

Massachusetts Tree Wardens and Foresters Association

Organized for the Protection and Preservation of Trees
March 27, 1913 ♦ Dr. George E. Stone, Founder



2022
Issue 3
Fall

Infestation of Invasive Spotted Lanternfly Found in Springfield

By Luis Fieldman

The state agency responsible for agricultural conservation announced Tuesday that an infestation of the spotted lanternfly was found in Springfield last week.

“With new populations of the spotted lanternfly likely to pop up more and more frequently as the invasive pest becomes established across the Northeast, it is critical that we all remain diligent in identifying them early on,” said Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) Commissioner John Lebeaux in a statement.



Agricultural inspectors are in the middle of performing surveys in the Springfield area in order to determine the extent of the infestation. MDAR has not determined the origin of the infestation, but the agency warns that cities with large industrial areas like Springfield are at especially high risk for spotted lanternfly introductions since the pest can hitchhike on trucks and other methods of transportation that come from infected states.

The spotted lanternfly’s preferred host plant, the tree of heaven, can often be found in urban and industrial areas, making them more susceptible to harboring large populations of the spotted lanternfly. The agency is also asking for anyone who has recently received goods or materials from Connecticut, Delaware, Indiana, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia — areas where the spotted lanternfly is known to have been introduced — to be on the lookout.

“Anyone who sees this pest is asked to report it promptly. Early detection will help limit the spread of spotted lanternfly and give orchards, farms and other growers time to prepare,” Lebeaux said.

State officials are turning to the public to help identify the spotted lanternfly and are asking people to take a photo or collect a specimen and report the sighting using MDAR’s online reporting form.

The spotted lanternfly was first spotted in the United States in 2014 and it is an invasive sap-feeding insect from Asia. The insect’s main host plant is the tree of heaven, but it can also attack a variety of trees, shrubs, vines and can impact other agricultural commodities such as grapes, wine, apples, peaches and maple syrup, according to the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources.

Other plants the spotted lanternfly can attack: birch trees, lilac, maple, poplar, roses, stone fruit, sycamore and willows.

Current list of cities and towns in Massachusetts where the species has been found include Great Barrington, Ludlow, Springfield, Hadley, Boston, Sturbridge and Shrewsbury.

Source: <https://www.masslive.com/news/2022/08/invasive-spotted-lanternfly-found-in-springfield-according-to-massachusetts-department-of-agricultural-resources.html>

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

Hello Members and Friends,

As I write this message for the fall issue the scorching summer temperatures have eased for the mid-month of August. I think this year's weather may significantly impact our resources and plants for many years. For the month of August most of us may have found ourselves in severe drought with some even experiencing an extreme drought. The drought stressed many trees in my area of Southern Middlesex County, especially the age class of 10-20 years.

This drought has expedited my efforts for the division I manage in Public Works to think about how I can still provide the same level of service with reduced or even eliminated resources. What else will we need to operate without? What resources may become scarce? I have worked to develop contingency plans to operate without resources such as



technology and electricity, but I also find myself without people and water. A tough year for us all I am sure, but as I have learned from my mentors...change will happen.

To take my mind off of things I like to listen to music and I have been mixing up my playlists on iTunes trying to start the fall season fresh. One day as I looked at our parched landscape I thought of a few songs that would fit well into a Sunday top 40 mix for the summer of 2022. If Casey Kasem were still alive I would love to hear his voice introduce songs and lyrics such as CCR's "Have you Ever Seen the Rain?", Bruce Hornsby and the Range's "Mandolin Rain", and, especially after this summer heat, Guns and Roses' "Cold November Rain". I wouldn't even care if the rain was purple!

Finally, I will let Led Zeppelin's lyrics close this letter with the hope that, "Upon us all, a little rain must fall."

Your President,

Art Goodhind

President 2021-2022

Welcome New Members!

New Corporate Member

AutoBeGreen – Exeter, NH

New Members

William Bernard – Lunenburg, MA

Michael Casinelli – Quincy, MA

David Rabinovitz – Pelham, MA

Congratulations!

Welcome the newest member of the Tree Warden family:

Zinnia Lynn Asher, born July 13, 2022.

Zinnia's Grandpa, MTWFA board member, Rich Parasiliti is over the moon! Mom and baby are doing great!



MTWFA Member Benefits

The Massachusetts Tree Wardens' and Foresters' Association was founded in 1913 as a forum for municipal tree managers to share their concerns and to promote the preservation of public shade trees. Today's members include tree wardens, city foresters, utility representatives, commercial arborists and companies, education professionals, and citizen tree advocates. Membership is open to all who care about trees. Find out more at www.masstreewardens.org

Member Benefits

- Educational workshops each year in a Professional Development Series
- Annual, two-day winter conference with educational sessions and trade show
- Opportunities to earn arborist and pesticide recertification credits at workshops and conference
- Discounted member rates for all events
- Quarterly issues of the BARK newsletter
- Networking opportunities with fellow arborists
- Access to current technical information
- Website with valuable information and links to numerous industry resources
- Arbor Day Seedling Sale to help you spread the wisdom and practicalities of tree planting in your community
- Scholarships that help support students studying for a future in arboriculture


Tree Warden of the Year NOMINATION TIME!



The deadline for the January 2023 award will be here before we know it! Visit <https://masstreewardens.org/tree-warden-of-the-year/> to read the nomination criteria, see a list of past recipients, and access the link to the online nomination form.

MTWFA encourages members to share the criteria and nomination link with local tree committees and other community forestry advocacy groups, such as those who have worked with their local tree warden and can speak to their community involvement.

Nominations for Tree Warden of the Year may be submitted at any time during the year. To be considered for the 2023 award, nominations must be received by December 1st.



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\$1.5 billion for the U.S. Forest Service's Urban and Community Forestry Program

In case you missed it, the Inflation Reduction Act will provide a massive infusion of funding to the federal Urban and Community Forestry Program, which, in turn, provides funding for state programs like the MA Department of Conservation and Recreation Urban and Community Forestry Program. The Act appropriates \$1.5 billion, available through 2031, for the USDA Forest Service to grant to states, local governments, tribes, non-profit organizations, and other entities. For context, annual funding for the federal Urban and Community Forestry Program in the last several years has ranged from approximately \$28 to \$32 million.

The Act also appropriates funding for state programs that work with private forest landowners as well as the Forest Legacy Program. This is great news for forests, both urban and otherwise, and we are excited to find out exactly what this means for Massachusetts in the coming months.

Sources: American Forests press release on the IRA and the law itself, which can be found at congress.gov.

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Professional Development Series

Proper Tree Planting Techniques | October 26, 2022 | Needham DPW

Join Northampton Tree Warden Rich Parasiliti as he leads this session on successful tree planting. Learn how to make the most out of an investment in new trees in your community!

Learn how to perform a site assessment, how trees establish trees in an urban environment, and how to properly plant a tree.

Adherence to industry best management practices (BMPs) will result in fewer girdling roots, better plant performance, and higher survival rates. Sign up now to learn what you need to know to ensure a good start for trees on urban sites.

Registration: \$45 Member | \$55 Non-Member. Limit 40. Financial assistance available. See below.

DETAILED AGENDA

8:30 a.m.	Registration & Coffee, Bagels, Muffins
9:00 a.m.	Performing an Urban Tree Planting Site Assessment
9:45 a.m.	Tree Establishment in the Urban Environment
10:15 a.m.	Hands-on Demonstrations: Site Assessment Strategies, Urban Tree Planting
12:00 p.m.	Workshop End

ISA and MCA CEUs will be available.

Workshop Location

Needham Department of Public Works
500 Dedham Ave, Needham, MA 02492

\$45 MTWFA members / \$55 non-members. Register Now at www.masstreewardens.org

This workshop is made possible in part by a grant from the USDA Forest Service, Urban and Community Forestry Program and the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, Bureau of Forestry.

Financial Assistance

Financial assistance is available to register for this course through a grant provided by the USDA Forest Service, Urban and Community Forestry Program and the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, Bureau of Forestry. If you need assistance, please contact heather@masstreewardens.org for details.

Western Mass Tree Wardens Fall Dinner Meeting - October 13

October 13, 2022 | 5:00 - 7:30 p.m. | Bluebonnet Diner, Northampton

At the fall meeting we'll have presentations from Shade Tree Committee Leaders, including Henry Lappen of the Amherst Public Shade Tree Committee, and from Evan Marshall and Jon Lifvergen of the Department of Labor Standards. ISA and MCA credits have been requested.

The Western Mass Tree Wardens Dinner Meeting is a great opportunity to meet fellow tree wardens and arborists in Western Mass and earn CEUs at the iconic Bluebonnet Diner. We hope you can join us on October 13.

Registration fee \$40. Register by October 7 | Registration is open at www.masstreewardens.org



Rich Parasiliti leading the planting session at the Mass. Qualified Tree Warden Training in Sturbridge in 2019.

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UMass Green School Will be Offered in Fall 2022

The Green School Arboriculture Track is a great complement to the Mass Qualified Tree Warden program and will take place October-December 2022. Green School is virtual, with live classes on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Early-bird tuition until September 15: \$900 | After September 15: \$1025. Registration deadline is October 18.

2022 Green School Career Access Scholarship

The goal of this scholarship program is to enable students from diverse backgrounds to successfully prepare for and join the horticulture industry in the areas of General Landscape, Turf, or Arboriculture.

Find out more at <https://ag.umass.edu/landscape/education/umass-extensions-green-school> or at <https://bit.ly/3bmPth9>.

Landscape Message Tidbits

The spotted lanternfly and neonicotinoid updates below are from the August 19 UMass Landscape Message.

Spotted Lanternfly: (*Lycorma delicatula*, SLF) is a non-native, invasive insect that feeds on over 103 species of plants, including many trees and shrubs that are important in our landscapes.



In the beginning of August 2022, the MA Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) announced an additional detection of an established population of the spotted lanternfly in Springfield, MA. MDAR is urging the public to be on the lookout for this pest, especially if they live or work in the Springfield area, and to report it immediately. For more information about the detection in Springfield, visit: <https://www.mass.gov/news/state-agricultural-officials-ask-residents-to-report-sightings-of-the-invasive-spotted-lanternfly> (link is external).



Currently, the only established populations of spotted lanternfly in Massachusetts are in a small area in both Fitchburg and Shrewsbury, MA (Worcester County) and the latest detection of a population of this insect in Springfield, MA (Hampden County; officials are currently working on determining the size of the population in Springfield). Therefore, there is no reason to be preemptively treating for this insect in other areas of Massachusetts. If you suspect you have found spotted lanternfly in additional locations, please report it immediately to MDAR

here: <https://massnrc.org/pests/slfreport.aspx>. If you are living and working in the Fitchburg, Shrewsbury, and Springfield areas, please be vigilant and continue to report anything suspicious.

An Update about Neonicotinoid Use in Massachusetts:

Beginning July 1, 2022 systemic insecticide active ingredients known as neonicotinoids have become state restricted use for tree and shrub uses in Massachusetts. If an individual works in the commercial industry (landscapers, arborists, etc.), then a Commercial Certification License is needed. (Example: Category 36 Commercial Certification License, Shade Trees & Ornamentals.) Someone can use a state or federal restricted use pesticide if they have a Commercial Applicators License as long as they are working under the direct supervision of someone with a Commercial Certification. Unlicensed or uncertified individuals will no longer be able to apply neonicotinoids to manage insect pests of trees and shrubs in Massachusetts. More information is available, here: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/pesticide-newsupdates>.

Helpful Info from Taryn LaScola-Miner, Dir. Crop & Pest Services Division of the MA Dept. of Ag. Resources:

"As you know, products that contain neonicotinoids and have certain use patterns will have a classification change from General Use to Restricted Use on July 1, 2022. In order to help inform the manufacturers, dealers, sellers and applicators of which products will be changing from general use to restricted use, the Department has created the list of neonicotinoid products that currently are and will become restricted use beginning July 1st. You may find the list at the link below. Please note that this list is subject to change. [...] Although an email will be sent to all licensed applicators within the next few weeks as a final reminder of the change, please pass this information along to your members and customers as an effort to make this transition as smooth as possible. If you have any questions, please let me know. Thank you!"

List of Neonicotinoid Products: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/list-of-neonicotinoid-pesticides/download>

Direct Supervision Frequently Asked Questions: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/direct-supervision-frequently-asked-questions-faq/download>

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2023 Annual Conference Preview

Dear MTWFA Members,

I am very excited to be sharing the 2023 Annual Conference preview. We are once again planning on being in-person at the Sturbridge Host Hotel January 10-11, 2023. We are working on building a conference that will give you that much-needed January reset. There will be engaging speakers, lots of time for networking, and a great group of exhibitors!

This year's keynote speaker will be WBZ TV Meteorologist, Eric Fisher. Eric will be cover weather science. He will discuss trends in the industry and forecasting and he will share his experiences.

Other planned topics will include work zone safety, a breakdown on nursery stock, climate change, insect pests update, tree disease update, updates regarding special programs from our friends at the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, update from the University of Massachusetts Stockbridge School, and a tree warden panel.

As always, the conference will offer the valuable continuing education credits we all seek and value from a variety of associations as well as MDAR pesticide credits.

Please look for our Annual Meeting and Conference brochure in the near future, and please consider attending our 2023 conference.

Art Goodhind

MTWFA President



2023 Annual Conference Keynote Speaker: Eric Fisher, WBZ-TV Chief Meteorologist

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Tree City USA

Application Deadline is December 31, 2022

Brought to you by the Massachusetts DCR Urban and Community Forestry Program

Tree City USA is a program that recognizes towns and cities of all sizes for their work in managing community trees and provides a mechanism to help communities maintain or expand their urban forest.



The DCR reviews Tree City USA applications from Massachusetts to ensure that the information is current, accurate, and complete. They then recommend applicants for the award to the Arbor Day Foundation.

The Arbor Day Foundation now makes the entire application process available on-line. The DCR prefers that Cities and Towns use this on-line tool for the application process.



Already a Tree City USA? Check out the Growth Award. The Arbor Day Foundation has completely overhauled the award criteria. Urban and community forestry efforts in five categories are eligible for the Growth Award: Building the Team; Measuring Trees and Forests; Planning the Work; Performing the Work; and the Community Framework.

Interested in recognition opportunities for schools in your community? Check out Tree Campus Higher Education and Tree Campus K-12.

Please go to www.mass.gov/service-details/urban-and-community-forestry for details.

DCR Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Grant Program

Intent to Apply Deadline – October 1 | Full Application Deadline – November 1

This annual grant opportunity is designed to help communities increase their capacity to protect, grow, and manage the urban forest. It is open to all units of local government and 501(c)(3) organizations. There are several project areas that this grant can fund, including conducting a tree inventory or assessment, supporting the development of an urban forestry non-profit, staff training, tree planting, heritage tree care, and more.

If you have a project idea, please contact the DCR to discuss.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to apply for funding for your community trees!

Find out more <https://www.mass.gov/guides/urban-and-community-forestry-challenge-grants>

New Video on the Greening the Gateway Cities Program

Kudos to DCR on a great new video about the Greening the Gateway Cities Program! Check it out to learn more about this program that has planted over 30,000 trees in Gateway Cities across the Commonwealth: www.maurbancanopy.org.

Current Tree Planting in Gateway Cities		
Barnstable	Holyoke	Quincy
Brockton	Lawrence	Revere
Chelsea	Leominster	Salem
Chicopee	Lowell	Springfield
Everett	Lynn	Taunton
Fall River	Malden	Westfield
Fitchburg	New Bedford	Worcester
Haverhill	Pittsfield	



Screenshot from the Greening the Gateway Cities video

Nina Bassuk Retires from Cornell - Congratulations Nina!

Dr. Nina Bassuk, Professor and Director of Cornell's Urban Horticulture Institute, retired from Cornell University at the end of August 2022. Dr. Bassuk was a familiar face at arboriculture and urban forestry conferences and webinars - including the 101st MTWFA conference in 2014. Dr. Bassuk's research on soils, site conditions, and plants in the urban environment has improved our understanding of growing trees in the urban environment and helped make us better stewards.



In retirement, she will continue her research on plant propagation, including on hickories. As she told Michelle Sutton of the New York State Urban Forest Council in a recent interview, "They [hickories] have great potential for urban use because they tolerate heat and both wet and dry extremes, so they have resilience to climate change. They have food value for people and wildlife, and they have beautiful fall color. But right now, you can't get them in nurseries because of the propagation barriers." We look forward to seeing what Dr. Bassuk gets up to in retirement and are grateful for what she's shared with us so far over the past many decades.

Read a full interview with Nina Bassuk in the August 2022 NYSUFC Newsletter <https://nysufc.org/the-nina-bassuk-retirement-interview/>

Tree Selection Ideas

Drought-Tolerant Trees for Massachusetts Landscapes

As periods of drought become more routine for Massachusetts, it is important to plant trees that can withstand periods of drought. The trees below are some to consider planting, though some of them, like honeylocust, may already be planted frequently in communities. Other species, like Kentucky coffeetree or bur oak, may be less frequently planted and present an opportunity to increase diversity in the urban forest.

Medium-to-Large Shade Trees	
American hornbeam	<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>
Common hackberry	<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>
Ginkgo	<i>Ginkgo biloba</i>
Honeylocust	<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i>
Kentucky coffeetree	<i>Gymnocladus dioica</i>
Sweetgum	<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>
Hophornbeam	<i>Ostrya virginiana</i>
Bur oak	<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>
Northern red oak	<i>Quercus rubra</i>
Japanese zelkova	<i>Zelkova serrata</i>

Smaller Trees	
Winter king hawthorn	<i>Crataegus viridis</i> 'Winter King'
Crabapple	<i>Malus</i> spp. (some)



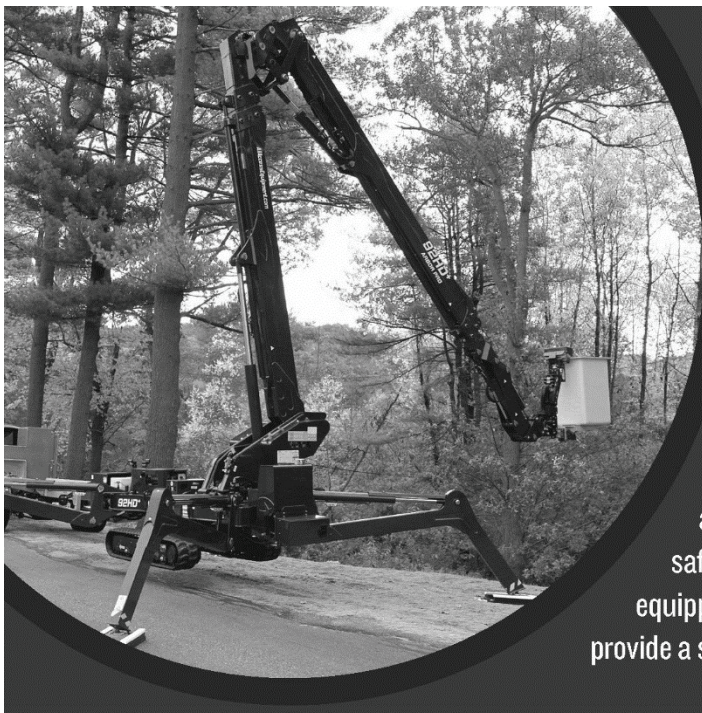
Kentucky coffeetrees in Longmeadow in 2019, a few months after they were planted.

Coniferous/Evergreen Trees	
White fir	<i>Abies concolor</i>
Chinese juniper	<i>Juniperus chinensis</i>
Eastern redcedar	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>
Bosnian pine	<i>Pinus heldreichii</i>
Austrian pine	<i>Pinus nigra</i>
Scots pine	<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>

Sources:

UMass Extension, Drought Tolerant Plants for the Landscape

UNH Extension, Drought Tolerant Plants for New Hampshire Landscapes



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2022 Summer Field Day

On August 10, 2022 the MTWFA Board of Directors met for the annual summer outing. This year's outing was held at West End Creamery in Whittinsville, MA. The Creamery features an 18 hole miniature golf course. Board members, friends and families took to the links hoping to take home the trophy from the 1st annual MTWFA Invitational. Fun was had by all and the trophy was awarded to the best team overall. Team members pictured here with Bob LeBlanc's grandson, Jordan, and MTWFA president, Art Goodhind, were Julie Coop, Alex Sherman, Madelyn Sherman, and Chloe Sherman. Golf was followed by lunch and, of course, delicious ice cream.



Team members pictured here with Bob LeBlanc's grandson, Jordan, and MTWFA president, Art Goodhind, were Julie Coop, Alex Sherman, Madelyn Sherman, and Chloe Sherman.



Past President and current Essex County Delegate, Bob LeBlanc and family



Past President and current At-Large board member, David Lefcourt and family

White Oak Genetics and Tree Improvement Program

The White Oak Genetics and Tree Improvement Program (WOGTIP), led by Dr. Laura DeWald, University of Kentucky, is working to ensure the health, viability, and sustainability of white oak (*Quercus alba*) in our eastern forests. As many of us know, the presence of white oak impacts the function and value of our forests through the value of their wood products, as well as by providing important ecological services, like wildlife habitat.

A critical first step in the WOGTIP is collecting acorns from as many individual white oak trees as possible throughout the eastern U.S., including from the different environmental regions within each state. This fall, join tree enthusiasts from across the eastern U.S. in lending your help in collecting mature acorns from white oak trees.

For more information, visit <https://white-oak-genetics.ca.uky.edu/acorn-collection>

Questions? Contact Dr. Laura E. DeWald (Laura.DeWald@uky.edu) University of Kentucky



Nearly mature acorns in mid-September. Photo: UKY.

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Beech Leaf Disease Advances Across Massachusetts

Beech leaf disease continues to make its way across the northeastern United States and Canada. First detected in Massachusetts in June 2020, the disease can now be found in Massachusetts and beyond, including Michigan, where it was detected in July 2022.

American beech, European beech, and Oriental beech are susceptible to the disease. Beech bark disease is associated with a foliar nematode *Litylenchus crenatae* ssp. *mccannii*. The vector for the nematodes is unknown, but birds and insects are likely carriers.

Once a tree is infected, it becomes weakened and may eventually die within six to ten years after symptoms first appeared. Weakened trees become increasingly vulnerable to secondary pathogens like two-lined chestnut borer. Treatment options are limited and research is ongoing in this area.

Symptoms of beech leaf disease include

- Dark bands form between the veins of leaves;
- Leaves become curled, deformed, and shriveled; and,
- Trees develop a thin canopy.

In August 2022, *The Daily Hampshire Gazette* reported the disease was confirmed in communities in Hampshire and Franklin counties. The disease has now been found in all counties in Massachusetts and over 80 communities in the Commonwealth.

There is still a lot to learn when it comes to beech leaf disease. If you manage beech trees, be sure to monitor them for beech leaf disease.

Also try to minimize any stresses, such as drought stress, buried root collars, or improper mulching.

If you think a beech tree is infected with beech leaf disease, contact DCR Director of Forest Health Nicole.keleher@mass.gov or (857)337-5173.



Leaves infected with beech leaf disease. Note darker bands of tissue between some veins.



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Calendar of Events

September 8	Urban Forestry Today Webcast: Arboreta, Botanical Gardens & Urban Forestry: A Continuing Discussion	www.urbanforestrytoday.org
October 2-4	New England ISA Conference and Tradeshow, Framingham, MA	www.newenglandisa.org
October 13	Western Mass Tree Wardens Dinner Meeting, Northampton	www.masstreewardens.org
October 25 - December 10	UMass Green School	www.umassgreeninfo.org
October 26	Proper Tree Planting	www.masstreewardens.org
December 31	Tree City USA, Tree Campus Higher Ed, Tree Campus K-12, Tree Line USA Application Deadline	email: mathew.cahill@mass.gov
January 10-11, 2023	MTWFA Annual Conference, Sturbridge, MA	www.masstreewardens.org