



# THE CONNECTICUT ARBORIST

Volume XXXVI, Number 2

Connecticut Tree Protective Association, Inc.

Winter 2025/2026

## CTPA Annual Meeting - Thursday, January 15 th

On Thursday, January 15, 2026, the CTPA will host its 104th Annual Meeting. This gathering offers an excellent chance to unite association members and anyone passionate about working with trees or engaged in the green industry across Connecticut and nearby states. The day begins with the business meeting, opening with approval of the minutes from the 2025 session. Following this, the Board of Directors will present the proposed slate of officers for 2026: Emmett Shutts – President, Sean Redding – Vice President, and Gregory A. Foran – Secretary/Treasurer. The directors nominated include Bud Neal, Charlie Iselin,

Claire Rutledge, Allan Fenner, Michael Almstead, Kevin Wyatt, Carter Peck, Stacey Marcell, and Casey Tresp. After the slate is confirmed, the Treasurer's Report will be shared, followed by an open floor discussion for members to raise topics with the board. Additional Business Meeting Talk: Tom Worthley of UCONN EXT will deliver a short presentation on the nation's 250th anniversary and how Connecticut's tree industry can contribute to the celebration. Attendees are encouraged to stop by the UCONN EXT booth in the exhibitor ballroom for more details. **Seeing the Forest for the Bees** The first educational session will

be presented by Kass Urban-Mead, Ph.D. Kass's doctoral research at Cornell's Entomology Department examined pollen use by wild bees in early spring forests and canopies, and how their movement between forests and orchards supports apple pollination. At the Xerces Society, she spent three years in the Mid-Atlantic region assisting USDA NRCS Farm Bill programs, advancing urban agriculture, creating technical guidelines, and training on pollinator conservation. Kass now serves as Forests & Forestry Lead at Xerces, focusing on research, outreach, and training for land managers on forest bee life cycles and the vital links between pollinator conservation and forest health. Raised in Hudson Valley, NY, she also participated in 4-H with dairy goats. Her talk will highlight how recommendations for supporting native pollinators often emphasize summer gardens and meadows, but forests play a critical role. In the northeastern US, nearly two-thirds of wild bee species depend on forest habitats during their life cycles. This session will explore tree-bee connections, noting that many forest species are spring-flying, solitary, and reliant on forest soils, deadwood, resins,

*continued on page 4*



*We Advance the Care of Connecticut's Trees*

# English Electrical Hazard Awareness Workshop Recap

On Thursday, November 13, 2025, the annual English Electrical Hazard Awareness (EHAP) Workshop was hosted at Eversource Energy, drawing 115 attendees for a full day of training.

The program opened with Doug Pistawka of Eversource, who welcomed participants and handled housekeeping. The first session was led by Dave Ross of Woodland Tree Works, covering EHAP fundamentals, regulatory requirements, and electrical hazard awareness. Doug followed with a presentation on hardware recognition, utility response protocols, and an engaging Sparkbox demonstration. After lunch, Robert Hunt of CONN OSHA shared industry-specific OSHA statistics. The day concluded with Emmett Shutts of Davey Tree Experts, who addressed safety standards, safe work practices, aerial rescue, and emergency response. We sincerely thank Eversource Energy for providing the auditorium and look forward to returning in 2026.

## CONNECTICUT TREE PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION

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Emmett Shutts

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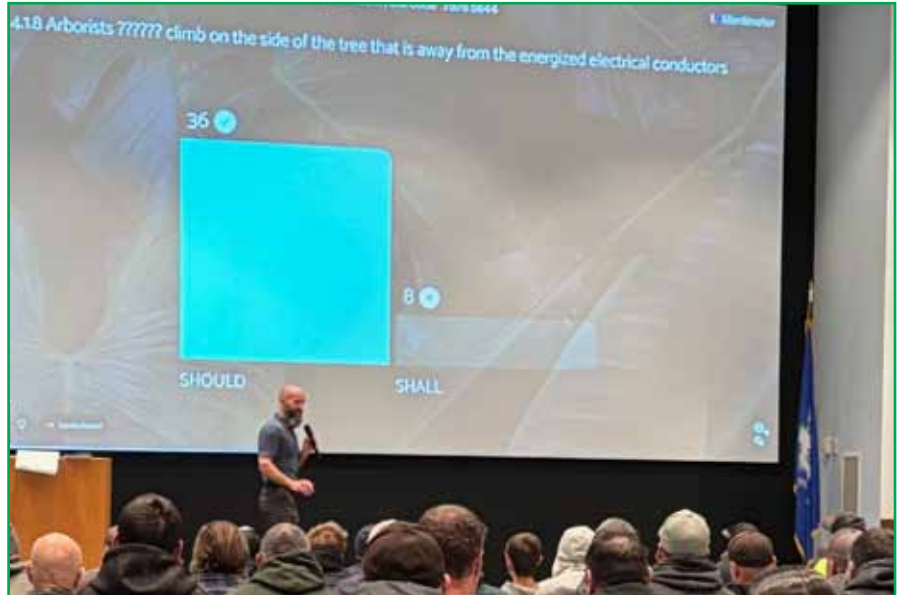
Bud Neal  
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Claire Rutledge  
Carter Peck  
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*We advance the care of  
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Emmett Shutts, CTPA President and Davey Tree Experts trainer, conducting the Should or Shall interactive game with prizes!



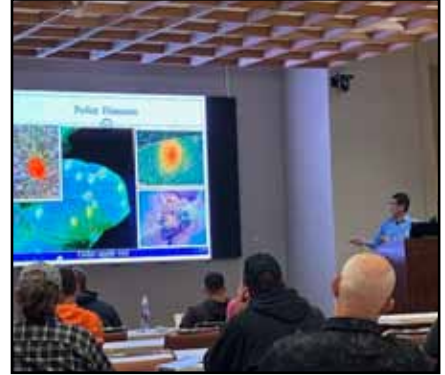
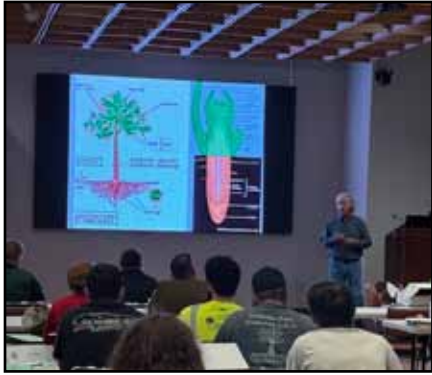
Doug Pistawka, Eversource, giving a Sparkbox demonstration.



# Arboriculture 101

The Fall 2025 session of Arboriculture 101 began with a full enrollment of 42 new students, along with several returning participants. Demand for the course remains strong, as evidenced by this year's waitlist of seven individuals. The sessions were highly successful, with instructors providing thorough answers to every question and generously sharing their contact information for ongoing support. It is inspiring to see such enthusiasm for arboriculture—both from newcomers eager to enter the field and from industry professionals seeking to deepen their expertise and pursue licensure.

The next session starts January 8, 2026 for another 13 weeks. The session is sold out. The September 2026 session registration will open in March. Please go to [www.ctpa.org](http://www.ctpa.org) to register.



Arboriculture 101 Fall 2025



*The Current Board of Directors.  
Missing from picture are  
Michael Almstead and Carter Peck*

## ***Announcement!***

**The Safety Committee is please to announce the Spanish EHAP Workshop.**

**This workshop will take place in  
February 2026, at the  
Regional Water Authority in  
New Haven, CT.**

**Leo Roldan will give this class in Spanish.  
Space will be limited.**

**Registration will open soon at  
[www.ctpa.org](http://www.ctpa.org).**

saps, and diverse understory to canopy flowers. Join Kass for an exploration of how bees use forests—from the ground layer to canopy “meadows in the sky”—with applied suggestions for woody plant and forest stewardship. She will introduce “focal bees” that arborists, foresters, and land managers can use to illustrate the importance of forest health and resilience.

This session runs from 9:15 to 10:15.

### **Restoration of the American Chestnut**

Jack Swatt, President of the CT Chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation, will review the chestnut’s historic role in eastern forests as a source of food, wildlife mast, and timber. He will discuss the introduction of chestnut blight and its spread across the Appalachian Range, as well as breeding efforts to develop blight resistance through hybridization with Chinese chestnut and backcrossing. Current strategies include genetic engineering, biocontrol with hypovirulence viruses, and advanced breeding using genomic selection. This session runs from 10:30 to 11:45.

### **Methods and Approaches for Preserving Trees During Site Development and Construction**

Nate Dubosh, an ISA Certified Arborist since 2012 with over 20 years in tree care and landscaping, previously served as Campus Arborist and Assistant Grounds Supervisor at the Medical University of South Carolina and now holds a similar role at Amherst College. In 2016, he received the Golden Acorn Award from Trees SC for his contributions to urban and community forestry. Allan Fenner, an ASCA Consulting Arborist, ISA Certified Arborist, Connecticut Licensed Arborist, and Tree Risk Assessment Qualified professional, works with Bartlett Tree Experts as a Consulting Arborist and Advisor. Together, they will present strategies for tree protection during site development, including pre-construction planning and design. Topics include tree preservation prescriptions before, during, and after construction, as well as advanced techniques such as root zone invigoration and soil compaction remediation using pneumatic tools like AirSpade® for decompaction, root collar correction, and targeted soil amendments. Case studies will demonstrate how these methods have preserved mature trees under challenging conditions while supporting long-term site success. This

session runs from 2:15 to 3:45.

Other Highlights of the Annual Meeting, registration opens at 8:00 a.m., with the business meeting beginning at 8:20. Emmett Shutts will deliver the president’s welcome, followed by voting on the 2026 slate of officers and directors. The Treasurer will then present the financial report. After lunch, Diane Jorsey from DEEP and Dr. Jason White from the CT Agricultural Experiment Station will provide organizational updates. The exhibitor hall will be open throughout the day, except during lunch, offering attendees the chance to meet vendors and explore products. Exhibitors include OSHA, UCONN, CAES, and many others. Outdoor exhibits will showcase the latest large equipment, providing additional opportunities for attendees to engage with industry innovations.

CEU's are available for the following:  
CT Arborist License 3D, 3A and 2 - 4.00 ceu's  
ISA - 3.75 ceu's,  
Forest Practitioner - Pending  
Advanced Certified Tree Warden - 4.75 ceu's

## **ANNOUCEMENT!**

The CTPA continues to modernize the sign-in sheets for meetings and workshops. The effort to use QR codes was met with great challenges this past summer and the board is looking for the right software system to sign in digitally.

For the 104th Annual Meeting the CEU sign in sheets will be done in the following manner:

- ISA will have a dedicated ipad(s) to sign in for CEU's. Please have your Certification number ready. (A dedicated person will be at the table to help)
- State of CT, Advanced Certified Tree Wardens and Forest Practitioner - These rosters will be manual sign in sheets for each certification, as in years past, to be signed in by 10am. Paper CEU sheets will be given after the last talk.

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