

Massachusetts Urban & Community Forestry Program

# The Citizen Forester

APRIL 2018

NO. 213

## UMass Community Tree Conference

**By Rick Harper** Occurring between two New England late-winter storm events was the seasonal conference that regularly attracts 200 urban foresters, commercial arborists, urban tree committee volunteers, and students: the University of Massachusetts's Annual Community Tree Conference. Taking place on Monday, March 5, this year's conference theme was 'ecological perspectives of the urban forest.' It featured several speakers who broadened and expanded our understanding of the benefits of urban trees and the importance of biodiversity. As always, this event provided not only the occasion to hear from informative and enlightening speakers from across Massachusetts and the Northeast, but also provided important networking opportunities for attendees.

Rick Harper, UMass-Amherst Extension Assistant Professor of Urban & Community Forestry, commenced the speaking schedule with a lecture based in part on research by Dr. Brian Kane and colleagues about 'safe pruning practices to reduce risk and enhance wildlife.'

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Dr. Paige Warren continued on this theme, presenting her research that identified the importance of how even localized, modestly-sized, green space in urban settings can provide important habitat for wildlife and help enhance biodiversity. Dr. Dave Bloniarz, US Forest Service Urban Forest Researcher and Director of the Urban Natural Resources Institute, provided attendees with an update about i-Tree and some of its newer features and programs, including i-Tree Landscape, which empowers users with new capabilities to better understand the ecosystem and economic services associated with our urban forests.

Following the morning lectures, presidents of the Massachusetts Tree Wardens & Foresters Association, the Massachusetts Arborists Association, and the Southeast Tree Wardens & Arborists Association presented

scholarship awards to deserving UMass-Amherst students during the noonhour awards ceremony.

The afternoon began with UMass Air representatives Ryan Wicks and Dr. Charlie Schweik, Professor of Environmental Management and Policy, who outlined the application of unmanned aerial systems (UAS or "drones") in conducting resource inventory data collection. UMass Air is a new interdisciplinary team of faculty and specialists across UMass campuses and departments that have organized to study and advance research and education on unmanned aerial systems in the sectors of: (i) safety/security, (ii) natural resource and infrastructure management, and (iii) public policy. Following their lecture, the speakers led the attendees outdoors for a live drone demonstration that included various flight approaches for purposes of data collection. Dr. Nick Brazee, Director of the UMass Plant Diagnostic Lab, closed the day by outlining the disease samples that were prevalent in the lab in 2017, in an effort to predict what problems might occur during the summer of 2018. Diseases of conifers – especially white pine – continue to concern arborists, diagnosticians, and tree enthusiasts. Congratulations to everyone involved in producing this renowned annual event, with special thanks to UMass Extension.

**Rick Harper** is Extension Assistant Professor in the Department of Environmental Conservation, UMass-Amherst.



UAS specialist, Ryan Wicks, and Professor Charlie Schweik demonstrate a drone flight.

# Species Spotlight—American bittersweet, *Celastrus scandens*

By Mollie Freilicher



Flowers, Peter Grima

Many of us can recognize Asiatic bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*), but how many of us would recognize our native, American bittersweet (*Celastrus scandens*) in the wild or in the landscape? American bittersweet is native to much of North America, east of the Rockies. It is hardy in USDA zones three to eight and is found in a variety of habitats: forests and edges, shorelines, and talus slopes. Like other members of the *Celastraceae*—

the spindle tree family, which contains shrubs and woody vines—American bittersweet is a woody vine (also called a liana). It has a fast growth rate and Michael Dirr notes that it “engulfs every fence in sight.” Dirr also reports that American bittersweet will continue to climb as long as there is something to climb on, though it is only reported to grow to 20 feet.

Leaves of American bittersweet are alternate, simple, and ovate to oblong-ovate. They are two to four inches long, with serrulate edges and a pointy tip. They have a smooth surface and are a shiny dark green color. In fall, the leaves turn yellow.

Buds are small, hairy, and round, typically with six bud scales. The stem is tan or brown with lenticels, though they may be hard to see. Bark is smooth on young stems and becomes corky with age.

Like its non-native congener, Asiatic bittersweet, American bittersweet has ornamental flowers and fruit. Mostly dioecious, its flowers are greenish-white to yellowish, and bloom May-June. The flowers are borne in



Fruit and leaves, Peter Grima

terminal panicles, two-to-four inches long. This contrasts with Asiatic bittersweet, which has flowers in cymes. Also similar to Asiatic bittersweet, American bittersweet has an

ornamental fruit. The fruit of American bittersweet is a three-lobed capsule, with red seeds surrounded by yellow-orange scales, ripening in fall.

American bittersweet is susceptible to leaf spots, powdery mildew, crown gall, cankers, *Euonymus* scale (the genus *Euonymus* is also in the *Celastraceae*), and others.

American bittersweet is easy to grow in the landscape and is adaptable to different pH conditions, as well as dry and poor soils. In good soil, Dirr notes that it may “overgrow its bounds.” Because of its ability to take over a site, Dirr suggests using American bittersweet in “rough areas,” where it can “scramble over rock piles, fences, old trees, and the like.”

Problematic for identification in the wild is the hybridization of American bittersweet and Asiatic bittersweet. This can make identification difficult, but not impossible; it is something to consider if you encounter bittersweet that does not look like American or Asiatic. In the wild in Massachusetts, American bittersweet is rare, and it is considered a threatened species, protected under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act (MGL, Chapter 131A).

## References

Dirr, M.A. 1998. *Manual of Woody Landscape Plants*. 5<sup>th</sup> Edition. Champaign, IL: Stipes.

Natural Heritage and Endangered Species <https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2016/08/wh/celastrus-scandens.pdf>



Ripe fruits, Peter Grima



Bark, Virginia Tech

# DCR Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Grant

**October 1 (Intent to Apply) | November 1 (Full Application)**

Challenge grants are 50-50 matching grants (75-25 for environmental justice projects) to municipalities and nonprofit groups in Massachusetts communities of all sizes for the purpose of building local capacity for excellent urban and community forestry at the local and regional level.



The DCR Urban and Community Forestry Program assists communities and nonprofit groups in their efforts to protect and manage community trees and forest ecosystems, with the ultimate aim of improving the environment and enhancing the livability of all of Massachusetts's communities.

The USDA Forest Service provides funding for the grant program, and DCR administers the grants with guidance from the Massachusetts Tree Wardens' and Foresters' Association.

Project areas include:

- Building and Strengthening Citizen Advocacy and Action Organizations
- Securing or Training Professional Staff
- Developing and Implementing Systematic Urban Forestry Management through tree inventory and analysis, resource assessment, and development of plans
- Attaining a Tree City USA Award, Growth Award, Tree Campus USA Award, or Tree Line USA Award
- Completing strategic community tree plantings and "heritage" tree care projects
- Other projects

Read the complete guidelines and download the application at: <https://www.mass.gov/guides/urban-and-community-forestry-challenge-grants>

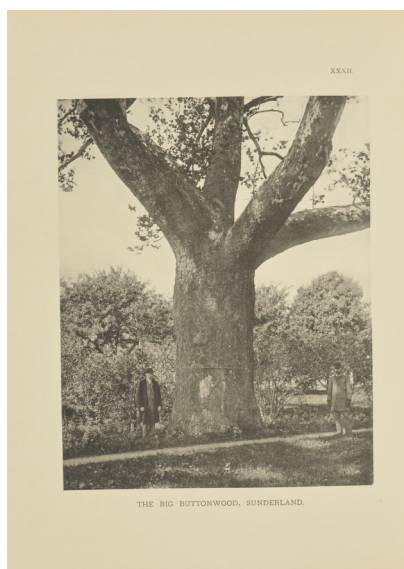
For more information on the Challenge Grants, including our Eversource Go Green grants and National Grid Partnership Grants, contact Julie Coop at 617-626-1468 or [julie.coop@state.ma.us](mailto:julie.coop@state.ma.us) or Mollie Freilicher at 413-577-2966 or [mollie.freilicher@state.ma.us](mailto:mollie.freilicher@state.ma.us).

## Growing Greener – The Legacy Tree Program and Champion Tree Registry

The Department of Conservation and Recreation is announcing a new program for recognizing notable trees of the Commonwealth. This new program is called the Legacy Tree Program and is a companion to the Champion Tree Registry. Do you know of a big, unique, or significant tree? A tree that is compelling for its age, size, form, history, species, or botanical interest? If so, the DCR's Bureau of Forest Fire Control and Forestry Legacy Tree Program and Champion Tree Registry may be of interest to you.

### How it Works

To nominate a tree, simply download the nomination [form](#). Submit the form to the Bureau of Forest Fire Control and Forestry. Once the form is submitted, field inspectors will verify the tree species and measurements. If the field inspectors determine that your tree is a contender for the



Champion Tree Registry, it will undergo further measurements.

Nominators and landowners will be notified when a tree is included in the Legacy Tree Program, or if their nomination is considered for the [Champion Tree Registry](#). With permission, tree information will be posted on our website. If the Bureau of Forest Fire Control and Forestry determines your tree is a Champion Tree in Massachusetts, it will be forwarded to American Forests for consideration in the National Champion Tree Register. [Find out More](#), including information on [how to measure a tree](#).



# Growing on Trees—Webinars and Events

## Urban Forestry Today Webcast

### Planning Ahead for the Urban Landscape Pests of 2018

April 5, 2018 | 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. (Eastern)

Margery Daughtrey and Daniel Gilrein, Cornell University

Attend live and receive free ISA/MCA CEUs by visiting [www.joinwebinar.com](http://www.joinwebinar.com) and entering the code: **953-269-787**.

*The Urban Forestry Today Webcast Series is sponsored by the University of Massachusetts Department of Environmental Conservation, in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service, Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, University of Massachusetts Extension, and Massachusetts Tree Wardens' & Foresters' Association.*

## Two Webcasts on Storm Resilience

### Storm-Resilient Urban Forests: The Role of Species Selection & Maintenance Pruning

April 24, 2018 | 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. (Eastern)

Dr. Eric Wiseman, Virginia Tech

### Storm-Resilient Urban Forests: Response Resilience, Are You Prepared to Respond?

May 23, 2018 | 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. (Eastern)

Dr. Richard Hauer, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

Find out more: at [www.forestrywebinars.net](http://www.forestrywebinars.net)

## Sustainable Communities and Campuses Conference

April 27, 2018 | Plymouth

Call for **Presenters** and **Exhibitors**

[www.MaSustainableCommunities.com](http://www.MaSustainableCommunities.com)

## Arboriculture and Urban Forestry Events in New England

The New England Chapter ISA maintains a comprehensive events calendar for events around New England, as well as regional and national webcasts. Check it out: <https://newenglandisa.org/events/calendar>

## Other Online Calendars for Events in Massachusetts

Massachusetts Tree Wardens and Foresters Association:

[www.masstreewardens.org/events/](http://www.masstreewardens.org/events/)

Massachusetts Arborists Association: <http://massarbor.org/meetinginfo.php>

## Urban Forest Connections

The USDA Forest Service's Urban Forest Connections webinar series brings experts together to discuss the latest science, practice, and policy on urban forestry and the environment. These webinars are open to all. Past webinar presentations and recordings are available [here](#).

### Community Food Forests: Fruitful and Fire-Smart

April 11, 2018 | 1:00 - 2:15 p.m. (Eastern)

Catherine Bukowski, Virginia Tech & [communityfoodforests.com](http://communityfoodforests.com)

Ann Audrey, Linking Edible Arizona Forests (LEAF)

### Future webinars:

May 9, 2018 | 1:00 p.m. - 2:15 p.m. (Eastern)

June 13, 2018 | 1:00 p.m. - 2:15 p.m. (Eastern)

## Webinar Series: Understanding Urban & Community Forests

April 24 - [Storm-Resilient Urban Forests: The Role Of Species Selection & Maintenance Pruning](#)

May 9 - [27 Years Of Extension Urban Forestry Outreach: A Pennsylvania Success Story](#)

May 23 - [Storm-Resilient Urban Forests: The Role Of Species Selection & Maintenance Pruning](#)

June 12 - [Promoting Urban And Community Forestry Through Staffing, Volunteer Groups, Tree Boards & Ordinances](#)

June 26 - [Have You Checked Your Trees Lately? A Routine Check-Up Of Trees Saves Lives & Property](#)

July 10 - [Trees For Bees: Pollinator Habitats In Urban Forests](#)

July 24 - [Transitioning From Gray To Green Infrastructure Using Urban Forestry](#)

August 16 - [Tree Stewards: Case Study Of Two Virginia Urban Tree Volunteer Programs](#)

**Find out more here or at [forestrywebinars.net](http://forestrywebinars.net).**

## New England Botanical Club Lecture

### Patterns and Changes in the Flora of Franklin County, Massachusetts

May 4, 2018, 6:45 p.m.

Dr. Robert Bertin

Garden in the Woods, Framingham, MA

<http://www.rhodora.org/meetings/upcomingmeetings.html>

# Question from the Field — Guy Wires

**Question from the Field is a new, occasional feature**

## Question—

*We have been having a hard time with our municipal utility company and a telecommunications company, in regard to the past installation of guy wires in trees.*

*Most, if not all, are dead now, and we can't remove them because of the obvious. We have asked both parties to fix this issue many times with no results.*

*Has anyone else run across this?*

Utilities install guy wires in trees to provide stability for utility poles. This can be a tricky situation for tree wardens and utility companies, and many tree wardens find that resolution to an issue of a dead or declining tree with a guy wire in it can be a long time coming. DCR Urban and Community Forestry staff reached out to some tree wardens and utilities to find out how they approach this issue. Here are some of their tactics:



Guy wires installed in a tree (Courtesy of Scott Hathaway, Westfield)

## From the tree warden perspective:

- The municipality (City Electrician, City Engineer, etc.) can send frequent reminders to the utility (or utilities) until the issue is resolved and request a date by which the guy wire will be relocated.
- City/town attorney can send a letter to the utility stating that the utility is liable for any damage or harm that any tree with a guy wire causes if it fails.
- The community does not issue permits for new pole installations until this is resolved. Often, this is a last resort.

## From the utility perspective:

- National Grid and Eversource have community liaisons or community relations representatives who work with communities. Working through the liaison or community representative on a guy wire issue is a good idea. The liaison/representative is also aware of permits the utility is applying for in the town. This person also has a wide network of contacts within the utility.
- Ownership of the guy wire between electric utilities and communications, such as Verizon, can be confusing.
- If an engineer from the utility determines that the guy wire is not critical to the stability of the pole, the issue may get resolved quickly. Otherwise, the utility has to obtain the rights from either the town or a private property owner to put an anchor guy into the ground, which can be a prolonged process due to permitting.

From both perspectives, resolving this kind of issue highlights the importance of cultivating a collaborative relationship with the other party. An antagonistic relationship will not help anyone in this kind of situation. As utilities move away from the practice of guying utility poles to trees, this problem should diminish over time. All agreed that, at the moment, it can take a long time to get guy wire issues resolved, but they do get resolved in the end. Do you have a suggestion for others? [Let us know.](#)

Thank you to members of the Mass. Tree Wardens and Foresters Board of Directors for assistance with this piece!

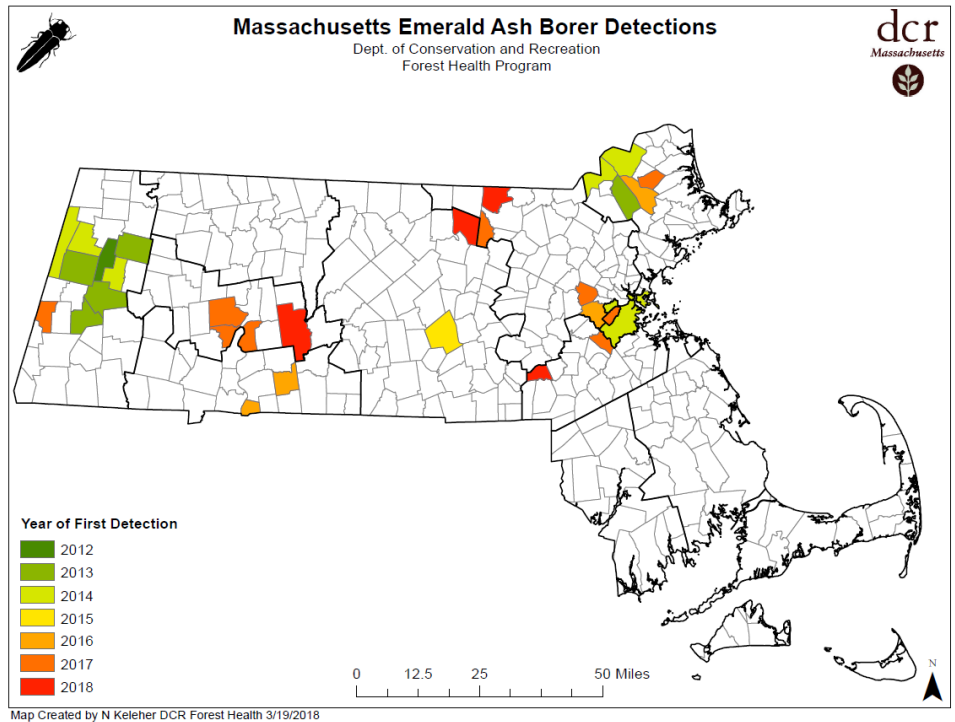
# Growing on Trees

## Emerald Ash Borer in Massachusetts

The map at right, prepared by Nicole Keleher, DCR Forest Health, shows detections of emerald ash borer (EAB) in municipalities as of March 19 2018.

In February, DCR Forest Health identified emerald ash borer for the first time in Belchertown.

Contact the DCR Urban and Community Forestry program to learn about steps your municipality can take to mitigate risk, reduce cost, and preserve canopy in your community.



## Upcoming Educational Opportunities

Expand your knowledge with these upcoming local offerings. For complete course listings, go to the organization's webpage.

### From New England Wildflower Society

<http://www.newenglandwild.org/>

Introduction to Plant Ecology – April 4

Sustainable Site Design Basics – April 5

Acton Arboretum in Flower – May 9

Native New England Shrubs – June 5

### From the Arnold Arboretum

[www.arboretum.harvard.edu](http://www.arboretum.harvard.edu)

Taking Stock Tree Walk – April 2

Ecology of Spring – April 7

Emergency Response and High Angle Rescue – April 19-20

Tree Identification Primer – Pick one session: April 22, May 20, June 24

City Nature Challenge: A Walk through Central Woodland – April 28 (Free)

When Darwin Met Thoreau – April 30

Tree Health Assessment – July 18

Tree Load in Risk Assessment – July 19

### From Polly Hill Arboretum

[www.pollyhillarboretum.org/](http://www.pollyhillarboretum.org/)

The Finest Cut: Tree and Shrub Pruning – April 7

### From Tower Hill Botanic Garden

[www.towerhillbg.org](http://www.towerhillbg.org)

Fruit Tree Pruning Workshop – April 9

Local Tree Pest Information and Training – April 11

Introduction to Home Orcharding – April 14

Tree Planting Demo, Arbor Day Tree Walk, Pruning Demo Walk – April 27

Recovering Woodlands: An Evening Walk at the Wachusett Reservoir – May 17

Hadwen Arboretum Tree Census Training – June 2

Hadwen Arboretum Tree Census – June 9

Pruning Flowering Trees and Woody Plants in Worcester – June 16

Pruning Flowering Trees and Woody Plants – June 21

### From Berkshire Botanical Garden

<https://berkshirebotanical.org>

Pruning for Fruit Production: Pome and Stone Fruit Trees – April 7

Spring Pruning of Woody Ornamental Plants – April 14

Transplanting Shrubs and Planting Small Ornamental Trees – April 28

# Growing on Trees

## Exhibit at the Boston Public Library

### Breathing Room: Mapping Boston's Green Spaces

March 24, 2018 – September 23, 2018 | The Norman B. Leventhal Map Center at the Boston Public Library

Boston boasts some of the nation's most recognizable and cherished green spaces, from Boston Common, to the Emerald Necklace, to hundreds of neighborhood parks, playgrounds, tot lots, community gardens, playing fields, cemeteries, and urban wilds. In this exhibition, you will learn how the country's oldest public park grew from a grazing pasture to an iconic recreational and social center, how 19th-century reformers came to view parks as environmental remedies for ill health, how innovative landscape architects fashioned green oases in the midst of a booming metropolis, and what the future holds for Boston's open spaces. As you explore three centuries of open space in Boston, perhaps you will feel inspired to go outside and discover the green spaces in your own backyard.

Find out more at <http://www.bpl.org/>

## 159 Studies Say Trees Do Help Manage Stormwater — Reduce Flow and Pollutants

The Center for Watershed Protection reviewed a total of 159 publications to evaluate [1] the effectiveness of urban tree planting on reducing runoff, and nutrient and sediment pollution; and [2] how effectiveness varies by species over time, differences in planting sites, and different maintenance strategies. Learn more about this resource at the [Vibrant Cities Lab](#).

The University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center recently published a report, [Holistically Analyzing the Benefits of Green Infrastructure](#).

This document is intended to help smaller local governments, particularly those with MS4 stormwater programs, to evaluate the benefits of green infrastructure. It details how combining green and gray infrastructure systems allows local governments to lower costs, solve systemic water challenges, and enhance a community's quality of life. The report was recently featured in a Chesapeake Bay Program [blog](#).

## National Wildfire Community Preparedness Day Coming in May

The global nonprofit National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) and State Farm Insurance Company are sponsoring the fifth National Wildfire Community Preparedness Day on May 5, 2018. Participants will help raise wildfire awareness, promote collaboration, and bring neighbors together to work on projects that can help protect homes, neighborhoods, and entire communities from future wildfire risk or current post-fire impacts. Learn more, at [NFPA's web site](#).



## Forest Fun Fest at F. Gilbert Hills State Forest

**Saturday, April 28, 2018, 10:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m.**

Meet at F. Gilbert Hills State Forest at 45 Mill Street in Foxboro.

Trees are terrific! They clean our air, offer shade and shelter for wildlife, and can be made into tools, toys, and food for people too! Join the DCR Forestry crew and local tree experts as we celebrate the treasure of trees! Spend the day or stop by anytime. Forestry walks, sawmill demos, CCC history, tree ID, and planting workshops will take place from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Free tree crafts, games, giveaways, and tree guides too, while supplies last. Tree fun for all! Rain or shine-downpours cancel. Call 617-698-1802, ext. 3 for updates. Visit [www.mass.gov/dcr](http://www.mass.gov/dcr) for April updates.

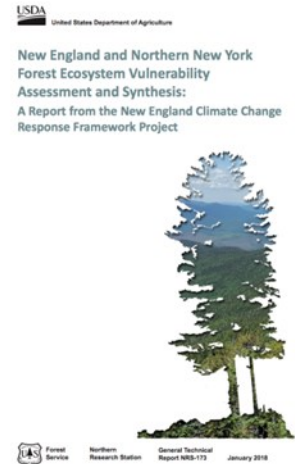


# Gleanings

## New Report: Vulnerability of Northeast Forests

Monday, February 12, 2018—A new vulnerability assessment examines forest ecosystems across the New England region (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, northern New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont) under a range of future climates. [Maria Janowiak](#) with the [Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science](#) (NIACS), co-authored this report with contributions from Northeast Climate Science Center Principle Investigators Anthony D'Amato and Frank Thompson. The US Forest Service, Harvard Forest, state agencies, and academic institutions, and other organizations contributed to this publication. Other NE CSC contributors include Toni Lyn Morelli, Jane Foster, and Jacob Fraser.

The report, "[New England and northern New York forest ecosystem vulnerability assessment and synthesis: a report from the New England Climate Change Response Framework project](#)" outlines how some northern tree species will be impacted more than others by climate change. Montane spruce-fir, low-elevation spruce-fir, and lowland mixed conifer forests were determined to be the most vulnerable communities. Central hardwoods, transition hardwoods, and pitch pine-scrub oak forests were perceived as having lower vulnerability to projected changes in climate. These projected changes in climate and the associated impacts and vulnerabilities will have important implications for economically valuable timber species, forest-dependent animals and plants, recreation, and long-term natural resource planning.



## Research: Growing Need for Urban Forests as Urban Land Expands

Newtown Square, PA, March 14, 2018 - A new [USDA Forest Service](#) study projects that urban land in the lower 48 states will more than double between 2010 and 2060, which will affect forest and agricultural lands that are being converted to urban uses and expand the importance of urban forests in relation to environmental quality and human well-being.

A USDA Forest Service study recently published in the Journal of Forestry, "U.S. Urban Forest Statistics, Values and Projections," estimates change in urban land on a national level and state-by-state, and also updates data on the value of the nation's urban forests.

The study is available through the USDA Forest Service's [Northern Research Station](#) at: <https://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/pubs/55818>.

Read the full [release](#).

States with the greatest projected increase in percent urban land (2010-2060)	States with the greatest amount of urban land growth (2010-2060)	States with the greatest estimated urban tree populations	States with greatest total value of: pollution removal, carbon sequestration, avoided building energy use and emissions
Rhode Island (35%)	California (9 million acres)	Florida (407 million urban trees)	Florida (\$2 billion/year)
Delaware (29%)	Texas (7 million acres)	Georgia (372 million urban trees)	California (\$1 billion/year)
Connecticut (28%)	Florida (6 million acres)	California (343 million urban trees)	Pennsylvania (\$1 billion/year)
Massachusetts (23%)	North Carolina (4 million acres)	North Carolina (320 million urban trees)	New York (\$1 billion/year)
New Jersey (23%)	Pennsylvania (4 million acres)	Texas (309 million urban trees)	Ohio (\$1 billion/year)



# News

## Number of Winter Moths Damaging Trees Declines

South Kingstown, RI — Experts say the number of winter moths damaging trees in New England has fallen after years of growth. Heather Faubert, a research assistant at the University of [Rhode Island](#), tells The Westerly Sun "very few" acres were defoliated by the invasive insect last year. University of [Massachusetts](#) Amherst professor Joseph Elkinton says the population has hit a record low in Massachusetts.

Elkinton's lab has released a parasitic fly at numerous locations throughout southern New England in an effort to control the winter moth population, but researchers say the growth of natural predators might account for much of the species' decline. [Connecticut](#) state entomologist Kirby Stafford says other pests continue to cause defoliation and widespread gypsy moth damage has eclipsed the effect of winter moths. From the Associated Press, via the [Westerly Sun](#).

## In The Spring, Salem to Plant 88 Public Trees

By William J. Dowd

The Salem City Council recently signed off on a \$48,000 expenditure for, in part, public-tree plantings across the city this spring. Salem Mayor Kim Driscoll submitted the funding request on behalf of Salem City Engineer and Department of Public Works Director David Knowlton. And at its Thursday, March 8 meeting, councilors approved the free-cash funding request. "In addition to enabling us to plant up to 88 [trees] in existing tree pits," Driscoll wrote the City Council in a March 8 cover letter to her funding-request order, "a smaller portion of the funds will go toward removing and maintaining exiting trees that are not healthy and require our attention." Read the full story at [Wicked Local](#).

## A Secret Superpower, Right in Your Backyard

By Kendra Pierre-Louis

March 6, 2018— As the verdant hills of Wakanda are secretly enriched with the fictional metal vibranium in "Black Panther," your average backyard also has hidden superpowers: Its soil can absorb and store a significant amount of carbon from the air, unexpectedly making such green spaces an important asset in the battle against climate change. Backyard soils can lock in more planet-warming carbon emissions than soils found in native grasslands or urban forests like arboretums, according to Carly Ziter, a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The results of her research, [published Tuesday in the journal Ecological Applications](#), were something of a surprise, given that those of us who have yards generally don't think of them as "nature," or as especially beneficial to the environment. But at least in this case, the things we enjoy for ourselves are also helping the community at large. Read the full story at [The New York Times](#).

## News Headlines in Brief

[Mow your Lawn Less to Improve Bee Habitat](#) —Local Research!

[The City Plants a Tree, But I Don't Want It](#)

[First Infestation of Tree-Killing Emerald Ash Borer Found in Vermont](#)

[Beech Trees Are Booming in New England. Here's Why That's a Bad Thing](#)

[Women Are Tying the Knot with Trees for a Very Good Reason](#)

[Secret Underground Water Stores May Help Trees Survive Droughts](#)

[Urban Forestry in the Schoolyard: Trees and Student Performance](#)

[Why do Some Male Trees Turn Female?](#)

[Predicting an Insect Community Structure Based on Genomic Variation in a Tree Species](#)

[When Twenty-Six Thousand Stinkbugs Invade Your Home](#)

[Hartford's Borer-Infested Ash Trees Are Coming Down](#)  
[Shoes Made from Wood](#)

# On the Horizon

- Apr 5** Urban Forestry Today Webcast, Planning Ahead for the Urban Landscape Pests of 2018, 12:00 p.m., [www.joinwebinar.com](http://www.joinwebinar.com), code: 953-269-787.
- Apr 7** MCA Exam, Mass. Arborists Assoc., Wellesley, [www.massarbor.org](http://www.massarbor.org)
- Apr 10** NEW DATE--Maintenance and Preservation of Mature Trees, Hartford, CT, [www.newenglandisa.org](http://www.newenglandisa.org)
- Apr 24** Webinar: Storm-Resilient Urban Forests, 1:00 p.m., [www.forestrywebinars.net](http://www.forestrywebinars.net)
- Apr 27** **Arbor Day in Massachusetts**
- Apr 28** DCR Park Serve Day. Pick a Park. Give a Day. Make a Difference, [www.mass.gov/service-details/park-serve-day](http://www.mass.gov/service-details/park-serve-day)
- Apr 28** Forest Fun Fest, F. Gilbert Hills State Forest, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., 45 Mill Street, Foxboro
- May 2** TREE Fund Webinar, 2:00 p.m. (Eastern), [www.treefund.org](http://www.treefund.org)
- May 5** National Wildfire Community Preparedness Day, <https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Campaigns/National-Wildfire-Community-Preparedness-Day>
- May 16** Landscape Pests and Problems Walkabout-Diseases and Weeds, UMass Extension, Westfield, [www.umassgreeninfo.org](http://www.umassgreeninfo.org)
- May 23** TREE Fund Webinar, Utility Arborist Research Fund, 1:00 p.m. (Eastern), [www.treefund.org](http://www.treefund.org)
- Jun 2** ISA Certification Exam, (Registration deadline: May 16), Dighton, [www.newenglandisa.org](http://www.newenglandisa.org)
- Jun 6** Landscape Pests and Problems Walkabout: Insects and Cultural Problems, Sandwich, UMass Extension, [www.umassgreeninfo.org](http://www.umassgreeninfo.org)
- Jun 8-9** New England Chapter ISA Tree Climbing Championship, New London, CT, [www.newenglandisa.org](http://www.newenglandisa.org)
- Jun 9** ISA Tree Worker Climber Specialist Skills Test (Registration Deadline: May 23), New London, CT, [www.newenglandisa.org](http://www.newenglandisa.org)

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[www.mass.gov/dcr/urban-and-community-forestry](http://www.mass.gov/dcr/urban-and-community-forestry)

**Charles D. Baker**, Governor  
**Karyn E. Polito**, Lieutenant Governor  
**Matthew A. Beaton**, Secretary, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs  
**Leo Roy**, Commissioner, Department of Conservation and Recreation  
**Peter Church**, Director of Forest Stewardship, Department of Conservation and Recreation

**If you have a topic you'd like to see covered or want to submit an item to *The Citizen Forester* (article, photo, event listing, etc.), contact [Mollie Freilicher](mailto:mollie.freilicher@state.ma.us) or click [here](#).**

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