



# Massachusetts Tree Wardens' & Foresters' Association

*Since 1913, Working for the Protection and Preservation of Trees*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Eric F. Seaborn Honored with Association's Highest Award**

*Sturbridge, MA.* The Massachusetts Tree Wardens' and Foresters' Association (MTWFA) recently presented the Dr. George E. Stone Founders Award for Excellence to Eric F. Seaborn.

Mr. Seaborn was recognized for his longstanding recognition of the value of trees to our communities and his support for the efforts of the association.

Past President Thomas Brady presented the handsome plaque with raised silver tree to Mr. Seaborn during the Association's 101<sup>st</sup> annual meeting, held at the Sturbridge Host Hotel and Conference Center on January 14, 2014.

The Dr. George E. Stone Award is the association's highest honor, awarded to a member who has demonstrated a strong commitment to the industry, significant advocacy on behalf of public trees, and dedicated volunteer service to the organization.

Mr. Seaborn recently joined National Grid after ten years as the Urban and Community Forestry Program Coordinator with the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation.

As DCR's Urban and Community Forest Program Coordinator, Mr. Seaborn worked with the Commonwealth's 351 cities and towns to advance urban and community forestry. In that capacity, he oversaw the disbursement of community grants totaling well over \$1.5 million, continuation of the Tree City USA program, assistance to communities for education and projects such as tree inventories, and implementation of the community tree portal on the DCR website.

Mr. Seaborn was instrumental in the initiation and oversight of significant replanting efforts to reforest areas devastated by the Asian longhorned beetle tree removals in Worcester and by the 2011 tornado that damaged Springfield and several other communities. He and his team secured funding from a variety of sources for these efforts, including more than \$5 million dollars for Worcester and another \$900,000 for the tornado zone. These efforts resulted in the planting of more than 20,000 trees in Worcester alone.

Mr. Seaborn has been an advisor on the board of the Massachusetts Tree Wardens' and Foresters' Association and assisted the MTWFA with its efforts to update M.G.L. Chapter 87.

In 1913 Dr. George E. Stone founded the Massachusetts Tree Wardens' and Foresters' Association, now the oldest urban and community tree protection organization in the nation. Tree Wardens are municipal positions, mandated under Massachusetts General Laws to protect public shade trees within the 351 cities and towns of the Commonwealth. Visit [www.masstreewardens.org](http://www.masstreewardens.org) for more information. 🌲