



# BARK

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

## EMERALD ASH BORER CROSSES HUDSON, EDGING CLOSER TO NEW ENGLAND FORESTS

A tree-killing invasive insect recently crossed its last major natural eastward obstacle, the Hudson River in New York, and it is now poised to reach New England woodlands.

Forest health managers on scene near the east side of the river detected a possible emerald ash borer infestation there on March 8, 2012. APHIS confirmed the identification of the insect specimens as EAB the next day. Though concerned about the latest detection, officials are relieved that the infestation appears to be isolated.

The emerald ash borer, a native to China, has already killed tens of millions of ash trees across much of the Midwest, mid-Atlantic, and Northeast in the decade since it was first detected near Detroit in 2002.

Forestry officials are encouraged their EAB trap trees detected the latest EAB infestation while it was still at a low population density. Girdled trap trees act like natural EAB magnets and can be used as sentinels to detect early infestations.

*New England state foresters are now bracing for the arrival of EAB in their forests. The easternmost EAB population is within 25 miles of the Connecticut and Massachusetts state lines.*

The US Forest Service is working closely with the New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation on scene to manage the EAB population.

The new EAB infestation indicated on three trap trees near Rhinecliff appears to be less than a year old. "It is very manageable at that age," said US Forest Service Entomologist Nate Siegert. "It's rare that infestations are detected this early. Management options can have a much greater impact on the EAB population at that stage of the infestation."

"The management tactics that DEC implemented last year appear to be effectively limiting EAB population growth and spread on the west side of the river," he added. "The detection traps we established on the east side of the river last year were effective in detecting an infestation that started there last summer."

The eastern EAB infestation appears to have originated by some other means than the natural spread of the insect, said Siegert.

## In this issue

From the President	2
Welcome New Members	3
In Memoriam	3
Tree Wardens in the Family	3
Speaking of History...	3
Trees, Lines, and Storms	4
Stockbridge School TCC	5
Tree Risk PDS 2012	6
Growing Greener	7
Website Postings	7
Editor's Pick	7
Chips and Clips	9
Calendar of Events	16

## ALB EMERGENCE IS NEAR

Keep an eye out for Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB) this summer. Researchers have predicted the emergence to be around mid-June this year, earlier than in past years. We have already seen the emergence of white-spotted pine sawyer, an ALB look-alike, in May. The Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources has a number of flyers on ALB and lookalikes in both English and Spanish available at <http://massnrc.org/pests/alb/bmedia.htm>.

Continued on page 8

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Karen Doherty, MTWFA Executive Director

## FROM THE PRESIDENT



In 1962, to mark the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the Massachusetts Tree Wardens' and Foresters' Association, a souvenir book was published titled *The Golden Year Edition: Massachusetts Tree Wardens' and Foresters' Association*. In the preface to the book, author Fred C. Basile wrote, "The purpose of this souvenir book is to present to the membership and their affiliates a symbolic collection of the words and deeds performed by past and present members of our fine organization." Some of the subjects include the life and works of founder Dr. George Stone, the history of the Association, scholarship award recipients, and looking ahead to the next fifty years. The book is quite an interesting read. There aren't many copies around but if you happen to come across one, definitely take a moment to enjoy some of the very interesting topics.

The reason I am starting my President's message writing about a 50-year-old book is that the MTWFA is back in the book writing business! In recognition of the upcoming 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Association, we are preparing a sequel to *The Golden Year Edition*. Association members George Markarian and Dennis Ryan have been very busy pulling together information about the last fifty years. They have been interviewing long-standing members, researching old documents and

## MTWFA MASSACHUSETTS TREE WARDENS' AND FORESTERS' ASSOCIATION



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photos, writing articles with the help of many of our members, and conducting all the work that it takes to compile a book of such significance. You yourself may have been among those contacted for a valuable nugget of information. If so, we thank you for your contributions and appreciate that you were able to participate, often within a short and somewhat pressured timeline.

As we near the completion date of the book, we want to let you know that we plan to offer it to our members early next year. We will soon determine and announce the details of when, how and where it will be available.

Our Association is alive and rich with history. Like our members fifty years ago, we are proud to be a part of that history. We are pleased to continue their tradition with the upcoming 100<sup>th</sup> year souvenir book and trust that it will be a commemorative record of the Association's enduring role in the stewardship of public trees in Massachusetts. Once you have one in your hands, we hope that you will appreciate it as much as we have enjoyed pulling it together.

Have an excellent summer!

*Christopher Hayward, MCA*  
MTWFA President 2011-2012

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

David Bellavance, Westport MA  
Roland Curtis, Town of Chesterfield MA  
Jennifer Davis, City of Peabody MA  
Jeffrey Esche, Newburyport MA  
John Johnson, Burlington MA  
Dan Nason, Town of Northborough MA  
Mark Stevens, Town of Montague MA

### New Commercial Members

Lyndon Tree Care, Cory Lester, Northampton, MA  
Top Notch Tree Care, Jeff Van Meter, Norwell, MA  
TDL Tree Service, Trevor Laliberte, Woburn, MA  
Swamp, Inc., Kittery, ME

## IN MEMORIAM

### Richard C. Swain

Richard C. Swain, age 80, passed away on Chappaquiddick beach in June, surrounded by his friends of over 42 years who were together on their annual fishing trip. Richard was a graduate of UMass Amherst and had served in the U.S. Army. A longtime MTWFA member, Dick served the Town of Wilbraham as its Tree Warden and had been a co-owner of the former Suburban Forestry Service in Wilbraham. He was a Massachusetts Certified Arborist (MCA) and also a member of the Massachusetts Arborists Association (MAA). 🌲

## TREE WARDENS IN THE FAMILY?

### Tell us about them now!

The 2013 centennial book will include an article that has the current working title of "Family Trees." The book committee has discovered that a number of current and recent tree wardens had family members who served in the same capacity in the past—father, uncle, grandfather, etc. If you also have such a skeleton in your closet, we want to hear from you. We would like to include your story, but don't delay! The book will be going to print later this summer. Contact George Markarian (781-727-9659) or Dennis Ryan (413-545-6626).

### SPEAKING OF HISTORY...

Do you recognize anyone in this 1985 photo?



ANSWER: 3rd from left is Paul Sellers, NSTAR Arborist and current Secretary/Clerk of the MTWFA.

## TREES, UTILITY LINES AND STORMS

2011 was a rough year for Massachusetts's citizens, trees and the electric utility industry. The heavy snow season of the 2010-2011 winter was a record breaker, there was a tornado in central Massachusetts, and that was followed by a hurricane. To cap off the year, we had the infamous Halloween Snow Storm (HSS). I have been involved in the tree care industry for almost fifty years and been through three ice storms and several hurricanes, but without a doubt the HSS did more damage to trees than any other event that I have witnessed.

There has been a considerable amount of debate since the HSS, at public meetings in Massachusetts and Connecticut and in the press, about how the utility industry responded to the storm. Many of the concerns expressed showed a complete lack of understanding as to just how much damage was done to the utility system. The tree workers and utility crews that were brought in from around the country did a fantastic job restoring power to the utility grid. However, NSTAR, National Grid, and Northeast Utilities did a terrible job of informing the public as to the extent of the damage and providing a realistic time line for restoring the power. If you tell people that they will have power in 24 hours and it turns out to be several days, they will be upset – and rightfully so.

What many people do not realize is that the utility industry is required by both law and litigation to keep vegetation away from their utility wires. The two main reasons why the utility industry is required to keep electric lines free of conflicts with vegetation are safety of the general public and electric reliability. Electric lines that come in contact with trees cause both reliability and safety problems for the utility company and the general public. A tree growing in contact with electric wires can conduct electricity.

Reliability is a major issue. Today the general public and business are more dependent than ever on having a steady and reliable flow of electricity. When the lights go out today, it's not just the lights, but also computers, medical apparatus, traffic lights and possibly the air traffic control system for a major airport. The bottom line is that the utility industry is required to keep the electricity flowing both safely and reliably. If the utility company fails to do this, they are held accountable.

In reviewing the HSS, what was very apparent was that trees or tree branches that were in the utility pruning zone did not cause the vast majority of long-term power outages. Most of the utility pruning of our distribution lines in New England is on a four to five year pruning cycle. Standard pruning requires that there be 15 feet of clearance above the lines, 10 feet to the side and 10 feet below. In most cases this will provide safe and reliable service for four years. However, the utility companies have challenges in meeting these pruning specs.

In both Massachusetts and Connecticut, in order to prune trees that belong to the town, the utility needs a pruning permit from the municipal tree warden or, if it is a private tree, from the tree's owner. In many cases the tree warden or the tree owner will put restrictions on how much pruning can be done. Please keep in mind that the utility company would like to get as much clearance as they can; it makes their job of ensuring safety and reliability easier.

In the case of the HSS, most of the long-term outages were not caused by trees in the utility pruning zone, but from large growing trees set back on private property that were broken or in many cases uprooted by the weight of the heavy snow on trees that still had leaves. Prior to this storm we had a very wet season and the soil was saturated; with the wind, the snow, and leaves still on the trees, many trees could not support the weight and literally fell over. No amount of utility pruning would have prevented this.

As an example, a large oak tree uprooted and fell on Route 116 in Granby, MA. This tree was growing forty feet from the road on private property. When it fell, it ripped down two utility poles and blocked the state highway. This type of damage cannot be fixed without first removing the tree, replacing two poles, and restringing the lines – not an easy or fast job. This is just one example, and there were thousands of these across two states.

### The Future

Since the storm, there have been many voices insisting that these utility outages should not happen again but, as one old time tree warden told me years ago, "You can do all the pruning you want, but when a major storm comes through, all bets are off."

*Continued next page*

What we need is for municipal tree wardens to work more closely with the utility arborist. In 2011 a new section was added to Massachusetts General Law Chapter 87. The governor signed Section 14 into law on January 13, 2011. This new section is designed to encourage tree wardens and the utility companies to work together on an annual vegetation management plan for the municipal trees alongside of the utility distribution lines. At this time the Massachusetts Tree Wardens' & Foresters' Association, the Massachusetts DCR Urban Forester, and the utility companies are cooperating to implement this new option.

Municipal tree wardens need to work with the utility arborist to educate homeowners with trees near utility lines about the need for pruning these trees. It only takes one tree to shut down the electric system.

Another problem facing the utilities is the improper planting of trees near utility lines. I have never seen a utility arborist plant a tree under the utility lines, but I have seen and continue to see town DPWs, homeowners, and landscape architects plant large trees near electric lines. Planting trees in the wrong place not only causes problems for the utility company but also sad-

dles the municipality with unhealthy trees and broken sidewalks.

In Massachusetts General Laws, Section 7 of Chapter 87 allows the planting of public shade trees up to 20 feet onto private property from the road. By doing set-back plantings, the trees are away from the wires and the road and this provides the benefits of a healthy tree without the problems.

### Conclusion

We can have trees and we can have electricity, but we need to be realistic. When a major storm comes through, no amount of pruning will prevent all long-term outages. We can reduce outages by having tree wardens, utility arborists and homeowners work together. Planting trees in the right place and allowing for proper pruning of trees on both municipal and private property will reduce outages. But remember, we live in New England and we are famous for our weather.

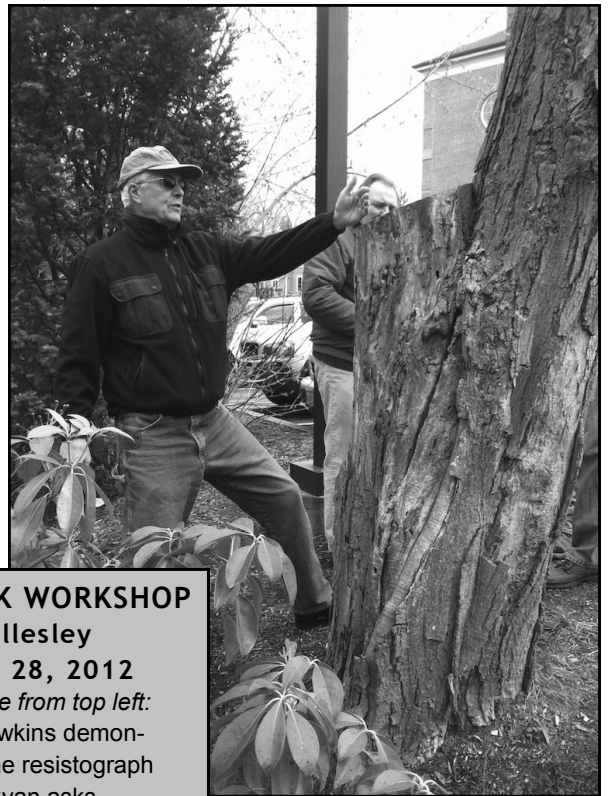
*H. Dennis Ryan*

*Arboriculture & Community Forestry  
Dept. of Environmental Conservation*

## STOCKBRIDGE SCHOOL HOLDS ANNUAL TREE CLIMBING COMPETITION

On Saturday April 21st, 12 students from the Department of Environmental Conservation and the Stockbridge School's Arboriculture program competed in the annual tree climbing competition held on campus. In the preliminary events, Luke Longstreeth won the belayed speed climb, Eric Swennes won the footlock, Jason Wood came in first place in the work climb, and Bryan Westlake won the throwline. The overall winner was Ethan Dangelo, followed closely by Jay Sigman and Jon Macomber. Mark Reiland, a graduate student in the Department of Environmental Conservation organized this year's event. Faculty members Brian Kane and Dennis Ryan also helped out; Dr. Kane remarked, "I was so impressed by how much all of the students have improved their climbing since I taught them in the intro climbing class!" Several alumni helped to judge events and donated prizes. You can watch a video of some of the events here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZBa1bILUmxg>.





## TREE RISK WORKSHOP

Wellesley

March 28, 2012

*Clockwise from top left:*

- ✂ Dave Hawkins demonstrates the resistograph
- ✂ Dennis Ryan asks "anything wrong with this tree?"
- ✂ Another assessment tool, the drill
- ✂ Dave Hawkins explains visual tree assessment
- ✂ Kent Warren measures tree diameter (it's big)
- ✂ Class attendees intent on another risk tree example



## GROWING GREENER IN WELLESLEY

by Mollie Freilicher  
DCR Community Action Forester

This past year, the Town of Wellesley passed a new tree bylaw to improve tree protection in the town. The new bylaw creates a process to designate private trees that meet certain qualifications as *protected trees*. Wellesley modeled its bylaw after a similar one in Newton. The Wellesley bylaw is under the purview of the Planning Board and complements the existing policy covering public shade trees.

Tree protection under the new bylaw is based on tree diameter and zoning. The bylaw applies to four different construction scenarios, including building demolition (greater than 250 square feet), construction of retaining walls, building on a vacant lot, and projects that increase the existing footprint by 50% or more. It includes a formula for determining if a property has a protected tree. The bylaw requires that protected trees be preserved during construction, and builders and developers must submit a Base Tree Protection and Mitigation Plan to the Building Department that includes locations of protected trees.

Depending on whether builders plan to preserve or remove protected trees, the plan must contain information on the preservation or the removal. If the plan is to remove the trees, then the builder must either replace the protected trees with new trees or contribute to a Tree Bank according to a rate schedule based on the diameters of protected trees. Larger trees require a larger contribution. Builders may use a combination of replanting and contributing to the Tree Bank.

The bylaw not only provides a new source of protection for trees, but also provides a new source of funding for the town's tree planting program. The new bylaw can be found online at [http://www.wellesleyma.gov/pages/wellesleyma\\_planning/TreeBylawRulesRegs6.27.11.pdf](http://www.wellesleyma.gov/pages/wellesleyma_planning/TreeBylawRulesRegs6.27.11.pdf)

*Captured from the April 2012 issue of "The Citizen Forester," the online newsletter of the Massachusetts DCR Urban & Community Forestry Program*

## AUGUST is

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## EDITOR'S PICK

### THE ABCs FIELD GUIDE TO YOUNG AND SMALL TREE PRUNING

Andrew G. Pleninger and Christopher J. Luley, Ph.D.

This softcover, 85-page guide is written for a wide range of users – from arborists and landscape professionals, to municipal workers, to homeowners who may have little or no experience pruning trees. It might also be a good resource for a Citizen Pruner program. The spiral binding is user-friendly for indoors or out.

Created to simplify the pruning process on small and young trees, the graphic format of *The ABCs Field Guide* is mostly photographs and illustrations. It contains just enough supporting text and just the right amount of technical information necessary to explain good arboricultural practices.

Easy to learn, the acronym-based method outlines a sequence that is also easy to remember. The prioritized method directs the user where to start, what branches to prune, and how much to remove. The ABCs acronym list is concise:

- A** – Assess the tree
- A** – Apical dominance pruning (prune for central stem)
- B** – Bad branches (dead, diseased, defective)
- C** – Competing branches
- D** – Dose (amount to prune)

The book begins with a focus on proper pruning tools. Clear diagrams and photos illustrate different types of cuts and use overlays of dotted lines and arrows to teach both terminology and step-by-step application. The next section outlines the principles of the ABCs Method. Another section describes important considerations such as when is the best time to prune, how often to prune, how to achieve desired results without wound dressing, and the don'ts of tree pruning. The final section consists of excellent before and after photos that prove the effectiveness of using the ABCs Method.

This is the newest guide in the *Visual Identification Series*. It is available at the authors' website <http://www.urbanforestryllc.com> and from the bookstore of the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA).

## JOB OPPORTUNITIES ON MTWFA WEBSITE

Remember to check in at [www.masstreewardens.org](http://www.masstreewardens.org) regularly for position openings in the public sector. As a member benefit, MTWFA will post tree-related positions for municipal, state or federal governments for up to 60 days.



*EAB crosses Hudson—continued from page 1*

Officials on scene completed an EAB delimitation survey on April 13. A total of 28 total girdled trees were used as trap trees on the east side of the river. Forest health managers rigorously sampled 75 ash trees this week, searching for any additional signs of EAB. They surveyed outward three miles from each of the three infested trap trees looking for additional signs of infestation. No other trees were found to be infested.

They girdled another 100 trees to be used as sentinel trees and population sinks. APHIS PPQ also contributed about 100 purple panel traps which DEC will additionally deploy in the survey area for detection efforts this summer.

New York State Forester Robert K. Davies said, "DEC is committed to working with our New England partners and the Forest Service to slow the spread of this deadly invasive pest, which can wreak havoc upon communities and forests throughout the region."

Siegert said EAB eradication would not be their goal, but they would hope to make a much greater impact on the infestation on the east side of the river.

"We stand a very good chance of effectively managing and slowing the progression of ash mortality on the east side of the river," he said. The results of the delimitation surveys will allow the agencies involved to make an educated decision as to what size quarantine to put in place.

New England state foresters are now bracing for the arrival of EAB in their forests. The easternmost EAB population is within 25 miles of the Connecticut and Massachusetts state lines.

"We've been preparing for a while," said Connecticut State Forester Chris Martin. "We've been closely monitoring the eastward progression. The sentinel trees established by the Forest Service and DEC detected the infestation early. Their efforts are showing promise in slowing the spread."

"This is a battle worth fighting. The ash tree resources in New England are tremendous. The cost to state and local governments of removing dead and dying ash trees is phenomenal," said Martin.


"The longer we can hold it off and slow it down, the more time we have to possibly develop some means to control the EAB population," he added.

**News Release—April 17, 2012**  
**USDA Forest Service, Northeastern Area**  
**State and Private Forestry, Durham, NH**  
Contact: Glenn Rosenholm [grosenholm@fs.fed.us](mailto:grosenholm@fs.fed.us)

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## CHIPS AND CLIPS—DID YOU KNOW?

### Reed stands are brush fire headache for New York

If you thought New York wasn't likely to experience wildland fires, guess again. Staten Island has had several thousand of them since the mid-1990s. The brush fires are fed by large stands of reeds known as phragmites. Phragmites (pronounced frag-MITE-eez) are an invasive grass found in wetlands. They can grow from 6 to 20 feet high and can burn at the rate of one to three football fields a minute. Flames from the brush fires can reach lengths of 56 to 83 feet depending on wind speed. (NASF June 20, 2012)

### USDA launches Hungry Pest website

The USDA has launched the Hungry Pest website at [www.hungrypests.com](http://www.hungrypests.com) to educate people about the danger of invasive species throughout the US. They describe hungry pests as invasive species that threaten to harm crops and trees. If left unchecked, they can devastate entire agricultural industries and forests, eliminating jobs, threatening our food supplies and costing billions. The website gives users the ability to report pests and tips on what the public can do to eliminate the spread of invasive species. (NASF June 15, 2012)

### Emerald Ash Borer found in Smoky Mountains

The Emerald Ash Borer continues its destructive path through the south and northeast, most recently found last week on the Great Smoky Mountains National Park's Tennessee side. Park officials say the pests will inevitably make their way into North Carolina. Biologists will begin treating the infected ash trees within the next month. The work will be limited to sections in the Greenbrier area and near the Sugarlands Visitor Center in Tennessee. (NASF June 15, 2012)

### Forest Service kicks off My Neighborhood Forest photo contest

The U.S. Forest Service today announced its *My Neighborhood Forest* photo contest, celebrating America's urban and community forests. The contest, which runs from April 11—July 22, seeks to highlight the natural beauty that spring and summer bring to U.S. neighborhoods, communities and cities, as well as the crucial role of trees in the places we call home. The Grand Prize winner will receive \$200 in outdoor gear courtesy of the National Forest Foundation. (NASF April 11, 2012)

### Handful of Heavyweight Trees Per Acre Are Forest Champs

*ScienceDaily*, May 2, 2012—Big trees three or more feet in diameter accounted for nearly half the biomass measured at a Yosemite National Park site, yet represented only one percent of the trees growing there.

This means just a few towering white fir, sugar pine and incense cedars per acre at the Yosemite site are disproportionately responsible for photosynthesis, converting carbon dioxide into plant tissue and sequestering that carbon in the forest, sometimes for centuries, according to James Lutz, a University of Washington research scientist in environmental and forest sciences. He's lead author of a paper on the largest quantitative study yet of the importance of big trees in temperate forests.

"In a forest composed of younger trees that are generally the same age, if you lose one percent of the trees, you lose one percent of the biomass," he said. "In a forest with large trees like the one we studied, if you lose one percent of the trees, you could lose half the biomass."

One implication of the research is that land managers may want to pay more attention to existing big trees, the co-authors said. Last year in the Yosemite National Park, for example, managers planning to set fires to clear out overgrown brush and densely packed small trees first used data from the study plot to figure out how many large trees to protect.

"Before the fires were started, crews raked around some of the large trees so debris wouldn't just sit and burn at the base of the tree and kill the cambium, the tissue under the bark that sustains trees," Lutz said.

In some younger forests that lack big trees, citizens and land managers might want to consider fostering the growth of a few big-trunked trees, Lutz said.

Another finding from the new work is that forest models based either on scaling theory or competition theory, which are useful for younger, more uniform forests, fail to capture how and where large trees occur in forests.

To read the entire story, go to [www.sciencedaily.com](http://www.sciencedaily.com).

#### REFERENCE FOR CHIPS AND CLIPS (left column)

NASF—The NASF Washington Weekly Report, published online at [stateforesters.org](http://stateforesters.org), the website of the National Association of State Foresters.

## INDEX OF ADVERTISERS

Acorn Tree and Landscape .....	11
Amherst Nurseries .....	12
Arbor Care .....	12
Bartlett Consolidated .....	13
CUES Equipment .....	15
FEVA .....	8
Horticultural Technologies .....	10
Mayer Tree Service .....	14
Northeast Nursery .....	15
OESCO .....	12
Prof'l. Environmental Services .....	10
Shelter Tree .....	10
Stockbridge School .....	8
The Kenerson Group .....	14
Urban Forestry Solutions .....	10



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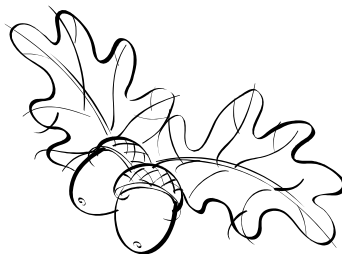
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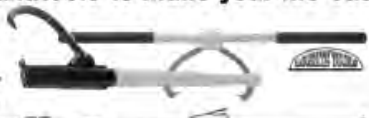
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