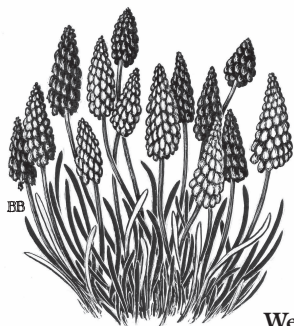




SPRING 2009
Upper Valley Edition

Green Words

Tree Preservation • Turf & Soil Care • Forestry • Land Enhancement



Welcome to the beginning of spring with its changing light, inevitable mud, and eventual greening. For me it's also a new era of deeply appreciating the simple things in life that aren't really 'things': my family, friends, community, health, humor, and the beauty of nature, to name a few.

In this issue our main article offers good tree and shrub planting advice for attracting more friendly critters into your outdoor living spaces. Our green care professionals can also offer you recommendations for other cost effective ways to enhance your outdoor enjoyment and help maintain the value of your property—as always, our consultations are complimentary.

Visit our team once again at the 2009 Hanover HomeLife Show at Leverone Field House, Dartmouth College on Friday through Sunday March 27-29, and bring the completed coupon found within this newsletter to enter our drawing for \$1000 worth of tree work at your property!

—Will Russell

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CREATE A HAVEN IN YOUR BACKYARD: Plant Native Trees & Shrubs to Attract Birds and Other Friends

Mundy Wilson, *Garden Consultant*

One of my family's greatest year-round pleasures is watching and hearing the birds around our home. The color and movement of songbirds at the feeder is especially welcome during the winter months, when the rest of the landscape is relatively bare and still. And listening to the song of the black-capped chickadees while tending the garden on an early summer's morning is absolutely sublime. For the past few summers we've also been blessed with a barn full of bats that keep our mosquito populations down, a plethora of bees that pollinate our apple trees and blueberry bushes, and many varieties of brilliant butterflies that dance all over the perennial beds.

There are dozens of excellent resources with hints about attracting friendly critters to your yard (*see a few below*). In this article we're going to focus specifically on the native trees and shrubs for Vermont and New Hampshire that we like for providing nesting, roosting or foraging opportunities for *B-scaping*, that is, landscaping for birds, bats, bees and butterflies.

Native trees and shrubs naturally occur in the region in which they evolved, over time adapting to local soil, rainfall and temperature conditions, as

well as developing natural defenses to many insects and diseases. These traits often allow native trees and shrubs to grow with the minimal use of water, fertilizers and pesticides, an economical and ecological benefit for all involved. And most importantly for *B-scaping* your yard, animal species evolve along with plants using indigenous plant communities as their habitat. Thus, planting native trees and shrubs helps to preserve the balance and beauty of natural ecosystems, while simultaneously providing you with the excitement and entertainment of birds, bats, bees and butterflies.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service suggests planting your yard in layers to mimic the natural habitat of the forest. Choose a variety of sizes and species from our list of native recommendations, or contact our Consulting Arborist Cal Felicetti for a personal *B-scaping* evaluation of your property.

—continues page 2

*"Spring is when you
feel like whistling
even with a shoe full
of slush."*

—DOUG LARSON

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Spring Song

Hark, I hear a robin calling!
List, the wind is from the south!
And the orchard-bloom is falling
Sweet as kisses on the mouth.

In the dreamy vale of beeches
Fair and faint is woven mist,
And the river's orient reaches
Are the palest amethyst.

Every limpid brook is singing
Of the lure of April days;
Every piney glen is ringing
With the maddest roundelays.

Come and let us seek together
Springtime lore of daffodils,
Giving to the golden weather
Greeting on the sun-warm hills.

—Lucy Maud Montgomery

—continued from page 1

TALL TREES

Maples (*Red, Silver, or Sugar*)
Birches (*White/Paper and Yellow*)
White ash
Oaks
(*White, Pin, Bur and Northern red*)
Big-toothed and Quaking aspen
Black cherry
Balsam fir
White or Red Spruce
Eastern White pine
Northern White cedar
Eastern hemlock (*locally grown only*)
Tamarack (*Eastern larch*)
Basswood

SHORTER & UNDERSTORY TREES

American beech
American hornbeam
Chokecherry
Striped and
Mountain maple
Winterberry
Dogwood
(*Pagoda, Silky, Flowering, zone 5*)
Serviceberry
(*Apple, Downy, Allegheny, Shadblow*)



American hazelnut
Pussy willow
Common witchhazel
Hop-hornbeam (*aka Ironwood*)
Viburnum (*Nannyberry and Blackhaw*)



SHRUBS

Elderberry
Bunchberry
Redosier dogwood
Black chokeberry
Viburnum (*Mapleleaf, Witherod,
Arrowwood, Cranberrybush*)
Mountain cranberry
Sumac (*Fragrant, Shining, Smooth
and Staghorn*)
Blackberry
Blueberry (*Lowbush and Highbush*)
Raspberry
Juniper

Perennials, grasses, vines and ground-
covers are also important components
of landscaping for the Bs – *see our source
list below for more information.*

OTHER TIPS FOR SUCCESSFUL “B-SCAPING”

- Provide a birdbath or other small water source, changing the water every couple of days to prevent mosquito breeding
- Hang feeders (take down in the spring if bears are a problem)
- Put out spoiled fruit
- Hang nesting boxes for various species
- Compost garden and kitchen waste to increase insect populations for bird & bat food
- Practice tolerance of wildlife needs: untidy areas, share your berries in season
- Keep your cat in at dawn and dusk and fit him or her with a warning bell
- Minimize potential harm to birds, bats and beneficial insects by using pesticides only when absolutely necessary and by using them properly, choosing natural or organic products first
- Leave wild “buffer” areas of native plants along ravines, streams, shorelines and fence lines

Sources: www.nwf.org/backyard/ • www.audubonathome.org/Healthy_Yard.html www.epa.gov/epawaste/conservation/rrr/greenscapes/owners.htm
www.windstar.org/index.cfm • www.wildflower.org/ • www.uvm.edu/extension/

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ASK THE ARBORIST: *Customer Forum*

Q: I heard that there are some pretty bad insects coming to our area. Can you tell me about them?

A: Yes, there are some very destructive insects closing in on the Northern New England area. These insect pests are called exotic because they are not native to our country and have no natural enemies. The three listed below are considered the most threatening.

Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB)

Native to China and other parts of eastern Asia, this insect hitched a ride over to the US in crating material shipped to NY City in the 1980s. It has affected areas in New York, New Jersey and Chicago, IL. More recently and of the greatest concern to New England was the discovery of ALB in Worcester, MA, during the summer of 2008. Removal of 6000 infested trees began last January. Host species include all of the maples, horse chestnut, poplar, willow, birch and elm. The ALB will travel up to 400 yards in search of host trees but is more likely to make it to our area in firewood. Its lifecycle begins when a mated adult ALB chews individual depressions into the host tree's bark where it lays its eggs. In a couple of weeks the larvae emerge and tunnel into the tree, eventually ending up in the heartwood where they pupate, become adults and exit the tree leaving perfectly round 1 cm holes, usually in spring and summer. Eradication is difficult and painful requiring the removal of thousands of trees in the quarantined areas.

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA)

This insect pest appears to have originated in southern Japan and was introduced to the Pacific Northwest in 1924. Its introduction to the northeast was probably in 1951, first reported near Richmond, Virginia. To date it has affected more than 16 states from Maine to Georgia. HWA is dispersed by wind, birds and other forest dwelling mammals and the transport of infested nursery stock. HWA threatens the health and sustainability of the Canadian and Carolina hemlock species. Hemlock decline and mortality typically occur within 4 to 10 years of infestation in our northern range. These parthenogenetic insects (all females reproducing asexually)

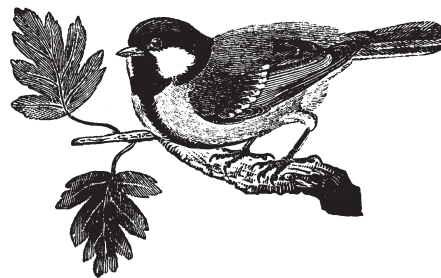
develop through six stages completing two generations per year on hemlocks. It is during the heat of the summer that the nymph enters a period of dormancy, feeding as temperatures cool in the fall and throughout the winter. HWA feed on stored starches critical to the trees' growth and long-term survival. The "wool" (ovisacs) can be seen from late fall to early summer on the underside of the outermost branch tips of hemlock trees. Control is possible in the urban landscape utilizing various chemical pesticides along with horticultural oil and insecticidal soap. Unfortunately, our forests face the greatest risk.

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)

This exotic beetle from Asia was discovered in southeastern Michigan in 2002. Like the Asian Longhorned Beetle it probably arrived in crating materials originating in its native Asia. Affected states include: Michigan, Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia and Wisconsin. Probably the greatest concern to us is the recently found infestation in Quebec. It is likely to arrive in our area in firewood moved from a quarantined area. All North American ash species are susceptible. Emerging females mate and lay eggs individually in bark crevices on the trunk and major branches. The eggs hatch in about a week with the small larvae boring through the bark and into the cambium area where they feed on the phloem creating long serpentine galleries. Larvae continue development through late summer and into fall when they begin the pupae stage and emerge as adults in spring leaving 3-4 mm wide D-shaped holes. Eradication is difficult and painful, requiring the removal of thousands of trees in the quarantined areas.

—**Cal Felicetti**, *ASCA Member Consulting Arborist, ISA Certified Arborist*

[Please email your tree related questions to: askthearborist@chippersinc.com.]



MEET A CHIPPER



Jesse Wheadon of Pomfret, VT is one of our very talented Plant Health Care Technicians based in our Woodstock location. Jesse grew up in Elmira, New York and spent four years as a member of the U.S. Air Force based in Missouri. After completing his tour of duty as an aircraft mechanic for the B2 Stealth Bomber, he moved to Columbia, MO where he spent a year working for a lumber mill.

Ever since his sister moved to Vermont in 1996 Jesse had the same dream, and he and his fiancée moved to Pomfret in the fall of 2004. He began working on our Land Enhancement crew, and then became interested in the plant health care program, earning applicator's licenses in both ornamentals and agriculture. In the fall of 2008 Jesse and Shannon married in a lovely backyard ceremony and reception under the trees at their home.

Jesse enjoys card games and motor sports of all varieties, painting with oils and acrylics, and spending time with Shannon and their cat Rasta.

Spring Check List

- ☐ Visit local home and garden shows
- ☐ Order next year's firewood
- ☐ Call for free estimate for Natural Turf Care
- ☐ Plan to protect trees from any pending construction
- ☐ Prune shrubs
- ☐ Have trees professionally inspected
- ☐ Test soil
- ☐ Remove protective mulch
- ☐ Turn over gardens and add compost
- ☐ Sharpen mower blades
- ☐ Fertilize trees & lawns
- ☐ Divide summer & fall blooming perennials
- ☐ Be on the watch for tent caterpillar webs
- ☐ Mow lawns 3" high & leave clippings – Call for more information

VISIT US AT THE 2009 HANOVER HOMELIFE SHOW

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Friday 2-9, Saturday 10-9,
Sunday 9-4

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*“Even if I knew that tomorrow
the world would go to pieces,
I would still plant
my apple tree.”*

—MARTIN LUTHER (1483-1546)



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