

Massachusetts Tree Wardens and Foresters Association

Organized for the Protection and Preservation of Trees

March 27, 1913 • Dr. George E. Stone, Founder



BAARK

2022
Issue 2
Summer

Training Prune

By David Anderson

Storm damage is the ultimate opportunity for arborists to play Monday morning quarterback. Whether it is a public or private tree, there are the inevitable would haves, could have's or should haves: "I should have removed this tree", "I should have pruned and cabled that tree". It's humbling when it happens on our watch. There is a delicate balance between managing to preserve trees and managing to minimize risk. However, you never get used to the feeling when you get a panicked call from a resident reporting a downed tree.

So, what is the best way to abate storm damage? To go back in time of course. Wouldn't that be nice? Being proactive is always the best, but you can't win them all. One simple way to decrease some storm damage is to prune trees when they are young.

Training pruning can eliminate a lot of structural defects. Weak branch attachments seem to be the most common cause of storm damage. These branches can easily be eliminated or shortened to create a better long-term structure. You can prune a young tree before it is planted but its preferable to have a developed root system. Usually after the tree has been in the ground for a year or two. The ideal time is after a small tree has been established for two years. The smaller the tree the better, 1-2.5-inch caliper is best.



The advantage of working on the tree when they are young and small is you are less likely to damage the tree. The pruning wounds are small, and the tree is growing rapidly so it can overcome the wounding quickly. Think of an 8-year-old breaking his arm compared to a 60-year-old. Who will recover faster? So often we find structural defects in middle aged or mature trees, and we are limited to what we can do. You can shorten branches and install cables, but you should not remove the branch if its greater than 12 inch in diameter. At best you will destroy the trees shape and worse create a cavity. It is very difficult for an older tree to close this wound.

Continued on Page 6.

The BARK Newsletter is made possible through a grant from the USDA Forest Service, Urban and Community Forestry Program and the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, Bureau of Forestry.

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MTWFA MASSACHUSETTS TREE WARDENS AND FORESTERS ASSOCIATION

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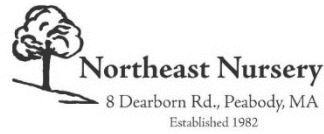
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From the President

Dear members and friends,

Welcome to the summer edition of The Bark. I hope the summer months treat you well. Here in the lower end of Middlesex County we were treated to a spectacular display performed by our flowering and showy trees this spring. The Yoshino Cherries, Elizabeth Magnolias, Crab Apples, and Chinese Fringe Trees were the true winners. I was also impressed with our less dramatic Ironwood friends until someone backed over one trying to parallel park.

I am also impressed and pleased to hear that the Field Day was a great success, unfortunately I was not able to attend because of a Covid diagnosis, but I am happy to hear that our Executive Team did a great job. Thank you to all of our volunteers, attendees, vendor partners and especially our host communities of Malden and Melrose. Our member host Kevin Benner did a great job welcoming us to his historic, beloved, awesome gem of a park for the local community.



I hope you all were able to celebrate Arbor Day in your local communities and that the celebrations were a success. The Association was able to get one tree planted in the City of Springfield for our Tree Warden of the Year recipient Alex Sherman. Thank you to the City of Springfield for being such a great host, but also thank you to the local media in Western Massachusetts for such great coverage and recognition of the important work carried out by the local Tree Wardens in those communities.

As always, continue to look for messages coming your way from your Association about more events and opportunities to gather. On the horizon we have more Western Mass dinner meetings, more Professional Development Series programs, and we are planning the details for our 2023 Annual Conference. In the meantime, enjoy the summer safely, wear lots of sunscreen, and watch out for those pesky ticks and mosquitoes.

Wishing you a summer filled with the right amount of heat, the right amount of rainfall, and a light breeze.

Your President,

Arthur Goodhind

Welcome New Members!

Steve Messinger – Town of Hingham

Joseph Pellegrino – City of Boston


Brian Drummong – Town of Swampscott

Celebrating Alex Sherman! 2022 Tree Warden of the Year

May 11, 2022. The Massachusetts Tree Wardens' and Foresters' Association was thrilled to be a part of the Tree Warden of the Year celebration in Springfield, Massachusetts.

To honor City Forester and Tree Warden of the Year, Alex Sherman, the City of Springfield hosted a tree planting at Nathan Bill Park, followed by a lovely luncheon at Emma's Place. It was an honor to be able to celebrate this special day with Alex and the Springfield Forestry Department!

Check out the Channel 22 news coverage!
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Members of the MTWFA Board of Directors gather at the tree planting to honor Alex Sherman



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Continued from Page 1. Training Prune.

You want to work close to the trunk of the tree starting at the top. The most important thing is to have one central lead at the top and eliminate codominant stems. So often you see a healthy tree with a nice shape that grows well only to split apart due to a V crotch or included bark. That is why this type of pruning is especially important for medium to large tree species. If these defects are not removed as the trees grow exponentially larger, they put more weight and stress onto that bad branch attachment.

If you cannot remove entire branch, you can shorten the bad branch. As a result, the central lead will grow faster becoming taller and shade the lower branches. This allows the central leader to be dominant and eliminates multiple stems growing larger leading to splitting and catastrophic storm damage. The classic example is Callery pears. They were planted everywhere in the 1980's. They performed well until they reached a certain size and then broke apart. There are other tree species like the ornamental pears that are predisposed to bad branch attachments, but every species will have some.

As you move down the spine of the tree from the top you want to continue to remove these bad crotches to the trunk preferably but at least shorten them to reduce the fulcrum. As you work your way down be thoughtful to space the branches in a logical manner be careful to not remove too many branches. Although a good training pruning is more about the future structure of the tree than what it looks like when you are done, you don't want to damage the tree by over pruning. Most of the time with a small tree you can create a great structure with one pruning. Sometimes you may need to do what's most important now and come back another time. If you need to perform a second prune on the tree allow a couple of years for the tree to recover from the initial pruning.

Again, like most arboricultural practices being proactive is always best. Proper training pruning is the ultimate way to be proactive. It's almost as good as going back in time.

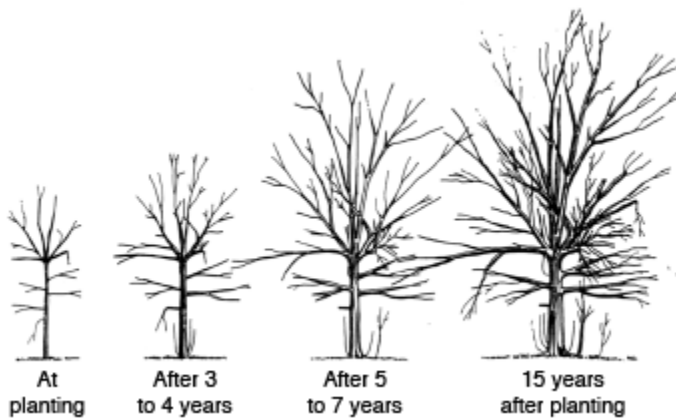


Figure 1a. A tree that is not pruned when young may grow into an unattractive tree

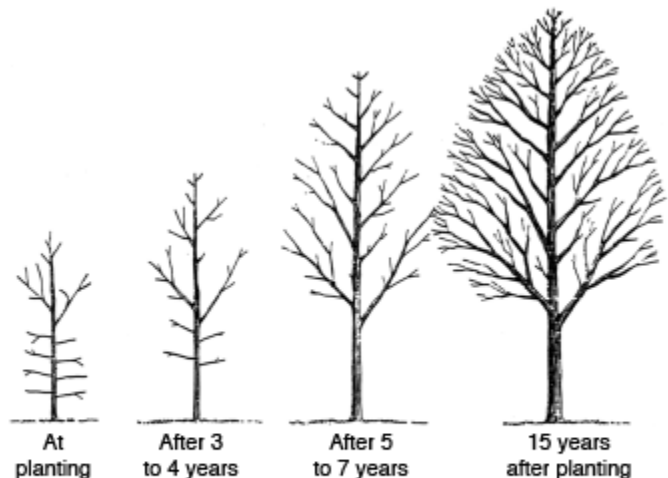


Figure 1b. A tree that is pruned when young grows into a strong, attractive tree.

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2022 MTWFA Field Day

May 18, 2022 | Pine Banks Park

Nearly 150 Tree Wardens and Exhibitors gathered at Pine Banks Park to participate in the 2022 MTWFA Field Day. The event included education sessions, a delicious barbecue lunch catered by Big Pig Barbeque and free Ice Cream from Cool Cow Ice Cream! Special thanks to Kevin Brenner and the Staff at Pine Banks Park for hosting this amazing event.



Rich Parasiliti Demonstrates Proper Tree Planting



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Dave Hawkins Discusses Assessing Trees for Risk



Winner of the Husqvarna Chainsaw - Jonathan Salie - City of Malden



Mayor of Malden, Gary Christenson, with MTWFA Executive Director, Heather Leff, Pine Banks Park Superintendent, Kevin Benner, and Converse



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Report: 2022 Arbor Day/Earth Day Seedling Program

by Richard Parasiliti Jr. Seedling Program Coordinator

Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's MTWFA Arbor Day/Earth Day Seedling Program! It was a huge success with seedling sales exceeding my expectations!

Seedling purchasers include municipalities, garden clubs, private firms, arborists, and other interested individuals and organizations. Seedling proceeds support annual scholarships for college arboriculture students.

As you may recall, I set a goal for 2022 to sell 25,000 seedlings which was an increase of 23% from 2021. I am pleased to report that you surpassed this goal. I received 99 orders and sold 28,925 seedlings. This is an increase of nearly 40% from last year!

We utilized three nurseries which provided us with excellent seedling variety, good service, and fair pricing given the difficult operating environment. As a result, most everyone was

able to receive their seedlings on time despite supply chain and shipping challenges caused by the pandemic.

I would like to highlight one of the planting programs that utilized our seedlings. Dr. Lew Stern and the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Falmouth distributed 1500 seedlings through their "Be the Hope" initiative. Planting of the seedlings was highlighted in the local media. You can see the coverage by Falmouth Focus here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j3-WWOWzBuA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j3-<u>WWOWzBuA</u>).

My hope for 2023 is to sell 30,000 plus seedlings across the Commonwealth and beyond. I will need your continued support to reach this goal and look forward to next season!

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Trouble Maker of the Month - Lesser Celandine

From UMass Extension May Hort Notes

Species overview

Lesser celandine, also known as fig buttercup and fig-crowfoot, is a member of the buttercup family, Ranunculaceae. *Ranunculus verna* is a botanical synonym for *Ranunculus ficaria*. Lesser celandine is an herbaceous perennial and a spring ephemeral. As a spring ephemeral, it is vegetatively present from early spring to early summer. Native to Europe, lesser celandine was first introduced into the United States as an ornamental, but is commonly considered to be invasive because of its vigorous growth habit that creates dense mats that outcompete native spring, forest, spring ephemeral wildflowers including spring beauties, trilliums, bloodroot, and wild ginger. These native wildflowers are a source of nectar for bees and other insects in the early spring. The bare ground left behind after lesser celandine senesces in late spring may then be colonized by other weedy species or invasives.



Habitat

Prefers moist soil and thrives along stream and riverbanks, in forested flood plains, and in wetlands. Will grow in drier habitats as well and can often become of weed in turf and landscape areas.

Identification characteristics

- Growth habit - Leaf rosettes form a dense mat that excludes other herbaceous vegetation.
- Leaves - The glossy, kidney- to heart-shaped leaves measure between 0.5 to 1.5 inches in length and are dark green in color. Leaf margins are entire but may have scalloped or toothed edges. Leaf surface is smooth with prominent veins and sometimes have a variegated appearance. Some sub-species produce pale aerial bulbils in the leaf axils.
- Flowers - Bright, buttery yellow with 8 oval petals (sometimes up to 12), about an inch in diameter are borne singly on slender stalks that rise above the leaves. Flowers appear between March and May.
- Roots - Fibrous root system with numerous finger-like tubers that are easily visible when plants are uprooted.
- Reproduction - Vegetatively propagated asexually by tubers and aerial bulbils and sexually by seed.
- Lesser celandine has glossy, kidney- to heart-shaped leaves. The flowers of lesser celandine are bright, buttery yellow and are borne singly on slender stalks.



Management

Non-chemical - Small infestations of lesser celandine can be dug out using a hand trowel or small shovel. Effective removal of the plants from a site requires the removal of all plant parts including underground tubers. Tubers are small and may be overlooked in the soil, so return visits should be made over the next couple of years to locate and remove remaining plants. Plants that are removed should be left to dry out on a hard surface or on a tarp to die. Small areas can be smothered with a cover; this will require that the cover to be in place for a period of years.

Turf - Broadleaf turf herbicide combination products that contain MCPA, fluroxypyr, triclopyr, and/or dicamba are the most effective. Application should be done in the spring when leaves are green as long as the temperature is at least 50 degrees F, and no rain is anticipated within 18 hours. Bare turf area can be seeded in late summer and early fall.

Landscape - Directed-spray glyphosate applications should be made early in the season between mid-March and early April as long as the temperature is at least 50 degrees F and no rain is anticipated within 18 hours.

Randy Probstak, UMass Extension Weed Specialist

State Agricultural Officials Ask Public to be on Alert for Hatching of Invasive Spotted Lanternfly Eggs

Potential for egg masses to have been accidentally brought in on nursery stock imported from other states

BOSTON- The Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) is asking the public to keep an eye out for the invasive pest known as spotted lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*) during the spring planting season due to the risk of egg masses being accidentally brought in on shipments of trees imported from other states. MDAR recently received reports that nursery stock from SLF-infested areas may have been sent to Massachusetts growers. Due to this, anyone who has recently purchased trees or shrubs or had them planted on their property, particularly maple or crabapple trees, is being asked to inspect the trunk and branches to ensure there are no SLF egg masses or any hitchhiking nymphs, and to report any finds to MDAR. Landscapers and plant nurseries are also being reminded to stay on the lookout for this pest.



SLF egg mass on elm; Source: MDAR Staff



SLF egg mass on birch; Source: MDAR staff

“Spotted lanternfly is a tricky pest to deal with, because it can be so challenging to detect before it becomes established,” said **MDAR Commissioner John Lebeaux**. “With the potential impact of this pest on grape and hop growers, as well as pick-your-own orchards and other parts of the agritourism industry, we are asking anyone with newly planted trees to check them for signs of SLF and to report it if they find it, so that we can limit the spread of this pest in our state.”

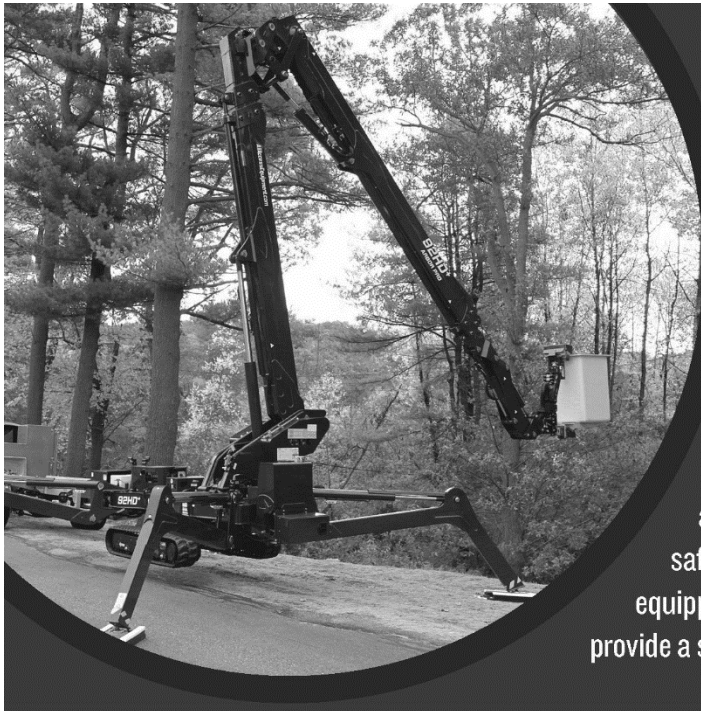
In addition to the agricultural impacts it causes, spotted lanternfly has the potential to negatively impact outdoor activities due to the swarming behavior of this pest when the adults appear in the late summer. SLF egg masses are about an inch and a half long,

and are flat and gray in color, making them difficult to detect, especially on tree bark. Because of this, any SLF may not be noticed until the nymphs hatch at the end of May or the start of June. The public is asked to look for small black insects marked with white dots. If grapes or tree-of-heaven are in the area, they will migrate to those plants.

Spotted lanternfly is a sap-feeding insect that has caused significant impacts to vineyards, orchards, and other agricultural commodities in states where it has become established. SLF not only harms grapevines, maples, hops, blueberries, and over 100 other host plants, but has been observed to impact outdoor recreation in other states where populations are high and adult lanternflies swarm in large numbers during mating season. If you see any signs of spotted lanternfly, please report it to MDAR at <https://massnrc.org/pests/slf>.



Young SLF nymphs on tree of heaven stem; Source: Richard Gardner, via bugwood.org



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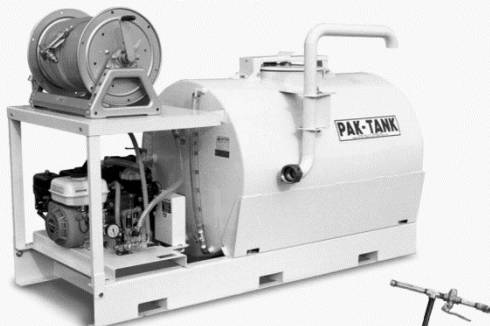
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Western Mass Tree Wardens Dinners are BACK Next Meeting June 9th REGISTRATION OPEN



We have missed seeing our western mass friends at the Blue Bonnett Diner! Although our dinner meetings are based in our west, all are welcome to attend these great events!

Our next event is scheduled for Thursday, June 9th.

Details:
5:00-5:15 Gathering

5:15-5:45 TALK 1 - **Through the Legacy Tree Program & National Champion Tree Registry** - Mathew Cahill, DCR Community Action Forester

Will discuss these important programs designed to recognize unique, historical or culturally significant tree species and how to participate.

5:45-6:30 Dinner - Dinner Buffet - Boiled Ham, Italian Meatballs, Macaroni w/Marinara Sauce, Polish Kielbasa, Fried Chicken Drummers, Fresh Vegetable, Potato Salad, Tossed Salad, Fruit Salad, Sliced Tomatoes, Sliced American Cheese, Assorted Relishes ~ Rolls & Butter ~ Assorted Desserts ~ Coffee, Tea or Milk.

6:30-7:30 TALK 2 **Insect Pest Activity & Invasive Pest Update** - Tawny Simisky, Extension Entomologist

Will discuss woody plant pest activity in Western MA and the status of invasive pests effecting our area and what to be on the lookout for.

In partnership with the Massachusetts Tree Wardens' and Foresters' Association, Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, UMass Department of Environmental Conservation, UMass Center for Agriculture, Food & the Environment, USDA Forest Services, and Eversource Energy.

Please go to our website to register:
www.masstreewardens.org.

Dinner meeting registration is just \$40, but thanks to a grant from the Massachusetts DCR, Financial assistance is available. Please contact, Heather Leff at 781-894-4759.

**Save the Date
Proper Tree Planting
October 26, 2022
Location Details Coming Soon
Watch our website
www.masstreewardens.org**



Chainsaw Safety

May 5 | Salem MA

It has been a busy spring for Professional Development! The PDS Committee organized a sell-out Chainsaw safety course on Cinco de Mayo. Twenty-five folks joined us in Salem Massachusetts for a full day of chainsaw safety training lead by Mike Smith of Chainsaw Strategies.

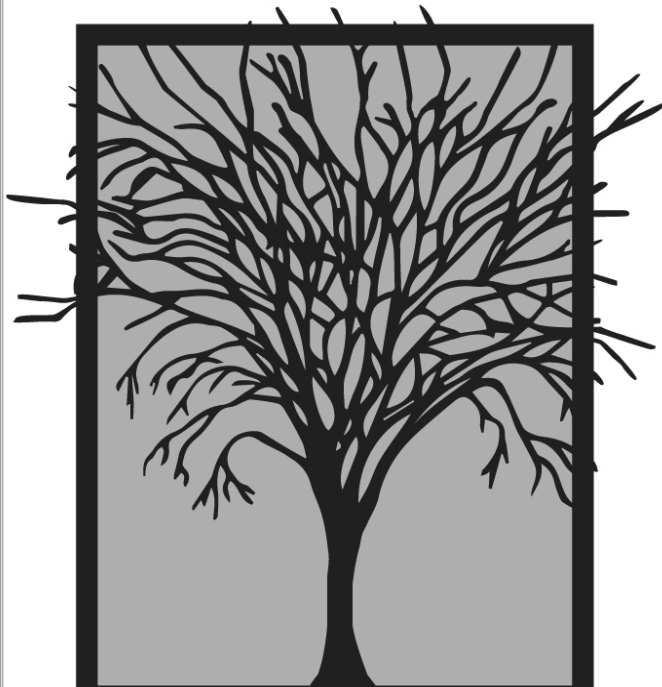
The class started in the classroom with some instruction that included chainsaw features, PPE for operators, first aid kit requirements, chainsaw reactive forces, cutting techniques, danger trees, limbing, pressures, binds, rolls and splits, swamper/helper activities and placement, environmental conditions, and job site planning. The course ended with a 2-hour, outdoor demonstration.



Mike Smith demonstrates proper chainsaw technique



Students observe the live demonstration



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- Urban Tree Canopy (UTC) Assessments
- Operations and Ordinance Review
- Master Plans
- Invasive Species Management and Control

CONTACT DAVEY RESOURCE GROUP TODAY TO LEARN MORE.

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DAVEY
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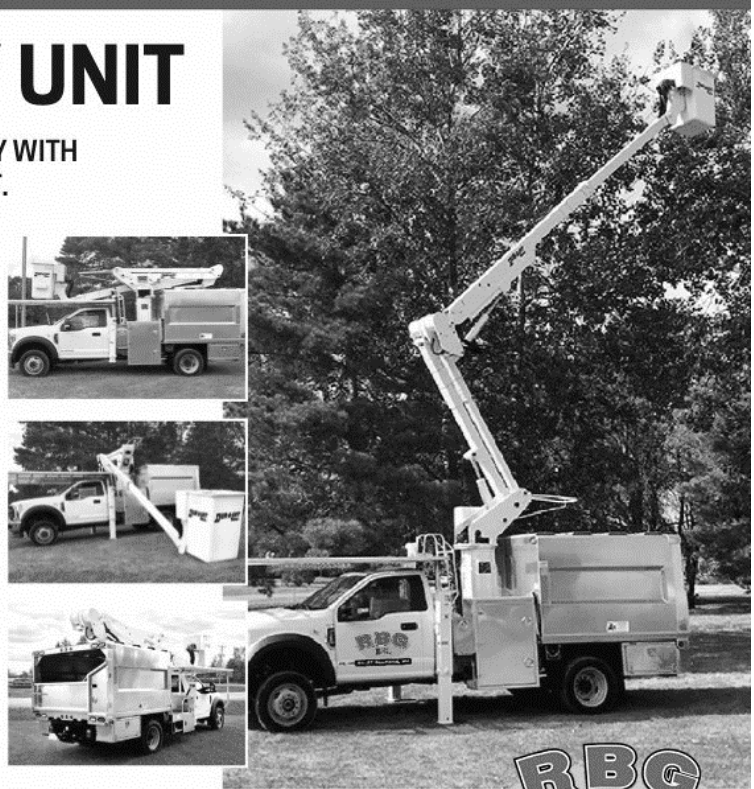
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Calendar of Events

DATE	EVENT	MORE INFORMATION
June 9	Western Mass Tree Wardens Dinner Meeting	www.masstreewardens.org
September 8	Western Mass Tree Wardens Dinner Meeting	www.masstreewardens.org
October 2-4	New England Chapter ISA Conference and Trade Show	www.newenglandisa.org
November 10-12	TCI Expo	www.TCIA.org
October 26	Proper Tree Planting	www.masstreewardens.org
2023		
January 10-11	Conference: MTWFA	www.masstreewardens.org