



# THE CONNECTICUT ARBORIST

Volume XXXII, Number 11

Connecticut Tree Protective Association, Inc.

Winter 2021-22

## CTPA's 100<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting - Thursday, January 20th

One hundred years and still going strong – now there is a reason to celebrate!

2022 is the 100th Anniversary of the founding of the Connecticut Tree Protective Association. In honor of a century of accomplishment, at this January's Annual Meeting, CTPA will kick off a year of celebration. The Association will include the recognition of the 100 years of progress it has witnessed. Of major importance are the advances in the science of tree care and how they have been brought to life through the contributions of dedicated arborists along with all who work in tree care. The history of CTPA is primarily about those tree care professionals who became proficient in the best tree care practices of their day and

then, as new knowledge, new skills, and new challenges came along, adjusted and became better at what they do. It is a history to be proud of.

### This Year's Keynote Speaker

True to its tradition of bringing in leading scientists of the day to speak on key issues relating to the management of trees, for this year's meeting CTPA has invited Dr. Douglas Tallamy of the University of Delaware. Dr. Tallamy is an entomologist who has gained a solid following through his work on the health of 'backyard ecosystems', including the key role that trees play in promoting biodiversity at the local level. At the University, he is the T. A. Baker Professor of Agriculture in the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology.

In his research, Dr. Tallamy seeks a better understanding of the many ways insects interact with plants and how these interactions lead to increased diversity in animal communities. Because of what they do to support diversity, he is a staunch advocate for planting native trees. His studies have produced some interesting counts, such as the number of native caterpillar species that a black cherry tree is potentially host to (456), the number of caterpillars it takes to raise a single clutch of chickadees (between 6,000 and 9,000) and the number of caterpillars on a single white oak in his yard (430 total of 9 different species). Meanwhile, a comparable Bradford pear showed 1 inchworm.

Dr. Tallamy has taught courses related to insects for over 40 years. He earns high marks as a speaker and is the author of over 104 research publications. His book publications include *Bringing Nature Home*, published in 2007 and awarded the 2008 Silver Medal by the Garden Writers' Association; *The Living Landscape*, co-authored with Rick Darke, published in 2014, and *Nature's Best Hope*, released in February 2020 and a New York Times best seller. His latest book, *The Nature of Oaks*, was released by Timber press in March 2021. It is the subject of one of the two talks that he will present at our Annual Meeting.

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*CTPA President Pat Flynn presents Leona May with the 2021 Arborist Citation Award. Leona, recently retired from OSHA, has been a great friend of CTPA over the years.*

*We Advance the Care of Connecticut's Trees*

## CTPA Events to Look Forward To an Active 2022

During the upcoming year, CTPA will continue its return to normal. Among the activities set to resume is the **Arbor Day Poster Contest**. The **Arbor Day Committee** has begun reaching out to fifth grade classes from around the state, encouraging students to illustrate in a creative fashion what their favorite tree is and why. This contest will culminate with winners selected and the planting of a tree on Arbor Day adjacent to the State Capitol. The **Connecticut Tree Climbing Competition** will also be back in May, with plans to hold the competition at Boothe Memorial Park in Stratford. The **CTCC Committee** is hard at work gathering the needed permissions and nailing down the specifics. The **Educational Committee** is in the midst of working on an **Educational Workshop**, most likely on a topic relating to Trees and the Law, although a final determination has not yet been made.

The **CTPA Board** is also engaged in plans for our **Summer Meeting**, to be held during the third week in July. **Arboriculture 101** will continue as a focal event, with sessions to held this spring and then again in the fall. In addition, CTPA has plans for a new initiative this year, led by the **Public Relations Committee** working closely with **Cathy Dvorsky, CTPA Executive Secretary**, that will result in better communication of news and activities, with members as well as with the general public. This effort will begin with a reconsideration of our web site. CTPA has begun working with a design company that will help the Association make better use of this and other modern social media tools. This effort should also streamline many office activities.

The Board looks forward to a new and exciting year and to working with its membership as we continue to advance the care of Connecticut's trees on into our next century. (See page 7 for a photo of the CTPA Board.)

### CONNECTICUT TREE PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION

PO Box 1946  
Wallingford, CT 06492  
203-484-2512  
fax: 203-793-7824

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CTPA mourns the loss of Cindy Placko, who passed away October 6. Cindy, wife of former Fairfield Tree Warden Ken Placko and leader of Team Placko, has been an indispensable part of recent CTPA Summer and Annual Meetings. With Ken and her sons, Keith and Kyle, Cindy organized the CTPA booth, arranging the various books and t-shirts for sale, keeping track of the inventory and managing the money received. She also had a major role in pre-meeting arrangements, as she helped determine what merch to order and how to pack the boxes before the meetings. All who worked with her knew she was a calm and calming presence. She had a confidence spiced with wit that was part of a reassuring sense of humor. Cindy projected a quiet sensitivity and an understanding of organization that allowed all to flow smoothly. And, of course, she did all of this as a volunteer, because she was supportive of the work of her husband and her sons, because she appreciated the mission of the CTPA and because hers was a generous spirit. We will all miss Cindy at the CTPA booth. When you see Ken or the boys, thank them for sharing Cindy with us. Our deepest sympathy to the Plackos.

# A Brief Timeline of The History of Trees, Forestry, Arboriculture and CTPA in Connecticut

On August 19, 1922, the 32 charter members of CTPA met in an organizational meeting at Hammonasset Beach in Madison, CT. Their goal was to form an association of people who share a common interest in the trees of Connecticut. Three years previously, the CT General Assembly had passed a 'Tree Worker Law' requiring that all Connecticut tree workers obtain certification from a board established by the CT Agricultural Experiment Station. CAES had also held a series of Tree Worker Institutes to help provide the foundation for tree workers seeking to pass the certification exam. However, it was time to turn that responsibility over to an independent organization. Hence the founding of CTPA. The following is a brief timeline showing a few of the many events that led up to the founding of CTPA, as well an overview of some of the many activities with which the organization has been involved over the years. CTPA has always been active and engaged. It is good to take a look back at how much has happened over the years.

**1875** – The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station is formed. It is the first such facility in the country.

**1886** – Due largely to the efforts of Dr. Birdsey Grant Northrop, the General Assembly declares that Arbor Day is to be celebrated as an annual event within the State of Connecticut.

**1893** – An Act Concerning Shade and Ornamental Trees passes the General Assembly. This Act provides for designating trees along public highways as public shade trees, to be so designated by a nail with a “C” impressed upon the head. Any tree so marked is to be protected from injury or destruction.

**1896** – The Connecticut Forest and Park Association is formed.

**1901** – The first Connecticut State Forester is appointed. In accordance with an Act of the General Assembly, CAES Station Forester Walter Mulford also takes on the title and duties of being CT State Forester.

**1901** – Tree Warden Law is passed by the General Assembly, permitting the appointment of a tree warden in any municipality that chooses to do so.

**1903** – Connecticut’s first State Forest is created.

**1905** – Chestnut Blight found in New York City.

**1906** – The first find of Gypsy Moths in Connecticut (Stonington).

**1911** – Chestnut mortality from Chestnut Blight has become severe statewide.

**1914** – Connecticut’s first State Park is created.

**1917** – The CT General Assembly authorizes \$15,000 for the control of White Pine Blister Rust.

**1919** – The CT General Assembly passes the first Tree Worker Certification Law.

*The effort to establish the Tree Worker Certification Law (first Arborist Law) was led by several ‘tree men’, with Cornelius A. Millane chief among them. The law established a board made up of officials from the Experiment Station to oversee exams. First Tree Worker (Arborist) Certification Exam given June 27, 1919. Those who successfully passed the exam received certification. Law also stated that “no person shall advertise, solicit or contract to improve the condition of fruit, shade, forest or ornamental trees, by pruning, trimming or filling cavities, or to protect such trees from damage by insect or disease, either by spraying or any other method, without having secured a certificate (from the board)...” An exemption from the certification requirement for work done on one’s own property or that of one’s employer was included in this original law, as it has been throughout the law’s history.*

**1919** – First CT Tree Worker’s Institute held.

*After the first round of exams, the Experiment Station Board recognized that many of the test-takers “knew what to do better than they could tell how or why it should be done.” As a result, the Board held a two-day Tree*

*continued on page 4*



*Cavity filling was once considered one of the primary skills of a tree worker.*

## A Brief Timeline (continued)

*Workers' Institute on July 22 and 23, 1919. Out of that first Institute, it was suggested that an organization be formed of state tree workers for the purpose of education on tree care techniques. A committee was formed to study the idea. This eventually led to the formation of CTPA, after discussion at the second Institute. In addition to the 1919 two-day meeting, the Board held one-day Tree Worker Institutes in 1922, 1923 and 1924.*

**1921** – The General Assembly reorganizes the State Forestry Department so that it is under the State Forest Commission. In the process, the position of ‘State Forester’ is separated from and made independent of the position of the CT Agricultural Experiment Station ‘Station Forester’. This is done in recognition of the increasing number of State Forests being established and because it was becoming increasingly clear that the administrative duties of the State Forester needed to be distinguished from the research duties of the Station Forester. Austin Hawes is appointed State Forester.

**1922** – The Connecticut Tree Protective Association is founded on August 22nd at Hammonasset Beach State Park in Madison. Thirty-two individuals attend this organizational meeting and are considered the Association's Charter Members.

**1923** – First Annual Meeting of CTPA is held on January 23rd at the Bond Hotel in Hartford. A Constitution is adopted and the following officers elected: Cornelius A. Millane, President; Francis A. Bartlett, Vice-President, and Walter O. Filley, Secretary-Treasurer. W. F. Britton, Philip Hansling, Jr. and W. R. Markham round out the Executive Committee.

**1924** – CTPA is instrumental in organizing the first meeting of the National Shade Tree Conference, held in Stamford, CT. The success of this first National Shade Tree Conference led to its becoming an annual event. In 1968, it was renamed the International Shade Tree Conference. Then, in 1976, the organizers behind the Shade Tree Conference renamed their organization the International Society of Arboriculture.

**1925** – At the 2nd Annual Meeting of the National Shade Tree Conference, held in Boston, a presenter gives a demonstration on the use of ropes to access the canopy of a tree. As stated in the record of the meeting, “By means of 150 feet of rope, all parts of a tree 60 feet high were reached with great efficiency and safety. While the demonstrator was undoubtedly a born climber, the method might be used to advantage by less skilled men.”

**1929** – In an update of the State Statute, the board for certifying tree workers is officially designated as the Tree Protection Examining Board.

**1933** – First confirmed case of Dutch Elm Disease is found in Connecticut.

**1938** – A category 3 hurricane hits Connecticut, causing massive tree damage statewide.

**1939** – The term “tree expert” is officially added to State Statute, replacing the term “tree worker”, as is the term “license”, replacing the term “certification”. The statute now reads “no person shall advertise, solicit or contract as a tree expert to improve the condition of fruit, shade, forest or ornamental trees, by feeding or fertilizing, or by pruning, trimming, bracing or filling cavities, or to protect such trees from damage by insect or disease, either by spraying or any other method, without having secured a license (from the Tree Protection Examining Board)...” Feeding, fertilizing and bracing have all been added in this new version of the law.

**1946** – Following World War II, DDT begins to be applied to peacetime uses, including in arboriculture.



*Pesticide applications have changed in many ways over the years, including with respect to concerns about safety.*

**1947** – CTPA celebrates its Silver Anniversary.

**1947** – Encouraged by CTPA, the Connecticut General Assembly declares the white oak as the State Tree. The first official planting of a white oak as the State Tree is on the UConn Campus. It was planted by CTPA at its Summer Meeting, held on the campus. The tree planted is a grandchild of the famed Charter Oak.

**1949** – The CTPA logo is adopted.

**1955** – CTPA incorporates as a non-profit.

**1967** – The designation of licensed tree care professionals in State Law changes from the licensees being called “Tree Experts” to their being called “Custom Tree Workers”. “Custom Tree Work” is defined as “any

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## A Brief Timeline (continued)

work done for hire to improve the condition of a fruit, shade or ornamental tree by feeding or fertilizing, or by pruning, trimming, bracing or filling cavities, or to protect such trees from damage by insect or disease, either by spraying or any other method.” This adds the phrase ‘for hire’ to the law. The statute also simplifies the language relating to who can do this work. That passage now reads, in part, “no person shall contract to do custom tree work within this state without a license issued in accordance with the provisions of this act, provided any person may improve a tree on his own property or on the property of his employer without securing such a license.”

**1977** – The 1967 State Law is changed so that the term “Custom Tree Work” is replaced by the term “Arboriculture”. An Arborist is defined in statute for the first time. In statute, an Arborist is “one who is qualified to perform arboriculture and who is licensed by the State Tree Protection Examining Board”. In this version of the statute, the law returns to previous wording when it states that “no person shall advertise, solicit or contract to do” what is now called arboriculture. These 1977 changes were made at the urging of many people, including CAES Station Forester, George Stevens.

**1979** – CTPA donates 20 dawn redwood trees to Dinosaur State Park, helping to initiate an arboretum at the park, with this arboretum envisioned as a 'Mesozoic Garden'.

**1981** – The Tree Protection Examining Board is placed by the General Assembly within the Department of Consumer Protection, which is also given responsibility for enforcement of the Arborist License.

**1985** – The Hemlock Woolly Adelgid is first found in Connecticut.

**1992** – The Tree Wardens' Association of Connecticut is formed.

**1996** – The first session of Arboriculture 101, the CTPA-led course for those seeking their Arborist License, is held at the CT Agricultural Experiment Station in New Haven. Board Member Bruce Pauley leads this effort.

**1998** – The responsibility for administration and enforcement of the Arborist License is given to the Department of Environmental Protection, with Tree Protection Examining Board now reporting to the Commissioner of DEP. In the same Public Act, the penalties for practicing arboriculture without an arborist license are substantially increased. CTPA is the spearhead behind these changes.

**1999** – Although CTPA has long held Arbor Day celebrations, this year the Association updated this tradition through an essay contest for 5th grade students throughout the state.

**2001** – At the encouragement of CTPA President Jeff Ward, CTPA establishes an Arborist Scholarship, to be awarded annually to a college student studying arboriculture or urban forestry.

**2004** – CTPA forms a Safety Committee. This leads to the adoption of a CTPA “Code of Safety” at the 2005 Annual Meeting

**2005** – CTPA and the New England ISA join forces to host the first Connecticut Tree Climbing Competition. Since 2007, the CTCC has been run solely by CTPA.

**2006** – CTPA hosts the first of its now annual Electrical Hazard Awareness Program workshops.

**2007** – CTPA elects as its President Maryjane Arsenault. Maryjane is CTPA’s first President who also happens to be woman.

**2008** - The Asian Longhorned Beetle is found in Worcester, MA, near to the Connecticut border.

**2011** – A surprise late October snowstorm causes extensive tree damage throughout Connecticut

**2012** – The Emerald Ash Borer is found in Connecticut.

**2014** – The Arborist Law is amended to require that Arborist Businesses be registered with DEEP. This



*CTPA Board meets with Governor John Rowland as he signs the 1998 legislation moving the Arborist License to DEP. Standing left to right: President Alan Carey, Dr. Mark McClure, Greg Piontek (DEP), Bob Horan, Armando Paolino (representing CTPA), Bill Personatti, Chris Donnelly, Mark Sullivan, Larry Dvorsky, Charlie Ballou. Seated: Governor John Rowland.*

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## A Brief Timeline (continued)



*Then President Maryjane Arsenault shares a moment with Oscar Stone at the 2004 CTPA Summer Meeting.*

and involved extensive participation and support, from CTPA members, tree care companies, the Tree Wardens Association and others. 5 native trees were donated and planted in recognition of the 5 branches of the service.

**2019** – CTPA provides white oak seedlings to arborists, to be planted in each of the state’s 169 cities and towns in honor of the Centennial of the original 1919 Tree Workers Law.

**2022** – CTPA begins its Centennial Celebration with its 100<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting at the Aqua Turf in Southington.

change is seen as having the potential to help with the enforcement of the Arborist Law.

**2016** – CTPA initiates its “Go to the Top” campaign to promote public awareness of the value of the Arborist License and of Arboriculture. It introduces the “Go to the Top” logo as part of this campaign.

**2018** – CTPA reaches an agreement with the University of Connecticut, to work with UConn in the establishment of a two-year degree program in Arboriculture and Urban Forestry.

**2018** – The Veterans’ Healing Garden at the Connecticut Veterans Healthcare and Residential Facility in Rocky Hill is dedicated. This project was initiated by CTPA Board Member Bud Neal

### Linda Schmidt Retires from DEEP



On November 1, it became official, as Linda Schmidt stepped down from her role in the Pesticide Management Program at DEEP. More than a few CTPA members have commented on how important Linda’s efforts have been to them, whom they got to know as they

navigated the sometimes tricky waters of renewing a license or getting signed up for a certification exam. Her care and patience in explaining the occasionally convoluted rules associated with these processes, as well as the sense of a real connection that people felt as they worked with her, will certainly remain as a lasting legacy. CTPA wishes Linda great joy and happiness in her retirement, as she gets to enjoy more time with her husband, children and grandchildren.

DEEP is not leaving the Pesticide Program short-staffed, however. The agency has already hired Kate Scimeca to take over Linda’s duties with regards to licensing, certification and continuing education. A new field inspector has also been hired to bring the field staff up to its previous level of commitment and a new staff person has been hired to cover pesticide registration and aquatic permitting.



*Dr. Alex Shigo of the US Forest Service addresses the 1987 Annual Meeting as Board Member Dr. Mark McClure looks on.*



*CAES Forester Jeff Ward catches up with retired Greenwich Tree Warden Bruce Spaman at the 2020 Annual Meeting.*

## CTPA's Annual Meeting (continued)

Dr. Tallamy's first talk is entitled "The Nature of Hope". This talk starts from the backdrop of recent headlines about global insect declines and reports of three billion fewer birds in North America. In this talk, Doug asks, "How effective have our current landscape designs been at sustaining the plants and animals that sustain us?" He then explains why, in creating landscapes that enhance local ecosystems rather than degrade them, native plants are critical. Native plant communities sustain food webs, sequester carbon, maintain diverse native bee communities, and help manage our watersheds.

Dr. Tallamy has an idea to propose: if people were to switch half of the area now in lawn over to native plants, including trees and shrubs, we could create a 'Homegrown National Park' – a 20 million acre network of viable habitats that would provide vital corridors connecting the natural areas that remain. He offers this as an approach to conservation that empowers everyone to play a significant role in the future of the natural world.

His second talk is "The Nature of Oaks". Once people decide to restore the ecological integrity of our human-dominated landscapes, they need to decide which plants to add to their properties. Oaks are superior landscape trees throughout most of the U.S. because of their many ecological and aesthetic attributes. Based on month-to-month observations of the oaks in his own yard, Dr. Tallamy has some interesting and surprising reasons to offer as to why oaks do so well at supporting biodiversity. Learning that oaks provide life support to thousands of species may open the door to greater understanding of just what it is that these and other native species add to our heavily human-influenced landscapes.

### What Else is Happening at the Annual Meeting?

In the first half of the morning, CTPA will present an overview of its 100 year history. Led by Chris Donnelly and including talks by Dr. Kirby Stafford of the CT Agricultural Experiment Station and CTPA Board Member Emmett Shutts, this talk will take the audience back to the early decades of the 20th Century, when the CTPA was first being formed, and lead them over the years as CTPA grew and arboriculture changed. Kirby will talk about changes in insect problems and the ways that they have been dealt with over the course of past decades, while Emmett will discuss the advances in tools and technology that have been a part of tree care over the past 100 years.

At the start of the day, CTPA will host its annual Business Meeting. This meeting will include an overview of CTPA's finances, highlights of the past year and new initiatives that are on the horizon. Members

are encouraged to attend in order to get a more detailed picture of what the Association is currently up to.

Members will also have an opportunity, later in the day, to hear updates from Dr. Jason White, Director of the CAES, who will discuss what is new at the Station, and from Diane Jorsey, who will provide updates regarding DEEP's Pesticide Management program. Among the items Diane will discuss are personnel changes within the program and such agency innovations as the e-licensing program.

That CTPA Annual Meeting is also the time for the presentation of awards. Just before lunch, CTPA will present its Arborist Citation, for outstanding contribution to arboriculture by a non-member, and the Award of Merit, for outstanding contribution to arboriculture by a member.

Registration remains open for the Annual Meeting. Registration details are included on the CTPA web site - <https://CTPA.org>.

The following CEU's are available: CT Licensed Arborist (4 ceus), Forest Practitioner (2 ceus), ISA Arborist - Pending, Advanced Certified Tree Warden – Pending

### The CTPA Board - 2022



Front row - Carter Peck, Mike Almstead (Secretary-Treasurer), Emmett Shutts, Pat Flynn (President), Charlie Iselin, Bud Neal, Sean Redding, Greg Foran. Back row - Allan Fenner, Cathy Dvorsky (Executive Secretary), Claire Rutledge (Vice-President), Chris Donnelly. Absent - Kevin Wyatt

### Board Assignments and Committee Chairs

Executive Oversight Committee - Allan Fenner  
Public Relations Committee - Mike Almstead  
Safety Committee - Emmett Shutts  
Arbor Day Committee - Sean Redding  
CT Tree Climbing Competition - Bud Neal  
Meeting Planning - Charlie Iselin  
Education Committee - Carter Peck  
Arboriculture 101 - Chris Donnelly  
Legislation & Enforcement - Greg Foran  
UConn Partnership - Carter Peck  
CT-EC Liaison - Kevin Wyatt  
New England Chapter ISA Liaison - Sean Redding

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# The Second Tree Workers' Institute

February 21, 1922

- **The Living Tree** – Professor George Nichols, Yale University
- **The Pruning and Spraying of Fruit Trees** – Professor Sherman Hollister, Connecticut Agricultural College
- **The Effects of Smoke, Gases and Electricity on Trees** – Professor J. W. Toumey, Yale Univ.
- **Observations of Oil Injuries on Trees** – Dr. E. P. Felt, State Entomologist of New York  
Lunch
- **Pruning and Cavity Work as Applied to Shade Trees** – J. Franklin Collins, USDA, RI
- **Discussion**, led by Professor George A. Stone, Amherst, MA
- **Modern Methods of Tree Surgery** – F. A. Bartlett, Bartlett Tree Experts, Stamford, CT
- **Some Common Insect Pests of Shade Trees** – Dr. E. P. Felt, State Entomologist of NY
- **Report on the Work of the Tree Protection Examining Board** – W. O. Filley, CAES
- **Report of the Committee on the Organization of a Tree Protective Association in Connecticut**

Following the passage of the original Tree Workers' Law in 1919, the Tree Protection Examining Board held a series of workshops to assist the state's tree workers in passing the Tree Workers' Certification Exam. The first Institute was held in 1919, the second in February of 1922. Notice the last bullet item. After the first Institute, the members of the Board and the unofficial leadership of the tree workers group agreed to form a committee to consider founding a tree workers outreach and educational association. Based on the Committee's recommendation, presented at the Second Institute, CTPA was formed in August 1922.

**Register for the CTPA Annual Meeting - January 20th at the Aqua Turf - Go To <https://CTPA.org>!**

*Happy Holidays to All!*

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CTPA  
PO Box 1946  
Wallingford, Connecticut 06492

