

# Massachusetts Tree Wardens and Foresters Association

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



# BARK

2024  
Issue 4  
Winter

## 112th Annual Conference - January 7-8, 2025, Sturbridge

Annual Conference is fast-approaching and we're excited to welcome all our speakers, including our keynote speaker, Dr. Christine Carmichael of Fair Forests Consulting. 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.



There are a host of speakers and topics, including the latest on beech leaf disease, the new Z133, review of tree diseases, along with time for networking and visiting with exhibitors. There is something for everyone, from municipal arborists, utility arborists, field personnel, commercial arborists, and others. Visit with old friends and colleagues, meet new ones, and hear the latest from the world of arboriculture and urban forestry in Massachusetts.

### New for Conference this Year!

With our new website (see page 8 for details), conference registration is moving online to our all new event registration platform.

Attendees - Scan the QR code (right) or go to [www.masstreewardens.org](http://www.masstreewardens.org) and click on Annual Conference to register. (Exhibitors - we hope you can join us! See page 8 for details.)



*Scan for conference  
information.*

**MEMBERS** - you must register your membership using the link that we sent you *and* log into the new website before the membership rate will be available to choose.

If you are having issues registering please contact us at 781-894-4759, once we get you set up in the system your information will be saved for all MTWFA events!

**NON-MEMBERS** - may use the "Login as Guest" option.

Call us with questions/issues 781-894-4759.

### MTWFA 2025 Annual Conference

January 7, 2025 - January 8, 2025

#### Description

##### New Event Registration Platform

This is our ALL NEW event registration platform. MEMBERS - you must register your membership using the link that we sent you AND login here before the membership rate will be available to choose. If you are having issues registering please contact us; once we get you set up in the system your information will be saved for all MTWFA events!

NON-MEMBERS - you may use the "Login as Guest" option. If you are interested in becoming a member and saving \$15 off of your

[See More ...](#)



#### Your Contact Information

Email address

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Have a login? [Login Now](#)

# MTWFA Executive Board 2024

## OFFICERS

- 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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- Essex—Jonathan Fobert, Marblehead
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- Norfolk/Bristol—Blair Crane, Norfolk
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- Western Mass—David Hawkins, Pelham
- Worcester—Paul Raskevitz, Athol

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- 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

The BARK Newsletter is 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.

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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

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# AND FORESTERS'

# ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 5141

Norwell, MA 02061

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info@masstreewardens.org

Published Quarterly

Spring-Summer-Fall-Winter

# President's Message

As I write this final note as President of this incredible and historic organization, my back hurts. Today I went to tie my shoes and it hit me, that pain. One that I have felt before so many times over the years. The pain that can change everything. Prior to that pain, I strived to out-work, out-lift, and out-perform my workmates. I proudly would do whatever it was that I asked of my team. I wanted, and somehow needed, to show physically that I would do anything for my cause. Well, unfortunately for me, those times are over. Playing hockey with my son Shane is now limited to the driveway, at best. Having lived with a couple herniated disks in my back for many years now I sometimes forget my own limitations. My time now is limited and best spent in other ways. Nonphysical ways. I no longer think that I personally, physically can make that change alone. I know now that it takes a team. Furthermore, it takes understanding, a belief and a willingness to achieve. And lastly, a leader.

It is easier to ask more of yourself than of others. This is a problem I have struggled with throughout my career. And this is a problem for many of us. We want to do it our way. Like our attitude toward Jerod Mayo's New England Patriots. We want to bypass the learning curve and cut right to success. As I look at a nation almost equally divided, I wonder how we will move on together. Well, the answer is we need to work together. Slowing down and taking some time to communicate. We need to show respect for each other and treat each other as we would like to be treated. We need to understand and appreciate that we are all different and as such try to understand and appreciate this. This takes time and does not come quickly or by happenstance. We need to recognize that we all share common simple goals in life. I speak like a Tree Warden. I speak for a community—my community, the Town of Needham. I speak from experiences here in Town, where we have worked through complicated and dividing issues and have come up with solutions. Like with the Patriots, success is not immediate, but takes time. I am the skipper of a very large cruise ship and not a speed

boat. I understand well that when changing the direction of a cruise ship you need forethought and patience. However, once that new direction is set and you regain that momentum, it is difficult to upset that flow.

When it comes to our Massachusetts Tree Wardens' and Foresters' Association team, I have no worries. We are in good hands. I am honored to have had the opportunity to lead this group for the past two years and have served on the board for the past dozen years. I have watched and learned so much in my time from so many talented and passionate folks. We are fortunate to have members who have served the association for decades. This leads to success and continuity. We have come so far yet we continue to strive to do more. Just in the past few years we have achieved so much. Our Professional Development Series continues to thrive. We graduated from our third class of Massachusetts Qualified Tree Wardens. Our annual conference is drawing in more people than ever. We have a new website that is truly amazing and will aid us as a group as well as you as a member. I look forward to everyone getting signed up and acclimated to things. There are so many other things we have achieved. Too many to list individually. I know that we have reached many and we have helped make this world a little better as a result. I can leave this position of leadership grateful for so many things but most of all for everyone's trust and support. As they say, "many hands make light work." This is something I, and my sore back, are thankful for. I look forward to seeing many of you soon at our conference.

Eddie  
Ed Olsen  
President 2023-2024



## Looking for the latest Massachusetts Tree Wardens' and Foresters' Handbook?

This indispensable resource can now be purchased on our website

[www.masstreewardens.org/tree-warden-handbook/](http://www.masstreewardens.org/tree-warden-handbook/)



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# New/Returning Members

Returning - Kevin Benner - Cassidy Landscaping

New Members: Rebecca Nau - City of Framingham

Wayne Dias - Town of Swansea

Scott McDonald - Town of Lancaster

Emmett Kiernan

Sean Harrington - Town of Bellingham

Joseph Bertonazzi - Town of Bellingham,

Todd Mistor - City of Boston

Thomas Barr - Town of Chatham

James Bunnell - City of Fitchburg



## Our New Website is Here!

We are excited to announce that our new website is now live!

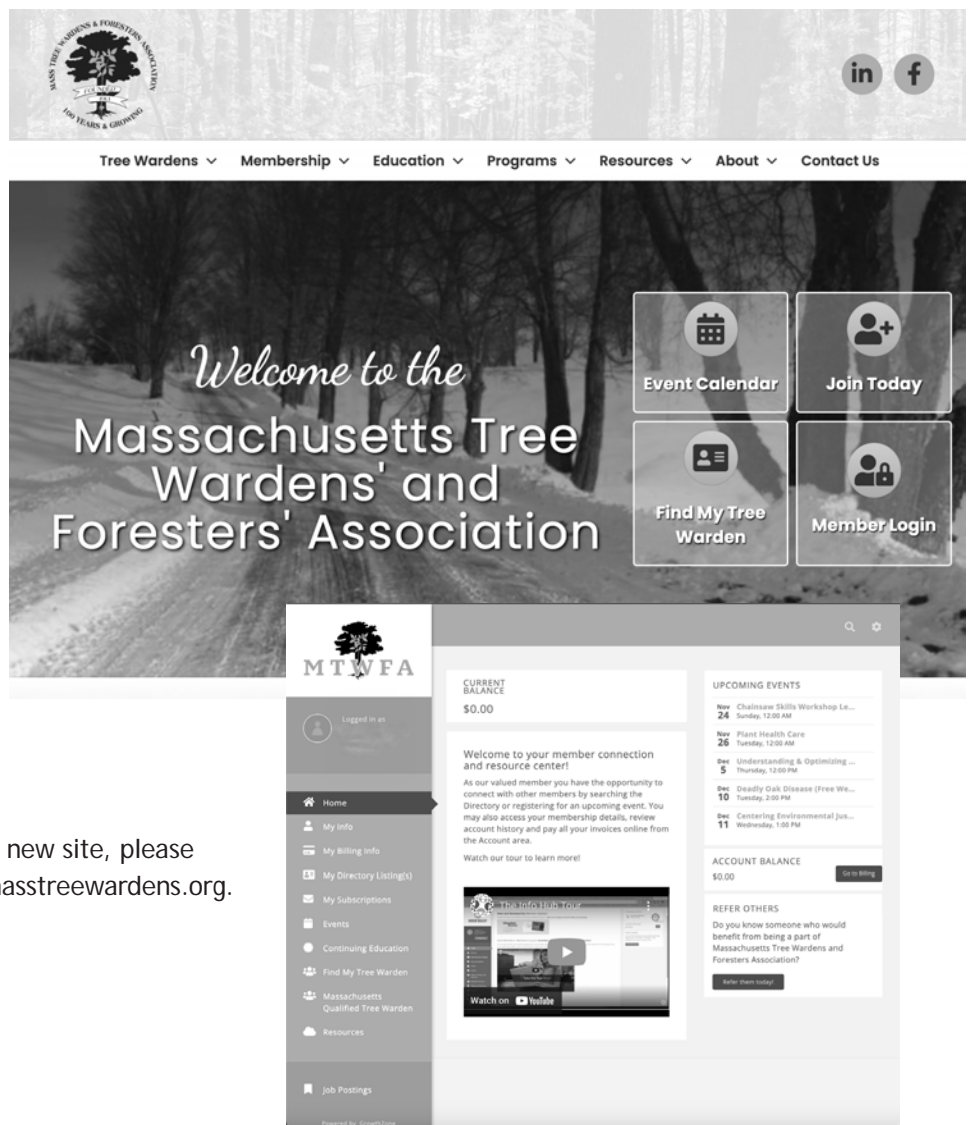
The new website has a fresh design and improved functionality including:

- A Member Info Hub - Manage your memberships, events, MQTW CEUs, and post job opportunities to the website.
- An Industry Event Calendar - In-person and on-line educational events geared toward tree wardens
- Auto-Renewal - Set your membership to renew automatically each year.
- Global Member Management - Manage multiple memberships/registrations.

Please visit [www.masstreewardens.org](http://www.masstreewardens.org) and check out the new features.

We would love to hear your feedback.

If you are having trouble logging into the new site, please contact us at 781-894-4759 or at [staff@masstreewardens.org](mailto:staff@masstreewardens.org).



Info Hub on the new website

# 2025 MTWFA Annual Conference Agenda

## Tuesday, January 7, 2025

7:30-8:15	Registration and Coffee
8:15-8:30	Opening Session Annual Meeting
8:30-8:45	Massachusetts Urban and Community Forestry Update—Julie Coop
8:45-9:35	Massachusetts Forest Health Update—Nicole Keleher
9:35-10:05	Break with Exhibitors
10:05-11:05	Untold History of Women In Arboriculture—Jean Zimmerman
11:05-12:00	From Coal Tar To Canopy - EJ and Utility/ Municipal Cooperation in Ithaca —Andy Hillman
12:00-1:10	Luncheon—Banquet and Annual Meeting
1:10-2:10	Keynote: How Racism Has Affected Trees and People in our Cities—Dr. Christine Carmichael
2:10-2:50	Break with Exhibitors
2:50-3:50	Raising the Next Generation of Urban Foresters—Leah Grigorov & Nicole Forsyth
4:00-4:30	Wrap-Up and Door Prizes
4:30-6:00	Reception in Exhibit Hall. Join us for a social generously supported by our exhibitors.

## Wednesday, January 8, 2025

8:30-9:15	Registration and Coffee
9:15-10:15	Beech Leaf Disease Update—Dr. Matt Borden
10:15-10:55	Break with Exhibitors
10:55-11:55	The New Z133, How Does it Affect Me?—Melissa LeVangie-Ingersoll
11:55-12:45	Lunch
12:50-1:50	Professor Pricklethorn's Benefits of Trees—Warren Hoselton
1:55-2:45	Trees and Shrubs in the Landscape: 2024 Disease Review—Dr. Nicholas J. Brazee
2:45	Child's Fund Raffle, Door Prizes, and Closing

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 Annual Conference 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 conference registration. Please contact [staff@masstreewardens.org](mailto:staff@masstreewardens.org) for more information.

Register for conference:



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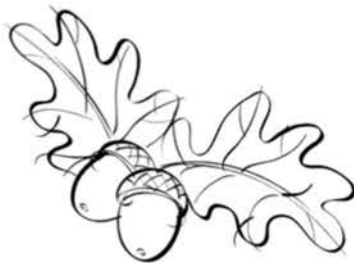


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# Fall Professional Development Series Recap

**Proper Tree Planting Techniques** - October 16 – Needham DPW – Fifteen participants learned proper tree planting techniques. Instructors and MTWFA board members, Rich Parasiliti, Dave Lefcourt and Ed Olsen reviewed best management practices for planting bare root trees and container trees. MQTW, MAA, and ISA credits were offered

**Western Mass. Tree Wardens Dinner Meeting** - October 17 – Bluebonnet Diner, Northampton - Greg Beck of Bartlett Tree Experts provided an update on Beech Leaf Disease and Nicole Keleher, MA Forest Health Program Director, provided a pest and disease update. Over forty people attended. MQTW, MAA, ISA and Pesticide Credits were offered.

**CPR First Aid, AED, with Stop the Bleed** - October 23 – Blackstone Heritage Corridor Visitor Center – Worcester – Twenty folks earned or renewed their CPR, First Aid and AED with Stop the Bleed certifications. MQTW, MAA, ISA credits offered.

Stay tuned for offerings in 2025!

## Mass Qualified Tree Warden Training 2025

**When:** Fall 2025 - 9/4/25, 9/18/25, 10/2/25, 10/16/25, 10/30/25, and 11/13/25, and 12/4/2025

**Where:** Mt. Ida Campus of UMass Amherst in Newton, MA.

The Mass Qualified Tree Warden Training (MQTW) has been expanded to seven classes. It is designed to educate tree wardens about what they need to know to fulfill their duties. Those who successfully complete the course receive the Massachusetts Qualified Tree Warden designation and certificate of achievement.

Keep an eye on our website for registration in 2025.



## UMass Extension Periodical Cicada Conference: Brood XIV is Coming to the Bay State!

Wednesday, February 5, 2025, 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

9:30 AM - Welcome & Introductions

9:45 AM - Here Come the Periodical Cicadas - What Does This Mean?, Alireza Shokoohi, UMass Extension Entomologist, IPM Specialist

10:45 AM - Break

11:00 AM - I Work/Live in a Cicada Zone - What Should I Do in 2025?

12:15 PM - 1:15 PM - Do Periodical Cicadas Damage Native Trees? Here's What the Research Reports, Dr. Zoe Getman-Pickering, ELEVATE Program Coordinator, CEET REU Director, Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

### Credits

Pesticide credit: (1) contact hour available for MA categories 29, 35, 36, 40 and Applicator's License. This credit is valid for all New England states for equivalent categories.

Association credits: 1 MCA, 1 MCLP, and 1 MCH credit available. ISA, SAF, and CFE credits requested.



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Learn more about Brood XIV at [https://cicadas.uconn.edu/brood\\_14/](https://cicadas.uconn.edu/brood_14/)



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## DCR Updates

### Tree City USA, Tree Line USA, Tree Campus Higher Ed



**Application Deadline: December 31, 2024**

In conjunction with the Arbor Day Foundation, the Department of Conservation and Recreation's Urban and Community Forestry program administers the annual Tree City USA, Tree Line USA, and Tree Campus Higher Ed programs to provide public attention and national recognition for local commitments to community trees and forests. Communities participating in **Tree City USA** meet four standards in the areas of **people** (who's managing the trees?), **policy** (tree ordinance or bylaw), **investment**, (at least \$2 per capita minimum budget on community forestry efforts, and **celebration**, (proclaim and observe Arbor Day).

Find out more about these programs at the DCR Urban & Community Forestry website: [www.mass.gov/dcr/ucf](http://www.mass.gov/dcr/ucf).

### Annual Arbor Day Poster Contest - 2025 Theme: Trees Around the World

You are invited to join third, fourth, and fifth-grade teachers and students across Massachusetts in the annual Arbor Day Poster Contest. Every year there is a theme to encourage students to think about trees in new ways. The 2025 theme is Trees Around the World. Each school holds its own poster contest and submits their winning poster to the DCR. Prizes include art supplies, a tree for the winner's school, and more. The deadline for the contest is March 15, 2025.

Contact Mathew Cahill, [mathew.cahill@mass.gov](mailto:mathew.cahill@mass.gov), for more information.

### Critical Drought Declared Across Massachusetts

Most of Mass. is now in a Level 3-Critical Drought, except for Cape and Islands Regions. "Massachusetts is experiencing critical drought conditions that are fueling unprecedented and destructive wildfires across the state," said Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Rebecca Tepper. Over the past 30 days, most of the state received less than an inch of rain, which is 3 to 4.5 inches below normal. Read the press release and learn about the drought and increased fire activity across the state and what you can do to help: <https://www.mass.gov/dcr>.



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# Municipal Tree Advisory Boards in Massachusetts

By **Leah Grigorov** - Town of Longmeadow Tree Warden & Conservation Agent

**A**cross Massachusetts, many towns and cities have advisory tree boards that work with and support the Tree Warden in their roles. These advisory boards vary in their capabilities and resources: some are eager to get boots-on-the-ground and plant trees, while others come into their own through planning and advocacy. Below is an example from Western Mass that explains further how these boards can be valuable to both Tree Wardens and to municipalities as resident representatives.

Longmeadow - Just recently, in 2023, my position as Tree Warden became full-time (previously 10 hours/week). Aside from the occasional slow week, the municipal staff who are consistently working on trees are limited to me, my hand saw, and my 2-step ladder. Needless to say, it's incredibly easy for my calendar to swell with responsibilities (and that's before the Conservation Agent part of my job is considered).

In Longmeadow, we have a Tree Committee which is a seven-member board that consists of the Tree Warden, the Director of Parks and Recreation, and five members of the public as appointed by the Select Board. The Committee

meets once a month, and we discuss a wide range of topics. The Committee's duties and responsibilities include developing rules, regulations, manuals, tree inventories, and other data in conjunction with the Tree Warden, provide public outreach opportunities and work with other town departments and civic groups, and aids the Tree Warden with seeking out and applying for grants and other honors, such as Tree City USA.

Especially recently, the Longmeadow Tree Committee has many things to brag about, including receiving 22 years of Tree City USA (and currently are applying for year 23), assisting the Tree Warden with the writing, and support of, a tree protection bylaw (which unfortunately was not adopted at the Longmeadow Fall Town Meeting on November 12th), and providing a tree planting 101 event for Longmeadow residents, both in-person and digitally via Longmeadow Community TV. The Committee has many plans on the horizon as well to continue to expand its role to keep Longmeadow green. As I don't have staff working below me to assist with many of these projects, I've been thrilled to have an interested and involved Tree Committee to work with and encourage cities and towns to develop some level of tree advisory board for their towns.





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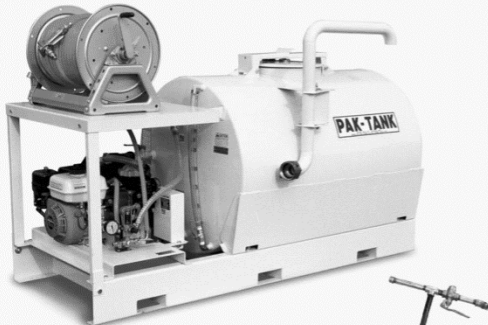
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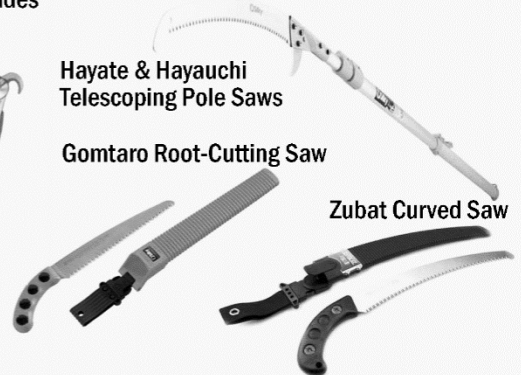
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- Demonstrates active leadership and dedication to the protection of urban trees
- Educates the community in which they work about the importance of healthy urban trees
- Holds an annual Arbor Day celebration
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If you have questions or wish to share this information, please reach out to me directly at [gvanallen@umass.edu](mailto:gvanallen@umass.edu)

Professors Rick Harper ([rharper@umass.edu](mailto:rharper@umass.edu)) and Kelly Klingler ([kklingler@paulsmiths.edu](mailto:kklingler@paulsmiths.edu)) are my Honors faculty advisors if you would like to get in touch with them.



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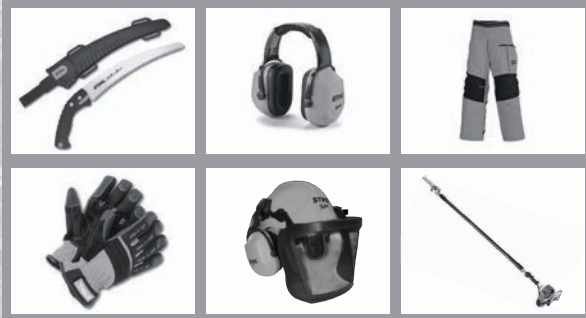
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## Calendar of Events

December 5	Urban Forestry Today Webcast	<a href="http://www.urbanforestrytoday.org">www.urbanforestrytoday.org</a>
December 10	Deadly Oak Diseases Webinar	<a href="http://www.epa.gov/ipm">www.epa.gov/ipm</a>
December 11	Centering Environmental Justice in Urban Forestry Webinar	<a href="http://www.research.fs.usda.gov">www.research.fs.usda.gov</a>
December 17	Tree Fund Webinar	<a href="http://www.treefund.org/webinars">www.treefund.org/webinars</a>
<b>January 7-8, 2025</b>	<b>112th Annual Conference and Tradeshow</b>	<b><a href="http://www.masstreewardens.org">www.masstreewardens.org</a></b>
February 5	UMass Extension Periodical Cicada Conference	<a href="http://www.ag.umass.edu">www.ag.umass.edu</a>
February 7	Urban Tree Symposium	<a href="http://www.nebg.org">www.nebg.org</a>

Find out more about these and other events at [www.masstreewardens.org](http://www.masstreewardens.org)