Eversource and UMass Amherst Unveil Utility Arboretum
New on-campus public display demonstrates planting the right tree in the right place so that trees and electric equipment can safely coexist

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. (April 27, 2017) – From oak, to elm, to birch, to pine, Eversource understands the aesthetic and environmental importance of trees lining local streets, parks and backyards. With trees being the leading cause of power outages, the company also understands the potential risk they pose to electric service reliability.

“To provide actual examples of what it means to plant the right tree in the right place, we’ve included a wide variety of trees in the new UMass utility arboretum, placing them near and under utility equipment,” said Bob Allen, Manager of Vegetation Management at Eversource. “On Arbor Day and every day, we want to be sure we’re getting this important message out – plan before you plant.”

When a storm with high winds or heavy, wet snow comes through New England, more than 90 percent of the outages are typically caused by trees and tree limbs. Eversource arborists and utility foresters work every day to minimize the damage trees can cause.

“Trees and power lines don’t mix,” added Allen. “When they touch, it can cause power outages and downed lines, potentially leading to unsafe situations for people, wildlife and even the trees themselves.”

Eversource arborists, in partnership with UMass staff, forestry students and local tree wardens, created the utility arboretum at the Agricultural Learning Center at the UMass Amherst campus using recycled poles and electrical equipment. The company arborists, all UMass grads, will also be participating in classes each semester teaching utility arboriculture.

Eversource tree crews will also periodically return to prune mature trees left on the site as a demonstration for UMass Forestry and Arboriculture classes.

Members of the public, tree wardens, municipal officials and landscape architects are welcome to visit the site to see first-hand which species of trees are most compatible around power lines.

Press release and photo courtesy of Eversource
MTWFA Executive Board 2017

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Published Quarterly
Spring-Summer-Fall-Winter
From the President

Welcome to the summer edition of the Bark Newsletter. As the summer growing season progresses, I would like to fill you in on the activities of the organization as well as take some time to reflect on some recent observations. I hope you all had an enjoyable and eventful Arbor Day Celebration. If your community doesn’t officially celebrate Arbor Day, I would strongly encourage you to start a program. It is a great way to show how trees improve our everyday lives. In addition, it puts you one step closer to completing the requirements for the Tree City USA designation from the National Arbor Day Foundation.

The MTWFA celebrated the life and contributions of Professor Gordon King on April 22nd by joining with the Massachusetts Arborists Association and UMass Amherst to plant a Japanese Elm (Ulmus japonica) on the UMass campus. The MTWFA provided a decorative stone plaque that was placed to commemorate Professor King. Sadly, the UMass arboriculture family lost another member when Tom Houston passed away on April 24th. Tom had a great impact on the many arboriculture students he taught over the years and undoubtedly impacted the industry in Massachusetts for the better.

At the April meeting the Executive Board voted to apply for an extension to the U.S. Forest Service Urban Forest Strike Team grant. Many of you are familiar with this program, but for those who are not, you can find out more at www.ufst.org. This is a great program that is designed to help communities that have been affected by a natural disaster by providing professional assistance from certified arborists. The MTWFA is proud to play a part and hopes to continue to do so through supporting events such as training exercises.

In May we celebrated the 2017 Tree Warden of the year, Chris Hayward of Watertown, by planting a White Fir (Abies concolor) in Watertown Square. Chris was joined by family, friends, and co-workers to accept this much-deserved award. Congratulations Chris! On that note, we are always looking for nominations of outstanding tree wardens. If you know of someone doing extraordinary work in their community, please fill out a nomination form which can be found on our website.

Another successful Chainsaw Safety course was held in Wellesley in May. The event is always well attended and received by the participants. This time around we were privileged to have Mark Reiland instruct the course and he did an outstanding job. Thank you Mark!

The MTWFA Seedlings program wrapped up for the year in May and we had another great year of seedling sales. I want to thank all of the individuals and communities who purchase seedlings through this program. As you know, the proceeds of the seedling sales directly fund our annual scholarship program, so it’s a win-win for everyone involved. Thank you to Dave Hawkins who manages the program with great efficiency every year.

Work is continuing on the Massachusetts Qualified Tree Warden program. Our planning committee and advisors are diligently putting together the curriculum to be ready for a Fall 2017 roll-out. Read more information elsewhere in this issue, and watch the website and your mail for the details.

I would like to welcome Chris Gonzales of Eversource Energy who has been attending our meetings for the past few months and has agreed to serve as an advisory member of our Executive Board. Thank you to Chris for offering his time and expertise to our organization.

The June 20th dinner meeting of the Western Mass. Tree Wardens featuring Dan Mayer was a great success. I hope you will all consider attending the next one on September 26th (the buffet dinner is worth the drive!). Online registration is available through the event listing on our website. Also, as an early reminder, the Southeastern Mass. Tree Wardens’ and Arborists’ Association will hold their Annual Field Day and Equipment Show on September 21. Please consider attending this event which helps support the SEMTWAA scholarship program.

Finally, I’ll leave you with a few observations since my last message. We all know that trees do all the real work of curbing effects of the urban heat island, intercepting stormwater, and cleaning air pollutants during the height of the summer when their crowns are in full leaf; but I like to think they do their “public relations” work in the spring. It was a great year for flowering trees. As I drove around my community this spring, it was hard not to notice the ornamental cherries (Prunus spp.), dogwoods (Cornus spp.), Eastern Redbuds (Cercis canadensis), Crabapples (Malus spp.), and yes, Callery Pears (Pyrus calleryana) in all their flowering glory. Seeing these flowering trees is a good reminder of the place and purpose of the right tree in the right place. I am generally an advocate of planting shade trees when I can, but we all know that this isn’t possible everywhere. In particular, ornamental trees can be used under utility lines.
to provide some amount of canopy cover and also have the design effect of adding spring color to the landscape.

Thinking of the multi-faceted benefits trees provide in this way reminded me of how important it is to be steadfast in our advocacy for trees in the urban landscape. While trees may do much of their own “public relations” in the spring, we must carry the baton year-round. All too often trees seem to be pushed aside as a luxury item or are often seen as “disposable,” features that can be easily replaced during a redevelopment project. This is where the job of the tree warden is often the hardest. It is not easy to stand in a room and suggest changing a construction plan that might have been in the works for months to save a single tree, but this is a burden we must be willing to take as managers of public shade trees. Fortunately, we have the benefit of tested science to back up our claims of the incredible importance of trees. We must continually push ourselves to understand the latest innovations in arboriculture and urban forestry to fill our toolkit of knowledge. Whenever I find myself doubting a decision about a tree (and I often do), I try to think of the spectacular row of redbuds in full bloom or a particular tree-lined shady street to remind myself of exactly why it is we do what we do.

Thank you and be safe,

Alexander R. Sherman
President 2017-2018

Welcome New Members

Lance Hamel - City of Lawrence
Matthew Natti - Cape Ann Tree Service
Blair J. Crane - Town of Cheshire

Editor’s Corrections

In the Spring 2017 edition of the BARK newsletter, the cost comparison “Wood vs. Oil” (page 9) was submitted by Marc Caluwe. Mr. Caluwe informed us that he believes it was authored by Charlie Cary.

Also in the Spring issue, the email address for Ron Despres (“Wood for Turning,” page 12) was incorrect. Mr. Despres can be reach at ronnica25@gmail.com.

We sincerely regret the errors.

Baker-Polito Administration Awards 2017 Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Grants

BOSTON – The Baker-Polito Administration has announced $112,500 in 2017 Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Grants to nine Massachusetts municipalities and non-profit organizations to maximize the social, economic, and environmental benefits of increased tree canopy in communities across the Commonwealth. The funds for the 50-50 matching grant program are provided by the United States Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Forest Service and the Massachusetts ReLeaf Trust Fund, and are administered by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR).

“By working in partnership with the USDA Forest Service, municipalities, and nonprofits, our administration will continue its commitment to more trees for our communities,” said Governor Charlie Baker. “The awarding of this year’s Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Grants will strengthen and diversify local tree stocks, which provide real benefits like lower heating and cooling costs for Massachusetts families and businesses.”

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Coming Up: DCR Tree Steward Training

Registration is now open for the annual Tree Steward Training program, designed specifically for community tree board members, tree wardens and other municipal staff, tree activists, planners, interested citizens, and green professionals interested in the topics and issues of urban and community trees and forests.

The program will provide foundation training in tree identification, tree assessment, tree care and management, and other urban and community forestry issues, with the aim of developing better tree stewardship in communities of all sizes in Massachusetts. Continuing education credits for Certified Arborists (ISA and MCA) will be offered.

When: Friday, October 13 – Saturday, October 14

This year’s topics will include
- Tree Identification
- Working with Your Utility Arborist
- Site Selection and Proper Tree Planting Techniques
- Trees and Pruning
- Diagnosing Insect and Disease Problems
- Remediating Soils: A Case Study
- i-Tree Software Suite and Tools for the Urban Forest
- Funding Urban and Community Forestry
- Roundtable Discussion

For more information and to register, go to the Branching Out link on the right side of the web page www.mass.gov/dcr/urban-and-community-forestry

Tree Steward Training is offered by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation Bureau of Forestry, Urban and Community Forestry Program; the USDA Forest Service; and the Massachusetts Tree Wardens’ and Foresters’ Association.
IN MEMORIAM
Theodore W. Brown, MCA
1946-2017

Theodore Wetmore Brown departed peacefully from his earthly home in Brewster on Tuesday, April 18, 2017, with his son, Nathan, and his loving partner and best friend, Patricia Stark, by his side. Ted was a born naturalist with a keen eye for beauty. Blessed with an inherent understanding of botany and horticulture, Ted was a true outdoorsman whose love of nature permeated every aspect of his life.

Ted studied forestry and wildlife management at Norfolk County Agricultural School for two years after graduating from Needham High School. Following military service in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War, he moved to Brewster in the mid-1970s where he established a new tree-care company, Arbortech, Inc. and served as its president until the day he died. He was a respected leader in the tree-care industry in southeastern New England for forty years.

With pride and confidence, Ted recently passed his business on to his son, Nathan. The greatest joy in Ted’s life was the time he spent raising his son, and when Nathan was once asked when he had begun tree work, he replied, “When I was born.”

A celebration of Ted’s life will be held this summer. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation in Ted’s name to the Noah Homeless Shelter, the Animal Rescue League of Boston - Brewster Shelter or a charity of your choice. Condolences may be directed to his son Nate at info@arbortechtreeandl.com.

IN MEMORIAM
Thomas F. Houston, MCA
1944-2017

Thomas F. Houston died April 24, 2017 after a brief illness. Tom taught Arboriculture and Urban Forestry at UMass for 32 years and was a significant influence on many in the industry today.

Tom was born in Greenfield on January 2, 1944. Tom attended Amherst High School, where he graduated in 1962. After high school, he went on to serve in the US Marine Corps from 1962-1965 where he was made a Corporal. Tom received his Associate Degree from Stockbridge School of Agriculture in 1967. He went on to receive his Bachelor and Master degrees and a Certificate of Advanced Graduate Studies from the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

He was a certified arborist and served as president of the New England Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture in the 1980s. Tom was also active in the Franklin County Sportsman Club where he served as president in 2012. Tom was an avid tennis player and enjoyed both salt and freshwater fishing.

He leaves behind his loving wife of 47 years, Diane, and their two Standard Poodles, Rowan and Jordan.

Tom’s friends held a gathering of remembrance on June 10 at Memorial Hall, UMass Amherst. Donations may be made in Tom’s name to Bright Spot Therapy Dogs, PO Box 132, Leeds, MA 01053 or to Jackson Laboratories, 600 Main St, Bar Harbor, ME 04609.
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Beginning this October, the Massachusetts Tree Wardens and Foresters Association will offer a six-module course designed to educate tree wardens about what they need to know to fulfill their duties. All sessions will be held at Eversource in Westwood, MA.

The six sessions will take place from 9 am-3:30 pm in October-November-December and March-April-May. The hope for the future is to offer this training biennially, alternating years with UMass Green School. Course topics will include:

- What you need to know to be a tree warden, including work priorities, public relations, and cultivating community support
- Plant ecology, botany and soils
- Tree identification (all six sessions)
- Arboricultural safety, ANSI Z133, and EHAP introduction
- Massachusetts tree laws
- Working with utility arborists
- Budgeting, outside contracting, ANSI A300 Tree Care Practices
- Tree wardens and the community: working with other departments, tree boards, volunteers, and the media.
- Storm preparation: planning with other departments and the utility company, using i-Tree
- Managing and funding tree programs: municipal budgets, DCR & other grants, writing grant applications, Tree City USA and other programs
- Municipal Plant Health Care (PHC)
- Construction zone management
- Tree risk evaluation, inventory policy, and liability
- Decay and structural support of trees
- A300 tree risk management
- Tree risk field evaluation
- Municipal inventories and i-Tree
- Streetscape design and tree planting
- Tree planting best practices

The member price for all six sessions is $300. The non-member price of $385 includes a one-year membership to MTWFA. Lunch will be available for purchase in the Eversource cafeteria. Watch your incoming email and snail mail for the confirmed dates and registration materials!
SPRING IS COMING!

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BARK Summer 2017
Urban Forest Strike Team Mock Training Exercise
Leominster, MA, March 29-30, 2017

Left: The Strike Team attendees discuss a risk tree during one of the field exercises. Below: The group of previously trained Task Specialists and Team Leaders who participated in the mock exercise.

Photos courtesy of Mollie Freilicher

Tree Planting on the Watertown Square
Honoring Christopher Hayward, Tree Warden of the Year
May 10, 2017

Above: Chris Hayward talks with his hands as fellow board members look on. Left to right: President Alex Sherman, Chris, Ed Olsen, Art Goodhind, Kent Warren.

Right: Watertown guests and MTWFA board members gather around the newly planted White Fir (Abies concolor).
Memorial Tree Planting for Gordon King at UMass Amherst
April 22, 2017

Left: Gordon’s son John King and great-granddaughter help with the planting.

Below: Gordon King’s son John stands with Gordon’s granddaughter and great-granddaughter next to the memorial tree, a Japanese elm grown from a cutting from the original one by the library.

Middle left: John King smooths mulch around the memorial marker, donated by MTWFA.

Lower left: John King talks with Michael Dirr as Mike Davidsohn from UMass snaps a picture.

Photos courtesy of Mollie Freilicher
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The city is embarking on a new, innovative way to reduce the amount of untreated storm water and raw sewage that is dumped into the rivers in heavy rains and at the same time is hoping to make neighborhoods more attractive and greener.

Instead of having rain water flow into storm drains, the city is hoping to create urban green areas along streets and in the yards of willing homeowners, complete with trees to soak up the water instead of having it flow into storm drains and eventually into the Chicopee and Connecticut Rivers. “The idea is to create an urban forest and a watershed,” said Dave Bloniarz, of the U.S. Forest Service and ReGreen Springfield.

Chicopee and Holyoke officials are now joining with a variety of organizations including the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, the U.S. Forest Service, the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, the Valley Opportunity Council, Nuestras Raices and students from the Conway School of Design to create the green neighborhoods. A similar project has already been completed in Springfield’s Forest Park neighborhood, Bloniarz said.

Chicopee and Holyoke are among hundreds of cities across the country faced with a decades-old federal Environmental Protection Agency mandate to stop dumping raw sewage into local rivers. The problem is created because most communities have combined pipes that carry both storm water and sewage to a treatment plant. When it rains heavily, the system is overwhelmed and raw sewage is dumped into the river.

Chicopee is currently working to separate all sewer pipes from storm drains and expects to spend more than $300 million before the project is completed. The proposed urban gardens will in a small way keep some of the water from flowing into sewer and storm drains.

But that is not the only reason. The trees also reduce street flooding, Bloniarz said. “It is beyond a nuisance. Over the past few years, as we have more pronounced storms, we have more flooding,” he said.

After an examination of the city streets following the October 2011 snowstorm, Chicopee did a survey of the location and condition of the street trees throughout the community, City Planner Lee Pouliot said. “Our urban forest is essentially empty,” he said, citing another reason for the project.

Using state and federal grant funds, Chicopee and Holyoke will each begin to create a small urban garden in areas where streets are already going to be under construction. In Chicopee that will be in the downtown area on Dwight Street, between Front and Cabot streets, and on Perkins Street.

Both streets are going to be torn up for the sewer separation project, so before pavement and sidewalks are replaced, the city will work with Conway School students to design areas where trees and other vegetation can be used to absorb rainwater and then work to incorporate those areas into the street redesign and rebuilding, said Pouliot.

“The urban garden will take planning and study, which is where students from the Conway School of Landscape Design are vital, said Chris Curtis, chief planner for the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission. “It is not just planting the trees," he said. “We will look at the water flow and make a mini watershed.”

Designers will determine where the water does flow and create tree boxes in those areas. The boxes are almost like storm drains but trees will be planted in them instead. They will also have to find places to plant trees to ensure they won’t grow into power lines or are too close to other infrastructure, Curtis said.

Even selecting the type of trees is important because designers want trees that will drink a lot of water. At the same time, they want hardy trees which can also withstand drought conditions, Pouliot said.

One of the key components to the project is to have residents agree to work with city officials to care for the trees. Officials may also ask some people if they will agree to have a tree planted on their property if studies find it is a good location for one, Curtis said. Chicopee residents currently pay a storm water management fee and that may be able to be waived for people who agree to do so, he said.

Organizers are holding several upcoming meetings to discuss the tree planting projects in more depth and to answer questions from residents.
News from the Satellite Associations

SOUTHEAST TREE WARDENS

The Southeastern Massachusetts Tree Wardens’ and Arborists’ Association (SEMTWAA), in conjunction with the Department of Conservation and Recreation, hosted a tree planting demonstration on Saturday April 29, 2017 at the Forefathers Monument on DCR property in Plymouth.

To honor the spirit of our forefathers and to recognize Plymouth’s upcoming 400th anniversary, ten SEMTWAA volunteers participated in the event, planting six 2.5” caliper balled and burlapped trees donated by Eversource.

In addition to beautifying the grounds of the monument, the planting of the four crabapples and two London Plane trees provided an educational opportunity for the community, demonstrating best planting practices and “Right Tree, Right Place.”

SEMTWAA volunteers, left to right: Kyle Barry, Craig Hillman, Kim Hillman, Sue Hillman, Ted Bubbins, Wes Osborne, Paul Sellers, Bruce Duffy, Christie Smith, Mark Smith.

WESTERN MASS. TREE WARDENS

The June 20th meeting of the Western Mass. Tree Wardens featured speakers Nick Brazee, UMass Extension Plant Pathologist, and Dan Mayer, owner of Mayer Tree in Essex. Comments from the 42 attendees at Northampton’s Bluebonnet Diner included “Nick and Dan did a great job,” “very cool to see all the equipment Dan is using” and “the guys were fascinated to be able to see the latest and greatest in equipment.” Photo above: Dan Mayer gesturing during his slide presentation.
The Southeastern Tree Wardens and Arborists Association (SEMTWAA) will hold its 54th Annual Field Day and Equipment Show on September 21st. The day will feature all the usual events, plus CEUs (MA pesticide, ISA, MCA and MCLP) for those who attend an informative session with Larry Dapsis, Deer Tick Coordinator and Entomologist with Cape Cod Cooperative Extension. One ticket fee covers admission to all events, plus morning coffee/donuts and chicken barbecue lunch. This annual fun event is a favorite for hundreds of arborists throughout the state and a major fundraiser for arboriculture scholarships here in Massachusetts.

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 8-10</td>
<td>Bark Beetle Identification and Related Topics Training, Fernald Hall, UMass Amherst</td>
<td><a href="http://www.umassgreeninfo.org">www.umassgreeninfo.org</a></td>
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<td>September 20</td>
<td>Saluting Branches Day of Service, Massachusetts National Cemetery, Bourne</td>
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<td>September 21</td>
<td>Southeast Tree Wardens 54th Annual Field Day and Equipment Show, Plympton</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 23</td>
<td>Landscape and Forest Tree and Shrub Disease Workshop, Fernald Hall, UMass Amherst</td>
<td><a href="http://www.umassgreeninfo.org">www.umassgreeninfo.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 26</td>
<td>Western Mass. Tree Wardens Dinner Meeting, Bluebonnet Diner, Northampton</td>
<td><a href="http://www.masstreewards.org">www.masstreewards.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 26</td>
<td>MAA Dinner Meeting, Ken's Steak House, Framingham</td>
<td><a href="http://www.massarbor.org">www.massarbor.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 26-28</td>
<td>Trees and Utilities Conference, Kansas City, MO</td>
<td><a href="http://www.treesandutilities.org">www.treesandutilities.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>October 1-3</td>
<td>New England ISA Annual Conference &amp; Trade Show, Southbridge MA Hotel and Conference Center</td>
<td><a href="http://www.newenglandisa.org">www.newenglandisa.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>October 10</td>
<td>Session 1 of 6: Tree Wardens Training Course, Westwood, MA</td>
<td><a href="http://www.masstreewards.org">www.masstreewards.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>October 13-14</td>
<td>DCR Tree Stewards Training, Harvard Forest, Petersham</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mollie.freilicher@state.ma.us">mollie.freilicher@state.ma.us</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 19</td>
<td>Southeast Tree Wardens Dinner Meeting, John Carver Inn, Plymouth</td>
<td><a href="mailto:semtwaa@gmail.com">semtwaa@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 1-3</td>
<td>New England Grows, Boston Convention and Exhibitors Center</td>
<td><a href="http://www.newenglandgrows.org">www.newenglandgrows.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 9-10, 2018</td>
<td>MTWFA Annual Conference, Sturbridge, MA</td>
<td><a href="http://www.masstreewards.org">www.masstreewards.org</a></td>
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