

Massachusetts Tree Wardens and Foresters Association

Organized for the Protection and Preservation of Trees
March 27, 1913 • Dr. George E. Stone, Founder



BAWK

2015

Issue 4

Winter

2016 WINTER CONFERENCE ISSUE A TALE OF TWO TREES

Tallest American Chestnut Tree Found In Maine



Looking up at the tallest American chestnut tree in North America in Lovell, Maine.
Credit MPBN/Susan Sharon

**READ THE DISCOVERY STORY
STARTING ON PAGE 5**

103rd Annual Conference Featured Speaker Lynda Mapes “Witness Tree: My Year With a Single 100-year old Oak”



Looking up at the red oak that is the subject of this year's keynote presentation. Photo courtesy of Lynda Mapes

**CONFERENCE PROGRAM AND
REGISTRATION FORM
IN CENTERFOLD**

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MTWFA MASSACHUSETTS TREE WARDENS' AND FORESTERS' ASSOCIATION



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Published Quarterly
Spring-Summer-Fall-Winter

Maintaining a Heavy Hat Rack Finding a Place for Tree Warden in an Increasingly Demanding Schedule

Jamie Magaldi, PE, MCA
DPW Operations Manager / Tree Warden
Town of Wilmington

Where the heck is Wilmington again? We are a relatively small town of approximately 21,500 residents, located about twenty minutes north of Boston. One of our key attributes is that we actually have a whopping four exits off of Interstate 93! At least, that's one that I like to brag about. I'm easy to please. Convenience and efficiency make me tingle.

Wait, this is for the BARK...I should probably attempt to incorporate trees into this article. How's this ...Wilmington claims to be the birthplace of the Baldwin Apple. Don't ask me how they taste, I grew up in this town and still have never tried one, nor ever seen one. I'm a loyal honey-crisp guy anyway.

I can razz Wilmington the same way I can tease an old friend. We are so close that I'm not afraid to hurt her feelings. We've been through a lot together, and I am a better professional because of the lessons I learned growing up in this town and working here for the past eleven years. It sounds trite, but you really do have to love your work when you are employed with a municipality, or you just won't make it. That's one of the reasons I called out the term Tree Warden separately in my title. I am proud of that responsibility and I want people to know.

Although Wilmington has its unique charm, we share something in common with many other towns of the same size and demographic. We are burning the candle at both ends. On one end, cities and towns are increasingly trying to "trim this" and "level fund that." On the other end are state and federal mandates, liability concerns from fearing a litigious society, and an expected, overwhelming increase in levels of service. This forces managers and other competent personnel to buckle down and continually take on more and more responsibility in order to maintain expectations and mandated services.

Have you ever been part of a "remember when" conversation with your peers? Conversations such as those that begin with "remember when we didn't have to keep track of this?" Chances are you've had this conversation in the past week. I did just the other day. The topic was NPDES illicit stormwater discharges.



Executive Corner Guest Column

No, it was water main leak reports. Or was it the new fertilizer regulations? Trench permits, mandatory employee trainings, vegetation management plans, Tier II reporting (maybe they'll get the new software right this year), equipment inspections, solid waste and recycling reports, salt reduction requirements, LID stormwater maintenance, FEMA reporting, hoisting CEUs – the list goes on and on. The irony is that Chapter 87 is one of the oldest mandates we manage, but it seems to get the least amount of political "hot button" reaction pressure.

You see, the title Operations Manager is a global catch-all that includes managing the Highway Division, Fleet Division, Parks & Grounds Division, Cemetery Division, Tree Division, and, as recently as last year, now includes managing the operations of the town's Water Distribution & Sewer Divisions. Oh wait, our Town Engineer left? Jamie can do that too, while we take our time to cut through the red tape and bureaucracy to hire a new one. I'm not trying to toot my own horn, but if I were, the sound would rival John Williams' Imperial March in the latest IMAX theater quality.

For most medium-sized to smaller-sized communities, the days of being a full time Tree Warden, or even a full time Parks / Tree Superintendent are fading fast. We are all being pushed to produce more with less and make sacrifices to make our departments successful. And to top it all off, your reward for pulling this public sector production miracle out of your...(delete and use term "magic rabbit hat" instead)...is not a Christmas bonus or even a subscription to the Jelly of the Month Club. It's *more* work. More responsibility. More divisions to manage. More mandates to fulfill. More meetings, more projects, more headaches.

See? I told you Wilmington was similar to your town. So how do we cope? How do we keep pushing through it all? I can tell you a few things that work for me:

1. You have to be in it for the glory. The feeling of successfully completing something after putting your blood and sweat into it is unrivaled. Especially if it's to better a community that means so much to you, and very especially if you are lucky enough to be able to incorporate your passions into your career choice.

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Guest Column Jamie Magaldi – continued from page 3

2. Sharing stories like this with others who experience the same challenges and passions is INVALUABLE. That's why participation in organizations like MTWFA, Mass. Arborists Association, American Public Works Association, and other regionalized memberships is so important. Not only can you give back, but you can RELATE with others and share recipes for success, bid specs and other resources, solutions to similar problems, battle scars, etc.

3. Realize that things that don't kill you only make you stronger. Nothing is fully secure in life and knowing that your resume will speak for itself if you need it to is pretty comforting. You grow with all your successes and failures. You become a better and more marketable employee.

4. Believe in the power of positive thinking. True story...I have a motivational phrase taped to my monitor that reads, "Challenge Yourself...Enrich Your Life." Very simple, yet very powerful when you dissect it. We will have plenty of time to be sedentary after we pass on. Now is the time to utilize every bit of the intelligence you were given at birth. To not give 100% every day is a waste of who you are. You will sleep better at night knowing that you gave it your all, even if you fail. And by the way, I borrowed the above motivational phrase from a *Full House* episode. It was something Aunt Becky said to Uncle Jessie regarding going back to school. Stop it...it works for me.

5. Rely on your support staff. Our department could not be successful without the dedicated working staff of equipment operators, foremen, and administrative professionals who make us managers look good on a daily basis. Use their talents, delegate where you can, and show them their due respect. This simple act of trust will post significant returns. I know you can certainly relate to this one.

The bottom line is that your heart has to be in it. We aren't getting rich by doing this, and there's no corporate jet. If there were, DPW would have to maintain it and I'd have to make sure maintenance records are current, monitor fuel usage and efficiency, perform a cost benefit analysis to consider a hybrid, and probably keep the pretzels stocked as well.

In the words of Tom Hanks in *Castaway*, "You have to keep breathing...because you never know what the tide might bring in. 🌊"

In addition to his work duties, Jamie Magaldi is an at-large member on the MTWFA Board.

Tallest American Chestnut Tree Found In Maine

by Susan Sharon - Dec. 3, 2015

MPBN NEWS, Maine's NPR News Source

Captured online from

<http://news.mpbn.net/post/tallest-american-chestnut-tree-found-maine>

A century ago American chestnut trees dominated the eastern woodlands from Georgia to Maine. Growing straight and tall they were prized for timber. Wildlife depended on the nuts they provided every year.

People ate the chestnuts, too, scooping them up by the sackful every fall. Then came an exotic blight accidentally introduced from Asia and the species was virtually wiped out.

That's why scientists are excited by a recent find in western Maine, a record-breaking find that is raising their hopes for the future.

The unusual discovery was made from the air. Dr. Brian Roth, a forest scientist with the University of Maine was surveying areas most likely to have habitat conditions favorable for chestnut trees and - voila! Flying over some woods in Lovell he saw a telltale sign.

"In July, when nothing else is blooming, this tree will have a large amount of white flowers in its crown," says Roth. "The old timers talk about the hillsides in the

Appalachian Mountains being covered in flowers as if it was snow and so we were able to key in on the particular weeks that these were blooming and did find this tree."

This is not just any tree. This is an American chestnut tree worthy of the record books. And this week, a gaggle of reporters, photographers and members of the American Chestnut Foundation trudged out on a rainy December day to see Brian Duigan of the Maine Forest Service confirm some crucial measurements.

"I have 16.1 inches," Duigan says.

As girth goes, this chestnut tree is not so impressive. It's on the skinny side. And most people wouldn't pick it out as distinctive in a forest lineup. But when it comes to height, this American chestnut reigns supreme.

"We think it's around one hundred years old," says Roth. "It's over 100 feet tall, which makes it the tallest tree that we know of in North America."

Continued on page 7

Trees Are Your Community's Hidden Treasure

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Arboriculture & Urban Forestry Course for High School Students

by Brian Kane, MAA Associate Professor of
Commercial Arboriculture

For the past two summers, UMass and the Stockbridge School have offered a “pre-college” course in Arboriculture & Urban Forestry for high school students. In the course, students get an overview of the Arboriculture & Urban Forestry curriculum that two- and four-year students at Stockbridge and UMass take. In July 2014, we offered a two-week pre-college class; in 2015, to reduce costs for the students, we offered a one-week course (five eight-hour days, with an hour for lunch).

During the course, students learn the importance of safety, basic tree biology and soil science, how to identify trees, how to manage insect and disease pests, how to prune and fertilize, and of course, some basic tree climbing skills. Typically, we spend the mornings inside, in a classroom, and then the afternoons outside climbing and learning how to identify trees. In addition to the course itself, UMass provides a typical college experience for students, who live in dorms (unless they choose to commute from home), eat at the dining commons, and participate in supervised social activities with classmates. There are several other pre-college programs going on at the same time, so there are lots of other high school students to meet and make new friends.



Photo courtesy of Brian Kane

College is Expensive

Help a Student You Know - Spread the Word
about MTWFA Scholarships!

The Massachusetts Tree Wardens' and Foresters' Association awards more than \$5,000 in scholarships each year to students who are actively studying arboriculture, community forest management, or urban forestry.

QUICK FACTS TO KNOW

- The scholarship grants range from \$500 to \$1500 per student.
- An applicant must be either a student at the University of Massachusetts or a Massachusetts resident studying at an out-of-state college or university.
- The student must have completed at least one college semester at the time of the award presentation.
- Awards are presented in March at the UMass Amherst Community Tree Conference.
- Applications are due by January 15.
- Download a fillable application form at www.masstreewardens.org/scholarships
- Or, call 781-894-4759 to request an application. ☎

Students who have taken the course really liked their experience, and two of them are currently freshmen in the Stockbridge Arboriculture & Community Forestry program. We think the course is an excellent introduction to our profession, a way to attract young people to a great career, and a good way to recruit students to attend Stockbridge and UMass.

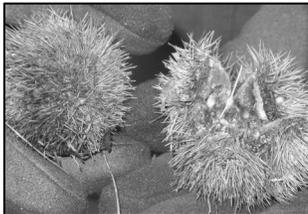
In July 2016 (25th-29th), we are planning to offer the one-week course again. We need your help to reach out to high school students and encourage them to participate. Students don't have to have any experience or special skills, just a good attitude and an interest in learning about trees and being outside.

The Green Industry network throughout New England is very strong, and we hope to utilize it to increase enrollment for July 2016. Please visit <http://www.umass.edu/summer/precollege.html> and click on the link for “Urban Forestry” for more information. ☎

Tallest chestnut – continued from page 5

One hundred and fifteen feet tall to be precise. But beyond its size, Roth and members of the American Chestnut Foundation are interested in this hearty chestnut because of its ability to survive. Surrounded by a cluster of equally tall pine trees, this particular tree has escaped the fungus that has killed or stunted most of the rest of its species.

"And so we're quite interested in these native trees, one for getting them into the population, our breeding program, as well as where do these trees grow?" Roth says.



The North Carolina-based American Chestnut Foundation is devoted to restoration of the American chestnut to its historic range. And over the past three decades the non-profit organization has attracted a loyal following, six thousand chestnut enthusiasts who help run a complex breeding program to transfer genes from the Asian chestnut, which is resistant to the fungus, to the American chestnut, which is not. Dr. Jared Westbrook is the American Chestnut Foundation's geneticist.

"We have an orchard of trees, chestnut trees, in Meadowview, Virginia and so I'm working on developing strategies for breeding and selecting the most blight resistant trees," Westbrook says.

He says more than 60,000 chestnut trees have been planted so far. To help them out, the group is using a virus that infects the chestnut fungus and makes it weaker. But Westbrook says only 500 trees, the toughest and the best of the bunch, will ultimately be selected for reintroduction to the wild.

"To do that is not as simple as inoculating the trees with the blight and picking the ones with the least amount of disease," Westbrook says. "There's still a lot of cryptic variation so you have to extract DNA, do DNA sequencing and figure out which ones are the strongest."



If successful, recovery of the American chestnut through breeding and biotechnology could be a model for protecting other tree species from Dutch Elm disease, hemlock woolly adelgid and the emerald ash borer. Lisa Thomson president and CEO of the American Chestnut Foundation says there's a lot of hope riding on the little chestnut.

"We see real promise of the future to bring the species back and how often can you bring back a species almost on the brink of extinction, which the chestnut was?" says Thompson.

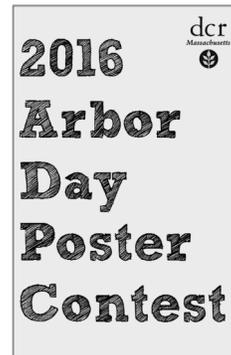
Thomson says she and her volunteers won't see a cathedral of chestnuts in the forest in their lifetimes but their grandchildren will, and that's enough of a vision to keep them all going. ☺

 <p>HORTICULTURAL TECHNOLOGIES INCORPORATED</p> <p><i>Consultant for Tree Protection and Preservation</i></p>	<p>George Ackerson Mass & ISA Certified Arborist Member, American Society of Consulting Arborists</p>
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Massachusetts DCR

Urban & Community Forestry Program

This year's theme is "Trees Grow with Us and for Us." Encourage schools in your community to join in! Each year over 1,500 Massachusetts fifth graders participate in the Arbor Day Poster Contest. The winners reap rewards including art supplies, ice cream, and a tree for their school.



Themes are selected to encourage students to think about trees in new ways. Topics in recent years included "Trees are Champions in My Community," (2015), "Trees are Terrific and Good for Our Health!" (2014) and "Celebrate a Tree" (2012). Thank you to Anne-Marie Moran of National Grid for suggesting the 2016 theme, "Trees Grow with Us and for Us."

The deadline for the 2016 contest is April 1, 2016.

Find more information on the poster contest, visit the DCR Urban and Community Forestry Program website www.mass.gov/dcr/urban-and-community-forestry and click *Branching Out* on the right.

Questions? Contact Mollie Freilicher at 413-577-2966 or mollie.freilicher@state.ma.us or Julie Coop at 617-626-1468 or julie.coop@state.ma.us. ☺

2016 Conference Schedule

Tuesday, January 12

- 7:45-8:30 am** **Registration and Coffee**
- 8:30-8:45 am** **Opening Session – Annual Meeting**
- 8:45-9:15 am** **State Update: Urban Forestry**
Julie Coop, Massachusetts DCR Urban & Community Forestry Coordinator will speak about Urban Challenge Grants, the application process and examples of projects available for funding; the *Greening the Gateway Cities* Tree Planting Program; and more.
- 9:15-10:15 am** **Forest Health in the Commonwealth**
DCR Forest Health Program will present the latest on insects and diseases impacting the condition of the Massachusetts trees and forests.
- 10:15-11:00 am** **Break with Exhibitors**
- 11:00-11:50 am** **Adoption of Biochar for Urban Tree Health**
Adriana Arango, Ph.D., Plant Physiologist, CAES. In urban settings, water supply to urban trees is complicated by soil compaction, limited space for root growth, excessive pruning, and application of de-icing salts in winter. Dr. Arango will explore the use of biochar to meliorate salt toxicity and increase tree water-holding capacity. Biochar production, properties, uses and effects on soils and the environment will also be presented.
- 12:00-1:15 pm** **Lunch and Annual Meeting conclusion**
- 1:30-2:30 pm** **The Shade Tree Law MGL Chapter 87: How Different Communities Utilize It**
Julie Steiner, J.D., Professor, Western New England University School of Law, will team up with tree wardens **Thomas Brady** (Brookline), **David Lefcourt** (Cambridge) and **Ronald Despres** (Millbury) in this discussion about Chapter 87. The three tree wardens will share how their different-size communities utilize the law and will join with Attorney Steiner to answer questions from the audience.
- 2:30-2:45 pm** **Break with Exhibitors**
- 2:45-4:15 pm** **KEYNOTE SPEAKER**
Lynda V. Mapes – Witness Tree: My year with a single, 100-year old oak
 What can one tree tell us about our changing world? Lynda will show slides from her year exploring the human and natural history of a single, century-old red oak at the Harvard Forest, and read from her book *Witness Tree*, forthcoming from Bloomsbury Publishing. An author and environmental reporter at the Seattle Times, Lynda is also a writer in residence at the Harvard Forest where she was a Bullard Fellow in 2014-15.
- 4:15-4:30 pm** **Wrap-up – Door Prizes**
- 4:30-6:00 pm** **Reception in Exhibit Hall** Join us for a social get-together, graciously supported by our exhibitors.

Wednesday, January 13

- 8:30-9:00 AM** **Registration and Coffee**
- 9:00-9:45 am** **EAB in Your Community: Management Guidelines for Emerald Ash Borer**
Phil Lewis, Ph.D., USDA PPQ Otis Methods Laboratory. Now is the time to assess your ash inventory, identify treatment and management options, and establish partnerships and funding for the coming onslaught. If you don't take the time to prepare for EAB, it will manage you, your budget, and your ash resource. This session will cover treatment and management methods that are currently being used and explored by municipalities and private landowners.
- 9:45-10:30 am** **UMass Urban Forestry Program: Highlights and Headlines from 2015**
Rick W. Harper, UMass Department of Environmental Conservation. From continuing in-person community visitations, to free webcasts that offer continuing education credit, to new and innovative research, this session will outline some of this year's UMass Urban Forestry Program activities.
- 10:30-11:00 am** **Break with Exhibitors**
- 11:00-12 noon** **Municipal Tree Risk Management Strategies**
Mark Duntemann, Natural Path Urban Forestry Consultants. The number of events involving injuries from tree part failures is relatively low, yet they dominate our understanding of tree risk. This emphasis can result in a disproportionate response that questionably reduces risk. Mark's session will provide participants with the tools to develop proactive tree risk management strategies that are reasonable, practical, defensible and defined by the agency managing the trees.
- 12:00-1:00 pm** **Lunch**
- 1:00-2:00 pm** **Health Considerations for Arborists**
Ed Carpenter and Dr. Amanda Carpenter, COR Ergonomic Solutions LLC. Field workers and sales/management staff have different health needs based on their job. A production arborist should be in top physical condition to safely meet the demands of the job, while the administrative arborist's skills are in management and much less physical. We will discuss opportunities for arborists to optimize their health while on the job.
- 2:10-3:00 pm** **Pests and Pathogens of 2015**
Nicholas Brazee, Ph.D., Plant Pathologist, UMass Extension will review the most important plant diseases and insect pests in the landscape and forest in 2015 and summarize potential management strategies. Examples will include needle blight of white pine, the Norway spruce gall midge and Dutch elm disease.
- 3:00 pm** **Door Prizes and Closing**

The conference educational program is funded by a grant from the U.S. Forest Service

2016 Conference Registration and Membership Form

NAMES			
a.			
b.			
c.			
d.			

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OPTIONAL—MEMBERSHIP DUES 2016				
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Urban Winter Storm Resource

The 2015 issue of *Shade* magazine is primarily devoted to preparing for and dealing with winter storms in urban and community forests. Thank you to John Parry, USDA Forest Service for sending the link to this great collection of articles, published by the Georgia Urban Forest Council.

Visit <http://www.smsepub.com/publication/?i=244434>

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Online Instructional Workshop Series for i-Tree

Begins Wednesday, December 16, 2015 @ 1:00 PM (Eastern)

The i-Tree Team recently announced a web-based instructional series to educate users about the complete i-Tree collection of inventory, analysis and reporting tools. The i-Tree software suite, a product of the USDA Forest Service, is designed for urban forestry analysis and benefits assessment. The i-Tree Tools help communities of all sizes to strengthen their urban forest management and advocacy efforts, teaching them how to quantify the structure and environmental value of their community trees.

The monthly online training series will consist of live, interactive sessions led by members of the i-Tree development team and other instructors. The series will introduce participants to i-Tree, help them understand its value as an important tool in their urban forest management toolkit, and provide them with hands-on demonstrations related to the installation, use and reporting components of the software suite.

For more information and to register for these free sessions, visit www.unri.org/itreeworkshops

Calendar of Workshop Sessions

All sessions begin at 1:00 PM (Eastern) and last 60 minutes

December 16, 2015 - Introducing i-Tree Landscape

January 20, 2016 - What's New in i-Tree ECO

February 17, 2016 - Using i-Tree DESIGN and CANOPY

March 16, 2016 - Looking at i-Tree HYDRO

April 20, 2016 - Taking Stock of Street Trees: i-Tree STREETS

May 18, 2016 - i-Tree Roundtable: Answering Your Questions About Using i-Tree

June 15, 2016 - Using i-Tree VUE and STORM

July 20, 2016 - Introducing i-Tree Landscape

August 16, 2016 - What's New in i-Tree ECO

September 20, 2016 - Looking at i-Tree HYDRO

October 19, 2016 - Using i-Tree DESIGN and CANOPY

November 16, 2016 - Taking Stock of Street Trees: i-Tree STREETS

December 21, 2016 - i-Tree Roundtable: Answering Your Questions About Using i-Tree

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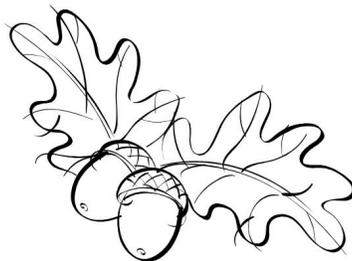
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Calendar of Events Winter 2015-16

- December 16 Webinar: Introducing i-Tree LANDSCAPE
www.unri.org/itreeworkshops
- December 31 Deadline: Tree City USA, Tree Line USA, Tree Campus USA
Mollie.freilicher@state.ma.us
413-577-2966
- 2016**
- January 7 Webinar: Roots, Trees and the Urban Environment
www.joinwebinar.com
ID code 130-408-251
- January 12-13 **MTWFA 103rd Annual Conference**
Sturbridge, MA
www.masstreewardens.org
- January 15 MTWFA scholarship applications due
info@masstreewardens.org
- January 20 Webinar: What's New in i-Tree ECO
www.unri.org/itreeworkshops
- February 17 Webinar: Using i-Tree DESIGN and CANOPY
www.unri.org/itreeworkshops
- March 8 UMass Community Tree Conference
Amherst, MA
www.umassgreeninfo.org
- March 9-10 ELA Conference and Eco-Marketplace
UMass Campus Center, Amherst
www.ecolandscaping.org
- March 16 Webinar: Looking at i-Tree HYDRO
www.unri.org/itreeworkshops
- April 1 Deadline for 2016 Arbor Day Poster Submissions
Mollie.freilicher@state.ma.us
413-577-2966