



# Illinois Arborist Association 2016 Annual Report

In 2016 we had 1354  
Members

# 2016 Board of Directors

- ▶ IAA Board of Directors
- ▶ *President: Don Roppolo*
- ▶ *President Elect: Jim Semelka*
- ▶ *Vice President: Eduardo Medina*
- ▶ *Past President: Steve Ludwig*
- ▶ *ISA CoR Rep: Mark Duntemann*
- ▶ *Utility Director: Brian Sprinkle*
- ▶ *Program Director: Peggy Drescher*
- ▶ *Research Director: Jake Miesbauer*
- ▶ *Industry Director: Todd Haefke*
- ▶ *Commercial Chair:*
- ▶ *Commercial Chair: Steve Lane*
- ▶ *Municipal Chair: Eric Hendrickson*
- ▶ *Municipal Chair: Steve Miller*
- ▶ *Executive Director: April Toney*

**IAA Mission Statement:** *“Foster interest, establish standards, exchange professional ideas and pursue scientific research in Arboriculture.”*

## **Who we are:**

The Illinois Arborist Association is a 501 c (5) non-profit organization. Our members are made up of Commercial Arborists, Municipal Arborists, Utility Arborists, Researchers, Students and anyone who just loves trees.

# Membership Throughout the Years

Year	# of Members	Year	# of Members	Year	# of Members
1995	592	2003	855	2011	1162
1996	630	2004	848	2012	1248
1997	708	2005	1004	2013	1412
1998	769	2006	1052	2014	1479
1999	812	2007	1280	2015	1349
2000	-	2008	1386	2016	1354
2001	-	2009	1187		
2002	819	2010	1093		

# North East and West Municipal Forester Meetings (NEMF - NWMF)

The North East and West Municipal Foresters meet every third Thursday of each month except during the months of June, July, August and October. You do not have to work for a municipality to attend! Anyone involved in the tree industry is welcome. Each meeting is worth 2 CEUs for those members who are certified.

Typically, we allow 15-30 minutes for “open-mic” affording all in attendance to ask questions of the group, talk about new programs or just vent. Open-mic is followed by a guest speaker. The program ends with lunch beginning at 12:00pm.

# 2016 NEMF Meetings

**February 18: Green and Natural Spaces in Your Community**

Speaker: Jack Pizzo from Pizzo Group

**March 10: State of the Urban Forest/IDNR Update**

Speaker: Reinee Hildebrandt from the IDNR

**April 21: Insect & Pest Update 2016**

Speaker: Dr. Fredric Miller from Joliet Junior College

**May 19: Bottom-Up or Top-Down: The Changing Approaches to Urban Forest Management**

Speakers: Lee Mueller from Davey Resource Group

**August 3: Hot Tea, Bamboo or Tree: A Tree Walk in Chinatown**

Speaker: Speakers Daniella Pereira from Openlands and Jeff Brink Chicago GreenStreets Program

**November 17: What's Growing On?**

Speaker: Becky Thomas from Ornamental Growers Association

**December 15: Insects & Diseases**

Speaker: Dr. Fredric Miller from Joliet Junior College

# 2016 NWMF Meetings

**January 14: Aerial Rescue**

Speaker: Nick Raneyk

**February 18: Urban Lumber Upcycling**

Speaker: Jim Semelka from Sterling Lumber

**April 14: 2016 Pest Update**

Speaker: Dr. Fredric Miller from Joliet Junior College

**November 28: Insects & Diseases**

Speaker: Dr. Fredric Miller from Joliet Junior College

**December 14: Chainsaw Safety Class**

Speaker: Vermeer Midwest & Midwest Stihl

## In 2016, the Illinois Arborist Association (IAA) changed the Advanced Qualifications Program back to an Advanced Training Program

In 2015, we decided to change the IAA Advanced Training Program into an Advanced Qualifications Program. Changing the program to a Qualifications Program meant that we would be setting standards for the Arboriculture Industry. When setting standards, entities need to obtain Professional Liability Insurance (PLI) or more commonly known as “Errors and Omissions” (E&O) Insurance. This type of coverage focuses on alleged failure caused by an error or omission in the training curriculum. The Arboriculture industry is a very dangerous industry and if we provide training that doesn’t cover vital information someone could possibly lose their life. To qualify for E&O Insurance we had to develop policies to ensure that the training we were providing was the best training possible. We developed 26 policies, module curriculums, surveys, teaching aids, quizzes and had the curriculums peer reviewed by professionals from within the industry. After all this work we realized that the cost of the insurance would force us to charge more for the classes and we felt that this wouldn’t be fair to the members. We liked the measures that the insurance company put us through to develop a top-notch program but we decided that it was best to keep it a training status so that we could provide it for a more affordable price. Our industry is dangerous and this training is important, and some of it saves lives. We need to make it as affordable as possible so everyone can participate!



# 2016 Advanced Training Classes

## **Abiotic Problems**

March 19 & April 2, 2016

Arlington Heights PW

## **Rigging Level 1**

April 12 & 13, 2016

Elk Grove Village

## **Rigging Level 1**

May 10 & 11, 2016

Cantigny Park, Wheaton

## **Soil & Nutrient Management**

May 14, 2016

Lincoln Land Community College, Springfield

## **Aerial Rescue**

May 17, 2016

Cantigny Park, Wheaton

## **Rigging Level 1**

May 24 & 25, 2016

Cantigny Park, Wheaton

## **Present Day Climbing**

June 15 & 16, 2016

Forest Preserve Dist of Cook County

## **Felling**

July 12, 2016

ComEd Substation, Libertyville

## **Tree Appraisals**

September 17 & 24, 2016

Lincoln Land Community College, Springfield

# 2016 Awards

The Illinois Arborist Association recognizes outstanding achievements in the Arboriculture professions, as well as the efforts by individuals to make an impact on the urban environment. We recognize these contributions through several award programs. In 2016 we added the Bill Bolt Volunteer of the year award.

## **The IAA added a new award in 2016 - The William Bolt Jr. Volunteer Of The Year Award**

The *Volunteer of the Year Award* was created in loving memory of William Bolt Jr. to recognize the selfless dedication and time donated by the volunteers who show a loyal commitment to our organization.

## **The William Bolt Jr. Volunteer Of The Year Award: William Bolt Jr.**

Generous with his time and his talents, Bill has been volunteering for the IAA every year for 24 years! From being a Committee Member, Committee Chair, to President, Trainer, Proctor and Workshop Coordinator, Bill was tireless in his efforts. Up until Bill passed, he was still serving as teacher, workshop coordinator, writing curriculums for the Advanced Qualifications classes and even running for the IAA board position of ISA CoR Representative. Bill was passionate about the industry and about our association. He was selfless in his time and dedication to the IAA. If only we could have more volunteers like Bill! This award was created in loving memory of Bill Bolt and his loyal devotion to our association.

# IAA Award Categories

## **Award of Merit**

The *Award of Merit* is the highest honor bestowed by the Chapter. It is given in recognition of outstanding service in advancing the principles, ideals, and practices of arboriculture. The award is granted only to active or senior members of the Chapter that have made material contributions to arboriculture, either through work in the organization, research, field practice, or promotion. The award is limited to one individual annually.

## **Honorary Life Membership**

The *Honorary Life Membership Award* is granted only to active or senior members of the Chapter, who have substantially contributed to the progress of arboriculture, and who have given unselfishly to their efforts in supporting and promoting the objectives of the Chapter and the International Society of Arboriculture. The award is limited to one individual annually.

## **Gold Leaf Award**

The *Gold Leaf Award* may be given to more than one individual or organization annually. It was originally intended to recognize outstanding Arbor Day programs or projects, but now has been expanded to include outstanding contributions to environmental protection and conservation.

## **Special Recognition Award**

The *Special Recognition Award* was initiated to honor those individuals whose efforts in support of urban forestry and arboriculture are worthy of special consideration.

# 2016 Award Recipients

## **Special Recognition Award:** April Toney

April Toney has been the Executive Director of the Illinois Arborist Association for over 16 years, and during that time has made it one of the most successful and widely recognized chapters in the country, as well as internationally. This past year, the decision was made to change our Advanced Training Program over to an Advanced Qualification Program. This comes with many benefits, and was at the time perceived to be a relatively easy transition. However, after many of the adjustments were already made, and classes had been scheduled, it was discovered that there were an intimidating number of things, which had to be done to make the transition complete from a legal standpoint. This included creating a peer review system for teachers and domains, creating a Policies and Procedures manual for the Qualification program and many other administrative tasks, which could not be delegated to committees in a timely manner. The easy thing to do would have been to just give up and revert the program back to what it was. But April, undaunted as usual, went through the painstaking process of drafting the documents, scheduling the conference calls, herding all of the cats, and getting everything put together so that our program could continue to grow. For this reason, we would like to nominate April Toney for special recognition, for saving the Advanced Qualification Program with an overwhelming effort on her part.

## **Honorary Life Award:** Rex Bastian

Rex Bastian has been nominated to receive the Honorary Life award because of his years of dedication and service to the organization. Rex has routinely been a presenter at the IAA meetings. He is always willing to step up and give a talk when we need a spot filled. He is a wealth of knowledge and he has happily shared it over the years helping many of our members grow and become better professionals. The last several years for the wine and this year beer tasting, he stepped up and ran the event. He is always there willing to do whatever he can to help the organization anyway he can.

## **Special Recognition:** Steve Lane

Steve has taken the Advanced Qualification program to a new level. His dedication to this program has enhanced arborists' skills and benefits the industry.

## **Award of Merit**

Dr. Fredric Miller was awarded the 2016 Award of Merit in honor of his countless contributions to the arboriculture industry, especially during the difficult times battling the invasive species, EAB.

Dr. Fredric Miller always provides our members with the most current information on insects impacting Illinois trees now and in the future. This knowledge helps us to prepare and mitigate any potential problems that may arise in the future.

## **Special Recognition:** Nate Paulsberg

Nate's input was invaluable at our first Aerial Rescue class, regarding patient packaging, positioning on the ground and what an arborist can do medical-wise while waiting for the EMT's to arrive.

Nate has also worked with the Illinois Arborist Association to launch a fire/medic program teaching them how to facilitate an arborist tree rescue.

# 2016 Grants Received

\$10,000 Sponsorship of the Illinois Arborist Association Annual Conference & Trade Show.

\$2000 Aerial Rescue Training for Fire Fighters: This training will provide a skill set for fire fighters that allows for them to safely ascend into a tree to remove victims when they are in a spot and do not have access with their ladder. The training also provides the opportunity for the local municipal foresters/arborists to network with the fire department personnel and establish a relationship.

\$5000 for Scholarships to provide training for the underprivileged in the low-income Tree City USA communities. Possible Green corps training, and scholarships for minorities.

TCIA ASTI Grants

Aerial Lift and Aerial Rescue at Cantigny September 20, 2016

# 2016 Certification Workshops

January 14 - March 17, 2016

Certification Workshops and Exam at the Chicago Botanic Gardens

September 7 - November 9, 2016

Certification Workshops and Exam at the Homewood Police Dept.

January 23 - February 27, 2016

Certification Workshops and Exam at Lincoln Land Community College

September 19 - November 21, 2016

Certification Workshops and Exam at Downers Grove PW Dept.

April 6 - June 4, 2016

Certification Workshops and Exam in Spanish at the Mulch Center

November 8, 9, 10, 2016

Certification Workshops and Exam at the Chicago Transit Authority

April 13 - June 15, 2016

Certification Workshops and Exam at the Homewood Police Dept.

December 15, 2016 - February 9, 2017

Certification Workshops and Exam at Moline PW Dept.

# Exams offered in 2016

February 27, 2016 - Lincoln Land  
Community College in Springfield

March 17, 2016 - Chicago Botanic Gardens  
in Glencoe

May 23, 2016 - Downers Grove Public Works  
Dept.

June 15, 2016 - Village of Homewood

July 12, 2016 - Village of Homewood

August 20, 2016 - Village of Homewood

September 12, 2016 - Downers Grove  
Public Works Dept.

November 21, 2016 - Village of Homewood

November 21, 2016 - Downers Gove Public  
Works Dept.

December 15, 2016 - Village of Homewood

8 exam dates were cancelled due to low  
enrollment

142 people took exams in 2016

# 2016 Certification Budget

2016 CERTIFICATION Budget	
Income:	
ISA Exam Income	37,168.00
Workshop Income	15,295.00
Expenses:	
Teacher Pay	12,849.82
Facility/AV Charges	210.00
Printing Fees	1,188.80
Insurance	19.02
Income:	52,463.00
Expenses:	14,267.64
Net Income:	38,195.36



IAA 2016 Golf Outing was held on August 26

2016 Golf Sponsors

Total Sponsorship

\$3250

## 2016 IAA Golf Outing

IAA 2016 Golf Outing was held on August 26<sup>th</sup> at Old Orchard Country Club in Mount Prospect, IL. The committee opted to cancel the raffle this year because of few raffle prizes.

Atlas Bobcat	\$1,000	Hole & Lunch
Arborjet	\$250	Hole
Vermeer Midwest	\$250	Hole
Fred Marvin	\$250	Hole
Midwest Arborist Supplies	\$250	Hole
Trees R Us	\$250	Hole
Arthur Clesen	\$250	Beer Cart
Treepans.com	\$250	Hole
Bayer Environmental	\$250	Hole
Syngenta	\$250	Hole

# 2016 Golf Outing Budget

<b>Revenue</b>	
Golfers	\$4,305.00
Sponsors	\$3,250.00
Muligan Cards	\$20.00
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$7,575.00</b>
<b>Expesnse</b>	
Golf Course	\$5,707.50
Signs	\$144.45
Raffle Items	\$375.00
Awards	\$182.27
Flyer	\$417.21
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$6,826.43</b>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$7,575.00</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$6,826.43</b>
<b>Net Revenue</b>	<b>\$748.57</b>

# 2016 Summer Conference

The 2016 Summer Conference was held at Allerton Park in Monticello on June 23 & 24.

This year's conference covered:

- Crane Removals and Comparisons
- Safety
- Insect and Disease Walking Tour
- Update on Research
- Tree Injections and Equipment Demonstrations

We also hosted a beer tasting to raise money for the TREE Fund.

# IAA Annual Conference & Trade Show

The 2016 Annual Conference & Trade Show was held at the Tinley Park Convention Center on October 18 & 19.

- ▶ 599 individuals attended
- ▶ 77 exhibitors (individual head count not company)
- ▶ 33 speakers
- ▶ 31 on Monday for EHAP
- ▶ 740 total people in attendance

# 12 Annual Conference Sponsors

Company	Sponsor / Type	Payment Amount
Vermeer Midwest	Lunch (\$750) & T-Shirt (\$650)	1,400.00
Atlas Bobcat	Show Sponsor	2,500.00
Midwest Arborist Supplies	Cookie Break(\$500)	500.00
CN Utility Consulting	Cookie Break (\$500)	500.00
Midwest Stihl	Tree Stand (\$500)	500.00
Trees R Us	T-Shirt (\$650)	650.00
Openlands/IDNR	Show Sponsor	10,000.00
Arthur Clesen	Cookie Break (\$500)	500.00
ComEd	T-Shirt (\$650)	650.00
Kramer Tree Specialists	In-Kind Tree	0.00
Ameren	Show Sponsor	2,000.00
Bartlett Tree Experts	Tree Fund Sponsor	1,000.00
<b>Total Sponsorship</b>		<b>20,200.00</b>

# 37 Companies Exhibited

Alexander Equipment Co., Inc
All Access Equipment
Ameren
American Arborist Supplies
ArboRisk Insurance
Arborjet
Arthur Clesen, Inc.
ASCA
Atlas Bobcat
Banner Sales and Consulting Inc.
Brandt
Circle Tractor
Davey Resource Group
Elizabeth Malloney
Goodmark Nurseries
Graf Tree Care
IFA
Illinois Extension Center
Illinois Wood Utilization
ISA
JULIE, Inc
Kanakakee Nursery Company
Midwest Arborist Supplies
National Seed
Openlands
Ornamentals Growers Association
Rainbow Treecare Scientific Advancement
Runnion Equipment Company
Russo Power Equipment
Sonetics
Spring Grove Nursery, Inc
Stihl
Tracked Lifts Inc.
Tree Care Industry Association
Tree Fund
TreePans.com, Inc.
Vermeer Midwest

# 2016 Tree Climbing Championship was rescheduled for 2017 due to lack of volunteers.

- ▶ Still need
- ▶ Summer Conference Budget
- ▶ Advanced Training Budgets
- ▶ Annual Conference Budget
- ▶ Strategic plan
- ▶ 2016 budget
- ▶ SAWW
- ▶ TREE Fund Larry Hall Scholarship Memorial
- ▶ Fire Dept. training with elevated safety