



## Press Release For Immediate Distribution

Massachusetts Tree Wardens & Foresters Association  
*Since 1913...The Protection and Preservation of Trees*

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 7, 2009

#### **Orleans Tree Warden Recognized as Tree Warden of the Year**

January 7, 2009, Sturbridge MA. The Massachusetts Tree Warden's and Forester's Association (MTWFA) presented its Seth Swift Memorial Tree Warden of the Year Award to Mr. Daniel Connolly, Tree Warden for the Town of Orleans.

Mr. Connolly has been the Town of Orleans Tree Warden for over 17 years. His stewardship of the community's trees has raised awareness in a town where outdoor views are a great priority. His ability to communicate the importance of trees and their environmental benefits has focused attention on the community forest as well as on the great ocean views.

Dan's amicable communication style and tact have helped forge a strong community alliance in Orleans. A strong network of support for the town's trees has been formed as a direct result of his ability to partner with various town departments, including the Highway Department, Parks and Beaches, Planning and private civic groups such as the Orleans Improvement Association..

Over the years Dan has accomplished:

- Received a [DCR](#) tree inventory grant to complete a town wide tree inventory.
- Completed over  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a town wide tree inventory
- Used GPS to map the trees and incorporate them into the town's GIS within the [Planning Department](#).
- Organized an Annual Arbor Day Event to support community awareness and support of the town's trees.
- Served on the [Massachusetts Tree Wardens' & Foresters Association Executive Board](#) for industry involvement and public support.
- Requested and received grants for purchasing and planting of shade trees for the Town of Orleans
- Built community initiatives based on greening the town through a relationship with the [Orleans Improvement Association](#).
- Earned the 2003 CapeCod [AmeriCorps](#) Leaf Award for his excellent services as Tree Warden
- Earned Tree City USA awards for over 10 years.
- Developed a [Tree Department Webpage](#) on the Orleans Webpage

Dan Connolly was recognized by his peers at the Massachusetts Tree Wardens' and Foresters' Association for his commitment working with his community and dedication as Tree Warden for the Town of Orleans.



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The MTWFA will hold an Arbor Day Celebration with a commemorative tree planting in honor of Dan's award in April 2009. Specific details about the location of the planting will be announced by the end of March. Details will be posted on the Association's website: [www.masstreewardens.org](http://www.masstreewardens.org).

The Massachusetts Tree Wardens' and Foresters' Association is recognized as the nation's oldest urban and community tree protection organization, having been formed in 1913 for the preservation and protection of trees. The Tree Warden of the Year Award was presented to Mr. Dan Connolly by President Melissa LeVangie at the Association's 96th Annual Meeting at the Host Hotel in Sturbridge, MA on January 7, 2009 with Vice-President, Kevin Weber.

Tree Wardens are municipal positions required under Massachusetts General Laws to protect public shade trees within the 351 cities and towns of the Commonwealth. For more information on the position of Tree Wardens, what they do, and information about the Association, visit their website at [www.masstreewardens.org](http://www.masstreewardens.org).

**Melissa LeVangie**

President, Massachusetts Tree Wardens' & Foresters' Association

For more information visit: <http://masstreewardens.org/SethSwiftTreeWardenOfTheYearAward.html>