



Massachusetts Tree Wardens' & Foresters' Association

Since 1913, Working for the Protection and Preservation of Trees

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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John Lavin of North Andover Recognized as Tree Warden of the Year

Sturbridge, MA. The Massachusetts Tree Wardens' and Foresters' Association (MTWFA) presented its 13th annual Seth H. Swift Tree Warden of the Year award to John Lavin, Town of North Andover.

President David Lefcourt presented the elegant silver tree award to Mr. Lavin during the Association's 101st Conference, held this year at the Sturbridge Host Hotel and Conference Center on January 14-15, 2014.

John Lavin was recognized for his commitment and dedication to the protection of public trees, and for his work with his community to maintain and improve tree growth and health.

In the words of Public Works Director Bruce Thibodeau, John Lavin "epitomizes what the role of a tree warden should be on a daily basis...to maintain the vast number of Town shade trees, give good advice on tree issues to staff as well as residents, keep abreast of current tree issues, have a deep desire to protect the trees from all the outside influences that can be negative to good tree management, and direct his staff to do the same."

Mr. Lavin is entirely responsible for the day-to-day operations of the job, even though in North Andover the Board of Selectmen formally holds the Tree Warden title. According to Mr. Thibodeau, "the Board, and myself as DPW director, never make a decision without John being the main contributor to that decision. In most cases he is the initiator of the decision-making process." Mr. Lavin's accomplishments include management and oversight of the tree program for North Andover, including

- The annual Arbor Day program
- Grant applications
- Tree City USA annual application and award
- Trimming and removal by electric companies
- Tree inventory
- Recommendations for effective replacement trees
- Maintaining records of when and where trees were planted

The Massachusetts Tree Wardens' and Foresters' Association is the nation's oldest urban and community tree protection organization, founded in 1913 for the protection and preservation of trees. Tree Wardens are municipal positions, mandated under Massachusetts General Laws to protect public shade trees within the 351 cities and towns of the Commonwealth.

Created in 2002, the Tree Warden of the Year award honors longtime West Springfield Tree Warden Seth H. Swift, an active member of the Association. For more information about the position of Tree Warden and about the Association, visit www.masstreewardens.org.

The MTWFA will hold a spring Arbor Day Celebration with a commemorative tree planting in honor of Mr. Lavin's award in April or May. Details will be posted on www.masstreewardens.org.