

Massachusetts Tree Wardens and Foresters Association

Organized for the Protection and Preservation of Trees

March 27, 1913 ♦ Dr. George E. Stone, Founder



2019
Issue 1
Spring

UMass Arboriculture & Urban Forestry Team Wins 1st Place in Arboriculture Techniques 43rd Annual National Collegiate Landscape Competition

by Kristina Bezanson, UMass Amherst
Lecturer in Arboriculture & Urban Forestry

On March 20-23, 2019, the University of Massachusetts Arboriculture Team competed in the 2019 National Collegiate Landscape Competition at Colorado State University in Ft. Collins and was awarded first place in the arboriculture techniques competition. The UMass team was competing against 68 other colleges and 844 students.

Michael Tilton, Stockbridge Arboriculture & Community Forestry 2018 / UMass Urban Forestry 2019 partnered with Cory Rebello, Stockbridge Arboriculture & Community Forestry 2018 / UMass Urban Forestry 2020 making up the UMass team.



*The winning team: Michael Tilton (left)
and Cory Rebello*

The objective of this event is to evaluate the skills and knowledge of the participants on general and accepted arboricultural practices. The competition is intended to be competitive and educational for all students, regardless of their skill level.

The competition is split up into three areas: Knowledge Exam, Climbing Skills, and Throw Line Skills. A two-person team will perform the three areas, with each team member taking the exam, and then one team member performing the climbing skills, while the other team member performs the throw line skills part of the event.

The same two-person team must perform all areas of the competition. Schools are limited to one two-person team per school. UMass students have a history of doing well in this national competition, winning or placing in the top three a total of eight times in the past ten years.

Mike is graduating this spring and will be working with Davey's Hartney-Greymont division. Cory will return next year to complete his degree and will spend this summer working for a tree care company.

The National Collegiate Landscape Competition (formerly called Student Career Days) is an annual three-day competition and networking event for students enrolled in horticulture and landscape programs at two- and four-year colleges and universities from across the country. More than 750 landscape industry students from approximately 60+ schools demonstrate their skills in more than two-dozen real-world, competitive events coupled with a Career Fair where students meet with representatives from the top landscape firms from around the nation. ✍

Editor's Note: Participation in this competition is a big undertaking and requires significant funds and personnel volunteer time to accompany the team to the competition. The Massachusetts Tree Wardens' and Foresters' Association was pleased to help the effort with a sponsorship this year, and we are proud to congratulate the entire team. Well done!

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

UMass Arboriculture Team Success	1
From the President	3
Welcome New Members	3
Scholarships 2019	4
MQTW Training Course This Fall	4
Order Seedlings Now!	5
Southeast Tree Wardens: End of an Era	5
Spotted Lanternfly on the Move	6
iTree Workshop	6
Index of Advertisers	8
Conference Memories 2019	10
Urban Tree of the Year	12
Upcoming Webinars	15
MAA Arbor Day of Service	17
Thank You Conference Exhibitors	19
Calendar of Events	20

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From the President

It is a tremendous honor to be elected to the position of president of this wonderful organization. Having served on this board for numerous years, I have had the privilege of developing relationships with some of the finest arborists who serve our Massachusetts communities.



At first glance for many it would appear that, as a utility arborist, I am in an unusual situation being chosen to lead an organization dedicated to those charged with the care and protection of trees. I would challenge that notion and rather suggest that it is a logical outcome from years of building relationships and reaching common goals primarily surrounding public safety.

Many of the tasks of tree wardens fall in line with those of utility arborists. Hazard and risk trees, invasive plants and pests, work force stability, and resident interaction are all challenges we face every day. Many of the techniques and tools we use to resolve them are the same as well.

Our organization is in a unique position to share programs on important topics such as gear inspection, work zone safety, and individual worker skills assessments – programs developed by other segments of the green industry and/or town programs that stand out above others. Taking advantage of successful programs already spearheaded by others on such topics can only help in the efforts to build a more competent work force for all of us in the future.

We have already started to see our association identify and take advantage of programming from other sectors of arboriculture, as demonstrated during this past year's annual conference with presentations on Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM), Tree Growth Regulators (TGRs), and gear inspections. The inclusion of varied topics has increased our conference attendance to record levels and helps to continue the conference as a financially viable endeavor for the future.

Our first graduating class of Massachusetts Qualified Tree Wardens (MQTWs) demonstrated the growing diversity of our tree family, with the initial class representing a cross-section of municipal, utility, private, and consulting arborists. The registration for the fall 2019 course is surely going to fill up quickly, as this becomes one of our most sought-after programs to attend. Be on the lookout for more information coming soon.

All the work we do would not be possible without the resource we all need most, WORKERS! A personal goal of mine is to reach out to our high schools here in the Commonwealth and develop those contacts that will allow us to introduce students early in their decision-making to look at arboriculture as a viable career. Our association's board will be developing high school level scholarship awards in arboriculture studies, and we hope to co-sponsor an arbor job fair this spring that will introduce potential employees to the industry.

The future looks bright for our association, and we can only build on the successes already achieved by a dedicated board. I'm looking forward to the next two years and helping to make Massachusetts a bit greener.

Paul Sellers

President 2019-2020

Welcome New Members

Andrew Bachman - Trout Brook Landscaping,
West Hartford, CT

Carl Brodeur - Arborcare/Ropes'nSaddles,
South Easton, MA

Kevin Byam - Distinctive Tree Care,
South Windsor, CT

Marc Carbone - Town of Nahant

Barry Croke - Eversource

John Furno - Town of Douglas

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Doak Marasco - Davey Tree Expert Co.

Nick Repekta - Town of Shrewsbury

Mike Ross - Bandit Industries

Kray Small - EL&K Plant Health Solutions,
Westborough

Jeff Stanhope - Town of Palmer

Bob Szocik - Town of Templeton

Steven Whitten - Town of Littleton



The entire group of 2019 MTWFA and MAA scholarship recipients gathered in front of Stockbridge Hall on the Amherst campus. Pictured left to right: Dr. Brian Kane, Cory Rebello, MTWFA President Paul Sellers, Jaclyn Lim, Ryan Fawcett, Nick Greenwood (rear), Nicholas Falcione (front), Myles Barnes, Chadd Morin, Thomas McMann, MAA President Natascha Batchelor, UMass instructor Kristina Bezanson.

2019 Scholarship Awards



Dr. Dennis Ryan with Nick Greenwood, recipient of this year's H. Dennis P. Ryan Outstanding Arboriculture Student Award, a joint award presented by MTWFA and MAA.

The annual Tree Conference on March 5th was a great day at UMass Amherst. Both the Massachusetts Tree Wardens and Foresters (MTWFA) and the Massachusetts Arborists (MAA) presented their annual scholarships. MTWFA presented five named scholarships and Southeastern Massachusetts Tree Wardens presented two named scholarships, all listed below with their recipients. MTWFA and MAA together presented the joint Dennis Ryan Outstanding Arboriculture Student Award to this year's recipient, Nick Greenwood. Congratulations to all these outstanding students!

Southeast Tree Wardens Recipients

Cory Rebello - *Wes Osborne Scholarship*

Thomas McMann - *August Dube Scholarship*

MTWFA Recipients

Nicholas Falcione - *Prof. Gordon S. King Scholarship*

Myles Barnes - *Fred C. Burk Scholarship*

Jaclyn Lim - *Dr. Malcolm McKenzie Scholarship*

Chadd Morin - *Seth H. Swift Scholarship*

Ryan Fawcett - *Louis J. Casasanto Scholarship*



2019 Session Dates

September 11

September 25

October 2

October 23

November 6

November 20

MQTW 2019 Training Course Begins in September

The second training course for the Massachusetts Qualified Tree Warden (MQTW) designation is scheduled to begin in September and continue through November. The six sessions will all be held in Sturbridge, five at the Sturbridge Host Hotel and Conference Center and a field day outdoors at various sites in Sturbridge. Attendance at all six sessions is required to achieve the designation.

Registration preference will be given to active tree wardens, deputy tree wardens, and other municipal employees. Others may take the course if space is available. Watch your email and postal mail for more details and registration information!

April 15th: Seedling Order Deadline



The MTWFA sells seedlings to fund its scholarship program and to promote Arbor Day and tree planting. Seedling purchasers include municipalities, garden clubs, private firms, arborists, and other interested individuals and organizations.

Seedling proceeds support annual scholarships for college arboriculture students.

ORDER NOW FOR YOUR ARBOR DAY EVENT! Orders must be received by April 15, 2019

Due to current tech issues, please fax your orders to 413-315-3454, or email them to dhawkufs@gmail.com and confirm your order was received.

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Southeast Tree Wardens Votes to Dissolve the Organization

At its meeting on October 24, 2018, the Executive Committee of the Southeastern Massachusetts Tree Wardens' & Arborists' Association (Southeast) voted to dissolve the Southeast organization and turn over the remaining funds to the Massachusetts Tree Wardens' & Foresters' Association (MTWFA), per Article 15 of the Southeast association by-laws. The decision to dissolve the Southeast organization was made due to declining attendance at monthly and quarterly meetings and a lack of membership interest to serve on the volunteer board.



It is hoped that the MTWFA will continue with the tradition of the annual field day on the third Thursday in September. For 55 years, this event has raised significant funds for student scholarships.

A formal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed by the presidents of both organizations and

takes effect immediately. Members wishing to read the entire MOU may email a request to info@masstreewardens.org.

Spotted Lanternfly Found in Massachusetts

State Agricultural Officials Urge Residents to Check Plants for Spotted Lanternfly - Discovery of Single Adult Insect Highlights Importance of Vigilant Reporting of this Pest

The Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) announced on February 21 that a single dead specimen of the invasive pest known as spotted lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*) was reported and confirmed at a private residence in Boston. As a result, MDAR is urging the public to check for signs of spotted lanternfly adults in any potted plants that they may have received over the holiday season and to report any potential sightings of this pest on MDAR's online reporting form (<http://massnrc.org/pests/slf>) by taking photographs and collecting a specimen if possible. Residents should look for large, gray insects, about one inch long, with black spots and red underwings.

"Early detection plays an important role in the protection of the economic and ecological resources of our state from invasive species," said MDAR Commissioner John Lebeaux. "We ask all residents who have received potted plants this past December to help us protect Massachusetts' environment and agricultural industries by checking for and reporting signs of spotted lanternfly."

The insect appears to have been unintentionally transported this past December in a shipment of poinsettia plants originating from Pennsylvania. Because only one dead adult insect was found, and spotted lanternfly dies off when a hard frost hits, there is currently no evidence that this pest has become established in Massachusetts. However, additional surveys are planned in the area to confirm that no other occurrences of lanternfly are present.

Spotted lanternfly is an invasive sap-feeding insect from Asia that was first found in the United States in 2014 in Pennsylvania. While the main host plant of this pest is tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), spotted lanternfly attacks a variety of trees, shrubs, and vines, and has the potential to impact a broad range of agricultural commodities, including apples, peaches, grapes/wine, maple syrup, as well as the ornamental nursery industry. ✂



Photo downloaded from <https://massnrc.org/pests/> shows a pinned specimen of an adult Spotted Lanternfly with wings spread. Credit: Holly Raguza, Pennsylvania Dept. of Agriculture.

i-Tree Workshop: Trees, Cities, and Benefits

**Attention city foresters, campus grounds managers,
non-profits, state and regional foresters,
private businesses:**

Does your community struggle to understand the contribution trees provide to people every day? Do you need to justify your tree program with cost/benefit analysis? Are you interested in connecting trees to broad sustainability goals? I-Tree can help!

This June 4th program in Acton will target the practical use of the on-line i-Tree benefits calculator tools. The i-Tree development team has been adding new features to make calculating the value and benefits of trees both efficient and effective. However, the various tools can be overwhelming and industry professionals often don't have time to wade through all the options to get results.

During this half-day workshop, you will gain an understanding of the latest i-Tree tools and how to quickly use this resource to generate tree benefits. Incorporated group discussion will spark ideas on ways to use tree benefit information in various outreach and promotion efforts.

The workshop is sponsored by Davey Resource Group, the Massachusetts Tree Wardens' and Foresters' Association (MTWFA), and the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), with support from the USDA Forest Service.



i-Tree Workshop

June 4, 2019

9am -1:30pm

Public Safety Facility, EOC

371 Main Street

Acton, MA 01720

Registration fee: \$60

ISA and MCA CEUs will be requested.



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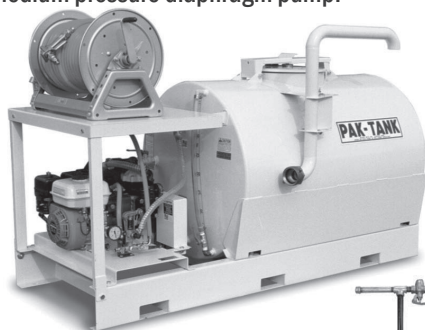
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Index of Advertisers

Acorn Tree and Landscape	14
Amherst Nurseries	12
Arborjet.....	15
Bandit Industries	7
Bartlett Consolidated	18
BioForest.....	16
Caluwe	9
Cleaves Company.....	7
Custom Truck One Source (FEVA)	8
Davey Resource Group	12
Favreau Forestry.....	9
Horticultural Technologies	17
Mayer Tree Service.....	8
OESCO	7
RBG Inc.....	16
Shelter Tree.....	17
Urban Forestry Solutions.....	5

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2019 Annual Conference



2019 awards: Tree Warden of the Year Richard Parasiliti of Northampton, and President's Award recipient Mollie Freilicher of Massachusetts DCR.

The 2019 conference was a record-breaker! A broad cross-section of professionals attended presentations on a wide variety of topics - industry safety, municipal tree issues and administration, vegetation management, urban forest health, pests and pathogens, and more. Thank you to everyone who participated - our speakers, attendees and planners, and our vendors who make the Exhibit Hall such a resounding success each year. See their company names and more pictures on page 19 of this issue!

Below: the Favreau Forestry booth

Inset: This year's door prize from Favreau: a carved bear cub ensconced in a log



Speaker Ed Carpenter (right) of North American Training Solutions illustrates a point with John Deutschmann of Arlington.



Melissa LeVangie of Shelter Tree giving an animated talk on gear inspections.



Above: TWOY Parasiliti with Northampton Mayor David J. Narkewicz (far left) and other colleagues



Left: Mollie Freilicher accepts the 2019 President's Award from Alex Sherman

Conference photos by Julie Coop and Rick Harper

More 2019 Conference Memories

Door prizes generously donated by our exhibitors and the Childs Fund 50-50 raffle are always added attractions at the conference. This year the raffle raised \$559 that was donated to the Robert Childs Student Assistance Fund, boosting the fund that provides aid to UMass students in times of special need.



Changing of the guard: Newly-elected president Paul Sellers with Alex Sherman

Tom Brady matching a ticket number on a drawing for one of the numerous door prizes.



This year's door prizes included two chainsaws: Mayer Tree Service donated a Stihl that was awarded at the end of the first day, and MTWFA awarded its annual donation of a Husqvarna at the end of the second day. Below, the two lucky winners.



Still and always a presence: Bob Childs

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The audience in the packed presentation room at the 2019 conference



Left to right: Bristol Aggie instructor Nicole Forsyth, Dennis Ryan, Kristina Bezanson, and UMass student Ryan Fawcett at the MTWFA booth.

Announcing the 2019 SMA Urban Tree of the Year: American Hophornbeam

Compiled by Michelle Sutton, Editor, City Trees, Magazine of the Society of Municipal Arborists

Each fall, Society of Municipal Arborists members vote for the Urban Tree of the Year. In 2019, members are elevating American hophornbeam (*Ostrya virginiana*), a very tough tree with subtle, often underappreciated beauty. It is a medium-sized tree in the birch family that has an extensive native range east of the Rockies, from Manitoba to Florida.

"*Ostrya virginiana* has common names that include American hophornbeam, Eastern hophornbeam, hornbeam, ironwood, leverwood ... a poster child for why common names can be a problem," says Cornell Urban Horticulture Institute

Director Nina Bassuk. She describes *Ostrya* as an understory tree that is distinctive for its bark, which looks like thin, evenly spaced stringy strips lightly exfoliating from the trunk.

Bassuk says, "When we urban foresters bring it out of the forest and onto the street, it makes a generally oval to rounded tree, about 30 feet (9.1 m) tall at maturity, with somewhat downward drooping branches. The distinctive hop-like flowers that give *Ostrya* its common name are most numerous when it has some sunlight, but the tree grows well in light shade, too."



Bark of a mature *Ostrya*. Photo Courtesy Cornell Woody Plants Database



Ostrya shading diners on the student center patio at Virginia Tech. Photo by Eric Wiseman

continued on next page



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Although it manages dry periods in the shade of the forest, it is not particularly drought-tolerant on the street. However, Bassuk says that at the Urban Horticulture Institute (UHI), they have found that *Ostrya* tolerates a wide soil pH range and is pest-free, making it well worth consideration.



The leaves of hophornbeam have an acuminate tip, and their edges are doubly serrated. Photo by Ethan Dropkin

Transplanting *Ostrya* can be a bit touchy, but planting small caliper and bare root in the fall is the most economical way to go. “Our UHI research on transplantability of *Ostrya virginiana* agrees with others that it is difficult to transplant successfully,” Bassuk says. “In our study, small-caliper (1.5 inch/38 mm) trees showed significant transplant shock in the first year after planting but then recovered in their second year. B&B trees transplanted better in the spring than bare root trees, while B&B and bare root trees transplanted equally well in the fall. Regardless of production method or season, small-caliper trees would be recommended when transplanting.”

Virginia Tech Associate Professor of Urban Forestry Eric Wiseman is a big fan of *Ostrya*, which is hardy in zones 3 through 9A. “For arborists, the attraction of hophornbeam goes beyond its outward appearance, for it fills a gap in the plant palette where few other native species have similar traits,” he says. “Here in Virginia, it is a fairly slow-growing species that reaches up to 40 feet (12.2 m) at maturity. Because it tolerates a wide range of soil conditions, it’s a good candidate for planting in narrow tree lawns, sidewalk cutouts, and parking lot buffers throughout most of the conterminous United States and southern Canada.” Wiseman shares that on the Virginia Tech campus, hophornbeam was the tree of choice for an outdoor dining area on the south side of the student center, where both above- and below-ground space were at a premium, yet shade and ambience were for critical to diners’ comfort.

“Hophornbeam wood is strong and the tree naturally takes on an excurrent growth habit with well-spaced, subordinate scaffold branches,” Wiseman says. “As such, it requires minimal structural pruning and holds up well in storms and busy urban environments. Given its slow growth rate, transplanting and aftercare require attention and patience. But once established, hophornbeam has few serious pest or disease problems.”



Ostrya virginiana catkins. This monoecious tree bears both male and female catkins on the same tree. Photo by Ethan Dropkin



The female Ostrya catkins morph into showy clusters of drooping seed pods that look like hops. Photo by Eric Hunt - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0

The SMA 2019 Urban Tree of the Year designation recognizes the underutilized, attractive, and useful American hophornbeam (*Ostrya virginiana*) for its service to urban forests and encourages its use when matched appropriately to site and as part of a diverse urban tree inventory. You can see the full list of past Tree of the Year winners on the SMA website, www.urban-forestry.com.

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Upcoming Webinars

Preparing for an OSHA Inspection

April 22, 2019 | 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. (Eastern)

This webinar is a collaboration between the Department of Labor Standards and Baystate Roads. It will include an overview of the updated law, the DLS inspection process, questions about reporting, and where to start to prepare for an inspection. In addition, the course will highlight some specific areas of concern that are typical in city/town highway departments or DPWs. There will be opportunity for Q & A at the end of the webinar. This webinar is targeted at cities and towns who want to know what to expect from and how to prepare for an OSHA inspection by the Department of Labor Standards (DLS). Find out more and register for the webinar at www.baystateroads.org.

They're Coming...Planning for the Urban Landscape Pests of 2019

April 11, 2019 | 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. (Eastern)

This month's webcast from Urban Forestry Today will feature Daniel Gilrein and Margery Daughtrey, Cornell University diagnostic specialists, outlining what diseases

and insects were prevalent in 2018, in an effort to better understand what we might expect in the 2019 growing season.

To attend live and receive free CEUs, go to www.joinwebinar.com and enter the ID code: 804-281-355. Archived webcasts are available at www.urbanforestrytoday.org under 'Videos.' This webcast series is sponsored by the University of Massachusetts Department of Environmental Conservation, in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service, the MA Department of Conservation and Recreation, UMass Extension, and the Massachusetts Tree Wardens' & Foresters' Association.

TickTalk with TickReport

April 10 - May 8 - October 9, 2019

This is a free live webinar series presented from 12 noon to 1:00 pm on the 2nd Wednesday of the month in February, March, April, May, and October 2019. Preregistration is required to access the webinars. For more information on monthly topics, and to register, go to www.umassgreeninfo.org. Co-sponsored by UMass Extension and the UMass Laboratory of Medical Zoology.

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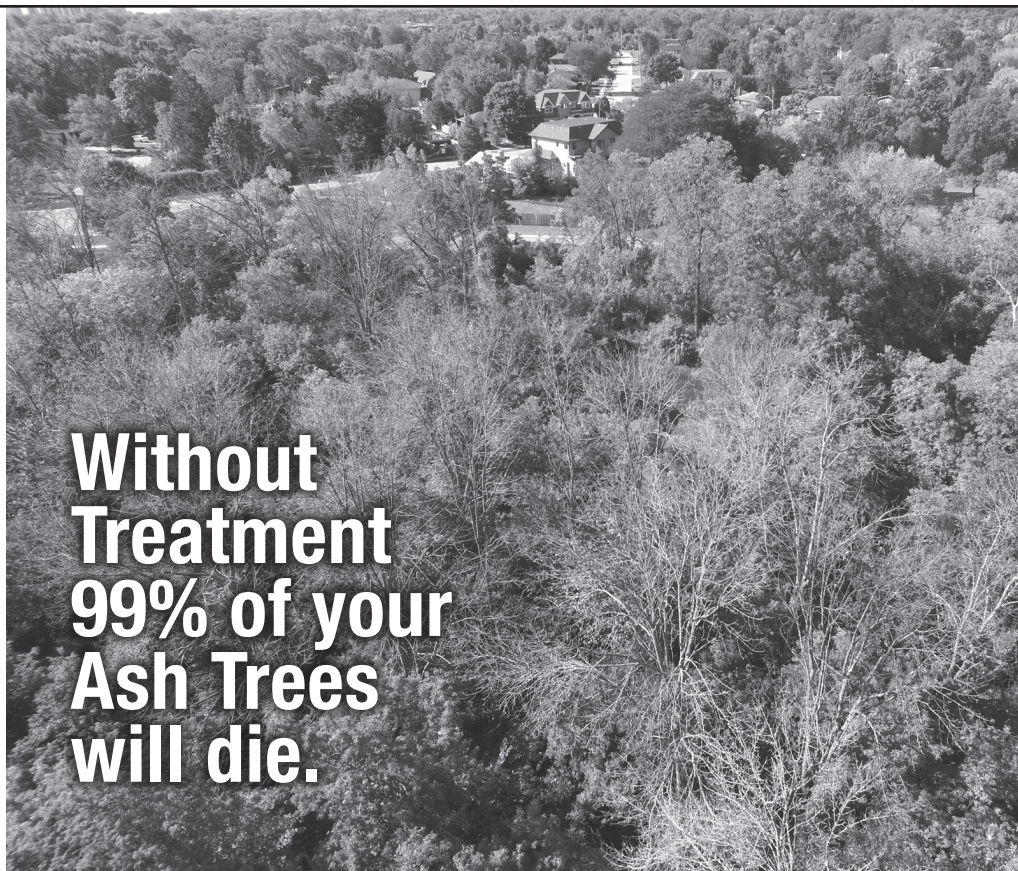
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MAA's Arbor Day of Service is April 26

Back by popular demand: MAA's Arbor Day Celebration

This year, MAA is bringing back the group Arbor Day Celebration. MAA has joined forces with the Trustees of Reservations to provide much-needed tree work at the oldest continuously operating farm in the country – Appleton Farms in Ipswich, MA. Plans for the day include a morning of volunteer work, sponsor demos & displays, as well as a festive midday celebration. Everyone is invited!

Appleton Farms is a big place with hundreds of mature trees and there's a lot of work to be done. Structural pruning, removals, and chipping top the list.



MASSACHUSETTS ARBORISTS ASSOCIATION
ARBOR DAY of SERVICE

Individual Projects

While all members are invited to volunteer at Appleton Farms, MAA knows that many members traditionally donate their time to projects in their local communities. Now is the time to reach out and start making those plans. Some are already planning volunteer projects elsewhere around the state. If you are a tree warden or private arborist who is planning an ADOS project, please share your plans through the link on the MAA website. MAA wants to hear about where people are working all around the state, learn how much work was accomplished, and make sure to recognize your efforts.

For nearly 40 years, MAA members have celebrated Arbor Day on the last Friday in April by spreading the spirit of generosity and creating awareness of proper tree care across the Commonwealth. Whether in their own backyards, or at larger projects throughout the state, MAA members have volunteered and donated professional tree care to communities in need on Arbor Day. ✂



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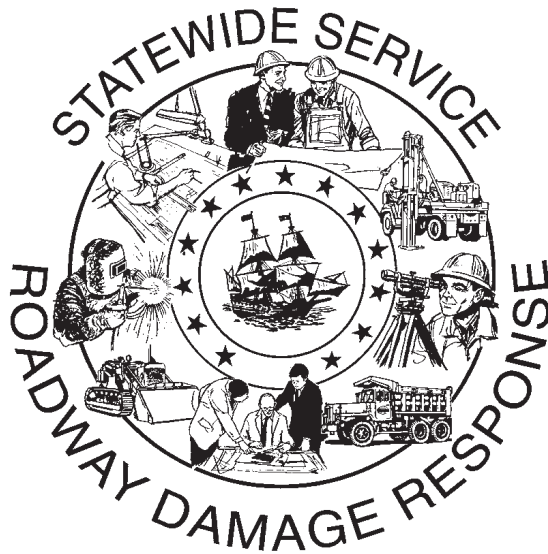
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 Valley Green
 Vegetation Control Service



Andrew Priestley of Vegetation Control Service and George Mellick of Shelter Tree



Above: Early morning quiet in the Exhibit Hall



Right: John Kinchla with his Amherst Nurseries booth



All photos on this page by Rick Harper



Massachusetts Tree Wardens'
and Foresters' Assn.
P.O. Box 411
Brewster, MA 02631

Calendar of Events

DATE	EVENT	MORE INFORMATION
April 9	EAB ID and Detection (Holliston)	Email: nicole.keleher@mass.gov
April 10	Tick Talk Webinar: 2018/2019 Tick Updates from the UMass Laboratory of Medical Zoology	www.umassgreeninfo.org
April 11	EAB ID and Detection (South Hadley)	Email: nicole.keleher@mass.gov
April 11	Planning for the Urban Landscape Pests of 2019 Online Webinar	www.urbanforestrytoday.org
April 15	MTWFA SEEDLING ORDER DEADLINE	Email: seedlings@masstreewardens.org
April 24	Ticks and Tick-Associated Diseases Conference Doubletree Hotel, Milford	www.umassgreeninfo.org
April 26	ARBOR DAY MASSACHUSETTS	www.arborday.org/celebrate
April 29	Walkabout: Landscape Pests and Problems UMassAmherst	www.umassgreeninfo.org
May 8	Tick Talk Webinar: American Dog Ticks, Lonestar Ticks and Associated Diseases	www.umassgreeninfo.org
May 10	Walkabout: Landscape Pest and Problems Newton Cemetery, Newton	www.umassgreeninfo.org
June 4	Trees, Cities, and Benefits – i-Tree Workshop Acton, MA	Email: mollie.freilicher@state.ma.us www.masstreewardens.org
June 11	Western MA Tree Wardens Summer Meeting Bluebonnet Diner, Northampton	www.masstreewardens.org
June 12	Ornamental Tree and Shrub ID and Insect Walk Tower Hill Botanic Garden, W.Boylston	www.umassgreeninfo.org