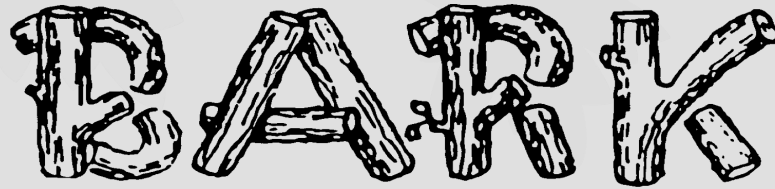


Massachusetts Tree Wardens and Foresters Association

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



2017

Issue 1
Spring

NYS DEC RELEASES OAK WILT VIDEO AND DORMANT PRUNING CARD

PROTECT YOUR OAKS!

AVOID SPREADING OAK WILT- PRUNE IN FALL AND WINTER

Oak wilt is a serious fungal disease that kills thousands of oaks in the United States each year. There is no known treatment, so limiting exposure to the fungus is key to keeping it from spreading.

One way oak wilt spreads is when fungal spores hitch rides on insects. Sap beetles, one of the main culprits, are extremely attracted to fresh tree wounds and to the sweet smell given off by oak wilt spore mats growing under the bark of diseased trees. Pruning healthy oaks during the growing season greatly increases the chances of insects infecting them with oak wilt.



PRUNE OAKS FROM OCTOBER TO FEBRUARY,
WHEN INSECTS AND FUNGI ARE INACTIVE,
TO AVOID THE THREAT OF OAK WILT.



DATE: February 26, 2017

SUBJECT: Oak Wilt Video
Released

Our oak wilt video was released yesterday on Facebook and YouTube. Would you mind sharing this with relevant partners and stakeholders? It is a two-minute video that describes the importance of pruning oaks now instead of during the growing season.

Jennifer Kotary
Oak Wilt Operations
Coordinator
Division of Lands and
Forests – Forest Health
New York State
Department of
Environmental
Conservation

625 Broadway Albany, NY
12233-4253

P: 518-408-0429

C: 518-410-6360

PRUNE OAKS FROM OCTOBER TO FEBRUARY, WHEN INSECTS AND FUNGI
ARE INACTIVE, TO AVOID THE THREAT OF OAK WILT.

BENEFITS OF PRUNING IN FALL AND WINTER

- Diseases are rarely spread during this time, since insects and fungi are inactive.
- A tree's branch pattern and damaged limbs are easier to see without leaves.
- Leafless cut branches are lighter and easier to carry.
- Nearby plants are less likely to be damaged by falling branches and trampling.
- Removing weak and damaged branches before heavy snowfall reduces additional breakage.
- Trees pruned in fall/winter respond more vigorously in the spring, putting out new growth.

For questions, email the DEC Forest Health office
foresthealth@dec.ny.gov or call the Forest Health
Information Line 1-866-640-0652.

For more information, visit our Oak Wilt page
www.dec.ny.gov/lands/46919.html.



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

**Thank you to Dennis Ryan
for sharing this important information.**

**Links to download these resources
are at www.masstreewardens.org**

The link to the video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kpm6-XEKubs>

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 Executive Board 2017

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Vice President— Paul Sellers, Falmouth
Secretary—David Hawkins, Pelham
Treasurer— Ed Olsen, Needham
Past President— Robert LeBlanc, Walpole

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Karen Doherty, MTWFA Executive Director

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info@masstreewardens.org

Published Quarterly
Spring-Summer-Fall-Winter



From the President

I would like to begin with a sincere thank you to our membership for allowing me the opportunity to serve on the Executive Board for the past four years, and now as the president, of the Massachusetts Tree Wardens' and Foresters' Association. It is a great privilege and honor to be a part of an organization with such a rich and storied history, and I intend to conduct my duties as president in a manner consistent with this tradition.

I also want to thank our immediate past president Bob LeBlanc for his outstanding leadership over the past two years. I have learned a lot from him and other fellow tree wardens during my tenure with the MTWFA, and I am looking forward to giving back during my term as president.

It is ultimately our membership (all of you reading this) that sustains our programming, and we look forward to supporting the MTWFA community by continuing to provide exceptional training opportunities. If there's one thing I've learned about working with trees, it's that there's always more to learn. It's a great time to be involved with the MTWFA and we have a lot of exciting programs coming up this year.

On the top of this list is the Massachusetts Qualified Tree Warden Program (MQTW). This program is designed to give tree wardens the basic knowledge they need to effectively manage the trees in their community. The program will cover topics that include basic tree physiology, safe work practices, M.G.L. Chapter 87, and tree risk assessment, among others. The Education Committee is currently hard at work with Dr. Dennis Ryan to finalize the program, so keep an eye out for a registration notice. This is a program you won't want to miss!

In addition to the MQTW program, we will continue to provide opportunities to offer continuing education for you and your staff. Some of our most popular Professional Development Series (PDS) have included EHAP, chainsaw safety, tree planting, and of course our annual conference.

Those of you who attended the 2017 conference may recall being asked to fill out a survey related to the location of our annual conference and the possibility of changing venues. Your overwhelming response was to remain at the Sturbridge Host Hotel. The people have spoken and we have listened. We are currently working with the Host Hotel on next year's agreement and

beyond. We are looking forward to another outstanding event coming in January 2018, spearheaded by our new vice president and conference committee chair, Paul Sellers.

We are also contemplating a new addition to our PDS focused on the i-Tree software suite developed by the US Forest Service. This is great tool for tree wardens to help demonstrate the value of trees in their community. We hope to see you at these great events.

We will be rolling out some new initiatives to promote membership and arboriculture and urban forestry around the state and to get more young people involved in our industry, so stay tuned!

I am eager to meet the challenge of leading this organization for the next two years, and I will strive to maintain the high standards set by my predecessors.

Thank you,

Alexander R. Sherman

President 2017-2018

NEWS FLASH

Here's a great way to help introduce a high school student to a career in arboriculture!

At its March meeting, the MTWFA Executive Board voted to fund a full tuition scholarship for one Massachusetts high school student who enrolls in the UMass summer program in arboriculture in July 2017. For the past three summers, UMass and Stockbridge have offered a "pre-college" course in Arboriculture & Urban Forestry for high school students. Unfortunately, the high cost of this one-week program often deters potential participants.

In the course, students get an overview of the Arboriculture & Urban Forestry curriculum that two- and four-year students at Stockbridge and UMass take. They hope to offer the course again this summer, but they need enough students to cover the costs. Email info@masstreewardens.org for details.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Robert LeBlanc – Town of Wakefield

Matthew Leonard – Leonard Trees LLC,
Ashby

Walter Goodridge – Town of Conway

Paul Magan, Jr - Rehoboth

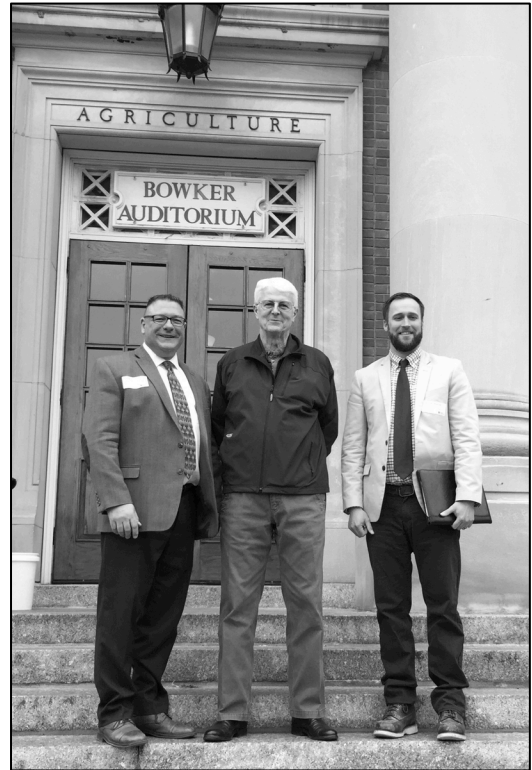
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2017 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Massachusetts Tree Wardens & Foresters Assn.



Left to right: MTWFA President Alex Sherman, Nick Turnberg, Austin Grove, Michael Tilton, Tierney Bosci, Will Dell'Erba

MAA-MTWFA Joint Scholarship DENNIS RYAN OUTSTANDING SCHOLARSHIP STUDENT



Left to right: MAA President Jay Ippolito, Dr. Dennis Ryan, MTWFA President Alex Sherman. Koby Shafer-Schweig, the 2017 recipient, was unable to be present for the picture.

Southeastern Mass. Tree Wardens & Arborists Assn.



Left to right: Cory Rebello, Casey Reed, Nick Falcione, SEMTWAA President Mark Smith

Did you know?
Seedling proceeds are the primary source
of MTWFA scholarship funds.

REMEMBER
TO ORDER YOUR SEEDLINGS
FOR ARBOR DAY!



ORDER DEADLINE IS APRIL 15

IN MEMORIAM Dennis Panu

January 5, 1957 - February 8, 2017



The remembrance below was received in an email from the Massachusetts Arborists Association. Dennis was also a longtime member of our tree wardens association and frequently attended our annual conference, sharing his smiling face and extensive knowledge with all who came in contact with him. We are sad to bid farewell to this fine man and skilled arborist. RIP.

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of Dennis Panu, MCA. Dennis passed away unexpectedly at home on February 8, 2017 after a brief illness. He was 60 years old.

Dennis' wife, Dawn, asked us to share this passage that meant a lot to them:

"The world of existence is like unto an orchard and humanity is like unto the trees.

All these trees are planted in the same orchard, reared through the heat of one sun, watered with one rain.

We must be the cause of the adornment of this orchard.

The world of humanity is like unto a rose garden and the various races, tongues, and people are like unto contrasting flowers.

The diversity of colors in a rose garden adds to the charm and beauty of the scene as variety enhances unity."

-From the Baha'i Teachings

Dennis was a longtime member of MAA and ASCA. He served on the MCA Committee for many years. During his tenure on the committee he made invaluable contributions, including the development of the MCA Study Guide and updates to the exam's content and format.

No service is planned, as per Dennis' request.

Continued in next column

Condolence messages may be sent to Dawn Chase, Dennis' wife. Dawn would be pleased to hear from friends who may want to reach out by phone and share memories.

PO Box 302
Thompson, CT 06277
(860) 923-9750

Per the family, donations in Dennis' memory may be made to the MAA and will be directed to the association's scholarship fund in support of education for future arborists. ♻️

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Statewide Arbor Day of Service Friday, April 28

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.

At the MAA website, www.massarbor.org, you can

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

This fantastic tradition of giving continues this April 28, 2017. Join the effort – it's a win-win all around! 🌳

Looking for more ideas on how to celebrate Arbor Day this year?

The Massachusetts DCR Urban & Community Forestry Program offers the following ideas:

- Plant trees at schools, town commons, along streets, and other locations
- Dedicate a tree
- Give away seedlings to students and residents
- Organize an Arbor Day of Service
- Arrange an assembly at a local school
- Have a tree pruning day
- Invite a speaker to give a public presentation about trees
- Hold an Arbor Day picnic
- Stage a tree climbing and planting demonstration
- Work with a scout troop to plant trees
- Host a tree walk
- Hold an Arbor Day Festival

Celebrating Arbor Day is one of the requirements to become a Tree City USA. For Tree City USA applicants, any day may be Arbor Day, so long as the community proclaims it. For more info on Tree City USA, contact Mollie Freilicher, DCR Community Action Forester, at 413-577-2966. 🌳



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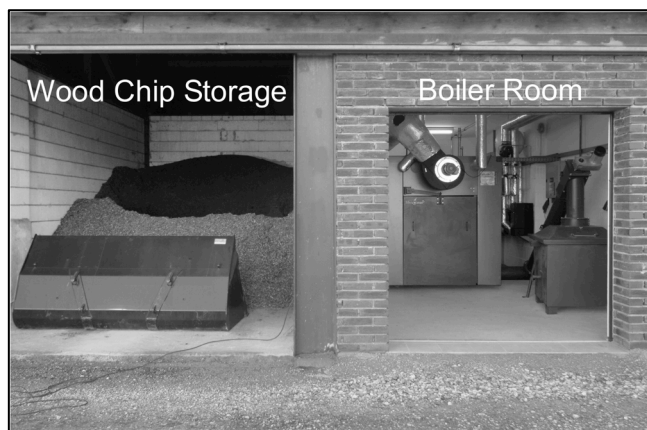


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Urban Wood Waste Collected by Municipalities

The Economical Value of Using Wood Chips for Heating Municipal Buildings

by Marc J. Caluwe
President, Caluwe, Inc.



I had the opportunity to talk to many of you in Sturbridge when my company was an exhibitor of wood chip boiler equipment at the annual January conference. What became clear is that all of you have a lot of wood waste/wood chips, and it costs your town a lot in both time and hard dollars to dispose of them.

Do you know that these wood chips can be used to heat municipal buildings, and it can be done in a very economical, clean and efficient way?

Let's first determine the energy value of your wood chips; stay with me to understand the numbers that follow.

As I write this, on March 2, 2017, I just checked the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources website for the average price of #2 heating oil; it is at \$2.58 per gallon. Two years ago it was around \$4 per gallon.

1 gallon of #2 heating oil has a heating energy value of 138,000 BTU/gallon

Green wood chips or wet wood chips have a heating value of around 3,255 BTU/Lb.

Wood chips with a moisture content of 30% to 35% have a heating value of around 4,750 BTU/Lb.

So, 1 ton (2,000 Lbs.) of green chips equals how many gallons of #2 heating oil?

$2,000 * 3,255 = 6,510,000$ BTU divided by 138,000 = 47 gallons * \$2.58/gal = \$121 equivalent of heating oil#2

1 ton of dryer 30% moisture content wood chips equals how many gallons of #2 heating oil?

$2,000 * 4,750 = 9,500,000$ BTU divided by 138,000 = 69 gallons * \$2.58/gal = \$178 equivalent of heating oil#2

You are reading this correctly: your wood chips have a potential heating value of between \$121 and \$178 per ton when used to heat your municipal buildings. This, in combination with the savings of not needing to dispose them, can have a big impact on the financial budget of your municipality.

Currently there are topnotch, state-of-the-art wood chip boilers available in Massachusetts that are reliable, efficient and have very low particulate emissions that are comparable to natural gas or even cleaner. Most of these wood chip boilers are equipped with cyclones and Electro Static Precipitators (ESP's).

It is environmentally beneficial to make use of these wood chips. In addition to reducing building heating cost, the use of these wood chips may encourage the planting of new trees and better maintenance of existing town trees.

Another good reason is yet to come; the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (MassCEC) in collaboration with the MA Department of Energy (MA DOER) has very generous incentives to install these wood chip boilers.

The financial incentive is up to 50% of the total installed cost with a maximum cap of \$250,000 per installation. This is the link to the MassCEC website for more details: <http://www.masscec.com/learn-about-biomass-heating>. This incentive will not last forever, but it will last at least till June 2020. ☞



Cost Comparison Wood vs. Oil (on a BTU Delivered Basis)

Cost per Million BTU from #2 Heating Oil

Average 138,000 Btu/Gal. input

Times .85 (efficiency of boiler)

Equals 117,300 Btu/Gal. output

If delivered for \$2.50/gal the cost is **\$21.25 per million Btu delivered**

Cost per Million BTU Green Wood

Average 8250 Btu/dry lb.

Times 65% since green fuel is about 35% water

Equals 5,362 Btu/lb input

Times .70 (efficiency of the boiler)

Equals 3753 Btu (actual output from pound of fuel)

So one ton of green fuel produces about 7.5 million Btu
or the energy equivalent of 64* gallons of oil

If delivered at \$50/ton the cost is **\$6.66 per million Btu delivered**

***One ton of green wood produces the heating equivalent of 64 gallons of oil valued at \$160**

Submitted by Marc J. Caluwe



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SPRING IS COMING!

This is the perfect time to start thinking about having a Tree Health Survey conducted!

Are your street trees, park trees, cemetery trees, golf course trees and other open space trees healthy?

Do you have the dead and stressed limb removals and total tree removals prioritized and scheduled?

If the answers are no, then you may want to call:

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

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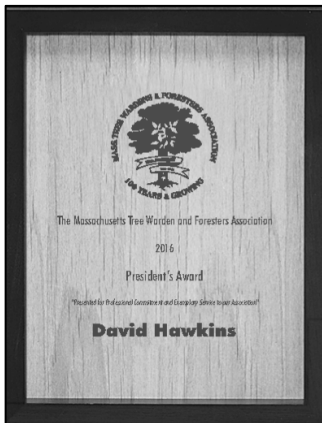
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¹Furlan, L., & Kreutzweiser, D. (2015). Alternatives to neonicotinoid insecticides for pest control: case studies in agriculture and forestry. *Environmental Science and Pollution Research*, 22(1), 135-147.



2017 CONFERENCE AWARDS

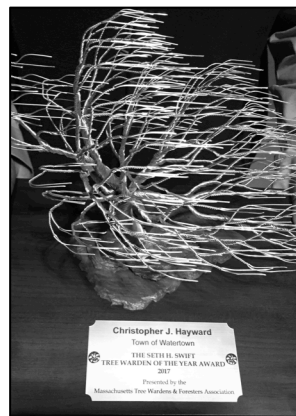
President's Award David Hawkins



President Robert LeBlanc presented his President's Award to David Hawkins, "for professional commitment and exemplary service to our association." Many know Dave as the longtime chair of our successful seedlings program that raises money for scholarships. Dave has also served on the MTWFA Executive Board, as a County Delegate and current Secretary of the association. He serves the Town of Pelham as their part-time tree warden and operates a full-time consulting business. David was taken by surprise, as noted in his letter below.



2017 Tree Warden of the Year Chris Hayward Town of Watertown



January 27, 2017

MTWFA
PO Box 326
South Hadley, MA 01075

Dear Board Members,

I wanted to thank you again (especially Bob LeBlanc, our Past President) for presenting me the President's Award during the awards ceremony at the 2017 Mass. Tree Warden's Conference. I'm not quite sure what I said at the podium after receiving the award, but I know it was short and did not fully convey how appreciative I really am.

It's kind of funny; I've sat through many awards ceremonies for some very deserving people, and I've always thought in the back of my mind, what I would say if it was me – not being a great off the cuff public speaker, I always want to be prepared. Not this time! In fact, I was barely listening (sorry Bob), and enjoying my salad and light conversation with my table mates. Then I heard something about the Seedling Program and knew I got blindsided. Nice job Bob, and the board. I had absolutely no idea and you played it well.

So, I just wanted to thank you all again. It is a pleasure and a privilege to work with such a professional, committed and pleasant group of people. This organization has come a long way from when I joined the board in 2001, and it just keeps on getting better. The high caliber of our new board members and longevity of our older members demonstrates this organization is one people feel committed to.

This is also true of myself. I look forward to many more years working with you folks on the board, and continuing to help improve the Mass. Tree Wardens' and Foresters' Association

Sincerely,

Dave Hawkins



2017 Conference Highlight



Watertown's VSO Mark Comeiro, Retired US Navy presented outgoing President Bob LeBlanc with a flag flown over the U.S. Capitol in recognition of Bob's military service.

Thank you from Chris Hayward

I would like to offer my most sincere thanks to the Massachusetts Tree Wardens and Foresters Association for honoring me with the 2017 Seth H. Swift Tree Warden of the Year award. Even as I write this nearly two months later I am still amazed I was chosen. I say that because of all the deserving Tree Wardens that I have been blessed to work with.

During my very shaky thank you speech at our Annual Conference in January, I mentioned that when I was applying for the Conservation Agent/Tree Warden position here in Watertown, I had no idea what a Tree Warden even was. Over the years I have taken the time to watch and learn and not be afraid to ask questions of many of you. You have all had a part in helping me become the Tree Warden that I am because of the help, advice, education and most importantly the friendship that many of you have provided to me over the past 11 years.

Each and every one of you bring a passion to the work you do that is actually addicting. That passion is what has driven me in my career to this point. There are many times when this job can become quite daunting as you are called to be in many different situations with no immediately clear solutions. It's during these when the MTWFA has been there for me, to help me make the most informed decisions that would best serve the community I work for. In a very real sense, this award you have presented me is actually a reflection of all of you.

I am so proud to be a Tree Warden and so proud and thankful to be a member of this top shelf organization. Thank you for inspiring me to be the best that I can be.

Sincerely,
Christopher Hayward, MCA
Town of Watertown

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Thank You to Our Exhibitors

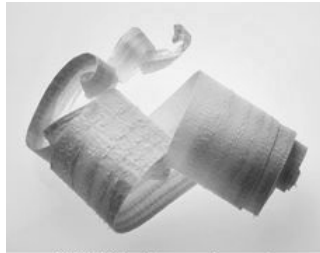
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Wood for Turning

Woodturners use a wood lathe to make objects, beautiful or practical or both. These skilled people are always in search of interesting pieces of wood with which to ply their craft. Figured wood – including burls, interesting crotch wood and such – are particularly desirable. Pieces need not be large, as even small chunks can be turned into works of art. In addition to figured wood, other hardwoods are also desirable.

There are several woodturning clubs within the commonwealth that could be contacted in order to provide a way to channel a wood source to its members.



k0147606 fotosearch.com ©


Submitted by Ron Despres

For more information, email ronmca23@gmail.com.

Trees and the Law

Law Professor Julie Steiner Publishes Article About the Tree Wardens

Julie Steiner, J.D., published "*Guardians of Municipal Public Trees: Commonwealth of Massachusetts Tree Wardens' Authority and Accountability*," 38 W. NEW ENG. L. REV. 377 (2016). The scholarly article is both a great addition to the tree warden archives and an excellent supporting case to update the Chapter 87 law to meet present needs. There is a link to the twenty-page article on our website at <http://masstreewardens.org/what-is-a-tree-warden/>.

Dr. Steiner will be the featured speaker on the upcoming April 13th noontime webcast in the Urban Forestry Today series. She also participated on the popular Chapter 87 panel presentations at the 2016 and 2017 annual conferences. Dr. Steiner is Professor of Law at Western New England University School of Law. 



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- ISA Board Certified Master Arborist NE-0541-B
- RI Licensed Arborist #696
- American Society of Consulting Arborists, Member
- Mass. Tree Wardens and Foresters Assn.
Executive Board Member; Western Mass. Representative
- Tree Care Industry Association, Member, CTSP
Certified Tree Care Safety Professional #959

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Massachusetts DCR Announces 2017 Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Grants

Deadline: November 1 (Full Application)

Challenge grants are 50-50 matching grants (75-25 for environmental justice projects) to municipalities and nonprofit groups in Massachusetts communities of all sizes for the purpose of building local capacity for excellent urban and community forestry at the local and regional level.

The USDA Forest Service provides funding for the grant program, and DCR administers the grants with guidance from the Massachusetts Tree Wardens' and Foresters' Association. The DCR Urban and Community Forestry Program assists communities and nonprofit groups in their efforts to protect and manage community trees and forest ecosystems, with the ultimate aim of improving the environment and enhancing the livability of all of Massachusetts's communities.


Project areas include:

- Building and Strengthening Citizen Advocacy and Action Organizations
- Securing or Training Professional Staff
- Developing and Implementing Systematic Urban Forestry Management through tree inventory and analysis, resource assessment, and development of plans
- Attaining a Tree City USA Award, Growth Award, Tree Campus USA Award, or Tree Line USA Award
- Completing strategic community tree plantings and "heritage" tree care projects
- Other projects

In 2016, DCR implemented new guidelines for strategic planting grants as follows:

Grant Funding Request	Eligibility
\$1,000 - \$7,000	All communities may apply
\$7,001 - \$20,000	Community must be a Tree City USA
\$20,001 - \$30,000	Contact DCR Urban and Community Forestry to discuss

Start planning now for the next round! Read the complete guidelines and download the news application at: [http:// www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/conservation/forestry-and-fire-control/urban-and-community-forestry-challenge-grants.html](http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/conservation/forestry-and-fire-control/urban-and-community-forestry-challenge-grants.html).

For more information on the Challenge Grants, including National Grid Partnership Grants and Eversource Go Green grants, contact Julie Coop at 617-626-1468 or julie.coop@state.ma.us or Mollie Freilicher at 413-577-2966 or mollie.freilicher@state.ma.us. 

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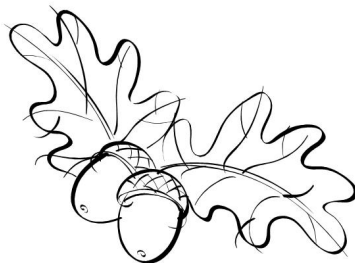
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Passionate About Trees in Harvard

by Laura Vilain · January 19, 2017

Captured 1/19/17 from <http://www.harvardpress.com/News/News-Articles/ID/16658/Bilodeau-to-retire-town-seeks-new-tree-warden>

"Passionate about trees, has a love for Harvard and its natural surroundings, and a willingness to learn. Will train." So might read a help-wanted ad for Tree Warden Christian Bilodeau's replacement. But the key element, according to Harvard's bylaws, is that the tree warden must live in Harvard and be elected annually by ballot.

Early this month, Bilodeau announced that this spring will be his last as Harvard's tree warden. Residents responded with praise and thanks for his twelve years of service.

In a phone interview last week, Bilodeau said he had mixed feelings about leaving his volunteer position, but that he has been planning to step down for the past couple of years. During that time, he's been informally looking for the right person to take over, preferably a qualified arborist and/or horticulturist. Bilodeau is a certified arborist and horticulturist and is a principal of Acorn Tree & Landscaping in Boxborough.

When asked how he had been recruited, Bilodeau explained that it took him four years of saying no to Mark Finnegan, then the tree warden, before he even considered the position. It wasn't until the day of the election when Mark's father, Larry Finnegan, sat Bilodeau down and asked him if he felt he was doing enough community service for the town. "It was easy to say no to Mark, but not to him," recalled Bilodeau. That day, he put his name on the ballot and was elected. Since then, he has been re-elected again and again, more recently as a write-in candidate.

Being a tree warden

"There's not too much danger or excitement being a tree warden," according to Bilodeau. Much of the job, he said, is in an advisory role. For example, last week a car crashed into a roadside tree and Bilodeau was called. "There was enough tree decay that National Grid took down the tree and saved the town about \$1,500," said Bilodeau. He added, "This is a more common occurrence than you might expect."

Part of Bilodeau's role as tree warden is brokering National Grid's resources with the town's needs. Both parties share concern about the care and health of the

town's trees, though with different perspectives and budget restrictions. Bilodeau has a budget of \$14,000 a year, while the power company has far greater resources.

National Grid's mandate is to protect its power lines. "About every 10 years, National Grid comes to Harvard and prunes and removes trees," said Bilodeau. Over the past 18 months, Bilodeau said he has approved work recommended by National Grid on 500 to 600 trees. The current phase of this work is nearly complete, and it has ultimately saved the town thousands of dollars, he said.

All remaining trees come under the direct control of Bilodeau and of the Department of Public Works, in consultation with Bilodeau. Last year, voters at Annual Town Meeting approved an increase of \$20,000 to the DPW's budget for roadside tree-trimming.

A trusted professional

As tree warden, Bilodeau's advisory role also includes being a consultant to the DPW, land-use boards, various town committees, property owners, and residents of Harvard. "What I do is straightforward, outside of town politics," explained Bilodeau.

Sought after for his knowledge and expertise, Bilodeau has seen life in trees that were thought to be unsalvageable. Take the time in 2008 when a 250-year-old white oak at the corner of Codman Hill and Stow roads looked to be in bad shape and homeowners wanted it removed. Although Bilodeau withdrew himself from the public hearing because he was an abutter, he later did some preservation work on that tree, trimming limbs on the ancient oak, which is also known as the Boundary Oak. "Trees will surprise people," he said. "Whole parts may fall off, but some other parts are still alive. A tree could hang in there for another 20 years."

The town's historic American sycamore—the "Whipping Tree" on Captain Pollard's Flintlock Farm in Still River—has a similar story. Bilodeau said he worked for more than four years preserving this tree. He explained that older sycamores are prone to a fungal disease that gives them a sickly appearance, but the disease is more a cosmetic problem than a deadly one.

Along with preserving such notable trees, Bilodeau has advised property owners about not giving up on old but healthy trees. "He has good Yankee sense," said Liz Allard, Harvard's land-use administrator and conservation agent.

Continued on page 19

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Harvard tree warden – continued from page 15

Bilodeau's technical expertise is especially valuable to the Elm Commission, of which he is a member. "We have a professional in Christian Bilodeau," said Elm Commission Chairman Bill Calderwood, "and he will be sorely missed."

"When I first took over as tree warden, Mark Finnegan was very helpful," said Bilodeau. The mentoring between past and present tree wardens happened over the course of several years. For Bilodeau, the hands-on training was invaluable, especially in understanding the many, sometimes difficult, judgment calls to be made as warden. As such, Bilodeau is expecting to extend the same long-term advisory role to his replacement.



Wellesley's Kent Warren chats with Christian Bilodeau in the MTWFA conference exhibit hall.

Bilodeau is leaving the tree warden position in good stead. He said that what's left after National Grid's tree cutting and trimming is mostly preventive and maintenance work, so that the next tree warden will be able to ease into the job. ☺

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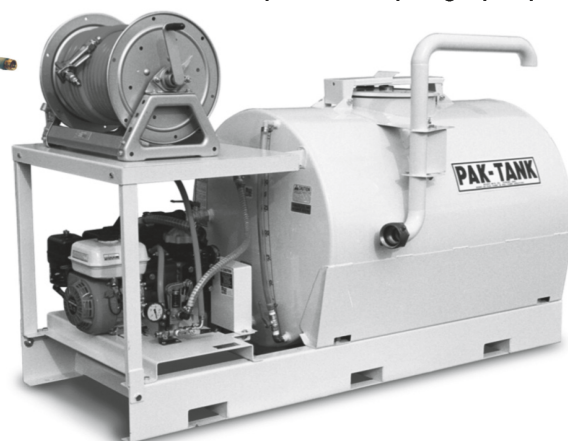
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<http://www.massland.org/conference>

March 30 **Spring Kickoff for Landscapers –**
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*www.umassgreeninfo.org
eweeks@umext.umass.edu
413-545-0895*

April 13 **Urban Forestry Today Webcast: Trees and the Law, with Julie Steiner, J.D.**
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April 15 **DEADLINE TO ORDER SEEDLINGS**
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April 21 **Day 1 – UMass Earth Day & Arbor Day Celebration**
Dr. Michael Dirr: The Origins of New Shade and Ornamental Trees. Lecture and book signing at UMass.
www.umassgreeninfo.org

April 22 **Day 2 – UMass Earth Day & Arbor Day Celebration**
- Michael Dirr Tree Walk & Talk
- Utility Arboriculture Presentation
- Prof. King Memorial Tree Planting
- Official Opening of Utility Arboretum
www.umassgreeninfo.org

April 28 **ARBOR DAY – MASSACHUSETTS**
April 28 **MAA Statewide Arbor Day of Service**
www.massarbor.org

May 4 **Urban Forestry Today Webcast: Planting for Success**
*www.joinwebinar.com
ID code 303-654-851*

June 15 **Southeastern Tree Wardens Quarterly Dinner Meeting – John Carver Inn, Plymouth**
semtwaa@gmail.com

June 20 **Western Mass. Tree Wardens Quarterly Dinner Meeting – Bluebonnet Diner, Northampton**
info@masstreewardens.org