



# THE CONNECTICUT ARBORIST

Volume XXVIII, Number II

Connecticut Tree Protective Association, Inc.

Winter 2017-2018

## Upcoming - the CTPA Annual Meeting - January 18th

The CTPA Annual Meeting is rapidly approaching. It will arrive on Thursday, January 18th. The meeting will be held at the Aqua Turf in Plantsville, CT. The highly respected Plant Pathologist, Dr. George Hudler of Cornell University, is the keynote speaker. Tim Walsh, Safety Manager with the Davey Resource Group, is also on the program. With the other events of the day, including the Exhibit Area, the Business Meeting, the election of officers and directors and, of course, the great hospitality of the Aqua Turf, it will be a great day.

### Dr. George Hudler

Over his years of teaching and doing research, Dr. Hudler has built a solid following among people concerned about tree and plant diseases. Always

a 'go-to' resource, his studies, comments and insights on a range of difficult tree disease problems have held the attention of arborists for over 4 decades. He has written extensively over the years, including his widely popular book *Magical Mushrooms, Mischievous Molds*. Now retired (though still active), he is accepting fewer speaking engagements. The CTPA Annual Meeting will be great opportunity to hear one of the true masters talk on fungi and tree diseases.

Dr. Hudler will deliver two talks at the CTPA meeting. In the morning, George will draw from his popular book and his college lectures, as he again addresses the subject of "Magical Mushrooms, Mischievous Molds". During this talk, he will

show his audience how different and interesting this major group of organisms is. Fungi are not plants or animals - how are they different? The purpose, however, is not just to impress the audience. George's intent is to also give tree care professionals new ways to communicate with their clients, through stoking their curiosity about fungi. In the end, this can lead to better decisions about treatment options, with decisions made from a better informed base.

In the afternoon, George will change direction somewhat. Arborists and researchers are often asked to predict what new diseases and conditions will develop into serious problems in the future. Currently, diseases such as oak wilt, bacterial leaf and sudden oak death are receiving attention in Connecticut due to their potential to become significant problems. As of yet, however, they have not become serious issues in the state. In his talk on "New Tree Diseases Looming in Northeast Landscapes – Fizzle in the Drizzle? Or Not", Dr. Hudler will use the perspective he has gained from his career in plant pathology to discuss the track record of researchers and professionals regarding such predictions. This is not an exercise in keeping score. Arborists need to know the limits on the certainty of their knowledge as they make recommendations to their clients.

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*Work at the Veterans Home and Hospital Healing Garden. Through the leadership of Bud Neal and the design skills of Sandy Ingellis, a remarkable space is coming together.*

*CTPA Annual Meeting, January 18, 2018 - The Aqua Turf, Plantsville, CT*

## CTPA's EHAP Program

Annual training in EHAP – short for the Electrical Hazard Awareness Program – has become a mainstay of CTPA's safety outreach over the past several years. Since 2005, the Association has annually organized an EHAP workshop. This session lays down the basics of what a tree worker needs to know in order to work safely around such electrical hazards as overhead wires. The CTPA program is based on the EHAP training model that has been developed by the Tree Care Industry Association (TCIA). CTPA uses

TCIA materials in the workshop and helps individuals move in the direction of completion of the full TCIA-based EHAP training.

The CTPA workshops are led by a qualified trainer. In years past, that has been Dave Hawkins. More recently, Emmett Shutts has taken on this role. Emmett leads the class through various chapters in the TCIA's EHAP Training Manual. Videos are shown as part of the training and TCIA's testing process is outlined. In addition, Eversource (formerly CL&P) provides a certain flair to the day through the use of their spark box. The spark box is a high voltage demonstrator that illustrates quite clearly just how readily ordinary items such as ropes or tool handles can become conductors of a lethal dose of electricity. For most of these trainings, Eversource's Warren Rogers has demonstrated the spark box.

The CTPA Safety Committee, presently chaired by Pat Flynn, deserves the major share of the credit for organizing this workshop on an annual basis. In addition, TCIA has proven very supportive. Eversource deserves special mention for not only contributing the spark

box but also for providing the room in which the training is held. It also encourages its employees to assist with the training. Doug Pistawka of Eversource has been a stalwart of these annual workshops, going back to the first year.

Doug estimates that, in the course of those 13 years, about 1,200 tree workers have taken this training, some on more-than-one occasion. It is impossible, of course, to know with certainty what accidents this training has helped avoid. Over the years, participants in the training have reported situations in which they have stopped at critical times to re-assess what it is that they are about to do, because of the training. As Doug says, "if we've prevented just one accident or saved one life, then it was all worthwhile."

### Spanish EHAP

Up through this year, all of the EHAP trainings led by CTPA have been presented in English. At one point, with the assistance of funding from TCIA, CTPA did hire a simultaneous translator for Spanish-speaking attendees. It has always been a goal, however, to have a class specifically for Spanish-speaking workers.

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*The Connecticut Arborist*  
is an official publication of the  
Connecticut Tree Protective  
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*Workers from Emerald Tree Care pose for a photo at the Spanish EHAP Training.*

## Scenes from the Connecticut Annual Meeting 2017



*Outgoing President Charlie Iselin welcomes incoming President Bud Neal to the podium at the 2017 Annual Meeting*



*Attendees at the 2017 Meeting pay attention during Dr. Brian Kane's talk on Tree Biomechanics.*

### CTPA Annual Meeting (continued)

This overview will help provide a better understanding of those eternal questions - how can we be sure of what we think we know and then, when we are wrong, how will we know we are wrong?

George is now Professor Emeritus at Cornell University, in the School of Integrative Plant Science. He earned his PhD in 1976 from Colorado State University, at which point he immediately joined the faculty at Cornell. Although "retired", he is still very active with the University, including teaching courses and working on "Branching Out", the widely-circulated newsletter that provides in-season updates on the timing and extent of tree diseases and insects. It is a real treat to have Dr. Hudler returning to a CTPA meeting.

#### **Tim Walsh**

The first speaker of the day will be Tim Walsh of the Davey Tree Expert Company. Tim is well-known to CTPA members and arborists throughout the country as a dedicated safety expert. He has over 25 years experience in tree care safety. In his position as Safety Manager within Davey's Division of Corporate Safety, Tim has become a presence throughout that organization, as he advances the company's far-reaching safety program.

Tim will be speaking on "Revisions to the ANSI Z133 and Tree Worker Safety". The 2017 revision of this standard just became available in November 2017. Tim will point out to attendees what has changed in this version and what that means in terms of field practices.

As most people know, the ANSI Z133 is the primary safety document among tree workers. It is a consensus standard, derived by the tree care industry itself through a group process. As practices and technologies change and as the industry continues to learn over time, the standard also continues to evolve.

Tim is a part of this process, as are members of CTPA. It is interesting to note, as the 2017 revision was being released, the announcement included the following "The International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) will be hosting an Accredited Standards Committee (ASC) meeting in early 2018 to kick off the 2022 revision cycle for the ANSI Z133 Safety Requirements for Arboricultural Operations." The process of improving safety in tree care is never completed.

#### **Updates, Awards and the Exhibit Area**

Along with these two great speakers,

the Annual Meeting will feature updates by Dr. Ted Andreadis of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station and Diane Jorsey of the CT DEEP Pesticide Program. CTPA President Bud Neal will also introduce the "Healing Gardens" project at the Veterans Home in Rocky Hill.

The day kicks off at 8:20 in the morning, as Bud welcomes all attendees. Bud then will open CTPA's Business Meeting. During this meeting, members will vote on the slate of officers and directors to serve on CTPA's Board. The Association's Treasurer and each of the various Committee Chairs will give reports on their activities, before the floor is made available to any member who wishes to bring a topic before the Board. This is a great chance for the Board to hear from the membership regarding any concerns that may exist and for members to contribute to the Board's plan of work for the year.

During the day, CTPA takes the opportunity to honor members, students and others who have shown their commitment to tree care. Look for the CTPA Arborist Scholarship to be awarded, along with the presentation of the Award of Merit

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# The Veterans Home and Hospital Healing Garden

Almost 4 years ago, Bud Neal came to the CTPA Board with an idea. He asked the board members if the CTPA would support the creation of a small outdoor space, with a few planted trees, at the Veterans Home in Rocky Hill. As Bud explained, many of the veterans at the Home have limited mobility and need a space where they can get outside to spend a few moments enjoying nature. Bud suggested that CTPA might want to take on this project because of what we know about the value of trees. And, because all of us have benefited from the sacrifice of these service veterans, many of whom are now reliant on the services that the State provides.

The CTPA Board readily agreed. However, no road that involves government is easy. The State of Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs, owner of the property, has always been supportive of the idea, but permission to actually move forward came more slowly. Changes in the administration of the state's DVA had an effect, as did a sudden discussion about possible alternative plans for the property as a whole. Even changes in the federal Department of Veterans Affairs managed to slow things down. However, Bud persevered. In early October 2017, the groundbreaking for the project occurred.

The basic layout of the Veterans Home and Hospital Healing Garden, as it is now called, is fairly simple. The Healing Garden is on the lawn next to the Sgt. John L. Levitow Veterans Healthcare Center. This is a 125 bed long-term care facility at the Veterans Home. In addition, there is room for about 480 veterans in the Home's residential program, who are housed in other buildings on the grounds. The garden is near the top of a hill, at the head of a long, sloping lawn that frames a spectacular view of the valley and hills beyond it. While the Connecticut River itself cannot be seen, it lays at the base of the valley, its presence made apparent on many mornings through the rising of its steamy mists.

Central to the Garden is a paved loop, which is now complete. As many of the vets who make use of the Healthcare Center are disabled, wheelchair access and level ground are a must. The walkway is slightly less than 300 feet long and is wide enough for 2 wheelchairs to pass by each other.

Along the outside of the loop will be 5 Connecticut-native shade trees, with 5 benches to rest on along the path and a series of small gardens along the way.

The number "5" is significant to this garden. The 5 benches relate to the 5 wars fought since the mid-20th century, from which there are still veterans alive. The 5 trees represent the 5 branches of the service (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard). When mature, the branches of the trees will touch, signifying connectivity but also providing shelter to the veterans and their family members, who will sit on the benches and appreciate the view down the valley.

This project continues to be the brainchild of CTPA President Bud Neal, with Sandy Ingellis as his designer-in-chief. Sandy brings her experience as a Master Gardener to this project, which she uses along with her artistry to guide the decisions she and Bud are making. The vision they have developed is showing itself in the choice of trees, the location of the benches, the layout of the smaller gardens and the overall sense of place and of support, along with the spirit of healing, that is beginning to encompass this space.

Donations will be needed to complete the Garden. Already, a huge donation has been made by O&G industries, through the construction of the walkway. This gift to the veterans came about because of Bud's relationship with Ray Oneglia, a fellow soldier Bud met during his military service. Mr. Oneglia's grandfather was co-founder of O&G Industries in Torrington and Ray is now Vice-Chairman of

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*The view downslope from the Healing Garden.*



*The walkway for the Healing Garden is now complete.*

## CTPA Annual Meeting (*continued*)

and the Arborist Citation.

One always lively feature of CTPA's Annual Meeting is the Exhibit Area. The CTPA meeting has a well-established reputation among vendors and exhibitors. The exhibit hall fills to capacity each year as a result. Whether one is looking for the newest tool or a treatment for a particular pest, or has shopping to do for his or her crew, this is the place to be. Educational organizations and various non-profit entities will be there, supporting tree care and educating attendees. Everyone must make at least one trip around the Exhibit Area during the course of the meeting. One big reason for attending the meeting is to catch up with old friends and make new ones. Attendance at the Annual Meeting often tops 750-800 people. This is the place to see folks engaged in tree care from throughout the state and the region. Helping to sustain this conviviality is the great way in which the Aqua Turf takes care of its guests. Food is ample, excellent and readily available throughout the day. Lunch, as always, will be the highlight.

CEU's are available. CT Licensed Arborists, Ornamental & Turf, Forest Practitioners, ISA Certifications, TCIA CTSP and Advanced Certified Tree Wardens may all receive credits. CT Licensed Arborists are eligible for 4.25 credit hours.

### Registration Details

Registration is available both on-line and via the mail. To learn more about the meeting, please visit the CTPA website at [www.CTPA.org](http://www.CTPA.org). For members, registration is \$65 when received by January 11th and \$75 after that date and at the door. For non-members, the fee for attending is \$80 by January 11th and \$100 afterwards. Students may register for \$40.

If there are any questions, please contact CTPA's Executive Secretary, Cathy Dvorsky, at [cathy@ctpa.org](mailto:cathy@ctpa.org) or 203-484-2512.



*Bud and Sandy, reviewing the plans for the Garden as the walkway is being installed.*

## Veterans Healing Garden (*continued*)

the Board. When Bud shared his idea with Mr. Oneglia, Ray shared Bud's enthusiasm and personally directed O&G's contributions to this project.

Beyond O&G's generous gift, additional funding is needed. CTPA has agreed to take the lead in raising these donations. The CTPA, the Tree Wardens Association, Almstead Tree, Bartlett Tree and Eversource have already agreed to provide the trees. The CTPA Board estimates that an additional \$30,000 will be needed, to cover the cost of the five benches, an iron rail fence to safeguard wheelchair users, plants, seed, two plaques and other items. This includes a small maintenance fund, so that the garden can be kept in good condition after it is completed.

Bud and Sandy are predicting full completion of the Healing Garden by Veterans Day 2018. It is hoped that the trees will be planted in spring of 2018, with the benches installed and the small gardens planted throughout the summer.

Meanwhile, Bud is simply thrilled that a dream is becoming a reality. Throughout, Bud deflects all credit back to the spirit of sacrifice among the veterans themselves, who have done much to deserve this recognition.

Anyone wishing to know more about this project or discuss how they may be able to offer their support are invited to contact the CTPA Office. More about the Healing Garden will be presented at the CTPA Annual Meeting.

### How to Donate to the Healing Garden Fund

In order to complete the Veterans Healing Garden, CTPA looks to raise about \$30,000. The 5 trees have already been donated, but CTPA is seeking support for the purchase of 5 benches, a fence, two plaques, seed for the lawn, plants for the individual gardens, a flagpole and various other items. It also seeks to raise a small cash reserve that can be used to offset future maintenance costs and needs.

CTPA is registered with the IRS as a 501(c)3 organization. This means that it may accept charitable donations and that donors may claim such donations as tax-exempt. The Association will acknowledge any donations with a letter verifying that the donation has been received.

To donate by credit card, please visit the CTPA web site at [www.CTPA.org](http://www.CTPA.org). To donate by check, please mail your donation to the CTPA office:

CTPA  
PO Box 1946  
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Be sure to indicate that the check is intended for the Healing Garden. If you have questions, call the CTPA Office at 203-484-2512



## CTPA's EHAP Program (*continued*)

This past November, CTPA held its first EHAP class conducted in Spanish. The class was held in Norwalk's City Hall, with 54 trainees in attendance – a full house! Leo Roldan led the training. Leo has helped with CTPA events in the past, most notably at various Tree Climbing Competitions. He was eager to step to this role. Besides being fluent in Spanish, he has received TCIA's endorsement to do this training. He proved to be a natural fit.

Indeed, the Spanish EHAP session is being considered as a great success. The tree care companies who sent workers are pleased now that their workers are better prepared to deal with a potentially life-threatening hazard. The workers found the training both interesting and valuable – and are very appreciative that the Association chose to reach out to them. CTPA is happy to have finally accomplished this goal and is looking forward to continue to conduct Spanish EHAP training sessions on an ongoing basis. It considers this type outreach as very important to its mission and seeks to

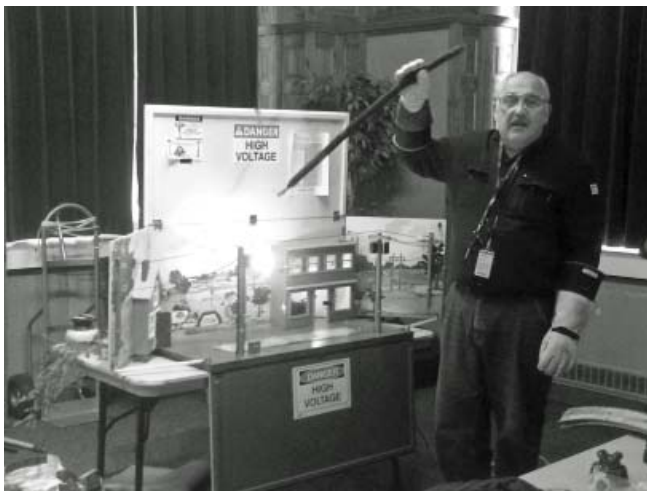
extend it to all in the tree care field who might benefit.

### The Full EHAP Program

As indicated, CTPA's EHAP training is associated with TCIA's EHAP program. In order to complete the full TCIA program, an individual must complete the following steps:

- Pass six tests, each based on a chapter of the TCIA EHAP Training Manual, with a grade of 85% or better
- Provide proof of having watched the Electrical Hazards and Trees video
- Provide proof of having watched the Aerial Rescue video
- Provide proof of having preformed a practice Aerial Rescue (Climbing or Aerial Lift) from a height of at least 35'.
- Provide a copy of a valid First Aid/CPR card

The CTPA workshop helps individual workers get through the first three steps. The final two usually need to be done through the individual's employer.



*Pat Neary, an Eversource Safety Administrator, demonstrated the spark box to the Spanish EHAP class in Norwalk.*



*The Spanish EHAP class also learned about the various pieces of hardware and equipment associated with electricity.*



*From the CTPA Summer Meeting - Todd Arsenault and Todd Martenchek of Asplundh demonstrating work zone set up.*

### Announcements

Plans are underway to hold the **CT Tree Climbing Competition** this year at the Veterans Home in Rocky Hill. The CTCC usually takes place in early May. Stay tuned for additional details.

**Arbor Day Poster Contest** plans are also underway. Please look for the announcement shortly on this competition. All 5th grade students will be invited to participate.

The Spring 2018 Session of **Arboriculture 101** has begun, once again with a full class.

CTPA members should look for their dues notices to be mailed out shortly.

## Scenes from the September Emerald Ash Borer Workshop



*Bud Neal and Claire Rutledge stand next to an infested ash tree in Haddam Meadows State Park. The two helped organize this year's emerald ash borer training.*



*Students at the EAB training learn how to use a draw knife to peel off the bark of infested ash logs, to find the EAB larvae underneath. The efforts were a success. Many larvae were found.*

## Urban Forest Strike Team Training

Some 18 Connecticut arborists, including CTPA members and tree wardens, participated recently in a two-day 'Urban Forest Strike Team' training. This training session was held at Fort Griswold State Park in New London, with field exercises at Harkness Memorial State Park and along New London's streets.

The idea behind an Urban Forest Strike Team is for a group of professional arborists to be able to assist a tree warden or city forester following a major storm. After the emergency responders have done what is needed to clear roads, restore power and remove trees that are imminent hazards, strike team members will go into a city or town to assess the remaining trees. In a region-wide disaster, the assessment may serve as part of information-gathering needed for FEMA. In more localized events,

the Strike Team assists by informing the tree warden or city forester as the extent and degree of the damage and by providing a list of recommendations for individual trees. This can help in the design of the response. It can also save some trees from unnecessary removal, or, as someone once put it, helping the community to "avoid the disaster after the disaster."

The Strike Team training was organized by the US Forest Service, with assistance from the Massachusetts Tree Wardens Association and CT DEEP Forestry. Leo Kelly, West Haven Tree Warden and Tree Warden Association of Connecticut board member, is working on developing an 'in-state' model by which the Strike Team concept may be put into practice within Connecticut.



*Rich Mitchell, Past CTPA President and former Board Member, shows off his Award of Merit. Rich was presented with this award at the Summer Meeting.*



*Also at the Summer Meeting, Deputy State Entomologist Vicki Smith discusses the spread of the emerald ash borer. Vicki is a scientist at the CT Agricultural Experiment Station.*



## Arboriculture 101 Hands-On Night



*One of the highlights of Arboriculture 101 is 'hands-on' night, when students get to see sample materials up close.*



*The instructors for hands-on night make every effort to explain to the students exactly what is going on with the samples.*



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*To all who work with trees in CT: a happy, safe and prosperous New Year!*



*The ketchup is not so apparent in a black and white photo but made a great impression when viewed in person.*

### Chain Saw Realism at the CTPA Summer Meeting

In an effort to fully convince attendees of the need for safety and safe work practices, the Safety Committee gave a true to life demonstration of what happens when a revved up chain saw encounters an unprotected leg. With Emmett Shutts running the saw and Bud Neal providing the explanation, the demonstration showed first how a pair of dungarees does little to stop a running saw while a pair of chaps will stop the chain fairly abruptly.

Bud then wrapped a bladder full of ketchup around the section of branch that was being used as the victim's leg, and pulled another pair of jeans over the leg and bladder. "Go to it," Bud instructed Emmett. When Emmett's saw contacted the jeans, realistic looking 'blood' exploded, in a scene that the organizers hope will last in the viewers' memory.