



Massachusetts Tree Wardens & Foresters Association

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 24, 2013

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Amherst Tree Warden Recognized as Tree Warden of the Year

Sturbridge, MA. The Massachusetts Tree Wardens and Foresters Association (MTWFA) presented its 12th annual Seth H. Swift Tree Warden of the Year award to Alan Snow, Tree Warden for the Town of Amherst.

President Christopher Hayward presented the elegant silver tree award to Mr. Snow during the Association's 100th Conference, held this year at the Sturbridge Host Hotel and Conference Center on January 15-16, 2013.

Alan Snow was recognized by his peers for his commitment and dedication to the protection of public trees, and for his work with his community to maintain and improve tree growth and health.

Mr. Snow joined the Amherst Shade Tree Committee in 2007. He was employed at the time as Community Action Forester for the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, Urban and Community Forestry Program.

Mr. Snow's vision for the Shade Tree Committee was to involve town citizens as stakeholders and train them to be advocates for the community's trees. In that capacity, he organized ANTS – Amherst Neighborhood Tree Stewards – to use handheld devices to collect data about the trees in their neighborhoods. He expanded the Arbor Day Celebration with a Tree Committee table on the Amherst Common, where members distributed seedlings and disseminated information about the Committee's activities. This public presence is now a part of the annual Amherst Sustainability Festival. Because of his efforts, public trees in Amherst are now more visible and an increasing part of the public conversation.

For several years, volunteering on his own time, Mr. Snow assisted the Town of Amherst Department of Public Works by performing assessments on street trees for health and structural soundness. In 2011, the Town of Amherst hired him to be its full-time Tree Warden, with the title of Trees and Grounds Director. His accomplishments include

- Oversight of ongoing street tree inventory, to plan for maintenance and new plantings
- Continued collaboration with the volunteer Shade Tree Committee
- Implementation of a chainsaw safety class for interested citizens
- Creation of a logical flow for tree work orders, with assistance from the Town's IT Department
- Successful budget request of \$612,000 for a 3-year expansion of the tree program, to include the purchase and planting of 2,000 trees
- Collaboration with the UMass Stockbridge School of Agriculture to engage two interns per year for assistance with the planting efforts
- Maintenance of the Town of Amherst's designation as a Tree City USA
- Application and award of two Tree City USA Growth Awards for the Town

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. Tree Wardens are municipal positions, mandated under Massachusetts General Laws to protect public shade trees within the 351 cities and towns of the Commonwealth.

Created in 2002, the Tree Warden of the Year award honors 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 with a commemorative tree planting in honor of Alan's award in April or May. Specific details about the location of the planting will be posted on the Association's website, www.masstreewardens.org.