

History of the South Eastern Massachusetts Tree Wardens & Arborist Association

Prepared by Leo P. Dube

The first meeting was held on February 20, 1947, at the Weymouth Town Hall at 7:30 pm. V. Leslie Hebert was named President Protem, and John Form was named Secretary. There were fifteen people in attendance. Meetings were held on the second Friday of the Month. It was at the third meeting that the name of S.E.M.T.W. and Moth Superintendents Association was adopted. It was at the fourth meeting that a permanent slate of officers would be elected.

They were:

Vice President -	E.E. Lloyd, Eastham
Secretary & Treasurer -	John Ford, Scituate
Executive Committee -	Herb Young, Pembroke
	A.C. Tuey, Bourne
	John Kennedy, Plymouth
	John Shields, Barnstable

It is unclear of the amount of members at that time. The best guess is 32. At this time, meetings were in July and August. It was February 18, 1948 that the Massachusetts Tree Wardens recognized the Association and allowed a representative on the Executive Committee. The first Ladies Night was held on April 9, 1948, at which time A. Clayson Tucey was elected President. The Ladies Night tradition would continue for the next 40 years.

On June 12, 1958, Howard Bates of Cohasset notified the group of the Strawberry Festival, sponsored by Brockton Edison, to be held on June 20, 1958. On June 15, 1958, the very first mention of a September Field Day was heard, when Howard Bates wrote a letter to Clayson Tucey, suggesting they cancel the August meeting, and have a "chowder" in September, at the Sportsman Club.

On May 22, 1963, the Ladies Night Banquet was held at the Sons of Italy Hall in Hingham, with Jess Cain, of radio and television fame, as M.C. At the June 17 meeting, a motion was made by Bill Wright, to have a Field Day with exhibitors. That summer, the committee, which now had Gus Dube on it, picked October 8, 1964, as the date of the first Field Day.

The first SETW scholarship was in 1965. It was \$100.00. Since that time, thousands of dollars have been awarded. In 1966, it was voted for the first time, to cancel both the July and August meetings, and hold Field Day in September. It was hosted by Fran Ford and was a Ham and Bean Supper. This would in years to come, be held every October, and be known as Spaghetti Night. In 1972, the group celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary with a Gala Ladies Night Dinner Dance, at the Halifax Country Club, complete with anniversary cake.

At fifty years young we are still growing. We changed our name to include private arborists. We now sponsor several educational programs, focusing on the latest techniques in climbing and rigging, as well as seminars on chain saw safety, and new developments in saw chains. In our fiftieth year, we have had our most successful Field Day of the thirty-six we have held, with a total of 475 tickets sold, 14 exhibitors, and an arbor games competition which was held again at the Plympton Upland Club. With new, young energetic leadership, our future looks bright.