



# THE CONNECTICUT ARBORIST

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Connecticut Tree Protective Association, Inc.

Summer 2018

## Upcoming - the CTPA Summer Meeting - July 19th

**Please Note** - due to an unavoidable personal situation, Dr. Kevin Smith of the USDA Forest Service has had to cancel his talk at the CTPA Summer Meeting. We are very grateful to Dr. Neil Hendrickson of Bartlett Labs, who has agreed to fill in for Kevin, despite the short notice.

CTPA Summer Meeting – July 19, 2018 at the Farmington Club. Be there!

The CTPA Summer Meeting will feature four talks. These talks have been arranged so that everyone will have a chance to hear each of them in the course of the day.

The first two talks will begin at 9 am and will be repeated at 1 pm. The second set will begin at 10:30 am and be repeated at 2:30 pm.

All talks will be 1 hour and 15 minutes.

The first talk in the Clubhouse will feature Dr. Neil Hendrickson of Bartlett Tree Experts and the Northeast Bartlett Tree Research Lab. Neil will be speaking on “Storm Damaged Trees - the Road to Recovery”.

During this talk, Dr. Hendrickson will touch on a variety of topics of current interest in the light of recent weather in the state. Included among them will be the steps an arborist can take prior to a storm to lower the likelihood of damage and what

he or she can do following a storm, once the damage has occurred. The importance of an initial tree risk assessment will be discussed. Once a storm hits, a tree must be assessed all over again, with a view towards what new safety issues might be of concern and, also, what health problems might arise with the tree. Mitigation will be discussed, as will those steps an arborist can take to help nurse a tree back to health.

Neil is longtime friend of CTPA, having spoken at both Summer and Annual Meetings and at various workshops conducted by the Association. He is based in New Jersey and, as the Northeast Technical Researcher for Bartlett Tree Experts, he is deeply knowledgeable of the many tree health concerns and conditions that arborists face working throughout the region. Because of his connections with Bartlett's Tree Research Lab in North Carolina, Neil provides an important link between the research conducted through that facility and the practitioners in the field.

The second 9 am / 1 pm talk will be held outdoors. It will feature Matt Anderson and Ben Sewell of Altec Industries, speaking on “Pre-Flight Bucket Truck Inspections.”

This will be a hands-on demonstration. The speakers recognize aerial lifts as a vital tool in

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*Scene from last year's Summer Meeting. The exhibit areas are always a highlight for many who attend this meeting, as is the lunch and the many opportunities to socialize.*

*CTPA Summer Meeting, July 19, 2018 - The Farmington Club, Farmington, CT*

# Plans to Celebrate the Centennial of the Arborist Law

“For many years men have traveled about the State and in various places obtained work for the alleged improvement of orchard and shade trees, such as pruning, spraying, bracing, filling cavities, or applying fertilizers. In some cases good services were rendered and the owners satisfied; in others no benefit resulted. Occasionally, trees were positively injured by the treatment, because the so-called “tree doctors” did not understand their business. Finally, this condition existed: tree work was being done by well-trained,

intelligent and conscientious men; by poorly trained but reliable men; and worst of all, by unscrupulous men who were usually, though not always, poorly trained. The unsatisfactory work of the unreliable men had a tendency to bring the whole business into disrepute. Some of them were at work here one day, but the next they would be gone, perhaps forever, only to be followed by a new crop. Even though such men guaranteed their work, the owner could obtain no redress because the men could not be found.”

So begins the First Report of the Tree Protection Examining Board for the Biennial Period Ending June 30, 1921. This report was written by W. E. Britton, Scientist at the CT Agricultural Experiment Station, State Entomologist and First Chair of the Examining Board.

Dr. Britton wrote the report to introduce the accomplishments of the first Tree Protection Examining Board, including the licensing of the state's first arborists. In 1919, the Connecticut General Assembly had called for the establishment of the license and of the board through legislation entitled “An Act Concerning the Improvement, Protection or Preservation of Fruit, Shade or Ornamental Trees”. This act was the state's original arborist

licensing law. It was also the first in the nation.

Next year, 2019, will the centennial of this ground-breaking piece of legislation. CTPA will celebrate this major event by sharing trees with the towns throughout Connecticut. CTPA is working with Planters' Choice Nursery to grow some 180 or so white oak seedlings. 169 of these will be distributed to each one of the state's cities and towns as a gift from CTPA, along with a small plaque commemorating this gift. These trees should be ready for planting in the fall of 2019. The trees will be container-grown, most likely in #3 pots, and will be our 'thank you' to the State of Connecticut for creating this law.

In order for this to work, CTPA will need the cooperation of CTPA members from throughout the state. At a minimum, the process will involve:

- At least one CTPA member, preferably a CT licensed arborist, agreeing to take the lead for each city or town in the state
- This individual, or these individuals, contacting the town, probably through that town's tree warden, to make the offer of a tree and then find a spot for the planting of this tree

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

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CTPA's Web Site - [www.CTPA.org](http://www.CTPA.org)



*Early spray truck, for the control of gypsy moth in CT. Circa 1912.*

Do you think you could have passed the Arborist Exam from back in the early days? The following is one of the original written exams, from the set used. The testing process also included an oral exam, just like today.

### **The Arborist Licensing Written Examination**

*From the 1921 report of the Tree Protection Examining Board*

#### **A. Injurious Insects** (Answer both)

- 1) Explain the purpose of an insecticide, name examples of common types, and specify how they are used.
- 2) Describe briefly the difference between sucking and chewing insects, explain how each may injure trees and give remedies for each.

(Answer any two)

- 3) What are the three principal types of insect injury to trees? Give an example of each with a remedy.
- 4) How and when would you treat elm trees as a protective against the ravages of the elm leaf beetle?
- 5) What are the chief insect pests of the apple orchard, and what treatment is commonly recommended for each?
- 6) Give a brief account of the maple borer and how to combat it.

#### **B. Tree Diseases.** (Answer three out of the five.)

- 7) What are fungi? Give several examples. How do they reproduce? How is a parasite different from a saprophyte?
- 8) What kinds of injury to trees are caused by the following: Sun scorch? Drought? Ice storms? Late frosts? Lightning? Animals (including man)?
- 9) What different fungous diseases have you tried to control and by what methods?
- 10) What causes decay of wood in trees and how would you control it?
- 11) What is a fungicide? Name four kinds. Give theory of spraying against fungi. How is Bordeaux mixture made? Distinguish between a fungicide and an insecticide.

#### **C. Tree Surgery.** (Answer any three.)

- 12) Describe in detail the way you would remove a large limb and the treatment you would give the resulting cut surface if undecayed.
- 13) Discuss the relative merits of filled cavities and open cavities, stating under what conditions you would recommend one or the other.
- 14) Describe your method of filling cavities, giving the reason for each operation.
- 15) What may be done to hasten the healing of wounds and the growing over of filled cavities?
- 16) Discuss advantages and disadvantages of the different methods of strengthening of weak trees.

#### **D. Tree Life and Growth.** (Answer any one.)

- 17) Discuss the growth of a tree, indicating where and when growth takes place, also the manner in which the roots and leaves perform their work.
- 18) Describe the way in which water and food materials are secured by a tree, and how they are utilized by it.

#### **E. Tree Species.**

- 19) Identify the specimens on the table, giving the common name of each as numbered.

For the record, of the 65 original candidates, 57 passed outright, 4 passed after a second test, and 4 failed.

## **Celebration of the Passage of the Arborist Law (continued)**

- Arranging for the tree to be picked up and brought to the town, and
- Planting the tree, preferably with some small ceremony to mark the occasion.

Of course, the planting does not end there. These new trees will need to be watered and maintained until established, and watched over as to their health, structure and form as they mature. Yep, in other words, they will need the services of an

arborist.

There is still a lot of planning to do before we can make this happen. After the Summer Meeting, the Association will start developing a list of arborists who would be willing to handle making the connections with individual towns and/or take the lead in planting the tree. There is no need for this to be the responsibility of just one person. In fact, it would be good if this tree

planting also becomes an occasion to show cooperation within the profession.

As we get closer to the event, CTPA will provide ample support with press releases and other types of announcements.

For now, the CTPA Board just wants to make the membership aware of the plan. There will be much more to come later on, including the opportunity to sign up.



# The Spotted Lanternfly - What You Need to Know

It is time for arborists and others in tree care to put the spotted lanternfly on their list of insects to watch for. While it is not yet known in Connecticut, there is a sizeable population in Pennsylvania that has proven itself capable of overwintering. While people in Pennsylvania work to keep the insect contained, our goal in Connecticut should be to keep it from becoming established here. The best way to do that is through early detection of any instances of this insect being in the state and then a rapid response to it if it is found.

So, what should arborists in Connecticut know about this insect?

- The spotted lanternfly is a planthopper. This means that it is an insect that undergoes incomplete metamorphosis. In this case, it has 4 instars. Basically, each instar looks similar to the previous ones, although slightly more colorful and larger. In addition, the juveniles (nymphs) look similar to the adults, but without wings.

- At each of these stages, the spotted lanternfly feeds on woody plants, working its mouthparts into the phloem and sucking out the sap. Like many other sap sucking insects (think aphids and soft scales), this leads to the excretion of copious amounts of sticky excrement, which coats parts of the host plant and other below surfaces. This, in turn, leads to large amounts of sooty mold.

- The host range of the spotted leafhopper is broad – it includes over 70 species of woody plants in North America alone. Some are valuable agricultural crops, such as grape vines and fruit orchard trees. Also included are some well-known native tree species. The harm to agricultural crops can be serious, due both to damage to the plants directly and to contamination of the fruit. The excrement is sticky and difficult to remove, while the insect itself, or any of its parts, is considered toxic if consumed.

- The toxicity of the insect appears to come, at least in part, from its close relationship with *Ailanthus altissima* – the tree of heaven. *Ailanthus* contains chemicals in its sap that are toxic to other animals, including people, but apparently not to the spotted leafhopper. As it approaches the adult stage, the spotted leafhopper tends to congregate more and more on *ailanthus*, feeding on its sap as it prepares for mating and egg-laying.

- The females will lay eggs on the bark of *ailanthus* and also on any other smooth surface, including other smooth-barked trees, stones, vehicles and anywhere else that is handy. The egg masses, which basically look like smears of gray mud, are extraordinarily difficult to see.

- This feature of their egg-laying creates a wide

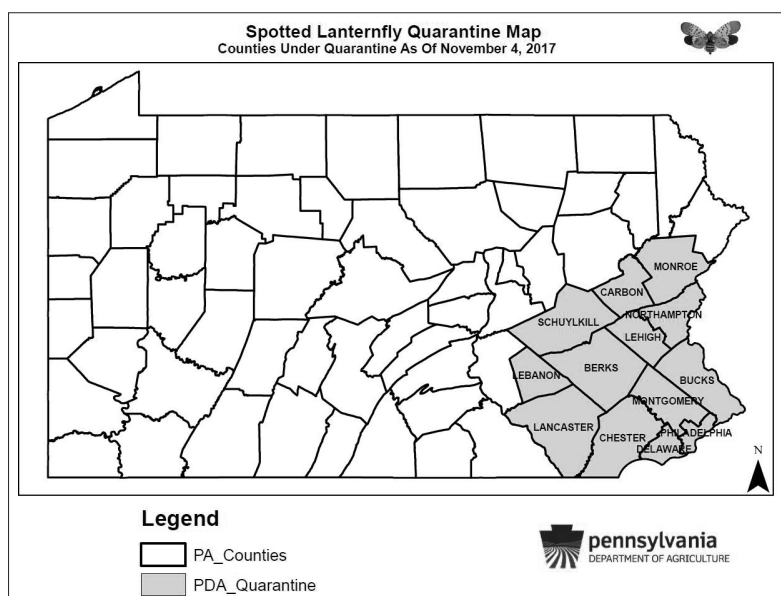
open opportunity for the accidental spread of this insect, including through the movement of downed *ailanthus* trees.

- While the insects appears to prefer to hop rather than fly, it tends to gather in large numbers in the later instars. Adults then fly together in large groups as part of mating. These features only make worse the two most obnoxious features of the insect – the damage it does to its host plants and the amount of contamination of the fruit it can cause. Often, this results in destroying the value of that fruit.

What can arborists do? In all likelihood, this insect will be seen more as an agricultural pest than a forest pest, and so most of the attention regarding its control will be in that context. However, as mentioned, it is known to feed on several of our most common shade trees. The list includes red and sugar maple, chestnut oak, tuliptree and American sycamore, just to mention a few. As a result, arborists are likely to get drawn into the discussion of spotted lanternfly control once it is known to be here.

That, though, is getting ahead of the discussion. As of now, the spotted lanternfly is not known in Connecticut – or, indeed, anywhere in North America outside of Pennsylvania and a couple of other, small findings, in Delaware and New York. Right now, our main focus must be on keeping a lookout for this insect so that there can be a rapid response to it if and when it is found. This is where arborists can be very helpful. The spotted lanternfly has a special relationship with *ailanthus* trees and is drawn to these trees when it is time to reproduce. Regulators suspect that clusters of *ailanthus* – 10 or more trees together, even small trees – might be the best place to begin looking for these insects. The spotted lanternfly,

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*The spotted lanternfly quarantine map from Pennsylvania. Individual finds have also been reported in Delaware and New York.*



## Recent Images from the VA Healing Garden

Recent weeks have seen the planting of five trees at the VA Garden on a rainy Arbor Day afternoon, the installation of the fence at the base of the walkway, the construction of a stone wall and the first plantings in the garden beds. Each day, it comes closer to being what Bud, Sandy, the many volunteers and donors have hoped it would be.



*Volunteers from throughout the CTPA community put the finishing touches on the black gum along the walkway.*



*Onto the sugar maple next. Bud directs the removal of the burlap and the inspection of the roots as the tree is planted.*



*The very happy, and wet, planting crew. Folks from Bartlett, TWAC, Eversource, Almstead and Distinctive Tree all helped.*



*The wall, slowly emerging from the ground at the head of the garden. This wall will define the garden around the stone.*



*Sandy finishing the planting of the scented garden. This is one of the several distinct garden areas within the Healing Garden..*



*The fence, with a wreath added in honor of the veterans. The fence does a great job in helping to define the garden.*



# The Connecticut Tree Climbing Competition

The 14th Annual Connecticut Tree Climbing Competition was held on May 5th at the State Veterans' Home in Rocky Hill. The competition was exciting and absorbing, as it always is. 23 Climbers participated - 21 men and 2 women. Many thanks to the number of volunteers who donated their time and more to help make the day a success, and also to all the people who turned out to watch. Our thanks, too, to the Veterans' Home, who were great hosts.



*The work climb was the most spectacular of the preliminary events, as climbers worked their way through a large oak.*



*The day starts with a gear check. Safety is of overarching importance. All climbers must have the right equipment.*



*The throwline event is a test of skill, accuracy and grace under pressure, as each climber attempts to set two lines.*



*Perhaps the most physically challenging, the footlock climb is a 50 foot sprint up a climbing line, to ring a bell at the top.*



*One highlight of the day was sharing time, and t-shirts, with the veterans, who were gracious as our hosts.*

## **Congratulations to the CTCC Winners**

The winners of the CTCC are ultimately determined through the Masters Challenge, open only to Connecticut residents. The results of this year's Masters Challenge:

### **Men's Competition**

First Place – Kyle Donaldson, Danielson, CT  
Second Place – Tim Reynolds, Watertown, CT  
Third Place – Melvin Garcia, Bridgeport, CT

### **Women's Competition**

First Place – Cassandra Bryant, Stratford, CT  
Congratulations all, on a great competition!

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## CTPA Summer Meeting Speakers (continued)

tree care; one that arborists use daily and that they rely on to keep themselves and others safe. Matt and Ben will share valuable information regarding the proper use, maintenance requirements and inspections needed when using a bucket truck.

The 10:30 am / 2:30 pm indoor talk is on ticks and will involve two speakers. Dr. Kirby Stafford of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station will speak on “Ticks: It isn’t Just Lyme Disease Anymore”, to be followed by Dr. Scott Williams, also of the Experiment Station, talking about being “Ticked Off by Japanese Barberry”.

Those who work in tree care all know that ticks are an ever-present fact of life. Because of their potential to carry various diseases, ticks are more than just an annoyance. They are a health concern, to those who work in the field and to their loved ones at home.

Lyme disease is the tick-borne disease that gets the most attention. However, there are other diseases to be aware of, ones that get less notice. There is also the issue of the introduction of new ticks to the area. Kirby is in a great position to lead this discussion. He is State Entomologist and Chief Scientist in the Entomology Department at the CAES, with a background in medical-veterinary entomology. He is a leader in the study of the black-legged tick, the one that carries Lyme disease.

The second talk will be on tick habitat, with specific reference to Japanese barberry. Dr. Scott Williams is a wildlife biologist in the Forestry and Horticulture Department who has been actively involved in studying the state's deer population, and over-population. This research has led him to investigate the role of deer in the spread of invasive species and into the connection that exists among deer, deer mice, Japanese barberry, ticks and Lyme disease. It is an interesting story, with important elements for those who wish to control ticks as well as those who would like to avoid them.

The 10:30 / 2:30 outdoor session will be on “Soil Decomposition Strategies Using the Air-Spade”. Michael Almstead and Dan Dalton, both of Almstead Tree and Shrub Care, will lead this session.

The session will be a practical demonstration and discussion of the air-spade. Almstead makes use of the air-spade as an important tool in its tree health care services. The talk will touch on how the air-spade is used in radial trenching, full sheet excavation and in root collar inspections. The discussion will describe how the air-spade can be used to introduce soil amendments, to reduce soil compaction and to find and remove girdling roots.

Mike literally grew up in the tree care business. He

has more than 24 years experience as an arborist, in both commercial and residential work. He is now Vice President and regional manager for Almstead, and is in-charge of mature tree preservation for the company’s organic division.

Dan Dalton has worked for Almstead since 2011. He is an arborist, educator, public speaker and widely-regarded expert on trees, shrubs and lawns. He is an ISA Board Certified Master Arborist, a NOFA Accredited Organic Landcare Professional, and holds the Tree Risk Assessment Qualification from the ISA. In addition, he is an adjunct professor of horticulture at Naugatuck Valley Community College and an instructor for several industry organizations and programs, including the NOFA Accredited Organic Landscape Professional Program and the Accredited Nursery Professional Program for the Connecticut Nursery and Landscape Association.

This is clearly a strong line-up of speakers – attendees can look forward to a great day of fun, education and communication - of ideas and more. Connecticut Licensed Arborists may earn up to 5.0 ceus, while ISA Certified Arborists may earn 5.0 credit hours. Those with an Ornamental and Turf license may earn 1.25 ceus; Connecticut Forest Practitioners - 1.0 credit hour and Advanced Certified Tree Wardens - 5.0 ceus. TCIA CTSPs may earn 2.75 credit hours.

Full details are on the CTPA web site.



*The picnic area in Wharton Brook State Park following the May 15 windstorm. With storms, insects, drought and other conditions having their impact, the state of the state's trees continues to draw the concern of tree wardens and of foresters from DEEP, UConn and CAES.*

Registrations are now being accepted for the fall session of Arboriculture 101. Details are on the CTPA website.



## Spotted Lanternfly (continued)

as far as is known, has one generation per year, with the adults active from late July through as late as early November.

If you think you may have found a spotted lanternfly, please report it. The best thing to do is to take a picture and send that picture, along with detailed information as to the exact location, to the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment – using the email address [CAES.StateEntomologist@ct.gov](mailto:CAES.StateEntomologist@ct.gov). If you collect the insect, make sure it is in a sealed container and put it into the freezer. No one wants to be responsible for the further spread of this insect.



*Nymph of the spotted lanternfly. Notice that there are no wings - only adults have wings. The gray areas in this photo are actually a bright red.*



*Spotted lanternfly adults massed on a grapevine, adjacent to ripe grapes. Picture is by Erica Smeyers of Penn State News.*

Additional details on the spotted lanternfly, including on how to submit a sample for identification, are available on the CAES web site - search for the Spotted Lanternfly Pest Alert. The Station is also interested in learning of larger stands of ailanthus as possible monitoring sites.

