

# Massachusetts Chapter of the Forest Fire Lookout Association

## 2022 Annual Report

*Southern New England Director Jack Kelley*

### **New Director!**

In September, we officially acquired a director after six years of vacancy: Jack Kelley, who has extensively researched and visited towers in Massachusetts and across the northeast since joining the FFLA in 2016.

### **U.S. Forest Service Visits MA Towers**

In August, a documentary team from the U.S. Forest Service spent some time in Districts 1, 2, and 9 of the MA DCR Bureau of Forest Fire Control visiting towers and conducting interviews with state and municipal fire personnel. Accompanied by the MA FFLA director and FFLA member Josh Nigro, who is also the District 1 Fire Warden, the group also met with DCR Chief Warden Dave Celino to discuss the need for lookouts. While the exact details of this documentary have to remain vague for the time being, it was a very exciting few days, and will give great publicity for Massachusetts towers.

### **Drought Conditions**

A lack of rainfall left the majority of the state in conditions of moderate to extreme drought for much of the summer fire season, culminating in a ban on all outdoor fires on DCR property, and in late August, a 100-acre fire at the Lynn Woods Reservation. Lynn Woods is home to two fire towers (On Mount Gilead and Burrill Hill respectively), both of which survived undamaged.

While this may not seem like a lot of news, it's been a quiet few years for the Massachusetts chapter, so anything feels exciting. Here's to a great 2023!