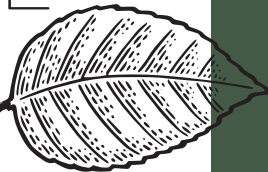


SHADE TREE

Leaves



ISSUE 01
SPRING 2022

MW-ISA
Midwestern Chapter

International Society
of Arboriculture

KANSAS · MISSOURI · NEBRASKA · OKLAHOMA



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ID that Tree...

ANSWER ON PAGE 17





A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT:

by Graham Herbst,
2021 MW-ISA President,
Gherbst2@unl.edu

Greetings, everyone!

With the changing of seasons, we're all reminded of persistent change that life rolls our way. The slow, cold season wasn't all that slow for most arborists, which is great but Old Man Winter

might not have left you time for finishing overdue projects and maintenance. No matter how many jobs are backed up on the calendar, it's always a good idea to care for your equipment and yourself. Sharpen your chains, check your ropes and gear for wear, change spark plugs, stretch your body, get good rest, cultivate a culture of safety and mutual respect, continue learning and being curious about what interests you. Make the time for these things, because there will always be other things that need to be done.

One change we've seen at the MW Chapter is a new Director! Megan Benes did a wonderful job at MWISA but is moving on to a new job opportunity and we wish her the best. Our new Director, Kim Pair, brings many years of experience with organizations and non-profits as well as a vibrant personality that is a great fit for our board and chapter members. Please join me in welcoming her to the team. She can be reached at the same email address (staff@mwisa.org) if you have questions or need assistance.

I hope this Spring brings you and your crew a safe and productive season caring for trees throughout the Midwest.

Best,

Graham Herbst

President, Midwest ISA Chapter

2022 MW-ISA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Andy Berg, Vice-President

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Brett O'Brien, Immediate Past President

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Executive Director

Kim Pair

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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
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CONTACT US:

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

UPCOMING EVENTS:

MW-ISA Tree Climbing Event

June 25-26, 2022, Parkville, MO

*More details to come!

See ad on page 5 for TCC prize package list from ArborMaster!

MW-ISA TRAQ Course

June, 2022

*More details to come!

**Updated details can be found on our website,
www.mwisa.org*

NEW MW-ISA BOARD MEMBERS

During the Business Meeting Luncheon and Award Ceremony we were excited to announce our new Board Members Josh Carron, City of St. Louis and Phil Swart, Rainbow Tree Company.



Josh Carron



Phil Swart

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



Ann Koeig

A Special Thank You!

Thank you to our exiting Board Member Ann Koenig. We appreciate your time, dedication, and service to the MWISA Board!

NEW! 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.

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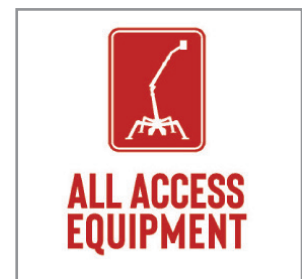
2022 ARBORMASTER CLIMBING KIT PRIZE PACKAGE

The MW-ISA is pleased to announce the 2022 ArborMaster Climbing Kit Prize Package for the Tree Climbing Champion (TCC), held in conjunction with the chapter's 2022 Tree Climbing Championship (TCC) event. This climbing kit is being offered to each chapter champion (both man and woman, if applicable).

Each Prize Package Includes:

- Silky's Sugoi Professional 390-33 Hand Saw
- Buckingham Mfg's Tree Squeeze(TM) 2.0 & BuckPack Pro
- Greenworks Commercial Logo'ed 20-Can Backpack Cooler
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- Vermeer Logo'ed 16 oz Perka KErstin 16oz Stainless Steel Mug with molded cork base
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Jennifer Behnken
Jesse Bonin
Travis Bowling
Colton Brown
Rico Campbell

Jeremy Cooper
Brandon Eaton
Jordan Eitel
Eric Fierge
Mitchell Goedeke
James Haynes
Robert Hembry
Xavier Kaighin

Derek Kippenbrock
John McDonnell
Andrew Mitchell
Tanner Neely Blaine
Rose Pelelo-Ray
Emily Powers
Hunter Redmond
Brennon Renfro Cade

Dakoda Reynolds
Daniel Schachner
Edward Smith
Carl Treas
Robert Wright

MW-ISA REGIONAL PLANT APPRAISAL COMMITTEE

Andy Berg, Vice President

The Guide for Plant Appraisal, 10th Edition, authored by the Council of Tree & Landscape Appraisers, recommends the development of Regional Plant Appraisal Committees (RPACs). RPACs are a diverse group of individuals within the industry who provide information to tree and landscape appraisers, most often for the use of extrapolation techniques within the Cost Approach of appraisal. Specifically, the information sought by RPACs is to identify the largest commonly available nursery-grown tree in our region which is the starting point in providing unit cost (or cost per cross-sectional square inch). Though not required to be used, this information can provide arborists with quick, consensus-based numbers so they don't have to do the research themselves - it is nothing more than a helping hand by their local peers.

Naturally, many RPACs have been (as suggested by ISA and other organizations) developed, or currently being developed, within individual Chapter organizations. Our Chapter's Board decided to offer a roundtable discussion on the Thursday evening of our Conference in Omaha, which was well attended (and attended by committee members of other Chapters), to determine if this is something we want to pursue.

This was further discussed during the Past-President's Breakfast at the Conference and the decision was made that an RPAC would be created for the MW-ISA Chapter. I was also voted on as the Chair of this committee and will be slowly (but surely) gaining some traction and get the ball rolling with our duties as an RPAC.

We are in the process of deciding how we want to construct our RPAC and willing to accept all suggestions from our members. We are also brainstorming how we want to delineate our Chapter, with the understanding that numbers will vary over our wide geography. Stay tuned.

Feel free to reach out to me at
andy@hansenstree.com

TOUR DES TREES

Tree Fund

The 2022 Tour des Trees will take place from Saturday, September 3rd through Saturday, September 10th in Iowa!

What is Tour des Trees?

The Tour des Trees is an annual long-distance cycling adventure which 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 \$4.8 million in grant and scholarship funding since 2002, and the Tour des Trees has been a key component in the organization's ongoing success.

The 2022 Tour des Trees features both a live ride and a virtual event, so participants can join us in Iowa or anywhere in the world!



IOWA: SEPT 3-10

SUPPORT THE MISSION OF TREE FUND ON THIS FULLY SUPPORTED RIDE AND HELP FUND ARBORICULTURE RESEARCH.

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TREE FUND

1,000-PLUS TREES TO BE PLANTED FOR MORTON ARBORETUM'S CENTENNIAL

Katlyn Smith Daily Herald (IL), 1/3/2022 5:30 AM



The Morton Arboretum will celebrate its centennial year with the April launch of a 1,000-tree planting initiative.

A couple of shovels, a patch of dirt, preferably in a no-mow zone, and some tiny seedlings are what you might expect from an Arbor Day ceremony. The Morton Arboretum in Lisle has loftier expectations.

To mark the 150th anniversary of Arbor Day and its own centennial year in 2022, the arboretum will begin a tree-planting spree across seven counties this April.

“What better way for us to celebrate our huge milestone birthday of 100 years than a big community tree-planting,” said Murphy Westwood, the arboretum’s vice president of science and conservation.

improve an urban forest threatened by climate change and invasive species.

The arboretum aims to plant more than 1,000 trees throughout Cook, DuPage, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry and Will counties to

A ubiquitous invader, European buckthorn is the most common species by stem count in the same seven-county region, according to the arboretum’s latest tree census. European buckthorn accounted for 36% of stems in the 2020 census count. The woody shrub creates dense thickets that block sunlight to a forest’s floor, preventing the regeneration of oaks and other native species.

“Buckthorn can basically very quickly dominate forest here, and it just sort of smothers everything out underneath it, and so we don’t have that natural succession,” Westwood said. “We don’t have those young trees growing up to replace the old trees.”

The arboretum will be planting young trees around schools, neighborhoods, parks and other areas. Trees will include a diverse mix of 17 species, including a special centennial selection of a rare and little-known linden.

Back in 1938, scions, or part of a grafted plant, of Zamoyski’s linden were brought to the Morton Arboretum from Kornik Gardens in Poland. One of the resulting trees, a fine specimen, stands near the arboretum’s research and administration building, displaying clusters of buttery white flowers in the spring and a leafy tower in the summer.

Outside of the arboretum, Zamoyski’s linden covers only roughly 6.5% of the Chicago area’s urban forest, said Kris Bachtell, vice president of collections and facilities.

But it’s demonstrated relative resistance to the leaf-munching Japanese beetle and adaptability to the region’s climate, Bachtell said.

The arboretum encourages species diversity to prevent the spread of pests and diseases that plague specific types of trees. Maples, oaks, elms, serviceberries and buckeyes are among the trees that will be planted for the arboretum’s 100th anniversary.

“When something like Dutch elm disease or emerald ash borer comes through, it can wipe out the entire population of the trees on your street,” Westwood said. “So we are very focused on ensuring that there is a diversity of species in our urban forests so that it’s more resilient to any one pest or disease that might come through.”

The arboretum also is planting the seeds of environmental stewardship. At planting events, arboretum experts will share their expertise to “empower people to become tree champions themselves,” Westwood said. It’s a fitting tribute to arboretum founder Joy Morton.

In the last years of his life, the salt magnate set out to reshape the grounds of his country estate into a botanical haven. His vision became a reality when he formally established the arboretum on Dec. 14, 1922.

A decade later, he wrote a letter to a friend about welcoming “hundreds of automobile visitors” on pleasant spring days.

Morton was “passionate about trees, not only just the act of planting trees. He wanted people to learn about them,” said Rita Hassert, collections manager at the arboretum’s Sterling Morton Library.

Arboretum staff will help people learn how to care for the newly planted trees, how to water, prune and mulch. Tree experts already have been doing site visits for months to identify the “right tree for the right place,” Westwood said. Some will be chosen because they’re more tolerant of drought or soil conditions.

The arboretum will be purchasing, delivering and planting just over 1,000 trees at an estimated cost of more than \$200,000. It’s been fundraising and putting out a call to municipal governments and community groups to join in the centennial tree-planting effort.

Not content to merely plant seedlings, the arboretum has contracted with nurseries to provide trees ranging in height from about 5 to 10 feet. Trees will get in the ground over three seasons: spring and fall 2022 and spring 2023. Community Forestry Council and the International Oak Society, all helping out in some way with this project.

There are many other endangered species out there that could use ex-situ conservation efforts like this, and it doesn’t take much work to begin. The Morton Arboretum has begun an ambitious oak conservation project focusing on the most endangered species. They are partnering with arboreta and municipalities with the capacities for this work across the country. You can learn more about these endangered tree ex-situ conservation efforts here.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

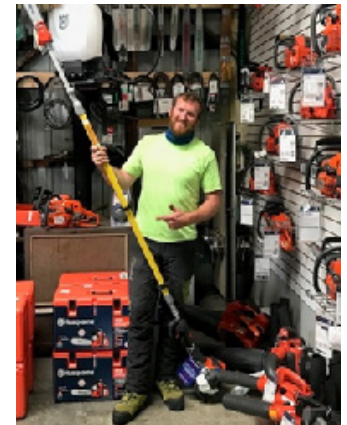
STRIVING FOR NEW HEIGHTS

MW-ISA ladies and gentlemen, please allow me to introduce Matt Hilbert, Owner & Primary Operator of Komplete Tree Kare and Forestry, based in Garden City, MO, Matt’s enthusiasm for trees and people crosses all boundaries.

Matt has been in the industry for about 10 years, ISA certified for almost 3 years. His degree is in behavioral sciences and his initial path was going to be a college professor. While he was in school, he challenged himself to learn about something he knew nothing about (you see where I’m going, right) and that “something” became trees. Once he started walking down that path, he kept right on going.

This is where ISA comes into play... “We hold ourselves to such a reality of professionalism, that other’s perspectives will not dictate the worth or value of the tree industry. We are the standard, and we are in a movement and a cause for being the standard, to be the professionals, to be the profession. So, we are in not just a business but a movement to establishing a standard and a profession.”

Well said sir, well said.



New Members:

Randy Arneros	Eric Fierge	Braden Manaloto	Dakoda Reynolds
Houston Bates	Rosario Garcia	Kevin McIntyre	Doug Richardson
Colton Brown	Andrew Gibbons	Nicholas Mede	Christopher Rippey
Michael Brumwell	Caitlin Gipson	Paul Naudet	Daniel Schachner
Jack Cohagen	Jacob Heck	Matthew Nelson	Blake Simmons
Christopher DiLisa	Robert Hembry	Andrew Nigh	Carl Treas
Jeffrey Emge	Susan Jankowski	Jacquelyn Palmer	Megan Troesser
	Ryan Kornegay	Kyle Palmer	Trevor Whipkey
	Justin Lingo	Brennon Renfro	Michael Wiekhorst



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2022 MW-ISA ANNUAL CONFERENCE & TRADE SHOW RECAP:

With the return to an in-person conference this year, we were excited to add a few new elements to the agenda! One of these being an offsite reception in the host city to add more of a “local flavor” to the attendee’s experience. Being in Omaha, Nebraska, we were excited to start off this new tradition with an offsite reception at Upstream Brewery in the beautiful Old Market district. We had a few other surprises in store for our attendees as well. Upstream Brewery created a custom batch of beer for our group to help celebrate the MW-ISA 75th Anniversary that was last year (We were unable to celebrate it together due to Covid). We named our custom batch of beer “Lager Log 75.” The custom beer was an American Lager with prominent lemon zest and subtle Juniper lingering in the finish. It was a fun night, and the MW-ISA Board looks forward to planning next year’s opening night reception in Tulsa, Oklahoma.



Upstream Brewery’s custom “Lager Log 75” made custom for MW-ISA 75th Anniversary.

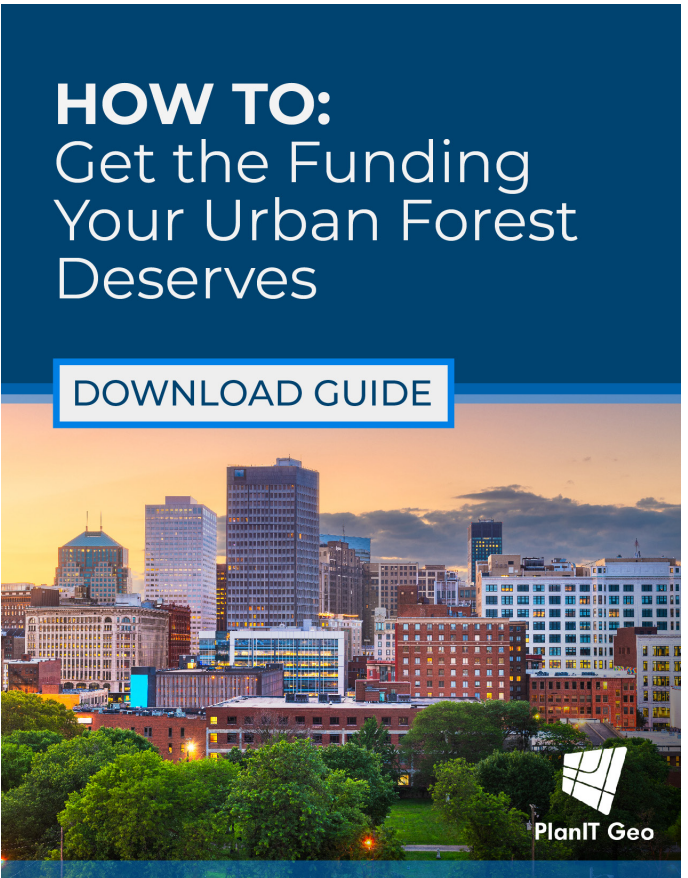
On the second day, the educational sessions continued. A big thank you goes out to all of our speakers. Our speakers were so gracious and willing to talk after their presentations to anyone with additional questions. We appreciate your expertise and time with us.

During the Business Meeting Luncheon, we announced the results of the general elections and officially welcomed our newly elected Board members Phil Swart, Rainbow Tree Company, Josh Carron, City of St. Louis, and re-elected Board member, Lorri Grueber, City of Lincoln. Thank you for your interest in serving and leading the MW-ISA Board for the next two years! Additionally, the MW-ISA Board reviewed it’s proposed MW-ISA Strategic Plan with membership and a majority voted in favor to move forward with the plan. The MW-ISA Strategic plan will help guide our projects, programs, drive our outreach, direct our Board through the end of 2026.

In closing, I want to thank our 2022 MW-ISA Conference Sponsors: PlanIT Geo, Arborsystems, Arborjet, and Environmental Design. Thank you for your support to this year’s show. We hope to see you all next year in Tulsa, Oklahoma!



Arborists at Upstream Brewery at the opening night reception.



WE ALMOST FORGOT ABOUT THE MOON TREES

By Marina Koren *The Atlantic*, January 31, 2022



A moon tree planted on June 9, 1977, surrounded by space. Ron Zellar / NASA; Getty; The Atlantic

The American moon missions, more than 50 years later, are each memorable in their own way. Apollo 11, of course, is known for being the very first time human beings set foot on the moon. Apollo 12, for being a little rowdier. Apollo 13, for nearly ending in disaster. Apollo 14—the third of six moon landings—is known, as I recently discovered, for its “moon trees.”

Stuart Roosa, one of the Apollo 14 astronauts, took a small canvas bag of tree seeds with him on the journey. While his fellow astronauts walked on the lunar surface, Roosa and the seeds flew round and round the moon until the crew was ready to come back. A few years after the astronauts returned home, some of the seeds—sycamores, redwoods, pines, firs, and sweetgums—were planted across the United States, to see how they would grow, or simply to keep a piece of moon history close by.

I learned about the existence of moon trees earlier this month while thinking about the anniversary of Apollo 14, which launched on this day in 1971. (My tired pandemic brain had thought this year was the mission’s 50th anniversary, but turns out we’re living in 2022!) I read online that one moon tree, a loblolly pine, had been planted by the White House, within walking distance of my apartment in Washington, D.C. What a great pandemic-appropriate outing for a space reporter, I thought. Then I noticed an asterisk next to the tree’s name, and scrolled down to discover: “An asterisk denotes a tree that is no longer alive.”

Oh. Nevermind.

That I could find a database of these trees, and go through the experience of identifying and losing the moon tree nearest me in five seconds, is because of Dave Williams, a planetary scientist at NASA’s Goddard Space Flight Center, who 25 years ago took it upon himself to locate as many of them as he could. NASA didn’t keep any records on where the seeds from Apollo 14 ended up, nor did the agency keep up with the trees they became. But Williams does, even though it’s not part of his job description. He is not a tree expert, but he has become, through his efforts, the world’s foremost—and perhaps only—expert on moon trees.

Williams was once just as surprised as I was about the existence of these trees. He discovered them in 1996, through a third-grade teacher in Indiana. Joan Goble and her class had been working on a project about trees near their school, and a student came in one day saying she’d heard that something called a moon tree grew at a nearby Girl Scout camp. When the class went out there, they found an entirely normal-looking sycamore, with a little sign next to it that described the sycamore as a moon tree. Goble’s class wanted to write a thorough report, so the teacher emailed NASA for more information.

No one in Williams’s office in Maryland, not even the folks who had worked at NASA during the Apollo program, had heard of a moon tree. Williams checked with the agency’s history office, which uncovered some newspaper clippings revealing the existence of at least six such trees. From the outside, the moon trees were no different than their Earth-bound brethren. “There’s nothing strange about the moon trees at all,” Williams said. He emailed Goble back with what he’d learned, and then continued to dig.

Williams discovered that the head of the U.S. Forest Service had pitched Roosa, a former smoke jumper who fought forest fires, on the idea. The astronaut took about 500 seeds stuffed in sealed bags inside a metal canister, packed in the small canvas bag that every Apollo astronaut was allowed to fill with whatever they wanted. When the astronauts came back, the sealed bags went through a vacuum chamber—part of the standard decontamination protocol at the time—and accidentally burst, scattering the seeds. Stan Krugman, a geneticist at the forest service, sorted them by hand, then passed them on to a scientist who used some to experiment with germination at NASA's Johnson Space Center, in Houston. The rest were sent to forestry-science facilities, which doled them out to communities across the country, grateful for a free piece of the Apollo era to spice up their municipal grounds.

The trees, planted mostly in 1976, took root just fine on Earth. Some of the moon seeds were planted next to seeds that had never traveled to space, to see whether they'd develop any differently. The most surprising result, Williams told me, occurred when the two seeds grew into two completely different species—a result of a gardening mixup, of course, not the weird effects of microgravity. NASA didn't undertake any serious study of the moon trees. The effort was more a PR move, Williams said, than a science experiment. After Williams wrote back to Goble, he posted an appeal online, asking anyone who came across a moon tree to contact him at NASA. Their story had been forgotten once, and if he didn't keep track of these trees, who would?

And then people started reaching out, telling Williams that they'd spotted a tree paired with an intriguing plaque on their hike around town, sharing pictures. Over the years, Williams has waited for the moon trees to reveal themselves in this way, through an emailed proof of life. "It really can go for quite a while with getting nothing," he said. "And then I'll get a bunch." As of today, Williams has located about 100 trees. Of those, 30 have died or been cut down. The sycamore that Goble discovered is still there; a storm twisted its top off some years back, but the tree has managed to recover, she told me.

Williams thinks that more undiscovered moon trees are out there. He just heard from a student at Delta State University, in Mississippi, who said they've heard rumors about a moon tree somewhere on campus and will try to find it, promising Williams that they'll report back. Williams has visited quite a few over the years, and even hosted Goble and some of her students in Maryland to show them the sycamore growing near the Goddard center. What's it like, I asked, seeing a moon tree? Isn't it kind of anticlimactic, because it doesn't look any different? Not to them. "I'm just in awe that this seed, the seed it grew from, went to space," Goble said. "It went to orbit the moon."

That's why people see the moon trees as special: They know where those seeds went. Reaching the moon doesn't take long—Apollo astronauts took just three days to get there—but it's the moon. People haven't stepped foot on the lunar surface since 1972, and it's unclear when the next crew will go. All the trinkets and tchotchkes that the Apollo astronauts took with them in their personal canvas bags are cool for this reason, bestowed with a magical sheen the second they were returned to Earth—space souvenirs. But the seeds that Roosa, who died in 1994, carried feel different from other mementos.

They weren't put in museums or auctioned off. They were buried in the soil of the Earth, the only soil like it in the solar system—in the entire universe, as far as we know. Some might have disappeared, felled by storms or saws, before someone could find them and feel curious enough to ask NASA about them. But the ones that remain are living monuments to the time humankind escaped this world's gravity and felt that of another.

MEET THE 2021 MW-ISA AWARD WINNERS!



Gold Leaf Award: Aaron Thiessen

Turning destruction into growth has been the underlying theme of Aaron Thiessen's time as Head Grounds Keeper of Central Community College. Within two years of him taking on this position he was faced with storm damage to over 50% of the campus trees. With his knowledge of trees, leadership and vision, Aaron has rekindled a campus wide appreciation for trees.

Revitalizing the Tree Campus Higher Education Committee, organizing student tree plantings, grant writing and being a steward for a diverse canopy with long term rewards has been a mark of achievement for both the College and Aaron. Aaron's impact extends beyond Central Community College as he hosts workshops and educational outreach to community members and arborists from across Nebraska. Congratulations and thank you to Aaron for his outstanding efforts in arboriculture and the impact he has made on his campus and community.

Honorary Life Membership: Sarah Crowder

What started as a volunteer role turned into a position to empower communities with trees. Sarah joined Heartland Tree Alliance (HTA) in 2016. With a background in urban forestry, Sarah was well equipped for the task of supporting the HTA mission of 'Stronger Communities Through Healthy Trees'. Her dedication in this non-profit role has led to planting more than 21,000 trees in the Greater Kansas City area with 11,000 hours of volunteer help! This doesn't happen without passion and selfless commitment.

Branching out and involving multiple municipalities, HOA's, and other tree advocate groups, Sarah has built a network of tree support that continues to grow. Sarah's willingness to share her knowledge and educate the community will have a lasting impact for generations to come. Congratulations and thank you to Sarah for her life dedicated to arboriculture, community, urban forestry and the Midwest ISA.



Author's Award of Excellence: Dr. John Ball

Dr. John Ball is well known in the world of arboriculture for his presentations and hands on approach to education. However, behind all those outdoor seminars and entertaining presentations is an accomplished author who has dedicated countless hours of research for his publications. Books like *Trees! An Illustrated Field Guide* and *Trees for the Northern Plains* help inform and educate on the hardiness, diversity, and adaptability of trees to the Northern Midwest.

His numerous articles and publications with the University Extension and TCIA have kept people in-tune with invasive pests, new cultivars, and tree safety. In addition, Dr. Ball has dedicated himself to standardizing and defining safe work practices in arboriculture through his contributions to the Z133 document. Congratulations and thank you to Dr. Ball for his outstanding publications and dedication to keeping our arborists prepared, safe and well educated.





Award of Merit: Mark Halpin

As the forestry manager for Forest ReLeaf of Missouri, Mark helps set the standard for collaborative community forestry efforts throughout the region. Outreach and education are made possible through Mark’s weekly articles as well as his fortification of the Tree Keeper class.

Teaching volunteers the vital tree care components and the benefits of trees has nurtured a dependable group of passionate tree care enthusiasts. With a passion for trees and an unselfish willingness to share his knowledge, Mark continues to reach beyond his daily role into the community around him. Congratulations and thank you to Mark for his efforts in perpetuating a tree minded community and leading the way in urban reforestation.

Award of Achievement: Doug Seely

Doug Seely has served as the community forester for Beyond Housing in north St. Louis since 2016. Being a community forester within a non-profit community driven organization has created great success. In Doug’s case, success is the community he serves, success is the people and the trees they enjoy. Trees in under privileged areas are often the last to be promoted, often neglected. Doug, through Beyond Housing, has been able to support an initiative that educates on the benefits of an urban canopy to community properties.

Education, funding for maintenance, Tree Resource Improvement and Maintenance (TRIM) grants, tree planting and care have become a part of growing a canopy that supports generations of families. Promotion of the benefits of trees for health and well-being, noise reduction, water and air quality has propagated a previously overlooked value. Doug has fostered the newfound priority of trees as a community asset. Congratulations and thank you to Doug for his dedication to the 24:1 community, Beyond Housing and promotion of keeping healthy trees in our urban landscapes, now and in the future.



President’s Award: Lyle Minshull

Lyle Minshull has been Parks Superintendent for the City of North Platte since 1979 and has diligently worked to maintain and expand both the scope and the quality of its urban forest in a part of the state where that’s particularly difficult. He appreciates the value in tree species that most people look down on. Without trees like Hackberry, Siberian Elm and Silver Maple, Western Nebraska would not have much tree canopy in its cities. It takes passion and fortitude to manage the challenges of these species and remember the benefits they offer to North Platte residents and all the other organisms that depend on those trees being there.

Lyle has also been a fixture on the Nebraska Community Forestry Council since 1998 and a leader in the organization for most of that time. He was instrumental in the Council’s successful anti-topping campaign and raised the bar of tree care throughout the state through that project and many others. The Council is made up of citizen volunteers that use their own time and resources to give programming input to our Forest Service staff, keep us connected with communities statewide and work with elected officials to advocate for our community forests. The time and input that Lyle has contributed to these ends is hard to quantify and we are so lucky to have him on our team. Congratulations Lyle!



Let's face it, not all pruning work is 'cut and let fall'. As proud as I am of my snap cut proficiency.... I don't want to be making that many cuts aloft, and I'm sure my ground crew doesn't want to clean up hundreds of tiny pieces of the limbs they could have carried away in one piece.

Here are some thoughts that cross my mind before I decide to rope out a limb:

-Every cut is risk. Risk to self, risk to crew, risk to property, risk to tree.

Can I mitigate risk by rigging?

-Our time is valuable. Is rigging faster for me? Is it faster for clean up? Is it faster for the team as a whole?

-How can I rig the limb?

-What does the ground crew think?

Rigging while pruning differs from removal rigging in many ways.

-In addition to normal jobsite targets, the tree itself is a target that should not be damaged by falling debris.

-Oftentimes portions of the tree that impede lifting/lowering operations must be retained and worked around.

-With tree removal, rigging is moved down the tree as the removal progresses. With pruning, it is often necessary to install rigging hardware high in the tree to work limbs lower in the crown. Sometimes leaving quite a hike back up the tree to strip gear.

-Pruning cuts are generally smaller than removal cuts, allowing the use of lighter gear.

-Pruning crews can tend to be smaller, leaving less hands to manage rigging tasks.

The goal of pruning is to leave the tree in a better situation than when you found it, your rigging method should reflect that.

Dry crotch rigging

Doesn't get any more basic than this, throw a rope through a branch union and tie off the piece.

Drawbacks of this type of rigging would be the potential for severe damage to the tree, and added friction at the anchor point makes lifting much more difficult.

False crotch rigging

Installing hardware in the tree to run rigging line through.

Benefits. Protects the tree from running rope, can reduce friction at the anchor point allowing easier manipulation of loads.

Drawbacks. Friction may need to be added to handle rigging loads (lowering device), and most false crotch rigging cannot be retrieved from the ground.

Span/drift rigging

After installing a primary rigging system in the tree (rig point A) the working end of the rigging line is dead ended to another suitable point (B) closer or past the ideal landing zone. The piece to be rigged is then attached to the line between A and B by rigging pulley. When cut free the piece is free to drift between point A and B.

Benefits. You are only limited by the number of suitable anchors and the length of your rigging line.

Drawbacks. You are limited by the length of your rigging line. This style of rigging can use up a ton of rope, 3-4x the distance from the highest anchor to the ground. Check to make sure your rope is long enough to complete the rig before cutting.

Lifting

Using an overhead anchor to lift a tip tied piece upright before lowering.
Benefits. Great for long limbs over obstacles. Great for lowering limbs butt first through dense crowns.

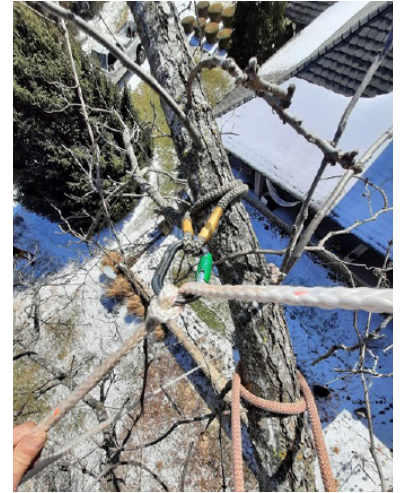
Drawbacks. Overhead limbs may impede lift. May require extra hands or mechanical advantage to lift heavier loads.

Balancing

Using an overhead anchor point, a balancer sling/ spider leg is added near the working end of the rigging line, providing a second working end. Each end will be tied to opposing ends of a lateral limb to balance the piece and allow for static lowering without the piece flipping.

Benefits. Limbs can be lowered in areas they would not fit if upended. Can be used if overhead obstructions don't allow lifting.

Drawbacks. Sometimes requires a bit of wrestling or the use of tag lines to land long pieces into dropzones. May require more ground hands.



Speedlining

A rigging line is fixed in the tree at a high point or close to the cut location and anchored at ground level in the desired direction of travel. The piece to be cut is attached to the line by sling and carabiner or pulley. When the piece is cut free, gravity does the work and it slides down rope towards the ground anchor.

Benefits. Lighter loads can be managed by hand, holding tension in the rope until the piece makes it to the landing zone.

Great way to get debris closer to clean up equipment.

Drawbacks. Control line must be added in tighter locations, doubling the amount of gear and hands needed. Also, significant lateral loading can be applied to anchors.

The gear

I try to keep my light rigging kit as simple as possible, gear that can serve many purposes, and components can be easily interchanged

Rope

I like a 12 strand or 16 strand ½" line. These lines work well with almost any rigging component, and have incredible abrasion resistance.

Rigging friction saver

One small, one medium low friction ring, spliced together with ½" TenexTEC. This piece of gear can be retrieved from the ground, protects the tree from running rope, and reduces friction at the anchor point

Small rigging pulley

Great for a main rigging point, redirecting a running line, great attachment for span/double whip rigging.

Hitch cord and carabiner

I'll use a munter on this anchor to provide friction for lowering, it also allows me to switch hands with the ground worker to lower a piece while they land it.

There will be many things for you to consider when deciding how to rig while pruning. Tree species, location, targets, crew size, skill level, and site topography are all major factors. My answers will probably not be the same as yours.

However, I believe the reasons for doing so will stay the same.

Do as little harm to the tree as possible. Mitigate risk for yourself and crew. Protect your customers property. Be efficient. Be professional.

MW-ISA

Midwestern Chapter



International Society
of Arboriculture

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ID That Tree

Sassafras

Sassafras albidum (Nutt.) Nees

Sassafras is a fairly common species found throughout much of the mid-west. Often thought of as a small, suckering “fence row” tree, this species can become quite large with age. The National Champion, found in Kentucky, is more than 60 ft. tall with a circumference of 283 inches. This species belongs to the family Lauraceae, which includes the Laurus (bay laurels), Persea (avocado) and Lindera (spice bush). Sassafras can be identified by its somewhat unusual foliage (consisting of three main types: simple entire leaf with no lobes, or two or three lobes that resemble mittens), and green-ish new stems that smell like Fruity Pebbles once scratched. Sassafras is a highly ornamental native tree that is also beneficial to birds and pollinators such as the Tiger and Spicebush Swallowtail butterflies.