



THE CONNECTICUT ARBORIST

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Connecticut Tree Protective Association, Inc.

Summer 2022

CTPA Summer Meeting - Thursday, July 21st

It is summer – time to make plans to attend the CTPA Summer Meeting. The Summer Meeting will be held this year on Thursday, July 21st, at the Farmington Club. Registration information has been mailed and registrations are now being accepted. The CTPA Board has lined up an excellent educational program, as it always does. In addition to the usual layout of four educational programs, the Association this year is adding two educational sessions to be conducted in Spanish, focusing on safety. CEUs will be available for all talks, with each attendee able to receive credit for having attended up to 4 talks. Each talk will run for 1 hour and 15 minutes.

The Traditional Educational Sessions

These educational sessions kick off

with two talks, each beginning at 9 in the morning. The first of these talks is on **Beech Leaf Disease and Boxwood Blight**, to be given by Dr. Matthew Borden, Plant Pathologist at the Bartlett Tree Research Lab. Dr. Borden will discuss two of the most widespread and, in the case of beech leaf disease, most talked about woody plant concerns of the summer. Using his knowledge of the research developed by the Bartlett Lab, he will provide greater understanding of the occurrence, cause, degree of seriousness and potential management recommendations regarding these diseases.

The other 9 am talk is on **Hazard Tree Assessment and Risk Mitigation for Field Employees**, to be given by Emmett Shutts of Davey

Tree Experts and Casey Tresp of Bartlett Tree Experts. Casey and Emmett will direct their talk towards field tree workers, who often find themselves in situations in which they must make decisions regarding trees that appear to be showing a greater than normal risk of failure. They will provide attendees with a greater understanding of these sorts of situations along with guidance as to what decisions they might make and what techniques they might use in order work more safely around these trees.

Each of these early morning talks will be repeated at 1 pm, to allow attendees to attend both talks.

At 10:30 am, two more educational sessions will begin. The first of these will address the question: **What is Currently Harming Our Trees?** Rich Cartier of Rainbow Treecare Scientific Advancements will give this presentation. Rich is a Board Certified Master Arborist. He will cover the most pressing issues of this year concerning landscape trees, indicating what signs and symptoms to look for. He will also talk about what newly emerging pests are out there. Included in this talk will be a discussion of available control options.

The second talk will be led by Tom Worthley, Associate Extension Professor at UConn. Tom will



Rose Hiskes leads the Invasive Plant Walk during the 2021 CTPA Summer Meeting.

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We Advance the Care of Connecticut's Trees - and Have for 100 Years!

The UConn Arboriculture Degree Program

The University of Connecticut's two year degree program in Urban Forestry and Arboriculture is now well-underway. 3 semesters worth of Arboriculture classes along with 2 in Urban Forestry have been completed. With the initial enrollees in the 2 year degree program having received their Associate in Applied Science degree, the program is already producing results. At the same time, there is plenty of opportunity for growth within the program. It has, indeed, only just begun.

As the program develops, the program leaders at UConn will be interested in receiving feedback from Connecticut's professional arboriculture community, including commercial arborists and tree wardens. To assist in providing this support, CTPA is looking into ways by which it can provide advice and recommendations to the University.

The CTPA Summer Meeting will provide a good opportunity to begin this discussion among CTPA members. Everything at this point is at a preliminary stage. However, CTPA members and others who are interested in exploring ways that those in the industry can help the University in developing this academic program should take advantage of this opportunity. Look for CTPA Board members Chris Donnelly, Allan Fenner or Carter Peck and let them know of your interest. Something more formal will likely be planned for later in the Summer.

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Now is a good time to kick-off this UConn effort. This fall, long-time CTPA member and arborist John Kehoe will be back on the UConn Storrs Campus, teaching the Introduction to Arboriculture course. Also this fall, two new faculty members will be joining UConn's staff. Dr. Cynnamon Dobbs, an urban ecologist and forester, will join the Department of Natural Resources and the Environment as a tenure-track professor in Urban and Community Forestry. Dr. Dobbs comes to UConn from her current position at the Universidad Mayor, School of Forest Engineering, Center for Modelling and Monitoring Ecosystems, Santiago, Chile, where she is doing post-doctoral work. At UConn, Dr. Dobbs will be taking on the duties of teaching and research in urban forestry, supplementing John Kehoe's fall course with a spring course in Urban and Community Forestry.

While Dr. Dobbs is originally from Chile, she also has degrees from the University of Florida, where she earned her Masters degree, and from the University of Melbourne, where she received her Ph.D.

Also this fall, Dr. Mayra Rodriguez-Gonzalez will join the University's Cooperative Extension program. Her areas of expertise include spatial mapping, ecological modeling and social survey work. Dr. Rodriguez-Gonzalez earned her Ph.D. in urban ecology at Perdue University. In her research, she has worked with such major metropolitan regions as Chicago as well as smaller villages in Mexico, Argentina and Bolivia. Most recently, she was doing post-doctoral studies for the Gund Institute for the Environment at the University of Vermont. In her new role, this background will help her in describing how urban forests provide essential benefits to people in communities throughout Connecticut. Dr. Rodriguez-Gonzalez will be based in the Hartford Extension Office.

These are exciting times for urban forestry and arboriculture in Connecticut. The addition of such outstanding young scholars who happen to have such a global perspective can only help in this effort. More good things are sure to come.

Those who wish to learn more about the UConn program, including the specific details of the two year degree, are encouraged to visit: <https://rhsa.uconn.edu/ufa/>.

CTPA Celebrates Arbor Day 2022



Once again, CTPA held its annual Arbor Day poster contest, open to fifth grade students from throughout Connecticut. This year, some 15 schools participated, with 12 winners chosen to be honored at a tree planting ceremony at Bushnell Park in Hartford. On April 29th, Arbor Day, these 12 students along with approximately 65-70 friends, siblings, classmates, teachers and parents gathered in Bushnell Park. Each student was invited to come forward and tell about the poster he or she drew and why the tree they featured was special to them. Each winning poster artist received a bag of CTPA merchandise as well as their framed poster and a booklet to commemorate the event.



Visitors get to take a closer look at the posters that were drawn by 5th Grade students to celebrate Arbor Day.



A winning poster artist receives congratulations from Charlie Iselin. Sean Redding, Pat Flynn and Cathy Dvorsky are in the back..



Mom gets take a picture of her winning poster artist and siblings next to the hickory tree planted on Arbor Day.



Sean Redding addresses the crowd during the later City of Hartford ceremony held following the CTPA ceremony.

The 2022 Connecticut Tree Climbing Competition

On Saturday, May 14th, the CT Tree Protective Association held its annual Connecticut Tree Climbing Competition in Boothe Memorial Park in Stratford. The weather for most of the day was overcast and cool, perfect weather for climbers.

This year, there were 21 competitors, all male, as no women signed up to climb. Boothe Memorial Park provided an excellent venue for the event – great trees, well-spaced with open crowns that allowed for excellent viewing for the spectators.

This was the 16th time that the CTCC has been held. With the two year pause for COVID, this makes it the 18th Annual CTCC. After that undesired interruption, the organizers of the event and the volunteers did a fantastic job of bring the CTCC back to life. The enthusiasm among the climbers and volunteers alike was obvious. Volunteers are key to this event. It is they who set-up and then time the events, serve as judges, maintain the safety lines, keep score and provide all of the necessary logistical support. Of particular note, many past climbers returned this year as volunteers.

This Year's Competition

The events all ran smoothly, with the skill, camaraderie and spirit that has characterized all previous CTCC's back on display in 2022. Also deserving of mention are the Gold, Silver and Bronze level Sponsors, whose financial support is necessary to allow the CTCC to occur.

The competition itself occurs in two stages. All climbers participate in the Preliminary Rounds, in which they are scored in 5 separate preliminary events. These five preliminary round events are:

- The Ascent Event
- Throwline Accuracy
- Belayed Speed Climb
- Work Climb
- Aerial Rescue

After the results of this first round of competition have been determined, the top three climbers from Connecticut are selected to participate in the Master's Challenge, from which the Connecticut Tree Climbing Competition winner is chosen.

For additional details regarding this year's competition, including the full results from the Preliminary Round as well as the list of sponsors, please visit the Update Section of the CTPA website.

The Master's Challenge

The three competitors selected for the 2022 Master's Challenge were:

- Tim Reynolds
- Kyle Donaldson
- Jake Slade

In the Master's Challenge, three work stations are placed in a large tree, and climbers move through the tree completing assigned tasks. The competitors are scored on the basis of skill as well as speed as they complete the tasks during the Master's Challenge. Each competitor has 20 minutes in which to complete his climb. The competitor's climb is not considered as completed until all gear, including all ropes, have been removed from the tree.

This year, the Master's Challenge was held in a large red oak. The climb was made interesting as, following a day of very cool and pleasant weather, in the late afternoon the sky become increasingly darker, the wind picked up and the air got a bit chilly. It was not until the last competitor, Jake Slade, was ready to climb that the rain actually started to fall. The judges, after conferring, decided that, until there was concern about lightning in the area, the competition would continue until its conclusion, with Jake climbing in the rain.

The order of finish in the Master's Challenge for 2022, with each climber score, is as follows:

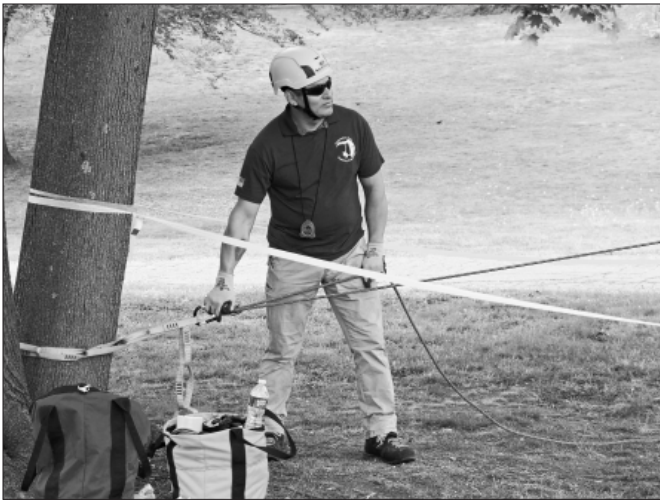
- Jake Slade – 254.00 points
- Tim Reynolds – 241.00 points
- Kyle Donaldson – 210.33 points

With that result, Jake Slade was declared the 2022 Connecticut Tree Climbing Competition Champion.



Competition Organizer Bud Neal shows Jake Slade the pewter Championship Cup that is now his, as his dad, David Slade, looks on.

Scenes from the 2022 CTCC



Running the belay line for the Speed Climb. The Climber is attached to the line for safety, to prevent falls during the climb.



During the Speed Climb, halfway up. This year's Speed Climb was held in a large down redwood.



Limb walking during the Work Climb. Within the Work Climb Tree, various stations are setup for the climber to reach.



Beginning the Ascent Event. This event has replaced the old Footlock Event, but still requires a climb straight up a line.



Setting a line during the Throwline Accuracy Event. Scores are based on both how quickly and accurately lines are set.



Jake Slade is congratulated as he finishes the Master Challenge. Jake's climb was the last of the day.

For more pictures taken during the CT Tree Climbing Competition, visit the Updates section of the CTPA website.

Jeff Ward Steps Down from His Position at CAES



Dr. Jeff Ward has retired from his current role with the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station. He will still be with the Station, but in a more-laid back manner, as an Emeritus Scientist. Jeff is well-known to members of CTPA, as he is to just about everyone involved with trees and forests throughout Connecticut. As Chief Scientist and Forester at the Experiment Station, he has long been a go-to resource within the State, with contributions that range from silviculture and forest dynamics to deer browse and the spread of invasive plants. People who have worked with Jeff over the years have learned quickly that he is both highly knowledgeable and very generous, and that he is a good person to keep in touch with.

Among Jeff's contributions to CTPA, he served on the Board from 1999 through 2007, including as President in 2004 and

2005. Jeff's contributions to the Association were always hands-on and elbows deep. To give just one example, he taught Tree Biology in Arboriculture 101 for over a decade. However, Jeff always mentioned that his most personally satisfying accomplishment was the establishment of the annual CTPA Arborist Scholarship.

As the Experiment Station Forester, he was also an ex officio member (and unofficial Secretary) of the Tree Protection Examining Board, from 1997 until his retirement this spring – a period that covered 99 meetings of that body, during which 1550 candidates were examined and 986 Arborist Licenses issued.

These accomplishments were achieved alongside of his many other contributions to forests and forestry, within Connecticut and on the regional and national stage. The many diverse topics in forests and forestry that his work touched on are all outlined on his web page on the CAES website.

Jeff's retirement is well-deserved. At the same time, Jeff was very careful to ensure that, as he stepped away from his extensive responsibilities, he left things in good order and in good hands. Jeff, your efforts and your contributions have been much appreciated over the years – now, have more of that fun that you have been promising yourself!

Updates Regarding the Tree Protection Examining Board (TPX)

Along with Jeff Ward's retirement, other changes in staff are underway within the Tree Protection Examining Board. Dr. Jim LaMondia has also retired from the CT Agricultural Experiment Station. As a result of these two retirements, Dr. Susanna Keriö and Dr. Bob Marra have been appointed to the Board as ex officio representatives of the Station, representing the Station Forester and Station Pathologist, respectively. This is as called for in State Statute.

Christy Hass, who had been Chair of the TPX, has also stepped down, with her role as Chair now taken up by Annie Mixsell. Also remaining on the Board is Kathy Ferrier. Together, Annie and Kathy fill the “practicing arborist” positions that are called for in the law. Names of candidates to fill the three “public member” positions have been forwarded to DEEP and to the Governor's office, with no decision having been made at the time of writing.

This change in personnel on the TPX board coincides with changes in staff at DEEP, with the retirement of Linda Schmidt being particularly notable. Kate Scimeca has taken on Linda's former responsibilities. As did Linda, Kate is working closely with the members of TPX. In particular, Kate and the members of TPX are making efforts to ensure that the information is clear and readily available regarding what a candidate should know in order to become licensed and what the process of licensing entails. While there are no major changes along these lines, new versions of standards have been published and e-licensing has had an influence on the procedures. These will be updated on-line as needed.



Board Members Doug Pistawka, Jeff Ward and Don Parrott after the 2006 Arbor Day Tree Planting Celebration.

CTPA's Summer Meeting (continued)

address the topic of **Milling Wood from Backyard Trees**. Tom, who has great deal of personal experience in this subject, will tackle it from many perspectives, including what one needs to know as he or she goes about cutting a log from a tree, such milling considerations as sawing for grade and how to saw for specific products. Additional practical considerations, including the importance of planning for the marketing of products, will also be discussed.

These later morning talks will also be repeated, starting at 2:30 pm.

The New Spanish-language Sessions

New this year, CTPA is introducing educational sessions in Spanish. The inaugural sessions will focus on safety and will begin at 10 am, with a repeat session starting at 2:30 pm. These sessions will be led by Leo Roldan of SavATree, who will address the question: **The Incidental Line Clearance Arborist and the Qualified Line Clearance Arborist – What is the Difference?**

Leo is the district safety-trainer coordinator in Mamaroneck, NY for SavATree. In this role, he oversees training for the district's arborists, many of whom are Spanish speaking. He has earned his Certified Treecare Safety Professional (CTSP) credential (he was the only Spanish-speaking participant in his class 11 years ago) and is eager to encourage companies to help their Spanish-speaking employees with safety training.

What Else the Summer Meeting Has to Offer

While previous attendees of the CTPA Summer Meeting know how valuable the educational sessions are, these sessions are not the only thing that the Summer Meeting has going for it. Great food, great company and a chance to see the latest in tree care equipment and services are among the other reasons for taking a break and spending a mid-summer day at the Farmington Club. The Summer Meeting lunch is rightly famous, but to suggest that the food offerings are restricted to lunch is not doing the day justice. From the chili and clam chowder in the morning to the burgers and ice cream at the end of the day – there is no way anyone could go away hungry from this meeting. More important than the food, however, is the chance to catch up with the cream of Connecticut's tree care community. A typical Summer Meeting will draw somewhere around 600 or 700 attendees. Last year, in a fortunate break in the spread of COVID, CTPA had over 725 people attend. This year's meeting will once again provide an excellent opportunity to renew acquaintances, share stories and get caught up on who's doing what within the welcoming world of tree care. Further, as it is our Centennial Year, a display celebrating 100 years of CTPA and tree care will be set up.

The meeting is an opportunity to hear from the experts, even outside of the educational sessions. The Summer Meeting includes a large trade show, with representatives from many of the equipment manufacturers, suppliers, service representatives and support organizations that are important to tree care in Connecticut. This is a chance to see new tools, restock supplies and get the latest inside news as to what may be coming down the road.

As mentioned, attendees of the educational sessions are eligible to earn CEU's for attending up to 4 of the offered educational sessions. Altogether, each attendee has the opportunity to earn up to 5.0 CEU's towards their CT Arborist license. 2.0 CEU's towards their CT Forest Practitioner Certification, 5.0 CEU's towards their Advanced Certified Tree Warden Credential, 1.25 CEU's towards their TCIA CTSP credential for the Safety talk in English and 1.25 CEU's for the Safety talk in Spanish. For further details regarding the meeting, including registration details, please visit the CTPA web site: <https://ctpa.org>.

Comment on The Arborist License

Over the course of my 35 year involvement with the Arborist License, I have seen how this license and arboriculture in general have come to be held in great esteem by many members of the public at large, who see it as the right way to care for trees in almost all non-forest situations and on most private and public properties. This was brought home to me in the recent legislative session, when legislators and the public called for DEEP, the state agency charged with care for the environment, to be required to hire arborists in the care of trees on DEEP lands.

This situation includes a degree of irony, considering DEEP's role in issuing and administering the Arborist License. At the same time, that the license is perceived as this important makes a statement about the success of the licensing effort over its now 100 year-plus history. With this success and public trust, however, comes great responsibility. It is essential that individual arborists display integrity, vision, professionalism and a commitment to be always moving the field forward, in concert with the latest findings and scientific understandings, if we are to meet this trust being placed in us.

I think of all of this as something important for CTPA to note in our Centennial Year. Somehow, this result, 100 years later, seems to be very much in harmony with what the founders were thinking in the early years of the 1920's. Nicely done, then and now.

- Chris Donnelly

Legislative Updates

This past legislative session, while a short one, was of interest to the CTPA Board. One bill that caught the board members' attention was proposed bill SB 120. As originally raised, this bill would have prohibited the use of chlorpyrifos on golf courses and for nonagricultural use and would have restricted the nonagricultural use of neonicotinoids. In the Environment Committee, however, the bill was amended to fully eliminate almost all non-agricultural uses of neonicotinoids, with exceptions for pet care and veterinary use and for indoor plant care. Once on the floor, the bill was re-written again to call for the formation of a working group to determine whether there is in fact a need for additional restrictions on the use of neonicotinoids are needed. In one more twist, after further debate, the whole section concerning neonicotinoids was dropped from the bill. The final version, now Public Act 22-142, does not mention neonicotinoids at all and only references chlorpyrifos, which it prohibits from being used on golf courses and for non-agricultural and cosmetic uses. The Connecticut Environmental Council (CT-EC), of which CTPA is a member, was very helpful in steering this bill towards this final wording.

The second bill that caught the CTPA Board's attention had to do with DEEP's policy regarding the removal of trees in State Parks and Campgrounds. The background

of this bill is a bit complicated. The existing DEEP policy had its origin in the great number of dead and hazardous trees created on state lands following outbreaks of the spongy moth (aka gypsy moth) and emerald ash borer, coupled with the drought of some 5 years ago. As a matter of public safety, the state agency adopted an aggressive approach to tree removal, to help protect visitors to these very popular state properties.

However, in one state park – Housatonic Meadows in Cornwall – nearby residents and park visitors found the DEEP approach overly aggressive and sought to limit it, by requiring that no tree be removed within any State Park or campground without consultation with a licensed arborist first. Subsequent versions of the bill made it clear that the licensed arborist consulted could not be a DEEP employee. This would require the agency to seek outside input before implementing its maintenance efforts.

Ultimately, this bill was changed significantly. DEEP is now required to revise its policies on hazardous tree removals on these state properties and publish these revisions by August 1st. It must also develop policies for replanting trees that are removed. As codified in Section 17 of Public Act 22-143, DEEP must also submit a report on its hazardous trees policies and replanting efforts to the Legislature's Environment Committee by December 1st.

