

Illinois Trees

The Quarterly Publication of the Illinois Arborist Association



Illinois Arborist Association's Advanced Training Program

Taking Your Career (and number of CEU's!!) to the Next Level

By Steve Lane

Little Did You Know...

This past year, at our annual Fall conference in Tinley Park, I was handed the microphone by Don Rappolo, our outgoing President, to make a short announcement about the IAA's Advanced Training Program. Just to get a feel for the room, I asked for a quick show of hands of who actually knew that IAA had an Advanced Training Program, and was a little shocked at all of the hands that I DIDN'T see raised. In a room of nearly 1,000 people, there were maybe 30 hands. You may not know this, but IAA Advanced Training has been around for nearly 20 years, and is the longest standing Advanced Training Program for Certified Arborists in the state of Illinois! Well, I saw that the time has come to get this information out there for all of you to start taking advantage of it! Though there are training opportunities for Commercial, Municipal, and Utility Arborists available in the area, it surprised me to see that so many of our members didn't know that some of the most relevant course topics were being offered to them by their local Illinois chapter of the ISA, by their peers and experts in the field.



What is Advanced Training?

IAA Advanced Training is a program through which you can add to your basic knowledge as a Certified Arborist, and fine tune your skill set to your specific area of expertise. We offer 4 different "Modules", each tailored to a specific sector of the Tree Care industry, which we will examine in greater detail below. These are: Tree Worker, Tree Site and Selection, Pest Diagnosis and Management, and Urban Forestry. Each of these domains has 4 required classes, and several "elective" classes, one of which you must complete in order to get your Advanced Training Module Award (ATMA). This is not a credential you hold with ISA, but it shows an advanced level of industry knowledge, which could have a great effect on your ability to earn more at your current or future positions, and comes with a certificate of completion, as well as an Advanced Training patch to wear proudly on your work gear. We also teach classes downstate and out west as well, so if you're from south of I-80, or west of I-39, there are opportunities for you as well!

In addition, you do not have to complete an entire module in order to get recognition for your efforts. Maybe you just want to take a few individual classes here or there to strengthen your skills. That's fine as well! We also offer the Advanced Training Associates Award (ATAA) for any student who completes 4 required courses in ANY module, plus one elective from any module. All IAA Advanced Training Program Courses are CEU-bearing courses at the standard rate of 1 CEU per hour, and are generally scheduled on nights and weekends so as to not interfere with your normal work schedule. Class cost varies depending on the equipment involved, but are generally \$100-200 for around 8 CEU's (or more), and are taught by local industry leaders in the field of Arboriculture. Your membership dues in part go towards funding this program, so in our continued effort to provide the most value to our members, we figured it was high time we publicized the program a little more. Read below to see the courses and modules you might like to take.



(continued on page 4)

Table of Contents

Taking Your Career to the Next Level...	1
President's Message	3
What's Wrong With Doing It Right?	8
Calendar of Events	9
Arborist Pursues His Passion...	11
IAA Annual Golf Outing	13
Certified Arborist for Hire Directory Signup	14



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Illinois Arborist Association Mission Statement

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

Dear Illinois Arborist Association Members,

WHO IS AN ILLINOIS ARBORIST ASSOCIATION VOLUNTEER?

As those familiar with the organization know, the IAA is a body that runs on volunteers. Outside of a very small paid staff, no one is compensated for the work that they do for the IAA. Dictionary definitions of a volunteer include:

- A person who donates his time or efforts for a cause or organization without being paid, and
- To give without being asked and without being paid.

Just about everyone you see working at any IAA event, class, competition, or seminar (outside of instructors, some of whom also donate their time) is a volunteer. The IAA Board of Directors and Executive Committee, those "Got CEU" folks, moderators, and many people behind the scenes are all volunteers. They set up programs, conferences, and training opportunities; contact presenters, solicit sponsorships and vendors, attend Board and Committee meetings, interact with Green Industry professionals and organizations, monitor important legislation, recognize accomplishments, and work hard to "foster interest, establish standards, exchange professional ideas and pursue scientific research in Arboriculture". For free. No Charge. But what is ever truly "free"?

Much of the business the IAA conducts is necessarily done during "business hours". Board and Committee members, vendors and instructors, venue coordinators, advertisers, and industry professionals all need to be communicated with during regular working hours. Committee meetings, conference calls, legislative follow-ups, and many large conference events and trainings take place during the week, during the work day. Are all our volunteers "off the clock" during those times? Or are they being paid, by someone, for the time they "donate" to the IAA? In many cases, the answer is "yes" – by their employers. While some volunteers are truly able to donate time due to business or employment position, many private industry and public agency employers allow their employees to give a reasonable amount of time during the work day, week, or month to the IAA. Employers do this while still paying employee salaries and/or not penalizing them for lost work or sales opportunities. Employers realize that the benefits provided by the IAA to the industry overall return directly to their employees, making them safer, more productive, and better educated. They recognize that return-on-investment cannot always be measured immediately in terms of dollars and cents, but can pay off many times over by improved performance, better service, more efficient and scientific work practices, and minimizing losses from damage and injury. They understand the importance of giving back.

On behalf of the entire IAA Staff, Board of Directors, Executive Committee, Membership, and our volunteers, I would like to take this opportunity to offer an enormous "Thank You" to those employers, agencies, and business owners who form such an integral component of the IAA by making volunteerism possible. You are continually improving the state of Arboriculture in Illinois, and we sincerely appreciate it.

Thank you,

Jim Semelka



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(continued from page 1)

The Modules

Tree Worker

These Advanced Training courses are intended for the Climbing Arborist who makes their living aloft. Our lead instructors of this Module are Norm Hall (Kinnucan Tree Care) and Eduardo Medina (Davey Tree Experts), who staff their classes with top notch instructors with decades of experience and leadership. They will teach you advanced rigging, felling, knots and ropework, and many other cutting edge techniques to not only make your jobsite more efficient, but smarter and safer as well. The courses offered are:

Tree Work (TW)	
Present Day Climbing - Entry Level	Required
Present Day Rigging - Level 1	Required
Pruning	Required
Felling	Required
Chainsaw Safety and Operation	Elective
Aerial Rescue (Tree Rescue) Rope & Harness	Elective
Aerial Lift	Elective
Cabling & Bracing	Elective
Climbing - Level 2 (Level 1 Prerequisite)	Elective
Rigging - Level 2 (Level 1 Prerequisite)	Elective

Tree Site and Selection

Tree Site and Selection is tailored towards any Commercial Arborist who needs to know a little bit more about tree identification, biology, and site conditions. Our lead instructors Steve Lane (Graf Urban Forestry Consultants) and Aaron Schulz (King Tree Specialists) teach these classes alongside some of the most talented people in the field in Illinois. Whether you're a sales arborist looking for recommendations for a client, a municipal arborist who needs help selecting trees, or a consultant who works with land owners, these courses are invaluable to you.

Tree Site & Selection (TSS)	
Summer Tree Identification	Required
Winter Tree Identification	Required
Species Requirements	Required
Soil & Nutrient Management	Required
Planting Methods & Selection	Elective
Site Assessment & Design	Elective

Pest Diagnosis and Management

Geared towards Plant Healthcare Professionals as well as all manner of commercial Arborists, the Pest Diagnosis and Management Module is essential for those concerned about plant pathology and tree biology. Our lead instructors Dr. Fredric Miller (Joliet Junior College) and Chelsi Abbott (Davey Tree Experts) teach these classes alongside seasoned PHC professionals and skilled plant pathologists from the Illinois area who can teach you everything you need to know. From climbers to consultants and everyone in between, these classes will be invaluable to you as you further your career

Pest Diagnosis and Management	
Insect and Mite Pests	Required
Tree Diseases	Required
Abiotic Problems	Required
Pesticide Safety and Application	Required
Intro to Plant Health Care/IPM	Elective
Soil and Nutrient Management	Elective

Urban Forestry (NEW!!)

Most of us work in the Urban Environment as Arborists, but most of us also know surprisingly little about some of the rules, regulations, and other factors at play where we work all day. If you perform street tree trimming, are a municipal arborist, or generally work in urbanized areas, this module contains essential knowledge for you and your crews. Our lead instructors Rob Sproule (Village of Oak Park) and Jim Semelka (Graf Urban Forestry Consultants) have decades of combined experience in both traditional tree work as well as public sector municipal tree management. This course addresses a great many topics which may be of interest to an Arborist of any stripes.

Urban Forestry (UF)	
Urban Forestry Management Planning	Required
Tree Inventories: Options and Applied Use	Required
Tree Regulations and Legislative Concerns	Required
Tree Appraisals	Required
Urban Settings, Species, Stresses and Strategies	Elective
Public Relations and Community Outreach	Elective
Tree Risk Management in Urban Environments	Elective

(continued on page 6)

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(continued from page 4)



Opportunities for You to Showcase Your Skills

Even though we have an all-star lineup of teachers for many classes, we are always interested in hearing new ideas, concepts, techniques, and experiences from out in the field. If you think you may be able to contribute as a teacher or teacher's aide for an Advanced Training class, we'd like to hear from you! Pay is very competitive for teaching, and for most classes, teaching materials are already available for you to add your own experience to.

Our peer review team will check your material for industry Best Management Practices, and once approved, you're ready to teach. We will even pay for your time if you need to prepare class materials such as PowerPoint presentations, tests, and other instructional materials. You can even get the CEUs for the classes you teach! Not everyone will qualify to teach, but if you're interested and qualified, we would like to hear from you to join our team of top notch instructors so you can give back to the Arboricultural community we're all a part of.

The Future of Advanced Training


As of right now, our program is a CEU-carrying opportunity for Illinois Arborists to achieve greater heights (pun intended) in their careers through learning from industry experts in their fields. However, just as the TRACE program in the Northwest Chapter wound up leading to an ISA-wide TRAQ program for Risk Assessment, we are currently working with the ISA to make this a fully credentialed Advanced Training Qualification program that will give you even more formal recognition throughout the industry. We are working diligently to ensure that those who complete modules in the program will have their credential transferred over to a Qualification once the details for the program have been finalized.

Also, this year for the first time ever, we will be offering the inaugural Illinois Arborist Association's Advanced Training Academy, the day before our Annual Conference and Trade Show in Tinley Park (October 15th). The day before the conference, we will hold 5 Advanced Training sessions of 8 hours apiece simultaneously in the session rooms, with a long lunch break, as well as a reception afterwards, for you to network with other industry professionals and share what you have learned, and hopefully generate learning and business opportunities as you discuss what you learned and how it can improve your operations!

Conclusion

We know other organizations offer valuable training for Arborists, but IAA offers specialized, Advanced Training for industry professionals, taught by industry professionals like you, that always stays on the cutting edge of what techniques are being used in the field right now. It's not just a part of what we do, it's exactly what we do: Training for Arborists, by Arborists. If you're looking to earn CEU's, get a limb up in the job-market and pay ladder, or are just interested in being a first class Arborist, then check out the IAA's Advanced Training website for future class announcements at <http://illinoisarborist.org/cart/advanced-training-for-certified-arborists/>. We at the IAA look forward to helping you further your career through Advanced Training!






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*Trevor & Jeanine March, Northwest Tree Specialists
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— Accreditation program statistics 2010

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What's Wrong With Doing It Right?

By Tim Walsh CTSP

Sometimes as a safety professional I get accused of being picky, looking too closely at the little things. People can feel like we are looking for something wrong, and the reality is that the opposite is true. I am always trying to find the good things. I like “catching” people doing it right.

Over the years I have found that the way I can tell if someone is doing things the right way by checking to see if they are getting the little things right. In my experience, if someone is getting the little things right, they are probably getting the big things right, too. If you care enough about your safety to make sure that even the small details are done correctly, you will more than likely take care of the big picture things, as well.

A few examples, and let's just start with the one that annoys some people in the field: wheel chocks. I sometimes find one wheel chock down, usually somewhere near the tire. When I ask about it, the driver will begrudgingly pull the other chock out and kick it near the tire on the other side and give me “that look.” All safety professionals know “that look.” It's the one that says, “Stop wasting my time with all this and let me get back to work.”

Wheel chocks are effective if they are both placed correctly; close to the tires and on the correct sides. This normally means one in front and one behind the rear tires, but they can be both in front or behind depending on the slope. They should contact the tires; they function by not allowing the vehicle to move in case of failure of the parking or emergency brake. If they are not touching the wheel, there is a chance that the vehicle can gain speed and possibly jump the chock.

I don't mean this to be a discussion about proper



Incorrect wheel chock

wheel chock placement, although it doesn't hurt, but rather I'm using the chocks to make a larger point. If you are taking the time and consideration to put both wheel chocks down properly, then you will probably do the same with other things as well.



Correct wheel chock

Another example I have observed is improper sling attachment to Portawrap rigging/friction control device. When I asked why it was done that way, the response was that it still works that way and it doesn't really matter.



Improper sling

The device was designed, according to the inventors, to have the sling attached to the bottom, straight portion of the device, allowing it to work more effectively and safely (and as it was designed).



Proper sling

Some of the other improperly perceived

“little things” that I have observed arborists doing from time to time include:

- Improper or no PPE
 - Safety glasses hanging from the shirt, or the helmet visor/eye shield worn up while working and not wearing safety glasses
 - Damaged, excessively dirty or ill-fitting chaps (chain saw leg protection)
- Drop-starting chain saws

(continued on page 9)

What's Wrong With Doing It Right?

(continued from page 8)

- One-handing chain saws
- Improper TTC (Temporary Traffic Control) setup
- Wrong license for drivers
 - Wrong class of CDL for vehicle/combination
 - Medical card expired, never issued or not carried with the driver
- Reaching into the chipper
- Walking/working in the drop zone
- Working too close to power lines (violating MAD)

Each of the preceding unsafe “little things” has increased the risk exposure and is leading to an incident if the behaviors are not observed, identified and corrected by a co-worker, a supervisor, or a safety professional. These course corrections are an act of professional caring for the person and incident prevention and not a way to annoy or harass the workers involved.

I love to catch people doing it right, as I mentioned at the beginning of this article. I know I have done this when:

- I pull up on the job site and all the signs and cones are placed properly (based on the MUTCD and conditions)
- I see two wheel chocks placed properly (against the tires and one on each side unless there is a slope)
- I see everyone using PPE

And I see that as soon as someone sees me, they stop and bring me the job briefing form (which is filled out correctly) to personally brief me and then to have me review and sign the briefing form.

If they have these details right, the rest of their operation tends to be spot on. Focusing on getting the details right is a behavior of a “safety leader” who knows that often it is a single or series of small defenses that, if not properly in place, can lead to a near miss, and/or ultimately to an incident with injury or damage.

So the safety leader, as all arborists should, will take the steps to do it right with his/her crew today and into a successful future. My time is usually spent working with the crews, often training on some advanced technique, or just making some minor tweaks to the operation so it can be a little safer, more productive and efficient.

If we focus on the little things, and get them right every time, the big things will likely be taken care of in the process.

Calendar of Events

May 18, 2017

NEMF

Lombard, IL.

May 20, 2017

Illinois Tree Climbing Championship

Salt Creek Park, Wood Dale, IL.

May 20 & 27, 2017

Abiotic Problems (Advanced Training)

Deerfield, IL.

May 23 & 24, 2017

Student Forestry Field Days

Dixon Springs, IL

May 25, 2017

IAA Summer Conference

Dixon Springs, IL

May 27 & June 3, 2017

Tree Diseases (Advanced Training)

Springfield, IL

June 10 & 17, 2017

Insects, Mites & Pests (Advanced Training)

Springfield, IL

August 4, 2017

Annual IAA Golf Outing (St. Andrews)

West Chicago, IL

September 6 - November 8, 2017

Certification Workshop

Homewood, IL

September 21, 2017

NEMF

McHenry, IL

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Arborist Pursues His Passion with Urban Wood Start-up

by Rich Christianson

Dobnick Timberworks has joined the Illinois urban wood movement, opening up a lumber and custom wood products business in Oswego, IL. The company is owned by certified arborist Brandon Dobnick and his wife, Marlana. Dobnick Timberworks operates a portable sawmill and offers 16-plus species of urban wood up to 16 feet long and 56 inches wide including ash, red and white oak, silver maple, Turkish hazelnut and pecan to name a few. Lumber products are available rough sawn to finished and green, air or kiln dried. The company also crafts live-edge custom wood products.

"One hundred percent of our wood is locally sourced and many with unique storylines behind them," Dobnick said. "We hope to continue to see more and more urban wood become utilized."

The Dobnick Timberworks website waxes poetic about the beauty and value of the urban forest and urban wood. The company's mission statement is illustrative.

"Our Mission is to continue the legacy of our living landscapes through sustainably recycling ur-

ban trees by finding their highest purpose. We refuse to harvest any of our wood solely for its raw timber value, rather, a hundred percent of our wood has been harvested from trees within our urban landscapes which have died and/or needed to be removed for reasons other than timber value, i.e. Dutch elm disease, emerald ash borer, and other issues. All of our wood is harvested/collected locally within a fifty mile radius.

"We seek to advocate for proper tree care management practices, encourage planting trees, and enhancing the environment by seeking to minimize our carbon footprint while sequestering carbon through utilizing our wood products within our everyday spaces. We seek to unveil the stories hidden within urban trees' unconventional character and gain patterns by creating slabs, lumber, and custom pieces which not only tell a story, but breathe life into their spaces."

Learn more at dobnicktimberworks.com.

Article courtesy of IllinoisUrbanWood.org.



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Longest Putt

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Shortest Drive

Low Score (Foursome Total)

Hole-In-One Contest

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Illinois Arborist Association Certified Arborist for Hire Directory

____ Yes, I would like to add my company to the IAA Certified Arborist for Hire Directory.

Company Name_____

Address_____

City, State, Zip_____

Counties Company will serve:_____

Phone: _____

Fax:_____

Email:_____

Website:_____

Name(s) of Certified Arborists_____

Certification #(s) _____

ISA #(s)_____

Customers often want to know which companies will perform a specific service. Please select the categories that apply to help specific audiences such as homeowners, municipalities or contractors to select the appropriate certified arborist. Which of the following service does your company provide?

- ____ A. Tree Pruning
- ____ B. Tree Planting & Moving
- ____ C. Tree Fertilization
- ____ D. Tree and Stump Removal
- ____ E. Cabling, Bracing & Lightning Protection
- ____ F. Insect & Disease Diagnosis & Control
- ____ G. Consulting & Appraisal
- ____ H. All of the above

Some customers need to know in which counties a certified arborist will work. Please list in which counties you provide services: (If cook county, please specify North or South portion).

_____.

Illinois Trees



Inside this Issue

Taking Your Career to the Next Level
What's Wrong With Doing It Right?
Arborist Pursues His Passion...
IAA Annual Golf Outing