



THE CONNECTICUT ARBORIST

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Connecticut Tree Protective Association, Inc.

Winter 2014-15

The 93rd Annual Meeting of the Association - January 15, 2015

On January 15, 2015 the Connecticut Tree Protective Association will hold its 93rd Annual Meeting. This is a premier gathering of tree care workers, arborists and others interested in trees. It is the place to come to share ideas and stories about the past year and the new year coming up, and to see many good friends all gathered in one place. It is also the place to be to learn about key issues in arboriculture. The educational offerings at this year's meeting will again be top notch. Because the meeting also features a large trade show, one can also see the latest that is available in equipment, services and innovations in tree care. This year's meeting will again take place at the Aqua Turf in Plantsville. The Aqua Turf is a very welcoming

host venue, well-known for its generous offerings of good food and its ability to make a large crowd feel comfortable. In a typical year, this meeting draws over 700 engaged tree people, although several recent years has seen the attendance rise to well over 800. Registering early is important!

The CTPA has three excellent speakers lined up for this year's meeting. The first talk will be given by Wayne Dubin, Vice President of the F. A. Bartlett Tree Expert Co. and Division Manager for Bartlett's offices in New Jersey and New York. Wayne will speak on "The 9/11 Memorial Trees: Logistics, Planting and Care".

Most everyone is familiar with the 9/11 Memorial, built on the site of the twin

World Trade Center towers in lower Manhattan. To commemorate the site and bear witness to the horrific events and deep tragedy that occurred there, a plaza has been built that has as its main feature two pools. Surrounding these pools are cascading waterfalls and at the center of each pool is a deeper pit. These pools occupy the space that was the base of the two towers. To give human scale to the plaza area, the designers included more than 400 swamp white oaks that will eventually grow to shade and enclose the plaza. Bartlett Tree Experts was given the assignment of growing off-site and then transplanting these trees and of overseeing their growth and care at the Memorial.

To state the obvious, this was no ordinary tree planting. The system that is in place to allow these trees to grow is extraordinarily complex, including the soil mixture used, the soil water monitoring system and the ways the trees are maintained. Mr. Dubin will discuss all of this, as he also talks of the importance of trees in helping America recover from this awful event.

Mr. Dubin is a NJ Certified Tree Expert, Past President of the NJ Chapter ISA and current President of the NJ Green Industry Council. His home base is in Warren, NJ. Wayne holds a B.S. Degree in Plant Science

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One of the talks at the Annual Meeting will be on the trees planted at the 9/11 Memorial in New York City. Over 400 swamp white oaks are included as an integral part of the design. In the foreground is one of the two waterfalls; behind is the 9/11 Museum.

CTPA Annual Meeting, January 15, 2015 - The Aqua Turf Club, Plantsville, CT

Two Key CTPA Board Members Are Stepping Down

At this year's Annual Meeting, two stalwarts on the CTPA board will be stepping down. Ken Placko and Sharon Douglas have each announced their plans to leave the board.

Ken, currently President of CTPA, will be wrapping up a term of service to the Association that extends back to the year 2000. Ken is also Tree Warden for the Town of Fairfield. His decision to leave the board is coincident with his decision to retire as Tree Warden. Ken's years on the CTPA Board have been active ones. During that time,

the Association saw an almost 60% increase in membership, several adjustments to the Arborist Law, the creation of the Mark McClure Scholarship Fund and, most recently, the move to an official headquarters.

On the Board, Ken chaired the Arbor Day Committee from 2002 to 2008, succeeding Bruce Pauley. As chair, Ken organized the reading by board members of hundreds of Arbor Day essays written by 5th graders from around the state, choosing the 8 annual winners, one from each county. Ken also arranged for the annual Arbor Day tree planting ceremony at the State Capitol. Ken can now walk the grounds of the Capitol and point out various trees – the shadblow, magnolia, Franklinia and flowering cherries that he had a hand in planting. It is quite a legacy.

In 2009, Ken took over from Maryjane Arsenault the Meeting Planning Committee before becoming the Association's Secretary-Treasurer the following year. In 2012 Ken became Vice President and, in 2013 and 2014, served as President.

It was under Ken's leadership that CTPA located the space for its new office. Ken also has worked closely with Cathy Dvorsky, helping her take

on more of the responsibilities of the CTPA Executive Secretary.

Ken was also very active with the Tree Wardens Association during these years and served as CTPA's liaison to the tree wardens.

A mention of Ken would not be complete without a mention of his family – Team Placko – who have been a key part of all recent CTPA Summer and Annual Meetings. Cindy, Keith and Kyle have all pitched in, staffing the CTPA booth and helping to run the raffle, much to the appreciation of the CTPA board and membership.

Dr. Sharon Douglas of the CT Agricultural Experiment Station has also announced her decision to step down from the CTPA board. Sharon's contributions – through her leadership, guidance and intelligence – has been enormously important to the direction of the Association over the past few years. Sharon joined the board in 2008 and was quickly appointed to the Education Committee, succeeding Bob Bociek as chair in 2009. During her tenure, CTPA conducted workshops on topics ranging from the latest news in pesticides to the role of tree roots, compartmentalization and tree law. Her committee brought in speakers

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CONNECTICUT TREE PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION

PO Box 1946
Wallingford, CT 06492
203-484-2512

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

Newsletter Staff and Editor
Chris Donnelly

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Connecticut Tree Protective
Association

CTPA's Web Site - www.CTPA.org



Ken Placko, the CTPA President, is stepping down from the CTPA Board effective at the Annual Meeting. Here Ken explains to Warren Jacques the intricacies of being a tree warden. Ken has been on the CTPA Board since 2000, contributing in a variety of roles. Rich Mitchell has been nominated to succeed Ken as President.

Two Board Members to Step Down (*continued*)

ranging from Dr. Richard Cowles of the CT Agriculture Experiment Station to Jim Urban, the landscape architect, and from the Forest Service's Dr. Kevin Smith, speaking on compartmentalization to the Rodale Institute's Dr. Elaine Ingham, speaking on the soil-food web.

Sharon was also instrumental in exploring the ways in which the new CTPA headquarters could be used as a smaller, more informal venue for educational meetings. She arranged for talks on oak wilt and on single rope climbing techniques. She continues to contribute as a member of the committee that is redesigning the CTPA Web Site.

The CTPA Annual Meeting is always a time for turning the page and for looking forward to the next chapter. With Karl Reichle of South Windsor and Dr. Claire Rutledge of CAES both nominated to the board, and with a new slate of officers put forward, led by Rich Mitchell for President, the Association will be in good hands for years to come.



Sharon speaking with a CTPA member at a recent Annual Meeting. Sharon frequently helps out at the CAES booth at both the Summer and Annual Meetings. With Sharon is Mary Inman, Sharon's former colleague in the Plant Disease office.

93rd Annual Meeting to Take Place (*continued*)

from Cook College, Rutgers University. In January 1989 he joined the F. A. Bartlett Tree Expert Co. in Westchester County, NY as an Arborist Representative.

The second speaker in the morning will be Dr. Jeff Ward, Station Forester and Chief Scientist in Forestry and Horticulture at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station. Jeff is well-known to CTPA members as a Past-President of the Association as well as current member of the Tree Protection Examining Board. Jeff will be giving "A Short History of Connecticut's Forests".

Since European settlement first began in the early 1600's, Connecticut's forests have undergone enormous changes. This history is one of exploitation, use and major impacts, as trees and forests have always played a large role in people's lives in the area that is now Connecticut. This began well before European contact and continues through until today. It is estimated that Connecticut was well over 90% forested when it was first colonized by the Dutch and English. By the early to mid-1800's, forest cover had dropped to about 25% before making a slow recovery to a peak of around 60% late in the twentieth century.

Jeff has spent his career looking closely at the trees and forests of Connecticut, studying the dynamics of how trees grow and forests develop in order to gain a better understanding of how the forests of today came about and how we might best make use of them. Jeff's doctorate is from Purdue University, with his earlier studies taking place at The Ohio State University. Jeff is a returned Peace Corp Volunteer, where he did forest extension work in Guatemala.

The keynote speaker is Alex Julius. Alex is Educational Development Manager at the International Society of Arboriculture in Champaign IL. She will be speaking on "Occupational Hazards and Tree Worker Safety: Does Licensing Help?" Her talk is based on a recognition that arborists and tree care workers are exposed to many occupational hazards, too often resulting in fatalities or serious injuries. During her presentation, Alex will explain the results and implications of a study conducted on 63 commercial and utility tree care companies in the New England area. The objectives of this study were, first, to determine whether ISA certification and TCIA accreditation are associated with safer workplace behavior and, second, to identify the safe work practices that tree workers commonly violate.

Alex's presentation is based in part on the work she did while earning her Master's degree at the University of Massachusetts. This work helps in addressing questions relating to the value of an arborist license. Does the license do more than indicate that the tree work performed is likely to be of good quality? Can it also indicate a greater likelihood that the work will be done in a safe manner? If so, then the benefits of licensing extend beyond helping to make clients happy. The company and crew will benefit from fewer injuries, clients will benefit from reduced risk, and society at large will benefit from the decreased social and financial costs that come from any sort of injury.

Alex knows CTPA well from participating in the 2011 CT Tree Climbing Competition in North Haven. In addition

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The Cold Weather is Here - Be Prepared!

by Emmett Shutts, Shutts Tree Care

As the winter months begin, many of us start our days in the dark and cold. Often, we sluggishly begin our morning routines with plenty of coffee. Most will find five minutes to warm the engines on our trucks and equipment, but how many of you spend an extra five minutes warming up your body and preparing yourself for the additional hazards of winter work?

Arboriculture work has special risks associated with it and winter brings on its own safety matters to consider. These cold weather hazards can be reduced just like any other work-place danger by taking the time to have a pre-job safety meeting. The ANSI standards state that crews shall begin each new job with such a safety meeting. In addition to being required, a safety meeting will give your crew time to go over potential weather related issues.

Cold weather puts extra stress on our bodies. Compare your muscles to a rubber band. When warm, a rubber band stretches and rebounds easily. Take that same rubber band and put it in the freezer and try to stretch it. A frozen rubber band is likely to tear when stretched too hard. Back related injuries are already common in arboriculture. Cold muscles can increase the likelihood of pulling a muscle.

A good way to start your day in the cold is take a few minutes to warm up your body. Begin warming up by doing a light aerobic activity such as jogging. After this, take time to stretch out your muscles. Stretching will help with lifting and long reaches, and in avoiding slips and falls. Stretching should be slow and relaxed. Make sure not to bounce. Hold each stretch for 10-30 seconds. Start with your back and neck but include all muscles you will use in daily jobs (most tree work involves them all). To help make efficient use of employee's time, crew leaders can include stretching during the pre-job safety meeting.

This is also the time to go over any dangers you may encounter that day. Bring up exposure to the cold and ice. With each location the conditions regarding ice and snow can be different. This should be pointed out. The body's exposure to cold weather will likely be similar at all jobs and so can be planned for in advance – make a point of mentioning that people need to be prepared for getting cold regardless of where they will be.

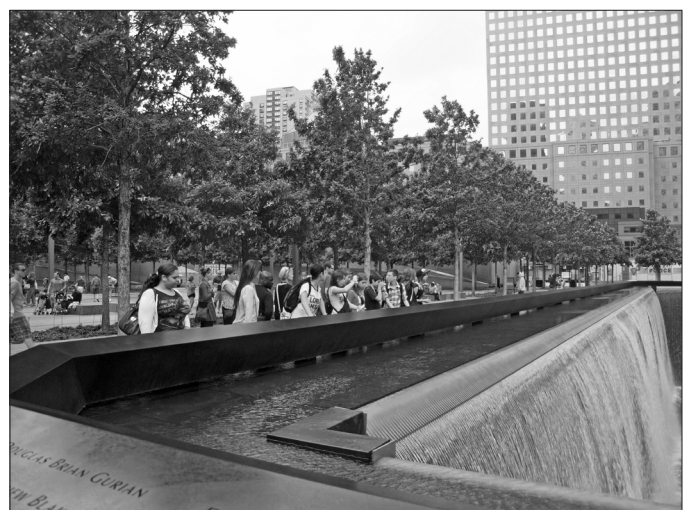
Temperatures even slightly above 32 degrees can cause frostbite. Frostbite occurs when your skin is exposed to freezing temperatures. The likelihood of frostbite can be exacerbated by moisture. Frostbite usually affects ears, nose, cheeks, and feet. Due to walking in snow and handling ice-covered limbs, workers in arboriculture often have on damp or even wet boots and gloves. Sweat can also be a problem, along with precipitation. Moist clothes can cause body temperatures and blood flow to decrease, which in turn increases the chance of frostbite.

Protect yourself from frostbite by wearing moisture wicking clothing and wearing plenty of layers. Keep skin covered to avoid wind chill but don't overdress - try to avoid unnecessary sweating. Bring extra gloves, socks and shirts just in case they are needed.

Ice and snow are conditions that will vary greatly with each job. Slips and falls can cause serious injuries. Caution should be taken even when traveling from the parking lot at the office to the work area in the field. Employees must wear appropriate footwear to help reduce chances of slipping. During the pre-job safety meeting, talk about icy and snowy areas you may encounter at the worksite and find a way to either avoid them or make them safer to cross.

Any increase in the degree of hazard for those who work in arboriculture should not be accepted. The emphasis must be on decreasing danger. In an industry where worker's compensation insurance costs are constantly rising, it is important to find ways to increase safety. Seemingly small accidents like slip and falls and pulled muscles can lead to long-term injuries. Take the extra time in the winter needed to do the job safely.

Arboriculture 101 begins January 7, 2015.



A closer view of one of the cascades at the 9/11 Memorial site. Several of the swamp white oaks can be seen behind the visitors.

New Best Management Practices for Cabling

by H. Dennis P. Ryan, Ed.D. , Brian Kane, Ph.D. & Richard W. Harper; U. of Massachusetts,
Department of Natural Resources Conservation, Arboriculture & Community Forestry

In 2013 the Tree Care Industry Association published a revised ANSI A300 (Part 3) Tree, Shrub, and other Woody Plant Maintenance – Standard Practices for Supplemental Support Systems, commonly called the “Cabling Standard”. Whenever there is an update to an A300 Standard the International Society of Arboriculture publishes an updated Best Management Practices to complement the Standard. The BMP TREE SUPPORT SYSTEMS-Cabling, Bracing, Guying, and Propping, Third Edition 2014 was written by E. Thomas Smiley, Bartlett Tree Experts Company, and Sharon Lilly, ISA. This special publication is a companion to the A300 and is available from the ISA at: <http://www.isa-arbor.com/store/shop.aspx>

There has been a considerable amount of controversy in reference to cabling. One issue has been that of liability. It is assumed that when you install a brace or a cable that you are doing so to add strength to a weak point in the tree, such as a weak fork with included bark. The keys in avoiding liability are to install the system according to specifications and to have a periodic inspection plan that has been explained, in writing, to the client.

A copy of the BMP for Tree Support Systems should be in every toolbox of bracing and cabling supplies. We strongly suggest that special attention be given to Table 4. This table outlines the “Minimum hardware size requirements for cabling trees (adapted from ANSI A300 Part3, Table A-1)”. It lists the size and type of hardware that should be used for cabling branches of a variety of diameters.

What you do not want to do is to use a cabling system that is not strong enough for the size of the branch being cabled. If your system were to fail and it did not meet the Table 4 requirements, you could easily be held responsible for the branch failure and any resulting injury or damage. Always follow the minimum hardware size requirements for the size of the tree that you are working on. By the same token, bigger isn’t always better: dead-end hardware like j-lags, should not get too close to the opposite side of the branch into which it’s inserted.

Another cabling debate has been the use of dynamic or synthetic cabling systems. A dynamic cabling system is a system that uses a synthetic rope-like material instead of 7-strand steel cable. This rope-like cable is more elastic than steel cable. The idea is that this reduces shock loads in the cable and allows the cabled branches to sway naturally. Neither of these advantages has been experimentally documented (see a recent publication in Urban Forestry & Urban Greening (Volume 13 pp. 443-

449)). There are several very important considerations outlined in the new BMP. Keep these in mind before using a dynamic synthetic rope for cabling.

For example, the dynamic systems that “wrap around the stem” have the “potential for girdling” the tree. There are dynamic systems that use traditional anchors of lags and eyebolts that will eliminate the problem of girdling damage and we would recommend these when choosing a dynamic system.

Two other considerations that effect the longevity of the synthetic cables are degradation by sunlight (UV radiation) and small animals that may chew on the cable. While steel cables will last for many years, the synthetic rope-cables have a much shorter lifespan and need to be inspected more frequently.

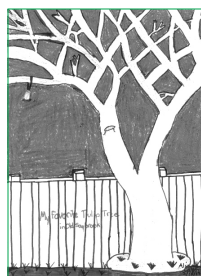
Lastly, dynamic systems should never be used to cable a tree because of a weak fork or poor branch attachment. When cabling a weak attachment we do not want to have the junction of the two pieces of wood moving. In these cases a steel cabling system should be used.

Bracing and cabling have a place in many tree preservation programs. Yes, there are limitations, but a well designed and installed cabling system can preserve a significant tree for many additional years.

The CTPA Arbor Day Poster Contest

The CTPA Arbor Day Poster Contest will again give fifth grade students throughout Connecticut the opportunity to express how they view trees through a poster submitted to the CTPA. The Poster Contest is the successor to the Arbor Day Essay Contest. Posters are chosen by fifth grade teachers and are submitted for review by the CTPA Board. One winning poster is chosen for each of the state's eight counties. The contest coincides with Arbor Day, with the winners invited to an Arbor Day tree planting ceremony organized by CTPA. This year, the tree planting ceremony will take place at the CT Agricultural Experiment Station in New Haven.

Full details are available on the CTPA website. Entries are due into the CTPA office by March 13, 2015.



The Middlesex County winner of the 2013 Arbor Day Poster Contest, The theme of this year's contest is, "My Favorite Tree in My Town 2015". Details regarding the contest are available on the CTPA website. CTPA members are asked to encourage schools to participate.

93rd Annual Meeting (*continued*)

to holding a Master of Science degree in Arboriculture from UMass, she holds a BA from Smith College, is a Board Certified Master Arborist through ISA and a Certified Tree Worker Climber Specialist.

The Trade Show is always a highlight, with a full house of exhibitors ready to go on January 15th. Registration details are available online (www.ctpa.org) or through the CTPA office (203-484-2512). CEU's are available for CT licensed arborists and for pesticide supervisors (categories 3A and 2), for TCIA CTSP's, for ISA certified arborists and for CT Forest Practitioners.

Nominations for the 2015 CTPA Board

President - Rich Mitchell

Vice President - Charlie Iselin

Secretary-Treasurer - Bud Neal

Directors:

Patrick Parker

Pat Flynn

Chris Donnelly

Sandy Ingellis

Ken Bullard

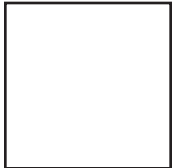
Dr. Claire Rutledge

Karl Reichle

Allan Fenner

Nominees will be voted on as part of the Business Meeting at the Annual Meeting. Also, there will be an opportunity at the Business Meeting to discuss issues that are of concern to members. The Business Meeting begins at 8:30 a.m.

The CTPA wishes all in tree care a happy, safe and prosperous New Year!



CTPA
PO Box 1946
Wallingsford, Connecticut 06492



All of Connecticut Now Under the Larger Federal Quarantine for EAB

On December 5, 2014, the Director of the CT Agricultural Experiment Station rescinded the quarantine that had been placed on the 4 western counties in Connecticut and, in its place, put the entire state under the larger, federal quarantine. This federal quarantine regulates the movement of ash trees and ash wood in an area extending from Missouri and Iowa all the way to New England. The federal quarantine allows the unrestricted movement of regulated articles within this vast stretch of contiguous quarantine areas, with some exceptions. Rhode Island is not included in this federal quarantine area because EAB has yet to be found in that state.

One exception relates to the movement of hardwood firewood into Connecticut. The provisions of section 22-

84-5e of the state regulations still restricts the movement of hardwood firewood into the state that originates from an area quarantined for EAB. In addition, the requirement still exists that the transporter of any firewood within Connecticut be able to document the geographic source of that firewood.

The other major exception has to do with ash that originates from an area quarantined for the Asian longhorned beetle. Ash is a known host for ALB, so the full set of restrictions on wood movement from these areas remains in effect.

For further details, visit the EAB pages on the CT DEEP and CAES websites: www.ct.gov/deep/eab and www.ct.gov/caes respectively.