



## Tree Steward Awards

Each year the Vermont Urban & Community Forestry Program and Council sponsors the Vermont Tree Steward Awards as a way to recognize our state's urban and community forestry champions.

### Award Categories

**Hamilton:** In recognition of a Tree Warden who has significantly advanced the goals of urban and community forestry through successful forestry practices, effective conservation planning, increased citizen engagement, and active public education. This award is in honor of Dr. Larry Hamilton, the former Tree Warden in Charlotte, and is limited to Tree Wardens.

**Leader:** An individual who, through services to their community or organization, has shown leadership and dedication in carrying out an urban or community forestry effort.

**Unsung Hero:** An individual and/or group who work(s) behind the scenes and consistently goes above and beyond to make a difference in their community's urban and community forest.

**Volunteer Group/Community:** An organization, team or ad/hoc group, or community who, through their efforts, have shown outstanding dedication and commitment in introducing or sustaining an urban & community forestry project within their community.

**Arbor Day:** UCF staff award.

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## 2024 Tree Steward Award Recipients

► **Hamilton:** Kris Dulmer, Milton

▼ **Leader:** Caitlin Littlefield, Richmond

**Leader Award:** An individual who, through services to their community or organization, has shown leadership and dedication in carrying out an urban or community forestry effort.

Caitlin Littlefield is a true asset to the Richmond community and its forests. Her passion for the outdoors, our community, and forests is truly commendable and an inspiration. She cares deeply for her community, and this is demonstrated through her commitment as Richmond's tree warden, and as a tireless volunteer.

In preparation of the arrival of the invasive pest emerald ash borer (EAB), Caitlin took proactive steps to safeguard Richmond's ash trees and educate the community. She spearheaded a comprehensive effort to inventory ash trees, despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, demonstrating her resilience and resourcefulness. Through educational outreach (via mailed postcards), Caitlin shared resources with homeowners to address the EAB threat in their own backyards. Her efforts extended beyond awareness-raising as she secured grant funding to hire certified arborists for ash tree treatment and removal. Additionally, Caitlin collaborated with a local nonprofit, Wood for Good, to ensure the removed ash tree logs were used as heating fuel for local resource-constrained families.

As a member of Richmond's Town Forest committee, Caitlin championed sustainable forest management practices. Her leadership was instrumental in pioneering a request for proposal to engage ecological consulting and trail design firms, setting a precedent for collaborative and ecologically sensitive trail planning.

Caitlin's commitment to forest restoration extends beyond organized efforts, as she consistently volunteers her time to support the health of local ecosystems. From supporting tree-planting events to participating in invasive species removals, to ensuring equitable access to community forests, Caitlin's hands-on approach exemplifies her passion for conservation and equitable access.

Recognizing her exemplary service, Caitlin was appointed as Richmond's Tree Warden, further solidifying her role as a steward of the town's natural resources. In this capacity, she continues to coordinate and support tree stewardship efforts on town properties, parks, and beyond.

Caitlin Littlefield's leadership in community forest management is characterized by her proactive initiatives, collaborative spirit, and unwavering dedication to environmental conservation. She has demonstrated that one committed and passionate individual can truly have a large impact on their community.

► **Unsung Hero: Tim Stout, Shrewsbury**

► **Volunteer Group Award: Spaulding High School Interact Club**

► **Arbor Day: Neil Silins, Brandon**

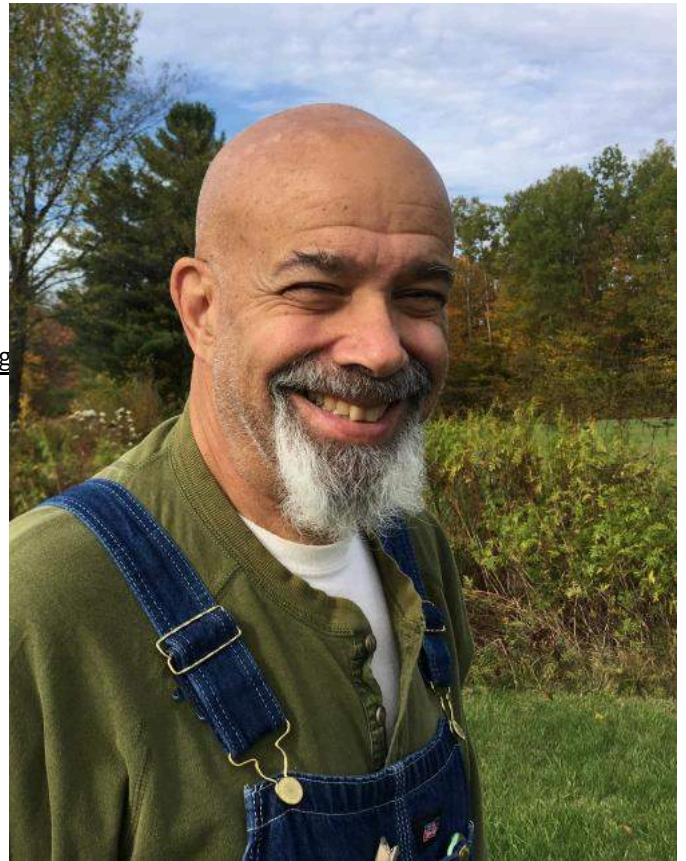


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# Awards Ceremony

The Vermont Tree Steward Awards are announced in April. Awardees will be honored at the [Vermont Urban & Community Forestry Conference \(/arbor-day/vermont-urban-community-forestry-conference\)](#) of Thursday, May 23, 2024 and recognized on VT UCF's site, social media platforms, and a press release.

## Previous Tree Steward Award Recipients

[VIEW LIST \(/SITES/DEFAULT/FILES/2024-04/PAST-TREE-STEWARD-AWARD-WINNERS-2024.PDF\)](#)