

Massachusetts Tree Wardens and Foresters Association

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



BARK

2023
Issue 3
Fall

Springfield Forestry Division's New Operation Center Named After Former City Forester Edward P. Casey

By Jonah Snowden, *The Springfield Republican*

August 7, 2023—SPRINGFIELD — Springfield's Forestry Division has a new operation center, a 8,000-square-foot-space nestled in Forest Park, named for a long-time forester. City Forester Edward P. Casey, a Springfield native, served as the city's forester from 1992 to 2018. He said he started working for the division in 1976 after graduating from Classical High School the same year.

Over the years, he climbed the ranks and joined different organizations, such as the [Massachusetts Tree Wardens and] Foresters Association, to gain experience in forestry.

Under his direction, the division became more active in the city, hosting regular tree plantings with young residents as part of the Tree City USA program. It trained volunteers to plan trees in their neighborhoods. The division helped coordinate the city's first digitized tree inventory.

During a dedication of the operations center Monday, Casey's response to the June 1, 2011, tornado, which destroyed thousands of trees, was considered his biggest accomplishment. Just 48 hours after the tornado, Casey and David Bloniarz of the U.S. Forest Service gathered public and private resources to fund the replanting of all trees lost.



Former city forester Ed Casey at the dedication of the new forestry building in his honor. Photo: Don Treeger / The Republican.



Springfield's new Edward P. Casey Forestry Operations Center in Forest Park was dedicated in a ceremony August 7th. Photo: Don Treeger / The Republican

Casey said Mayor Domenic J. Sarno called him on Arbor Day last April and told him the operations center would be named after him. Casey had retired on Arbor Day in 2018.

"I was overwhelmed," Casey said. "I did dedicate my career to the city. I love working with trees in the city."

The new building at 200 Trafton Road, erected under the direction of Capital Asset Construction, took two years to complete. It was funded by a \$4.6 million Municipal Vulnerability Action Grant, according to Alexander Sherman, the city's current forester. It replaces space elsewhere in the park.

Continued on page 5

MTWFA Executive Board 2023

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In this Issue

| | |
|---|----|
| Springfield Forestry New Operation Center Named After Former City Forester Ed Casey | 1 |
| MTWFA Executive Board 2023 | 2 |
| President's Message | 3 |
| New/Returning Members | 3 |
| About MTWFA | 3 |
| Annual Conference Update | 5 |
| Upcoming Conferences and Events | 6 |
| Elm Zigzag Sawfly Detected in Vermont | 8 |
| Tree Warden of the Year Nominations | 10 |
| DCR Updates | 12 |
| Smart Tree Inventory Workshop | 14 |
| DCR Legacy Tree Program | 17 |
| Municipal Pruning and Training Survey | 17 |
| Index of Advertisers | 18 |
| Calendar of Events | 20 |

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MTWFA MASSACHUSETTS TREE WARDENS' AND FORESTERS' ASSOCIATION

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President's Message

I hope this issue of The Bark finds you well. I also hope that you have had an opportunity to take a little time to relax, recharge, and enjoy some summer fun. Not that there have been many good weather days to enjoy this summer. Locally and globally, this has truly been a summer to remember.

Flooding rains and tornadoes locally. Extreme heat down south. Ocean temperatures led to dying coral. Fires burning 25 million acres of forest in Canada. The tragic loss of life and devastating fire in Maui. I could go on and on. Our weather-related calamities seem to be in the news almost nightly. My heart goes out to all the people that have been affected by these events this summer. Rightfully, some people in our population are now experiencing anxiety and fear about global warming. Some experts tell us that we are at a tipping point. Some say we are already too far gone. This will be the first generation of children that have one more added stressor to their lives. What are we to do?

We already know and many of us are doing it. Plan, think and act. That is what we do. When done together, these are the answers. We should know for this is what we do. An example would be "Right Tree, Right Location." You all have heard this mantra. Seems simple, yet not a week goes by without me seeing a tree planted in the wrong location and senselessly never realizing its true potential. We need to make our actions count. Thinking, planning, and, most importantly, acting. Again, this is what we do as foresters, tree wardens and protectors of the environment. This is our responsibility. And this responsibility has never been more dynamic and dysfunctional at the same time. The positive message here is that we can shape our destiny. I thank you all for making the difference you do for all of us, especially our children and grandchildren. It has seemingly never been as important.

I want to thank the Executive Board members and our Executive Director, Heather Leff. They have been busy these past few months working on preparations for many things including what will be another great conference. We also are making final preparations on our Qualified Tree Wardens Program. We all look forward to seeing and working with you all soon. Take some time off with what time is left this summer and enjoy the weather. See you soon!

Eddie

Ed Olsen

President 2023-2024



New/Returning Members

Scott Loomis – Town of Granville

Joel Chalas – City of Lawrence

Steven Thane – Town of Heath

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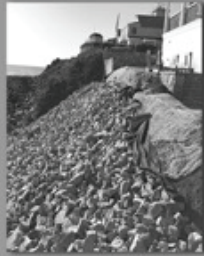
About MTWFA

The Massachusetts Tree Wardens' and Foresters' Association was founded in 1913 as a forum for municipal tree managers to share their concerns and to promote the preservation of public shade trees. Today's members include tree wardens, city foresters, utility representatives, commercial arborists and companies, education professionals, and citizen tree advocates. Membership is open to all who care about trees. Find out more at www.masstreewardens.org.

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Sherman said the new operation center is part of the Forestry Division's plan to place both its office and field staff under the same roof, Sherman said.

"Communication was a little more difficult between the office staff and field staff," Sherman said.

He said having all staff in one location will streamline operations. Additionally, the staff is closer to its tree nursery, which raises between 3,000 and 5,000 trees a year.

The Forestry Division's staff members will work out of their new location five days a week. The division receives between 1,000 and 15,000 calls for service a year, which varies by season, according to Sherman.

This article was reprinted courtesy of *The Springfield Republican*.

Ed Casey is a long-time member of the Massachusetts Tree Wardens' and Foresters' Association and served as president from 1995-1996. Congratulations, Ed!



Springfield City Forester Alex Sherman (right), hugs his mentor, former City Forester Ed Casey, as Springfield dedicated the new Forestry building in Forest Park to Casey. Photo: Don Treeger / The Republican

Annual Conference Update

Dear MTWFA Members,

We are very excited to be sharing the 2024 Annual Conference preview. We are once again planning on being in-person at the Sturbridge Host Hotel January 9-10, 2024. We are putting the final touches on a conference agenda that will give you that much-needed January reset. There will be engaging speakers, lots of time for networking, and a great group of exhibitors!

This year's keynote speaker will be Dr. Michael Dirr. Dr. Dirr will be presenting, "A Praise of Noble Trees". This talk will focus on all aspects of noble trees from durability and aesthetics to storm water mitigation and particulate matter interception.

Other planned topics will include tree risk management and "Hazard Trees," workspace safety, issues with conifers, utilizing volunteers in your municipality, updates regarding special programs from our friends at the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, update from the University of Massachusetts Stockbridge School, and a tree warden panel.

As always, the conference will offer the valuable continuing education credits we all seek and value from a variety of associations as well as MDAR pesticide credits.

Please keep an eye out for our Annual Meeting and Conference brochure, and please consider attending our 2024 conference.

Ed Olsen
MTWFA President

Rich Parasiliti
MTWFA Vice President



Upcoming Conferences and Events

New England ISA Annual Conference and Trade Show

October 1-3, 2023 | Portland, ME

Keynote Speaker - Eric Rutkow, author of *American Canopy*

Visit with friends and colleagues - past and future - while hearing the latest in arboriculture and urban forestry. Pre-conference sessions include CPR, First Aid, and AED; Introduction to Plant Health Care; City of Portland Tree Tour. Conference sessions include: supporting pollinators, identification of wood decay fungi, preserving trees during construction, beech leaf disease, chainsaw safety, and more. Find out more and register for the conference at the New England Chapter ISA website: www.newenglandisa.org.



Trees and Utilities Conference

September 12-14, 2023 | Pittsburgh, PA

Trees & Utilities is the chief learning and engagement event for utility vegetation managers and associated urban forestry professionals. During the conference you will learn about the latest utility arboriculture research, best management practices, and environmental concerns. Find out more at www.treesandutilities.org.



World Forum on Urban Forests

October 16-20, 2023 | Washington, D.C.



World Forum on Urban Forests

The theme of the 2nd World Forum on Urban Forests is: Greener, Healthier and Happier Cities for All. This theme highlights the importance of building inclusive and accessible cities where the goods and services of urban forests and trees are universally available.

The Forum highlights positive examples of planning, design, and management approaches that cities with diverse cultures, forms, structures, and histories have implemented. These approaches optimize the contribution that urban forests and green infrastructure can provide in terms of economic development, environmental conservation and resilience, improved social cohesion, and increased public involvement. Find out more at www.urban-forestry.com/.

Municipal Forestry Institute

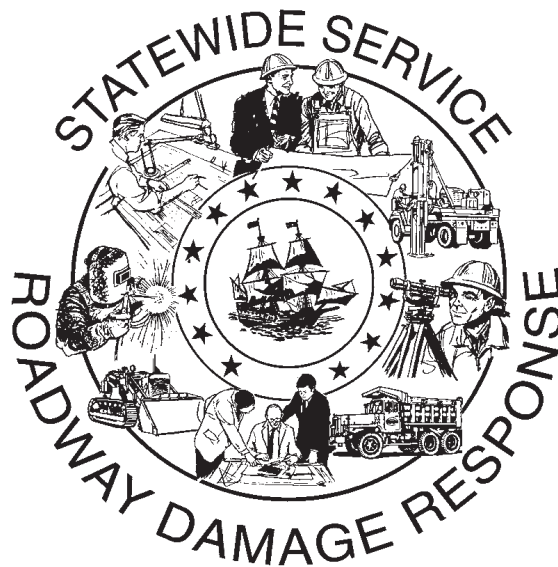
February 25-March 1, 2024 | Jekyll Island, GA

The Municipal Forestry Institute (MFI) is an exciting, high-level training opportunity that guides professionals in the leadership and managerial aspects of urban forestry. This week-long intensive educational program delivers a challenging, yet rewarding, opportunity to learn how to grow more successful community tree programs. Attendees will master leadership and management tools of program administration, coalition building, strategic thinking, program planning, and public relations by investing a week in their personal growth and development.



Applications are now being accepted for this urban forestry leadership program. Find out more at www.urban-forestry.com.

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Invasive Elm Zigzag Sawfly Detected in Northwestern Vermont

August 15, 2023 - Swanton, VT – The invasive insect known as Elm zigzag sawfly (*Aproceros leucopoda*; EZS) has been confirmed for the first time in Vermont.

After receiving a report of potential EZS activity in northwestern Vermont, staff from both the Forest Health program of the Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation (FPR) and Plant Health program of the Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets (AAFM), collected larval samples from affected elm foliage in May 2023. Samples were sent to the US Department of Agriculture Plant Protection and Quarantine program for identification, and EZS has now been officially confirmed within the state.

Elm zigzag sawfly is native to east Asia, and feeds on multiple elm (*Ulmus*) species in, as the name implies, a zigzag pattern on leaves. When present in high numbers, full defoliation of elm trees can occur, and repeated years of defoliation could lead to crown dieback and/or tree mortality. EZS is a relatively new invasive pest to North America, having arrived in Quebec in 2020. As such, little is known about the management of the species, but small populations can be removed by hand. Pesticide application has been effective in controlling larvae in other countries.



Adult elm zigzag sawfly. Photo: Gyorgy Csoka, Hungary Forest Research Institute, Bugwood.org.

Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Maryland, and New York.

If you think you've found elm zigzag sawfly insect, please report it at massnrc.org or contact Nicole Keleher, DCR Forest Health Director, nicole.keleher@mass.gov.



Elm zigzag sawfly Larva and damage. Photo: Eric R. Day, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Bugwood.org.

However, the pesticides available for use in these countries are not specific to EZS larvae and will likely have significant effects on other invertebrates inhabiting elm trees.

Initial confirmation came from samples located in the Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge in Swanton, Vermont. Since then, additional evidence of feeding has been noted in Alburg, North Hero, and Milton.

Staff from FPR and AAFM will be looking for additional signs and symptoms of EZS in the coming months to better understand the extent of EZS in Vermont. Additional information on EZS can be found online at Vermont Invasives.

Elm zigzag sawfly was first detected in Virginia in 2021. In 2022, it was confirmed in



Elm zigzag sawfly larva. Photo: Gyorgy Csoka, Hungary Forest Research Institute, Bugwood.org, 5410981

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Tree Warden of the Year Nominations Accepted

Do you know an outstanding Tree Warden who deserves recognition for their outstanding efforts?

This award recognizes a tree warden who exhibits leadership, dedication, and a commitment to the profession. The annual award is named in honor of longtime member and past president Seth “Swifty” Swift, who passed away January 1, 2004. We invite nominations from Massachusetts residents as well as from city and town officials. Nominations are due by December 1st.

The award is given at the Association’s annual conference in January. The Association holds an Arbor Day event in the town or city where the individual works and publicizes the award in that recipient’s area.

Award Criteria

- Holds position of Tree Warden or Deputy Tree Warden in a municipality.
- Actively participates in the Arbor Day Foundation’s Tree City USA Program
- Demonstrates active leadership and dedication to the protection of urban trees
- Educates the community in which they work about the importance of healthy urban trees
- Holds an annual Arbor Day celebration
- Shows commitment to the profession by volunteering with a tree-related organization



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Mass. Tree Wardens and Foresters Association staff, board members, and their families gathered for the August MTWFA meeting at the New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill.



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DCR Updates

DCR Awards \$282,562 in Urban and Community Challenge Grants

Challenge Grants are an annual grant opportunity for municipalities and nonprofits in Massachusetts to improve and protect their urban forests. These 50/50 matching grants help develop, grow and sustain programs that plant, protect and maintain a community's public tree resources and develop partnerships with residents and community institutions. Find out more at www.mass.gov/dcr/ucf.

Awardees are:

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Ashburnham | Restoration of Historic Town Common Winchester Park |
| Buckland | Buckland Community Wood bank Application |
| Chelsea | Public Tree Management Plan and Tree Inventory |
| Framingham | Grant Street Strategic Tree Planting |
| Longmeadow | Tree Inventory Expansion for Schools and Parks |
| Longmeadow | Expanding the Role of Longmeadow's Tree Warden |
| Medford | Medford Tree Inventory |
| Natick | Pickerel Pond Forest Management Plan |
| Pittsfield | Lori Court Tree Replacement Project |
| Shrewsbury | Shrewsbury Tree Inventory and Assessment Project |
| Speak for the Trees | Community Tree Keepers Training Project |
| Wakefield | Tree Inventory and Management Plan |
| Wendell | Wendell Community Wood Bank |
| Worcester | Resource Assessments for Urban Forests on Conservation Lands |

2023 Tree City USA Applications Accepted Starting in September

If you are a longtime Tree City USA or are applying for the first time, the best way to submit your application is through the Arbor Day Foundation online portal. The portal will open for 2023 applications in September. Applications are due December 31.

About Tree City USA

The Tree City USA program provides communities with a framework to maintain and grow their tree canopy and provides recognition that a city or town has established trees as a priority and has made good decisions about the management of these resources. It fosters a sense of pride and good will toward the appearance and livability of your community.

Your community can receive annual Tree City recognition by meeting four standards:

1. Tree Board or Department:
2. A Tree Care Ordinance
3. Minimum Community Forestry Annual Budget of \$2 per Capita
4. Arbor Day Observance and Proclamation

To find out more about Tree City USA and how to apply, visit the DCR Urban & Community Forestry website www.mass.gov/dcr/ucf or contact Mathew Cahill, mathew.cahill@mass.gov.

DCR Tree Steward Training

Western MA Training: Friday October 13th, 2023 - Amherst 8:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.

Eastern MA Training: Friday October 27th, 2023 - Newton 8:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.

This year's topics: iTree, Improving Community Tree Boards, Insect and Disease Problems, Pruning Trees, Proper Tree Planting Techniques, Funding Urban and Community Forestry, and more. ISA credits will be available.

Registration \$20. Find out more and register at www.mass.gov/forms/dcr-tree-steward-training

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Smart Tree Inventory Workshop

September 8, 2023 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. | Worcester, MA

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Agenda

| | |
|-------|---|
| 9:00 | Coffee and Registration |
| 9:15 | Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Urban Forestry - Josh Behounek, Davey Resource Group |
| 9:45 | Creating a Smart Tree Inventory - Gabor Goertz, greenhill |
| 10:30 | Implementing Your Tree Inventory - Brian Breveleri, City of Worcester |
| 11:00 | Data-Driven Decisions with a Smart Tree Inventory for Risk Management, Urban Heat Island, and Tree Equity - Josh Behounek, Davey Resource Group |
| 12:00 | Lunch (included) |
| 12:30 | Equipment Demonstration & Ride-Along (Optional) |
| 3:00 | Adjourn |

Register at [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com) (Search 'Smart Tree Inventories Worcester')



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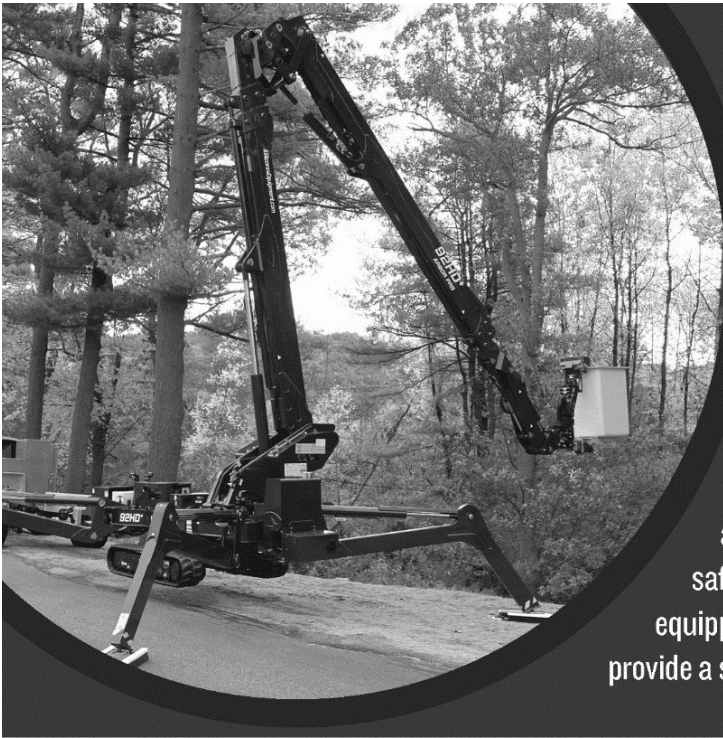




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LEGACY TREE PROGRAM

We would like to know of any large, historic or unique trees in your community!



For more information and to nominate, visit:
mass.gov/guides/massachusetts-legacy-tree-program

There is Still Time to Complete the Municipal Pruning and Training Survey!

The survey seeks information about pruning practices and training in municipalities across Massachusetts and should take only about 10 minutes to complete. This is a great chance to share practices and impact municipal tree canopies throughout the state! Help out UMass-Amherst graduate student Tes Siarnacki, with your participation in this survey.



To access the survey, please scan the QR code.

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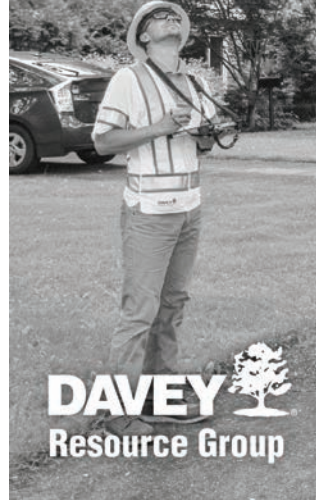
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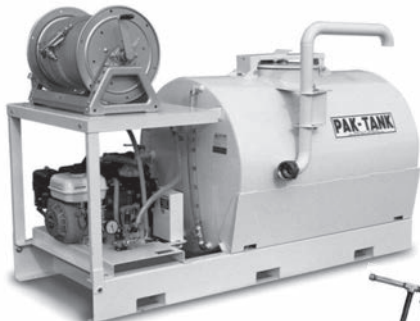
| | |
|--------------------------------|----|
| Acorn Tree and Landscape | 16 |
| All Access Equipment | 15 |
| Amherst Nurseries | 13 |
| Bartlett Consolidated | 7 |
| Cleaves Company | 4 |
| Davey Resource Group | 18 |
| Favreau Forestry | 13 |
| Mayer Power Products | 14 |
| Mayer Tree Service | 9 |
| Millican Nurseries | 9 |
| Northeast Nursery | 4 |
| OESCO, Inc. | 19 |
| ProBark | 11 |
| RBG, Inc. | 15 |
| Read Custom Soils | 4 |
| Shelter Tree | 18 |
| Stockbridge School | 17 |
| Urban Forestry Solutions | 13 |

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and Foresters' Association
P.O. Box 5141
Norwell, MA 02061

Calendar of Events

| | | |
|--------------------|--|--|
| September 6 | Mass. Qualified Tree Warden Class Begins, Worcester | www.masstreewardens.org |
| September 7 | Urban Forestry Today Webcast | www.urbanforestrytoday.org |
| September 20 | Saluting Branches | www.salutingbranches.org |
| Oct 1-3 | New England ISA Annual Conference and Trade Show, Portland | www.newenglandisa.org |
| Oct 13 | DCR Tree Steward Training - Western Mass | www.mass.gov/forms/dcr-tree-steward-training |
| Oct 27 | DCR Tree Steward Training - Eastern Mass | www.mass.gov/forms/dcr-tree-steward-training |
| January 9-10, 2024 | MTWFA Annual Conference and Tradeshow | www.masstreewardens.org |