

**Allelopathy:** The chemical inhibition of one plant (or other organism) by another, due to the release into the environment of substances acting as germination or growth inhibitors.

**Endemic:** Native or restricted to a certain country or area.

**Exotic plant:** A plant not native to the continent on which it is now found.

**Indigenous:** Originating or occurring naturally in a particular place; native.

**Invasive plant:** A plant that is both non-native and able to establish on many sites, grow quickly, and spread to the point of disrupting plant communities or ecosystems.

**Native plant:** A plant that is a part of the balance of nature that has developed over hundreds or thousands of years in a particular region or ecosystem.

**Non-native plant:** A plant introduced with human help (intentionally or accidentally) to a new place or new type of habitat where it was not previously found.

**Gabe Kellman** *BS Forest Ecosystem Science, Maple Division Manager, ISA Certified Arborist, and NH & VT licensed Plant Health Care Technician*  
Have questions about invasives? [gabe@chippersinc.com](mailto:gabe@chippersinc.com)

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 **GREENWORDS**  
is provided free of charge to anyone who loves plants. Current and past issues are available at our website.



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**Help us be Green:** *If you are receiving this newsletter in error, or wish to be removed from our mailing list, please call toll free: 866.683.6222.*

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## Customer Forum



### TURF TALK with MR. GRASS

#### Q: Why do I need crabgrass control to be applied in the spring?

An early season pre-emergent crabgrass control treatment is an effective way to safely reduce not only crabgrass, but other annual grassy and broadleaf weeds before they germinate and infest your lawn. One treatment properly applied can protect your lawn for up to 3 or 4 months, especially in thin areas. In some cases, a second treatment may be needed in the summer if conditions are hot and or dry.

#### Q: Are tick sprays safe and do they really work?

Sprays for ticks are very effective, especially in the spring and fall when adults are the most active and seeking a food supply. A typical spray (organic or traditional) lasts for 3-4 weeks and establishes a “no-tick” zone around your house, edge of wooded areas, and fields. In terms of safety, both the traditional and organic materials are safe for kids and pets. We ask that the treated area not be used until dry as the only precaution, which usually is less than 1 hour. We think you’ll enjoy your outdoor space more without having to worry about the threat of tick bites.

### ASK OUR ARBORIST

#### Q: My neighbor has a large dead tree that leans towards my yard where my children play. Can I make them take down?

You should contact them about the tree, there is a chance they are unaware of the risk it presents. If they agree to have it removed, find

out when the work is scheduled. If they have no interest in having the tree removed, send them a letter to document your concern. Since your children play in the area the tree could fall into, have an experienced arborist assess the risk and make recommendations to prevent an accident. Give our office a call about any specific situation; there may be legal issues involved.

#### Q: I have a two-stemmed crabapple tree that has two different color blooms, was it grafted?

Many apple/crabapple trees found in the nursery are grafted to root stock. We bet you have the intended tree as one stem and the root stock as the other. If you enjoy the mixed blooms leave it as a two-stem tree. Unfortunately, the habit (form and shape of branches) will be different and it may not be the most aesthetically pleasing tree you have. If you prefer to stick with the intended cultivar, remove the root stock stem at the base and remember to remove future basal sprouts to prevent another undesired stem.

#### Q: My friend bought me a Carolina Silverbell tree (*Helesia carolina*) and I'm worried it's not hardy in Hanover. Thanks for any tips you may have.

We love this tree—great gift. This is an understory tree with a native habitat as far north as W. Virginia. It is considered a zone 4 tree but still needs a carefully selected planting location. For this tree, and for most marginally hardy “out of zone” plantings, make sure it is protected from the wind and is oriented with an eastern exposure. *Good luck!*

## MEET A CHIPPER



**Paul George** of Bridgewater has been a key member of our Chippers team for over twenty years. He moved to Vermont from his hometown of Boulder, Colorado and he soon discovered how much he liked the green and verdant landscape. “I loved the diversity of trees, tall grasses and ferns. I just had no idea things could be so lush.”

Beginning as a vegetation-control technician, Paul is now a Crew Leader and climbing arborist in Woodstock. He is one of our most respected field arborist; many of our staff request to work with Paul as he is an excellent coach and team leader. He’s an ISA Certified Arborist, holds a CDL-A, and is about to earn his CTSP qualification.

Paul has seen and enjoyed the growth of Chippers first hand. “I originally stayed because of the camaraderie. Now I stay because of the career advancement and opportunities to learn new skills. When I get up into the canopy of a large tree I think, ‘I have the best office in the world’.”

When not at work he spends time with his wife Becky and their almost two-year-old son Andrew. He skis, hikes, snowshoes and snowmobiles.

At Chippers recent 30th Anniversary celebration, Paul was recognized as the employee who best represents our Core Value of Professionalism. He is an outstanding technical arborist and approaches all aspects of his job as a consummate professional. *Thanks for all you do for us Paul!*

**LIVE a chippers LIFE**

accountability communication hard work integrity positive professionalism excellence reliability safety

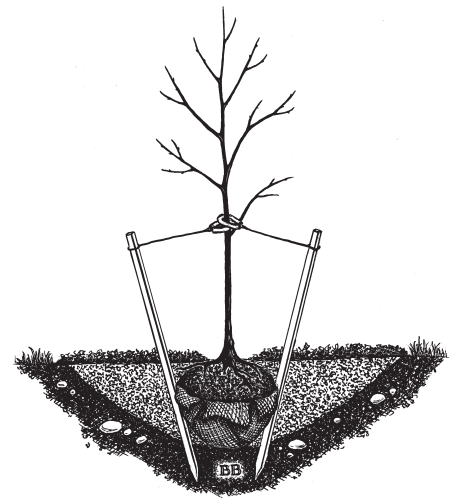


*I always feel at home where the sugar maple grows...glorious in autumn, a fountain of coolness in summer, sugar in its veins, gold in its foliage, warmth in its fibers, and health in it the year round.* —JOHN BURROUGHS (1837-1921)

### Maple Flower Farm *Vermont Flower Workshops*

As the days warm, our dreams of spring start feeling more and more real (even in the midst of mud season!), and one can't help thinking about this year's flower gardens. For DIY inspiration and education there is no better option than to attend one of Liz Krieg's workshops at her Maple Flower Farm in Bethel, VT. The consummate horticultural educator and the founder of our Garden Division at Chippers, her small working flower farm will offer a variety of workshops this summer that are sure to inspire beautiful gardens at your home.

*Reserve now, space is limited:* [www.mapleflowerfarm.com/workshops](http://www.mapleflowerfarm.com/workshops)



### CELEBRATE ARBOR DAY

**Friday, April 28  
in New Hampshire**  
(state tree is the *Paper birch*)

**Friday, May 5 in Vermont**  
(state tree is the *Sugar maple*)

Planting a tree is a lasting and personal way to celebrate the life of a loved one, a new home, the birth of a child or any special occasion.

Visit the Arbor Day Foundation at [www.arborday.org](http://www.arborday.org) for more ideas and to learn more about this unique 145-year-old holiday.

BOOKS

### Our Current Favorite Reads

*The Hidden Life of Trees: What They Feel, How They Communicate*  
by Peter Wohlleben

*The Thing with Feathers: The Surprising Lives of Birds and What They Reveal About Being Human* by Noah Strycker

*Planting in a Post-Wild World: Designing Plant Communities for Resilient Landscapes* by Thomas Rainer and Claudia West

### We're Always Hiring Awesome People!

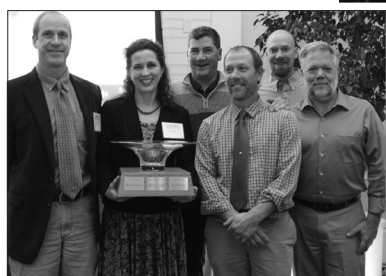
Chippers is the premier provider of Green Care Services in central New Hampshire & Vermont, and we're always on the lookout for career-minded men and women who want to work with the latest equipment and technology, making a difference to the health and beauty of our communities. At Chippers, we strive to put team collaboration and continuous quality improvement at the center of our core values. If you know a positive-minded professional, who strives for excellence, is safety-conscious, and has a passion for all things green and growing, we want to talk with him or her about joining our Chippers family.

**Contact us:**

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email: [jobs@chippersinc.com](mailto:jobs@chippersinc.com)  
call Greg: 802.457.5100



*Dan and Cody review the work for a client's property < Celebrating the 2016 Hanover Chamber of Commerce Small Business Innovator of the Year Award*



### ...FROM THE CHIP OFFICE

**Turf and PHC contracts for 2017 have been sent out...**

Let us know if you have not received yours.

**We are going greener...**

We'd be happy to send your contracts and invoices via email.  
Email: [contactus@chippers.inc](mailto:contactus@chippers.inc)

**chippers**

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*We're All About Your Life Outside*