

Massachusetts Tree Wardens and Foresters Association

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



**2025
Issue 2
Summer**

Mass Qualified Tree Warden Training is Back for 2025

The Mass Qualified Tree Warden Training is designed to educate tree wardens about what they need to know to fulfill their duties in communities large and small across Massachusetts. Those who successfully complete the course receive the Massachusetts Qualified Tree Warden (MQTW) designation and certificate of achievement. The course is offered every other year and consists of seven modules, from what it means to be a tree warden to community tree management, to working with partners to achieve community goals. The course takes place this fall at the UMass Mt. Ida Campus in Newton from 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. For additional details on the training and about the Massachusetts tree warden qualification, go to www.masstreewardens.org.



MQTW Schedule

Session One

September 4
*What it Means
to be a Tree Warden*

Session Two

September 18
*Knowing & Assessing
Trees*

Session Three

October 2
Planting & Caring for Trees

Session Four

October 16
*Managing
Municipal Trees &
Associated Risk*

Session Five

October 30
*Assessing,
Evaluating and
Inventorying Trees*

Session Six

November 13
*Construction and
Design Impacts to
Trees*

Session Seven

December 4
*Community
Forestry & Wrap
Up*



Scan to
find out
more about
the Mass
Qualified
Tree
Warden
Training.

MTWFA's educational programs are made possible through a grant from the USDA Forest Service, Urban and Community Forestry Program and the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, Bureau of Forestry. If attending the MQTW course is a financial burden, the USDA Forest Service through the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation Urban and Community Forestry Program has provided grant dollars to support workshop registration. Please contact staff@masstreewardens.org for more information.

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DON'T MISS A SINGLE ISSUE OF THE BARK— To stay connected, be sure to send in your 2025 membership dues before June. **NEW** - You can now manage your membership on our website.

MTWFA MASSACHUSETTS TREE WARDENS' AND FORESTERS' ASSOCIATION

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Published Quarterly

Spring-Summer-Fall-Winter

President's Message

Dear Members,

Happy late spring and welcome to early summer! As we transition through the seasons, it reminds me of the Monarch butterfly's first stages of metamorphosis. Spring is the time of renewal, or the egg stage, where new life begins. Tree buds are opening and leaves are emerging, Cherry and Redbud tree blooms are in process and the turf is awoken from its winter slumber. Early summer is a time for growth, or the larval stage. The Eastern White Pine's pollen is in swing, the Tulip trees are in bloom, and development of early wood has begun. My hope is that we all look to spring and early summer as a time of awakening and renewal. Our industry is fortunate to be able to influence and participate in this renewal firsthand year after year, and it's good to take a step a back time to time and enjoy this metamorphosis.

Our organization has had a busy spring, which we expect will continue into the summer. The Arbor/Earth Day Seedling Program has closed, and a thank you to those who participated. With your continued support year after year, we have created a sustainable model to provide scholarships to students in the field of Arboriculture and Urban Forestry.

We had great attendance at our recent Professional Development Series (PDS), which included the Western Mass Spring Dinner in Northampton, First Aid and CPR Training in Falmouth, Tree Planting Workshop in Sandwich, and Chainsaw Safety Seminar in Amherst. I want to extend a thank you to all the attendees, the host communities that sponsored the training, the Executive Director, and Executive Board. With your support, we continue to provide valuable education to those engaged in our profession.

I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Professor Pricklethorn (Warren Hoselton) for his presentations given to students in three Western Massachusetts public schools in April. The presentations were well received and invaluable. We look forward to continuing this partnership with Warren to educate young people about the importance of trees. I am hopeful that we are inspiring a generation of young people today to take up the mantle of urban forestry in the future! A special thank you to Executive Board Members Paul Sellers, Leah Grigorov, Alex Sherman, and Julie Coop who facilitated these events and helped to make them a success!



Speaking of events, the 2025 Tree Warden of the Year Celebration took place in Norfolk on May 14th. There was a good turnout for our own Blair Crane, the Public Works Director of Norfolk. With Senator Rebecca Rausch, Representative Marcus Vaughn, Selectboard Chair Anita Mecklenburg, and members of our Executive Board in attendance, a tree was planted commemorating the event. Blair is dedicated to the town in his position as Director and takes his role as Tree Warden as not just another responsibility but as a duty he performs with distinction. Cheers, Blair!

Please reserve August 27th, as we will be hosting the MTWFA Annual Field Day (Chicken Bake) at the Upland Sportsman's Club in Plympton. Last year's event was well attended, with a great vendor line up, educational presentations, and a delicious lunch. I hope to see you all there!

Be on the lookout for the Massachusetts Tree Wardens' PDS Workshop Survey. (See below.) The information from the survey will help the Education and Training Committee better define what you would like to see in the way of future professional educational opportunities. They are in the process of creating a road map of PDS workshops to provide both members and non-members with valuable education over the next two years and we need your input!

On a personal note, summer has always been a time for me to spend with family and friends enjoying each other's company in backyards by the grill, at the beach near the water, in the woods on a hike, or simply watching the sunset. I hope that you all can make the time this summer to be with those people who matter most to you and to get the rest and relaxation you need to be recharged for the fall season!

Once again, thank you for your trust, commitment, and passion. I look forward to working together to strengthen our industry, uplift our communities, and continue making a difference.

Best regards, Rich

WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK!

MTWFA Member Survey - Education Topics - Deadline June 15th

The MTWFA would like to hear from you about topics for educational programs! Please take 2 minutes to scan the QR code and provide us with your feedback or complete the survey at <https://bit.ly/MTWFA>.



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MTWFA Spring Events Recap

Western Mass Tree Wardens Dinner Meeting

March 20, 2025 - Northampton

David Celino presented enthusiastically about the 2024 wildfires in Massachusetts to a large crowd at the Bluebonnet Diner. The next Western Mass Dinner Meeting will be held on June 12th. See our website to register. Many thanks for MTWFA At-Large Board member, Alan Snow for coordinating the evening.

CPR, First Aid, and AED 2025

March 24, 2025 - Falmouth

Twenty-one folks attended this course on the Cape. Thanks to Falmouth Tree Warden, Jeremiah Pearson, for the awesome facility. All participants either gained or renewed their CPR and First Aid credential. The course was taught by the very engaging, Daniel Perenick of Heart Start CPR.

Proper Tree Planting

April 16, 2025 - Sandwich

MTWFA President and Northampton Tree Warden, Richard Parasiliti, and MTWFA Middlesex Delegate and Cambridge Tree Warden, Dave Lefcourt traveled to the Cape to teach proper tree planting techniques to 25 participants ranging from other Tree Wardens to DPW staff to Tree Committee members. It was a great day! The planting of different types of nursery stock was demonstrated including bare root and balled and burlapped. Thank you to James Sacco, Sandwich Tree Warden, for the amazing facility and for coordinating the planting of the trees!



WMTW Dinner Meeting, with Dave Celino, DCR.



Proper Tree Planting class in Sandwich.

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Massachusetts Legacy Tree Program

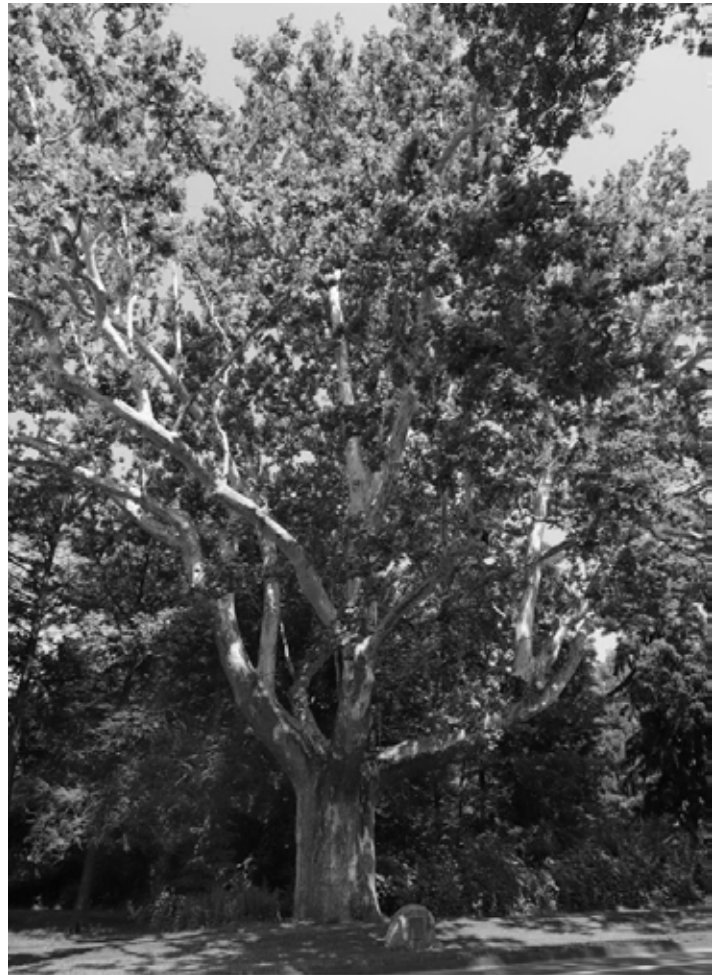
By Denise Lewis

Through the Legacy Tree Program and the National Champion Tree Registry, the Legacy Tree Program delves into the rich tapestry of Massachusetts' heritage trees, large trees, and trees of unique and significant importance. This initiative acknowledges Massachusetts' most impressive trees, including those with botanical features, historical significance, and unique importance. The program offers a platform for showcasing the remarkable trees around Massachusetts. Legacy trees are important because they serve as living monuments of historical, cultural, or ecological significance, offering insights into the past and contributing to biodiversity and environmental stability for future generations. This program actively invites every person in Massachusetts to nominate favorite trees within their communities and potentially have the nominated tree shown on the Department of Conservation and Recreation's Legacy Tree Program virtual tour, allowing others to learn more about the tree.

The Department of Conservation and Recreation Forestry Program has implemented the Legacy Tree Program and the National Champion Tree Registry to identify and acknowledge the most remarkable trees in Massachusetts. Initially, the program was only on paper. Nominations were submitted on paper through the mail, a method that required more time and decreased accessibility to the general public. The program shifted online as a solution, increasing convenience and accessibility, and expediting the nomination process. The overarching goals of this research are to show the importance of trees across Massachusetts and to foster a deeper connection between individuals and the trees within their communities. By addressing these objectives, the research seeks to contribute to a heightened awareness of the ecological, cultural, and aesthetic value of trees.

What is considered a large tree?

The criteria by which a tree is classified as large and of note are as follows. The size of the large tree must fall within 25 percent of the current champion for that species. A "Champion Tree" is an individual specimen that is the largest on record for its species. A Champion Tree is calculated by $\text{Trunk Circumference (inches)} + \text{Height (feet)} + \frac{1}{4} \text{ Average Crown Spread (feet)}$ to find the Total Points. The points are based on the system formulated by American Forests to standardize tree measuring across the country. Trees are compared against each other using that system, and eventually, a champion is crowned.



American Sycamore (Platanus occidentalis), Sunderland. This American Sycamore got its nickname "Buttonball Tree" because of its large size and popularity. This exceptionally large tree is the Massachusetts State Champion and is likely the largest of its kind on the East Coast.

What is considered a historical tree?

Certain trees have significance beyond just size. A tree that holds importance due to its age, association with a significant event or person, cultural importance, or unique characteristics that make it stand out is considered a "Historical Tree." These trees might have witnessed historical events, provided shade to famous figures, or have existed for an exceptionally long time making them living historical monuments.

What is considered a botanical tree?

This classification is the most subjective way for a tree to join the registry. Botanical trees embody the concept of their species and are considered aesthetically pleasing

Continued on page 8

Legacy Trees, continued from page 7 specimens. These trees have unique characteristics that encompass various traits that set them apart from others but, unlike historical trees, are admired as appealing for this uniqueness. A botanical tree can also be considered for its location if it has grown in an aesthetically appealing area.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Nearly a century ago, a campaign was launched by American Forests to identify the largest living specimens of trees in the U.S., aiming to engage the public in forestry activities. This effort, known as the National Champion Trees program, began as a nationwide competition to find the largest specimens of selected tree species. Following the creation of the national program, interest grew for each state to maintain a list of large trees. In Massachusetts, this task fell to the Division of Environmental Management (DEM), a predecessor of the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). Before the national program, various publications were already focused on "Large Trees in Massachusetts." Over time, DEM merged with the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) to form the DCR. The Legacy Tree Program, originally called the Champion Tree program, was managed by Forest Health until it was transferred to the Urban Forestry department at DCR around 2014. Notably, the National Champion Trees program is no longer run by American Forests and is now under the management of the University of Tennessee. The Legacy Tree Program uses these established guidelines to catalog and manage the trees within Massachusetts.

Various methodologies were employed to realize the project. Responsibilities included liaising with historical societies and museums to amass detailed information about trees in different communities, covering both botanical and historical dimensions. Communication was conducted through email and telephone. An Excel spreadsheet was developed to systematize the data obtained from these organizations, as well as details on trees nominated through the Department of Conservation and Recreation's Geographic Information System (GIS) database by the public.

Further, contributions were made to the development of outreach materials, such as drafts of fliers and collectible tree cards, to foster public engagement in the nomination process with a focus on inclusivity. User-friendly website mockups were designed using Figma to accommodate various levels of technological proficiency, thereby widening the accessibility of the Legacy Tree Program. After the website design mockups were



White oak (Quercus alba), Topsfield.

This white oak is estimated to be over 400 years old and predates the incorporation of Topsfield as a town in 1650.

finalized, a virtual tour website was created using ArcGIS Storymaps to showcase nominated trees by the public.

Another key task involved capturing professional photographs of nominated trees throughout Massachusetts. Traveling across the state and photographing fifteen legacy trees was critical for enhancing the Legacy Tree Program website, as high-quality photographs were necessary to effectively highlight the characteristics of each tree.

Management of the database for nomination recertification was imperative to ensure accurate and up-to-date information for trees surpassing the 10-year measurement mark. This ensured that trees nominated 10 years ago had current measurements and any other necessary information. All of the nominated legacy and champion trees were re-measured in December 2023 to update their size information for the 2024 Excel spreadsheet list, published on the Legacy Tree Program virtual tour website. Last year's measurements were compared with this year's to update the rankings of the trees, reclassify those that no longer qualify as champions, and identify new champion trees.

Continued on page 10

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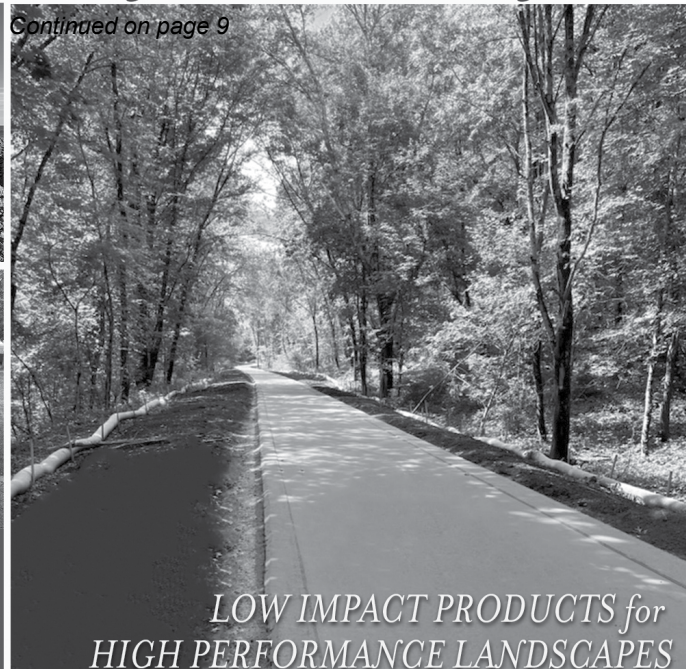
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RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The outcomes of this project are multifaceted. Firstly, a comprehensive database of Legacy Trees across Massachusetts was compiled, highlighting their botanical attributes and historical narratives. There has been a collection of 353 legacy trees, and 112 champion trees across the state of Massachusetts. As of May of 2024, nine legacy trees have grown to be the new champion trees of their species, and six new trees have been added to the Champion Tree's list.

With the collection of data from nominations and discussions with organizations, the website is officially hosted on the DCR's Legacy Tree Program website and is now live to the public, which serves as a visual testament to the diverse and inspiring trees that grace the state. With the program being more accessible now, public engagement metrics have been greater than before, reflecting a growing appreciation for the ecological and cultural importance of trees and indicating a successful outreach effort.

The i-Tree Eco software was used to estimate the ecosystem benefits provided by the legacy and champion trees, though the limitations of i-Tree Eco in measuring larger tree sizes resulted in some inaccurate information. Due to these limitations, the next phase involves exploring the use of a similar program or utilizing ArcGIS models to provide more precise estimations of the environmental benefits offered by these trees. These benefits could include contributions to carbon sequestration, cooling effects in urban areas, air purification, water management, and habitat creation. By implementing more advanced tools, a better understanding of the ecological value of legacy trees will be achieved, allowing for more accurate data on how these trees support the environment.

CONCLUSION

The Legacy Tree Program and National Champion Tree Registry have played a crucial role in elevating awareness of the large and historically significant trees found throughout Massachusetts. The initiative has created opportunities for communities to engage with their environment by recognizing trees with exceptional ecological, cultural, and historical value. The transition from paper-based submissions to an online platform has streamlined the nomination process, making it more accessible to the public and fostering greater participation.

Legacy trees serve as living monuments, offering valuable insights into past landscapes and the species that have

thrived within them. By identifying and cataloging these remarkable trees, the program creates a bridge between the past and future, helping to ensure that these natural wonders are preserved for generations to come.

Future efforts will focus on improving methods for measuring the environmental contributions of legacy trees, using more advanced tools to better understand their benefits, such as carbon sequestration, air quality improvement, and water management. These efforts are essential to ensuring that the program continues to grow and contribute to a deeper understanding of trees' critical role in supporting the environment.

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- Denise Lewis is an MS professional candidate in Forest Resources and Arboriculture at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, Department of Environmental Conservation.*

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Western Mass Dinner Meeting

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5:00 - 5:15	Registration & Gathering
5:15 - 5:45	First Presentation, TBD
5:45 - 6:15	Dinner
6:15 - 7:15	Second Presentation, TBD
7:15-7:30	Wrap-up and evaluations

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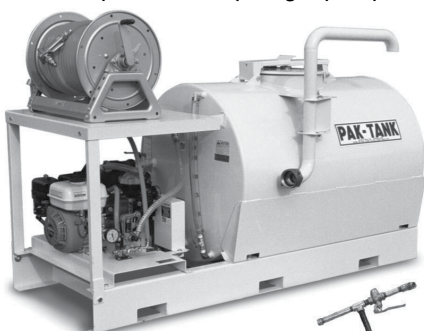
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2025 Tree Warden of the Year Celebration

Celebrating Tree Warden of the Year, Blair Crane, Norfolk



Blair Crane with State Senator Rebecca Rausch



Blair Crane with State Rep. Marcus Vaughn



Blair Crane with Selectboard Chair Anita Mecklenburg



Blair Crane and Rich Parasiliti

The 2025 Tree Warden of the Year Celebration was held on May 14th at the Norfolk town common.

Norfolk tree warden of the year, Blair Crane, was honored on a beautiful spring day. A common hackberry was planted in front of the town's war memorial in honor of Blair's achievement. With everyone gathered around the newly planted tree, Massachusetts Tree Wardens' and Foresters' Association President, Rich Parasiliti, kicked off the ceremony by welcoming State Senator Rebecca Rausch, State Representative Marcus Vaughn, Norfolk Selectboard Chair Anita Mecklenburg, Norfolk committee members and residents, and members of the MTWFA board of directors.

It was a great turnout and for a great cause; Parasiliti explained that the award is not handed out lightly and is only presented to those that hold the position of Tree Warden or Deputy Tree Warden in a municipality, who actively participate in the Arbor Day Foundation's program, Tree City USA, including holding an annual Arbor Day celebration.

They must demonstrate active leadership and dedication to the protection of urban trees. They need to educate the community in which they work about the importance of healthy urban trees. Finally, they must show commitment to the profession by volunteering with a tree-related organization. Blair Crane meets the criteria and more!

Senator Rausch explained the importance of Blair's role in terms of the value of the trees under his care. She explained how trees improve air quality, reduce energy costs, regulate water cycles, and help mitigate climate change. Senator Rausch presented Blair with a certificate from the Massachusetts State Senate commemorating his achievement.

Representative Vaughn was next to speak. He thanked Blair for all that he does for Norfolk and the town trees. He noted how trees were not only part of the scenery, but they are part of Norfolk's heritage, environment, and the town's future. Representative Vaughn also presented Blair with a certificate from the Massachusetts House of Representatives.

The final speaker on the docket was Selectboard Chair, Anita Mecklenburg. She was very proud of all that Norfolk had accomplished with Blair at the helm, including achieving Tree City USA status. She spoke to the crowd about how, scientifically, trees make us healthier and about the importance of the urban canopy to our municipalities.

Many residents and committee members offered words of encouragement and thanks to Blair for his innumerable contributions to the town.

The ceremony closed with a traditional tree blessing led by MTWFA board member, Kristina Bezanson, all contributed their energy to the new planted tree.



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Professor Pricklethorn was BACK

The Massachusetts Tree Warden's and Foresters' Association is proud to have hosted Professor Pricklethorn, A.K.A. Warren Hoselton, for the third time at Massachusetts' schools. The tour spanned April 30th to May 2nd and visited schools in Westfield, Longmeadow, and Springfield.

During an exciting and interactive presentation on photosynthesis and the importance of trees, students learned about both the visible and invisible gifts that trees give us and how these benefits impact the quality of our everyday lives. They learned why arborists focus on "planting the right tree in the right place". They role played to show how the process of photosynthesis works and is key to the growth of all things green. They absorbed simple tree facts that will elevate the importance of the trees around them. Finally, they participated in a tree "pledge" that summarizes the presentation and puts tree preservation, protection and awareness into practice. The presentations emphasized the universal "wellness" and benefits that urban trees and forests deliver to us as well as how and why it is that trees make us feel better and live healthier lives.

Huge THANK YOU to all of the schools that participated and the local Tree Wardens and Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Education staff. Another shout out to At-Large MTWFA board member, Paul Sellers, for coordinating this amazing program!





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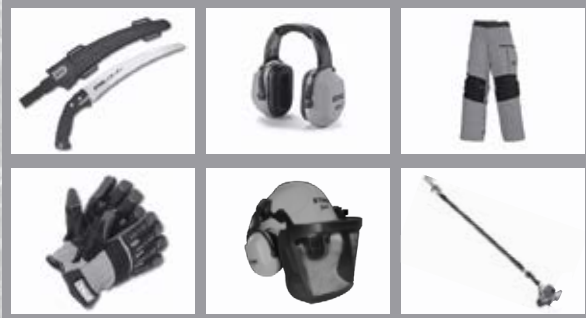
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Massachusetts Tree Wardens'
and Foresters' Association
P.O. Box 5141
Norwell, MA 02061

Calendar of Events

June 6	DCR Forest Health Walk - Purgatory Chasm	Email thomas.prior@mass.gov
June 12	MTWFA PDS - Western Mass Dinner Meeting	masstreewardens.org
June 13	DCR Forest Health Walk - Mohawk Trail State Forest	Email thomas.prior@mass.gov
June 24	Landscape Pests and Problems Walkabout - Insects and Cultural Practices - Sandwich	umass.edu/agriculture-food-environment/
July 22	TREE Fund Webinar: Leveraging Data and Experience for Tree Equity	treefund.org/webinars
August 13	MDAR Spotted Lanternfly Quarterly Update	massnrc.org/pests/blog/
August 27	MTWFA Field Day	masstreewardens.org

Find out more about these and other events at www.masstreewardens.org