

Massachusetts Tree Wardens and Foresters Association

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



2024
Issue 3
Fall

The Field Day is Back in Southeastern Mass!

After a hiatus of several years, the beloved annual field day at the Upland Sportsman's Club in Plympton is back! Over 200 people attended this educational day filled with exhibitors, outdoor presentations, and, of course, the famous chicken bake.

This event is the rebirth of the annual field day that the Southeastern Mass. Tree Wardens Association used to organize. If you're newer to MTWFA, you may not realize that there was another sister organization serving tree wardens in the southeastern part of the state. From our website: *The Southeastern Massachusetts Tree Wardens' and Arborists' Association (SEMTWAA) was organized in 1947 as a satellite organization of the MTWFA. In that era, there were five or six similar groups representing various regions of the state. Each arranged its own programs and considered subjects of local interest. Until 2015, when the Western Mass. group reactivated, SEMTWAA was the only such group still in existence.* Unlike Western Mass Tree Wardens, which operates as a subgroup of MTWFA, SEMTWAA was an official organization with its own board and finances. Since that time, the organization has dissolved. The hope was that MTWFA could continue the field day, but COVID-19 had other plans. Fast forward to 2024...It's back!

This year's event included four educational sessions, with each session offered twice, ensuring that everyone who wanted to attend a session could attend. Dr. Jennifer Forman-Orth, Environmental Biologist with the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources, presented on Invasive Pests in Your Neighborhood and on the Horizon. Forman-Orth discussed spotted lanternfly, emerald ash borer, elm zigzag sawfly, and other insects and the impacts they are having (or could have) on cities and towns. Russell Holman, Vegetation Management

Supervisor with Eversource, presented on Tree Selection and Placement. Holman explored what makes a good urban tree and how communities can increase tree canopy in the face of rising temperatures, challenging sites, and infrastructure like power lines and sidewalks. Nick Bowen from Milwaukee Tools presented on some new electric tools for arborists and David Chapman from Asplundh presented on setting up a work zone. Thank you to all our speakers!

Great weather and a great event. This event provided the opportunity to catch up with peers, meet new folks and it was fun to see some folks try out the aerial lift. The chicken was amazing.

-Art Goodhind, MTWFA Past President, Tree Warden, Natick

The day also included booths and demos from exhibitors, including Read Custom Soils, Massachusetts Department of Labor Standards, Cleaves Co., Shelter/RBI and Milwaukee Tools, GoGreen Tree Care Products, Davey Resource Group Inc, All Access Equipment - Wilmington, MA, Valley Green, Northeast STIHL / STIHL Inc., and Millican Nursery.

Exhibitors, MTWFA board members, and MTWFA donated door prize items. Thank you! Congratulations to the new owners of a pagoda dogwood, bluetooth speaker, Felco sharpener, Felco 2 sheath, a Silky Zubat, golf umbrella and blanket, a gallon of bar oil, and a Stihl 550xl Chainsaw.

Of the day, Rich Parasiliti, Jr., MTWFA Vice-President said, "The turn out was fantastic, the educational speakers/vendors were great and food was delicious!! Kudos to Past President Paul Sellers, Executive Board members and others for putting this program together!" Thank you to all who made the event possible. Looking forward to next year!

MTWFA Executive Board 2024

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- President—Ed Olsen, Needham
- Vice President—Rich Parasiliti, Jr, Northampton
- Secretary—Chris Gonzalez, Eversource
- Treasurer—Brandon Schmitt, Wellesley
- Past President—Art Goodhind, Natick

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- Middlesex—David Lefcourt, Cambridge
- Norfolk/Bristol—Blair Crane, Norfolk
- Southeast—Jeremiah Pearson, Falmouth
- Western Mass—David Hawkins, Pelham
- Worcester—Paul Raskevitz, Athol

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- Kyle Grendell, Westborough
- Scott Hathaway, Westfield
- Robert LeBlanc, Falmouth
- Paul Newell, Greenfield
- Chris Rosa, Malden
- Paul Sellers, Falmouth
- Alex Sherman, Springfield
- Alan Snow, Amherst
- Marc Welch, Newton

NEWSLETTER EDITORS

- Heather Leff, MTWFA Executive Director
- Mollie Freilicher, News & Events Editor

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In this Issue

The Field Day is Back in Southeastern Mass!	1
MTWFA Executive Board 2024	2
President’s Message	3
New/Returning Members	5
Professional Development Series	5
Western Mass Tree Wardens Dinner Meeting	5
Scenes from the 2024 MTWFA Field Day	6
MTWFA Annual Conference	7
Apply to Attend the Municipal Forestry Institute	8
DCR Forestry Updates	10
UMass Extension Updates	12
Tree Warden of the Year Nominations	14
New England ISA Annual Conference	16
Calendar of Events	20

DON’T MISS A SINGLE ISSUE OF THE BARK— To stay connected, be sure to send in your 2024 membership dues before June.

MTWFA

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Published Quarterly
Spring-Summer-Fall-Winter

President's Message

Seasons change, people change. So, the song goes. Well, another season is winding down. Where did this summer go? Summers tend to be a grind for many of us with summer slammer projects, capital field projects, and more. This summer was no different. The stress typically peaks the week before the start of school, knowing that all the best intentions were not good enough. Anticipating the angry emails from school personnel or parents that something did not get done in time and that we let them and the kids down. And so, I look forward to fall, my favorite time of year. School starting for my own children, regular routines, soccer games and practice. Warm days and cool nights. Apple picking and fall foliage. And finally, maybe taking a little time off for myself to unwind to decompress.

As this summer winds down so does my time as your President. Looking back at the past couple of years I am so proud of all that we have done and accomplished. I am so fortunate to have played a little part in our success, but truly owe all our members and executive board leaders my gratitude for your support and appreciation. As I look at the names of past Presidents, I am so honored to have my name join so many incredible men and women. Leaders, politicians, statesmen, educators, and all protectors of our Trees. As we know, our work has never been so valuable.

When I started my term as your President, I was honestly a little nervous. I had a lot going on in my personal and professional life. I was worried that I would not have the time to dedicate myself to everything and everyone. I worried that I would let people down. But after sharing these feelings with some of my closest friends within the association they assured me that I would be fine with their help and support. And so, I decided to meet this challenging time in my life head on. I tried to keep my goals simple and realistic. I chose two organizational and operating goals for our association and one educational/event goal.

My first goal was related to our website. We had long since realized that changes were in order. Not only did we want to refresh the look of our website, but more importantly we wanted a website that works smarter, providing more usefulness for our internal team as well as our members. I am so proud of our internal working group that has been so integral over the past year in making this goal a reality. I can't wait to roll out these changes soon. A second organizational goal of ours was to work on a revision of our Tree Wardens' and Foresters' Handbook. This, like the website, is well on its way. Both endeavors were supported by grant funding from our federal and state partners. Many thanks to all of you, especially Julie Coop, Alex Sherman, Kyle Grendell, and our Executive Director, Heather Leff.

My educational/event goal was related to our history as a group and how we gather and celebrate. Many years ago, approximately 35, I was fortunate to have taken on a summer job, while attending UMASS Amherst, with the Town of Easton DPW. That summer, I made memories and friendships that have lasted a lifetime. I was lucky enough to work on the Parks, Forestry and Cemeteries crew. One of my coworkers is now a full time DPW employee and still with the Town of Easton. One of the highlights of that summer was attending the annual Southeast Tree Wardens' "Chicken Bake". Many of you know what I am talking about, but others new to this association or industry might not. My lasting memory was a magical day of food, fun, and everything woodsy. Games, competitions, and prizes for forestry folks. I went to my first "Chicken Bake" with Paul O'Neil, the tree warden from Easton. He was, and is still, a larger-than-life presence. His knowledge, skills, and nerves of steel made him quite a character, role model, and mentor. I remember Paul just truly being within his element on that day, surrounded by folks just like him. To say the least, it left a lasting impact on me.

Funny how life works. Fast forward twenty years and I change careers and end up becoming a Tree Warden and DPW Superintendent. Fast forward another 14 years and now I am President of this incredible group. In recent years, the "Chicken Bake" had ceased as an annual event due to some of our key players retiring or moving on. My second simple goal, with the help of so many of you, was to bring back this iconic event and gathering. I am proud to be able to say on August 22nd the First Annual MTWFA Field Day took place at the Upland Club in Plympton. Over two-hundred attendees enjoyed chicken, horseshoes, exhibitor demos, and four hours of arboricultural education. Special thanks to Paul Sellers and all the volunteers that helped make this event happen as it was every little bit of the magic I remembered as a young man.

I am lucky to have had a short time and opportunity to lead this organization and grateful as a result. Thank you all for your help, support and most importantly for being true to what has always been our common bond, Trees. Remember seasons change, people change, but our common bonds will never be broken. Here is to all of our futures. Be well and I look forward to seeing you all soon. Thanks.

Eddie

Ed Olsen

President 2023-2024



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New/Returning Members

James Bunnell – City of Fitchburg

Wayne Diaz – Town of Swansea

Scott MacDonald – Town of Lancaster

Todd Mistor – City of Boston

Rebecca Nau – City of Framingham

Professional Development Series

Proper Tree Planting Techniques

Wednesday, October 16, 2024, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Needham PSAB-Public Services Administration Bldg.
500 Dedham Ave., Needham, United States

Successful tree establishment depends on proper planting. Adherence to industry best management practices will result in fewer girdling roots, better plant performance, and higher survival rates. Sign up now to learn what you need to know to ensure a good start for trees on urban sites. \$45 | \$55. Limit 40



CPR, First Aid and AED with Stop the Bleed

Wednesday, October 23, 2024, 8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Blackstone Heritage Corridor Visitor Center at Worcester
3 Paul Clancy Way, Worcester, MA, United States

Do you need to get your CPR, First Aid, and AED certificate, or do you need to renew? This class is for you! Don't miss this chance to get your American Heart Association Certificate. This course will be taught by Heart Start CPR. 4 CEUs are pending. Limited to 30 participants. \$105 Member, \$125 Non-Member.



Western Mass Tree Wardens Dinner Meeting

October 17, 2024, 5:00 - 7:30 p.m. | Bluebonnet Diner, Northampton

Please join us for this education and networking event. Greg Beck of Bartlett Tree Experts will be providing an update on Beech Leaf Disease and Nicole Keleher, MA Forest Health Program Director will provide a pest and disease update. \$40. Pesticide, MCA, and ISA credits have been requested. Registration deadline is October 11th.



Urban Forest Connections Webinar Series

Bringing Trees to the Ground - Model Projects
Funded through the Inflation Reduction Act

September 11, 1:00 pm

<https://research.fs.usda.gov>



Scenes from the 2024 MTWFA Field Day

The ability to go up in the 100ft CMC lift via All Access Equipment was a huge highlight. There were a lot of chances to catch up with and meet experienced Tree Wardens and their staff [...]. The camaraderie and learning within MTWFA can't be beat. - Field Day Attendee



Photos, Clockwise, from top-left: Enjoying horseshoes; Russell Holman presenting on tree selection; Jennifer Forman-Orth discussing invasive pests; the chicken bake; checking out the tracked lift.



MTWFA 112th Annual Conference

January 7-8, 2025 | Sturbridge Host Hotel

Conference time will be here before we know it! We hope you can join us!

We're excited to announce that our keynote speaker will be **Dr. Christine Carmichael**, author of *Racist Roots – How Racism Has Affected Trees and People in Our Cities and What We Can Do About It*. Dr. Carmichael holds a Ph.D. in Forestry with a Specialization in Gender, Justice, and Environmental Change and a Graduate Certificate in Community Engagement from Michigan State University. Dr. Carmichael has published high-impact research and consulted with numerous non-profit environmental groups and government agencies on ways to enhance multicultural partnerships, particularly in urban forestry, parks, and greenspace management. Dr. Carmichael is also a skilled facilitator with expertise in strategic planning and ensuring productive dialogue among diverse groups who have a stake in environmental programs.



Stay tuned for more details about our upcoming Annual Conference.



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Apply to Attend the Municipal Forestry Institute

Applications are due October 1, 2024

The Municipal Forestry Institute is a comprehensive, intensive leadership training geared toward urban forestry professionals organized by the Urban and Community Forestry Society (Formerly Society of Municipal Arborists). From the MFI website:



This week-long intensive educational program delivers a challenging, yet rewarding, opportunity to learn how to grow more successful community tree programs. Attendees will master leadership and management tools of program administration, coalition building, strategic thinking, program planning, and public relations by investing a week in their personal growth and development.

The 2025 MFI will take place February 23 through February 28, 2025 in Santa Cruz/Scotts Valley, California.

The curriculum was developed by a team of dynamic urban forestry professionals and educators experienced in leading urban forestry programs at the local, state, federal, and non-profit levels. The MFI training will cover these four themes:

Leadership: Looking inward to know and understand your professional self and others

Strategic Planning: Looking outward to know and understand the context you work in

Partnerships: Creating connections, partnerships and coalitions

Practice: Keeping momentum by developing a growth mindset

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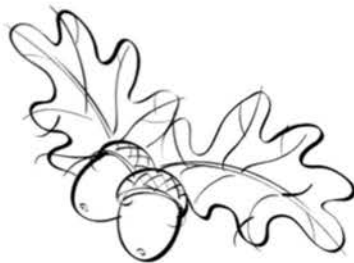


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DCR Forestry Updates

Stockbridge Town Forest Conference

October 19, 2024 | 8:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

The Massachusetts Town Forest Conference is an exceptional annual gathering that unites foresters, planners, arborists, conservation commission members, land trusts, nonprofit organizations, forest landowners, and more.

The conference focuses on local efforts to enhance the climate resilience of our community forests and highlights the crucial role that town forests and open spaces play in maintaining our local ecosystems.

Find out more and register from the link in the events calendar at masstreewardens.org.



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UMass Extension Updates

Green School Registration Open for Fall 2024

UMass Extension's Green School is a comprehensive 60+ hour certificate short course that offers fundamental horticultural training in a compact time frame. For 2024, two specialty tracks are available:

- Landscape Management
- Turf Management

The Arboriculture track will not be offered in 2024. Find out more at <https://ag.umass.edu/landscape>.

Resources from UMass Extension

Professional Management Guide for Diseases of Trees and Shrubs by Nicholas J. Brazee

Most of the disease pathogens known to be pests of woody ornamentals in the Northeast region are covered in this guide. Included is host plant information, along with appropriate fungicides, bactericides, biological control materials, and also cultural management information where applicable.

This guide assumes accurate identification of disease problems, as correct identification informs management options and can reduce pesticide use.

Update from the August 16, 2024 Landscape Message

Box Tree Moth has been detected in the following Massachusetts communities: Bourne, Sandwich, and Barnstable. If you believe you have found this insect, please take a photo, note your location, and report it immediately to the MA Department of Agricultural Resources using their Report a Pest Form.

Adult box tree moths have been reported arriving at blacklight traps on Cape Cod, MA as of 6/24/2024 and by others monitoring the same area the week prior. A new generation of box tree moth caterpillars for the 2024 season was reported by C.L. Fornari on Cape Cod as of 7/18/2024. It remains important to monitor boxwood for this pest.

The USDA APHIS has announced a new quarantine for box tree moth in Massachusetts and Ohio, and has expanded existing quarantines in Michigan and New York. This includes conditions for interstate movement of regulated *Buxus* species. This quarantine includes the entire Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The federal order states:

"Boxwood plants may only be moved interstate from a quarantined area from an establishment operating under a compliance agreement, and only if accompanied by a certificate issued by a State Agricultural Authority certifying that the requirements of this Federal Order and the compliance agreement have been met. These requirements will prevent producers and distributors of boxwood from moving infested plants interstate. State Agricultural Authorities may prescribe additional safeguards and protocols. All other regulated articles of boxwood, including plant parts, pieces, cuttings, clippings, debris, and any portion of the plant, alive or dead, except for decorative purposes, are prohibited from movement."

For more details on box tree moth, view the August 26 Landscape Message.



Professional Insect & Mite Management Guide for Woody Plants

This guide is for use by professional land managers and provides information on pests of trees and shrubs commonly reported to UMass Extension. This guide includes information about growing degree days (if available), host plants, insect/pest descriptions, host plant damage, monitoring, cultural management, natural enemies and biological control, as well as chemical management options.

Both guides can be accessed at the link above.



*Box tree moth caterpillar.
Photograph by Christophe Quintin
via Flickr, used under a CC BY-NC
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Tree Warden of the Year Nominations

**It's never too early to start thinking about
Tree Warden of the Year.**



The Tree Warden of the Year Award recognizes a tree warden who exhibits leadership, dedication, and a commitment to the profession. The annual award is named in honor of

longtime member and past president Seth "Swifty" Swift, who passed away January 1, 2004.

We invite nominations from Massachusetts residents as well as from city and town officials. Nominations are due by December 1st.

What are the criteria for Tree Warden of the Year?

- Holds position of Tree Warden or Deputy Tree Warden in a municipality.
- Actively participates in the Arbor Day Foundation's program, Tree City USA
- Demonstrates active leadership and dedication to the protection of urban trees
- Educates the community in which they work about the importance of healthy urban trees
- Holds an annual Arbor Day celebration
- Shows commitment to the profession by volunteering with a tree-related organization

The award is given at the Association's annual conference in January. The MTWFA holds an Arbor Day event in the town or city where the individual works and publicizes the award in that recipient's area.

Submit your nomination online at www.masstreewardens.org or scan the QR code below.



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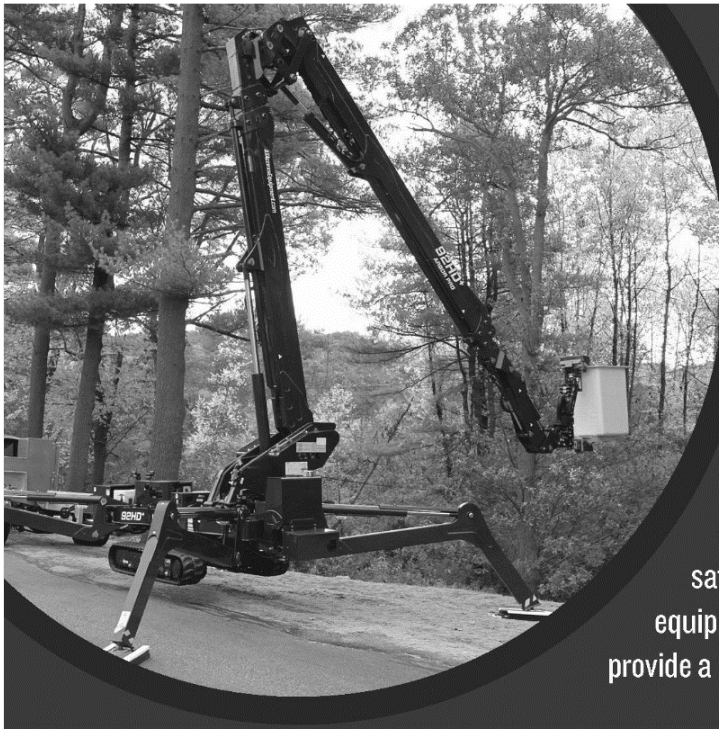
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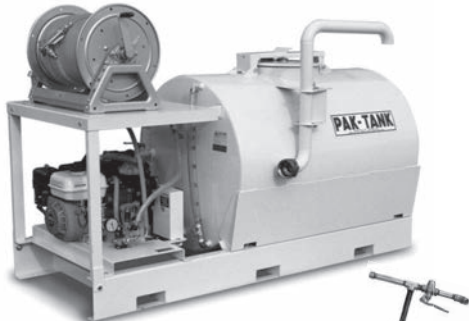
Acorn Tree and Landscape	9
All Access Equipment	16
Amherst Nurseries	4
Bartlett Consolidated	15
Cleaves Company	4
Davey Resource Group	18
Favreau Forestry	11
GoGreen Tree Care Products	4
Mayer Power Products	13
Mayer Tree Service	11
Millican Nurseries	10
Northeast Nursery	13
OESCO, Inc.	19
ProBark	8
RBG, Inc.	17
Read Custom Soils	7
Shelter Tree	14
Stockbridge School	16
United Equipment	17
Urban Forestry Solutions	13

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Massachusetts Tree Wardens'
and Foresters' Association
P.O. Box 5141
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Calendar of Events

September 5	Urban Forestry Today Webcast	www.urbanforestrytoday.org
October 6-8	New England ISA Annual Conference and Trade Show	www.newenglandisa.org
October 8	TREE Fund Webinar	www.treefund.org
October 16	PDS: Proper Tree Planting	www.masstreewardens.org
October 17	Western Mass. Tree Wardens Dinner Meeting	www.masstreewardens.org
October 19	DCR Town Forest Conference	www.mass.gov/forestry-programs
October 23	PDS: CPR, First Aid & AED, with Stop the Bleed	www.masstreewardens.org