Frost Cracks in Urban Trees

We are now in the dead of winter and temperatures have been seasonably cold. In many areas of the state arborists and municipal foresters are noticing frost cracks splitting open on their city trees. A natural phenomenon, frost cracks are separations on the trunk or branches in the radial-longitudinal plane – that is, the splits occur along the rays (Figure 1) and extend lengthwise along the trunk. When cracks first form, they can sound like the report from a rifle being fired.

There are several mechanisms that contribute to the formation of frost cracks. As temperatures drop below freezing, water moves out of cell walls into cell cavities, causing an internal drying of wood. The associated shrinkage causes the stem to crack in the radial direction. For certain species, the temperature of the trunk needs to be well below zero for several hours before it cracks. Another part of the crack formation process can occur when layers of ice form between wood cells. As the ice expands, it separates wood cells along the rays and causes the crack to widen. Scientists have also observed that old injuries, pruning cuts, or other defects can be the starting point for frost crack formation (Figure 2). As temperatures continue to drop, frost cracks can extend up several feet into the tree crown, depending on the length of the trunk and branching pattern. Although they can be found on any side of the tree, frost cracks occur most frequently on the south or southwest side of the tree where the trunk is warmed by direct sunlight during the day.

Trees reported to be most susceptible to getting frost cracks include sycamore, maple, linden, beech, apple, birch, tulip-tree, and some oaks.

Figure 1. Cross section of a trunk with an open radial crack.

Figure 2. Old pruning cuts directly in line with the frost crack. Note the elliptical wound wood on either side of the cuts.
Table of Contents

Frost Cracks in Urban Trees 1
President’s Message 3
2018 IAA Annual Conference Announcement 5
Certified Tree Worker Announcement 6
2018 IAA Strategic Plan 8
Call for Nominations 12
Managing the Urban Forest 14
Calendar of Events 16

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todd@grandarborgroup.com

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pydrescher@gmail.com

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jmiesbauer@mortonarb.org

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Belleville, IL 62223
Phone: 618-791-9038
ron@mbtreecare.com

Don’t forget to signup for the upcoming IAA Summer Conference.

Illinois Arborist Association Mission Statement

“Foster interest, establish standards, exchange professional ideas and pursue scientific research in Arboriculture”
Dear Illinois Arborist Association Members,

Estoy muy emocionado por ser parte de esta gran organización. Y más emoción me da saber que contamos con tantos arboristas de todos niveles y esto no acaba aquí pues tendremos muchos programas de certificación. Para poner al día a nuestros arboristas y motivar para formar nuevos arboristas. Este año con la IAA les tenemos preparados un año lleno de educación y capacitación junto con diversión; como es el torneo de golf, trepa para pequeñines y por supuesto el Campeonato de Trepa. Por favor, si su organización o compañía le gustaría ser patrocinadores en nuestros eventos, déjenos saber.

Gracias

I am very excited to be a part of this great organization. Our members have great passion for their work and it drives us to continue our top-notch training programs and certification classes and exams. This year the IAA has scheduled a full year of training along with fun; our annual golf tournament, kids climb and tree climbing championship is always a good time to catch up with fellow arborists and promote the profession. Please let us know if your organization or company would like to sponsor any of our events, it’s a great way to promote the profession and get your name out there. Also take time to check out our strategic plan that is located on page 8. If you are interested in helping out with any of the committees, please contact our office. Volunteering is very rewarding and the relationships that you build are long lasting.

Thank you,
Eduardo
to decrease in winter, cracks will often widen – reports of frost cracks opening several inches wide are not uncommon – and remain open until temperatures increase.

When spring arrives and temperatures start to rise, frost cracks will close back up. As trees put on new wood during the following growing season, a bridge of callus wood will form to close over the crack. If the crack originated from an old injury there will often be the associated “rams horns” of woundwood around the crack. However, the new layer of wood that closes over the crack is usually thin, and unable to withstand the strain the following winter as the crack reopens. This process is often repeated over the course of many years, leading to the formation of a distinct “rib” along both sides of the crack (Figure 3). The increased wood production that forms the “rib” might also help strengthen that area of the trunk in response to the crack.

Although frost cracks are structural defects, there is no research showing that frost cracks alone increase the likelihood of failure. However, cracks can be a problem for the tree because they can expose the inner wood to decay-causing fungi. Over time, the combination of extensive decay and the frost crack might increase the likelihood of failure. More research is needed to better understand how these processes work and interact. In the meantime, tree managers are recommended to routinely monitor and perform risk assessments as needed on such trees.

Figure 3a & b. Old pruning cuts directly in line with the frost crack. Note the elliptical wound wood on either side of the cuts.
New Date!

Illinois Arborist Association
36th Annual Conference & Trade Show
December 11 & 12, 2018
Tinley Park Convention Center
Certified Tree Worker Announcement

ISA Certified Tree Worker I
Climber Specialist Classes and Exam

Melody Farms Conservation Campus I
350 N. Waukegan Rd., Lake Forest
April 21, 2018
April 28, 2018

The Mulch Center
21457 Milwaukee Ave., Deerfield
May 5, 2018
May 12, 2018

The Illinois Arborist Association is hosting the ISA Certified Tree Worker classes and exam starting on April 21, 2018. The exam will be held on May 12, 2018 at The Mulch Center, 21457 Milwaukee Avenue, Deerfield, IL.

The ISA Certified Tree Worker/Climber Specialist examination is made up of two parts: a 50 question multiple choice knowledge exam and a skills exam. An individual must pass both parts to obtain certification credentials.

The exam has 3 prerequisites: CPR/First Aid certification, Aerial Rescue training and 18 months of working experience as a tree climber.

CPR/First Aid Training Course - April 21 - Melody Farms Certified Tree Worker Prep Course - April 28 - Melody Farms Aerial Rescue Training Course - May 5 - The Mulch Center

CTW Exam - May 12, 2018 - The Mulch Center, Deerfield

Strongly Recommended Purchase: Tree Climbers’ Guide w/Climber Specialist Exam Prep DVD. You can purchase through link: http://illinoisarborist.org/shop/tree-climbers-guide/
WE SEE MORE FROM UP HERE.

We’ve sat in that harness. We know the risks. Trust us to help minimize them.

Solutions for arborists by arborists. arboriskinsurance.com (262)432-7173

PROTECTING THE REPUTATION OF THE UTILITIES WE SERVE...

IT’S PART OF OUR JOB

800-522-4311 www.nelsontree.com

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Illinois Trees

(continued on page 8)
2018 Strategic Plan

Foster interest, establish standards, exchange professional ideas and pursue scientific research in arboriculture

1. Foster an IPSI Scholarship
   - Send out announcement in early May
   - Award Scholarship by mid-June
   - Follow up with winner to provide newsletter article by October 31, 2018
   Champion: Steve Ludwig
   Amount requested: $500

2. Hands on Tree Risk Competition during Annual Tree Climbing Competition
   - Add knot tying ID as a component
   Champions: Steve Lane, Eduardo Medina, Aaron Schulz
   Amount requested: $0

3. Fire Department Training
   - Continue training with all individuals trained by North American Training Solutions
   - Have a committee meeting to decide market the training and create a policy for borrowing IAA gear, class cost and teacher pay
   Champion: Eduardo Medina, Don Roppolo
   Amount requested: $0

4. Advanced Training
   - Program database to determine graduates and upcoming classes
   - Provide train the trainer for all teachers
   Champion: Steve Ludwig
   Amount requested: $500

5. Student Awareness
   - Work with the Chicago School of Ag.
   - Kids climb
   - Scholarships to IAA conference
   - University student grants
   - Utilize Tree City USA connections
   Champions: Jim Semelka, Eduardo Medina
   Amount requested $500

(continued on page 9)
STUDENT FORESTRY FIELD DAY

- This will be a 3 day event - May 15-17, 2018 coordinated with Dr. Groninger and SIU. All students/schools are welcome.

  Champion: Roger Smith
  Amount requested: $1500

STUDENT/INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- Pilot this with the SIU IT department to link to IAA website
- Students can upload their resumes
- SIU develops and IAA reviews

  Champion: Roger Smith
  Amount requested: $1200 contingent upon 6-8 companies or users

SPONSOR THE EAB WORKSHOPS

- Workshops will be held on 2/21 Carbondale, 2/22 Collinsville, 2/23 Effingham, 2/26 & 2/27 in Macomb

  Champion: Roger Smith
  Amount requested: $500

(continued on page 10)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>11</th>
<th>E-LEARNING</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Develop a pilot</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Research access points</td>
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<td>- Promotion/Marketing</td>
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<td>- LMS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Champion: Eduardo Medina, April Toney, Chad Toney</td>
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<th>RESEARCH</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Money has been reallocated to endowment</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Framework for needs</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Create an ad-hoc committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Champion: Jake Miesbauer</td>
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<tr>
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<th>DAY OF SERVICE</th>
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<tr>
<td>- Criteria is done</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Application process complete</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Inquiries are coming in</td>
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<td>- Host a Day of Service in 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Champion: Todd Haefke</td>
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<th>14</th>
<th>ADVANCEMENT VIA INDIVIDUAL DETERMINATION - AVID (MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Contract with AVID teachers to introduce students to the Arborist profession</td>
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<td>Champion: Steve Ludwig</td>
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<tr>
<th>15</th>
<th>FOSTER PARTNERSHIPS WITH AMERICAN PUBLIC WORKS ASSOC. AND ILLINOIS GREEN INDUSTRY ASSOC.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Establish a Growers and an APWA contact/liaison</td>
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<tr>
<td>Champion: Jim Semelka</td>
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<tr>
<th>16</th>
<th>LEGISLATIVE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Connect event outcomes to IAA</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Federal</td>
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<tr>
<td>- State - hire a lobbyist?</td>
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<td>Champion:</td>
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<tr>
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<th>INSURANCE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Develop insurance contacts</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Produce materials</td>
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<td>- Endorsement/support</td>
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<td>- Make at least an initial presentation to the insurance companies</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Champion: Jim Semelka</td>
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<td>Amount requested: $5000</td>
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<tr>
<th>18</th>
<th>URBAN WOOD UTILIZATION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Define compost vs mulch</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Lobby to educate the EPA on the definition of compost vs mulch</td>
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<tr>
<td>Champion: Jim Semelka</td>
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<td>Amount requested: $8000 contingent upon hiring lobbyist</td>
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Friday, August 24, 2018  
9:00am Shot Gun Start  
4-Person Scramble  

St. Andrews Golf & Country Club  
2241 Route 59, West Chicago, IL 60185  

$105 Per Golfer  
Price Includes: 18-Holes of Golf, Shared Golf Cart, Sleeve of Golf Balls, Hot Dog/Brat Lunch, Beverages, Full Dinner, Raffle and Prizes  

Dinner for NON-GOLFER is $25  
You may pay by credit card or checks made payable to Illinois Arborist Association.  

Return Payment & Form to:  
Illinois Arborist Association  
P.O. Box 860, Antioch, IL 60002  
or Fax to 262-857-6677  
monica@illinoisarborist.org  
jeannie@illinoisarborist.org  

GOLFER REGISTRATION - Deadline is August 17, 2018  

Golfer: _____________________________ Phone: _____________________________  
Address: _____________________________ Email: _____________________________  
City, State, Zip: ___________________________________________________________  

Preferred Foursome:  
Golfer 1: _____________________________ Golfer 2: _____________________________  
Golfer 3: _____________________________ Golfer 4: _____________________________  

Payment enclosed $___________________  

Visa or MasterCard  
Card Number: _____________________________  
Expiration Date: _____________________________  
Name on Card: _____________________________  
Signature: _____________________________  

Contests:  
Closest to Pin  
Longest Putt  
Longest Drive  
Shortest Drive  
Low Score (Foursome Total)  
Hole-In-One Contest  

We Need Sponsors & Raffle Items!  
If you have any questions or would like to sponsor, please contact  
monica@illinoisarborist.org or jeannie@illinoisarborist.org or call 877-617-8887.
Illinois Arborist Association is looking for dependable people to run for the Board of Directors. All nominees must be an active member of the Illinois Arborist Association and the International Society of Arboriculture. If you are interested, please take a moment to read the responsibilities and submit the form attached.

**Vice President**
The Vice President shall assist the President, and, in the event of the absence disability of both the President and the President-Elect, shall perform his/her duties. He/She shall serve as chairperson of the Chapter Membership Committee. This is a four-year term consisting of Vice President, President Elect, President and Past President.

**Commercial Director**
The Commercial Director shall become familiar with prevailing problems of the commercial arborists in the Chapter area and lend support to the development of solutions to these problems. This is a two-year term beginning at the Annual Meeting.

**Municipal Director**
The Municipal Director shall become familiar with the prevailing problems encountered in municipal arboriculture/urban forestry in the Chapter area and lend its support to the development of solutions to these problems. A monthly luncheon for education and social contacts with the Chicago-area urban foresters (NEMF) and Moline area urban foresters (NWMF) should be continued. Assistance and promotion of other area gathering should be offered. This is a two-year term beginning at the Annual Meeting.

**Program Director**
The Program Director develops a suitable educational program for the summer conference and the annual meeting. This is a three-year term beginning at the Annual Meeting.

**Meeting Attendance**
When elected, new Board members will attend a Day and a half orientation and strategic planning session with the Board of Directors. The Board meets bi-monthly and all dates are established at the first board meeting of the year. Board members are expected to attend most primary member events (e.g., major meetings and Annual Meeting) and as many secondary events (e.g., ITCC, Golf Outing, Seminars) as feasible.

**Leadership Expectations**
- Board members must be qualified, informed and experienced representatives that exemplify the highest standards of professional ethics, volunteerism, and commitment to the association and its related profession.
- Board members are expected to take an active role in all member activities and attend as many major meetings as feasible.
- Board members are expected to fulfill their liaison assignments.
- Board members are expected to engage, participate and contribute to discussions and debates. They should volunteer for special assignments and task forces as needed.
- Board members should be strategic thinkers and look at the “big picture” of the IAA’s vision, mission, and strategic initiatives, free of “private agendas.”

**Questions?**
If you have any questions regarding board service, contact the Nominating Committee Chair, Jim Semelka 708-610-0219, your inquiry will be confidential.
Nomination Application for the Illinois Arborist Association’s Board of Directors

All nominees must complete this form and mail or FAX it to the April Toney by June 13, 2018. One page (single-sided) page is permitted per question if you need additional space. All information will be confidential and reviewed only by the committee.

Mail to:

Illinois Arborist Association
P.O. Box 860
Antioch, IL 60002
Phone: 877-617-8887
FAX: 262-857-6677

The Nominating Committee will meet in the spring and announce its candidates for officer and director positions after the summer board meeting. If no additional nominees are received via petition by June 13, 2018, the nominees will be elected for the ballot. The elected candidate will be introduced at the IAA Annual Conference that takes place at the Holiday Inn in Tinley Park on December 11 & 12, 2018.

NOMINEE IDENTIFICATION

Your Name:__________________________________________________________

Title:________________________________________________________________

Organization:________________________________________________________

Address:________________________________________________________________

City/State/Zip:__________________________________________________________

Phone: (____) _____________ Fax: (____) _____________ E-mail:____________________

I have reviewed the IAA bylaws and Nominating Committee comments regarding service on the Board of Directors board. I agree to the purpose, mission and goals of the IAA and understand the requirements and protocol of Board service. If nominated and elected, I shall fulfill the expectations of the IAA Board Members to my best ability. I (and/or my employer) will support the time, travel, and minimal travel expenses to fulfill the expectations of IAA Board Members.

Nominee’s Signature:_________________________________________ Date:____________

Submit this document by mail or fax by June 13, 2018 to:

April Toney
Illinois Arborist Association
PO Box 860, Antioch, IL 60002
FAX: 262-857-6677

Illinois Trees
How often have you heard the phrase “You can’t tell the players without a scorecard”? This saying is generally attributed to Harry M. Stevens, a native of England who emigrated to the US in the 1880’s. Quickly becoming obsessed with baseball, he designed and then sold the first baseball scorecard using this slogan, and his design is still in use today. He is also generally credited with the invention of the hot dog, but that’s another story…

The principal of “Not knowing the players without the scorecard” can be applied when choosing the best management practices to optimize the benefits of any number of resources. It is difficult at best to make critical decisions, set goals, and develop management strategies if the exact makeup of what it is you are managing is not known. In terms of managing the Urban Forest, whether ensuring that a street tree population is producing the greatest amount of environmental and economic benefits possible, dealing with insect and disease problems, determining a pruning cycle rotation, or minimizing risk and its consequences, the more good information we have access to, the better decisions we can make. Species-specific insect and disease problems such as Emerald Ash Borer and Dutch Elm Disease have had such a devastating effect on urban forests simply because there were so many of those particular trees in urban forest tree populations. Having access to some of the most basic information a tree inventory provides, such as the species makeup of a tree population, can be used in making decisions that are geared to increasing diversity, thereby minimizing the impact of unforeseen insect pests or diseases. So, when it comes to efficient management of an urban forest, the Tree Inventory serves as a “Scorecard”.

There are many ways to gather and analyze the information collected in a tree inventory. They range from hiring highly qualified technicians working with the latest GIS equipment to collect and evaluate all aspects of tree condition and risk, to the use of volunteers recording information on a clipboard. Collected data can be expressed in simple spreadsheets and pie charts, or sophisticated software programs capable of analyzing multiple data sets over many points can be used. These software packages often vary significantly in cost, flexibility, recurring maintenance fees, installation and support requirements, ease of use, report capability, and the ability to interface with existing programs. Those considering undertaking a tree inventory should first determine what the goals and objectives of the inventory are, what budgetary constraints might exist, who will have access to the data, and who will manage and update that data in the future. All inventories are, at the outset, a snapshot of the tree population when initially taken. Without regular and accurate updating, the value of the inventory decreases over time, to a point where it may lose its worth altogether.

I have always felt that the single most valuable component of tree inventory data is the evaluation of the condition of each individual tree. It is true that anyone having beginning tree identification skills and a basic understanding of dendrology can measure the diameter of a tree, determine its species, record its address, and possibly make note of the most obvious defects present. However, accurate identification of conditions such as cankers, root problems, weak branch attachments, included bark, extent of cavities and rot, pruning needs, and the recognition of risk factors and their associated consequences requires a trained and experienced eye. Knowing the overall condition makeup of trees in a given population can aid in making informed decisions concerning insect and disease control guidelines, risk management policies, and the establishment of pruning and removal priorities. Analyzing tree diameters, live crown ratios, and canopy volume provides information not only on the size of the trees, but gives insight on the amount of benefits those trees provide, and what strategies to employ in order to increase those benefits to their greatest levels.

Whatever implementation method is chosen, the intention of the inventory is the same – to identify the most important aspects of a tree population, and make sound decisions using that knowledge. Put somewhat differently, the goal of the inventory is to allow the manager to maximize the benefits and minimize risk within the Urban Forest. Whatever the data collection method or the amount of refinement used in the process, your tree inventory, your scorecard, can be the foundation of a strong, proactive urban forestry program for your town for many years to come.
2018 ISA Annual International Conference and Trade Show
August 5 - 8, 2018
Columbus Convention Center
Columbus, Ohio

ABOUT THE ISA ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AND TRADE SHOW

The ISA Annual International Conference and Trade Show provides a forum for the exchange of information and opportunities to network with others in the arboricultural profession. The event provides a lineup of educational sessions led by industry leaders from around the globe, sharing their thoughts and views about the newest trends in equipment, practice, technology and research in arboriculture and urban forestry. It is the world’s premier gathering of arboricultural professionals, where practicing arborists and urban foresters come together with top researchers and educators.

Features of the conference include:

• Educational Sessions
• Trade Show
• Pre-Conference Workshops and Tours
• Climbers’ Corner on the Trade Show Floor
• Wednesday Choose Your Own Adventure Workshops and Tours

Consider attending as a way to build your business network, meet the industry's leaders, and learn from the best in the profession.
Calendar of Events

March 15th
Northeast Municipal Foresters Meeting (NEMF)
Vibrant Cities Lab

Location: Village of Arlington Heights
at 10:00am. RSVP April Toney at april@illinoisarborist.org the variability in symptom
expression from one tree to the next. Address
will be forthcoming, starts at 10am ends at
12noon.

March 21st
Northeast Arborist Certification, Municipal
Specialist and Utility Specialist Exams

Location: Moline Public Works Department

March 26 - 28th
Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (TRAQ)
Courses

Location: Mulch Center in Deerfield, IL

March 29th
Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (TRAQ)
Renewal Course

Location: Mulch Center in Deerfield, IL

March 27th
Arborist Certification, Municipal Specialist and
Utility Specialist Exams

Location: Logan Square Branch Library in
Chicago

April 5th
Arborist Certification, Municipal Specialist and
Utility Specialist Exams.

Location: Village of Lombard

April 19th (10:00am - RSVP)
Northeast Municipal Foresters Meeting -- Pest
Update with Fredric Miller

Location: Village of Lombard

May 9th
Arborist Certification, Municipal Specialist and
Utility Specialist Exams

Location: Homewood Landscape Building

May 24th
Arborist Certification, Municipal Specialist and
Utility Specialist Exams

Location: Mulch Center in Deerfield

June 6 - August 9th
Arborist Certification Workshops and Exam at the
Homewood Landscape Building in Homewood,
IL. Classes run every Wednesday night from
6:30-9:00pm. Exam will be held on August 8. You
must pre-register for these workshops.

Location: Homewood Landscape Building

July 18th
IAA Summer Conference

Location: Champaign, IL

July 26th
Arborist Certification, Municipal Specialist and
Utility Specialist Exams

Location: Mulch Center in Deerfield

December 11 - 12
IAA Annual Conference and Trade Show

Location: Tinley Park, IL.

Get Certified!
Call the IAA Office for details on how to become certified.
Contact April, Jeannie or Monica at 877-617-8887 or
april@illinoisarborist.org
jeannie@illinoisarborist.org
monica@illinoisarborist.org
Classes fill fast, so sign up today!

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- 2018 IAA Annual Conference Announcement
- Certified Tree Worker Announcement
- 2018 IAA Strategic Plan
- 2018 IAA Golf Outing
- Managing the Urban Forest