

# Massachusetts Tree Wardens and Foresters Association

Organized for the Protection and Preservation of Trees

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



# BARK

2018  
Issue 1  
Spring

## A Tougher 21st Century Elm Makes A Comeback

By Jill Kaufman, NEPR • November 22, 2017

There are thousands of Elm Streets in America, but not many surviving elms, for which the streets were named. Starting in the mid-20th century, Dutch elm disease killed off millions. Now, as beetle invasions and new disease are threatening other tree species, ecologists are engineering a comeback for the elm, whose history in the U.S. goes back to the earliest settlement by Europeans.



An American elm tree in 2012 at Spring Grove Cemetery in Hartford, Connecticut. Credit Creative Commons

Thomas Campanella wrote about that history in his book, *Republic of Shade*. He said one of the reasons Americans planted so many elms to begin with was part of an effort to reconcile nature and artifice, in the countryside and in the city. “Charles Dickens actually talked about this when he visited New Haven,” which was known as the city of elms, Campanella said. Dickens wrote that the elms “bring about a kind of compromise between town and country, as if both sides had met halfway and shaken hands upon it,” Campanella told Wisconsin Public Radio when his book came out in 2004.

The elm is a fast growing tree and can establish itself in city and forest. But a century ago, Dutch elm disease, which usually attacks the tree through a beetle, felled millions. But not all.

On a neighborhood street in Amherst, Massachusetts, ecologist Christian Marks stood in front of an enormous American elm (*photo right*). It’s an old tree, about 100 feet tall, settled in a front yard at the edge of the sidewalk. “It’s one of the biggest elms left in Massachusetts,” Marks said. “It has the classic elm

shape, all this flare at the bottom from the roots. The technical term is buttress roots.”

Many old elms, like this one, that have survived over the years been treated with an anti-fungal, Marks said. And when a mass of trees started to die off and had to be cut down, a certain beauty was lost. “When there were still avenues where the whole avenue was lined with elms, they would connect above the street,” Marks said. “There would be street branches all above you. And it felt like the vaulting ceiling of a cathedral.

Marks is a researcher at The Nature Conservancy in western Massachusetts. He is among the ecologists working with the USDA’s Forest Service to grow and plant a new population



Forest ecologist Christian Marks is dwarfed by one of the oldest elm trees in Massachusetts.

Photo Credit: Jill Kaufman/NEPR

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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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# MTWFA MASSACHUSETTS TREE WARDENS' AND FORESTERS' ASSOCIATION

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## From the President

I hope that, by the time you are reading this, "March Madness" will be a distant memory. I'm not talking about the basketball tournament but the series of nor'easters that dumped snow across the state and extended winter conditions beyond most expectations (or at least hopes). Yes, spring is here and a new growing season is upon us. While it is important to look forward, I want to take a moment to revisit the association's activities since my last message.



The biggest initiative taken on by the association this year has been the Massachusetts Qualified Tree Warden Program. After a winter break for the months of December – February, and following several postponements due to weather in March, the program sessions will resume in April and we will be able to graduate our first class of Qualified Tree Wardens in May.

We held the 105th MTWFA annual conference in January in Sturbridge. The speaker lineup was strong and attendance once again exceeded our previous record. Thank you to all – our exhibitors and our registered attendees – who helped make the conference such a great success.

I particularly want to recognize two large groups of students who attended our conference, one from Essex Technical High School and the other from Norfolk County Agricultural High School. It was great to involve young people with a real interest in the industry, and we hope to invite even more students next year. If you are aware of any individual high school students interested in attending next year's conference, or if you know instructors who would like to bring an entire student group, please contact us to let us know.

UMass held its annual Community Tree Conference on March 5th in Amherst, where I was fortunate to present this year's scholarships to several deserving students. The MTWFA awarded a total of \$6800 in scholarships to six students. We were proud to partner with the MAA again this year for the Dennis Ryan Outstanding Student in Arboriculture Award. Award winners are named and pictured on page 5 of this issue.

Arbor Day is just around the corner on Friday, April 27th. Our scholarship program is funded through the MTWFA

Arbor Day Seedling Program, and the seedlings make great giveaways for schoolchildren and others at Arbor Day celebrations. You'll want to be sure to order your seedlings soon – the order deadline is April 15, 2018.

I for one am looking forward to seeing the trees in bloom again, but one of my favorite things is planting trees this time of year. I'm sure many of you will be planting trees in your communities in the coming weeks and I want to wish everyone a safe and productive spring season. **Happy Arbor Day!**

Thank you and be safe,

*Alexander R. Sherman*

President 2017-2018



## Welcome New Members

- Keith Baldinger - Town of Concord
- Richard Combra - Town of Oak Bluffs
- Michael Hale - City of Gloucester
- Joshua Kusnierz - Town of Ware
- Steve Mahoney - Everett, MA
- Richard Reine - Town of Concord
- Daniel Rowley - Town of Concord
- Joshua Sargent - Town of Brewster
- Benjamin Smith - Town of Holden
- North Eastern Tree - Cranston, RI

## April 15th: Seedling Order Deadline



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

Seedling proceeds support annual scholarships for college arboriculture students.

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## MAA's Arbor Day of Service is April 27

Each April, the Massachusetts Arborists Association (MAA) coordinates a statewide volunteer day. MAA's Arbor Day of Service gives tree care professionals a chance to make a direct impact in their local communities, drawing attention to the importance of proper tree care and tree planting.

Hundreds of arborists volunteer annually, working collaboratively or on independent projects at sites such as community parks, schools, town commons or conservation lands.



MASSACHUSETTS ARBORISTS ASSOCIATION  
**ARBOR DAY of SERVICE**

The MAA provides tools to help promote your involvement with Arbor Day of Service, including planning guidelines, signs, stickers, sample news releases, check lists, and more.

At the MAA website, [www.massarbor.org](http://www.massarbor.org), you can

- Post a request for assistance
- View projects seeking volunteers
- Tell MAA about your plans and get promotion help

This fantastic tradition of giving continues this April 27, 2018. Join the effort – it's a win-win all around!

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# Congratulations to the 2018 UMass Scholarship Winners



## MTWFA Scholarships

*Photo left, shown left to right:*

- Elijah zuban - Prof. Gordon King Award
- Tierney Bosci - Dr. Malcolm McKenzie Award
- Cory Rebello - Fred C. Burk Award
- Ashley McElhinney - Seth H. Swift Award
- MTWFA President Alex Sherman
- John Wettemann - Louis Casasanto Award

## MAA/MTWFA Dennis Ryan Outstanding Arboriculture Student Award

*Photo right, shown left to right:*

- MTWFA President Alex Sherman
- Lauren Azuela - Award Winner
- Dr. Dennis Ryan
- MAA President Natascha Batchelor



## Southeast Scholarships

*Photo below, shown left to right:*

- Casey Reed - V. Leslie Hebert Award
- SEMTWAA President Mark Smith
- Justin Hailey - August Dube, Jr. Award





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**A Tougher Elm Makes A Comeback - continued from page 1**

of disease resistant elms. The goal is to plant them in cities and along riverbanks, in floodplain forests. It's a large-scale restoration effort and will take years, but the trees are on their way.

On an autumn morning, Marks and others moved dozens of potted elms out of a greenhouse at the University of Massachusetts Amherst onto a small truck bed. "We're taking them from this size container and putting them in a bigger one," said Glenn Cutting, who owns a nursery in Gill, Massachusetts. He said the trees will grow there until they're about six feet tall.

Some of these plants Marks started from branches. Looking over the trays, he said the more plush-looking plants came from a certain combination of seeds. "You can see the label here, where this is the mother, R-18-2," he said. "It's a highly tolerant selection, and then number 65 is a tree from New England that was really big, and lived a long time despite Dutch elm disease being all around it." He suspects this combination will make this a disease tolerant tree -- and through more growing and planting, he said they'll know for sure.

Reestablishing the elm tree in New England and elsewhere sounds like a lot of engineering. It is, said Marks. And it's to give the species a boost. The goal is to get the elm to a point where it can resist pathogens.

Researchers say it could become a replacement tree for other species in jeopardy like maple, vulnerable to the Asian longhorned beetle. In 2008, the beetle infested Worcester, Massachusetts, and 35,000 maples had to be cut down. Another

*continued on page 16*



Glenn Cutting loads up elm seedlings to bring to his nursery in Gill, Massachusetts. *Credit Jill Kaufman / NEPR*

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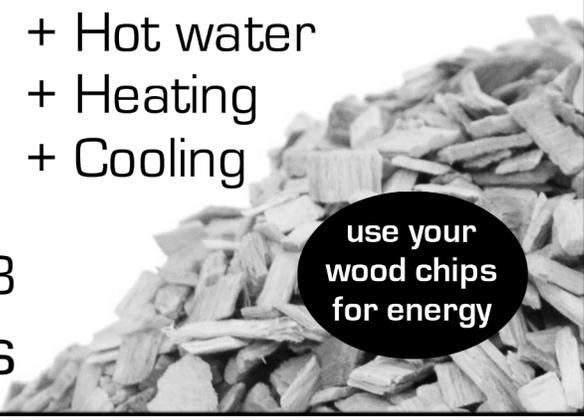
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# Year #27 for the TREE Fund's Tour des Trees

The 2018 Tour des Trees will take place July 29 – August 4, 2018 with a Columbus to Cleveland, Ohio loop spanning 6 days and 530 miles. Representing New England for a ninth year is Paul Sellers, arborist with Eversource and current vice-president of the Massachusetts Tree Wardens' and Foresters' Association.



The Tour des Trees, an annual weeklong, 500-plus-mile cycling adventure, is the primary public outreach and engagement event of the Tree Research and Education Endowment Fund, known as the TREE Fund. Since 1992, tour riders have cycled through communities in the U.S., Canada and the U.K., planting trees, educating children and shining a light on the work done by arboriculture professionals and the importance of science-based tree care. The Tour des Trees serves to advance the TREE Fund's mission to support scientific discovery and dissemination of new knowledge in arboriculture and urban forestry.

Full-tour cyclists each commit to raising at least \$3,500 for the TREE Fund. Generous partners of the TREE Fund's tour defray the event expenses, so 100% of the money raised by riders supports research grants, education grants, and scholarships awarded and administered by the TREE Fund. The Tour des Trees has been an important means by which the TREE Fund has been able to disburse over \$3.4 million in funding since 2002. Since Paul Sellers first rode the Tour des Trees in 2009, your generous contributions dedicated to sponsor *just Paul's peddling alone* have raised over \$50,000 for the TREE Fund.

We have been fortunate to benefit from TREE Fund grants right here in New England, most recently with two grants just this past year. The 2017 Safe Arborist Techniques Fund Grant was awarded to Brian Kane, PhD (University of Massachusetts Amherst). Dr. Kane is collecting and analyzing safety standards from around the world in his project titled *Arboricultural Safety Around the World*. It will serve as a foundation for future investigations into safe working practices in arboriculture.

The Tree Care Industry Association Foundation (TCIA) in Londonderry, NH was the recipient of the second 2017 grant to New England. The award from the TREE Fund's Frank E. Gamma, Sr. Arboriculture Education Fund will support TCIA's Arborist Safety Training Institute (ASTI) that works to bring high quality, local and affordable safety training to working arborists. ASTI provides grants for job and safety training to minimize injury and promote overall workforce safety.



Paul Sellers in front of the White House during the 2017 Tour des Trees.

TREE Fund research has produced better ways to plant and care for urban trees, making them more resilient, more resistant to pests, and less prone to failure. Funds raised by the Tour des Trees also support education programs aimed at connecting young people with the environment and with career opportunities in green industries. For more information and to donate to the TREE fund and support Paul and Team New England, visit [www.treefund.org/tourdestrees](http://www.treefund.org/tourdestrees), click on "Donate" and search for "Paul Sellers" or the rider of your choice.

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# As Another Conference Fades into History, Happy Award Winners



Edward Casey (*on left, above*), recipient of the President's Award, stands with Patrick Ellis, Town of Brewster as Pat displays his George E. Stone Founders Award, the association's highest honor. Both tree wardens are past presidents. After untold years of service, Ed Casey has chosen this year's Arbor Day, April 27, to mark his official retirement from the City of Springfield.



After winning the 50-50 Childs Fund Raffle, Sandwich Tree Warden Justin O'Connor (*on left above, with Brookline's Tom Brady*) sent us this email: "Per the request, I fled the premises with a wad of cash. My daughter was more than happy. Nothing exciting with the money. New truck tires. My next year's goal is to "intercept" one of the stress acorns and then I can say I intercepted Tom Brady."

*Photo below:* David Lefcourt, City of Cambridge, at the podium after accepting the Tree Warden of the Year Award. *Inset below:* a closer look at the silver tree award.



President Alex Sherman (*on left, above*) stands with Stephen St. Pierre from Danvers holding the MTWFA-donated chainsaw he won in the final raffle prize drawing at the end of conference.

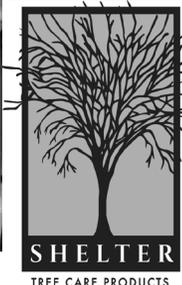
# Thank you to the 2018 Conference Exhibitors

Each year our exhibitors generate lots of excitement and company recognition with their generous donations of door prizes, awarded by raffle ticket drawings in the auditorium throughout the two-day conference. Two of this year's special prizes are pictured below.

Favreau Forestry LLC donated the chain-saw-carved bear cub (about 2 feet high) shown below. Clem Desjardins of Stanley Tree Service took home this unique item.



Shelter Tree donated another great door prize, an Arbortec Breathedry Rain Smock (see inset picture below). Unfortunately the lucky recipient of this item disappeared before we could get a photograph. We hope s/he is loving it!



*Find live links to the websites of all our exhibitors at [masstreewardens.org/conference-exhibitors/](http://masstreewardens.org/conference-exhibitors/)*

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- Lucas Tree Experts
- Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR)
- Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR)
- Massachusetts Department of Labor Standards (DOL)
- Massachusetts Highway Association
- New England Chapter ISA
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- Schmidt Equipment, Inc.
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## Thanks for the Memories: New England Grows to Dissolve After 25 Years

February 12, 2018— After 25 years, the award-winning horticultural tradeshow New England GROWS is discontinuing operation. The GROWS board of directors, representing the four founding partner organizations, made the unanimous decision to dissolve and disband both the GROWS event and the organization. “The decision to dissolve New England GROWS was difficult, but we all believe it is the right decision at the right time,” said GROWS President Michelle Harvey of Lakeview Nurseries in Lunenburg, MA. “Changes both within and outside of the industry contributed to the decision to close GROWS, but this does not diminish the significant and positive contributions GROWS has made to the local green industry over the past 25 years.” Read the full release at [newenglandgrows.org](http://newenglandgrows.org).

## Emerald Ash Borer Updates

Since September 2018, eight new communities in Massachusetts have seen emerald ash borer outbreaks, including Northampton, Easthampton and South Hadley. In February, DCR Forest Health identified emerald ash borer for the first time in Medway, and in March, in Belchertown.

Vermont agriculture and forestry officials announced in late March that the emerald ash borer has now been detected in three of that state’s counties.

The emerald ash borer is a non-native beetle that, in its larval form, can prove deadly to ash trees. Since its detection in Michigan in 2002, it has killed hundreds of millions of ash trees and cost municipalities hundreds of millions of dollars.

Oftentimes, infestations are hard to detect in the early stages when beetle population density is low, according to the USDA. Signs of an infestation include dead branches near the top of a tree, leafy shoots sprouting from the trunk and extensive woodpecker activity.

It is not too early to start planning how your community will respond to EAB. Contact the Massachusetts DCR Urban and Community Forestry program to learn about steps your municipality can take to mitigate risk, reduce cost, and preserve canopy in your community.



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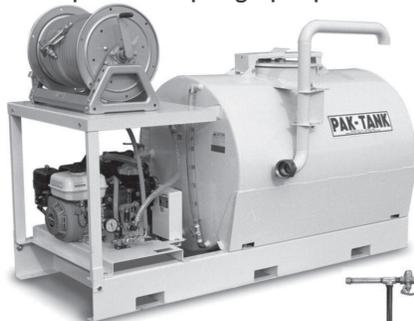
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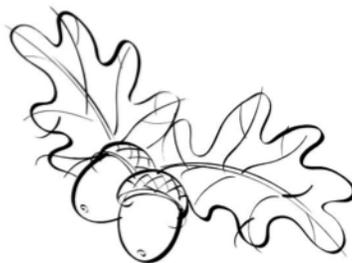
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# Spring is Finally Springing...

## Are You Receiving the UMass Extension Weekly Landscape Message?



It is taking a long time to arrive this year, but spring will be here eventually, and with the warmer weather the plant problems are here already. UMass Extension's *Landscape Message* is a regular update to inform and help guide green industry professionals in the management of our collective landscape.

You can receive the link to the weekly message in your email inbox. Each *Landscape Message* includes valuable information from sites throughout

Massachusetts: growing degree day accumulation, soil temperature, precipitation amounts, and plant phenology. Detailed reports on cultural practices and the status of insects, diseases, and weeds of interest to landscapers, arborists and turf managers are also regular features.

New messages are available weekly during the heart of the growing season, bi-weekly in mid to late summer, and monthly during the fall. Especially relevant right now, you can find winter moth and gypsy moth updates posted under the Insect section.



To subscribe to the UMass Extension e-mail list and receive notification in your inbox when each new message is posted, go to [extension.umass.edu/landscape/services/email-list](http://extension.umass.edu/landscape/services/email-list).

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**A Tougher Elm Makes A Comeback - continued from page 6**

pest, the emerald ash borer, has killed off millions of ash trees around the country, and is moving up the Connecticut River Valley.

Working with Marks to keep an eye on a bigger picture is Keith Nislow with the USDA's Forest Service. "Our strong focus on entomology and pest and pathogens allows us to do robust projections about what would be lost," Nislow said. Nislow



Glenn Cutting loads up elm seedlings to bring to his nursery in Gill, Massachusetts. *Credit Jill Kaufman / NEPR*

described those losses as "goods and services" that come from nature's complex systems. From the top, it's shade and cooling. At a lower level, tree roots intercept and filter pollutants that get into groundwater and rivers, like car oil, animal waste and farm fertilizer. "So we have a pretty good idea of what species can come in ...and provide those services," Nislow said. Right now, that's the elm.

Like a few others, the elm has always been a more bang-for-your-buck tree that can thrive in wet forests and tolerate dry city life, and some are already growing in Springfield, Massachusetts.

Alexander Sherman is the assistant city forester. On a gray afternoon, before any snow has covered the ground for the season, he looked over a planting field filled with a variety of species, including about 100 elms.

"These are Christian [Marks's] trees," Sherman said. "He brought them down in his car. We had some volunteers and spent about half day, lining them out, making sure they're in nice straight rows." This planting field, in the city's Forest Park, is one of several New England locations where Marks's trees get a chance to grow. They're still small. It will be another five years at least before they're planted in the city, said Sherman.

*continued on next page*

# I SHOULD HAVE ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE EFFECTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT.

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<sup>1</sup>Furlan, L., & Kreuzweiser, D. (2015). Alternatives to neonicotinoid insecticides for pest control: case studies in agriculture and forestry. *Environmental Science and Pollution Research*, 22(1), 135-147.



**A Tougher Elm - continued from previous page**

Springfield has been planting disease-resistant elms since 2006. About 400 trees have been placed around the city and are doing well. What began long ago as a New England street tree appears to be taking hold again.



Photo above: Alexander Sherman, assistant tree warden for the city of Springfield, Massachusetts, looks at elm saplings planted in the city's Forest Park nursery. Credit Jill Kaufman/NEPR

This report comes from the New England News Collaborative, eight public media companies coming together to tell the story of a changing region, with support from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. Text and pictures downloaded from <http://wshu.org/post/tougher-21st-century-elm-makes-come-back#stream/0>



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# Qualified Tree Warden Training Program

The initial Massachusetts Qualified Tree Warden Training Course is almost at an end, with just two more (of six total) full-day sessions left to go. There are fifty men and women in this first class. If you were wait-listed for this course, we hope you will watch and register for the next one, at this time planned to start in the fall of 2019. Below, some scenes from Session #4 in early April.



*Above:* Dennis Ryan teaches the class about assessing tree risk.



*Left:* Brian Kane illustrates wood strength variations.



*Right:* Brian Kane demonstrates that size and shape matter in wood strength.



*Below:* Class members deep in concentration.

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## Calendar of Events

DATE	EVENT	MORE INFORMATION
April 15	MTWFA Seedling Order Deadline	Email: <a href="mailto:seedlings@masstreewardens.org">seedlings@masstreewardens.org</a>
April 24	MAA Dinner Meeting with Ken Gooch, DCR Forest Health: What to Expect This Season	<a href="http://www.massarbor.org">www.massarbor.org</a>
<b>April 27</b>	<b>ARBOR DAY MASSACHUSETTS</b>	<b>WWW. <a href="http://www.arborday.org/celebrate/">www.arborday.org/celebrate/</a></b>
April 27	MAA Arbor Day of Service	<a href="http://www.massarbor.org">www.massarbor.org</a>
May 3	Webinar: How Are Those Urban Trees Doing?	<a href="http://www.urbanforestrytoday.org">www.urbanforestrytoday.org</a>
June 12	Western Mass. Tree Wardens, Summer Meeting, Northampton	Email: <a href="mailto:info@masstreewardens.org">info@masstreewardens.org</a>
June 21	Southeast Tree Wardens, Summer Meeting Plymouth, MA	Email: <a href="mailto:semtwaa@gmail.com">semtwaa@gmail.com</a>