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WINTER CONFERENCE ISSUE

2015 Annual Conference
January 13-14



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Featuring

Dr. John Ball,



Professor, South Dakota State University

"Tree Worker: A Job to Live For"

Dr. Kevin T. Smith



Plant Physiologist USDA Forest Service

"Wood Decay, Transformation and Redemption"

AND MUCH MORE—see inside

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Spring-Summer-Fall-Winter



From the President



I can hardly believe my term as president is coming to an end. It has been an exciting two years that began with the memorable celebrations of our association's 2013 centennial. I have had the pleasure of meeting and working with so many great people.

Interest in our PDS educational workshops has been especially high this year. Next year's program will include repeat sessions of some perennially popular ones – Proper Tree Planting, EHAP, and Chainsaw Safety – and we hope to launch one or two new programs that will help tree wardens and others be more knowledgeable about municipal tree care.

Although we made head way with the State House with our proposed changes to Chapter 87, we were not successful in getting the changes passed this legislative session. We will try again, and with your help, hopefully we can get the proposed changes in place next year. As I have always mentioned, we are continually looking for folks to get involved. If you would like to get involved or have ideas to help improve the association, please let us know.

The 102nd Annual Conference is just around the corner. Mark your calendars, send in your conference registrations, and, if you plan to stay overnight, call the hotel to make your room reservations. We look forward to seeing you at the Host Hotel in Sturbridge on January 13-14, 2015!

As I conclude my term, I am pleased to report that our association is in good hands with incoming president Bob LeBlanc. It has been my honor and pleasure to serve the association as president. Thank you for the opportunity—it's been a great ride!

David Lefcourt, MCA

President
2013-2014



TCI Magazine Feature Articles

The Tree Care Industry Association (TCIA) reprinted with permission several excerpts from the MTWFA 2013 Centennial book. The excerpts appeared in the Northeast Regional supplement to the August issue of *TCI Magazine*, in an article titled "Guardians of the Trees."

TCIA again featured Massachusetts in a great article about Professor Gordon King in the November 2014 issue, beginning on page 70.

You can find these and other articles at <http://tcia.org/publications/tci-magazine/archives>.

Welcome New Members

Geoffrey McAlmond—Town of West Springfield, MA

Larry Siegel—Town of Royalston, MA

Ron Yapple—Race Mt. Tree Services, Sheffield, MA

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Potential New Host for Emerald Ash Borer Studied and Confirmed

USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

Bulletin 10/22/2014 <http://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDAAPHIS/bulletins/d79089>

On October 14, 2014, the USDA Systematic Entomology Laboratory (SEL) at the Smithsonian confirmed the partial adult and larval specimens recovered from a white fringetree (*Chionanthus virginicus*) as emerald ash borer (EAB) (*Agrilus planipennis* Fairmaire). EAB larvae and a partial adult specimen were collected from four white fringetrees up to 20 miles distant from one another in the Dayton, OH area. Also present in the infested material were D-shaped exit holes and fully developed galleries identical to those caused by EAB.

Based on these findings, APHIS PPQ is conducting studies to determine the full extent to which EAB is able to complete its lifecycle and utilize white fringetree as a host, which will take several months. APHIS is also revisiting previous research on whether other members of the Olive family can serve as hosts to EAB and whether this is a local phenomenon or occurring across the EAB infested part of white fringetree's range.

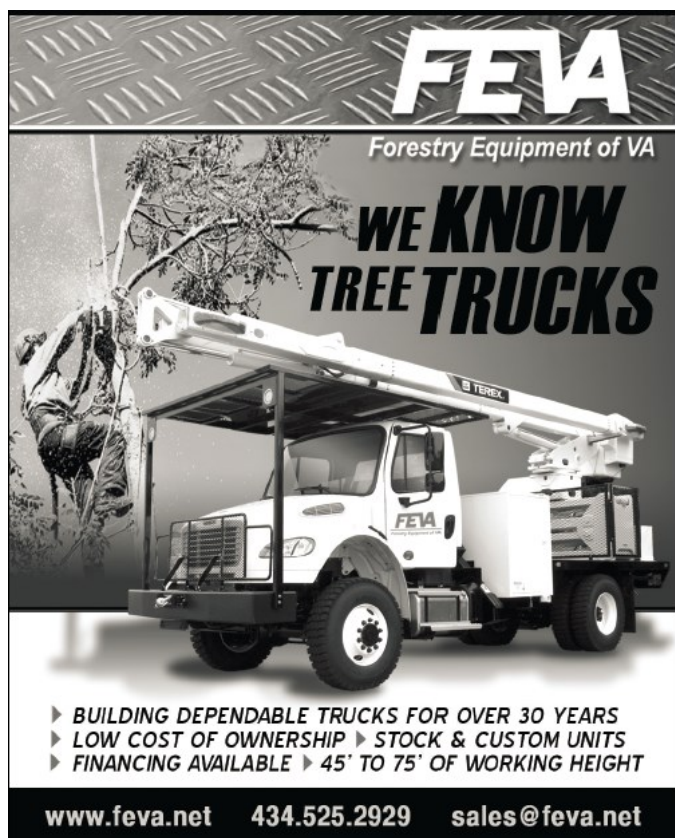
APHIS will engage national, state, and industry partners as part of the regulatory decision making process should APHIS officially declare white fringetree as an EAB host and the plant and its parts as regulated articles under the EAB regulations and quarantine. Agency experts and leaders will be discussing this issue to determine the implications of this new information to the regulatory and detection aspects of the EAB program.

White fringetree is in the olive family, as is the genus *Fraxinus* (ash). While other members of the olive family, including lilac and privet, were tested for host suitability, those species were not considered suitable hosts for EAB. Further study and evaluation of white fringetree's suitability as a host will be undertaken. White fringetree is native to the United States and grows wild from New Jersey south to Florida and west to Oklahoma and Texas. It is a popular ornamental tree that has been planted in other parts of the country.

Scott Pfister, Ph.D.

Pest Management Division Director

USDA, APHIS, PPQ, Plant Health Programs



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EMERALD ASH BORER STATE UPDATES

→ The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) announced a state-wide Massachusetts quarantine to help slow the spread of the invasive Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). The quarantine took effect Monday, November 17, 2014. The quarantine order means that certain products will be prohibited from moving outside the regulated area, including all hardwood firewood (any piece of wood smaller than 48 inches), all ash nursery stock and any ash lumber that has not been treated. Proper wood treatments include the removal of bark and half an inch of wood, dry kiln sterilization, fumigation and heat treatments.

→ Connecticut will also expand its EAB quarantine to cover all of its eight counties, effective December 5, 2014. Deputy State Entomologist Victoria Smith told New England Public Radio, "The reason why we are expanding the quarantine is simply because we've found that eradication of this insect is not possible." NEPR said, "It looks like the Emerald Ash Borer has won." *Captured online from <http://wnpr.org/post/changes-are-coming-connecticuts-emerald-ash-borer-quarantine>* 📄

Free Planting Details and Specifications

Dr. Ed Gilman from University of Florida, Jim Urban, FASLA, and Brian Kempf and Tyson Carroll of the Urban Tree Foundation have developed a modern, up-to-date, and peer reviewed set of details and specifications in AutoCAD, PDF, and Microsoft Word formats for the green industry. These are designed specifically for landscape architects, engineers, architects, contractors, urban foresters, arborists, municipalities, and state agencies.

All these files are open source, free, and can be edited by the user. You and your colleagues are free to use them in projects without charge and without credit to the Urban Tree Foundation or any of the project team members. Although the group encourages modification to fit your specific site and project needs, make your changes only after carefully considering all the pertinent variables at the planting site.

Funding for this project was provided by the California Department of Forestry (CDF), Urban Forestry Program.

The specification documents are available for download on the ISA website at <http://www.isa-arbor.com/education/onlineResources/cadplanningspecifications.aspx> 📄

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Reviving the Massachusetts Champion Trees List

*"Big trees fascinate people and catch their attention. At first sight, they are often amazed at their size and beauty. They help spur the imagination of how the tree got there, what it has witnessed, and why did this particular tree live so long. Big trees are a minority in any forest and they grace our landscape with nobility." ***

In the seventy-four years since American Forests instituted the National Big Tree Program in 1940, the program has sought to preserve and promote these living monarchs, and to educate people about the key role that these remarkable trees play in sustaining a healthy environment. The fall 2014 edition American Forests Champion Trees national register has 798 national champions. The entire list is available for download as a PDF at <http://www.americanforests.org/bigtrees/bigtrees-search/>

An important outgrowth of the American Forests program has been the creation of State Champion Tree lists. Most states now maintain records of their own champion trees and publish the list on a public website.

Massachusetts does not have a current, up-to-date state list. There was once an extensive list of the state's biggest known trees. It was on paper, before the internet, and its existence and maintenance were due in large part to the efforts of the late Francis Holmes, a professor at UMass Amherst.

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) is excited and committed to reviving and updating the State Champion Tree list. DCR will publish and maintain the list on the DCR website, and the website will feature an electronic form for citizens to nominate big trees that have the potential to be champions.

The Massachusetts Tree Wardens and Foresters Association (MTWFA) and the Massachusetts Arborists Association (MAA) are collaborating with DCR to help with the work to reactivate the State Champion Tree list. Volunteers from both organizations are currently working with DCR to locate some of the trees on the outdated paper list, in order to discover current size and condition, or if those old trees are even still standing. Using a select number of the still-alive trees as a starting


point, DCR will activate the State Champion Trees website, and citizens will be able to submit nominations to grow the new list from there. An official team of trained measurers will follow up to investigate and assess each nomination to see if it meets the American Forests requirements for champion tree status.

An exciting initiative will help promote the revival of a State Champion Trees list for Massachusetts. MAA's 2015 Arbor Day of Service (ADoS) will encourage submission of work projects centered on significant trees that have historic, cultural or aesthetic value. The hope is not only to preserve such trees but also to identify some that may qualify for the State Champion list. Even if ADoS trees do not officially "measure up" as champion trees, identifying and publicizing them will raise industry and public awareness of the value in recognizing both the beauty and the critical ecosystem services provided by our biggest and oldest trees. And, such trees make great photo opportunities!

How can you help? Be on the lookout for significant trees in your communities, and consider whether to propose one or more of them as the focus for an Arbor Day of Service work project with an MAA commercial member company. Nominate new trees when the online form goes up on the DCR web page, and publicize it to residents in your community. Stay tuned for when Julie Cop, Massachusetts Urban & Community Forestry Coordinator, fills in more details during the State DCR Update at our annual conference in January.

Whether or not you find an actual big tree champion, looking for the biggest trees in your neighborhoods can be lots of fun, a great learning experience, and a spur to citizen involvement in caring for community trees.

***Quotation from http://www.anr.state.vt.us/fpr/urban/vt_big_trees.cfm*

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2015 Conference Schedule

TUESDAY, JANUARY 13

- 7:45-8:30 am** Registration and Coffee
- 8:30-8:45 am** Opening Session—Annual Meeting
- 8:45-9:15 am** State Update: Urban Forestry
Julie Coop, Massachusetts DCR Urban & Community Forestry Coordinator speaking on Urban Challenge Grants, Greening the Gateway Cities Tree Planting Program, the Champion Tree Program and more.
- 9:15-10:15 am** Forest Health in the Commonwealth
Ken Gooch, DCR Forest Health Supervisor, will present the latest on insects and diseases impacting the condition of Massachusetts trees and forests. (CEU)
- 10:15-11:00 am** Break with Exhibitors
- 11:00-11:50 am** Energy Benefits of Urban Trees
Ben Weil, Ph.D., UMass Building and Construction Technology Program, will discuss the impact of urban trees on microclimate, energy use, and urban heat islands. He will present theory and methodology for quantifying the impacts in terms of energy savings.
- 12:00-1:15 pm** Lunch and Annual Meeting conclusion
- 1:30-2:30 pm** Wood Decay, Transformation, and Redemption
Kevin T. Smith, Ph.D., USDA Forest Service. Trees and forests are amazingly successful yet vulnerable to decay by a relatively small handful of fungi. Dr. Smith will explore the decay process itself and the context of wood decay, both as a source of risk and a part of the essential living fabric supporting the life of trees and our society.
- 2:30-2:45 pm** Break with Exhibitors
- 2:45-4:15 pm** KEYNOTE
Tree Worker: A Job to Live For
John Ball, Ph.D. Tree work is among the highest risk professions in the United States, with a fatality rate many times higher than the all-industry average—but it does not have to be that way. What happens before and after an incident is as important to the outcome as the incident itself. Dr. Ball will use the Haddon Matrix to illustrate what we can do before and after an accident, either to keep the event from happening or to reduce its severity.
- 4:15-4:30 pm** Wrap-up—Door Prizes
- 4:30-6:00 pm** Reception in Exhibit Hall Join us for a social get-together, graciously supported by our exhibitors.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14

- 8:30-9:00 am** Registration and Coffee
- 9:00-9:45 am** Work Zone Safety
Western Mass Coalition for Occupational Safety and Health (Western Mass COSH) Roadway construction and maintenance zones can create dangerous conditions for workers and motorists alike. This presentation will focus awareness on how to help keep work zones safe for all.
- 9:45-10:30 am** UMass Urban Forestry Program: Highlights and Headlines from 2014
Rick W. Harper, UMass Department of Environmental Conservation. From in-person community visitations, to free webcasts offering continuing education credit, to new and innovative research, this session will outline some of the program's activities in 2014.
- 10:30-11:00 am** Break with Exhibitors
- 11:00-12 noon** Restoring the American Chestnut
Kendra Gurney, The American Chestnut Foundation (TACF). The American chestnut was once a species of great ecologic and economic importance—until the accidental importation of chestnut blight, a fungal pathogen that functionally removed the American chestnut from eastern forests. This talk will discuss the species, the work of TACF to breed a population of blight-resistant chestnuts, and local restoration efforts.
- 12:00-1:00pm** Lunch
- 1:10-2:00 pm** Deer Ticks: One Bite Can Change Your Life
Larry Dapsis, Entomologist, Cape Cod Cooperative Extension. In addition to Lyme disease, deer ticks carry the pathogens that cause babesiosis and anaplasmosis, both of which are on the increase and can be quite serious. This program will cover the basic life cycle and ecology of deer ticks and introduce a three-point protection plan.
- 2:10-3:00 pm** Pests and Pathogens of 2014
Nicholas Brazee, Ph.D., Plant Pathologist, UMass Extension will review the year's most important landscape and forest plant diseases and insect pests, and summarize potential management strategies.
- 3:00 pm** Door Prizes and Closing

The conference educational program is funded by a grant from the U.S. Forest Service.



2015 Conference Registration and Membership Form

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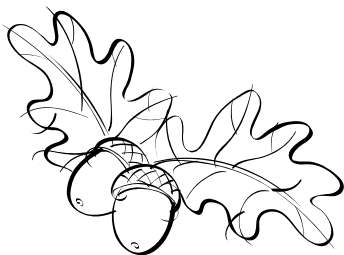
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Asian Longhorned Beetle Not Crushed in NY, After All

By Paul Glader NEW YORK TIMES SYNDICATE

Article published Sep 30, 2014. Retrieved 10/1/14 from <http://www.telegram.com/article/20140930/NEWS/309309798>

It is a menace from Asia that over the past two decades has ravaged tens of thousands of trees in several states. But after being wiped out in New Jersey, it seemed to be in retreat in New York thanks to a warlike response from federal and state governments. It was gone from Staten Island and Manhattan, and the battle against it was tilting toward eradication in Queens, in Brooklyn and on Long Island.

That was until Charlie Crimi spotted one in his Long Island backyard — an Asian longhorned beetle.

"I didn't really know what it was," Crimi said of the large, white polka-dot, shiny black bug with long, wavy antennas that he saw in the summer of 2013. But after some Internet research, Crimi, 54, realized he had seen the notorious insect equivalent of Jesse James. He emailed a photo of the bug to a state forestry worker and received confirmation that what he had seen was, in fact, an Asian longhorned beetle.

"We were very disappointed," said Joe Morrissey, a spokesman for the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets. "It was a setback after many years of gains."

Indeed, Crimi's discovery alerted officials that the beetle had migrated to a new part of Long Island and had spread to hundreds of trees. Instead of declaring the bug "eradicated" as planned, they doubled to 50 square miles the amount of land labeled quarantined where trees would have to be inspected.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture and the state's Agriculture Department have boosted staffing to 119 people to track, kill and eradicate the beetle from its remaining strongholds in Brooklyn, in Queens and on Long Island.

This fall, workers will start removing 4,500 trees along the Southern State Parkway in western Suffolk County to prevent further spread of the beetle. Removing the trees the beetle likes to attack — including maple, willow and birch — eliminates the insect's habitat.

Global trade has made it easier for invasive species to cross borders. A decade ago, researchers at Cornell University determined that invasive species such as

the longhorned beetle, the lionfish and the Asian carp cost the U.S. more than \$137 billion per year, a figure that is undoubtedly higher today.

Scientists believe Asian longhorned beetles arrived in the 1980s as stowaways on ships from China before federal regulations required that solid wood packing material be fumigated and heat-treated. The beetle may have arrived on Long Island in a shipment of sewer pipe equipment.

The adult beetles lay eggs (sometimes dozens) just under the bark of a tree. The larvae grow inside the tree all winter, turning the inside of the tree into a soggy mush and leaving its vascular system to rot as it burrows out, making exit holes that leave the tree looking as if it were machine-gunned.

In the past two decades, the beetles have shown up in parts of Illinois, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York

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and Ohio. They have killed about 80,000 trees in the United States, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and could kill millions if left unchecked. That is bad news for bird habitats, parks, gardeners, sawmills and industries such as maple syrup producers in the Northeast.

Since 1997, the federal government has spent over \$236 million to combat the beetle in New York alone. New York state has spent millions as well.

"Our primary focus is preventing the spread of this invasive species to the upstate region," Morrissey said. "If it spreads to the forested areas in New York, eradication of this beetle would become much more difficult."

One promising facet of the fight is that adults are not good fliers and tend to stay in a confined area during their yearlong life. And because the larvae take an entire winter to incubate inside a tree trunk, the reproductive progress of the bug can be halted by removing an infested tree.

Joseph Gittleman, 64, leads the New York eradication program from an unmarked office in a strip mall in Ami-

Continued on next page



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ALB resurfaces in NY—continued from previous page

tyville, New York, next to an acupuncture clinic. Shades are drawn on the windows and one door features a 4-by-6-inch white sign with the letters "USDA" typed in black. Gittleman works for the department's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

Inside, he shows visitors past dozens of messy cubicles to a conference room with maps and posters on all sides. He points out lines and dots on maps that reveal how the beetle has spread to new areas of Long Island in the past year. If it was not for the effort by the federal and state governments, he said, the beetle would be "running rampant and out of control," migrating to every town on Long Island where host trees are present.

Meanwhile, in the quarantine area, Gittleman's dozens of inspectors and tree-climbing crews canvass neighborhoods, cemeteries and tree-covered areas of Farmingdale, New York, Amityville and other places scouring for the bugs. Specialists at the Amityville office enter each target tree, infected tree and inspected tree into digital maps and databases.

Already, they have found hundreds of infested trees along a lush green space of the Southern State Parkway and in a bucolic cemetery row in Farmingdale. "We're without question the hardest one hit," said Randy VanYahres, director of planning and development for Catholic Cemeteries, which oversees St. Charles/Resurrection. He said the cemetery has lost more than 80 trees so far.

Meanwhile, a mile or so away in West Babylon, Crimi keeps a meticulous lawn. He has not seen any more beetles. "My deepest regret was not catching it," he said. "I was just not prepared. I'm kind of embarrassed about that. If I do find another one, I'll keep it." 🐜

And in Worcester, Trying to Stay Ahead

On October 6, city and state officials, the Worcester Tree Initiative and supporters, partners, and residents gathered to commemorate the planting of the 30,000th tree in the Asian longhorned beetle-regulated area in Worcester County. In 2009, former Lieutenant Governor Tim Murray and Congressman James McGovern founded the Worcester Tree Initiative with the goal of planting 30,000 trees in five years. The Department of Conservation and Recreation, the City of Worcester, and the Worcester Tree Initiative helped reach that goal, and the Worcester Tree Initiative announced the next goal of 20,000 more trees. 🐜

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