



Massachusetts Tree Wardens & Foresters Association

Since 1913...Working for the Protection and Preservation of Trees

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 18, 2012

Dalton Tree Warden Recognized as Tree Warden of the Year

Sturbridge, MA, January 11, 2012. At its 99th Annual Conference, the Massachusetts Tree Wardens and Foresters Association (MTWFA) presented its 11th annual Seth H. Swift Tree Warden of the Year award to Peter Bacon, Tree Warden for the Town of Dalton, MA. The award was presented by President Christopher Hayward at an awards luncheon at the Host Hotel and Conference Center.

Peter Bacon was appointed in 1998 to be Tree Warden, a volunteer position in the Town of Dalton. In the 14 years since his appointment, his accomplishments are impressive:

- **A tree inventory of all town trees**, completed in his first year on the job, has proven most useful to Town employees in their initial assessment of resident questions and concerns about town trees. The inventory is also used as a guide for where new plantings are needed.
- **A Tree City USA designation** for the Town of Dalton, a certification that he has continually maintained for the Town.
- **A beautiful Main Street corridor lined with trees**, appreciated by residents and tourists alike.
- **Collaboration with the Beautification Commission**, working to enhance Main Street by assisting the Commission in selection and location of plantings.
- **Annual Arbor Day celebrations**, often with the Boy Scouts and Girls Scouts, and including educating young people about the importance and protection of urban trees.
- **Working relationship with the Town Highway Department** in trimming and removal of town trees, as well as replacement plantings.
- **Recruitment and training of volunteers** to assist in the planting and maintenance of new town trees, including soliciting the assistance of residents to care for newly planted town trees that are adjacent to their property.

Most of Mr. Bacon's work for the Town of Dalton is done on a volunteer basis. He receives a small stipend for this position, a stipend that barely covers reimbursement of his fuel costs when traveling to examine trees.

Mr. Bacon was recognized by his peers for his commitment and dedication to the protection of urban trees and for his work with his community to do everything possible to maintain and improve tree growth and health.

The Massachusetts Tree Wardens and Foresters Association is the nation's oldest tree protection organization, founded in 1913 for the protection and preservation of trees. Tree Wardens are municipal positions, mandated under Massachusetts General Laws to protect public shade trees within the 351 cities and towns of the Commonwealth. The Tree Warden of the Year award was created in 2002 to honor longtime West Springfield Tree Warden Seth H. Swift, an active member of the Association. For more information about the position of Tree Warden and about the Association, visit their website at www.masstreewardens.org.

The MTWFA will hold a spring Arbor Day Celebration in Dalton, with a tree planting in honor of Mr. Bacon. Details may be obtained in April by contacting Debby Merry, Dalton's Administrative Assistant, at daltonaa@bcn.net.