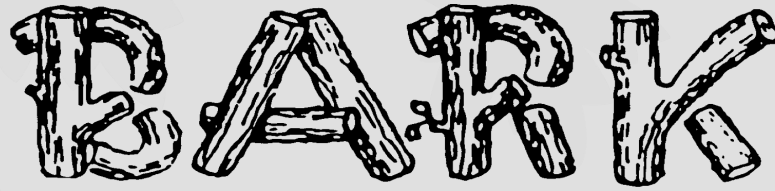


Massachusetts Tree Wardens and Foresters Association

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



2016

Issue 3
Fall

NEWS FROM ACROSS THE STATE

IN THE EAST...

Tree Warden's Job Is A Labor Of Love— Often Tough Love

Spend an afternoon riding with Sandwich Tree Warden Justin O'Connor, and you'll think he's got it made in the shade. He spends time outdoors, is mentally and physically challenged every day, shapes and preserves the town's grandest natural assets, and has earned colleagues' respect while keeping Sandwich's canopy verdant.

Mr. O'Connor, who has spent most of his adult life learning about trees and plants, enjoys sharing that knowledge. On a recent afternoon, Mr. O'Connor showed visitors how seemingly healthy trees had been decimated by gypsy moths; how a tree closes itself around a wound; and how to spot a tree under stress.

But while his job is always interesting, it is not always fun. Last week Mr. O'Connor had to tell a room full of distraught residents that one of the town's most beloved trees, a weeping willow by the Shawme Dam, should be cut down. "This is not something we want to do," he told the people gathered at the Human Services Building for a tree hearing. "We have to look at the big picture and sometimes it stinks."

The willow slated for the axe is one of the most photographed trees in town. "I grew up in Sandwich. I love that tree. I had my prom picture taken beneath that

Continued on page 4

...AND IN THE WEST

A New Arboretum— "A Living Museum for the Trees"

ReGreen Springfield has joined forces with city park officials, various organizations and volunteers to create a Forest Park arboretum – literally a "living museum for trees" to promote the public's educational and visual enjoyment.

The Park Commission voted unanimously this spring to authorize the arboretum project to be developed over a three-year period. The process began with the April training of volunteers on how to help identify and record information about the trees that will be archived, said David Bloniarz, president of ReGreen Springfield.

"This is a great opportunity to engage the public in creating something special that will serve as a learning tool for generations to come," Bloniarz said. He added that it is a perfect tie-in with the Clifford Phaneuf Environmental Center at Forest Park, an educational resource partnering with the School Department, and also with the plans for a horticultural center at the park.

The requirements to be a Level II accredited arboretum include a detailed catalogue and inventory of 100 species of woody plants, an educational program, and an arboretum director, Bloniarz said. The director could be an existing employee such as the city forester or assistant forester, he said.

Continued on page 12

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In this issue

Tree Warden: A Labor of Love	1
A Living Museum for Trees	1
President's Message	3
Congratulations	3
Welcome New Members	3
In Memoriam: Roger Trott	3
Index of Advertisers	5
Solar Panels or Shade Trees?	7
ISA Award to Melissa LeVangie	8
Nominate Tree Warden of the Year	10
Happy Birthday Gordon King	10
Drought, and Save Conference Dates	12

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.

MTWFA MASSACHUSETTS TREE WARDENS' AND FORESTERS' ASSOCIATION



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From the President

Well, the final couple of months in the year 2016 are here. I feel that our organization has accomplished a lot this year and I am truly

humbled by the continued cooperation and support of all those who have made our program a success.

The 2016 drought has been the headline of the past couple of months. I would advise all tree wardens to take particular care in the assessment of their public shade trees, monitor the drought effects, and don't hesitate to get the word out that tree health care is an important part of protecting and sustaining trees. Remember that, as the "subject matter experts," you are the people that the public looks to for answers to many of the questions that they may have. A competent person will provide those answers based on knowledge and experience, or be able to direct those residents to the many excellent resources available through our State/County Extension services. Know where the contacts are, stay involved with professional organizations, and continue networking with those in your particular areas of the state.

The Executive Board took two months off during the hot summer and resumed the scheduled monthly meetings in September. A recreational outing was planned to celebrate the break, and several of us met at Tully Lake in Royalston. The facility was a spectacular spot with a full pavilion for cooking and eating, located right next to a beautiful lake. There were two kayaks for boating, and some people took advantage of that activity while others just relaxed. Everyone played disc golf on the eighteen-hole course that is set up at the recreation area and all had a great time.

Two events in the Professional Development Series (PDS) are scheduled for the fall and, thanks to Education Chair Dave Lefcourt and others, they look to be a nice cap to the annual educational program. The fifth tree planting seminar, formally called *Establishing Trees in Urban Environments*, will be offered in Leominster on October 25, as instructors Rick Harper and Dave Lefcourt take their popular workshop to yet another area of the state. Chain Saw Safety with Dan Tilton will be take place in Amherst on Thursday, October 27. Check your mail or the website, www.masstreewardens.org for registration details.

The E-Board is putting the finishing touches on the 2017 conference, and Alex Sherman, our Vice-President and Conference Chair, has put together another great program of speakers and presentation topics. Save the dates on your calendar now – January 10-11, 2017 – and watch for registration options in November.

Many thanks to all those who make our association feel like a family.

Respectfully,

Bob LeBlanc

President 2015-2106

CONGRATULATIONS!



Alex and Gina Sherman and big sister Madelyn welcomed the birth of Cora on August 19, 2016.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Glenn Ferguson – Town of Norwell

Martin Potter– Town of Barnstable, MA

IN MEMORIAM Roger N. Trott

Roger Nelson Trott, age 85, died peacefully on Sunday afternoon, August 14, 2016 after a long period of declining health.

Roger was born in Chelmsford in February 1931, one of nine children of the late Carl R. and Flora (Luke) Trott, but had been a lifelong resident of the Tewksbury. An employee of the Town of Tewksbury for over forty years, Roger retired from the Forestry Division of the Tewksbury Department of Public Works when it was known as the "Tree Department."

Roger loved the outdoors, especially winter skiing, days on the beach, and spending time with his many friends. A memorial service was held on August 23.

Tree Warden Tough Love – continued from page 1

tree,” Mr. O’Connor said. He explained in a soft, calm voice that the willow, which is about fifty to seventy years old, must be removed to allow a historic fish ladder and dam to be repaired at Shawme Pond. Its roots are pushing toward the dam walls, and the new fish ladder will damage those roots and compromise the tree.

“People are emotional about trees,” Mr. O’Connor had said during an earlier interview. “I have to quickly step in with an explanation that will calm them. I try to use logic when someone’s thinking with their heart.” He explained, for example, that trees, like people, have a life span. If a tree is not in an ideal place, its life can be shortened. If a tree is stressed, or damaged by insects or a car, or both, it might struggle along, but will not thrive. It is often wisest to cut them down.

Mr. O’Connor also quickly explained that almost all trees cut down in Sandwich must be replaced, if not on the property, then nearby, or on some other town spot in need of shade and beauty. Developers must provide more than one replacement tree for every tree that is felled.

In his 18 years working for Joyce Landscaping, a large private nursery in Marstons Mills, Mr. O’Connor learned much about botany and about how to deal compassionately with unhappy customers. He said he loved his job there, but as the company blossomed into one of the largest landscape companies in the region, his responsibilities grew and he often worked sixty hours a week. When the Sandwich tree warden position became available in 2014, Mr. O’Connor applied for the job.

He had a qualification that other candidates lacked—deep roots. In the early 1990s he served an internship under former longtime Sandwich tree warden and public works superintendent R. Patrick Ellis, who is now on the Sandwich Board of Selectmen.

The tree warden position is taken very seriously in Sandwich and in Massachusetts, said Mr. Ellis, who worked for the town from 1975 to 1996. Mr. Ellis’s uncle, William Ellis, served as Sandwich’s tree warden for thirty years. During Patrick Ellis’s tenure, the treescape in town and all of New England changed dramatically, Mr. Ellis said. Dutch elm disease, which established a foothold when the pesticide DDT was outlawed, wiped out many of Sandwich’s tallest trees.

In the early 1900s, the chestnut blight almost eliminated the country’s American chestnuts and today,

the emerald ash borer is chewing through the Northeast’s forests and forcing baseball bat manufacturers to find other kinds of wood that can withstand the rigors of the sport.

“Trees make a place beautiful. If you support a healthy tree population, you bring shade, birds and animal life, and mark the generations,” Mr. Ellis said. “You support a big, diverse tree population by hiring good arborists, and I think Justin is one of them.” Both Mr. Ellis and Mr. O’Connor are graduates of the UMass Stockbridge School of Agriculture and members of the Massachusetts Tree Wardens’ and Foresters’ Association, which was established in 1913.

The association’s website succinctly describes a tree warden’s role. “A tree warden is a person in charge of shade trees on public town lands...Being a warden signified a unique legal responsibility: to guard public resources against destructive forces that might include persons, insects, or diseases.”

Since 1899, Massachusetts General Law has mandated that all cities and towns in the commonwealth have a tree warden who is responsible for trees on public property, the website says. “As both manager and advocate, the tree warden must protect the trees and, where necessary, protect the public from the trees,” the association explains. Tree wardens oversee pruning, planning and planting, removal and replacement of trees, and must stay abreast of tree diseases. They must conduct tree hearings, draw up budgets, apply for grants, keep tree inventories, and be able to talk about trees to residents and officials. “A tree warden should also have good communication skills for dealing with the public, municipal department heads, and local politicians,” the association explains.



And, of course, they must be ever watchful for insects that prey on trees. Mr. O’Connor stopped his truck near the intersection of Quaker Meetinghouse and Cotuit Roads to show how

Sandwich Tree Warden Justin O’Connor looks up at a rotting Norway maple on Grove Street, marked for removal because the branches would take down the power lines should it fall.

Photo credit Gene M. Marchand/Enterprise

adaptable bugs can be. He walked up to a large tree whose trunk was covered with bumps that look like blisters. “This spruce tree is infested with gypsy moths,” he said, prodding one of the egg sacs with a screwdriver. Gypsy moths are not supposed to like

Continued from previous page

spruce trees. But the bugs are opportunistic and the spruce was a ready buffet, Mr. O'Connor said.

"There's always a bug coming from somewhere," Mr. O'Connor added. "Right now the emerald ash borers are in Vermont and Connecticut and even in western Massachusetts. You have to take classes every year to keep up on all that stuff."

The fate of the weeping willow tree on Shawme Pond is in the hands of the selectmen, who will probably take up the matter this month. When the issue comes up, Mr. O'Connor may find an ally in his old mentor, Mr. Ellis. "I understand that the tree must be taken down," Mr. Ellis said, but he has an idea that might soothe residents' broken hearts. "I would suggest planting a replacement tree right away, maybe another weeping tree, if not right there, then nearby."

Mr. O'Connor is already looking into replacement trees. Two favorite maxims have guided his work as tree warden and will help him in advocating the taking and replacing of a beloved village tree: "Most tree problems are caused by us," and "Plant the right tree in the right place."

By Tao Woolfe - September 2, 2016

Captured online from http://www.cape-news.net/sandwich/news/tree-warden-s-job-is-a-labor-of-love-often/article_820706f5-b4d7-5aba-a70d-e9be0b0aff58.html

INDEX OF ADVERTISERS

Acorn Tree and Landscape	13
Amherst Nurseries	10
Bandit Industries	9
Bartlett Consolidated	11
Cleaves Company	9
CUES Equipment.....	6
Davey Resource Group	5
Favreau Forestry.....	6
Horticultural Technologies	12
Mayer Tree Service	9
OESCO	14
Professional Environmental Services.....	14
Shelter Tree	8
U1S Forestry (FEVA).....	14
Urban Forestry Solutions	10

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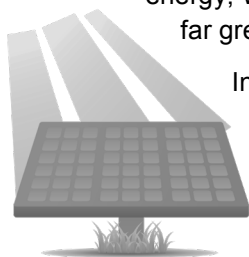
Guest Column

Solar Panels or Shade Trees?

Henry Lappen

Chair, Amherst (MA) Public Shade Tree Committee

We on the Amherst Public Shade Tree Committee are receiving many requests to cut down town street trees to allow homeowners to install solar panels on their roofs. While we strongly support the use of solar energy, we believe that existing trees provide far greater ecological benefits.



In the last few months, we have received a half dozen requests to take down large shade trees – oaks, maples, pines, etc. Homeowners say these trees are blocking sunlight from hitting the roof. But these are your public shade trees. They were planted to line our streets, cool our neighborhoods and provide beauty as we pass by.


And they are already collecting solar energy! They are also cleaning the air we breathe, capturing and storing carbon, lessening flooding and erosion by catching storm water runoff, blocking the wind, and cooling our streets as mentioned above. They are also providing habitat for birds, butterflies and other wildlife.

While all trees give benefits, street trees are particularly beneficial in towns and cities to reduce urban heat islands. According to a study in Argentina, streets without trees can be as much as 16 degrees hotter than those that have them. Wouldn't you rather walk along in 80-degree shade than in 96-degree sunlight this summer?

There is an alternative to destroying our urban canopy: Community solar. In community solar projects, homeowners join together and put their solar panels in one large solar electric plant. Such projects are producing energy in Mass. towns such as Sterling and Taunton, and more are being planned including one in Greenfield. By joining one of these, you can receive the benefits of lower electric bills, do your part to combat climate change, and still keep our town tree canopy. The benefits of cheaper electricity, net metering credits, and return on investment accrue to multiple homeowners.



We can start a project like this in Amherst, or you may be able to join one in another town such as the solar farms being built by Coop Power in Greenfield or the Clean Energy Collective in Worcester. And there are other groups that build projects themselves and sell you the electricity at a discount. We can have all the advantages of trees and solar at the same time. Our arboreal citizens need and deserve our fullest protection. They will give back plenty in return! ☞



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ISA Award of Distinction Melissa LeVangie

Melissa LeVangie received the Millard F. Blair Award for Exceptional Contribution to Practical Arboriculture. Melissa was recognized for organizing an annual Women's Tree Climbing Workshop that focuses on safety and training for women entering the industry. The award was presented Sunday, August 14, during the opening ceremony of the ISA's 92nd Annual International Conference and Trade Show, held in Fort Worth, Texas.

The Millard F. Blair Award acknowledges the service of individuals who have made a "substantial contribution to practical arboriculture." These individuals have enabled the research to be applied correctly, safely, efficiently and in a financially viable manner. Through their contribution they benefit those arborists who work day-to-day managing, caring for, and removing trees.

The International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) recognized eleven recipients for the prestigious 2016 Awards of Distinction, sponsored by Bartlett Tree Experts. "This year's recipients represent the many advancements in the field of arboriculture through education and technology," said de Gourét Litchfield, ISA board president. "These men and women are dedicating their lives to expanding knowledge and supporting the transfer of information around the world. It is specially heartening for me personally that we recognize these award recipients from a diversity of countries, a broad spectrum of ages and with equal recognition to men and woman – indeed, a true reflection of the membership that we serve."

ISA has been honoring members and industry professionals with the Awards of Distinction since 1963. This year's categories recognize candidates in such areas as research, education, and advancing the best practices of proper tree care in the industry. The winners are selected by the ISA Awards Committee, a diverse group of experts in arboriculture including university professors, commercial and utility arborists, company owners, and trainers. After selection, award recipients are approved by ISA's Board of Directors.

In addition to organizing tree climbing workshops, Melissa works for Shelter Tree in North Attleborough and is the part-time tree warden in Petersham, MA. She is a past president of the Massachusetts Tree Wardens and Foresters Association.

Congratulations Melissa!

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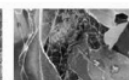
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It's Time for Nominations - 2017 Tree Warden of the Year

The MTWFA Awards Committee is now accepting nominations for the Tree Warden of the Year Award. The award will be presented at the Annual Conference in January, where the recipient will be recognized and presented with a sculpture of a silver windswept tree. In the spring, an Arbor Day Celebration in the home community will include a tree planting by the MTWFA in honor of the recipient. The application brochure was mailed in September to government leaders in all Massachusetts cities and towns.



The association invites nominations from all Massachusetts residents as well as from city and town officials. The nomination brochure is available at www.masstreewardens.org, together with a list of previous award winners. The deadline for applications is December 1st. For further information please call the MTWFA office at 781-894-4759.



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HAPPY BIRTHDAY

GORDON KING

Gordon King, retired UMass professor and teacher of several generations of arborists, celebrated his 98th birthday on September 11, 2016. MTWFA member George Markarian (pictured) visited with Gordon on August 19th and reports that Gordon says the residents are too old for him but has asked all the nurses to marry him. Cards may be mailed to



Prof. Gordon King

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Springfield Arboretum - continued from page 1

"We're very excited about the collaboration with ReGreen Springfield," said Patrick J. Sullivan, director of parks, buildings and recreation management. "With ReGreen Springfield, it has been on our master plan to create this arboretum, and it has been part of the master plan for the horticultural center at Forest Park."

A summary of the arboretum initiative states it will provide "a classroom for community learning" to raise awareness of the city's urban forest, engage the community in the stewardship of Springfield's trees, and provide park visitors with a unique vision of its forestry.

"We've got some great trees here," Bloniarz said during a meeting with the Park Commission at Forest Park. "I'm a tree hugger, so I have to say that. But if we can have others appreciate them, a little bit of it, it's going to be so cool."

ReGreen Springfield will be enlisting the assistance of the University of Massachusetts, the School Department, the Smith College Arboretum, the U.S. Forest Service, and the Morton Arboretum in Chicago, Bloniarz said.

As of the end of July, community volunteers working as "Arboretum Assistants" had mapped and gathered information and photos on almost 300 trees using smartphone mapping and data collection technology. The location information, along with tree species, size and other details are being entered into the arboretum database, and aluminum tree tags attached to the trees, as part of the ongoing effort to earn accreditation for the new arboretum. ✕

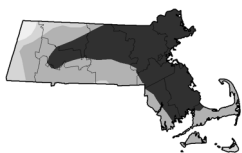


Forest Park arboretum volunteers collect tree data. Photo credit: ReGreen Springfield.com

Adapted from an article by Peter Goonan
Captured from http://www.masslive.com/news/index.ssf/2016/04/springfield_set_to_create_livi.html

Drought Conditions Persist Across Massachusetts

The year 2016 has brought drought conditions to the entire state, with watering restrictions in many communities and even signs on the Massachusetts Turnpike asking residents to conserve water.




At the website *U.S. Drought Monitor*, you can check out drought conditions in Massachusetts, New England, and the U.S. With all of Massachusetts in drought, and much of the state categorized as "severe drought," arborists and

everyone are concerned about plants and how they will fare in the coming year or years.

U.S. Drought Monitor: <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

In addition, resources for drought management may be found by searching the websites of the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation and UMass Extension.

 <p>HORTICULTURAL TECHNOLOGIES INCORPORATED</p> <p><i>Consultant for Tree Protection and Preservation</i></p>	<p>George Ackerson Mass & ISA Certified Arborist Member, American Society of Consulting Arborists</p> <p>106 B Pine Street P.O. Box 436 Clinton, MA 01510-0436 (978) 368-1900 Fax: (978) 368-1905 gackerson@horttecinc.com</p>
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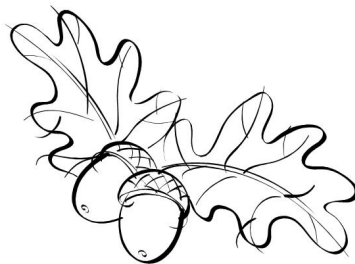
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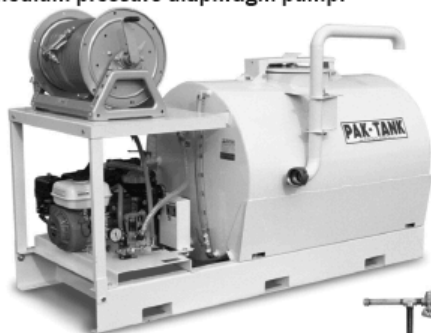
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2016

October 13	Urban Forestry Today Webcast: The Heat is On www.joinwebinar.com ID code 471-645-275	November 3	Urban Forestry Today Webcast: Emerald Ash Borer Research Update www.joinwebinar.com ID code 553-335-555
October 14-15	DCR Tree Steward Training, Petersham, MA mollie.freilicher@state.ma.us 413-577-2966	November 6-8	New England ISA 50 th Annual Conference, Burlington, VT www.newenglandisa.org
October 19-21	ISA Certified Arborist Prep Course Acton Public Safety Facility, MA www.newenglandisa.org	November 10-12	TCI Expo, Baltimore, MD www.tcia.org
October 25	Establishing Trees in Urban Environments, Leominster, MA www.masstreewardens.org	December 1	Nominations due: MTWFA Tree Warden of the Year www.masstreewardens.org
October 27	Chain Saw Safety with Dan Tilton Amherst, MA www.masstreewardens.org	November 30- December 2	New England Grows, Boston, MA www.newenglandgrows.org
October 29	MACC Annual Conference, Holyoke, MA www.maccweb.org	November 30- December 3	ASCA 2016 Conference, Boston, MA www.asca-consultants.org
November 1	Deadline to Apply for DCR Urban & Community Forestry Challenge Grants mollie.freilicher@state.ma.us 413-577-2966	December 31	Application Deadline: Tree City USA, Tree Line USA, Tree Campus USA mollie.freilicher@state.ma.us 413-577-2966
		2017 January 10-11	104th MTWFA Annual Conference Sturbridge, MA www.masstreewardens.org



Massachusetts Tree Wardens'
and Foresters' Association
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