

# Massachusetts Tree Wardens and Foresters Association

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

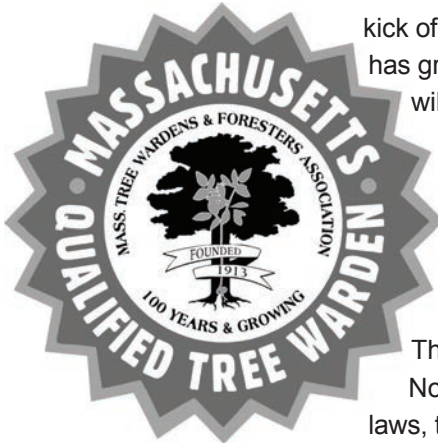


# BARK

2023  
Issue 2  
Summer

## Mass Qualified Tree Wardens Program Turns Six!

**Time flies when you're having fun! Sign up for the Fall class today!**



It is hard to believe that this fall, it will have been six years since we first stepped into a classroom to kick off the first Mass Qualified Tree Warden class. Since the first class in 2017, the program has graduated over 150 tree wardens and closely allied professionals. This fall MTWFA will run the program for the fourth time. One of the major aims of the Mass Qualified Tree Warden training (MQTW) is to serve as a professional training standard for tree wardens in Massachusetts and the six-module course is designed to teach tree wardens what they need to know to fulfill their duties. Staff from DCR, UMass, and tree wardens teach the class. The MQTW program is offered every other year (odd years), alternating with Green School.

The 2023 Mass Qualified Tree Warden (MQTW) course will run from September through November. The training is comprised of six training modules that run the gamut, from laws, to tree identification, to budgeting, to managing risk, and more.

### 2023 MQTW Schedule

- September 6: Tree Warden 101, Laws & Liability
- September 20: How Trees Grow & Managing Tree Risk
- October 4 (Field Day): Tree ID, Tree Risk, Tree Planting
- October 18: Safety, Budgeting, Contracting, Construction
- November 1: Tree Health & Managing Trees
- November 15: Working with Partners

All six sessions will be held in Worcester from 8:30 am - 3:00 pm.

To ensure the best experience for all, the class is limited to 50 participants. Sign up today and reserve your spot!

The deadline to register is August 15, 2023.

Find out more at [www.masstreewardens.org](http://www.masstreewardens.org).



*Tree Warden Marc Welch teaches a session of MQTW in Sturbridge in 2019.*

# MTWFA Executive Board 2023

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- Heather Leff, MTWFA Executive Director
- Mollie Freilicher, News & Events Editor

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# MTWFA MASSACHUSETTS TREE WARDENS' AND FORESTERS' ASSOCIATION

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## President's Message

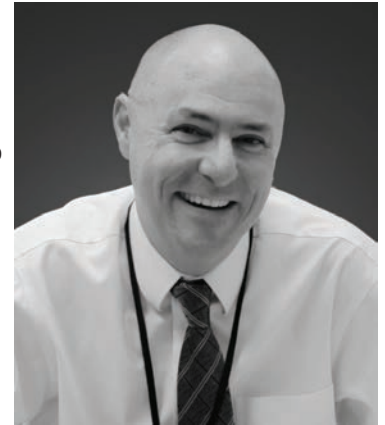
I hope this letter finds you well and that you are enjoying the spring season as much as I am. The sounds and sites of Needham were especially brilliant this year. As I get older, I have a greater appreciation for the changing seasons. I hope you all had a great Arbor Day and were able to reflect on how much we all can and are making a difference in this world. When I reflect on this great organization, I think of the three P's: People, Programs and Passion.

I could go on and on about all the great people of this organization. We should be aware and proud of our association and its tradition of strong leadership. Several years ago, we celebrated our association's 100th anniversary. A book was made to commemorate this anniversary. It is amazing. We will make copies of this work available at our conference this winter. However, if anyone is interested in a book before then, please let me know. In the book we read about people like this year's recipient of the Tree Warden of the Year Award, Jeremiah Person. It was a pleasure for so many of us to come together to celebrate and recognize him in Falmouth this May. One local resident, an environmentalist, shared example after example of how much Jeremiah cares and is making a difference in their community. He and his family live in town. His commitment to his community is part of his lifeblood. Thank you and congratulations.

Programs. I am pleased to say we are and have been working on the 2024 annual conference plans since, well, the day after the 2023 conference. Our Vice President, Rich Parasiliti, has done an amazing job creating an engaging program. I can't wait to share with you all this year's lineup of speakers, roundtables, and maybe a legend or two of the business. Read on for the save the date and keynote announcement and be sure to check out our website as more details become finalized.

There is one more offering in our 2023 PDS (Professional Development Series). Stayed tuned for our Professional Development Series, Wednesday, June 7th in Cambridge. We will be offering Trees and Construction. Thank you to

Dave Lefcourt for his work and commitment to leading our education program for so many years. And finally, of course, our Massachusetts Qualified Tree Warden's Program. If you would like information on any or all of this, please visit our website or email us directly.



Lastly, Passion. Tree wardens and foresters are special. Because of the type of work we do, it is hard not to be passionate. We are making a difference. We are doing it locally, regionally, and some of us are even doing it on a global scale. Maybe more than you think. I am grateful for this position with our association because I have had the pleasure to meet and learn from of you personally—folks I probably would not have known if it weren't for this group. I will finish by saying that I selfishly enjoy walking with my daughter at various beautiful parks in and around the Boston area daily. At least once a week we will do a long walk through the Arnold Arboretum. Most days we encounter a handful of people. Well, something extraordinary happened recently, Chronicle aired a special on Boston's Emerald Necklace. As you might expect, the next weekend, the Arnold Arboretum was teeming with new visitors eager to take in the sights and sounds. At first, I could not find parking anywhere and this got me a little ticked off. However, once inside we were surprised by the crowds, literally throngs of people who seemingly had never seen a tree before. All kidding aside, I don't think I saw a single person not happy and enjoying themselves. Trees. Imagine that. I hope you all enjoy your summer and a little shade and relaxation.

Eddie

*Ed Olsen*

President 2023-2024

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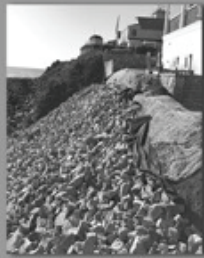
## About MTWFA

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](http://www.masstreewardens.org).

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# New/Returning Members

## Individual Memberships

Kate Donovan - Town of Tolland

Thomas Eaton - City of Fall River

Michael Lavin - Town of Dennis

Geoffrey McAlmond - Town of Ware

Eric Ryder - Town of Hudson

Michael Santoro - Town of Belmont

Jason Scott - Town of Longmeadow

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## In Memoriam - Robert L. Presutti, Jr.

1934-2023

We are saddened to announce the passing of Bob Presutti, of Pittsfield, on April 6, 2023 at the age of 88. Bob was a longtime member of the association and a regular attendee at MTWFA events, including the annual conference. An ISA and Massachusetts Certified Arborist, and ISA TRAQ credential holder, Bob was also a familiar face at other arboricultural events around Massachusetts. Bob was generous with his time and arboricultural expertise and was devoted to bettering the City of Pittsfield through his work with the Hebert Arboretum, Pittsfield Tree Watch, the city Community Development office, and the chestnut orchard at Springside Park. [Due to his instrumental role in the establishment and maintenance of the orchard, the City of Pittsfield named the chestnut orchard in his honor several years ago. It is officially known as the Robert L. Presutti Chestnut Orchard.]

Bob shared his knowledge and love of trees, teaching classes, working with organizations, residents, and city and state agencies, always with a kind smile and some good stories. Bob will be greatly missed, but leaves a legacy of trees in Pittsfield, and beyond, and in the hearts of everyone who knew him.



*Bob Presutti giving a tour of the chestnut orchard at Springside Park in 2018.*

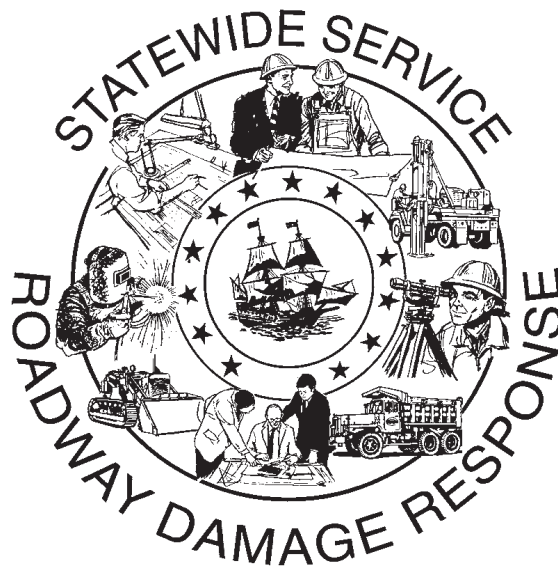
Memorial donations may be made payable to "Friends of Springside Park" and mailed to the Devanny-Condron Funeral Home: 40 Maplewood Avenue, Pittsfield, MA 01201. To read a complete tribute from the funeral home, scan the QR code below.



*Robert L. Presutti Chestnut Orchard.*



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# Recent Events - Professional Development Series

On March 22nd MTWFA held a **CPR, First Aid and AED** course. The class was led by Heart Start CPR & First Aid. In this class, 15 participants earned or renewed their CPR certification at Clark University in Worcester.

**Chainsaw Safety and Storm Cleanup Course.** April 13, 2023. Thirty-four participants convened at the Amherst Waste Water Treatment Plant for this workshop run by Mike Smith of Chainsaw Strategies. Attendees learned about a chainsaw’s safety features, the physics of using a chainsaw, cutting techniques as well as job site planning during storm response.



## Upcoming PDS

### Trees and Construction

June 7, 2023 | Cambridge

Trees are a valuable asset where people live, work, shop, and play. The preservation and protection of existing trees during construction can help ensure healthy trees at the end of a project. Learn how the City of Cambridge manages trees and construction. See several examples during a workshop and tree tour. 4 CEUs Pending. \$50 Members, \$75 Non-Members.



Agenda	
9:00-9:30 a.m.	Registration and Refreshments
9:30-10:00 a.m.	Welcome from City Staff
10:00-11:00 a.m.	Engineering with Trees
11:00-12:00 p.m.	Trees in the Built Environment
12:00-12:30 p.m.	Lunch
12:30-2:30 p.m.	Tree Walk

To register for this workshop and to find out more, go to [www.masstreewardens.org](http://www.masstreewardens.org).

This workshop is made possible in part by a grant from the USDA Forest Service, Urban and Community Forestry Program and the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, Bureau of Forestry.

In addition, financial assistance is available to register for this course through a grant provided by the USDA Forest Service, Urban and Community Forestry Program and the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, Bureau of Forestry.

If you need assistance, please contact [heather@masstreewardens.org](mailto:heather@masstreewardens.org)



*Scenes from the chainsaw PDS in Amherst.*



Join DCR foresters at this walk and talk field series where they will discuss current forest health concerns in Massachusetts. Attendees will learn how to identify the signs and symptoms of common forest pests and diseases, as well as, management options and mitigation techniques. Topics will include beech leaf disease, spongy moth, emerald ash borer, southern pine beetle, eastern white pine decline, hemlock woolly adelgid and elongate hemlock scale. Enjoy a hands on learning experience and the opportunity to talk one on one with forest health experts.



Come prepared to spend two hours in the outdoors, walking over varied terrain. The workshop at Wompatuck State Park will be held on the park's accessible trail.

**Professional Credits**

1 pesticide contact hour available for Massachusetts categories 35, 36, and applicators license. MCA CEU credits, ISA CEU credits, MA Licensed Forester CFE credits, and MA Timber Harvester credits available.

**Registration**

The workshops are free of charge and open to all but do require registration as space is limited. To sign up, please email Tom Prior at [thomas.prior@mass.gov](mailto:thomas.prior@mass.gov) with your name, which date you will be attending, and if you will be applying for pesticide contact hours or professional credits.



**Dates and Locations**

Beartown State Forest	Monterey, MA	Friday June 16	9am-11am
Rutland State Park	Rutland, MA	Friday June 23	9am-11am
Wompatuck State Park	Hingham, MA	Friday July 7	9am-11am
Bradley Palmer State Park	Topsfield, MA	Friday July 14	9am-11am
Mt Tom State Reservation	Holyoke, MA	Friday July 21	9am-11am
Myles Standish State Forest	Carver, MA	Friday July 28	9am-11am



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## Western Mass Tree Wardens Summer Meeting

June 15, 2023 | 5:00 - 7:30 p.m. Northampton

Join us for this special meeting, co-sponsored by the Mass Forest Alliance

5:00-5:15: Gathering

5:15-5:45: Utilizing Urban Wood, *Nicholas Simmons, owner of Hadley Mill Works*

5:45-6:15: Dinner

6:15-7:15: DCR Forest Health Update, *Nicole Keleher*

Registration is \$40. 1.5 ISA, MCA, and MQTW CEUs available.

Register by June 10. Register at [www.masstreewardens.org](http://www.masstreewardens.org) or 781-894-4759.

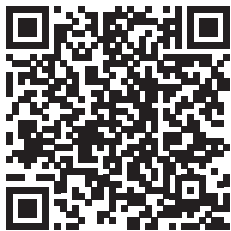
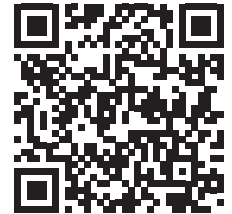


In partnership with the Massachusetts Tree Wardens' and Foresters' Association, Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, UMass Department of Environmental Conservation, UMass Center for Agriculture, Food & the Environment, USDA Forest Services, and Eversource Energy.

## From MTWFA - Can We Share Your Contact Info with MassDOT?

As you may know, the Mass Tree Wardens Association is committed to keeping your contact information confidential. The Massachusetts Highway Division of MassDOT has requested access to your contact information to share information with you about MassDOT projects. Your contact information would remain confidential within MassDOT. If you DO NOT want your contact information to be shared, please OPT OUT by June 15, 2023.

Please complete this brief online form by using the QR code at right.



## Green Industry Workforce Development Employer Survey

New England Botanic Garden is researching the feasibility of a workforce development program to gather information about employers' needs in filling open positions and employee training needs. Please complete this survey by scanning the QR code at left.

## Tree Warden Survey - Looking for Your Input on Tree Pruning Practices and Training

Are you a Tree Warden looking to make a positive impact in your community? This study from the University of Massachusetts Amherst is looking to better understand municipal tree pruning practices and tree worker training. We need your help to make sure our knowledge accurately reflects New England's current practices, so log on and complete the survey today. Be a part of the knowledge-building process that will inform the future of urban forestry in New England!



# American hornbeam, *Carpinus caroliniana*

By Mollie Freilicher

Like many trees, *Carpinus caroliniana* is known by many common names: American hornbeam, blue beech, ironwood, and musclewood. We'll call it American hornbeam here. This member of the birch family is native to the eastern United States, Canada, and Mexico. In its native habitat, American hornbeam grows in the understory of hardwood forests and along streams and rivers. As an understory tree, American hornbeam reaches heights of 20-30 feet, but can grow to 40 to 50 feet (and even higher). It can have one or more trunks and it develops a rounded or flat-topped crown.

Leaves of American hornbeam are alternate, simple, and range in size from 2.5 to 5 inches long and about half as wide. They are elliptical in shape, doubly saw-toothed, with a pointed tip. They are dark blue-green above and paler below, with hairy veins. In the fall, the leaves turn yellow, orange, and red. The buds are imbricate and small—less than ¼-inch long, pointy, and reddish-brown. Sometimes the tip of the bud is downy. Twigs of American hornbeam are brown and thin, with a slight zigzag. Bark is smooth, gray, and fluted, giving it a muscly appearance, hence the common name “musclewood.” American hornbeam is monoecious—male and female flowers occur on the same plant. Male flowers are 1 to 1.5 inches long, while female flowers are 2 to 4 inches long. The flowers are catkins and appear early in spring before the leaves. The fruit is a three-lobed, egg-shaped nutlet.

American hornbeam thrives in rich, moist, slightly acidic soils, but it is somewhat adaptable and can grow in full sun or shade. It can also tolerate periodic flooding. It is a great choice for naturalized plantings, shady locations, and places where a smaller sized shade tree is desirable.



American hornbeam, U.S. Botanical Garden, wikimedia.org.



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# Tree Warden of the Year - Jeremiah Pearson, Falmouth

On May 10, 2023 the Massachusetts Tree Wardens, Falmouth Parks and Trees employees, members of the local tree committee, and the acting town manager, Peter Johnson-Staub, celebrated Jeremiah Pearson's Tree Warden of the Year award. An American hornbeam (*Carpinus caroliniana*) tree was planted at Peg Noonan Park.



*Tree Warden of the Year, Jeremiah Pearson (left), with MTWFA President, Ed Olsen (right)*



*MTWFA Past President and At-Large Board Member, Paul Sellers (left) and Jeremiah Pearson (middle).*

## Do you know a Tree Warden who meets the criteria to be named Tree Warden of the Year?

The Tree Warden of the Year 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. The association invites nominations from Massachusetts residents as well as from city and town officials. Nominations are due by December 1st for the January annual award presentation. Now—at any time of year—you can nominate online. Read on to see the award criteria:

- Holds position of Tree Warden or Deputy Tree Warden in a municipality.
- Actively participates in the National Arbor Day Foundation's program, Tree City USA
- 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

The award is given at the Association's annual conference in January. The MTWFA holds an Arbor Day event in the town or city where the individual works and publicizes the award in that recipient's area. Find out more at the Mass Tree Wardens website (Click on Programs and select Tree Warden of the Year).

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## 2024 Conference Teaser

The 2024 Massachusetts Tree Wardens' and Foresters' Annual Conference will be held at the Sturbridge Host Hotel and Conference Center on January 9-10, 2024. We hope you will join us!

The 2024 conference will feature keynote speaker, **Dr. Michael Dirr** presenting "Praise of Noble Trees". Dr. Michael A. Dirr's lifelong passion for horticulture has positively influenced a generation of students, gardeners, nursery growers, and professional horticulturists. His teaching, research, and writing have made an immeasurable impact on the Green Industry throughout the nation. Dirr's *Manual of Woody Landscape Plants* is the leading horticultural text and reference work, and, along with his *Reference Manual of Woody Plant Propagation*, has become the "Bible" for the landscape and nursery industry. His latest book, *The Tree Book: Superior Selections for Landscapes, Streetscapes, and Gardens*, written with Keith S. Warren is also an invaluable resource. Stay tuned for more details as conference nears!!



## All Ears: Urban Forestry Podcasts

Check out these four podcasts written up in the latest issue of *City Trees*, the magazine of the Society of Municipal Arborists: Your Bird Story, This Old Tree, Plant a Trillion Trees, and The Municipal Arborist podcasts. Recently, the Society of Municipal Arborists made their magazine freely available. Find the latest issue at [www.urban-forestry.com](http://www.urban-forestry.com).

## From UMass Extension

### Ornamental Tree and Shrub ID & Insect Walk

June 17, 2023, 2:00-4:00 p.m. | New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill

Are you studying for the MCH, MCLP, or MCA exam? Want some hands on experience identifying significant landscape plants and their insect pests? This program will be helpful for participants looking to either prepare for one of the exams or to expand your palette of offerings for your clients.

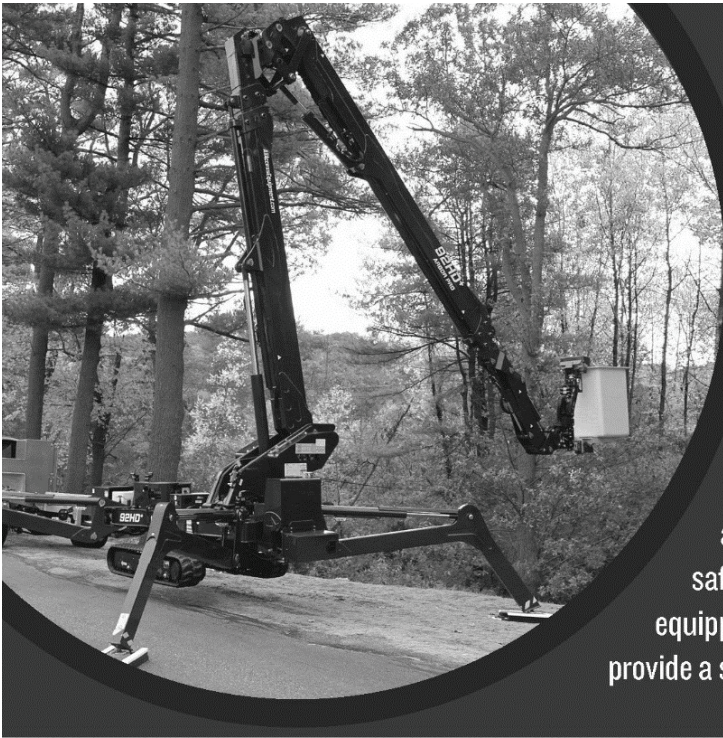
Join Tawny Simisky, UMass Extension Entomologist, and Mandy Bayer, Horticulturist and Landscape Plant Specialist, for a walk around the grounds the New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill, one of Massachusetts' beautiful botanic gardens. This 2-hour walkabout will focus on trees and shrubs with particular seasonal interest as well as insect pests that are active and suggestions for management. Dress for walking; held outdoors rain or shine.

Credits: 1 pesticide contact hour for categories 36 and Applicator's (Core) License; 1 MCA, 1 MCLP, and 1 MCH credits. ISA credit requested. Preregistration required as space is limited.

Registration \$55 per person (\$50 per person for 3 or more from the same organization).

For details, go to <https://ag.umass.edu/landscape/upcoming-events> or scan the QR code at right.





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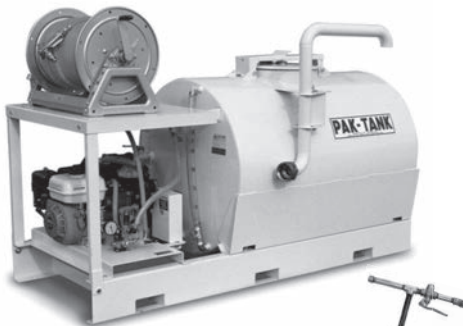
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# News Tidbits

## Three Species Added to the Massachusetts Prohibited Plant List

Scotch broom (*Cytisus scoparius*), Weeping Lovegrass (*Eragrostis curvula*), and Japanese Black Pine (*Pinus thunbergii*).

Agents/Growers can no longer receive new stock or begin growing new stock but may sell any existing stock during the phase out period listed below:

- *Cytisus scoparius* (L.) Link (Scotch broom)- 2 years, No longer for sale after December 31, 2024
- *Eragrostis curvula* (Schrad.) Nees (Weeping Lovegrass)- 1 year, No longer for sale after December 31, 2023
- *Pinus thunbergii* Parl. (Japanese Black Pine)- 3 years, No longer for sale after December 31, 2025

Read the full press release at [mass.gov](http://mass.gov).

## Braintree Passes New Tree Ordinance

April 2023 - The Town of Braintree town council adopted a new tree protection ordinance. The ordinance calls for the establishment of a seven member tree committee charged with developing a tree maintenance plan, promulgating rules and regulations in conjunction with the tree warden, advising the tree warden, and overseeing expenditures from a tree replacement fund, among other duties. The tree protection ordinance is intended to “complement and strengthen” Chapter 87 and also establishes a policy for replacing trees as well as a tree replacement fund.

If your community is considering revising or creating a new tree ordinance or bylaw, contact the DCR Urban and Community Forestry Program for guidance and check out the Tree Bylaw and Ordinance Guide on the DCR Website: [www.mass.gov/dcr/ucf](http://www.mass.gov/dcr/ucf).




Scan to read the ordinance.

# Save the Date

## Mass. Tree Wardens' & Foresters' Association 110th Annual Conference

January 9-10, 2024  
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- (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov)

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## Calendar of Events

June 7	<b>PDS- Trees and Construction, Cambridge</b>	<a href="http://www.masstreewardens.org">www.masstreewardens.org</a>
June 8	Urban Forestry Today Summit	<a href="http://www.urbanforestrytoday.org">www.urbanforestrytoday.org</a>
<b>June 15</b>	<b>Western Mass. Tree Wardens Dinner, Northampton</b>	<a href="http://www.masstreewardens.org">www.masstreewardens.org</a>
June 16-17	New England ISA Tree Climbing Championship, Newton (Come watch or sign up to volunteer at the event)	<a href="http://www.newenglandisa.org">www.newenglandisa.org</a>
June 27	Ornamental Tree and Shrub ID & Insect Walk, Boylston	<a href="http://www.ag.umass.edu/landscape">www.ag.umass.edu/landscape</a>
September 6	Mass. Qualified Tree Warden Class Begins, Worcester	<a href="http://www.masstreewardens.org">www.masstreewardens.org</a>
Oct 1-3	New England ISA Annual Conference and Trade Show, Portland	<a href="http://www.newenglandisa.org">www.newenglandisa.org</a>