

Massachusetts Urban & Community Forestry Program

The Citizen Forester

JULY 2017

NO. 204

Tree City, Tree Line, and Tree Campus USA

By **Mollie Freilicher** On June 7, representatives from 43 towns, cities, colleges, universities, and utilities convened in Arlington for the annual recognition program for Tree City USA, Tree Campus USA, and Tree Line USA participants in Massachusetts. The program was generously sponsored by **Eversource** and **hosted by the Town of Arlington**. Attendees enjoyed morning speakers from Arlington, Boston University, the DCR, and Eversource. Julie Coop, DCR Urban and Community Forester, and Peter Church, DCR Director of Forest Stewardship, welcomed

the crowd and kicked off the program. Next, John Ellis, of the Arlington Tree Committee, and Tim Lecuire, Tree Warden of Arlington, spoke about how their programs work. Ellis highlighted the recent volunteer inventory underway utilizing Open Tree Map, and Lecuire talked about how tree work is accomplished in Arlington.

Attendees next heard a Forest Health Update from Ken Gooch, DCR Director of Forest Health. Gooch shared the latest information on insects and diseases of note in the Commonwealth. Dr. Lucy Hutyra from Boston University presented her research on the value of urban vegetation and discussed the productivity of edges in the urban forest (of which there are a lot in our fragmented urban landscapes). Attendees also learned how

residential landscapes can impact the urban heat island effect and carbon sequestration. The keynote speaker was Bob Allen, from Eversource. Allen spoke about the new utility arboretum that Eversource and UMass established at the Agricultural Learning Center in Amherst.

Attendees enjoyed a lunch sponsored by Eversource and reconvened in the afternoon to hear from DCR Commissioner Leo Roy. Roy spoke about the importance of trees to the Commonwealth and the importance of programs like Tree City, Tree Campus, and Tree Line USA. Priscilla Geigis, DCR Deputy Commissioner for Conservation and Resource Stewardship, presented the Tree City, Tree Campus, and Tree Line Awards to attendees.

EVERSOURCE
ENERGY

Thank you Eversource for your generous sponsorship!
Thank you to the Town of Arlington for hosting!

And congratulations to all of our Tree City USA, Tree Campus USA, and Tree Line USA participants!

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- ♦ **Host Community 15 years:** Arlington
- ♦ **Tree Line USA:** Eversource, National Grid
- ♦ **Tree Campus USA:** College of the Holy Cross, Smith College, UMass-Amherst, UMass-Lowell
- ♦ **First Year Tree City:** New Salem
- ♦ **30 Year Tree City:** Amherst, Danvers, Hanscom Air Force Base
- ♦ **25 Year Tree City:** Cambridge G, Easton
- ♦ **20 Year Tree City:** Marion
- ♦ **15 Year Tree City:** Greenfield, Ipswich, Lawrence G, Longmeadow G, Waltham
- ♦ **10 Year Tree City:** Natick, Northampton G
- ♦ **5 Year Tree City:** Great Barrington

Tree City, Tree Line, and Tree Campus USA

Andover 18	Fall River 12	Marlborough 6	Quincy 19	Warren 9
Bedford 17	Framingham 26	Mattapoisett 9	Reading 32	Watertown 26
Belmont 31	Grafton 17	Maynard 4	Rochester 2	Wellesley 34
Beverly 16	Groton 21	Medfield 4	Sandwich 11	West Bridgewater 23
Boston 21	Haverhill 21	Medford 19 <i>G</i>	Saugus 18	West Springfield 27 <i>G</i>
Boxford 11	Hingham 29 <i>G</i>	Monson 3	Sheffield 7	Westborough 8
Brockton 19	Holyoke 16	Nantucket 18	Somerville 22	Westfield 11
Brookline 29	Lanesborough 12	Needham 22	South Hadley 22	Weston 14
Chatham 4	Leominster 19	Newburyport 21 <i>G</i>	Springfield 31	Westover A.R.B. 18
Chelmsford 4	Lexington 28 <i>G</i>	Newton 28	Stoneham 17	Weymouth 17
Chelsea 13	Lowell 19	Orleans 19	Sturbridge 28	Winchester 6
Chicopee 24	Ludlow 11	Peabody 19	Sutton 17	Worcester 31 <i>G</i>
Dedham 8	Lynn 27	Petersham 7	Swampscott 26	
Duxbury 26	Malden 2	Pittsfield 12	Wakefield 16	
Everett 9	Marblehead 18	Plymouth 28	Walpole 9	

Communities and years of recognition

G Growth Award



Arlington Tree Warden Tim Lecuire (left) and Tree Committee Member John Ellis (right) take questions from the audience.



Eversource is recognized as a Tree Line USA. Pictured from left to right: Paul Sellers, Eversource; Julie Coop, DCR; Commissioner Roy, DCR; Bob Allen, Eversource; Priscilla Geigs, DCR.



DCR Commissioner Roy addresses the crowd before the awards ceremony.



Julie Coop addresses the crowd and emcees the day.

THE CITIZEN FORESTER

department of Conservation and Recreation

Species Spotlight—Japanese stewartia, *Stewartia pseudocamellia*

By **Mollie Freilicher**,
Community Action Forester

Japanese stewartia, *Stewartia pseudocamellia*, is one of several plants in the genus *Stewartia*, a genus that includes two species native to the southeastern United States.

Other species in the genus are native to Asia, like the Japanese stewartia of this Species Spotlight, which is native to Japan and Korea. Japanese stewartia is a small to medium-sized tree introduced to the United States by the New York nurseryman Thomas Hogg, Jr. We have written about Thomas Hogg in past “Species Spotlights,” for his introduction of Japanese snowbell (*Styrax japonicus*) and katsura tree (*Cercidiphyllum japonicum*). Like other members of the tea family, Teaceae, Japanese stewartia has a showy flower, and that is one reason to plant this tree, but stewartia also has other characteristics that lend interest year-round. Japanese stewartia is hardy in USDA Zones four to seven.

Leaves of Japanese stewartia are alternate, simple, elliptic in shape and two to three-and-a-half inches long. They are dark green, with fine serrations. Fall color can be yellow or red to purple.

Twigs are slender, and buds are downy, giving them a whitish appearance. The bark of Japanese stewartia is another interesting feature that can provide year-round interest. Its exfoliating nature leads to a mottled, multi-colored appearance, with hues of salmon, rich browns and tans, and lighter hues, and that could be described as sort of camouflage-like. In character, the trunk can be a bit sinewy.

In our area, stewartia flowers in early-to-mid summer (June-July), with white petals, filaments, and orange anthers. The fruit is a brown, 5-valved capsule that ripens in the fall and will persist on the plant.

Japanese stewartia has no major insect or disease problems, but it can be difficult to establish and does not do well in heat or drought. Dirr writes that stewartias will do best in acidic, well-drained soils, high in organic matter. As a small-to-medium-sized tree, Japanese stewartia is perfect for smaller spaces where you might be looking for a tree with multi-season interest or for a smaller specimen tree.



Bark, Mollie Freilicher



Leaves and developing fruit,
Mollie Freilicher



Form in a mature specimen



Flower, UConn

References

Dirr, Michael A. 1998. Manual of Woody Landscape Plants. 5th Edition. Stipes: Champaign, IL.

Spongberg, S.A. and A. J. Fordham. 1975. Stewartias—Small Trees and Shrubs for All Seasons. *Arnoldia*. 35:4, 165-180.

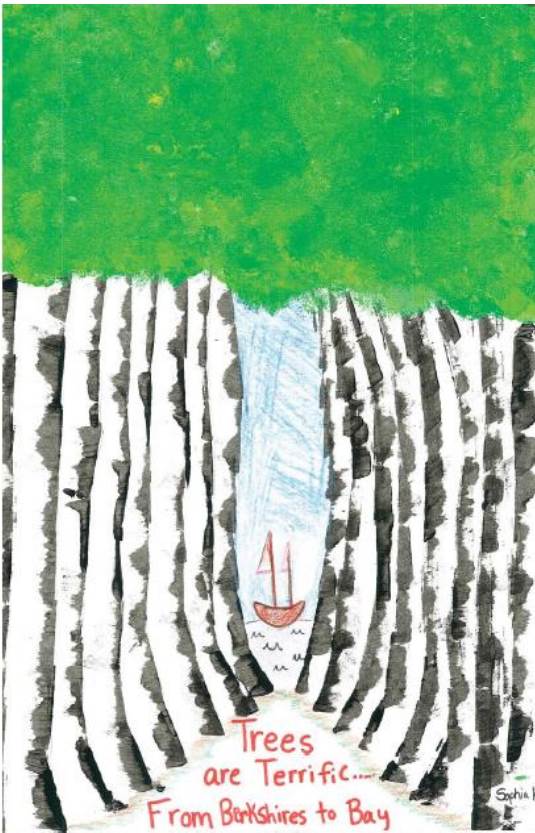
The Introduction of our Hardy Stewartias. 1969. *Arnoldia*. 29:7, 41-48.

Fruit capsules
and buds,
UConn



THE CITIZEN FORESTER

Arbor Day Poster Contest—Winners Announced!

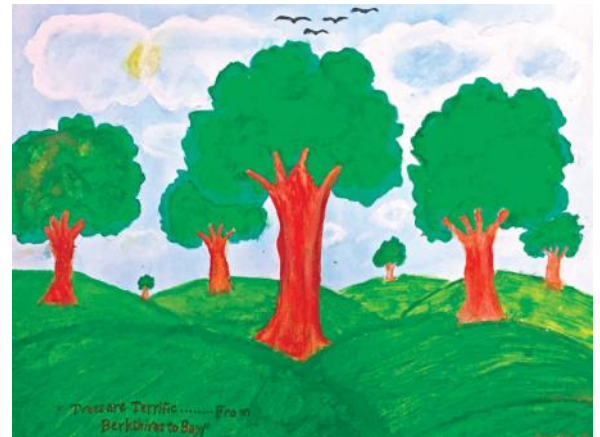


First Place: Sophia K., Elm Street School, Walpole

DCR is proud to announce the winners of the 2017 DCR Arbor Day Poster Contest. Over 2,000 students participated this year, and 26 posters were submitted to DCR on the theme

*Trees are Terrific...
from Berkshires to Bay!*

Watch for information on the 2018 contest later this summer.



Second Place: Merolla D., Mayo Elementary School, Holden



Third Place: Helen H., Forestdale School, Malden



Honorable Mention: Fiona H., Old Hammondtown Elementary School, Mattapoisett

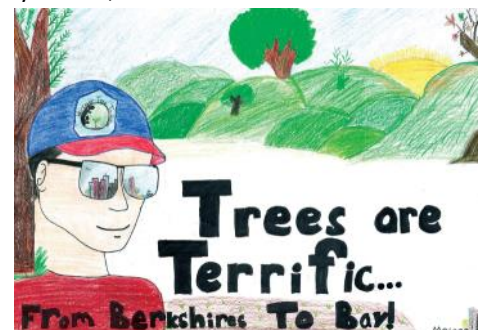


Honorable Mention: Rafael F., Carlos Pacheco School, New Bedford



Honorable Mention: Cameron B., Stearns Elementary School, Pittsfield

Honorable Mention: Melannie V., Woodland Academy, Worcester



Grants

DCR Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Grants

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 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

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.

Funding for strategic tree planting grants is now tiered:

Grant Funding Request for Tree Planting	Eligibility
\$1,000 - \$7,000	All communities may apply
\$7,001 - \$20,000	Community must be a Tree City USA
\$20,001 - \$30,000	Contact DCR Urban and Community Forestry to discuss

Download our recently-revised grant application at:

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/conservation/forestry-and-fire-control/urban-and-community-forestry-challenge-grants.html>

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 or Mollie Freilicher at 413-577-2966 or mollie.freilicher@state.ma.us.

Massachusetts Forest Legacy is Seeking Applications

The Massachusetts Forest Legacy Program is now accepting project proposals for consideration in the Federal Fiscal Year 2019 application process. The Forest Legacy Program is a partnership between the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation and the USDA Forest Service to protect environmentally important forests from conversion to non-forest uses. The Federal government may fund up to 75% of project costs, with at least 25% coming from private, state, or local sources. The MA Forest Legacy Program FY 2019 Request for Proposals application instructions are posted [here](#). Additional background information on the Forest Legacy Program is available [here](#). Proposals must be submitted by 5:00 pm on September 11, 2017.

For more information, please contact Lindsay Nystrom, MA Forest Legacy Program Coordinator, lindsay.nystrom@state.ma.us or 508-792-7714 x114.

Growing on Trees—Webcasts and Events

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](#).

NUCFAC Highlights: Cultivating and Activating a Natural Infrastructure Workforce

July 19, 2017 | 1:00—2:15 p.m. (Eastern)

Lisa Ortega, National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council (NUCFAC)

Sara Lamback, NatureWORKS

Dave Gamstetter, City of Cincinnati

To access the webinar, go to <https://www.fs.fed.us/research/urban-webinars/>.

Future webinars:

August 9, 2017

September 13, 2017

Climate Webinar:

Drought and Urban Forests

July 25, 2017, 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. (Eastern)

Recent droughts have caused stress and mortality in urban forests, reducing the cooling, clean air, and carbon storage provided by trees. Because human populations are growing in most U.S. cities, it will become increasingly important to maintain healthy, productive urban forests. Scientists and urban foresters are working together to quantify recent drought-related stress and find management strategies for sustainable urban landscapes. Please join the USDA Office of Sustainability and Climate for a webinar about urban forest health in the face of a changing climate.

Approximately 15 minutes before this webinar's start time, the 'Join' button will be activated on [this](#) page. Once the 'Join' button is available, you may click the join button and begin the registration process.

Webinar information: <http://climategwebinars.net/webinars/drought-urbanforests>

Urban Forestry Today Webcast

Tree Growth and Response in a Changing Environment

July 20, 2017 | 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. (Eastern)

Join Dr. Janusz Zwiazek, Professor and Tree Physiologist, University of Alberta as he discusses how trees grow and develop and their response to changes in our climate and rapidly urbanizing landscapes.

To attend, visit www.joinwebinar.com and enter the ID code **759-113-739**.

This broadcast is free and will offer the opportunity to earn 1.0 ISA CEU and 0.5 MCA credit.

For more information, contact:

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The Urban Forestry Today 2017 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.

From the New England Wildflower Society

[Find out more](#)

Introduction to Plant Families – July 5

New England Plant Communities – July 6

Tree Identification – July 26

Native Woody Plant Materials – August 30

Native New England Shrubs – September 7

Framework Trees of New England – Starts October 3

Introduction to Botany – Starts September 19

New England Plant Diversity: Session 1 – September 24

More Shrubs – October 15

Invasive Plants: Identification, Documentation, and Control – October 20-21

From the Arnold Arboretum

Drought-Tolerant Plants for the
Dog Days of Summer – July 11

[Find out more](#)

Thoreau and the Language
of Trees – July 18

Growing on Trees

Urban Trees Mitigate Magnitude Of Urban Heat Island Effect

By Conni Kunzler

Source: Arthur Elmes, John Rogan, Christopher Williams, Samuel Ratick, David Nowak, Deborah Martin, "Effects of urban tree canopy loss on land surface temperature magnitude and timing," *ISPRS Journal of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing*.

June 19, 2017—Worcester, MA (April 23, 2017) – New research shows that urban tree canopy (UTC) plays an important role in mitigating the magnitude of the surface urban heat island (SUHI) effect, which poses threats to human health due to substantially increased temperatures relative to rural areas.

UTC coverage is associated with reduced urban temperatures and therefore benefits both human health and reducing energy use in cities. Measurement of this relationship relies on accurate, fine spatial resolution UTC mapping and on time series analysis of Land Surface Temperatures (LST). The City of Worcester, Massachusetts underwent extensive UTC loss and gain during the relatively brief period from 2008 to 2015, providing a natural experiment to measure the UTC/LST relationship. Read the full story at the [Alliance for Community Trees](#).

Drought Monitor

Conditions as of June 27, 2017. Currently, 100% of Massachusetts is out of drought condition.

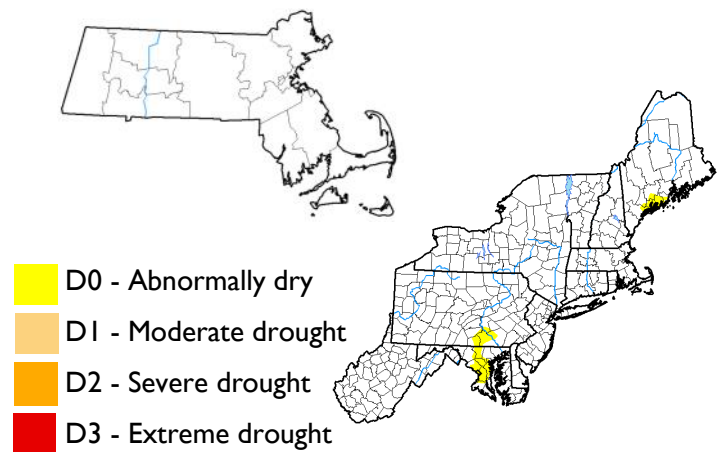
In May 2017, the most recent month with data, all parts of Massachusetts received from one to three inches of precipitation above normal.

<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

www.mass.gov

Massachusetts drought resources may be found here:

<http://drought.unl.edu/Planning/DroughtPlans/StatePlanning.aspx?st=ma>



Growing Greener—in Gardner

Amount Awarded: \$4,000 (funded by the Mass ReLeaf Trust, with funds from National Grid)

The City of Gardner was recently awarded a DCR Urban and Community Forestry National Grid Partnership Challenge Grant. The City will be planting 11 trees to replace trees removed by the utility.

Partners for Places Grant Opportunity

Partners for Places is a matching grant program for cities and counties in the United States and Canada to improve communities by building partnerships between local government sustainability offices and place-based foundations. The grant program provides partnership investments between \$25,000 and \$75,000 for one-year projects, or \$50,000 and \$150,000 for two-year projects, with 1:1 match required by one or more local foundations. This opportunity is presented by the Funders' Network for Smart Growth and Livable Communities, in partnership with the Urban Sustainability Directors Network. Proposals due July 31, 2017.

For more information, visit [the Funder's Network](#).

Gleanings

Green Infrastructure in Parks—New EPA Guide

The Environmental Protection Agency has produced a guide titled, [Green Infrastructure in Parks: A Guide to Collaboration, Funding, and Community Engagement](#), to encourage partnerships between park agencies and stormwater agencies to promote the use of green infrastructure on park lands. Green infrastructure can help to maximize the environmental, economic, and social benefits of parks. By building strong partnerships, agencies can improve park lands and access to parks, better manage stormwater, increase community resiliency to shifting weather patterns, and provide funding to implement and maintain park enhancements that benefit the community.

The guide is designed to provide a step-wise approach for building relationships with potential partners, and it includes information on how to identify and engage partners, build relationships, involve the community, leverage funding opportunities, and identify green infrastructure opportunities. It includes recommendations on the types of projects that are most likely to attract positive attention and funding and provide a wide range of benefits.

Case studies are included to illustrate the approaches presented in the guide. These real-life examples portray how partnerships between municipal stormwater agencies and parks departments have improved recreational resources in the community, enhanced environmental protection, and reduced risks and burdens.

Learn more [here](#).

As the Climate Changes, City Trees Will Need Replacing With More Resilient Species

June 7, 2017—The trees that give shade to Southern Californians living under the hot sun are under threat due to beetle infestation, drought, and increasingly, the effects of climate change. As hotter, dryer weather becomes the norm, cities across the country are investing in programs to monitor their urban forests and plant trees that can survive well into the future. Listen to the whole story on NPR's [Marketplace](#).

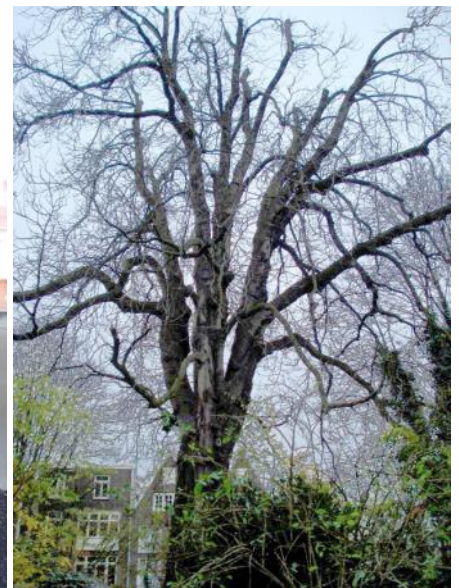
Finding Hope in Horse Chestnut Trees

June 7, 2017—"How could you not be hopeful if you've got a tree around?"

That was the inspirational question once asked by documentary filmmaker Ross Spears, who clearly knew the power of trees. It is a poignant question, when viewed in the context of the story of a young girl who found hope, beauty, and happiness against the backdrop of war and fear in the company of a very special tree. During the Holocaust, while hidden from German police in a secret annex to a house in Amsterdam, Anne Frank would look through an attic window that was not blacked out and marvel at the nature she could see: birds, the sky, and a horse chestnut tree. Read the full story at the [Vineyard Gazette](#).



Tree at the Indianapolis Children's Museum



The tree outside Anne Frank's window, Wikipedia.

News

Concord's Tree Management Plan Has Begun By Jennifer Fenn Lefferts

May 30, 2017—After a year of planning, Concord's townwide public shade tree inventory and management plan project has begun. Arborists from a division of Davey Tree Expert Co. will be conducting an inventory and assessment of all trees, stumps, and available planting sites along 107 miles of public streets, in parks, cemeteries, and other selected public facilities in town. "The data collected through the inventory will provide the community with a comprehensive report on the state of its urban tree canopy and will be used to establish a proactive tree management program for the community's tree canopy," said Richard Reine, public works director, in a press release. The management program will also incorporate advanced software that will allow public works to monitor all tree-related activities. The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation has awarded the town a \$30,000 grant to help pay for the management project. The inventory and assessment is expected to take six to eight weeks. Read the full story in the [Boston Globe](#).

Franklin County Technical School Receives Grant for Tree Nursery By Aviva Luttrell

June 1, 2017—Turners Falls — Three years ago, Kurt Richardson, an instructor in Franklin County Technical School's Landscaping and Horticulture program, and Nancy Hazard, a member of the Greenfield Tree Committee, hatched an idea for how the Tech School could create a tree nursery for their students, providing shade trees for Greenfield and other towns at a reduced cost. The idea came to fruition last year when David Detmold, chairman of the Montague Tree Advisory Committee, joined the effort and Richardson brought the school on board. The Tech School and the Greenfield and Montague tree committees wrote a grant proposal for the project, which resulted in an \$18,000, five-year grant from the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts to create a tree nursery on the grounds of the school. "This is a dream come true," said Hazard. "We wanted to partner with the Tech School so that we could plant more trees in Greenfield and so that young people could learn about how to plant and care for trees. This in turn could lead to having skilled people in our community who care about and know how to care for trees for many years to come." Read the full story at the [Recorder](#).

Salem Invests in Street Trees, With Master Plan, Extra Money By Dustin Luca

June 15, 2017—The city is sinking \$135,000 into a more arborous future.

The City Council signed off last week on two tree-related measures buried in the city's \$155 million budget for the coming fiscal year. One project is what amounts to a "tree master plan," studying the state of trees in the city, including an inventory of tree species, according to senior planner Tom Devine. That will cost \$60,000, with half coming from the city and half from a matching grant from the state's Department of Conservation and Recreation. "The end-game is to have every public street tree inventoried so we know the species, the condition, and what the maintenance needs are," Devine said. "We'll also know where new tree plantings are needed, areas that are lacking trees." In addition, the city has earmarked an extra \$75,000 for tree-related expenses, inspired by the city's LORAX (Leaf-Oriented Resiliency and Arboricultural Expansion) Task Force. Read the full story at [salemnews.com](#).

Gypsy Moths: Scientists Expect a 'Burst Of Mortality' but Have Not Seen It Yet

June 9, 2017—Gypsy moth caterpillars, in theory at least, are having a tough time weathering our cold, damp, rainy spring, and scientists are in the field hoping to find evidence of a caterpillar die-off. The dampness helps grow the fungus that helps keep the gypsy moth population in check, said Joseph Elkinton, a professor in the department of environmental conservation at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Read the full story at [masslive.com](#).

News Headlines in Brief

[Gypsy Moth Caterpillars Can Put Trees at Risk for Other Problems](#)

[Somerville Thunderstorm: Severe Weather Knocks Down Trees, Wires](#)

[Everett to Plant 100 Trees for this Season](#)

[Freetown-Fall River State Forest About to Get Bigger](#)

[Solving The Mystery of the White Oak](#)

On the Horizon

- Jul 9-15** [UMass Summer College Program in Sustainable Tree Care](#), Amherst contact bkane@eco.umass.edu.
- Jul 11** EPA Webinar: [Creating Healthy, Resilient Communities Through Green Infrastructure](#), 1:00 p.m. (Eastern)
- Jul 20** Urban Forestry Today webinar, www.joinwebinar.com, #759-113-739
- Jul 25** Webinar: Drought and Urban Forests, 2:00 p.m. (Eastern), www.climatewebinars.net
- Jul 27** ISA International Tree Climbing Championship, Washington, D.C., www.isa-arbor.com
- Jul 29-Aug 2** ISA Annual International Conference, National Harbor, MD, www.isa-arbor.com
- Aug 2** Mass. Certified Horticulturalist Exam, Elm Bank, Wellesley, www.mnla.com
- Aug 8-10** Bark Beetle Identification and Related Topics Training, www.umassgreeninfo.org
- Sept 21** Southeastern Massachusetts Tree Wardens Association Annual Field Day & Equipment Show, Plympton, www.masstreewardens.org
- Sept 23** MA Town Forest Event, Sheffield
- Sept 23** Landscape and Forest Tree and Shrub Disease Workshop, Amherst, www.umassgreeninfo.org
- Sept 26** Western Mass. Tree Wardens Dinner Meeting, Northampton, www.masstreewardens.org
- Sept 26** MAA Dinner Meeting, Framingham, www.massarbor.org
- Sept 26-27** Trees & Utilities Conference, <http://www.treesandutilities.org/>
- Oct 1** ISA Exam, Southbridge, www.newenglandisa.org
- Oct 1-3** New England Chapter ISA 51st Annual Conference and Trade Show, Southbridge, www.newenglandisa.org
- Oct 6** MCA Exam, Wellesley, www.massarbor.org
- Oct 13-14** MA DCR Tree Steward Training, Harvard Forest, Petersham

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**.

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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](#) or click [here](#).

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