

Massachusetts Tree Wardens and Foresters Association

Organized for the Protection and Preservation of Trees

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



2019
Issue 4
Winter

Wes Osborne 1923-2019

Wesley Holmes Osborne, Jr., age 96, of Norwell, passed away peacefully on November 15, 2019 at home surrounded by loving family. Wes graduated from Norwell High School and Stockbridge School of Agriculture and was a U.S. Coast Guard veteran, serving in World War II.

Wes worked for many years as the tree warden for the Town of Norwell. He was an active member and past president of both the Southeastern



Wes with that familiar twinkle

Tree Wardens' & Arborists' Association and, from 1977-79, the Massachusetts Tree Wardens' & Foresters' Association (MTWFA). In 2001 Wes received MTWFA's prestigious George E. Stone Founders Award for Excellence in Arboriculture. Even in recent years

continued on page 3

Annual Conference 2020: The Freak Factor Unusual Keynote, Familiar Program

The 2020 conference will feature David Rendell, an entertaining speaker experienced in teaching how to flaunt weaknesses rather than try to fix them. Find out how to increase productivity, enhance employee engagement, and improve teamwork by appreciating individual differences and amplifying uniqueness and flaws instead of denying them.

As always, the conference will feature a broad spectrum of speakers and breakout sessions. The schedule includes topics of interest for everyone: municipal administrators and field personnel, utility partners, and commercial arborists. Also don't miss the opportunities to earn continuing education credits: ISA and MCA certified arborists, Massachusetts pesticide credits, safety credits (including CTSP), MCLP, and...MQTW! Find the conference program and a registration form in the centerfold of this issue, or register online at our website.



Meet the 2019 class of Massachusetts Qualified Tree Wardens

Article on page 4



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.

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In this issue

Wes Osborne 1923-2019	1
Conference 2020	1
Meet the MQTW Class of 2019	1
From the President	3
MQTW Training Course This Fall	4
Retirement Congratulations	5
Welcome New Members	5
Kane Receives ISA President's Award	6
UMass Makes Big Showing at ISA	7
Conference Program + Registration	10
UMass Tree Selection Guide	12
Community Helping Community	13
Tree City USA: New Online Portal	15
Stop the Bleed	16
Shelter Tree News	16
Ken Gooch Retires	17
Calendar of Events	20

MTWFA MASSACHUSETTS TREE WARDENS' AND FORESTERS' ASSOCIATION

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From the President

What a year! As we all personally wind down into a hopefully peaceful holiday season, we at MTWFA are also gearing up for our annual conference on January 7-8 in Sturbridge. In the meantime, I'd like to tell you about two initiatives that have consumed my attention during recent months, one planned, the other completely unexpected.



The first initiative was actually two events, both involving our efforts as an industry to expand our knowledge to ensure field safety, optimal performance, and efficiency with our work force. We at the Massachusetts Tree Wardens' and Foresters' Association (MTWFA) continually offer training to help our members develop their professional skills. On November 20th, we graduated our second class of Massachusetts Qualified Tree Wardens – MQTWs – swelling the current ranks to 99 "officially-qualified" tree wardens in the Commonwealth. Throughout the fall, during six day-long sessions of seminars and field training, participants from across the state engaged in all aspects of municipal arboriculture to achieve this qualification. Planning is underway for additional training opportunities in the coming year in electrical hazard awareness, chainsaw skills, and tree planting. Your MTWFA Education Committee is working diligently to organize these and other future workshops.

In parallel, here at my employer EVERSOURCE, our Vegetation Management Department held an extensive training for our arborist team to work on ensuring field safety, professionalism, optimal performance, and efficiency with our contracted work force. We assessed the skills of our sixty EVERSOURCE arborists across Connecticut, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire to see where we stand as arborists.

Utilizing staff from Northeast Training Solutions, this endeavor took over seven days and culminated in focused, targeted field demonstrations at the UMass/ EVERSOURCE Utility Arboretum at the UMass Amherst campus. Topics covered included general safety, personal protective equipment (PPE), job briefings, job site setup, vehicle safety, chipper operations, log loaders, cranes, bucket trucks, portable power tools such as chainsaws,

continued on page 5

Wesley Osborne - continued from page 1

Wes loved coming to our annual conference. In 2015, MTWFA surprised Wes by dedicating the conference program to him and placing his 2001 award on prominent display, recognizing his long and significant service to our association and our profession.

Tributes that flowed in from board members about Wes convey a small snapshot of this special man and the kindnesses he shared. A few of them are quoted below.

He was one of a kind to say the least. A true mentor to me - knowledge, wit and an infectious sense of humor. They don't make them like him anymore.

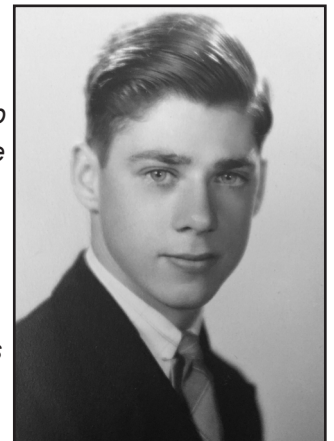
Wes was truly the epitome of the "Greatest Generation," dedicated to his country, his community and his family, and always with a twinkle in his eye. He has been an inspiration and example to me of what it means to be a good man.

Wes was a strong advocate for the Southeast TWs and tree wardens in general. Always had a great attitude and helped keep the association going. He will be missed.

I have been blessed to have known Wes professionally for 32 years. When I first joined Wes and the other tree wardens on the Executive Board in 1987, Wes welcomed me into the group with kindness and support. He shared his wisdom with me and was always able and willing to help me in my role on the board and as a newcomer to the field of urban and municipal forestry.

Although Wes will be missed by myself and others with his passing, I take great comfort in knowing that he is reunited with the Tree Wardens of the "Greatest Generation" that have passed before him.

He will long be remembered. Rest in peace.



A very young Wes Osborne

Massachusetts Qualified Tree Warden 2019 Training Course

The second training course for the Massachusetts Qualified Tree Warden (MQTW) designation concluded on November 20th with 47 new MQTWs earning the three-year qualification. The six sessions were all held in Sturbridge, five of them at the Sturbridge Host Hotel and Conference Center.

The sixth, a well-received field day held outdoors at various sites in Sturbridge, covered basics of tree risk assessment, tree identification techniques, and tree planting procedures.



Congratulations to Our Newest MQTWs!

Robert Begley	Town of West Springfield	Trevor Laliberte	TDL Landscaping
Andrew Bernier	Town of Barnstable	Robert LeBlanc	City of Salem
Brad Beshara	City of Methuen	Tim Lecuire	Town of Arlington
Ryan Bineault	City of Chicopee	Matthew Lennon	Town of Longmeadow
Norris Bruce	City of Framingham	David Marinelli	Town of Longmeadow
Robert Cantoreggi	Town of Franklin	Elizabeth McKinley	Davey Resource Group
Keith Caruso	Town of Millbury	Kathleen Messom	US Army - Natick Army Labs
Daniel Cathcart	Ulmus Consulting Arborist	Margaret Murphy	Trees Provincetown Inc.
Francis Charette	Town of Barrington RI	Christopher Okafor	Town of Hadley
Scott Charpentier	Town of Northborough	Mark Piermarini	City of Leominster
Kevin Conlon	Town of Tewksbury	Carlos Rebelo	Town of Franklin
Todd Cournoyer	UMass Landscape Management	Christopher Scott	City of Chicopee
Scott Crisafulli	Town of Milford	Benjamin Smith	Holden Municipal Light Dept.
Allan DeBettencourt	Town of Edgartown	Kelly Stevens	Town of Swampscott
Justin DeMarco	Town of Maynard	Sean Swett	Holden Municipal Light Dept.
Bryan Diehl	Holden Municipal Light Dept.	Robert Szocik	Town of Templeton
Peter Durkee	Town of Georgetown	Aggie Tuden	City of Medford
Jonathan Fobert	Town of Marblehead	David Verity	Town of Duxbury
Leo Gomes	City of Framingham	Mark Walsh	Town of Tewksbury
Michael Hale	City of Gloucester	John Westerling	Town of Hopkinton
Raymond Holmes	Town of Spencer	Michael White	Town of Barnstable
Jordan Jason	City of Newton	Steven Whitten	Town of Littleton
Peter Jutras	Town of Brookline	Steven Williams	Town of Belchertown
Joshua Kusnierz	Town of Ware		

President's Message - continued from page 3

and the safety techniques and PPE needed when working on the ground or aloft. An electrical hazard awareness component rounded out the program.

Each of our arborists spent between four and six hours reviewing and demonstrating their arboriculture aptitude with their assessors. Each one was scored on their knowledge and ability to develop individualized training programs specific to their needs and our department's goals, all in an effort to relate better with the more than 450 tree crews working on our system. Our goals are to increase the interaction between our arborists and the tree crews; to minimize human performance errors and deviations from work practices; and to strive for continuous improvement to maintain a standard of quality.

The second initiative was the result of three tornados hitting Cape Cod this past July. While I've participated in countless storm restorations, including hurricanes and nor'easters that take place over the course of days, I personally have never been part of a tornado event. Within a matter of minutes, we had the usually wide-ranging destruction of a three-day storm concentrated in a five-town area. All the resources we would normally use across our entire eastern Massachusetts service area were now dedicated to a portion of this seaside peninsula.

While the electric utility had the ability to move assets from around the region, towns are confined to the resources they have on hand until they can get creative. We did see help arrive from state agencies and National Guard units, but they were often limited in ability and were using equipment not generally suited for tree-related damage. It was the response of other towns answering the calls for mutual aid that helped make a difference, bringing crews and equipment better suited to undertake the tasks of getting roads open and hazards cleared. *(Editor's note: see related article on page 13.)*

This topic of tree crew mutual aid was discussed at our most recent MTWFA board meeting. One of our challenges for the new year is to envision how a tree crew mutual aid program could be developed and the framework of how it would operate. As we experience future storms and weather events, such cooperation might well become a valuable tool to help towns dealing with localized disasters. If you have experience with this type of cooperation between communities, we would like to hear about it. Please share your experience with us.

continued above on next column

And finally, although you can watch the website and your inbox to take advantage of MTWFA programs coming in 2020, you can sign up for annual conference right now! The conference schedule and registration brochure has arrived in your mailboxes, and you can find the link to online registration on the main page of our website. It is your participation in our events that keeps our organization moving forward and growing. Sign up before January 4th to take advantage of the best conference registration rates, make your hotel reservation, and know that we look forward to seeing you in Sturbridge!

Paul Sellers

President 2019-2020

Retirement Congratulations

Thomas Chamberland - Town of Sturbridge

Ted Bubbins - Town of Plymouth

Ken Gooch - Mass. DCR Forest Health Program
(for more on Ken, please see page 17)

Welcome New Members

Jeffrey Allard - Wilbraham

Brad Beshara, MQTW - City of Methuen

Keith Caruso, MQTW - Town of Millbury

Daniel Cathcart, MQTW - Braintree

Tim Cota - Town of Adams

Todd Cournoyer, MQTW - UMass - Landscape

Scott Crisafulli, MQTW - Town of Milford

Brad Curry - Town of Sandisfield

Allan DeBettencourt, MQTW - Town of Edgartown

Bryan Diehl, MQTW - Holden Municipal Light Dept.

Justin DeMarco, MQTW - Town of Maynard

Ed Deming - Town of Tolland

Nick Faiella - Town of Plymouth

Jonathan Fobert, MQTW - Town of Marblehead

Matthew Lennon, MQTW - Huntington

Kelly Stevens, MQTW - Town of Swampscott

Eric Swennes - Arbor Works LLC

Paul Walker - Mt. Auburn Cemetery

Brian Kane Receives 2019 President's Award from ISA

ATLANTA, GA. (12 August 2019) – Brian Kane, Ph.D., the Massachusetts Arborists Association Professor of Arboriculture at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, is the recipient of the 2019 International Society of Arboriculture's (ISA) President's Award.

Kane is an ISA Certified Arborist® who has climbed trees professionally for more than 25 years. He holds a B.A. from the College of the Holy Cross and received both his M.S. and Ph.D. in Forestry from the University of Massachusetts Amherst, where he now works as a professor. He specializes in tree biomechanics and tree worker safety and oversees several student research projects. He has been awarded numerous grants from extramural sources in support of his research since 2014.

Kane has always loved working outside. "Tree work was a natural progression from my love of the outdoors and being physically active," he says. He mowed lawns around his neighborhood as a child, and then worked for several tree care companies through his college years. "I grew up near New York City, and after working in Manhattan for a couple of years after graduating, I realized I couldn't stand working in an office, so I went to the University of Massachusetts to get a master's degree in Urban Forestry."

Later, he went back to graduate school for his Ph.D. and worked at Virginia Tech before the Massachusetts Arborists Association created an endowment at UMass that allowed the university to hire Kane as a professor. At UMass, Kane teaches about trees and sustainability, commercial arboriculture and advanced arboriculture. By far his favorite class to teach is arboriculture field techniques, which covers tree climbing, advanced tree climbing, chainsaw safety and tree felling.

"I love the tree climbing class because, for many of my students, it's the first opportunity they have to actually climb a tree. We get some students who have a bit of experience, but for most it's brand new. It's such a fun opportunity to work with them, to show them how to tie knots and how to do things safely. You really get to see the moment where they realize, 'Oh my God; I'm actually doing this!'" says Kane. "I love it," he adds.

Kane previously served on ISA's Board of Directors and is the current chair of ISA's Nominating and Elections Committee. In 2014, he was awarded ISA's Alex L. Shigo Award for Excellence in Arboricultural Education. In 2011, he received the Early-Career Scientist Award from ISA. He *continued next column*

is both flattered and humbled to receive the President's Award. "I'm so grateful that people appreciate the contributions I've made. It's great to get that recognition, but it's also so important to point out that I wouldn't have been able to do what I've done without the help of other people and the support of my colleagues. Without the support of the Massachusetts Arborists Association, I wouldn't have my job at all, so a lot of this is down to them."

"Brian is a brilliant professional in any field of activity in which he works. Moreover, he is passionate about everything involving arboriculture and an example to be followed by all those who intend to create a better future through growing trees around the globe," says nominator and ISA 2018–2019 Board of Directors President, Pedro Mendes Castro.

Kane was recognized during the opening ceremony of the ISA Annual International Conference and Trade Show on August 11 in Knoxville, Tennessee.

ISA serves more than 60,000 members and credential holders worldwide and has been honoring members and industry professionals since 1963. The winners are selected by the ISA Awards Committee, a diverse group of experts in arboriculture, and are approved by ISA's Board of Directors.

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Big Showing for UMass Faculty and Students at the ISA Conference

Submitted by Brian Kane

Two faculty members and three students from UMass Amherst were recognized at the International Society of Arboriculture's annual conference, held in August 2019 in Knoxville, Tennessee. Massachusetts Arborists Association Professor Brian Kane received the ISA President's Award, "in honor of his devotion and contributions to the development of ISA and arboriculture across the world." Extension Associate Professor Rick Harper received



Above: Brian Kane

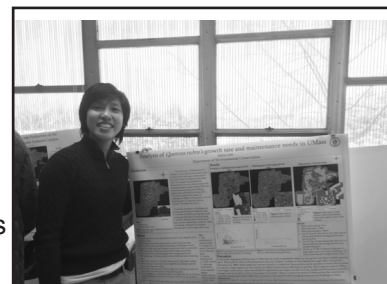
the Early-Career Scientist Award, given to "individuals who show exceptional promise, with high potential to become an internationally-recognized scientist."

Three students were also recognized at the ISA conference. ISA selects up to ten student ambassadors to attend the conference free of charge (and covers travel costs). Graduate student Ryan Fawcett and undergraduate A.J. Elton were both selected and attended the conference, including a special welcome session for students. In addition, graduate student Jamie Lim presented her thesis research on tree worker safety standards from around the world during the conference, and it was received enthusiastically, with many attendees asking questions about her work.

Asked to sum up UMass participation at the conference, Professor Kane noted that "UMass Amherst has a long tradition of educating students and professionals in arboriculture and urban forestry. Our program continues to demonstrate excellence in its students and faculty, who work hard every day to educate current and future professionals in how to manage shade trees safely and effectively."



Above: Rick Harper
Below: Jamie Lim

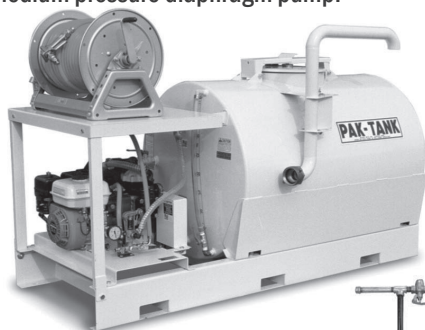


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2020 Conference Schedule

Tuesday, January 7, 2020

- 7:45-8:30 am** Registration and Coffee
- 8:30-8:45 am** Opening Session—Annual Meeting
- 8:45-9:15 am** State DCR Update: Urban & Community Forestry
Julie Coop, Massachusetts DCR Urban & Community Forestry Coordinator, will speak about Urban Challenge Grants, the application process, examples of projects available for funding and more.
- 9:15-10:15 am** Utilizing Urban Wood Waste
Sean Mahoney, Program Director, Massachusetts DCR Utilization & Marketing Forestry. The urban forest of metropolitan Boston generates an estimated 643,000 tons of urban wood waste annually. Beyond Boston we have all seen urban tree waste piled up waiting to go to the grinder, but are there ways we can put this resource to better use? Learn what some communities are already doing to recycle waste wood into products with meaningful public benefit, and simple steps municipalities can take to improve their waste management options.
- 10:15-10:45 am** Break with Exhibitors
- 10:50-11:40 am** Insect Pests Of 2019: The Old, The New, and the Odd. *Tawny Simisky*, UMass Amherst Extension Entomologist, will present the year's most common insect pests, as seen in the UMass Plant Diagnostic Lab and reported by professionals and the public. Did you notice tattered oak leaves back in June? What about soft scales? Weird acorns? Hear about these strange things as well as bagworms and other pests that were active this season, and get a status update on the invasive spotted lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*) in the USA.
- 11:45-12:30 pm** Luncheon—Banquet and Annual Meeting conclusion
- 12:45-2:15 pm** KEYNOTE: "The Freak Factor"
David Rendall, public speaker and comedian, will present *The Freak Factor: Discovering Uniqueness by Flaunting Weakness*.
- 2:15-2:55 pm** Break with Exhibitors
- 3:00-4:15 pm** Debris Management in Disasters: Assistance Through Mutual Aid and Coordination. *Michael Russas*, MEP, Section Chief, Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency Response and Field Services. Debris management operations during a disaster often dictate the success and timeliness of a community's ability to respond and recover. This presentation will give an overview of the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), how MEMA coordinates debris management operations in support of communities, and insights on local public works mutual aid. Using a case study of the 2019 tornadoes on Cape Cod, the speaker will provide some examples of best practices and challenges seen during this event.
- 4:15-4:30 pm** Wrap-up—Door Prizes
- 4:30-6:00 pm** Reception in Exhibit Hall Join us for a social get-together, graciously supported by our exhibitors.

Wednesday, January 8, 2020

- 8:30-9:00 am** Registration and Coffee
- 9:00-10:00 am** Pesticide Best Management Practices: Protecting the Environment and the Applicator. *Taryn LaScola-Miner*, Director, Crop and Pest Services Division, Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources, will take a fresh look at pesticide applications, including product registration, the importance of labeling and label content, and best management practices for promoting safety and compliance.
- 10:05-10:55 am** Break with Exhibitors
- 11:00-11:50 pm** BREAKOUT SESSIONS:
- 1) Municipal OSHA Compliance with the Right to Know and More.**
Jennifer Tetreault, HazCompliance, LLC SafetyNet Compliance Solutions Director, will present the components of OSHA's Right to Know Standard and how it pertains to the Tree Wardens' and Foresters' sector. In addition, other applicable requirements of OSHA will be explored, including a discussion of feasible implementation of the standards.
- 2) Right-of-Way Herbicide Applications and Developing a Vegetation Management Plan.** *Clayton Edwards*, Pesticide Division ROW Coordinator, Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources, will present best practices for right-of-way management and will discuss how to draft and submit a municipal Vegetation Management Plan. (Intended for Category 40)
- 12:00-12:50 pm** Lunch
- 1:00-2:00 pm** Tree Wardens Panel. This popular group discussion, including a question and answer session, will cover hot topics such as private tree issues, resources and laws to reference, and tools for record-keeping. Come join the dialogue and learn what peers in your area are doing.
- 2:00-3:00 pm** Trees and Shrubs in the Landscape: 2019 Disease Review. *Nicholas J. Brazee, PhD*, Plant Pathologist, UMass Extension, will cover the most important diseases affecting landscape trees and shrubs over this past year. Specific topics will include winter injury, anthracnose of maple and sycamore, secondary pathogens of oak, white pine dieback, and research updates from the diagnostic lab.
- 3:00 pm** Childs Fund Raffle, Door Prizes and Closing

The conference educational program is funded by a grant from the USDA Forest Service, Urban and Community Forestry Program and the Mass. Department of Conservation and Recreation, Bureau of Forestry

2020 Conference Registration and Membership Form

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 Name B. _____
 Name C. _____
 Name D. _____
 Name E. _____

Organization _____

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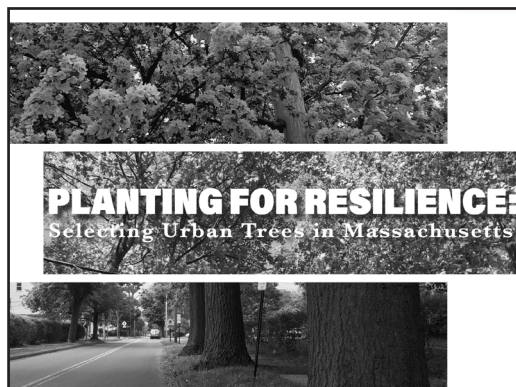
Planting for Resilience: Selecting Urban Trees in Massachusetts

Now available: a new street tree selection guide for our state (with obvious application to other states in the Northeast). The guide, *Planting for Resilience: Selecting Urban Trees in Massachusetts*, was authored by graduate researcher Ashley M. McElhinney and Dr. Richard W. Harper, Extension Associate Professor of Urban and Community Forestry. Produced by the UMass Amherst Department of Environmental Conservation and the Center for Agriculture Food and the Environment, this new guide will be a key resource for anyone interested in selecting and planting a tree in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts – tree wardens, urban foresters, professional arborists, volunteers who work with urban trees, and private residents.

Based on the “right tree, right place” approach, this guide outlines the characteristics and attributes of each of its tree species, detailing ornamental traits and site preferences. It also includes observations regarding tolerance to adverse conditions often found in urban environments, and information relative to climate change adaptability.

Profiles are included for nearly 80 recommended tree species, ranging from native trees commonly found in Massachusetts to non-native trees adept at growing in tough

urban environments. A critical objective of this guide is to encourage selection and planting of a diverse variety of urban species.



The guide is a two-part resource, featuring a video tutorial discussion of the guide and a free downloadable version of the guide (pdf). Both are available on the ‘Lecture’ section at the www.urbanforestrytoday.org website. Certified arborists who view the tutorial and download the guide may obtain continuing education credits (1.0 ISA CEU's & 0.5 MCA credits).

The advertisement features a black and white photograph of a tree-lined street. The text 'MEASURE what MATTERS' is prominently displayed in a large, bold, sans-serif font. Below this, the text 'SOLUTIONS CENTER:' is followed by a bulleted list of services: Tree Inventories, Urban Forest Management Plans, Master Plans, Urban Tree Canopy Studies, and Contract Urban Foresters. A horizontal line separates this from the contact information for Andy Hillman, including his phone number and email address. At the bottom, the Davey Resource Group logo is shown, with the tagline 'A Division of The Davey Tree Expert Company'.

The advertisement has a clean, professional layout with a black border. At the top, the 'AMHERST NURSERIES' logo is enclosed in a rounded rectangle, featuring a small tree icon. Below the logo, the text 'STREET TREE SPECIALISTS!' is written in a large, bold, serif font. This is followed by 'WIDE SELECTION OF FASTIGIATE AND UNDERWIRE TREES' in a smaller, italicized serif font. Then, 'GROWN IN OUR NURSERY B&B OR GROW BAGS' is written in a bold, italicized serif font. The phrase 'PUT OUR EXPERIENCE TO WORK FOR YOU.' is centered in a bold, serif font. At the bottom, the contact information is listed: 'JWK@AMHERSTNURSERIES.COM', the phone number '(413) 549-8873', the address '199 BELCHERTOWN RD (Rt 9), AMHERST MA', and the website 'WWW.AMHERSTNURSERIES.COM'.

Community Helping Community: the 2019 Cape Cod Tornadoes

By Scott Hathaway, MQTW

On July 29, 2019, the Town Administrator of Yarmouth, Daniel Knapik, contacted the City of Westfield's Mayor, Brian Sullivan, to request help to clean up the destruction left behind by three tornadoes that hit Cape Cod on July 23rd. Knapik is a Westfield native and has deep family roots there.

Mayor Sullivan was quick to reach out to Westfield's Director of Public Works, Dave Billips, to inquire if there was any way that Westfield could help Yarmouth. Billips then asked me if I could put a team together quickly to assist the Town of Yarmouth with tornado cleanup, and my answer was yes, we could enlist our six top men and brand new equipment. We had no information on the amount of damage or what Yarmouth had for equipment, so we brought everything we could. The list included:

- 2018 75'bucket truck
- Two 2018 dump trucks with roll-off bodies and chip box
- 2018 332G JD skid steer with grapple
- Two 1-ton pickups
- Individual climbing gear and anything else we could think of
- Six capable guys ready for a challenge

I was on the road by Wednesday afternoon, July 31st, to check on accommodations, scope out unforeseen glitches, and hopefully do an on-site survey – all by Thursday morning.

On that Thursday morning I arrived at the DPW garage around 5:30 a.m. and was met by the Yarmouth DPW Highway Superintendent Richard Kelley. Communications overall were not what I would have expected in an emergency storm event like this, including that Kelley had not received any information that our Westfield team would be arriving to support their efforts. While I was standing in the garage waiting to introduce myself, Kelly was talking to someone on the phone. He turned to me and asked, "Are you Scott Hathaway from Westfield?" I said yes, and we all started laughing because he was just getting the story, even though communications between others in Westfield and Yarmouth had started on Monday morning the 29th.

Our tree crew had left Westfield at 4 a.m. on Thursday, bringing all the equipment and full of anticipation for what

was to come. While we waited for them to arrive, Kelly and his crew were organizing assignments and prioritizing between the two teams.

At this point we were at the beginning of the second week after the storm. Much of the damage had been already taken care of, but there was still much to be done. Yarmouth was in desperate need of a bucket truck for removals and countless hangers, and they had only one sub-contractor doing bucket work for them. When the Westfield crew arrived at the yard, Kelly and his Yarmouth DPW workers were quite impressed with our entourage of people and equipment.

After a quick briefing from Town Administrator Knapik, we began our work of clearing streets, removing trees and hangers, and trying to catch up with the piles of debris on the sides of the roads. It was a daunting effort but the Westfield men all did a great job.

Days after the storm Mass DEP sent 15 dump trucks and around 30 prisoners. The only problem was there was no efficient way for the prisoners to get the debris into the trucks by hand. Again communication between parties was missed, and time, equipment and manpower was wasted.

The Town of Yarmouth provided lunch and top-notch overnight accommodations for our crew. We had a fantastic dinner that night, with each of us recapping various situations we encountered and how we could make improvements for future deployments.

Starting early on Friday morning, we were able to clear storm damage throughout a small park in Yarmouth and remove hangers from several beautiful white oaks on an old burial ground. Our superintendent wanted us to be on the road home by 11 a.m. because of the Friday summertime Cape traffic. The Town of Yarmouth and its DPW were most appreciative of our efforts and couldn't thank us enough. We only wished we could have gotten there sooner.

In my summary report submitted to the Westfield DPW director, we decided to come up with a deployable "Emergency Urban Forest Strike Team." This would be a first for the City of Westfield. The initiative would consist of teams made up of not only a tree crew, but wastewater/fresh water and other infrastructure experts who could be deployed within a short period of time to towns and cities in need.

Scott Hathaway, MQTW is the tree warden for the City of Westfield. He is a graduate of the first Massachusetts Qualified Tree Warden class of 2018.

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Tree City USA Applications: Use the New Portal and Apply by December 31st

There is a new portal for Tree City USA applications and it is now open and accepting applications! You will notice an updated, refreshed look and some additional features (like the ability to see several years of past applications). To submit your application online, visit <https://applications.arborday.org/community/city/>

NOTE: Each community will be prompted to reset their password upon their first log in. If your community has submitted its Tree City USA Application online before, please do not create a new account for your community. Instead, please follow the steps below to 'find your community' and reset your password:

1. Visit the Tree City USA online application portal.
2. Click on "Find Your Community."
3. Search for and select your community. (Please do not create a new community, unless this is the first year your community is applying for recognition.)
4. If the Login Contact information and email are correct click "Reset Login Password" (this will prompt an email with instructions on how to reset your password to be sent).
5. If the Login Contact information has changed, click "Change Login Contact Info."

The Tree City USA program provides national recognition for urban and community forestry work in communities of all sizes. Communities can achieve Tree City USA status by meeting **four core standards** of sound urban forestry management:

- maintaining a tree board or department
- having a community tree ordinance
- spending at least \$2 per capita on urban forestry, and
- celebrating Arbor Day.

If you have any questions about the new online portal or the Tree City USA program, please contact Mollie Freilicher, 413-577-2966 or email mollie.freilicher@mass.gov.

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Exciting Transition News from Shelter Tree

Text and pictures copied from Constant Contact email received 7-26-19

To Our Valued Customers,

Over the last 25 years of business it has been very exciting for Shelter Tree, Inc. to see the uptick in innovation and development in the tree care industry. It has reached levels that no one would have suspected 25 years ago. From climbing gear to automated equipment, the choices for the typical company practicing arboriculture are endless. Short of a laser pruner, there are not many stones unturned to find the tool you need for the work you do for and in trees.

CONGRATS TO GEORGE! AFTER 25
YEARS HE IS PARTNERING WITH RBI
CO. TO A MAKE A GREATER IMPACT ON
THE ARBORIST INDUSTRY.



To keep up with the pace of this innovation we knew we needed to build our customer service to the next level to support the industry with these tools, and that was going to be our challenge. We knew we couldn't do it alone. And now, it is with that plan that Shelter Tree is proud to announce that RBI Corporation of Richmond, Va., a 100 year old, 3rd generation family owned business, founded in 1919, dedicated to the wholesale green industry, has acquired Shelter Tree, Inc. to bring a new level of customer service, product fulfillment, proper training, and education to and for you the arborists.

The staff at RBI corp. is very excited to become a part of this industry and after many hours of meeting and working with these folks it was clear their energy is boundless and infectious. They know logistics, and they are awesome. The best part is you will remain to see and talk to the store and staff you've grown to love. Shelter Tree will still be Shelter Tree but with new ownership.

Personally, it was time for me to allow change and thankfully I found the right partner to create and enhance that change. I will be forever grateful to you all for the support and respect offered to myself and staff over the years. I am proud to represent

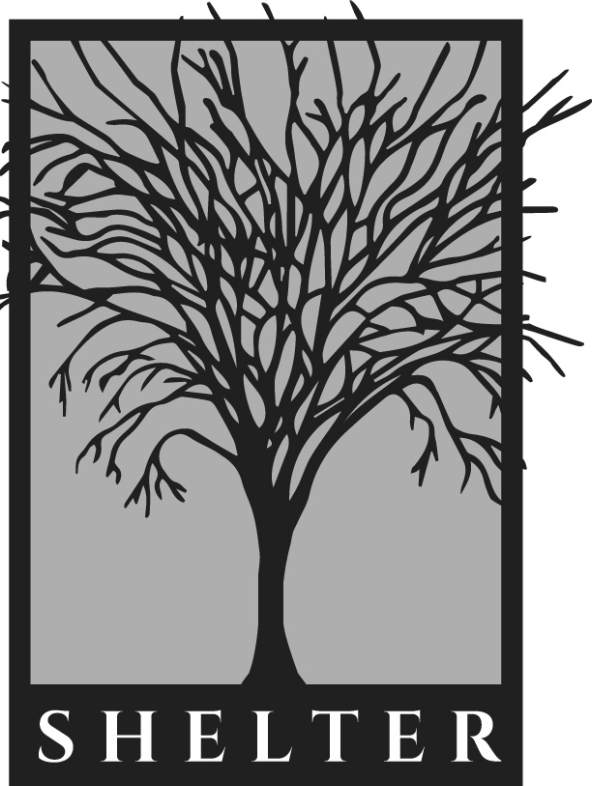
our industry in different facets and am humbled to know that if ever I could have or would have stumbled someone had my back. You are all very important to me and thankfully I will still be around to support this effort we are making.

We will want to hear from you often and gather your ideas. We want to make Shelter Tree the best choice for you for your arborist supplies and we recognize we cannot do it without you.

With gratitude,

George P. Mellick





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Ken Gooch

DCR Director of Forest Health Retires

After a career spanning over three decades with DCR, Ken Gooch retired at the end of June. Ken was a frequent presenter at both the MTWFA annual conference and our Western Mass. Tree Wardens dinner meetings as well as at many other industry events. Within DCR, Ken supported partnerships on projects bridging Forest Health and Urban and Community Forestry, including a recent grant on emerald ash borer outreach. We will miss Ken, his expansive knowledge, and his willingness to share it. We wish him all the best as he moves on to the next chapter.



President Paul Sellers expresses thanks to Ken Gooch after Ken's final presentation at the Western Mass. Tree Wardens Meeting in June.



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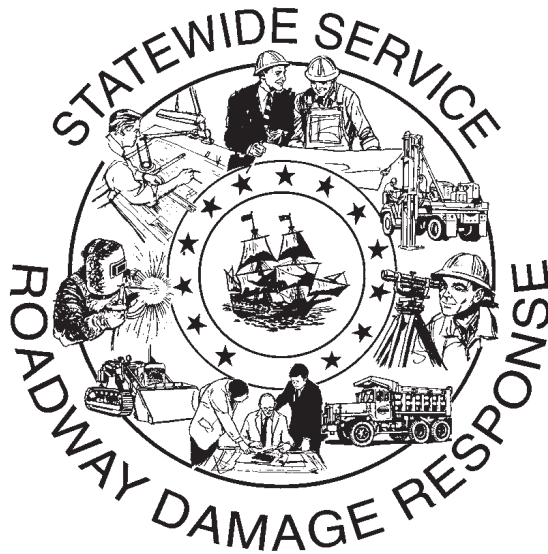
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Executive Board Member; Western Mass. Representative
- Tree Care Industry Association, *Member, CTSP*
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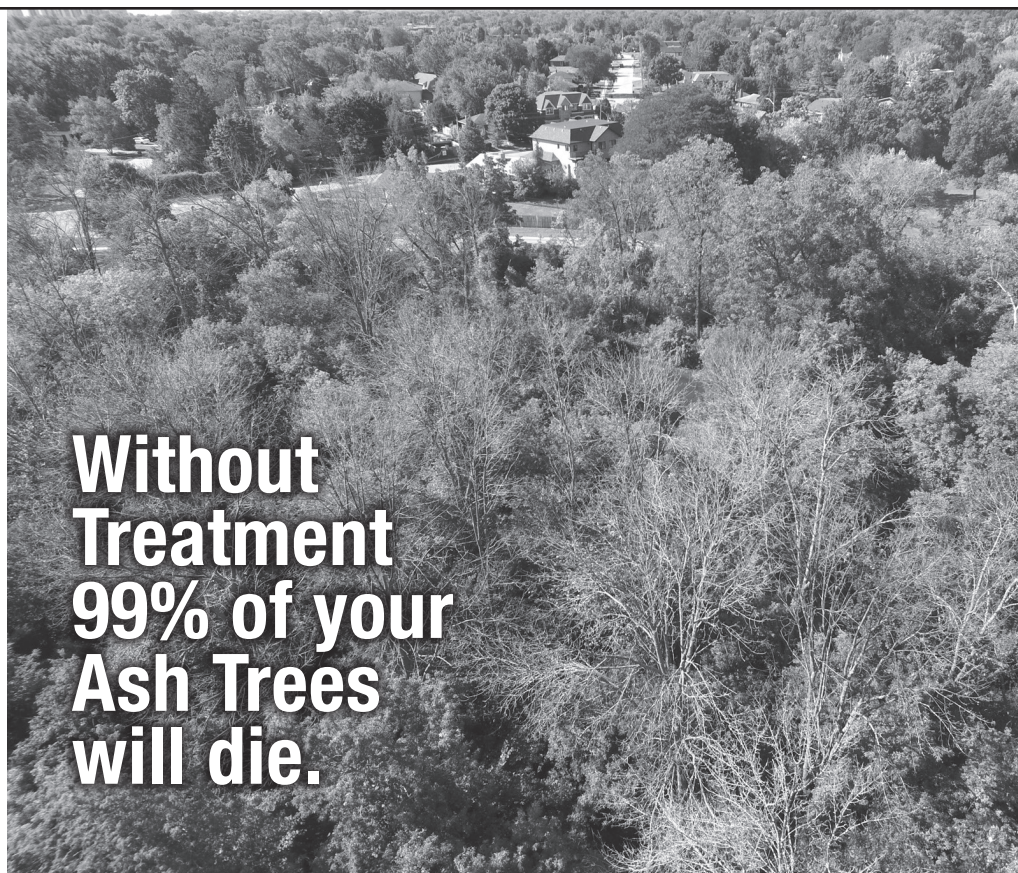
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and Foresters' Assn.
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Calendar of Events

DATE	EVENT	MORE INFORMATION
2019		
December 31	Tree City USA - Application Deadline https://applications.arboday.org/community/city/	Email: mollie.freilicher@mass.gov
2020		
January 7-8	MTWFA Annual Conference Sturbridge Host Hotel, MA	www.masstreewardens.org
February 23-28	Municipal Forestry Institute MFI 2020 Gulf Shores, AL	www.urban-forestry.com
March 4-5	ELA - Ecological Landscaping Assn. Conference & Eco-Marketplace UMass Amherst	www.ecolandscaping.org
March	UMass Community Tree Conference Stockbridge Hall, UMass Amherst	www.greeninfo.org
March 24	Western Mass. Tree Wardens Spring Meeting Bluebonnet Diner, Northampton	www.masstreewardens.org
June 9	Western Mass. Tree Wardens Summer Meeting Bluebonnet Diner, Northampton	www.masstreewardens.org
September 15	Western Mass. Tree Wardens Fall Meeting Bluebonnet Diner, Northampton	www.masstreewardens.org