

# Illinois Trees

The Quarterly Publication of the Illinois Arborist Association



## IAA Conference & Trade Show Report

On October 18 & 19 over 600 members attended the IAA Annual Conference & Trade Show in Tinley Park. On Monday, October 17 we hosted EHAP classes while preparing for the big event. This year we offered split sessions for Commercial, Municipal, Utility, Demonstration Tree, and Spanish to provide a wide range of topics for our members.

New this year was the addition of electrical lines to the Demonstration Tree. Thanks to our new Utility Director Brian Sprinkle, we brought a utility hour to the demo tree and offered training on working around electrical lines. A big thanks to Ameren for sponsoring the material to build the electrical set up. We are talking about the possibility of making the wires live for next years show.

Also new this year, the exhibitors were invited up on Tuesday before the General Session to give the members a 30-second update to promote their company, sale or product.

For a second year, we partnered with the Illinois Forestry Association to offer a special session that was focused on Healthy Forests Along The Rural Urban Interface. This session participants heard from two leading experts: University of Illinois Extension Forester Chris Evans who focused on the impact of invasive plants on forested ecosystems in urban and rural settings. And Dr. Fredric Miller, Senior Research Scientist in Entomology at the Morton Arboretum, who looked at the history of forest pest impacts in other states and a predictor for what we might expect to see here in Illinois. These ses-

sions were so packed that people were standing outside the room looking in. Next year we will have host these sessions in a larger room.

Session topics covered but not limited to information about Insurance Coverage, Working with Generational Diversity, Crane Use, Long Distant Drones, Pruning, Why do Trees Die, Societal Trends Impacting Private and Public Sector to Zika and Lyme Disease. We had a lot of good feedback on the wide range of topics to meet all of our members needs.

### Welcome IAA's New Board Members...

IAA would like to welcome our new board members.

#### President:

Jim Semelka, Graf Tree Care



#### President Elect:

Eduardo Medina, Davey Tree Experts

#### Vice President:

Steve Lane, Graf Tree Care

#### Commercial Chair:

Charles Shonts, The Care of Trees

#### Municipal Chair:

Ashley Karr, The Village of Arlington Heights

# IAA Conference & Trade Show Report (cont.)

## ISA CoR Representative:

Steve Ludwig, The Village of Algonquin  
A huge thank you to those who have given countless hours to make our organization what it is today!

## Past President:

Steve Ludwig, The Village of Algonquin

## Commercial Chair:

Steve Lane, Graf Tree Care

## Municipal Chair:

Steve Miller, The Village of Bolingbrook

## Thank you Conference Volunteers!

The IAA is a success because of all our wonderful volunteers. It amazes me each year at the number of people who step up and help out! They are all truly remarkable and pas-

## Thank you 2016 Conference Volunteers!

Seth Balvanz	Jay Mahoney
Bryon Doerr	Mac McCullough
Paul Filary	Aaron Meyer
Doug Hank	Tom Ringhofer
Eric Hendrickson	Katie Runyan
Kevin Jury	Rob Sproule
Steve Kramer	Jim Tresouthic
Joe Petrizzo	Merle Turner
Mike Lager	Dan Wade
Norma Lager	Marla Westerhold
Steve Ludwig	Larry Yukis

sionate and definitely need to be recognized. So here is a BIG thank you to:  
A special thanks to our IAA Annual Conference program and exhibit hall committee: Peggy Drescher, Todd Haefke.

## Thank you conference sponsors:

**Arthur Clesen:** Cookie Break  
**Atlas Bobcat:** Platinum Sponsor  
**Ameren:** Silver Sponsor

**Bartlett Tree Experts:** TREE Fund Raffle  
**CN Utility Consulting:** Cookie Break  
**ComEd:** T-Shirt Sponsor  
**IDNR:** Platinum Sponsor  
**Trees R Us, Inc:** T-shirt Sponsor  
**Kramer Tree Specialists:** Platinum Sponsor  
**Midwest Arborist Supplies:** Cookie Break  
**Stihl:** Demonstration Tree Sponsor  
**Vermeer Midwest:** Lunch and T-Shirt Sponsor

## 2016 Awards

The Illinois Arborist Association recognizes outstanding achievements in the Arboriculture profession, as well as the efforts by individuals, organizations, and communities who make an impact on the urban environment through our awards program. This year the board announced a new award to recognize our volunteers; The William Bolt 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 and its mission.

## 2016 Award Winners

### Award of Merit: *Dr. Fredric Miller*

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.

### 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

## IAA Conference & Trade Show Report (cont.)

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 Award:** *Steve Lane*

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

### **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.

**Special Recognition Award:** 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.

**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.

**ISA True Professionalism Awards:** Mark Duntemann, Natural Path Urban Forestry Consultants & Dave Storey, Bartlett Tree Experts

**Past Presidents Award:** Steve Ludwig

**Board Member Award:** Steve Lane

**Board Member Award:** Steve Miller

**Board Member Award:** Mark Duntemann

As always every year on Tuesday the IAA hosts a pizza party and raffle to raise funds for the TREE Fund. This year the TREE Fund raffle raised \$1427.00 We had tons of great prizes!

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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

Dear Illinois Arborist Association Members,

I'd like to take this opportunity to express what an honor and privilege it is to serve my fellow tree professionals in Illinois as incoming IAA President. At the IAA, being of the greatest possible benefit to all of our diverse membership is our highest goal, and it will be my personal goal as well. In addition to formalizing internal procedures that will make our operations even more transparent and streamlined, I will endeavor to establish and strengthen interaction and cooperation between the IAA and our many partner industries. These include organizations in the landscape, nursery, and traditional forestry fields, as well as related trade associations and public outreach specialists. Having been employed in Arboriculture for over 38 years in both the public and private sectors, I've seen many changes in our profession. But the one constant remains that trained, educated, and safe Arborists are always in high demand, and rightfully so. They are the only ones qualified to care for one of our most valuable and beneficial resources, our trees. I encourage you to bring your ideas, visions, and views to the IAA, and help shape an even brighter future for Arboriculture in Illinois.

Thank you.  
Jim Semelka



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to discuss your vegetation management needs:  
**John Reis at 1-708-269-0075**

## IAA Annual Golf Outing

This year's IAA 2016 Golf Outing was held at Old Orchard Country Club in Mount Prospect on Friday, August 26. Although we did not have a raffle, the food, the weather and round of golf were great. Come out and join us next year. You don't have to be a golfer to have fun at our golf outings. There are a wide range of golfing skills at our outings, so be sure to invite a friend or two and join us next year. No one won the hole-in-one contest, maybe next year.

### The winners of the contests are as follows:

**Shortest Drive:** Rob Spartz

**Closest to the Pin:** Ryan Zieche

**Longest Drive:** Ryan Zieche

**Longest Putt:** Chad Toney

**Lowest team score:** Sean Zieche, Ryan Zieche, Ryan Quinn, Robert Spartz

### A huge thanks to our sponsors!

**Lunch Sponsor:** Atlas Bobcat

**Hole-in-One Sponsor:** Atlas Bobcat

**Beverage Cart Sponsor:** Arthur Clesen, Inc.

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(continued on page 5)



# Calendar of Events

## **December 15, 2016 - February 9, 2017**

Certification Workshop

Moline Public Works Department, Moline, IL

## **January 19, 2017**

NEMF Meeting

Village of Lombard, Lombard, IL

## **February 9, 2017 - April 13, 2017**

Certification Workshop

Chicago Botanic Gardens, Glencoe, IL

## **April 13, 2017**

Certification Exam

Chicago Botanic Gardens, Glencoe, IL

## **May 20, 2017**

Illinois Tree Climbing Championship

Salt Creek Park, Wood Dale, IL

## **May 22, 2017**

Certification Exam

Downers Grove Public Works, Downers Grove, IL

## **July 24, 2017**

Certification Exam

Downers Grove Public Works, Downers Grove, IL

## **October 17 & 18 2017**

IAA Annual Conference & Trade Show

Tinley Park Convention Center



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Photo: Brian Bixler. Arborist: J. David Driver (the X man).

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# Are You A Certified Arborist?

## Benefits of Certification

Certification builds an individual's self-image. By studying for and passing the exam, individuals reaffirm to themselves and their peers a thorough knowledge and dedication to arboriculture.

Certification affords the public and those in government the opportunity to make an informed selection of services based on the knowledge and advanced training demonstrated by an ISA Certification.

- The process of becoming ISA Certified and maintaining the designation provides incentives to the individual to continue his or her ongoing professional development.
- Certification is a tool to help employers in both training their personnel and selecting new employees.
- Holding an ISA credential can lead to an increase in income and promote new opportunities in professional advancement.
- Certification is a tool used to set oneself apart from the competition and gain a competitive edge in today's economy.
- Certifications, sometime more than price, can be a deciding factor when multiple individuals bid for the same job. If you want the job done right, hire the right people!

## Participant Eligibility Requirements

The ISA Certification Board requires a candidate to have a minimum of three years of full-time experience in arboriculture. Acceptable experience includes the practical use of knowledge involved in pruning, fertilization, installation and establishment, diagnosis and treatment of tree problems, cabling and bracing, climbing, or other services that directly relate to arboriculture. Examples of experience sources include, but are not limited to:



- Tree care companies
- Nurseries
- Landscape companies
- Municipalities
- State forestry agencies
- Utility companies
- Academic arboriculture/horticulture departments (for instructors)
- Horticulture/extension programs (for advisors)
- Consultancies
- Pest control providers (for advisors and applicators)

Applicable volunteer work may count towards eligibility if it is supervised and documentation can be supplied.

The eligibility requirement may also be satisfied with a two-year degree in arboriculture and two years of practical experience or a four-year degree in a related field and one year of practical experience. Multiple degrees cannot be utilized to equal degree requirements for a longer program.

If you are self-employed or own your own company, you will be required to submit three



## Are You A Certified Arborist? (cont.)

letters of reference with your application. References may be in the form of copies of invoices, contracts, and/or business licenses. Please contact ISA for other possible forms of verification.

By submitting your application, you authorize ISA to contact the practical experience reference(s) named on your application to substantiate your eligibility.

### Workshops cover:

- Tree Biology
- Tree Identification
- Soil Science
- Water Management
- Tree Nutrition and Fertilization
- Tree Selection
- Installation and Establishment
- Pruning
- Tree Support and Lightning Protection
- Diagnosis and Plant Disorders
- Plant Health Care
- Tree Assessment and Risk Management
- Trees and Construction
- Urban Forestry
- Tree Worker Safety
- Climbing and Working in Trees

