# SHADE TREE leaves

ISSUE 03
FALL 2022

MW-ISA
Midwestern Chapter
International Society of Arboriculture

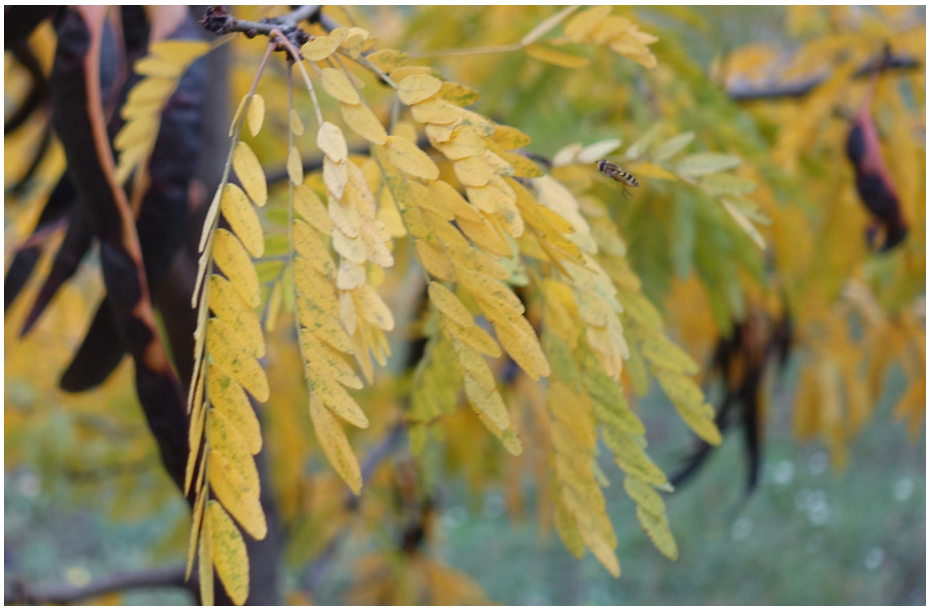
KANSAS · MISSOURI · NEBRASKA · OKLAHOMA

## in this ISSUE



## ID that Tree...

ANSWER ON PAGE 15



## A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Greetings Tree People,

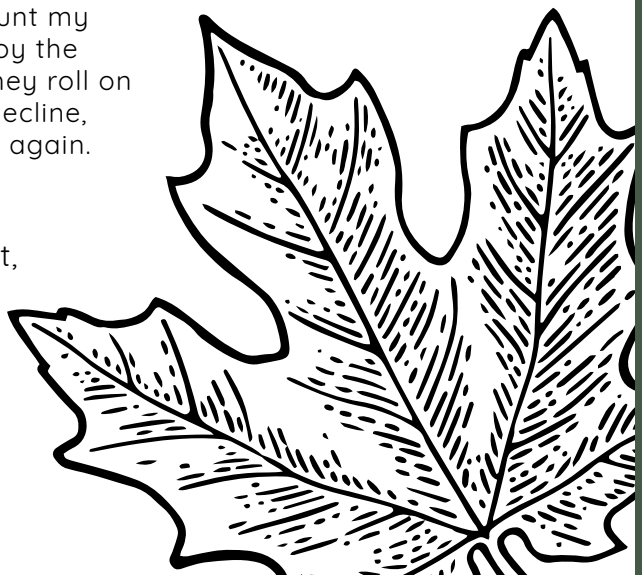
Excitement is growing as plans for our 2023 Annual Conference in Tulsa continue to develop. We already have some great speakers lined up and it's really going to be great to bring the conference back to Oklahoma for the first time in…too long! Be watching for "Save the Date" info and conference registration details coming soon. We hope to see you all in Tulsa on January 25-27, 2023.

Is it autumn yet? I love the cooler temperatures, festivities, and color changes that the trees bring to communities, but there's one strange question I get nearly every year in late summer. It usually goes something like this: "Hi Graham. My wedding/family reunion/other event is in October, and I really want to pick a date during *peak fall color*. When will that be this year?" One second while I check my crystal ball!

All joking aside, it's no surprise that we are attracted to the autumn wardrobe change that our towns receive from the community forest and there's some fascinating science behind how it happens. A combination of genetics and weather patterns causes fall color to be spectacular sometimes and to fall flat in other years. Some colors are pigments that develop in the leaf during senescence, while others were there all along, overpowered by green chlorophyll that the tree uses to make energy.

Ultimately, a long and glorious fall color display comes from long periods of cool nights and warm days that discourage trees from dropping foliage for the year. Weeks or months before a special event, it's anyone's guess when or if that will happen as expected. This reminds me to count my blessings and enjoy the cycles of life as they roll on through growth, decline, and renewal once again.

**Graham Herbst**
MWISA President,
Gherbst2@unl.edu



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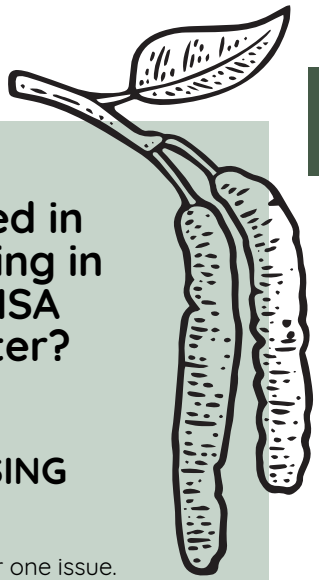

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## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: ANDY BERG ST. LOUIS, MO

Andy Berg is a very busy man! After graduating from college, he went to work for a "traditional forestry" firm, knowing he wanted to pursue a career in arboriculture. He obtained his Certified Arborist (CA) credential in 2011 and credits this, along with his Forestry degree, as "the two best items on his resume".

He supplemented the CA credential with Municipal Specialist in 2014, TRAQ in 2016 and BCMA in 2017, believing the ISA credentials make him more marketable, reputable, and credible, with the required CEU's "keeping him on his toes" with current industry trends and science.

Andy currently works for Hansen's Tree Service & Environmental Resources in O'Fallon, MO as the Plant Health Care Manager & Consultant, diagnosing, recommending treatments and providing training to technicians and sales staff, as well as performing tree inventories, preservation plans, appraisals and expert witness testimony when called upon to do so.

Andy also serves as your current MW-ISA Vice President and was just recently selected to sit on the BCMA Test Committee. Make sure to say, "Hello!" at the Tulsa, OK conference in January.

If you would like to share your ISA story/success, please contact Kim Pair at kim@youraam.com and we'll get you featured!

# UPCOMING EVENTS:

## ISA Virtual Conference
December 13-14, 2022

## MWISA Conference
January 25-27, 2023, in Tulsa, OK

### 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.

## GROWING A TREE DOESN'T STOP AT PLANTING: WHY TRACKING LONG-TERM SURVIVAL MATTERS

BY ISABEL HILLMAN, EDWARD SAENZ AND WILL ANDERSON

Let's start with the good news: People around the world are planting trees. Given the vast expanses of degraded land, opportunities for restoration abound. Investors and funders are spending real money to support new initiatives and communities, and pledges to protect, plant and restore more than 1 trillion trees have inspired millions of people to act.

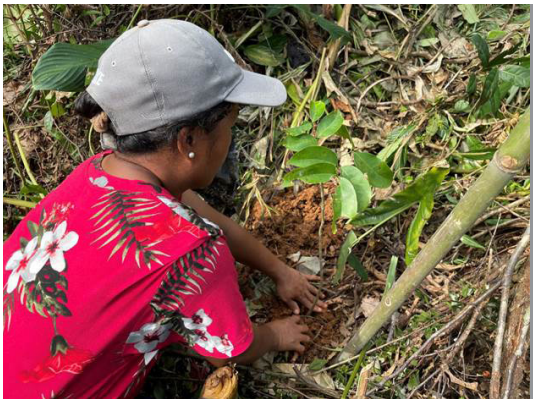
Now the bad news: There's little information about what happens to those trees once they're in the ground. How many survive? Are they truly restoring ecosystems and storing carbon as they grow? Are local communities benefiting from those trees?

Those key metrics of success are rarely tracked after saplings are dug into the soil.

Most organizations seeking funding for restoration projects are earnest. As with anything else, there are a few bad actors seeking to turn consumer money into trees that won't grow tall and strong in the long term. But the thousands of locally led organizations that invest passion, energy and expertise into planting trees do have a positive impact on people and the planet.
So how do they measure their impact?

Conservation International and World Resources Institute have developed a field-test version of our Tree Restoration Monitoring Framework. This tool was developed for the Priceless Planet Coalition, a restoration alliance led by Mastercard that aims to restore 100 million trees over five years.

All 18 projects funded by the Coalition now monitor 13 required and six optional metrics of success and will continue to do so in the five years after they plant each tree. These indicators capture the transformation of saplings into trees and document the potential benefits of restoration for local communities, climate, and biodiversity.



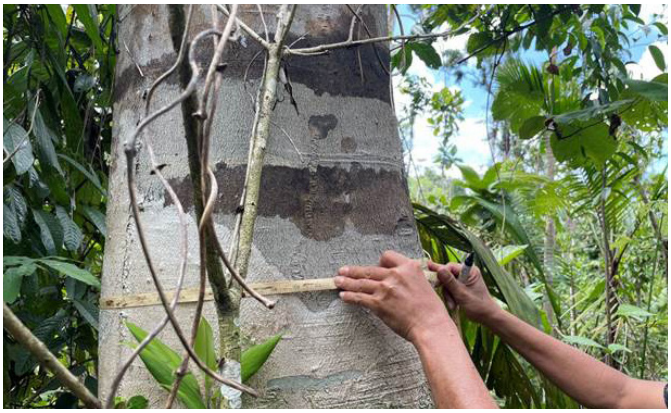
**The Philippines is one of the world's 17 mega-biodiverse countries, and its forests and oceans sequester huge amounts of carbon. But accelerating development and other factors are taking a toll. Reforestation is one strategy to protect these ecosystems. (Photo credit: Conservation International Philippines)**

Tree growers follow detailed instructions, or protocols, that explain exactly how to collect the data, ensuring that progress is tracked consistently across the portfolio. Every protocol is applicable to any tree-growing project around the world and covers a wide range of techniques, ranging from the more traditional, such as tree and mangrove planting, to the more novel, such as efforts that accelerate the recovery of natural forests.

To check the collected data, researchers at Conservation International and World Resources Institute work hand in hand with tree growers in the field to pinpoint the location of each Priceless Planet Coalition planting site.

Continued...

These digital boundaries help monitor where sprouting trees are making progress toward the framework's key indicators. This data can help assess the impact of projects and reduce the risk of failure by tracking where fires, floods, and other threats to the land — what researchers call disturbances — have threatened planting sites in the past.



**Hands-on monitoring is critical to assessing the true impact of restoration programs like the Priceless Planet Coalition. (Photo credit: Conservation International Philippines)**

World Resources Institute and Conservation International use these geospatial boundaries, field-collected data and cutting-edge satellite techniques to assess important metrics of success for each site, such as the percentage of land covered by trees and the estimated amount of planet-warming carbon stored (see graphic below). This framework is different from others in the tree restoration sector because it emphasizes a limited number of metrics and provides clear guidance on how to collect the data.

It's one challenge to write a comprehensive, global framework; it's another to put it into practice. We quickly learned that we needed a tool that could collect, aggregate, organize and display all this data. In came the Integrated Monitoring Platform, a web and mobile app hosted on the TerraMatch platform, which connects tree growers with finance, technical support, and data. Launched in April, the IMP provides these restoration champions with a single place where they can submit their monthly progress reports and will also show the results of our satellite analysis. Behind the scenes, it stores and organizes all incoming data, making it easy for project developers and researchers to access and use.

How is progress so far? The Priceless Planet Coalition project in Puerto Princesa, Philippines, began in early 2022, and the team at Conservation International-Philippines has mapped out exactly where restoration is happening. Through the IMP, project leaders also reported the number of trees growing in nurseries, how many they've planted and the total days that local people have been paid to work on the project. They will continue to add more sites to their project in late 2022 and 2023 and measure the baseline number of trees on each of their sites. In the coming years, they will review that data and track progress toward their goals.

In Brazil, we tested a protocol designed to monitor the number of trees restored and their survival rate. That inspired us to create new diagrams to make the protocol more user-friendly for data collectors in the field. After we gather and incorporate this important feedback, the framework will be formally published in 2023.

Monitoring the success of restoration projects isn't simple. Collecting, organizing, and analyzing data takes time, funding and training. Most of all, it takes a commitment to transparency. Our hope is that this Tree Restoration Monitoring Framework can become a useful tool for tree growers around the world. It's time to shift the focus away from simply putting trees in the ground and toward their long-term survival and growth. That's when tree planting turns into ecosystem restoration —and brings prosperity to communities around the world.

Isabel Hillman is the restoration monitoring manager at Conservation International. Edward Saenz is the project monitoring manager at World Resources Institute, and Will Anderson is that group's land restoration projects manager. This article represents the views of World Resources Institute and Conservation International.

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## HUMAN-DRIVEN CLIMATE CHANGE IS CHANGING THE COLORS OF FALL FOLIAGE, SCIENTISTS SAY

BY KAT LONG

In the 19th century, eastern forests looked very different. Huge American chestnut trees, their trunks up to 10 feet in diameter, dominated forests from Maine to Mississippi. Their bright yellow foliage gilded Appalachia every autumn.

Then, a shipment of imported trees arrived in New York in 1876 carrying a stowaway: Cryphonectria parasitica, a fungus native to Asia. Within a few decades, the fungal blight wiped out hundreds of millions of chestnuts. Oaks, hickories and red maples took over, turning yellow autumn forests more scarlet and bronze.

**Scientists say the long-term effects of climate change on fall colors are already apparent. (Mark File)**

The pattern continues as human activities transform not just the health and composition of forests, but their colors, too. Introduced pests, pathogens and invasive species are causing immediate changes to the fall color palette. And scientists are beginning to see a framework for how climate change may shape the forest colors of the future.

“These species have been adapting for millions of years, and we’re putting them through a stress test in a very short period of time. It’s shocking their system,” said Tanisha M. Williams, the Burpee postdoctoral fellow in botany at Bucknell University. “But they are adapting.”

Autumn’s longer nights and cooler days kick-start the seasonal color change, known as leaf senescence. Trees respond to the difference in temperature, precipitation and light by slowing photosynthesis. As the chlorophyll — the energy-producing compound that makes leaves green — breaks down, new chemical compounds emerge. Carotenoids, the same pigments in carrots and buttercups, make leaves appear orange, yellow and amber. Some tree species also produce anthocyanins, compounds found in blueberries and grapes, giving leaves red, purple and burgundy tones.

But wildly multicolored forests are under threat. Foreign pests and pathogens, arriving unnoticed in imported lumber or even packing materials, can alter whole landscapes in a short time, said Howard Neufeld, a plant ecophysiologist at Appalachian State University.

“They can take out trees, and if other trees come in that are different colors, that can have a dramatic effect,” he said. Under the moniker “Fall Color Guy,” Neufeld issues foliage color reports on the university’s website and on Facebook.

To save the hemlock, scientists turn to genetics and natural predators. For example, an insect called the hemlock woolly adelgid has been wiping out Eastern hemlocks, a dark-green conifer, since the 1980s. The emerald ash borer, a pest arriving in wooden packing crates less than 20 years ago, decimates ash trees that normally turn yellow and burgundy. Both can quickly convert trees from dazzling to drab.

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Weather patterns also affect when the leaves grow, turn color and fall off, Williams said. Moderate heat and drought extend the growing season and delay leaf senescence. But extreme drought exacerbated by high heat — the exact conditions in New England this summer — can accelerate senescence, causing leaves to change earlier and faster.

In some years, "some trees will continue to turn color early; others will delay and turn color later," Neufeld said. "So instead of having this explosion of color in a short period of time, you get different groups of trees turning color over an extended time."

Stressed trees may also fail to produce anthocyanins in their leaves, and go from greenish to brown without passing red. It's hard to predict because of different species' drought tolerance, said Amanda Gallinat, a postdoctoral fellow and plant ecologist at Utah State University. "Maples are often more sensitive to drought than oaks. Since maples contribute brighter colors than oaks, these different responses could lead to a less colorful autumn landscape," she said.

Scientists say the long-term effects of climate change on fall colors are already apparent.

Warming temperatures tend to help invasive species, Gallinat said. Because they tend to come from places with milder winters than the eastern United States, they readily adapt to the longer growing season and remain an active threat for more of the year.

Invasive shrubs are overwhelming forest understories and adding more red tones with their leaves and fruit, she said. Pests and pathogens may continue to ramp up their attacks on certain species and allow others to take over, shifting the fall palette.
And as the climate gets warmer and drier, forests in New England that appear mostly red and orange today might not stay that way.

"If the forest changes from having maples and sourwoods and black gums, which are the red trees, to one that's oak and hickory, then you're going to get less colorful," Neufeld said.

Some species are already on the move toward more genial habitats. A 2008 study found hardwoods in Vermont, such as the iconic sugar maple, had migrated upslope to cooler territory occupied by red spruce and paper birch, both of which had declined.

Sugar maples have also tried to move northward to Canada as temperatures rise, Gallinat said. But like many plants, the trees are limited in their ability to survive in colder climates. "It's most likely that the vibrant colors those trees give us — not to mention the syrup — will be in shorter supply in the future," she said.

The emerging tree communities — and their color combinations — have no precedent.

"If we see the migration of these trees, the fall colors are going to look different, because we're going to have a completely different species landscape," Williams said.

There's no need to panic about subpar pigments over the next few decades, Neufeld said, but leaf-peepers should be ready for change.

"I don't think we have to worry, in the immediate future, that we won't be able to see fall colors," he said. "We'll just see different fall colors. And maybe at a different time."

## NEW MW-ISA MEMBERS:

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Colton Page
Riley Coy
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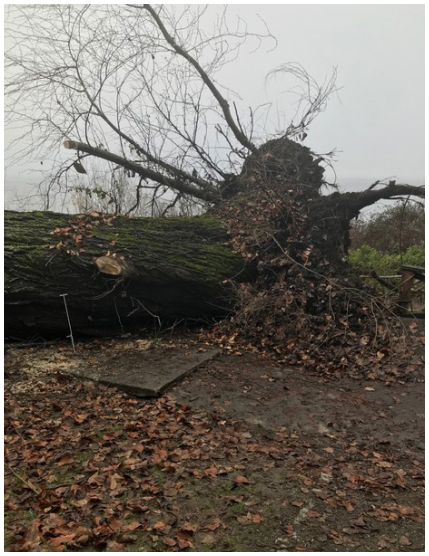
## COTTONWOOD

BY CHRISTOPHER RIPPEY, MISSOURI

A little before 5:45 pm on December single trunk black cottonwood tree in ground. This tree was documented as 140-foot tall in Arthur Lee Jacobson's tree was loved for a long time by the decay organism called Armillaria sp.

Our subject tree was located along was close to Lake Washington itself. development; there was a sidewalk road about five feet from the sidewalk about ten feet to the west. The area natural space which connected to



Lower trunk of the failed tree. Note the soil probe for size.

The evening that our subject tree was a very windy day that was capping on December 29th alone were around Continued... Wind gusts had peaked the time of the failure, winds guts were recorded at 26mph and blowing very intense and sudden increase in rain fall had just occurred.

When the tree failed it landed to the west crossing the street and the sidewalks on each end of the street. The tree took down powerlines and splintered a power pole. The tree destroyed landscape and trees on two parcels of private property as well. It brushed one house before coming to rest on the stone deck of another house. Honestly, the subject tree could not have fallen in a better place as if it failed slightly

## NEWLY CERTIFIED MW-ISA ARBORISTS:

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Joseph Clayton
Jacob Steven Cox
Langston Edwards
Matthew Hanzlick
Lucas Kessels
Anthony Lazzara
Taylor Neff
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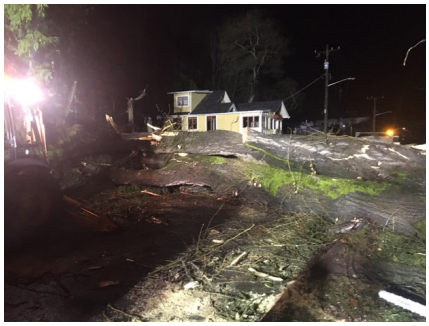
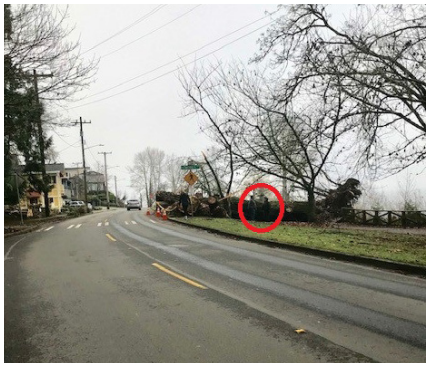


Where the fallen tree landed.



The failed subject tree. Noted the person circled in red.

more to the North, it could have easy crushed one of the two houses.

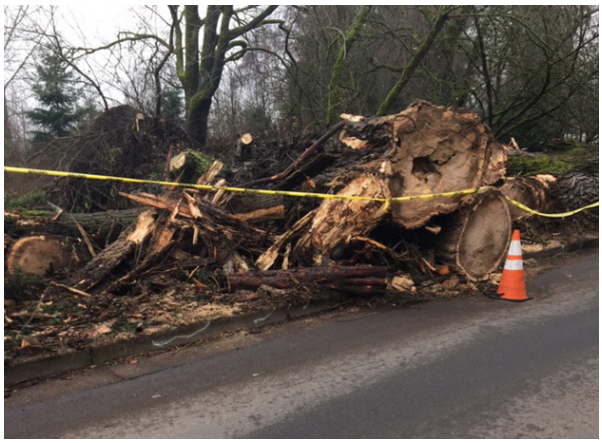
This historic tree was a huge lose to the community. While investigating the scene for this report, I ran into two elderly ladies who came to say goodbye to the tree they played under as kids. The tree was a huge undertaking to clean up.

The day it failed, crews worked for twelve hours to reopen the road as they had to shut off power to the broken lines, ground the wires, remove the tree from the street and string up new wires after replacing the smashed utility pole. It took several weeks for the tree to be fully removed as a large tractor had to be used to move sections of the massive lower trunk. So why did this well known, easily accessible and historic tree fail? The main causation was the extensively decayed lower trunk and roots of the tree. When I arrived on scene the day after the tree fell, I kicked the lower trunk of the tree and my leg sunk in halfway up my calf. This section of decayed wood ran more than thirty-five feet up the trunk where decay was visible in the heartwood of the tree where it was cut from the road. After pulling my foot out of the tree, I noted what I believe are Rhizomorphs of Armillaria all over the roots and lower trunk of this tree. These black stringy rhizomorphs give Armillaria its common name, black shoe-string fungus.

Armillaria is a destructive, aggressive, and common root and wood decay fungus that affects the roots and lower trunks of trees. Armillaria can infect a host of trees including both hardwoods and conifers.

Continued...
Continued... Armillaria can spread by root-to-root contact so it can be passed throughout a grove of trees. Armillaria can produce mushrooms, though I don't see them that often on infected trees. Signs of Armillaria can be lower trunk weeping, crown die-back or heavy fruiting. Our subject tree had several signs that may have not been red flags as for an Armillaria infection, but they did indicate that something was negatively affecting this tree. For one reason or another, these signs were overlooked.

In 2014, this tree was inspected by an arborist, they noted that there was crown



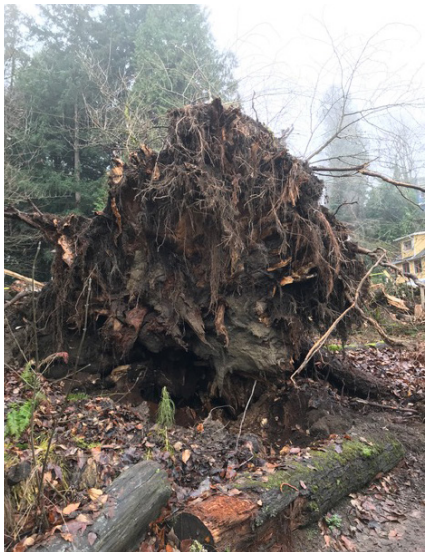
Decayed wood on the lower trunk of the tree.

die-back and found a clustering of yellowish mushrooms at the base of the tree. This mushroom cluster was right where I stuck my foot through the tree in 2019. The inspecting Arborist took pictures of the mushrooms and sent the images to a prominent Arborist in the area who identified them as something other than Armillaria. Regardless of what this mushroom was, it is not an ethical practice to identify nor dismiss the identify of a mushroom through photo alone. Even if these mushrooms were a secondary saprophytic wood decay organism, it would indicate that there was a section of dead wood in the roots or trunk of that tree.

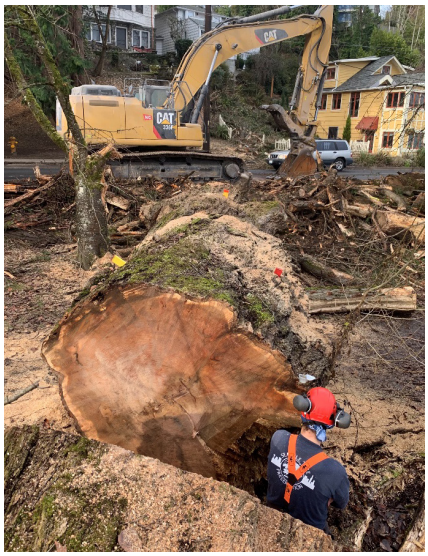
The fault does not solely rest on the Arborist who inspected the photo. I asked if the Arborist who took the pictures if they had sounded the tree? They had not. They recommended pruning to remove the large deadwood and perform crown reduction based on a visual inspection of the tree's canopy and the identification that the mushroom they found.

In 2016, a pair of climbers ascended the tree and removed large pieces of the tree using negative rigging. This process put great force on the tree including its roots and lower stem. Based on how decayed the tree was in 2019, it was already compromised in 2016. I contacted the crew who performed this work and informed them that the tree fell. I told them how rotten the tree was and asked if they performed a pre-climb inspection which included sounding or investigation of the tree for decayed wood. They said they didn't as they believed the City who contracted the job out would have performed a thorough inspection. They just performed the job as contracted.

Others may have been at fault, I know three other Arborists who came forward after this tree fell to tell me that they knew how rotten the tree was but didn't call it in to the City as they didn't want the huge and magnificant tree to be removed. No one wanted to be the one to make the hard decision to remove this tree.



View of the subject tree at the time of failure.



Removing sections of the fallen tree with an excavator.

Perhaps the fault does not rest soley on the shoulders of involved arbrostis. There were other factors involved in this failure; climate change stressors, the placement of the road and sidewalk, the pathway behind this tree, the tree's age, the weather... hell, someone could tell me that lowering Lake Washington in the 90's played some part in the stressing of this tree and the possible introduction of Armillaria and I am open to believing it!

What you can not deny is that people who could have helped to defuse a dangerous situation added to it because of hardlined views of tree advocacy or they were simply  where simply negligent out of laziness.

## NOMINATIONS BEING ACCEPTED FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Nominations are being accepted from the MW-ISA membership to fill three Board of Director positions for a two year term. Nominations are also being accepted for Vice President for a six year term must have served on the Board of Directors previously. 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 MWISA website. If you need or prefer a copy mailed to you, call Kim at (531) 289-8267 or email at staff@mwisa.org. If you or someone you know is interested in serving on the Board, submit your nomination by November 30, 2022. Questions? Please contact Kim at staff@mwisa.org or (531) 289-8267.

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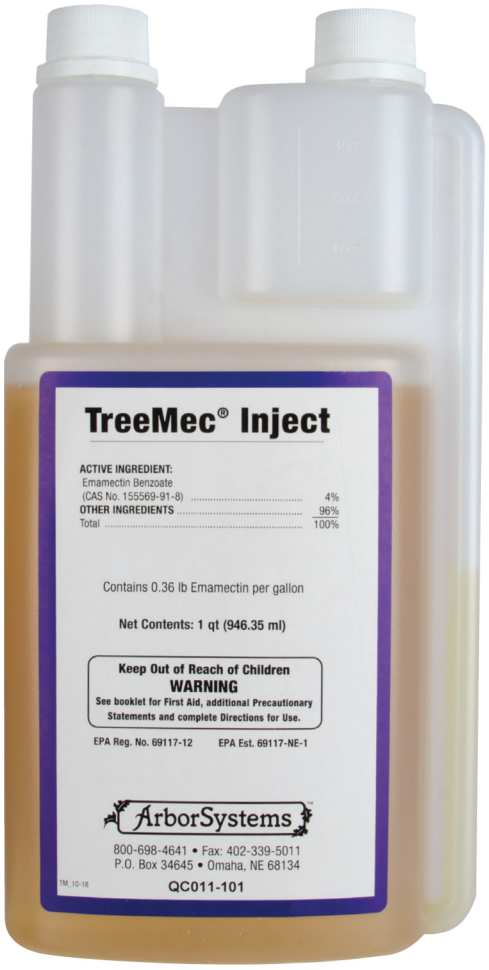



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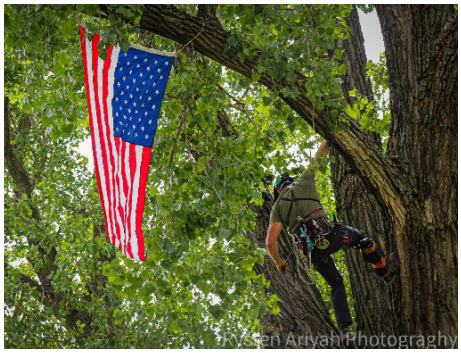



Jesse Taylor competing in the Master's Challenge at the Midwestern Chapter Tree Climbing Competition in Parkville, MO.

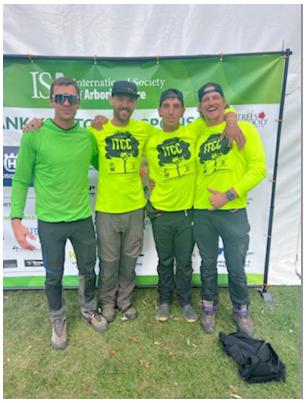
## 2022 TREE CLIMBING COMPETITIONS: A SURREAL EXPERIENCE

BY JESSE TAYLOR

As I sit and think about each of these comps, I've been able to be a part of, the word that comes to mind is surreal. I have been competing for a long time, but to have qualified for my first ISA Master's Challenge for the Midwestern Chapter, complete it and win, was surreal.

To have gone to the NATCC (North American Tree Climbing Competition in St. Paul, Minnesota), being around all the other North American Champions, guys who have been competing and crafting their trade for many more years than I have, well that was surreal.

The pinnacle was representing the Midwestern Chapter in Copenhagen, Denmark (at the International Tree Climbing Competition), with every competitor from all over the world. I also use the word surreal, but really the word is humbling. Not because I went there arrogantly, but because every person represented there was passionate about our industry. Every person was the top competitor in their chapter. Being around and competing with all my fellow Arborists is something I will hold onto, and I will continue to pursue my passion for climbing.



Jesse Taylor (far right) at the International Tree Climbing Competition in Copenhagen, Denmark.

## AWARD NOMINATIONS

Tree work is historically known for its resilience and dedicated teams of wholehearted arborists. This year, let's all take the time to acknowledge hard work and dedication. 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 2022 is an exceptional opportunity to do so. Please take the time to 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

Sincerely,
Brian Houser, MW ISA Awards Liaison

MW-ISA
Midwestern Chapter
International Society of Arboriculture

521 FIRST STREET
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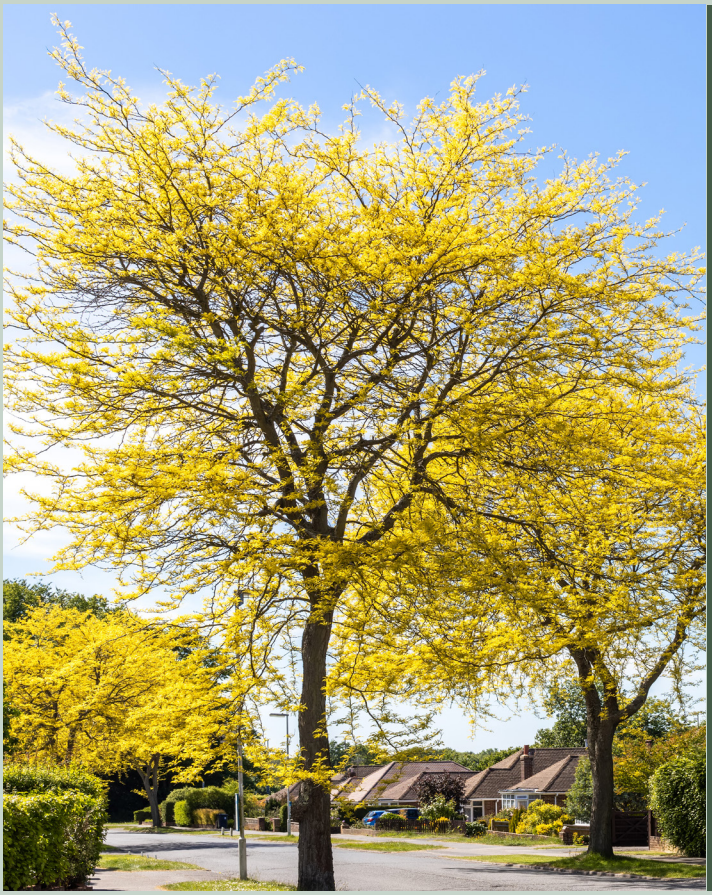
MILFORD, NE 68405



## ID That Tree

### Honey Locust

*Gleditsia triacanthos*

The honey locust tree is a large, fast-growing deciduous tree with a trunk covered in large, sharp branched spikes. The menacing locust tree thorns can only be described as vicious. Other identifying features of locust trees are their pinnately compound leaves, long reddish-brown seed pods, and small clusters of greenish-yellow flowers.

The honey locust tree grows 60 to 80 ft. (18 – 24 m) tall and wide. The extremely sharp thorny spikes grow up to 3" (7.5 cm) long. It also has easily recognizable mimosa-like feathery leaves consisting of tiny oval leaflets. In the fall, honey locust trees turn golden yellow before dropping their leaves.