



# THE CONNECTICUT ARBORIST

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Connecticut Tree Protective Association, Inc.

Summer 2023

## CTPA Summer Meeting - Thursday, July 20th

It is that time again. Time to get together for another Summer Meeting at the Farmington Club. This year it will be held on Thursday, July 20<sup>th</sup> and we are asking Mother Nature for favorable weather. No sideways rain or high winds like last year. Registration is open and the flyers have been mailed. We are highly encouraging both members and non-members to pre-register to help keep the cost of coming to our meetings more affordable for you. It is always very important to the board that the cost of these events is affordable to those that attend and sustainable for the organization. The cost of living and of putting on events is on the rise and The Board keeps a keen eye to make sure there is an equitable balance for all involved. So please pre-register!! The line up of speakers and topics is going to be great this year. Last year, the association rolled out two educational sessions for our Spanish

speaking community with an emphasis on safety. We are pleased to announce again that there will be **Two Sessions Given in Spanish**. Leo Roldan, Safety Trainer at SavATree, will be speaking on "An Overview of Electrical Hazards - What is Low Voltage?". Leo's talk will be given one time only at 10:00am in the Aqueduct Room and will be 1 hour and 15 minutes in length. Pepe Ramirez, Skills Trainer at Davey Tree Experts will be speaking on "Chainsaw Safety and Operations". Pepe's talk will also be 1 hour and 15 minutes but will take place outside at the pines (adjacent to the Sycamore tree) at 2:00pm.

### Long Established Educational Sessions

The first talk to start off the day will be in the Clubhouse at 9:00 am (repeated at 1:00pm) and will cover the topic of "**Field Diagnostics and Pests to Look Out For.**" by Jeremy Slone, Ph.D., Bartlett Tree Experts. Jeremy will

talk about how to look at landscapes, feature trees and plants and how to assess the possible biotic and abiotic causes and symptoms. He will also discuss some of the pests in the region that are either a problem currently or that might be on the horizon.

The next talk will cover safety. The topic is one requested quite often "**Real World Aerial Rescue Considerations.**" This talk will be presented by Kevin Lunnie, Vector Training and Shawn Emmons, Emmons Tree Service. It will take place under the Sycamore Tree at 9:00am and again at 1:00pm. Kevin and Shawn will give you the most up to date information in the world of aerial rescue, including prevention, integration with first responders and the common challenges that tree climbers face. Kevin and Shawn will also talk about heat exhaustion, including the symptoms and practical ways to prevent it. This is always a "hot" topic the day of the summer meeting.

The second set of talks will also draw a crowd. In the Clubhouse at 10:30am and again at 2:30pm, Kevin Brewer from Arborjet, will talk about "**Adapting Your PHC Program to a Changing Climate.**" Kevin is a CT Licensed Arborist with a great store of knowledge about environmental stress and how it can lead to pest and disease issues. He will talk about how to mitigate the effects of the changing climate and adapt your PHC programs.



*Matt Borden, DPM, Bartlett Tree Experts - Summer Meeting 2022*

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*We Advance the Care of Connecticut's Trees - and Have for 101 Years!*

# Arbor Day 2023 - Veterans Home and Hospital, Rocky Hill

Arbor Day 2023! The celebration of Arbor Day this year was exciting as the Connecticut Tree Protective Association helped honor the winners of CTPA's Arbor Day poster contest "My Favorite Tree". All fifth graders from the State of Connecticut were invited to participate in this contest and there were 96 posters submitted. The Arbor Day Committee had tough decisions to make to bring selecting the 4 winning posters. The students who won represented the towns of Southington, Northford, Sterling and Wolcott. The winners along with their classmates, teachers and family were invited to the Rocky Hill Home and Hospital to be a part of the CTPA Tree Planting. The tree donated for the planting, a red maple, was generously donated by Eversource Energy.

The morning started with Sean Redding, Secretary/Treasurer of CTPA, giving a brief history of Arbor Day and the history of CTPA. The winners of the poster contest were then asked to step forward and tell the crowd about their favorite tree. Each poster contest winner received a goodie bag of items from CTPA. After photos and well wishes, Bud Neal, Past President of CTPA, led the charge to plant the new tree. Bud showed the attendees how to properly dig the hole and place the tree as well as advising on the importance of watering the tree. The entire event took about an hour and a half. The CTPA would like to thank the students, the teachers and all the families that came. We would especially like to thank the volunteers that came from The Woodbury Post 155 American Legion and The

Bethlehem Post 146 American Legion to help with the planting and take part in Arbor Day 2023.

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# The 2023 Connecticut Tree Climbing Competition

The CT Tree Climbing Competition was held this year on May 6<sup>th</sup> in Newtown, on the property of the old Fairfield Hills Hospital. The town is working to rejuvenate the property, and so the climbing competition was held among a backdrop of walking trails, a community garden and, as a beacon to some of the participants after a long, hot day, a brew-pub. The day, all told, was a great success. The layout of the trees used for the competition worked very well. The site was level and the trees close together, with all but one, the speed climb tree, within eyeshot of the others.

As has become a tradition with this event, a high-quality crew of judges, timers, technicians and volunteers came together to ensure that the events ran smoothly and that the competition was fair, well-paced and organized in a way to allow the individual climbers to do their best. There were 25 competitors in the competition – 23 male and 2 female, with the competitors coming from as far away as Bartlett, NH. After the preliminary round, the top 3 climbers who are also Connecticut residents and who are able to stay for the final, are invited to participate in the Master's Challenge. This year, the 3 competitors in the Master's Challenge were:

Tim Reynolds  
Ryan Torcicollo  
Jake Slade

This year's competition was close. In the end, Jake Slade was declared the winner by a slim margin with a score of 242.33, followed by Tim Reynolds with 238.00 and Rich Torcicollo at 200.00.

This is the 17<sup>th</sup> time CTPA has held the CTCC, going back to the first competition in 2005. This year's competition continued the streak of the day being fun, well-paced and energetic—a celebration of tree climbing and tree climbers. The weather was bright and sunny and the spirit among all very high. CTPA gives a special thanks to the sponsors, volunteers, spectators and competitors, all of whom were important in making this particular CTCC successful. In addition, CTPA thanks Bud Neal and Charlie Iselin, for all they did to pull this event together. Also, Cathy Dvorsky deserves special mention, for being the glue for making sure the pieces hold together the way they should.



## CTPA is an OSHA Ambassador

On April 11, 2023, The Connecticut Tree Protective Association hosted an Ambassador Alliance signing at the CTPA office, with representatives of the Federal Occupational and Safety Administration (OSHA) and CTPA's Safety Committee participating. This is a great honor and a milestone for the CTPA.

OSHA recognized CTPA for its ongoing efforts to incorporate safety into the Association's educational mission. Each year apart from COVID years, in the fall, the Safety Committee, has held an Electrical Hazards Awareness Program. This workshop reaches capacity each year as it brings valuable information to people in the industry who work around power lines. The CTPA also makes sure to have a safety talk at the summer meeting so that attendees can learn about the practical aspects of the job.

CTPA also invites and supports OSHA by inviting them to attend the Annual and Summer Meetings, set up a booth, and encourage those in attendance to speak with OSHA representatives.

The CTPA Board of Directors is honored and proud to receive this distinction on behalf of its members and of the Safety Committee. We will use this occasion to renew our commitment to sharing safety information and a culture of safe practices with our membership and meeting attendees.

**What is an OSHA Alliance?** OSHA created the Alliance Program in 2002 to develop voluntary, collaborative work-

ing relationships with organizations that are committed to workplace safety and health. Alliances provide a vehicle for regular, proactive interaction between OSHA and other organizations. OSHA establishes Alliances through a written agreement with an organization for an initial term of two years, which may be renewed at OSHA's discretion. Alliance participants that have successfully completed an initial two-year agreement and one renewal period may become program Ambassadors. Alliances can be formed at the National, Regional, or Area Office level.

**What is Ambassador Status?** Ambassador status reflects OSHA's recognition that an Alliance participant has built and continues to maintain a productive cooperative relationship with the agency. OSHA expects that Alliance Program Ambassadors will continue to share timely and relevant safety and health information with members, and work collaboratively on issues that emerge among its membership.

**Does a Company Need to Enter into an Alliance to Work with OSHA?** OSHA does not need to enter into a formal Alliance to work with an organization on outreach and dissemination. OSHA and an organization may decide to work together informally on outreach activities or may do so for a period of time before entering into an Alliance. For more information on the OSHA Alliance Program please visit: [OSHA Alliance Program: Frequently Asked Questions | Occupational Safety and Health Administration](#)



*Anne Bracker - Program Manager CONN OSHA, Dale Varney - Area Director OSHA Hartford, Cathy Brescia, Area Director OSHA Bridgeport and Michael Almstead, CTPA President.*



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## Meet Dr. Elizabeth Ward



As Dr. Jeff Ward heads off into his retirement, CTPA would like to introduce to its members the new Dr. Ward at the CT Agricultural Experiment Station – Dr. Elisabeth Ward. Eli, as she is known for short, is not related to Jeff – their last names are just coincidental – but Eli is just as committed to trees, forests, forestry and the important role that each plays in Connecticut’s future. Eli is also interested in hearing more about how she can work with arborists, and arborists can work with her, to help continue the advancement of arboriculture in Connecticut.

Eli is a forest ecologist by training, with expertise in silviculture, invasive species, plant-soil interactions and carbon and nitrogen cycling. An alumna of Brown University as an undergraduate (2013), she earned her Master of Forest Science and her Ph.D. from The Forest School at the Yale School of the Environment, having completed her doctorate in 2023.

Her doctoral research focused on how tree and shrub mycorrhizal associations influence soil carbon and nitrogen cycling and storage in forests, with a particular focus on mountain laurel. It has long been observed that mountain laurel and other understory plants in the same family proliferate following forest disturbances and negatively affect tree regeneration. Eli’s research traced this issue back to the effects that mountain laurel can have on soil dynamics and how interactions among the various plant mycorrhizal associations in forests affect soil organic matter accumulation. She showed that mountain laurel tends to increase surface soil organic matter accumulation while also reducing nitrogen availability, thus tilting the odds in favor of the growth of mountain laurel over regenerating trees.

Dr. Ward is also interested in issues related to urban trees and soil dynamics. One her recent papers, “Positive long-term impacts of restoration on soils in an experimental urban forest”, looked at various soil treatments, including tilling and the introduction of organic compost, and how they can affect soils and the growth of newly planted trees in a highly urbanized park in Queens, NY. This paper is available on her web page on the CAES website.

At CAES, Dr. Ward’s research will build on this past work by investigating the impacts of novel pest and pathogen outbreaks on forest dynamics in Connecticut and whether different forest management practices can

As the ‘new scientist’ at CAES, Eli now joins of a long list of Experiment Station staff who have proved to be endlessly helpful to the practice of arboriculture in Connecticut. This list includes:

- Dr. Susanna Kerio, who as a forest pathologist is working on the influences of urban stress on trees, including the role of mycorrhizal associations. Susanna is also chair of the Tree Protection Examining Board.
- Dr. Claire Rutledge, whose work on insects is well-known to everyone in CTPA. In particular, her efforts on behalf of helping us to understand and control the emerald ash borer have been particularly valuable. Claire is also an instructor in Arboriculture 101 and a member of the CTPA Board.
- Dr. Rich Cowles, also an entomologist, whose knowledge of pesticides is well-known and has proven extraordinarily helpful in connection to EAB and many other insect problems. Rich is also deeply involved with beech leaf disease and the exploration of means to control the nematodes that are causing this new tree problem.
- Dr. Bob Marra, a plant pathologist, is also deeply immersed in understanding the causes and development of beech leaf disease and other very concerning tree and shrub pathogens. In addition, Bob is a member of the TPX.
- Dr. Yonghao Li, the plant pathologist, is primarily responsible for the leading the Plant Disease Information Office at CAES. This includes diagnostic work on various tree and plant diseases. Yonghao is also an instructor in Arboriculture 101.
- Rose Hiskes heads the Diagnostic Office at the Valley in Windsor and also helps out with Arboriculture 101. Rose also has taken the lead in keeping the *Guide Towards Integrated Management for Connecticut’s Arborists* updated.
- Felicia Millett works with Dr. Li in the PDIO office in New Haven and also helps out with Arboriculture 101.

This list could be added to, including the addition of the many emeritus scientists who continue to make contributions to the health and care of trees in Connecticut. Further details on available on the CAES Website.

# Arboriculture 101

CTPA continues to hold the Arboriculture 101 classes to help people gain the knowledge needed as they work towards their CT Arborist License. Students fill the seats each session (twice a year with 40-45 in each class). Each of the 13 weeks is packed with updated information on individual subjects pertaining to arboriculture. There is an opportunity for hands on learning as well. The CTPA is deeply appreciative of the instructors that diligently volunteer to give the class in the area of their expertise. Without each instructor's dedication, the program would not exist. Thank you!!!!



## CT Tree Conditions Workshop

The Education Committee held a workshop on March 23, 2023 in Jones Auditorium at The Agricultural Experiment Station in New Haven. The workshop was comprised of 3 speakers from the Agricultural Experiment Station in New Haven: Dr. Susanna Kerio, talked about The Weather, Climate and the Environmental Outlook for 2023, Felicia Millet, talked about Plant Pathology and Dr. Claire Rutledge, discussed entomology. After lunch, the three speakers sat on a panel and answered questions from the attendees. The day was very well received and informative for those that attended.





## CTPA's Summer Meeting (continued)

And to round out the sessions, we are bringing back the **Walkabout on the Farmington Club Property**. Join Tom Ingersoll and Allan Fenner as they walk and talk about assessing trees and different management options. The walk will start at the registration area and loop around the property. The tree walk will take place at 10:20 am and 2:30pm.

We are please to offer CEU's for CT Arborist (3D), CT Ornamental and Turf (3A), ISA, TCIA CTSP, Forest Practitioner and Advanced Tree Wardens. CEU's will be given at the end of the day, after the last talk has finished. (Insert the actual CEU's)

### More Than Just Talking Sessions

The Summer Meeting is not just about listening to talks and trying to cool off, although it is usually the main reason people attend. Much more is offered. We would be remiss if we didn't mention the food that is offered all day, starting with an amazing continental breakfast first thing in the morning followed by chili and clam chowder in the late morning. Then if you are still hungry, the buffet lunch will not only fill you up but allow for time to sit and catch up with peers and friends. After lunch and after you have attended another session, there are cheeseburgers, hot dogs and ice cream to help fuel you until the handing out of CEU's at 3:45.

Our exhibitors come from far and wide to attend the Summer Meeting. You can visit the outdoor exhibitors in the field. They usually bring along some of the latest, large, shiny equipment for you to see. And under the large white tent, we have exhibitors that bring merchandise to purchase and industry knowledge to share. Take some time to walk among the exhibitors and shake hands with new and familiar faces. In addition to exhibitors in the tent, there are people from the Agricultural Experiment Station to help you answer any questions you may have. Usually in attendance is OSHA and DMV. They can answer any questions you may have regarding regulations in the workplace and vehicles.

Lastly, we would like to encourage all to purchase a raffle ticket for the Oscar P. Stone Research Trust Fund. This fund allows the association to award scholarships to individuals who are interested in arboriculture at a higher level of learning. Please take a moment to stop by the Raffle table in the tent to purchase a ticket and you have the opportunity to win a great prize, given with great generosity by the exhibitors that attend our meeting. For further information or to sign up for the Summer Meeting please visit the website at: <https://ctpa.org>.



*Pat Flynn, President, presenting Alyssa Cleland with the 2022 Oscar P. Stone Scholarship.*

### CEU's are available for the following:

**CT Arborist License 3D - 5.0 ceu's. 3A - 3.0 ceu's**  
**ISA - 5.0 ceu's, CT Forest Practitioner - 1.5 ceu's**  
**Advanced Certified Tree Warden - 5.0 ceu's**  
**TCIA CTSP - Aerial Rescue - 1.25 ceu's**  
**Chainsaw Safety - 1.25 ceu's**  
**Electrical Hazards - 1.25 ceu's**

**To Register for the Summer Meeting please go to [www.ctpa.org](http://www.ctpa.org). We are looking forward to meeting in person again and having a great day of talks and an exhibitor show.**



The CTPA will be holding a raffle to support the Oscar P. Stone Research Trust Fund. This fund rewards scholarships to students persuing high education in the field of arboriculture. Please purchase a ticket to continue the scholarships and win a great prize!