

IAA Goes Hybrid!

by April Toney



Tony Dati & Gabe Seavello

2021 began where 2020 left off. With the pandemic still lingering, the IAA shifted gears in an effort to accommodate all our members. While the IAA successfully held our first fully virtual conferences for both the Summer and Annual Conferences, this year, we ventured into more uncharted waters, hybrid. The IAA 2021 Annual Conference & Trade Show, with the help of AVP, board members and volunteers successfully held an in-person as well as live-streamed conference. Thanks to Jay Peters, Gabriel Moore, Chad Toney, Tony Dati, and

Gabe Seavello (AVP), the conference AV and streaming was nearly seamless. Jay Peters graciously loaned the IAA the camera and switcher, greatly reducing the cost to the association. Gabriel Moore donated his time operating the camera for all of our virtual sessions. Tony Dati masterfully handled the switching duties while, Chad Toney performed the setup and management of the show. A special thanks to Gabe Seavello from AVP as he was the video engineer who controlled and monitored the stream. Thanks to all of their efforts and the success of the conference, the hybrid option is here to stay.



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Don't forget to
hold this date for
the upcoming IAA
Annual Conference
& Trade Show the
week of November
8th, 2021

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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

Welcome new and returning IAA members! I hope that you have had a successful year and continue that trajectory to be even more successful in 2022. Our Annual Conference was a success and I hope you will join us again next year. I'd like to congratulate all our award recipients and thanks to past and new board members for your dedication to our Chapter and industry. The Annual Conference would not have been successful without the tireless efforts from our office staff, board members, and volunteers. If you haven't already, I highly encourage you to become a volunteer or board member; it's a wonderful experience with endless opportunities. While sitting in Dr. Tom Green's arboriculture lectures as a student at WIU in 2008-2010 I never could have imagined all of the opportunities our Chapter has to offer.

We gained a lot of momentum in 2021 and I intend to continue that course to provide some of the best training our industry has to offer to both members and non-members alike. I am very excited to see further development on Openlands' arborist apprenticeship in Illinois and to help provide training for Certified Arborists through our grant partnership with Illinois Department of Natural Resources (ILDNR). Our Executive Director, April Toney, and Mike Brunk at ILDNR have put in unfathomable time to make this grant possible. Through ILDNR's grant, the IAA has been able to, and will continue to, provide tremendous member value by creating innovative training for both in-person and remote learning. I hope that you will take advantage of our Advanced training program to advance your Certified Arborist knowledge through these rigorous courses. Be on the lookout as these training courses become available.

In addition, I'm pleased to announce new partnerships with Illinois Public Works Mutual Aid Network, which will provide services and training to the public works sector in times of disaster, and Illinois Forestry Association, which will expand our training throughout the southern region of Illinois.

From everyone at IAA I'd like to thank Monica Korjenek for her time spent with our organization as she put in countless hours spearheading IAA's financing and marketing. She will be sorely missed, and I wish her luck in her future endeavors.

Have a safe and successful year in 2022 and thank you for the opportunity to help lead our organization to new heights.
Stay Safe,

Illinois Arborist Association President,

Aaron Schulz

Illinois Arborists & Foresters are Building Urban Forest Capacity

by Mike Brunk

Illinois Arborists and Foresters are sharing their professional expertise with under resourced communities through Illinois' Urban Forest Strike Team Program. The team leaves assisted communities with a better understanding of community tree care and management and is building urban forest capacity across the State.



The Illinois Department of Natural Resources Forestry Division has teamed up with Trees Forever and the US Forest Service to outreach to communities with little to no

urban forest management experience, staff, or ability. The intention is to provide these communities guidance to initiating public tree care and management within their community to increase public safety, tree longevity and tree preservation. A component of this outreach program is the Illinois Urban Forest Strike Team which is a post disaster Tree Risk Assessment assistance program that targets under resourced communities in need.

The Illinois Urban Forest Strike Team is made up of a group of specially trained arborists and foresters who volunteer their time to help communities impacted by natural disasters. The volunteer team is recruited, trained, and coordinated through the State's Urban and Community Forestry program

and fully supported through acquired federal urban forestry core funding. IDNR relies on its partner, Trees Forever, for deployment logistics, operations oversight and soon to be "mock" deployment training events.

The Illinois Urban Forest Strike Team has been slowly evolving since 2014 with five successful deployments across the state. In each of those five deployments Trees Forever and IDNR have provided disaster-stricken communities a tree risk assessment, a plan for mitigating tree hazards and ongoing forest recovery assistance and guidance. More recently the overall recovery plan included the addition of a tree planting component to better guide the community towards long-term urban forest health. Mike Brunk, the



Illinois Arborists & Foresters are Building Urban Forest Capacity (cont.)

IDNR Urban and Community Forestry Program Administrator states “Disaster hit communities are anxious for assistance and open to preparation and prevention planning for their community, especially after experiencing tree devastation from severe weather events.” Storm events provide a good opportunity for professional arborists and foresters to show their value in hazard mitigation and tree preservation. IDNR uses the program as a foot-in-the-door opportunity to start counseling a community towards improving tree resiliency for a greener and safer tomorrow.

IDNR uses a team approach in the Urban Forest Strike Team Program. Trees Forever is utilized to oversee the deployment operation and the professional arborist and forester volunteers from across the state make up the Strike Team Specialists. The Illinois Arborist Association has been utilized for assistance in



training and the US Forest Service provides the base training for Strike Team Task Specialists. In 2020 IDNR started sponsoring ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualification, TRAQ, certification for Strike Team volunteers. Although TRAQ

is not required of the Strike Team members, TRAQ arborists and foresters are generally selected as team leaders. Brunk states there is much value in TRAQ and paying the \$750 TRAQ registration/testing fee for Strike Team volunteers helps illustrate the value in expertise we look to provide these communities.

According to Adam Clark, City of Ottawa Code Enforcement Official, “it’s great to have the expert knowledge of the Strike Team available to communities. With the extent of the damage and our limited resources, we’re very appreciative of the Strike Team coming together to help us determine which trees can be saved and which need to be removed.” When asked about why he volunteered for the Strike Team, Jon Yeater, arborist from the Village of Westmont, says, “tree preservation in urban areas is important and we want to protect and save as much of the canopy as we can. We’re losing many of our urban trees due to storms, diseases, EAB, and more.” “We want to give back to others,” says Eric Hendrickson, arborist with the Village of Lombard. “We also had a tornado hit the Village of Lombard and reached out for cleanup assistance through the Illinois Public Works Mutual Aid Network (IPWMAN). Volunteering for the Strike Team gives us arborists the opportunity to help communities in need.” Strike Team member, Kurt Blakemore, owner of Dripline, Inc., from Naperville, knows that many communities are financially struggling and need professional forestry assistance. “I’ve been in this industry for more than thirty years and am in a position where I can help others. In doing so, we are growing better forests and receiving so much more, than we give.”

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Illinois Arborists & Foresters are Building Urban Forest Capacity (cont.)



Mike Brunk adds, “These arborists are eager to utilize their specialty in assisting communities in need. We have federal support and team brain power to improve our ongoing effort as this program grows. One such idea, from a Strike Team member, is to organize volunteer risk assessment training within “communities in need”. IDNR and Trees Forever look to incorporate this idea starting in 2022 with “mock event” training in specifically selected communities to allow training to serve the dual role of training volunteers and assisting under resourced communities. Brunk states the combination is a win win and allows training to effectively be utilized in communities with need, “what a great idea!”

In 2021 the IL Urban Forest Strike Team deployed to Canton and Fairview Illinois. Like many of these deployments the Canton/

Fairview deployment was a unique experience for IDNR and Trees Forever. Great data was collected, unique situations were experienced, and good input and guidance were noted by team members. Canton and Fairview were provided with tree risk assessments, mitigation guidance and urban forest management planning. Fairview was also provided a 5-year planting plan and both communities were informed how to pursue available tree planting grants. Like all assisted communities, Canton and Fairview are offered access into DNR’s network of partners that provide ongoing information, partner outreach and technical and financial assistance opportunities.

The UFST program provides communities in need with actionable professional advice and allows the ability for IDNR and partners to initiate ongoing conversation and assistance for growing urban and community forest capacity across the state. The most important aspect of these deployments are the professionals that make up the deployment teams. Illinois’ Urban Forest Strike Team is a diverse group of public and private practitioners and the only volunteer-based team in the nation. The Illinois’ team includes a mix of certified arborists, state foresters, city/village tree program managers, company owners, supervisors, climbers, college professors, retirees, and strike team members from other states that are new residents in Illinois. Brunk believes it is the team expertise and individual motivation that make this program successful.

IDNR presently has 41 members on the Urban Forest Strike Team and is looking to build the team to 100+. Interested certified arborists, degreed foresters or horticulturists with community tree care experience should contact

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ASCA Consulting 2022 Academy

February 15–18
Omni Severin Hotel
Indianapolis, Indiana

Early registration ends: **Thursday, January 20, 2022**

New Year's Resolution:

Become a Registered Consulting Arborist®

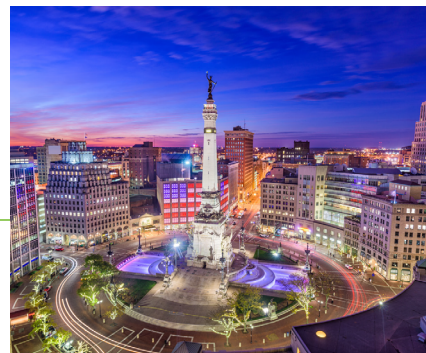
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Calendar of Events

January Events

Arborist Certification Workshops - Mundelein Fire Station #1. January 12 - March 16
Arborist Certification Workshops - Virtual January 27 - March 24
NEMF Meeting - City of Park Ridge - January 20
Strategic Planning Session - Village of Niles - January 26

February Events

TreeBiz Afterhours Social - Location TBD February 23

March Events

IAA Board Meeting – March 9 10:00am
Arborist Certification Exam - Mundelein - March 16
Arborist Certification Exam - Lombard - March 31

May Events

IAA Board Meeting – May 11 10:00am
IAA Tree Climbing Competition – Zion - May 21

Illinois Arborists & Foresters are Building Urban Forest Capacity (cont.)

Mike Brunk at Michael.brunk@illinois.gov, 217-361-9033 to find out more about becoming a member. Illinois DNR will pay the \$750 TRAQ registration and testing fees for a limited number of volunteers each year. TRAQ registration sponsorships are available for 2022 and 2023 TRAQ courses on a first come first serve basis. IDNR thanks UFST members below for their professional assistance in 2021 Canton/Fairview deployment.

- ◇ Debbie Fluegel – Trees Forever, TRAQ, Deployment OPS Lead/Manager
- ◇ Steve Lane – Graf Tree Care, UFST Task Specialist, TRAQ, GIS, Assessment Consultant
- ◇ Barrie McVey – IDNR District Forester, TRAQ
- ◇ Tom Green – Retired Western IL University Professor, UFST Task Specialist,
- ◇ David DeCicco – Village of Westmont, UFST Task Specialist, TRAQ
- ◇ Joe Hansen – City of Park Ridge, UFST Task Specialist, TRAQ
- ◇ Jon Yeater – Village of Westmont, UFST Task Specialist, TRAQ
- ◇ Nick Kuhn – Forest Preserve of Cook County, UFST Task Specialist, MO
- ◇ Karrie Cady – Alive Tree Care, UFST Task Specialist, TRAQ
- ◇ Michael Lager – Plantscapes by Lager, UFST Task Specialist, TRAQ
- ◇ David Lamb – City of Bloomington, TRAQ
- ◇ Robyn Flakne – Village of Glenview, TRAQ
- ◇ Charlie Foor – IDNR, GIS Specialist

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The advertisement features a dark blue background with a wood-grain texture at the top. Below the headline, there are three main images: a close-up of a hand in a yellow glove holding a green rope with a carabiner; a coiled orange and blue rope; and a collection of colorful climbing slings (red, green, yellow, and black checkered) with metal rings. The Midwest Arborist Supplies logo is in the top right corner, and contact information is below it.

Norm Hall Receives IAA Award of Merit *by Paul Filary*



There are people within every industry that go above and beyond of what is expected of them, which is critical to innovation and advancement of the core principles of the industry. These people are critical to the advancement of an industry as well as to the individuals actively working and growing in the industry. In 2021, the Illinois Arborist Association awarded it's highest honor to one of it's own at the 2021 Illinois Arborist Association Annual Conference. Norm Hall was nominated and awarded the IAA Award of Merit. Norm earned this award due to his continual effort to advance the principles, ideals and practices of arboriculture. Norm has made and continues to make an impact on new and old arborists here in Illinois and across the country. His relentless pursuit to ensure safety and the professional practice of arboriculture techniques as it relates to field operations has changed the way

numerous arborists approach their career and profession.

Norm has been actively involved with the IAA since it began. He has volunteered his time not only in training, but also in our annual tree climbing competition. He has been very much involved through judging and organizing these events at the local, national and international levels. When an expert is needed on the matter of climbing, rigging or chainsaw operation, Norm is who we go to. His background and knowledge has helped to educate thousands of arborists and make a difference in their careers and their approach to safe and professional work practices.

In addition to his volunteering and efforts with the IAA,

Norm has also assisted with the creation of numerous tools and types of splices on many different ropes and rope tools utilized in arboriculture. He assisted and helped create the Porta Wrap, which is a common tool used throughout the arboriculture industry.

There isn't enough space in this newsletter to layout all the accolades and contributions that Norm has made to the IAA and the arboriculture industry. Norm continues today to contribute, train and educate those getting into the industry as well as those who have practiced it for many years. We are grateful to have Norm part of the IAA and volunteering his time, knowledge and skills to the advancement of our industry and those working in it. Thank you Norm, and thank you for making a difference to thousands of current, past and future arborists!

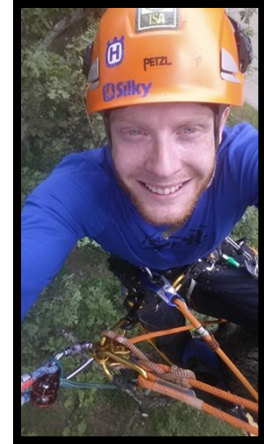
Welcome our New Board Members



Vice President: Sara Dreiser
Davey Resource Group



Commercial Director: Andrew Ranney
Skyline Tree Service



Industrial Director: Bill Black
Pinnacle Arbor, LLC



Municipal Director: Joe Hansen
City of Park Ridge



Program Director: Fredric Miller
Joliet Junior College



Research Director: Stephanie Adams
The Morton Arboretum



Utility Director: Matt Millette
Davey Resource Group

How to Fix Exposed Tree Roots without Killing Your Trees

by Mark Yeater

Trees can enhance the aesthetic appeal of your lawn. But if your trees have exposed roots, it's time to pay attention to them. Roots that are visible above the surface of the soil can be a cause of concern. They may act as hurdles in your attempts to mow the lawn. Further, if you have kids running around the lawn, they may trip and fall due to the exposed roots. That is why you need to take suitable steps to fix the exposed roots without harming the tree. Are you wondering how to do it? Read on to know some effective ways to deal with this exposed root issue. But first, let's understand why do trees have exposed roots.

Why Do Trees Have Exposed Roots?

There are several reasons behind trees having exposed roots. Some trees grow shallow root systems naturally. So, some of the roots may begin to curl and snake above the ground over time. Tree roots can also become visible due to soil erosion. If the top layer of the soil is washed away, the roots that are just beneath the soil surface run the risk of becoming exposed. Cramped conditions are another reason for tree roots to become visible.

Ways to Fix Exposed Tree Roots

Here are some of the measures you can adopt to overcome this issue without killing your trees:

- **Cover with a Layer of Mulch**

Adding a layer of organic mulch is the easiest and preferred way to deal with the problem of exposed roots. You will have to remove any grass remaining around the tree's base before covering up the area

with a thick layer of mulch. This will create a cushion for the roots and prevent soil erosion. At the same time, it will limit pedestrian traffic. You won't even need to mow the area, which is another plus point of using this technique in this case.

But note that the mulch layer should not be more than 3 to 4 inches thick. The mulch bed should be thick enough to cover the exposed roots but not so much that the roots are suffocated. Also, ensure that the mulch stays about 2 to 3 inches away from the tree trunk. Otherwise, it may cause the tree bark around the base to rot.

- **Place Ground Cover above the Roots**

Placing a new ground cover is another way to address this issue. For this, you will have to break up the topsoil using a spading fork and without harming the surface roots. You need not go more than an inch deeper while doing this. The next step is to add a layer of garden soil that is no more than 2 inches deep to this broken-up topsoil layer. Remember that adding too much soil can smother the roots and may even cause the tree to die.

When selecting the new ground cover to place around the base of your tree, you may go for a plant that doesn't require a lot of moisture or sunlight. Some shade-loving ground cover options include ajuga, wild violets, periwinkle, and creeping thyme. But try to avoid cultivating a new bed of grass. This is because the roots may reappear, overcoming the grass layer. Also, a lack of sunlight may cause the new grass to wither out and die soon. Generally, the best times to plant new ground cover are late fall and early spring.

- **Take Professional Help to Remove Exposed Roots**

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How to Fix Exposed Tree Roots...(cont.)

Try to avoid removing the exposed tree roots, as doing so can weaken your tree. Roots perform several functions apart from absorbing nutrients and water from the soil and conducting them to the stem. Roots are essential for stabilizing a tree and keeping it anchored to the ground, which prevents the tree from tumbling. Removing the exposed roots of a tree can destabilize it. This can create a risk of the tree falling and causing harm.

But if your tree stands close to a concrete structure and its exposed roots are creating structural issues, you may have no other option than to remove the roots. Instead of pruning the roots yourself, call a certified arborist to take care of the whole matter. An arborist will have the knowledge and expertise required to resolve the issue by adopting the best recourse. Also, your arborist will have the right tools needed to prune the roots, such as tree loppers, chainsaws, pruning saws, pruning shears, etc.

In Conclusion

If you have trees with exposed roots in your yard, it is essential to address the issue immediately rather than overlooking it or ignoring it. By following the measures mentioned above, you can fix the exposed roots of such trees without causing any harm to them. At the same time, these effective steps will ensure that the exposed tree roots do not become a cause of concern or hazard in your lawn. So, go ahead and resolve your exposed tree roots problem with confidence. To access this article, [click here](#).

Author Bio:

Mark Yeater

Mark Yeater is the Content Marketing Manager at [Tree Stuff](#). He loves to collaborate with arborists and has written various articles around nature, tree climbing, eco-friendly environment, and much more. In his free time, you can see him conducting seminars to educate people on the advanced techniques and safety measures for tree climbing. Mark's fondness for trees since childhood makes him a true Dendrophile.



Not certified? Contact us.

Call April @ 877-617-8887

email: april@illinoisarborist.org



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National Plant Diagnosis Network *by Stephanie Adams*

Plant health care (PHC) plays an important role in the tree care industry. It allows us to offer services to our clients that get them the outcome they want in their landscape. The best way to get a desired outcome is to apply a treatment for a diagnosis, not a symptom.

Having plant health issues accurately diagnosed is important for several reasons. It will increase the chances that the applied treatment works and your client being satisfied with the services provided. Working from a diagnosis gives you the ability to develop different types of management plans (cultural vs chemical) for your client's interests. It also allows for the development of environmentally sound methods for the plant's locations and needs. Having a laboratory diagnosis gives the best chances of preventing or curing a plant's problems, which will result in the longevity and vigor of the plant. And finally, it gives you more information about their landscape, which can lead to more successful planting suggestions in the future.

For green industry professionals the National Plant Diagnostic Network (NPDN) offers a way for cost-effective laboratory diagnosis of plant health issues. The NPDN is an internationally-recognized consortium of plant

entomologists, soil scientists, weed scientists, and other related fields. There are 70 publicly-operated plant diagnostic labs in the 50 states and four territories (American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and US Virgin Islands) in the United States.

The goal of the NPDN is to identify and diagnose plant health problems, communicate findings with stakeholders, assist in developing management plans, and recording these findings into the national repository. The national repository of plant health records allows for the long-term tracking of problems, allows us to better understand our changing world, and its front-line defense to our nation's biosecurity. It was formed in 2002 by the USDA-National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) and the Office of Homeland Security.

Each state has a state-lab that is operated out of its Land-grant university. You can find the complete list with contact information on the NPDN.org website. In Illinois, the state lab is operated out of the University of Illinois, their website is: <https://extension.illinois.edu/plant-clinic>

Having plant problems diagnosed, and developing management plans from a diagnosis, is a good way to continue to build your plant health care program.



NPDN

National Plant Diagnostic Network

Workforce Development & 2021 IAA Career Fair *by Paul Filary*



Talk to any business or organization in the arboriculture industry and I bet any money they have career opportunities available. This has been the case for many years in arboriculture and the amount and quality of talent coming into the industry gets better and better each year. We had a record breaking turnout of attendees and employers this year for our 4th Annual IAA Career Fair. Two local municipalities joined this year's event along with multiple commercial arboriculture companies. We also added a pre-career fair roundtable session with pre-registered attendees and the career fair sponsor companies.

This year's career fair was held on November 10th at the IAA annual conference. We

incorporated a VIP group this year for pre-registered attendees. Those in the VIP group enjoyed one free night of stay at a local hotel, took part in a pre-career fair roundtable session event with career fair sponsor companies and enjoyed a post event dinner and networking event following the career fair and conference. The pre-career fair roundtable session was a great way to get attendees interacting with current arboriculture professionals and learn of career opportunities in the industry. It certainly helped break the ice and made for a super engaging event of career seekers speaking and seeking out opportunities with IAA member companies represented at the career fair. The evening wrapped up with some food, fun and drinks for the VIP group attendees and career fair sponsor companies at Ed & Joe's Pizza in

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Workforce Development & 2021 IAA Career Fair (cont.)

downtown Tinley Park. Great conversations with the attendees about career aspirations and opportunities in our industry.

It was great talking with attendees and learning of their aspirations to start from the ground up as they seek to start their careers in arboriculture. Multiple colleges were represented at the event and a huge thank you to the forestry departments at Southern Illinois University and University of Wisconsin Stevens-Point who had the largest number of attendees present at the event. In addition to the VIP group, we were pleased to see some attendees of the conference stop by the career fair and speak with employers, including the participants of the Openlands arborist apprenticeship program.

The IAA Workforce Development Committee has done a great job over the past four years helping to put this event together and bring career seeking professionals together with professional IAA member companies. We couldn't do it without the



companies represented at the event and a huge thank you to the sponsor companies which this year included Oak Bros Tree



Care & Removal, Bartlett Tree Experts, Kramer Tree Specialists, Davey Tree and SavATree. This committee is also involved with representing the IAA and it's members at local career expo events at local high schools and other trade organizations.

Keep your eye out for details of the 2022 IAA Career Fair and don't miss out on the opportunity to be a part and find future talent for your business or organization. If you know of potential career expo opportunities to get the profession of arboriculture out there or are interested in joining the IAA Workforce Development Committee, contact IAA Commercial Director, Paul Filary, at pfilary@kramertree.com

Let's keep growing the workforce and professionalism within our industry and help to provide value and benefit to our IAA member companies. We will see everyone at the next IAA Career Fair!

Paul Filary
IAA Commercial Director, IAA Workforce
Development Chair

Advanced Training for Municipal Arborists *by Norm Hall*

The Illinois Arborist Association (IAA) is now offering Training Programs for Municipal Arborists. In the past the IAA offered 1-day, 1-topic courses. To make this training more appealing to Municipal Arborists, the IAA expanded to 1-day, 2-topic courses. The course topics to choose from are:

(1) Chainsaw Basic Maintenance, Safe Operation, Cutting Techniques & Sharpening; **(2)** Felling Techniques using the 6-Step Precision Felling Plan; **(3)** Rigging Tree Dismantling, **(4)** Pruning Techniques, and **(5)** Aerial Lift Safe Operations & Rescue. **(6)** Chipper Safety and Operation. Below is a brief description of each Training Topic:



(1) Chainsaw maintenance includes checking for loose and missing parts, making sure the built-in safety features are properly working, proper cleaning techniques including air filter, guide bar resurfacing, drive sprocket replacement, proper chain tension, proper starting techniques, proper grip, proper stance, different cutting techniques and chain sharpening.

(2) Felling using the 6-Step Precision Felling Plan includes using six (6) steps to safely notch and drop a tree from near ground level. Felling is the 'single, most dangerous act' performed by an arborist. More arborists are seriously injured or killed by notching and dropping a tree than any other single act. Using the six (6) steps, greatly reduces the chance of an incident occurring.

(3) Rigging and tree dismantling shows how using arborist hardware (pulleys, blocks, rope friction devices, connecting links) and software (eye slings, rope tools, ringed tools) will make the tree dismantling process much Safer and more efficient. Using the trees structure to the riggers advantage is demonstrated by anchoring blocks in the crown to help prevent limb breakage.

(4) Pruning techniques uses the ANSI A300 Standard to perform proper pruning cuts. The various pruning techniques: deadwood pruning, elevation pruning, subordination pruning, crown reduction pruning are all demonstrated. Using the proper pruning tool for the task at hand is also demonstrated.

(5) Aerial lift safe operations and rescue goes over pre-trip inspection; flying the unit, to make sure it's holding pressure, before leaving the yard; aerial lift positioning for the task at hand; leveling using the stabilizers; proper unfolding and folding procedures; using the platform controls to lower the booms; rescue techniques (bringing an injured or incapacitated operator down to a flat surface to begin 1st aid or CPR).



(6) Chipper Safety and Operation goes over pre-trip inspection; proper attachment to the tow vehicle, making sure the safety chains are crossed; proper starting method, how soon to engage the drum/disc after starting; checking the built-in safety features (rubber kickback flap, forward/reverse bar, etc.); proper road cone and traffic sign placement using MUTCD Standards; proper chipper feeding methods; using a 'push stick' for shorter sticks/raking's; proper shut down method.

These are the topics currently available for the Municipal Arborist Training Program. If there is a topic addition that would be of value, please contact the Illinois Arborist Association for their review at: illinoisarborist.org or Toll Free 877.617.8887.

63 Strong!

by Norm Hall

The Illinois Arborist Association 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 that they would otherwise be unable to afford to maintain. Member companies typically donate one or two crews and their associated equipment. The IAA Day of Service provides an opportunity for companies to give back to the communities while also gaining publicity. In some cases, we utilize this event to help train inner city, underprivileged individuals at the same time.

On October 21st the IAA held its annual Day of Service at Busse Lake Boating Center, a property of Forest Preserves of Cook County, in Elk Grove Village. Below is how this IAA event came to fruition and the support given by IAA members and member companies that contributed to our incredible achievement. I met with Nick Kuhn, the Forest Preserves Resource Manager, in mid-May to go over the scope of work they would like done. There was an enormous amount of tree care work



to be done along a $\frac{3}{4}$ mile stretch of roadway, parking lots, 9 groves and 4 shelters. The 9 Groves and 4 shelters, range in personnel capacity from 100 to 350 each. The scope of tree care work involved pruning deadwood 2" and larger, elevate 8 – 10' over turf areas and 12 – 14' over roadways, water sprout removal to 8' on the trees and ornamentals from the Preserve entrance to the boating launch area, which is approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile long. We also removed 9 hazardous trees throughout the Preserve, ranging in diameter from 19" to 33". One honey locust tree needed a support system installed requiring two $\frac{1}{4}$ " EHS cabling systems, using through hardware as anchors.

The IAA Staff sent out email blasts asking for help and the response was slow at first, but more and more members were responding to help, right up to a couple of days before the event.

On the day of the event we had 63 volunteers with 11 aerial lifts, 5 chippers with trucks, 2 log loader trucks, 2 material handlers and 1 tractor with forks. The 63 volunteers were broken into 7 groups, each having a least 1 aerial lift, in 7



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63 Strong! (cont.)

different zones along the $\frac{3}{4}$ mile stretch. They get an incredible amount of work done.

Thank you to the following individuals and companies, respectively, for donating employees and equipment for our Day of Service: Andrew Smolen, Tom Miller, Tony Perez, Dan O'Brien and Russo Power Equipment, Sean Zieche and Davey Tree Experts, Alan Seal and Kramer Tree Specialists, Jerome Scott and Treekeepers, Sunrise Tree Experts, Mike Bramucci and Advanced Treecare, Ken Loar and The Village of Vernon Hills, Ed Garry and Elk Grove Village, Nick Kuhn and Forest Preserves of Cook County. Tony Dati brought a drone for some awesome aerial images. April Toney and Monica Korjenek did all of the 'behind the scenes' logistical work (coffee, donuts and snacks, waiver forms, Certificates of Recognition, ordering lunch, ordering ball caps for 50 arborists, transporting climbing gear for training [more on that to come], printing maps for the 7 different work zones, picture taking). I did all the personnel organizing for the 7 different work zones with the appropriate equipment for each.

A huge Thank You to Jim Seckelmann and The Mulch Center for providing lunch to all the volunteers. Who doesn't like PIZZA! In addition to the work being performed, IAA also provided climbing training to Openlands Chicago, with our own 2-time women's



division Tree Climbing Champion, Felicia Speranske, as the instructor. [That is why the IAA staff transported climbing gear.]

Our annual Day of Service was a HUGE Success. We valued our tree care work done at \$60,000.00. We couldn't have done it without the much valued and appreciated support of all those involved.



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Illinois Trees



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