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2017

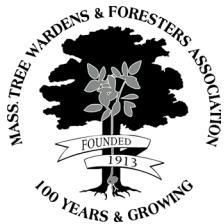
Issue 4

Winter

## WINTER CONFERENCE ISSUE

### 2018 Annual Conference January 9-10

Featuring Keynote Speaker Don Blair on Both Days



105th Annual Conference

CONFERENCE PROGRAM AND  
REGISTRATION FORM  
IN CENTERFOLD

Tuesday, January 9

#### Anatomy of a Catastrophic Rigging Failure

There's nothing better than a job in which everything comes together. There's nothing worse than a job in which everything falls apart. With video footage of the incident as it happens, Don Blair goes step by step through the decisions that led to this disaster and more importantly, details all of the missed opportunities in the ANSI-Z133 Standards that would have prevented it in the first place.

#### Wednesday, January 10 A Condensed History of Arboriculture

Don Blair looks back at how much the profession has changed over the past 150 years or so and marvels at how much has stayed the same. Come and enjoy a trip through history, learning what our predecessors thought in 1881 about the use of spurs in trees and in 1907 about the practice of topping, and what the first generation of chainsaws looked like. Be amazed at how much work was done, by so few, with so little, for so many years.



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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Spring-Summer-Fall-Winter

## From the President

Welcome to the Winter 2017 edition of the BARK newsletter. I hope everyone had a successful fall planting season and took advantage of the warmer temperatures. As I write this in early December, it is hard to believe many of us have not seen our first significant snow fall! Snow or not, the MTWFA hasn't slowed down and we have been quite busy since our last installment. We have continued with our Massachusetts Qualified Tree Warden training program and hosted the November session which focused on Chapter 87 and working with contracts. Thank you to all our speakers for the great presentations. Everyone had a great time and we all went home with a better understanding of Chapter 87 and how to conduct our duties as tree wardens.

On October 31, Executive Board member Marc Welch of Newton and Advisory Board member Tom Brady of Brookline testified before the Joint Committee on Government and Municipalities to advocate for the bill to make much needed updates to Chapter 87. I want to thank Marc and Tom for their hard work over the past several years attempting to get the bill through the legislative process. I also want to thank those of you who heeded the call to write your representatives regarding the bill. There is still time to make your voice heard before the end of the session, and we encourage you to do so. Call the MTWFA office at 781-894-4759 for information on how to make the contacts.

The MTWFA annual conference is fast approaching, coming up on January 9-10, 2018 in Sturbridge, MA. Please consider attending and bringing along co-workers. We have a great speaker line-up this year, put together by Vice President Paul Sellers. The annual conference is always a great learning experience as well as time for us all to get together and network. I hope to see you all there!

This is the time of year for submitting Tree City USA applications, due on December 31. This is a great program that recognizes the importance of trees to your community. If your town is not yet a designated Tree City, I would strongly urge you to submit an application this year. It is not an overly complicated process, and it can be a great way to showcase the activities of the tree warden to residents and decision makers in your community. Much of what we do is often behind the scenes or only highlighted when a tree falls across Main Street in a storm. Tree City USA is the perfect way to get some positive press



for your program. Find the information you need on the DCR website at [www.mass.gov/service-details/branching-out](http://www.mass.gov/service-details/branching-out).

Finally, I want to follow up with some of my own thoughts on H. Dennis Ryan's article from the fall BARK on safety regulations for municipalities. I want to thank Dennis for bringing this important information to our membership. When was the last time you had a safety briefing with your crews or co-workers? What type of formal safety training do you and your co-workers have? Is it documented? These are questions that all tree wardens who oversee tree work should be able to answer. The reality is that our industry is among the most dangerous in the United States. This statistic is what makes worker safety programs so important. The nature of the work is dangerous, sure, but with proper knowledge of safe work practices and practical experience, these risks can be minimized. There are a few things to think about when it comes to providing a safe work environment for your employees or co-workers.

Creating a safety culture is the ultimate goal. A well-designed and consistent safety program inherently fosters a culture of safety. It is important to get information to people, but the ultimate goal is to have those concepts applied in the field and to have people thinking about safety all the time, not just during a safety briefing. Each person is responsible for his or her own safety on the worksite, but we are also responsible for the safety of others around us. In a municipal setting, often times this includes the public as well as co-workers. The safest work environment is one where everyone looks out for each other and there is a culture that encourages people to speak up if they see something they think might be unsafe.

Here are just a few questions to ask when designing your own safety program. Have you clearly defined what your expectations of safety are? Is it enough simply to issue a memo stating that all employees will adhere to the ANSI Z133 Safety Standard? It is up to the employer to ensure the worker has received AND understands safety procedures. Is the content consistent, meaning do all of your employees have the same basic training? Every new employee should complete a selected series of training sessions so everyone has the same baseline knowledge. Is the program on-going? A safety program doesn't end after the first day on the job when you provide basic safety topics. A safety culture is only created when there are consistent reminders of safety from supervisors as well as among workers. A combination of formal safety training in a classroom setting as well as daily job briefings at the job site is the best way to keep safety fresh in everyone's mind.

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I have often heard “document, document, document” as the three most important rules when it comes to a safety program. Documentation is especially important after there has been an accident. The definition of an accident means that no one is expecting it, but that doesn’t mean we can’t prepare for it. A basic rule of thumb when it comes to documentation is to ask yourself if you can prove that an employee received particular training related to specific work tasks following an accident. Think about all the tasks that employees might be asked to perform in the course of their duties and try to design your safety program around their actual jobs. If an accident does occur, you will likely have to defend your entire safety program, not just the portion that relates to the current incident.

Thank you and be safe,  
**Alexander R. Sherman**  
President 2017-2018

## Welcome New Members

Vanessa Boukili - City of Somerville  
Benjamin Brown - Town of Worthington  
Scott Hathaway - City of Westfield  
Douglas Latulippe - Town of Tyngsborough  
Tim Olson - Town of Hamilton  
Ray Tattersall - Town of Tisbury



Above: John Parry (USFS), Tom Chamberland (MTWFA), and Tom Luther (USFS).

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**USFS Urban Forest Strike Team Training**  
October 2017  
New London CT

*Right: Planning the routes for team field exercises.*



*Left: John Parry (USFS) and Chris Donnelly (CT-DEP).*

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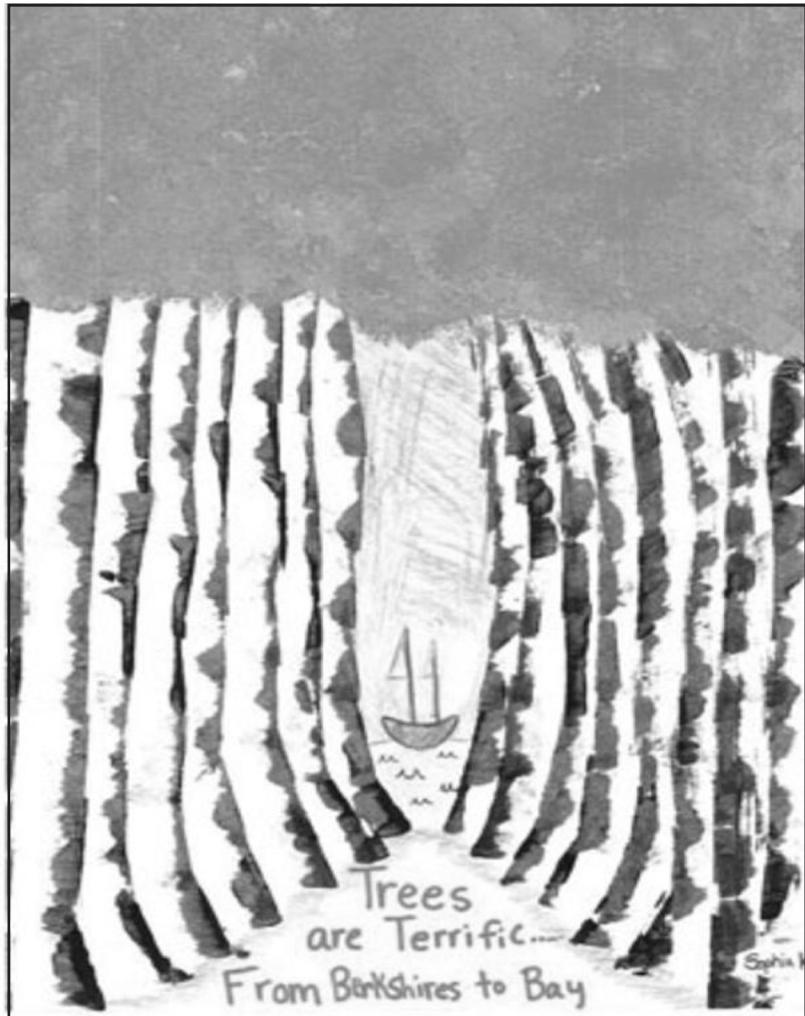
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## Picture This, in Color!

The cover of this lighthearted 2018 calendar showcases the Arbor Day poster created by 2017's first-place winner, fifth-grader Sophia K. from Walpole's Elm Street School. The Urban & Community Forestry program at Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation(DCR)created the calendar using 2017 contest submissions.

At MTWFA's Annual Conference in Sturbridge, all of our attendees will receive the 2018 DCR calendar inside their program booklets. It's another great benefit of being at the January conference in Sturbridge!



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## Massachusetts DCR Arbor Day Poster Contest 2018

### My Community, My Trees

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. Every year there is a theme to encourage students to think about trees in new ways, such as this past one, "Trees are Terrific...from Berkshires to Bay! (2017), "Trees Grow with Us and for Us" (2016), or "Trees are Champions in My Community." The theme for 2018 is "My Community, My Trees."

The deadline for the 2018 contest is March 15, 2018. This is another great way to raise awareness about trees in your community. You can encourage submissions by sharing DCR's informational postcards with local schools. Pick up the postcards at the annual conference or contact Mollie Freilicher at [mollie.freilicher@state.ma.us](mailto:mollie.freilicher@state.ma.us).

Find complete rules and instructions at [www.mass.gov/dcr/urban-and-community-forestry](http://www.mass.gov/dcr/urban-and-community-forestry) and click "Branching Out" on the right.

### Massachusetts Celebrates Planting of 10,000th Greening the Gateway Cities Tree

Lynn – At a ceremonial planting on November 13, Governor Charlie Baker, Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) Secretary Matthew Beaton and Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Commissioner Leo Roy, joined with City of Lynn officials and others to celebrate the planting of the 10,000th tree under the Commonwealth's Greening the Gateway Cities Program. The program, which increases the number of trees within urban neighborhoods, provides energy efficiency and environmental benefits to Gateway Cities across Massachusetts. Since the program's inception, 13 of the state's 26 Gateway Cities have participated.

(from *The Citizen Forester*, December 2017, No. 209)



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# Engineering a Career in Arboriculture

## “Branching out” to recruit for the future

by Jamie Magaldi

“So, what do you want to be when you grow up?” Remember those years when the answer to this question was wondrous, exciting, and had an endless array of answers? As children age into young adults, however, this question can stir up a great deal of anxiety. Teens are presented with this question in high school on a regular basis, and are almost expected by the time they reach 10th or 11th grade to have a good idea of how they want to spend their post high school years (and their parents’ UFund accounts, if they’re lucky). This is an extremely difficult choice to be faced with when you’re 16 years old, especially for today’s youth who seem to be maturing at a slower rate than past generations. Do the research, young people are settling down later in life, taking their time in moving out of their childhood homes, and even taking longer to get serious about long term careers.

The truth is, most of us are probably doing something not even remotely related to the careers we saw for ourselves when we looked into the elementary school crystal ball. There’s a great line in the movie “Office Space” where a character is encouraged to imagine he has no financial motivations in choosing a career path...and the path is supposed to inherently become obvious based on simply searching his heart for what he loves to do. The line is “The exercise is [fruitless]. If everyone listened to her, there’d be no janitors, because no one would clean [expletive] up if they had a million dollars!”

I grew up in an environment rich in music and creativity, always believing that just one day I’d become the richest rock star on the planet. My parents were generally supportive of the idea, but also knew that I liked to eat and have nice things. Following in my brother’s footsteps, and with a general likeness for mathematics, I decided to attend Merrimack College in North Andover which offered a well-rounded and accredited program in Civil Engineering. I’d put my time in. The plan was to get the degree, then instead of building bridges I’d be performing under them, Simon and Garfunkel style. I’d show them, I didn’t need a backup plan.

Remind me to thank my parents. Fast forward 15 years, a house, a wife, and two kids later, the roots I set in college with a background in engineering have allowed me to live a modest yet secure lifestyle which still permits me to moonlight as songwriter, even getting some very limited radio airplay! All the important things are thankfully accounted for...food, shelter, transportation, picket fence, two cats in the yard, life used to be so hard...I digress.

Shortly after college, however, I realized quite quickly that something was missing. Aside from music, I loved being outdoors, had a general fondness for creativity and landscaping, and really enjoyed the peaceful serenity offered in nature and in particular, the countryside. All attributes that indirectly pointed me into the field of civil engineering in the first place. Unfortunately, I was a late bloomer when it came to “finding myself” but I was lucky enough to fall backwards into arboriculture through my position as a municipal DPW Operations Manager.

Here’s the deal. Anyone that owns a tree and landscape business, runs a tree crew, or manages a park operation knows how hard it is to find great tree workers. And the pool of young, educated and enthusiastic help is shrinking. If only there was a way to recruit better talent and find an untapped resource of young and willing professionals who inherently have a love of nature and an innate curiosity to find how structures stand, how materials are tested and broken, and what causes timber to fail.

Perhaps we have been narrow minded to believe that future tree professionals are exclusively seeded in the arboricultural education system. I can tell you from experience that many of the same concepts in tree risk management, rigging, and structural behavior of trees are being taught as part of static mechanics for young structural engineering students. Concepts like center of gravity, behavior of materials (specifically timber) under stress, moment of inertia, torsion stress, material yielding, factors of safety, load testing, load redirections through pulleys, and other concepts of structural analysis are being discussed right now in engineering classrooms around the country to students who don’t have the slightest idea that they can apply these concepts to a career in arboriculture.

Furthermore, most of the engineers I know love the thrill of solving real-life puzzles. At the same time, every arborist I know can attest to how every tree rigging project is a puzzle within itself...seldom are two scenarios alike. Add to this the desire to work outside, climb trees, experiment with some of the coolest rigging and load-arresting toys on the market and you have the recipe to recruit some very talented future professionals in the arboriculture field.

So the next time we feel discouraged by a seemingly dying breed of young professionals in the arboriculture field, let’s remember that there are youngsters out there

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that simply haven't yet been informed that they can actually have a rewarding career in a field that actually combines the love of nature with the latest concepts in structural engineering. Add to that the ability to learn how to climb, solve removal puzzles through rigging techniques, understand the dynamic behaviors of timber, and earn good money while shedding a little blood, sweat, and tears (well, hopefully not blood or tears). And above all...recruiting new engineers who have a solid understanding of structural engineering makes for SAFER future tree care workers.

Please share this with your local colleges and universities, career fairs, scholarship associations, and internship offices to encourage young individuals interested in post-graduate engineering to "branch out" and think outside the box of building beams and buildings. Together we may be able to open young eyes to a wonderful profession that can combine puzzle solving, nature, engineering, and tree climbing while securing a promising future work force in a field that is in constant need of well-trained arborists.

I may feel a song coming on.

*Jamie M. Magaldi, PE, MCA holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from Merrimack College and is a registered professional civil engineer in Massachusetts and a Massachusetts Certified Arborist. Jamie is the Operations Manager and Tree Warden for the Town of Wilmington, MA and a member of the MTWFA Executive Board.*

## MTWFA Annual Conference January 9-10, 2018

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## Tuesday, January 9, 2018

7:45-8:30 am	Registration and Coffee
8:30-8:45 am	Opening Session—Annual Meeting
8:45-9:15 am	<b>State DCR Update: Urban &amp; Community Forestry</b> <i>Julie Coop</i> , 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	<b>Selecting Production Methods That Suit your Urban Tree Planting Objectives</b> <i>Rick W. Harper</i> , UMass Department of Environmental Conservation and <i>John Kinchla</i> , Amherst Nurseries. Learn what the research has to say about the benefits and drawbacks of field-grown vs. containerized growing systems, and why it's important for urban forest managers to consider this component when procuring commercially produced trees.
10:15-11:00 am	Break with Exhibitors
11:00-11:50 am	<b>EVERSOURCE Utility Arborets: Demonstration Sites for “Plan Before You Plant”</b> <i>Robert D. Allen</i> , Manager Vegetation Management, Massachusetts and New Hampshire, will share how a recent partnership with the University of Massachusetts has resulted in an outdoor facility that demonstrates the impact of the various growth habits of different tree species underneath and near power lines, to help tree wardens and others plant the right tree in the right place.
12:00-1:10 pm	Luncheon—Banquet and Annual Meeting conclusion
1:10-2:00 pm	<b>State DCR Update: Forest Health in the Commonwealth</b> <i>Jeff Enochs</i> , Massachusetts DCR Forest Health Program, will present the latest on insects and diseases impacting the condition of the Massachusetts trees and forests.
2:00-2:45 pm	<b>How Arboricultural Practice Affects the Likelihood of Tree Failure</b> <i>Brian Kane, PhD</i> , UMass MAA Professor of Commercial Arboriculture, will discuss current research that gives helpful insights into the effect of pruning and cabling on the likelihood of tree failure.
2:45-3:00 pm	Break with Exhibitors
3:00-4:15 pm	<b>KEYNOTE 1</b> <b>Anatomy of a Catastrophic Rigging Failure</b> <i>Don Blair</i> , Blair's Arborist Equipment LLC. There's nothing better than a job in which everything comes together. There's nothing worse than a job in which everything falls apart. With video footage of the incident as it happens, Don Blair goes step by step through the decisions that led to this disaster and more importantly, details all of the missed opportunities in the ANSI-Z133 Standards that would have prevented it in the first place.
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 10, 2018

8:30-9:00 am	Registration and Coffee
9:00-10:15 am	<b>KEYNOTE 2</b> <b>A Condensed History of Arboriculture</b> <i>Don Blair</i> , Blair's Arborist Equipment LLC looks back at how much the profession has changed over the past 150 years or so and marvels at how much has stayed the same. Come and enjoy a trip through history, learning what our predecessors thought in 1881 about the use of spurs in trees and in 1907 about the practice of topping, and what the first generation of chainsaws looked like. Be amazed at how much work was done, by so few, with so little, for so many years.
10:15-11:00 am	Break with Exhibitors
11:00-12 noon	<b>Insect Pests of 2017: Significant Species and Minor Creatures of Interest</b> <i>Tawny Simisky</i> , Woody Ornamental Entomology Specialist, UMass Extension, will discuss significant insect pests of trees and shrubs and their activity in 2017, including gypsy moth and a quick overview of new 2017 detections of emerald ash borer in the state. Although their impact is relatively minor by comparison, other insects of interest will be mentioned, including but not limited to localized activity of euonymus caterpillar and munching by the imported willow leaf beetle.
12:00-1:00 pm	Lunch
1:00-2:00 pm	<b>Wires Down</b> <i>Christopher Rooney</i> , Lead Supervisor, National Grid. Dealing with downed wires during storm conditions can be challenging. Understanding how utilities carry out this important part of storm restoration can be very helpful in planning community or property cleanup. This talk will shed light on some of the roles, responsibilities, and procedures that utilities use to resolve these issues.
2:00-3:00 pm	<b>Pests and Pathogens of 2017</b> <i>Nicholas Brazee, PhD</i> , Plant Pathologist, UMass Extension. The year 2017 was a challenging year as earlier environmental conditions such as the 2016 drought and abundant spring season precipitation created ideal conditions for the development of certain tree and shrub diseases. Dr. Brazee will review the most important pathogens over the past year and what management strategies are available to protect against disease and insect outbreaks in the future.
3:00 pm	Door Prizes and Closing

The conference educational program is funded by a grant from the USDA Forest Service, Urban and Community Forestry Program and the Mass. Department of Conservation and Recreation, Bureau of Forestry

## 2018 Conference Registration and Membership Form

Name A. \_\_\_\_\_

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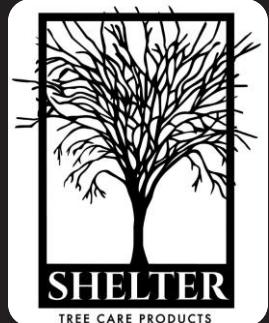
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# Robert LeBlanc, Town of Walpole

## APWA 2017 Professional Manager of the Year Award for Facilities & Grounds

Robert J. LeBlanc, Superintendent of Highways, Parks & Cemeteries for the Town of Walpole, has received the 2017 Professional Manager of the Year Award for Facilities & Grounds. Bob was among nine professionals honored recently by the American Public Works Association (APWA) for ingenuity and innovation in their respective sectors. Bob was recognized for his achievements during the annual APWA Awards Recognition Ceremony at the 2017 Public Works Expo in Orlando, Florida on August 28st, 2017.

In his position with the Walpole Department of Public Works, Bob LeBlanc manages 32 acres of athletic fields, four elementary school playgrounds, 23 acres of cemetery grounds within six cemeteries (including two historic burial grounds), numerous community parks, the Town Forest (one of the oldest in the state), and the grounds for all municipal and school buildings. Bob manages the department and also represents the town as its tree warden, monitoring and managing the public shade tree inventory. Bob serves as a resource for many of the town's boards and commissions, including the Planning Board and the Conservation Commission, and he represents the Town of Walpole within the Norfolk-Bristol-Middlesex County Highway Association. His path to becoming Superintendent began with his education at Salem State University, where he earned a degree in geography with a concentration in urban planning.

While achieving these educational and professional accomplishments, Bob was also a member of the Engineers branch of the Massachusetts Army National Guard. His 24-year tenure with the Guard, which included two 12-month tours in Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, enabled him to use his education and training in practical applications. Bob was honored with a Bronze Star in 2006 for his leadership in a combat zone, and he also received a Meritorious Service Medal before retiring from service in 2010.

A dedicated town employee of nearly 17 years, Bob continually seeks out opportunities to enhance processes or technologies that will create efficiencies. His forward thinking and proactive nature is a significant asset to the town, mitigating unexpected spending, as well as protecting the many acres of open space and facilities the community enjoys and counts on for quality of life.

Bob served as president of the Massachusetts Tree Wardens' and Foresters Association from 2014-2016 and for two years as vice-president before that. Overall, not including gaps during his military service, Bob has dedicated more than 14 years as a member of the Executive Board of our statewide organization.

APWA is the largest and oldest organization of its kind in the world, with a membership of nearly 30,000 public works professionals consisting of 67 chapters throughout North America representing government agencies, consultants, contractors and suppliers. The New England Chapter currently has over 1,300 members from Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont, Rhode Island and Connecticut.

APWA's National Awards Program recognizes outstanding individuals, groups and chapters representing the best in the public works profession, and the competition is stiff. This year over 400 submissions from throughout the United States and Canada were evaluated in over 25 categories.

Rich Benevento, the New England Chapter Past President and Awards Committee Chairman said "Bob's accomplishments in the area of facilities and grounds and his dedication and commitment to his community were outstanding and deserving of this national award." Congratulations Bob!



# Emerald Ash Borer Spreads More Widely in Massachusetts

## Near Boston: Brookline, Norfolk County

August 8, 2017

A new county detection of *Agrilus planipennis* (EAB) was made using green panel traps and a combination of a host plant volatile chemical and pheromone (sexual attractant) lures placed in Brookline, MA. This is unfortunately a new county detection (Norfolk County) in Massachusetts for 2017. (However, it is in very close proximity to a prior detection made in Suffolk County.)

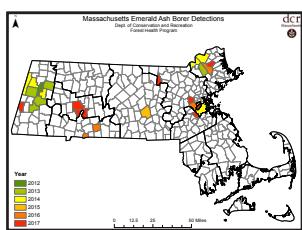
EAB has previously been detected in Berkshire County (2012), Essex County (2013), Suffolk County (2014), Worcester County (2015), and Hampden County (2016). In this case, two green panel traps, hung in close proximity to one another, captured 6 adult beetles between them, which were collected on 7/14/17 and sent to the UMass Plant Diagnostics Laboratory for confirmation. This identification was also confirmed by the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS).

EAB readily attacks ash (*Fraxinus* spp.) including white, green, and black ash and has also been found developing in white fringe tree (*Chionanthus virginicus*) and most recently, cultivated olive (*Olea europaea*). Adult insects of this species are active.

Signs of an EAB infested tree may include D-shaped exit holes in the bark, "blonding" or lighter coloration of the ash bark from woodpecker feeding (chipping away of the bark as they search for larvae beneath), and serpentine galleries visible through splits in/upon peeling the bark, from larval feeding beneath. Positive identification of an EAB-infested tree may not be possible with these signs individually on their own.

For a color map of the known locations of emerald ash borer in the state, as well as further information about this insect, visit <https://ag.umass.edu/fact-sheets/emerald-ash-borer>. If you believe you have located EAB-infested ash trees, particularly in an area of Massachusetts not identified on the map provided, please report it at the Massachusetts Introduced Pests Outreach Project: <http://massnrc.org/pests/pestreports.htm>.

Submitted by Tom Brady, Brookline Tree Warden, with information from Tawny Simisky, Extension Entomologist, UMass Extension Landscape, Nursery, & Urban Forestry Program.



## Near Springfield: South Hadley and Northampton-Easthampton, Hampshire County

November 13, 2017

The destructive emerald ash borer is moving deeper into New England's tree population. An infestation was recently found in Hampshire County in western Massachusetts.

Ken Gooch from the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation said they found the golden green beetle with emerald wings feeding, as it does, under the bark of several trees.



"We went along and peeled some ash trees and we found it in two locations," Gooch said. "One in South Hadley, the other in Acadia Audubon Sanctuary, up there in Easthampton [and] Northampton."

Last year, the beetle was found in Longmeadow, Massachusetts. It's traveling up the Connecticut River Valley, Gooch said, so a new location is not a surprise. But he said the progression is faster than expected.

Emerald ash borer can kill a tree in about three years, Gooch said, and temperature is not a factor.

"It's almost hidden," Gooch said. "You don't really know it's there until it's almost too late."

A tree's best defense is with "biological control," Gooch said. That's when other insects are released to eat the borer.

Emerald ash borer is now in 25 states, including New York, Connecticut and New Hampshire. It's not yet in Vermont, Gooch said, but officials there are on alert as the state has a large population of ash trees.

Reported by Jill Kaufman - NEPR, New England Public Radio.  
Captured from <http://nepr.net/post/invasive-emerald-ash-borer-spreads-hampshire-county#stream/0>

## Trees Dying All Around Ipswich

Autumn. Eyes turn to the trees seeking reds, oranges, golds, yellows set against an azure sky. Not this fall; this fall fizzled more than popped. Those that looked to leaves found as much brown as red, or they found no life at all, only bare branches and dead trees.

The North Shore region's trees are under attack, from the Andovers and the New Hampshire border all the way to Cape Ann. Leaves have shriveled and dropped from their trees. Many standing trees are simply skeletal remains. The most affected species include oak, white pine, maple, and hemlock.

There about as many reasons for brown, shriveled leaves and lifeless branches as there are tree species. Extended drought. Road salt. Gypsy moth infestations that especially target oak trees. The winter moth that also eats deciduous leaves. Various beetles and pests such as the invasive emerald ash borer that kills ash trees, or the Asian longhorned beetle that attacks maples and other hardwood trees. Tar spot fungus that attacks maple leaves, especially the Norway maple and appears as a black circle on the leaves. Climate change. *Armillaria mellea*, a fungus that normally eats what falls to the forest floor, but can also attack root systems in weakened trees. These factors have combined to attack specific tree species or all trees, one attack leaving a tree vulnerable to another attack and possibly causing tree mortality.

"Environmental factors in general are affecting the trees," said Michael Bonner, certified arborist and International Society of Arboriculture certified arborist for the Salem-based Iron Tree Service. "Drought, warm weather fluctuations in winter, caterpillar damage -- the gypsy moth and the winter moth. These all contribute to defoliation. If this happens two or three years in a row, the tree could go into severe decline, with the defoliation. When all these factors are affecting the health of the tree, it opens the tree up to secondary pests. Like when someone gets sick, it opens them up to a secondary infection."

State, local and private land conservation and environmental managers all say many tree species are going through a tough time, with far more tree deaths than normal. However, none can say exactly how much tree mortality is out there -- ash, hemlock, oaks and white pine are among the species most affected, with ash and hemlock just about wiped out.

"It's hard to give it a percentage, because the tree deaths are in pockets," said Ken Gooch, state Department of Conservation and Recreation Forest Health program director. "We have pockets near Gloucester, in Rockport

and Ipswich where, because of the gypsy moth and the winter moth, there is 30 or 40 percent tree mortality. Droughty soils, *Armillaria*, those areas that have previously been defoliated. We fly over areas, map the defoliation and we can follow trees' death. We can track it over time."

Both Russell Hopping, of the Trustees of Reservations, and David Rimmer, director of stewardship at Essex County Greenbelt, report widespread tree mortality across their conservation properties. "We're seeing pretty widespread mortality across all of Essex County," Rimmer said, estimating upwards of 20 percent of all oak trees within Greenbelt land will die. "We have significant mortality in hemlocks and we're seeing ash decline," Hopping said. The Stevens Coolidge Place in North Andover was originally called Ashdale Farm because ash trees marked the border of its 91 acres. Now all the Stevens Coolidge ash trees are dead and the Trustees have cut them down and removed them.

"There's also a butternut fungus swinging through. This fungus kills the entire tree, including the roots. We hardly have any left on our properties," Hopping said.

Underneath all these different tree attacks lies the specter of climate change. Trees fall victim to pests that colder winters once would have killed off. Even the cycles of drought and very wet weather can hurt trees. This year's wet spring gave rise to different fungi, such as tar spot, followed by the late-summer-to-mid-fall drought, conforming to the pattern that climate experts attribute to a warmer climate.

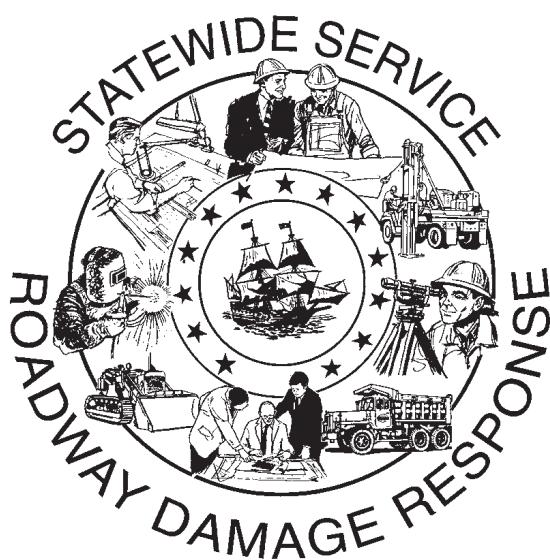
Last year's spring-through-autumn drought fueled gypsy moth infestations because a fungus that kills the gypsy moth relies on rain to grow and spread. The hemlock wooly adelgid appears in late spring and summer as a fine, white dusting on the tree branches, almost like a light snow. It sucks the sap from hemlocks and spruce trees until it kills them over several years. Pests such as the adelgid once died in the area's winter, but, as the climate warms, the adelgid can survive further north.

"Climate change is a factor," Gooch said. "You can't pinpoint it. But it is a factor and it continues to be a factor. The southern pine beetle is moving north and we've found it in traps in Massachusetts, all along the National Seashore and in Plymouth."

In other, more indirect ways, climate change also affects trees. Gooch, who grew up in Framingham and now lives in Worthington, near Northampton, said use of road salt has increased because, instead of snow, the area gets more ice storms that require more salt for

*continued on page 19*

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Ipswich Trees Dying - continued from page 17

public safety. The road salt kills trees that once thrived along the region's roadsides. "The ash trees and the sugar maples are all dying around me," Gooch said.

Those tree deaths now will affect the forests for the next 75 to 100 years, tree experts say. The forests will survive, but they may not look as they do now or contain the same tree species. Red maples, poplars and birch may take over until oaks can replace them in a natural succession.

Beyond spraying specific trees or cutting stands of trees as has been done to stop the Asian longhorned beetle spread -- the beetle has been eradicated in places such as Boston through cutting a swath of trees to prevent spread from infested trees -- there's not much humans can do to stop trees from dying. "We have not developed any kind of proactive plan or strategy," Rimmer said, but he said Greenbelt will step in and cut dead trees when public safety is at stake as Ipswich is doing on Linebrook Road. "I think the next year will be telling. Some trees were really hit hard and then they started to sprout. We'll see if they bounce back next year."

*Reported by Dan Mac Alpine, Nov 7, 2017. Captured and edited from <http://ipswich.wickedlocal.com/news/20171107/trees-dying-all-around-ipswich>.*

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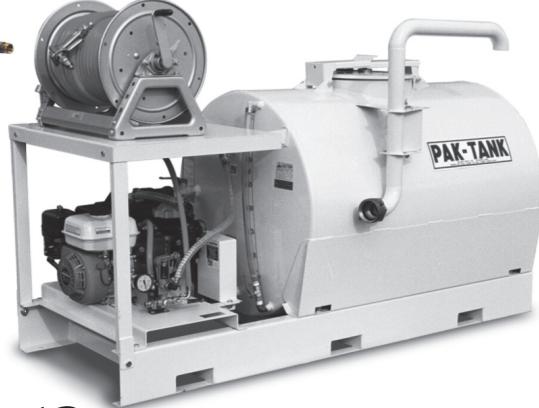
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## Calendar of Events

DATE	EVENT	MORE INFORMATION
December 31	Application Deadline: Tree City, Tree Campus, and Tree Line USA	Email: <a href="mailto:mollie.freilicher@state.ma.us">mollie.freilicher@state.ma.us</a>
<b>January 9-10 2018</b>	<b>MTWFA 105th Annual Conference Sturbridge, MA</b>	<a href="http://www.masstrewardens.org">www.masstrewardens.org</a>
February 6	Landscape Safety Conference Milford, MA	<a href="http://www.umassgreeninfo.org">www.umassgreeninfo.org</a>
February 18-23	Municipal Forestry Institute Litchfield, CT	<a href="http://www.urban-forestry.com">www.urban-forestry.com</a>
March 6	UMass Tree Conference	<a href="http://www.umassgreeninfo.org">www.umassgreeninfo.org</a>
March 13	Western Mass. Tree Wardens Spring Meeting Northampton, MA	<a href="http://www.masstrewardens.org">www.masstrewardens.org</a>
April 27	ARBOR DAY Massachusetts	<a href="http://www.arborday.org">www.arborday.org</a>