

Massachusetts Tree Wardens and Foresters Association

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



2021
Issue 2
Summer

What is a Tree Inventory?

By Mollie Freilicher

A tree inventory is a record of location and characteristics of individual trees and, sometimes, characteristics of their environs, within a defined geographic area. For municipalities, tree inventories typically include street trees and trees in parks or other municipally-owned properties. Campuses and institutional grounds managers may also conduct tree inventories for their properties. Conducting a tree inventory is the first step in developing a comprehensive urban forest management program. When a community has a tree inventory, it can begin planning for the future and move away from a reactionary tree management program.

Why Conduct a Tree Inventory?

- Communicate the importance of a strong municipal forestry program.
- Develop management and policy recommendations.
- Understand the distribution of species in the urban forest.
- Determine the overall condition of trees.
- Identify vacant tree planting sites.
- Quantify the dollar value and benefits of the urban forest.
- Use as the foundation for a management plan.
- There are three main types of inventories: sample, partial, and complete.



A **sample inventory** is conducted on a random sample of street segments, blocks, road miles, or area to provide an estimate for the urban forest. Typically, the sample is 3-10%. The sample can also be stratified.

A **partial inventory** is conducted on a specific non-random area. It may be a **geographic** area, such as a downtown. It may be a **phased** inventory where different areas are collected at different times, with the goal of each phase eventually comprising a complete inventory. A **survey** collects a few attributes over a large area, even the entire municipality. Surveys are often conducted by vehicle.

A **complete inventory** includes all street trees, sometimes all park trees and trees on municipal properties, and often includes available planting locations and stumps.

Continued on Page 5

The BARK Newsletter is made possible through a grant from the USDA Forest Service, Urban and Community Forestry Program and the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, Bureau of Forestry.

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From the President

Dear members and friends,

Welcome summer! I most certainly have placed a higher value on a warm breeze, a blue sky and the smell of lilac in the air in the recent days. Although I do wish the wind would blow a little softer and a little less often, I have enjoyed packing up my winter hat and being able to enjoy the outdoors more comfortably.

Regardless of the season, and much like our wind patterns as of late, our work as tree wardens, foresters and environmental stewards never eases. The same is true for your association. The Massachusetts Tree Warden's and Foresters' Association has always served as a critical forum for municipal tree managers and will continue to serve that role, now and into the future.



Your association's future for 2021 will have valuable events and significant changes. Our most significant change will be the retirement of our longtime and valued Executive Director, Karen Doherty. Please join us in celebrating Karen's retirement as she will now have more time to enjoy her new home on Cape Cod, those beautiful morning walks and exciting travel. Karen can enjoy these things knowing she has strongly positioned our association for the future and leaves a legacy of dedication and commitment to our field. Thank you, Karen.

With the retirement of our Executive Director Karen Doherty, please also join us in celebrating the addition of a new member of our team, Heather Leff. Heather is the President of Association Management Group, LLC and will be fulfilling the role of Executive Assistant for the association. Heather comes to the association with valuable arboriculture association management capabilities. Please welcome Heather to our team!

Your Board of Directors and Heather Leff guided by Karen Doherty's compass continue to plan exciting events for calendar year 2021 and 2022. Be sure to look for the announcements of events for professional development, qualifications and socializing again. Please consider joining us for these events and thank you for supporting our association.

Thank you.

Your President,

Art Goodhind

Welcome New Members!

Blair Crane - Town of Norfolk

Shawn D. Anderson - Town of West Bridgewater

Jeff Williams - Clarksburg, MA

Thomas E. Sullivan - Town of Princeton

Jean Berger, MCA - Newburyport, MA

Mary Jo Ficocello - Your Perfect Garden

Rebecca Fontes - Davey Resource Group

Adam Rollfs - The Trustees of Reservations

Philip Hanna - Davey Resource Group

Eric Comeau - Davey Resource Group

Kevin Block - Phillips Academy

Joseph King - National Grid

Abigail Bentley - City of Cambridge

Eric Peterson - Davey Resource Group

Mat Deterling - National Grid

Sean McCrea - Town of Ipswich

Deborah Woron-Masia - Newburyport, MA

Shawn Douglas Parsons - Town of Arlington

Matthew Lubao - Town of Arlington

Matt - Kipnes - Town of Barnstable

Jason Carlino - Town of Barnstable

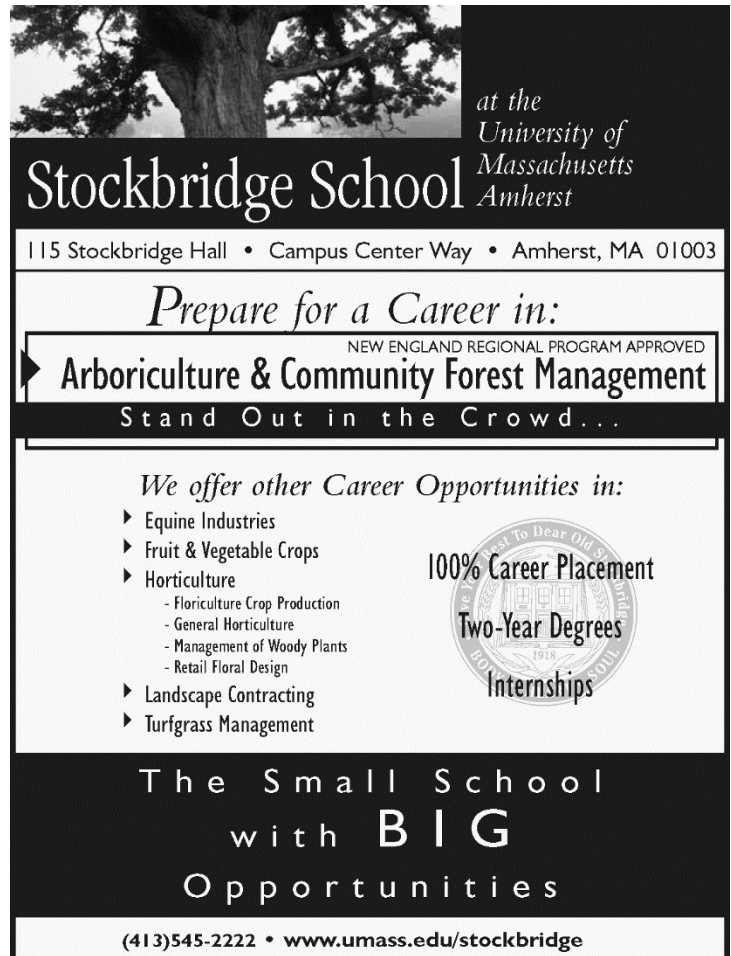
Dennis Donovan - Town of Westborough

Kevin McCabe - Town of Sudbury

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Christopher Rosa - City of Malden

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What is a Tree Inventory? Continued from page 1

Partial and complete inventories are often linked with work-order management systems. These may be integrated with a work-order management system the municipality uses for other infrastructure.

Any of these types of inventories may be updated on a periodic or a continuous basis. To be most effective, an inventory should be linked to a geographic information system (GIS) and be updated regularly. Inventories range in cost from a few thousand dollars to upwards of \$40,000. The DCR Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Grant is available to help fund tree inventories. Major drivers of cost include the number of trees

Continued on page 7

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inventoried and the number of attributes collected. The attributes should tie to the goals for the inventory. At a minimum, attributes should include, tree location, species, size, and condition, but others may be useful as well, including tree risk rating, pests, maintenance needs, or site conditions.

What Kind of Inventory? The type you choose should be appropriate to your community's:

GOALS: What are the reasons and expected outcomes for conducting a tree inventory?

RESOURCES: What monetary and staff resources are available to accomplish and utilize the inventory?

DATA MANAGEMENT: How will your community manage the data once collected?

A complete inventory is ideal for those communities that have:

- An existing street tree inventory in need of updating
- Tree maintenance staff who want to become more efficient and develop an inventory-based management program
- An in-house GIS system
- Staff available to manage the data as trees are planted, maintained, or removed

A complete inventory can help:

- Improve work-scheduling and cyclical maintenance
- Improve the ability to respond to storm damage and estimate costs
- Enhance efficiency when responding to constituent requests
- Locate all trees of a single species; for example, to aid in planning for and responding to a pest or disease outbreak

A partial tree inventory can do all the things listed above, but on a limited geographic basis.

A tree survey can help:

- Establish a foundation for a more detailed inventory
- Seek grant funds for developing a more comprehensive program
- Create a system for tree risk management (in a limited visual tree risk assessment)
- Determine the number of potential tree planting sites throughout the community

A sample tree inventory is most appropriate for communities that:

- Seek to build support and investment from their local government
- Need to develop an advocacy network for community trees
- Have staff / student / tree committee / volunteer time to conduct the inventory
- Are willing to develop strategies in response to the results

Combining Types of Inventories

If you need to get the big picture for your whole community, but have particular goals for a specific area, you can combine inventory types. For example, you may want a limited visual tree risk assessment (a type of partial tree inventory) for the whole community so you can implement a tree risk management program. You could also conduct a geographically limited inventory of the business district to help improve the management of trees in that area.

Continued on Page 9

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A Note on Qualifications

Trained volunteers can successfully conduct tree inventories, but for inventories that include tree risk assessment, we recommend using a qualified arborist. In addition to possessing an arborist certification, a qualified arborist should hold the Tree Risk Assessment Qualification from the International Society of Arboriculture.

What if my community already has a tree inventory?

Tree inventories are most effective when they inform an urban forest management plan and are used in day-to-day or week-to-week management of trees. A management plan is a vision for the future urban forest that outlines planting, maintenance, and removal goals in a multi-year planning horizon. The Urban Forest Management Plan Toolkit website defines a management plan as

“a roadmap that creates a shared **vision** for the future of a tree canopy. It’s a tailored plan that guides tree care professionals to proactively and effectively manage and provide for maximum, long-term benefits to the community. The plan provides recommendations based on the analysis of detailed inventories and includes additional components or documents, such as budgets, implementation schedules, policy and procedure manuals, standards and specifications, public education and monitoring plans, and existing ordinances.”

If your community has a tree inventory from a couple years ago and does not have a management plan, consider working toward one. A management plan may be written in-house or a community can work with a consultant. Plans will vary depending on the size and setting of the community. A plan for a rural town will be different than a plan for a highly-urbanized city. A rural community may also be able to develop a plan based on a survey, whereas a city would be better served by a complete inventory to inform the plan as well as day-to-day-management.

Check out the Urban Forest Management Plan Toolkit website (<https://ufmptoolkit.net>) or the Urban Forestry Toolkit on Vibrant Cities Lab (<https://www.vibrantcitieslab.com/toolkit/>).

Not sure where to start? Start with a conversation with the DCR Urban and Community Forestry Program (www.mass.gov/dcr/ucf) and learn about the financial and technical assistance available.

Mollie Freilicher is the Community Action Forester for the Department of Conservation and Recreation, Urban & Community Forestry Program.



DCR Update Tree Steward Training 2021

The DCR Urban and Community Forestry Program is in the process of re-visioning the 2021 Tree Steward Training this October. Holding a two-day, overnight event at Harvard Forest this fall did not seem practicable this year. We are re-working the workshop into a series of webinars and an in-person, outdoor session. Stay tuned for announcements related to the Tree Steward Training and keep up to date with the Urban and Community Forestry Program by signing up for the free, monthly e-newsletter, *The Citizen Forester* (www.mass.gov/dcr/ucf).



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Report: 2021 Arbor Day Seedling Program

by Richard Parasiliti Seedling Program Chair

My name is Rich Parasiliti Jr., and I am pleased to introduce myself as the new seedling coordinator for the Massachusetts Tree Wardens and Foresters Association. I took over the program from Dave Hawkins this winter, and he is now the emeritus seedling coordinator. Dave ran this program for the last eighteen years, and he put his heart and soul into making it a success for MTWFA. He has mentored me through this transition process, and I am grateful for his support. I will carry on his good work and am aware that I have some big shoes to fill. We owe a debt of gratitude to Dave for his years of service that have enhanced this program and provided many scholarships to students throughout his tenure.

Some months ago, Dave and I were worried that the pandemic would again affect sales as it did last season. We discussed with members of the Executive Board if it might be wise to cancel the program this spring. We instead made the commitment to move forward with the program, assemble the brochure and reserve the seedlings.

We utilized three nurseries which provided us with

excellent seedling variety, good service and fair pricing given the difficult operating environment. I am pleased to report that sales were brisk, with eighty orders placed to date for a total of 19,345 seedlings. This represents an increase over last year's sales by roughly 25%. The increase in sales likely reflected people's desire to celebrate Arbor Day/Earth Day within their respective communities even with the uncertainties of the continued pandemic.

Karen Doherty and I are still working on the final financial numbers and will have that report at a later date. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Karen for assisting me through this transition period. She has been a guiding force who has been instrumental in shaping the seedling program over the years, and she has the respect and admiration of the MTWFA.

My hope for next year is to sell 25,000 plus seedlings across the Commonwealth and beyond. I will need your continued support and look forward to next season!

Rich Parasiliti, Jr., Seedling Coordinator

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New Resource Available to Municipalities

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Guide to Local Tree Bylaws for Communities in Massachusetts

The DCR Urban and Community Forestry Program has just completed a guide on local tree bylaws and ordinances for cities and towns in Massachusetts. This guide is designed for communities beginning the process of developing a local tree bylaw or ordinance. It can also be used to assist in the review of an existing one.

Trees are critical resources in our communities and a local tree bylaw can help protect this vital asset. In this guide, we have taken examples from bylaws and ordinances in Massachusetts and guidelines from the International Society of Arboriculture and other sources and brought them together to provide relevant examples and advice for communities in the Commonwealth.



Check out the guide (PDF) on our Urban and Community Forestry Resources page. www.mass.gov/dcr



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Congratulations to our 2021 Scholarship Recipients!

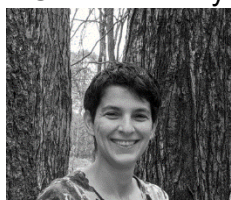
Funding for the annual scholarships comes from the proceeds of the annual Arbor Day Seedling Program. Five of the eight scholarships bear the names of MTWFA members who have made major contributions to the organization and the industry.

The Professor Gordon S. King scholarship was presented to Ryan Suttle. Mr. Suttle is currently in his second year of his master's program at the University of Massachusetts and is working as a Research Assistant with Dr. Brian Kane.



Ryan Suttle

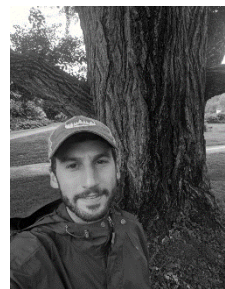
The Fred C. Burk scholarship was presented to Myles Barnes who originally received an associate's degree from the University of Massachusetts Stockbridge School of Arboriculture in Amherst and is now pursuing a bachelor's degree in Urban Forestry.



Amanda Halperin

The Louis J. Casasanto scholarship was presented to Amanda Halperin. Ms. Halperin is pursuing her master's degree at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst. Under the supervision of Dr. Brian Kane, she is researching about how cabling treatments affect biomechanics of trees by measuring how they sway and how they disperse energy.

The Dr. Malcolm A. McKenzie scholarship was presented to Ari Okun. Mr. Okun is currently pursuing a master's degree in Urban Forestry and Arboriculture at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst with the ultimate goal of improving the role of urban forestry in our communities.



Ari Okun

The Seth H. Swift scholarship was presented to Alexander Elton. Mr. Elton is pursuing a two-year Forest Resources and Arboriculture master's degree from the University of Massachusetts in Amherst. His thesis is "Exploring urban forest non-governmental organizations and their volunteers".



Mark Santoro works on a tree

In addition, UMass arboriculture faculty members select the recipient of the annual Dennis Ryan Outstanding Arboriculture Student Scholarship, awarded jointly by the Massachusetts Tree Wardens' and Foresters' Association and the Massachusetts Arborists Association.

The 2021 recipient of the Dennis Ryan Outstanding Arboriculture Student Scholarship is Mark Santoro. Mr. Santoro just completed his junior year at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst. Upon graduating, he plans to start his own tree care company.

Finally, two general scholarships were issued to high school students pursuing careers in forestry, urban forestry or a related field. The awards will be issued once these recipients complete their first semester of college in good standing. The awards will be presented to Brendan Pokraka of Falmouth and Jake McGrath of Needham. Both Mr. Pokraka and Mr. McGrath will be attending the University of Massachusetts in Amherst.

Congratulations to ALL of our scholarship recipients. You represent the future of our industry and our association and we are proud to support you in your efforts to achieve higher education.

LEADING STANDARDS AND URBAN FORESTRY PARTNERS COLLABORATE TO DEVELOP A NEW SFI URBAN AND COMMUNITY FOREST SUSTAINABILITY STANDARD

Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI)

Ottawa, ON and Washington, D.C.—The Sustainable Forestry Initiative Inc. (SFI) is pleased to announce the launch of a partnership to develop a new SFI Urban and Community Forest Sustainability Standard for application in North America and potentially globally. SFI will collaborate with five urban forestry leaders: American Forests, Arbor Day Foundation, the International Society of Arboriculture, the Society of Municipal Arborists, and Tree Canada.



SFI-00001

"The SFI network is looking forward to collaborating with our urban forestry partners to promote the establishment of sustainable urban and community forests that meet local needs, while meaningfully contributing to national, bi-national, and global initiatives such as the 2 Billion Tree initiative in Canada or through regional and global initiatives such as the World Economic Forum's 1t.org," says Kathy Abusow, SFI's President and CEO. "Together, with these leaders, I'm confident SFI will positively contribute to urban forestry initiatives across North America and globally."

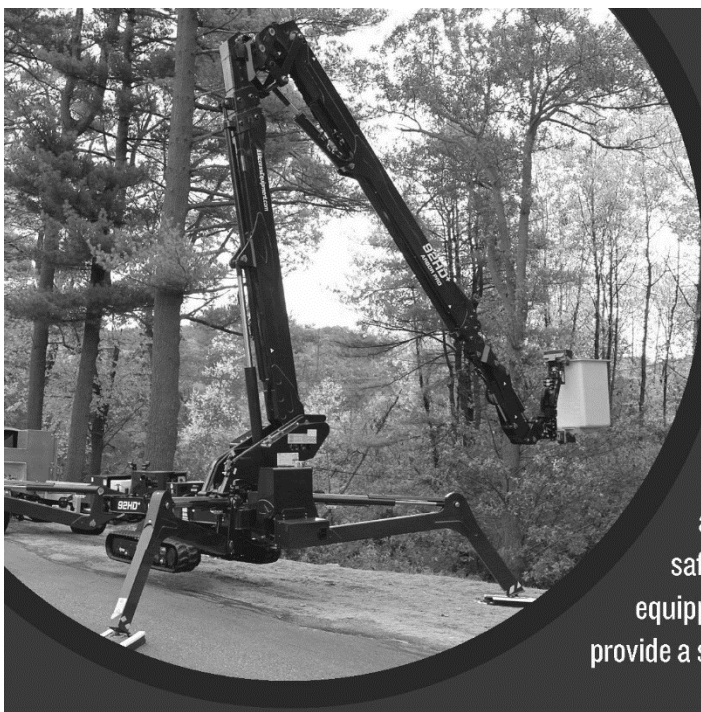
Urban and community forestry involves both planning and management of the urban forest because the right tree, planted in the right place, in the right way, promotes the many benefits trees provide for people, wildlife, and climate. Community trees and forests provide many social and environmental benefits including, improved health and well-being, social cohesion and accessibility, outdoor learning environments, climate change solutions, reduced air pollution, and improved urban design.

SFI's commitment to developing an urban and community forestry standard goes beyond the launch of this new partnership, it is also embodied in the decision to create a new staff position: Director of Urban and Community Forestry. Paul Johnson assumed this new role on March 15. Johnson brings over 20 years of urban and community forestry experience and deep connections to an international network of partners to his new role. As Paul always says, "Trees are key to healthier, happier, safer communities."

SFI, along with our partners, will set up a task group composed of leading experts to develop the new SFI Urban and Community Forest Sustainability Standard. The partnership and task group will explore opportunities to seek remedies for the climate crisis and other serious challenges that urban forests are ideally positioned to help address, including access to public spaces, social cohesion and more. Please reach out to Paul Johnson, Director of Urban and Community Forestry, if you are interested in serving on the task group.

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2021 Massachusetts Qualified Tree Warden Program

REGISTRATION OPEN

This six-module course is designed to teach tree wardens what they need to know to fulfill their duties. The 2021 course will run from September through November. Calendar dates are September 1, September 15, September 29 (field day), October 13, October 27, and November 10. All sessions will be held in Sturbridge, MA from 8:30 am - 3:00 pm. The course is limited to 40 participants. The registration deadline is August 15, 2021. Registration is \$600 for members and \$685 for non-members. To register, visit our website: www.masstreewardens.org

Course information

Session One - September 1, 2021 - Host Hotel, Sturbridge

Tree Warden 101 - roles, responsibilities, and work priorities
Massachusetts tree laws - Chapter 87, scenic roads, local ordinances, and the role of ANSI standards
Tree risk and liability: introduction
Tree identification (all six sessions)

Session Two - September 15, 2021 - Host Hotel, Sturbridge

How trees grow - tree parts and functions
Urban tree problems and risk trees
Structural defects and likelihood of failure
Tree risk management

Session Three - September 29, 2021 - Field Day, Sturbridge

Small groups will rotate through 3 outdoor exercises:
On-site tree identification
Field training in identifying tree risk
Tree planting: site assessment, tree selection, planting practices

Session Four - October 13, 2021 - Host Hotel, Sturbridge

Arboricultural safety, ANSI Z-133, EHAP
Budgeting, outside contracting, A300 standards
Construction zone management

Session Five - October 27, 2021 - Host Hotel, Sturbridge

Tree health - problem diagnosis and management
Municipal tree inventories
Streetscape design and site evaluation
Introduction to i-Tree free software

Session Six - November 10, 2021 - Host Hotel, Sturbridge

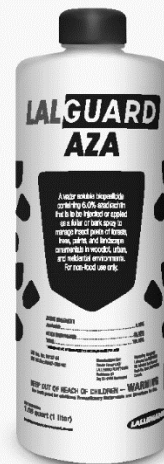
Working with utility arborists
Tree wardens panel - "Working In and With Our Communities"
Massachusetts DCR Urban & Community Forestry - assistance and resources

Financial assistance is available. Please contact, Heather Leff at 781-894-4759.

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2020 and 2021 Tree Wardens of the Year

2020 Chris Scott



Chris Scott of Chicopee

The Massachusetts Tree Wardens' and Foresters' Association (MTWFA) has presented its 19th annual Seth H. Swift Tree Warden of the Year award to Chris Scott, Town of Chicopee. The announcement, and presentation of the award, are delayed due to the pandemic.

Chris Scott has served as Tree Warden for the City of Chicopee since 2013. Mr. Scott is a graduate of the University of Massachusetts Stockbridge School.

Mr. Scott played a critical role in expanding forestry operations in the City of Chicopee from a two-man department to the current staff of six. With his work and dedication, the city also completed its first ever tree inventory. He worked tirelessly to upgrade the departments equipment from a single 2006 aerial lift boom truck, adding a second boom truck and even more recently, a log truck. Under his guidance, and with support from the city's Planning Department and City Council, Chicopee has planted over 1,000 new trees. According to his crew, "Chris is a great leader, always taking the time to the show proper techniques and discuss new and improved safety procedures. He also takes time out of his busy work schedule to be a mentor and a friend".

Mr. Scott's own words exemplify the spirit behind the Tree Warden of the Year recognition. In accepting the award from the MTWFA, he thanked them for expanding his understanding of the role of Tree Warden by saying, "... as much as I like to keep my circle very small, and that I would be very happy just getting dirty doing tree work with my guys every day, that if I truly love what I do I have to be an advocate for what we do and foster interest from others, whether it is to get people to understand the benefits of trees or [to] get younger generations to see what an awesome career path this industry can be. I truly believe that there is no better community than those that have chosen to make caring for trees their career".

2021 Dennis Fazio



Dennis Fazio of Wakefield (center)

The Massachusetts Tree Wardens' and Foresters' Association (MTWFA) has presented its 20th annual Seth H. Swift Tree Warden of the Year award to Dennis Fazio, Town of Wakefield. President Arthur Goodhind presented the elegant silver tree award to Mr. Fazio at the association's 108th annual meeting on February 16, 2021. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the meeting was held virtually on the Zoom platform.

Dennis Fazio serves as the Cemetery, Forestry and Parks Division Supervisor for the Town of Wakefield, Massachusetts. In this capacity he manages cemetery grounds, over one hundred acres of parks, and all the public trees within the community. He began his career with Wakefield in 1996 and became Division Supervisor in 1998.

Mr. Fazio is valued for his commitment, vision, and leadership within the Department of Public Works and for his collaborations with many community organizations and programs, including Trees for Wakefield, the Wakefield Town Employees Federal Credit Union, the Massachusetts Cemetery Association, and the Boys and Girl Scouts of America. Mr. Fazio was recently elected to the Town of Wakefield Retirement Board.

Mr. Fazio and his team and partners together manage the Town of Wakefield's CommuniTree program. This initiative offers sponsorship opportunities for individuals or organizations to contribute funds that supplement the ongoing efforts of the town to plant trees and improve the tree planting/tree removal ratio. In addition to this year's MTWFA award, Mr. Fazio has been recognized regionally as a past recipient of the Sports Turf Manager of the Year Award from the New England Sports Turf Managers Association. Dennis Fazio is most deserving of the Seth H. Swift Award and continues to set the standard for community service.



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Calendar of Events

DATE	EVENT	MORE INFORMATION
June 8	Webinars: Tick and Mosquito Education Days	https://ag.umass.edu/landscape
June 15	Webinars: Tick and Mosquito Education Days	https://ag.umass.edu/landscape
September 1- November 15	Massachusetts Qualified Tree Warden Training Program	www.masstreewardens.org
October 3-5	New England Chapter ISA Conference and Trade Show	https://newenglandisa.org
2022		
January 11-12	Conference: MTWFA	www.masstreewardens.org
January 13-15	TCI Virtual Summit 2021	https://summit.tcia.org/