

SHADE TREE

Leaves



ISSUE 01
SPRING 2023

MW-ISA
Midwestern Chapter

International Society
of Arboriculture

KANSAS · MISSOURI · NEBRASKA · OKLAHOMA



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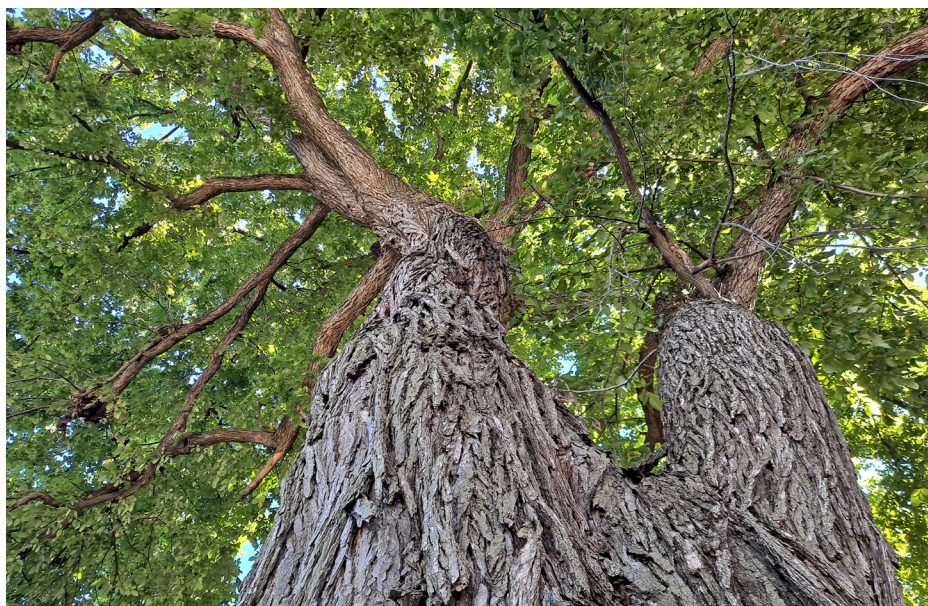
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ID that Tree...

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A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT, ANDY BERG:

Being that this is my first President's Letter as the new Chapter President, I'd like to start out by saying thank you to all of the members that continue to support the organization, as well as thank you to all of the new members that have recently joined us. I still remember about six years ago having back to back calls with (then Vice-President) Brett O'Brien and Graham Herbst, who at the time was handling all of the CEU inquiries, among other things. I was bugging them quite a bit because I wanted to get involved with the organization, eventually being granted the position of Membership Liaison (some of you may recall my "welcome back" emails when you renewed your membership). I wouldn't have guessed back then that I would eventually become their successor and be writing this letter. I am grateful for them, this position, and proud to be serving as your President!

A quick bit about me - I grew up in the Chicagoland area but then moved to Southern Illinois where I got my formal education in traditional forestry. After a couple of years playing in the woods, I got my ISA Certified Arborist credential and moved to St. Louis in 2011 where I've been since. Many jobs (and many different arboricultural roles) later, I'm now with Hansen's Tree Service & Environmental Resources as their Plant Health Care Manager, while also carrying out consulting work. I'd say my favorite topics in arboriculture are tree injections (macro), structural pruning, and appraisal. If those topics aren't exhilarating, I don't know what is...

It's an exciting time to be involved with this Chapter and its Board of Directors. We're just over one year in with our newest Executive Director, Kim Pair, and we're making a lot of moves - slowly but surely. We are in year two of our five-year strategic plan, which having a roadmap with metrics is huge. We've cleaned up our bylaws, working on revising our policies, increasing participation amongst our Board and committees, strengthening our financial planning, and becoming more organized.

I encourage those that either have interest or are on the fence to consider involvement in this organization at some point during their career. No doubt we're all too busy to volunteer, but I promise you that you will walk away with something positive. While I do encourage a nomination for a seat on the Board of Directors this winter, you can make a massive impact by volunteering for a role in one of our many committees as a Chapter member alone. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us if you're interested.

It's probably obvious by now that my theme here is involvement - you're never too new or too old to make this Chapter go round!

While I'd still encourage our climbers to get involved via the upcoming TCC this June, registration for competing in this event sold out the first day within a matter of hours. If you've ever attended one of our TCCs before, this shouldn't come as a surprise to you. This is a must-see event so come on down to Parkville, Missouri on June 9-11. If you'd rather hit the classroom and take an exam, get your Tree Risk Assessment Qualification at our full TRAQ course that same week in Lenexa, KS - June 6-8. More programs and events to follow.

Feel free to reach out to me directly with any questions, comments, complaints, etc. I'm here to serve our membership for a 2-year term and will do so with all seriousness. Thank you for allowing me this opportunity.

Job Listing Page Available

Have a job opening? You can now submit your job openings to the MWISA Staff to be listed on the MWISA website. This service is FREE to MWISA members! Check out the new page by visiting the MWISA website at www.mwisa.org/jobs.

2023 MW-ISA ANNUAL CONFERENCE & TRADE SHOW - TULSA, OK

By Kim Pair, Executive Director

The 2023 MW-ISA Annual Conference & Trade Show began with a dynamic lineup of speakers, including a panel of Tulsa-based arborists that spoke about their work in their respective positions. Following the opening speakers, conference attendees gathered at McNellie's Pub for an evening of socializing, food, drinks, and various games from darts to shuffleboard.

The second day of the conference opened with a few options for break-out sessions. Attendees could attend sessions from three tracts, Science & Management, Practical, or new to the conference this year, a Utility tract which ran all day.

At the Annual Business Meeting Luncheon, the results of the general elections were announced. The MW-ISA Board of Directors welcomed two newly elected board members, Matt Norville, Kansas Forest Service, and Chris Rippey, Missouri Arborist Company, and re-elected Board member Andrew Haskenhoff, Frontenac Forestry. Outgoing Board President, Graham Herbst passed the gavel to newly elected President, Andy Berg. Graham Herbst will transition to Past President. The Board extended appreciation to outgoing board members, Past President, Brett O'Brien, and Justine Gartner. Chapter awards were also given at the luncheon. You can read more about the award recipients in this newsletter edition.

The conference sessions continued Thursday afternoon, and the evening ended with an evening reception at the hotel with the Exhibitors, including a Silent Auction to benefit the Tree Fund. Thank you to all who donated items to the auction and those who purchased time; we met our contribution goal!

The last few sessions were held on Friday morning to round out the conference. We hope attendees found the sessions valuable, had a chance to catch up with old colleagues and meet new ones, and left feeling renewed.

Finally, I want to thank the Speakers, Sponsors, and Exhibitors. We appreciate you sharing your expertise, time, and resources with us to make it a beneficial conference!

We hope to see you all next year in St. Louis, Missouri!



2023 MW-ISA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Andy Berg, President

Hansen's Tree Service
104 Hansen Ct.
O'Fallon, MO 63366
andy@hansenstree.com | 636-379-1830

Steve Grantham, Vice-President

Up With Trees
1102 S Boston Ave
Tulsa, OK 74119
steve@upwithtrees.org | 918-610-TREE ext 201

Graham Herbst, Immediate Past President

Nebraska Forest Service
8015 W Center Rd
Omaha, NE, 68124
gherbst2@unl.edu | 402-444-7875

Joshua Carron, Director

Kirkwood Forestry Department
City Hall 139 S. Kirkwood Road
Kirkwood, MO 63122
carronjd@kirkwoodmo.org | 314-894-5954

Lorri Grueber, Director

Community Operations Forester
3131 O Street, Suite 300, Lincoln, NE 68510
LGrueber@lincoln.ne.gov | 402-432-6644

Andrew Haskenhoff, Director

Frontenac Forestry
2460 Driftwood Lane
St. Louis, MO 63146
frontenacforestry@gmail.com | 317-578-6042

Matt Norville, Director

2610 Claflin, Manhattan, KS 66502
mnorville@ksu.edu | 785-473-1064

Chris Rippey, Director

1806 E. 16th Street, Sedalia, MO 65301
chris@MissouriArborist.com | 206-228-8803

Phil Swart, Director

Growth Solutions
3105 Lonsdale Dr, Edmond, OK 73034
pswart@gs4trees.com | 405-684-1088

Kim Pair, Executive Director

521 First Street, PO Box 10
Milford, NE 68405
staff@mwisa.org | (531) 289-8267

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Annual rate includes 4 total issues.

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Annual: \$340.00

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Single Issue: \$50.00
Annual: \$170.00

QUARTER PAGE

Single Issue: \$30.00
Annual: \$100.00

BUSINESS CARD

Single Issue: \$20.00
Annual: \$70.00

SUBMIT ARTICLES:

If you have anything you would like to submit for inclusion in the MW-ISA Newsletter, please contact Kim Pair at:

staff@mwisa.org or
(531) 289-8267

CONTACT US:

MW-ISA
521 First Street
Milford, NE 68405
Phone: (531) 289-8267
Fax: (402) 761-2224
Email: staff@mwisa.org



NEW MW-ISA BOARD MEMBERS

During the Business Meeting Luncheon and Award Ceremony we were excited to announce our new Board Members



- Chris Rippey, Missouri Arborist Company (left)
- Matt Norville, Kansas Forest Service (right)

We look forward to having these individuals serve on the Board for the next two years!

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

Thank you to our exiting Board Members: Justine Gartner and Past President, Brett O'Brien. We appreciate your time, dedication, and service to the MWISA Board!

NEWLY CERTIFIED MW-ISA ARBORISTS:

Aaron Sutliff	Loran Wiley
Andrew Blackman	Luis Barragan
Austin Arens	Matthew Nelson
Bobby Kennedy	Melanie Mongar
Brad Davis	Michael Gillinger
Christopher Obert	Michael Balch Jr
Cody Fortmann	Michael Steiner
Connie Robinson	NaNessa Elizabeth Reyes
Cory Smith	Patricia Charqueno
Dylan Haiduk	Patrick Andrew Standlee
Gene Long	Robert Martz
Jacob Ihrig	Steven Beacham
Jen O'Connor	Todd Ash
John Mollison	Travis Pilkenton
Jorge Gomez	Tyler Lilly
Julie Deken	William Haag
Kevin Blake Matthews	

Where are They Now: Past Presidents of MW-ISA

By Lorri Gruber - Lincoln Parks & Rec

If you've been reading the MW-ISA newsletter for the past couple years, you have "met" members from all around our chapter through the Member Spotlight feature. Don't worry, it's not going away before you have your opportunity to be featured! As a result of fantastic networking conversations at conference this year, we realized how fortunate we are to have so many Past Presidents still active in our chapter and how sad we are to have lost those that are gone.



Jim Rocca, President, 1983

I was extremely pleased to serve as President of the Midwestern Chapter in 1983. At that time, the Chapter consisted of 8 states in the upper Midwest of the U.S. After serving as President, I was appointed to the positions of Secretary and Treasurer for many years, then as Executive Director for many more years. I took those appointments seriously, and proud that during my many years serving as Treasurer, I only lost one penny during one accounting year. In addition, I served as the Chapter representative on the International Board of Directors for several years.

One of my major efforts for the Chapter was to guide the selection of new locations for our annual conferences. As a result, many hundreds of people were introduced to the Chapter and ISA, with large numbers becoming members. A longer-term outcome was that some of the states grew with enough members to form separate state or regional Chapters. The Midwestern Chapter is still active and viable and includes four states.

Another area of my emphasis was to assist in the administration of the Certified Arborist Program in the Midwestern Chapter, in line with the program as developed by ISA. This involved setting up and administering the exams, along with some assistance in educational efforts to prepare people for the exam. In addition to MY volunteering for ISA participation, I am sincerely thankful for the assistance of my wife, Mary Jo, who provided many hours of office and phone assistance to the Chapter.

Many Chapter members know of her help, and she enjoyed dealing with many. Sadly, she died last year.

Of course, I was employed. I worked for the Forestry Division of the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC), serving as statewide Urban Forestry Specialist and Supervisor of Special Programs. My areas of included, guiding the expansion of urban forestry assistance in large and small cities, and participating in hiring, training, and program planning.

I was also heavily involved with the development of the Department's nature centers in Kansas City, St. Louis, Springfield and Jefferson City. One special project that I organized was the distribution of seedling trees to every fourth grader in Missouri for Arbor Day. I am extremely grateful to MDC for allowing me to participate in the ISA activities, especially since it complimented our statewide urban and community forestry efforts.

Following my voluntary early retirement, I started to work as an independent consultant in urban forestry and arboriculture. I primarily worked for clients in the St. Louis area but had projects throughout Missouri and in four other states. I am still interested in trees and urban tree care, so I volunteer as a "Tree Answer Man" on three Saturdays at a local park in the spring and fall.

I am currently an Honorary Lifetime member of the Chapter, attend meetings when held in St. Louis, and pleased that the Midwestern Chapter is still active and serving the members.

WHY AND WHEN BLACK COTTONWOODS EXPERIENCE BRANCH FAILURES

by Chris Rippey, Missouri Arborist Company

Spring is here, and because summer is right around the corner, I want to dive into cottonwood (*Populus* sp.) branch failures. The proclivity of Arborists to demonize cottonwood trees, and for many local municipalities to discriminate against this tree species in their municipal codes has launched me into a yearslong battle of breaking the cottonwood branch failure spell.

Firstly, do cottonwood tree branches structurally fail more than other species? Yes, they experience branch failures more often than some other tree species, but not others. As an example, when I was in the Pacific North-West, a layman Certified Arborist should find it far easier to predict when Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) branches will break (in winter storms and/or after wind sailing) than it is to predict when cottonwood branches will fail. I would think that statement would demonstrate that it would be fairer to demonize trees with more predictable branch failure patterns like Douglas firs for experiencing branches failures than cottonwoods, but that is not the case. This could be the same case in the Midwest with oak species having a more predictable branch failure pattern than cottonwood species.

A typical Arborist would likely respond to my last statement by saying that cottonwood trees lose branches unexpectedly in the summer and then utter the phrase Sudden/Summer Branch Drop (SBD). To respond to this hypothetical statement regarding SBD, I would ask, "Have you read Richard Harris's 1983 paper that originated the idea of Sudden/Summer Branch Drop?" And likely, they would respond, "no".

This fictitious argument is sadly based in reality. A while back I did a talk about cottonwood branch failures to a room of Certified Arborists in the Pacific North-West. I asked the room to raise their hands if they had ever read the 1983 Richard Harris paper that originally brought about the idea of SBD. Less than a quarter of the room had read the paper. This was a big room at a PNW-ISA Annual Conference, and I guarantee you that most of the people in that room had used the phrase SBD to justify a branch failure they came across or when talking about branch failure of cottonwood trees. I have been in this industry for over 25 years and unfortunately, this is typical in our industry, and in life in general. People often parrot stuff they have heard and rarely dig into anything themselves to come to their own conclusion.

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NEW MW-ISA MEMBERS:

Aaron Sutliff	Joseph Hummel
Adam Davis	Julie Deken
Alex Major	Kelly Feehan
Andrew Blackman	Kendra Larkin
Andrew Hooper	Kerah Gomez
Angela Doble	Kyle Bolen
Ann Powers	Lauren Jared
Anthony Mulcahy	Leonardo Martinez
Austen Gillis	Matthew Norville
Austin Arens	Matthew Ryan Hayes
Barbara Fuson	Michael Steiner
Benjamin Hammond	Morgan Heetland
Brian Stokes	NaNessa Reyes
Cory Smith	Nathaniel Lenhart
Dale Roley	Quinten Ulschmid
David Steg	Regina Lynn Murphey
Elizabeth Corbishley	Richard Cullins
Erin Godwin	Richard Hauer
Ethan Ramsey	Ronnie Browers
Felicia Brundick	Ryan Parlman
Gene Long	Sarah McAnally
Geoffrey Braga	Scott Shipman
George Williams	Sean Kelly Flynn
Jacob Hodson	Sherrie Moore
Jason Wonsey	Steven Frazier
Jermel Stevenson	Tanner Kertz
Jill Askins	Taylor Kennemer
John Parish	Todd Fleishans
Jonathan Morales	Tyler Lindblom
Joseph Enger	

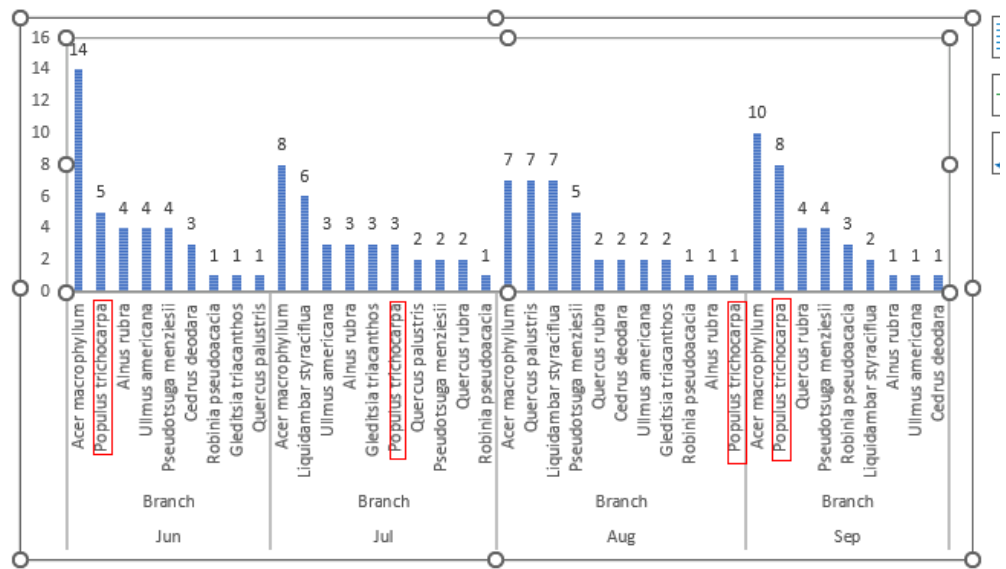
Continued from previous page... Luckily, you all have me, and I did the work for you. Here is an overview of what Harris' 1983 paper on Sudden/Summer Branch Drop says:

- SBD occurs during hot and calm summer afternoons, or during calm weather following a heavy rain which terminates a period of soil dryness.
- SBD Affects: Oaks, Eucalyptus, pines, cottonwoods, willows, elms, chestnuts, beech, Platanus, fig, maples, horse-chestnut, ash, cedars, olive, grevillea, tree-of-heaven, coast redwood, mountain redwood and Sophora.
- Irrigated and un-irrigated trees are affected.
- SBD is more common in over-mature and senescent trees.
- SBD affects branches that usually break within 1-4 meters from branch attachment but can sometimes fail at the branch attachment. Main leaders may also fail.
- Associations with the branch failure are that there is no outward appearance of impending failure. Wood at the break may be solid but can be brash or decayed but this does not account for the failure.

I have shown this overview to many arborists over the years, and they are generally surprised by several things. Firstly, that SBD can happen in almost every tree species that you can think of. Secondly, that SBD includes broken branches that are somewhat decayed with the observer somehow determining that the decay didn't attribute to the broken branch. And lasty, that SBD happens more often in older trees.

The last two things being very surprising because we all know that branch breakage in older trees is related to a process called retrenchment and that failed branches in older trees are usually due to decay being present in the wood. This really confuses arborists.

How are you supposed to know if visible wood decay wasn't a significant cause of a branch's failure? We cannot see microscopically to see what the early stage of decayed infection does to destabilize wood inside a failed tree branch, so how are we to know if decay attributed to the branch breaking or not? But these Arborists soon understand that SBD is a theory and not a fact.



Harris' paper on SBD is a theory to explain seemingly unpredictable branch failures. It is not a fact. Harris states in the paper that he was assuming many things. He goes through a great thought process to figure out why these branches are breaking, and I think he did a great job of assuming things and making an educated guess. It being a theory does not discredit Harris as he didn't claim it was a fact. Unfortunately, many arborists take SBD as a fact.

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To break this spell of SBD being a fact, I combed through the information on tree failures which I had been documenting for 7 years in the Pacific North-West Tree Failure Database (PNWTFD). As someone who has been documenting tree failures for most of my career, what I found was not surprising.

I took the data from the PNWTFD and filtered all the reported branches failures to only those that occurred from June-September (or “summer” months). I then pulled out the top ten or so tree species and put them in a graph.

In the graph you can see, there was not one month in our “summer” where cottonwoods were the tree species with the most reported branch failures. In June and September, cottonwoods were the second most reported tree species to experience a branch failure but in those two months, and in every other every month, one tree topped this list. That tree species is the native maple of the PNW, bigleaf maple (*Acer macrophyllum*).

This graph alone should dispel the discriminatory view of cottonwood trees by PNW arborists, and hopefully you all as well, but I didn’t want to take the chance of this spell continuing to live by people claiming that the trees represented in this graph still failed unexpectedly, so I came at this in a different way.

From 2018 until 2021, I have been monitoring and documenting a grove of cottonwood trees next to my house in Kent, Washington. I visited these trees while walking my dog, twice a day, every day, for five years, and here is what I found. These four trees experienced 8 branch failures over five years, and all of them occurred during wind events. Only one of these failures occurred in the summer and most of them happened in fall.

Tree	Date	DBH	Height	Condition	Weather	Branch Diameter	Branch Length	Notes
4	11/2/2018	27	95	Alive	23 mph wind	3	20	Did not break at attachment, horizontal and over extended
1	12/15/2018	22	50	Dead	30 mph wind day before	4	20	Angled up
1	1/6/2019	22	50	Dead	39 mph wind	8	25	
1	1/24/2019	22	50	Dead	1.16" of rain and 21 mph wind	6	25	Did not break at attachment, angled up
4	9/8/2019	27	95	Alive	.59" of rain and 16 mph wind	1	8	Rain
2	8/22/2020	24	70	Alive	10 mph wind day of, 16 mph wind and .25" rain	6	25	
4	10/14/2020	27	95	Alive	24 mph winds and .25" of rain	9	40	
4	11/15/2021	27	95	Alive	31 mph wind and .56" of rain	10	25	Heavy lateral limb

Why fall? Well, cottonwood trees hold their leaves longer than our other common deciduous trees. This means that when winds events occur in fall, they affect cottonwoods trees more than other deciduous trees. So, even when cottonwood trees fail more in fall, it should be expected.

In conclusion, rest in peace cottonwood bias. Now we can all get back to hating non-native trees for absolutely no good reason.

2023 MW-ISA AWARDS

- HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP 2022

Bestowed upon members of the Midwest Chapter that have contributed materially and substantially to the progress of arboriculture in the Midwest Chapter and have given unselfishly in their efforts to support and advance of arboriculture.

Noel Boyer

Noel Boyer has been involved in the Midwest chapter of ISA for nearly 25 years! He is an ISA Board Certified Master Arborist and has represented the MWISA seven times at the International Tree Climbing Championships, the first going back to 1998. In the years since, Noel has demonstrated his leadership and willingness to serve in the chapter as board member, financial officer and as a key member of the MWISA TCC committee. He has served on numerous other tree-related committees and is currently the Senior Director at the Tree Care Industry Association. His contributions to the Midwest Chapter and the industry of arboriculture has been significant. Referring to the award qualification, 'given unselfishly in their efforts,' anyone who has the privilege of sharing the same space with Noel knows this to be the definition of how he encourages others to learn and excel in arboriculture. Awarding the Honorary Life Membership Award to Noel is more than justified, it is an honest recognition of his life long dedication to bettering the arborists of the Midwest Chapter. Thank you Noel, for your contributions and presence in the chapter.



- HONORARY MEMBERSHIP 2022

Recognizes individuals or groups who are not members of the Midwest Chapter who have provided outstanding or noteworthy service in promoting arboriculture within the Chapter. Recipients will have made material contributions to the advancement of arboriculture through research, field practice, promotion, invention or literature. They should have an ongoing interest and may include individuals, groups or organizations.

Robbie Doerhoff

As the Missouri Department of Conservation Forest Entomologist, Robbie tracks and disseminates information on forest health threats such as EAB and spotted lantern fly to both arborists and the general public. She supports the Forest Health Program and firewood safety programs to help limit the mechanical migration of forest pests. Her publications, videos and presentations continue to increase awareness and limit the impact of pests in the midwest, a true advocate of forest health and arboriculture. Thank you, Robbie, for your dedication to our trees and midwestern arborists.



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- AWARD OF MERIT 2022

Recognizes outstanding meritorious service in advancing the principles, ideals, and practices of arboriculture within the Midwestern Chapter of ISA.

Will Branch

Will Branch is an accomplished arborist who has done much for arboriculture and the Midwest Chapter of ISA.

Will joined All About Trees in 2011 and his life in arboriculture has only grown since that time. The core of his effort is sharing techniques and ideas to help other arborists improve their skills and do their job more safely. He is well qualified and very involved in the advancement of the arboriculture industry.

Will has served as climbing competitor, judge, presenter, author, teacher and volunteer. Will has also served as a rigging, climbing and aerial rescue trainer for the Midwestern Chapter of ISA. Will gives his time to the benefit of those around him, a thankless trait of a true leader.



Thank you Will for your dedication and support of arboriculture and the Midwestern Chapter of ISA.

- AWARD OF ACHIEVEMENT 2022

Granted to ISA arborists in recognition of outstanding effort or contribution to the advancement of ISA within the chapter.

Dana Karcher

As immediate past president of the International Society of Arboriculture, Dana is a big part of who we are and what we stand for. Her connection to the midwest can be traced to her role as Program Director of the Arbor Day Foundation, in Nebraska.

Her impacts can be felt across the country and beyond. We are fortunate to see her influences and benefit from her advocacy for community forests and how that connection benefits mankind.

The Midwest Chapter of ISA has learned from her example in management of resources and green infrastructure, leading nonprofits in community involvement and highlighting the benefits of a sustainable community forests.

Thank you Dana for your never ending dedication to arboriculture and the Midwest Chapter of ISA.



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- AUTHOR'S AWARD OF EXCELLENCE 2022

Recognizes authors of outstanding publications, news stories, radio and television programs for sustained excellence in the dissemination of timely information pertaining to the field of arboriculture. The information provided must have impact of the Midwest chapter audience.

Christopher Luley, Wood Decay and Fungi Common to Urban Living Trees in the Northeast & Central United States

Dr. Christopher Luley of Urban Forest Diagnostics has dedicated his 40 plus years in the field of arboriculture to create a reliable source of information to arborists, municipalities, utility companies, home owners, attorneys, private landowners, cemeteries and golf courses. Luley's work has provided the industry of arboriculture with excellent publications to help in the practice of disease identification, pruning, and landscape pest management. Over 50 articles and 3 books full of quality research, well conveyed data along with numerous high quality photos have guided Midwest Arborists to better diagnose and provide quality care of local trees. Thank you Dr. Luley for your wonderfully crafted publications, especially Wood Decay and Fungi Common to Urban Living Trees in the Northeast & Central United States.



- PRESIDENTS AWARD 2022

Nomination and words by Chapter President, Graham Herbst

Chrissy Land, Community Forester for Western Nebraska, Nebraska Forest Service

Chrissy Land started working as a Community Forester __ years ago and it seems like a job she was born to do. She loves Western Nebraska, its forest resources, and its people. She distributes eggs and honey to friends and family from her own flock and hives, hunts with her husband and dogs, and does an absolutely phenomenal job promoting urban and community forestry with the people and towns in her area. Her intensity, organization, and curiosity spills into every project she's involved in, from tree-planting projects to tree board training and everything in between.



I make a special effort to remember her early days at the agency because she has grown so much in such a short time. In her first few weeks, she joined me at our Earth Day tree climb in Omaha, participated in some meetings and presentations, and watched as I gave an Arbor Day talk for 4th graders in McCook. As much as I tried to be a mentor, there wasn't much guidance needed and she figured out what skills and information she was lacking very quickly. She had so many questions; not because she was clueless, like a deer in the headlights, but because the gears in her head were spinning so fast. She was lit up with passion and the possibility of what this job is all about and how she would choose to do it.

Those gears continue spinning fast and strong as ever, but now Chrissy knows what Community Forestry is about. She is leading the way for cities and towns across Western Nebraska to plant their community forests, manage them competently, and leave a legacy that honors the tree-planters spirit of Nebraska. I am so lucky to have Chrissy as a friend and colleague and am honored today to present her with the MW-ISA Presidents Award. **Awards Continued...**

- ARBOR DAY GOLD LEAF AWARD FOR LANDSCAPE BEAUTIFICATION 2022

The Gold Leaf Award is designed to recognize an individual, organization or community in the Midwestern Chapter area for outstanding Arbor Day programs or community landscape beautification projects. This is an opportunity for the Midwestern Chapter to recognize projects that have had an impact on a community or region with an international award. Projects should show an impact over several years.

UP WITH TREES

Non profit organizations have been a consistent foundation for tree advocacy for many years. These groups of dedicated professionals provide an exceptional example of what it means to develop community landscapes and nurture an appreciation for trees. This years Gold Leaf Award recipient is Up With Trees in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Up With Trees is an organization that has planted over 10,000 trees in the Tulsa community. Their mission of empowering, educating and serving communities by utilizing trees for their environmental, economic and social benefits rings true beyond Tulsa. Accepting this award on behalf of Up With Trees is Executive Director, Steve Grantham. Steve serves as a board member with the Midwest Chapter of ISA and reaches out with helping hands. Communities are stronger, children appreciate nature more, urban canopies are larger from the work he and his group perform. Thank you Steve, and Up With Trees, for the work you have done to strengthen the community and the landscape in the Tulsa area.



UPCOMING EVENTS

MW-ISA Annual
Conference
January 24-26, 2024
St. Louis, MO -
Sheraton Westport
Plaza

Full TRAQ Course
October 11-13, 2023
Gering, NE
Register [HERE](#)

We have a great group of riders. Join us!

There are 57 riders that have chosen to ride with us at this year's Tour des Trees so far and we want you to join us too!

We are all excited to make the trip out west and ride around the Lake Tahoe area. In addition to riding bikes, we are looking forward to meeting tree enthusiasts from Nevada and California and spreading the word about tree research.

This year's Tour des Trees takes place from September 26 to October 2, with five days of riding and 380+ miles. Part-time ride options available, too.

For more information and to register, visit www.treefund.org/tourdestrees.

Can't ride in Lake Tahoe but want to challenge yourself this summer?

Sign up for the new TdT 350/350 Challenge and get on your bike at home. Ride 350 miles and raise \$350 before August 30 and you'll receive a custom cycling shirt. Register for free today at www.treefund.org/virtual-ride-option.



CLIMBER'S CORNER: RAMBLIN' ON STORM WORK

By Will Branch - All About Trees, ISA Board Certified Master Arborist® MW-4737B

With a new growing season comes flowers, foliage, warmth, and longer days. All welcome after a long winter. Unfortunately, we also usher in a new season of thunderstorms and other violent weather. Extreme weather can be as hard on the Arborist as it is on the trees. Storm work can be uniquely challenging, create very memorable tree jobs, but also presents many hazards to mitigate.

My goal is to make storm work just like everyday tree work, controlled and mundane. Yet, it seems much of the industry approaches it in a different manner, in a hurried blur of hero cuts. Don't roll your eyes, we've all done it. I have for sure, and 18 years of tiptoeing storm piles has led me to a much different approach than earlier in my career. Maybe I can save you some hard lessons and a pair of underwear or two with this advice.

Know your limitations.

If you don't know what you're looking at, or the plan involves "I'll figure it out once we get started", just pass on the work. There is a time and place for stepping outside your comfort zone, twisted up piles of trees isn't it though.

Leave your ego in the truck.

Your first task on any job is to figure out how to get everyone home in one piece.

Have an emergency plan.

Know where first aid is on your jobsite.
Know where you are.
Know how to contact emergency services.
Know how to get to the closest hospital.
Make sure the entire crew knows the plan.

Work with appropriate urgency.

You may feel pressure to perform quickly. Not all storm work is an emergency, don't make it one. Every caller will tell you their work is most urgent, take the time to prioritize the work yourself. Storm work is a marathon, not a sprint.

Be familiar with the capabilities of your crew and equipment. Halfway through a project is a terrible time to learn these things.

Be aware of potential hazards.

An EHAP course is highly recommended. Downed utility lines are very common. Know who to call to determine the safety of working around those lines.

Learn to identify tension/compression in tree parts.

Be mindful of debris from structures such as nails, roofing material, or broken glass. Carefully inspect all trees around you whether you are working on them or not. Those trees just rode out the same storm that busted up their neighbor and could be hazardous as well. **Continued on page 11...**



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Continued from page 9...Make time to manage yourself. Keep hydrated. Take breaks. Eat when you need to. Hungry, tired, dehydrated people tend to make poor decisions.

Have the gear and equipment you need. There is a big difference between climbing a job that is inaccessible to equipment and climbing a job because you don't have the equipment. If you don't have it, can't rent it, but the job needs it..... find something better to do with your time. No shame in leaving work for someone better equipped to safely and efficiently take care of it.

Expect the unexpected. Trees may move differently than anticipated so act accordingly. This may mean additional rigging or positioning work to safely manage the situation. Take the time to do so. Have backup plans and reassess frequently. Consider all possible outcomes before committing to a cut.

Above all else, the most valuable piece of advice I can pass along is something that has taken me years to master.

It is OK to say no.

I know it seems difficult sometimes, but the easiest way to mitigate all risk in a situation is to not get into it in the first place.

Too much risk? Just say no.

Not the right equipment? Just say no.

Customer expectations won't allow you to do the job how you'd like. Just say no.

Office pressure to complete an impossible amount of work. Just say no.

With this, I wish you all a boring storm season. I hope it's filled with efficient, calm, and deliberate tree work whether the wind blows or not. Stay safe out there.

We're hiring at all our Midwest locations for:

- ◆ CDL Equipment Operator
- ◆ Tree Climber/Foreman
- ◆ Tree Climber
- ◆ Groundsman

Contact **Joanna Salazar** at josalazar@arbormasters.com or **913.563.7505**
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2023 ArborMaster TCC Climbing Kit Prize Package

The Midwestern Chapter is pleased to announce the 2023 ArborMaster TCC Climbing Kit Prize Package for the Tree Climbing Champion (TCC), held in conjunction with the chapter's 2023 Tree Climbing Championship (TCC) event.

This kit is being offered to each chapter champion (both man and woman, if applicable)! The package is intended to help equip the chapter representative(s) for the ISA's International Tree Climbing Championship (ITCC) Competition.

Each prize package includes:

- Silky's Zubat Professional 330mm Hand Saw
- Buckingham Mfg's Tree Squeeze™ 2.0 & BuckBack Pro
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ID That Tree

American Elm

Ulmus americana

The American Elm (*Ulmus americana*), though seemingly few and far between these days, is still a fan favorite for its structure and form.

This species can be found throughout all 4 Chapter states and was likely the origin of most “Elm Streets” in our towns.

Highly tolerant of typical urban soil conditions, it was once a top choice as a street tree until the introduction of Dutch elm disease in the mid-1900s.

The loss of many American elms via root grafts and/or beetles due to Dutch elm disease brought about the importance and necessity of species diversity.