



# BARK

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## MTWFA and MAA Honor Bob Childs on His Retirement



On May 28th, friends and colleagues gathered with Bob Childs at the UMass Student Union to celebrate his retirement from a meaningful career spent educating students and professionals of all ages. The MTWFA teamed with the Massachusetts Arborists Association to plant two trees in Bob's honor, marking his significant contributions to both our organizations. See page 9 for the presentation remarks written by MAA's Virginia Wood and MTWFA's Karen Doherty.

The MTWFA Board voted in June to establish the Robert Childs Fund for Student Assistance. More details will be available in the fall.

*Above left:* To honor Bob Childs, two Japanese maples were planted to form the new entrance to the UMass President's Garden. Standing between the new trees are MTWFA and MAA members (front row) George Ackerson, Karen Doherty, Christie Smith, Todd Caswell, Bob Maltby, (back row) Richard Herfurth, Thomas Brady, Dennis Ryan, Marc Hanson, Jay Girard.

*Left:* Bob Childs in the healing garden at Massachusetts General Hospital.

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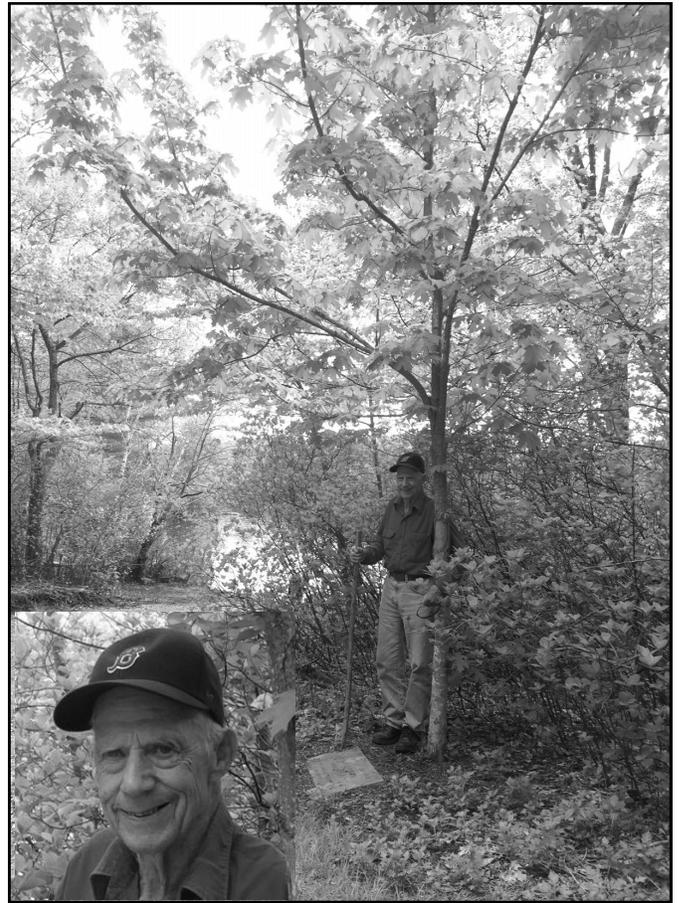
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Karen Doherty, MTWFA Executive Director



Above: Wes Osborne with “his” maple tree and plaque, planted in his honor at Jacobs Pond in Norwell more than ten years ago. Wes was president of the MTWFA from 1977-1979 and is the retired Tree Warden for the Town of Norwell.  
*Photo courtesy of Christie Smith*

## MTWFA MASSACHUSETTS TREE WARDENS' AND FORESTERS' ASSOCIATION



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Published Quarterly  
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## From the President



We are finally in the midst of another busy growing season here in Massachusetts. It was a long winter, the spring weather was crazy, and yet it seems sudden that the heat of summer is upon us!

The Professional Development Series (PDS) has continued this spring with two well-attended classes: a second tree planting workshop in April and the annual Electrical Hazard Awareness Program (EHAP) in May. We extend our sincere thanks to NSTAR for hosting the EHAP program at their headquarters in Westwood, and to the Town of Sturbridge for hosting the tree planting program at Town Hall and outdoors on the Common. This July we are excited to offer a class in Bucket Truck Safe Operations taught by Mark Chisholm, several times the ISA International Tree Climbing Champion. The session will be held in Amherst and sold out early. It should be a great program!

Have you wondered how other communities deal with their trees? The Tree Warden Exchange is a great opportunity to visit another tree warden's community and share ideas. I am currently looking to set up an exchange between Cambridge and another community. If you are interested in participating, please visit the MTWFA website and submit an application today.

As always, if you are looking to get involved with the association, please let us know. We are always looking for new folks to help. Also, if you have an idea for a new PDS or possible speaker for our annual conference, let us know as well. This association is here to help educate wiser tree wardens throughout the state.

I hope you all had a great spring planting season and that you now have a little breathing room with some chance to enjoy the summer!

*David Lefcourt, MCA*  
President 2013-2014

## Welcome New Members

Kevin Conlon—Town of Tewksbury, MA  
Peter K. Cook, Sr.—Town of Tewksbury, MA  
Greg Gagne—Arbor Care Tree Service, Woburn, MA  
Mitchell Lee—York, ME

## DCR Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Grants Deadline November 1

It's not too early to start planning for the next round of DCR's Challenge Grant program. Challenge grants are 50-50 matching grants (75-25 for environmental justice projects) to municipalities and non-profit groups in Massachusetts communities of all sizes, for the purpose of building local capacity for excellent urban and community forestry at the local and regional level.

The USDA Forest Service provides funding for the grant program, and DCR administers the grants with guidance from the Massachusetts Tree Wardens' and Foresters' Association. The DCR Urban and Community Forestry Program assists communities and nonprofit groups in their efforts to protect and manage community trees and forest ecosystems, with the ultimate aim of improving the environment and enhancing the livability of all of Massachusetts' communities.

For more information on the Challenge Grants (including NSTAR GoGreen grants and National Grid Partnership Grants), go to the DCR website or contact Julie Coop at 617-626-1468 or [julie.coop@state.ma.us](mailto:julie.coop@state.ma.us) or Mollie Freilicher at 413-577-2966 or [mollie.freilicher@state.ma.us](mailto:mollie.freilicher@state.ma.us).

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## Emerald Ash Borers Found Near New Hampshire State Line

By Dustin Luca [dluca@eagletribune.com](mailto:dluca@eagletribune.com)

Captured online from the North Andover, MA Eagle-Tribune [http://www.eagletribune.com/latestnews/x1927818856/Emerald-ash-borers-found-near-state-line?zc\\_p=2](http://www.eagletribune.com/latestnews/x1927818856/Emerald-ash-borers-found-near-state-line?zc_p=2)

June 25, 2014

Foresters all over Southern New Hampshire are on the lookout for a miniscule menace infesting and killing ash trees.

An infestation of emerald ash borers was found two weeks ago by New Hampshire foresters when they accidentally crossed the state line from Salem into Methuen and found an infested tree. The tree was near Pond Street in Methuen, according to Massachusetts forest health program director Ken Gooch.

The insect is in New Hampshire already, first detected in Concord in March 2013. The pest originated in China and was first discovered in this country in 2002.

One of the primary ways it spreads is through the transportation of firewood. In July 2011, New Hampshire banned all imported firewood in an effort to keep the emerald ash borer and equally unwelcome Asian long-horned beetle out of the Granite State.



The adult emerald ash borer is metallic green, with a bullet-shaped body, and is about half an inch long. The insects destroy

tissue under an ash tree's bark, killing the canopy of the tree. The insects leave exit holes in the bark when they emerge in late spring.

Although ash represents a fairly small percentage of the state's forest — about 6 percent — nationally, the insect has cost millions in lost revenue. Here, it could cost towns that would have to replace the ash trees that line many streets, firewood dealers who count on the species, and furniture and cabinetmakers who use the lumber.

The infestation seemed to be as many as five years old, which spells trouble for New Hampshire, Gooch said. "It's really heavy," Gooch said. "You're more than

likely infested there, but most of the ash trees we found were on our side of the border.”

Areas threatened include all of Atkinson, Pelham, Plaistow, Salem, Windham and most of Hampstead, UNH Cooperative Extension forester Karen Bennett said. Large parts of Derry, Londonderry, Kingston and Newton also fall into the coverage area, Bennett said.

Derry residents Marjorie and Wilbur Palmer called a county forester to their home after they noticed several of their ash trees were dying. They feared their trees were hosting the insect. “This is a beautiful tree,” Wilbur Palmer said. “They’re great firewood and we have a lot of them. It’s sad to see them die.”

Throughout their property, ash trees are losing their leaves — starting with the highest-reaching branches. One such tree includes an older one in front of their home. “That tree has observed everything at this house, from the time we were married to present,” Marjorie Palmer said. “I even wrote a poem about it.”

Other trees are closer to dying, missing most of their leaves. “That’s the tree’s last gasp to save itself,” county forester Fred Borman said. But in this case, it wasn’t the ash borer killing the tree. It was an ash tree disease, ash yellow, Borman said.

Originating along the coast, spores from ash yellow can travel 45 miles before catching the leaves of another host, he said. Healthy ash trees that get the disease can typically shrug it off with little to no intervention, Borman said.



County forester Fred Borman slices into the bark of a dead ash tree on a Derry resident's property as he looks for signs of the emerald ash borer. Rockingham County is on alert for the invasive insect, which recently was found across the state line in Methuen. RYAN HUTTON/ Staff photo

*Continued on next page*

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Summer 2014 5

EAB near NH state line—continued from previous page

When the trees are hit hard and weakened by the disease, however, native borers often move in and finish them off.

The emerald ash borer targets healthy trees and kills them within three to five years, Borman said. The emerald ash borer has few natural predators — woodpeckers, mainly — to keep its numbers in check, Bennett said.

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“What we’re recommending at this point is, when you’re starting to get close to an infestation, to treat healthy trees you want to hold on to,” said Molly Heuss, a N.H. Division of Forests and Lands health specialist. Trees with a diameter of less than 14 inches can be treated by homeowners with an insecticide called imidacloprid. The product is applied to soil around a tree, Heuss said.

Larger trees need insecticides that pack a bigger punch, Heuss said. For that, a licensed applicator injects the product straight into the tree.

Infestations have been found in Bow and Concord, another in Canterbury and Loudon.

Heuss is deploying wasps to fight the larvae and stop them in their tracks, she said. “We have these two parasitic wasps that have been approved for release in the United States,” Heuss said. “We release them out into the environment and allow them to establish themselves within the emerald ash borer population.”

The wasps are native to Asia, where they’re already keeping emerald ash borer populations under control, Heuss said. They don’t build nests and they’re only a few millimeters long. They’re solitary and lay parasites in their victims, reproducing “entirely within the emerald ash borer themselves,” Heuss said.

Adult beetles will soon be on the move as they leave their ash trees and find new homes to lay eggs, Borman said. That will continue into August.

Officials are telling residents to be on the lookout for any damage to their ash trees or for ash trees favored by woodpeckers. “If you see a lot of woodpeckers pecking at the tree, and when they’re done you see this blondish hue on the tree, that’s a sign it could be emerald ash borer,” Bennett said.

Any suspect infestations should then be reported to the state through its central website on the subject, [NHbugs.org](http://NHbugs.org). More information on the warning signs can also be found there.

“If they do see something out of the ordinary or even if they just have a question about why their trees aren’t looking good, they should give us a call,” Borman said. “I’d rather have 100 false alarms than one positive that we didn’t catch.” 🐿



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**NOTES FROM OUR HISTORY 1951:  
Massachusetts Tree Wardens'  
and Foresters' Association sponsors the  
winner of the first national  
tree climbing contest  
(now the International Tree Climbing Competition)**



Published by the National Shade Tree Conference

Vol. 16, No. 9

Office of the Editor—Paul E. Tilford  
Box 426, Wooster, Ohio

September, 1951

**TWENTY-SEVENTH NATIONAL SHADE  
TREE CONFERENCE**

The 27th National Shade Tree Conference officially opened Tuesday morning, August 28, at Netherland Plaza Hotel, Cincinnati, with Vice-President Noel Wysong presiding. President Edward Higgins was unable to attend the meeting due to illness.

Cincinnati proved to be an excellent host city. Hotel facilities at the Netherland Plaza were of the best; the weather was reasonably pleasant, although on the hot side at the close of the Convention on Friday; arrangements were very satisfactory; and the different events moved along through the week with clock-like precision due to careful planning by the local committee.

***MTWFA Editor's Note: Several paragraphs about the conference are not reprinted here—for a link to read the entire article, please visit [www.masstreewardens.org/our-history](http://www.masstreewardens.org/our-history).***

**Tree Climbing Contest**

The Conference's first tree-climbing contest was held at Burnet Woods, Tuesday afternoon, along with commercial demonstrations of equipment. Contestants were required to climb to a point about 60 feet above the ground in a large Hackberry tree, crotch their safety rope, move out to three locations in the tree marked by balloons, and descend to the ground by using their rope. Climbers who entered the contest and their time were as follows: Joe Arsenault, Fred Ralston & Co., Boston, representing the Massachusetts Arborist Association—2 min. 32.6 sec; Kenneth Gregory, Rutherford, N. J., representing the New Jersey Federation of Shade Tree Commissions and the New Jersey Arborists' Association—3 min. 23.6 sec.; Wilbur Clark, Bartlett Tree Expert Co., Danbury, Conn., representing the Connecticut Tree Protective Association—4 min. 7.7 sec.; John Koskovich, American Tree Service, Fergus Falls, Minn.

—5 min. 29.1 sec.; Dixon Summerling, Covington, Kentucky, employee of Davey Tree Expert Co.—6 min. 51.2 sec.

Joe Arsenault, winner of first place, and Kenneth Gregory, second place winner, were given special recognition and awards at the banquet Thursday evening. It was hard to tell who was the proudest—Joe, the winner; Fred Ralston, the employer; or J. Cooke White, the trainer.

All six boys put on a fine climbing demonstration and are to be highly complimented. One old timer in the crowd made the remark "I'll hire any man who can climb that tree, touch all 3 balloons and come back down in half an hour."

While the climbing contest was of intense interest and no doubt will be a feature of future Conferences, more study needs to be given to the setting up of rules for the contest. Time is of importance in any contest, but in a tree-climbing contest safety is of first importance. A good many observers of this year's contest thought that some rules of safety were violated and that in the future definite safety rules should be formulated for the contest. The violation of any safety rule should automatically disqualify the contestant regardless of time. With more thought and planning, and with this year's experience to work on, undoubtedly

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ARBORIST'S NEWS

OCTOBER, 1951

**TREE CLIMBING CONTEST**

(Correction)

In the report given in last month's Arborist's News of the tree climbing contest held at Cincinnati at the 27th National Shade Tree Conference an error was made. Joe Arsenault, winner of the contest, represented the Massachusetts Tree Wardens' and Foresters' Association and not the Massachusetts Arborists' Association as stated.

After having won the elimination contest sponsored by the Massachusetts Tree Wardens' and Foresters' Association, Joe was sent to Cincinnati by the Association with all expenses paid and a \$35.00 spending allowance in his pocket.

We are sorry for this error in the report and trust that the Massachusetts Tree Wardens' and Foresters' Association will forgive us. With so much going on at the Conference in such a short time and with so many organizations it is a wonder we aren't confused more often.

***Thank you to Dennis Ryan for obtaining and sharing these materials from the archives of the International Society of Arboriculture (formerly the National Shade Tree Conference).***

# Celebrating Bob Childs

MAA-MTWFA remarks at UMass on May 28, 2014

We are all here today to honor Bob Childs and to celebrate the countless contributions he has made to our industry. When the members of the Mass. Arborists Association and the Mass. Tree Wardens & Foresters Association learned that our friend Bob was retiring, we thought long and hard about finding a fitting tribute --- one that would recognize this extraordinary man and the meaningful work he has done here at UMass. A nice tie? A coffee table book? Another plaque for his wall? And then, the obvious (at least for our two organizations) .... a tree! We need to honor Bob with a tree!

As it turns out, one tree has turned into two: a perfect pair of graceful, strong maples. With thoughtful advice and willing help from many friends here at UMass, our associations created a new gateway to the UMass President's Garden with the planting today of two specimen 'Bloodgood' Japanese maples.

We know that many of you are familiar with this beautiful species of tree --- the Bloodgood maple. It has been described as: superb – interesting – strong growing –

brilliant – hardy – reliable. A tree for all seasons, and the standard by which all other cultivars of its species are judged. Sound like anyone you know?

What WE know is that these two Japanese maples will stand here at UMass for many years to come, stalwart sentries welcoming and supporting all seekers of knowledge – much like Bob. The members of the MAA and MTWFA are deeply honored to present them to the university in the name of our dear friend and colleague, Bob Childs. 🌳

## MTWFA and North Andover Plant White Oak for John Lavin, Tree Warden of the Year

*Right:* National Grid's Arbor Bear was on hand to assist with the May 14th festivities on the North Andover Town Common.



*Photo right:* Planting the white oak on the North Andover Town Common. Left to right: John Lavin, Tree Warden of the Year; Arbor Bear; MTWFA President Dave Lefcourt.

*Photo above:* Board member Alex Sherman (center) reads a poem as John Lavin, Dave Lefcourt, Arbor Bear, and Jim MacArthur listen intently.



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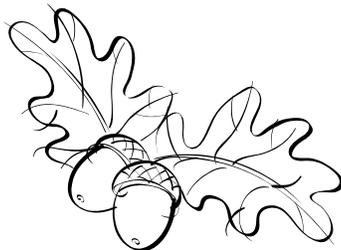
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## Patrick Administration Declares Asian Longhorned Beetle Eradicated in Boston

*Condensed from the official press release*

BOSTON—Monday, May 12, 2014—Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) Secretary Rick Sullivan joined Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Commissioner Jack Murray and officials from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to announce the eradication of the invasive Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB) in Boston. Boston is only the sixth area in the United States to have an ALB infestation eradicated.

Originally discovered in the United States in 1996 in New York, the first infestation of the ALB in Massachusetts was found in 2009 by a homeowner in Worcester. In July of 2010, ALB was discovered in Boston. Shortly after its discovery, a 10-square mile regulated area within Suffolk and Norfolk counties was set up to stop the spread of the invasive species.

Since the discovery in Boston, DCR and its federal partners completed more than 150,000 tree surveys and removed six infested trees from the area. In March, APHIS conducted final inspection surveys of host trees and confirmed the eradication of ALB from the area.

An ALB quarantine remains in effect in central Massachusetts. The 110 square mile zone includes Worcester, West Boylston, Boylston, Shrewsbury and portions of Holden and Auburn. Since 2008, the federal government has committed more than \$117 million to the fight against ALB in Massachusetts. 📍

### New Disease Resource Now Available

UMass Extension's ***Professional Management Guide for Diseases of Trees and Shrubs*** has been freshly revised and updated for 2014 and is now available online. Most of the disease pathogens known to be pests of woody ornamentals in the Northeast region are covered in this guide. Included is host plant information, along with appropriate fungicides, bactericides, biological control materials, and cultural management information where applicable. Go to <http://extension.umass.edu/landscape/diseaseguide> to access the Guide.



*Photo left: Retiring APHIS State Plant Health Director for Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island Patty Douglass inspects ALB damaged wood in Massachusetts. Below are her comments about the Boston eradication. Captured 5/27/14 from <http://blogs.usda.gov/2014/05/20/boston-beats-the-asian-longhorned-beetle/>*

### Patty Douglass Retires on a High Note

One of the things I consider a highlight of my career and that I will always remember is our successful response to the July 2010 detection of the Asian longhorned beetle (ALB) in Boston, Massachusetts. As I attended the May 12 ceremony commemorating the eradication of the ALB infestation in Boston and listened to the speakers share their thoughts about what it took to get us there, I had a deep sense of appreciation for the partnership among the state and federal cooperators who worked together to bring us to that day. It was swift action and continued diligence that protected Boston's trees from further destruction.

APHIS and its cooperators were able to accomplish the goal of eradicating ALB in Boston in less than 4 years. Thanks also go to a community member who reported the infestation early. That early detection and report resulted in the loss of only 6 infested trees.

But as I celebrate our first victory over the invasive pest in Massachusetts, I am compelled to ask you to remain vigilant in inspecting your trees regularly for signs of the beetle and report any suspicious damage to your State Plant Health Director.

There were two infestations of the beetle in the Commonwealth – the one in Boston and one that we are still fighting in Worcester County, within the central part of the State. Having been one of the first two people to respond to the report of ALB in August 2008, when it was first made by a City of Worcester resident, I have seen first-hand the severe damage the beetle causes to the trees it attacks and how an ALB infestation deeply affects a community.

*Continued next page*



## WE'RE UP FOR ANYTHING...

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A quarantine remains in effect in central Massachusetts, which includes the City of Worcester, the towns of West Boylston, Boylston, Shrewsbury and portions of Holden and Auburn.

This is the time of year when we are heading toward emergence of the beetle from the trees it attacks. The sooner we know about an ALB infestation, the sooner we can do something about it, and the best line of defense is you. We still have work to do in Worcester County, as well as New York and Ohio. I know I plan to check the trees on my property and in my community, and I hope you will do the same.

On June 27, I will retire from the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) as the State Plant Health Director for Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island after 36 years of government service. At retirement, people often reflect on their careers and the progress they've made while working. I am glad to have seen the ALB eradicated from Boston before my retirement, but there is much still to be done as we work towards the goal of eradicating the invasive and damaging ALB from the rest of the United States. Early detection is paramount. 🐞

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## IN MEMORIAM Jeff Ott

**Jeffrey "Jeff" W. Ott**, 65, of Portsmouth, passed away on Friday, June 20, 2014 at the York Hospital in York, Maine. Jeff was the founder of Northeast Shade Tree in Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

Jeff was a great teacher and mentor within the tree industry. A certified arborist, he was a past president of both the New Hampshire Arborist Association and the New England Chapter-International Society of Arboriculture, as well as a member of numerous other industry associations. He was a good friend of Alex Shigo and often organized and taught many sessions with him as Alex grew older.

Jeff was a former member of the Portsmouth City Council and Planning Board and supported many civic causes. He was a thoroughbred owner, avid racing fan and a lifelong outdoorsman. His passing leaves a giant vacant space in the arboriculture industry. He will be missed.

### UMass Students Win Arboriculture Competition

Two students from the University of Massachusetts placed first among 36 schools in the Arboriculture Techniques competition at the PLANET Student Career Days. The event took place in March at Colorado State University.

*Below:* Luke Longstreth and Nicolette Eichholtz proudly show off their awards.



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- July 22 **MTWFA Workshop (PDS)**  
Bucket Truck Safe Operations  
**REGISTRATION IS NOW CLOSED—**  
*Thank you for your support!*
- July 23 **Urban Forestry Today 2014**  
12-1 pm **Lunchtime Webcast Series**  
**Webinar #3: Communicating with the**  
**Media and Diverse Organizations**  
[www.joinwebinar.com](http://www.joinwebinar.com)  
code 625425687
- July 24 **Down to Earth: MNL A Summer**  
**Conference and Trade Show**  
*Michael Dirr, Keynote Speaker*  
Savage Farms, Deerfield, MA  
[www.mnla.com](http://www.mnla.com)

- September 4 **Urban Forestry Today 2014**  
**Lunchtime Webcast Series**  
**Webinar #4**  
*Details to be announced*
- September 28-30 **New England ISA**  
48th Annual Conference & Trade Show  
Burlington, VT  
[www.newenglandisa.org](http://www.newenglandisa.org)
- October 1 **Deadline—Intent to Apply for**  
**Urban and Community Forestry**  
**Challenge Grants**  
[mollie.freilicher@state.ma.us](mailto:mollie.freilicher@state.ma.us)  
413-577-2966
- October 2 **MTWFA Workshop (PDS)**  
**Chainsaw Safety with Dan Tilton**  
*Location to be determined*  
[www.masstreewardens.org](http://www.masstreewardens.org)  
781-894-4759
- October 24-25 **DCR Tree Steward Training**  
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413-577-2966
- November 1 **Application Deadline—**  
**Urban and Community Forestry**  
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