



THE CITIZEN FORESTER

Urban & Community Forestry Program

DECEMBER 2019 | No. 233

2019 DCR Tree Steward Training

By Mollie Freilicher On October 25-26, 26 tree stewards and tree wardens from across Massachusetts came to the Fisher Museum at Harvard Forest for the Tree Steward Training. The DCR Urban and Community Forestry Program organizes the Tree Steward Training and offers the program annually in October at Harvard Forest in Petersham. The training is supported by a grant from the USDA Forest Service. The training is an introductory course and covers topics related to trees and working with trees in communities. This year's topics included tree identification, pruning, tree planting, tree wardens working in the community, working with volunteers, insect pests and diseases, i-Tree, and funding urban and community forestry. The session includes time for networking and discussion and an option to stay overnight right at Harvard Forest.



The 2019 Tree Stewards.

The session began with Peter Church, Director of Forest Stewardship for DCR, providing an overview of forests in Massachusetts. Next, attendees learned about pruning small trees from Jen Kettell of Radiant Leaf Consulting. Jen went through the tools to use and ten principles to follow. Then we all went outside with Jen and looked at some of the young trees that DCR has planted around the museum at past Tree Steward Trainings. Attendees examined a young sugar maple and determined where to prune to improve structure, and Jen used a pole pruner to make a few pruning cuts. After



Jen Kettell leading the pruning session.

Jen's presentations, attendees gathered for lunch catered by Monika's Catering and for some time to network. Then it was on to a session on volunteers and tree planting. Rick Harper, Associate Extension Associate Professor at UMass-Amherst, presented on volunteers and then headed outside to plant a sugar maple to replace one that had recently been removed. The last presentation of the day was from Rich Parasiliti, Jr., the Tree Warden in Northampton. Rich talked about duties of tree wardens that are laid out in the state shade tree law, Chapter 87, and what he (and many other) tree wardens actually do in their communities (which is much, much more). Rich talked about some of the aspects of his work in Northampton, including public relations, working with the Tree Commission and the local non-profit Tree Northampton. After Rich's presentation,

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2019 DCR Tree Steward Training

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the formal program ended for the day, and attendees who were staying overnight had a chance to rest up or to go for a walk before dinner. Several of us went for a quick walk in the woods, where the beech trees were still holding onto their golden leaves, and then headed back to the museum for dinner and networking.

On Saturday, the day started at 7:00 a.m. with breakfast and then an interactive session on volunteers. Lilly Lombard, Chair of the Northampton Public Shade Tree Commission,



A group working during Lilly Lombard's session on volunteers.

gave a presentation, sharing her experience working with, and engaging, volunteers and also her experience as a volunteer. The title of her presentation was

“Harnessing Citizen Power to Transform Your Community's Urban Forestry Program,” and she had the attendees form small break-out groups and focus on the words “harness” and “transform” as they relate to urban and community forestry in their own communities. Attendees then shared what their groups came up with. After Lilly's presentation, Nicole Keleher, Director of Forest Health for DCR, shared an update on insects and diseases of trees in Massachusetts, as well as a few to be on the lookout for, like beech leaf disease (see page 9), oak wilt, and spotted lanternfly. Nicole shared the latest emerald ash borer finds and the results of the 2019 aerial survey, which showed a decrease in overall damage, but a 40% increase in oak mortality over 2018. Dr. David Bloniarz, Research Biologist with the USDA Forest Service, then provided an intro-

duction to i-Tree, including how to use i-Tree Design to show benefits of trees around buildings. After



DCR Service Forester Joe Perry teaches tree identification.

another delicious meal by Monika's Catering, attendees came together to hear from DCR about funding urban and community forestry and ended the day with a roundtable discussion, held outdoors in the fall sunshine, on a range of topics, and particularly on trees and utilities. Following the discussion, the training wrapped up and attendees headed home, inspired to continue their work with urban and community forests in their communities.

This year's class had attendees representing 16 different communities. For many attendees, their community or a local organization sponsors their attendance.

Below is a list of the sponsors from this workshop. These communities or organizations sponsored one or more attendees at this year's session:

- City of Lowell
- City of Salem
- East Quabbin Land Trust
- Franklin Land Trust
- Master Gardeners Association of Cape Cod
- Medford Tree Advocacy Group
- Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust
- Town of Amherst
- Town of Athol
- Town of Longmeadow
- Town of Lynnfield
- Town of Weston
- Town of Williamstown
- Town of Wrentham
- Trees for Watertown

Thank you for your support!

Stay tuned for information about the 2020 training.

Species Spotlight—Cedar of Lebanon, *Cedrus libani*

By Mollie Freilicher This month, we're focusing on a distinctive-looking tree that is at home in the mountains of the Mediterranean and is the national tree of Lebanon, the cedar of Lebanon *Cedrus libani*. Cedar of Lebanon is also native to Syria and Turkey, its range forming a backward C around the mountains of the northeastern Mediterranean, though it also occurs in two areas in Turkey near the Black Sea. In the family Pinaceae and in the genus *Cedrus*, cedar of Lebanon is known as a "true cedar." Confusingly, many trees in the family Cupressaceae are often referred to as 'cedars.' There are only three or four species in the *Cedrus* genus, depending on your taxonomy and they are not in that family. (And even the number of species may be controversial – the trees are so closely related, some categorize them all as subspecies.) The "true cedars" are all trees of the mountains, occurring in ranges around the Mediterranean.



Foliage, [Missouri Botanical Garden](#)

Because of many factors, the remaining native populations of cedar of Lebanon are fragmented and the ecosystems are degraded, particularly in Syria and Lebanon. Threats include development, agriculture, insects, logging, and recreational activities, including winter sports, as well as grazing by goats and war or military activities. Climate change is also a threat. As a species of mountains, cedars have nowhere to go as temperatures increase. They can only creep up mountainsides so far. The International Union for Conservation of Nature lists cedar of Lebanon as Vulnerable.

Cedar of Lebanon is the most cold hardy of the cedars and is hardy in USDA zones five to seven. A fast-growing tree, in the landscape it can reach heights of 60 feet or more in 50 years or so. Its spread is often comparable to its height, and

sometimes it grows wider than tall. As cedar of Lebanon matures, it develops a distinct, layered look. Michael Dirr describes it as a "specimen tree of unrivaled distinction." There are 32 at the Arnold Arboretum, the oldest dating back to 1902 when seeds were first brought from Turkey to the Arboretum, in hopes of sourcing the most cold-hardy seeds. The history of the tree as a specimen of European landscapes dates back much further, to the 17th century. (*Downton Abbey* fans – remember the tree from the opening credits to the series? That is a massive cedar of Lebanon planted in the 18th century.)



Form, [Missouri Botanical Garden](#)

Leaves of cedar of Lebanon grow differently on new growth than on older growth. On new growth, leaves occur singly and on older growth they grow in clusters of 30 to 40 leaves on spurs. The evergreen leaves are 3/4 to 1.5 inches long stiff, bright green needles. They remain on the tree for three to six years before shedding.



Bark, [Virginia Tech](#)

Twigs are slender and have spur shoots. The bark is smooth and gray-brown, becoming darker, fissured, and warty with age. Cedar of Lebanon is monocious, with male and female flowers on the same tree. The fruit is an upright cone that grows on a stalk. Fruit is three to five inches long and two to three inches wide and sometimes resinous. They begin green and purplish, becoming brown as they mature, a process that takes two years.

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Species Spotlight—Cedar of Lebanon, *Cedrus libani*

(Continued from page 3)

Cedar of Lebanon is suited for large, open, and sunny landscapes and will do well in well-drained loam. Cedar of Lebanon does not have any serious insect pests or diseases. Nurseries sell seed-grown trees, as well as cultivars. The cultivars do not grow as wide as the species and may be more suitable for smaller properties. The subspecies *stencoma* is the most cold-tolerant and has a pyramidal shape. 'Glauca Pendula' has short drooping branches and an irregular form. While cedar of Lebanon is hardy to zone five, it will do best in locations shielded from cold winter winds. Other cedars that are available at nurseries in Massachusetts include *C. libani* subsp. *atlantica*, Atlas cedar, and *C. deodara*, deodar cedar.



Fruit, [Virginia Tech](#)

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- Dirr, M.A. 1998. *Manual of Woody Landscape Plants: Their Identification, Ornamental Characteristics, Culture, Propagation and Uses*. 5th Ed. Champaign, IL: Stipes.

Growing on Trees

Tree City USA Application News—New Application Portal



TREE CITY USA

There is a new portal for Tree City USA applications, and it is now open and accepting applications! You will notice an updated, refreshed look and some additional features, like the ability to see several years of past applications.

NOTE: Each community will be prompted to reset their password upon their first login. *If your community has submitted its Tree City USA Application online before, please do not create a new account for your community.* Instead, please follow the steps below to 'find your community' and reset your password:

1. Visit the application portal: <https://applications.arboday.org/community/city/>.
2. Click on "Find Your Community."
3. Search for and select your community. (Please do not create a new community, unless this is the first year your community is applying for recognition.)
4. If the Login Contact information and email are correct, click "Reset Login Password." (This will prompt an email with instructions on how to reset your password to be sent.)

If the Login Contact information has changed, click "Change Login Contact Info."

View a step-by-step video on how to reset your password and apply on our new streamlined portal [here](#).

If you have any questions on the new online portal or on the Tree City USA program, please contact Mollie Freilicher, 413-577-2966 or mollie.freilicher@mass.gov.

THE CITIZEN FORESTER

Growing on Trees—Webcasts and Events

EPA Green Infrastructure Webcast Series

December 10, 2019 | 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. (EST)

Integrating Water Quality and Natural Hazard Mitigation Planning

Register at <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/4464476107799364364>

USDA Forest Service Urban Forest Connections

December 11, 2019, 1:00 - 2:15 pm (EST)

Scaling-Up Your Urban Wood Opportunities:
A Role for Everyone

Kathryn Fernholz, Dovetail Partners, Inc.
Jennifer Alger, Urban Salvaged and Reclaimed Woods

To view the webinar and watch past archived webinars, go to <https://www.fs.fed.us/research/urban-webinars/>.

Urban Forestry Today

December 12, 2019 | 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. (EST)

Pruning Update—Dr. Ed Gilman, Univ. of Florida

Go to www.joinwebinar.com; code: 458-018-411

Free ISA and MCA CEUs available.

To view archived webcasts, go to www.urbanforestrytoday.org/

New England Chapter—ISA TRAQ Courses

January 6-8, 2020 (deadline to apply 12/6)
Tree Risk Assessment Qualification Course

January 9, 2020 (deadline to apply 12/9)
Tree Risk Assessment Qualification Renewal

January 10, 2020 (deadline to apply 12/10)
Tree Risk Assessment Qualification Renewal

All courses will be held in Portsmouth, NH.
Find out more at newenglandisa.org.

MTWFA Annual Conference

Mass. Tree Wardens' and Foresters' Association
January 7-8, 2020 | Sturbridge

Keynote Speaker: David Rendell, talking about
"The Freak Factor"

Download the [conference brochure](#) and find out more at masstreewardens.org.

Early-bird registration is open through January 4, 2020.

Woodland Stewards Webinars

February 6, 2020 | 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. (EST)

Woodland Management: What is Right for You
and Your Woodland?

February 13, 2020 | 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. (EST)

Understanding the Financial Aspects of
Woodland Management

February 20, 2020 | 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. (EST)

More than Timber: Income Opportunities from
Non-timber Forest Products

February 27, 2020 | 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. (EST)

Launching your Woodland Legacy: Intact, In
Forest and In Family Ownership

Find out more at forestrywebinars.net.

TREE Fund Webinar

January 14, 2020 | 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. (EST)

Soil Assessment for Urban Trees—

Dr. Bryant Scharenbroch, University of
Wisconsin, Stevens Point

This free webinar is co-sponsored by the Utah
State University Forestry Extension

www.treefund.org/webinars

FEMC Conference

December 13, 2019 | Burlington, VT
Forest Ecosystem Monitoring Cooperative

Find out more at: www.uvm.edu/femc/cooperative/conference/2019

Growing on Trees

2020 DCR Arbor Day Poster Contest

Fifth grade classes from public and private schools across the Commonwealth are encouraged to participate in the annual Arbor Day Poster Contest by having fifth-grade students create posters highlighting this year's theme, **Trees Please**, and then hosting a school poster contest. The winning poster from each school can be submitted to DCR. Home-schooled or non-participating school students may submit their posters and enter the contest individually.

The Arbor Day Poster Contest is sponsored by the Department of Conservation and Recreation, the U.S. Forest Service, and the Massachusetts Tree Wardens' and Foresters' Association.

For complete rules and guidelines, go to the [Arbor Day Poster Contest page](#) on the DCR website.



NASF Centennial Challenge

The National Association of State Foresters is turning 100!

Please help support the Massachusetts DCR Bureau of Forest Fire Control and Forestry in our participation in the National Association of State Forester's 100th anniversary Centennial Challenge! Our theme for this challenge is "**100 Legacy Trees Across Massachusetts.**" We are asking people to help us reach our 100 legacy tree goal by nominating unique, significant, and otherwise noteworthy trees on public and private land across Massachusetts. A legacy tree can be any tree that is compelling for its age, size, form, history, species, and/or botanical interest.

Please visit <https://www.mass.gov/guides/massachusetts-legacy-tree-program> to learn more about the legacy tree program and to fill out an online nomination form or print a pdf of the form.

To learn more about the NASF centennial challenge, please visit www.stateforesters.org/centennial/.



Legacy tuliptree in South Hadley.

Growing on Trees

Emerald Ash Borer Update

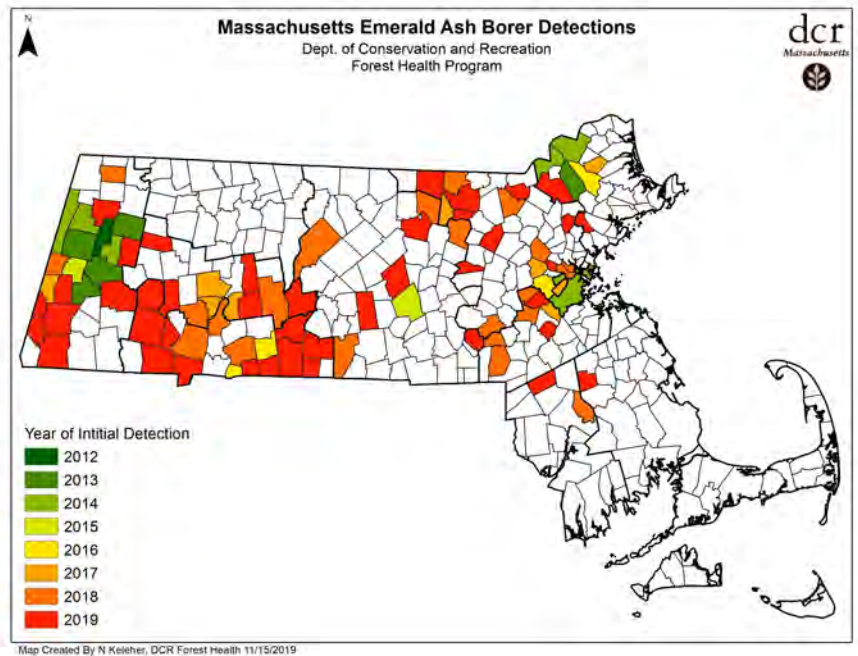
As of November 16, 2019, emerald ash borer (EAB) has been detected in 91 communities in Massachusetts, most recently Needham, Mansfield, and Granville. EAB has not yet been detected in Barnstable, Dukes, or Franklin County.

Emerald ash borer attacks ash trees (*Fraxinus* spp.), as well as fringetree (*Chionanthus virginicus*). It does not attack mountain ash (*Sorbus* spp.), which is in a different family.

Check out [this video](#) from the University of New Hampshire on how to identify ash trees. Once you get an eye for the form, the coarse, oppositely-branched texture, and for the bark, winter can be a good time to identify ash in your community

Learn how to identify signs and symptoms of EAB [here](#). Think you've seen EAB? Report it at massnrc.org.

Interested in the latest from MassNRC? Follow MassNRC on Twitter [@MassPests](https://twitter.com/MassPests)



Drought Monitor

As of November 26, 2019, dry conditions have ended across Massachusetts. Without activity to report in the northeast, we're looking back at precipitation over the last 12 months.

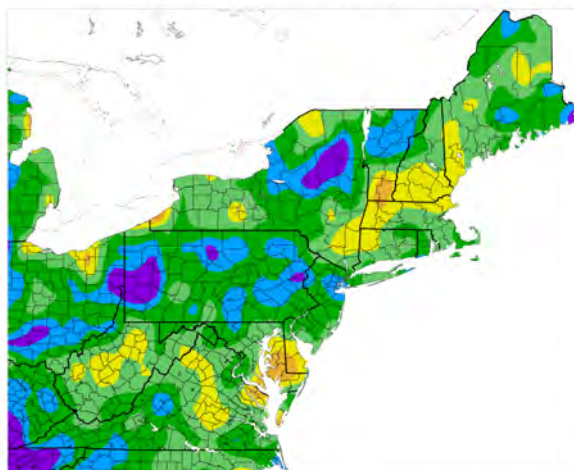
For complete details, go to the U.S. Drought Monitor: <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>.

Find out more at the Northeast Regional Climate Center: www.nrcc.cornell.edu.

There you can find out about weather and climate trends in the northeast and beyond.

Want to find out if we had a drier/wetter/warmer/cooler than average spring some years ago? You can do that too!

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
11/25/2018 – 11/24/2019



Generated 11/25/2019 at HPRCC using provisional data;

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

Growing on Trees

UMass Amherst – Invitation to Participate in Research

Learn to prune trees for free.

All are invited to learn the basics of tree physiology, structure, and pruning with certified arborists.

Attend one session and be a part of research. Sessions in Amherst and Greenfield coming soon.

For more information and to sign up, contact Ryan Fawcett 413-427-6413 or rfawcett@umass.edu

Two upcoming session in Northampton:

December 7 | 9:00am to 3:00 p.m.,
Smith Botanical Garden

December 8 | 9:00am to 3:00 p.m.,
Vernon St. School

News

Baker-Polito Administration and USDA Forest Service Sign Stewardship Agreement to Support Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership

November 21, 2019—Charlemont – The Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the USDA Forest Service today [signed a Shared Stewardship Framework](#) under which they will partner with each other, local governments, and other stakeholders to advance the goals of the Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership (MTWP) to conserve forests and enhance economic development in the region.

“This partnership with the U.S. Forest Service is a great opportunity to work together to improve forest stewardship and conservation and encourage local economic development based on forestry and tourism,” said Governor Charlie Baker. “Our Administration is proud to work with our federal, regional, and local partners to support the Commonwealth’s rural communities and ensure the health of the Mohawk Trail region’s natural resources.”

“The Mohawk Trails Woodlands Partnership is an innovative model for private forest conservation and management in support of rural economies and communities,” said Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito. “Our Administration looks forward to continuing to work with the Forest Service and the communities of the Mohawk Trail Woodland Partnership to help them succeed in their efforts to protect the environment, bring economic development to the region, and improve the fiscal stability of its municipalities.”

“Strong working relationships between state and federal agencies are vital in accomplishing shared objectives for the benefit of the land and public we serve.

This Shared Stewardship Framework strengthens an already strong partnership between Massachusetts and the Forest Service, advancing our shared goals of encouraging forest conservation, and supporting natural resource-based economic development,” said USDA Forest Service Chief Vicki Christiansen.

Under the Shared Stewardship Framework signed today in Charlemont by Forest Service Chief Vicki Christiansen and MA Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) Secretary Kathleen Theoharides, the Forest Service will designate a project liaison to the Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership and will assist on forest research and expanding natural resource-based tourism. This is the first Shared Stewardship Agreement in the 20-state Eastern Region and the first in one of the ten states that do not have a National Forest.

“The Mohawk Trails Woodlands Partnership is an innovative model for private forest



Area Covered by the Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership

News

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conservation and management in support of rural economies and communities,” said Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito. “The Baker-Polito Administration looks forward to continuing to work with the Forest Service and the

communities of the Mohawk Trail Woodland Partnership to help them succeed in their efforts to protect the environment, bring economic development to the region, and improve the fiscal stability of its municipalities.” Read the full press release at mass.gov.

A Mysterious Disease Is Striking American Beech Trees

By Gabriel Popkin

November 14, 2019—A mysterious disease is starting to kill American beeches, one of eastern North America's most important trees, and has spread rapidly from the Great Lakes to New England. But scientists disagree about what is causing the ailment, dubbed beech leaf disease. Some have recently blamed a tiny leaf-eating worm introduced from Asia, but others are skeptical that's the whole story.

Regardless of their views, researchers say the outbreak deserves attention. “We're dealing with something really unusual,” says Lynn Carta, a plant disease specialist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) in Beltsville, Maryland.

American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*), whose smooth gray trunks can resemble giant elephant legs, can grow to almost 40 meters tall. It is the fifth most common tree species in southern New England and in New York state—and the single most common tree in Washington, D.C. Its annual nut crop provides food for birds, squirrels, and deer.

Beeches in the United States were already struggling with a bark-infesting fungus when, in 2012, biologist John Pogacnik of Lake Metroparks, which manages natural areas in Ohio's Lake County, spotted trees with leaves that were shriveled and had black stripes. By 2018, foresters had documented beeches with similar symptoms in 24 counties in eastern Ohio, western Pennsylvania and New York, and Canada's Ontario province. Small trees with shriveled leaves were starting to die; on larger beeches, the symptoms crept up the tree toward leaves in the canopy. Worried foresters began to pry loose research funding from USDA and other agencies, and organized a meeting to discuss the disease in May 2018 in Parma, Ohio.

Read the full story at [Science](https://www.sciencemag.org). Find out more at [Buckeye Yard and Garden Online](https://www.buckeyeyardandgarden.com) and at [Don't Move Firewood](https://www.mass.gov). Think you've seen this in Massachusetts? Report it here: <https://massnrc.org/pests/report.aspx>



Leaves showing dark bands between lateral veins.
Jim Chatfield, OSU Extension

News Headlines in Brief

[Forest Fuel Load Fires Up Islanders](#) (Martha's Vineyard)

[For Some Urban Areas, a Warming Climate Is Only Half the Threat](#)

[That Special Day When All the Ginkgo Leaves Fall](#)

[Drones Used to Release Sterile Insects to Disrupt Orchard Pests](#)

[Tons of Acorns? It Must Be a Mast Year](#)

[The Parks That Made the Man Who Made Central Park](#)

[The Social Worker Turned Forester Teaching Women to Steward Maine's Woods](#)

[Apple Detectives Track Down Trees for History, Biodiversity](#)

[At an Urban Farm in Baltimore, Plans for Activism, African American History And Maybe Even Tiny Houses](#)

[How a Library of Tree DNA Could Protect the World's Forests](#)

[Property Owners Now Required to Pay \\$2,000 if they Can't Replace Removed Trees \(Victoria, B.C.\)](#)

[What Can We Learn from the Oldest Trees in L.A.?](#)

[The Trees and the Forest of New Towers](#)

On the Horizon

- Dec 8-** American Society of Consulting
Dec 11 Arborists Annual Conference, New Orleans, www.asca-consultants.org
- Dec 12** ISA Certification Exam, New England ISA, Wellesley, www.newenglandisa.org
- Dec 12** [Urban Forestry Today Webcast](#), 12:00 EST
- Dec 13** [Forest Ecosystem Monitoring Cooperative Conference](#), Burlington, VT
- Dec 31** Deadline for Tree City, Tree Campus, and Tree Line USA applications, contact Mollie Freilicher 413-577-2966 or mollie.freilicher@mass.gov for details
- Jan 6-8** Tree Risk Assessment Qualification Course, New England ISA, Portsmouth, NH, www.newenglandisa.org
- Jan 7-8** Annual Conference, Mass. Tree Warden's and Foresters' Association, Sturbridge, www.masstreewardens.org
- Jan 9** Tree Risk Assessment Qualification Renewal Course, New England ISA, Portsmouth, NH, www.newenglandisa.org
- Jan 10** Tree Risk Assessment Qualification Renewal Course, New England ISA, Portsmouth, NH, www.newenglandisa.org
- Jan 20** Crew Leader Qualification Workshop, Littleton, www.tcia.org
- Feb 6** Urban Tree Symposium, Tower Hill Botanic Garden, Boylston, www.towerhillbg.org
- Feb 9** [Tu B'Shevat](#), "New Year of the Trees"
- Feb 23-** Municipal Forestry Institute, Gulf Shores, AL,
Feb 28 www.urban-forestry.com
- Feb 24-** National Green Infrastructure Certification Program, Boylston, www.ecolandscaping.org
- Feb 26-** ASCA Consulting Academy, Sacramento,
Feb 29 www.asca-consultants.org
- Mar 4-5** ELA Conference & Eco-Marketplace, Amherst, www.ecolandscaping.org
- Mar 10** UMass Community Tree Conference, Amherst
- Mar 15** Deadline for DCR Arbor Day Poster Contest
- Apr 10** MCA Arborist Exam, MA Arborists Association, Wellesley, www.massarbor.org
- Apr 24** Arbor Day in Massachusetts
- Apr 26** Town Forest Event, DCR, West Springfield

The Citizen Forester 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.

Bureau of Forestry

Department of Conservation and Recreation

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www.mass.gov/dcr/urban-and-community-forestry

Charles D. Baker, Governor

Karyn E. Polito, Lieutenant Governor

Kathleen A. Theoharides, Secretary, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

Jim Montgomery, Acting 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) or click [here](#).

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