



Massachusetts Arborists Association

NEWS

FALL 2011

MAA Annual Meeting & Election of Officers

November 29, 2011

MAA's annual meeting and election of officers will be held on Tuesday, November 29, 2011 at 5:00 p.m. This is the most important meeting of the year, as members will cast their vote for next year's MAA leadership.

Election of Officers

Nominating Committee Chairman, Mike Lueders, MCA, reports that the nominating committee has recommended the following slate of officers and directors for 2012:

President

Mike Maley, MCA
Cedar Lawn Tree Service
Ashland, MA

Vice President

John Terault, Jr., MCA
Asplundh Tree Expert Co., Inc.
Shutesbury, MA

Secretary/Treasurer

Greg Mosman, MCA
Boston Parks & Recreation
Boston, MA

Past President

Dick Stoner, MCA
Stoner Trees & Shrubs
Sherborn, MA

Directors

Richard Herfurth, MCA
Bartlett Tree Expert Co., Inc.
Lyndeborough, NH

Marc Hansen, MCA
Maltby & Co.
Melrose, MA

Jay Ippolito, MCA, MCLP
Olde Colonial Tree & Landscape
Westwood, MA

MCA Representative

Ronald Yaple, MCA
Race Mountain Tree Services, Inc.
Sheffield, MA

continues on page 2



Recent MAA dinner meetings have attracted record breaking crowds. Sign up early for the November 29 annual meeting.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



It seems hardly a week goes by that I don't see a truck from another new tree company that I don't recognize. Although I'm sure some of these newer companies are getting involved with the MAA, many may not be. They may not be truly

aware of the educational opportunities and other benefits provided by the MAA.

We all know that safety training and professional development costs money, and it's certainly worth it when you consider the alternatives. Member companies choose to present themselves in a professional light and this is shown by participation in programs offered by the MAA. Our recent dinner meetings were filled to capacity, which is evidence of staying involved, committed, and educated.

The recent storms have added loads of work to already busy schedules and certainly has helped consumers recognize the potential threats large trees can pose as well as the value and appreciation of professional tree assessment and care.

We've been told many times how lucky we are to be busy and to have growing and prospering business. However, we do live in uncertain times, where occasionally things we once thought to be true are no longer true, where many financial challenges to running a business are largely unprecedented, and where invasive introductions into our "natural" world will continue to provide surprises.

In many ways, we're lucky, but we must face the challenges ahead. Unpredictable things will

continues on page 2

The Massachusetts Arborists Association is a professional trade organization that serves the commercial arboriculture industry. The MAA advances the goals of its members through education, certification, networking, advocacy, research support and promotion of the value of arboriculture to the public.

President

Dick Stoner, MCA
Stoner Trees & Shrubs
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Vice President

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Secretary/Treasurer

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President's Message

continued from page 1

continue to occur economically and in the "natural" world. The public looks to Mass Certified Arborists for leadership, guidance and skill to lead the way in providing landscape solutions. We'll need to stay at the top of our game, continuing our education, to carry on trying to manage the events of our unpredictable future.

With the internet, we live in an era of enhanced public scrutiny. We want to put our best foot forward as Mass Certified Arborists as we step into the future. We are constantly being evaluated and rated by websites such as Angie's list, various church websites, other referral services as well as the cocktail party circuit. We want to be aware that as individuals, we represent the Association, and we want to do the best we can to present as positive and professional approach to our work as possible, because there are more people out there watching than ever before.

New England Grows is just around the corner, February 1-3, 2012, and as you know, the MAA is a founding partner organization of New England Grows. The MAA arborist representatives on the New England Grows educational committee have selected many great topics and speakers, and we look forward to seeing you there.

Although it is not widely known, the MAA receives grant money from the proceeds of New England Grows, and this funding is often close to half the operating budget of MAA. So, the more successful New England Grows is, the greater the benefit to MAA in return. So encourage your vendors and dealers to rent booth space, send your employees, and encourage those newer companies to join MAA and come to New England Grows!

*Dick Stoner, MCA
President*

MAA Annual Meeting & Election of Officers

continued from page 1

Education

The educational presentation at this meeting will be: *A Look at the Early Care of Trees*. Our speaker, Ellis Allen, MCA, has been involved in the tree care business for 66 years. He will share some interesting stories and photographs from the early days of the arboriculture profession. Another highlight of this meeting will be the presentation of the prestigious VISTA Award. Who will receive it this year? Make plans to attend and find out! A special thank you to Bartlett Tree Experts for sponsoring the Annual Meeting.

Prior to the Annual Meeting on November 29, a *Safety Saves* Seminar will be held at MHS Elm Bank in Wellesley, MA. Make plans to join Dr. Tom Smiley of Bartlett Tree Research Lab. His topic is: *An Update on Tree Risk Assessment*. Please note that the new *Safety Saves* seminar time is 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.



MAA Education Programs A Big Success

MAA members are committed to continuing education. This was evident at the association's September and October dinner meetings and seminar. Record-breaking crowds attended all three meetings.

In September, Dr. Kevin Smith of the USDA Forest Service spoke on *Caring for Mature Trees in the Northeast*. In October, Dr. Joe Elkinton of UMass Amherst gave *An Update on Winter Moth in New England*. The dinner meetings averaged 140 members at each. The *Safety Saves* seminar in October also received rave reviews and was the MAA's largest seminar audience to date with 60 participants. Jamie Goddard of Yale Cordage, Inc. spoke on *Rope Dynamics and Rope Safety*.

"MAA has seen a spike in membership and meeting participation recently," said MAA's president Dick Stoner, MCA. "There's a lot of positive energy in our association and it's great to be involved."

Sponsorships Introduced

In an effort to keep participation costs low, the MAA introduced a new meeting sponsorship program this summer. Industry vendors are invited to sponsor MAA events and for

their support are given the opportunity to speak briefly and display informational literature about their company, product, or service. McSweeney & Ricci Insurance Agency, Inc. was the first company to step up. They sponsored a dinner meeting and seminar this fall. Bartlett Tree Experts will sponsor the Annual Meeting in November. If you know of a vendor that might be interested in this opportunity, please ask them to contact the MAA office. Sponsorship information can also be found on the MAA website.

Education & Safety Saves Committee Merge

The MAA board of directors recently decided to merge two of the association's sub-committees. Beginning in January, the Education and Safety Saves committees will join forces and combine their mission to one: developing and implementing cutting-edge educational programs and exceptional safety training for the membership of the MAA.

The MAA is always looking for ideas for future educational programs. If you have any suggestions for topics or speakers, or are interested in helping out on the MAA's new education committee, please contact Kristen Dreyer, MAA Education Manager, at kristen@massarbor.org.

An Insurance Program that's a cut above the rest.

MMcSweeney & Ricci is committed to providing you with the same superior level of service that you provide to your clients. Backed by numerous top-rated insurance companies we offer a comprehensive and cost-effective insurance program, specifically designed for tree care companies.

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MCA Study Guide Update

by Dennis Panu, MCA, Committee Chair



Just a note to let you know what your MCA Certification Committee has been up to for the last few months. As you

know, we have been reviewing and revising Version 1 of our *Study Guide* to keep it up-to-date. At this point we have reviewed the updates to most of the chapters that are the body of our curriculum. We are still waiting for approval of the new ANSI Z.133 standard to update our chapter on Arboricultural Safety. These chapters have been reviewed by the Committee and returned to the UMass authors for final submission to the technical editor, who will edit for proper grammar and continuity.

We are currently editing the Tree ID, Insect, and Disease Tutorials. We have received a lot of feedback from you on these sections of the *Study Guide*, and we hope to address all of your suggestions. We are working to have all of our edits submitted to the authors at UMass in time to launch Version 2 of your *Study Guide* at New England Grows in February 2012.

A reminder: If you are studying to take the Massachusetts Certified Arborist Exam based on Version 1 of our curriculum, you need to be prepared to take the exam in spring of 2012. The fall 2012 exam will be based on the new Version 2 *Study Guide*.

MCA Exam Dates

The Spring MCA Exam is scheduled for Friday, April 13, 2012 at MHS Elm Bank in Wellesley, MA. The next exam offered will be on Friday, October 5, 2012 at the same location. Applications are included in the MCA Study Guide and are due, along with exam fee, two weeks prior to the scheduled examination date.

Congratulations New MCAs

Congratulations to the following individuals who successfully completed the September 30, 2011 Massachusetts Certified Arborist exam:



Gregory Gagne, MCA
Lachance Tree Professionals
West Gloucester, MA

Paul Gregory, MCA
MA DCR
Worcester, MA

Taylor Maslowski, MCA
Hartney Greymont
Needham, MA

John Murphy, MCA
NatureWorks Landscape Services, Inc.
Walpole, MA

Davey Tree:

Robert Allard, MCA
The Davey Tree Expert
Company
Kent, OH

Timothy Barwise, MCA
The Davey Tree Expert
Company/Davey
Resource Group
Kent, OH

Rachel Brinkman, MCA
The Davey Tree
Expert Company
Kent, OH

Donald Crocker, MCA
The Davey Tree
Expert Company
Kent, OH

Nash Degarmo, MCA
The Davey Tree Expert
Company/Davey
Resource Group
Kent, OH

Mark Dew, MCA
The Davey Tree Expert
Company/Davey
Resource Group
Kent, OH

Rachel Dicker, MCA
The Davey Tree Expert
Company/Davey
Resource Group
Kent, OH

Jim Gass, MCA
The Davey Tree Expert
Company/Davey
Resource Group
Kent, OH

Philip Hanna, MCA
The Davey Tree
Expert Company
Kent, OH

Susan Harragin, MCA
Davey Tree Expert Co.
Norwood, MA

John Knight, MCA
The Davey Tree
Expert Company
Kent, OH

Keira Miller, MCA
The Davey Tree
Expert Company
Kent, OH

Gabrielle Radik, MCA
The Davey Tree
Expert Company
Kent, OH

Nicholas Sanborn, MCA
The Davey Tree
Expert Company
Kent, OH

Peter Sorensen, MCA
The Davey Tree Expert
Company/Davey
Resource Group
Kent, OH

Aarne Uustal, MCA
The Davey Tree
Expert Company
Kent, OH

Carlos Varela, MCA
Davey Tree Expert Co.
East Falmouth, MA

Justin Willey, MCA
Davey Resource Group
Stow, OH

Learn more about the new MCA Program at Grows

UMass Instructor Mike Davidsohn, MCLP and Professor Dennis Ryan, MCA lead the team of university faculty who, along with the MCA committee, developed the latest version of the MCA Study Guide CD. The new CD will be unveiled at New England Grows along with a session highlighting the features and benefits of the entire MCA program. The MCA program overview is tentatively scheduled for 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 2. Watch for more information coming soon.

Important MCA Reminders

- Your last MAA opportunity to get the safety credit required on your MCA RTS is at the November 29 *Safety Saves* seminar. The topic is: *An Update on Tree Risk Assessment*. Visit the MAA website at www.massarbor.org for more information.
- 2011 recertification tally sheets (RTS) are due no later than February 15, 2012. If you need an RTS form you can download one from the MAA website.
- If you are a dues-paying member of the MAA, the fee to recertify is included in your annual dues. If you are not a member, you must remit the \$50 administrative fee with your tally sheet.
- Late fee — a \$25 administration fee will be assessed for RTS forms received after March 30.
- Incomplete tally sheets will be returned to the sender. Please make sure you have covered all minimum requirements (i.e., safety, education, etc.)

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

In this feature, we get to know active MAA members — both new and old — from whose perspectives and experience we can all learn. Featured members have shown themselves to be great representatives of our profession and association. This month, we get to know Jay Ippolito, MCA who is a nominee to serve on the MAA Board of Directors beginning in January.



James “Jay” Ippolito, MCA, MCLP
President/Owner
Olde Colonial Tree & Landscape
Westwood, MA

When did you join the MAA? I passed the MCA exam in the early 1980s and joined shortly thereafter.

What was your first job in the industry? In the Summer of 1979, I did my job placement from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at UMass Amherst at Lowden Tree & Landscape in Needham, MA. When I graduated from Stockbridge in 1980, I continued working with Lowden for six years.

Who was your mentor when you were first starting out in the business and why? Ed Gagnon. When I first got to Lowden, Ed took me under his wing and really helped me learn the ropes.

What’s the best business advice you’ve ever received?
“Under Promise and Over Deliver!”

What advice would you share with people starting out in arboriculture today?
It’s very important to stay educated and up-to-date on the latest technology and industry information.

Since the beginning of your career, what is the biggest change you’ve seen in the tree care industry? The biggest change would be safety equipment and best practices. Things have really improved since I started in the business!

What’s the next “game-changer” you see on the horizon for the tree care industry?
I think the next game-changer will be an increase in bio-friendly pesticides. Our customers are asking for it and we have to be ready.

What’s your favorite tree? Why? My favorite tree is the Red Oak. It is strong, it is resistant, and it is American.

What’s your favorite/most useful:

Equipment? Bobcat

Product? Compost

Technology? Internet/Computer

What have you enjoyed most about being an MAA member? I enjoy the education opportunities and the camaraderie among members.

Is there anything else you’d like to share with your fellow MAA members?
Always safety first — ALWAYS.

Do you know someone you think should be featured in our Member Spotlight column? If so, please contact Kristen Dreyer at Kristen@MassArbor.org.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 29, 2011

MAA Safety Saves Seminar
2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

An Update on Tree Risk Assessment
with Dr. Tom Smiley,
Bartlett Tree Research Lab
MHS Elm Bank
Wellesley, MA
www.MassArbor.org

November 29, 2011

MAA Dinner Meeting
& Annual Meeting
5:00 p.m.

A Look at the Early Care of Trees
with Ellis Allen, MCA
Ken’s Steak House
Framingham, MA
www.MassArbor.org

November 30 – December 3, 2011

ASCA Annual Conference
Hyatt Regency Lake Tahoe
Incline Village, Nevada
www.asca-consultants.org

February 1-3, 2012

New England Grows!
Boston Convention
& Exhibition Center
Boston, MA
www.NewEnglandGrows.org

February 21-24, 2012

ASCA 2012 Consulting Academy
Crowne Plaza
Philadelphia, PA
www.asca-consultants.org

All MAA educational events are approved for MCA recertification credit, and online registration is available a few weeks prior to the event.

COMMERCIAL GARAGE/YARD FOR RENT IN PRIME SUBURBAN LOCATION

Two-door industrial garage in a prime suburban location. The property is located on Rt. 60 in Waltham (just minutes from Rt. 128, Rt. 2, and Rt. 20), on a lot with no full-time neighbors (VFW Hall on one side and undeveloped land on the other), a gas station on the corner, and suppliers located just minutes away on Clematis Avenue. Garage space includes adequate storage and small office. Surrounding yard and fence were recently renovated to meet environmental codes. Asking rent for the garage and yard is \$3,000 (includes water).

Single-family home is also available on the property for use as an office if interested (hard wood floors, set up with full network capabilities). The asking rent for both garage and home office is \$4,700.

Solid references available upon request. Call Larry Antonellis at 617-592-7044 for information.



Massachusetts Arborists Association

Arboricultural & Urban Forestry Reference — The UMass Extension website, www.umassgreeninfo.org is a great resource providing an extensive list of publications designed to help Green Industry professionals as well as homeowners. Each year UMass publishes the UMass Extension Green Directory. This free publication is available online or by calling (413) 545-0895. The directory lists the services available from UMass Extension.

Trees at the 9/11 Memorial Site — The *National September 11 Memorial* opened to the public recently. Arborists watching coverage of the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks may have wondered about the trees in the memorial. The landscape architect on the project selected swamp white oak for the design, which includes 412 individual trees. Bartlett Tree Experts was selected to raise the trees, and they were contracted to care for the transplanted trees at the site for at least the next two years. Bartlett grew the trees in large containers for five years at one of their New Jersey locations, so that they could be transplanted with the entire root system intact. To read more about the trees at the memorial, and the challenges and strategies that went into the plans, visit www.hortmag.com/plants/9-11-memorial-trees.

Tornado Clean-Up Volunteer Opportunity — Brimfield, MA was hit hard by the summer tornadoes, and the impact is still being felt. The First Congregational Church in Brimfield is coordinating volunteer efforts and regularly receives requests for arboricultural assistance. They've reached out to the MAA to see if we can help spread the word that help is still needed. Typically people impacted by the tornadoes have exhausted all of their government relief options and now turn to neighbors and other volunteers to help them put their property back together. If you'd like to help, please contact Mary Roy at (781) 424-2215 or maryroy@me.com.



Will Maley, MCA of Cedar Lawn Tree Service is pictured with Joanne O'Connell, founder of The Timothy O'Connell Foundation.

Congratulations — Will Maley, MCA of Cedar Lawn Tree Service in Ashland, MA ran a road race called "Tim's Trot" in Holliston on October 1, 2011, in support of the Timothy O'Connell Foundation. Will came in first place in his age group. The foundation raises money for leukemia research, scholarships, and assistance for families with children under 18 who have cancer.

Asplundh Reorganization — Asplundh is reorganizing its Corporate Safety Department to streamline duties and to move more responsibility and accountability for safety to its field operations. As part of this reorganization, Tim Walsh was named Director, Safety Operations for all vegetation management operations. Tim joined Asplundh in January 2010 as the corporate safety compliance and training manager. He will be speaking at New England Grows on February 3 on *Modern Techniques for Vegetation Management*.

TCIA Receives Grant — TCIA was awarded a federal grant in the amount of \$165,000 from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) for Electrical Hazards Training. TCIA plans to develop approximately 25 free workshops and train 750 employees of tree care companies, throughout 19 states, on safe ways to handle electrical hazards associated with trees.

Welcome New Members

The MAA would like to welcome the following new members:

Nicolas Borcy
University of Massachusetts Amherst
Amherst, MA

Robert Butler
Tree Tech, Inc.
Foxborough, MA

Patrick Flynn, MCA, MCLP
Hartney Greymont
Needham, MA

Michael Hickman, MCA
Tree Specialist, Inc.
Holliston, MA

James McGuire, MCA, MCLP
Arbor Specialties
North Marshfield, MA

Chris Myers
Quincy, MA

Benjamin Staples
Cicoria Tree & Crane Service
Topsfield, MA



New England Grows: Above & Beyond!

February 1–3, 2012

Boston Convention & Exhibition Center

Register Today!

Registration for New England Grows is now open! Enjoy special savings when you register by January 16 — just \$45 for all three days. The early registration price drops to just \$39 per person when four or more people from the same company register together. Affordable registration fees, combined with exclusive deals on the tradeshow floor, make New England Grows the best place to do business.

This year's theme "Above & Beyond!" is reflected in the 30 ground-breaking educational seminars featuring some of the brightest minds in the industry today. The exposition will be filled with the latest tools, technology and equipment with plenty of great deals to be made. 2012 marks the 20th anniversary of New England Grows and it is expected to be better than ever. Here are a few highlights:

Education The speaker lineup includes arboriculture industry experts James Urban, Robert Phillips, Tim Walsh, Ed Gilman, and many other trendsetting presenters. You'll hear topics on advanced pruning techniques, new pest management practices, bionutrients, social media, sales strategies, and more. Check out the complete program at www.NewEnglandGrows.org.

CEU Credits New England Grows is one-stop shopping for your CEU credits, You can earn valuable credits for MCA, ISA, CTSP, pesticide license, and more at the show.

More Education Check out the latest trends, tips & techniques right on the tradeshow floor. Popular **Ask the Expert** sessions will return with rapid-fire *Sprint Sessions*, provided by extension researchers at the Great Ideas Pavilion — and the addition of solution-based *Power Sessions*, featuring top suppliers and frontline leaders in the new Expo Classroom. Watch for a complete Ask the Expert schedule in January.

Essentials of Plant ID A fun and practical way to learn plant identification — this interactive learning experience offers a self-guided, plant ID challenge on the expo floor. Prizes awarded daily!

New England Grows Bookstore Back by popular demand, Barnes and Noble brings their best arboriculture and horticulture references to the bookstore on the tradeshow floor.

Stay Connected Become a fan on Facebook — follow New England Grows and stay connected with the growing community of green industry colleagues, gurus, innovators, and thought leaders on industry news, issues and trends. Check out myGrows planner — an easy to use online tool to customize your own show experience. Then download the free myBCEC mobile app for quick convention center, seminar, restaurant, parking and travel updates at the show. Internet access at the BCEC is complimentary.

For more details and to register in advance, visit www.NewEnglandGrows.org.

New England Grows 2012 SCHEDULE

Wednesday, February 1

Seminars: 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Exposition: 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Thursday, February 2

Seminars: 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Exposition: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Friday, February 3

Seminars: 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Exposition: 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Do you want to earn two free New England Grows passes?

**Just let us know about
your favorite vendor!**

Do you have a favorite vendor who does *not* currently exhibit at New England Grows, but should? If you provide us with their information and they decide to exhibit, you'll receive two complimentary registration passes to the show. It's easy, all you have to do is:

1 Contact your favorite vendor and let them know how important you feel exhibiting at New England Grows is and how it will benefit their business. With 13,000 green industry participants, it's the most efficient way to promote their equipment, products and services. Learn more at www.NewEnglandGrows.org.

2 Pass your favorite vendor information on to Exhibit Sales Manager Diane Zinck at (508) 653-3009, by e-mail dzinck@NewEnglandGrows.org, or by filling out this form & returning it to New England Grows. Diane will take it from there!

3 If, as a result of your introduction, your favorite vendor signs on as an exhibitor at New England Grows 2012, you will receive two complimentary passes — that's a \$90 value!

Lyme Disease: Myths & Facts for Tree Care Professionals

By Richard S. Ostfeld, Ph.D., Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, Millbrook, NY

Lyme disease was first discovered in coastal New England in the 1970s and has now spread throughout the northeastern, midAtlantic, and upper midwestern regions of the United States. It also occurs in southern Canada, Europe, and Asia. It is caused by a spirochete bacterium called *Borrelia burgdorferi*, which is spread by the bite of a tick — the North American culprit is the blacklegged tick, *Ixodes scapularis*. Lyme disease is unusually complex both in its ecological and medical aspects, and misunderstandings of the disease have led to the proliferation of many myths and legends. Clearing up some of these misunderstandings can help green industry professionals and ordinary residents of Lyme-endemic zones to avoid exposure.

Myth #1: Lawns are a risky place for Lyme disease.

Several researchers have estimated tick abundance on lawns, old fields, shrubby thickets, and deciduous forests of the Northeast. They are unanimous in finding that lawns and grassy fields support the lowest abundances of ticks, with forests having by far the highest. The difference between the tick population in a lawn and adjacent forest can be 100-fold. Blacklegged ticks are unable to live out their life cycle in a lawn. Ticks can be transported from woods to lawns by mammals and birds, but they don't persist for very long, because the ticks are sensitive to desiccation and over-heating.

Myth #2: Edges are risky for Lyme disease. Much less research has addressed this assertion, but the few studies that have, reject it. In southeastern New York State, studies show that tick abundance is much higher in the forest interior than it is on forest-field edges. Some studies have suggested that people are more likely to get Lyme disease if they live in landscapes with a lot of forest-field edge. But this appears to be caused by human behavior and not the "tickiness" of edges. Lots of edge means many opportunities to cross into forests.

Myth #3: Deer abundance determines tick abundance.

When Lyme disease was first discovered, scientists thought they had found a new species of tick never before known to science. They named it the "deer tick" because they found the adult, reproductive stage to be abundant on deer. (The immature stages called larvae and nymphs were more widespread, being found on mice, chipmunks, deer, and many other hosts.) More than a decade later, careful study of the "new" tick revealed that it was not new at all. The scientists had simply found a New England population of a tick that had been described and named back in 1821, namely the blacklegged tick. Biologists have rules for naming species,

and these rules reject the name "deer tick". Unfortunately, the name persists in many circles and helps perpetuate myth #3.

Two studies on islands off the New England coast were highly influential in establishing the notion that deer abundance determines tick abundance. In both cases, deer herds were nearly eliminated (Great Island, MA) or completely eliminated (Monhegan Island, ME) by hunters, and tick populations crashed to very low levels. Unfortunately, several studies on the mainland of New England, New York, and New Jersey have found little or no effect of deer reduction on tick numbers. It turns out that the adult ticks also feed on things like raccoons, foxes, opossums, and skunks, but these animals were scarce (Great Island) or completely absent (Monhegan Island) on some islands, so when the deer were eliminated, there was no other game in town for the ticks. On mainland sites, when deer are culled, ticks are able to crowd onto the remaining deer or onto other hosts, so the total number feeding does not decline. In addition, although deer are an important host for adult ticks, they virtually never infect ticks with the Lyme disease spirochete. So, other hosts, like mice and chipmunks, are essential for the perpetuation of Lyme disease risk.

Myth #4: A benign climate is required for tick survival.

Ticks are very easy to kill in the laboratory by either freezing or drying them to death. In fact, ticks will die within hours if they're held at less than about 85% relative humidity. This observation combined with the coastal, maritime climate where Lyme disease first emerged led to the notion that ticks need mild climates to survive. It turns out that ticks in the wild are extremely good at avoiding cold or dry conditions. During droughts they stay under leaf litter or in soil pores where humidity is high, and during winter they go underground to avoid freezing. Lyme disease is now more prevalent in upper Wisconsin and Minnesota — areas with anything but a benign climate — than in many coastal parts of New England, and the disease is rapidly expanding northwards into Ontario and Quebec, Canada.

These myths are slowly being replaced by a more complicated but still understandable science. Numbers of tick nymphs, the stage responsible for most cases of Lyme disease, are better predicted by abundance of white-footed mice than by numbers of deer. Mice are responsible for infecting the ticks with Lyme spirochetes. Mouse populations explode after years of heavy acorn production ("mast" years), because the acorns provide excellent food over winter and boost mice the next summer. Thus, acorn production predicts future Lyme disease risk. Landscapes with many small forest patches embedded

continues on page 9



MASSACHUSETTS ARBORISTS ASSOCIATION
ARBOR DAY of SERVICE

As the season winds down, now is a great time to start thinking about the MAA's *Arbor Day of Service* in April 2012. Take a look around your community and identify sites that could benefit from professional tree care. Is there a school playground that could be made safer with some pruning? How about a senior center that could benefit from tree plantings? What could you do to improve the trees at your town hall, common, or library? In these times of deep budget cuts, community leaders are forced to make difficult decisions and community trees are often neglected. Professional tree care provided by MAA volunteers goes a long way toward turning the tide. When you participate in ADoS, you're creating awareness about the importance of proper tree care while giving back in your own community. Everybody wins!

Right now, it's time to help us ramp up for the *Arbor Day of Service* 2012 by visiting the project ideas listing at www.massarbor.org and:

- Check out the available projects and sign up for your 2012 choice
- Update any project ideas that you may have previously posted
- Remove any projects that have already been completed
- Add any new project ideas for consideration by fellow members
- Add any new projects that you plan to take on in April 2012

As you start your preparations, the ADoS project idea listing is a great place to gain inspiration. Here's a sampling of a few projects you'll find when you visit:

Andover

South Church Cemetery

South Church is celebrating its 300th anniversary this year. One of the celebration projects is to enhance the appearance of the cemetery that adjoins the church.

There are a number of large trees with dead or broken limbs. These need to be removed to improve the appearance and health of the trees.

Contact: William Schroeder

Phone: 603-898-6086

Medfield

Rocky Woods Town Park

A beautiful town park on Chickering Pond. Safety tree pruning needed along the entrance driveway and from the parking lot down to Chickering Pond.

Contact: Mike Francis

Phone: 508-785-0339

Wellesley

Massachusetts Horticultural Society at Elm Bank

We can use some help with safety pruning our large trees. We also have several trees with the tops broken off that must be taken down. Most of these trees are in our picnic area, so it would be great to have them removed professionally. We do have a chipper and some people to help.

Contact: David Fiske

Phone: 617-835-6365

Lyme Disease

continued from page 8

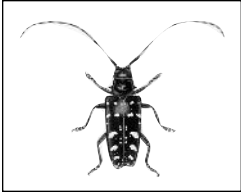
within suburban development are the riskiest places for Lyme disease. This is mostly because fragmented forests lose much of their native mammal and bird diversity, which increases Lyme disease risk for at least two reasons. First, many of the species we lose when we destroy or fragment forest — such as foxes, weasels, owls, and hawks — prey on mice, and so mice thrive under fragmentation. And second, these same species, when present, act as hosts for ticks, but either fail to infect them or actually kill them when they groom (mice are poor at grooming). When we lose these non-mouse animals, more ticks feed on mice, more survive, and more get infected.

The complexity of the Lyme disease system is a challenge. But, continued research is busting myths, unlocking mysteries, and suggesting ways of managing our landscapes to reduce risk.

Richard S. Ostfeld, Ph.D. is a Senior Scientist at the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies and is the author of a new book entitled *Lyme Disease: The Ecology of a Complex System*. Dr. Ostfeld will be speaking at *New England Grows* on Thursday, February 2, 2012. His seminar topic is: "The Fight Against Ticks & Lyme Disease Continues."

Advertise in the MAA Newsletter

The MAA's quarterly newsletter is now accepting advertising. The newsletter is mailed to 650 tree care professionals. For more information, visit www.MassArbor.org, or contact Advertising Manager Diane Zinck at dzinck@MassArbor.org. Get your name out there!



The following information was provided by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation's ALB Eradication Program on October 26, 2011.

Survey/Treatments

- Our first adult Beetle was discovered in the Worcester Regulated Area on Monday July 18th and as of this reporting period, a total of thirty-four beetles have been captured.
- Surveys were completed by both staff and contractors in Worcester and Shrewsbury while staff also surveyed in West Boylston and Boylston and contractors also surveyed in Holden.
- Bucket surveys continued during this reporting period and were used near utility lines and on hazardous trees.
- Dr. Michael T. Smith, a research scientist with the USDA Agricultural Research Service has placed approximately 190 lure traps in host and non-host trees and where they would best complement ground surveys and tree climber surveys, tree removal and where the U.S. Forest Service had placed its 500 traps.
- Nine U.S. Forest Service smoke jumpers arrived in Worcester and six arrived in Boston to assist USDA and DCR climbers with aerial surveys and they were scheduled to help until the end of October. Another thirty-day rotation of sixteen smoke jumpers began in November.

Infestation/Removal/Restoration

- An 11th Amended State Order was issued on Monday October 17, 2011 to include the entire town of Shrewsbury, expanding the regulated area by 12 square miles from 98 to 110.
- There were thirty infested trees found during this reporting period in two of the six municipalities in the Worcester County regulated area.
- Residential and street tree removals resumed during this reporting period. A total of seven trees were removed.
- The seasonal replanting staffs returned on September 6th so replanting efforts are now focused on planting the 3,500 plus trees that had been sited by the Foresters in the off-season. Foresters continue to meet with property owners to site trees for the spring 2012 planting season.
- The wood disposal yard located at Ararat Street in Worcester has expanded and changed its hours to: Monday, Wednesday and Friday 8 am – 4 pm and Tuesday and Thursday 8 am – 5pm.
- Again, no infested trees were found in the Boston/Brookline Regulated Area; therefore, there were no removals in this reporting period.

Additional Resources

USDA APHIS Information
http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/asian_lhb/index.shtml
 Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources
<http://massnrc.org/pests/alb/>

To report an ALB sighting, contact the Massachusetts Asian Longhorned Beetle Cooperative Eradication Program at 1-866-702-9938.



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The Beacon Hill Report

By Stephen A. Boksanski
MAA's Legislative Agent



The legislative calendar is nearing an end as Joint Rule 12A dictates that no formal business will be considered for the remainder of the session during the first year of the two-year cycle. The House and Senate will continue meeting and considering only those items that enjoy unanimous consent. During these informal meetings, any single

legislator can halt the progress of any bill. Committees may still hold hearings and executive sessions, although this is rare.

A balanced budget has been approved, state and congressional redistricting is required and expanded gambling seems like a safe bet. More progress has been made on pension reform, human trafficking crimes and the budget included a controversial municipal health reform. This last issue was as contentious as it can get with organized labor pitted against reformers and municipal leaders but in the end the legislature took a bold step toward lowering the costs of health care for cities and towns.

Below please find an update on some MAA priorities:

- **Fertilizer Pre-Emption (Senate Budget, S.333)**

This bill would give the Department of Agricultural Resources sole authority over the regulation of fertilizer. The DAR would also be directed to work with the UMass Extension School on all written materials published by the state. The committee reported a redrafted bill out of committee favorably on October 19, 2011 that incorporates language that will grandfather-in any local regulations existing at the time. This was a concern brought forward by the Town of Barre as they have a local bylaw that prohibits the use of products containing sludge. We expect the bill to be referred to the Senate for further consideration.

- **Pesticides (H.228)**

Legislation that establishes a pesticide advisory committee and authorizes them to develop a priority toxic pesticide list and ban the use of products on said list. The bill also calls for the establishment of a pesticide use reporting system that would include new requirements for applicators. This bill had a public hearing before the Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture on July 12th and remains pending before the committee.

- **Landscape Architect (H.2027, H.3266)**

These bills had a public hearing on Tuesday, June 21st before the Joint Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure. These are competing bills relative to a landscape architect practice law and have the potential to disrupt current market boundaries and create an unlevel playing field. Monique Allen, on behalf of MLP, took the stand and offered comments questioning the need for either bill. Proponents turned out to support the bill but the committee appeared concerned with the lack of consensus on this issue, and the matters remain before the committee.

- **Safer Alternatives to Toxic Chemicals (H.1136, S.397)**

Two bills have been re-filed for consideration and had a public hearing before the Joint Committee on the Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture on June 12, 2011. Various stakeholders on both sides of the issue turned out to deliver passionate testimony. Given the broad-based coalition, the multi-year effort to educate legislators and offer opposition, and the economic environment we are confident that by continuing to vigorously oppose, this matter can be defeated again.

- **Small Group Health Purchasing Cooperatives**

The Division of Insurance is accepting applications to become a qualified association, a designation that allows an organization to participate in one of the purchasing cooperatives. The next phase is for the cooperatives to be qualified. The qualification process is underway and should continue throughout the fall, with a hope to commence operations on January 1, 2012. To access the online applications follow: www.mass.gov/doi.

- **Water Conservation (S.83, S.327)**

Legislation to license irrigation contractors (S.83) had a public hearing before the Joint Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure on May 17th. Legislation requiring system interruption devices for all new irrigation systems (S.327) had a public hearing before the Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture on July 14, 2011. Both matters remain pending before the committee.



Massachusetts Arborists Association

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FALL 2011