A Note from our Commercial Director
by Paul Filary

The last year or so has been like none other in a variety of ways. With all that has been going on, it has been a pleasure to join the IAA Board in 2020 as one of the two Commercial Directors. My drive has been to help create opportunities for IAA members to improve their businesses through IAA programs and to make fun and engaging programs that bring value to your membership. Working and collaborating together is how we can continue to raise the bar in the arboriculture industry and help our businesses and organizations to succeed.

Since about 2018, I have been lucky to be involved with the IAA workforce development committee and creating events that help employers meet job seekers in our industry. Our two biggest events are the IAA Annual Conference Career Fair and the Southern Illinois University Forestry Field Day. In addition to these, our committee also works to identify statewide high school career day events to promote the industry of arboriculture. Qualified professionals are what our industry is in most need and the IAA is the bridge to help connect the two.

My counterpart, Roger Smith, in the Carbondale area has been very active in putting together a great event with Southern Illinois University and their forestry students. SIU Forestry Field Day provides hands on demonstration of basic arboriculture skills such as chainsaw operation, tree felling, climbing and various equipment operation. He and the SIU faculty and students have been great to work with as we continue to grow the career fair aspect of this event. As an IAA member, you have the opportunity to support and attend this event to identify qualified applicants for your business. This event has grown each year and we are looking forward to next year’s event and the students attending.

The annual career fair at our annual conference has been another excellent event to connect employers and job seekers. We have designed this event to be engaging and provide opportunities for job seekers to learn about all of the different fields of work within arboriculture. The more employers and diversity of work that we get to join this event, the more engaging and eye opening it is for job seekers and those seeking career opportunities in arboriculture. The event is free to job seekers to attend and minimal cost for employers to promote their business or organization.

(continued on page 6)
Don’t forget to hold this date for the upcoming IAA Annual Conference & Trade Show the week of November 8th, 2021

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

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Hello to all our Illinois Arborist Association Members new and old. I imagine everyone is extremely busy with all your usual work, along with the extra work the storms have added on to an already crazy year! I would like to start by addressing the recent increase in COVID-19 cases due to the Delta variant. As always, your safety and the safety of our staff and volunteers is of the utmost importance during any IAA sponsored events. So, we will continue following all recommended guidelines put forth by the State of Illinois and the CDC.

We had a fantastic virtual Summer Conference! I would like to thank all our presenters, staff, organizers, sponsors, and of course our attendees for making it a fantastic event. The presentations were all extremely informative and excellently presented by some fantastic professionals from the arborist community. Mark your calendars for our upcoming Annual Conference and Trade Show November 8th to the 10th. We are planning on having it in person this year!

The IAA has many Advanced Training classes on the horizon for our members as well. Some of the offerings include Tree Diseases Course, Abiotic Problems Course, Felling Course, Rigging Level II Course, and Two Rigging Level I Courses. We also have Certified Arborist workshops coming up and a TRAQ Full Course and Renewal Course coming up. So, make sure to check our website for registration if you are interested in any of these courses.

The Staff and Board of Directors here at the IAA are always working to provide our members with as many training, educational, and networking opportunities as possible. To improve your overall experience, make sure you reach out to us and let us know what you think. Send us any suggestions for future events, classes, and training that you would like to participate in.

As always, I would like to thank our Staff, Volunteers, Board of Directors, and of course all our members for your hard work and support!

Stay Safe,

Illinois Arborist Association President,

Beau Nagan
2021 IAA Day of Service - Busse Woods Boating Center

The IAA provides a Day of Service annually for charities, not-for-profit organizations, or green spaces in need of help in low-income areas that have a significant collection of trees, shrubs, and evergreens that they would otherwise be unable to afford to maintain. Member companies typically donate one or two crews and their associated equipment for this service. The IAA Day of Service provides the opportunity for member companies to give back to in-need organizations while also gaining publicity. In some cases, we utilize this event to help train inner city, under privileged individuals at the same time.

Below is a description of our next scheduled Day of Service.

Date: October 21, 2021, (weather date October 28, 2021)

Time: 7:30 – 3:30

Location: Busse Woods (Busse Lake Boating Center), [Registered as a National Landmark] near Elk Grove Village, Forest Preserve District of Cook County, IL Route 72, 1/8-mile East of IL Route 53, south entrance.

Description of work: Large deadwood pruning (2" and larger), water sprout removal, crown elevating to 8-10’ of trees in picnic groves, shelters, restroom facilities, along roadways and walkways.

NOTE: There are an extremely limited number of removals, mostly tree pruning.

Personnel required: Climbers, groundspersons.

PPE required: Head protection meeting the ANSI Z89 Standard, eye protection meeting the ANSI Z87 Standard, work boots covering the ankle and providing ankle support, hearing protection, class 2 or equivalent Hi-Viz vest/shirt, leg protection while operating a chainsaw on the ground.

Equipment required: Aerial lifts (both truck mounted and tracked/wheeled units), trucks and chippers, small material handlers, 1 crane.

The Illinois Arborist Association has scheduled the Annual Day of Service for October 21, 2021, at Busse Woods near Elk Grove Village in the Northwest suburbs. Most of the work, 95%, is tree pruning, so more climbers are needed than past Day of Services.

The scope of the work is deadwood pruning of 2” and larger, removing major crossing limbs, hangers/broken limbs removal, basal and low trunk water sprout removal, crown elevating to 8 to 10’, and installing a few support systems (through bolts, ¼” EHS cable).

The Park WILL NOT be closed to traffic and pedestrians, so ‘work zone’ barricades will be needed.

This is one of Cook Counties most utilized parks, so our highest priority is PUBLIC SAFETY.

All workers will receive a commemorative IAA Day of Service ball cap.

All owners will receive a Certificate identifying their company as donating work to the 2021 IAA Annual Day of Service.

This is an annual event. If you think you qualify or know of an organization that might qualify, please call the IAA office for further information and/or an application form.
Rollin’ Through the Rockies or Rollin’ in Place

Choose How You Want to Ride!

Tree Fund’s 2021 Tour des Trees
August 28 – September 3, 2021

This year, Tour des Trees®: Rollin’ Through the Rockies or Rollin’ in Place offers an opportunity to participate in person or on our virtual platform making it easy for everyone, everywhere to do whatever they love to participate.

Support the TREE Fund, earn badges, swag, and prizes while competing with others or just yourself (you pick the sport and set your own goals).

Join the fun and help TREE Fund support the science that supports our trees.

Use the QR code or visit www.tour-des-trees-2021.blackbaud-sites.com

Proceeds Benefit Tree Research and Education

Endowment Fund [TREE Fund]
552 S. Washington Street
Suite 109, Naperville, IL 60540
Finally, we are excited to announce our first TreeBiz Social After Hours event, which took place at Emmet’s Brewing Company on August 11th in Palatine. The purpose of this event is to get local professionals together to learn of IAA updates and training opportunities, while also listening to an educational session relevant to our industry. CEU’s were available and collaborating with other professionals will help raise the bar in our industry. Vendors of the industry will have the opportunity to support the event and setup a small display to promote their products or services. We plan to do this event once every quarter and at a different location throughout the state.

As I wrap up my first year as Commercial Director, I hope these new events are found to be valuable to members and help grow your business. If you have career events in your area or speakers that might be interested in our after hours series, please let me know and I would be grateful to get in touch and setup an event in your area of the state. Thanks for the support of our members and I’m looking forward to more exciting initiatives to help grow our businesses and utilize the benefits that the IAA has to offer!
Calendar of Events

August Events

IAA Annual Golf Outing, Chevy Chase Country Club, Wheeling – August 27

September Events

IAA Advanced Training - Abiotic Problems, (via Zoom) August 31 - September 9
In-Person Field Studies - Saturday, September 11 (Cantigny Park Shaffner Building)
IAA Advanced Training - Felling, Elk Grove Village, September 14

October Events

TRAQ Renewal Course, IDEAS Training Center, Urbana – October 18
TRAQ Full Course, IDEAS Training Center, Urbana – October 19 - 21
IAA Advanced Training - Rigging Level II, Elk Grove Village Public Works, October 5 & 6
IAA Advanced Training - Rigging Level I, Kuechmann Park, Lake Zurich, October 13 & 14

IAA Day of Service - Busse Woods (Busse Lake Boating Center) October 21

November Events

IAA Annual Conference & Trade Show, In-Person & Virtual – November 9 & 10
Saluting Branches - Arborist Day of Service, 2021

Trees have a way of bringing people together. In my experience, Arborists are very giving people. When someone needs help, they pitch in. For the past 6 years, I have been volunteering with Saluting Branches® at the Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood, IL. When I arrive at the property just after dawn to set up, there is wonderful sense of peace and being a part of something great. I know that in the next 8-10 hours, we will assess hazards, provide pruning to protect the tree canopy, and in the process beautify a national treasure so that veterans and their families can safely visit. Each year the number of volunteers and sponsorships increases, allowing us to plant more trees. The deep satisfaction we get each year from this event is unmatched.

Saluting Branches is a non-profit organization founded in 2013 and dedicated to recognizing and honoring our Veterans. Each year, arborists and landscape professionals unite to show their support for our troops by helping to make their final resting places a safe and beautiful environment for those who come to pay their respect. With your help we can contribute a monumental amount of tree care services in one day to Veteran cemeteries across the U.S. Everyone is welcome to volunteer -- solo or in groups/established crews. There are plenty of opportunities including climbing, removals, clearing of invasives, pruning, PHC, tree planting, mulching, and tree inventory. PlanIT Geo™ has donated mobile software for all SB sites to use for tree inventory and management.

It has been a tough year for everyone. Budgets are stretched and tree care companies are understandably conscious of the bottom line. However, this one day of volunteering is unlike any other “ask” you will receive. There are many IAA members that have volunteered and can provide information and testimonials. Please consider sending a crew and equipment to help out, allow staff to take a day to participate, or support the event with a monetary donation (remember many companies offer matching gift programs).

Saluting branches can be found at www.salutingbranches.org, and on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. A great resource is the Information Brochure. Please reach out to me if you have questions or would like information about the program and how you can help, bethcorrigan@planitgeo.com.

The 7th Annual Saluting Branches Day of Service will be: September 22, 2021 Registration is open!

The Department of Veterans Affairs’ (VA) National Cemetery Administration maintains 155 national cemeteries in 42 states and Puerto Rico as well as 34 soldier's lots and monument sites. There are 10 sites located in Illinois. Feel free to take the lead and step up as a site leader for a location not yet confirmed. I am happy to help you with tips for success.

- Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery, Elwood, IL (confirmed location)
- Alton National Cemetery, Alton, IL
- Camp Butler National Cemetery, Springfield, IL
- Danville National Cemetery, Danville, IL
- Fort Sheridan National Cemetery, Lake Forest, IL
- Mound City National Cemetery, Mound City, IL
- Quincy National Cemetery, Quincy, IL
- Rock Island National Cemetery, Rock Island, IL (confirmed location)
- Rock Island Confederate Cemetery, Rock Island, IL
- Confederate Mound, Oak Woods Cemetery, Chicago, IL
- North Alton Confederate Cemetery, Alton, IL
- South Cemetery, St. Charles, IL (confirmed location)
This past weekend I turned over the soil in our vegetable gardens. This annual ritual is a hard chore, especially given that the soil in our yard seems to have more than it’s share of clay. Nevertheless, I really enjoy this task, as it reminds me of the people who inspired me early in my life towards the work that I do today.

There are a lot of really wonderful things about our work. Yes, the work is hard, and we sometimes brush up against challenging situations and people. One of the things I appreciate about the work of arboriculture is its position in the wider natural world. On a daily basis we see many examples of larger environmental issues that are of great importance.

Of course, you know many of these issues intimately: invasive species, insect populations decline, odd climate fluctuations, and ever-changing tree populations. Folks such as yourselves are on the front line for the direct understanding of these issues. At moments like this I recall a speech that Larry Hall (speaking of inspiring people!) gave our group at some long-ago meeting. I paraphrase now, but he reminded us that our work and our attitudes should go further, and we should embrace the idea that we are environmental workers.

How many of us find ourselves in situations where we are educating others? I suspect many readers can answer that to the affirmative. In our work we are exposed to a great deal of training and understanding about the natural world that the general public may not be. The idea of communication in the sciences has never been more important, and we have an opportunity and an obligation to share what we know with others.

We find ourselves daily at the intersection of people and plants, people and nature. In 2021, many of us find ourselves in landscapes that have been greatly altered by humanity. Speaking for myself, I can’t imagine a better place to be. Who wouldn’t want to work where they can make a difference in the natural world – the world right outside the door?

The natural world is the best teacher of all, and we have the best seat in the house. Keep learning, keep sharing, and keep growing.
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Kevin Keenan, IMI-North America
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John Wickes, RCA #455, Wickes Arborists, A Davey Company

Annual Conference Speakers
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Lewis Bloch, RCA #297
Jeremy Chaney, RCA #646
Jan Willems de Groot
Jim Flott, RCA #441
Steve Geist, RCA #340
Ed Gilman
Neil Hendrickson
Michael Marshall
Micah Pace, RCA #607
Mark Williams, RCA #580
Dennis Yniguez, RCA #362
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IAA Advanced Training is Back!  by April Toney

Want job security or to advance your career? Be a leader in the industry and invest in yourself!

The IAA Advanced Training program sets the Illinois Chapter apart from others by offering more in-depth training for all the certification topics, to make you more specialized in the areas you enjoy. This intensive training program provides thorough coverage of the topics while addressing the concerns we have here in Illinois. Whether it be invasive species that we are battling, or legislation that might affect our industry, this program stays abreast of hot topics that we face every day.

If you like hands-on outdoor training, then the Tree Worker domain will not let you down. This domain teaches Climbing Level 1 & 2, Rigging Level 1 & 2, Felling, Pruning, Aerial Rescue Rope & Harness, Chainsaw Safety & Operation, Cabling & Bracing. These classes have no more than 8 students, so you have more one-on-one time with your instructor.

If you prefer studying Insects & Mite Pests, Tree Diseases, Abiotic Problems, Pesticide Safety & Application and Plant Health Care, then the Pest Diagnosis and Management domain is for you!

If trees are your thing, then the Tree Site & Selection Domain will help sharpen your skills with classes like Summer and Winter Tree Id, Species Requirements, Planting Methods and Selection, Site Assessment & Design Principles.

If you work more with communities and planning, then our Urban Forestry Domain will interest you. Modules in this domain are: Urban Forestry Management Planning, Tree Inventories: Options & Applied Use, Urban Settings, Species, Stresses and Strategies; Tree Regulations & Legislative Concerns; Tree Appraisals; Public Relations & Community Outreach, Tree Risk Management in Urban Environments.

Each of these classes range from 6-12 hours in length. Each one hour of class is worth one Arborist CEU. If you are interested in any of these classes and you do not see them on our calendar, please e-mail april@illinoisarborist.org and let her know what you are interested in. Usually, when we hear that someone is interested in a class that is not on the calendar, we will do our best to set it up.

Upcoming Advanced Training Classes

**Abiotic Problems** August 13th & September 9th from 6pm-8pm virtually
In-Person Field Study 9/11 at Cantigny Park from 8am-10am.
Upon completion of the Abiotic Problems module, each participant will gain knowledge of the following: - A better understanding of common abiotic stresses on woody plants. - The ability to differentiate between abiotic, biotic and look-a-like disorders. - Skills essential to the diagnostic and
IAA Advanced Training is Back! (cont.)

decision-making process. - A better understanding of tools to aid the arborist while diagnosing plant problems.
Instructor: Chelsie Abbott from Davey Tree Experts
10 CEUs available.

Felling Course on September 14 from 8am-3pm at the Forest Preserve District of Cook County in Elk Grove Village. – This class is full – you can be added to a wait list by contacting the office.

Rigging Level 2 on October 5 & 6 from 8am-3pm at Kuechmann Park in Lake Zurich, IL.
Prerequisite: Rigging Level 1
Upon completion of the Rigging Level II module, each participant will gain knowledge of and be exposed to the rigging techniques listed below. - Static retrievable false crotch - Fish pole technique - Load transfer rigging set up - Balancing, using spider legs - GRCS (Good Rigging Control System) - Tip tie, butt tie technique
We will be using the same knots and hitches learned in Level I, along with more Port-a-wrap use. All participants will have the opportunity to set blocks and tie off limbs using the Level II techniques. An aerial lift will be on site for use. THIS
Instructor: Norm Hall from All Gear
12 CEUs available

Rigging Level 1 on October 13 & 14 from 8am-3pm at Elk Grove Village Public Works.
Upon completion of the Rigging Level I module, each participant will gain knowledge of and be able to perform the following tasks, with emphasis on Safety: - Basic Tree Risk Assessment - Rope tensile strengths - Know the difference between a rescue pulley and arborist block - Tying all knots listed above - Cutting a notch and back out - Proper block/pulley placement in the tree - anchoring a rope friction device (Port-a-wrap, etc.) near the base of the tree and how to safely use the device proper knot to tie to lower wood - Lowering wood with a rope friction device
Instructor: Norm Hall from All Gear
12 CEUs available

If interested, contact us.
Call April @ 877-617-8887
e-mail: april@illinoisarborist.org
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What’s been happening here in Illinois?

COVID didn’t slow us down, we have been actively training arborists and staying safe in the process.

Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (TRAQ) classes were taught by Don Roppolo of Davey Tree Experts on May 11-13 at Shiloh Center in Zion, IL. 16 individuals went through the full TRAQ course and 4 took the Renewal TRAQ Course.

Certified Tree Worker (CTW) Hands-on Training

The following CTW classes took place on the dates below at the Mulch Center in Deerfield, IL.

May 8, 2021, CPR/FA Training
May 15, 2021, Aerial Rescue Training
May 22, 2021, CTW Prep Class
May 29, 2021, CTW Exam

Certified Tree Worker training classes cover safety, removal, rigging, pruning, cabling, tree sciences, tree identification, electrical hazard awareness, and has two pre-requisite classes that we offer before the training. Those classes are CPR/FA and Aerial Rescue.

The Tree Climbing Skills portion of the exam is to assess the applicant’s ability to demonstrate the fundamental skills necessary to perform as a competent tree climber. The primary emphasis throughout the exam is safety. This is an outdoor practicum, and they’re given 30 minutes to complete it safely and successfully.

Norm Hall and Eduardo Medina were the instructors for the Aerial Rescue Training and the CTW Prep Class. Peggy Drescher was the instructor for CPR/FA Training.

On June 5 & 19, we held a Rigging & Safe Climbing in Spanish class. Eduardo Medina from Davey Tree Experts and Felipe Cornejo Batrlett Tree Experts were the instructors.

The class was held at the Mulch Center in Deerfield, IL. 18 students attended the training. A big thank you to Jim Seckelmann and the Mulch Center staff for providing the training facility and for always graciously accommodating us.

Day One:
- Hands-on Application Practice (bring your own rope) - Primer día, practico en algunas aplicaciones. Trae tu propia cuerda
- Rigging Forces & Limitations - Fuerzas de Cordage y limitaciones

continued on page 15
What’s been happening here in Illinois? (cont.)

• Rigging Knots & Ropes - Nudos y Cuerdas de Cordage
• Equipment - Equipamiento
• Rigging Techniques - Técnicas de cordage

Day Two:
• Safe Tree Climbing - Segundo sábado. Trepa del árbol segura
• Tree Site & Inspection - Inspección del árbol y del sitio
• Tree Climbing Techniques - Técnicas de trepa del árbol
• Equipment - Equipo
• SRS Stationary Rope System - Sistema de cuerda estacionario SRS
• Skyline techniques - Técnicas de tragaluz

Present Day Climbing - Hands-on Training
Insert photo here
June 22 & 23 at Triangle Park in Lake Forest
Norm Hall from All Gear was the instructor for this class which provided 12 hours of hands-on training where all participants accessed the tree for risk, installed a climbing line and used the Double Rope Technique to ascend into the tree, limb walked as well as made several pruning cuts while suspended from their work positioning rope and harness. Students also learned to inspect climbing gear, PPE as well as, learning how to tie 5 different knots.

On July 15 & 16 we provided Climbing Training for OpenLands at Lincoln Park in Chicago, IL. The instructors were Norm Hall from All Gear and Eduardo Medina from Davey Tree Experts. 7 individuals completed the training. This training consisted of but not limited to following:

Day 1: Going over the different components of a climbing system, How to properly inspect the climbing gear, How to tie arborist knots, How to use the throwline and shot pouch to set a cambium saver and climbing rope, How to properly tie the climbing rope to the throwline string and pull it through the cambium saver, Test the branch union the climbing rope is set in for structural integrity, How to properly don the climbing gear, Ascending techniques to get into the canopy using the climbing rope and lanyard.

Day 2: Review of knots, Demonstrate ‘limb walking’ keeping your weight on the climbing system. Climbing and throw line use throughout the day. Demonstration
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