NHLA Members Visit Home Landscape Lighting Demonstration

Ben Holmes of Rye Beach Landscaping, standing on the rock at right, generously invited NHLA members to his home to view the lighting display, pond, and perennial gardens.

The 32' by 16' pond

20+ NHLA members attended.

Jeff Crean from Bisco discusses low voltage lighting. Photos by Diane Perkins.

Twilight Meetings are a great way to see the work of your fellow members, meet other landscapers, and learn more about our profession. If you have an idea for a Twilight Meeting location for next spring and summer, contact Diane Perkins at dlpplants@comcast.net
For NH Legislators, the past year was newsworthy in a few different ways for NHLA membership. See the sidebar for a brief synopsis of bills that have been passed in to law, or proposed bills that are in committee review longer. When the legislature reconvenes, you will be able to read reviews of the proposed bills for the session in our NHLA newsletter, as part of the work the legislative committee has undertaken.

We’ll be having a Round Table discussion with some State Representative members of the Agriculture and Environment Committee in November. This will offer us the chance to meet some of the members and discuss different topics which the landscape business feels important for the State Reps to understand. The format will be just that, a “round table” discussion – a different topic presented at each of six tables, and people travel in timed sessions between the tables to meet and discuss that topic with the representative. This event is designed to give us the chance to have an overview, but moreover, a “give and take” of information, so that we can have a strong place to begin further discussions down the road.

Each representative on the Ag and Environment Committee has been given a CD copy of the interview on NHPR’s Morning Edition program “starring” Dr. Stan Swier et al from UNH on the issues about Asian Longhorn Beetle and Emerald Ash Borer, among other invasive pests. It is the belief of the Legislative Committee that we will likely need to be discussing these pests in other formats, lamentably, in the future, so we’d like to know a bit more about each other now!

If you are interested in joining the Legislative Committee of NHLA, please contact Cris Blackstone, Gold Star Tree & Turf Farm, 250 West Road, Canterbury, 03224, or telephone, 800-648-8873, e-mail, cblackstone@goldstarttf.com.

Synopsis of Legislative Activity

**Bills signed in to law:**

HB 48 — Establishing a committee on Agriculture in the Classroom within the Department of Agriculture, Markets and Food.

HB 61 — Establishing a definition of “sustainable energy” for purposes of Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Energy Board.

HB 70 — amends the law regarding the taking of stone by specifically listing stone from a stone wall and loam, and provides for treble damages based on the cost of materials and restoration, including attorney’s fees and costs HB 189, enabling municipalities to establish energy commissions.

SB 60 — establishing a commission to study water infrastructure sustainability funding.

SB 134-FN — making various technical changes to the Comprehensive Shoreland Protection Act.

SB 195, modifying the procedures for the trimming, cutting or removal of trees by utilities.

**Bills retained by committees for study:**

HB 222 — requiring the DES to consider direct and indirect impacts of project proposals on the wetlands.

HB 232 — permitting the Pesticide Control Board to establish pesticide fees.

HB 487 — enabling municipalities to adopt a property tax exemption for compliance with green building standards.

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Enjoy the foliage with us. Come tag trees now for the spring dig. Early tagging qualifies you for special pricing on the trees. Whether you are purchasing one tree, or dozens, we can give you the best pricing at this time for your spring goals.

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**Plant of the Month**

*Cephalotaxus harringtonia ‘Prostrata’*

Prostrate Japanese Plum Yew

Zone 5  
*Plant Type:* Shrub  
*Foliage:* Evergreen, nearly black, sharp, slender needles  
*Height:* 2 ft. to 3 ft.  
*Width:* 3 ft.  
*Sunlight:* Full Sun, Partial Sun

Finally a low-growing yew-like plant that the deer don’t like. The Plum Yew can handle many conditions including full shade and dry conditions, and is very heat tolerant. However, it may struggle in extreme winter winds. Its needles hold a good dark green color throughout the winter.

*This Plant of the Month submitted by:*

Jeff Edmond  
Millican Nurseries, Chichester NH

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About four years ago I had an interesting experience with a new account I had acquired. The company that had been maintaining the property was now only doing the mowing, and I would be taking care of perennials, shrubs, and small trees.

One of the first things on my agenda was to remove some of the bark mulch around the trees that was at least 4” too deep. The lawn maintenance contractor saw me raking the bark away from the trees and asked if I didn’t believe in “planting in mounds”? Being a little perplexed, I told him that planting in mounds, or berms as I would call them, was fine, but mulching too deep is harmful to the trees. I told him that if the flare at the base of the trunk wasn’t visible, then the tree was either planted too deep or mulched too high. He proceeded to tell me that he “Didn’t believe in that theory,” to which I replied, “Well, it was a proven fact when I was in college, over 25 years ago.” Needless to say he didn’t like my reply!

I would venture to guess, just by driving around looking at landscape jobs, that close to 90% of the trees on properties have more mulch than they should. Most people just add a couple inches every year and don’t remove any of the existing mulch. Some of the guilty are homeowners not in the know, but a lot of the crime is committed by those in the trade that own a pick-up and call themselves “landscapers.”

A couple of the trees had started to develop signs of rot and scars on the base of the trunks. My guess is if the mulch wasn’t so deep, the scars would have healed and not started to rot. The root system was very weak and its days appeared to be numbered. I rest my case!

Many landscapers re-mulch every spring as a freshen up, spring clean up thing. If a new coat of bark is desired, it is usually necessary to scrape away some of the old to maintain the proper “Planting Depth.”

Being the nerd that I am, I often pull into grocery store or office parking lots and look at the landscapes. Often they look pretty with newly mulched beds. The scary part is, as I scrape away bark from tree trunks, or can’t see the flare at the base of trunks, mulch is too high on the trunks, rot is starting to show. Some trees are more prone than others, but you might as well read them their last rights. Their days are numbered. Kiss them good by.

Note: I started writing this article a couple of years ago. After some organic fertilizer, high in phosphorus for root growth, and a good hit of nitrogen, the top growth for the trees at this site has been about 2-3” per year. This year, after two years of intense TLC the root system seems to have become much more secure. There is a lot less “wobble” when I gently shake the tree. My fingers are crossed that a rebound is happening for this very pretty Nyssa—an unusual, in my opinion, pretty tree worthy of landscape use.
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A Rain Garden Twilight Meeting was hosted by UNHCE and Comprehensive Environmental in September. Those in attendance were given a presentation about the Pennichuck Square stormwater demonstration project which is next to the Pennichuck Brook and is part of drinking water supply to the community of Nashua and portions of Amherst, Merrimack, and Milford.

In the summer of 2005, working with Pennichuck Water Works and NHDES, Comprehensive Environmental Inc. was responsible for the design and construction of a project demonstrating the use of Low Impact Development (LID) elements. Over a period of five weeks, this already developed commercial area was retrofitted with design elements that included rain gardens, biofilter/bio-retention areas, leaching catch basins, and permeable pavers/porous asphalt areas. As a result of the above features, stormwater runoff from the site has been reduced by 88%, nearly eliminating nonpoint source pollution generated at this site from entering the brook.

Afterwards attendees visited Eileen Pannetier’s home. She is the president and water quality expert for Comprehensive Environmental. She gave a tour and explained how the series of rain gardens at her home were constructed to capture and infiltrate stormwater runoff that eventually made its way to the Merrimack River watershed.

What makes this project unique is that three different rain garden techniques were employed, taking all four seasons into consideration in both design and function. Primarily native plants were used; each selected to grow in various depths of water and soil moisture conditions. There are also several other landscaped areas, many with unique features and plant material.

A thank you is in order to Margaret Hagen from UNHCE and Eileen Pannetier and the folks of Comprehensive Environmental for putting on this very informative presentation, providing wonderful weather, and apples and cookies for all. 🍏
Minutes of the August 4 NHLA Board of Directors Meeting

Present: Pres. Jon Batson, Dave DeJohn, Jennifer Roth, Peter Debrusk, Scott Gould; Absent: Matt Gunn, Mick Sheffield, Guy Hodgdon; Professionals: Diane Perkins

Committee Chairs: Cris Blackstone

1. Jon opened the meeting at 6:30 pm.

2. Minutes of the July meeting were reviewed. Dave motioned to approve the minutes as written. Seconded by Scott. Unanimously approved.

3. Jen distributed the Treasurer’s report. Our current checking account balance is $13,669.22. The savings account stands at $3,013.50. Scott motioned to approve the Treasurer’s report as submitted. Seconded by Pete. Unanimously approved.

4. Diane reported on progress made in organizing and promoting upcoming events including the fall business meeting, slated for October 24; the Dirr event of October 2; and the Joint Winter Conference set for January 19th. Considering feedback from the last twilight meeting, it was decided that sign-in sheets, name tags and introductions of attendees should be included at Twilight Meetings.

5. Dave reported that code is being written for the new website, but that the launch date is dependent on gathering yet outstanding content from various committee heads, a process that has proven to be slow given the busy time of the season.

6. Cris inquired about setting a date for an informal meeting with Agricultural and Environmental Committee members to discuss legislative issues of concern to NHLA members. Wednesday, October 14 has been chosen as a target date.

7. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Jennifer Roth, Sec./Treasurer

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☐ Arborist  ☐ Garden Center  ☐ Horticulture Consultant
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☐ Landscape Designer  ☐ Lawn Maintenance  ☐ Licensed Pesticide Applicator
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Would you be willing to serve on an NHLA Committee?  ☐ Yes  ☐ No

Please detach and return application to:
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MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY APPLYING FOR:

(Please check one.)

☐ MEMBER: Someone actively engaged in the landscape industry or allied professions or industries. Annual Dues: $120.00

Prorated dues schedule for regular members

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Payment Date</th>
<th>Percentage of Dues to be Paid</th>
<th>Dues</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 1-Nov. 30</td>
<td>100% (15 mo. for 12)</td>
<td>$120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 1-Feb. 28</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>$90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 1-May 31</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>$60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

☐ STUDENT MEMBER: Full-time student of horticulture-related studies. Annual Dues: $25.00

Sept. 1-Aug. 31. No pro-rated fees available. Student rate is $25 throughout the year.

I hereby apply for membership and I agree to abide by the By-Laws established by the New Hampshire Landscape Association.

SIGNATURE

DATE

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“Harmony with land is like harmony with a friend; you cannot cherish his right hand and chop off his left”

—Aldo Leopold (1887-1948)

Copy for the NHLA Newsletter must be received on the 1st of the month prior to publication date. Ads are due the 10th of the month prior to publication.

OCTOBER 13
Asian Longhorned Beetle Informational Meeting, Asian Longhorned Beetle Informational Meeting, 6-7:30 pm, Harold S. Gilman Museum, Main Street, Alton, NH, no cost, call the Belknap County Extension Office to register at 527-5475.

OCTOBER 15
Getting Ahead of the Curve – NH Garden Center Fall Preview, 8 am - 3:30 pm, tour of Rolling Green Nursery, Greenland, NH, followed by a full day of seminars at the Great Bay Discovery Center. Featured speaker is Ellen Wells of GreenProfit Magazine. http://extension.unh.edu/events/

OCTOBER 17

OCTOBER 21
Asian Longhorned Beetle Informational Meeting, Asian Longhorned Beetle Informational Meeting, 6-7:30 pm, Laconia Public Library, 695 Main Street, Laconia, NH, no cost, call the Belknap County Extension Office to register at 527-5475.

OCTOBER 22
Art in Bloom at the Hood Museum of Art, Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH; 8:30 am – 3 pm; with Charles Nardozzi, National Gardening Association, and Julie Moir Messervy, http://hoodmuseum.dartmouth.edu/about/support/memberevent.html

NOVEMBER 18-20
NH Government Center’s 68th Annual Conference; Radisson Hotel, Manchester, NH; municipal administration, planning and land use issues with Exhibit Hall, 603-224-7447

NOVEMBER 20-21
Watershed Conference; Grappone Conference Center, Concord, NH, 603-271-2155

OCTOBER 24
NHLA Fall Business Practices Meeting, NHTI, see pages 4-5

NOVEMBER 2
Asian Longhorned Beetle Informational Meeting, Asian Longhorned Beetle Informational Meeting, 6-7:30 pm, Sullivan County Farm, Ahern Building, County Farm Rd., Unity, NH, no cost, call the Belknap County Extension Office to register at 527-5475.

JANUARY 19, 2010
Joint Winter Meeting, NHLA, NHPGA

FEBRUARY 3-5
New England Grows, Boston Convention and Exhibition Center, Boston, MA, www.newenglandgrows.org/

FEBRUARY 25