



# THE CONNECTICUT ARBORIST

Volume XXX, Number I

Connecticut Tree Protective Association, Inc.

Summer 2019

## Exceptional Speakers at the CTPA Summer Meeting - July 18th

On July 18th, CTPA will host its Summer Meeting at the Farmington Club in Farmington. Already folks are looking forward to a great summer's day in the open air, with fantastic food, equally fine speakers and the large trade show that make up this time-honored summer tradition. The CTPA Board is hard at work guaranteeing its success.

The Educational Program that has been planned for this meeting is exceptionally solid. There will be four educational presentations in four separate time slots. Each program will be given twice so that everyone has a chance to hear each speaker. The Board has worked hard to ensure both variety and quality among the presentations.

### The List of Speakers

The morning program will kick-off with **Dr. Kevin T. Smith** of the US Forest Service. Dr. Smith's talk will be on "**Tree Infection and Wood Decay Following Storm Injury**". During this talk, Kevin will discuss the sophisticated survival strategies trees have evolved to cope with storm injury and other ways by which their defensive barriers are breached. Storms and injuries have been happening to trees for as long as there has been trees. Wood decay fungi and forest trees have an ongoing, if often contentious, coexistence. Decay fungi are opportunists. They take advantage of tree injury to infect and spread. Trees need to be on their toes if they

are to be able to resist the relentless pressure of these opportunists.

At the meeting, Dr. Smith will explore how trees respond to storm injury by compartmentalizing functional tissue and limiting the spread of infection. The information provided will help arborists work with storm-injured trees. Arborists will gain a better understanding of the fungi as they attempt to invade the tree and of the tree, as it attempts to stop these various fungi.

Kevin has worked as a plant physiologist for the US Forest Service in Durham, NH since 1986. In that time he has investigated the growth and defense processes of trees and the life activities of wood decay fungi. Dr. Smith has published more than 125 research and educational articles. He is a Lifetime Member of the Tree Ring Society and a Honorary Lifetime Member of the New Hampshire Arborist Association. He can also lay claim to a connection with Connecticut, as a 1976 graduate of Connecticut College, with a Bachelors in Botany. He then went on to complete his Masters at the University of New Hampshire and his PhD at the University of Georgia. Kevin's talk will be given in the Clubhouse at 9 am and repeated directly after lunch.

Following Kevin in the Clubhouse  
*continued on page 4*

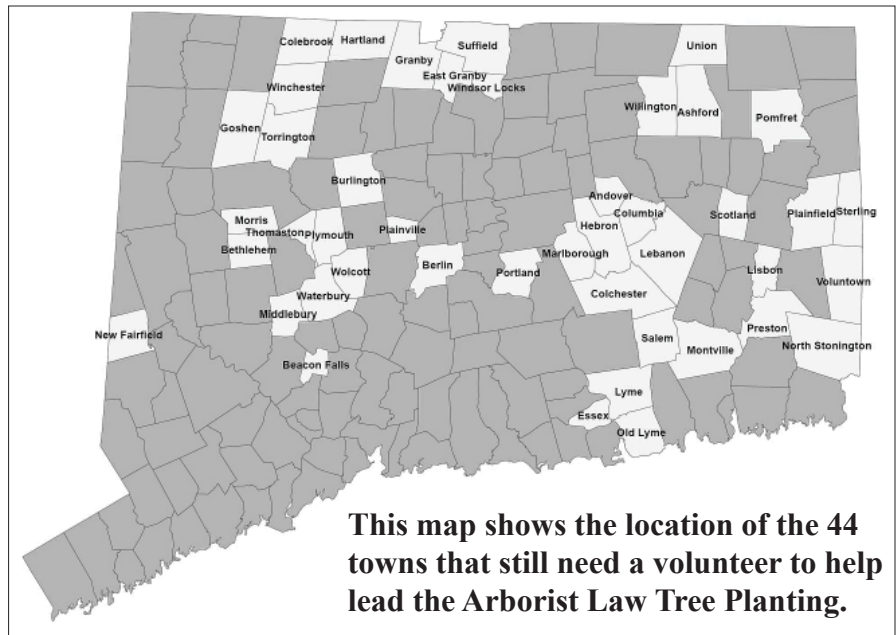


*Hailey Bond, Climber, and Chris Hollon of Kraneworks, Inc. a Gold Sponsor, meet at the CT Tree Climbing Competition. Read more on the CTCC on page 6.*

*CTPA Summer Meeting, July 18, 2019 - The Farmington Club, Farmington, CT*

# Plans to Celebrate the Centennial of the Arborist Law

In 1919 the Connecticut General Assembly, concerned about reports of unscrupulous individuals selling bogus tree cures and with the encouragement of the CT Agricultural Experiment Station and that of several of the most reputable tree care business and tree nursery owners in the state, passed a trailblazing tree protection law requiring the licensing of Tree Experts. That was Connecticut's, and perhaps the country's, first Arborist Law.



**This map shows the location of the 44 towns that still need a volunteer to help lead the Arborist Law Tree Planting.**

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*We advance the care of  
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CTPA's Web Site - [www.CTPA.org](http://www.CTPA.org)

CTPA continues to move forward with its plans to celebrate the Centennial of Connecticut's Arborist Law by planting a tree in each of the state's 169 cities and towns. CTPA has ordered the trees, white oaks from Planters' Choice Nursery, and Darryl Newman has let CTPA know that the trees are doing well and will be ready for planting in September. A sizeable list of volunteers, drawn from CTPA membership, has signed up and are busy working with the towns on the planting of these trees. Meanwhile, the CTPA office is preparing handouts and a press release to let people know why this event is of such importance to arborists and to inform people of the continued importance of the Arborist Law.

Here is the list of towns that, as of mid-June, do not yet have a volunteer signed up:

Andover	Goshen	New Fairfield	Sterling
Ashford	Granby	North Stonington	Suffield
Beacon Falls	Hartland	Old Lyme	Thomaston
Berlin	Hebron	Plainfield	Torrington
Bethlehem	Lebanon	Plainville	Union
Burlington	Lisbon	Plymouth	Voluntown
Colchester	Lyme	Pomfret	Waterbury
Colebrook	Marlborough	Portland	Willington
Columbia	Middlebury	Preston	Winchester
East Granby	Montville	Salem	Windsor Locks
Essex	Morris	Scotland	Wolcott

CTPA members who wish to sign up for one of the above towns should contact the CTPA office – your help will be very much appreciated.

Thank you all for your involvement.

Registrations are still being accepted for the Fall Session of Arboriculture 101. If you would like to enroll, please visit the CTPA website or call the CTPA office at 203-484-2512.

# Drop Zone Safety - An Important Topic for All in Tree Care

by Doug Pistawka, Vegetation Management Supervisor, Eversource and Steve Fassbender, Corporate Safety Supervisor, Lewis Tree Service

Drop zone accidents involving employees being struck by cut limbs and tree sections is an industry wide problem. Struck-by accidents are the most common cause of fatalities in the tree care industry, responsible for 39% of all deaths. The 2017 revision of the ANSI Z133 Safety Requirements for Arboricultural Operations addresses the issue, stating drop zones should be designated to protect or exclude people from active work sites (Section 3.4.6). Drop zones are the area below workers doing arboricultural operations while aloft, into which objects such as tree branches or trunk sections are to be dropped. These are areas where the potential exists for people on the ground to be struck by and sustain injuries from falling objects, including equipment dropped accidentally. Proper drop zone safety procedures require that a "Command and Response" protocol be established between the arborist working aloft and ground workers to ensure clear communication. For example, commands from the arborist aloft such as "Stand Clear" require that the ground personnel respond with the word "Clear" and with eye contact to confirm that both parties understand the communication that just took place. Non-verbal communication such as whistles, two-way hand signals or radio headsets may also be used.

Tree care companies are strongly encouraged to establish drop zone policies to eliminate struck by injuries in the workplace. In this, Lewis Tree Service has taken the lead. The company established the first Drop Zone Safety Policy and also contributed to the language, referenced above, that has been added to the ANSI Z133. Lewis' efforts have set the tone, as other tree care companies across the country have adopted similar policies. Drop zone policies establish predetermined areas surrounding trees where personnel are not allowed without 3 way communication. Under the policy, drop zones are clearly defined and marked with cones in a 360 degree perimeter surrounding the tree, typically using cones of a different color than the work zone cones. The cones are to be placed at an established distance from the planned operation. For example, for pruning, the cones must be a minimum of 10' from the drip line and, for removals from aloft, a minimum of 20' from the drip line. Zones are also to be established for tree felling, at a distance typically no less than twice the height of the tree. Ground personnel handling ropes involved in the felling are not allowed within a minimum distance of 1 ½ times the height of the tree.

## How Lewis Developed Their Drop Zone Policy

Lewis's Drop Zone Policy was written following an

accident. Lewis Corporate Safety Supervisor Steve Fassbender is sharing this incident with us below so we may benefit from the lessons learned. The accident occurred in 2008. It involved a crew that was working on the Duke Energy system near Cincinnati Ohio. The crew was a four man manual (climbing) type. They had just completed the maintenance work in an off road right of way for a 345KV transmission line. A few trees remained that were designated for removal. As the trees were at a road crossing, the crew was able to use a lift truck and chipper to remove them. At the starting location for the job, as they picked up the bucket truck, the crew noticed a young Lewis employee standing in the parking area. He had reported to the wrong starting location for the job he had been assigned to, missed his crew and now was hoping to get his hours in with this crew. After calling their General Foreman the manual crew was able to take this extra worker with them "just for the day". When they arrived at the work location they set up a work zone with signs and cones. It was decided to use the team leader and a crew member to act as flaggers, due to the winding and downhill location.

As soon as they were set up with the truck in position to start work on a 60 foot oak tree, this "extra man" started the chipper. Because there had not been any chippable material generated yet, the rest of the crew found this odd and asked him why he was in such a hurry. They also noticed that he appeared to be high-strung and excitable. He stated that he just liked to be ready. As soon as there was some brush on the ground, he wanted to chip it immediately. After they watched him dart in and out between the cuts that were being made and the

*continued on page 4*



*Removing or pruning trees is inherently dangerous, especially when it involves releasing large pieces of wood from a height.*

## Drop Zone Safety - An Important Topic in Tree Care (continued)

wood being dropped from the bucket, he was repeatedly advised to wait until after the bucket operator descended before he was to retrieve and chip brush and small logs. He persisted regardless. After the bucket operator notched and dropped a few 5 to 7 foot long sections, he then made an angled (slash type) cut. Unfortunately, the anxious ground person thought he had the time to step into the fall zone and grab a few branches. As he did this a freely dropped log section approximately six feet long and eight inches in diameter bounced off of the banked terrain below the tree and stuck the employee in the neck and shoulder area, causing severe injuries. The crew members tried to save him by stopping the major bleeding but, despite their valiant efforts, they were not successful. The injuries ultimately proved to be fatal. The employee was only 19 years old.

Later that day, an employee called the General Foreman to report that the bucket operator involved in the incident was threatening to commit suicide. He felt that it was his fault that the ground person didn't listen when cautioned and that his failure to get the message across is what cost the ground person his life. That threat was prevented, but

the ensuing OSHA investigation resulted in very serious emotional issues with all the crew members. The bucket operator left the company and returned to his home country. It was a very hard lesson for the company to learn about the need to have a solid job plan and to stick with it. Also, it underscored the importance of being able to call an "ALL STOP" anytime risky behavior or unsafe conditions are being observed.

I have personally observed Steve at safety meetings deliver his heartfelt description of the incident that occurred that fateful day and the effect that it has had on the employee's family, friends and co-workers. These effects are deep, personal and never-ending. This is what gives life to a safety policy that might otherwise seem just another rule to follow.

This story has stuck with me. Please - take ownership of your company's safety program and take the initiative to implement and monitor a Drop Zone Policy. Establish clear expectations and protocols for your new and inexperienced employees as well as your seasoned veterans. It just may help prevent an accident and could save a life.

## The Summer Meeting Overview (continued)

will be **Mark Bays**, Urban Forestry Coordinator with the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry. It is a great honor for CTPA to host Mark as he delivers his talk on "**The Legacy of the Oklahoma City Survivor Tree**". On April 19, 1995, one of the worst terrorist attacks in US history occurred in Oklahoma City. An American elm in the heart of the city survived this bomb attack and so became a symbol of strength, resilience and hope among the many people who needed something strong and solid to hold onto coming out of this horror.

The responsibility for nurturing this tree following the blast fell to Mark. What was needed was more than a simple tree protection plan, as there were a range of competing interests and ideas regarding this tree. Law enforcement officers originally wanted to take the tree down to be used as evidence. Others felt that this tree should remain - it had survived something terrible and so has something to say about the bomb attack on behalf of those who did not. Bays developed a plan to save the tree and has taken it on as his project for the last twenty-four years.

This is a story of how a tree can come to mean so much for so many. As the city came to grips with what had befallen it, it was determined that there should be a Memorial to those who lost their lives as well for those

who were determined to survive and rebuild. The Survivor Tree was given a prominent place within this Memorial. To Mark, this meant working with architects, landscape designers, city, state and federal officials, and more. It also meant working with the survivors of the blast itself along with the relatives of those who lost people they loved and with the everyday citizens who themselves shared deeply in this terrible event.

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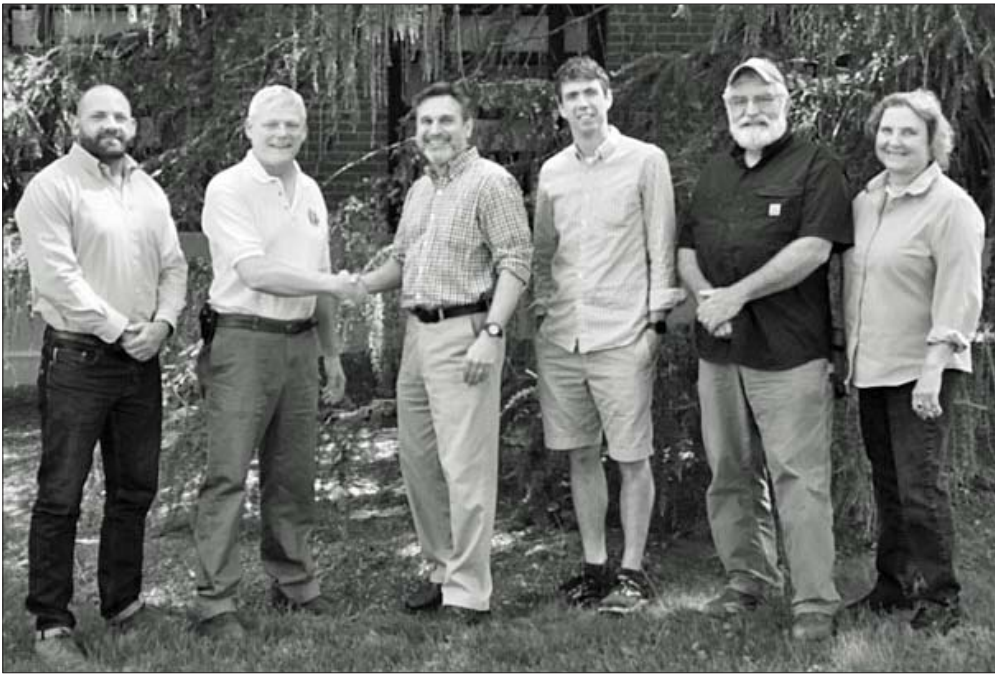
### CTPA T-shirts.



*Look for more CTPA t-shirts at the Summer Meeting.*

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## News from the University of Connecticut



In the picture, left to right, are Carter Peck, CTPA Board Member, Allan Fenner, current CTPA President, Jason Vokoun, Professor and Head of the Department of Natural Resources and the Environment, Robert Fahey, Assistant Professor in Applied Forest Ecology, Thomas Worthley, Associate Extension Professor in Forest Management, and Sandra Bushmich, Associate Dean and Director of the Ratcliffe Hicks School of Agriculture.

The above photo commemorates the first donation made by the Connecticut Tree Protective Association to the University of Connecticut. This donation will be used towards the development of a new major in the field of Arboriculture and Urban Forestry. This major will be a 2 year Associate of Applied Science degree and will be within the Ratcliffe Hicks School of Agriculture. CTPA's donation will be used to fund an adjunct instructor for the new Fundamentals of Arboriculture course, to be given for the first time this fall. That course, along with a second course in Urban and Community Forestry, will be the cornerstone of the new major. CTPA has agreed to fund the instruction of these two new courses initially while the major builds. This allows the University time to seek a larger endowed fund that can be used to secure adjunct instruction in perpetuity.

Adjunct instruction is seen as key to maintaining a tight connection between the major and the industry it is being created to serve. *(Photo and article are courtesy of Jason Vokoun.)*

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### UConn Professor Dr. Robert Fahey is Awarded the 2019 Hyland R. Johns Grant

In mid-June, the TREE Fund announced its Spring 2019 Grants and Awards. At the top of the list, as recipient of the Hyland R. Johns Grant, was Dr. Robert Fahey, of the University of Connecticut. Bob is receiving this award to begin work on a project entitled “Monitoring and Modeling Changes in Street Tree Communities over Time”. The project will focus on street trees in Philadelphia. In this project, street tree plots first measured in 2015 will be re-measured and analyzed. The goal of the research is, first, to characterize how Philadelphia’s street trees have changed over a five-year period, and then, second, use this analysis as the basis from which to predict future changes.

The research will model the change in the street tree community based on the observed tree growth and death rates for the various size classes of trees. The models will then be used to project what the street tree population changes might be over a five- to twenty-year time horizon. The likely effects of site and tree characteristics on street tree mortality and growth will also be assessed. Variables to be considered as possibly related to tree growth and mortality include initial tree size, initial tree health, species, drought tolerance, site type, land use, presence of stewardship groups, human population density, median housing value, and median income.

The intent of the Hyland R. Johns Grant Program is to support research that directly affects the work of the industry’s professionals. This study is intended to have direct applications to municipal forestry. Through this work, city foresters will gain a greater understanding how the various factors affecting street tree communities interact in shaping the future of those tree communities. One anticipated outcome of the project will be a freely available toolkit that will enable municipal foresters to project survival and growth in their urban forests using local inventory data and knowledge of the many factors included in the study.

# The Connecticut Tree Climbing Competition

On May 11, the 15th Annual Connecticut Tree Climbing Competition was held in New Haven, in the College Woods section of East Rock Park. 29 Climbers participated - 26 men and 3 women. Many thanks to the number of volunteers who donated their time and more to help make the day a success. Thanks, as well, to all the people who turned out to watch. Finally, thanks to the City of New Haven, for being such a gracious host.



*One of the preliminary events involves setting a series of throwlines. It takes patience and quickness, simultaneously.*



*One changed event this year is the Ascent Event, replacing the Footlock. Kate Odell is the first to give it a try.*



*The work climb often involves stretching out a few extra inches, letting you ring the bell and gain additional points.*



*A mid-climb adjustment in the climbing line is often called for and needs to be done cleanly, quickly and safely.*



*Completing a work climb, as the timers and judges look on. Climbers are looking to hit a target on their dismount.*

## **Congratulations to the CTCC Winners**

The results of this year's Masters Challenge:

### **Men's Competition**

First Place – Kyle Donaldson, Danielson, CT

Second Place – Tim Reynolds, Oakville, CT

Third Place – Russell Plumb, South Kent, CT

### **Women's Competition**

First Place – Hailey Bond, Brookfield, CT

Second Place – Kate Odell, Norwalk, CT

Third Place – Cassandra Bryant, Stratford, CT

Congratulations, all, on a great competition!

## CTPA Summer Meeting Overview (continued)

At its core, though, this project is an arboricultural challenge. This tree is a survivor, yes, because it survived being directly struck by a bomb blast, but also because it survived 90 years of living in a gritty urban environment. Could it also survive now, given all of the attention being paid to it?

This was Mark's challenge. This presentation will be given twice at the meeting, both in the morning and in the afternoon. Mark has a degree in Forest Management from Oklahoma State University (1982) and has been with the Oklahoma Forestry Service since 1992.

The above two talks will be given indoors, in the Clubhouse. At the same time, two talks will be given out of doors, with a more field oriented focus.

The first of these talks will be on **"Drop Zone Origination and Development - Does Everyone Need One and Why?"** This talk will be presented by **Stephen Fassbender** of Lewis Tree Service. One reason why tree risk is dangerous is that it involves dropping heavy pieces of wood to the ground from a high height. Statistics regarding tree workers safety consistently rate injury or death due to "struck-bys" among the top hazards faced by tree care workers.

How Lewis Tree Service became so determined to act regarding tree work drop zones is outlined in a separate article within this newsletter. Unfortunately, as is too often the case, the company's concern was converted into action because of a tragic event that affected people in the company deeply. Steve is sharing this story so that others can see why and might also take steps to prevent any sort of similar accident from happening to them.

Steve grew up near Philadelphia, PA and has been a nature and tree lover all of his life. He has over 45 years of experience in arboriculture, working in both private tree care and utility line clearance for companies including Asplundh and Bartlett Tree Experts. Since from 2001, Steve has been with Lewis Tree Service. Over his career, he has spent 30 years as a climber and 15 years as a General Foreman in utility line clearance. In 1997, he moved to Scotland, CT with his wife and his 3 now-grown children.

Currently, Steve holds the title of Corporate Safety Supervisor for Lewis Tree. Steve says that, in addition to everything else, safety has been his focus his entire career. He looks forward to sharing with CTPA's members how he worked with Lewis Tree in the development of the Drop Zone Safety program.

The fourth speaker will be **Aaron Dickenson**, talking on **"Arboriculture Below Ground"**. A presenter at an ISA meeting several years ago made the comment that arboriculture in the twentieth century has largely

been about what the tree is doing above ground, while arboriculture in the twenty-first century will largely be about what is happening with the tree below ground.

Aaron's talk will strike a similar note. As he describes it, in the urban environment trees and shrubs typically grow in soils that are nutrient poor, lack natural soil biology and are likely compacted. Too often, the response to these poor soil conditions is to apply fertilizers, based on the understanding that this will allow the tree to take up more nutrients. During his presentation, Aaron will explore changing the approach to one that seeks to restore the natural processes of decomposition and soil biology in these damaged soils, providing a healthy soil for our landscape trees to grow in.

Aaron is perhaps best known to CTPA members for his work with Rainbow Tree Care. In recent years, he has been very helpful in spreading the word on the emerald ash borer, including on treatment options. Since then, Aaron has taken his expertise in trees and arboriculture into establishing his own tree consulting and specialty tree care company, Arborology LLC. Aaron is an ISA Certified Arborist, Board Certified Master Arborist, Registered Consulting Arborist with ASCA and is certified as an Arborist in Massachusetts and licensed in Connecticut and Rhode Island.

These programs will be top-notch this year. Still, the CTPA Summer Meeting is never just about the educational talks. There is the trade show, including the large field display area where equipment and services of all sizes and sorts are on display. There is the food, which is plentiful and excellent. And, above all, there is the camaraderie. All of this makes the CTPA Summer Meeting a great way to spend a great day in July.

To register, visit the CTPA web site or contact the CTPA office. CEU's are available in the following categories: CT Arborist (3D) – 5.0 CEU's, (3A) -2.5 CEU's, CT Forest Practitioners – 2.0 CEU's, Advanced Certified Tree Wardens – 5.0 CEU's, ISA – 5.0 CEU's and TCIA CTSP – 1.25 CEU's.

We look forward to seeing you there!



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## Updates

- A new edition of the "**Pesticide Guide Towards Integrated Insect Management for Connecticut Arborists**" has now been published. Copies will be available for purchase at the CTPA Summer Meeting. This comprehensive publication lists all of the major insects that infest trees in Connecticut, along with their host plants, pest survey information, control stages, timing, and the list of approved chemical options. The original version was created in 1992 by Ken Welch at the CT Ag Experiment Station. This current version is the result of a lot of hard work by **Rose Hiskes**, at the Valley Lab of CAES. Rose will also be at the CTPA Summer Meeting.
- Included in this new edition are references to pollinator protection and, in particular, to the neonicotinoids listed in the 2016 pollinator health statute.
- An on-line version of the Guide is available on the CAES web site at: <https://www.ipm.caes.ct.gov/default.aspx>. The online version is very good for downloading reports on individual insects.
- The folks at the Experiment Station and APHIS are putting the **Spotted Lanternfly** in the spotlight, concerned that this may be the year that this insect shows up in Connecticut. Look for information on this insect on the CAES web site and also on the DEEP website, at [www.ct.gov/deep/spottedlanternfly](http://www.ct.gov/deep/spottedlanternfly).



*This has been a difficult year for many trees with foliar diseases, most notably the sycamores. The cool wet spring has led to ideal conditions for a prolonged outbreak of sycamore anthracnose.*

Note - the CT Agricultural Experiment Station website has been updated and moved. It is now located at <https://portal.ct.gov/caes>.

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