

# Illinois Trees

The Quarterly Publication of the Illinois Arborist Association



## 730

### Attend the IAA's 33rd Annual Conference & Trade Show

By April Toney

**W**ow, what a conference! Each year as the IAA expands its reach, not only does the organization grow, but so does our Annual Conference and Trade Show. This year was no different. This year's conference broke our original record attendance and marked the 3rd time the IAA has eclipsed the 700 mark by reaching 730 attendees. We have come a long way since the days when we hosted the event at Pheasant Run down in St. Charles. We here at the IAA have made every effort to provide our membership with the best, most cutting edge education that industry can offer. As in past years, we brought back the ever popular Live Tree Demonstration.



This year, we even offered a session in Spanish. Taught by Eduardo Medina, the demonstration tree was packed with well over 70 Spanish speaking friends and members from the industry. We look forward to expanding on this event at next year's Annual Conference and Trade Show. Another perennial event that we have at our conferences each year are the quiz stations which are strategically located throughout the tradeshow floor. This allows for attendees to earn additional CEUs while attending our conference.

None of this would be possible without the generous sponsors and volunteers. Listed are our 2015 Annual Conference Sponsors:

Arlington Power Equipment, Arthur Clesen, Atlas Bobcat, Bartlett Tree Experts, ComEd, CN Utility Consulting, Davey Resource Group, INDR, Kramer Tree Specialists, Midwest Arborist Supplies, Mississippi Valley Stihl, Sterling Lumber, Trees R Us, Vermeer Midwest.

Our volunteers also played a huge roll in the success of this year's conference. Listed below are the 2015 Annual Conference volunteers: Ray Apking, Bryson Bedwell, Bob Benjamin, Bryon

Doerr, Phil Graf, Eric Hendrickson, Emily Kramer, Steven Kramer, Norma Lager, Michael Lager, Andrew Lueck, Kevin Maloney, Myron McCullough, Aaron Meyer, Don Morrison, Amy Olson, Dan Radditz, Will Smith, Lawrance Strubhart, Jim Tresouthick, Merle Turner, Jen Wehrhiem, Corey

Wierema, and John Wolters. Thank you all!

### 2015 Sponsors



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## Illinois Arborist Association Mission Statement

*"Foster interest, establish standards, exchange professional ideas  
and pursue scientific research in Arboriculture"*



# President's Message

Don Roppolo

Hello, thank you for electing me as the president of the IAA. I'm honored to have the opportunity to be your president. I have a question for all of our members. How did you get into the tree care industry? This is my favorite question because of all of the interesting stories I hear when I ask it. My answer is I stumbled upon it as I was searching for a new major at Western Illinois University. Unfortunately the answer I very rarely hear is "It was what I always wanted to do since I was a kid". Although we are doing a good job of increasing the public's awareness of our profession we still have some work ahead of us.

One of my goals as president is to have the organization increase our outreach and awareness as both a profession and a career. Do you have a contact at a local school, church group, scouting group, youth organization, outdoor sports organizations, veteran groups, etc.? The list is never ending. We are not going to be the career path for every person, but we are the right fit for many people that love the outdoors, being active, science, problem solving, and on and on. One of the most common responses to my favorite question is I love the outdoors and it was a great opportunity to have a career incorporating that love. Think of the potential if every IAA member reached out to just one group and there was one person in each group that discovered arboriculture! At the very least we would have made a lot more people aware of what a Certified Arborist is and why they are important. What if we were on the household list of careers next to doctor, mechanic, accountant, electrician, dentist, plumber, forester, etc.?



Be an ambassador for our industry and the career opportunities we have to offer. Let's make the household list of career opportunities!

*Sincerely, Don*

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## Tree Worker - Rigging Level 2 Module by Norm Hall

The Illinois Arborist Association is one of the very few ISA Chapters that has Classes to Enhance the Safety, Skills and Performance, in tree care, of its members.



Left to right: Justin Ranney, Ted Ranney, Scott Morrison, Jared Griffin, Chris Ranney, Miguel Reyes, Jason Hall (assistant instructor), Gary Rucker, Tyler Ford

On August 11 & 12, the IAA hosted its 1st “Rigging Level 2” module, in the Tree Worker Domain. This module is a continuation of the “Present Day Rigging – Level 1” Module, that includes advanced rigging techniques. The advanced rigging techniques shown and demonstrated in this module included: (1) Fishing pole technique; (2) Static retrievable false crotch (3) Spider leg balancing (4) Using the Good Rigging Control System {GRCS} (5) Load transfer line (6) Tip tie, butt tie technique (7) Butt tie with butt line/control line technique (8) Double whip tackle {DWT} (9) Using multiple blocks to direct the rigging forces (10) ABR Rig and ring system (11) Mechanical advantage {MA} systems, 2 to 1, 3 to 1, 4 to 1, 5 to 1 and 10 to 1 (12) Speed line techniques.



This entire 8 inch diameter limb is going to be lifed using the “Double Whip Tackle” technique.

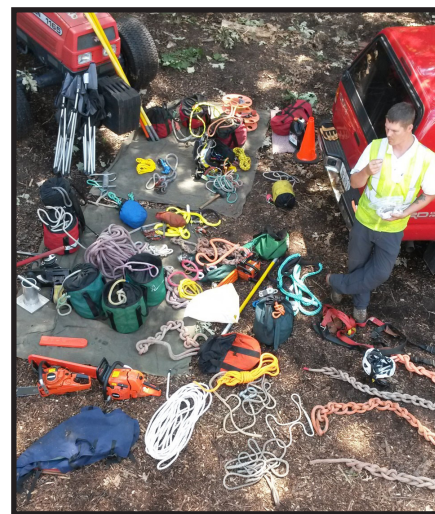
The tree was a 45 inch dead bur oak at Biltmore Country Club. There were more than enough limbs to remove and demonstrate the techniques. Every participant had the opportunity to remove a limb or log using one of the 12 techniques. We started the class reviewing the knots and hitches learned in the Level class and then started the removal portion.

Statistics have shown that the accident rate has increased during rigging operations, and this class was designed to bring rigging safety, situational awareness and efficiency to the forefront of the personnel performing the rigging operation.

There was emphasis on performing a “Tree Risk Assessment” before beginning any tree care operation. Since this was a dead tree, there weren’t any climbers placed in the tree. All rigging operations were performed from an aerial lift. During the placement of all rigging blocks, extra attention was given to anchoring the blocks so the forces would be directed to the strongest part of the tree or limb. Also, during the cutting and lowering operations, all personnel were not permitted under the tree, except while using the GRCS to lift. Keeping the job-site safe was priority number 1.

Special thanks to Jason Hall, for helping instruct the class, and to Acres Group for donating the use of an aerial lift truck for the 2 day class.

This was one of my favorite classes due to the fact that so many different rigging techniques were demonstrated. Every one of these techniques can be used in any given rigging scenario.



Sorting some of the tools and equipment used for the level 2 module.



# ITCC at the Morton Arboretum

What a perfect day for the competition. The weather fully cooperated, the climbers were enthusiastic and the crowd enjoyed a full day of watching Illinois' best climbers compete. This year's event was held at the Morton Arboretum and featured a kids climb (sponsored by Julie). The results of the 2015 competition are as follows:

1st Place - Beau Nagan  
2nd Place - Tyler Wallace  
3rd Place - Brandon Dobnick



Left to right: Eduardo Medina, Tyler Wallace, Beau Nagan and Brandon Dobnick

There are a total of 5 events in the ITCC, the top three finishers move on to the Master's Challenge (won by Beau Nagan), where the winner represents the Illinois Chapter at the International Tree Climbing Competition.

## Aerial Rescue winners were:

1st Place - Jeremy Dunivan  
2nd Place - Beau Nagan  
3rd Place - Brandon Dobnick

## Belayed Speed Climb winners were:

1st Place - Beau Nagan  
2nd Place - Eugene Meurer  
3rd Place - Jake Roberts

## Secured Footlock winners were:

1st Place - Beau Nagan  
2nd Place - Brandon Dobnick  
3rd Place - Jake Roberts

## Throwline winners were:

1st Place - James Lane  
2nd Place - Brandon Dobnick  
3rd Place - Jake Roberts

## Work Climb winners were:

1st Place - Beau Nagan  
2nd Place - Josh Hodson  
3rd Place - Brandon Dobnick

A special thanks goes out to Kramer Tree Specialists, who again, donated their time and resources to feed those in attendance.



## Welcome back KIDS CLIMB!

Thanks to our sponsor Julie, we were able to bring back the kids climb. Kids from the climbers and judges all enjoyed getting in the saddle and climbing in the trees. Thank you Alex and ??? for volunteering your day to work with the kids.



## Tree Worker - Rigging Level 2 Module

(continued from page 4)

We would also like to thank the following for helping support the Illinois Arborist Association Advanced Qualification Program:

1. Echo Outdoor products for letting us use a CS355T 14" chainsaw, a CS500P 18" chainsaw and a CS620P 24" chainsaw. We used these Echo chainsaws throughout the entire module.
2. TreeStuff.com for donating 2 ABR Rigging Thimble size 1, 2 ABR Rigging Thimble size 2 and 2 ABR Rigging Thimble size 3. Norm spliced 2 Rig and Ring slings up, one with 5/8" diameter Husky Rope and one with 3/4" Husky rope. Both of these Husky ropes were donated by All Gear Inc.
3. All Gear Inc for donating a 3/4" X 8' Loopie sling, and a 7/8" X 10' Whoopie sling, as well as the 2 lengths of Husky rope.

## The Loss of a Foreman

by Willard Smith

Last winter, on December 1, 2014, my crew was working in a suburb north of Chicago. I stopped by after their lunch break to see how the job was going. When I arrived, I observed one of my men trying to help my foreman get out of a small sugar maple. It was clear that the foreman was in distress. He seemed disoriented and wasn't talking. He was trying, with one hand, to manipulate the knot on his rope. I told him I thought he was having a stroke and asked him if I should call 911. It looked like he shook his head no. He again tried to get out of the tree. I began to call 911, and then I saw a fireman, so I flagged him down. By then my foreman had worked his way downward and wedged himself into a branch crotch. The fireman and I climbed a step ladder and attempted to lift him out, but he was too heavy to move. When the rescue crew arrived, I assumed the rest was in their hands. Several firemen climbed the tree with their own ladder, attempted to lift him, and failed. Neither the fireman nor I was equipped with the appropriate climbing gear. They instructed me to cut a branch of the tree to allow the ladder truck access. This took time, and my foreman was still stuck in the tree. I gave

the fireman a knife to cut his blake's hitch, which I had to explain to them. I then showed them where to place the tail of his rope, above him, to be able to pull him up. With enough people, that worked; he was lowered down to the fire truck bed. This all took time, and then it took more time stabilizing him and determining which hospital to send him to.

### So, what happened?

My foreman had complained of a headache during lunch but went back to work. He was working, but slowly. He then attempted to climb the tree and was alone for perhaps twenty minutes. Soon after that I arrived on site.

### What could I have done better?

I wish I had arrived earlier because I may have noticed that he was having a stroke. I wish that my foreman knew what his symptoms meant. Apparently he didn't know because he just tried to work through it. If I'd arrived earlier, I would have told him not to move and then put on equipment and executed a rescue climb. I should not have relinquished control to the firemen. Instead I should have directed the fire crew because I was trained in aerial rescue. It would have been helpful if the fire crew was more familiar with tree worker equipment and how to do a rescue climb.

### What was the outcome?

My foreman had suffered a massive "bleed out" stroke; his best defense would have been early detection. By the time he got to the hospital, a couple of hours had passed. It may have been that by the time we had extracted him from the tree, it was already too late. He was on life support for a week, and when that was withdrawn, he passed on. This gentleman was my foreman for twenty-five years, and I lost a dear friend. He was well liked by my customers and loved by his co-workers. He was only 53 years old, and he left behind his wife, two sons, and two grandsons.



# TCT EXPO

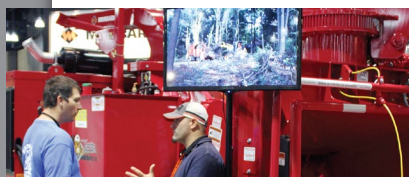
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## Florida-Based Researcher Receives Early Career Scientist Award from International Society of Arboriculture

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. (August 31, 2015) – Dr. Andrew Koeser of Apollo Beach, Florida is a co-recipient of the International Society of Arboriculture's (ISA) Early Career Scientist Award. This Award of Distinction is given to professionals showing exceptional promise in arboriculture research.

[Click here for a video on Andrew Koeser.](#)

Dr. Koeser is an assistant professor of landscape management with the Department of Environmental Horticulture at Gulf Coast Research and Education Center in Wimauma, and a faculty member at the Center for Landscape Conservation and Ecology dividing his time between research and extension services. He is devoted toward furthering environmental horticulture, landscape management, and arboriculture.

"ISA has witnessed Andrew's growth as a researcher since he was an ISA Student Fellowship internship recipient 10 years ago," says Mark Roberts, ISA board president. "He set the bar high for other fellowship recipients and it has been a pleasure to watch his skills develop as a researcher with significant impact on the industry."

Following his internship at ISA, Koeser was hired as the organization's Science and Research Manager while completing his Ph.D. at the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana. He is an ISA Board Certified Master Arborist® and is Tree Risk Assessment Qualified. One of Koeser's current projects is a mobile app for risk assessment data collection and mapping. He is also co-writing a series of tree identification books unique to the different regions of Florida.

"My research in tree risk assessment carries on the goal of enhancing current efforts being made to improve assessment processes," states Koeser. "I think the app project has the potential to gather user data needed in order to make reasonable assessments of potential tree failure."

ISA honored Koeser at a ceremony on Sunday, August 9th in Orlando, Florida as part of the 91st Annual ISA International Conference and Trade Show.

Koeser is one of nine distinguished professionals who make up the circle of winners for ISA's 2015 Awards of Distinction, sponsored by Bartlett Tree Experts. Robert Bartlett Jr., chairman and CEO of Bartlett Tree Experts added, "Regardless of size or location, every tree care company benefits when individuals endeavor to further our industry through education, science and technology. That's why I continue to believe it is vitally important to support the Awards of Distinction and recognize outstanding work like that of this year's recipients."

- more -

ISA, with more than 20,000 members making up the organization worldwide, has been honoring members and industry professionals with the Awards of Distinction since 1963. Nine categories recognize candidates in such areas as research, publishing, education, and advancing the cause of the organization. The winners are selected by a diverse group of experts in arboriculture.

### ABOUT ISA

The International Society of Arboriculture (ISA), headquartered in Champaign, Ill., is a nonprofit organization supporting tree care research and education around the world. To promote the importance of arboriculture, ISA manages



the consumer education web site, [www.treesaregood.org](http://www.treesaregood.org), which fulfills the association's mission to help educate the public about the importance and value of proper tree care. Also, as part of ISA's dedication to the care and preservation of shade and ornamental trees, it offers the only internationally-recognized certification program in the industry. For more information on ISA and Certified Arborists, visit [www.isa-arbor.com](http://www.isa-arbor.com).

#### ABOUT BARTLETT TREE EXPERTS

The F.A. Bartlett Tree Expert Company was founded in 1907 by Francis A. Bartlett and is the world's leading scientific tree and shrub care company. The organization's current chairman, Robert A. Bartlett Jr., represents the third generation of Bartlett family management. Bartlett has locations in 27 U.S. states, Canada, Ireland, and Great Britain. Services include pruning, insect and disease management, fertilization and soil care, cabling and bracing, tree lightning protection systems, and tree and stump removal. Its corporate offices are located in Stamford, Connecticut. To find out more, visit the company's web site at [www.bartlett.com](http://www.bartlett.com) or call 1-877-BARTLETT (227-8538).

###

#### Dr. Andrew Koeser – Early-Career Scientist Award

Dr. Andrew Koeser credits working at ISA Headquarters as an intern while earning his M.S. in Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) for helping him discover his passion for developing arboricultural teaching tools. He continued to work as ISA's science and research manager for two years before devoting himself full-time to the completion of his Ph.D. in Crop Sciences at UIUC with emphases in horticulture and biometry.

Dr. Koeser is currently assistant professor of landscape management at the University of Florida Gulf Coast Research and Education Center where he divides his time between research and extension services. His main research focus is tree risk with a goal of enhancing current efforts to improve risk assessment. Dr. Koeser will serve as the 2015-16 president of the Arboricultural Research and Education Academy (AREA) and has written or co-written nearly 50 articles for peer-reviewed journals and trade magazines. He is also co-writing a series of tree identification books designed as visual tools for identifying trees unique to the different regions of Florida.



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## ITCC at the Morton Arboretum (cont.)

Special thanks to all the volunteers and sponsors at our ITCC this year.

All Gear, Arbormaster, Echo, Grow Tech, Inc., Stihl, TreeStuff.com, Vermeer Midwest  
Kramer Tree Specialists, Inc., SavATree, Rainbow Tree Care, Davey Tree Experts, and Julie.

### Aerial Rescue



Jason Diehl, Brian Sprinkle, Tyler Roehler, Sean Zieche, Jason Hall, Dave Jorns, Todd Haefke, Kelly Bolger, Dick Nagan

### Belayed Speed Climb



Mark Younger, Mike Priller, Alfredo Jimenez, Humberto Perez

### Secured Footlock



Mike Wendt, Jim Matkovich, Steve Haigh, Beth Corrigan, Clark Graffeo

### Throwline



Jeff Kramer, Rich Erdlitz, Desta Mehrer, Demi Grounds

### Work Climb



Todd Kramer, Gary Kohler, Rob Juetten, John Meiszner, Trevor Novacek, Mike Gawrych, Gary Rucker, Betsy Meyers

### Master's Challenge

Not Pictured:

Todd Kramer  
Gary Kohler  
Jason Diehl  
Rob Juetten  
Mike Wendt  
Tyler Roehler  
Brian Sprinkle  
Eduardo Medina



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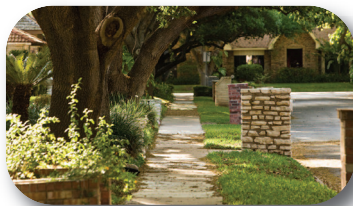
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# Calendar of Events

## January 14, 2016

NWMF Meeting, Aerial Rescue  
City of Moline Public Works Department, .

## January 14, 2016

Certification Workshop  
Chicago Botanic Gardens.

## January 23, 2016

Certification Workshop  
Lincoln Land Community College.

## February 3 - April 6, 2016

Certification Workshop  
Homewood Police Department.

## February 3 - 5, 2016

iLandscape Show  
Schaumburg, IL

## March 21, 2016

Certification Exams  
Downers Grove Public Works Department.

## May 23, 2016

Certification Exams  
Downers Grove Public Works Department.

## June 23 & 24, 2016

IAA Summer Conference at Allerton House  
Monticello.

## July 18, 2016

Certification Exams  
Downers Grove Public Works Department.

## September 12, 2016

Certification Exams  
Downers Grove Public Works Department.

## September 19, 2016

Certification Workshop  
Downers Grove Public Works Department.

## October 18 & 19 2016

IAA Annual Conference & Trade Show  
Tinley Park Convention Center.

## November 21, 2016

Certification Exams  
Downers Grove Public Works Department.

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**Bringing the  
Urban Forest  
Full Circle**

## Registration Opens for Unique Urban Wood Event

Make plans and register now to attend the inaugural Bringing the Urban Forest Full Circle Conference, Friday, March 18 at Hamburger University in Oak Brook, IL.

The full-day event is being organized by the Illinois Wood Utilization Team. It will include more than a dozen informative presentations, a live portable sawmill demonstration, tabletop displays and plentiful networking opportunities.

The Bringing the Urban Forest Full Circle Conference will bring together public and private land managers, arborists, architects and designers, sawyers, woodworkers and other entrepreneurs to share and learn next-step actions to participate in a market-driven urban wood economy. The unique conference will focus on industry best practices for everything from urban tree removal and milling through wood manufacturing and marketing the local appeal of urban wood products.

Confirmed presentations include case studies of urban wood initiatives taking place in Chicago; Ann Arbor, MI; and Milwaukee, WI. Representatives of each of these urban centers will detail how urban trees are being diverted from landfills in favor of being converted into lumber and value-added wood products.

Prof. Dan Cassens of Purdue University's Forestry Department, one of the nation's foremost experts on hardwood lumber, will discuss market opportunities and strategies for promoting urban wood products. Cassens, who also runs a sawmill business, will conduct live portable sawmill demonstrations during the conference.

A networking reception featuring tabletop displays by businesses and organizations participating in the urban wood movement will immediately follow the full day of presentations.

### **Learn More and Register**

To learn more about attending the conference or sponsorship and display opportunities, visit [illinoisurbanwood.org](http://illinoisurbanwood.org).

Additional information is also available by contacting Rich Christianson, conference director, at 773-822-6750 or [richc.illinoisurbanwood@gmail.com](mailto:richc.illinoisurbanwood@gmail.com).

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# Illinois Trees



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