



Massachusetts Arborists Association

Gearing up for Arbor Day of Service

April 30, 2010

Plans for the MAA's first *Arbor Day of Service* on April 30, 2010 are well underway. This new initiative will build on the success of the association's traditional celebration by uniting MAA members across the state as they give back to their communities through volunteer tree care projects.

At press time, nearly 100 project ideas of varying size and shape are listed in the *Arbor Day of Service* project database on the MAA website: www.MassArbor.org. Project ideas come from across Massachusetts and run the gamut from town commons and local cemeteries to elementary schools and community health centers.

"We are floored by the way this project has taken off," said MAA president and *Arbor Day of Service* committee co-chair, Mike Lueders, MCA. "The volunteer response is nothing short of amazing and promises to make April 30, 2010 a memorable day for the Massachusetts tree care industry."

Mike's committee co-chair, Dick Stoner, MCA agrees. "This is an outstanding opportunity for all of us to make a real difference in the towns where we live and work," he said. "It's gratifying to see so many members heed the call to give back and help increase awareness for our industry," he concluded.

Member Volunteers

Many MAA members are well into the process of planning their projects ... a sampling of projects already selected by member volunteers follows:

Project	Location	Member Volunteers
Andover Memorial Library Pocket Park	Andover	Mayer Tree Service & N.D. Landscaping
Appleton Farms	Ipswich	Mayer Tree Service & N.D. Landscaping
Arsenal Park	Watertown	Butler & Sons Tree Service
Bellevue Cemetery	Lawrence	Thomas Ferris, Jr., MCA
Crane Estate	Ipswich	Mayer Tree Service & N.D. Landscaping
Cushing Memorial Park	Framingham	Town of Framingham
Dean Luce School	Canton	Michael Quinn

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NEWS

SPRING 2010

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



The MAA is buzzing with activity. We're still talking about the great exhibitors and classes at New England Grows, we're attending spring *Safety Saves* programs and dinner meetings, and we're gearing up for Arbor Day of Service on April 30, 2010.

New England Grows was a great learning experience — the classes, the show specials on the tradeshow floor, and connecting with colleagues. It's an event many of us look forward to every year. I'd like to thank all who helped out, especially Jim Abusamra, MCA, Greg Mosman, MCA and John Terault, MCA. Jim is the incoming president on the New England Grows Board of Directors, and Greg and John represented MAA on the New England Grows education committee. I'd also like to thank everyone who took the time to volunteer at the MAA "Corner on the Common."

Our spring education program is off to a great start. Last week, we had a *Safety Saves* program on *Spraying Safety: Equipment Operation, Haz Mat Spills & PPE* with Don McMahon as our instructor, and a dinner meeting on *Treating Winter Moth: Gold Mine or Land Mine?* with Mark Tobin, MCA. It's always great when our members take to the podium and share their expertise. In April, we tackle *Ergonomics* with Ed Carpenter, MCA and *Establishing a Sound Safety Culture* with Tim Walsh. Try to attend these programs if you can. They will help to keep you current with industry topics and stay connected with your peers.

We recently had one of the most energetic education planning meetings I've been to in a while. It

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The Massachusetts Arborists Association is a professional trade organization that serves the commercial arboriculture industry. The MAA advances the goals of its members through education, certification, networking, advocacy, research support and promotion of the value of arboriculture to the public.

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President's Message

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was a joint meeting of the Board of Directors, *Safety Saves* and Education committees. From it, we came away with many new topics and speaker ideas to ensure that MAA's education program is forward thinking and exciting. If you have a speaker or topic you would like us to consider, please let me know!

We are particularly focused these days on MAA's new *Arbor Day of Service* (ADoS). For 30 years, MAA has marked the occasion of Arbor Day with an annual association day of service at one worthy site. This year, MAA members across the state will contribute tree care projects in their own communities. This exciting new format allows us to make a bigger impact across a much larger area and will be greatly appreciated by cities and towns in these times of budget constraints. I urge you to join us — sign up today to volunteer for an Arbor Day project of your own. While Arbor Day is Friday, April 30, I've talked to a number of companies who are doing their project on Saturday, May 1, and some are even including local volunteers where safe and appropriate. Please read more about this great opportunity on page 1.



Happy Arbor Day!

Michael E. Lueders, MCA
President

Massachusetts Schools with Green Industry degree programs

University of Massachusetts Amherst

Amherst, MA 01003

www.umass.edu/nre

413-545-1969

Bachelor of Science majors:

Environmental Design
Forestry (Urban Forestry)
Landscape Architecture
Plant and Soil Science

Stockbridge School of Agriculture

110 Stockbridge Hall

UMass Amherst

Amherst, MA 01003

www.umass.edu/stockbridge

413-545-2222

Associate of Science majors:

Arboriculture and Community Forest Management
Horticulture
Landscape Contracting
Turfgrass Management

Springfield Technical Community College

Armory Square, Ste. 1

Springfield, MA 01102

413-781-7822

www.stcc.edu

Associate of Science major:

Landscape Design & Management Technology

North Shore Community College

1 Ferncroft Rd.

Danvers, MA 01923

www.northshore.edu

978-762-4000

Associate of Science majors:

Floriculture
Horticulture

Certificate Programs:

Floral Design
Landscape & Garden Maintenance
Landscape Design

Cape Cod Community College

2240 Lyanough Rd.

West Barnstable, MA 02668

www.capecod.edu

877-846-3672

Certificate Program:

Horticulture

Tower Hill Botanic Garden

New England School of Gardening

in partnership with

Worcester State College

11 French Drive

Boylston, MA 01505

www.towerhillbg.org

508-869-6111

Certificate Programs:

Horticulture
Applied Plant Science

MAA King Scholarship Program

Four UMass Students Receive Scholarships at UMass Tree Conference

Each year, the MAA awards three scholarships to incoming University of Massachusetts students in the amount of \$2,500 each. These students, now freshman, are selected by the MAA Scholarship Committee after submitting an application, letters of recommendation, an essay outlining experiences or factors that stimulated their interest in the tree care industry, and their plans after graduation. The fourth recipient is selected by UMass faculty as the “MAA Outstanding Arboriculture Student” of the year. All of the scholarship recipients have displayed academic excellence and an enthusiasm for the industry.

MAA board member Richard Herfurth, MCA, recently presented the scholarships at the UMass Tree Conference in Amherst, MA. The recipients are: Ryan Due, of Brewster, MA; Joseph Mullen, of Portland, CT; Robert Randall, of Holliston, MA; and the 2009 Outstanding Arborist Award recipient is Peter Haupt II, of Sheffield, MA.

In Their Own Words

The following are excerpts from letters the MAA received from the students:

“I am enjoying my time here at Amherst with my friends and learning all that I can about arboriculture and its related fields. I am very grateful for your scholarship, it has helped me tremendously and I cannot thank you enough.”

Ryan Due

“I was astonished and very pleased this summer when I received the letter informing me I would be receiving the MAA scholarship. It is often said that you cannot put a price on education, but when it comes to a major university the price tag can be staggering. ... This award truly speaks to the organization’s commitment to a highly educated workforce in the future.

It is one thing to be hard working, but an education opens many doors in life. I am also fortunate to be pursuing an education in such a noble field as arboriculture. ... In my short period of

time at [Stockbridge] my knowledge has grown tremendously and so has my interest in trees and their surroundings. I can honestly say that by being able to attend college, my career path has certainly been expanded and many doors have seemed to open. ... For this, I thank the MAA and all of its members, once again.”

Joseph Mullen

“I greatly appreciate you granting me this scholarship. This money will help me out a great deal in the future with my education.”

Robert Randall

Outstanding Arboriculture Student:

“It is truly an honor to receive this award. ... This award and the MAA are significant to me because the organization has been an important part of my family for generations. My grandfather was a past president of the association and my father has been an MCA and member for thirty years. It has been my dream and passion to become an arborist and it is with great pride that I carry on the tradition of professional tree care within my family.”

Peter J. Haupt II

Applications for the 2010 MAA King Scholarship can be downloaded from the MAA’s website (www.MassArbor.org). The deadline is June 11, 2010.

One of the most critical issues facing the Massachusetts tree care industry is an ongoing need for well-trained arborists. To that end, the MAA created three annual scholarships to help recruit and educate commercial arborists at the University of Massachusetts and the Stockbridge School of Agriculture. Selected candidates who successfully complete their first semester of study with a GPA of 2.0 or better will be awarded a \$2,500 scholarship. There are three MAA scholarships available per calendar year. Applicants must be incoming students enrolling full-time in the four-year Urban Forestry program at UMass, or in the two-year Arboriculture and Park Management program at the Stockbridge School of Agriculture. A fourth scholarship is given to the MAA Outstanding Arboriculture Student, as identified by UMass faculty.

The MAA considers student scholarships the most important commitment the arboriculture community can make to ensure the growth and development of the tree care industry. Trees are one of our most valuable natural resources and caring for them is essential to our environment. A career in professional tree care offers a unique opportunity to be an environmental steward — to possess the critical knowledge that helps our urban forests stay healthy and flourish.

Professional tree care is a booming industry in Massachusetts. Instructors at UMass and the Stockbridge School of Agriculture report 100% job placement for graduates — one of the highest percentages at the university. The industry offers a challenging career with good salaries, benefits, and opportunities for advancement.



MAA Awards Scholarships to UMass Students. Pictured from left to right are: Peter J. Haupt II, Joseph Mullen, Robert Randall, Ryan Due & MAA board member, Richard Herfurth, MCA.



SAFETY SAVES SEMINAR

Tuesday, April 27, 2010

1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

MHS Elm Bank Reservation

900 Washington Street, Wellesley, MA 02482



Industrial Athletes of the Green Industry: *How to Care for Your Body as a Production Arborist*

Instructor: **Ed Carpenter, MCA, CEAS**

Owner

COR Ergonomic Solutions, LLC

Milford, MA

Without a doubt, commercial tree work is a physically demanding job and if you aren't careful it can become physically debilitating. All too often, the pains we experience on a daily basis are passed off as being "just part of the job." This seminar will focus on understanding the reasons behind injuries typically experienced by arborists. We'll talk about common musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs), as well as prevention strategies. If you'd like to extend your career as an arborist, and prevent crippling injuries from driving you into early retirement, then this program is for you!

Register by calling (508) 653-3320 or online at www.MassArbor.org.

MCA, CTSP & ISA Recertification Credit Available



Massachusetts Arborists Association

DINNER MEETING

Tuesday, April 27, 2010

5:00 PM

Ken's Steak House

Rte. 9, Framingham, MA

Establishing a Sound Safety Culture

Tim Walsh, CTSP

Corporate Safety Compliance & Training Manager

The Asplundh Tree Expert Co.

Willow Grove, PA

Promoting a "corporate safety culture" has become a bit of a fad for many, but do people truly understand what that means? Even if your company's motto is "Safety is our number one priority" you are probably not doing enough to establish and maintain an effective safety culture. We'll look at the answers to these questions that are critically important to any successful tree care company:

- What is a safety culture?
- How do we get it?
- When we *do* get it, how will we know it's working?

Register by calling (508) 653-3320 or online at www.MassArbor.org.

MCA, CTSP & ISA Recertification Credit Available



In its 18th Year, NEW ENGLAND GROWS Packs the BCEC

Something for Everyone Under One Roof

More than 13,000 green industry professionals flocked to Boston in early February to experience New England Grows, one of the largest and most popular green industry events in North America.

Highlights from New England Grows 2010, held at the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center February 3-5, included solution-based educational seminars and an exposition filled with a wide variety of industry vendors and plenty of “Grows-only” show specials.

“Our attendance was strong and final numbers indicate a 3 percent increase over 2009,” said New England Grows’ president Jon Cifolillo, MCLP of Greenscapes, Inc. in Taunton, Mass. “Despite a tough economy, New England Grows drew thousands of green industry professionals to Boston where they found the best new ideas, the finest networking opportunities, and the most innovative solutions in the marketplace today.”

More than 600 exhibiting companies — 100 of which were new to New England Grows this year — saw strong foot traffic and steady business from buyers investing in the equipment, services and supplies necessary to successfully navigate today’s economy. Many spent time with customers who were placing orders and taking advantage of show discounts. All saw the benefit of networking with customers and other vendors.

The well-known New England Grows’ education program impressed once again with 30 seminars that focused on innovation, emerging trends and research finds. 2010’s top-notch speaker line-up included: Tom Wessels, Rip Tompkins, Erik Draper, Victoria Smith and many more. Some of the popular topics delivered were: The Scientific Underpinnings of Sustainability; Working the 5-Step Precision Felling Plan; How to Turn Malicious Pruning into Magnificent Pruning; and Exotic Invaders: The Latest on Emerging Pests & Diseases.

Ask the Experts sessions, a new, interactive learning opportunity at New England Grows, drew a steady stream of visitors.

Extension personnel, university faculty, and GIE Media’s horticulture group editors offered tips, trends, and take-aways in rapid-fire, 15-minute, educational bursts right on the exposition floor.

Special Thanks

The MAA would like to express its thanks to Jim Abusamra, MCA who will serve as president of New England Grows for the February 2011 event. Thanks, also to Jon Terault, Jr., MCA and Greg Mosman, MCA for their service to the New England Grows education committee in 2010. If you have program ideas you would like to see at New England Grows, please contact Greg Mosman, MCA as soon as possible.

By the Industry, For the Industry

New England Grows is an educational partnership between the New England Nursery Association, Massachusetts Arborists Association, Massachusetts Association of Landscape Professionals and Massachusetts Nursery & Landscape Association. Its co-sponsor network includes 40 allied green industry organizations.

New England Grows supports the green industry through annual grants to the regional Cooperative Extension Systems. The organization also contributes to the local community through the Boston Schoolyard Initiative, a group that connects children with horticulture.

Looking Forward to Next Year

Next year, New England Grows is scheduled for Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, February 2 – 4, 2011 at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center. For more information please visit www.NewEnglandGrows.org or call (508) 653-3009.

Audio Recording CDs from 2010 can still be ordered.

Most of the 2010 education sessions were recorded.

To order, visit www.fleetwoodonsite.com/negrows.

Scenes from New England Grows

February 3 – 5, 2010

Boston Convention & Exhibition Center
Boston, MA





THANKS!

The following members volunteered at MAA's *Corner on the Common* at New England Grows:

Jim Abusamra, MCA
Hartney Greymont
Needham, MA

Bob Bosley, MCA
Greencare Tree Service
Groveland, MA

Natascha Batchelor, MCA
The Davey Tree Expert Co.
East Falmouth, MA

Michael Chiasson, MCA
Harvard University
Cambridge, MA

Joel Custance, MCA
Town of Lexington-DPW
Lexington, MA

Max Ford-Diamond, MCA
Boston Parks and Recreation
Boston, MA

Marc Hansen, MCA
Maltby & Company, Inc.
Stoughton, MA

Richard Herfurth, MCA
Bartlett Tree Experts
Hooksett, NH

Mike Maley, MCA
Cedar Lawn and Tree Service, Inc.
Ashland, MA

Dan McCarthy, MCA, CTSP
Mayer Tree Service, Inc.
Essex, MA

Greg Mosman, MCA
Boston Parks and Recreation
Boston, MA

Dennis Panu, MCA
Dennis Panu, Arborist, Inc.
Thompson, CT

Dick Stoner, MCA
Stoner Trees & Shrubs
Sherborn, MA



Looking ahead to next year

**Wednesday, February 2 –
Friday, February 4, 2011**

*For information about the many benefits of
exhibiting at New England Grows,
contact Diane Zinck at
dzinck@NewEnglandGrows.org*

Tree Care Industry Association (TCIA) and Professional Landcare Network (PLANET) pursue partnership opportunities

— In February, the two organizations announced that the organizations have decided to defer continued discussions on unification at this time. They will continue to pursue partnership opportunities and explore ways to work together to further the interests of both memberships and the green industry as a whole. “While the two organizations have many similarities, including similar goals, the members of each organization have expressed concerns that unification into one organization could diminish the culture, identity or industry sector benefits that each offer separately today. The two boards were certainly aware of the issue of identity during their discussions. In fact, it is a primary concern that the boards believe can be addressed with the proper organizational structure. Nevertheless, we have seen discomfort around this issue among segments of the memberships that clearly need more time to digest such a big step. For that reason, the two organizations have decided it’s best to partner on projects and programs and further explore how the two organizations can best interact with one another,” stated Bill Hildebolt, Ph.D., Landscape Industry Certified Manager & Technician, and president of PLANET.

Well wishes for a speedy recovery — Randy Prostack, Extension Educator and Weed Expert at UMass Amherst, fell off a ladder while working on a property in West Springfield in early March, and sustained serious injuries. The good news is he is recovering remarkably well from surgery and was recently transferred from Baystate Hospital in Springfield to in-patient Spaulding Rehab Center in Boston. Randy is well-known in the industry, he’s presented at New England Grows and many industry meetings and seminars. Members are encouraged to send notes of encouragement to Randy at his home address: Randy Prostack, 87 Ferry Hill Road, Granby, MA 01033.

Two Counties in Ohio Added to Gypsy Moth Quarantine Area

— On March 5, 2010, two counties in Ohio — Athens and Vinton — were added to the Gypsy Moth Quarantine Area to prevent the further spread of gypsy moths. APHIS determined that this was necessary and the goal of the program is to regulate movement of gypsy moth-host material from infested areas to non-infested areas of the United States. Gypsy moth is a highly destructive pest to approximately 300 species of trees and shrubs.

Martha Stewart blogs about New England Grows — Martha Stewart’s gardener attended New England Grows in February. He enjoyed the exposition and educational sessions, and shared his experiences with Martha, who blogged about it on [MarthaStewart.com](http://www.MarthaStewart.com). She was particularly interested in tools he found at OESCO, Shelter Tree/Tree Care Products and Stihl. The link to the blog is: <http://www.themarthatblog.com/2010/03/an-exciting-conference-in-boston.html>.

Welcome New Members

The MAA would like to welcome the following new members:

Ian Anderson, MCA Anderson Tree Service Swampscott, MA	Ryan McCaughey UMass Lowell Lowell, MA
Jean Berger, MCA Green Jean's LLC Newburyport, MA	Jorge Morales Student
Craig Cheeseman, MCA Greenscape, Inc East Taunton, MA	David Smith Trillium Tree & Landscape, Inc Northboro, MA
Doug LaChance LaChance Tree Professionals West Gloucester, MA	

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 30-31, 2010

CTSP Workshop & Exam
Tower Hill Botanic Garden
Boylston, MA
(603) 314-5380, ext. 109
peter@tcia.org

Thursday, April 1, 2010

MCA Exam
8:30 AM
MHS Elm Bank
Wellesley, MA
www.MassArbor.org

Saturday, April 10, 2010

Connecticut Tree Protective Association
Tree Climbing Competition
Fulton Park
Waterbury, CT
www.CTPA.org

Monday, April 12, 2010

Conservation Arboriculture & Advanced
Risk Assessment Workshop
Presented by CT Forest & Park Assoc.
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM
Sessions Woods Wildlife Management Area
Burlington, CT
Robert.Marra@ct.gov / (203) 974-8508

Tuesday, April 27, 2010

MAA Safety Saves
1:00 PM – 4:00 PM
Industrial Athletes of the Green Industry:
*How to Care for Your Body as a Production
Arborist*
With Ed Carpenter, MCA, CEAS
COR Ergonomic Solutions, LLC
MHS Elm Bank
Wellesley, MA
www.MassArbor.org

Tuesday, April 27, 2010

MAA Dinner Meeting
5:00 PM
Establishing a Sound Safety Culture
With Tim Walsh, CTSP
The Asplundh Tree Expert Co.
Ken’s Steak House
Framingham, MA
www.MassArbor.org

Friday, April 30, 2010

MAA Arbor Day of Service
A volunteer initiative throughout the
Commonwealth of Massachusetts!
www.MassArbor.org

Saturday, June 5, 2010

NEC-ISA Tree Climbing Competition
UMass Amherst
Amherst, MA
www.NewEnglandISA.org

July 23-28, 2010

ISA Annual Conference & Trade Show
Chicago, IL
www.isa-arbor.com/conference

All MAA educational events are approved for
MCA recertification credit

Gearing up for Arbor Day of Service

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Project	Location	Member Volunteers
Dimock Community Health Center	Roxbury	Maltby & Co.
Douglas School	Acton	Lincoln Tree & Landscape
Foxboro Recreation Area	Foxboro	Tree Tech
Franklin Park	Jamaica Plain	Arborway Tree Care, Maltby & Co., Norfolk Agricultural Student Group, Northern Tree, Royer Tree, Tree Tech & Trumbull Barrett
Haskell Playground	Sudbury	Stonybrook Tree Co.
Hingham Historical Society	Hingham	Nick's Tree Service & Steve Messenger, MCA
Hingham Square Tunnel	Hingham	Olde Colonial Tree & Landscape
Holliston Historical Society	Holliston	Tree Specialists
Holliston Police Department	Holliston	Tree Specialists
Joseph P. Keefe Technical School	Framingham	Town of Framingham
Natick Town Common	Natick	Cedar Lawn Tree Service
Needham Riverside Park	Needham	Hartney Greymont
New Marlborough Public Library	Mill River	Konkapot Property Services
Old Colony Habitat for Humanity	Norfolk	G/T Equipment & Galasso Tree Co.
Pine Hill School	Sherborn	Stoner Trees & Shrubs
Pingree Park	Wenham	Dodge Tree Service, Inc.
Proctor Elementary School	Northboro	Robert D. Hall Landscapes & Tree Care
Spring Brook Park	Bedford	Mead Bros. Tree Service
Stearns Reservoir	Framingham	Town of Framingham
Stevens-Coolidge Place	North Andover	Mayer Tree Service
Tantasqua Regional High School	Sturbridge	Dennis Panu, Arborist
Vine Lake Cemetery	Medfield	Lueders Tree & Landscape, Ellis Allen & Stumpy's Tree Service
Wards Pond, Emerald Necklace Park	Jamaica Plain	Dennis Pultinas
Worcester Ecotarium	Worcester	Mayer Tree Service & Stumpy's Tree Service
World War I Memorial Park	No. Attleboro	Reilly Tree Service

Thanks Sponsors!

Asplundh Tree Expert Co.
Shutesbury, MA
www.asplundh.com

F. A. Bartlett Tree Expert Co.
Stamford, CT
www.bartlett.com

Cleaves Company, Inc.
Needham, MA
www.cleavesco.com

Maltby & Company
Stoughton, MA
www.Maltbytree.com

Mayer Power Products
Essex, MA
www.mayertreeservice.com

Natural Tree & Lawn Care, Inc.
Avon, MA
www.naturaltree.com

McSweeney & Ricci Insurance
Braintree, MA
www.mcsweeneyricci.com

Shelter Tree/Tree Care Products
No. Attleboro, MA
www.shelvertree.com

For more information about the MAA's Arbor Day of Service on April 30, 2010 contact the MAA at (508) 653-3320, via e-mail info@MassArbor.org, or on the web at www.MassArbor.org.



MASSACHUSETTS ARBORISTS ASSOCIATION
ARBOR DAY of SERVICE

FAQs

What do I need to do to sign up for a project?

1. Visit the MAA website at www.MassArbor.org and click on the Arbor Day of Service logo.
2. Create an account and login.
3. Click on the Browse Projects/Volunteer tab to view the project ideas. When you find a project that makes sense for you, select the [click here to volunteer](#) link at the bottom of the project description and complete the online form.
4. Be sure to confirm your project selection with BOTH the contact person who posted the project idea, as well as the MAA office at 508-653-3320 or via email at info@MassArbor.org.

Does our project have to take place on Friday, April 30, 2010?

While we'd like to have as many volunteers as possible working on the actual date of Arbor Day — April 30, 2010 — we understand that in some cases that is not possible. Aim as close as you can to April 30 and go for it!

We already conduct our own community Arbor Day project. Can we still participate?

Absolutely. If you already conduct or participate in an Arbor Day project in your local community, simply register the event with the MAA either online or download a project idea form and return it to the MAA.

How can we help promote Arbor Day of Service?

The MAA has developed an "ADoS Toolkit" filled with ideas to help you plan, promote and follow up with your successful Arbor Day of Service project. The Toolkit includes a list of things to think about as you prepare for your project, as well as sample news releases and media alerts to catch the attention of your local press and community leaders; and other useful resources to help you promote your volunteer effort. Visit the MAA website, to download the helpful ADoS Toolkit today.

The Beacon Hill Report

By Stephen A. Boksanski
MAA's Legislative Agent



Legislative Calendar

Joint Rule 10 day was Wednesday, March 17th and committees were required to make recommendations on all matters that were pending before them by this date. As expected, several thousand bills were processed over the course of a few days, most of which fell under study orders, effectively killing them for the session. The

Legislature will continue holding formal sessions through July 31, 2010 where upon they will meet informally for the remainder of the year. During these meetings only those bills that have unanimous consent may move forward.

Budget

The Governor filed his budget in late January and relied on a combination of new taxes, withdrawals from savings accounts, federal stimulus dollars, and service cuts to bridge the roughly \$3 billion gap between revenues and spending. The House Ways and Means Committee is proposing to put forward a budget without any new taxes and has announced there will be a cut in non-education, local aid in the \$200 million range. The HWM budget is expected to be published mid-April with debate set for the last week of the month. The Senate is expected to debate their version at the end of May with an eye toward sending a consensus plan to the Governor before July 1, 2010.

Political Environment

There are 7 members of the Senate who will not be back next year and at least 22 members of the House who have announced their plans not to return. With some difficult votes having been taken already, like the sales tax increase approved in 2009, members who want to stay are looking to stay away from the statehouse and spend more time in the district. The economy and the Scott Brown election have most incumbents and in particular, the House Speaker, weary about November. The Governor's numbers are abysmal but with the current State Treasurer in the race as an independent candidate he could play the role of spoiler and prevent an attractive Republican challenger, Charlie Baker, from knocking off Mr. Patrick.

Green Industry Alliance Priorities

Safer alternatives legislation (H.757, S.443) remains pending before the Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture and was part of an extension order put forward by the committee last week. The committee now has until June 15th to make a decision on whether these bills move forward or not. While neither Chairman appears overly enthusiastic about this legislation, the Senate Chair has recently reached out to some in the business community seeking a compromise. With a cost of at least \$6 million in new fees for businesses, we are cautiously optimistic that this can be killed again.

Legislation requiring rain sensors and system interruption devices (S.1396) was given a favorable recommendation by the Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight and is pending before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means. Another bill before Senate Ways and Means would require irrigation contractors to register with the state and meet certain standards and requirements. This bill received a favorable report by the Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture. These are positive developments but each will need vocal, industry support to move forward in the process.

Legislation providing the Department of Agricultural Resources exclusive authority over the regulation of nutrient levels and fertilizer guidelines (S.380) remains pending before committee and the GIA continues to press for a favorable recommendation.

Unemployment Insurance was scheduled to increase by over \$300 per worker in March but was headed off by quickly passed legislation that limited the increase to roughly \$100 per worker. Although it was portrayed as a "freeze" the Governor and legislative leaders nonetheless made a terrible situation less painful.

Economic development continues to be a focus of the Legislature, evidenced by the Senate President's proposal to streamline the agencies and departments charged with helping businesses. The proposal is multi-pronged and includes an extension from 5 years to 20 for carry forwards of net operating losses, tax credits for new hires, small business health insurance changes and a study of energy costs and whether new surcharges for efficiency and renewable trust funds are worth the cost.

Preparing and Sending Samples to the UMass Diagnostic Lab

Plant Problem Diagnostics at UMass

The University of Massachusetts Amherst recognizes the importance of reliable and prompt diagnosis of plant problems for the urban forestry and landscape industries. To ensure that we continue to provide the most reliable service, all of our plant diagnostics expertise has been integrated into one location in Holdsworth Hall on the UMass Amherst campus. The diagnostics team of the UMass Extension Plant Diagnostic Lab will be able to call upon each other's expertise to make fast and accurate diagnoses. Each diagnosis includes a written report with pest management strategies that are research based, economically sound, and environmentally appropriate for the situation.

Notes for Diagnostic Sample Submission

A completed Diagnostic Form is required for each specimen (or particular problem). Diagnostic forms for various types of samples, along with instructions, can be accessed at <http://www.umass.edu/agland/diagnostics/>. Remember that accurate diagnosis requires both a representative sample and sufficient information about the cultural practices and environmental conditions associated with the problem. The information you record on the form can be more important to the diagnosis than the sample itself! Photos of the problem are also extremely helpful. No sample will be diagnosed without a completed submission form.

There is a fee per specimen (or particular problem) payable to the University of Massachusetts, and the appropriate fee must accompany each sample. The UMass Extension Plant Diagnostic Lab will call and/or send a written report when a conclusion has been reached on the diagnosis or identification. Detailed management recommendations are included with disease, insect, and weed diagnoses.

Guidelines for Sending Tree & Shrub Specimens

Please submit samples based on the following guidelines for tree and shrub diseases, tree and shrub insect identification, and landscape weed identification.

For proper diagnosis, specimens must be received in good condition. It may be helpful to call the UMass Extension Plant Diagnostic Lab first at (413) 545-3208 to see if sending a sample is necessary. Hand-deliver samples if possible, or send them by the fastest means available. Include accompanying information (such as photos, etc.) regarding the symptoms that are of particular concern to you.

1. Ship samples so that they will be delivered in 48 hours or less. Federal Express, UPS, and Two-day Priority Mail through the U.S. Postal Service deliver directly to the building. Be sure to pack the specimen in a sturdy envelope or box.
2. Fill out the Tree and Shrub Diagnostic Form as completely as possible. This form must accompany each specimen sent to the lab. The information supplied will allow a more thorough and accurate diagnosis. Include your phone number, e-mail, and a fax number, if avail-

able, so we may contact you for further information or inform you of the diagnosis.

3. **Disease Samples:** Send several plants/leaves/branches etc. showing a range of symptoms that are representative of the problem. Select samples from the area at the margin between the diseased portion of the plant and the healthy tissue. Dead plant material usually is of little value because it often contains secondary organisms that may make detection of the primary pathogen difficult.
 - Place leaves, branches, and other plant parts in a plastic bag and seal it. Do not add moist towels or moisten the sample before sealing it.
 - When sending entire plants, dig, rather than pull, roots from the soil. Wrap roots and attached soil in a plastic bag and secure to the trunk with a twist tie. Place a second bag over the foliage and punch a few holes through this bag for ventilation. Do not add additional water or moist towels.
 - Vascular wilt specimens: Plants or plant parts that suddenly wilt may be infected with a vascular disease. Branch or stem sections 1/4" to 1" in diameter and 4" to 6" long should be taken from the wilting plant or recently wilted plant part. Avoid sending plant material that has been dead for any length of time.
4. **Insect Samples:** Immature and soft-bodied insects should be placed in 70% ethyl alcohol (rubbing alcohol is not ideal, but may work). Other insects must be carefully packaged. Do not place loose insects into envelopes for mailing, as the automatic process for handling mail will most likely destroy the specimens.
5. **Weed Samples:** Collect whole plant, including the roots, if possible. Wrap roots in a wet paper towel. Place plant in a zip-lock or freezer bag and seal with some air in the bag in order to prevent crushing. Place bag in a sturdy box or envelope for mailing.

Diagnostic Fees

(payable to University of Massachusetts):

- Tree or shrub disease analysis –\$50
- Tree or shrub insect ID – \$25
- Landscape weed ID – \$25

Address packages to:

UMass Extension Plant Diagnostic Lab
Holdsworth Natural Resources Center, 160 Holdsworth Way
University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA 01003-9285
(413) 545-3208 - fax (413) 545-4385

Use exact address to ensure delivery. If you require additional information, please visit <http://www.umass.edu/agland/diagnostics/>, or contact:

Landscape & Nursery Insects
Bob Childs, (413) 545-1053, rchilds@psis.umass.edu

Landscape & Nursery Diseases
Dan Gillman, (413) 545-3208, dgillman@umext.umass.edu



Massachusetts Arborists Association

8-D Pleasant Street

South Natick, MA 01760

SPRING 2010