



BARK

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

TREE WARDEN OF THE YEAR: Peter Bacon, Town of Dalton

The 11th annual Seth H. Swift Tree Warden of the Year Award was presented to Peter Bacon, Tree Warden for the Town of Dalton, MA. President Christopher Hayward announced the award at the 99th Annual Conference on January 11th at the Sturbridge Host Hotel and Conference Center.

Peter was recognized for his commitment and dedication to the protection of urban trees, and for his work with his community to do everything possible



to maintain and improve tree growth and health. The MTWFA Board will hold a spring Arbor Day Celebration in Dalton, with a tree planting in honor of Mr. Bacon.

The Tree Warden of the Year Award was created to honor the late Seth H. Swift, longtime West Springfield Tree Warden and an active member of the Association. Seth was the first recipient of the award in 2002.

LOCAL NEWSPAPER RECOGNIZES TREE WARDEN

by Ned Oliver, Staff Writer, *The Berkshire Eagle*
Wednesday February 1, 2012

DALTON -- Fourteen years ago, when a town employee asked Peter Bacon if he was interested in becoming Dalton's tree warden, Bacon had no idea what a tree warden actually did. But he agreed anyway, and since then he's excelled: late last month, he was honored as the state's tree warden of the year by the Massachusetts Tree Wardens and Foresters Association.

"It's been quite a ride, quite an education," said Bacon, a longtime Dalton resident.

In addition to working as the part-time tree warden, which carries an annual \$2,000 stipend, he is the full-time superintendent of the Wyantenuck Country Club's golf course in Great Barrington. In his capacity as tree warden, he is in charge of all of public trees along Dalton's roads and sidewalks.

Continued on page 5

SETH'S MIGHTY OAK A NOTE FROM MRS. SWIFT

I would like the association to know, in spite of the terrible storm in October, and much devastation throughout our town, Seth's mighty oak tree is standing tall and stately. It's missing a few limbs, but did not suffer the fate of many, many trees on our town common and all through town. It just shows again, he knew what he was doing when he chose an oak to represent him !!

Best wishes to all for a wonderful holiday season.

Sincerely
Joan Swift

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Secretary—Paul Sellers, Falmouth
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Dennis Ryan, University of Massachusetts
Eric Seaborn, Massachusetts DCR

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Karen Doherty, MTWFA Executive Director

This year marks the 99th anniversary of the founding of the Massachusetts Tree Wardens and Foresters Association. Coming off of one of our most successful Annual Conferences in some time (thank you, Mother Nature!), 2012 is shaping up to be a busy and exciting year for the Association as we prepare for the big 100th in 2013. But first, as any hard working person knows, we need to talk business before we can start talking about parties.

Our first order of business to discuss is the Association's Annual Seedling Program, a successful undertaking in years past and now once again underway. Our Executive Board member Dave Hawkins coordinates with various nurseries to obtain seedlings that are then sold to municipalities, private groups and anyone interested in helping to "regreen" the planet. The proceeds of these sales are used to provide scholarships for arboriculture students at UMass. For more information, contact Dave Hawkins or our Executive Director, Karen Doherty. Remember that your purchase of seedlings not only helps to keep our world green but also promotes our aspiring arboricultural professionals. Seedlings make excellent Arbor Day gifts and giving them out to participants adds immeasurably to successful Arbor Day celebrations.

Our Professional Development Series (PDS) will continue in full swing in 2012. In addition to the highly popular Electrical Hazard Awareness Program, several

MTWFA MASSACHUSETTS TREE WARDENS' AND FORESTERS' ASSOCIATION



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other workshops (including our annual fall Chainsaw Safety) are in the pipeline and will be advertised through mailers and on our website once the details are confirmed. Be sure to check in regularly.

The next Chapter 87 Regional Meeting will be held on April 17th from 10 am – 12 noon at the Notch Visitors Center on Route 116 in Amherst. The purpose of these meetings is to introduce and discuss the addition of Section 14 that became law in April 2011. Three informational meetings have been held thus far and the feedback has been positive. Because Chapter 87 is the law that governs our daily professional decisions, it is important that you make an effort to attend one of these meetings. The information and knowledge gained can only help to make your job easier.

Due to rising costs, the Board recently voted an increase in our Association fees. Beginning in 2013, our yearly membership fee will be \$75; the Annual Conference pre-registration fee for members will be \$150; and our PDS workshops will be a minimum of \$75 (PDS fees are always dependent on costs for location and speakers). These increases will enable us to continue providing the quality training you've come to expect from the MTWFA. It was a difficult decision to make and we appreciate your understanding.

Now onto our 100th Anniversary! The Executive Board has been discussing many ideas on how to celebrate the Association's milestone. We are planning that our **Annual Conference on January 16-17, 2013 in Sturbridge** will have many surprises and as usual, knowledgeable and informative speakers. On top of that we are planning for a **"100 Years Gala" on March 12, 2013 at the UMass Amherst Campus Center**. This will be on the evening of the 2013 UMass Community Tree Conference. Mark your calendars now for both dates! Throughout the year more information will be provided concerning these events – in future issues of the BARK, on our website, and through emails sent to our members.

In the coming year or so there are sure to be a lot of reflections on old memories and interesting stories to be heard. If, in your travels or going through old files, you find any historic MTWFA material (photos, documents, handbooks, etc.), we at the Executive Board would like to document those items for our historical archives. They may even provide our sub-committee with some more material for the 2013 Commemorative Book. As we move into the next century of the Associa-

tion, it will be wise to remember where we have been so that we have a clear understanding of where we are going.

Happy Arbor Day and best wishes for an excellent 2012.

Christopher Hayward, MCA

MTWFA President 2011-2012

CHAPTER 87 ALERT

Please contact your legislators

The proposed changes for updating Chapter 87 to bring it into the 21st century are progressing through the legislative committee process and are now at a critical stage. Please reach out to your state representatives and senators and ask them to act favorably on House Bill No.01839, "An act to update the public shade tree law," filed on 1/20/2011.

The changes proposed by the new legislation were discussed at recent regional meetings and at Annual Conference. They were also summarized in the Fall 2011 BARK President's Message from Chris Hayward. You can read and review the proposed changes in detail by clicking on a link on the home page of the MTWFA website, www.masstreewardens.org.

Don't know the names of your legislators? Find them and their contact information at <http://www.malegislature.gov/People/FindMyLegislator>. You can contact most of them by email, letter, or phone call.

Thank you in advance for your outreach! 🌱

REMEMBER
TO ORDER YOUR SEEDLINGS
FOR ARBOR DAY!
DEADLINE IS APRIL 18



AND DON'T MISS A SINGLE ISSUE OF THE BARK—
To stay connected, be sure to send in your
2012 membership dues before June

2012 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS



MTWFA 2012: (l. to r.) Tyler Pease, Luke Longstreeth, David Golon, President Chris Hayward, Alex Martin. Todd Beals.



Southeast Tree Wardens and Arborist Assn 2012: (l. to r.) Josh Lima, Ryan Due, Conor Laffey, SETWAA President Craig Hillman. *Not shown:* Ethan Dangelo.



Paul E. West Scholarship 2012: Recipient Josh Lima, with SETWAA President Craig Hillman

2012 Scholarships: MTWFA

Professor Gordon S. King—Alex Martin

Dr. Malcolm A. McKenzie—Todd Beals

Fred C. Burk—Luke Longstreeth

Louis J. Casasanto—Tyler Pease

Seth H. Swift—David Golon

2012 Scholarships: SEMTWA

V. Leslie Hebert—Ryan Due

August Dube, Jr.—Conor Laffey

Paul E. West—Joshua Lima

Southeast Massachusetts Tree Wardens and Arborists Assn.—Ethan Dangelo

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Brad Bottomley, Town of Needham MA

Robert DeRubeis, City of Newton MA

Chris Filadoro, Town of Lexington MA

Robert Fisher, Suburban Forestry Service,
Belchertown

Mollie Freilicher, Massachusetts DCR, Amherst

Rocky Gomes, Town of Falmouth MA

Roger Hill, Town of Foxborough MA

Thomas McCarthy, Town of Norwood MA

John Muse, UMass student, Ludlow

Joseph Nardelli, Foti Tree Service, Cambridge

Dorothy Portnoy, Town of Maynard MA

Joseph Proko, Nelson Tree Service, Afton, NY

James Robert, Town of Paxton MA

Phil Whitney, City of Beverly MA

Scott Williams, Town of Nantucket MA

New Commercial Members

Jean Berger, Green Jean's, Newburyport

David B. Flood, Sculptor, Ipswich

Andrew Hillman, Davey Resource Group,
Trumansburg, NY

Michael Lynch, Lynch Landscape & Tree Service,
Wayland

Jay Malouf, Specialized Rigging & Tree Care,
Hingham

Katherine B. Scapicchio, Chadwick-BaRoss, Inc.,
Chelmsford

Chris Turner, Forest Keepers Tree Care, Hyannis

James Wagner, Wagner Wood, Amherst

Stanley Zuba, Stanley Tree Service, Smithfield, RI



EAB MONITORING PROGRAM

DCR Forest Health Program To Deploy Purple Prism Traps

The Massachusetts DCR Forest Health Program, through a grant from the USDA APHIS, will be placing 713 Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) purple prism monitoring traps in high risk areas with populations of ash trees throughout the state. According to Ken Gooch, DCR Forest Health Program Supervisor, the majority of the traps will be placed west of Route 495 and will be concentrated in forested ash stands, in public and private campgrounds, and on public rights of way. The traps will be deployed in early May and placed 20-30 feet high in ash trees. Traps will be checked periodically throughout the summer and removed in late August. These traps are being placed as a monitoring tool to check for the presence of Emerald Ash Borer in our state. EAB was found in eastern New York, 23 miles from the western Massachusetts border in July of 2010.

Tree Wardens and others are requested not to remove the traps. If you have any questions regarding these traps, please call the Massachusetts DCR Forest Health Program at 413-253-1798 ext.204.

Berkshire Eagle recognizes Bacon (continued from page 1)

Bacon may not have known much at first about being a tree warden, but he knows trees from professional and personal experience. "Even when I was a little kid, I planted all kinds of trees in my back yard -- of course I had to cut them all down later because they were in the wrong spot," he said.

Bacon has honed his skills since then. In a notice announcing the honor bestowed on Bacon, the association's president, Christopher Hayward, called Bacon's accomplishments impressive. Among other things, Bacon has conducted an inventory of all town trees, which Town Hall staffers say has been indispensable. Bacon has also won the city recognition as a "Tree City USA," conducted annual Arbor Day celebrations, worked with the highway department and the beautification commission, and coordinated the planting of new shade trees along Main Street.

Bacon said he's happy to give back to the town and credits the staff at Town Hall for making his transition into life as a tree warden easy.

As tree warden, Bacon said his primary duty is to respond to tree concerns as they are voiced by residents. He said, for example, a homeowner may worry that dead branches from a town tree could be threatening to

fall on the resident's car. Bacon would respond, check to make sure it's a town tree, and if it is, and the concern is valid, arrange for a pruning, or in extreme cases have the tree removed.

Town employees say Bacon has set himself apart through his work for the town, which they say goes far above and beyond what is required of him. "Peter is awesome and has done more in his time here than probably any other tree warden we've ever had," said Dalton's administrative assistant, Deborah J. Merry, who nominated Bacon for the award. 🏆

JOIN THE MASSACHUSETTS GROVE

American Grove is a new social network, created to provide a platform for sharing tree-planting experiences and knowledge that will encourage others to create thriving urban and community forests.

Each state has its own "grove" within the larger network. Join our state group in the Grove Online Community by signing up for AMERICAN GROVE/ MASSACHUSETTS at <http://thegrove.americangrove.org/group/massachusettsgrove/>

American Grove was built in partnership with the USDA Forest Service.

USDA UNVEILS NEW PLANT HARDINESS ZONE MAP

In addition to revealing significant zone changes for various areas, it is now possible to download and print state, regional, and national images of the map in a variety of sizes and resolutions.

By Kim Kaplan

January 25, 2012

Captured from <http://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov>

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today released the new version of its Plant Hardiness Zone Map (PHZM), updating a useful tool for gardeners and researchers for the first time since 1990 with greater accuracy and detail. The new map—jointly developed by USDA's Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and Oregon State University's (OSU) PRISM Climate Group—is available online at www.planthardiness.ars.usda.gov. ARS is the chief intramural scientific research agency of USDA.

For the first time, the new map offers a Geographic Information System (GIS)-based interactive format and is specifically designed to be Internet-friendly. The map website also incorporates a "find your zone by ZIP code" function. Static images of national, regional and state maps also have been included to ensure the map is readily accessible to those who lack broadband Internet access.

"This is the most sophisticated Plant Hardiness Zone Map yet for the United States," said Catherine Woteki, USDA Under Secretary for Research, Education and Economics. "The increases in accuracy and detail that this map represents will be extremely useful for gardeners and researchers."

Plant hardiness zone designations represent the average annual extreme minimum temperatures at a given location during a particular time period. They do not reflect the coldest it has ever been or ever will be at a specific location, but simply the average lowest winter temperature for the location over a specified time. Low temperature during the winter is a crucial factor in the survival of plants at specific locations.

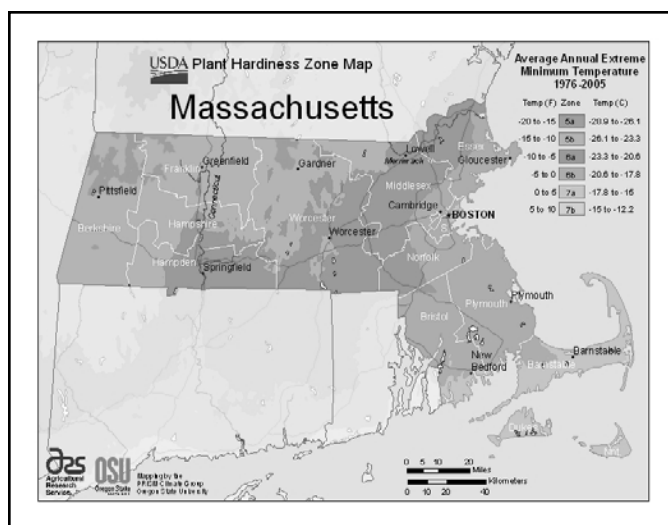
The new version of the map includes 13 zones, with the addition for the first time of zones 12 (50-60 degrees Fahrenheit) and 13 (60-70 degrees Fahrenheit). Each zone is a 10-degree Fahrenheit band, further divided into 5-degree Fahrenheit zones "A" and "B."

To help develop the new map, USDA and OSU requested that horticultural and climatic experts review the zones in their geographic area, and trial versions of the new map were revised based on their expert input.

Compared to the 1990 version, zone boundaries in this edition of the map have shifted in many areas. The new map is generally one 5-degree Fahrenheit half-zone warmer than the previous map throughout much of the United States. This is mostly a result of using tempera-

ture data from a longer and more recent time period; the new map uses data measured at weather stations during the 30-year period 1976-2005. In contrast, the 1990 map was based on temperature data from only a 13-year period of 1974-1986.

However, some of the changes in the zones are a result of new, more sophisticated methods for mapping zones between weather stations. These include algorithms that considered for the first time such factors as changes in elevation, nearness to large bodies of water, and position on the terrain, such as valley bottoms



and ridge tops. Also, the new map used temperature data from many more stations than did the 1990 map. These advances greatly improved the accuracy and detail of the map, especially in mountainous regions of the western United States. In some cases, they resulted in changes to cooler, rather than warmer, zones.

While about 80 million American gardeners, as well as those who grow and breed plants, are the largest users of the USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map, many others need this hardiness zone information. For example, the USDA Risk Management Agency uses the USDA plant hardiness zone designations to set some crop insurance standards. Scientists use the plant hardiness zones as a data layer in many research models such as modeling the spread of exotic weeds and insects.

Although a poster-sized version of this map will not be available for purchase from the government as in the past, anyone may download the map free of charge from the Internet onto their personal computer and print copies of the map as needed. 📄

NEW ENGLAND GROWS DRAW THOUSANDS TO BOSTON

BOSTON, Mass. --- Near record crowds took advantage of the mild winter as 12,877 green industry professionals came to New England Grows 2012 on February 1 - 3 in Boston. This popular trade show and conference for growers, garden center retailers, arborists and landscape professionals celebrated its 20th anniversary with a 24% increase in attendance over 2011.

Held at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center, New England Grows featured an exposition filled with a wide variety of industry suppliers offering classic and new products or services, as well as "Grows-only" show specials. Attendees crowded the aisles to see nearly 600 industry suppliers, including 63 new exhibiting firms.

Also popular on the tradeshow floor were ongoing educational presentations at the Great Ideas Pavilion and the new Expo Classroom. Throughout all three days these forums provided information packed presentations in a more intimate, ask-the-experts setting.

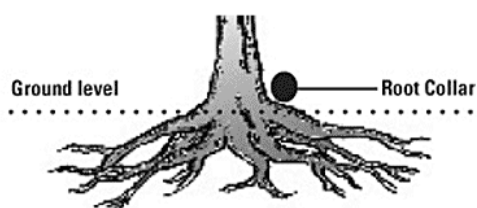
The well-known New England Grows' educational programs were once again a big draw. Seminars that focused on great plants for this region, design and innovation, emerging trends, new pests, and the latest research often attracted standing room only crowds. The schedule included presentations by Frank Drummond, Dennis Schrader, Cheryl A. Smith, Lew French, Tony Avent, Randall Prostack, Dan Kitteredge, and Richard A. Casagrande who spoke on topics that ranged from honeybees to annuals, tree health, designing with stone, perennials, weeds, organic growing and insect pests.

New England Grows supports the green industry through annual grants to the region's Cooperative Extension Systems. This year \$25,000.00 was awarded to Cooperative Extension programs in the region.

Next year, New England Grows is scheduled for Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, February 6-8, 2013 at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center. For the latest information visit www.NewEnglandGrows.org, follow New England Grows on Facebook and Twitter, or call (508) 653-3009. 📞

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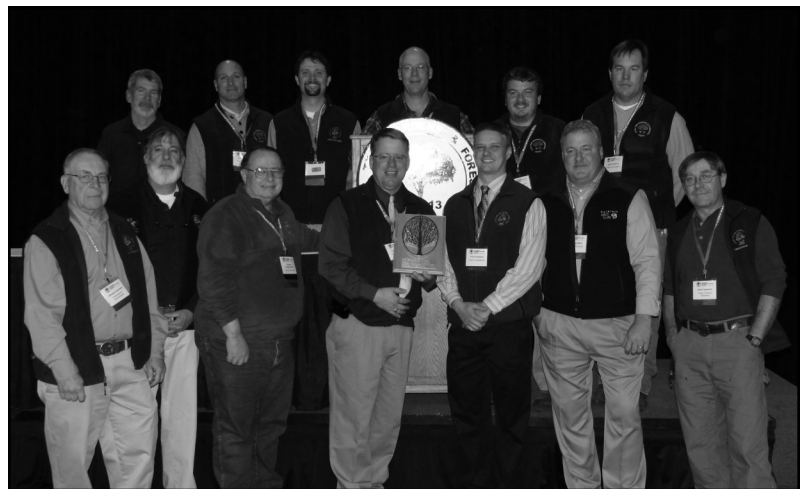
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CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

This year, Chris Hayward's surprise was the presentation of two President's Awards—to Bob Childs (photo right) and to Dan Gillman (below). Dan in turn surprised everyone with the announcement of his upcoming June 1st retirement. Thank you to both Dan and Bob for their enduring support of MTWFA!



Thomas Brady, Town of Brookline Tree Warden and MTWFA President 2001-02, stands with members of the 2011 Executive Board as he proudly holds the George E. Stone Award presented to him at Wednesday's lunch. Marc Welch blindsided Tom with a rambling preamble to the announcement.



Supported this year by a donation from NSTAR, the 99th Conference and the customary Wednesday evening social hour in the Exhibit Hall were enlivened by games of cornholing (see Wikipedia for rules and scoring). The tree geeks present decided the game should be renamed "knotholing."

More pictures of the 99th Conference at www.masstreewardens.org



January 20, 2012

Greetings all,

Well, a week has passed and several notes have come across from various folks regarding the conference, along with a few notes indicating various mem-

bers of the Board are on the mend. I want to add my own message for the group.

I have been extremely lucky in my professional life to have found my vocation fairly early in my life. As I have traveled to various events and conferences around the country, people are amazed and impressed by the level of care we give to our trees. And well they should be. Groups like the MTWFA have long served as guardians for the urban forest, and thanks to everyone's work we are well positioned to do so for many years to come. I truly love what I do. I don't always love the process that goes with it, but the work of caring for and planning for the future of the urban forest is a really neat thing to do every day at work.

When I became involved with the MTWFA Board in the late 1990's, the Association was in a very challenging position. After generations of sound stewardship, the Board had come to a time to make some hard decisions, decisions that would impact the future of the MTWFA. Among the group of folks on the Board at that time, there was genuine concern for the current state of the organization and for its future. It was a powerful concern, one that I needed time to understand and appreciate fully. As the years have marched on, I see that the policies, procedures, and protocols that were developed with careful thought and consideration back then, respecting the past while planning for the future, have been used successfully since then to ensure that the MTWFA will be in fine standing for future generations.

As I surveyed the room during our lunch and reception on the first day of our conference, I was heartened to think how the hard work of so many has come to fruition. Members, vendors, and guests mingling, talking, laughing, and later, playing knothole, brought back memories of years gone by when Louie Casasanto was the ringleader. To be recognized with the George E. Stone Award for working with this group that I love and enjoy was a moment I will always treasure.

The MTWFA Board is an amazing group of folks – always has been, and always will be. I am grateful and appreciative to all those I've been fortunate to serve with and to call my friends over the years.

Thank you,
Tom Brady

THANK YOU TO OUR EXHIBITORS!

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- Altec Industries
- Amherst Nurseries
- Arbor Care
- ArborMaster
- Bigelow Nurseries
- BMC Corporation
- Chadwick-BaRoss
- Cleaves Co.
- Cranes Aerial Truck Service
- CUES
- Forestry Equipment of VA (FEVA)
- Massachusetts DCR Forest Health Program
- Massachusetts Department of Labor Standards
- Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife
- Massachusetts Highway Association
- Millane Nurseries
- National Grid – Hazard Tree Program
- North American Equipment Upfitters, Inc.
- Northeast Nursery
- Northern Tree Service/Ashbitt
- OESCO
- Shelter Tree
- Shemin Nurseries
- The Kenerson Group | Vegetation Control Service
- USDA APHIS PPQ
- Valley Green



In the Exhibit Hall: Colin Welch loved the new program format almost as much as the rest of our attendees!

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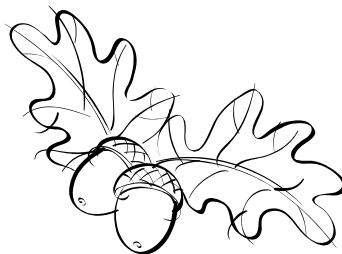
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www.unri.org
- April 13** **MCA Exam**
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www.massarbor.org
- April 17** **Chapter 87, Section 14 Regional Meeting** 10 am-12 noon
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- April 18** **ARBOR DAY SEEDLINGS Order Deadline**
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April 21 **Student Climbing Jamboree**
 UMass/Stockbridge School
 Contact Dennis Ryan
 Email: dr@eco.umass.edu

April 27 **Arbor Day of Service**
MASSACHUSETTS ARBOR DAY
 Massachusetts Arborists Assn.
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May 1 **Deadline for DCR Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Grants**
www.mass.gov/dcr

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