Amherst Tree Warden Recognized as Tree Warden of the Year

Sturbridge, MA. The Massachusetts Tree Wardens and Foresters Association presented its 12th annual Seth H. Swift Tree Warden of the Year award to Alan Snow, Tree Warden for the Town of Amherst.

Past President Christopher Hayward presented the elegant silver tree award to Mr. Snow during the Association's 100th Conference, held this year at the Sturbridge Host Hotel and Conference Center on January 15-16, 2013.

Alan Snow was recognized by his peers for his commitment and dedication to the protection of public trees, and for his work with his community to maintain and improve tree growth and health.

Mr. Snow joined the Amherst Shade Tree Committee in 2007. He was employed at the time as Community Action Forester for the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, Urban and Community Forestry Program.

Mr. Snow’s vision for the Shade Tree Committee was to involve town citizens as stakeholders and train them to be advocates for the community’s trees. In that capacity, he organized ANTS – Amherst Neighborhood Tree Stewards – to use handheld devices to collect data about the trees in their neighborhoods. He expanded the Arbor Day Celebration with a Tree Committee table on the Amherst Common, where members distributed seedlings and disseminated information about the Committee’s activities. This public presence is now a part of the annual Amherst Sustainability Festival. Because of his efforts, public trees in Amherst are now more visible and an increasing part of the public conversation.

For several years, volunteering on his own time, Mr. Snow assisted the Town of Amherst Department of Public Works by performing assessments on street trees for health and structural soundness. In 2011, the Town of Amherst hired him to be its full-time Tree Warden, with the title of Trees and Grounds Director.

The MTWFA held a spring Arbor Day Celebration with a commemorative tree planting in honor of Alan’s award in Amherst on May 8th. More on this latest celebration appears on page 12.
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Vice President—Robert LeBlanc, Walpole
Treasurer—John Haines, East Bridgewater
Secretary—Paul Sellers, Falmouth
Past President—Chris Hayward, Watertown

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Western Mass.—David Hawkins, Pelham
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Dennis Ryan, University of Massachusetts
Eric Seaborn, Massachusetts DCR

NEWSLETTER EDITOR
Karen Doherty, MTWFA Executive Director

'Tis the Season...
See articles beginning on page 9

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MTWFA
MASSACHUSETTS TREE WARDENS’ AND FORESTERS’ ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 326
South Hadley, MA 01075
781-894-4759
mtwfa@comcast.net
www.masstreewardens.org
From the President

I hope everyone had a great Arbor Day, and a successful spring planting season!

First, I would like to give a belated “thank you” to all the folks who attended our 100th Anniversary Gala at UMass back in March. It was great to see tree wardens past and present, along with our tree industry friends of the association, all gathered together to celebrate this great achievement.

As mentioned at the annual conference, I would like the association to create more ways for fellow tree wardens and members of the association to interact with each other. Be on the lookout for more details on our new Tree Warden Exchange program (see article on this page). This is a great opportunity for tree wardens to visit with other communities and share ideas.

Our Professional Development Series is off and running for the year. The demand for EHAP required us to set up a second training; both sessions were held in May. Chainsaw Safety with Dan Tilton was finally held this month, after two cancellations caused by major weather events. We will be launching a new program this fall, a session on Proper Tree Planting. Stay tuned for details.

The board has recently added three more members to its ranks. We are pleased to welcome Craig Hillman as the Plymouth County delegate and Dennis Freeman, Town of Bedford, and Alex Sherman, City of Springfield as at-large delegates. We are always seeking to involve members in the association. If you have an interest in serving, let us know.

It is an exciting time for the association as we move into the next century. The emphasis on more trees in our communities is only going to make the tree warden’s job more valuable. The MTWFA has been and will continue to be the strong voice for trees in Massachusetts. We will continue to provide the resources our tree wardens and communities need to help preserve, protect and promote trees throughout the state.

David Lefcourt, MCA
MTWFA President 2013-2014

Welcome New Members

Kevin Benner, Stoneham
Stefan Masse, Town of Sandwich

Tree Warden Exchange

Have you ever wondered how other forestry departments work in other Massachusetts communities? Soon you can apply for the chance to learn the answers.

The MTWFA is launching its first Tree Warden Exchange program. The association has selected 3 communities (Boston, Wellesley, and Orleans) to serve as hosts for 3 visiting tree wardens. Visiting tree wardens will have the opportunity to shadow the host tree warden for 1-2 days. If possible, we hope the host tree wardens will have the chance to visit the visiting tree wardens community in return.

Tree wardens who participate in the exchange will be required to write an article about their experience, to be published in the Bark newsletter. If necessary, gas and lodging expenses may be reimbursed by the association. More detailed information and application will be sent out soon. We hope many tree wardens will apply!

Right: Dave Lefcourt welcomes the crowd in Amherst as he gestures to the horsechestnut planted to honor tree warden Alan Snow. More pictures page 12.
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Centennial Book Update

Prior to the April meeting in Walpole, board members created an assembly line to stuff and label centennial books for mailing (photo left). Two pick-up truck loads to the post office that morning, together with some personal deliveries by board members, resulted in the distribution of centennial books to the main public library in every town in Massachusetts and to several schools and colleges. In addition, each MTWFA member has received or will receive a copy when 2013 dues are paid. To date almost 800 books have been distributed. Additional copies are available for $40 and can be ordered by calling the office at 781-894-4759.
Town Forests: Past and Present
Celebrating 100 Years of Town Forests
A conference for municipalities, land trusts, natural resource professionals, and community groups

Fitchburg, Massachusetts
Saturday, September 28, 2013
8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Holiday Inn, 150 Royal Plaza Drive
Fitchburg, MA 01420

Please join us in Fitchburg—home of the first town forest in Massachusetts

Hosted by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation
With generous support from The Massachusetts Forest Alliance and Bay State Forestry Service and the USDA Forest Service

- Engaging speakers will present a historical perspective on town forests and provide examples of successful town forest projects across New England.
- An afternoon field tour of the City of Fitchburg’s forestland will stimulate participants in discussion and demonstrate methods and results of conservative and scientific management of forest lands.
- Lunch and light refreshments throughout the day will be provided and will offer a chance to network with others working with town forests.

For additional information contact: Michael.Downey@state.ma.us
On June 5th, the DCR Urban and Community Forestry Program celebrated the Massachusetts communities who earned the 2013 Tree City USA designation. The program, luncheon, and awards ceremony took place at the Brookline campus of Wheelock College. The Town of Brookline hosted the annual event, with generous sponsorship from NSTAR. Following the program, Brookline tree warden Tom Brady led attendees across the street for an awe-inspiring walk on the Longwood Mall to view historic European beech trees, many of them planted over one hundred years ago. (Photo on p.17) The group then participated in the planting of a large tree to replace one that had recently succumbed to bleeding canker.

Tree City USA awards recognize communities that meet certain baseline requirements for urban and community forestry programs. In order to receive designation as an official Tree City USA, municipalities must meet four criteria: they must establish a department devoted to tree care, spend at least $2 per capita per year on urban forestry, enforce laws protecting public trees, and host an Arbor Day celebration.

“DCR is proud of the cities and towns across the Commonwealth that have devoted so many resources to planting and caring for their trees,” said DCR Commissioner Ed Lambert, who presented the awards. “It is important to continue this work and honor arborists statewide following the damage done to trees during the unusual weather events of the past two years.” The awards are sponsored by the National Arbor Day foundation to honor communities committed to urban forestry.

Massachusetts has the largest number of participating Tree City USA communities in New England. A program of the National Arbor Day Foundation, Tree City USA is administered in each state by designated environmental agencies. Massachusetts has participated in the Tree City USA Program for the past 30 years.

In addition to the community awards, DCR also recognized two other entities. UMass Lowell received a Tree Campus USA award for its dedication to the care and protection of campus trees. National Grid received the Tree Line USA award for meeting standards in quality tree care, ongoing worker training, and tree-planting and educational programs.

Growth Awards were presented to Amherst, Cambridge, Fall River, Greenfield, Medford, Springfield, and Worcester. Recipients of the annual Tree City Award are listed below, with benchmark communities highlighted in bold type. If your community is not on the list, visit http://www.mass.gov/dcr/stewardship/forestry/urban/ for more information on how you can join the ranks next year. Congratulations to all!


Adapted from DCR Press Release
Contact : S.J. Port(617) 626-1453 sj.port@state.ma.us
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION
Governor Deval L. Patrick
EEA Secretary Richard K. Sullivan Jr.
DCR Commissioner Edward M. Lambert, Jr.
Non-profit challenges electronic vs. paper misconceptions

There are two sides to every story. This is precisely the point the aptly named non-profit organization Two Sides set out to make when it challenged the Paperless2013 campaign. The initiative, supported by big names like Google and Fujitsu, encouraged consumers to make the switch from paper to electronic communication this year. Two Sides provided the following, along with other, fact-based arguments in defense of paper.

- Data centers used to power electronic communications can waste up to 90 percent of the electricity they consume and are regularly found in violation of clean air regulations; Google’s data centers consume nearly 300 million watts.
- The volume of trees grown on United States forestland has increased 49 percent over the last 50 years.

When referenced more than once, documents printed on paper are less likely to impact the environment than repeatedly accessing them electronically.

The organization has identified 47 “leading” companies that have encouraged customers to use electronic services through the use of unfounded environmental claims.

Invasive emerald ash borer detected in New Hampshire

Officials from the New Hampshire Department of Resources and Economic Development (DRED) and Department of Agriculture, Markets & Food (DAMF) have confirmed that the emerald ash borer (EAB), an invasive beetle that attacks and kills ash trees, is in New Hampshire. A suspect tree was spotted in Concord on March 28. Insect specimens from the tree were collected and sent to scientists at the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal Plant Health Inspection Service, Plant Protection and Quarantine (USDA APHIS PPQ), who have confirmed the insect’s identity.

Brad Simpkins, state forester with the N.H. Division of Forests and Lands, said state agencies have implemented the action plan that has been in place in anticipation of the insect’s arrival. The first step will be to determine how widespread its presence is. Simpkins says Concord residents should be prepared to see Division of Forests and Lands personnel surveying ash trees in the area in the days and weeks to come. “This work will be critical to developing a management program for this unwelcome pest,” Simpkins said. “Residents’ cooperation would be greatly appreciated.”

Urban warming drives pest abundance on street trees

New research conducted by North Carolina State University provides the first evidence that heat can be a key driver of pest outbreaks on urban trees. Since urban warming is similar in magnitude to global warming predicted in the next 50 years, pest abundance on city trees may foreshadow widespread outbreaks as natural forests also grow warmer.

Cities profoundly alter biological communities, favoring some species over others, though the mechanisms that govern these changes are largely unknown. Herbivorous arthropod pests are often more abundant in urban than in rural areas, and urban outbreaks have been attributed to reduced control by predators and parasitoids and to increased susceptibility of stressed urban plants.
Manhattan and Staten Island, N.Y. declared free of the Asian longhorned beetle

Washington, May 14, 2013—The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) today announced that the New York City boroughs of Manhattan and Staten Island are free from the invasive Asian longhorned beetle (ALB). USDA remains focused on carrying out its mission, despite a time of significant budget uncertainty.

“The mission to eradicate this destructive beetle, combined with various levels of cooperation, has resulted in success,” states Rebecca Bech, APHIS Plant Protection and Quarantine Deputy Administrator. “However, while the eradications of these areas are a victory for APHIS, our partners and the State of New York, we still need residents to stay vigilant and inspect their trees regularly for signs of infestation.”

The eradication of ALB in Manhattan and Staten Island reduces the regulated areas of New York from 135 to 109 square miles. ALB quarantines remain in effect for the New York City boroughs of Brooklyn and Queens, as well as an area in central Long Island.

APHIS and its cooperators undertake eradication by imposing quarantines, conducting regulatory inspections, surveying host trees by using both ground and aerial survey methods, removing infested and high-risk host trees, and chemically treating host trees – all are part of an area-wide integrated eradication strategy.

The beetle was discovered in Boston in July 2010. Within Norfolk and Suffolk Counties, ten square miles are regulated to control the pest, which includes the neighborhoods of Jamaica Plain, Roslindale, Roxbury, West Roxbury, and a portion of the town of Brookline.

To date, USDA and its partners have removed six infested trees from one property and have conducted multiple inspection surveys of more than 90,000 host trees. By the end of this month, the eradication program will complete its third and final cycle of chemical treatment applications on 2,000 host trees. The program began using chemical treatment applications in June 2011 and conducted them again in June 2012.

APHIS and its cooperators undertake eradication by imposing quarantines, conducting regulatory inspections, surveying host trees by using both ground and aerial visual survey methods, removing infested and high-risk host trees, and chemically treating host trees – all are part of an area-wide integrated eradication strategy.

See “Boston eradication” next page

See “Manhattan eradication” next page
New Jersey declares itself free from Asian longhorned beetle

Thursday, March 14, 2013

"After more than a decade, we can declare New Jersey is free of this invasive pest," said New Jersey Secretary of Agriculture Douglas Fisher. "We could not have accomplished this eradication without this coalition of federal, state, and local agencies, and of course, the citizens of New Jersey, whose vigilance was critical in this fight."

The beetle was first discovered in Jersey City in October 2002. State and federal agriculture officials then found trees infested with the beetle in other parts of the state. Eradication efforts involved the removal of 21,981 trees in Union, Middlesex, and Hudson counties. The infested trees were taken to Covanta resource recovery facility where they were converted to electrical energy to power some 30,000 homes and businesses. Nearly a third of those trees have been replanted.

"While this eradication is a victory for forest health, many other pests still actively threaten New Jersey’s trees," said State Forester Lynn Fleming. "We need every resident to keep vigilant, not move firewood and inspect their trees regularly for signs of infestation."

Boston eradication—cont. from previous page

The Boston eradication program will host a public meeting for community members to learn more and speak with managers of the eradication effort. The public meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 18 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at the Franklin Park Clubhouse, located at 1 Circuit Drive, Dorchester, MA 02121. To get specific information about eradication program activities, community members may also call the eradication program office directly at (508) 852-8090.

Members of the public are encouraged to inspect their trees for signs of damage caused by the insect and report any suspicious findings. The sooner an infestation is reported, the sooner efforts can be made to quickly contain and isolate an area from future destruction. People are encouraged to be mindful of moving firewood, as moving ALB-infested firewood can unintentionally spread the pest. For more information, please visit http://www.aphis.usda.gov or www.asianlonghornedbeetle.com.

APHIS’ eradication partners in Massachusetts include USDA’s U.S. Forest Service, the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources, the City of Worcester, the Towns of Holden, West Boylston, Boylston, Shrewsbury and Auburn, the City of Boston, and the Town of Brookline.

‘Tis the Season: ALB Emergence

Keep an eye out for Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB) this summer. Expectations are that it will be a long time before there will be a press release declaring Worcester eradication. ALB is expected to start emerging in late June to early July and insects may continue to emerge into early fall.

White-spotted pine sawyer has already emerged, and reports of it and other look-alikes are flooding in. The Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources has a number of pictures and flyers on ALB and lookalikes, along with the important information on how to report an ALB suspect, at http://massnrc.org/pests/alb/.

When in doubt, report it!
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MTWFA Celebrates Arbor Day

The MTWFA board and invited guests gathered in Amherst on May 8 to celebrate two Amherst tree wardens: the 2013 Tree Warden of the Year, Alan Snow, and MTWFA founder George E. Stone. Dr. Stone served as the tree warden for Amherst during most of his tenure at the Massachusetts Agricultural College (now UMass) and often used the town’s trees as his teaching laboratory.

Alan Snow selected a horsechestnut, *Aesculus hippocastanum*, for his commemorative gift tree from the association. The MTWFA board selected a Princeton elm, *Ulmus Americana* ‘Princeton’, for the planting honoring Dr. Stone, because the elm is both the Massachusetts state tree and the centerpiece of our logo. Bigelow Nurseries generously donated the elm as a centennial gift to the association. Both trees were planted in McKendrick Park, near the Amherst Town Hall, and will eventually be marked with plaques.

Eric Seaborn, DCR Urban & Community Forestry Coordinator (*photo inset, upper right*) highlighted a few of Alan’s accomplishments during his volunteer and paid tenure as Amherst’s newest tree warden:

- Oversight of ongoing street tree inventory, to plan for maintenance and new plantings
- Continued collaboration with the volunteer Shade Tree Committee
- Implementation of a chainsaw safety class for interested citizens
- Creation of a logical flow for tree work orders, with assistance from the town’s IT Department
- Successful budget request of $612,000 for a 3-year expansion of the tree program, to include the purchase and planting of 2,000 trees
- Collaboration with the UMass Stockbridge School of Agriculture to engage two interns per year for assistance with the planting efforts
- Maintenance of the Town of Amherst’s designation as a Tree City USA
- Application and award of two Tree City USA Growth Awards for the Town
The Tree Warden of the Year award was created in 2002 to honor longtime West Springfield Tree Warden Seth H. Swift, an active member of the Association.

Award nominations are due by December 1st and may be submitted by anyone—residents, government officials, fellow tree wardens and arborists. Please call the MTWFA office at 781-894-4759 to request a nomination form!

Top photo: Alan Snow, MTWFA board, and guests stand proudly behind the Princeton elm planted to honor Dr. George E. Stone and the 100th anniversary of the association’s founding. The tree was a centennial gift to the association from Bigelow Nurseries.

Lower photo: The University of Massachusetts urban and community forestry and arboriculture programs were fully represented at the Amherst ceremony. Left to right: Dr. Brian Kane, Dr. Dennis Ryan, Prof. Rick Harper, and Dr. David Bloniarz, standing near the Princeton elm planted to honor Dr. Stone. Amherst photos courtesy of Norma Ryan
Urban Forestry

The Friends of Hawaii’s Urban Forest applied for and was awarded a Forest Service National Urban and Community Forest Advisory Council (NUCFAC) Grant to develop an Urban Forestry Emergency Operations Planning Guide for Storm Response. This has been completed and is available at the link below.

This project was driven by a growing awareness of the devastation that happens to the urban forest after a natural disaster such as a hurricane, ice storm, or wind event. The question posed was how can the urban forestry industry be better equipped to respond to natural catastrophes? The solution was to develop an urban forestry emergency operations planning guide for storm response.

This guide contains the results of the survey, the interviews, and the findings, conclusions, and recommendations.

Why Plan for Storm Response?

We know that taking action to reduce damages goes a long way toward minimizing the impacts of natural disasters on the urban forest. But that is only part of the process. The other part is to develop a plan that you can use based directly on feedback from the industry itself.

Motivate by Example

Storm response measures taken by individuals, businesses, contractors, emergency managers, utilities, and governments give others ideas of what they can do to plan, prepare, and lead when needed.

Instill Public Confidence

When things go wrong, people expect government to be there. When trees fall and electrical service is interrupted, the community expects action. When arborists are proactive in helping to restore power, it builds public confidence in government.

Download the guide at: http://www.smarttreespacific.org/urban-forestry-emergency-operations-planning-guide/

Retrieved from
Massachusetts DCR Citizen Forester
June 2013

Pruning to Reduce the Risk of Tree Failure

Brian Kane, Tree Care Industry Magazine
May 2013, p42-44.

If you missed Brian Kane’s presentation at TCI Expo 2012 or at the UMass Community Tree Conference this past March, this article will catch you up on the latest on pruning and tree failure and covers much of what Kane presented on pruning. In the article, he discusses types of pruning, how different pruning treatments affect the physics of a tree, and the impact of pruning on the likelihood of failure. Read Kane’s article at the Tree Care Industry Association Website (click May 2013 and navigate to pages 42-44).

Retrieved from
Massachusetts DCR Citizen Forester
June 2013

U.S. Forest Service Site Visits

Senior officials from the U.S. Forest Service, Northeastern Area State & Private Forestry traveled to Springfield on June 18th as part of a multi-state tour of current Forest Service projects and initiatives. The group viewed some of the 2011 tornado damage and learned about how the Urban Forest Strike team contributed to the recovery. Following the one-hour visit, officials continued on to Brimfield and then to Worcester to view Asian longhorned beetle effects, treatments and replantings.

The goal of Urban Forest Strike Team (UFST) is to provide assistance in the process of planning, response, recovery and mitigation of the urban forest after destructive weather events. The USFS Southern Region originated the idea and has assisted the Northeastern Area in implementing the initiative over a broader geographic area. Since 2009, the Forest Service has partnered with the MTWFA to help expand the UFST initiative to the seventeen-state Northeastern Area. Under the cooperative agreement with MTWFA, federal monies have funded sessions to train NA team task specialists and leaders, as well as deployments to assist impacted communities within Massachusetts and beyond.
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Paul Sellers Rides Again

Paul Sellers, Senior Arborist with NSTAR and MTWFA board member, will be riding the Tour des Trees again this summer to raise funds for arboriculture research.

The 2013 STIHL Tour des Trees promises an international adventure for cyclists. Tracing a 585-mile route around Lake Ontario, the 2013 Tour will showcase upstate New York and Ontario’s beautiful scenery, historic trees, urban centers and favorite destinations.

Tree plantings and community outreach are hallmarks of every Tour, including educational programs for young audiences along the way. The TREE Fund expects to add at least a dozen new entries to the growing urban forest planted by Tour riders over the years.

The Tour concludes August 3 at Ontario’s Toronto Island, site of ISA’s International Tree Climbing Competition and Arbor Fair.

Since 1992, the Tour des Trees has generated more than $5.6 million and has funded a variety of research projects and educational programs for budding tree care professionals.

If you would like to support the cause with a donation to Paul and any other team riders, a complete list of riders and their donation pages is available at www.stihltourdestrees.org.
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### MTWFA Centennial

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<td>July 25</td>
<td>MNLA / MFGA Great Ideas Summer Conference and Trade Show</td>
<td>Tower Hill Botanic Garden, Boylston</td>
<td><a href="http://www.umassgreeninfo.org">www.umassgreeninfo.org</a> 413-545-0895</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 3-7</td>
<td>ISA International Conference</td>
<td>Toronto, Canada</td>
<td><a href="http://www.isa-arbor.com">www.isa-arbor.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>September 19</td>
<td>Southeastern Tree Wardens Assn. 50th Annual Field Day and Trade Show</td>
<td>Upland Sportsman’s Club, Plympton</td>
<td><a href="mailto:schillman@msn.com">schillman@msn.com</a> 508-746-4407</td>
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<td>September 28</td>
<td>Town Forests: Past and Present Celebrating 100 Years of Town Forests</td>
<td>Holiday Inn, Fitchburg</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Michael.Downey@state.ma.us">Michael.Downey@state.ma.us</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 25-26</td>
<td>Massachusetts DCR Tree Stewards Training</td>
<td>Harvard Forest, Petersham</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Mollie.Freilicher@state.ma.us">Mollie.Freilicher@state.ma.us</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 3-5</td>
<td>New England Chapter ISA Annual Conference</td>
<td>Warwick, RI</td>
<td><a href="http://www.newenglandisa.org">www.newenglandisa.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 6-7</td>
<td>Partners in Community Forestry Conference</td>
<td>Pittsburgh, PA</td>
<td><a href="http://www.arborday.org">www.arborday.org</a></td>
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