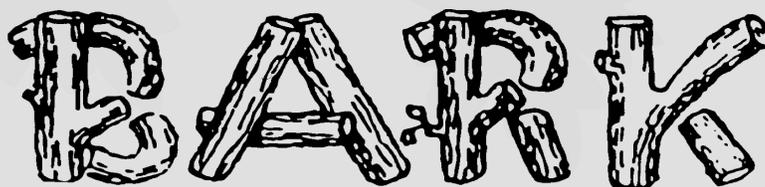


Massachusetts Tree Wardens and Foresters Association

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March 27, 1913 • Dr. George E. Stone, Founder



2016

Issue 2
Summer

MASSACHUSETTS FOREST HEALTH UPDATES

Gypsy Moth Populations On the Rise

RAYNHAM – Not long ago, a familiar but uninvited guest began to show up on Kathy Voller's north Raynham property.

The dreaded gypsy moth caterpillars were back in Voller's two acres of forest and she knew what would happen next. About five years ago, her landscaping was devastated by the insects.

So when they showed up recently, Voller didn't pick up bug spray — she picked up the phone. "We tried things ourselves but realize that with this much land, a professional was needed," Voller said. "We had it sprayed two weeks ago and all signs of them are gone."

Voller's proactive approach is necessary because after years of decline, numbers of gypsy moth caterpillars are surging across Massachusetts. The insects have been stripping leaves off trees across large pockets of the state.

"I would say almost surely this is the

Continued on page 5

Emerald Ash Borer: Now in Worcester and Wilbraham

WORCESTER - If it's not one pest it's another, as demonstrated by a roughly 35 foot-tall white ash tree at the end of Clarendon Street that is being killed by the emerald ash borer.

"It's the first (infested) tree found in Worcester County, and it was found by one of our surveyors for Asian longhorned beetle," Ken Gooch, director of the Forest Health Program with the state Department of Conservation and Recreation, said

Continued on page 4

WILBRAHAM – On May 5, 2016, officials from the United States Department of Agriculture confirmed the presence of emerald ash borer (EAB) in Wilbraham, the first detection in Hampden County. A private arborist saw exit holes and extensive "blonding" of bark on several ash trees on a private property near Bruer Pond and contacted state officials. Staff from

Continued on page 4

Eastern White Pines Showing Severe Decline

During the spring of 2016, a dramatic decline of eastern white pine (*Pinus strobus*) has been observed throughout southern New England. Needles of mature trees become straw-colored to brown before they are prematurely shed from the canopy. In some cases, only a few main branches are symptomatic whereas on other trees, the entire canopy exhibits the symptoms. One feature of the decline is that despite significant needle browning and premature shedding in the canopy, the current season's needles are elongating and appear healthy.

Based on observations from arborists, landscapers and homeowners made to the UMass Plant Diagnostic Laboratory (UMPD), white pine decline seems to be especially severe in southeastern New Hampshire, eastern Massachusetts and eastern Connecticut. The cause of this dramatic decline event is not yet

Continued on page 6

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MTWFA MASSACHUSETTS TREE WARDENS' AND FORESTERS' ASSOCIATION



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Spring-Summer-Fall-Winter



From the President

It appears as if the rush of the spring season is finally slowing down. I am sure most of you have been going full tilt for the past three months, as everyone else is enjoying the outdoors and recreating and you are trying to keep up with the growing season and all the work requests.

The MTWFA Arbor Day event this year was held in Chelsea to honor Tree Warden of the Year Andy DeSantis, MCA. Many Chelsea city officials attended the planting of a beautiful pink-flowering *Cornus kousa*. Several people spoke to the gathering about the fine work that Andy has done for the City of Chelsea. His co-operative efforts with the National Arbor Day foundation, Massachusetts DCR, the Patriots Foundation, Chelsea Green Space and Urban Institute, Phoenix Academy, NSTAR and TD Bank have all contributed toward the planting of more than 1,000 trees around the city. Andy was responsible for the training that was conducted – in both Spanish and English – for the Chelsea DPW staff and all the volunteers. He even went the extra mile to connect with the Chelsea youth volunteers by conducting “midnight plantings,” so when some residents woke up in the morning and looked out their window, a new tree had been planted in front of the house! Congratulations to Andy and best of luck in his semi-retirement from public works.

Our association put on two excellent PDS programs over the course of the spring. The EHAP training in Wellesley was well attended. Many thanks to our instructor Dave Hawkins for helping us offer this important safety program on a topic of daily relevance for most of us doing our jobs. Thanks also go out to Kent Warren and the Wellesley DPW and Municipal Light staffs for hosting the two-day event. On May 17th, the Needham DPW hosted Rick Harper and David Lefcourt for a workshop on proper planting and care techniques for new trees. The room was full, the information being presented was well organized, and the participants had great interaction and discussion on this most important topic. Needham Tree Warden Ed Olsen provided three trees that were planted by the group using the methods explained by the presenters. MTWFA will have another tree planting training session in Fall River this fall, and I highly recommend you bring your DPW crews to this excellent educational event.

The DCR hosted the Tree City USA awards at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester this past month. The guest speakers included Ruth Seward, the director of the non-profit Worcester Tree Initiative, who gave an excellent talk on how her community rose to the challenge in the face of ALB to unite the people to re-plant the city. Many towns, cities, colleges, and utilities attended the daylong event, but not enough. DCR Commissioner Leo Roy spoke and reported that only 83 towns and cities out of the 351 total in Massachusetts are designated Tree City USA. This number needs to increase, and I challenge everyone to get out and have your town or city get involved. This is a great program of the National Arbor Day Foundation that is overseen by DCR’s Julie Coop and Mollie Freilicher.

Finally, as the fiscal year comes to a close for all of us municipal types, I would like to remind all of the Tree Wardens that M.G.L. Chapter 87, Section 2 states that “the Tree Warden **SHALL** expend all money appropriated for the setting out and maintenance of such trees, shrubs and growths” within the right-of-way. You are obligated by law to do so. I know that a lot of us are easily accomplishing this and maybe looking for more funding.

So, this is where the Tree City USA designation comes into play. When applying for grant money, the DCR will weigh this factor into the overall decision to fund your request. It only makes sense to get on board with the National Arbor Day Foundation. This is a relationship that works for everyone: more planting, more trees, and greener communities overall.

Have a safe and fun summer,

Bob LeBlanc

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Worcester EAB – Continued from page 1

while peeling bark off from the tree. A beetle trap swayed from a moribund limb above.

Mr. Gooch and DCR Forester Felicia Andre turned over the bark and traced a maze of tunnels on the bark's inner layer and on the exposed wood. A few dead larvae remained; the adult emerald ash borers had flown on. But thankfully, this next infestation probably won't be so bad.

"One of the good things about this here, is you have few ash in the area," Mr. Gooch said. "It's not like in the Berkshires ... it's not a big issue for you."

But the DCR and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services are still on the case; monitoring trees and, if the appropriate site is found, unleashing a secret weapon to control Worcester's newest beetle pest - a parasitic wasp that is the beetle's natural enemy.

"We know where (emerald ash borer) is, and now we're trying to find out where they aren't," said Ms. Andre as she lowered an emerald ash borer trap from a girdled ash tree in Lake Park, the closest monitoring site to where the beetle was initially found.

"The whole reason we're monitoring is, first and foremost, we're looking for areas with decent stands of ash where we can get biocontrols (the wasps) established. Secondly, we're monitoring so we can notify local foresters and arborists to keep everybody in the loop and so cities and towns can decide whether to protect historic or notable trees with pesticides and can develop a plan for managing the beetle."

The 2008 discovery of Asian longhorned beetle prompted a roughly \$180 million collaborative eradication and replanting effort that has so far witnessed more than 35,000 trees felled, 30,000 trees planted, and new attention brought to the urban forest.

The Asian longhorned beetle can take a decade to destroy a tree. The emerald ash borer is comparatively quick, killing its host in typically three or four years.

Two types of wasps that keep emerald ash borers in check in Asia have been released in Massachusetts since 2013 with a similar impact. One type of wasp, *Oobius agrili*, inject their eggs inside EAB eggs, and the wasp eggs hatch and the larvae grow, feed on and eventually kill the host egg. The second, *Tetrastichus planipennisi*, lays its eggs on the EAB larvae, and the wasp eggs hatches and the larvae develop by feeding

on their larval host. The wasps are "minute," Mr. Gooch said, and arrive in what look like big, clear Solo cups with about 2,000 of their brethren.

But before the wasps can be released, their prey needs to be found. Last Friday, Ms. Andre checked about a dozen emerald ash borer traps hung in May in eight locations throughout the city. "I like to see that it's not there; that the spread is slow," Ms. Andre said as a "Purple Barney" trap (a sticky triangular prism the same hue as a certain cartoon dinosaur) behind the conservation center at Broad Meadow Brook Wildlife Sanctuary came up negative.

Mr. Gooch said he hasn't found a location in Worcester County to release the wasps, which is perhaps a good sign. "There has to be enough ash trees and enough EAB for the biological control to survive," Mr. Gooch said. ☞

This article was adapted from "Emerald Ash Borer Rears its Unwelcome Head in Worcester" by Cyrus Moulton, Worcester Telegram & Gazette, 06/19/16
<http://www.telegram.com/article/20160619/NEWS/160619110>

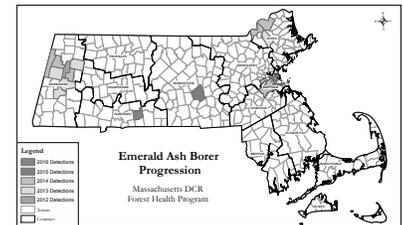
Wilbraham EAB – Continued from page 1

the Department of Conservation and Recreation Forest Health Program found evidence of EAB on the property and sent samples to the USDA for confirmation. Several ash trees in the vicinity of the property were also found to be infested, as well as ash trees near the library and Crane Park. DCR is working with the town to place additional traps in the area and is also working with the USDA and the town for the potential release of biocontrol agents, *Tetrastichus*

planipennisi and/or *Oobius agrili*. The

entire state of Massachusetts remains quarantined for EAB and residents are reminded that

it is a best practice to buy and burn firewood locally to avoid spreading EAB and other insects. For additional information on EAB and ash trees, see the DCR factsheet: [Recommendations for Handling Ash](#).



Timeline of the EAB infestation, courtesy of Felicia Andre, DCR Forest Health. View color version at www.massstewardens.org/resources/links/invasive-species

*Courtesy of Mollie Freilicher
DCR Citizen Forester, June 2016*

largest outbreak we've seen since 1981," said Joe Elkinton, professor of entomology in UMass Amherst's Department of Environmental Conservation. "This is unprecedented. It's been 35 years. I don't think it's anywhere as bad as it was in 1981, but it's more widespread than in recent years."

While gypsy moth populations seem to go through natural cycles every 10 years or so, weather conditions appear to be a major factor in the current outbreak. Dry spells this spring and in May 2015 have inhibited the growth of *Entomophaga maimaiga*, a soil-based fungus that kills gypsy moth larvae.

"What we need is a good soaking rain to keep the soil moist," said Ken Gooch, the forest health program director for the state Department of Conservation and Recreation. "But we need the rain at right time."

Rain in July or later in the summer would likely be too little too late, Gooch said.

Gooch was recently in Massasoit State Park in Taunton, where he saw considerable evidence of the destructive caterpillars, but no signs of the fungus. Frass, or insect excrement, was pouring down from the branches overhead, he said.

He expects the caterpillars will defoliate up to 70,000 acres of trees statewide this summer, approximately the same amount as last year. In 1981, which marked one of the worst outbreaks Massachusetts experienced, roughly 150,000 acres were damaged.

The state will have a better grasp of the extent of defoliation after conducting aerial surveys later in June.

When the caterpillars feast on leaves, it damages the trees. "If it's repeated defoliation for three or four years, it can cause heavy stress to the tree or even mortality," Gooch said. "It takes trees a lot of energy to push leaves out. They need leaves to create energy, to create food, to photosynthesize. Fungus and wood borers are always ready to attack trees, and trees can't fight them off if they're weak."

The Sturbridge area, Gooch said, has been extremely hard hit by gypsy moths. The SouthCoast and MetroWest regions, particularly Framingham, Hopkinton and Southborough, have also seen extensive activity. Gypsy moths have also been very active in the region south of Worcester and parts of Cape Cod, he said.

The *Entomophaga maimaiga* fungus, which is indigenous to Japan, was first introduced to North America in 1910 in an effort to control gypsy moths. The fungus, Elkinton said, failed to take hold until it was re-introduced in 1989.

"There's been very little in the way of outbreak activity in New England since 1989," Elkinton said. "Before two or three years ago, it was rare to see any gypsy moths."

For homeowners concerned about preserving individual shade trees, pesticides are the most effective tool, entomologists say. If homeowners spot large masses of gypsy moth caterpillar eggs, their best course of action is to contact a state-certified arborist to apply pesticides, Gooch said.

Other measures, such as wrapping foil tape around the trunks of trees, are ineffective, he added. "The foil is not helping the tree," he said. "It might kill a couple hundred, but there are thousands still up in the tree."

For large swaths of forest, the only safe and effective approach is to wait for the fungus or naturally occurring viruses to eventually bring the gypsy moth population down.

"In the bad old days, they would spray DDT from planes," Elkinton said. "In terms of a regional outbreak, we basically let nature take its course." ✂

This article was adapted from "Gypsy moth caterpillar populations surging, chewing up local leaves" by Gerry Tuoti and Charlie Peters. Published by Gatehouse Media, 06/18/16 <http://easton.wickedlocal.com/news/20160618/gypsy-moth-caterpillar-populations-surging-chewing-up-local-leaves?template=printart>

IN MEMORIAM Dennis M. Dowd

Dennis Dowd, Town of Dover Tree Warden for 34 years, passed away suddenly on Tuesday, April 19, 2016 at the age of 76. Currently of Norfolk, Dennis was a life-long resident of Dover. He graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture, and from UMass Amherst with a BS in Urban Forestry and M.Ed in Instructional Design. He was a certified arborist and horticulturist; a HAZMAT Technician; course developer and instructor for the Mass Firefighting Academy and Middlesex Community College; a 45-year member of the Dover Fire Dept.; Fire Chief, Winchendon; past President Mass Nurseryman's Association; former owner of Dowd's Nursery and Landscape Development Inc.; and Treasurer of Deerfield Tree Farm Inc. ✂



entirely known, as there are several interacting stresses that must be accounted for. The causes may include several different types of fungal pathogens, recent weather patterns, climate change, or, more likely, a combination of one or more of these stressors. The current decline of eastern white pine is not fully understood and will take many more months to better understand.

This article was adapted from a more detailed report by Nicholas J. Brazee, Ph.D., UMass Extension Plant Pathologist. Find a link to the report in the June 6, 2016 post on the main page of www.masstreewardens.org.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Jason Dumas – City of Lynn

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CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Professor Gordon S. King
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Gordon has no phone in his room, but his son John reports that he still likes to share his gregarious banter in person with visitors and staff.

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Southeastern Mass. Tree Wardens Arbor Day



From left, John Scag, longtime family friend, with Geoffery Dube and brother Mark whose dad was the late August J. Dube. (Marc Vasconcellos/The Enterprise)

To celebrate National Arbor Day, the Southeastern Mass. Tree Wardens' and Arborists' Association (SETWAA) held its annual Volunteer Day of Service in East Bridgewater on Saturday, April 30. To honor the late August "Gus" Dube Jr., the event was held at the Old Grave Yard and Central Cemetery, where Gus is buried in front of a large European beech tree.

Gus was the East Bridgewater tree warden for more than 40 years and was also a former president and longtime secretary and treasurer of SETWAA. The current East Bridgewater Tree Warden and Director of Public Works, John Haines, went to work for Gus in 1997 and was at the event to oversee the project and help out with the tree work.

"He taught me a lot," Haines said. "Not only about trees, but about life, the value of an honest day's work and how to deal with the public with a smile on your face."

Approximately a dozen arborists who work in the tree business volunteered their time and equipment to prune trees and remove dead ones from the cemetery. They also planted a Princeton American elm tree in honor of Gus. The tree was provided by Sylvan Nursery in Westport.

At 8 a.m., before the men took to the trees, the crew gathered in front of Gus' gravesite. His son Mark, who owns Triple D Arborist, told the group that his father's two favorite trees were the beech and the elm and that he would be totally surprised with the tribute from the Tree Warden's Association in his memory. As the work began, Gus' son Geoff explained that his father picked his burial plot because of the beech tree growing behind it.

"I also remember him telling me that he became tree warden when he was 25 years old and there wasn't an office for the position back then, so he worked out of a building beside his family's greenhouse, Dube's Florist on Central Street."

Chris Fallon of Marshfield, the current president of SETWAA, said the association meets each month at Ernie's Restaurant in Plymouth, usually with a speaker

Continued on page 13

Western Mass. Tree Wardens Summer Meeting

The fourth meeting of the Western Mass. Tree Wardens sub-group on June 7 sparked record attendance of 54 people. Held at the Bluebonnet Diner in Northampton, this central location is a welcome place to meet after work, enjoy a meal and refreshments, share stories, and earn some continuing education credits to boot.

The evening's program featured a dinnertime presentation by Rick Harper from UMass, followed by an outdoor demonstration tree planting on the tree belt in front of the diner. Surrounding thunderstorms failed to deter the focused planting effort – tree people seem to thrive in the mud!

The next meetings are planned for September 2016 and March 2017. All are welcome, from any area of the state. ☞



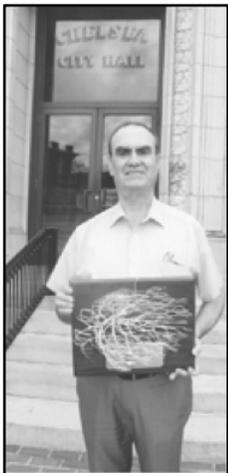
BRANCH MANAGER

Longtime Chelsea DPW Deputy Andy DeSantis Named MTWFA Tree Warden of the Year

Every city and town in Massachusetts is required to have a tree warden.

So when Chelsea Tree Warden Andy DeSantis becomes the Massachusetts Tree Warden of the Year, it's a major honor, one in which the city can take great pride. The Massachusetts Tree Wardens and Foresters Association (MTWFA) bestows the annual Seth H. Swift Tree Warden of the Year Award to recognize a tree warden who exhibits leadership, dedication, and a commitment to the profession. The association invites nominations from all state residents, as well as from city and town officials. Nominations are due by December 1st for the annual award presentation at MTWFA's annual conference in January.

On May 11, Chelsea city leaders paid tribute to DeSantis's success by planting a tree in his honor at Washington Park. That event, attended by City Manager Tom Ambrosino and the MTWFA Board of Directors, coincided with Chelsea's Arbor Day planting celebration.



Andy DeSantis displays the board-mounted silver tree award from MTWFA.

Allan Alpert, the city's emergency management director, lauded DeSantis for his statewide recognition. "I've had the opportunity to work with Andy his whole tenure in Chelsea and he's always accessible and gets right back to you," said Alpert. He's a wonderful man to work with and I congratulate him on receiving this wonderful, much-deserved award."

City Treasurer Bob Boulrice, a tomato grower of note, also congratulated DeSantis. "I grow tomatoes at the Chelsea

Community Garden and Andy DeSantis, in his capacity as tree warden and with his incredible knowledge, he's always been helpful and supportive to our group's efforts," said Boulrice. "I congratulate Andy on this well-deserved honor."

DeSantis, 64, retired as assistant director of the Department of Public Works on April 6 and is now

working part time for the DPW and as tree warden. He served as assistant director for 22 years, having previously worked in Revere as the Superintendent of Public Works.



Left to right: Julie Coop, Massachusetts DCR State Coordinator for Urban & Community Forestry; DCR Commissioner Leo Roy; Andy DeSantis.

"My tenure in Chelsea has been great," said DeSantis. "It's an excellent place to work. The city gives me the latitude to do what I need to do. The city has provided a lot of funding for upgrading its infrastructure."

DeSantis, who has earned the Massachusetts Certified Arborist designation and is considered an expert in arboriculture, oversees approximately 2,000 public shade trees in the city. "Public shade trees are defined as the trees in the public right of way," he said. "We've planted over 1,000 trees in the past 12 years."

DeSantis said through the efforts of former city councilor Roseann Bongiovanni, Chelsea became a Tree City in 2005, meeting the standards of the Arbor Day Foundation and affirming that "Chelsea cares about its trees." The Tree City designation makes Chelsea eligible for grant funding.

"I think the future looks good for Chelsea," said DeSantis. "We just got a grant for \$30,000 that will go toward a tree inventory update and a tree risk assessment of all our trees." ✍

This article was adapted from an article captured online from the *Chelsea Record* - June 4, 2016 - by Cary Shuman
<http://www.chelsearecord.com/2016/06/04/branch-managerlongtime-dpw-deputy-andy-desantis-is-named-mass-tree-warden-of-the-year/>



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SOUTHEAST TREE WARDENS - continued from page 8

to discuss tree issues such as insects, disease and safe work practices. Besides the volunteer day of service, the group also hosts a field day each year at the Upland Club in Plympton.

Mark Dube said his father attended the Bristol County Agricultural High School in Dighton where he learned his trade. He said the school has a great arboricultural program and it's the only one in the country that teaches on an agricultural level.

John Haines, who attended the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at UMass in Amherst, said there's a lot of work available for those with arboricultural degrees. "For every person who graduates, there's nine jobs waiting," he said.

Other volunteers for Saturday's day of service were Bruce Duffy and Peter Buttkus of the Duxbury Tree Department; John Scag of Scag Tree Old Colony Arborists in Plymouth; Craig Hillman and Nick Iuggiero of Allscape Tree and Turf Services in Plymouth; Bill Hobbs of BH Tree Service in West Bridgewater; and Matt Brown and Jeff O'Neil of Triple D Arborists in East Bridgewater.

The Southeastern Massachusetts Tree Wardens' and Arborists' Association was organized in 1947 as a satellite organization of the Massachusetts Tree Wardens' and Foresters' Association. In that era, there were five or six similar groups representing various regions of the state. Each arranged its own programs and considered subjects of local interest.

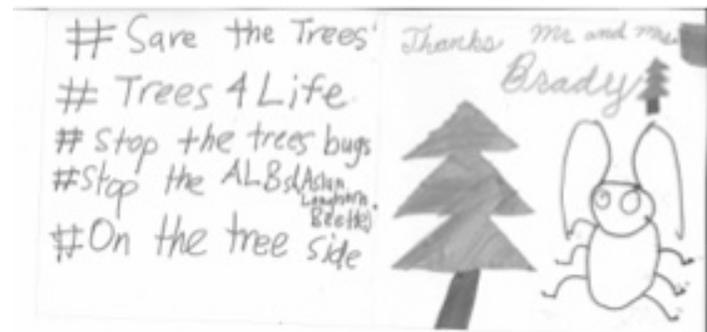
SETWAA is the only such group still in existence. It is now an independent entity with its own officers and board. A Plymouth County representative and several other SETWAA members serve on the MTWFA board, ensuring communication and cooperation between the two associations.

Besides his career as a tree warden and his service to SETWAA, Gus Dube was a longtime member of the Southeastern Mass. Trout Unlimited chapter where he helped to start Kids Fishing Day in East Bridgewater. Gus was also a woodworker specializing in building and repairing wood-frame canvas canoes. He also made fishing nets, crafting the frame and handle from local trees that he cut and milled into boards. ✍

This article was adapted from an article by Randy Julius, Enterprise Correspondent, posted on April 30, 2016 and captured online from <http://www.enterpriseneews.com/article/20160430/SPORTS/160439794/?Start=2>

ARBOR DAY HIGHLIGHTS FROM KIDS

Courtesy of Tom Brady, MTWFA Board



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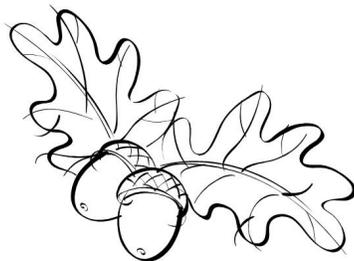
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July 14	Urban Forestry Today Webcast: Seeing the Urban Forest for the Trees <i>www.joinwebinar.com ID code 123-644-723</i>	October 7	MCA Certified Arborist Exam <i>www.massarbor.org</i>
July 20	i-Tree Online Workshop: Introducing i-Tree Landscape <i>www.unri.org/itreeworkshops</i>	October 14-15	DCR Tree Steward Training, Petersham, MA <i>mollie.freilicher@state.ma.us</i> 413-577-2966
August 16	i-Tree Online Workshop: What's New in i-Tree ECO <i>www.unri.org/itreeworkshops</i>	October 19-21	ISA Certified Arborist Prep Course, Acton Public Safety Facility, MA <i>www.newenglandisa.org</i>
September 1	Urban Forestry Today Webcast: The Science and Practice of Cabling and Bracing <i>www.joinwebinar.com ID code 116-178-939</i>	November 6-8	New England ISA 50 th Annual Conference, Burlington, VT <i>www.newenglandisa.org</i>
September 20	i-Tree Online Workshop: Looking at i-Tree HYDRO <i>www.unri.org/itreeworkshops</i>	November 10-12	TCI Expo, Baltimore, MD <i>www.tcia.org</i>
		November 30-December 2	New England Grows, Boston, MA <i>www.newenglandgrows.org</i>