

# Massachusetts Tree Wardens and Foresters Association

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



## BARK

2015

Issue 2

Summer

### TREE WARDEN OF THE YEAR AGGIE TUDEN, CITY OF MEDFORD



Left to right: MTWFA President Bob LeBlanc, Medford Tree Warden Aggie Tuden, Medford Mayor Michael McGlynn



MTWFA board members turned out in force on May 13<sup>th</sup> to honor Aggie and celebrate with a commemorative tree planting at the Medford City Library.



### SAVE THE DATES!

#### Tree Planting PDS

September 23

Newburyport, MA  
with instructors Rick  
Harper and Dave  
Lefcourt

#### Western MA Dinner

October 6

Northampton, MA  
Second meeting of  
MTWFA's western MA  
sub-group

#### Chainsaw Safety

October 29

Wilmington, MA  
with instructor  
Dan Tilton

# MTWFA Executive Board 2015

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Vice President—Alex Sherman, Springfield  
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## NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Karen Doherty, MTWFA Executive Director

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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.

# MTWFA MASSACHUSETTS TREE WARDENS' AND FORESTERS' ASSOCIATION



P.O. Box 326

South Hadley, MA

781-894-4759

[info@masstreewardens.org](mailto:info@masstreewardens.org)

Published Quarterly  
Spring-Summer-Fall-Winter

## From the President

Spring finally arrived around the first of April. The first thing that was noticed was the damage to some of the new plantings that got buried by snowplows and snow banks. Additionally, several trees close to buildings fell victim to the throwing of snow from overhead roofs, breaking tender branches in the process. Hopefully, these trees will recover with some proper pruning cuts, but the scars of the winter of 2015 will be evident for years to come.

The MTWFA welcomed several new members to the Executive Board, and we are all excited about the new faces and ideas that will help shape our organization for the future. I think this is a dynamic group and combined with the sage experience of our veteran members, I look forward to what we can bring to our industry.

Cancelled twice due to weather, the Tree Risk PDS was finally held in April to a full capacity audience in Acton. Thanks to Dr. Dennis Ryan and Dave Hawkins for providing what is turning out to be one of the most important issues for tree wardens, the learning lessons on identifying hazard trees. The Electrical Hazard Awareness Program (EHAP) followed in May at the Eversource site in Hadley, MA with a lightly attended group of participants. Many thanks to Chris Scott from Chicopee for the use of the city's bucket trucks during the practical exercises of the certifications. In our June PDS, Mark Chisholm from Aspen Tree Expert Co., Bill Mitchell from FEVA, and Jeff Siegmund from East Coast Crane gave a great presentation on bucket truck safety, proper equipment inspections, and safe operations. MTWFA is very fortunate to have the cooperation and dedication of Professor Rick Harper, who was instrumental in putting the Bucket PDS together. Rick also runs an excellent monthly lunchtime webinar series, so tune in!

As an association we broke new ground this year with the recognition of Aggie Tuden of Medford, the first woman to be named a Tree Warden of the Year. Representatives from the City of Medford turned out for our ceremonial tree planting, and Mayor Magee offered many kind and appreciative words about Aggie and the fine work she has produced in Medford. Congratulations for a job well done.

In June several members of the Executive Board testified on Beacon Hill at the State House in support of the revision to MGL Chapter 87. I strongly encourage

## Congratulations

### MTWFA 2015 Scholarship Winners!

(Left to right) Thomas Hancox, Will Dell'Erba, MTWFA President Bob LeBlanc, James Sacco, Anna Wilkie, and Evan Lunetta.



all MTWFA members to go to our website at [www.masstreewardens.org](http://www.masstreewardens.org) and look at the revisions that comprise **HB 1840** before the current session of the Massachusetts State Legislature, and be sure to voice support to your local elected officials for passage. This will become an important tool for tree wardens and the protection of our public shade trees. Stay tuned for more information as the legislative process continues.

Lastly, there are some exciting new proposals for improvements at the UMass Waltham Field Station. In the past, this facility has housed the MTWFA offices and since 1951 has been identified as a Shade Tree Laboratory for research related to insects and disease of shade and ornamental trees. The new "Center for Urban Sustainability" will benefit all of us, especially those in the Metro Boston area. We look forward to being part of this new UMass endeavor.

**Bob LeBlanc**

Town of Walpole

MTWFA President, 2015-2016

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Chris Bosch – Valley Tree Service, Groveland


Dr. Brian Bowcock – Town of Fairhaven

Brian Miner – Town of Warwick

Vincent Roy – Town of Upton

Ruth Seward – Worcester Tree Initiative

William C. Stendrup – Town of Brookfield



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## IN MEMORIAM Clifford S. Chater

*Thank you to Charlie Burnham, who sent the following note and the obituary below it:*

"A couple of weeks ago I learned of the death of Cliff Chater. Cliff was an entomologist serving the green industry at the Suburban Experiment Station in Waltham. He was active with the Tree Wardens Association and, if I am not mistaken, he was an officer with the Middlesex or Essex Tree Wardens Association. He was also active with the Massachusetts Arborists Association. The old timers like myself will remember him giving the insect update at the Tree Wardens annual meetings. From what his son Gary told me, Cliff was active and getting around Camden until early January when his health started to fail. The family had people care for him at home until a massive stroke took his life on February 24, 2015."

Clifford Spencer Chater, 90, was born on March 25, 1924 in Bath, Maine. When Cliff was a small child his family moved to Camden. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy after graduating from Camden High School in 1942. He went on to earn a B.S. in Agriculture in 1951 from the University of Rhode Island and a M.S. in Entomology in 1953 from Kansas State University. Cliff was a professor at the University of Massachusetts doing research, lecturing and consulting in both entomology and botany with a focus on arboriculture. He was a member of many arborist societies throughout New England. He moved back to Camden after his retirement in 1988 and lived there for the remainder of his life. Cliff is survived by a son Gary R. Chater and his companion Kim Vareschi of Derry, NH; a daughter Linda J. Butler and her husband William of Jefferson, Maine; and several grandchildren great grandchildren. He was predeceased by his companion of 22 years Pauline (Polly) MacDonald. Memories and condolences may be offered to the family at [www.directcremationofmaine.com](http://www.directcremationofmaine.com). 

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## Cambridge DPW Halts Tree Removal After Finding Screech Owl Inside

By Sara Feijo, *Wicked Local*

April 1, 2015

Captured online from <http://www.wcvb.com/news/cambridge-dpw-halts-tree-removal-after-finding-screech-owl-inside/32133308>

Cambridge Department of Public Works crews were taken aback when on a routine job to remove an unsafe tree, they discovered a screech owl living inside, news partners at *Wicked Local* reported.

Workers had already removed branches from the 40-year-old tree before their work was interrupted two weeks ago by the owl. Unfazed by traffic and the curious passersby, the owl has become a celebrity at the corner of Huron Avenue and Larchwood Drive.


A photo of the white and brown owl posted on the DPW's Facebook page on March 16 has kept social media users mesmerized, and it has received 217 likes and 49 shares.

"There is life in dead trees," Patrick L. Barton wrote on the DPW's Facebook page. Bonnie Peters asked on Facebook if DPW could leave the tree up because owls use the same nesting trees year after year. However, City Arborist David Lefcourt said that the Norway Maple tree has to be removed for safety reasons and a new tree will be planted.




*A screech owl stopped DPW workers looking to remove a tree on Huron Avenue and Larchwood Drive, after he was discovered living inside. Photo courtesy John Harrison*

"I thought it was pretty cool just to see that an owl had taken a presence in the trunk there," said Lefcourt, who drove to Huron Avenue the day he heard about the owl. "I wanted to go and see it for myself."



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Lefcourt said it is common for crews to hold off doing work on trees until animals have left, but he said this was the first time an owl has been spotted. In the past, squirrels, raccoons, and other birds have halted work, he said.


Jean Rogers, chief ranger at the Water Department Fresh Pond Reservation, on the other hand, said that screech owl sightings are quite common in Cambridge.

"We've had screech owls around the neighborhood for a long time," Rogers said.

"We've had a screech owl on and off in a tree on Huron Avenue for six years."

According to Rogers, Cambridge is home to several types of owls who have been nesting in the city for many years.

Lefcourt said the city would wait until the owl leaves the tree to resume work.

"Our ultimate goal is to get the tree removed to plant another tree, but we're not touching it until we know the tree is free and clear of the owl and/or babies," he said, adding that it can take up to months for animals to leave their nests. 

# Gypsy Moths Decimate Local Trees

Captured online 6/27/15 from <http://www.enterpriseneews.com/article/20150630/NEWS/150639753/?Start=2>

WEST BRIDGEWATER – A swarm of gypsy moths have descended like a plague upon trees across eastern Massachusetts this summer, stripping branches clean of leaves and putting the long-term health of the trees in question.

Each spring, gypsy moth larvae hatch from eggs left on trees by adult female moths. When the eggs hatch, caterpillars begin feeding on the leaves of the tree, a process which can lead to the total defoliation of a tree in extreme circumstances.

"The gypsy moth had kind of a resurgence," said Christopher Iannitelli, West Bridgewater's tree warden. "It hasn't been around for awhile, but it came in after the winter moths and destroyed what was left."

One of the factors that is believed to have contributed to the abundance of the gypsy moths this year is that Massachusetts experienced a dry spring, which depressed the growth of *Entomophaga maimaiga*, a fungus that functions as a natural control agent on gypsy moth populations.

"You think of a fungus or mold kind of thriving in moist conditions, and we just didn't have those conditions this year. It was kind of dry," said Rick Harper, a professor of urban and community forestry at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

An unprecedented amount of snowfall this winter also worked to the moths advantage as the snow insulated eggs and insects from freezing.

While the moths are a nuisance, Harper said that healthy trees should be able to withstand an encounter with the insects.

"If something is healthy, and it is defoliated once it is probably not going to be as big of a deal as it would be if the plant is already stressed or unhealthy," Harper said.

However, Iannitelli said that the trees in West Bridgewater had already come under attack once this year by winter moths before the gypsy moths came in to finish them off. Winter moth larvae hatch in March and April before gypsy moths, but the two insects often feed on the same trees.

"My concern is that some of these trees aren't going to recover. If they go the whole summer without leaves, that's probably it for them," Iannitelli said.

Methods that residents can use to protect trees from the moths are also limited. While spraying is an option for smaller flowering trees, Iannitelli said it is impractical for larger ones.

"We've done that with some of our trees in the parks and playgrounds, but for very large trees there's really nothing you can do unless you bring in large equipment," Iannitelli said.

Harper added that residents can try to aid defoliated trees by spreading mulch around their base and providing them with extra water. However, he cautioned against using fertilizer, which spur trees to grow further and could put further stress on the plants.

One thing that residents can take solace in is that the end of the swarm is at least in sight.

"We're kind of at the point now where they will be wrapping up feeding if they haven't done so already," Harper said.

Q



*A gypsy moth eats an oak tree leaf in Frothingham Park in Easton on Thursday June 25, 2015. Photo by Dave DeMelia/The Enterprise.*


## RI Bans Firewood from CT-MA

Captured online 7/28/15 from  
<http://www.sfgate.com/news/article/Firewood-from-neighboring-states-banned-from-6354308.php>

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP) — State environmental officials say firewood from Massachusetts and Connecticut is banned from Rhode Island.

The state Department of Environmental Protection says it doesn't want invasive insects in Massachusetts and Connecticut to spread. DEM says the Asian Longhorned Beetle has caused millions of dollars of damage in Massachusetts. It says another exotic invasive, the Emerald Ash Borer, was recently detected in Massachusetts and Connecticut. The movement of all hardwood firewood out of those states is now restricted.

DEM says firewood dealers can't obtain firewood from Massachusetts or Connecticut to sell or distribute in Rhode Island and Rhode Island homeowners can't purchase or move any firewood from the neighboring states. DEM is asking campers to use only local firewood at their campsites.

Neither insect has been found in Rhode Island. 



**Dave Hawkins, Consulting Arborist**  
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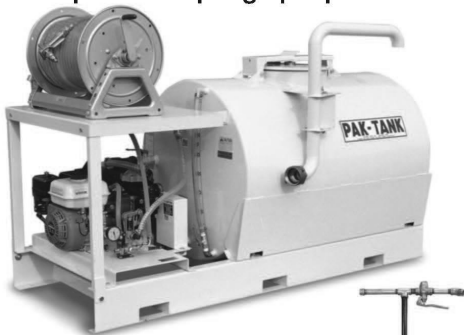
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## Massachusetts Urban Tree Planting Program Grows

By Paul Tuthill • Jul 8, 2015

Captured online from <http://wamc.org/post/massachusetts-urban-tree-planting-program-grows#stream/0>

Massachusetts is expanding an initiative to reduce energy use in urban neighborhoods by planting trees. In western Massachusetts, the City of Chicopee is now a beneficiary of the program.

The "Greening the Gateway Cities Program" has a goal of increasing the urban tree canopy by ten percent in selected neighborhoods of cities where age and a history of manufacturing has contributed to a loss of trees through the years.

At separate tree planting events in June in Revere and Chicopee, Massachusetts Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Matthew Beaton said the state will spearhead tree planting efforts in the two cities.

"Chicopee was a community that was ready, willing and able. A lot of it is having the coordination available on the local level (to qualify for the program)," he said.

Beaton touted the benefits of trees, which he said include cleaner air and water, reduced noise, and the beautification of neighborhoods. He said there are also studies that estimate how much homeowners can save in heating and cooling costs by having shade trees on their property.

If the program reaches the goal of a ten percent increase in urban tree canopy in the 26 Gateway Cities, once the trees reach maturity an average homeowner could save \$230 a year, according to the state's Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs.

The program is in its infancy, with about 2,000 trees planted so far in Chelsea, Holyoke, and Fall River.

Chicopee Mayor Richard Kos said the city plans to match the state's \$10,000 grant and plant a total of 200 trees this year.

"In trying to enhance our community and way of life, clearly getting more shade, more beauty is important," said Kos. "We are so happy Chicopee can participate."

Over the last several years, Chicopee has lost mature trees to severe storms. Trees have also been removed throughout the city as a result of an extensive sewer and road reconstruction project. As a result, there is a

lot of room for new trees, according to Chicopee Tree Warden Christopher Scott.

"We did a full citywide tree inventory two years ago, and two-thirds of our planting sites on the streets are available," he said.


Scott said the city plans to plant oaks, maples and some ornamentals. But, he said not everybody welcomes a new tree on their street.

"There is not a neighborhood you can go to without there being a story about 'the limb that fell on the car' or 'the tree that fell on the house,' but programs like this can help change public opinion," he said.

The state program provides trees for planting on both public and private property. People in Gateway Cities who are interested in obtaining a tree can contact the Department of Conservation and Recreation. [Q](#)



Massachusetts Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs Matthew Beaton (far right) joins in helping children plant a tree beside a school in Chicopee. Photo credit WAMC.

 <p><b>HORTICULTURAL TECHNOLOGIES INCORPORATED</b></p> <p>Consultant for Tree Protection and Preservation</p>	<p><b>George Ackerson</b> Mass &amp; ISA Certified Arborist Member, American Society of Consulting Arborists</p> <p>106 B Pine Street P.O. Box 436 Clinton, MA 01510-0436 (978) 368-1900 Fax: (978) 368-1905 <a href="mailto:gackerson@horttecinc.com">gackerson@horttecinc.com</a></p>
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## Congratulations Rick Harper! ISA 2015 Award of Achievement

The International Society of Arboriculture (ISA), the world leader in tree research, education and best tree care practices, announced nine recipients for the 2015 Awards of Distinction, sponsored by Bartlett Tree Experts.

The Awards of Distinction were presented in a special ceremony on Sunday, August 9th, at the ISA 91st Annual International Conference and Trade Show, held in Orlando, Florida. Among the winners was Richard W. Harper, now with UMass Amherst.



Rick was given the Award of Achievement for his instrumental role in implementing an annual Arborist Certification Training program in his chapter for tree workers

wishing to become ISA Certified Arborists. ☺

## Dean Charter Retires...Sort of

Dean Charter retired from the Town of Acton effective July 1. Dean started his career dragging spray hose for Charter Tree Service in the mid-1960s and learned that (in his words) "DDT tastes pretty good on your sandwiches." He started as a seasonal worker in the Acton Tree Department in 1967 and got enrolled in county retirement in 1975 based on working 20 hours per week on average. He was appointed Acton's tree warden in 1980.



Dean will hold the legal title of tree warden for one to three more years and will continue to work one or two days a week focused on hazard tree ID, mentoring, and relations with the utilities and the general public. He will be working from home and plans on staying active and involved with the industry. Dean's new email is dean\_charter@verizon.net. ☺



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## Best Management Practices For the Arboriculture Industry

H. Dennis Ryan, UMass ECO, Arboriculture & Community Forestry – [dr@eco.umass.edu](mailto:dr@eco.umass.edu)  
Rick W. Harper, UMass ECO, Arboriculture & Community Forestry – [rharper@eco.umass.edu](mailto:rharper@eco.umass.edu)

The ISA has developed a series of *Best Management Practices* (BMPs) for the purpose of interpreting tree care standards and providing guidelines of practice for arborists, tree workers, and the people who employ their services. Whenever there is an update to a TCIA A300 standard, the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) publishes an updated Best Management Practices to complement the Standard. This article reviews the latest BMP updates. Most A300 standards are revised every five years by TCIA. As of this writing there are thirteen BMPs. Although three are primarily for the utility industry, all can and should be used by commercial arborists and some will assist municipal tree programs as well.

The A300 standard and the BMP books are designed to provide a standard of practice for arboricultural work.

Using these standards can provide the arborist with some protection when bidding on or putting out a contract for tree work. Strict adherence to the standards may also provide some legal protection and defense if something goes wrong. Conversely, if the arborist does not follow the standard and something fails, the actions and consequences may be difficult to defend. As an example, in the BMP for Tree Support Systems, Table 4 outlines the minimum hardware size requirements based on the diameter of the limb being cabled. If the arborist does not follow Table 4 and the cable fails, causing injury or damage, there may be no defense.

Read on for a brief description of each of the thirteen BMPs currently available.

**Tree Pruning**, Second Edition 2008 (also available in Spanish)

Should be used when bidding on or soliciting bids for pruning residential and/or municipal trees. This way all contractors are bidding on the same type of pruning.

**Tree Planting**, 2005 (also available in Spanish)

Outlines the latest information on planting using various systems; reviews problems associated with improper planting.

*Continued on next page*

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**Tree Support Systems**, Second Edition, 2007

When installing a tree support system, the arborist is acknowledging that there is a weakness in the tree (e.g. a weak crotch). It is therefore very important to follow the minimum hardware requirements.

**Tree Lightning Protection Systems**, Second Edition, 2008

Lightning protection systems are intended to intercept lightning strikes and safely conduct the strike to the ground. It is imperative that these systems be designed, installed and maintained according to this standard.

**Tree & Shrub Fertilization**, Third Edition 2013

There have been considerable changes in the last several years on how to fertilize trees; this BMP outlines methodologies that the arborist should consider. The fertilizer application recommendation rates listed in this BMP might be high for our New England soils and trees; check with your local University Extension Service for local rate recommendations.

**Soil Management for Urban Trees**, 2015

This BMP describes the recommended practices for assessing, modifying, and conserving soils that support trees in an urban environment.

**Integrated Pest Management**, 2007

This BMP is intended for arborist and landscape professionals who design, plan and implement an IPM program as part of their Plant Health Care (PHC) system.

**Managing Trees During Construction**, 2008

A proper planning and protection plan is a critical element in protecting trees from People Pressure Disease (PPD), especially from construction damages. This BMP outlines the necessary steps to protect, manage and hopefully save trees on a construction site.

**Tree Inventories**, Second Edition, 2013

This BMP reviews the various types of inventories, along with what needs to be considered before starting and maintaining an inventory.

**Tree Risk Assessment**, 2011

This BMP presents the new methods of assessing tree risk and should be required reading for all arborists, tree wardens and land managers.

**Utility Pruning of Trees**, 2004 (also in Spanish)

This BMP reviews the issues involved when pruning trees to clear utility lines and details safety, pruning cuts and pruning methods.

**Integrated Vegetation Management**, Second Edition, 2013

This BMP describes the selection and application methods used to maintain rights-of-way (ROW) projects.


**Utility Arborist Association (UAA): Field Guide to the Closed Chain of Custody for Herbicides**, 2011

This BMP reviews the safe practices required to reduce worker exposure to herbicides on Right-of-Way (ROW) projects.

*Best Management Practices* are tools that all arborist and landscape managers should have in their library and should incorporate into their planning, contracts and practices. For additional information and pricing (\$10-\$18), contact either the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) or the Tree Care Industry Association (TCIA). Both organizations sell the BMP booklets.

Tree Care Industry Association  
3 Perimeter Rd., Unit 1, Manchester, NH 03103  
(800) 733 – 2622  
[www.treecareindustry.org](http://www.treecareindustry.org)

International Society of Arboriculture  
P.O. Box 3129, Champaign, IL 61826 -3129  
(217) 355 – 9411  
[www.isa-arbor.com](http://www.isa-arbor.com) &



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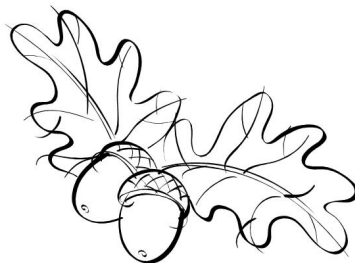
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## Faces of the 2015 Conference



Christie Smith with Wes Osborne, MTWFA Past President, at the MTWFA 2015 Conference.



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## Calendar of Events - Fall 2015

Sept. 21-23 TRAQ Training  
Montpelier, VT  
*www.newenglandisa.org*

**Sept. 23** **PDS: Tree Planting Workshop**  
**MTWFA** **Newburyport, MA**  
*www.masstreewardens.org*

Sept. 26 UMass Amherst Student Tree Climbing  
Competition

Sept. 24-26 TRAQ Training  
Portsmouth, NH  
*www.newenglandisa.org*

Sept. 27 Mass. Town Forests Celebration  
Wilbraham, MA

Sept. 27-28 TRAQ Training  
Portland, ME  
*www.newenglandisa.org*

Oct. 2-3 DCR 2015 Tree Steward Training  
Harvard Forest, Petersham, MA  
*mollie.freilicher@state.ma.us*

**Oct. 6** **Western Mass. Tree Wardens**  
**MTWFA** **Dinner Meeting, Northampton**  
*info@masstreewardens.org*

Oct. 20 MAA Safety Saves  
Elm Bank, Wellesley  
*www.massarbor.org*

Oct. 25-27 New England ISA Annual Conference  
North Conway, NH  
*www.newenglandisa.org*

**Oct. 29** **PDS: Chainsaw Safety**  
**MTWFA** **Wilmington, MA**  
*info@masstreewardens.org*

Nov. 12-14 TCI Expo  
Pittsburgh, PA  
*www.tcia.org*

Nov. 16-17 Society of Municipal Arborists  
51<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference, Denver, CO  
*www.urban-forestry.com*

Nov. 18-19 Partners in Community Conference  
Denver, CO  
*www.arboday.org*

Dec. 2-4 New England Grows  
Boston, MA  
*www.newenglandgrows.org*

Dec. 2-5 American Society of Consulting Arborists  
Annual Conference  
Tuscon, AZ  
*www.asca-consultants.org*