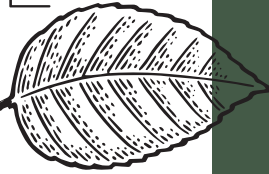


SHADE TREE

Leaves



ISSUE 04
WINTER 2022

MW-ISA
Midwestern Chapter

International Society
of Arboriculture

KANSAS · MISSOURI · NEBRASKA · OKLAHOMA



in this ISSUE

PAGE 1 ID that Tree

PAGE 2 President's Letter

PAGE 3 Member Spotlight

PAGE 4 Failed Douglas Fir

PAGE 5 Are you ready to rig?

ID that Tree...

ANSWER ON PAGE 10.





A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Since this is my last Presidents letter to you all, I want to leave you with a call to action. We can (and we should!) make trees a life-long learning experience. Although we all work with trees, the most critical thing we all have in common is collaborating with people, our coworkers, our clients, our stakeholders, and our partners. Developing effective communication skills will help our

sector better communicate the benefits of trees and their management needs to the public.

In this part of the US, where forests are not the dominant ecosystem, we have immense power to make good (or bad) choices as we fill our neighborhoods with tree canopy and work in those trees. The relationships we build with others shape those choices. The towns I see making a positive difference in their community forests have amazing volunteers. Many of them serve on their local tree board, advocating and educating others on the value of trees, shaping tree policy for decades to come.

Take a minute to ask yourself why you chose this profession. Yes, it is a job. But you could have picked many different jobs besides arboriculture. The reasons you think of are probably good reasons to get involved with your community and give your time and knowledge to an important cause. I urge you to consider reaching out to your tree board, your neighborhood association, your state forestry council, and your ISA Chapter. You have skills that are needed, and the time you spend helping will bring a sense of accomplishment and elevate our industry.

With trees, we play a long-term game. The progress comes slowly and steadily. It requires listening and sharing your experience and your knowledge with others that don't always see things the way you do. Working with groups can be difficult at times. We need to get better at disagreeing while remembering that we are all Americans with a common desire to improve life for everyone. We need to get better at making time to give back somehow. Despite these challenges, there is a satisfaction that comes from contributing your time and experience to something you believe in. Your friends and family will see it in you, and that is how we make a difference. Without people like you to plant, maintain, and safely remove city trees throughout their life cycle, the tree-planters spirit of the Midwest fades. I hope you join me this year in helping keep the tree-planters spirit alive through service.

Graham Herbst, 2022 President
Gherbst2@unl.edu



2022 MW-ISA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Graham Herbst, President

Nebraska Forest Service
8015 W Center Rd, Omaha, NE, 68124
gherbst2@unl.edu | 402-444-7875

Andy Berg, Vice-President

Hansen's Tree Service
104 Hansen Ct., O'Fallon, MO 63366
andy@hansenstree.com | 636-379-1830

Brett O'Brien, Immediate Past President

City of Columbia Parks & Rec. - Now Retired
bjo4trees@outlook.com | 660-621-3488

Dustin Branick, Finance Officer

City of Leawood Parks & Rec.
4800 Town Center Dr., Leawood, KS 66211
dustinb@leawood.org | 913-238-6789

Andrew Haskenhoff, Director

Frontenac Forestry
2460 Driftwood Lane, St. Louis, MO 63146
frontenacforestry@gmail.com | 317-578-6042

Steve Grantham, Director

Up With Trees
1102 S Boston Ave, Tulsa, OK 74119
steve@upwithtrees.org | 918-610-TREE ext 201

Justine Gartner, Director

Missouri Dept of Conservation
PO Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102
Justine.gartner@mdc.mo.gov | 573-751-4115 ext 3116

Lorri Grueber, Director

Community Operations Forester
3131 O Street, Suite 300, Lincoln, NE 68510
LGrueber@lincoln.ne.gov | 402-432-6644

Joshua Carron, Director

City of Kirkwood
carronjd@kirkwoodmo.org | 314-894-5954

Phil Swart, Director

Growth Solutions, VerdeCare
pswart@gs4trees.com | 405-684-1088
www.growthsolutionsfortrees.com |
www.verdecare.com

Kim Pair, Executive Director

521 First Street, Milford, NE 68405
staff@mwisa.org | (531) 289-8267



Interested in Advertising in the MW-ISA Newsletter?

2023 ADVERTISING RATES:

Single rate is for one issue.
Annual rate includes 4 total issues.

FULL PAGE

Single Issue: \$95.00
Annual: \$340.00

HALF PAGE

Single Issue: \$50.00
Annual: \$170.00

QUARTER PAGE

Single Issue: \$30.00
Annual: \$100.00

BUSINESS CARD

Single Issue: \$20.00
Annual: \$70.00

SUBMIT ARTICLES:

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
(531) 289-8267

CONTACT US:

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

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: MATT NORVILLE

Hello from the Sunflower State. I'm Matt Norville, the new Community Forestry Coordinator for the Kansas Forest Service. Forestry has been a long winding, beautiful path full of helping hands. Some of my first memories, like maybe a lot of yours' involved trees. Following my grandpa down tree-lined trails exploring the hardwood forest, tripping over my own feet more than logs. My parents clearing large mature oaks to build our family home. Growing up exploring the oak-lined creeks of the Midwest, losing shoes in mud, catching poison ivy, and having adventures in what was just the neighbors' backyards. Moving into high school when my dad took me on trips into the Boundary Water Canoe Areas and really experiencing a forest bigger than one could comprehend as an adolescent. Using canoes to pass swiftly, but quietly, almost ghostly traveling through nature, the woods, streams, and lakes, portaging where needed. The forest was calling, and I listened, attending Warner College at Colorado State University studying forestry and natural resources management to try and understand the language of the trees. Working on BLM and TNC wildfire crews, watching the energy and devastation the forests can fuel. Then working as a forester for the Colorado State Forest Service serving literally from the mountains to the plains until moving to Kansas.



As I entered my professional career, ISA has been an excellent framework to build and reinforce my arboriculture skill set. Studying, testing, and earning my ISA Certified Arborist allowed me to be confident in my recommendations. Mentoring from more experienced ISA professionals was essential to fill in the gaps where the classroom ended. Learning from coworkers, cooperators, partners, and even concerned citizens has provided me with more opportunities than I could have ever expected. CSFS and now with KFS, I've had the opportunity to work alongside some of the most technically sound foresters I have had the pleasure to meet. Each day I try to be a student to learn where our knowledge is evolving. When new arborists and foresters enter the field, I recommend they earn their ISA certification. Once earning it, obtaining CEUs at conferences provides excellent opportunities to network while learning about different subjects one is unfamiliar with.

This may be the most exciting time ever to be in community forestry. Having the opportunity to really make a change and influence the future community forest canopy has never been more possible. While we are faced with many challenges such as declining tree canopies, climate change, and exotic tree pathogens, we are also receiving more support than ever before.

Currently, in Kansas we are conducting premier work from planting tree trials to identifying new species that will allow us to grow diverse community forests, to researching statewide urban tree canopy studies, to identifying specific community needs, and developing Kansas-specific arboriculture training in association with the Kansas Arborist Association. We are working hard to serve communities statewide. Come to Kansas to visit an arboretum or for a conference and obtain your next CEUs!

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.

FAILED DOUGLAS FIR AT SEWARD PARK

By Chris Rippey, Missouri Arborist Company

On January 12th, 2019, I was asleep in my bed when around 1 AM, my house started shaking and I awoke to a loud wind. I arose and stared out my window as the two Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) trees in my backyard in Kent, Washington violently swayed in the wind. They swayed so heavily back and forth that I thought they would heave from the ground and land on my neighbor's home. Unknown to me at the time, my brother who lived a town away and is also an Arborist, awoke in the same way and watched the 70-mile-an-hour winds topple a Western hemlock (*Tsuga heterophylla*) tree through one of his neighbors' homes. As the Arborist for Seattle Parks, I knew the next day would be a long one, so I did my best to go back to sleep and prepare for what was ahead.

When I arrived at work, we surprisingly had few calls. It was a Saturday so I knew once people got up, the calls would start coming in, so I wanted to be on top of it. I knew the winds had come from the south, so I went looking for an area where the trees were unprotected from southern winds. I knew the winds had been gusty which creates torsion (twisting) loads. This type of load is what causes most failures in overly mature or veteran tree failures. So, I headed for Seward Park which is bordered

to its south and west by Lake Washington. On the west side of this park, there is a grove of old-growth Douglas firs (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*). These evergreen trees experience more wind force in winter as their surrounding broadleaf tree buddies have lost their leaves and the winds cut right through the deciduous trees and land directly on the Douglas firs. I also knew this grove of Douglas firs was infected with a common lower trunk rot called velvet top fungi (*Phaeolous schweinitzii*) that commonly results in lower trunk failures of Douglas firs in windstorms.



As I arrived at Seward Park, a lady walks up to my truck and says, "are you here to cut that huge tree off the trail?", and I respond with a yes. I drove to the west side of the park and what do you know I find a large Douglas fir that had broken along its lower trunk (diagnostic of velvet top fungi caused failure) and it is laying right across a heavily used perimeter trail.

I get to work removing the tree as the locals had already begun climbing over and under the tree to continue their morning walks. I even watched one lady push a stroller under the failed tree! As I cut through the tree, I found that it had severely centralized decayed wood. Upon inspecting the broken lower trunk, it was filled with brown cubical decayed wood and there was an old velvet top fungus fruiting body near its trunk.

The lesson here is, if you want to predict tree failures, know your trees, and know what fungi is decaying them, causing them to fail.

CLIMBER'S CORNER: ARE YOU READY TO RIG?

By Will Branch, ISA Board Certified Master Arborist

All About Trees - MW-4737B

Let's face it, most of us show up to job sites without much prior knowledge of the work plan, just tasks listed on a work order. Things can get real tricky if the job requires rigging equipment that you didn't bring. To help keep crews ready for whatever the day throws at them, I like to keep at least three of our trucks stocked with an abundance of gear options.



NEW MW-ISA MEMBERS:

Jon Skinner
Travis Swaim
Christopher Rogers
Nicholas Henderson
Amy Werner
Randall DeJager
Edward Lewis
Guillermo Martinez
Aaron Druery
Andrew Jones
David Henson
Sherry Fabricant
Matthew Frampton
Jonathan Sullivan
Dylan Haiduk
Christopher Obert
George Wilson
Jericho Harris
Bobby Kennedy
Connie Robinson
Michael Richardson
Jim McCutchan
Brittany Clark
Scott Kelley
Derek Taylor
Brian Schenk
Cori Watson
Dalton Allen
Mark McClain
Shannon Lux
Trent Meyer
Skyler Edwards
Cameron Smith
Jeffrey Burke

Here's a look into my rigging box.

Several different rope options - I like to have different rope sizes and constructions available to handle everything from natural crotch rigging to heavy lifting and lowering.

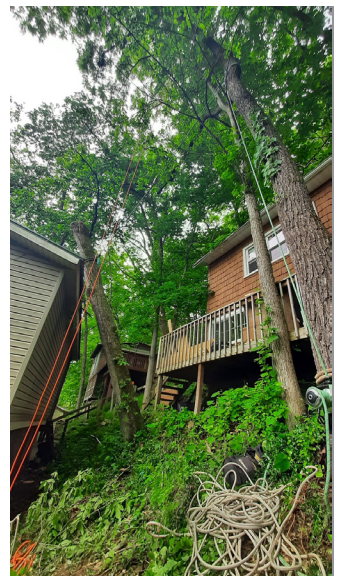
Light rigging and speed line slings - This gear is great to have even if the tree doesn't need to be rigged out, sometimes it's nice to limit the size of the clean-up area or get debris closer to clean-up equipment.

Heavy blocks and rings - The more you have the more you can use. Keeping several different types of rigging anchors allows for a multitude of options for fairleads, floating anchors, double whip rigging, span rigging, controlled speed lines, etcetera.

Fiddle blocks - Having a pre-made set is a great time saver when you need a little mechanical advantage.

Lifting/lowering devices - I keep a Port A Wrap and a GRCS (Good Rigging Control System). The porty is a basic friction management tool that can help with most rigging tasks. It's not very efficient to lift with, but you can absolutely beat the crap out of it without much concern. In contrast, the GRCS really shines when lifting, pulling or sweating rigging, but it is a little fragile and requires a fair lead above the unit to be used safely.

Some days all this gear just sits in the box, and that's fine with me, but I know it's there when I need it.



Wedggle[®] Direct-Inject[™] TREE INJECTION SYSTEM

Our advanced technology
for tree treatment
allows you to

**INCREASE THE
NUMBER OF
TREES YOU
TREAT IN
A DAY!**



- ◆ No drilling damage
- ◆ No mixing at job sites
- ◆ No guarding or return trips
- ◆ No waiting for uptake
- ◆ Treats most trees in five minutes or less!
- ◆ Successful and most profitable add-on service

Multiple injection tips designed for all types of trees, conifers and palms

Insecticides • Fungicides • PGRs • Antibiotics • MicroNutrients

**Learn more! Call 800.698.4641 or visit
ArborSystems.com for information and videos**

ArborSystems[®]
Tree Injection Solutions



Ryan Lawn & Tree

Hiring Professional Arborist

Full-time year round career opportunities in
KS, MO, NE, & OK

Open positions: climbers | plant health care manager| groundsman



FALLEN LEAVES ACCOUNT FOR UP TO 80% OF NUTRIENTS USED BY FOREST TREES

By Jake Gamble

Summer air fades and is replaced with the nip of autumn wind. Golden light bounces from the yellow and orange leaves which sway in the breeze.

One by one each leaf loses grip and gently swirls to the ground. A balletic waltz repeated each year, ultimately accumulating acres of fallen foliage. Though many people find this ancient dance to be little more than another yard chore to add to the list, the natural function of fallen leaves is critical to the health of a forest. A balance that can be too easily disrupted.

Fallen leaves can account for up to 80 percent of the nutrients used by trees within a forest. Like fluttering vitamins floating to the woodland floor, leaves decompose over the course of seasons, returning what nutrients they hold back into the soil. In your own yard, instead of raking leaves into piles, try spreading a thin layer across your lawn.

This will help return some of the nutrients to the soil and reduce any fertilizer use that may be desired. You can even run a mower over the layer to ensure a healthy lawn for the next summer, while also maintaining a well-manicured appearance. Any remaining leaves can be raked and put into small piles around shrubs and trees.

Not only do they feed trees, but leaves decompose by being fed upon directly by animals referred to broadly as detritivores. Detritivores are animals that eat dead organic materials. Worms, millipedes, slugs, and even termites are considered to be great detritivores. Fallen leaves provide shelter and food for these small critters throughout the forest. Continued...

We're hiring at all our Midwest locations for:

- ◆ CDL Equipment Operator
- ◆ Tree Climber/Foreman
- ◆ Tree Climber
- ◆ Groundsman

Contact **Joanna Salazar** at josalazar@arbormasters.com or **913.563.7505**
www.arbormasters.com/careers



Arbor Masters®



Continued... It is an inconspicuous relationship that is often overlooked but is absolutely vital within a healthy ecosystem. Fungi and bacteria also aid in decomposition but are more commonly referred to as decomposers.

As with many parts of the ecosystem, this process has been affected by human interaction. Exotic earthworms (*Amyntas* spp.) were introduced to North America in the 18th and 19th century and can have a dramatic impact on forest systems. In fact, most earthworms you find are introduced.

These now-common earthworms are voracious detritivores, consuming fallen leaves and other materials at a much quicker rate than their native counterparts. Without a healthy layer of fallen leaves in a forest, many native plants slowly begin to disappear as their seeds require this layer for germination and growth. As the structure of the forest floor changes, other native animal populations, like ground-nesting birds, amphibians, and other detritivores, can be negatively impacted.

Luckily, non-native earthworms spread slowly. There are certain steps you can take to help control the spread. Any topsoil, potting soil, or compost bought at the store can be carefully inspected for hitchhikers. Exotic earthworms are often used as fishing bait and are also commonly introduced into areas through the dumping of leftover bait.

Watching the last leaf flitter to the ground serves as a gentle reminder how the interconnectedness of nature is all around us. Observable every day, in every season. As stewards of our lawns and forests alike, we have the pleasure of deciding how we fit into our local habitats.

Whether it be planting native species, removing invasive species, or simply allowing your oak tree to choose where its leaves lay, the choices we make directly impact the world around us. Sometimes in ways that swirl and float peacefully onto the ground.

Jake Gamble is the Stewardship Manager for Red-tail Land Conservancy. Impassioned by land conservation, he strives to protect and preserve the natural quality of Indiana while inspiring others to do the same.

NEWLY CERTIFIED MW-ISA ARBORISTS:

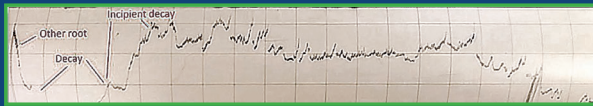
Douglas Ames
Donald Beckham
Brennan Deaver
Rex DuPree
Bobby Eshleman
Michael Ferguson
Barbara Fuson
Kerah Gomez
Tony Gould
Patrick Hartman
Andrew Kennedy
Colton Page
Dalton Peterson
Aaron Porter
Jonathan Richard
Mark Stapleton
Shaun Sykes
Cody Waters
Joe Wheelock
Michael Wiekhorst

Advanced Tree Assessments

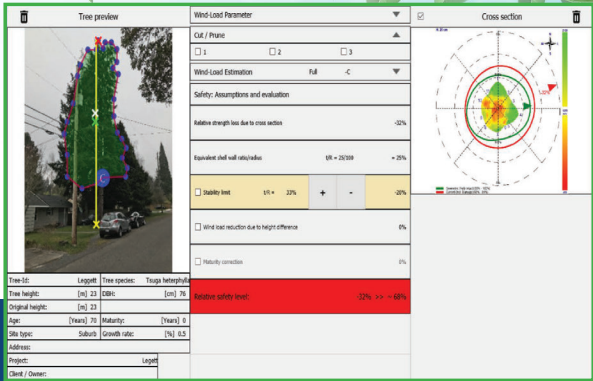
Missouri Arborist Company of Sedalia offers tree pruning and tree removal along with several types of advanced tree assessments.

We use sonic tomography imaging and resistance drilling to determine if your tree needs to be removed or not. Sonic tomography imaging and resistance drilling provide a full picture of the decayed wood within your tree and calculates the loss of strength that decay wood has caused. We then use a wind load modeling program called ArboStApp to see how much of a tree's canopy must then be pruned to improve your tree's stability.

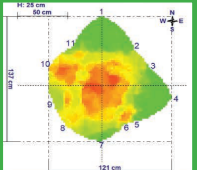

Please visit www.MissouriArborist.com for more information and contact Chris@MissouriArborist.com for cost estimates.



Resistance drilling produces a graph where taller lines indicate solid wood and lower lines indicate wood beginning to decay, decayed wood, or hollow areas inside your tree.



ArboStApp wind load modeling software determines the stability of a tree based on its canopy size and a sonic tomography image and then estimates the amount of pruning needed to improve your tree's stability.

Sonic Tomography image of the removed tree on the right.



ID That Tree Water Locust *Gleditsia aquatica*

Water locust (*Gleditsia aquatica*) is a member of the Fabaceae family which includes other leguminous plants such as redbud, beans, mimosa and clover. Water locust is an uncommon species which is closely related to the well-known honey locust (*G. triacanthos*), but its most distinguishable feature is its small, oval seed pod (typically containing only one seed, but can hold up to three) that matures to a rusty brown color.

Hybrids of these two species have been reported (*G. ×texana*). Water locust can be found in low lying, swampy areas, and can withstand total inundation for long periods. It can handle drier locations as well and occasionally can be found planted in urban settings.

This species carries the long, sharp spines typically associated with honey locust, which limits its potential use for ornamental plantings, however thorn-less individuals may be found occasionally. The spines are borne singly along the stem or in dense clusters emerging from the trunk. Water locust grows to ~50' tall and can become a handsome tree with minimal pruning. It is found sparingly along a tight geographic band moving southward from Missouri through Louisiana, with scattered populations along portions of the Gulf and Atlantic coasts (South Carolina, Georgia and Florida). This species can be propagated readily by seed, but its hard seed coat requires scarification by chemical or mechanical means or by direct sowing and waiting up to two years for germination.