



Massachusetts Tree Wardens' & Foresters' Association

Since 1913, Working for the Protection and Preservation of Trees

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Chris Scott, City of Chicopee, Recognized as 2020 Tree Warden of the Year

The Massachusetts Tree Wardens' and Foresters' Association (MTWFA) has presented its 19th annual Seth H. Swift Tree Warden of the Year award to Chris Scott, City of Chicopee.

Chris Scott has served as Tree Warden for the City of Chicopee since 2013. Mr. Scott is a graduate of the University of Massachusetts Stockbridge School.

Mr. Scott began his career working part-time after school for Northern Tree Service. He stayed on after graduating high school and worked his way up to running his own crew doing utility pruning. He took a hiatus to complete his degree at Stockbridge, returning to Northern for a short time before accepting a position with the City of Chicopee to run a tree crew. After a stint working for his family's logging business, he returned to the City of Chicopee and has been there ever since.

Mr. Scott played a critical role in expanding forestry operations in the City of Chicopee from a two-man department to the current staff of six. With his work and dedication, the city also completed its first ever tree inventory. He worked tirelessly to upgrade the departments equipment from a single 2006 aerial lift boom truck, adding a second boom truck and even more recently, a log truck. Under his guidance, and with support from the city's Planning Department and City Council, Chicopee has planted over 1,000 new trees. According to his crew, "Chris is a great leader, always taking the time to show proper techniques and discuss new and improved safety procedures. He also takes time out of his busy work schedule to be a mentor and a friend."

Mr. Scott's own words exemplify the spirit behind the Tree Warden of the Year recognition. In accepting the award from the MTWFA, he thanked them for expanding his understanding of the role of tree warden by saying, "... as much as I like to keep my circle very small, and that I would be very happy just getting dirty doing tree work with my guys every day, that if I truly love what I do I have to be an advocate for what we do and foster interest from others, whether it is to get people to understand the benefits of trees or [to] get younger generations to see what an awesome career path this industry can be. I truly believe that there is no better community than those that have chosen to make caring for trees their career."

The Massachusetts Tree Wardens' and Foresters' Association is the nation's oldest urban and community tree protection organization, founded in 1913 for the protection and preservation of trees. The position of tree warden is a municipal one, mandated under Massachusetts General Law Chapter 87, with the charge 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 the late Seth H. Swift, a longtime tree warden for West Springfield and an active member of the association. For more information about the position of tree warden and about the association, visit www.masstreewardens.org.

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the MTWFA has not previously been able to celebrate Mr. Scott's accomplishment. The MTWFA plans to hold an early fall, commemorative tree planting in Chicopee in honor of Mr. Scott's award. Details will be posted on www.masstreewardens.org.