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EAB ARRIVES IN THE COMMONWEALTH

State Officials Confirm Emerald Ash Borer Detected For First Time in Massachusetts

Boston—September 12, 2012—Officials with the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and the Department of Agricultural Resources (DA) today announced that the emerald ash borer (EAB) has been detected in Massachusetts. The destructive beetle was detected in a trap in the western Massachusetts Town of Dalton on August 31, 2012 and was confirmed by federal officials on September 6. Massachusetts is the 18th state in the country to detect EAB.

DCR and DAR officials are working together, in collaboration with United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and the USDA Forest Service to take a number of swift proactive steps aimed at preventing the spread of the invasive beetle, including:

- Defining a quarantine area that would only allow the movement of certain wood products under certain conditions.
- A de-limiting survey to help identify the extent of the infestation.
- Working with stakeholders to ensure they know to properly treat or dispose of infested trees and materials.
- A survey with federal agencies to determine how long EAB has been present in our state, information which will help determine strategies in how to best address the threat.
- DCR will also maintain a ban that has been in place against bringing any firewood into state parks and forests.

"The emerald ash borer brings a very serious threat to our ash trees, and we are not taking its presence lightly," said DCR Commissioner Ed Lambert. "We are taking swift action to address the infestation and are working to mitigate any impact an infestation could bring."

"Together with DCR, we are moving forward to develop and implement the best strategies to contain this invasive pest," said DAR Commissioner Greg Watson.

Continued on page 8

WORKSHOP ANNOUNCES EAB ARRIVAL

On September 18th, over seventy landowners, foresters, timber harvesters, arborists, and municipal officials gathered at the Crane Model Farm in Dalton to learn about preparing for emerald ash borer (EAB). The workshop had been planned and scheduled well before EAB was found in Massachusetts – ironically, also in Dalton. Although officials have expected it for some time, the Massachusetts EAB discovery gave the day in Dalton a new urgency.

Continued on page 8

In this issue

From the President	2
Oaks Under Attack	3
ISA Award of Merit: Dr. Ryan	3
Association News & Notes	4
Stickwork Sculpture	4
CT Appellate Verdict in Injury	4
FAQ: Tree City USA	5
Burl Bandits and Biology	6
New Faces at UMass Amherst	7
EAB: Also in Connecticut	9
In Memoriam	9
Calendar of Events	16

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Dennis Ryan, University of Massachusetts
Eric Seaborn, Massachusetts DCR

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Karen Doherty, MTWFA Executive Director

FROM THE PRESIDENT



I hate to start this President's message on a bad note but unfortunately, it has happened again. The Commonwealth has another new uninvited pest guest, the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). The EAB, which has its origins in Asia, was identified in Dalton, MA late this summer. According to the USDA Forest Service, this pest has wiped out tens of millions of ash trees throughout the Midwest states, where it was first identified in 2002.

Sometimes I feel as though being in the tree industry may be somewhat similar to being in the anti-virus computer software industry. While hard drives are constantly being bombarded with threats of "bug" invasion, the trees of the Commonwealth, along with every other treed space in the world, are being threatened by the real creepy crawlies themselves. In today's world of global trade, where you can order a package from the other side of the planet and have it within days, the threats from outside invaders wanting to munch away on our greenscape will undoubtedly continue.

Do not be dismayed, though; we do have a way to combat these pests. That way is education. There is an old saying that states, "Know your enemy" and it has been said for very good reasons. Understanding how the enemy lives and breeds and where it prefers to reside are all things that need to be considered before a defense can be started. That is where the MTWFA comes in.

MTWFA MASSACHUSETTS TREE WARDENS' AND FORESTERS' ASSOCIATION



P.O. Box 326
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781-894-4759
mtwfa@comcast.net
www.masstreewardens.org



The MTWFA is able to stay on top of issues – like the introduction of EAB to our state or the continued efforts being made to fend off the attack of the Asian Longhorned Beetle – because so many of our Association's members and partners are involved in these efforts. We are constantly receiving information regarding the tree care industry that is important for you to know. Once we have that information, we try to get it to you by various ways such as at our Annual Conference, coming up soon on January 16 and 17, 2013. Other places where the Association brings you up-to-date include workshops in the Professional Development Series, the BARK newsletter, and the MTWFA website, www.masstreewardens.org.

So when the next critter is knocking on your door and you have no idea what exactly, say, a Brown Marmorated Stinkbug is or better yet, what it wants to do to your city or town, look to the MTWFA for guidance. If we don't know about it already, we'll put you in touch with someone who does.

May you have a safe and healthy autumn season.

Christopher Hayward, MCA
MTWFA President 2011-2012

TINY WASPS ATTACK OAKS ON CAPE AND ISLANDS

Many oaks on the Cape and Islands have been dying this year, and quickly. The cause is believed to be a wasp, the cynipid gall wasp (crypt gall wasp) or *Bastetia ceropteroides*, according to Bob Childs, UMass Extension Entomologist.

The wasps are small, about 1/16 of an inch long and resemble amber drops of sap with eyes and a pair of wings. When the eggs hatch, the saliva of the larvae triggers the tree to produce woody material, a gall, that disrupts the transport of nutrients to the branch but provides shelter and food for the developing wasp. By one estimate, some trees only put out about 10% of their leaves. Long Island experienced a similar outbreak of the gall wasp in the 1990s that caused a decline in black oaks. On the Cape and Islands, trees may have already been weakened by previous defoliation from winter moth.

*From the MA DCR Citizen Forester,
online newsletter, August 2012
Fact Sheet at www.capecodextension.org*

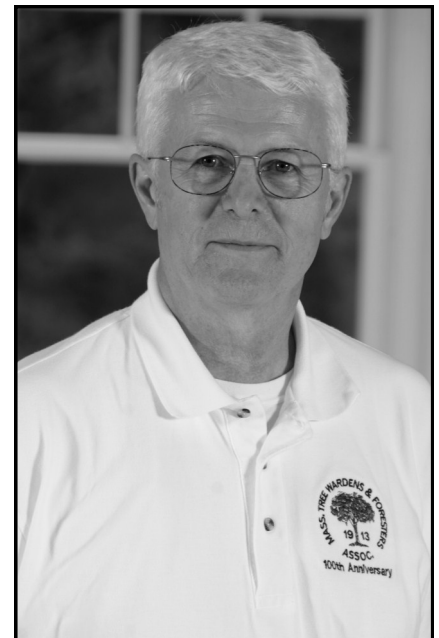
DENNIS RYAN HONORED WITH TOP AWARD FROM ISA

ISA's highest honor is the Award of Merit for outstanding service in advancing the principles, ideals, and practices of arboriculture. This year the International Society of Arboriculture recognized Dr. H. Dennis P. Ryan III. The award was presented at the ISA Annual Conference in August in Portland, Oregon.

Dr. Ryan, of Amherst, Massachusetts, has served on the ANSI Accredited Standards Committee Z133 since 1987, acting as Committee Chair for two revisions of the ANSI Z133 Safety Standard for Arboricultural Operations. Dr. Ryan is credited with influencing an attitudinal shift in the culture of the profession in regard to safety, which now distinguishes high-risk tree care practices as unacceptable.

Gaining early experience in commercial and municipal arboriculture, Dr. Ryan developed a passion for educating others and has spent the past 30 years offering his real-world knowledge and experience to thousands of students in the classroom. He is a professor of Arboriculture and Urban Forestry at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst and has more than 100 published articles to his credit.

View a video of Dr. Ryan on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hR38qZmiKko>. Congratulations Dennis!



ASSOCIATION NEWS AND NOTES

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Susan Pepper Aisenberg—Tree Warden, Orange

Collin Burt—Tree Warden, Conway

Arthur Goodhind—Tree Warden, Natick

Thomas Walker—Tree Warden, Northfield

NOMINATIONS DUE

2013 TREE WARDEN OF THE YEAR

The MTWFA Awards Committee is now accepting nominations for the Tree Warden of the Year Award. The award will be presented at the Annual Conference in January, where the recipient will be recognized and presented with a sculpture of a silver windswept tree. In the spring, an Arbor Day Celebration in the home community will include a tree planting by the MTWFA in honor of the recipient. The application brochure is mailed to government leaders in all Massachusetts cities and towns in October and may also be printed from the website, www.masstreewardens.org. The deadline for applications is December 1st.

CT APPEALS COURT UPHOLDS VERDICT AGAINST TOWN AND TREE WARDEN

In what has been called the first major verdict against a tree warden in the state, the Appellate Court of Connecticut ruled on May 8, 2012 that the Town of Darien and its tree warden Michael Cotta must pay \$1.7 million to a husband and wife injured by a public tree in 2006. The couple were driving on Rings End Road in Darien when a tree fell over and crashed onto their vehicle, causing neck fractures and other injuries to the man.

In *Wisniewski v. Town of Darien*, the jury in the November 2009 trial had found that the plaintiffs had established the negligence of the defendants. The Town failed to convince both the lower court and the Appellate Court with its claim of government immunity. Apparently key to the case were several warnings to the Town three years earlier by neighbors who complained that trees on the street were unhealthy and had dropped a number of limbs. The case is an important milestone that will affect how towns everywhere address the condition of trees on their public roads.

from the MAA Newsletter, Summer 2012

STICKWORK SCULPTURE SPRINGFIELD MUSEUMS QUADRANGLE

In June 2012, the Springfield Museums commissioned artist Patrick Dougherty to create this remarkable Stickwork sculpture, titled "Room by Room." Using saplings collected by museum staff and volunteers from managed forestry and wildlife areas in Massachusetts, Patrick and his volunteers carefully wove together this installation.

In addition to being a remarkable work of art, this sculpture has benefitted the environment. It is made of nearly eight tons of saplings taken from the Smith Vocational Demonstration Forest in Leeds and from Mass Wildlife's Phillipston Wildlife Management Area in Phillip-



ston, MA. The removal of mostly pin cherry and black birch saplings released young hardwoods and pine trees below and improved these natural habitats for wildlife.

Combining his carpentry skills with his love of nature, Dougherty began using primitive building techniques and experimenting with tree saplings as construction material. Starting in 1980 with small works fashioned in his backyard, he quickly moved to monumental installations requiring truckloads of sticks. To date he has built more than 230 of these massive sculptures all over the world, none larger than this one.

The sculpture will remain, outside on the Quadrangle Green, through June 9, 2013. Don't miss this, especially if you have never experienced one of Dougherty's magical creations! 🗿

TREE CITY USA: HOW AND WHY SHOULD I APPLY?

Frequently Asked Questions

Can I Apply for Tree City USA for my community?

Tree City USA is a national program of the Arbor Day Foundation that recognizes communities for urban forest management. It is not just for “cities,” but for communities of all sizes.

To become a Tree City USA, your community must meet four standards set by the Arbor Day Foundation:

- ✓ **Tree Board or Department:** For many communities in Massachusetts, tree management falls under public works or another department and this is perfectly acceptable for Tree City USA. On the application, indicate who is in charge of managing trees in your community.
- ✓ **Community Tree Ordinance:** In Massachusetts, we have a statewide ordinance under Mass. General Laws, Chapter 87 that satisfies this standard, if your community does not have an ordinance of its own. We ask for documentation that your community enforces Chapter 87, such as a newspaper clipping for a tree hearing or documentation that your community has adopted this law.
- ✓ **Community Forestry Program with a Budget of at Least \$2.00 per capita:** Many types of spending can be included in the budget to reach \$2.00 per capita including (but not limited to):
 - Salaries
 - Tree planting (trees, labor, equipment, planting materials, watering, mulching, etc.)
 - In-house tree maintenance (pruning, insect and disease control, storm response, fertilization, watering, stump removal, equipment, supplies, etc.)
 - Contracted tree work
 - Vehicular expenses (fuel, maintenance, depreciation, vehicle purchases, insurance)
 - Public outreach and staff training (advertising, public education, professional training, professional memberships, Arbor Day event expenses, etc.)
 - Resource Assessment Expenses (survey and inventory expenses, software, consultants, etc.)
 - Tree Board/Volunteer time (\$10/hour)
 - Grant Income
 - Leaf brush pick-up (up to 20% of cost can be included)
 - Biomass recycling (up to 20% of cost can be included)
 - Utilities (up to 20% of utility tree work can be included)
- ✓ **Arbor Day Event and Proclamation:** Tree plantings, seedling distributions, public presentations, school assemblies, festivals, and other activities can be Arbor Day celebrations. The proclamation is a document signed by your mayor or board of selectmen (there are samples on the Arbor Day Foundation website) that declares a day of your choosing to be Arbor Day in your community.

Benefits of Tree City USA

A community's status as a Tree City USA is considered for applications to the DCR Challenge Grant Program, but the biggest benefit to your community may be in public relations with your city or town. Residents can feel a sense of community pride as they drive past “Tree City USA” signs as they enter the community and visitors can take notice too. We have some towns and cities in the state that have been Tree City communities for over 20 years and take it as a major point of pride. Annual Arbor Day events also offer an opportunity for publicity highlighting environmental activities, enhancing the public image of the community. Communities may also use Tree City USA as an initial step toward systematic urban tree management. Whatever the reasons, your community will benefit from joining Tree City USA.

December 1st is the Deadline for Applications for Tree City USA

For more information on how your community can apply, contact Mollie Freilicher, 413-577-2966 or mollie.freilicher@state.ma.us.

BURL BANDITS

Several tree wardens have recently reported thefts of burls from public trees, especially in park areas. A burl is a tree growth in which the grain has grown in a deformed manner. It commonly occurs on a tree trunk or branch as a rounded outgrowth filled with small knots.

Several incidents have been reported to police, who say it is likely there are others that have gone unreported or undetected. An incident in Hall's Pond in Brookline this past summer was at first believed to be an isolated case. However, a second incident was discovered recently at the Brookline Reservoir by Tree Warden Tom Brady. Brady reported an ArborPlex climbing rope was attached to a very old sugar maple, a tree with a landscape value possibly as high as \$120,000. The rope is a type used by professionals in the tree industry and valued at \$260. The suspect used the rope to climb approximately 30 feet high and removed two burls from the tree, one on either side of the central leader.



Boston Tree Warden Greg Mosman reported that there have been numerous incidents in the City, including in

the Riverway and Franklin Park. Boston Parks is preparing a press release to notify the public of these incidents. Tree Warden Chris Hayward reported similar burl thefts from trees in Watertown's Arsenal Park.

Tree wardens are urged to report such incidents to their local police and to educate their residents to be on the alert for this unauthorized activity. John Parry, Urban Forester with the USDA Forest Service in Durham, NH, suggests that tree wardens also do their best to document the burl theft incidents by taking a high quality picture of the cut and measuring its diameter. If there is a stub left and if it is possible to do so without further damaging the tree, obtain a wood sample by slicing a tree cookie. These steps will create some evidence for identification if the burl, or a craft product made from it, ever appears. If it is a particularly old or significant tree, a landscape appraisal of the tree value may be of future use. 📷

THE BIOLOGY OF BURLS

Kevin Smith, Ph.D.
Supervisory Plant Physiologist
USDA Forest Service, Durham, NH

So what is a burl, anyway? A burl is the result of hyperplasia, a greatly abnormal proliferation of xylem production by the vascular cambium. That abnormal growth is mediated by changes in plant growth hormones. The proliferation is highly localized and not only are the cambial cells dividing more rapidly and for a longer period of time in the growing season, the orientation of the divisions is irregular. That is what helps to produce the visually interesting and dense figure in the wood and to enhance the value for crafts. Both the hyperplasia and the disordered orientation are attributed to a number of factors (infection by bacteria, virus, fungi, maybe some insect infestation), but there is not yet a good way to induce burl formation.

Removing large burls causes a large, more or less shallow stem wound (or branch wound, depending on the position of the burl). Compartmentalization

definitely plays a role to resist the loss of function and the spread of infection from the wound. Unlike branches, burls do not have native chemical protection at that their base with the stem. So the effect of removing the burl would be pretty similar to "skinning" the stem as with heavy machinery along that face, making a wound of similar size. So not a good thing to do to the tree.



Burl removal likely causes the tree to become infected through the wound, leading to stem decay. The rate of spread of decay depends especially on the condition of the tree at the time of injury. If the tree was vigorous and had good reserves of stored energy, wound wood could eventually close over that injury, over a period of years. During that extended period, before the wound closed and after, decay would likely proceed. 📷

INTRODUCING RICK HARPER AND NICK BRAZEE: NEW FACES OF URBAN FORESTRY AT UMASS AMHERST



Rick W. Harper (above) joined the faculty of the University of Massachusetts Amherst in August 2012 in the newly-created position of Extension Assistant Professor of Urban and Community Forestry in the Department of Environmental Conservation (ECO). His time will be divided between outreach to the state's urban foresters, teaching, and conducting research at UMass.

Rick Harper comes to Massachusetts from his position as a Commercial Horticulture/IPM Extension Educator in the Horticulture, Natural Resources, and Environment Program at Cornell University's Cooperative Extension in Westchester County, New York. Prior to that, Rick worked as a technician in both the tree care and forest industries in Canada and the U.S. He earned undergraduate degrees in Environmental Studies and Forest Management from Lakehead University in Thunder Bay, Ontario, and an M.S. in Entomology from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Rick is an ISA Board-Certified Master Arborist and Connecticut Licensed Arborist. Rick's upcoming projects include assessing the establishment and survival of newly planted trees in urban sites; speaking at a number of upcoming events; and creating a new spring course in the ECO Department at UMass. Contact Rick at rharper@eco.umass.edu.

Dr. Nicholas J. Brazee joined the UMass Extension Plant Diagnostic Lab (formerly the Urban Forestry Diagnostic Lab) in August 2012 as Extension Plant Pathologist. Prior to starting this new position, he was a Research Plant Pathologist with the USDA Forest Service in the Center for Forest Mycology Research in Madison, Wisconsin.

Nick Brazee has extensive training and experience in diagnostics and plant pathology. His primary research focus has been on the ecology and biology of wood decay fungi in forests. Dr. Brazee earned his B.S. and Ph.D. from UMass Amherst and his M.S. in Forest Pathology from the University of Washington.

Nick was hired to replace Dan Gillman at the lab and worked alongside Dan for a month this summer to ensure a smooth transition of services. He looks forward to meeting green industry professionals and continuing to provide diagnostic and teaching programs. He can be reached at nbrazee@umext.umass.edu.

Nick Brazee (below) in the UMass Extension Plant Diagnostic Lab



Regulated items that would fall under quarantine include the following:

- The emerald ash borer, in any living stage of development
- Firewood of all hardwood species
- Nursery stock of the genus Ash
- Green lumber of the genus Ash
- Other material living, dead, cut, or fallen, including logs, stumps, roots, branches, and composted and uncomposted chips of the genus Ash
- Any other article, product, or means of conveyance that an inspector determines presents a risk of spreading emerald ash borer and notifies the person in possession of the article, product, or means of conveyance that it is subject to the restrictions of the regulations.

The EAB is a small, flying beetle, native to Asia. It was first discovered in North America in 2002, in the Detroit, Michigan area. Unlike other invasive beetles, the EAB can kill a tree fast, within just a few years, because it bores directly under the bark where the tree's conductive system is. Since its discovery in North America, it has killed millions of ash trees and caused billions of dollars in economic loss across the nation.

Ash is a main component of the Northern Hardwood forest in Massachusetts and is a common species in the Berkshires. Ash is also a common street tree in eastern Massachusetts.

Residents are urged to take the time to learn the signs of EAB tree damage and be sure to report any sightings.

Look for tiny, D-shaped exit holes in the bark of ash trees, die-back in the upper third of the tree canopy, and sprouting of branches just below this dead area.

The emerald ash borer is a tiny, emerald-green metallic beetle, so small that seven of them could fit on the head of a penny.

To report suspicious tree damage or insect sightings, or to learn more about this pest, visit www.massnrc.org/pests. You can also call the toll-free EAB hotline at 1-866-322-4512. More information about EAB, visit <http://emeraldashborer.info>. 📱

Deputy DCR Commissioner Jack Murray welcomed the audience and spoke about the impact of the pest and the role of the Commonwealth in managing the infestation. Murray informed the crowd that the Commonwealth has over 45 million ash trees. About 80% are growing west of the Connecticut River, so stakes will be especially high for some western communities and landowners.

The audience heard the landowner perspective from Stephen Long, Harvard Forest Bullard Fellow and co-founder of *Northern Woodlands Magazine*. Long discussed the bittersweet elements of his relationship with ash as a tree in his woods and his decision to harvest ash on his own property. He also discussed the role ash wood has played in tool-making and building, as well as the cultural role for Native American groups who weave baskets from black ash.

Ken Gooch, DCR Forest Health Program Supervisor, gave a forest health update that included information about this year's drought, white pine defoliation, the cynipid gall wasp that has recently been plaguing Martha's Vineyard and Cape Cod, red pine scale and *Diplodia* blight on red pines, and other diseases and issues the Commonwealth's trees have faced this year.

Patty Douglass, State Plant Health Director for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), gave the federal perspective on quarantine and regulation with Gooch following up with the state perspective. It will likely be several weeks before a quarantine is determined, following at least one public meeting in Berkshire County.

Nate Siegert, Forest Entomologist for the USDA Forest Service, gave two talks. He presented on many aspects of EAB, including the biology of the beetle, signs and symptoms of infestation, biocontrol, insecticide treatments, population spread, forest management considerations, and tools for pest management, as well as presenting a lot of new research he has been involved with on the beetle. He warned that if nothing is done to control the infestation, the population will expand and the rate of spread will increase, threatening new areas and increasing damage where the pest is already found.

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Eric Seaborn and Mollie Freilicher from the DCR Urban and Community Forestry Program described how municipalities can prepare for and respond to emerald ash borer, primarily by creating a response plan. A response plan addresses many of the issues that will arise after EAB, including who is in charge of the infestation, where the wood will go from ash trees that are cut, and how municipalities will continue day-to-day management in light of EAB. They also discussed replanting and insecticide treatments for landscape trees.

Lastly, Peter Grima, DCR Service Forester for the northern Berkshires (and former DCR Outreach Service Forester), spoke about the legacy of ash and the promotion of wood products made from ash trees. He discussed the importance of creating or taking advantage of any market in the state for ash products from local wood. Grima pointed out that a lot of marketing for ash wood has already been done – the public is aware of EAB and the loss of trees, making it that much easier to market the value of wood from these trees.

DCR organizers expressed thanks to all the speakers; to the Crane Family and Crane & Co. for donating the use of the Crane Model Farm for the workshop; to the Working Forest Initiative and Kent Lage from the Massachusetts Farm Bureau for making the workshop possible; and to DCR Service Foresters Mike Downey and Peter Grima for organizing the workshop, with support from Ken Gooch, DCR Forest Health Program Supervisor, and Jennifer Fish, Director of DCR Service Forestry Program.

Additional workshops will be held in the state in the coming months. Information will be posted in *The Citizen Forester* and through the DCR listserv.


*Adapted from
the DCR Citizen Forester, October 2012*

EAB: IT'S IN CONNECTICUT TOO

On July 20th, officials in Connecticut announced the finding of emerald ash borer in Prospect, Naugatuck and Bethany, outside of Waterbury. The discovery was made primarily through the use of a biosurveillance technique, by which native wasps that capture beetles as food for their young are monitored to see if they are carrying back any EAB. Staff at the CT Agricultural Experiment Station, working with volunteers, were mainly responsible for the find. EAB has since been found in several more sites, and a quarantine order was issued on August 9 for New Haven County.


IN MEMORIAM Douglas V. Wade

Douglas Victor Wade died unexpectedly on June 26, 2012, in his sleep at home in Scotia, New York. Born in Oswego, New York on February 20, 1956, Doug was a Business Developer with Davey Resource Group. He was an ISA Certified Arborist, a Certified Utility Specialist, and an active member of the International Society of Arboriculture and the New York State Arborist Association. Doug committed more than ten years to support the Tour des Trees, riding with the Tour from Stowe, Vermont to Halifax, Nova Scotia in 1994 and from Ottawa to Montreal in 2003 with his daughter, Jessica. He also served as a volunteer with the Tour des Trees support crew for many years. Doug was a longtime friend of the MTWFA, appearing at our annual conference every year in time to meet and greet his many friends and acquaintances in the Massachusetts municipal and utility arborist community. Doug is survived by his wife Inga, daughter Jessica, son Aaron, brother Phillip, and mother.




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INDEX OF ADVERTISERS

Acorn Tree and Landscape	11
Amherst Nurseries	12
Arbor Care	12
Bartlett Consolidated	13
CUES Equipment	15
FEVA	9
Horticultural Technologies	10
Mayer Tree Service	14
Northeast Nursery	15
OESCO	12
Prof'l. Environmental Services	10
Shelter Tree	10
The Kenerson Group	14
Urban Forestry Solutions	10



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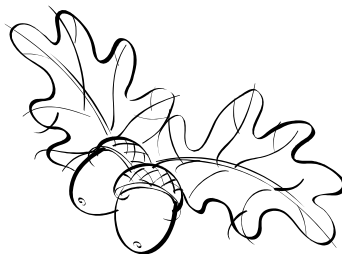
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- October 1** **Deadline for Intent to Apply for MA DCR Urban & Community Forestry Challenge Grants**
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 413-577-2966
- October 19-20** **Massachusetts DCR Tree Stewards Training**
mollie.Freilicher@state.ma.us
 413-577-2966
- October 24** **Deadline to Apply for UMass Extension 2012 Green School Holiday Inn, Marlborough, MA**
www.greeninfo.org
- October 30** **PDS: Chainsaw Safety National Grid, Hopedale**
www.masstreewardens.org
 781-894-4759
- November 1** **Deadline to Apply for DCR Urban & Community Forestry Challenge Grants**
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 413-577-2966

- November 8-10** **TCI Expo**
 Baltimore, MD
www.tcia.org
- November 11-13** **New England ISA Chapter Annual Conference**
 Newport, RI
www.newenglandisa.org
- November 27-28** **EHAP-Electrical Hazard Awareness**
 Forest Park, Springfield, MA
www.masstreewardens.org
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- December 1** **Deadline for Nominations: MTWFA Tree Warden of the Year**
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- December 31** **Deadline for Applications to DCR: Tree City USA, Tree Line USA, Tree Campus USA**

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