New Faces at the University of Massachusetts - Welcome!

Tawny Simisky hired as UMass Extension’s Woody Ornamental Entomology Specialist

Tawny (Virgilio) Simisky recently joined UMass Extension as the Woody Ornamental Entomology Specialist. She will develop and implement programs for landscapers, arborists and grounds managers as well as provide entomological and diagnostic support to the UMass Plant Diagnostic Lab and the Green Industry in Massachusetts. Most recently she worked with the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), Forest Health Program, where she was involved with the eradication of the Asian longhorned beetle and monitoring for the emerald ash borer, hemlock woolly adelgid, and other forest pests throughout the state. She had also worked with DCR’s trapping and biosurveillance programs.

Tawny is a native of western Massachusetts and a graduate of Westfield State University’s Biology and Environmental Science Programs. She attended the University of Maine, Orono earning a M.S. degree in Ecology and Environmental Science with a focus in Entomology.

Contact: tsimisky@umass.edu 413-545-1053

Mark Reiland joins UMass Urban Forestry & Arboriculture Faculty

Mark Reiland has accepted the position opened up by the retirement of Dennis Ryan. In Dr. Ryan’s words, “Mark is a great fit for the two and four-year degrees at Stockbridge and UMass.” Mark is an ISA Certified Arborist who has worked as a production arborist since 2005. He received his M.S. degree in Urban Forestry from UMass in 2013. He is currently enrolled in the doctoral program, working with Dr. Ryan and Dr. Brian Kane, looking at the effect of cabling and pruning on the dynamic motion of trees. Mark has been active with New England ISA, helping out at several of the Chapter’s tree climbing competitions.

Since coming to UMass, Mark has helped teach the tree climbing and chainsaw labs, as well as a variety of other courses. In his new position, Mark will be teaching students in the Stockbridge School Associate’s Degree program in Arboriculture and Community Forestry as well as students in the Bachelor’s Degree program in Urban Forestry and Arboriculture.

Contact: mreiland@umass.edu 413-545-6626

And, a new location for UMass Extension’s Plant Diagnostic Lab - see page 13
MTWFA Executive Board 2016

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Karen Doherty, MTWFA Executive Director

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From the President

As I sit here in March writing the spring message for our MTWFA membership, the weather forecast is for 3-6" of snow tomorrow. Just yesterday, I had mentioned to someone that I had seen red maple in blossom and that Cornus mas was also out. Last year was the snow that wouldn’t stop; this year is the “sneak attack.”

Anyway, it is good to get back to working outdoors. The Annual Conference in January was another big success, thanks to all the hard work of Conference Chair Alex Sherman and many others. I really enjoyed keynote speaker Lynda Mapes and her version of the life of a tree. I know it made ME stop and think. Some other high points of the conference were the talk by Dr. Amanda Carpenter about the “Arborist Athlete” and the fact that the job we do has a remarkable physical demand. Also, the M.G.L. Chapter 87 panel discussion, with the subject matter experts from our membership and the legal advice of Julie Steiner, drew great audience participation and spirited discussion.

In February, the snowiest month of the winter, the Massachusetts Arborists Association Dinner and Annual Meeting was an enjoyable event with a lecture on pruning and the election of officers. Congratulations and good luck to Mark Hansen as the new MAA President. It was also good to see a fellow tree warden, Ray Rose from Wrentham, elected to the MAA Board of Directors. The month of March brought the Community Tree Conference at UMass. Our organization was proud to present scholarships to arboriculture students totaling $5,200. Special thanks to Dave Hawkins and all the hard work that he does with the MTWFA Seedling Program to make those scholarships possible. Rick Harper and Dave Bloniarz put together a great lineup of speakers with all the pertinent scientific information that we as tree wardens need to keep informed on and bring back to our communities. The talk given by Melissa LeVangie, MTWFA Past President (2007-2008), was something special. I personally find it hard to stand in front of an audience and give a talk after lunch and keep everyone engaged, but she took it to a whole other level. She had us all doing yoga poses, stretching exercises and thinking positive thoughts. I never knew tree work could be so much fun. Excellent conference.

The month rounded out with the quarterly meeting of the newly formed Western Mass Tree Wardens Chapter. Kudos to Alan Snow, Mollie Freilicher and Rick Harper for putting on another very informative evening at the Bluebonnet Diner in Northampton. Ken Gooch gave everyone the latest pest and disease update, Calvin Layton spoke about his experiences with EAB, and Felicia Bakaj from the EAB program at the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture (MDAR) spoke in depth about what to expect and what MDAR would be doing for those that needed help in planning. If you have not yet attended Western Mass Tree Wardens meetings, consider this great resource and networking opportunity. The report from the group is that they had fifty attendees! Nice job for a weekday.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to say “Thank You” to our Executive Director, Karen Doherty.

In 2006, Karen began working with the MTWFA and for the past ten years she has been a dynamic mentor for all board members, tireless advocate for our association, the professional organizer and just a warm friend to me and all those who know her. THANK YOU, Karen!!!

Have a great spring, and stay safe,

Bob LeBlanc
MTWFA President 2015-2016

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Steve Carew – Town of Medway
David Clapham – Unitil
David Graziano – Town of Wilbraham
Steven Kidd – North-Eastern Tree Service
Cranston, RI
Jamie McKenna – Bartlett Consolidated
Erik Peterson – City of Brockton
Kevin Thompson – City of Waltham
Richard Waldo, P.E. – Town of Provincetown

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.

www.masstreewardens.org • 781-894-4759
Celebrate Arbor Day!
Friday, April 29, 2016

Planning a project for Arbor Day of Service 2016?

Each April, the Massachusetts Arborists Association coordinates a statewide Arbor Day of Service. MAA’s Arbor Day of Service gives tree care professionals a chance to make a direct impact in their local communities and draw attention to the importance of proper tree care and tree planting. Hundreds of arborists work collaboratively or independently to undertake tree care projects at much-needed sites such as community parks, schools, conservation land or town commons. The fantastic tradition of giving back continues this Arbor Day, April 29, 2016. We hope you will join in the effort.

If you are a tree warden or an arborist who has a plan for Arbor Day of Service, MAA wants to know about it! Register your project in the MAA database at the Arbor Day of Service page.

You can let them know if you need volunteers or special equipment. New users must add code ARBORDAY2016 when they create the account to be able to add a project.

Find all the details at www.massarbor.org. Be sure to register your project by April 15, 2016.

ASH-TAGGING
Another Arbor Day Idea from DCR

The Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) is now offering free Tree-Tagging Kits to interested groups. The kits come with tags printed on durable, high-visibility, green material; flagging tape to tie them onto trees; and a tip sheet to get the most out of your tagging efforts. Visit http://massnrc.org/pests/blog/ to learn more and how to request a free kit.
The Creation of the
Walpole Town Forest, 1916
by Gary Riggott

The Walpole Town Forest will be celebrating the 100th Anniversary of its creation on May 1, 2016. This article is the fourth in a series describing subjects pertaining to the Town Forest, from the first recorded deed in 1659 to modern times.

This article describes the events leading up to the creation of the Town Forest and its dedication in 1916. I have chosen to split this topic into two components: The Land and The Idea.

The Land

In the previous article I discussed the Blackburn property, some 69 ½ acres along the east bank of the Neponset River near White Bridge. Several buildings were constructed on this parcel to house the family’s textile equipment manufacturing business. The business went bankrupt in 1890. J. H. Blackburn passed away in 1900 leaving his granddaughter, Eva Caldwell, as executor. She sold 50 acres to Horace Briggs, who later sold the land to George A. Plimpton.

Plimpton was a wealthy businessman who split his time between Walpole and New York City. (His family established Plimpton Press, a textbook publisher whose plant in Norwood employed over 1,200 people at one point.) He owned several hundred acres around what is now the high school, Town Forest and Water Department. In fact, in 1907 Plimpton donated the land to the town on which the high school resides.

The remaining 19 ½ acres, including the Blake Estate which stood near White Bridge until the 1970’s, was kept as rental property.

The Idea

Charles Sumner Bird, Jr. was born into the wealthy Bird family of East Walpole in 1883. He attended Harvard and traveled through Europe extensively at his father’s request.

He was also a member of the Walpole Town Planning Committee. In fact, so strong was his interest in the nascent field of town planning that he and his committee actually published a book on the subject: Bird, C.S. Jr. (1917). “Town Planning for Small Communities.” New York, NY: Appleton & Co.

The chapter in that book entitled “Town Forests” describes Bird’s observations on community forests throughout Europe. There, the land is owned by the town, the expenses are paid by residents, but income also goes back to residents. It is clear that he wanted to see that model established in the U.S., but especially in Massachusetts. He provided arguments for and the benefits of establishing municipal forests.

Around the turn of the 20th century, all of New England was recovering from the clear cutting that was practiced in the later decades of the 1800’s. The environmental consequences of clear cutting, such as massive soil erosion and the flooding of riverside saw and grist mills, led to some of the earliest environmental laws enacted in the US. For more information, search for the “Weeks Act,” which created the U.S. Forest Service. Also, the eastern U.S. was realizing that for the first time ever, in the period after the clear cuts and before the next generation of forest products came in, pulp wood and lumber would need to be imported from Canada.

Bird traveled through Europe in the early 1900’s at the request of his father to research equipment and techniques for papermaking. The Bird Company was forced to reinvent itself from being a manufacturer of fine writing papers to building materials after a massive factory fire. Paper manufacturing uses wood as its raw material, so as Bird visited the companies that built papermaking equipment, he also visited the forests that supplied the wood.

There he heard of the almost complete deforestation of the Black Forest in the 1800’s. What was once a 2,200 square mile mixed forest of deciduous trees and fir was replanted with spruce, which had commercial value and grew quickly. The first forest management practices were developed in the Black Forest; for example, select small areas were forested and then replanted, as opposed to being clear cut and left to nature to reforest.

Another feature of these communal forests was their economics. Bird learned of some 1500 towns in Germany where forest products brought in sufficient income that there were no income taxes levied. Also in some 500 of those towns, residents actually received income of a few hundred dollars per year.

Continued on page 13
MAKING AN IMPACT

Massachusetts Arboriculture Organizations Collectively Award $16,700 in Scholarships at the UMass Tree Conference

“Great day at the UMass Community Tree Conference. We are grateful for continuing and generous support of our students from the MA Arborists Association, the MA Tree Wardens and Foresters Association, and the Southeastern MA Tree Wardens' and Arborists' Association. Collectively, they donated $16,700 in student scholarships!!!! ”

Dr. Brian Kane posting on Facebook, March 8, 2016

Southeast Tree Wardens
2016 Scholarships
(Left to right) President Chris Fallon, James Sacco, Chris Jordan. Absent: Jonathan Rice.

MTWFA 2016 Scholarships
(Left to right) Prof. Mark Reiland, Michael Tilton, Nick Turnberg, Will Dell’Erba, Anna Wilkie, President Bob LeBlanc

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Dennis Ryan: On to New Adventures

Professor Dennis Ryan retired in January from his teaching position at UMass. Prior to joining the UMass faculty, Dr. Ryan was Executive Director of Forestry and Horticulture for the Parks Department of the City of New York. In addition to his municipal experience, he also worked as a commercial arborist for ten years. Dr. Ryan’s consulting work is in the area of tree and arboricultural accidents, and he was Chairperson of the ANSI Z-133 Arboricultural Safety Committee. Dr. Ryan shared the following letter with MTWFA, MAA, and the New England Chapter ISA. We wish Dennis all the best as he opens the door onto this exciting new life stage.

Fellow Arborists,

As of January 5, 2016, I am officially retired from UMass after 33 years. It has been a great job, but it is time to turn the UMass – Stockbridge Arboriculture / Urban Forestry program over to the next generation.

The program I inherited from Professor King in 1983 is not the program that we have today. With my leaving, I am sure that there will be changes in the future, as they say the “times they are a changing.”

I believe that we have the best arborists in the world here in New England. The biggest reason for this is the historical partnerships between the UMass – Stockbridge Arboriculture / Urban Forestry New England Regional program and the state agencies working in urban forestry and plant health care as well as the arboricultural associations that we have here in New England. By working together for the past 100+ years this partnership has worked to protect the trees, our customers and our tree crews.

With Professors Kane, Harper and Bloniarz continuing the program, I am sure that things will go well. In addition, our Department Head Curt Griffin and Dean Steve Goodwin have approved replacing my position. A big reason for this was the MAA Endowment that you supported. We are very excited that Mark Reiland has accepted the position opened up by my retirement. Mark is a great fit for the two and four-year degrees at Stockbridge and UMass. Mark is an ISA Certified Arborist who has worked as a production arborist since 2005. He received his M.S. degree in Urban Forestry from UMass in 2013. He’s currently enrolled in the doctoral program, working with me and Brian Kane, looking at the effect of cabling and pruning on the dynamic motion of trees. Since coming to UMass, Mark has helped teach the tree climbing and chainsaw labs, as well as a variety of other courses. He’s been active with New England ISA, helping out at several of the Chapter’s tree climbing competitions. We welcome Mark to the program!

It has been my privilege to work with you and I hope to continue my involvement in some small way. Folks (and my wife) ask what I plan to do now. I would like to continue with some on going projects – Z-133, the Massachusetts Champion Tree Project and the MTWFA Qualified Tree Warden program in addition to consulting on arboricultural accidents. Norma and I are planning several trips and I plan on riding a lot more.

All in all it has been “a great ride,” working with some outstanding arborists, tree wardens and having had so many excellent students over 39 years of teaching. Thank you for your support over the years and work safe.

H. Dennis Ryan, MCA
PO Box 5 ~ Amherst, MA 01004-0005
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Find live links to their websites at www.masstreewardens.org/conference-exhibitors

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CONGRATULATIONS
2016 Tree Warden of the Year
Andy DeSantis, City of Chelsea

The raffle drawings for door prizes are always a fun part of the annual conference. Below, one of the winners.

Neil Warner of Lewis Tree was the lucky winner of the orchard ladder door prize donated by Shelter Tree.
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Walpole Town Forest – continued from page 5

Though much of the forests in Europe were managed to produce forest products and income, another benefit which Bird observed was the use of the forests for watershed protection and for recreational uses.

Many communal forests also had an active role in the local economies, providing jobs for lumberjacks, transporters, saw mills, raw materials for artisans, and goods to be marketed by shops. The forests also provided jobs for people in difficult economic times or in the winter, when some seasonal jobs disappeared.

What Bird envisioned for the state as a whole was a vast network of communal forests. He cited the loss of potential income to towns due to "waste land," which was basically land that was once clear cut then left to reforest naturally with scrub vegetation of no commercial value. Bird reasoned that for a minimal investment in saplings, in one generation’s time hundreds of thousands of acres in the state could be reaping sustainable income. He didn’t want to rely on private ownership, because the long-term commitment of time could not be assured.

Such was the value that he saw in the communal forests of Europe, the Old World, and this is what he wanted to bring to the New World, to the state and to his home town of Walpole in particular.

In 1913, the state passed a law allowing towns to create their own communal forests. The role of the Bird family in helping to influence the law is not documented, but C.S Bird, Sr. had twice run for governor and was very well connected. The first place to act was the City of Fitchburg, home of the first municipal forest in the state. Walpole is home to the first Town Forest in the state.

Bird was also a member of the Walpole Park Board. In 1914 the Board developed a plan for the creation of a Town Forest in Walpole. The plan was created by John Nolen, a recent graduate of Harvard’s new School of Landscape Architecture. (Nolen would later go on to design Memorial Park across from Town Hall and Bird Park in East Walpole.)

While crafting the plan for the Town Forest, Bird no doubt met with his father’s pal George Plimpton about the idea of a town-owned forest that could provide wood and income to the town. Plimpton agreed to donate the first 51.1 acres for the new Town Forest. The Town Forest was created with an appropriation of $500 at the April 1916 Town Meeting. The Town Forest was originally planned to be dedicated in 1915, but World War I made it impossible to get saplings to plant.

Bird was said to have wanted a 600-1,000 acre town forest on both sides of the Neponset. In addition to wood and income, it would provide employment; watershed protection and recreational opportunities.

The Town Forest was dedicated in a grand ceremony on May 5, 1916. In addition to Bird and Plimpton, Lt. Gov. Calvin Coolidge was on hand for the event. Some 900 young children were on hand to plant the first acre of white pine saplings. Using the children was Bird’s idea because of the long range view that forest managers held in Europe. These children would be the beneficiaries of the wood, the beautiful park, the jobs and the income that the new forest would provide. Having them plant the trees would forge a connection to the forest. Really, it was a brilliant idea.

And so it was that Charles S. Bird created the Walpole Town Forest, the first Town Forest in the state, based in large part on the practices he observed in Europe.

This was one of a series of articles that was published in the Walpole Times in 2015. Reprinted by permission of the author.
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**April 7**
Urban Forestry Today Webcast: They're Coming...Planning Ahead for the Urban Landscape Pests of 2016
www.joinwebinar.com - ID code 130-441-275

**April 13**
Developing an Invasive Plant Management Program (B), Milford, MA
eweeks@umext.umass.edu
413-545-0895

**April 15**
Deadline to order seedlings
seedlings@masstreewardens.org
Dave Hawkins 413-253-4266

**April 15**
Latest time to register your project for MAA’s Arbor Day of Service
www.massarbor.org

**April 20**
i-Tree Online Workshop: i-Tree STREETS
Taking Stock of Street Trees
www.unri.org/itreeworkshops

**April 26**
MAA Safety Saves and Dinner Meeting
VISTA Award Presentation: Ron Yule
www.massarbor.org

**April 29**
ARBOR DAY

**April 29**
Arbor Day of Service
Massachusetts Arborists Association
www.massarbor.org

**May 5**
Urban Forestry Today Webcast: They're Coming...Planning Ahead for the Urban Landscape Pests of 2016
www.joinwebinar.com ID code 141-234-395

**May 18**
i-Tree Online Workshop: Using i-Tree SPECIES
www.unri.org/itreeworkshops

**June 7**
Western Mass Tree Wardens meeting
Bluebonnet Diner, Northampton, MA
www.masstreewardens.org

**June 15**
Awards Ceremony: Tree City USA, Tree Line USA, Tree Campus USA
mollie.freilicher@state.ma.us
413-577-2966

**June 15**
i-Tree Online Workshop: i-Tree ROUNDTABLE – Q&A
www.unri.org/itreeworkshops