Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation

THE CITIZEN FORESTER

Urban & Community Forestry Program

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What We Learned From our Interviews with Massachusetts' Tree Wardens

By **Richard W. Harper**, **David V. Bloniarz**, **Stephen DeStefano**, **Craig R. Nicolson**, **Michael Davidsohn**, and **Emily S. Huff**

Several years ago we described a new initiative (Citizen Forester, Dec 2013) from the Urban Forestry Extension Program here at UMass, that was designed to gather information about the state of our urban forests in Massachusetts and better understand the day-to-day challenges, needs, and dynamics of urban forestry at the community level. Though a number of approaches were initially explored, such as focus groups or mail-based surveys, it was ultimately decided that we would employ qualitative research interviews (Elmendorf & Luloff, 2007; Gillies et al., 2014; Diehl et al., 2017) with tree wardens, as it was believed that this approach would:

I. Foster two-way communication and build rapport (Creswell, 2007)
II. Facilitate the building of knowledge of urban forestry issues in Massachusetts
III. Inform the creation of relevant urban forestry Extension programming opportunities.

From 2013-2016, we conducted fifty in-person interviews of active tree wardens (Harper et al. 2017) throughout Massachusetts (Fig.1). Interviews themselves typically took 15-30 mins each to complete, and they also routinely involved an extensive post-interview tour of the municipality where noteworthy urban trees, parks, and green spaces were explored. In part I of this two-part series, we commence describing the findings from these interviews.

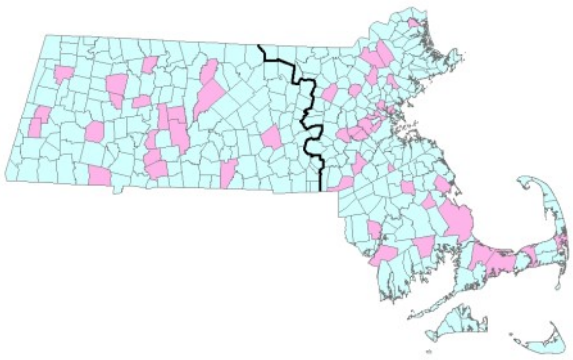

Figure 1. Representation of tree warden interviews by town. Note distinct "Western-Central" and Eastern" regions of the state, as categorized by the MA Department of Conservation and Recreation's urban and community forestry program. Credit: Tierney Bocsi

A History of Tree Wardens

As many of us recall, tree wardens were established in the U.S. by the Massachusetts (MA) legislature in 1896 (Ricard & Dreyer, 2005), where eventually every community was mandated to employ such an individual (Rines et al., 2010). Presently, this position remains unique to the six states – Rhode Island, Connecticut, MA, Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine – that comprise the New England region (Ricard & Bloniarz, 2006).

Tree wardens are most appropriately identified as local officers with the "greatest responsibility" for the preservation and stewardship of public trees in municipalities (Ricard, 2005b) of MA, and other New England states (Ricard, 2005a). According to Ricard and Dreyer (2005) the

> "...municipal tree warden is arguably the most important human component of a city or town's community forestry program." A municipality "cannot conduct an effective

Up Ahead:

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community forestry program without the participation, perhaps even the leadership, of a well-qualified, active tree warden."

What We Learned…

i. The position of Tree Warden.

A majority of the 50 interviewees (n=26), reported that the position of tree warden was located in, or directly affiliated with, the 'department of public works (DPW).' A substantial number of interviewees (n=8) also indicated that the position of tree warden was associated with the local 'highway department'. These themes were consistent with other literature (Ricard and Bloniarz 2006), that reported that New England tree wardens are commonly housed in DPW (44%) and highway departments (15%). Tree wardens that we interviewed often noted associating the terms 'director' (n=13) or 'superintendent' (n=11) with their position.

ii. The resources available (staff, technical equipment, etc.) to do the job.

A clear majority of the 50 interviewees (n=34) indicated access to occupational resources that facilitated the day-to-day duties of a tree warden, including 'chipper(s)' (n=21), a 'tree crew' of 2-4 individuals (n=28), and a variety of 'trucks' (n=22). A comparison of community sizes (pop 0-10,000, 10,001-20,000 and 20,001-30,000) revealed an increase in the number of tree wardens who identified that these resources were available, as municipal population levels increased. Not surprisingly, a direct relationship between increasing community size and available funds for urban forest management is consistent with findings of other studies (Treiman & Gartner, 2004; Rines et al., 2010; Grado et al., 2013), and may be due to a combination of factors including an increased tax base (Miller & Bates, 1978), increased awareness of the practice of urban forestry among residents (Grado et al., 2013) and the affiliated benefits of urban trees. It may also be associated with a general trend towards greater demand for public services and the level at which they are delivered to residents (Treiman & Gartner, 2005) in more populous communities.

iii. The groups (i.e. organizations, municipal departments) that Tree Wardens routinely interact with, regarding tree-related issues.

A clear majority (n=37) of tree wardens identified local organizations they worked with. These included informal 'community organizations' (n=19) comprised of residents like local 'shade tree committees' (n=13), 'garden clubs' (n=6), 'conservation groups' (n=9), or more traditional organizations like 'municipal departments' (n=29), including the 'DPW' (n=7), 'highway department' (n=9), 'water department' (n=8), 'parks department' (n=5), 'planning board' (n=8), and local (i.e., conservation; historical; cemetery; open-space) 'commissions' (n=13). Tree wardens in eastern MA more emphatically identified 'community organizations' or 'municipal departments' than their counterparts in the central-western portion of the state. This would align with findings from other studies since citizens in larger, more populated communities (which are more common in eastern MA) tend to be more active and organized around environmental issues like urban green spaces and trees (Treiman & Gartner, 2005), and feature a higher occurrence of advocacy groups (Rines et al., 2011).

iv. Monitoring for pests.

Nearly every tree warden interviewed indicated that 'yes' (n=49), they monitor by at least periodically visually inspecting urban trees for pests. This included Asian longhorned beetle (*Anaplophora glabripennis* Motschulsky) (n=31), emerald ash borer (*Agrilus planipennis* Fairmaire) (n=29), hemlock woolly adelgid (*Adelges tsugae* Annand) (n=17), winter moth (*Operophtera brumata* L.) (n=15), gypsy moth (*Lymantra dispar* L.) (n=6), Dutch elm disease (*Ophiostoma novo-ulmi* Brasier) (n=4). Some insect pests were identified in relative equal

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What We Learned From our Interviews with Massachusetts' Tree Wardens

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frequency between tree wardens in eastern MA and central-western MA like Asian longhorned beetle (ALB) and emerald ash borer (EAB).

The high level of responses from the interviewees affirming that they monitor for urban forest pests was of interest, as there is a dearth of information concerning pest-related activities. According to the tree warden from the Town of Wrentham:

> "we used to have a full-time tree crew and a bigger budget when we were dealing with Dutch elm disease in the 1970s."

It would seem that urban forest pest issues affected not only resources ascribed to the community tree budget, but also impacted the daily duties of municipal forestry staff, as individuals were presumably dedicated to the full-time removal of large numbers of trees that succumbed to pests like the aforementioned Dutch elm disease (DED), in at least some MA communities. Currently, ash (*Fraxinus* spp.) comprise 5% of the urban street tree populations in MA (Cumming et al., 2006), but with the relatively recent discovery of EAB, an abundance of biomass will likely continue to be locally generated in communities as these trees die. Hence the subject of urban forest health and its impact on tree warden activities is timely and worthy of further examination. In the next edition of The Citizen Forester, we will outline what the interviewees reported about their educational and training needs.

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Species Spotlight

Eastern Redcedar, *Juniperus virginiana*

By **Mollie Freilicher**

Form, Virginia Tech

This month, we're looking at another native tree—one we've all seen, but perhaps not really 'seen.' Eastern redcedar (*Juniperus virginiana*) is an evergreen native from southern Ontario and Maine, south to northern Florida, west to central Texas, and north to North Dakota. Eastern redcedar is in the cypress family, Cupressaceae, along with other junipers, cypresses, and some trees we call "cedar," but which aren't true cedars. Eastern redcedar is a pioneer species, readily occupying pastures and abandoned fields and other open landscapes. It is also found in dry uplands, particularly in limestone sites, as well as in flood plains and swamps, sometimes in pure stands. A long-lived tree, eastern redcedar can survive for hundreds of years; the oldest record is over 900 years old in West Virginia. Eastern redcedar can reach heights of 30-50 feet with a smaller spread. As a young tree, it is pyramidal, and can become pendulous with age, though there is a lot of variety in form, especially among trees in the wild. It is hardy in zones three to nine. It gets its common name from its red heartwood.

Foliage is blueish-green in the summer and yellow-brown in the winter. Eastern redcedar generally has two types of leaves: needle-like and scale-like. The needle-like leaves are juvenile leaves. They are paired and are thicker at the base and thinner at the tip, like an awl. These leaves may be up to a quarter-inch long. The scale-like leaves are older and form overlapping scales in opposite pairs. These leaves are shorter, maybe 1/16th of an inch long. Leaves on older branchlets are often broader and a little longer than younger scale-like leaves. Often scale-like leaves and needle-like leaves are on the same tree, and even on the same branch.

Bark, Virginia Tech

Juvenile foliage, VA Tech

Bark of eastern redcedar is gray to reddish-brown and fibrous, forming long vertical shreddy strips. Eastern redcedar is usually dioecious; there are trees with male flowers and trees with female flowers, though monecious flowers occur sometimes. Male flowers are yellow and oblong and female flowers are green and more round; both occur at the tips of branches. Michael Dirr writes that in late winter it can be easy to distinguish male and female trees because male trees are a yellow-brown color. (Dirr called it a "rather ugly" color). In late winter, the male trees will release pollen. The fruit is a small cone about a quarter-inch across that contains one to two seeds. The fruit can vary in color from blue, to blue-green, to brownish-violet berry-like cone, which is covered in a silvery, waxy bloom. The fruit, as well as the foliage, is pleasantly aromatic when crushed. Trees heavily covered in fruit look bright and vibrant. Dirr says fruit can be "so abundant that the tree literally glows." Lots of wildlife eat the fruit and birds disperse the seeds widely. It is an important food source in winter for waxwings

Older, scaled foliage, VA Tech

Fruit, Virginia Tech

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Species Spotlight—Eastern Redcedar *(Continued)*

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(cedar waxwings are named for this tree), northern bobwhite, ruffed grouse, wild turkeys, rabbits, foxes, raccoons, skunks, opossums, and coyotes.

Eastern redcedar is a tough tree and can tolerate difficult conditions, including poor soils, high pH and acid soils, as well as drought and salt. It will do best in sunny places, with deep loam and can be planted balled and burlapped or, more preferably, from a container. It will also grow in part sun/part shade. Michael Dirr and Keith Warren write that cultivars are "worthy and satisfy many landscape expectations from screening, hedging, and groupings to single specimen use." They write that it is "[o]ne of the few needle evergreens that thrives on absolute neglect." They even suggest that cultivars could be used as street trees, if clear trunked.

Eastern redcedar does not have many insect or disease problems, but it can be affected by bagworm and is an alternate host for cedar-apple rust, a disease native to North America. Cedar-apple rust does not seriously harm eastern redcedar, but it can be bad news for orchards that have cultivars that are highly susceptible, infecting fruit, causing defoliation, and reduced crop output. One hundred years ago, the disease caused state legislatures, particularly in the eastern U.S., where the disease is more prevalent, to pass laws calling for the destruction of eastern redcedar near commercial apple orchards. In 1918, the Virginia Horticultural Society wrote that "[c]edar eradication is the cheapest form of orchard insurance that you can buy." Donald Culross Peattie, in *A Natural History of North American Trees*, notes that it might not be so cheap if the owners of the destroyed redcedars had to be paid for the value of their trees. Needless to say, it made for some strained neighbor relations. Today, there are management recommendations for orchards and apple growers, including choosing rust-resistant cultivars, pruning to promote airflow, and on eastern redcedar (as well as other junipers that can also host the disease) pruning off galls in the winter. There are also rust-resistant cultivars of eastern redcedar that can be selected, including 'Burkii.'

Dormant cedar-apple rust gall on juniper.

The wood of eastern redcedar is aromatic and has been used for cedar chests, cabinets, carvings, as well as for fence posts. Historically, the heartwood of eastern redcedar provided the most common wood source for pencils. Today, they are made from California incense cedar (*Calocedrus decurrens*). You may be thinking, "Juniper. Isn't that what is used to flavor gin?" You might even be thinking, "Isn't the word "gin" related to the word "juniper?" You'd be right on both counts, though the species that is most commonly used for gin is *J. communis*, native to North America, Europe, and Asia. As to the word, it is either from the French *genièvre* or the Dutch *jenever*, both referring to juniper. We'll have to cover common juniper another time. If you're looking for a native conifer that can handle tough sites (and you're not an apple grower), you may want to check out eastern redcedar.

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From the Woods

Forestry, Bringing Us Together

By **Alison Wright-Hunter** There are moments when our connections to the trees of the forest and to each other become tangible. Over the past few decades there have been several large scale events in Massachusetts forests that peel back the layers, revealing an old network of forest partnerships. Recently, while in the woods, the web was revealed once again. This story in some ways begins at the confluence of two movements in American history. It was in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century when New England farms were progressively abandoned and a profession called forestry emerged. The early foresters in Massachusetts recognized the need to work with the landowners who owned the privately held abandoned pastures and forests and to provide them with incentives to do good stewardship. In 1914 a new state law was passed, Chapter 61, the Forest Tax Law Program. Landowners with ten acres or more of forest could commit to sustainably manage their woods in exchange for a tax reduction on their forest lands. In order to be successful, new relationships formed involving the landowner, the state forester, and the municipal assessor's office. Many years later, in the 1970s the private consulting foresters developed their services for the landowners and came to be an important partner in the program.

Today, the century of Chapter 61 private forest landowner success stories has perhaps greater value to us. It offers places of revitalizing respite from our homes, products that sustain us, jobs in the rural economy, and a natural solution to climate change. Even though most of the world has had to take a pause, the cogs of the Chapter 61 wheels have still been turning. There have been ongoing forest management projects with loggers harvesting trees, moving them from the woods to the mill in order to meet market demands. Service foresters and private consulting foresters have been working in the woods ensuring that new projects are ready and

Eastern white pine left on site to grow and provide seed in the recently cleared openings.

ongoing projects are meeting the state's standards. In mid-March, during a field review of an active logging operation in Plainfield, a mill owner from nearby Williamsburg was on the job and stopped to chat. He revealed that the eastern white pines from the project were being used in New York City to build the COVID-19 emergency field hospitals. The wood from these trees was now supporting us in a new way. Our connections became visible, and appreciable in an instant.

It took a long journey of stewardship for the trees to arrive at this point. Growing here started in the warm open seedbed left by the farmer who abandoned his fields around one

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Forestry, Bringing Us Together

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hundred years ago, about the same time the Chapter 61 program was established. When the trees were around fifty years old the landowner began to steward the forest. There have been two generations of the landowner's family managing the land in the program. The family hired a private consulting forester to write a forest management plan and to carry out the projects described in the plan. Every decade for nearly fifty years, the same consulting forester submitted a new plan for enrollment to the Chapter 61 program. The landowner and the forester worked with the state's Service Forestry program, finding cost share programs to carry out projects that would improve the trees in the forest. Projects such as pruning and thinning brought about trees that had wood free of defects from branches and also improved growth.

Logs being loaded onto a log truck for transport to the mill for processing into boards before shipment to New York.

As the trees grew, the size and intensity of the projects grew. Each of the forester's management projects in these woods harvested trees of all sizes, leaving behind new openings in the forest for seedlings and saplings to grow among the large mature trees that were retained. The young trees became established in gaps of sunlight, waiting for their opportunity to shoot into the canopy when larger trees nearby were harvested. The forester once mentioned while walking in the woods that "the work I accomplished in my career could be blown down in a single hurricane." However, 18 years of working on private forest lands across western Massachusetts has created a broader perspective of what forestry has accomplished. The private forests of Massachusetts are like a patchwork quilt. Each landowner has made different decisions about how to manage their forests. For every property that has been sustainably managed by a forester, there are now forest stands that are capable of responding to damage caused by wind, ice and floods, and drought. The response comes from the diversity of species and the spectrum of age classes allowed to grow in the woods. Collectively, we continue to create a forest landscape that can rapidly respond to disasters, a resilient forest. Now we realize that these forests also contain high quality trees capable of supporting us during a pandemic.

One hundred years ago the farmer did not know their trees would be needed to help build field hospitals during a public health emergency. We cannot know now what our children and grandchildren will need from the lands and forests that surround us. Certainly, with sustainable forest practices and some proven and reliable old programs, such as Chapter 61, we can envision a resilient forest capable of supporting us and the generations to come. Sometimes it's those really old cogs that are still turning, each of us a spoke in the wheel, that bind us together.

Alison Wright-Hunter is a DCR Service Forester and has been a forester for 25 years. She lives in the western Mass town of Conway with her husband Jason and nine year old son, Samson. She loves trees especially really big trees. Climate change is her greatest concern and she is focused on finding ways to help mitigate and educate.

Want to find out more about Chapter 61? Go here: https://www.mass.gov/service-details/forest-tax-program-chapter-61

Growing on Trees—Webcasts

UMass Extension Webinars

Webinars are free, but registration is required.

June 4, 2020 | 12:00-1:00p.m. (EDT)
Invasive Insect Series: Spotted Lanternfly and Environmental DNA - Insect Monitoring of the Future

June 9, 2020 |12:00-1:00p.m. (EDT) Invasive Insect Series: Green Industry and Homeowner Response to the Spotted Lanternfly in Pennsylvania

June 16, 2020 | 12:00-1:00p.m. (EDT)
Invasive Insect Series: The Invasive Pest Brown Marmorated Stink Bug in Massachusetts - Biology, Monitoring, and Management

June 23, 2020 | 12:00-1:00 p.m. (EDT)
Invasive Insect Series: Progress towards Controlling the Emerald Ash Borer with Biological Control

June 30 | 12:00-1:00 p.m. (EDT)
Invasive Insect Series: Invasive Insects of Trees & Shrubs in Massachusetts - 2020 Updates

USDA Forest Service Urban Forest Connections

June 10, 2020 | 1:00-2:15 p.m. (EDT)

The Science and Practice of Managing Forests in Cities
Presenters: Sarah Charlop-Powers and Clara Pregitzer, Natural Areas Conservancy, and Rich Hallett, USDA Forest Service

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

BayState Roads

June 3, 2020 | 10:00-11:00 a.m. (EDT)

Street Trees and Tree Routes: You can't grow if you rip your roots out of the ground

Join Mike Smith and Tom Smiley, Bartlett Tree Research Lab, Anne Lusk, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, and Marc Fournier, Arborist & Horticulturist for a great discussion on street tree planting. Register here or find out more at www.baystateroads.org.

TREE Fund Webinar

June 2, 2020 | 1:00-2:00 p.m. (EDT)

The Calm Before: Tree Adjustments to Wind & Ice Storm Loads — Kim D. Coder, PhD, Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, University of Georgia

June 16, 2020 | 2:00-3:00 p.m. (EDT)

Fighting Microbes with Microbes to Protect Our Native Trees — Rachael Antwis, PhD, University of Salford (UK)

Find out more: www.treefund.org/webinars

Urban Forestry Today

June 11, 2020 | 12:00-1:00 p.m. (EDT)

What's my Tree Worth? Tree Appraisal Case Studies — Lindsey Purcell, Purdue University

Go to www.joinwebinar.com; code: 587-288-603 Free ISA and MCA CEUs available. For archived webcasts, go to www.urbanforestrytoday.org/

Cornell Cooperative Extension

June 3, 2020 | 1:00-2:15 p.m. (EDT)

Big Trees in the City — Andrew Hillman, Davey Resource Group

Free, but registration required.

June 11, 2020 | 1:00-2:15 p.m. (EDT)

Urban Tree Pests and Diseases — Dan Gilrein and Margery Daughtrey

Free, but registration required.

Find out more: www.ccenassau.org/events

EPA Soak up the Rain Webinar

June 11, 2020 | 1:00-2:30 p.m. (EDT)

Community Buy-in for Stormwater Funding: An EPA Roundtable Series

Presenters: Dr. Marilyn ten Brink, US EPA Office of Research and Development; Carri Hulet, Consensus Building Institute; and Maeghan Dos Anjos, Town of Ashland, MA.

Register here or find out more:

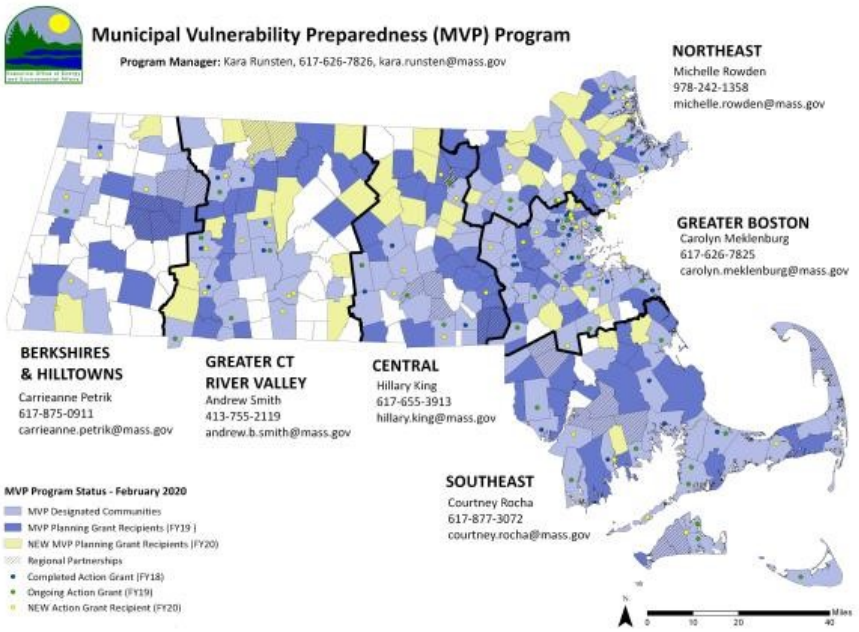
www.epa.gov/soakuptherain

Growing on Trees—Grants

From the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs— Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program FY21 Funding Open

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program Planning Grants

Through MVP Planning Grants, the Commonwealth awards communities funding to complete vulnerability assessments and develop action-oriented climate resiliency plans. Communities who complete the MVP planning grant program become certified as an MVP community and are eligible for MVP Action Grant funding. The Planning Grant RFR is now available on COMMBUYS. **The Planning Grant response period will be open on a rolling basis until 4:00 p.m. on August 7, 2020**, for MVP planning processes that must be complete by June 30, 2021. Early application is encouraged.



Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program Action Grants

MVP Action Grants provide designated MVP Communities funding to implement priority adaptation actions identified through the MVP planning process or similar climate change vulnerability assessment and action planning that has led to MVP designation after EEA review. There have been a number of updates to the Action Grant RFR from last round, so we recommend reading it through in full. Applicants can request up to $2 million in funding (regional proposals may request up to $5 million), and a 25 percent match of the total project cost is required. The Action Grant RFR is now available on COMMBUYS. **Action Grant proposals are due by 2:00 p.m. on June 11, 2020,** for project proposals that must be complete by June 30, 2021 or June 30, 2022.

Please reach out to your MVP regional coordinator with any RFR clarification questions:

- Berkshires and Hilltowns: Carrieanne Petrik; carrieanne.petrik@mass.gov; 617-312-1594 (email preferred)
- Greater Connecticut River Valley: Andrew Smith; andrew.b.smith@mass.gov; 617-655-3874
- Central: Hillary King; hillary.king@mass.gov; 617-655-3913
- Northeast: Michelle Rowden; michelle.rowden@mass.gov; 857-343-0097
- Greater Boston: Carolyn Meklenburg; carolyn.meklenburg@mass.gov; 617-894-7128
- Southeast: Courtney Rocha; courtney.rocha@mass.gov; 617-877-3072

Visit the program information page for a map of the MVP regions and additional information.

Growing on Trees

DCR Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Grants

Deadline for Intent to Apply: October 1 | Full Application Deadline: November 1

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:

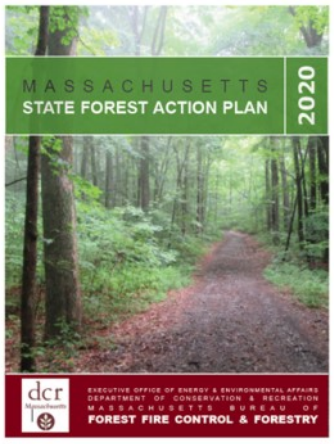
- Building and strengthening citizen advocacy and action organizations
- Securing or training professional staff
- Completing strategic community tree plantings and "heritage" tree care projects
- Developing and implementing systematic urban forestry management through tree inventory and analysis, resource assessment, and development of plans
- Establishing a wood bank & 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@mass.gov, or mollie.freilicher@mass.gov.

Massachusetts Forest Action Plan Posted for Comment

The 2020 Massachusetts Forest Action Plan has been posted for comment. **Comments will be accepted through June 20.**



Forest Action Plans are an in-depth assessment of conditions and trends related to trees and forests in each state. They are a requirement of the Farm Bill and every state has one. In addition to analyzing conditions and trends, they also include an assessment of threats to trees and forestland, identify priority areas, and include strategies for addressing those threats and for meeting goals.

Download the draft plan: https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massachusetts-2020-forest-action-plan-update.

Comments may be submitted directly to lindsay.nystrom@mass.gov.

NASF Centennial Challenge

Tuliptree, Leominster

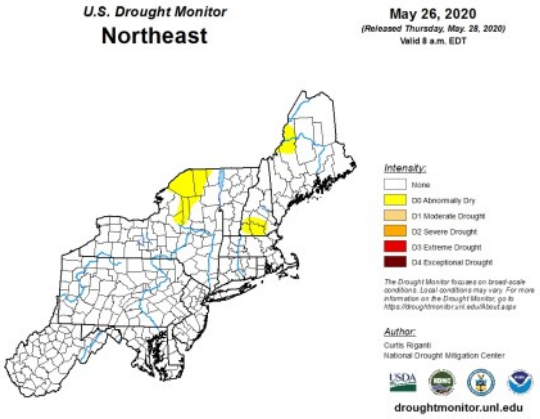
Please help support the Massachusetts DCR Bureau of Forest Fire Control and Forestry in our participation in the National Association of State Forester's 100th anniversary Centennial Challenge! Our theme for this challenge is "100 Legacy Trees Across Massachusetts." Please help us reach our 100 legacy 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 https://www.stateforesters.org/centennial/.

Growing on Trees

Weather and Climate

As of late May, most of the Northeast was out of drought or abnormally dry status. For April, much of the state was wetter than is typical for the month and all of the state was cooler than usual, though things warmed up and dried out in May.



Looking for information on what this means for plants? Check out the UMass Landscape Message. There you can learn about conditions around the state, from weather, to insect and disease activity and management, growing degree day reports, phenology, and cultural problems.

Find out more at the Northeast Regional Climate Center http://www.nrcc.cornell.edu/regional/drought/drought.html

National Climate Report | https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/sotc/

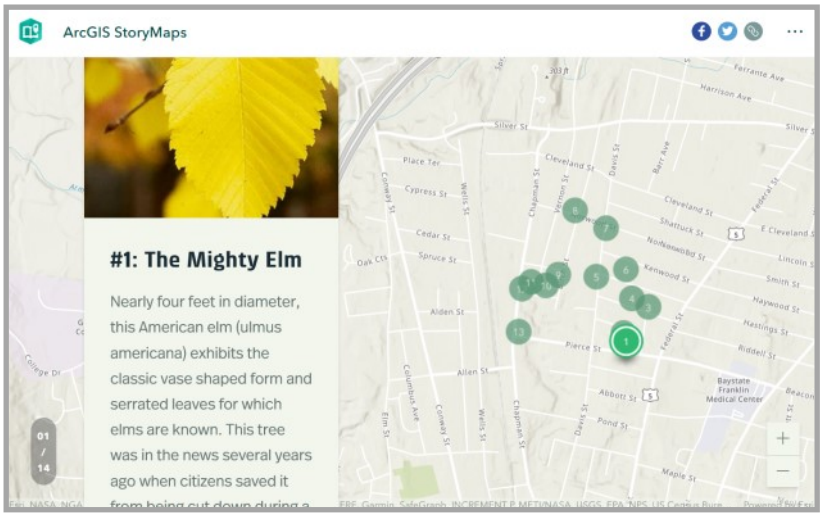
Emerald Ash Borer

No new update. As of March 3, 2020, emerald ash borer (EAB) has been detected in 116 communities in Massachusetts. See the March issue for the latest.

Learn how to identify signs and symptoms of EAB in this video, field guide, or at MassNRC.org.

Gleanings

Rooted in Greenfield: A Tour of Neighborhood Street Trees



The Greenfield Tree Committee has created a tree walk for residents to safely explore and learn about trees in Greenfield:

"Looking for a safe, fun and interesting activity to do? How about this cool tour of trees in Greenfield?! Whether on foot, by bike or car - or even virtually, for those of you who cannot leave home - this one-and-a-half mile loop will show and tell you about some of the old 'matriarch' trees in town as well as some brand new trees that were planted in 2019. Just use this link to see where the tour is located: https://arcg.is/1yrHW9

Enjoy! And don't forget to keep yourself and others safe by following the physical distancing and mask order."

At the bottom of the story map, be sure to check out the links, including their tree selection tool.

Find out more about the Greenfield Tree Committee here: https://www.greenfieldtreecommittee.org/.

Gleanings

Planting Edible Native Species – A Case Study from Mass.

By Russ Cohen

May 15, 2020—A seed for a project with the Town of Lexington was planted at the 2016 Massachusetts Trails Conference, when I attended a workshop presented by Jordan McCarron, Conservation Land Stewardship Manager for the Town of Lexington, MA. I had recently assumed my post-retirement role as a "Johnny Appleseed-for-edible-natives," and I offered to collaborate on a project in Lexington. Jordan already knew me from a wild edibles walk I led in 2015 and responded with enthusiastic interest.

A Shagbark Hickory (*Carya ovata*) seedling from Russ's nursery.

Selecting the Site

My idea was to find a town conservation property that would benefit from further diversification with native edibles. I reconnoitered several properties, evaluating them for their suitability for further diversification with native edibles. While several good possibilities emerged, none were obvious standouts. Ultimately, Lexington's Willard's Woods Conservation Land emerged as the top candidate, bolstered by Jordan's realization that there was an excellent opportunity to incorporate native edible plants into the final phase of the stream daylighting project taking place on that property. The earth moving, bridge installation, and associated construction had recently been completed.

In the summer of 2016, Jordan and I conducted a site visit to the daylighting project area, which primarily consisted of the newly-daylighted stream, from North Street upstream to and including the area around the former pond (now transitioning to a wetland). I followed up the site visit with a list of recommended edible native plant species that, while I did not observe them growing in the daylighting project area at Willard's Woods, I thought would do well if planted there in appropriate locations.

Selecting the Plants

In developing my plant lists, I largely draw upon knowledge acquired and observations made over many decades of being out in nature. But, I also track which plants like to grow in which habitats and/or which species like to grow in association with one another (the technical term for that is a "natural community.") In this case, the project area consisted of riparian (streamside) habitat, pond/wetland habitat, and adjacent sunny meadow and shady woodland areas, so I picked species I had seen naturally occurring within those types of habitats in eastern Massachusetts.

Read the full article at ecolandscaping.org. *Seen in the Ecological Landscape Alliance Newsletter*

The Great Ash Tree

The much beloved large white ash tree at the Stevens-Coolidge Place in North Andover was removed March 31, 2020. Estimated to be about 250 years old, the tree had lived far longer than anyone expected. Realizing that the end would eventually come for this iconic tree, the Trustees of Reservations, who operate the site, planted a replacement tree – a European beech – forty years ago. WGBH produced a short video about the tree and its removal. Watch it here: https://youtu.be/TUQTWq-OPwk

News

Spring Is in the Air: Longmeadow Undergoes Effort to Replace Trees

By **Christine White**

May 21, 2020—As spring has blossomed in Longmeadow, residents may have noticed a large number of new trees being planted on tree belts. They're easily recognizable because of the green bags, known as tree gators, which hug their trunks and make watering easier. It's all part of a plan developed by the town's tree warden and the Longmeadow Tree Committee to replace trees that are removed each year because of age or disease. This year, 155 new public shade trees, also referred to as street trees, have been planted along the town's public ways.

Longmeadow's Tree Warden, David Marinelli, in front of some of the trees he and the Longmeadow Tree Committee have planted this spring along the town's public ways. Marinelli is overseeing a multi-year effort to replenish the town's diminished tree canopy.

This effort began several years ago with the establishment of the Tree Committee, formed in response to residents' concerns that public shade trees were being removed faster than they were being replaced.

Tree warden, David Marinelli, oversees this effort. A retired local radiologist, Marinelli joined the Tree Committee four years ago as secretary, and two years ago became chairman. Although not originally trained as an arborist, he became certified by the Massachusetts Arborists Association through self-study and a college level lecture course and lab work at Springfield Technical Community College.

"The renewal of tree belt trees is central to our mission," Marinelli said. Read the full story at masslive.com.

News Headlines in Brief

Scientists Find Genes to Save Ash Trees from Deadly Beetle

Most People Hate Weeds. This Botanist Loves 'Em — Here's Why

Deadly Imports: In One U.S. Forest, 25% Of Tree Loss Caused by Foreign Pests and Disease

Lack of Insects in Cities Limits Breeding Success of Urban Birds

Illuminating the Hidden Forest, Chapter 46: What trees can teach us

Trees are Getting Shorter and Younger

Variance in Tree Species Results in the Cleanest Urban Air

Mount St. Helens 40 Years Later: What We've Learned, And Still Don't Know

COVID-19 Is Eroding Scientific Field Work – And Our Knowledge of How the World Is Changing

Urban Heat Waves Imperil LA's Most Vulnerable Communities and this On-The-Ground Guidance for L.A.'S Far-Reaching Climate Strategy

Trees of Michigan (part of McSweeney's series *Flattened by the Curve*)

Tree Infection Depletes NW Cherry Harvest, Report Says

On the Horizon

Jun 2 TREE Fund Webinar, 1:00 p.m. (EDT), Tree Adjustments to Wind & Ice Storm Loads, www.treefund.org/webinars

Jun 3 Street Tree Discussion, BayState Roads, 10:00 a.m. (EDT), Register here.

Jun 4 Invasive Insect Webinar Series, UMass Extension, 12:00 p.m. (EDT)

Jun 9 Invasive Insect Webinar Series, UMass Extension, 12:00 p.m. (EDT)

Jun 10 Urban Forest Connections Webinar, 1:00 p.m. (EDT), https://www.fs.fed.us/research/urban-webinars/

Jun 11 Urban Forestry Today Webinar, 12:00 p.m. (EDT), www.joinwebinar.com; code 587-288-603.

Jun 11 Webinar: Urban Tree Pests and Diseases, 1:00 p.m. (EDT)

Jun 16 TREE Fund Webinar, 2:00 p.m. (EDT), Fighting Microbes with Microbes to Protect Our Native Trees, www.treefund.org/webinars

Jun 16 Invasive Insect Webinar Series, UMass Extension, 12:00 p.m. (EDT)

Jun 23 TREE Fund Webinar, 4:00 p.m. (EDT), Protecting Trees from Construction Impacts, www.treefund.org/webinars

Jun 24 Webinar: Does the "Right Tree, Right Place" Principle Unintentionally Wrong the Public Right-of-Way?, 1:00 p.m. (EDT)

Jun 30 Invasive Insect Webinar Series, UMass Extension, 12:00 p.m. (EDT)

Jul 14 TREE Fund Webinar, 1:00 p.m. (EDT), Enhancing Tree Health in Water Sensitive Urban Design: Role of Mycorrhizae

Anytime: Archived webinar on tree planting in the era of COVID-19 (from Trees Forever)

Looking for more?

Check out the calendar of the New England Chapter ISA for additional opportunities: https://newenglandisa.org/events

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

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.