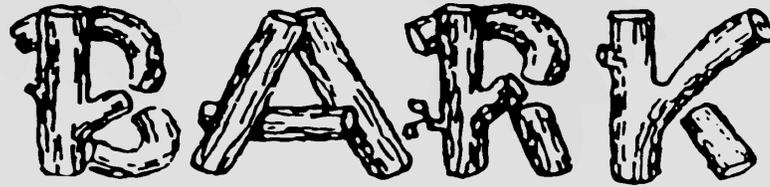


Massachusetts Tree Wardens and Foresters Association

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



2016

Issue 4

Winter

Deadly Oak Wilt Disease Found in Brooklyn and Several Towns in Long Island's Suffolk County

Captured from <http://www.dec.ny.gov/press/108830.html>

Thursday, December 29, 2016. New York State's Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and Department of Agriculture and Markets (DAM) announced today that the oak tree disease, oak wilt, has been detected in the borough of Brooklyn, Kings County and in the towns of Babylon, Islip, Riverhead, and Southold in Suffolk County. The disease was identified by the Cornell Plant Disease Diagnostic Clinic after samples from symptomatic oak trees were collected by DEC Forest Health Technicians.

Oak wilt had previously been found in Scotia, Schenectady County, until it was identified in Canandaigua, Ontario County, and Central Islip, Long Island earlier this year. Since then, reports of symptomatic oak trees from concerned tree care professionals, as well as the public, have led to the additional detections. The confirmation of the disease in Brooklyn marks the fourth county where oak wilt has been confirmed in New York.

There is no known treatment to contain and kill the oak wilt fungus other than to remove the infected trees, as well as any surrounding host oak trees. At this time, DEC will remove and destroy oaks that have tested positive for the fungus. Testing for oak wilt must be done during the growing season when the fungus is active, so intensive sampling will take place across Kings, Nassau, and Suffolk counties starting next spring to determine the extent of the disease. Aerial surveys will be conducted beginning in July when signs of oak wilt will be most apparent.

DEC is in the process of issuing emergency orders to establish protective zones encompassing the entirety of Suffolk County and the borough of Brooklyn. The emergency orders will prohibit the removal of any living, dead, standing, cut, or fallen oak trees or any portion thereof, including branches, logs, stumps, or roots, and green oak lumber and firewood (of any species) out of the protective zones unless it has been chipped to less than one inch in two dimensions.

"It is important that these emergency orders are taken seriously," said DEC Commissioner Basil Seggos. "Moving contaminated wood without taking precautions will spread this serious tree-killing disease to additional areas."

State Agriculture Commissioner Richard A. Ball said, "Oak wilt is a fast-moving disease that can kill a large amount of trees quickly. It is important to follow these emergency orders closely to prevent the disease from spreading and protect our trees."

Property owners in neighborhoods confirmed to have oak wilt will be contacted with information about the disease and to provide communities with information about how to help protect remaining oak trees. DEC will schedule public meetings to address questions and concerns once the extent of the disease is determined and management activities have been identified to control the disease. DEC will also conduct outreach to green professionals on the identification of oak wilt and preventing its spread.

Oak wilt is a serious tree disease in the eastern United States, killing thousands of oaks each year in forests,

continued on page 12

MTWFA Executive Board 2016

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Karen Doherty, MTWFA Executive Director

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The BARK Newsletter is made possible through a grant from the USDA Forest Service, Urban and Community Forestry Program and the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, Bureau of Forestry.

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From the President

This is hard for me to believe, but this is the last President's message for 2016 and for my term. The past two years have flown by and I am

extremely grateful to have been given this opportunity to be part of the MTWFA Executive Board. This year the Education Committee, chaired by Dave Lefcourt, has once again produced and held several excellent training and safety programs for our ongoing Professional Development Series. The seedlings program, chaired by David Hawkins, supports our scholarships for UMASS and Stockbridge students and has done exceptionally well. Dave puts in long hours and is directly responsible for the hard work and success that program has enjoyed.

Over the past two years our association has been fortunate to see the emergence of the Western Mass. Tree Wardens chapter, a group that now offers quarterly meetings and lectures for tree care professionals and tree wardens in the western part of the state. Not only are they providing a needed outreach function, but they are also creating a solid network of resources for the area.

The Robert Childs Student Assistance Fund is now actively helping qualifying Stockbridge and UMass students with emergency needs. The association has recently received the first applications for assistance and the Childs Fund has lent a helping hand to them. Many thanks to Tom Brady, who worked with UMass to develop guidelines for the distribution of aid from this worthwhile fund, created as a living memorial to an extraordinary teacher and colleague.

We continue to recognize outstanding tree wardens with the Tree Warden of the Year Award. In 2016, Andrew DeSantis of Chelsea was the recipient; in 2015, our association was proud to recognize the first *female* Tree Warden of the Year, Aggie Tuden of Medford.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to our Executive Director, Karen Doherty, for all the help and support that she has provided to me over the past two years. My congratulations to her on her 10-year anniversary with the MTWFA, providing leadership and guidance through the daily and seasonal executive operations. I firmly believe that without her expertise, knowledge and hard work, our association would not be in the great standing that we are.

Finally, thank you to the Executive Board that has done an outstanding job and especially our new members: Art Goodhind (Town of Natick), Chris Scott (City of Chicopee), Ed Olsen (Town of Needham), Ruth Seward (Worcester Tree Initiative), Andy DeSantis (City of Chelsea and Town of Saugus), and Alan Snow (Town of Amherst). Our incoming President, Alex Sherman, has done a fantastic job organizing the last two annual conferences, and I know he will continue the tradition of excellent leadership of our organization. I wish him all the best, and say thanks again to all MTFWA members.

I hope you all had a safe and happy holiday season, and I wish you all of you the very best in the coming year.

Bob LeBlanc
President 2015-2016

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

- Norris Bruce – Town of Framingham
- James Gozzo – Town of Westford
- Tim Lecuire – Town of Arlington
- Hugh Maguir – Town of Westford
- Dan McMahon – Town of Framingham
- Keith Pancake – ACRT, Inc.
- Rudy Pisarczyk – Town of Palmer
- Stephen St. Pierre – Town of Danvers

Massachusetts DCR Announces Arbor Day Poster Theme:

“Trees are Terrific...from Berkshires to Bay!”

Each year, over 1,500 Massachusetts fifth graders participate in the Arbor Day Poster Contest. Each school holds its own poster contest and submits their winning poster to the DCR. Prizes include art supplies, ice cream, and a tree for the winner's school. Each year there is a theme to encourage students to think about trees in new ways, such as “Trees Grow with Us and for Us” (2016), “Trees are Champions in My Community,” (2015), or “Celebrate a Tree” (2012.) The theme for 2017 is “Trees are Terrific...from Berkshires to Bay!” The deadline for the 2017 contest is March 15, 2017.

For details and application instructions, visit <http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/dcr/stewardship/forestry/urban/2017-arbor-day-poster-contest.pdf>

IN MEMORIAM

Professor Gordon King

1918-2016

Professor Gordon S. King passed away in October at the age of 98. Gordon was an energetic individual who enjoyed life, laughed often, and was always looking for the next adventure. As a longtime professor of arboriculture at the University of Massachusetts, "Prof. King" taught several generations of arborists and influenced our industry in countless ways.

In the words of Dennis Ryan, who succeeded Gordon as head of the UMass arboriculture program, "In the tree care industry he was one of a kind. [He was] very active with the MAA (Massachusetts Arborists Association), the MTWFA, the NEC [New England Chapter ISA], a past president of international



Gordon King at the ISA International Conference in Providence, 2009. Gordon was president of the ISA International in 1980.

ISA, and chair of the Z133 [The Accredited Standards Committee Z133 – ANSI Standard for Arboricultural Operations — Safety Requirements]. He was the UMass – Stockbridge arbor program for 33 years and many of us in the business would not be in our positions if it were not for 'Prof. King'."

In recognition of his contributions, the Massachusetts Tree Wardens and Foresters Association presented Prof. King with our highest honor, the Dr. George E. Stone Founders Award, on February 7, 1989. We are grateful for all he did for our industry and for the young folks coming into it. His character endures in the hearts and minds of the students and colleagues whose lives he touched, including many in our industry today. Rest in peace.



Gordon King holds the Dr. George E. Stone Founders Award he received from MTWFA in 1989.

MTWFA Scholarship Applications: Deadline is January 15

The 2017 Scholarship Application is available, and the application deadline is coming soon: January 15th. This year the Massachusetts Tree Wardens' and Foresters' Association will award \$6,300 in scholarships to students who are actively studying arboriculture, community forest management, urban forestry, or a related field.

QUICK FACTS TO KNOW

- The scholarship grants range from \$500 to \$1500 per student.
- An applicant must be a student at an accredited college or university in Massachusetts.
- An applicant must be enrolled in a program of arboriculture, community forest management, urban forestry or a related field.
- An applicant must have completed at least one college semester in one of these programs.
- Award decisions are based on financial need and an acceptable grade point average.
- Applications are due by January 15, 2017.
- The student must fill out the scholarship application.
- The application may be submitted via mail, or scan and email.
- Awards are presented in March at the UMass Amherst Community Tree Conference.

→ The downloadable application is a fillable document and may be filled in by computer or by hand.

→ Or, a scholarship application may be requested via email or phone 781-894-4759.

The scholarships bear the names of the following Association members who have made major contributions to the organization and the industry: Fred C. Burk, Louis J. Casasanto, **Professor Gordon S. King**, Dr. Malcolm A. McKenzie, and Seth H. Swift.

Funding for the annual grants comes from the proceeds of the annual Arbor Day Seedling Program. ☞

REMEMBER

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Challenges of a Tree Warden In Small Town Suburbia

Jamie Magaldi, PE, MCA
Operations Manager / Tree Warden
Wilmington Department of Public Works

Tree Warden. The job certainly has its challenges. Like most public sector responsibilities, the challenges that tree wardens face on a daily basis are unique to the size and political structure of the community. Some challenges are universal to all cities and towns in Massachusetts, while others will be experienced only by tree wardens of more urbanized communities where the pressures of saving trees and offering sustainable solutions are growing exponentially.

Luckily, we are in this together (unless you've already stopped reading). I've compiled a short list of frequently encountered challenges and solutions that are most likely unique to small or mid-sized suburbs such as the community I serve, the Town of Wilmington. If you manage the urban canopy in a larger community, there's a good chance you may also be able to relate to at least a few of these issues. If, after reading, you can't relate to anything, most likely you received the wrong newsletter. If you're looking for the January

issue of "Who's Accounting Anyway," check the mail slot to the left and blame the mail boy.

1. Theirs vs. Ours

By far, the number one challenge that I run into while responding to a resident's request to investigate a tree is determining who in fact owns the tree. If you're lucky, the tree will be located in an area where the right-of-way is known or quite obvious, such as a tree-well tree. However, more often than not, the tree is located just outside the edge of pavement on a wooded stretch of roadway. So who owns the tree?

Solution: Short of having the services of your own surveyor or engineer from the Engineering Department at your immediate disposal (what's more important than determining tree ownership?), take a quick look around the property for obvious corner markers such as granite bounds, steel pins, or stone walls. The next instinct is to look around to the neighboring houses to see if there are any signs of recent construction such as home additions, complete teardowns, or Title 5 septic system upgrades. The town's Building Department or Inspectional Services Department should have recent plot plans available for these properties, and you may be able to get a good idea of where the front property

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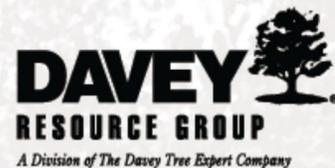
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ARBORICULTURE & URBAN FORESTRY - UMASS SUMMER COURSE FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

There's a shortage of qualified workers in the tree care industry; many of you have probably experienced it firsthand. Training new employees who have no experience takes time away from production; hiring employees who have at least a basic understanding of arboriculture means the new hires can get up to speed on the crew more quickly. Not all new hires will have the benefit of a Stockbridge / UMass Arboriculture degree, but we can give them a good start. For the past three summers, UMass and Stockbridge 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. We hope to offer the course again this summer, but we need enough students to cover the costs. The course will run for one week (35 hours of training—in the classroom and in the field) in July 2017.

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.



All of the previous students who enrolled really liked their experience. 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. 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. You can find more information by clicking on the link for "Sustainable Tree Care," at this website: <http://www.umass.edu/summer/precollege.html> or by contacting Brian Kane via email at bkane@eco.umass.edu. Thanks in advance for your help! ☺

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Challenges of a Tree Warden – continued from page 5

line, or right-of-way line, resides based on these certified plot plans. The Registry of Deeds online database can also be an invaluable source of information for deed plans, once you master navigating their website. If that fails, never underestimate the value of asking the homeowners for any copies of plot plans they have with their deed paperwork. You'll both be amazed at what these residents didn't know they had in that envelope that hasn't been opened since they closed on the property forty-seven years ago. Lastly, if you are lucky enough to have a good GIS database, use the maps wisely. They are for planning purposes and may not give you the accurate results you need to determine if a tree falls under MGL Chapter 87. Of course, the general disclaimer applies here; always use a licensed land surveyor for accurate property-line location work if the issue at hand may potentially end up in court.

2. Street trees are protected by law? Doesn't this town have too many trees?

I've said it before, and I'll say it I again...this is usually the hot button topic of the day that gets the most attention in the public eye. And if you are employed by a small suburb or rural community, tree removals are often times not one of them. My experience is that many developers don't even consider public shade tree removal procedures in their construction timelines; and when you break the news to them that healthy street tree removals require an advertised public hearing (after two weeks worth of local advertising mind you), they see the tree warden as another hindrance in their end goal to flip a property over.

Solution: Educate! Cities and towns are putting much greater emphasis on stormwater outreach education for local developers, and this is mostly due to the fact that National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) is a locally administered mandate. MGL Chapter 87 is also a law; let's treat it as such. Talk with your planners and local building inspectors and ask them to keep public shade tree removals in mind when they are taking the first glance at a potential construction or redevelopment project. Create a simple brochure for developers to pick up from the Building Department front counter. Utilize your website or your community's quarterly newsletter to help remind the public as a whole of the requirement. Yes, we understand that our small towns are full of trees. And Chapter 87 is the old wooden-handled hammer in our go-to toolbox to make sure it stays that way for a long time to come.

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3. Budgetary restrictions

This challenge is a derivative of the previous problem regarding lack of public outreach on the importance of municipal tree work. Simply put, there is more tree work to perform than there is specifically allocated funding to cover such work.

Solution: Even if you are lucky enough to manage a full-service tree removal crew, you're going to need contractual service funding to help with the more challenging or inaccessible trees. I don't know of too many communities that have their own crane. Usually our funding is eaten up by caring for high-risk trees (and rightfully so). But this is done at the expense of not having adequate funding remaining for replantings, proactive inventories, or general plant health care and prevention measures. One great way to supplement your budget that will yield multiple positive results is by applying for available grant funding through programs like the DCR's Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Grant or your local insurance carrier's loss control prevention programs. Let the public know that your applications are in the running for a grant award. Even if you are unsuccessful in obtaining supplemental funding, you've opened somebody's eye to the facts that trees are very important to your department and that your community is making active strides to improve the urban canopy.

4. Lack of cooperation from the local utility company

This challenge, at least in my eyes, is shrinking by the day. In fact, the local municipal utility that services the town where I work has become a valuable ally in the everyday challenges of municipal tree care. The major utility companies, and many of the municipally-owned ones, have made major changes over recent years, with much greater emphasis on both careful management of professional line-clearing operations and improvements in communicating work goals. I am seeing ANSI standards being followed, much greater emphasis on safety and work zone setups, and an overall willingness to coordinate directly with residents and municipal officials to help reach common goals. Some communities, however, still struggle to maintain those vital relationships between community and utility.

Solution: Don't wait to be spoken to...extend the olive branch to your local utility and request an overview of pruning operations. The latest section of MGL Chapter 87, Section 14, gives tree wardens the right to ask for a

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Challenges of a Tree Warden – continued from page 10

comprehensive vegetation management plan, as well as the specific standards that the utility will be adopting during plan implementation. I'm assuming the intent here was to open the lines of communication between municipality and utility and get all the cards, concerns, and expectations on the table...what a great concept! There is an achievable balance between function and form, or in this case, utilities and shade tree existence – and it can all start with a simple and informal meet and greet.

5. Coping with the sins of the past

This section deserves an entire article all to itself. However, let's limit this challenge to having to maintain incorrectly selected or placed trees that were planted several decades ago. Many tree-lined streets and sidewalks have suffered the fate of shallow root systems destroying their usability. Correcting this isn't easy, since to truly allow both to coexist would mean removing root structure to make a longer-lasting repair to the sidewalk or road.

Solution: Exercise your right to require that new public shade trees be planted as offset plantings per MGL Chapter 87, Section 7 (allows trees that are planted on private property, within twenty feet of the front property line, to be protected as public shade trees). The Massachusetts Tree Wardens and Foresters Association offers a great template for correctly documenting this as required, and Wilmington has been implementing this in all new subdivisions. The goals of the Planning Board are met with new tree-lined streets, the goals of the tree warden are satisfied because the trees – as public shade trees – become protected from unnecessary future removal, and the developer's bottom line isn't affected because at the end of the day it makes no financial difference on which side of the property line the tree is planted.

Overall, many of our challenges have adequate solutions, or at least adequate attempts at solutions, when the proper tool is used to handle the situation. Many problems in our field do begin with a lack of communication or a feeling from the general population that their concerns are being ignored. In an age where automated phone systems are the mainstream, and being able to interact with a human being is becoming obsolete, let's embrace these challenges and prove to the public that the intent to be genuine is alive and well in their local tree warden's office. There's no substitute for face-to-face interactions with residents in an attempt to solve a problem; and this will often leave the

resident with a lasting impression of effort and integrity, even if sometimes the outcome isn't quite what they were hoping for when they made the initial call. It's funny how dire concerns about public safety seem to lessen when a tree survey reveals a perceived street tree is actually privately owned! ✂

In addition to his work duties with the Town of Wilmington, Jamie Magaldi is an at-large member on the MTWFA Board. This is his second article for the BARK.

 <p>HORTICULTURAL TECHNOLOGIES INCORPORATED</p> <p>Consultant for Tree Protection and Preservation</p>	<p>George Ackerson Mass & ISA Certified Arborist Member, American Society of Consulting Arborists</p> <p>106 B Pine Street P.O. Box 436 Clinton, MA 01510-0436 (978) 368-1900 Fax: (978) 368-1905 gackerson@horttecinc.com</p>
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Oak Wilt Disease – continued from page 1

woodlots, and home landscapes. It is caused by a fungus, *Ceratocystis fagacearum*. The fungus grows in the water-conducting vessels of host trees, plugging up these vessels and preventing water transport. As water movement within the tree is slowed, the leaves wilt and drop off, and the tree dies rapidly.

DEC asks the public to be on the lookout next summer for oak trees that suddenly lose leaves during the months of July and August and to report these occurrences to the Forest Health Information Line toll-free at 1-866-640-0652.

For more information about oak wilt or the emergency order, please visit DEC's website. A comprehensive FAQ about oak wilt can be found there at:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/46919.html>. ✂



Thank you to Dennis Ryan for bringing this press release about oak wilt to our attention.

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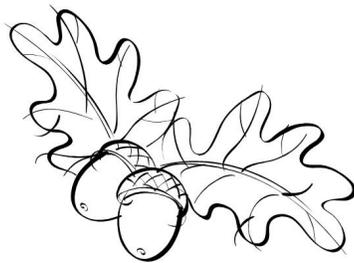
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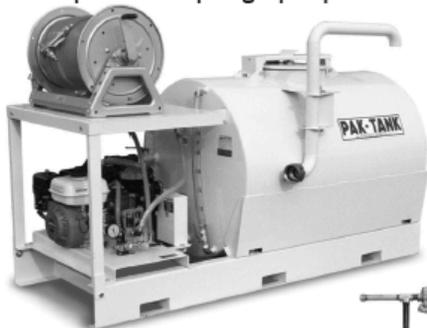
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Southeastern Mass. Tree Wardens & Arborists Association: CHANGE IS IN THE AIR!

Good things are happening with the Southeastern Mass. Tree Wardens & Arborists Association (SEMTWAA), the oldest continuously operating sub-group of MTWFA. Here are just a few:

Change of Location. After meeting for years at Ernie's restaurant in North Plymouth, the Southeastern Mass. Tree Wardens & Arborists Association will be relocating its meetings starting in January. Due to Ernie's closing to make way for a new retail venture, the association decided in November to meet at the John Carver Inn, 25 Summer Street in Plymouth, in the heart of the historic district.

The John Carver Inn has a well-appointed function room for the dinner and meeting. There is also a lounge, the Water Fire Tavern, where members can meet for a social hour before dinner. The meal price will be \$25.00, to include a choice of three different entrees, house garden salad, rolls and butter, chef's choice of potato, vegetable, dessert, and coffee or tea. Please note that reservations are required – generally two days in advance – to attend the dinner meetings.

Change of Schedule. Also starting in January, Southeast Tree Wardens will move to a quarterly meeting schedule. The quarterly schedule will help members plan ahead to attend and also give the association more lead time to engage speakers. The association also hopes to offer CEUs at eligible meetings. The 2017 meeting dates are:

- **January 19** – *Trees in Trouble*, a documentary film funded in part by the TREE Fund
- **March 16** – EAB, ALB, DED Control Strategies – Rainbow Treecare Scientific Advancements
- **June 15** – Ticks – Larry Dapsis, Entomologist, Barnstable County Extension
- **October 19** – Speaker TBA



September 21, 2017. Save this date too! It's this year's SEMTWAA's Annual Field Day and Equipment Show, always on the 3rd Thursday in September. This event is a favorite for hundreds of arborists throughout the state and a major fundraiser for arboriculture scholarships here in Massachusetts. Don't miss it!

Need more details? Send a request to join our email list to semtwaa@gmail.com, and check out updates by visiting www.masstreewardens.org and clicking on *Southeast Tree Wardens*.

Mark Smith, President
Ted Bubbins, Interim Vice President
Kim Hillman, Secretary/Treasurer



Massachusetts Tree Wardens'
and Foresters' Association
P.O. Box 326
South Hadley, MA 01075

Calendar of Upcoming Events - Winter 2016-17

- | | | | |
|----------------------|---|-----------------|---|
| January 10-11 | 104th MTWFA Annual Conference - Sturbridge Host Hotel
<i>info@masstreewardens.org</i>
781-894-4759 | March 7 | UMass Community Tree Conference
Amherst, MA
<i>eweeks@umext.umass.edu</i>
413-545-0895 |
| January 12 | Urban Forestry Today Webcast:
Managing Volunteers and the Urban Forest

<i>www.joinwebinar.com</i>
ID code 977-076-443 | March 14 | Western Mass. Tree Wardens Quarterly Dinner Meeting – Bluebonnet Diner, Northampton
Reservations required by March 10
<i>info@masstreewardens.org</i>
781-894-4759 |
| January 15 | Scholarship Application Deadline: MTWFA Scholarships
<i>www.masstreewardens.org/scholarships</i>
781-894-4759 | March 15 | Application Deadline: Mass. DCR Arbor Day Poster Contest
<i>mollie.freilicher@state.ma.us</i>
413-577-2966 |
| January 19 | Southeast Tree Wardens Quarterly Dinner Meeting – John Carver Inn, Plymouth
Reservations required by Jan. 17
<i>semtwaa@gmail.com</i> | March 16 | Southeast Tree Wardens Quarterly Dinner Meeting – John Carver Inn, Plymouth
Reservations required by March 14
<i>semtwaa@gmail.com</i> |
| February 7 | Dreams and Solutions: Green Industry Career Fair and Winter Forum - Sturbridge Host Hotel
<i>mnlaoffice@aol.com</i>
413-369-4731 | April 28 | ARBOR DAY – MASSACHUSETTS |