TREE WARDEN OF THE YEAR
John Lavin of North Andover

Below is an excerpt from the nomination letter that MTWFA received from the Town of North Andover.

John Lavin “…epitomizes what the role of a tree warden should be on a daily basis…to maintain the vast number of town shade trees, give good advice on tree issues to staff as well as residents, keep abreast of current tree issues, have a deep desire to protect the trees from all the outside influences that can be negative to good tree management, and direct his staff in doing the same. …He is the organizer of our Arbor Day Program, has put together grant applications, Tree City applications, tree inventories, and keeps historic records on when and where trees were planted. He is consistently recommending tree programs, managing the power companies various tree trimming, cutting, and removal programs, and recommending effective replacement trees when programs become available or when trees are diseased and dying.”

In honor of John, the MTWFA Executive Board will hold a celebration and tree planting in North Andover in May. Congratulations, John!

101st Annual Conference Report
by Rick Harper

On January 14-15 the Massachusetts Tree Wardens’ and Foresters Association hosted almost 300 attendees and 30 exhibitors at the Sturbridge Host Hotel and Conference Center. The two-day event featured internationally renowned speakers and a trade show filled with exhibitors displaying equipment, technology, and literature for sale and give-away. In addition to informative lectures and an annual business meeting, the conference featured door prizes, networking, and a lunchtime awards ceremony that included the presentation of the George E. Stone Award to Eric Seaborn. The Stone Award is the highest award bestowed by this organization, exemplifying a member who has continuously demonstrated outstanding dedication, with many hours of volunteer service to the organization and to the furtherance of the urban forestry profession. Congratulations, Eric!

Report continued on page 11

GEORGE E. STONE AWARD
Eric Seaborn

Right: Eric Seaborn holds the 2014 Stone Award. Tom Brady presented the award to a very surprised Eric.
MTWFA Executive Board 2014

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Published Quarterly
Spring-Summer-Fall-Winter
Update on This Year’s
Chapter 87 Proposed Revisions

For the past several years, the Massachusetts Tree Wardens’ and Foresters’ Association has been advocating for changes to Chapter 87: Shade Trees in order to modernize the law and align it with current tree knowledge and practice. See below to read the specific goals of these revisions.

The proposed revisions are currently working their way through the legislative process as Bill H.1842, 188th General Court (Current). There are thousands of bills up for consideration each year. Only those bills that receive widespread support from across the Commonwealth are voted into law.

You can support these revisions by sending a letter (email is fine too) to one or more of your local legislators. Search for their names and contact information at the Find My Legislator website: www.malegislature.gov/People/FindMyLegislator. For a sample letter for your personalization, visit our website or contact us – or write your own. Please urge our legislators to bring Chapter 87 into the 21st century.

BACKGROUND
• The earliest versions of M.G.L. Chapter 87 were passed in the late 1890’s, in order to provide tree wardens the ability to protect their community trees.
• By 1913, the Shade Tree Law (now known as Chapter 87) gave tree wardens effective tools to protect public trees. The law as it was then matched the knowledge and methods of doing business at the time.
  - In 1913, tree wardens became qualified in their profession primarily through experience, without the benefit of training workshops, industry publications, and peer gatherings.
  - Much of the initial language in Chapter 87 was created in this era.

Continued on page 4
Chapter 87—continued from page 3

- Since 1913, Chapter 87 has had only minor revisions.
- Since 1913, major changes in the industry include
  - Dramatic shifts in the makeup of a community’s forest, tree canopy, and the interface between people and trees.
  - Significant advancements in both the tree-science knowledge base and in current tree care practices.
- Today the industry of community tree care (urban forestry) is based on
  - sound arboricultural practices
  - scientific research
  - modern management approaches
- Widespread urban forest impacts in the last several years have highlighted the importance of having trained and qualified personnel.
  - Insects and weather events affecting trees have included Asian longhorned beetle in Worcester, emerald ash borer, ice storms, Springfield area tornadoes, and Tropical Storm Irene.
  - Today’s emphasis is on good decisions based on both science and a community’s liability issues. Such decisions require assessments that only a qualified and trained person can make.

REVISIONS TO CHAPTER 87: FOUR GOALS

1. Make minor changes that will align with current times and practices.

   Example – Section 12: add language to indicate damage done by a vehicle as well as a horse.

   Example – Section 5: increase the size of a tree removal that requires a hearing, from 1.5 inches diameter to 4 inches.

2. Bring standards up to current times and needs by addressing several critical shortcomings.

   Example – Section 5: add a requirement that industry standards must be followed when evaluating trees for potential risk.

   Example – Various sections: specify allowable fines that are more reflective of the value of the damage done.

3. Allow for the creation of standardized regulations to provide a mechanism that can change with time and needs.

   Continued next column

Chapter 87—continued from previous column

- As noted above, industry standards and practices have evolved since 1913. Scientific research advances, and methodologies change continuously.

- The regulations governing public trees need to be adjustable with these changes. Section 15 adds the creation of regulations with oversight from the Commonwealth.

4. Institute standard requirements to ensure that tree wardens are qualified to perform their jobs.
News from
Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation

Welcome Julie Coop!

Julie Coop has joined the DCR Urban and Community Forestry Program as the new Urban and Community Forestry Coordinator for Massachusetts, replacing Eric Seaborn. Julie has been with DCR since 2010 and assumed her new job on February 24. She comes to the UCF program from the Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB) Cooperative Eradication Program in Worcester, where she supervised DCR ALB Foresters in both Worcester and Boston. Prior to that position, Julie supervised DCR’s replanting program in Worcester under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Julie joined DCR after a long career at the Arnold Arboretum and brings with her a wealth of expertise in the field of urban forestry. We are delighted to welcome her in this new position and look forward to working with her.

Julie will be working out of the Boston office and can be reached at 617-626-1468 or julie.coop@state.ma.us.

State Officials Confirm Emerald Ash Borer Detected in Essex County

On December 9, 2013, the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and the Department of Agricultural Resources (DAR) announced that the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) has been detected in Essex County, Massachusetts. The destructive beetle was detected in the Town of North Andover on November 15, 2013, and was confirmed by federal officials on November 22, 2013. Essex County is the second county in the Commonwealth to have a confirmed detection of EAB. On August 31, 2012, EAB was detected in Berkshire County in the Town of Dalton. To date, 22 states across the country have confirmed detections of EAB.

*** NEWS BULLETIN ***

On March 26, 2014, the state ordered a ban on the transport of firewood and untreated lumber from Essex County to prevent the spread of EAB. The Department of Conservation and Recreation announced that the quarantine will take effect Tuesday, April 2.

Tree-destroying Ash Borer Spreading Quickly in County, State

by Dick Lindsay, Berkshire Eagle Staff


The tree-destroying emerald ash borer has spread faster than expected within Berkshire County and now poses a threat to Eastern Massachusetts, state environmental officials have said.

Nearly 18 months after the Department of Conservation and Recreation first detected the invasive insect in Dalton, the metallic green beetle has been discovered in several neighboring communities, according to Ken Gooch, DCR's Forest Health program supervisor.

"Our tree traps found the ash borer at Wahconah Falls on the Dalton/Windsor line, October Mountain State Forest [in Washington], Appalachian Trail in Hinsdale and Grange Hall Road in Dalton," Gooch said in an Eagle interview. "We expected it would spread, but not this fast."

The emerald ash borer’s presence in Massachusetts was initially discovered in August, 2012, when the flying insect turned up in a trap along Kirchner Road in Dalton. Two months later, five more were found within a 1.5-mile radius of the area, according to DCR officials.

Since the ash borer poses a particular threat to forests in Berkshire County, which contains 64 percent of the 45 million ash trees in the state, DCR, as of March 1, 2013, quarantined Berkshire wood in a bid to limit the spread of the bad bugs. The invasive beetles can kill a tree in a matter of a few years.

DCR is also seriously considering a second quarantine for Essex County, north of Boston, after a heavy concentration of emerald ash borers were found late last year in North Andover. DCR officials suspect the invasive insect may have been in the northeastern Massachusetts community prior to being found in Central Berkshire.

The quarantine prevents local saw mills from shipping untreated ash lumber outside the county. It bans businesses and people from transporting all locally harvested hardwood firewood beyond Berkshire County’s bor-Continued on page 6
ders. State and federal foresters say the transport of firewood is the No. 1 way the ash borer is spread.

"The timber industry has been working with us to contain them," said Gooch. "The issue is when private citizens move wood for camping." He added, "We already ban bringing outside firewood into state campgrounds and some private campgrounds have been proactive about that, too."

The DCR is relying on the public to adhere to the quarantine. Willfully breaking the DCR's quarantine could result in fines of up to $25,000.

Native to Asia, ash borers likely hitchhiked on an international shipment from China when they showed up in Michigan in 2002. They have since infested 21 other states, including Massachusetts, Connecticut and New York.

Several local loggers last year had asked for a statewide quarantine to limit the financial impact on wood harvesters by allowing their wood products to freely move about the state. Ash is valuable hardwood and the forest products industry is a $500 million a year business in the state, much of it concentrated in the Berkshires.

"There have been issues with isolated quarantines in other states impacting the lumber industry," said Jeff Hutchins, executive director for the Massachusetts Forest Alliance, representing woodland owners and the forest products industry.

Federal and state environmental officials have said a statewide quarantine will only hasten the spread of the ash borer. Wood is allowed to move freely within a quarantine area.

A borer, which lays eggs in the tree's bark, can kill a healthy ash tree in three to five years. The larvae that hatch spring out to feed on the wood between the bark and trunk, stopping the flow of nutrients to the rest of the tree. When the beetle hits a tree, there's almost no saving it, state and federal officials have said.

"The U.S. Department of Agriculture doesn't believe the insect can be eradicated," Hutchins said.

Continued on next page
While eradicating the emerald ash borer is nearly impossible, several measures can be taken to reduce their population.

Last summer, DCR introduced two predatory insects to the Kirchner Road area of Dalton, but its effectiveness won’t be known for another five to 10 years, according to Gooch.

Nathan Seigert, forest entomologist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, has said logging infested ash trees, using insecticides in small areas, as well as relying on the bug’s natural enemies, can help keep them at bay.

---

It may seem hard to imagine, but spring is coming back to Massachusetts and with it, another Arbor Day of Service.

For 34 years, MAA members have given back to their communities while raising awareness about proper tree care through their valuable volunteer efforts. Last April 2013, nearly 500 MAA members from across the state took part in Arbor Day of Service – and communities across Massachusetts received an estimated $250,000 in donated professional arboriculture services.

MAA’s Arbor Day of Service is happening on Friday, April 25, 2014 (Massachusetts Arbor Day). Is there a tree care project in your town or neighborhood? It can be large or small...at the town common, on a school playground, in a park or anywhere! Member companies of the Massachusetts Arborists Association are looking to team up on service projects and help make a difference in their communities.

If you are a municipality or organization looking for support on an Arbor Day project, MAA invites you to post your project idea at the Arbor Day of Service section of the MAA website, www.massarbor.org.

- Download the Project Registration Form
- Fax or mail your Project Registration to the MAA office by Friday April 18th.

MAA will follow up with a publicity toolkit and a form for registering your volunteers. Publicity signs and ADoS hardhat decals will be available for pickup at the March 25th and April 22nd MAA dinner meetings.

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2014 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

MTWFA

Professor Gordon S. King—Todd Beals
Dr. Malcolm A. McKenzie—Benjamin Green
Fred C. Burk—Thomas Hancox
Louis J. Casasanto—James Sacco
Seth H. Swift—Evan Lunetta

SETWAA

Southeastern Massachusetts Tree Wardens
and Arborists Assn.—Conor Laffey
V. Leslie Hebert—Nicolette Eicholtz
August Dube, Jr.—Tyler Ames

UMass Scholarship Recipients Express Their Appreciation...

“By receiving this scholarship I will be able to stay focused on my educational goals. Your generosity has greatly relieved financial stress. Thank you for believing in me.”

“My ultimate goal is to become a high school arboriculture teacher...I look forward to having the opportunity to share my passion and enthusiasm for trees and the green industry with future generations, as others have for me.”

“The consistent support I have received from the Southeastern Massachusetts Tree Wardens’ and Arborists’ Association has greatly encouraged me to focus on gaining the most experience during my time at the University of Massachusetts.”

SETWAA 2014 Scholarship Winners (left to right) Conor Laffey, Nicolette Eicholtz, SETWAA President Bruce Duffy, Tyler Ames.
MTWFA 2014 Scholarship Winners (left to right) Todd Beals, Ben Green, MTWFA President David Lefcourt, Evan Lunetta, Thomas Hancox, James Sacco.

“I would like to thank you for supporting me and my education. I am from out of state and am struggling to pay my tuition, but with the extra help that you have provided I feel as if some weight has been lifted off of my shoulders.”

“This funding definitely lessens some of the financial burden of my college tuition and expenses.”

“I consider myself extremely fortunate to be able to pursue a professional degree after spending twenty years in the workforce. The MTWFA has helped me to obtain this degree through financial assistance and I am extremely grateful. Thank you!”
Thank you to our 2014 Exhibitors!

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Kicking off the educational program, day one began with updates from state specialists at the Massachusetts Department of Conservation & Recreation. Mollie Freilicher, Julie Coop and Ken Gooch discussed topics ranging from community reforestation initiatives to urban forest heath activities, including the latest on Asian longhorned beetle (ALB) and emerald ash borer (EAB).

The University of Massachusetts faculty was well represented on the speaker roster. Two speakers were from the Department of Environmental Conservation: Dr. Bethany Bradley, presenting on the impact of climate change on urban forests; and Rick Harper, providing an update on the UMass Urban Forestry program. Dr. Nicholas Brazee, UMass Extension Pathologist and Plant Diagnostic Director, spoke on woody plant diseases of concern to local arborists. According to Dr. Brazee, 2013 was a banner year for disease because of excessive amounts of rainfall in the early portion of the growing season.

The keynote speaker for this year’s conference was Dr. Nina Bas- suk, Professor and Director of Cornell University’s Urban Horticulture Institute (UHI). Dr. Bassuk described methods for creating spaces for trees in the urban environment and shared tips for selecting hardy trees in the urban environment. She also highlighted some of her recent research that has received international acclaim, including her work on propagating oak (Quercus spp.) specimens selected for optimal growth performance in the harsh urban environment. Andrew Hillman from the Davey Resource Group discussed under-used – and unusual – trees that might be planted to diversify the tree populations of our notoriously homogeneous urban environment.

Dr. Richard Cowles from the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) gave the final presentation on Thursday with an outline of management strategies pertaining to emerald ash borer (EAB). Dr. Cowles encouraged community tree managers to consider carefully the “big picture” benefits of keeping their ash populations and managing for EAB, as opposed to wholesale removal of the ash (Fraxinus spp.) population as soon as an EAB infestation is discovered.

Congratulations to the MTWFA on the completion of yet another successful annual conference – 101 years and still growing strong!
The green industry in New England is a $4.7 billion-dollar industry (2009) and growing. In Massachusetts alone, it is a $2.6 billion dollar industry that has more than 5,000 firms with at least 68,000 people employed. These numbers do not include the utility tree trimming industry, nor do they include municipal employees hired by tree wardens in the Commonwealth’s 351 towns and cities.

Without question, one of the biggest challenges facing the green industry is the recruitment of professionally trained employees. High school and college horticulture, arboriculture, and landscape programs will be responsible for training many of them. Across the country, most of these educational programs are experiencing declining enrollments. Last March the Stockbridge School sent a team to the PLANET competition held at Auburn University. The major topic of conversation among faculty was how we, the universities, could increase enrollment. Several land grant universities have already reduced their horticultural programs because of the decline.

The Stockbridge School at the University of Massachusetts has been working the last several years on expanding our recruitment profile. Student recruitment has been an ongoing process primarily working through the Stockbridge School, the Stockbridge Advisory Board, and the arboricultural associations of New England.

Each year the Arboriculture and Community Forestry program is able to award $20,000-$30,000 in scholarships to our students. The Massachusetts Tree Wardens and Foresters Association has awarded some of these scholarships annually for more than fifty years. The Massachusetts Arborists Association has established four scholarships of $2,500 each for students in the Stockbridge Arboriculture & Community Forestry program. The MAA is also encouraging its members to do some recruiting on our behalf.

The president of the Tree Care Industry Association (TCIA), Mark Garvin, noted in 2005 that “People don’t suddenly decide to become tree care workers at 35 or 40. We have to attract people to the career path of arboriculture at 16, 18 and 21 years old. To get people
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Thank you to Daniel Connolly, current tree warden for the Town of Orleans, for submitting this piece of tree warden history.

...Town reports, from cover to cover, make good reading. Usually, right up front there'll be a list of appointed officers of the town – fence viewers, and surveyors of lumbers, janitors of the various town buildings, agent of the board of health, and other essential public servants. In the old days there were many more appointed officers whose jobs have long since been abolished because of the inexorable march of progress. The hogreeve, for instance, has been missing from the list these many years, and the tithe man disappeared when the affairs of church and township drifted apart. One office we do retain today is that of tree warden, but present day incumbents fail to show the true appreciation for the position which it warranted, and received, in times past.

Probably the most colorful tree warden Pamet ever had was Sol Hall, who lived in the fork of the Depot Road and Old Country Road, where Cleve Woodward (a noted Truro artist) now resides. Sol was a portly, red-faced man who wrested a living from the soil, like most of his Truro neighbors – kept a cow, a pig or two, went down the river for clams, and, come fall, speared frostfish and dabs at low tide in the sand bars; and on occasion he'd stretch an eel fyke or two in the river for shoestrings. Sol was a fine speaker, too, and at Town Meetin' he'd engage in heated debates over matters of policy, and pick at the appropriation articles if they looked the least bit extravagant. A man of such obvious ability was naturally in the public eye, and when the office of tree warden became vacant upon the death of the incumbent, Nehemiah "Jug" Rich, the selectmen immediately appointed Sol to the job.

Continued on page 19
interested in an outdoor career, it usually needs to happen when they’re young.” Garvin makes the point that tree care can be a fulfilling career, something young people may never consider if they are never exposed to it.

“We have to attract people and show them that there is a career path,” Garvin says. “This is not an industry where they’ll be making minimum wage for the rest of their lives, and not an industry where they can outsource your job to another country.”

All of these recruitment efforts are designed to show potential students that professional careers are available to them if they major in the green industry. In arboriculture we have unlimited job opportunities, great starting pay, and a career path that is unlimited. So, why is there the problem of attracting students into our profession?

A big part of the problem is image. This past year the Springfield Republican (Massachusetts) had a political cartoon in reference to immigration that read “Here’s your path to citizenship, follow it for the next 13 years and feel free to provide low-cost landscaping along the way.” What most people do not know is that person could become a millionaire by managing that landscaping company. But what is it that people see when they read that cartoon? And now, to add insult to injury, we have a weekly TV program called “Big Bad Wood” coming into the homes of our potential students and future employees. After viewing “Big Bad Wood,” why would any young person want to get involved with arboriculture – drunks, accidents, fights!

Picture the high school senior coming home after career day, all excited after talking with a green industry professional. I can hear the dinner conversation now. “You want to major in arboriculture, ARE YOU NUTS? I will not pay for that. You need a professional career.”

The International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) issued a press release that “Big Bad Wood” is not the reality for ISA or the professionals that they represent. As with most reality programming, much of the irresponsible and dangerous situations are clearly staged for no other reason than to create sensationalized television. It is truly unfortunate that National Geographic has taken this opportunity to glorify poorly trained workers, instead of showcasing the talents of qualified tree care

Continued on next page
professionals who possess the required knowledge, training, and expertise to perform tree work safely. The show fails to point out that accidents are avoidable when knowledgeable, trained arborists perform work using industry-recognized safety standards.

ISA, in conjunction with TCIA, has already sent a joint communication to National Geographic voicing their concerns against this program. The future of our industry is dependent upon attracting young adults into our schools and our companies; we need to promote green industry professionalism and not TV “reality.”

If you as employers need and want qualified employees who have been trained, completed an internship, and are graduating as a Massachusetts Certified Arborists, we need you to do some recruiting. New Englanders have a tendency to return to their hometowns after graduating, so identify that high school student who is interested in arboriculture, send him/her up to the UMass Stockbridge School, and we will return them as trained certified professionals. For more information go to our Stockbridge website: https://stockbridge.cns.umass.edu.

Actually, there wasn’t a great deal to do for the newly appointed tree warden. Telephone and electric wires had not yet graced the roadsides of Pamet, and if a rotten limb or two fell in the traveled way, why folks just mostly let it lay. However, Sol felt the importance of his position, and his name, in bold black print on the second page of the town book each year gave a certain weight to his speeches, come Town Meetin’ time. Then, one September, a real northeast linestorm roared up the backside, and after the wind had died away, Ike Freeman sent word over to Sol’s house that the big silver oak on Mill Pond Road was so weakened by the blow that it was about to topple into the highway. Sol quick saddled up his horse to the truck wagon and loaded on the tools of his office—a ladder, a stout coil of rope, a keen axe, and a sharp buck saw. In short order, the tree warden was at the locus of operations, there to meet with a sizeable crowd of onlookers, who found this a welcome loitering excuse pending the arrival of the noon train. With a brief diagnosis of the situation, Sol unlashed his ladder, propped it against the bole of the weakened silver oak, and seizing his buck saw in one big fist, he ponderously swung his frame up to the first limb of the tree. Once in the crotch of the branch, Sol commenced to saw away at the rotten wood, smartly, at first, then with less vigor as the blade began to bind in the wet grain. Anxious to impress the onlookers with this, his first sizeable assignment, Sol bore down even harder, and, in an effort to ease the binding, swung his weight outboard of the saw cut, and continued sawing...

The, without warning, the huge limb parted from the tree, and Sol was thrown ignominiously to the good Pamet soil. They brought Sol home in his own truck wagon, bruised and humiliated, and that very afternoon the Selectmen received the tree warden’s note of resignation. To this day, however, old Sol is known as the only man who ever sawed himself off a tree, and immortality of this sort, we think is a desirable thing.

—Town Father (Tom Kane), My Pamet

The Cape Codder…50 Years Ago—continued from page 17

is compiled by
Noel Beyle and Betsy Cochran
April 1  MTWFA Workshop (PDS)
Tree Planting in Urban Areas
Town Hall, Sturbridge, MA
www.masstreewardens.org
781-894-4759

April 1  Deadline—Intent to Apply for Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Grants
mollie.freilicher@state.ma.us
413-577-2966

April 5  Massachusetts Forest Alliance
2nd Annual Meeting—Sturbridge MA
www.massforestalliance.org
617-455-9918

April 8  The Invasive Plant Issue and Invasive Plant Identification
Doubletree Hotel, Milford, MA
www.umassgreeninfo.org
413-545-0895

April 16  Last Day to Order 2014 Seedlings
www.masstreewardens.org
781-894-4759

April 22  Developing an Invasive Plant Management Program
www.umassgreeninfo.org
413-535-0895

April 25  ARBOR DAY—MASSACHUSETTS

April 25  MAA Arbor Day of Service
www.massarbor.org

April 29-30  MTWFA Workshop PDS:
Electrical Hazard Awareness Program
NSTAR, Westwood
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781-894-4759

April 30  MassDOT Deadline for CDL Drivers Self-Certification
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Jennifer Pederson 978-263-1388

May 1  Application Deadline—Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Grants
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413-577-2966