in this ISSUE

PAGE 1 Presidents Letter
PAGE 2 Conference Recap
PAGE 2 Silent Auction Recap
PAGE 3-4 2018 Award Winners
PAGE 6-7 The Effort to Battle Oak Wilt Disease Continues
PAGE 6 Tree Fund News
PAGE 7 Call For Climbers

ID that Tree...

ANSWER ON PAGE 8
A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT:
by Brett O’Brien, MW-ISA President

Trends in arboriculture and society are both evolving rapidly. It’s vital to reflect on these changes and adapt in order to keep our MW-ISA chapter strong and moving forward. Some adaptations might be relatively small but hugely beneficial; the recently approved allowance for electronic balloting is a good example. This simple change, which was voted on by chapter members at our latest conference business luncheon, will save our chapter hundreds of dollars in postal fees yearly. In addition, electronic voting will make participation much easier, and in turn, produce more representative voter counts for the board elections.

Improved communication is also going to be a key element toward building a better chapter. It’s a goal we are striving after on a number of fronts. For starters, our MW-ISA website has been updated, and we’ve also changed our website program, which will save us a substantial amount on yearly operational costs. We’ve heard from members that more workshops and training opportunities in various regions of our chapter would be welcomed. To further understand our chapter members’ wishes and priorities, we’ll be using questionnaires to reach members to gauge their needs on this point. Our chapter newsletter, Shade Tree Leaves, which has been dormant for quite a while, has been redesigned and will be brought back on quarterly basis.

As a member of MW-ISA you have an opportunity to enhance your skills and contribute your talent to the chapter in a multitude of ways. I encourage you to consider the possibilities and join in, as we explore new and innovate ways to raise professionalism in arboriculture and lift our chapter forward.

NEWLY CERTIFIED MWISA ARBORISTS:
Rachel Ballard
Michael Baumann
Cody Collins
Brittnie Kopp
Robert Neil
Kelly Privratsky
Charles Stegall
Joey Mahurin

NEW MWISA MEMBERS:
Teddy Wilson
Alice Hannon
Alexander Hardison
Teresa Pirtle
Billie Routh
Kenneth Wallace
Haydn Leatherland
Russel Hutchinson
Michael Garouting
Tyler Weichel
Marcotulio Masariegos
Julio Garcia
Chad Zander
Richard Tufts
Christian Fortner
Clinton Taylor
Leslie Lenz
Richard Webb
Robert Neil
Brittnie Kopp
Jeffrey Slane
Morgan Lindemann
Benjamin Fitzpatrick
Benjamin Bryson
Matt Kern
Nathan Alt
Doniel Erickison
Brian Scott
Anna Sonnenfeld
Michael McCroskey

UPCOMING EVENTS:

MW-ISA Tree Climbing Championship
June 7 - 9, 2019
Central Riverside Park
Witchita, Kansas

MW-ISA 74th Annual Conference & Trade Show
January 29 - 31, 2020
DoubleTree by Hilton, Overland Park, Kansas
MW-ISA 73RD ANNUAL CONFERENCEE RECAP:
by Megan Poe, Executive Director

The MW-ISA 73rd Annual Conference and Trade Show was held February 6 - 8 in St. Louis, Missouri at the Hilton St. Louis Frontenac. The show drew over 200 attendees and 22 exhibitors. The first day kicked off with the Arborist Certification test in the morning followed by the beginning of the educational sessions in the afternoon and ending with a reception with the exhibitors in the evening.

On the second day, the educational sessions continued. A big thank you goes out to all of our speakers. With your professional knowledge and diverse presentations, we were able to have 15.75 CEU credits available for our attendees to earn. Those attendees who turned in their CEU signed sheets into the MW-ISA staff should be seeing those CEU credits applied to their ISA profiles very soon!

During the Business Meeting Luncheon, all Past Presidents of the MW-ISA Chapter who were in attendance, went on stage for “The Passing of the Gavel”. This is a tradition the Chapter is excited to bring back!

At this years passing, Jim Bauer (now Immediate Past President), passed the gavel onto our new President, Brett O’Brien. Along with Brett moving into the position of President, we welcome Graham Herbst as the new Vice President for the Chapter. We’re excited to have both of these individuals leading the Board together for the next two years!

In closing, it was a great Conference! Thank you again to all who were in attendance. We hope to see you all next year in Overland Park, Kansas for the 74th Annual Conference and Trade Show!

MW-ISA SILENT AUCTION WITH EXHIBITORS:

Fun was had and funds were raised at this year’s Silent Auction with the Exhibitors. A huge thank you goes out to all those who donated an item for the auction and a thank you as well to those who bid on items. All funds raised go to supporting the TREE Fund and the MW-ISA Scholarship fund. Your continued help with participating is greatly appreciated!

Business Meeting Luncheon - “The Passing of the Gavel”. Mark Chisholm, Aspen Tree Expert Company, discussing the importance of “What climbers need to know about rigging”
MEET THE 2018 MW-ISA AWARD WINNERS!

Gold Leaf Award -
Outstanding Landscapes
Beautification Award:
Ruth Rebmann & Shelby Uffman

Retired School teachers, Ruth Rebmann & Shelby Uffmann, saw a need for beautification and improved tree care in their hometown of Owensville MO. (pop.2600). They began their efforts in 2009 with a Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) TRIM grant which funded the planting of 60 trees in a Local Park. A second MDC grant in 2014 funded 48 more trees. In 2015, they began an ongoing project to grow trees from MDC seedlings and have since planted over 90 of these trees onto public land in Owensville.

MW Chapter Award of Merit: Andy Berg

Andy is the Arboriculture Supervisor at the historic Tower Grove Park in Saint Louis. When he joined Tower Grove Park in 2016, one of his first big undertakings was overseeing a complete tree inventory update. In addition, he has also become a Board Certified Master Arborist and TRAQ certified. Andy developed and implemented a plant health care program to treat Tower Grove park’s collection of Elm and Ash, and lastly, applied for and achieved ArbNet’s Level II Arboretum Accreditation for the park.

Award of Achievement:
Skip KinKaid

Skip has a long and storied history of service to community forestry and arboriculture. Notable among his contributions would be his time spent as a member of ISA Board of Directors, member and Chairman of the Certification Board (now Credentialing Council), Member and Chairman of the ISA Test Committee Instructor, and Instructor Mentor for Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (TRAQ). Skip also served for 4 years on the ad hoc committee that developed the TRAQ credential for ISA.

MW Chapter Honorary Life Membership:
J. David Mattox

J. David Mattox served as on MW-ISA board, and as chapter President in 2008 but most notably he has served for many years as the Chapters liaison chair for the TCC. This is an especially challenging job to volunteer for; it takes skill, knowledge and leadership to organize a successful and safe Tree Climbing Competition.
Meet the 2018 MW-ISA Award Winners!

Presidents Award:
Gina Branch

Gina is an ISA certified arborist whom works as the Office Manager for the renown tree care business in Springfield MO, All About Trees. However many of you would know Gina from her other role as the MW-ISA Communication Liaison. Chapter president Jim Bauer selected Gina for this award for the significant impact she made in this role for the chapter from 2015-2018. Gina managed and administered many of the registration and website duties during this time, handling both on-line and on-site registration for the chapter conferences and MW-ISA TCC during this time.

MW Chapter Honorary Membership:
Chris Stratman Keep Omaha Beautiful

Keep Omaha Beautiful is a non-profit organization whose mission is to foster environmental and community stewardship in Omaha Nebraska through education, service, and advocacy. In April of 2018 they began The Trees for Omaha Program, a partnership aimed at replanting the city’s tree canopy which is rapidly losing ash trees as a result of Emerald Ash Borer. The program, funded thanks to $400,000 of support from a private donor and a grant from the Nebraska Environmental Trust, is planting and providing post planting care for new trees throughout the city. The program places a strong emphasis on native species and tree diversity, with a goal to educate as well as replant Omaha’s tree canopy.

Thank you to our 2019 Conference Sponsors!
THE EFFORT TO BATTLE OAK WILT DISEASE CONTINUES:
By KATHLEEN LAVEY Michigan Department of Natural Resources for UP Matters.com (MI), 030319

In state forests and on urban streets, the oak is a mighty tree. Towering nearly 100 feet tall, it can live up to 150 years and offers plenty of shade under its heavily-leaved, spreading branches. But oaks – especially trees in the red oak family – face a threat from a disease known as oak wilt, caused by a fungus with microscopic spores that can infect and kill a red oak within weeks.

A closeup of oak leaves on an infected tree, which are an unusual mix of brown and green, with both colors contained in the leaves. “The leaves begin to turn brown, with parts of them still green,” said James Wieferich, a forest health specialist with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. “When the leaves start dropping in the middle of summer, that’s when we get a lot of oak wilt calls.” Wieferich said there’s good news and bad news about oak wilt. The bad news: you cannot save a red oak that is already showing symptoms. The good news: simple actions, such as refraining from pruning oak trees between April 15 and July 15 and covering accidental bark wounds with paint, can help keep healthy trees from being infected.

On city streets, those steps help keep tree loss to a minimum. In state forests, plows and selective cutting help keep the disease at bay. People who spot a tree with symptoms of oak wilt – in the city or the forest – are encouraged to check the DNR’s interactive oak wilt map at Michigan.gov/ForestHealth to report it.

Pressure pads, which are a symptom of oak wilt, are shown from Grand Traverse County. So, what is this infection that can take down a towering oak? Oak wilt is caused by the fungus Bretziella fagacearum. It spreads from tree to tree by underground root contact, through tiny, sap-feeding beetles that carry spores from fungal pads on infected trees into wounds on healthy oaks. Spores also can be found on recently cut firewood from trees that died of oak wilt. This is one of the reasons why the DNR and other agencies advise against moving firewood.

Oaks in the red oak family, including black oak, northern red oak and northern pin oak, are most susceptible to the disease, which kills trees by interrupting the flow of sap. Trees in the white oak group are less susceptible because they have a different internal cell structure that prevents rapid spread of the infection through the tree. Trees in the white oak group have rounded leaf edges and include white oak and swamp white oak.

The highest risk of infection occurs from April 15 through July 15, but it is prudent to avoid pruning or injuring oak trees until they have lost leaves for the winter. If pruning or removing oaks cannot be avoided during the high-risk period, or a tree gets damaged, immediately cover wounds with tree-wound paint or latex-based paint. Treating tree wounds with paint is not usually recommended; doing so to combat oak wilt is the exception.

Michigan DNR forest technician Scott Lint runs a vibratory plow treatment around an oak wilt-infected tree in the Manistee National Forest. Infected trees will usually begin to display symptoms beginning in June through September. The symptoms include the leaves showing two colors during these months and rapid leaf drop from the tree’s upper crown. Those trees are usually easy to spot in a backyard. DNR staffers also are keeping an eye out for oak wilt in state forests and taking measures to stop its spread.

“We prioritize our treatment efforts in new areas where there is not a lot of oak wilt,” said Scott Lint, a forest health specialist with the DNR. Those areas include Otsego and Cheboygan counties in northern Michigan.

In the Upper Peninsula, control efforts are focused on Menominee, Iron and Dickinson counties. Other priority spots include state campgrounds and trail access sites where people come to enjoy the woods. Continued on next page...
“For the rest of the state forest, we prioritize by the quality of the oak,” Lint said. “We tend to prioritize high-quality northern red oak rather than pin oak.” Once an infection is spotted in a priority area, DNR staffers bring in a piece of heavy equipment known as a vibratory plow. It creates a deep trench to separate the roots of the infected tree from trees outside the perimeter.

“All of the trees within that circle have the potential to become infected and die,” Lint said. Other oak trees within the circle are cut down. Sometimes they are salvaged for timber; other times they are left in place.

Within a treated area, new trees that sprout from stumps are likely to die from oak wilt because they are connected to the infected underground root system, where the disease can linger for a few years. The roots of new oaks that generate from seeds aren’t deep enough to become infected.

“Once we do the plowing, we have removed the risk of oak wilt spreading,” Lint said. “New seedlings that originate from seed will grow in that same area uninfected.” Tips to avoid oak wilt: Don’t prune oaks from mid-April through the summer. If oak trees must be pruned or removed during the risk period, or a tree gets damaged, immediately cover wounds with tree-wound paint or latex-based paint.

Don’t move firewood, especially if it comes from oak wilt-killed trees, as it can harbor the fungus. If firewood is suspected of being tainted by oak wilt, cover it with a plastic tarp all the way to the ground, leaving no openings. This keeps beetles away so they can’t move spores onto healthy trees. Leave wood covered until the fall of the year following tree death to keep the disease from spreading.

Whether in the forest or in urban areas, land managers and property owners taking a few relatively simple steps can prevent oak wilt infection and keep oaks towering over our backyards, city streets and forests for decades into the future.
CALL FOR CLIMBERS - TREE CLIMBING CHAMPIONSHIP:
By J.David Mattox, TCC Liaison

On June 9 at the Central Riverside Park located in Wichita, Kansas, we will see who will represent the Midwestern Chapter at the International Tree Climbing Championship in August. As always, volunteers are critical to the success of this event! We have many volunteer opportunities available. A t-shirt and lunch will be provided for each volunteer!

To find out more about how to sign up to volunteer or about TCC, check out our website at www.mwisa.org.

2020 ARBORMASTER CLIMBING KIT PRIZE PACKAGE:

The Midwestern Chapter- ISA is pleased to announce the 2020 ArborMaster Climbing Kit Prize Package for the Tree Climbing Champion (TCC), held in conjunction with the Chapter’s 2020 Tree Climbing Championship (TCC) event.

This climbing 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 International Tree Climbing Championship (ITCC) Competition.

Each prize package includes:
• Buckingham’s Tree Squeeze and a 150’ Rope Bag
• Silky’s GunFighter Curve 330mm
• OREGON Tool Bag
• Samson’s ArborMaster 150’ Hawkeye Climbing Line with eye splice
• ArborMaster - 50% savings for a 2-Day or 3-Day Hands-On Training Module

Sponsored by:

ID That Tree Answer:
Bitternut Hickory- The sulfur-yellow buds of the Bitternut Hickory, Carya cordiformis, is one of the distinctive identifying features of this tree. Native to most of the eastern United States, it’s natural range extends west into the midwest chapter states of Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Missouri.
REACHING OUT:
By Brett O’Brien, MW-ISA President

Nearly a year ago, when the Missouri Community Forestry Council (MCFC) began planning for their March 2019 conference in Saint Louis, they approached Midwestern Chapter-ISA (MW-ISA) with an offer. MCFC proposed hosting a Tree Risk and Assessment qualification (TRAQ) recertification class in conjunction with their conference, agreeing to manage most aspects of the arrangements so as to be essentially cost and trouble free for the chapter. In return, MCFC asked MW-ISA for conference sponsorship or other form of assistance.

It clearly seemed like a good opportunity to reach out to MCFC and its members, and so the MW-ISA Board elected to be an exhibitor/sponsor at the MCFC Conference this past March 13-15. We also provided two items for the silent auction which MCFC sets up to raise money for student scholarships. The first item provided was a conference pass to 2020 MW-ISA Conference in Overland Park, the second item was a Basic Training for Tree Climbers DVD and Workbook. Both items were selected so that the winning bidders would have an introduction to our chapter or otherwise earn ISA CEU’s. At our MW-ISA exhibit table we had information on earning credentials, membership and a very cool freebie, a “fandanna” with our MW-ISA logo. More importantly, we had a questionnaire about training needs, and other ways to serve our membership better. We also inquired, and then listen to, ideas on how MW-ISA can build stronger partnerships with state arborist associations within our chapter such as MCFC.

This partnership was a winning situation since nearly everyone gained from it. MW-ISA and MCFC both profited from this arrangement, and 22 arborist now have their valuable TRAQ recertification. Can this example or something similar be replicated in other states represented within the MW-ISA? It’s an idea certainly worth exploring. Relevant to the old saying, “A rising tide lifts all boats”, assisting or working with allied arborist organization holds the potential for MW-ISA to build community and lift professionalism among us all.

2019 Tour des Trees

Join us this September for five days and 450 miles of cycling through the rolling terrain of northern Tennessee and western Kentucky, starting and ending in Nashville. Not a cyclist or unable to join us this year? Do a Virtual Tour instead. Either way, you won’t want to miss this year’s ride!

Complete details on the 2019 Tour des Trees can be found at www.treefund.org/tourdestrees.

Already registered? Be sure to follow the discussion and stay involved by joining our Facebook event and Strava Club!