



For immediate release
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DCR'S FOREST HEALTH SUPERVISOR HONORED BY MASS. TREE WARDENS AND FORESTERS ASSOCIATION

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) is proud to announce that Charlie Burnham, DCR's Program Supervisor for Forest Health, has been honored by the Massachusetts Tree Wardens and Foresters Association for his more than 42 years of dedication, hard work, and commitment to protecting urban trees.

"Charlie Burnham has had an extraordinary career in state government helping property owners and municipalities protect their trees," said DCR Commissioner Richard K. Sullivan Jr. "No better advocate could be found for the important role that nature plays in urban life. We are very proud of him for earning this award."

Burnham, 63, first joined state government in 1967, working for what was then the Department of Natural Resources. As state environmental agencies evolved and changed, he moved with them, and has been with DCR since its inception in 2003. His job is to protect trees on state, municipal, and private property across the Commonwealth.

At the group's annual meeting this month, the Massachusetts Tree Wardens and Foresters Association (MTWFA) named Burnham the recipient of this year's George E. Stone Award. Stone founded the association, the nation's oldest urban and community tree protection organization, in 1913.

"This is our most prestigious award," said Thomas Brady, conservation administrator for the town of Brookline and advisor to the MTWFA executive board. "There have been only 24 other awardees in the history of the organization. Charlie Burnham has been an enormous friend to the urban forests of Massachusetts as a whole his entire career. He is a tremendous advocate for the industry, and has been helping us manage pests and problems that impact urban forests across the state for his entire career."

In 1989, responding to a concerned property owner, Burnham identified one of the first infestations in this state of hemlock woolly adelgid, a tiny invasive insect that can kill hemlocks. Since then, he has been instrumental in discovering and helping eradicate the bark beetle, gypsy moth, and Dutch elm disease, all of which endanger trees of the Commonwealth.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS · EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

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“I am very honored by this award,” said Burnham, who will retire from DCR later this month. “The Tree Wardens and Foresters Association has been supportive of me and our programs over all these years. They should be commended, too, for the fine work they do.”

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The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), an agency of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, oversees 450,000 acres of parks and forests, beaches, bike trails, watersheds, dams, and parkways. Led by Commissioner Richard K. Sullivan Jr., the agency’s mission is to protect, promote, and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural, and recreational resources. To learn more about DCR, our facilities, and our programs, please visit www.mass.gov/dcr. Contact us at mass.parks@state.ma.us.