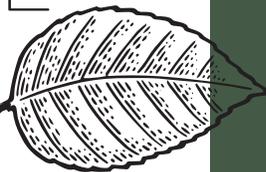


SHADE TREE Leaves

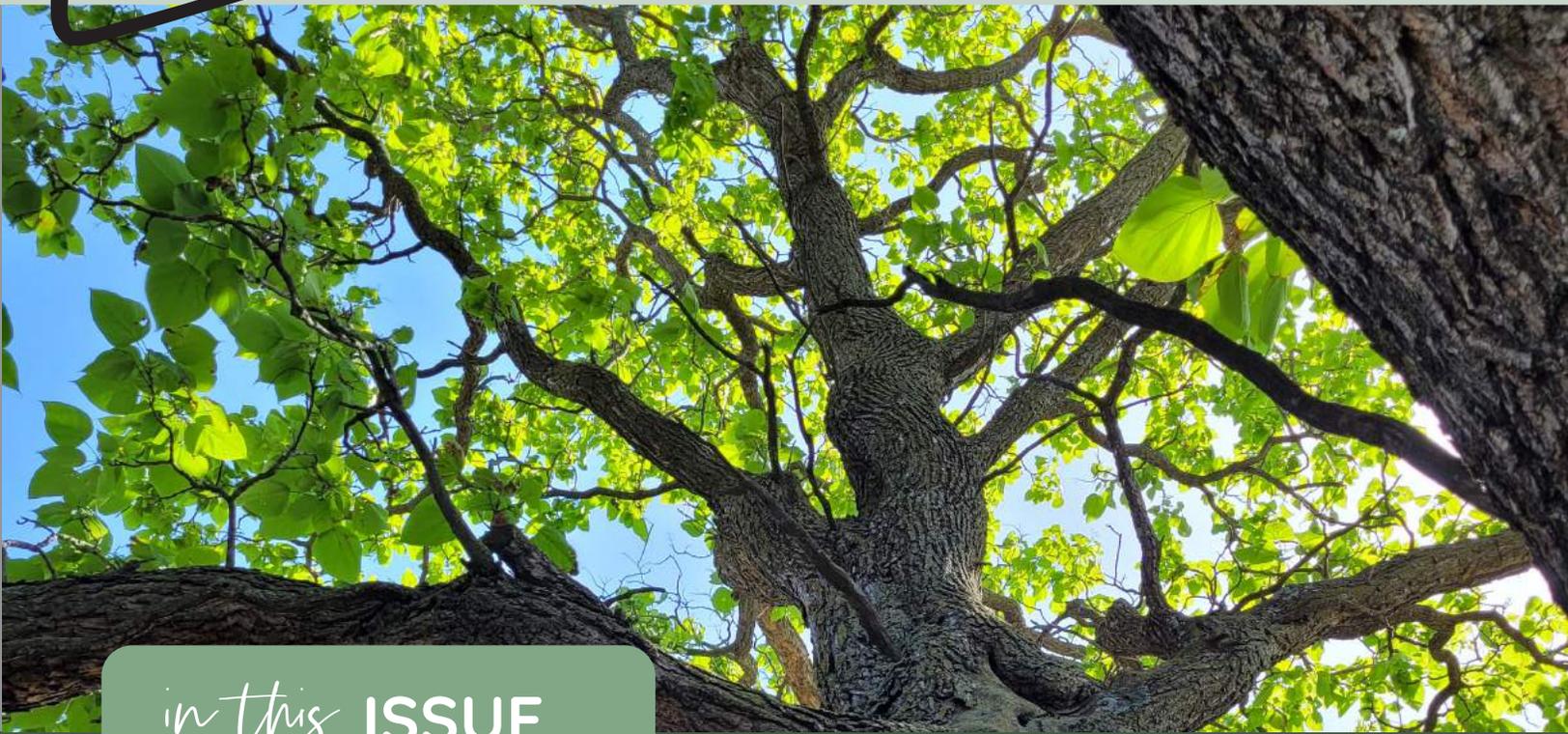


ISSUE 02
SUMMER 2023

MW-ISA
Midwestern Chapter

International Society
of Arboriculture

KANSAS · MISSOURI · NEBRASKA · OKLAHOMA



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ID that Tree...

ANSWER ON PAGE 10.





A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT, ANDY BERG:

Summer is well underway in the Midwest with no temperature relief in sight, as I write this, in late July. It's 100 degrees in St. Louis and we're still catching up on clean-up efforts from a series of severe storms – the most impactful being a storm the weekend before the 4th of July holiday. So often it's the tree failures caused by severe weather that gain us some appreciation from our fellow citizens. The 24/7 emergency crews getting trees off houses and cars, the utility arborists clearing the way to restore power, the consultant that may have condemned a tree before the catastrophe, the tree planters filling in the voids in the canopy, etc. On the flip side, many may not be as appreciative since tree damage may outweigh their benefits to some people's eyes.

As arborists, we need to communicate the importance of trees and do what we can to retain them in the landscape.

The consequences of storm damage likely lend to the fly-by-night, Joe Schmoie “arborist” that feeds off people's tree fears and talks them into removing them (or topping them) to avert disaster. I feel that there are way too many of these companies out there lately. How can we reach these folks and get them to change their ways? There must be a way, right?!

The arboricultural industry is constantly evolving in most of the domains. Continuing education and staying apprised of the latest and greatest is the best tool we have in doing what's right for trees and the people living amongst them. Let's continue to act professionally and make sound judgments.

If we can get the “tree cutter”, PPE-free companies under our wing and show them the way, that's a win-win for everyone. I digress...

It's business as usual behind the scenes for MW-ISA. We recently made some substantial financial moves by investing \$150,000 in a CD and money market mutual fund account. For too long our money was sitting stagnant and we're finally putting it to work. This is an interim move as we begin to develop our financial policy statement and act on it accordingly in specificity. Our short-term goal is to use any gains on membership benefits such as scholarships and beefed-up educational programming. As are most things, it will be a slow burn but impactful. Soon enough we'll be working on procuring speakers and developing the program for the Annual Conference & Tradeshow in Maryland Heights, MO at the end of January – keep your eyes peeled for more information about that.

Lastly, the TCC in June was a great success! It was a little wet but went off without a hitch thanks to our volunteers, vendors, and climbers. An extra special thanks to Noel Boyer and Tim Crews for making it happen, as usual. A big congratulations to our winners EJ Turner and Taylor Neff. I've had the honor of dragging EJ's brush back in the day, so I was extra happy to have him come out on top!

Stay cool and safe out there.

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.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: KERAH GOMEZ



Hi, I'm Kerah Gomez! I'm the vegetation coordinator for the vegetation department at Oklahoma Gas & Electric (OG&E)! I'm in charge of all customer requests and complaints regarding vegetation work in our right of ways throughout Oklahoma & Arkansas. My day is spent reviewing, researching, and dispatching tickets through our PragmaCADs program to my fellow foresters and I love it! When I'm not working, I love to enjoy the great outdoors by hiking and fishing!

When I first started in this industry a little under a year ago, I wasn't sure which path I wanted to pave so I started volunteering at wildlife refuges, urban parks and giving back to my alma mater Oklahoma State University and the Society of American Foresters student club!

After getting 3 college degrees, becoming a member of the Society of American Foresters, and starting my job at OG&E I thought I was turnkey. Then my boss, Shawn Huff, educated me on the International Society of Arboriculture and the benefits of becoming an ISA-certified arborist so without hesitation I started studying and received my certification! I am now getting ready to obtain my ISA Utility Arborist credential!

Being part of the ISA community has helped me network, meet new people, and gain a lot of knowledge that I have been able to share with others! I believe professionally it will help me obtain my goal of becoming a Technical Solutions Forester and maybe develop a new program more geared towards our career field in the future!



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SUBMIT ARTICLES:

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

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

CONTACT US:

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Fax: (402) 761-2224
Email: staff@mwise.org

NOMINATIONS BEING ACCEPTED FOR THE MW-ISA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Nominations are being accepted from the MW-ISA membership to fill three Board of Director positions for a two-year term beginning in January 2024. The submissions will be presented and reviewed by those currently serving on the Board of Directors. The Board will fill the ballot from the nominations they receive, and an election will be held by e-ballot. Nomination forms can be found on the MWISA website, mwisa.org/elections. If you or someone you know is interested in serving on the Board, submit your nomination by November 6, 2023. If you have any questions, please contact Kim at staff@mwise.org or (531) 289-8267.



UPCOMING EVENTS

ISA Certified Arborist Exams

- October 3, Catoosa, OK - Registration Closes on September 15
- October 11, Jefferson City, MO - Registration Closes on September 22
- October 17, Springfield, MO - Registration Closes on September 28

More Information at www.isa-arbor.com/Credentials/Exam-Information

Full TRAQ Course

Registration information can be found on our website

<https://mwisa.org/traq-classes>

October 11-13, 2023 - Gering, NE

November 2-4, 2023 - Tulsa, OK

2023 MIDWESTERN CHAPTER ISA TREE CLIMBING CHAMPIONSHIP RECAP

By Noel Boyer, MWISA TCC Volunteer

As it is a tradition, the 2023 Midwestern TCC, was a blazing success of cowbells and great memories. To begin at the beginning, let's talk about registration. There was much consideration for how we would open registration to the event for in-chapter climbers first, and then have a second date where out-of-chapter climbers could fill any remaining spots. For the second year in a row, we filled all 50 climber spots with in-chapter climbers in less than 24 hours, including THREE women who signed up to compete! It is great that we have such a high level of interest and participation in our chapter, which is what makes our TCC such a success every year. This was our second year at the English Landing Park in Parkville, MO, just outside of Kansas City. Parkville is a small river and railroad town, yet it's kind of hip with several small restaurants and shops. The park sprawls along the river and is filled with lots of big cottonwood trees.



This year we had an exceptionally strong field of over 60 volunteers to help us set up and run the comp. There were plenty of people assigned to each of the five preliminary events, allowing Tim Crews and I to take a more hands-off approach and just help with the logistics and equipment needs. We were so impressed with the unique and challenging courses that all the teams set up for the competitors to enjoy. The volunteer who carried the heaviest weight of planning and managing the competition was Tony Wendland at Urban Tree Specialists. Tony was our local TCC chair, and he handled many of the behind-the-scenes details: Acquiring the park, permits, food, pruning the trees ahead of time, restrooms, golf carts, and so much more. Tony's whole crew was present with a huge fleet of equipment during

setup to clean up all the limbs that we had pruned or that were shaken loose while setting up the events. I would be remiss if I didn't also give a huge thank you to Kim Pair and her staff at the MWISA office for all the planning and preparation. Kim took care of registration, vendors, t-shirts, trophies, and many other things that I never even heard about.



Friday night, setup was complete, and we gathered all the competitors for a walk-through of events and gear inspection, so that we would be ready to go first thing Saturday morning. Our on-site vendors provided new gear for anyone who was looking to upgrade, and they stayed the whole weekend. On Saturday, we hit the ground running.



It is a real challenge to move 50 climbers through the five events in a timely manner, especially in the work climb and aerial rescue events. Our volunteer teams at each event quickly found their rhythm. It was a symphony of ringing cowbells and air horns, excited chatter and cheering for one another, kids laughing and playing, and celebrations by the climbers. Everyone knows that the competition part of the day is NOT the most valuable part.

Continued on next page...

*Thank you to
our 2023 TCC
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The real reason we are all there is to learn something new and share ideas with others. It is about networking and comradery and raising the level of professionalism and safety in our industry. Yes, we always crown a champion who will advance to the International TCC, but the real mission is to make arboriculture better for all of us.

At the end of Saturday, the preliminary event scores were tallied. There was a prize ceremony for all the events, with awards for the top finishers in each event. We also had considerable swag and prizes that were donated by our generous sponsors, (too numerous to recognize individually in this short article). After the awards, we announced our competitors who would advance to the Master's Challenge on Sunday. The top finishers who earned their way into the Master's were, in order: E.J. Turner, Jesse Taylor, Dalton Peterson, Jacob Perkins, and Brady Paselk in the Men's division, and Taylor Neff in the Women's division. These six awesome climbers fought hard and definitely earned their right to compete in the big game on Sunday.

Sunday, we fought a bit with the rain, but our spirits were not dampened. Each climber gave their best effort in the Master's tree. Some climbers had a banner climb, while others had some struggles. It is the name of the game in the TCC world. When the proverbial dust had settled, we were able to celebrate our two climbers who will represent MWISA at the ITCC in Albuquerque. In the Men's division, our winner was E.J. Turner, and this was his 4th win at the MWTCC. In the Women's division, we are so excited that Taylor Neff completed the necessary requirements in the Master's climb to qualify her as our Women's representative at the ITCC! We all had our bittersweet moments of sharing our stories and saying our goodbyes, as we literally start the next day on planning for our tree climbing championship for the next year.

I am proud of all the work done to make this happen. I'm proud of the volunteers for giving their time and joining the family. I'm proud of the sponsors and vendors who value our efforts. I'm proud of all the climbers, but especially the ELEVEN first-time competitors that were brave enough to jump in the ring. I'm proud of the MWISA for making this event a priority and opportunity for real learning and advancement. I'm proud of our industry at the international level for understanding the importance of this gathering. I look forward to my time with all of you next year.



Thank you to our 2023 TCC Sponsors!

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CLIMBERS, ARE WE REALLY BEING THE CHANGE WE WANT TO SEE?

By Will Branch

I've often described my beginning in the tree care industry as "Jim's two-day course on how not to die." To put it in plain terms that an arborist will understand, I was a hack. Not by choice, but by ignorance. As a landscape crew foreman, I'd often manage the ground on tree jobs below our subcontractor, Jim. This old utility climber noticed my interest and saw an opportunity to pass the torch to the next generation, I'm grateful for his efforts.

With my shiny new climbing kit (single d harness, two fixed length lanyards, and steel tree gaffs, yep that's all of it...), I embarked on a two-day journey to learn how to spike up trees, alternate lanyards around limbs, and how to make different cuts in the tree for removal or topping. After that, I was on my own, completely unaware of any industry standards for safety or tree health. That's

right, two days of supervised training and I was now a tree climber. What happened over the next couple of years was a blur of close calls, long hard days, and dirty tree work. I was hooked, and without the next bit falling in my lap, I could have continued doing tree work 'my way' indefinitely.

My awakening occurred in 2006 in front of a motel in Paragould, Arkansas. My father dropped a newspaper in my lap, the paper was opened to an interview with the local utility arborist, and he just said "You should do this" before walking away. The article opened my eyes to professional credentials, standards, and a higher level of tree care. By 2007, I had achieved the title of Certified Arborist, which would mark a new beginning and an opportunity to bury my less-than-honorable start in tree climbing.

For many years I felt no need to dig out my embarrassing past and risk tarnishing my reputation, but as time went on, I found myself repeating things that Jim had said to me while training climbers of my own.

Continued...

NEW MW-ISA MEMBERS:

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| Daniel Lewiston | Sharon Smulling |
| Cai Tricia | Tipton Cirillo |
| Timothy Hammer | Jonathan Tate |
| Paulo Rodriguez | Samuel Koops |
| Jessiah Astorino | Sydney Gutierrez |
| Joshua Downes | Cody Stuart |
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| Erica Zellmann | Gavin Howard |
| Matthew Groeteke | Bryan Waller |
| Dillon Britt | Dalton Demster |
| Dominick Fiorello | Lucas Tuckel |
| Joseph Haberberger | Matthew Thomas |
| Frank Crosby | Drew Pellegrino |
| Andrea Navagato | Sean O'Brien |
| Michael LoRusso | Ramon Avalos |
| Chris Canini | Casey Martineau |
| Zachary Berg | Richard Belleville |
| Brooks Hall | Brooke Terry |



Continued from previous page...

Something was starting to change in my approach to teaching. I was starting to see the value in my old lessons, my mistakes. When I saw a sketchy tree crew, I started remembering how I felt when I was doing work like that.

I think anyone reading this has laughed at or otherwise harassed another tree climber that wasn't doing things correctly. I know I have, and that is actually the only part of my journey that embarrasses me today. My lack of understanding is the stroke of luck that set me on a different path in tree climbing, which was actively deterring others from the same path. I was now part of the problem again, just on the other side. My attempts to educate would never be effective if I continued to be so judgmental. There is a surprising majority that just hasn't seen that there is a better/safer way. It's important to approach with that in mind and to speak in a way that doesn't embarrass or ridicule the person you are trying to help. It can be difficult to understand why someone may be doing bad things to trees in an unsafe way, especially if you weren't given a proper start in the industry.

That's the main reason I choose to share my story. Unfortunately, chainsaws don't come with lessons on tree biology, and tree climbing gear doesn't come with a complete guide to safe climbing attached to it. This will never change; it is up to us to respectfully lead others to the information. Whether or not they choose to chug from that firehouse is up to them.

I'll wrap this up with words of wisdom I received on my first day of tree climbing, a lesson that was intended for planning a tree removal but has since echoed through my mind for many other reasons over time.

“Do the hard part first.”

The hard part in this case is choosing to put on another climber's boots before showing them the better way.

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CAUTION, AVOID DISCOUNTING TWICE FOR SPECIES WHEN APPRAISING A TREE

by Philip Pierce

The 10th edition of the Guide for Plant Appraisal notes that there is a tendency to discount twice for species when appraising a tree. Page 62 says, "Previous editions of the guide described three depreciation factors: species, condition, and location. To avoid issues with double counting and to present a framework that is more consistent with the general appraisal community, this edition presents three categories of depreciation: physical deterioration (condition), functional limitations, and external limitations."

A few Arborists have said to me, "Species Ratings have been eliminated from the 10th edition." While species ratings are not used as a percentage rating, it is still true that species and all their characteristics have great influence in these categories and there by the tree's valuation.

For example, when doing a tree appraisal, you must first identify and state what species you are appraising. When grading the tree's "STRUCTURE", as a third of the Condition Limitations, you are comparing what is typical for that species to the tree that is being appraised.

Knowledge of the species' local adaptability is necessary to determine how well-suited the tree is to its placement in the landscape. For example, near the parking lot at the Lauritzen Botanical Garden in Omaha, NE, there is a pond with a marsh. In keeping with the wetland theme, two Baldcypress were planted between the parking area and the pond. Unfortunately, the planting site is uphill, well away from the pond. The pond is built like a swimming pool so that little water gets to the surrounding soil. The Baldcypress are very stressed on this dry site.

To illustrate how some Arborists double discount for species, I will use the Trunk Formula Technique because of its simplicity. In eastern Nebraska, Sycamore has a species rating of 70%. This "Arborist Rating" means that Sycamore performs well in the eastern Nebraska landscape.

After collecting wholesale tree prices from eight nurseries in four Midwest states, the largest commonly available size turned out to be 3 inches in caliper. Table #1 lists a selection of these 3-inch trees and their prices. Magnolia is the highest-priced tree that grows large. Magnolia represents the perfect tree by price. To show the Nursery Ratings (discounts) by price, use the Magnolia price of \$538 as 100%. Its unit cost is \$76.10 per square inch of cross-sectional area. The remaining trees are listed in descending order by price (Nursery Rating). Remember that the price of a nursery tree is based on the costs to produce it, not how well the species perform in the landscape.

species	tree price	nursery Rating	\$/in ²
Magnolia	\$538	100%	\$76.1
Buckeye	\$430	80%	\$60.8
Maple, Sugar	\$310	58%	\$43.9
Elm, Lacebark	\$300	56%	\$42.4
Maple, Trident	\$295	55%	\$41.7
Baldcypress	\$289	54%	\$40.9
Oak, Swamp White	\$285	53%	\$40.3
Oak, Red	\$276	51%	\$39.0
Oak, Willow	\$260	48%	\$36.8
Maple, N Crimson K	\$255	47%	\$36.1
Pistache	\$250	46%	\$35.4
Oak, Bur	\$240	45%	\$34.0
Sycamore	\$235	44%	\$33.2
Oak, Chinkapin	\$225	42%	\$31.8
Hackberry	\$221	41%	\$31.3
Maple, Red	\$221	41%	\$31.3
Coffeetree, KY	\$210	39%	\$29.7
Linden, Redmond	\$210	39%	\$29.7

Table #2 is a display of the Trunk Formula Technique with two different calculations, each is for an 18-inch diameter Sycamore. The first line is the typical trunk formula that uses the \$76.10 unit cost of the ideal tree to calculate the basic cost. Then the Arborist Species rating of 70% is the first and only species discount in this first line, resulting in a tree value of \$3,389.

The second line adds another discount for species by using the Nursery unit price for Sycamore of \$33.20 rather than 100% for the ideal tree (\$76.10). The resulting tree value is \$1,478. This second discount for Nursery pricing resulted in a value reduction of \$1,910 for this Sycamore that is being appraised.

DBH	Trunk Area	Unit Cost	Basic Cost	Species	Species Rating	Condition	Location	Tree Value	Difference
18*	254.5	\$76.1	\$19,365	SYCAMORE	70%	50%	50%	\$3,389	
18**	254.5	\$33.2	\$8,448	SYCAMORE	70%	50%	50%	\$1,478	-\$1,910

*Species discounted once in the first line as *Species Rating of 70%.
 **Second line uses the Nursery unit cost for Sycamore as the second discount for species resulting in a Tree Value that is \$1,910 less than what it should be.

UNIQUE DOUGLAS FIR

By Chris Rippey

In November 2020, I was asked to assess a unique Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) tree in Lakewood, Washington. The person who called me said there was a tree of the same species with a similar unique structure that had recently experienced a large parent branch failure. My prospective client wanted me to make sure that their tree was not in imminent danger of experiencing the same kind of structural failure.

I arrived at the scene and found my client's tree in the side yard of their house surrounded by grass. The property next to this tree had a long driveway with



an open field on either side of it which reminded me of an old estate. The tree itself was quite old and as the client stated, the tree did have a unique shape!

Typically, Douglas fir trees have one, straight trunk that grows from the ground and continues up to the top of the tree. This Douglas fir had a singular trunk that emerged from the ground but at about 2 feet from grade, the tree had 6 large parent branches which had sprouted from the trunk, grew out, and then up giving the tree a chandelier shape. The tree had a very full and squat canopy looking like an extremely large Christmas tree.

The tree's unique shape was most likely due to it being previously topped at about 20 feet from grade. This topping likely occurred when the tree was mature causing the tree to rapidly grow new branches and foliage to replace that which was removed. These new branches all sprouted out on what remained of the lower trunk and competed for light as they quickly grew tall and reiterated a canopy.



As I approached this tree, I knew that I needed to determine how stable the lower trunk of this tree was. As all 6 parent branches were attached to one area of the lower trunk of the tree, I needed to make sure that this area of the tree was not decayed on the inside. From my experience in assessing old Douglas firs, most old Douglas fir trees have some lower trunk decay caused by velvet top fungus (*Phaelous schweinitzii*). Due to this, I decided to use the Rinntech ArboTom sonic tomography imaging tool to get a better look at the inside of this tree. I set up the machine on a cross-section of the tree's trunk above where the parent branches emerged from the main trunk. I chose to assess this area of the trunk as this area had less of a mixture of root and trunk wood than the lower part of the trunk so I would get a clearer and more consistent result.

The Rinntech ArboTom uses sonic waves to measure the non-decayed and decayed wood inside of a tree. The machine then considers the size, shape, age, and species of the tree to determine how much strength loss a tree is experiencing. In this case, the sonic tomography imaging found a mixture of decayed inner wood (heart rot) and outer wood (sapwood rot). When combined, the tree was experiencing a 16% strength loss when winds were coming from the northeast. **Continued on next page...**

TOUR DES TREES

The 2023 Tour des Trees will take place from Tuesday, September 26 through Monday, October 2 starting in Reno, NV, passing Lake Tahoe, and ending in Half Moon Bay, CA.

WHAT IS THE TOUR DES TREES?

The Tour des Trees is an annual long-distance cycling adventure that serves as the primary public outreach and community engagement event for Tree Research and Education Endowment Fund (TREE Fund).

Since 1992, Tour des Trees riders have cycled through communities in the U.S., Canada, and the U.K., planting trees, educating children, and shining a light on the work done by arboriculture professionals and the importance of science-based tree care.

The Tour des Trees serves to advance TREE Fund's mission to explore and share the science of trees contributing to the lives of people, communities, economies, and the environment, and of the planning, planting, and sustainability of urban and community trees. TREE Fund research has produced better ways to plant and care for urban trees, making them more resilient, more resistant to pests, and less prone to failure.

The Tour also supports education programs aimed at connecting young people with the environment and career opportunities in green industries. TREE Fund has been able to award more than \$5.1 million in grant and scholarship funding since 2002, and the Tour des Trees has been a key component in the organization's ongoing success.

Event expenses are defrayed by TREE Fund's generous partners, so funds raised by riders can be applied to new grants, payments on multi-year grants awarded in prior years, or added to permanent endowment funds that will sustain research into the future.

The 2023 Tour des Trees features both a live ride and our new TdT 350/350 Challenge virtual event, so supporters can ride with us in person or support TREE Fund from home.

The links below and at the Tour des Trees tab at the top of the page provide key information for riders, volunteers, donors, and those considering participating in or supporting the event. We hope to see you on the Tour this year!

Visit www.tourdestrees.org for more information.



NEWLY CERTIFIED MW-ISA ARBORISTS:

Brian Alikhani
Cody Balisle
Brian Bodtke
Jeffrey Burke
Elizabeth Corbishley
Michael Headlee
John Hubler
Joseph Hummel
Clinton Jenks
Patrick Lardi
Nathaniel Lenhart
Bradley Masson
Justin McCullough
Connor McKee
Robert Montgomery
Kelsey Nelson
Ann Powers
Jimmy Stein
Ava Zrenda



ID That Tree

Northern Catalpa

Catalpa speciosa

A classic “character” tree, catalpa has great texture all year around, especially striking in the winter, but available all the time. The flowers resemble small orchids (of special value to honeybees), the fruit is an 8-20” long capsule, referred to as “cigars” by children (and nostalgic adults). The leaves are large, and one of the few truly whorled arrangements.

Its original nativity was from west TN and NE Arkansas to SW Indiana and E Missouri, is now widely naturalized in the SE United States and occurs in all four of our member states to some degree. It is adaptable to a wide variety of soils, makes a “messy” street tree and takes a particular tree enthusiast for the landscape; however, they can be lovely to behold in large spaces such as golf courses, parks, and cemeteries.