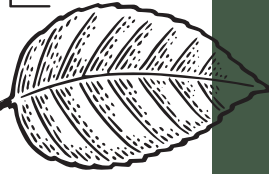


# SHADE TREE Leaves



ISSUE 02  
SUMMER 2020

**MW-ISA**  
Midwestern Chapter  
  
International Society  
of Arboriculture

KANSAS · MISSOURI · NEBRASKA · NORTH DAKOTA · SOUTH DAKOTA · OKLAHOMA



## in this ISSUE

PAGE 1 ID that Tree

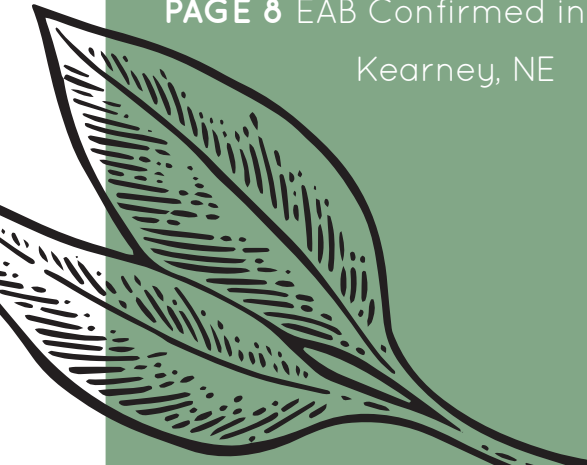
PAGE 2 President's Letter

PAGE 3 Tree Industry News

PAGE 5 Chesnut, Elm, and Ash

- Trees We Have Lost

PAGE 8 EAB Confirmed in  
Kearney, NE



## ID that Tree...

ANSWER ON PAGE 10



## A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT:

by Brett O'Brien, MW-ISA President

In the time since I wrote the last "President's message" several months ago for the first quarterly newsletter, the impact of the COVID-19 coronavirus has obviously affected nearly everyone's daily lives. It seems likely that the pandemic will be changing the way we work, shop, and socialize with others for quite a while. It's going to take some adjustments to work through these challenges and the MW-ISA Chapter is proactively taking steps to do what it can to meet its members needs in the midst of this public health crisis.

One of the first steps taken was placing a COVID-19 update for arborists on our MW-ISA website. This information provides guidance on such things as workplace safety and OSHA cleaning and disinfecting recommendations.

Another action offered on the MW-ISA website was the provision of online learning resources. This enabled members to continue their professional development and earn CEU's.

Unfortunately, one of the other early steps in the pandemic the MW-ISA had to take was the cancelling of the 2020 MW-ISA Tree Climbing Championship (TCC). Knowing however, tha the International TCC had already been cancelled, MW-ISA Board felt it would be unconscionable to hold an event which might risk the climbers, volunteers, staff, and by shared contact, even their families, to an infection with COVID-19. Risk assessment is a major component of arboriculture, so as we all were disappointed in cancelling this important event, there was also understanding from everyone as to why.

Looking ahead with the coronavirus doesn't mean the end of training events, such as TCC or the annual conference, it just means we have to adjust and mitigate the COVID-19 risks to an acceptable level. It'll take innovation and a new approach to things but I think MW-ISA members will be good with that. After all, if anyone values the benefits of P.P.E.'s it's an arborist, so it should be manageable to practice social distancing and wear protective face mask at a training event such as a TRAQ course. Remember, the mission of the Midwestern Chapter is to advance the fields of arboriculture and urban forestry by facilitating the professional development of our membership. We aim to continue with this mission, notwithstanding the coronavirus, and look forward to working safely with our MW-ISA peers and members in order to do so.



## 2020 MWISA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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# MW-ISA TREE INDUSTRY NEWS

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### SUBMIT ARTICLES:

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

[staff@mwisa.org](mailto:staff@mwisa.org) or  
(531) 289-8267

### CONTACT US:

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Milford, NE 68405  
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Fax: (402) 761-2224  
Email: [staff@mwisa.org](mailto:staff@mwisa.org)

## TREE PLANTING AT THE MUNY IN FOREST PARK, ST. LOUIS, MO

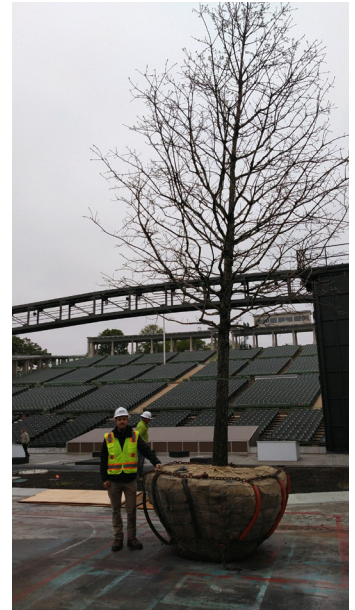
by Andy Berg, Davey Urban Forestry Consultant

The Municipal Theatre Association of St. Louis, the Muny, in Forest Park is celebrating its 101st season this summer. The ideal topography of a natural bowled hillside with a flat bottom was recognized in 1916 where this outdoor amphitheater was built. Most notably, the flat bottom where the stage was assembled was done so to accommodate two massive bur oaks, strategically constructed around the trees. The Muny has always been deemed the “theatre between the mighty oaks”.

Over time the bur oaks had succumbed to old age, decay, construction, and the TRAQ matrices where it was decided removal was the best option. The Muny would not be the same without a significant tree canopy shading the stage so, following the removal of the two oaks (which were aged over 300 years old), it was decided to overhaul the entire stage. With construction beginning in 2018, the new stage now sits atop a network of soil cells filled with a sandy loam, a complex network of irrigation and drainage systems, and all other utilities needed to operate all productions.

Davey Resource Group, with the help of Environmental Design, was responsible for the delivery and installation of seven trees this spring, all dug and shipped from Kaneville Tree Farm in northern Illinois. The species include 2 *Quercus bicolor*, 3 *Platanus x acerifolia* ‘Morton Circle’, and 2 *Acer miyabei* ‘Morton’, all selected due to their proven success in urban settings. The two oaks were the largest of the seven with an 8” caliper (6.5” DBH), 30’ in height, and weighing about 10,000 pounds each. These trees will be closely monitored for the next three years by Davey Resource Group to ensure success.

Unfortunately, due to Covid-19, the 2020 season is the first season in the Muny’s history to be canceled. Those that have waited patiently to finally see the new trees of the Muny will have to remain patient a little while longer. On the bright side, these trees will look a bit better during the 2021 season once they have recovered from transplant shock.



### Tree Industry News Section Rules and Regulations:

This section of the MW-ISA Newsletter is intended to better serve our MW-ISA members by creating another platform for important industry information and news to be shared. Any request received not pertaining to new job postings, job promotions within the industry, industry announcements or individuals seeking employment, will need to go through the MW-ISA Board for approval before published. Postings for new job opportunities, job promotion announcements, industry announcements or individuals seeking employment are provided as a complimentary service to MW-ISA members only. No investigation on these employers/employees has been made by MW-ISA. The printing of employment ads should not be deemed to constitute a recommendation or endorsement by MW-ISA. Non-members may purchase space starting at \$25 per newsletter. Payment and ad copy must be received by due date stated below for next newsletter. Ads will run for one issue unless an extension is requested along with payment. If you wish you place an ad, please email our office at [staff@mwisa.org](mailto:staff@mwisa.org) or call (402) 761-2216. Payments can be made via check or credit card. Next Newsletter payment and ad copy due by: September 30, 2019

COMING SOON

# A NEW COST EFFECTIVE WAY TO CONTROL EAB

LALGUARD AZA is a new azadirachtin formulation that allows for a lower dose rate and up to 2 years of efficacy against multiple pests including emerald ash borer (EAB). LALGUARD AZA is a natural choice for your forest pest management needs, and offers an environmentally sensitive alternative to conventional products.



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BioForest/Lallemand Plant Care is an urban and commercial forest pest management company, committed to researching and delivering effective solutions for forest pest managers.

## CHESTNUT, ELM, ASH — TREES WE HAVE LOST

Alma Gaul Quad City Times (IA), Jun 7, 2020

The emerald ash borer (*Agrilus planipennis*) has plagued native ash trees in Illinois and Iowa since 2006 and 2010, respectively. This pest was first introduced in 2002 around the Detroit area and rapidly spread across Michigan and Indiana to infect most of Iowa and Illinois today.

“Sadly, the emerald ash borer will eventually wipe out our native ash species as we know them, leaving a major void in our urban forests and natural areas since ash is currently so prevalent,” Ryan Pankau, a horticulture educator with University of Illinois Extension, said.

“The age-old phrase ‘history repeats itself’ certainly holds true with exotic pests and diseases in North America.”

Two such past incidences have caused the virtual elimination of American elm and American chestnut trees across our continent.

### American chestnut

The impact of chestnut blight was extensive. The American chestnut’s native range spans more than 20 states in the eastern U.S., from Maine to Georgia, and accounted for about 50% of the eastern deciduous forest.

“Chestnut was a highly prized timber and wildlife tree, producing nuts for wildlife and even humans, as well as lumber of superior quality,” Pankau said. Chestnut wood has excellent resistance to rot with fiber as strong as many of the oak species we covet today. It was used for everything from structural lumber to fine furniture.

“It is just really hard to imagine how the disappearance of chestnut impacted life in the eastern United States, changing everything from timber products to the diversity of biota in eastern forests,” Pankau said.

Chestnut blight differs from emerald ash borer because it is fungal pathogen of chestnut as opposed to an insect pest. The fungus was first identified in its native land of China where it was hardly a pathogen of any significant threat, typically infecting dying twigs and bark.

“However, since our native chestnuts don’t have any co-evolutionary history with this pathogen, they have little resistance,” Pankau said. Once established, the pathogen spreads from tree to tree by wind dispersion, creating cankers that grow rapidly and girdle stems.

Infected chestnut trees were first observed in New York City in 1904. By 1940, chestnuts were wiped out as a commercial species and active component of its original ecosystem. To this day, chestnut still exists in its home range because the roots and root collar are resistant, allowing sprouts from old root systems to grow before the pathogen attacks and kills the above-ground portion of the plant.

### American elm

“The fate of American elm was determined by a combination of fungal pathogen and elm bark beetles, collectively referred to as Dutch Elm Disease,” Pankau said. “Very similar to the emerald ash borer, larvae of the elm bark beetle tunnel into the wood of elm trees.”

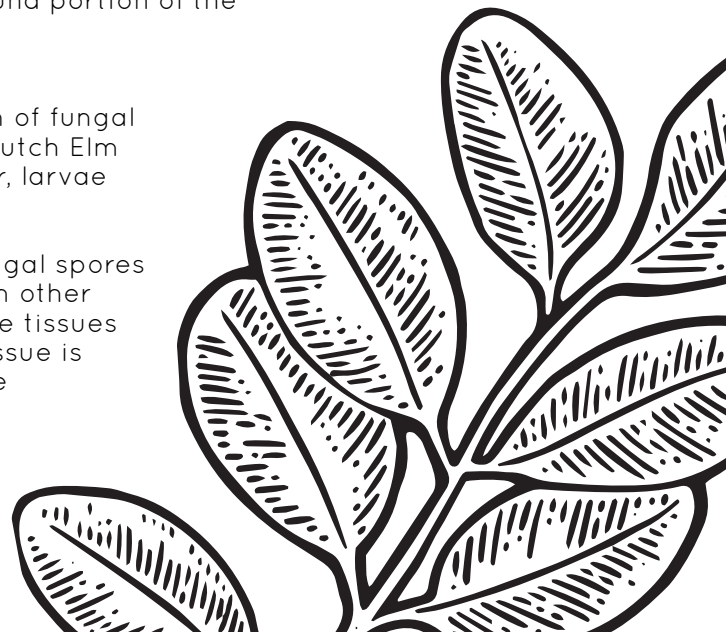
As the larvae feed on infected trees, they are exposed to fungal spores which they disperse after emerging as adults and feeding on other elm trees. Once introduced, the fungus grows into conductive tissues in the tree. As the tree’s defenses respond, the conductive tissue is clogged, stopping transport of water and nutrients, while the pathogen persists.

“It is an interesting relationship between insect and fungi, that is somewhat limited by the dispersion rate of



## NEW! MWISA ONLINE LEARNING RESOURCE PAGE:

During this time, ISA encourages our members and credential holders to use this time to continue your arboricultural education. To assist our members in doing this, MWISA has created an online learning resource calendar which can be found on our website.



beetles, spreading slower than wind-dispersed pathogens like Chestnut Blight,” Pankau said.

Dutch Elm Disease was introduced near Cleveland in the 1930s, reaching Chicago in the 1960s and the western limits of American elm’s natural range by the 1970s. Although American elm did not have the timber value of chestnut, it had a much more extensive range, extending from the east coast to the Dakotas and down to central Texas. It was a large component of eastern forests, occupying a wide range of environmental conditions.

“This adaptability made the elm an excellent urban tree that was widely planted, creating a huge impact to urban forests as the disease spread, much like what we are seeing with emerald ash borer today,” Pankau says.

#### Ash

Emerald ash borer is fatal to ash trees because the larvae eat the conductive tissue within branches and trunks, often causing death within two to five years of initial infection. The beetle does fly and disperse on its own, but human movement of firewood has rapidly advanced its spread. Ash trees are important timber species, as well as urban trees, comprising up to 50% of the urban forest in some cities.

“As an arborist, it has been very sad to watch the spread of emerald ash borer as it follows in the footsteps of past introduced outbreaks,” Pankau said.



## NOMINATIONS BEING ACCEPTED FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Nominations are being sought from the MW-ISA membership to fill three Board of Director positions, each position is a 2-year term. These submissions will be presented and reviewed by those currently serving on the MW-ISA 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 MW-ISA website. If you need or prefer a copy mailed to you, call Megan at (531) 289-8267 or email at [staff@mwisa.org](mailto:staff@mwisa.org). If you or someone you know is interested in serving on the Board, submit your nomination by September 30, 2020. Any questions? Please contact Megan at [staff@mwisa.org](mailto:staff@mwisa.org) or (531) 289-8267.

## NEWLY CERTIFIED MWISA ARBORISTS:

Jacob Sansoni  
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Brett Haley  
Alex O’Neill  
Clinton Taylor  
Joseph Borges  
Cody Azotea  
Kaleb Locke  
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Philip Young  
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Kent Holm  
Thomas Anderson  
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Gerald Philbin  
Jake Johnson  
Zack Eby  
Kevin Cook  
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## UPCOMING EVENTS:

**2020 ISA Annual International Conference & Trade Show**  
December 15-17, 2020 - Albuquerque, NM

**2021 MWISA 75th Annual Conference & Trade Show**  
January 27-29, 2020 - Omaha, NE





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# EMERALD ASH BORER WAS CONFIRMED IN KEARNEY FOLLOWING AN INSPECTION

Article provided by: Nebraska Forest Service



The Nebraska Department of Agriculture announced that the emerald ash borer (EAB) was found in Kearney. A severely declining street tree located near Pioneer Park was determined to be infested with the insect. This detection adds Buffalo County to the growing list of Nebraska counties with known EAB infestations.

“Emerald ash borer is considered to be one of the most destructive insect pest of trees ever to occur in the U.S.,” said Laurie Stepanek, Forest Health Specialist with the Nebraska Forest Service. “Its impact on urban trees, native forests and windbreaks in Nebraska will surpass that of Dutch elm disease.”

It is projected that Nebraska’s taxpayers and homeowners will ultimately spend over \$961 million on ash tree removal, disposal and replacement due to this pest. EAB is named for the bright metallic green color of the adult beetles. It is the immature stage, however, that causes the most damage to trees.

“The immature stage, or larva, tunnels into the trunk and branches, cutting off the flow of water, nutrients and sugars under the bark,” said Stepanek. “At the height of an EAB infestation, trees can die in a just a few years.”

Residents in Kearney and surrounding communities with ash trees on their property should begin making



**WE'RE  
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- **GROUNDSMEN**

APPLY ONLINE @  
[www.webtrees.com](http://www.webtrees.com)



The advertisement features a large photograph of a tree climber in full safety gear, including a helmet, safety glasses, and a harness, working on a tree trunk. To the right of the photo is a white curved banner containing the text "WE'RE HIRING" in large, bold, brown letters. Below this, there are two bullet points: "➤ TREE CLIMBERS" and "➤ GROUNDSMEN". Underneath the bullet points, it says "APPLY ONLINE @" followed by the website "www.webtrees.com". At the bottom right of the banner is the "We B Trees" logo, which consists of four cartoon trees with faces and arms, standing in a row under a yellow sun.



plans to either treat or remove the trees. The optimal time for treatment is spring, although professional trunk injections may provide some control even if done in summer.

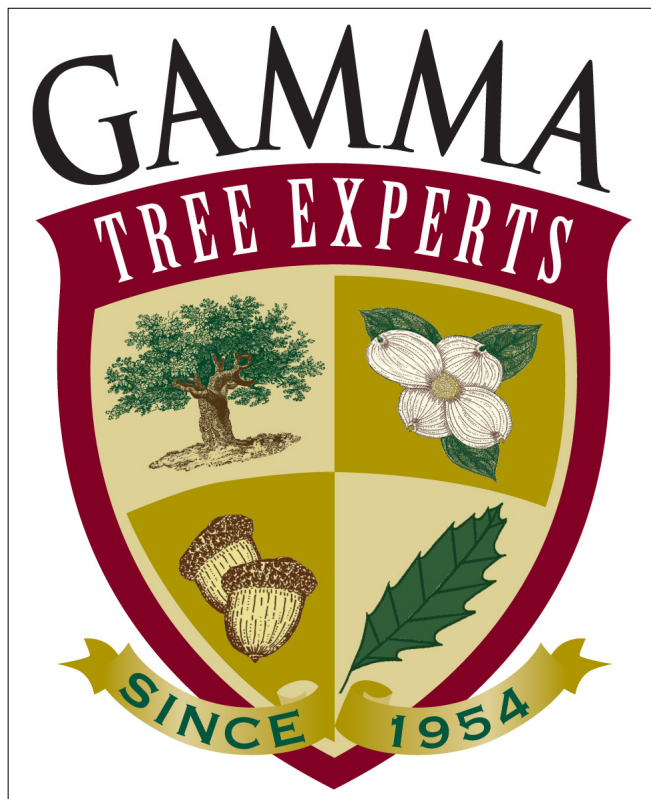
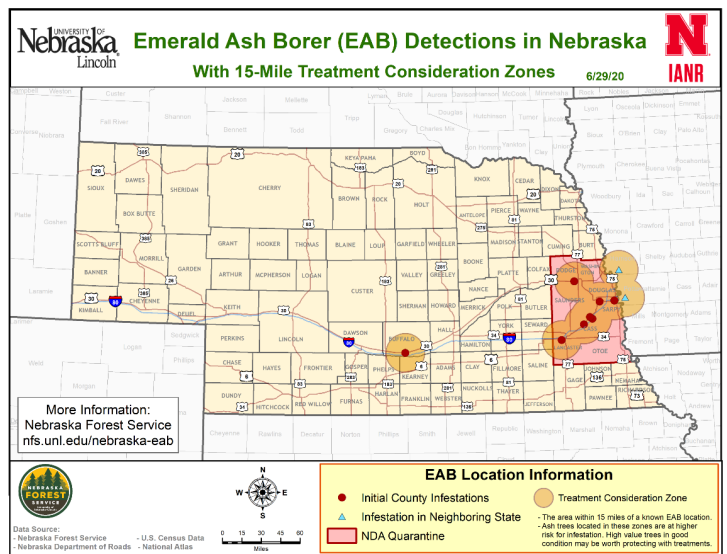
“Treatments must be done for the remainder of the tree’s lifespan, therefore, take time to assess the value and health of your trees to determine if they are good candidates for treatment,” Stepanek said. “Trees worth treating are those that provide much-needed shade, are key components of the landscape, or have intrinsic value. The trees should also be in very good condition with robust canopies, no large dead or dying branches, and no mower damage or other serious trunk wounds.”

Because insecticide treatments have drawbacks, trees should be located within the “treatment consideration zone”—i.e. within 15 miles of Kearney. This recommendation strikes a balance between the need to protect valuable trees and the drawbacks of unnecessary insecticide applications. Kearney’s 15-mile zone includes Gibbon, Minden, Elm Creek, Odessa, Riverdale, Amherst and Axtel.

Trees left untreated will eventually die from EAB and will need to be removed. Community Forestry Specialist Graham Herbst recommended pre-emptive removal of living ash trees when possible.

“Trees that have died from EAB are extremely brittle and pose a hazard—dropping limbs on people, buildings and cars,” Herbst explained. “There may also be a high demand for tree removals when large numbers of ash begin dying—increasing prices and the chance that homeowners will be approached by “fly-by-night” tree companies that may not have proper insurance, licensing, or training to remove hazardous trees.”

As trees are removed, they should be replaced with a diverse selection of trees, not just a few species. This will help avoid another significant loss of the urban tree canopy when the next serious pest arrives.



## AWARD NOMINATIONS

Greetings Midwest ISA members. I hope that this finds you all in good health. As we all work through the obstacles and changes of today, we are driven to rise to the challenge. Tree work is historically known for its resilience and dedicated teams of whole hearted arborists. In this time, I ask that you look around, maybe in the mirror. Who among us is making a difference within the ISA? What team member is taking on a new role? How are we working to adapt to new policies and educating our neighbors? The Midwest ISA looks to recognize achievement in the field of Arboriculture each year and 2020 is an exceptional opportunity to do so. Please take the time go online and make it known that we are a group of outstanding people that do great things in the world of trees we live in. We all know how we feel when someone else pays us an honest compliment, now is a great time to give that feeling.

Visit [www.mwisa.org](http://www.mwisa.org)

Sincerely,  
Brian Houser  
MW ISA Awards Liaison



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# ISA ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AND TRADE SHOW

▶▶▶▶▶ 15-17 DECEMBER, 2020 ◀◀◀◀◀



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## ID That Tree Answer: Flowering Dogwood *Cornus florida*

*Cornus florida*, commonly known as flowering dogwood, is a small deciduous tree that typically grows 15-30' tall with a low-branching, broadly-pyramidal but somewhat flat-topped habit. A native tree species primarily found in the states of the eastern US; however, its range does extend into the MWISA chapter states of Kansas, Oklahoma, and Missouri. The flowering dogwood is the official state tree of both Missouri and Virginia.