



THE CONNECTICUT ARBORIST

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Connecticut Tree Protective Association, Inc.

Winter 2022/2023

CTPA Annual Meeting - Thursday, January 19th

On Thursday, January 19th, CTPA will hold its 2023 Annual Meeting. This meeting brings together CTPA members and others involved in tree care from Connecticut and throughout the region, as the Association kicks off the 101st year as a pre-eminent tree educational organization.

The day features 3 main educational talks, along with a trade show and updates from the CTPA Board, the CT DEEP and the CT Agricultural Experiment Station. During the day, the Association will also presents its Award of Merit and the Arborist Citation, alongside of its Arborist Scholarship.

All of this, along with a great lunch, will make for a very full day.

The Educational Events: Beech Leaf Disease

The first educational event of the day will be an update on Beech Leaf Disease, entitled "The Biology and Practical Aspects of Managing Beech Leaf Disease". This talk will be presented by Doctor Bob Marra and Doctor Rich Cowles of the CT Agricultural Experiment Station. Both researchers have been working with their colleagues from throughout areas affected by this disease. Bob Marra will provide an overview of the biology needed to understand this disease, while Rich Cowles will discuss some of the potential treatment options that arborists might use to handle the situation.

Bob Marra received his Ph.D. in Plant Pathology and Mycology from Cornell University and joined the research staff at CAES in 2004. While forest pathology is his principle research interest, Bob also has an expertise in plant pathology, mycology, fungal genetics, population biology, evolution, and molecular biology. He has undertaken extensive research into the processes and patterns of decay in trees, using such non-destructive techniques as tomography. In his time at CAES, Bob has made several important contributions regarding the treatment of trees in Connecticut. Bob has also been active on the West Haven Tree Board, advising the City on the care of its urban forest.

Rich Cowles has worked at the Valley Laboratory of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station for the last 28 years. He earned his doctorate at Michigan State University. Although trained as an entomologist, he has worked on a wide array of problems ranging from insects and mites, plant diseases caused by oomycetes, fungi, and nematodes, and plant nutrition. His current projects include better management of armored scales in Christmas tree plantings and testing products to determine whether they are useful for protecting beech trees from beech leaf disease. He is well known for his contributions to



Kevin Wyatt during the 2020 Annual Meeting.

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We Advance the Care of Connecticut's Trees - and Have for 101 Years!

Electrical Hazards Awareness Program is Back!

CTPA was excited to be back at Eversource, Berlin Campus to conduct a full day of Electrical Hazards Awareness Training on November 3, 2022. Eversource continues to be very generous, allowing the workshop to take place at no cost to the Association. The workshop was sold out with 125 in attendance. Emmett Shutts, The Davey Tree Experts, instructed the workshop and Doug Pistawka, Eversource, demonstrated the Spark Box, a visual demonstration of the hazards of working around powerlines. A big thank you to David Ross and Charlie Iselin for spending the day volunteering to help with registration, lunch and handing out CEU sheets at the end of the day.

The Safety Committee, led by Emmett Shutts, ensures that this workshop is held once a year so that people can make it a priority to attend. Before COVID and the mandates of not meeting in person, the Safety Committee also held the class in Spanish with Leo Roldan as the Spanish instructor. The Committee would like to bring these Spanish-language classes back. Both versions give valuable information to arborists and all people who work near powerlines. The Safety Committee is committed to providing quality instruction in all areas of safety. Be on the lookout for the 2023 safety component at the Summer Meeting as well as the 2023 EHAP workshop in the fall.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer on the Safety Committee, or would just like more information, please contact the office at 203-484-2512 or cathy@ctpa.org.

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Connecticut's trees.*

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Arboriculture 101 - 25 Years and Going Strong!

The Arboriculture 101 classes, started 25 years ago with Oscar P. Stone, continues to be held twice a year under the direction of Chris Donnelly. This 13-week curriculum holds the attention of 40 or more students each session. The topics each night give insight into areas of arboriculture that students will use during their career, while also helping them pass the state exams to obtain a license. The most recent session started in September and ended in December, with 42 people registered.

Instructors volunteers their time and expertise to the classes so that the people starting their career can benefit from their years of experience. The CTPA is forever grateful for the high caliber instructors and their dedication to teaching and mentoring students. The line-up this past fall was Chris Donnelly, Director of Arboriculture 101 and Tree Biology, Doug Pistawka – Tree Identification, Dan Dalton – Non-Parasitic Conditions of Trees, Michael Almstead – Tree / Soil Relationship, Dr. Claire Rutledge – Insects that Feed on Trees, Dr. Yonghao Li – Diseases of Trees, Allan Fenner – Integrated Pest Management, Tina Berger – Tree Law, Tree Regulation and Pesticide Safety, Charlie Iselin – Pruning, Cabling and Bracing, Emmett Shutts – Safety Requirements Relating to Tree Maintenance, Doug Williams – Implementing an IPM Program.

Along with these 11 weeks of instruction, there is a class called Tree Conditions Lab or Hands On Night. This lab gives the students an opportunity to interact with various instructors and their area of expertise. Each table is designed to see firsthand insects or diseases of trees

and listen to instructors and ask any questions they may have. It has proven to be a very useful and beneficial class.

The course wraps up with Review Night. This night starts with pizza for everyone in the class and a round robin of tables with instructors. Each table has an instructor and scenarios (pictures of trees in various conditions). The students are given a ceremonial wave of the wand and they are licensed arborists for the evening. They must go to each table and talk to the instructor as if the instructor is the customer. They state what they see, educate the instructor, and give a well-informed diagnosis.

This class is a great way for students to practice being able to speak in front of people, as they must during the oral portion of the exam.

Lastly, there is a bonus class that takes place on a Saturday. This is the Tree Identification walk guided by Doug Pistawka. The students who attend go on a three-hour walk around Edgerton Park in New Haven and see firsthand different trees and how to identify them by leaf and bark. It is a truly eye-opening adventure and extremely informative.

The next session starts January 6, 2023 for another 13 weeks. If you are interested or know someone that is interested, there are a few spots available. Please go to the [CTPA Arboriculture 101 web page](#) to register.



Chris Donnelly kicks off the Fall 2022 with a big welcome to the program.. Bud Neal also takes time to give encouraging words to the new students. "Don't be afraid to speak up and ask questions!" Students come from varying degrees of field experience and always ask questions that the entire class can learn from.

Pictured left, Chris Donnelly gives the first class in Tree Biology.

Spotted Lanternfly

In 2022, the spotted lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*) seemed to be everywhere. This includes being the subject of a [Saturday Night Live skit](#) and reaching the [style pages of the New York Times](#). Throughout the year, this insect also continued to expand its presence throughout Connecticut. The spotted lanternfly is poised to continue to be an insect of concern throughout 2023.

The first thing to know about this insect is that, entomologically speaking, it is a true bug. That means, as an insect, it is classified within the order Hemiptera; the order that also includes aphids, leafhoppers and shield bugs. Like most true bugs, the spotted lanternfly feeds by sucking out plant juices. It also tends to gather in large numbers and so causes the worst of its damage through mass-feeding on preferred plants. The amount of sap a population can suck over the course of a growing season can severely deplete or even kill a susceptible plant. A by-product of its way of feeding is the copious production of honeydew, excreted as each bug passes large amounts of sap through its gut in order to extract the necessary nutrients it needs to live.

The spotted lanternfly is also hemimetabolous, meaning that, over the course of its life, it undergoes an incomplete metamorphosis. The spotted lanternfly has 3 life-stages – egg, nymph and adult. As a nymph, or juvenile, it undergoes a series of 4 instars, separated by molts, during which the nymph sheds its skin and expands its body, before hardening into the next instar. These nymphs look very similar to the adult, only smaller, generally less colorful and are without wings. They also feed in much the same way, although the feeding preference during the earlier instars is more towards smaller and more understory plants, including weeds, grapes and roses. By the last instar and into the adult stage, these insects tend to feed more on trees, with a number of trees having been identified as potential hosts.

The spotted lanternfly appears to have an association with the tree of heaven, *Ailanthus altissima*. While the nature of this relationship is not known, this tree is apparently a key host and highly preferred food resource for the insect. This provides one management opportunity for the control of this insect, as the insect can be expected to be drawn to this tree, particularly later in its life cycle.

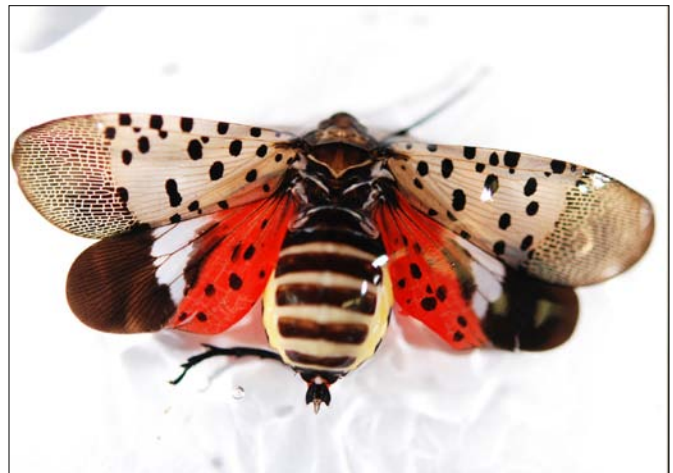
The spotted lanternfly has one generation over the course of a single growing season. Eggs hatch in May and June, with the black and white first 3 instars feeding on herbaceous and understory plants. By the fourth instar, typically lasting from July on into early September, the now red, black and white nymph begins to move into the larger woody plants, including trees. The adults begin

to appear by late August and can persist into December. These insects have fully formed wings and reproductive organs and tend to feed exclusively by siphoning sap from the phloem tissue of woody plants. Egg laying tends to occur from September on into December, with 30-50 eggs laid in a non-descript yellow brown waxy structure that the female places on pretty much any smooth, vertical surface, including stones, tools and the bark of smooth-barked trees.

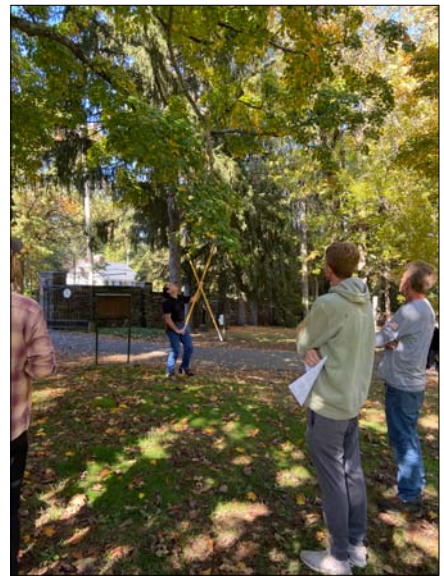
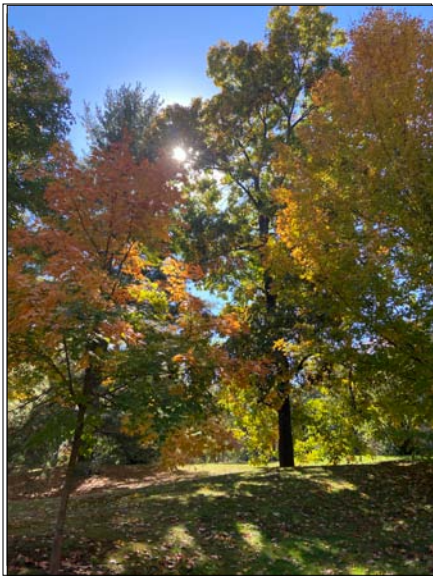
The spotted lanternfly is likely to receive the most attention due to its expected impact on agricultural crops, including grapes, hops and such fruit trees as apples and peaches. The damage it causes is both to the plant directly, through its feeding on the plant's sap, and also indirectly, through contamination of fruit by the excretion of honeydew. The insect also causes problems in landscape situations. People are repulsed by its sticky excretions, which can cover sidewalks, benches, tables, cars and pretty much anything else out under the trees. The insect is thus considered to be both damaging to trees and a nuisance to people that many homeowners will want to see gone.

In its native habitat, primarily in China, the insect is kept in check by parasitic wasps. In Connecticut, pesticide applications to control the insects may be necessary, with different plants targeted for these applications throughout the growing season. Removing trees-of-heaven might have a local effect on the presence of these insects. However, the ubiquity of this tree makes it unlikely that the removal of a single or a few trees will have much impact on the overall spotted lanternfly population. Scraping eggs where found during the off-season will also help reduce the population locally.

CTPA members are encouraged to stay up-to-date on the spotted lanternfly by regularly visiting the [CT Agricultural Experiment Station SLF web page](#).



Scenes from the Fall Arbor 101 Tree Identification Tree Walk



Instructor Doug Pistawka takes the arbor 101 students to Edgerton Park in New Haven to spend three hours identifying trees.



Students are encouraged to look for acorns, look at leaves and bark and recognize how to identify each trees.



Jeff Ward Retirement Tree Planting at CAES



November 3, 2022, Dr. Jeff Ward was honored by peers and colleagues with a tree planting at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station. The tree he chose was a Cucumber Magnolia.

When asked by he chose a cucumber magnolia, his answer was "Why not?" The person in charge of finding this tree had a tough time and joked that the shipping for the tree cost more than the tree itself.

Jeff seemed very pleased that so many people took the time to be a part of the tree planting and went to lunch as well. We wish Jeff all the very best and hope to continue to see him at CTPA events.



The CT Climbing Competition took place at Boothe Park in Stratford, CT. The day ended rainy and Jake Slade as the winner of the Master's Challenge. Top: Jacke Slade at the Master's Challenge. Left: Charlie Iselin, Jake Slade and Bud Neal. Jake is being presented with the winners mug.

CTPA's Annual Meeting (continued)

understanding how best to use systemic insecticides, and for measuring their concentrations in trees, nectar and pollen. As a Christmas tree grower himself, and through his close working relationships with arborists and others engaged in tree care issues, Rich is well aware of the practical consequences of his work.

Dr. Susanna Keriö of the Experiment Station will be the emcee of this session. Dr. Keriö is a forest pathologist and ecologist who joined the Forestry Division at CAES in 2020. She spoke at last year's virtual Annual Meeting and is now establishing herself as important contributor to the knowledge of tree health in Connecticut, including the health of street trees. Susanna earned her doctorate at the University of Helsinki.

This educational session will run from 9 until 10:15 am.

Climate Change, Urban Forests, and Arboriculture: Impacts and Solutions.

This presentation will be given by Dr. Dan Herms, Vice President of Research and Development at The Davey Tree Expert Company. Over recent decades, the Earth has warmed sharply, with impacts on tree growth and stress, pest pressure, urban heat, drought and wildfire and storm water runoff. Worker safety is another consideration in the face of climate change. This presentation will review these intensifying impacts, including the projected effects of future warming, the potential for trees to mitigate the impacts of climate change, and how we might select trees for future climates.

In his work at The Davey Tree Expert Company, Dan oversees their research program, laboratories, technical services, and climate science initiatives. Prior to joining Davey, he was a professor in the Department of Entomology at Ohio State University for 21 years and was a member of the OSU Climate Change Outreach Team. Throughout his career, Dan has focused his research, teaching, and outreach programs on the ecology and management of trees, including the interactions of trees with insects, soils, and climate.

Dan has received many honors throughout his career. Most recently, he was honored as the recipient of the 2022 Distinguished Alumnus Award from the Department of Entomology of Michigan State University, where Dan earned his Ph.D. in 1991. In 2013, at the ISA Meeting in Toronto, Dan was presented with the International Society of Arboriculture's R.W. Harris Author's Citation. This award is one of ISA's prestigious awards and is given to authors by ISA for sustained excellence in the publication of timely information in the field of arboriculture.

CTPA is very pleased to have Dan speaking at our meeting. Dan's talk will run from 10:30 to 11:30 am.

Decay Fungi Every That Arborist Should Know and Recognize

In the afternoon, attendees will be able to from Dr. Chris Luley, President of Urban Forest Diagnostics LLC, an urban forestry consulting company based in New York State. As the title of Dr. Luley's talk suggests, Chris will provide an overview of the top few decay fungi that affect trees in the northeastern US, including a discussion of how to identify these fungi, what type of damage they cause and why arborists should be concerned.

Chris has over 40 year's experience in urban forest management and tree diagnostics. He is a graduate of the State University of New York at Syracuse and Syracuse and Iowa State University with degrees in tree pathology. He is also a recipient of the RW Harris Award from ISA, having received this award in 2015, as well as the Brian Skinner Lifetime Achievement Award from the New York State Arborist Association.

Chris has recently published the second edition of "Wood Decay Fungi Common to Living Urban Trees in the Northeast and Central United States". This book is the follow-up to the 2005 edition, which has proven useful to many arborists in the identification of common decay fungi. In the new book, he maintains his focus on the "Big Five", but also expands his consideration to over 50 different fungi along with updated photos and additional descriptive background material.

Dr. Luley's talk will run from 2:30 until 3:45 pm.



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

Continued on Page 8

A Glimpse into What is Coming to CTPA in 2023

The Connecticut Tree Protective Association passed the landmark year of 100 in 2022. It has been through grit and hard work from volunteers that the organization has blossomed into the solid and steadfast organization that it is today. The board of directors recognizes that the organization needs to keep one eye on what is happening in the present and one eye on the future. Not only does this mean looking for new, strong leaders for the organization but also recognize and anticipate the media, software, and digital needs as it strives towards keeping its mission.

The CTPA has invested in new hardware to make walk-in registration quicker. Previously, we used tablets but as technology advances, tablets are becoming less practical. We continue to encourage people to pre-register online as it is the fastest way to register and help us with the number of people attending a meeting or workshop.

The Public Relations Committee has taken on the task of looking for an internet platform that would suit the CTPA and increase the ability of members to do things on-line, using the website that is already in existence. Some features of the new platform would allow a CTPA member to access to their online information and be able to change contact information on their own. It would also allow the office to automatically send reminders and invoices on an annual basis for dues and any money that is owed. We are excited to have this opportunity to move

the organization forward and bring you quality support. The CTPA Education Committee is also hard at work putting together workshops for the 2023 year to get us back to pre-COVID times and bring more education and make more CEU's available to those with an arborist license. Please check back to the [CTPA website](#) for workshops throughout the year.



The Current Board of Directors with nominees Stacey Marcell and Casey Tresp. Voting will be at the Business Meeting for the new board of directors.

Annual Meeting (continued)

What Else Will be Happening at the Annual Meeting?

The Annual Meeting begins at 8:20 in the morning, with the President's Welcome and then CTPA's Annual Business Meeting. As outgoing President, Pat Flynn will wield the gavel before handing over it over to the newly elected President, following a vote by the membership. During the Business Meeting itself, the membership in attendance will be asked to consider an increase in dues, to \$65 per year for Regular Members. The current Board will also provide a financial update to the attendees.

Immediately following lunch, attendees will hear updates provided by Diane Jorsey of CT DEEP's Pesticide Program and Dr. Jason White of the CT Agricultural Experiment Station. New initiatives at DEEP will be discussed, as will the latest news from the Station.

Throughout the day, attendees will have an opportunity to visit with the exhibitors at the CTPA Trade Show. Over 50 exhibitors and vendors will be in attendance, to update attendees on the current products, services and innovations in tree care, as well as broaden people's scope of awareness regarding programs and initiatives happening in tree care and urban forestry. For many people, the Trade Show is the highlight of the day.

CEU's are available for the following:

CT Arborist License 3D - 4.25 ceu's

ISA - 3.75 ceu's

Advanced Certified Tree Warden - 4.25 ceu's

To Register for the Annual Meeting please go to [Annual Meeting Registration](#). Exhibitors may register at [Exhibitor Registration](#). We are looking forward to meet-ing in person again and having a great day of talks and an exhibitor show.

