



Massachusetts Tree Wardens' & Foresters' Association

Since 1913, Working for the Protection and Preservation of Trees

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 4, 2023

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Jeremiah Pearson, Town of Falmouth Recognized as Tree Warden of the Year



The Massachusetts Tree Wardens' and Foresters' Association presented the 22nd annual Seth H. Swift Tree Warden of the Year award to Jeremiah Pearson, Tree Warden and Parks Superintendent for Falmouth Massachusetts. President Arthur Goodhind presented the elegant silver tree award to Mr. Pearson at the association's 110th annual meeting and conference on January 10, 2023.

Jeremiah Pearson has served as Tree Warden and Parks Superintendent since 2018, prior to this he was the Tree Warden for the Town of Barnstable from 2017-2018 and the Town Arborist and forestry crew leader for Falmouth from 2013-2017. He is currently responsible for a street tree population consisting of 260 miles of Town and County roads, as well as trees located within 250 acres of parks, public buildings, cemeteries, and school grounds. He is committed to the preservation and treatment of an inventory of over 200 municipal elm trees to combat Dutch elm disease and enjoys assisting the Conservation Department with removal and mitigation of invasive trees in conservation parcels and wetlands. Since he has held the role as Tree Warden, he has advocated and received \$70,000 in Capital funds for tree planting and has

utilized the Department of Conservation and Recreation's Go Green Challenge Grant provided through Eversource. Mr. Pearson proudly hosts annual, large Arbor Day events that incorporate several Town Departments, elementary school children, Eversource, and local tree companies to promote the benefits and importance of trees.

Mr. Pearson began his forestry career at the age of 17 working summers for a local tree company as a tree climber. He has worked in the Tree Care industry since 1995 and has obtained an A.S. in Environmental Technology, certificate degree in Outdoor leadership, and became a certified arborist in 2006 and Massachusetts Qualified Tree Warden in 2021.

Since 2018, he has orchestrated the cleanup efforts of several large scale tropical storms, an EF1 tornado and Nor'easters that caused widespread damage throughout Cape Cod, most notably the tropical storm Wanda in October of 2021 that was a tropical cyclone responsible for tree damage unseen since Hurricane Bob in 1991. Mr. Pearson recognizes the importance of building a strong team with continued education and utilizing the newest and safest techniques the industry has to offer. Jeremiah Pearson is most deserving of the Seth H. Swift Award.

Mr. Pearson works to maintain Falmouth's Tree City USA status. The Town of Falmouth has been recognized as a Tree City USA for the past 23 years. The Tree City USA program provides communities with a four-step framework to maintain and grow their tree cover. Municipalities must maintain a tree board or department, have a community tree ordinance, spend at least \$2 per capita on urban forestry, and celebrate Arbor Day.

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.

The association plans to hold a commemorative tree planting in the Town of Falmouth in honor of Mr. Sherman's award. Details will be posted on www.masstreewardens.org.