

# Massachusetts Tree Wardens and Foresters Association

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



# BARK

2024  
Issue 1  
Spring

## Massachusetts Tree Wardens' and Foresters' Association 111th Annual Conference

*Adapted and reprinted with permission from the New York State Urban Forest Council. To see the article and all its wonderful photos and quick Satisfaction/challenge Q&A with attendees, go to <https://nysufc.org/>.*

The MA Tree Wardens' meeting on January 9-10, 2024 offered opportunities for learning, networking and fun. The state is different, some of the terminology is different, but New York and Massachusetts share most of the same concerns and have much to teach each other.

Occurring, as it happened, between the first two major winter storms of the year, the conference also provided an opportunity for reflection on the day-to-day demands of any job requiring tree cleanup.

First came the snow. Sturbridge Host Hotel, the long-time venue for the Conference, offered a picturesque view over the property's pond.

The TV news featured warnings about wind and rain that would descend the night between the conference's two days of lectures and other activities. A certain tone was set by master of ceremonies Tom Brady, a special advisor to the Association, as attendees filtered into the ballroom where all the scheduled events would take place.

Brady held up his cell phone. "I know you all have one of these," he told the group. "And I know that given the weather — anticipated wind events, the possibility of having to clear branches from roadways — yours may ring. Please silence your phone and leave the room if you need to take that call."

Seeded through this write-up are the brief responses of attendees to two vital questions. First, What is your biggest satisfaction in your work with tree? Two, What is the greatest challenge you face? [View these write-ups at [www.nysufc.org](http://www.nysufc.org).] As much as tree people have in common, their answers reflect our diversity and independent spirit.



*The grand ballroom and over 400 attendees*

Founded in 1913 as a forum for municipal tree managers to share their concerns and to promote the preservation of public shade trees, the Massachusetts Tree Wardens' and Foresters' Association has since expanded its mission to encompass preservation of the entire urban and community forest. Its membership, reflected in the composition of the four hundred people registered for this 2024 conference, now includes not only "tree wardens" but city foresters, utility representatives, commercial arborists, education professionals and citizen tree advocates.

Some deeper history: since 1899, Massachusetts General Law has mandated that all cities and towns in the Commonwealth employ a tree warden who is responsible for trees on public property. The word "warden" was a common title for natural resource officials in the late 1800s, and it signified a unique legal responsibility: to guard public

*Continued on page 5*

# MTWFA Executive Board 2024

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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.

## In this Issue

Massachusetts Tree Wardens' and Foresters' Association 111th Annual Conference .....	1
MTWFA Executive Board 2024 .....	2
President's Message .....	3
New/Returning Members .....	3
2024 MTWFA Seedling Program .....	8
Arbor Day - April 26, 2024 .....	10
Chris Rosa, City of Malden, Tree Warden of the Year .....	12
Peter Buttkus Awarded the George E. Stone Award .....	13
Thank you to Our Conference Exhibitors! .....	13
Chainsaw Safety and Storm Cleanup Training .....	14
Upcoming PDS - Save the Dates! .....	14
i-Tree Open Academy .....	14
2024 Annual Conference Photos .....	16
MTWFA 2024 Scholarships .....	18
DCR Updates .....	20
Western Mass Tree Wardens Dinner .....	21
Index of Advertisers .....	22
Calendar of Events .....	24

**DON'T MISS A SINGLE ISSUE OF THE BARK—** To stay connected, be sure to send in your 2024 membership dues before June.

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**AND FORESTERS'**  
**ASSOCIATION**

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Published Quarterly  
Spring-Summer-Fall-Winter

# President's Message

As I sit here writing down my thoughts, I wait patiently for another day of court. Recently I was selected for jury duty. What I thought would be a day, turned into three months. Little did I know that first day when I sat waiting in the courtroom with 150 other random folks that I would be chosen. Little did I know that once selected I would serve on a Grand Jury and that this service would last for three months. I wasn't pleased at first. Seemingly no one was pleased to have been selected. Well, except for the lady sitting next to me who said, verbatim, "Wow, this is going to be so much fun." Once selections were complete, the hundred or so people leaving the courtroom behaved like they had just won the lottery and let their feelings show. In fact, there was such an outburst of elation that it drew the anger of the judge, who stopped things quickly, and gave us a all a quick lesson on civic duty. She reminded us that as Americans, we do not ask much of our citizenry. No mandatory military service, really nothing mandatory except, of course, jury duty. And that this is an obligation of all citizens of this country and should not be taken lightly. This hit home, not only for me personally, but I think for us all there that day.

We all know right from wrong. Almost all of us want the same basic things in life. However, some of us cannot be bothered. Bothered to do the right thing. Passing the buck, so they say. My mind goes to climate change. Many of us agree that our climate is changing. Some debate the reasons behind this but agree on the premise. Polls show that many people, particularly young people, are worried about the future as it relates to climate change. So much so that they have developed anxiety. Many have been hearing and living with these concerns their whole lives. Understandably, they are worried. All it takes is to watch the nightly news and you

Eddie

*Ed Olsen*

President 2023-2024



will see at least a story or two related to a weather or climate relate crisis somewhere in the country or world.

I relate our climate crisis to jury duty. Many of us, like potential jurors, understand the importance of the call to serve. In essence, all of us are called to serve on this World Jury. With climate change, many are called but similarly few are chosen. When I think of this past conference, and I think of the over four hundred people that joined us, I relate us to all serving on a very large Grand Jury. We are the chosen ones. Ones striving to make a difference. Locally, regionally, and on a world stage. And so, we are at a crossroads. It is up to all of us, but especially us in the business of change and leadership. We as Tree Wardens and individuals working in the "Green Industry" have incredible power to affect change respectively. Our actions together are powerful. Our work is meaningful and we collectively are making a difference. Please keep up all the good work.

The judge who swore us in on our first morning checks in on us as a Grand Jury periodically, thanking us for our service and checking to see if we are alright. Jury work is not easy. Emotionally, it takes a toll on all of us. She knows this and reminds us how important our work is. Well, like the judge, I want to thank you all for all you do respectively. I hope that this message finds you well, rested, and ready to continue your work this upcoming year. Your civic duties are important. Your actions are meaningful. Your work is powerful. Your leadership is important. And most importantly our "Why" has never been so important for us all. I wish you all a great year and most importantly, I look forward to our work this year as a group. Take care and be well.

---

## New/Returning Members

### Individual Members

Derek Adams, Town of Franklin

William Bernard, MQTW, Town of Lunenburg

Tony Brunetta, MQTW, Town of Franklin

Rebekah Cornell, MQTW, Town of South Hadley

Erica Holm, Mass Audubon

Russell Holman, Eversource

Christopher Kolofsky, Town of Rutland

Michael Malvoso, Town of Needham

Rick Mastroianni, Town of Agawam

Conor Morgan, Town of Salem

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resources against destructive forces that might include persons, insects or diseases. To this day, the Tree Warden title remains unique to the six states of New England.

The audience heard an in-depth, intelligent keynote by Dr. Francesco Ferrini, “How Urban Green Can Help to Mitigate the Hazards and Risks of Climate Change Impacts.” Professor Ferrini, based in the Department of Agriculture, Food, Environment and Forestry at the University of Florence, explored the multifaceted benefits of urban greenery, and laid out a roadmap for building resilient cities — and, by extension, nations.

Nearly seventy percent of the world’s population will live in cities by 2050, said Ferrini, “so the future of humanity is urban.” We need to answer the question, “Who will the cities be for? I think they must be of the people, planned for the people, cared for by the people.” Our work on green issues must be SMART, he said: “Specific. Measurable. Achievable. Relevant. Time-based.”

A primary goal must be mitigating the heat island effect. “European heat waves killed more than 61,600 people in the summer of 2022.” Soil sealing with asphalt result in an increase in surface temperature, while more green infrastructure lowers urban heat. The answer, said Ferrini, “is to plant more trees, strategically — but it’s not so simple.”

One arboreal phenomenon he critiqued was the practice of topping trees. “I hate topping,” he said. “Every single day I fight against topping.” Why? “Through research, we found out that plots with topped trees versus others had nine degrees difference in temperature.”

Italy, Ferrini told the group, is the most polluted country in Europe. Covid rates rose in its three most populous cities mainly because peoples’ constitutions were weaker. The country’s premature death toll is also among the highest in the world. He pointed out that 43,000 deaths each year in Europe could be saved through added green initiatives.

“Plant blindness is crucial now in terms of increasing biodiversity,” he said, as is soil health, including that of urban soil. “Our life depends on the first six inches of soil, so when we cover it with concrete we decrease our life span.” He pointed out that ninety-nine percent of microbes protect us against the unhealthy one percent.

How to act to increase biodiversity? “Greening urban areas is not just planting trees,” he concluded. We need to determine which species are most protective of human health. In sum, Ferrini appealed to urban planners, policymakers and communities to champion the green city movement,



Francisco Ferrini

emphasizing that the path to a resilient future is paved with trees, parks and sustainable urban landscapes.

Addressing local issues that were equally pressing for this audience, Julie Coop gave an update on current state program highlights, speaking from her vantage as the Urban & Community Forestry Coordinator at Massachusetts DCR (the equivalent of New York’s Department of Environmental Conservation).

DCR programs parallel those in New York State, with some differences. Grants exist for inventories, community tree plantings and to secure professional staff, she said. The state also gives Tree City awards and has planted 40,000 trees this year through its Greening the Gateway Cities program. She noted that the state’s Legacy Tree Program honors “the big, cool, historic trees in your community.” She also suggested that people stop by the DCR table to pick up a nifty rain gauge “that can also serve as a pour measure” for the cocktail reception that would follow the day’s events.

On the technical side of the field, DCR Forest Health Director Nicole Keleher opened by saying, “It’s my job to focus on the bad stuff”: beech leaf disease, emerald ash borer, fire, frost and other “damage agents.” The newest invasive, she said, is the elm zigzag sawfly, “an all-female population — they don’t need males to reproduce.” First observed in Becket, MA in 2023, it is so far contained in forested areas.

Another outbreak is that of the southern pine beetle, native to the lower regions of the U.S. but moving northward as the climate warms. Other familiar pests include the emerald ash borer, spongy moth and the hemlock woolly adelgid. Keleher

Continued on page 6

offered some good news about the Asian longhorned beetle: “We have not found one infested tree in either 2022 or 2023.”

Dawn Toon of the Massachusetts Department of Labor Standards spoke about the risk of hearing loss in the tree field.

“If someone gets their finger cut off,” she pointed out, “it’s obvious. But hearing loss takes place gradually.”

She explained that noise is considered “hazardous” when it reaches 85 decibels, according to OSHA. Hazardous noise “can interfere with communication, cause fatigue or be distracting or irritating,” she said, and explained the proper use of ear plug or muffs.

Debbie Merriam, director of the Mary May Binney Wakefield Arboretum in Milton, MA, gave a talk on “Citizen Science: An Effective Tool for Forest Management.” Merriam told the story of a tracking project in a wetland, when “ash trees fell due to emerald ash borer and invasive species took over.” Two hundred fifty volunteers contributed to the ten-month-long project by collecting data on phragmites, garlic mustard, buckthorn, multiflora rose, bittersweet, barberry, burning bush and Japanese knotweed. “I wanted to get people outside and understanding the relationship between different plants,” said Merriam. “Ninety-five percent had never been out in the field before.”

Consultant Mark Duntemann spoke on “The Use of Logical Fallacies” — addressing why the task of conducting a risk



Mark Duntemann

assessment on a tree can have a significant amount of uncertainty and how professionals can anticipate certain arguments that might arise in any tree-related conflict. The owner of Natural Path Urban Forestry, Duntemann provides guidance on projects in North and South America, Asia and Europe, and serves as an expert witness in numerous tree-related litigation cases.

The logical fallacy, he explained, “is a statement of facts that contains error in reasoning. It’s a common tool for presenting a point of view

or information in the hope that the opposite side does not see the truth.” For one example, he described a codominant stem of a maple failing and injuring a gardener, after which the plaintiff brought up over a dozen logical fallacies.

Duntemann described a few categories of logical fallacy. One basic argument, he said, is that “because a particular tree failed, it must have been a ‘hazard.’” In actuality, every single tree in the landscape has the potential to cause harm. Tree Risk Assessments are opinions about the likelihood of a tree failing. In most cases, counterintuitively, “when a tree fails the risk is actually low. They’re harder to discern.”

Another logical fallacy is “bifurcation” — in other words, asserting that there are only two possible outcomes, when really many exist. Risk, he said, is about uncertainty, and dozens of variables are always present and fluctuating.

Another logical fallacy: “loaded words that are used to elicit a response.” For example, he said, the words “defect” or “hazard” which “actually exist on a spectrum that can range from benign to severe.”

Another fallacy — and one most everyone in the room could relate to — Duntemann called “argumentum ad nauseum.” The speaker summarized, “Saying it twelve times does not make it true. Prove it.” Why is it necessary to watch out for logical fallacies? “Unchallenged, logical fallacies become fact.” Duntemann ended with a joke: “When a tree falls in the woods, does anyone hear it? Answer: The attorney always hears it.”

One presentation focused on an extremely serious topic and was entertaining to boot. Beth Brantley, a scientist with Bartlett Tree Research Laboratories, addressed the subject of beech leaf disease, introducing her lecture as “the joy of beech.” Current biological threats include phytophthora, beech bark disease, wood decay pathogens, foliar feeding arthropods and beech leaf disease. She covered all of them,



Beth Brantley



Speaker gifts: wood engravings by artist Barry Moser

speaking about current research and management strategies.

But first she focused on why we ought to care about the beech.

She shared some of its history and culture: the species was a hallmark of Frederick Law Olmsted's park designs, its wood is diffuse and porous so it burns well and is easy to split, and has many commercial uses, from cabinetry to flooring to wooden spoons. It is also critical to beer brewing. "What makes Budweiser special is that beech is used in the lagering process," she told the group.

There is also the tree's beauty. "They develop these amazing crowns," she said, "and are so spectacular." A beech, Brantley said, citing the childhood experience of Jane Goodall in her grandmother's yard, "is a tree that is just begging to be climbed."

She went on to summarize some of the enemies of the beech today. The woolly beech leaf aphid, a non-native, feeds primarily on European beech. Pathogens include armillaria, Ganoderma, and Kretzschmaria, which resembles "a great big blob of burnt stuff." Unfortunately, Brantley said, "beech is not a strong compartmentalizer" and so is especially vulnerable to these phenomena.

She showed an image depicting one of her favorite bands, Rush, to the enjoyment of the audience, and the band's pertinent lyric from "The Trees": There is unrest in the Forest.

Which led to her discussion of beech leaf disease. "There is no other pathosystem like it in the world, caused by a nematode that attacks the buds and leaves, and we don't have anything yet to combat these foliar nematodes." One leaf, she emphasized, can be host to 10,000 nematodes. She shared images of "zebra striping" and said, "This is important. When these leaves unfurl they will have these symptoms, and these symptoms remain the same over the growing season." With the next year comes distortion, leaf crinkling, dying buds and thick, hardened leaves.

Is there any workable plan to counter BLD? "Fluopyram is the golden ticket," said Brantley. "It causes the nematodes to go into paralysis and then they die — What a great way to kill those things!" It might be possible to treat beech hedges and smaller specimens effectively; not so much large stands. She ended on a sorrowful note: "I fear for the influx of additional

invasives in our forests as we lose our beeches." Offering counsel to the tree people in attendance, Brantley concluded, "What to do? Mulch. Control the nematode. Focus on important trees. Plant a new tree now."

Conference participants woke up on the meeting's second morning to find that the predicted storm had been less severe than expected, and so while individuals' basements had flooded, municipal emergency work was lighter than anticipated. The ballroom filled as it had the day before.

"We all know we're in a dangerous profession," master of ceremonies Tom Brady remarked to the room. "We were all ramped up for wind last night. And what did we get? Rain." He expressed his satisfaction at the conference's makeup. "I see much higher diversity in terms of age, gender race and background in our field than I've seen before," he said, "and that makes me happy." He requested that a group of high school students in attendance stand up. He asked for an audience show of hands: "Who here is hiring? There is opportunity for you in this field," he told the kids. "Thanks for joining us today."



Squishy souvenirs

As on the previous day, raffles rewarded attendees with pruners, hand saws, chainsaws, ball caps and sweatshirts.

And there were squishy souvenirs.

All left with food for thought.

When all was said and done, the Mass Wardens had put on a great conference.

There was, however, one minor disaster at the Host Hotel. Outside in the parking lot, the Sturbridge DPW cleared away a pile of branches from a fallen tree. Wind? Rain? No, a semi turning around had backed into the tree and felled it.

"Ironic," said one conference goer.

"In front of four hundred arborists!" said his companion.

"It happens," said Tom Brady.

View the original article by scanning the QR code at right.



# 2024 MTWFA Seedling Program is Now Taking Orders

**Order Deadline: April 12, 2024**

Tree seedlings are a popular Arbor Day/Earth Day promotion tool for municipalities, garden clubs, businesses, arborists and other interested individuals and organizations.

Net proceeds from the seedling program support the MTWFA Scholarship Fund. Scholarships are awarded to students enrolled in arboriculture and urban forestry programs.

## How do seedlings arrive?

The package includes seedling trees and printed plastic bags with planting instructions. Bags are shipped separately in early April for orders scheduled for delivery during Arbor Day/Earth Day week.

Upon delivery, the seedlings can be placed in the plastic bags along with potting soil or peat moss, for distribution to school children and other Arbor Day/Earth Day participants. (Does not apply to pre-bagged seedlings.)

Seedlings are shipped via UPS. Please note that UPS does NOT deliver to P.O. boxes. Someone should be present

when the seedlings arrive, especially during warm weather. Seedlings must be delivered by May 3rd.

## How can seedlings be distributed?

Check with your local school department or municipality to obtain approval and an estimate of the quantities you will require. Distribution of the seedlings may be accompanied by a ceremony or presentation promoting Arbor Day/Earth Day, trees, and their value to people and the environment.

## How do I place an order?

**Download the order form on our website. Note:** white dogwood is sold out. Only orders on the form will be accepted. Full payment is required with each order. Checks: Payable to MTWFA. Purchase orders: We will invoice you.



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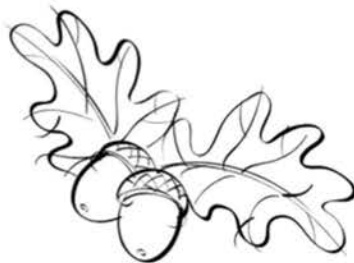
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# Arbor Day is Friday, April 26, 2024

There are lots of ways to celebrate! For even more ideas, go to [www.arborday.org/celebrate](http://www.arborday.org/celebrate).



- Plant trees
- Hold a read-in at the library
- Organize a tree identification hike.
- Organize a Big Tree search within your community.
- Hold an Arbor Day ceremony and honor the good stewards in your community.
- Schedule classes on tree pruning, tree selection, tree identification and tree planting.
- Sponsor a poster contest (like the DCR contest), poetry contest, or tree trivia contest.

## Celebrating Arbor Day is one of the standards for Tree City USA

To become a Tree City USA, communities meet four standards:

- Maintaining a tree board or department
- Spending at least \$2 per capita on urban forestry
- Having a community tree ordinance (You can show adoption or enforcement of Chapter 87 if your community does not have a local ordinance or bylaw)
- Celebrating Arbor Day

Scan for more information.



Find out more about how to become a Tree City USA at the Arbor Day Foundation website or by contacting Mathew Cahill: [mathew.cahill@mass.gov](mailto:mathew.cahill@mass.gov). If your community could use some **financial assistance** for celebrating Arbor Day, check out the New England ISA Arbor Day Grant - [www.newenglandisa.org/resources/grants-scholarships](http://www.newenglandisa.org/resources/grants-scholarships) and apply for up to \$1,000. Deadline to apply is March 31.

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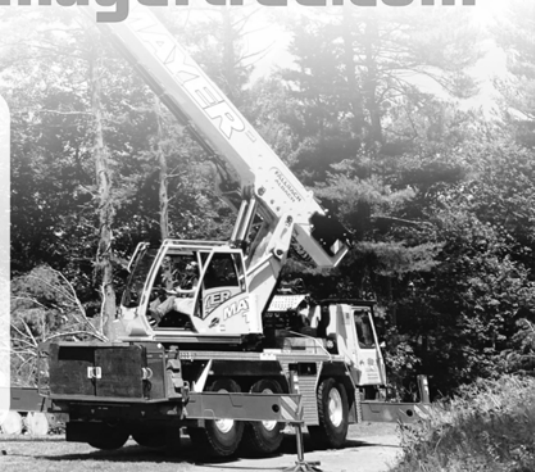
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# Chris Rosa, City of Malden, Recognized as Tree Warden of the Year

The Massachusetts Tree Wardens' and Foresters' Association (MTWFA) presented the 23rd annual Seth H. Swift Tree Warden of the Year award to Chris Rosa, Superintendent of Cemeteries and Tree Warden for the City of Malden. MTWFA president, Ed Olsen presented the elegant silver tree award to Chris at the association's 111th annual meeting and conference on January 9, 2024.

Chris, who for many years owned a landscaping business, started at the Malden Department of Public Works as Assistant Director in 2018 and became Tree Warden in 2022. Chris is responsible for planting and managing the city's tree inventory which consists of all public shade trees including schools, parks, and public buildings. Since becoming Tree Warden, Chris has received more than \$135,000 in planting grant monies. He was the first to discover and manage the emerald ash borer in the City as well as to sign a vegetation management plan with utility companies. In addition to maintaining the City's Tree City USA status, he created Malden's first ever tree planting and protection guidelines.

Chris received a record number of nominations for the Tree Warden of the Year award. Here is just a small sample of what the people of Malden had to say about their tree warden:

*Chris goes above and beyond for our city. He has implemented many new and exciting ideas such as an orchard in our cemetery. I have lived in Malden for almost 60 years, I don't remember having so many trees planted in one year as this past year under Chris's supervision. – Mary Beth Leon*

*Chris Rosa has been instrumental in securing arboretum status at the Forestdale Cemetery in Malden. He has undertaken planting a small orchard there as well. This has greatly improved one of our hidden jewels for all to enjoy. He has worked tirelessly to not only plant many species of trees throughout our city but to involve many people young and old in this endeavor... – Kathleen MacDonald*

*Chris takes great pride in not only saving trees but recommending correct trees to be planted. With so many heat islands we need more awareness of the destruction of mature trees and planting trees to provide shade, homes, and good food sources for many wildlife species... -Linda Amato*

The association plans to hold a commemorative tree planting in the City of Malden to honor Chris Rosa's award. Details will be posted on [www.masstreewardens.org](http://www.masstreewardens.org).



*Tree Warden of the Year, Chris Rosa (left), Malden, and Mass. Tree Wardens' and Foresters' Association President, Ed Olsen (right).*

## Tree Warden of the Year

Nominations Accepted All Year Long



# Peter Buttkus, Town of Duxbury, Awarded the George E. Stone Award

The Massachusetts Tree Wardens' and Foresters' Association (MTWFA) recently presented the Dr. George E. Stone Founders Award for Excellence to Peter Buttkus. MTWFA president, Ed Olsen, presented the hand-carved tree of life during the association's annual meeting.

In 1913 Dr. George E. Stone founded the Massachusetts Tree Wardens' and Foresters' Association, now the oldest urban and community tree protection association in the nation. The Dr. George E. Stone Award is the association's highest honor, awarded to a member who has demonstrated strong commitment to the industry, significant advocacy on behalf of public trees, and dedicated volunteer service to the association.

Peter received the award for his longstanding recognition of the value of trees to our communities and his support for the efforts of the association. He is a graduate of the University of Massachusetts Stockbridge School (Class of '82). Now retired, Peter was most recently the Tree Warden and Public Works Director for the Town of Duxbury. He has served the MTWFA in many capacities, receiving the association's President's Award in 2008 for his commitment and dedication. He has led the Scholarship Committee, served on the Finance Committee, and contributed to many other committees over the years. He served as president of the Southeast Tree Wardens coordinating the beloved annual chicken bake and field day.



*Peter Buttkus, Town of Duxbury (retired; left), the 2024 recipient of the George E. Stone Award with Ed Olsen, MTWFA President.*

The board of directors was pleased to recognize Peter's years of service to the association with their highest award.

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# Professional Development Series (PDS): Chainsaw Safety and Storm Cleanup Training

April 24, 2024 | 7:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. | Easton Public Works Department

This course will review chainsaw safety features, proper personal protective equipment, proper tree felling, and storm clean-up techniques. This course will combine classroom time with an outdoor demonstration. PPE will be required for the demonstration portion of the course. 6 CEUs are pending. Limited to 30 participants.

Member registration: \$75; non-member: \$100.

Detailed Agenda	
7:30 a.m.	Check-in
8:00 a.m.	Chainsaw Safety Features
8:30 a.m.	PPE for Saw Operators
9:00 a.m.	First Aid Kit Requirements - OSHA 1910.266
9:15 a.m.	Break
9:30 a.m.	Chainsaw Reactive Forces
10:00 a.m.	Cutting Techniques
10:30 a.m.	Danger Trees, Limbing, Pressures, Binds, Rolls and Splits
11:00 a.m.	Swamper/Helper Activities and Placement
11:30 a.m.	Environmental Conditions Job Site Planning
12:00-12:30	Lunch (Provided)
12:30-2:30 p.m.	Outside Demonstration



Scan to register for this  
Chainsaw Safety and  
Storm Cleanup Training

## Upcoming PDS - Save the Dates!

### Working with Tree Advisory Groups

June 5, 2024 | Webinar

### Proper Tree Planting

October 23, 2024 | Needham

Stay tuned for details on these upcoming workshops.

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MTWFA Vice-President and Conference Chair, Rich Parasiliti, Jr. (left) and Francisco Ferrini (right) with his speaker gift, an engraving by artist Barry Moser.



Wood engravings by artist Barry Moser were the gifts for speakers.



Awards luncheon



Tree Warden Panel. Left to Right: Alan Snow, Tree Warden, Amherst; Leah Grigorov, Tree Warden, Longmeadow; Erica Holm, Mass Audubon; Paul Sellers, Eversource (retired).

The annual Childs Fund 50-50 raffle raised \$1,064, with \$532 going to the Childs Fund. Congratulations to raffle winner Rich Parasiliti!

## 2024 Annual Conference Photos



Dave Bresnahan, DCR, with a new Husqvarna chainsaw donated by Read Custom Soils



Scott Hathway, MQTW, Town of Westfield, with a new Silky Zubat, donated by Tri State Power Equipment



Linda Leduc, on behalf of Steve Williams, Town of Belchertown, with the new Husqvarna saw, donated by MTWFA.



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# MTWFA 2024 Scholarships

Each year, the Massachusetts Tree Wardens' and Foresters' Association awards scholarships to students actively studying arboriculture, community forest management, urban forestry, or a related field. These awards were presented in February at the UMass Amherst Community Tree Conference.

Funding for the annual grants comes from the proceeds of the annual Arbor Day Seedling Program. The five scholarships bear the names of the following Association members who have made major contributions to the organization and the industry:

Fred C. Burk    Louis J. Casasanto    Professor Gordon S. King    Dr. Malcolm A. McKenzie    Seth H. Swift

In addition, in 2024 the committee issued a President's Award and three general scholarships to high school students pursuing higher education after graduation. A total of \$11,000.00 in scholarships were awarded.

The Scholarship Committee publicizes the scholarships, reviews applications, selects recipients, recommends board approval of the recipients and amounts, and notifies the recipients by letter. In addition, UMass arboriculture faculty members select the recipient of the annual Dennis Ryan Outstanding Arboriculture Student Scholarship, awarded jointly by the Massachusetts Tree Wardens' and Foresters' Association and the Massachusetts Arborists Association.

At the college level the six recipients were: **Josh Kellog**, University of Vermont, received the Dr. Malcolm McKenzie Award; **Denise Lewis**, UMass Amherst, received the Seth H. Swift Award; **Carlson Cantoreggi**, Mississippi State University, received the Fred C. Burk Award; **Keely Zuber**, Paul Smith's College, received the Louis J. Casasanto Award; **Logan Quinn**, UMaine Orono, received the Professor Gordon S. King Award; **Taylor Sirios**, Paul Smith's College, received the MTWFA President's Award.



*Logan Quinn, recipient of the Gordon S. King Award.*



*Taylor Sirios, recipient of the President's Award.*

At the high school level, the three recipients of the MTWFA General Scholarship were: **Julian Hynes**, Amherst Regional High School; **Gabriella Carvahlo**, Bristol County Agricultural High School; **Jaci Coyne**, Essex North Shore High School.

And finally, **Maggie Graves** received the joint MTWFA and Massachusetts Arborists Association Award, the Dennis Ryan Outstanding Arboriculture Student Scholarship!

**Congratulations to ALL of this year's scholarship recipients!** We are so proud of all that you have accomplished and are very excited to see where your degrees will take you. You are the future of our industry!

Applications for the MTWFA Scholarships are due on February 15th of each year.



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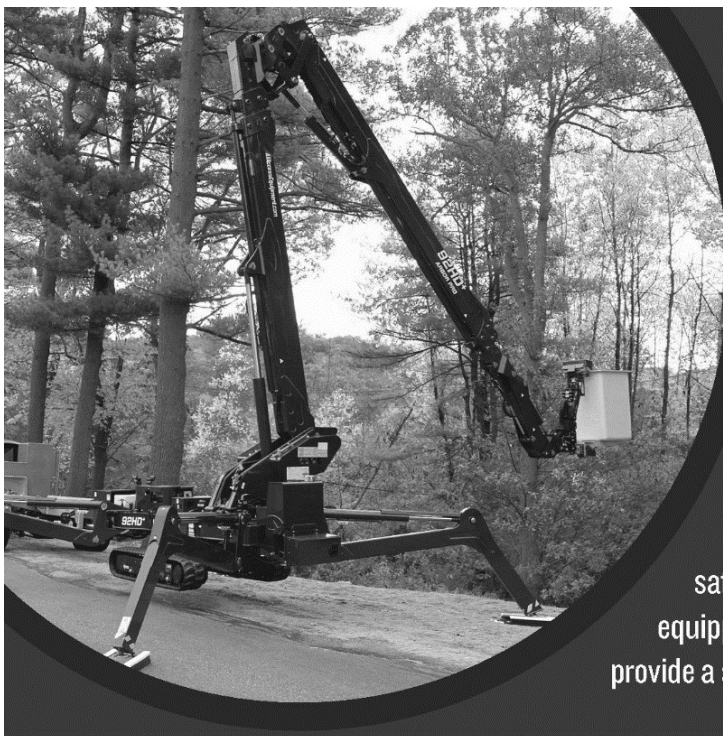


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# DCR Updates

## Annual Arbor Day Poster Contest for 3rd, 4th, and 5th Graders

2024 Theme:

### Healthy Trees, Healthy Towns

We are pleased to announce the expansion of the Arbor Day Poster Contest to include 3rd and 4th grades, in addition to 5th grade students.

How it works: Each school holds its own poster contest for each participating grade and submits their winning poster(s) to the DCR. Prizes include art and science supplies, a tree planting, and recognition awards. The DCR can accept one poster from each eligible grade (3rd, 4th, and 5th) per school. Not every eligible grade needs to participate in each school. Home schooled or non-participating school students may submit their posters and enter the contest individually. Find out more at [mass.gov/dcr/ucf](http://mass.gov/dcr/ucf).



## Spring is a Great Time to Take the First Step toward Tree City USA

With Arbor Day around the corner, this is a great time to take that first step toward becoming a Tree City USA Community or going for a Growth Award. Celebrating Arbor Day is one of the standards communities have to meet to earn this recognition (and the most fun!). Go to page 10 to see more details on Tree City and ways to celebrate Arbor Day or contact us. We're happy to talk with your community about Tree City USA and other ways DCR can help your community better protect, grow, and manage the urban forest. Find out more at [www.mass.gov/dcr/ucf](http://www.mass.gov/dcr/ucf).

An advertisement for Favreau Forestry L.L.C. The background is a black and white photograph of bare tree branches. On the left, there is a circular logo featuring a stylized evergreen tree and the text "FAVREAU FORESTRY FFI L.L.C.". To the right of the logo, the text reads "FROM A SINGLE BRANCH... TO THE WHOLE FOREST." Below this, a list of services is provided: "Hazardous Tree Removal, Crane Removals, Tree Pruning, Storm Debris Reduction/Removal, 24-hour Emergency Response Services". At the bottom, the contact information is listed: "FAVREAUFORESTRY.COM 978.706.1038 STERLING, MA". On the right side, there are three certification logos: "ACCREDITED" (with a tree icon), "CTSP" (Certified Tree Safety Professional), and "ISA" (International Society of Arboriculture). Below these logos, it says "ISA CERTIFIED ARBORIST NE-6934A TCIA ACCREDITED COMPANY MA-025".



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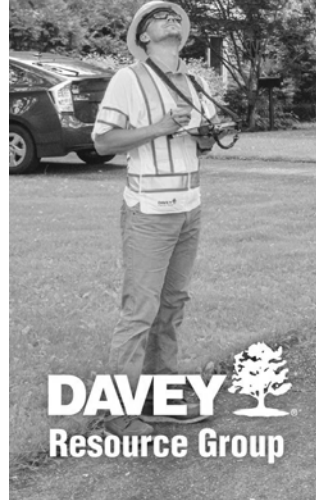
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## Index of Advertisers

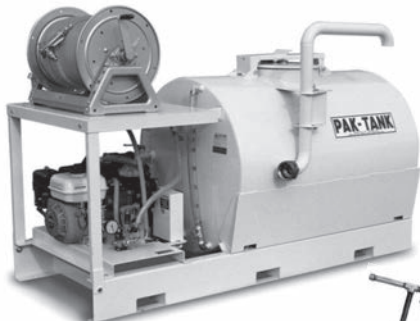
Acorn Tree and Landscape .....	9
All Access Equipment.....	19
Amherst Nurseries .....	15
Bartlett Consolidated .....	17
Cleaves Company.....	4
Davey Resource Group .....	22
Favreau Forestry.....	20
GoGreen Tree Care Products.....	10
Mayer Power Products.....	15
Mayer Tree Service.....	11
Millican Nurseries .....	11
Northeast Nursery .....	4
OESCO, Inc. ....	23
ProBark .....	8
RBG, Inc.....	19
Read Custom Soils .....	4
Shelter Tree.....	22
Stockbridge School.....	21
United Equipment .....	21
Urban Forestry Solutions.....	15

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## Calendar of Events

March 20-May 4	i-Tree 2024 Open Academy	<a href="http://www.itreetools.org">www.itreetools.org</a>
<b>March 21</b>	<b>WMTW Spring Dinner Meeting</b>	<a href="http://www.masstreewardens.org">www.masstreewardens.org</a>
March 27	Spring Kickoff for Landscape & Lawn Care: UMass Extension's Landscape Education Days	<a href="https://ag.umass.edu/landscape/">https://ag.umass.edu/landscape/</a>
<b>April 12</b>	<b>MTWFA Seedling Order Deadline</b>	<a href="http://www.masstreewardens.org">www.masstreewardens.org</a>
<b>April 24</b>	<b>PDS: Chainsaw Safety and Storm Cleanup</b>	<a href="http://www.masstreewardens.org">www.masstreewardens.org</a>
<b>June 5</b>	<b>PDS: Working with Tree Advisory Groups</b>	<a href="http://www.masstreewardens.org">www.masstreewardens.org</a>