



THE CONNECTICUT ARBORIST

Volume XXXIII, Number 2

Connecticut Tree Protective Association, Inc.

Winter 2023/2024

CTPA Annual Meeting - Thursday, January 18th

On Thursday, January 18th, CTPA will hold its 2024 Annual Meeting. This meeting brings together CTPA members and others involved in tree care from Connecticut and throughout the region, as the Association kicks off the 102nd year as a pre-eminent tree educational organization.

The day features 3 main educational talks, along with a trade show and updates from the CTPA Board, the CT DEEP and the CT Agricultural Experiment Station. During the day, the Association will also present the Award of Merit and the Arborist Citation, alongside the Arborist Scholarship. All of this, along with a great lunch, will make for a very full day.

Business Meeting Talk: Brian Fain, Ferguson and McQuire Insurance

At the end of the business meeting in the morning, before the first talk begins, Brian Fain from Ferguson and McQuire Insurance will be speaking for 15 minutes on how to compete with non-compliant operators.

The Educational Events: Restoring Pitch Pine in Connecticut.

The first educational event of the day will be by Emery Gluck, retired CT Statelands Forester from DEEP. Mr. Gluck will be speaking about pitch pine (*Pinus rigida*), a tree with historic significance, once a common tree in much of Connecticut. Now, pitch pine /scrub oak barrens are one of Connecticut's thirteen imperiled ecosystems with over 95% of its original area lost. It is Connecticut's most impacted terrestrial ecosystem.

Trees are being lost at an alarming rate and they are not adequately sustaining new generations under current natural conditions. Especially with the expansion of the Southern Pine Beetle range into Connecticut, reviving a viable population will take an active hand.

Emery was a field forester for Connecticut DEP and DEEP Division of Forestry for 41 years, working mostly at Cockaponset State Forest and Nehantic State Forests but also at Pachaug State Forest and a few wildlife management areas. Most of his work involved managing biodiversity by emphasizing oaks, pitch pine, and wildlife habitats that are not sustaining themselves under current natural conditions. This was done by implementing management plans that involve prescribed fires, cutting of smaller trees and administering commercial timber harvests. The job also involved working on wildfires in Connecticut and in the Western U.S. He has authored several articles in Connecticut Woodlands, Connecticut Wildlife, and Northern Woodlands on forest history and management. In retirement, he is giving presentations and tours to land trusts and college classes as well as managing his wife's and his woodlands.

This educational session will run from 9 until 10:00 am.



*Dr. Richard Cowles and Dr. Dan Herms
2023 Annual Meeting Speakers*

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We Advance the Care of Connecticut's Trees

Electrical Hazards Awareness Program Workshop

The Electrical Hazards Awareness Workshop was held on November 2, 2023 at the Eversource Berlin campus. It was a sold-out workshop with 110 people in attendance. The CTPA holds this workshop each year and considers it one of its staple workshops. The day started with David Ross leading the morning sessions and continued with Doug Pistawka demonstrating the spark box. Marianne Bonito from Federal OSHA gave a talk about safety in arboriculture, using recent cases in Connecticut as examples. There was also a very helpful question-and-answer session with Marianne. Emmett Shutts, Davey Tree Experts, rounded out the day with an interactive presentation that kept everyone on their toes.

The Safety Committee is dedicated to safety education and looks forward to hosting the EHAP workshop in the fall of 2024. The committee meets three times a year. If you are interested in learning more about the Safety Committee or would like to come to a committee meeting, please contact Emmett Shutts at emmettshutts@gmail.com. The next committee meeting will be this spring and they will start planning the safety talk for the summer meeting. If you have any suggestions for a safety talk please email Emmett Shutts.

CONNECTICUT TREE PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION

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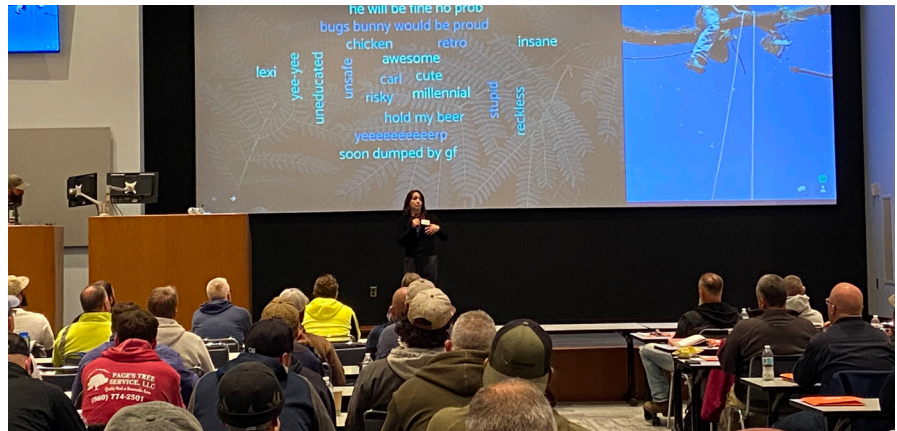
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*We advance the care of
Connecticut's trees.*

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Association

CTPA's Web Site - www.CTPA.org



Marianne Bonito, Federal OSHA, giving a presentation to the attendees at the EHAP Workshop 2023



Bud Neal Presenting Jake Slade with the Connecticut Tree Climbing Competition Master Challenge Winner Mug for 2023

Arboriculture 101

Arboriculture 101 remains a popular course for those who want to learn about arboriculture and possibly get their CT Arborist License. This continued this past fall with 43 people enrolled in the class and a few people coming back to sit through the classes for a second time. The session went well, with instructors giving informative classes and the students being enthusiastically engaged. As Dr. Claire Rutledge tells students, “You are getting an entire semester in one night”.

In addition to the lectures, Doug Pistawka gave his bi-annual tree identification tree walk. It is always a highlight of the session to be able to walk around Edgeton Park for a few hours and learn how to identify trees. Even if you have done the tree walk before, you learn something new each time.

We always encourage students to take the exam soon

after taking the class. This session, a couple of students took the written exam before the session was over and were successful!

Chris Donnelly continues to be at the helm of the course. He organizes the instructors, makes sure that the material is up to date and relevant. Most of all Chris makes each student feel like they are in a place where they can ask any question and that all questions are important. He helps create an comfortable atmosphere where students want to learn as much as possible about arboriculture. Arbor 101 would not be where it is without Chris. We thank him for his incredible dedication.

The next session starts January 4, 2024 for another 13 weeks. The session is sold out. The September 2024 session registration will open in March. Please go to www.ctpa.org to register.



Welcome Srikanth Kodati, Ph.D.



Srikanth Kodati, Ph.D. recently joined the UConn Cooperative Extension staff as Assistant Extension Educator for pesticide safety and crop protection. In this position, Sri is responsible for pesticide safety education programs and will also develop applied research and Extension projects on integrated pest management. This will include arboriculture. CTPA members first got a chance to meet Sri at this past year's Summer Meeting, where he introduced himself and expressed his interest in becoming involved in CTPA educational programs.

Since then, Dr. Kodati has been making contributions to Arboriculture 101, by assisting in class lectures and in Review Night. He is also involved in UConn's Ornamental and Turf Online Short Course, for those seeking to prepare themselves for the 3A Supervisory Pesticide license. Sri has expressed great interest in further involvement in other educational and outreach efforts to come, as well as in getting to know the professional practitioners in these fields. Sri received his bachelor's degree from Acharya N.G Ranga Agricultural

University in Hyderabad, India, and his Ph.D. in Plant Pathology from University of Nebraska-Lincoln. His doctoral studies focused on the diversity and management of root rot diseases of soybean. Before coming to the United States, he worked as a product development officer for a chemical company, which allowed him extensive contact with farmers and their concerns. Prior to his current role with UConn, Sri worked as a postdoctoral researcher in the UConn Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture.

New Member Portal for 2024

Over the course of this past year, the association has been working on bringing to the members a new level of service, through the "Member Portal" on the [CTPA website](#). It took 9 months, but the project is finally done and went live on December 5, 2023.

Through this portal, members will be able to be much more closely involved in association activities. Through CTPA Member365, as this service is also called, members will be able to receive notices and updates, pay their dues, update their personal information such as mailing address, and otherwise stay in close touch with the association. Most of the initial effort in Member365 is in getting the dues collecting procedures organized. However, we do look forward to being able to use this portal to provide members with greater contact regarding activities of CTPA Committees, with committee members able to share information directly through this part of the website.

We understand that this form of keeping track of information will come with a learning curve and we are here to help in any way we can. If you have an email address on record, you should have received a welcome email with your login and password information for the portal. This information will allow you to access your account and contact information and change that information at any time. If you are a member without an email address on record, you will be receiving a letter in the mail explaining the CTPA's new membership platform and asking you to call the office and give an email address so the association

can communicate with you.

Please give the Members Portal a try! When you do, make sure that you update your communication preferences, as by default they are turned off.

If you have any questions or concerns, you can email Cathy at cathy@ctpa.org or call the office at 203. 484. 2512. Your comments and suggestions regarding the Member365 Portal are welcome.



*The Current Board of Directors.
Missing from picture are Bud Neal and Kevin Wyatt.*

Save the Date

Summer Meeting 2024, July 18, 2024
Farmington Polo Club

Urban Forestry Program Funding in Connecticut – What an Arborist Might Like to Know

Recently, the funding for urban forestry in Connecticut has improved significantly. Prior to the 2020's, the statewide program could be said to be run 'on a shoestring'. That changed in 2021, when first the State of Connecticut and then the Federal Government began adding greatly to the funding available for public urban forestry projects.

This flow of funds should be of interest to arborists and others. The purpose of this funding is to increase projects on the ground – projects such as tree planting, maintenance and inventories, with a focus on the role that trees can play in dealing with the effects of climate change, improving public health conditions, environmental quality, and so on. In the end, the goal is to make positive change at the local level. This effort will require expertise and commitment if it is to be done right.

DEEP Funding

The first major infusion of funding came at the direction of Commissioner Katie Dykes, head of CT DEEP. In early 2021, she directed that \$1 million of the funds collected through the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative be applied to urban forestry. Of this funding, 60% was directed to the University of Connecticut to help provide work-related experience to young people with a career interest in urban forestry. The other 40% was awarded to the CT Urban Forest Council (CUFC) so that the Council could, in turn, award smaller grants to municipalities and non-profit groups seeking to conduct urban forestry projects throughout the state. See News Release: [DEEP Announces Urban Forest Equity and Resilience Grant Program \(ct.gov\)](#)

The Commissioner established these programs with a very specific goal in mind. With respect to the grants to be provided through the CUFC,

the funding commitment required that selected projects combine urban forestry with efforts to reduce the causes and/or effects of climate change at the local level. In addition, these projects must address concerns related to social justice and environmental equity issues, such as reduced tree canopy cover in communities associated with past social and economic inequalities. Community involvement in these projects is also essential. This approach, promoting the importance of trees as relates to environmental, climate-related and social issues, has become something of a theme in the current wave of urban forestry grant funding opportunities.

Regarding these secondary grants, the CUFC has taken the ball and run with it. Over the past 2 years, it has made available more than \$400,000 in grants, funding 15 projects in municipalities that range from the larger cities (Bridgeport, Hartford and New Haven) to towns and small cities such as Enfield, Ansonia and Willimantic. Projects have included educational outreach (Ansonia), the planting of trees in a business district (Enfield) and the screening of lower income housing along transportation corridors (Greenwich, through the Greenwich Tree Conservancy).

Funding from the Federal Government

The next wave of money came through the US Congress and the current Presidential Administration. Within the Inflation Reduction Act passed by Congress was \$1.5 billion for urban forestry, with close to \$1 billion to be awarded to non-profit groups and municipalities. The results of this funding effort was announced this past October, with some \$15.442 million being allocated to Connecticut cities and non-profits. The largest single recipient of this funding in Connecticut is the City of Hartford, which has been awarded \$6 million for its Capitol Forest Stewardship Initiative.

As described in the write-up, "This project addresses dead/dangerous tree conditions, extreme heat, and deteriorated public parks in disadvantaged communities (in Hartford). Additionally, this project expands community opportunities for training within the green workforce." Other cities and groups receiving funding include New Haven, Norwalk, Stamford, Stratford, Groundwork Bridgeport, New Haven Urban Resources Initiative and The Nature Conservancy. More complete descriptions can be found at [Urban and Community Forestry Grants - 2023 Grant Awards | US Forest Service \(usda.gov\)](#).

DEEP's Urban Forestry Grant Program

The Urban Forestry Program within DEEP has itself received additional funding from the federal government to enable it to continue to play the leadership role that has been assigned to the agency. This additional funding includes \$2.63 million in IRA funding to be dispersed through the state program, along with additional funds from the COVID relief funding package and the program's regular allocation from the US Forest Service. In addition to using this funding to provide various grant funding opportunities, the state agency is also using these funds to create additional staffing positions in urban forestry, including that of a second urban forester to assist Danica Doroski, the current state Urban Forestry Coordinator.

The list of DEEP grants relating to urban forestry are listed on the DEEP website: [Urban Forestry Grant Opportunities \(ct.gov\)](#). These include individual grant opportunities relating to urban forestry planning and inventories, tree canopy cover in disadvantaged communities, tree removal and planting projects as relates to insect and disease outbreaks and the fostering of urban natural areas.

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DEEP expects these grants to remain for years to come as an annual mainstay of the urban forestry program.

The Role for Private Sector Arborists

All of which can be good news for those practicing arboriculture and urban forestry as professionals in the private sector. Several of the larger tree care companies have already recognized the opportunity that the growth of urban forestry at the municipal level now provides for those in private practice. Companies such as Davey Tree Experts, Bartlett, Sav-A-Tree and Arbor Pro, as well as many individual consulting arborists, have already set up urban forestry consulting programs that are proving valuable to municipalities seeking advice and direction from well-qualified professionals. Along with the need for professionals to help implement projects, arborists can also be valuable in helping communities develop urban forestry grant ideas, assisting communities in putting together an application that will allow that community to take advantage of this funding. Oftentimes, the difference between a community that submits an application and receives funding and one that does not is the input of a knowing and engaged professional. Keep in mind, though, that a professional can only receive compensation from a grant for services supplied after the grant has been approved. Involvement in the development of a project is often as a volunteer contributor. However, the rewards for helping a community as it moves forward with its tree program is often well worth it.

USDA Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY GRANTS

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

\$1.5 Billion to Expand Tree Canopy and Access to Nature

100% of Benefits Will Flow to Communities in Greatest Need

Urban and Community Forestry Grants, authorized under the Inflation Reduction Act, provide funding to community-based organizations, Tribes, State and local agencies, public colleges and universities, and non-profits working to provide equitable access to trees and nature and the benefits they provide to urban communities.

1 Investing in a Healthier Future for America

385 grants were awarded to 50 states, 2 territories, 3 U.S.-affiliated Pacific Islands, and multiple Tribal communities with 100% of benefits flowing to those in greatest need.

2 Expanding Tree Canopy in our Communities

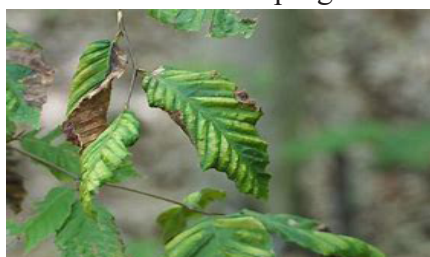
Benefiting cities, towns, villages, non-profit organizations, Tribes, community and faith-based organizations, and minority serving institutions.

3 The Benefits of Trees in our Communities

Trees mitigate extreme heat, conserve energy, provide shade, absorb storm water, create wildlife habitat, and filter air and water. An urban tree canopy leads to better health outcomes, economic opportunities and jobs, and increased property values.

4 Confronting the Growing Threat of Extreme Heat and Climate Change

July 2023 was the hottest month on record in communities around the country. Research has shown tree canopy cover reduces temperatures 11–19 °F compared to communities with no tree cover.



Beech Leaf Disease Workshop 2023

The Education committee held its second workshop of 2023. Beech Leaf Disease has been at the forefront in Connecticut. Because of this, Dr. Richard Cowles of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station gave this talk, which had about 100 attendees. He began the day by giving an overview of beech leaf disease biology and of the spread of beech leaf disease in North America. He also discussed the current research on this disease.

Next in his talk, Dr. Cowles discussed products available for managing BLD. This section touched on the mode of action of these products, risk of environmental harm, and strategies to avoid nematicide resistance. After lunch, Dr. Cowles led a session on how to extract nematodes from beech buds so arborist can learn how to track progress of treatment efforts.

The workshop was well received, and Dr. Cowles did an amazing job educating everyone on the latest science. Everyone in the class received a BLD Management Options sheet available on the CAES website.

Here is the link: [Beech Leaf Disease Management Options \(ct.gov\)](https://caes.ct.gov/BLD-Management-Options)

The Education Committee is looking forward to putting on more workshops in 2024.

Southern Pine Beetle Management for Urban Landscapes.

This presentation will be given by Polly L. Weigand, Science and Stewardship Program Manager, Westhampton, NY. Southern pine beetle is a neo-native bark beetle (SPB) which is killing hard pine species, especially pitch pine as it continues its northeastern advance due to warming winters. An overview of SPB's natural history, identification, and impact; the signs and symptoms of infestation and the recommended best management practices for urban and forested landscapes will help arborists, foresters, and land managers alike advance early detection of and rapid response to SPB, which is key to suppressing this little but mighty insect's costly impact while ensuring public safety.

Polly Weigand holds a master's degree in Urban Ecology from Hofstra University and is the Science and Stewardship Program Manager for the Central Pine Barrens Commission. In this multifaceted position, Polly is focused on managing ecosystem health. This includes tracking southern pine beetle and oak wilt and engaging with emerging issues such as invasive species encroachment within rare and endangered ecosystems; helping advance restorations of areas impacted by illegal clearing, dumping and encroachments; and supporting continued research and monitoring to better understand the region's ecology overall. The most recent initiative being undertaken is the development of Central Pine Barrens Comprehensive Prescribed Fire Program, to help ensure public safety by reducing wildfires and improve forest health and resiliency through ecological restoration. The Commission is developing this program under contract with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and has developed a Comprehensive Prescribed Fire Management Plan. This includes burn plan prescriptions, developing a cache of prescribed fire equipment including fire engine, a public education campaign and the hiring of staff to implement the program.

CTPA is very pleased to have Polly speaking at our meeting. Polly's talk will run from 10:15 to 11:30 am.

Hope for Connecticut's Ash Trees.

In the afternoon, attendees will be able to hear from Dr. Claire Rutledge, Associate Agricultural Scientist at the Agricultural Experiment Station in New Haven. Dr Rutledge will discuss the history of EAB in Connecticut, and the current outlook for ash in the state. The talk will focus on the ongoing biological control program for EAB. Strategies for helping ash rebound will also be discussed.

Dr. Rutledge's research specialty is wood-boring insects. Her major areas of expertise are the mating

behavior and chemical ecology of these insects, tri-trophic interactions, and predator and parasitoid behavior. She has also been a long-term director on the CTPA board.

Dr. Rutledge's talk will run from 2:30 until 3:45 pm.

What Else Will be Happening at the Annual Meeting?

The Annual Meeting begins at 8:20 in the morning, with Michael Almstead giving the President's Welcome and conducting the CTPA's Annual Business Meeting. The proposed slate of officers will be a voted in by the membership and then current Board will provide a financial update to the attendees.

Immediately following lunch, attendees will hear updates provided by Diane Jorsey of CT DEEP's Pesticide Program and Lindsay Triplett of the CT Agricultural Experiment Station. New initiatives at DEEP will be discussed, as will the latest news from the Station.

Throughout the day, attendees will have an opportunity to visit with the exhibitors at the CTPA Trade Show. Many exhibitors and vendors will be in attendance, to update attendees on the current products, services and innovations in tree care, as well as broaden people's scope of awareness regarding programs and initiatives happening in tree care and urban forestry. For many people, the Trade Show is the highlight of the day.

We look forward to seeing many old friends and new at the Annual Meeting.

CEU's are available for the following:

CT Arborist License 2, 3D - 4.50 ceu's

ISA - 3.75 ceu's, Forest Practitioner - 1.50 ceu's

Advanced Certified Tree Warden - 4.25 ceu's



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