

Massachusetts Tree Wardens and Foresters Association

Organized for the Protection and Preservation of Trees

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



2021
Issue 3
Fall

Nonprofit Releases 'Tree Equity' Scores for Urban Areas

Associated Press

The city of Detroit could use more trees — about 1.2 million more, according to American Forests.

The Washington-based, nonprofit conservation organization published Tree Equity scores for 150,000 neighborhoods in 486 urbanized areas.



Each score is based on how much tree canopy and surface temperatures align with the number of people living in a given area or neighborhood, income, employment, race, age and health factors. The scores indicate whether there are enough trees for everyone living in those areas to experience the health, economic and climate benefits that trees provide.

Low-income, predominantly minority neighborhoods have fewer trees than wealthier, mostly white areas, according to Chris David, American Forests geographic information system and data science vice president.

The premise of tree equity “helps cities identify where to target places that have been historically ignored,” David said. “Where the places are that lack trees historically have underserved people in poverty, people of color.”

Trees improve the quality of life in neighborhoods by providing shade that reducing heat-related health issues. They also improve air quality by helping to reduce air pollution and create jobs involved in the care of trees, the nonprofit said.

Data from the U.S. Census, Department of Agriculture and U.S. Geological Survey was used to help calculate the scores.

A score of 100 represents Tree Equity. Detroit's score is 80. The Phoenix area has a score of 80 and Rhode Island's Tree Equity is 73. Seattle has a score of 90.

The scores can be used determine how many trees need to be planted in communities and funding needed to ensure their long-term care. To find your city or town's tree equity score, visit: www.treeequityscore.org.

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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From the President

Hello Members and Friends,

I hope this issue of the BARK finds you well and that everyone was able to take a little time to enjoy the summer months. I know the plants have really enjoyed the warmth and plentiful soil moisture of this growing season, even the weeds. Sometimes I forget that weeds are plants too. Although I am always sad to see summer come to a close, I do enjoy the change in season and welcome the crisp mornings and deep blue colorful skies of fall.

The change in seasons also marks a few millstones for your Association and Executive Board. The team is excited to bring back in person programming this fall and looks forward to get back on track for 2022 with a powerhouse Annual Conference and valuable Professional Development Series. Coming up quickly is our very popular Massachusetts Qualified Tree Warden (MQTW) program. Thank you to Marc Welch and the MQTW committee for bringing this valuable program back for the fall of 2021. As some may have realized, this year's class is fully booked. If you missed your opportunity for 2021, please look for announcements of this program in 2023.



We may be bursting at the seams for our Annual Conference at the Sturbridge Host Hotel but we are planning to return in January of 2022 with a great event for all. Thank you to Ed Olsen, Annual Conference Committee chair for planning such a great and valuable event. Ed has been working hard to secure a talented keynote speaker, provide you with continuing education credits, and partner with local officials and academics to discuss the challenges and triumphs of Massachusetts Tree Wardens' and Foresters' Association's efforts across the Commonwealth. Look for some new programs and new faces in 2022 at our event, as well as the classics from our partners at the University of Massachusetts and the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation.

Thank you to everyone who supports this great association. I am proud to see our members continue to improve the quality of life for all and I am proud to serve as your President. Keep up the good work!

Warm Regards,

Arthur Goodhind
MTWFA President



SAVE THE DATE
2022 ANNUAL CONFERENCE
JANUARY 11-12, 2022
STURBRIDGE HOST HOTEL

Welcome New Members!

Sara Greenleaf - Town of Easthampton

Andrew McManus - Town of Mashpee

Jason Marcotte – City of Belmont

Kevin Esposito - Town of Shrewsbury

David Waterhouse - Amesbury, MA

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Tree Warden of the Year NOMINATION TIME!

Nominations for Tree Warden of the Year are welcome at any time of year, but the deadline for the January 2021 award is fast approaching. Visit <https://masstreewardens.org/tree-warden-of-the-year/> to read the nomination criteria, see a list of past recipients, and access the link to the online nomination form.

MTWFA encourages members to share the criteria and nomination link with local tree committees and other community forestry advocacy groups, e.g. those who have worked with their local tree warden and can speak to their community involvement. The deadline for applications is December 1st.

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NEW Handy Handout!

Do you receive question about your role as tree warden from constituents, town administrators, utility companies, and other? A collaboration of Massachusetts DCR and Mass Tree Wardens has resulted in a new tool for your toolbox. The "What is a Tree Warden Fact Sheet". Check out this great resource. Print a few to have on hand. (page 1 of 2 shown here). <https://www.mass.gov/doc/what-is-a-tree-warden/download>.

WHAT IS A TREE WARDEN?



Caring for the community's trees in the Commonwealth

A tree warden is the person in charge of shade trees in towns and cities. The word "warden" was a common title for natural resource officials in the late 1800s. 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. The tree warden mandate is still in effect today under Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 41, Section 1 and Section 106.

For a recent scholarly analysis on tree wardens, see Julie Steiner, J.D., *Guardians of Municipal Public Trees: Commonwealth of Massachusetts Tree Warden's Authority and Accountability*.

A tree warden may be either elected by the people or appointed by the city or town. In either case, the responsibility is the same – to oversee the care, maintenance, or removal of public shade trees. As both manager and advocate, the tree warden must protect the trees and protect the public from the trees.



What Do Tree Wardens Do?

The scope of a tree warden's job is broad. In addition to having responsibility for trees along streets, a tree warden may have responsibility for all community trees – those in town commons, parks, schoolyards, and town forests. The position of tree warden requires qualified training in arboriculture, the science of tree care. A tree warden should also have good communication skills for dealing with the public, municipal departments and committees, and local politicians.

The job may be physically challenging as well. On a day-to-day basis, a tree warden must plan, organize, control, and be accountable for all authorized activities in the public community forest, including:

- Pruning trees
- Removing trees that are dead or dying (from storms, insects, disease, or old age)
- Identifying appropriate planting sites
- Planting new trees
- Creating, updating, or utilizing a tree inventory
- Assessing trees for risk
- Overseeing utility arboricultural operations
- Reviewing site plans
- Preparing budget presentations
- Supervising municipal tree workers
- Creating bid proposals for contract tree work
- Inspecting contracted tree work
- Planning, implementing, and overseeing tree protection related to construction activities
- Conducting public meetings and tree hearings
- Writing grant proposals
- Communicating and coordinating with the local tree committee or advocacy group

Species Spotlight: Common Persimmon, *Diospyros virginiana*

By Mollie Freilicher

For this month's spotlight, I am revisiting one of my favorite trees, common persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*). I last wrote about this tree in 2012 and wrote that it was not too common in the landscape. I can report eight years later that it still isn't common and would still make a distinctive addition to the urban forest.

Massachusetts is just north of common persimmon's native range which reaches from southern Connecticut to Florida, but the tree can do well here, especially in areas that are in USDA hardiness zone 6 or higher, which makes much of Massachusetts suitable, temperaturewise. In 1913, it was noted that over 100 common persimmons were growing near Lighthouse Point in New Haven, CT and in 1917 a population of larger trees was found "in the rocky woods west of the trolley line." The next closest population was over 60 miles away on Long Island. Curious about this population in Connecticut, I looked into it, but couldn't find any current references. I reached out to DCR Service Forester (and avid botanist) Pete Grima, but he couldn't find any current references either. The last he found was from Les Mehrhoff's 1978 "Rare and Endangered Vascular Plant Species in Connecticut," which listed the population as "rapidly declining due to recreational interests." It is no longer listed on the state's rare flora. Among botanists in Connecticut, there has been debate as to whether the population was "native," that is, not brought there by people. It seems likely that how persimmon got to Connecticut to form a disjunct population will remain a botanical mystery.

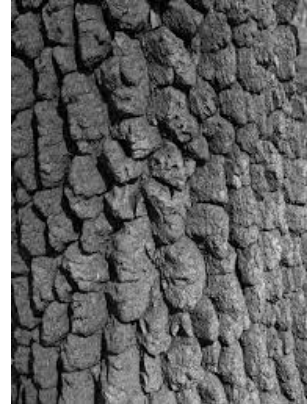
Common persimmon is a small to medium sized tree, reaching heights of 60 feet and spreading up to 35 feet. The crown is often rounded, but branches are crooked, giving the tree a somewhat coarse texture in winter. It naturally occurs in alluvial soils, drier uplands and disturbed sites, as well as along roadsides, abandoned fields, and clearings.



The Leaf

The leaves of common persimmon are alternate, simple, ovate, and 2 ½ to 5 inches long. They are a lustrous green above and paler below, turning yellow in the fall. Buds are solitary, triangular, and burgundy to black, with

two overlapping bud scales. Flowers are dioecious, fragrant, and bell-shaped, with a 4-lobed white corolla. The bark is dark gray or brown and deeply furrowed into small square blocks, making it pretty distinctive looking. The fruit, a 5/8" to 1" berry, develops on the female trees and starts to ripen in September or October after the first frost.



The Bark

The fruit continues to ripen as the leaves fall off the tree, leaving a display of orange fruit. Once the fruit is very soft, it is ripe, usually by the end of October. Speaking from experience, trying to eat an unripe persimmon is probably a mistake you will only make once. Where I grew up in Maryland, persimmons grew wild and at some point toward the end of a summer when I was probably around 10, I figured I'd try this beautiful fruit. My botanically-minded neighbor had told me they were edible, so I knew it was safe to try, but I may have missed my neighbor's advice on timing. It was not the soft, sweet fruit I'd imagined and I am not even sure if I have eaten persimmon since. The fruit is edible and provides food for wildlife such as raccoons, opossums, skunks, foxes, deer, and birds. The fresh fruit is quite astringent, even when ripe, and is more often cooked in a quickbread, puddings, and cakes. (It's possible that had my fruit been ripe, my reaction might have been the same.) Native Americans used persimmon fruit for breads and dried the fruit; in fact the word "persimmon" is from the Algonquin language. Colonists at Jamestown learned to eat the ripe fruit and found the fruit "very sweet and pleasant to the taste, and yields on distillation, after fermentation, a quality of spirits." A spirit from persimmon was revived in the not-too distant past. In 2014, the Virginia Historical Society and the Richmond-based Ardent Craft Ales teamed up to bring an 18th century recipe for persimmon beer to life. Colonists in Species Spotlight– Common Persimmon Jamestown also learned not to eat the unripe fruit, as Captain John Smith found, "If it not be ripe, it will drawe a man's mouth awrie with much torment" (Goodell 1982). You can gather fruit by picking what you can reach by hand and knocking higher fruit off with a stick. (Watch your head!)

The hard and close-grained wood of persimmon has been used for golf clubs, weaving shuttles, and veneer. Common persimmon is in the same genus as tropical

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2022 Annual Conference Preview

Dear MTWFA Members,

I am very excited to be sharing the 2022 Annual Conference preview. Planning an in-person meeting gives me hope that we may be returning to some semblance of normal. With that said, the past 18 months have not been easy. All of us have had to adapt to living during a global pandemic. For many, this has meant an increased workload due to changes in staffing levels, new protocols, and different processes. We are hoping that this year's conference will provide you with the tools that you need acclimate and thrive during these difficult times and beyond.

This year's keynote speaker will be Jon Wortmann. Jon is an honors graduate of Carleton College, he earned his masters at Harvard University. His five books, including Mastering Communication at Work, Hijacked by Your Brain, and Mindfulness Is Sublime, are #1 best sellers on Amazon in 22 categories including stress management, leadership, and communication. In addition, he is a golf coach on the PGA Tour and for Men's Golf at the University of Connecticut. His present research focuses on the role of brain health in sports and executive performance and the behaviors that build trust in organizations and public life.

How can Jon's research help you? Jon will be focusing on dealing with stress in the workplace and how to create efficient teams. Our backgrounds may not be the same, but regardless of your specific role, these tools will help you in your day-to-day job to improve your efficiency while reducing your overall stress. This directly correlates to a safer, healthier you.

Other topics will include building and training a resilient workforce, a look at new technology available in the field, insect pests update, disease pests update, updates regarding special programs from our friends at the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, and an update from the University of Massachusetts Stockbridge School.

As always, the conference will offer the valuable continuing education credits we all seek and value from a variety of associations as well as MDAR pesticide credits.

This year's conference will be held on January 11-12, 2022 back at the familiar Sturbridge Host Hotel. I am looking forward to being able to offer an in-person experience to our incredible exhibitors. It will be great to be able to walk the exhibit floor and see all of the familiar faces and companies.

Please look for our Annual Meeting and Conference brochure in the near future, and please consider attending our 2022 conference.

Sincerely,
Ed Olsen
Vice-President and Conference Chair

2022 Conference Preview of Speakers and Topics

- Julie Coop, Urban and Community Forestry Coordinator, Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation - State DCR Update: Urban & Community Forestry Programs
- Jon Wortmann, Alleviating Stress in the Workplace
- Tawny Simisky, PhD, UMass Extension Entomologist Forest Pest Update: Insects
- Jon Wortmann, Creating Efficient and Effective Teams.
- North American Training Solutions, Training Today's Arboricultural Workforce for Tomorrow's Challenges
- Dan Mayer, New Technology in the Field of Arboriculture
- Kristina Bezanson & Rick Harper, UMASS Stockbridge School Update
- North American Training Solutions, Human Performance and Resilience for Arborists
- Tree Warden Panel Discussion
- Nicholas J. Brazee, PhD, UMass Extension Plant Pathologist



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Species Spotlight

Continued from Page 8

ebony and also has dark heartwood, however, it does not dry well, making common persimmon not suitable for



The Fruit

lumber. Common persimmon can be an interesting addition to a park, campus, golf course, or other open space with its

fall color and striking fruit. It shines much of the year, but especially in the fall, when trees have fruit and the coarse (and somewhat spooky) form of the tree becomes visible when the leaves fall away. There are many cultivars available that have excellent fruit or other

characteristics. Common persimmon is often used in permaculture and edible landscaping (see <http://youtu.be/Q431DMyK0fI> and http://youtu.be/ONLI_a9RFc).

Additional resources: Arnoldia in the kitchen. Persimmon pudding:

<http://arnoldia.arboretum.harvard.edu/pdf/articles/1972-32-2-arnoldia-in-the-kitchen.pdf>

Goodell, E. 1982. Two Promising Fruit Plants for Northern Landscapes. *Arnoldia*. 42(4): 103-134.

<http://arnoldia.arboretum.harvard.edu/pdf/articles/1138.pdf>

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Additions to the Flora of Connecticut. *Rhodora*, Vol. 19, No. 227 (November, 1917), pp. 245-253.

Nichols, G.E. 1913. The Vegetation of Connecticut: I.

Phytogeographical Aspects. *Torreya*. Vol. 13, No. 5

(May 1913), pp. 89-112. UConn Plant Database:

<http://www.hort.uconn.edu/plants/d/diovir/diovir1.html>

Thanks to Russ Cohen for contributing the pudding recipe, video links, and other information to this month's species spotlight.

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UMASS Landscape Message

Nick Brazee, Plant Pathologist, UMass Extension Plant Diagnostic Lab, UMass Amherst.

June 4, 2021 – There have been several reports of intensifying beech leaf disease (BLD) outbreaks in Middlesex, Plymouth and Bristol Counties on both American (*Fagus grandifolia*) and European beech (*F. sylvatica*).

Locations in Connecticut, Rhode Island and Massachusetts with isolated cases of the disease have seen a surge of new BLD cases in 2021. Symptoms of the disease include dark interveinal banding and puckering/cupping that appear convex on the upper leaf surface. Marginal distortion and curling may also occur. Research and field observations have shown that infected leaves emerge from the buds with symptoms of the disease, indicating they are injured prior to bud break. The nematode responsible for BLD (*Litylenchus crenatae* ssp. *mccannii*) is infecting the buds and symptomatic leaves appear at bud break.

Trials are underway testing the utility of emamectin benzoate injections. While this chemical is toxic to nematodes, it's not clear if the chemical is properly translocating to the canopy after injection. Additional trials are testing phosphites as soil drench and injection. For American beech, there is the added stress of beech bark disease, a chronic cankering disease that is also capable of killing trees.

For more information on beech leaf disease, see the recent USDA Forest Service Pest Alert. View the Landscape Message at www.ag.umass.edu/landscape/landscape-message.



A black and white photograph of a Mayer Tree Service truck parked in a wooded area. The truck is a box truck with 'Mayer Tree Service' and 'Plant Health Care' written on its side. A large logo of a tree is also visible on the side of the truck.



The logo for Mayer Tree Service, featuring a stylized tree above the word 'Mayer' in a large, bold, serif font, with 'TREE SERVICE' in a smaller, sans-serif font below it.

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Starting in Fall 2021, the Arboriculture program will offer a new 15-credit certificate, delivered fully online, through University Without Walls (UWW)

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The online Certificate in Arboriculture and Urban Forestry is a gateway for students eager for an introduction to the arboriculture and urban forestry fields. The certificate can be added to any UMass degree, and has a flexible course sequence, allowing students to begin in any fall, spring, or summer semester.

KEEP GROWING AS A CAREER PROFESSIONAL

The certificate program also provides continuing education for career professionals. To accommodate varied work schedules, the course sequence is flexible, allowing students to begin in any fall, spring, or summer semester. ISA Certified Arborists are eligible to earn Continuing Education Credits (CEUs) in several of the courses offered in the certificate program.

GET A HEAD START ON YOUR AS OR BS DEGREE

The Certificate can be earned by both current UMass students and non-matriculating UWW students, and all credits earned for the certificate can be applied either to the Associate of Science degree in Arboriculture and Community Forest Management at Stockbridge School of Agriculture, or to the Bachelor of Science degree in Natural Resources Conservation in the Department of Environmental Conservation.

Registration is open now for classes starting September, for more information: <https://tinyurl.com/umassarbor>



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Tree City USA

Application Deadline is December 31, 2021

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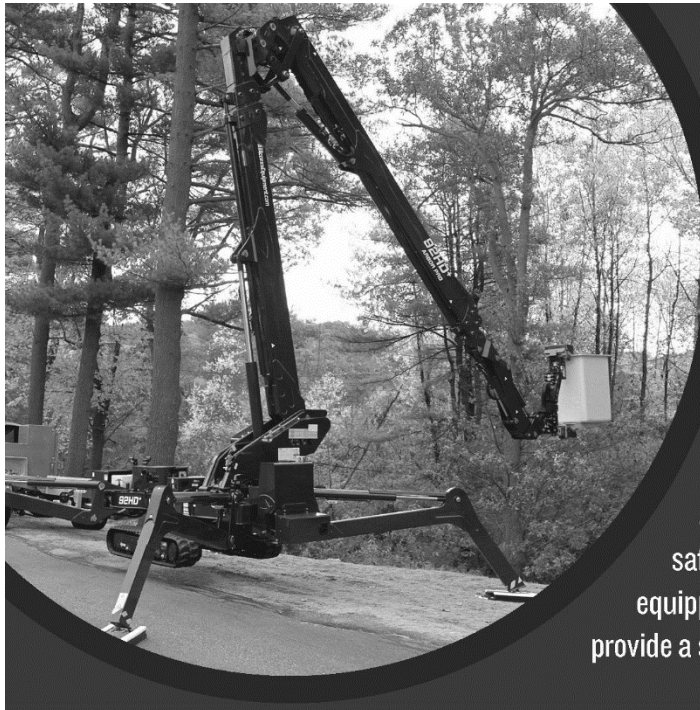
The DCR is responsible for reviewing Tree City USA applications from Massachusetts to ensure that the information is current, accurate, and complete. They then recommend applicants for the award to the Arbor Day Foundation.

The Arbor Day Foundation now makes the entire application process available on-line. The DCR prefers that Cities and Towns use this on-line tool for the application process.

For 2021 Applications: Please note that due to COVID-19, the Arbor Day Foundation has waived the Arbor Day observance. The Arbor Day proclamation is still required. Communities are encouraged to find safe ways to celebrate Arbor Day, but will not be required to have an observance for 2021.



Please go to www.mass.gov/service-details/urban-and-community-forestry for details and to access the application.



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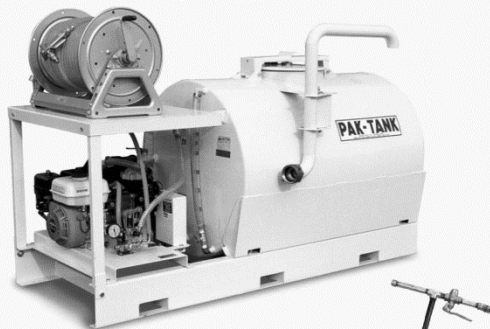
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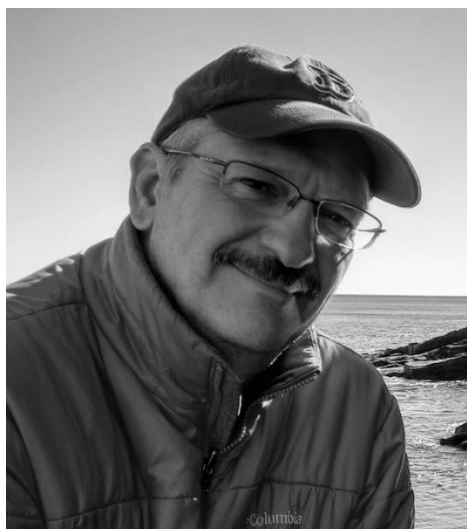
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CONGRATULATIONS! On Your Retirement!

John Parry Announces his Retirement.



After an impressive 44 years with the U.S. Forest Service, John Parry has announced his retirement. John most recently worked as the Urban Forestry Coordinator for the New England States and New York. He provided technical assistance, grant monitoring, and training on a variety of topics including forest inventory, tree risk and storm damage assessment, and reforestation. His prior experience includes 10 years as the urban forestry coordinator for the State of Indiana and 10 years of forest management work in the Midwest. John received a B.S. in forestry from Michigan Technological University and an M.S. from the State University of New York.

In addition to working to assist states and other partners in promoting urban forestry in the Eastern Region, Parry had worked to promote Urban Forest Strike Teams, an initiative to recruit and train arborists and foresters to assess tree damage after natural disasters.

John is a long-time member of the Tree Wardens' and is currently on the Advisory Board for both the Massachusetts Tree Wardens' and Foresters' Association and the New England Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture.

From the entire MTWFA Board of Directors – Congratulations John! on an amazing career and best of luck in your retirement!

Farewell and Good Luck Mollie!

Mollie Freilicher Makes a Move

Mollie Freilicher, former Community Action Forester for the Massachusetts DCR Urban and Community Forestry Program, has left the building.

Mollie has taken a new role at Colorado State University Extension. Mollie's contributions to urban and community forestry and the MTWFA over the past 12 years are numerous and she will be dearly missed. We are wishing her the best of luck and we are excited to see where her new path will lead!



In Memorandum



Emmett O'Neal "Neal" Seaborn Jr. passed away on May 18th, 2021. He and his beloved wife, Betty, had been married for 62 years, living in Wellesley for 50 years. Emmett was born September 5, 1934, he

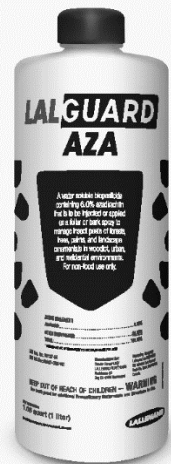
graduated from the Georgia Institute of Technology with a degree in aeronautical engineering and advanced training in the ROTC program. He was commissioned a second Lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force and assigned to Ethan Allen Airforce Base in Winooski, Vermont. His primary mission was maintenance on fighter jets. Neal worked for Boeing for eighteen years, then took a job with the RCA Company Government Division and then with the Bolt

Beranek and Newman Company in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Neal retired in the late 1990s. In addition to his professional endeavors, Neal was an avid volunteer and supporter of the Wellesley community. Over the years, he served with the Wellesley Little League as Equipment Manager and a coach, as well as serving nine years as a commissioner on the Natural Resources Commission. As a commissioner, he helped to guide the redevelopment of the new Wellesley High School, improvements to Morse's Pond, and the restoration of Fuller Brook Park. For his service to the community, he was awarded the Outstanding Citizen Award by the League of Women Voters of Wellesley in 2014. Emmett Seaborn was known to us and to all as Neal. Among his many volunteer interests, he was a great advocate for trees and attended the Massachusetts Tree Wardens' and Foresters' Association conferences for several years. Donations in memory of Neal can be made to the Hospice of the Good Shepherd in Newton, Massachusetts, Alzheimer's research at McLean Hospital, or to the Wellesley Village Church.

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Calendar of Events

DATE	EVENT	MORE INFORMATION
October 3-5	New England Chapter ISA Conference and Trade Show	https://newenglandisa.org
2022		
January 11-12	Conference: MTWFA	www.masstreewardens.org
January 13-15	TCI Virtual Summit 2021	https://summit.tcia.org/