



# THE CONNECTICUT ARBORIST

Volume XXXII, Number 1

Connecticut Tree Protective Association, Inc.

Summer 2021

## CTPA Summer Meeting - July 15th

The CTPA Summer Meeting is back! The CTPA Board is pleased to announce that the Summer Meeting will be held on Thursday, July 15, at the Farmington Club, as an in-person, all-day event. The day will be the educational and social attraction that it has always been. At the same time, the requirements currently in place from COVID-19 will be respected. Most of the activities will be held outdoors, to reduce the concerns of those who may still be unvaccinated or are otherwise worried about the virus. All that is asked, under these circumstances, is that everyone be respectful of others and of their personal decisions. We have come this far with the virus; let's go these last few steps to get it fully under control.

That said, the Board joins with the membership in looking forward to seeing everyone in person. We are all eager to hear the updates on what is happening in the field and to find out what news the vendors and exhibitors have to bring. It will be very good to reconnect with the spirit of past CTPA Summer Meetings as we celebrate the present!

At the time of this writing, the educational program for July 15th is still a bit up in the air. Because it was not certain until mid-May whether we could hold the Summer Meeting in-person in July, the Planning Committee had to refrain from making decisions and inviting speakers within the timeframe it would normally use. Since the all-clear from the Governor's office,

with the above stipulations, the Committee has been elbow-deep in its consideration of a range of talks. On the list is a detailed discussion of single rope climbing techniques along with a tree walk in the spirit of those given by Oscar Stone. Once the final program is decided, it will be announced on the CTPA website.

At this point, the Committee is comfortable that the educational program will rival those of the past in terms of variety, quality and value to the members.

Of course, this delay also means that continuing education credits cannot be announced as of yet. The Board and the Planning Committee are well aware of the importance of ceu's to the members. One of the priorities is to provide the opportunity to earn the number of ceu's typical to previous Summer Meetings.

But – what if it rains? CTPA is working with the Farmington Club on those sorts of contingency plans. These include the use of tents or moving some activities indoors (with appropriate social distancing). Come to the CTPA Summer Meeting! Expect to see old friends and meet new ones, gain valuable information and participate in the extensive trade show, all while enjoying excellent food and having a great time. For those who haven't attended before, you are in for a treat.

To register, visit [www.CTPA.org](http://www.CTPA.org).



*Students from UConn's Arboriculture class learn about tree pruning the hands-on way. This class is being supported by CTPA, as UConn develops a major in tree care.*

*We Advance the Care of Connecticut's Trees*

## And Then, There Are Good Surprises

At the beginning of May, Cathy Dvorsky was opening mail in the CTPA office when she came to a letter from Lauren M. Feltz, the Principal at the Deep River Elementary School. “Dear Connecticut Tree Protective Association”, the letter began, “Enclosed please find a donation of \$365.05 from the students and families of Deep River Elementary School. We hope you will be able to use these funds to plant and protect trees here in Connecticut.”

The letter, mailed on Arbor Day, goes on to explain that the Deep River Elementary School is a small K-6 school of only 217 students. Yet, due to the leadership of a group of sixth grade students who call themselves the “Tree Troop”, these students, working entirely on their own and in their free time, were able to raise these funds. These students, all young ladies, were able to do so through:

- a school-wide pajama party held as a fundraiser
- a fundraising letter to families
- a YouTube video about the importance of saving trees

In conjunction with this effort, these students featured facts about trees and the importance of protecting them on the daily school news broadcast and sent an evergreen seedling home with each student to be planted on Arbor Day.

The students also got the benefit of learning from Eversource Arborist Jenna Turner, who, among her contributions, worked with teachers to record a lesson about the importance of Arbor Day.

The Tree Troop – Maddy, Elle, Scout, Erza and Caterina – along with students in the 4th grade and kindergarten, dug into their own piggy banks as well to contribute to this effort.

As Ms. Feltz concluded this letter, she wrote, “I know every donated dollar is important to your work. I just wanted you to know of the love, effort and care we send you along with this particular donation. Thank you for your work.”

As can be imagined, when Cathy presented this letter to the Board, all were deeply touched. Pat Flynn, President of the CTPA, immediately made plans to get in touch with the school to thank them on behalf on the Association, while the rest of the Board discussed a tree to plant and books to donate to the school library to thank these students for their care and thoughtfulness.

The Board also noted that this is a message that needed to be shared with all members of CTPA. In this particular instance, Jenna Turner was the arborist who stepped up. At the same time, there are many opportunities for all of us to reach out and share – and we almost always do, when asked. It is good to know that, when you do, it is appreciated.

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*We advance the care of  
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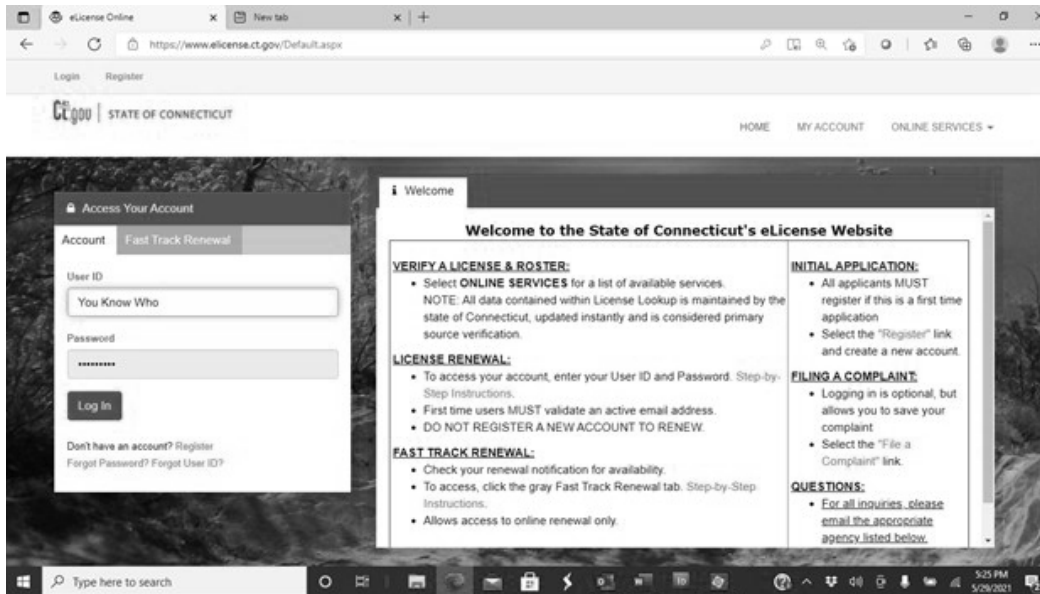
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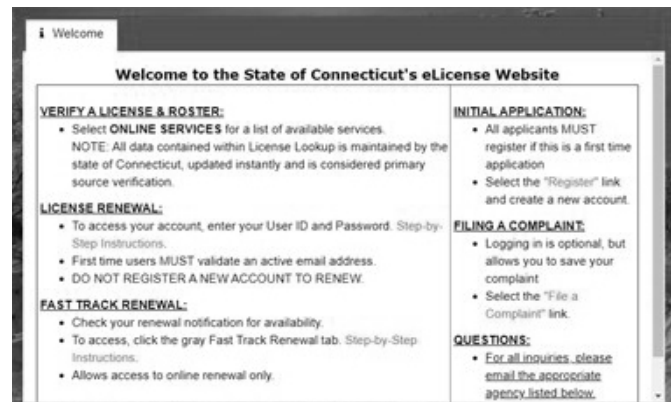
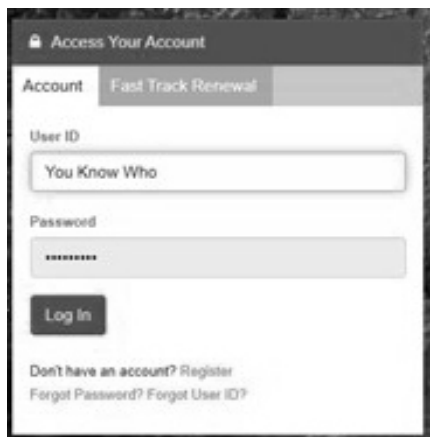
***A New Haven Bioswale.***  
*The City has installed over 200 of these curbside bioswales as a means of diverting stormwater. Trees, such as the London plane in the background, will also benefit. Projects of this sort will increase in importance as climate change leads to significant shifts in the weather and to effects such as increased heavy rains and more severe droughts.*

# A Pictorial Guide to Getting Started on the E-Licensing Web Site

The CT DEEP Pesticide Management Program is in the process of moving all of its pesticide license management and testing functions to the State Government-wide e-licensing system - [www.elicensing.ct.gov](http://www.elicensing.ct.gov). This will bring efficiency and ease to users and reduce the burden on the DEEP Pesticide Program. It will also take some getting used to. Getting started has its own twists and turns. Because it is in statewide use, over a range of agencies, it contains a variety of features, not all of which are immediately obvious. The following pages are intended to show a few of the starting points for features apt to be of most interest to licensed arborists and CTPA members.



This is what the welcome page for the e-license web site looks like when you visit the site without having yet logged in. The box to the left is the log-in box; that to the right is the welcome box. **Visitors who have any sort of DEEP Pesticide Certification already have an account, even if they have not visited this page before. They should not initiate a new account**



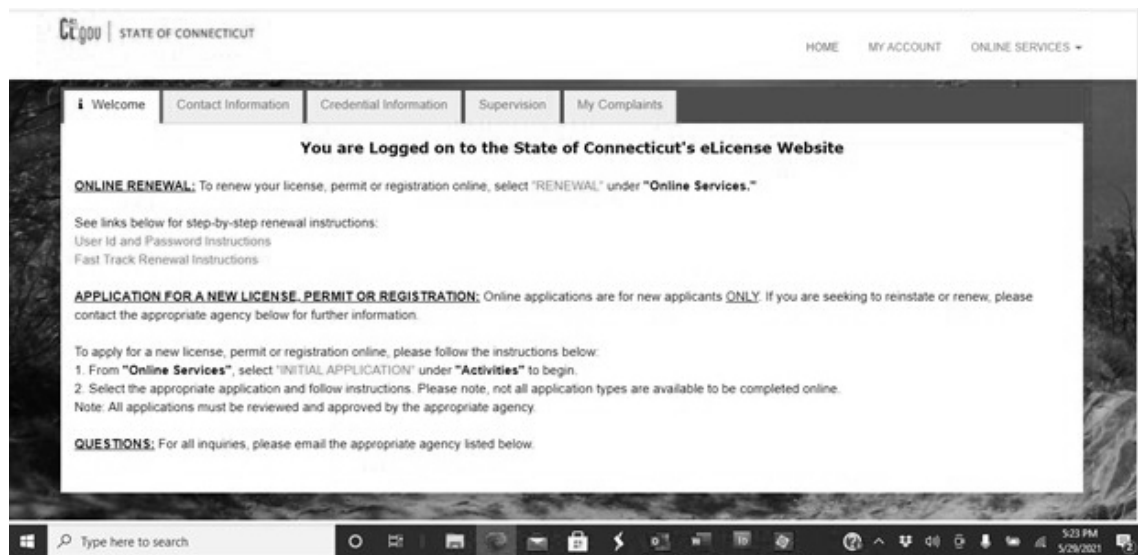
Above is the Log-In Box, filled in with a fake name. **Those who have a license with DEEP Pesticides should begin here.** If you fall into that category, you already have an account in the e-license system. Do not hit the "Register" link as that will prompt you to create a new account. If you do not know your User ID and Password (there is no reason you should, if you haven't been on the site before), click on the "Forgot User ID" link at the bottom of the box. This will lead you to entering your email address. You will then be sent a User ID and Password to use. If your current email account does not match that listed with DEEP, there is a second option. You can write directly to DEEP ([DEEP.PesticideProgram@ct.gov](mailto:DEEP.PesticideProgram@ct.gov)) and request a User ID and Password. These can be changed to something you prefer once you have access.

This is the Welcome Box for those new to the page. If you are visiting this page in order to take a licensing exam such as that for the Arborist License or the Pesticide Operator's Certificate, or if you would like to register an Arborist or Pesticide Business, you need to create an account. You start by clicking on the "Register" link under Initial Application. This is the same as the "Register" link in the Log-In Box. You then navigate your way through a series of pages before then either signing up for an exam or registering your business.

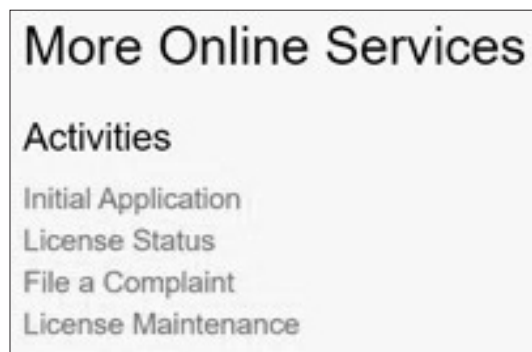
**Note for Those with a Business Registration Already:** You should have been mailed, just recently, a User ID and Password for your business account. This is considered a separate account from your personal account. Each will have its own User ID and Password.



# Getting Started on the E-Licensing Web Site (continued)



One you are logged in, this is the welcome box you see. Note that your license renewal will be handled through this website. You will be notified by way of email once your license comes up for renewal. Also note the section on "Application for a New License, Permit or Registration". This is where you would go if, for instance, you wanted to add a Home Improvement License to your list of licenses, or if you wanted to register a new arborist business. It is not where you would go, however, if you wish to add a new category to your existing Pesticide Supervisory License.



If you wish to add an additional category to your Commercial Pesticide Supervisor License, then you must go a different route. If, for instance, you have an Arborist License and wish to add a Ornamental and Turf License, in a technical sense, you are adding an additional category to your Supervisory License. To do this, you need to go the "Online Services" section at the top right on the page (or "More Online Services" at the bottom of the page). Click on the link for "License Maintenance". Your next choice will be whether to add an additional category or upload your Annual Pesticide Use Summary. Choose the first option. The next page will show your existing categories and give you the option to add additional categories. Click "Add". The next page will show the categories you may add. After making your choice, proceed on to register for the exam you want to take.

## A Note on the Examination Process

The licensing and certification exams being given by the DEEP Pesticide Management Program will remain under the auspices of the people at DEEP. DEEP PMP continues to have full authority over the program, including responsibility for the exams, exam questions, license complaints, license renewals and all of the other services that it has provided in the past. The e-license system just makes it easier for them to do all of this.

With regards to the exams, the exams that we have come to know as 'written exams' will now be given on-line. To this end, DEEP has contracted with an outside testing service to conduct the actual exams. The e-licensing system allows individuals to register for these exams. Actually taking the exam is a separate step. Through the e-license web site, whether one starts with the "Register" link for new examination applicants or the "License Maintenance" link for those adding categories, one reaches an end point when she submits payment to DEEP - \$200 for each exam. At that point, DEEP takes perhaps a day or a couple of days to review the applicant's credentials. It then sends the name of the applicant to the exam contractor, a company named Everblue. Everblue then sends an email to the applicant, inviting him or her to register for the exam. This registration will cost an additional \$21. After that has happened, Everblue will send a link to the applicant with instructions on how to take the exam. The exam may be taken anytime, day or night, within 60 days, at the discretion of the applicant. Applicants should be careful to read all exam rules and requirements first, before committing to the taking the exam.

## Update on the Veteran's Healing Garden in Rocky Hill

Beginning in 2014 under the leadership of CTPA Board Member Bud Neal, CTPA has spearheaded the design, construction and funding of the Healing Garden at the Veterans Healthcare and Residential Facility in Rocky Hill. The Garden was dedicated at a heavily attended ceremony in August 2018. Even before the Garden was completed, major responsibility for its maintenance, especially for the included annuals and perennials, has been taken on by Sandy Ingellis in a volunteer role. The following is a letter she wrote to CTPA members regarding the Garden.

June 3, 2021

RE: The Healing Garden at the Connecticut Veterans Healthcare and Residential Facility

Dear CTPA Members:

I am writing to give you an update on what I call The Garden. It's properly known as the Healing Garden at the Connecticut Veterans Healthcare and Residential Facility in Rocky Hill. It was built by volunteers and generous businesses and individuals around the state and through the CTPA in 2018. The trees, which CTPA members took charge of, have grown so much over the last three years that they have become significant to the design. You can see them plainly when you take the drive up the hill to the site. The gardens are healthy and flourishing.

I go up there on average once a week. Spring is usually busier because of opening beds, feeding plants, mulching, and planting annuals. I planted grape hyacinth bulbs in the grass last fall. This spring they looked beautiful with their purple/blue flowers sticking up through the high grass. I couldn't take a photo to do it justice, but I loved the way it came out.

The Garden is a place with a purpose; to visit, pray, enjoy the beauty, and get some exercise. Some residents have gotten to know me, we are on a first name basis. It's sad having met some of them and then suddenly never see them again, but I'm grateful for having been able to see them visit and enjoy what we built for them. Residents that have a little garden experience want to know what I'm planting, so our visit will be a little educational experience. John, one of the residents, helps me decide what to plant that the groundhogs would rather not eat. There are residents in the apartments that come by in the evening when I'm working to chat. The appreciation for what we've done is never ending.

During the summer of 2020, it was incredibly quiet; there were no visitors allowed. I was finally able to get on the grounds by June which made it late for any new plants. As the summer progressed and the gardens were cleaned out, I started receiving text messages from the nurses that the residents were at least able to visit the garden and how it lifted their spirits. It was a long year for the patients and residents, but they were grateful to have a place like The Garden to go to. This year, there was some normalcy again which allowed me to start in March. It's wonderful to see them outside again.

The facility is still heavily guarded against people coming to visit the residents. I hope you all can visit The Garden when the facility opens to the public again; I think it will make you proud of what you sponsored.

If you would like to see the photos I've taken over the course of building The Garden, you can go to <https://www.flickr.com/gp/21150989@N08/072JrR> and see the progress.

I would like to extend the gratitude of what the Veterans have expressed on to you. The Garden is so appreciated every day. It's a lot of sunshine and peace on this property and it allows the Veterans a moment away from what troubles them.

Sincerely,

Sandy Ingellis



*Scenes from the Garden at the time of the Dedication. At the left are the residents who came out to share the moment.*

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## Climate Change - Three of The Ways Trees Help

At long last, in many arenas, climate change has moved to the fore as an issue of concern. This provides an opportunity to mention a few of the several ways in which trees and tree care relate to climate change. That trees are important in this discussion is not a surprise. After all, trees are a key component of the natural environment, important to everyone. To put that in policy terms, trees form a critical component of the environmental infrastructure, noted for the essential ecosystem services they provide.

The following is a brief review of three ways in which trees contribute to helping us deal with the effects of climate change.

**The Urban Heat Island Effect.** This effect is so-called because built-up areas – residential and commercial centers, downtown areas and so on – tend to be warmer than surrounding rural areas. Trees are an obvious and often best way to combat the urban heat island effect. Let's look at this in a little more detail.

The temperature differences between urban and surrounding rural areas can be large – often between 3 degrees and 20 degrees F, based on surface temperature. As sunlight strikes such urban surfaces as asphalt, concrete and brick, much of the energy of sunlight is converted into heat as it is absorbed by these impervious materials. This stored heat can then be radiated back, including after dark, with the effects of the urban heat island often felt as much at night time as they are during the day.

People out and about in shadeless urban areas are exposed to a triple whammy. To start with, sunlight itself can be a health concern, with the ultraviolet component known to cause damage to unprotected, exposed skin. Climate change is partly defined as being an increase in air temperature, meaning places are already warmer than before. During the day, impervious city surfaces add additional heat as they emit infrared rays from stored solar energy. Overnight, when things might be expected to cool down, these city surfaces continue to warm the air, blunting any night-time cooling.

Trees, of course, provide shade, keeping the sun's rays from reaching these urban surfaces. They also do not serve as heat reservoirs in the way these other materials do. Instead, trees consume much of this solar energy either in photosynthesis or in the evaporation of water, as part of the transpiration process. Additionally, while not directly connected to climate change, these trees are filtering the air of pollutants and, by blocking sunlight, helping to prevent the formation of ground-level ozone.

**Reduced Energy Demand.** This is also largely the result of the shade from the trees blocking sunlight

that would otherwise warm buildings and contribute to uncomfortable indoor temperatures. An interesting study by a graduate student at the University of Massachusetts, Emma Morzuch, found a 37% increase in electrical consumption during the summer in two neighborhoods in Worcester affected by the Asian longhorned beetle, following the extensive removal of most of the large shade trees. Many of the residents reported the need to go out and buy air conditioners for the first time ever after these trees were removed.

A similar effect can also occur when just a single tree and a single home are involved. As most of the electrical energy now in use is produced by the burning of fossil fuels, reduced energy consumption is a way to attack climate change at the causal level.

**Trees and Flooding.** Among the anticipated effects of widespread climate change are more storms and more intense storms. This means more rain and more runoff, which opens the discussion up to the role of groundwater. Trees become an important feature in this discussion, both because of their need to draw water from the soil in order to live, but also due to their role, through their roots, in opening up the soil to penetration by water. Trees also contribute to soil structure and influence the amount and distribution of water in the soil. All of these can be important tools in the quest to deal with the overly wet as well as overly dry conditions we may be alternatively facing in the future.

An ongoing program in New Haven shows how several of these factors can be brought together. The City, working with URI in New Haven, is in the process of installing over 200 curbside bioswales. The primary purpose of these bioswales is to divert water from the stormwater system, encouraging increased amounts of this water to soak into the ground. Nearby street trees help, both by taking advantage of this additional water and also by helping to move it into and throughout the soil.

Those who wish to learn more about the ecosystem services provided by trees are encouraged to make use of tools such as i-Tree Design, available for free within the iTree Tools software package, at:

<https://design.itreetools.org/>.

The Valley Lab of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station will mark its 100th Anniversary by hosting a day of educational and celebratory activities at its facility in Windsor. This will happen on either September 1 or September 2. CTPA members will be invited. A full program will be announced shortly. Congratulations, CAES Valley Lab!



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## CTPA's Continuing Work with UConn

Back in January 2019, CTPA announced that it is working with the University of Connecticut Department of Natural Resources and the Environment (NRE) to establish a two-year degree program relating to tree care. Students in this program would graduate with an Associate degree in Arboriculture and Urban Forestry. The idea behind this degree program is to prepare students for direct entry into the working world of professional tree care. It will also, for students so motivated, prepare them for continuing their studies towards a four-year degree in a related natural resource field. CTPA and the University are happy to report that, despite the pandemic, progress on establishing this degree program has been strong. The first step was to put in place the two courses that now serve as the cornerstone of the degree. The first course is the Introduction to Arboriculture. This course is taught by John Kehoe and held its first session in the Fall of 2019 and the second this past fall. The second course is the Fundamentals of Urban and Community Forestry, taught by Chris Donnelly, first given during the recently concluded spring semester.

All eyes are on the students who enroll in these courses and, in particular, the number of 2-year students who are choosing to make Arboriculture and Urban Forestry their area of concentration. The Urban Forestry Course that just wrapped up had 18 students enrolled – 11 as 4-year students and 7 as part of one of the 2-year programs. Because the Arboriculture and Urban Forestry concentration was not available to 2-year students who would graduate before 2022, there was only one freshman committed to this concentration enrolled in the class. However, the Fall Arboriculture class already has 11 students enrolled, including both 2-year and 4-year students. More are expected after the summer orientation for new students.

The University is very satisfied with the progress being made. Dr. Jason Vokoun, NRE Department Head, has taken note that the ratio of 2-year students is increasing in these classes and should continue to do so as word gets out. Recruitment for the 2-year major was constrained past this year due to the fact that visitors, including those recruiting for colleges and universities, were only allowed in high schools virtually. Additionally, it appears that many families are delaying sending their kids to college for a year or two to rebuild lost family funds, which is sad but understandable considering how many folks were out of work this past year.

Despite all of that, news of this progress and of UConn's optimism is very gratifying. To the CTPA board, this also presents it with a new challenge. Part of the Association's involvement with this new degree program is a commitment to provide the funding for one of the instructors, at least until the program becomes fully established. The CTPA board took on this role with the understanding that, as the program proved itself, the board would work towards establishing an independent source of funding to help cover the instructor's position. Presumably, the basis of this independent funding would be contributions from tree care companies in Connecticut that are benefitting from having this educational program at UConn.

This is a challenge that board will be working on over the coming year. In the meantime, in an anecdote that Dr. Vokoun shares, one of the students entering the 2-year program is the child of a tree service sole proprietorship. The parents are excited to see their child take some classes in economics, agribusiness, and math, along with the tree courses mentioned. The parents see this academic work at UConn as helping their son towards either taking over from Dad someday or moving up in a bigger company. As Dr. Vokoun puts it, "A really great vote of confidence in what we are trying to accomplish!"



**Masked and Ready to Prune:** students in this past fall's pruning class are ready to get to work as part of the Introduction to Arboriculture course at the University of Connecticut. During the fall session, some of the classes, especially the field sessions, were held in-person. Interest in the Arboriculture classes as well as in the Urban Forestry classes have been growing at UConn, as the University seeks to work with the CTPA in establishing a 2-year Associates Degree program in Arboriculture and Urban Forestry.

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## Updates

The disruptions of the pandemic have had their effect on the activities of CTPA. Along with the rest of the country, CTPA is looking to pick up where it left off. The Association remains as committed as ever to its members and its mission. Here is a short summary of a few of the primary CTPA activities and where they stand:

**Arboriculture 101** finished a somewhat interrupted session in the spring of 2020 as well as a fully virtual session this past spring. A Fall 2021 session will be held, although the format of this session has not yet been determined. While holding virtual sessions is clearly not the preference of the instructors, there was a great deal learned from the experience that will likely be incorporated into future class sessions in order to make Arboriculture 101 that much better.

The **Connecticut Tree Climbing Competition**, postponed in 2020, was postponed again in 2021. It is now scheduled for May 2022. The preference is to hold it in Stratford as was previously planned. However, that has not yet been fully decided.

The **CTPA Safety Committee** has resumed its meetings in-person with a lot of new topics to consider. Committee members may also participate via Zoom.

The **Healing Garden at the Veterans Health and Residential Facility in Rocky Hill** continues to receive care and maintenance, primarily through the efforts of Bud Neal and Sandy Ingellis. Bud reports that there is a woodchuck that needs to be relocated who has taken up residence under the stone wall built in the Garden. More on the Garden is inside the newsletter.

During the just concluded legislative session, the CTPA weighed in **Senate Bill 950**, a bill relating to utility maintenance of roadside trees. CTPA stated its opposition to the bill as written while also encouraging additional consideration of the issue of trees and electrical reliability that was raised in the bill.

CTPA continues to work closely with **UConn**. This past fall, UConn wrapped up its 2nd session of its Arboriculture course, taught by John Kehoe. This past spring, the 1st session of its course on Urban Forestry, taught by Chris Donnelly, was completed. More information on these efforts is included on page 7.

Also of note – **CTPA officially turns 99 this Summer!** As everyone who has looked at the cover of our Directory knows, we were founded August 16, 1922 (at Hammonasset Beach in Madison). Next year will be our Centennial Year.

*Register for the CTPA Summer Meeting - July 15th in Farmington - Go To [www.CTPA.org](http://www.CTPA.org)!*

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