

Illinois Trees

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Who and What is IPWMAN? *by Mark Doerfler & Chris Bethel*



The Illinois Public Works Mutual Aid Network (IPWMAN) is a statewide mutual aid network in Illinois that provides public works mutual aid to member agencies during natural or man-made emergencies and disasters, as well as during preplanned events.

The mission of the Illinois Public Works Mutual Aid Network, in the spirit of intergovernmental cooperation, is to develop and maintain a statewide network of public works related agencies whose principal purpose is to provide mutual aid response and recovery assistance to each other when confronted with emergencies and disasters.

IPWMAN members benefit from statewide mutual aid. While local mutual aid agreements are important for day-to-day operations, statewide mutual aid comes into play when large events such as tornados, mass flooding and large storms occur. Events like these will quickly overwhelm your agency's resources and personnel, as well as those of your neighboring agencies. You or your neighbors may not have the needed equipment to deal with the issues at hand, or the event may impact you personally, and you may be unavailable to manage the resources that are needed to mitigate the incident. These are just a few of the many reasons to become member of IPWMAN that is approaching 450 member agencies. Should your community need it, help will come from all corners of Illinois, from qualified people, who are eager to help.

Membership to IPWMAN is open to any public agency that provides public works related services. Benefits of membership include:

Access to personnel and resources when an emergency overwhelms the resources available,

- Guidance in coordinating a response to an emergency,
- Consistent understanding of the responding and requesting agencies' roles during response by following the terms of the mutual aid agreement,
- Response that is based upon the need of the requesting agency as opposed to unsolicited responders hampering recovery efforts, and
- Opportunities to participate in emergency training programs.

The key tenant of IPWMAN is "no agency is too large to need help and no agency is too small to provide assistance." IPWMAN's strength comes from each agency's desire to help one another. Disasters can cripple a community financially, so to alleviate that, responding agencies provide up to five days of support at no cost. If an event requires assistance beyond five days, IPWMAN will simply ask additional agencies to respond. Since the first IPWMAN deployment, over \$2.5 million dollars of aid has been provided in response to requests for assistance. Most recently, IPWMAN responded to Woodridge after the Father's Day Tornado and both Lake in the Hills and Minooka following significant storms causing major tree damage. IPWMAN's

continued on page 4

Table of Contents

Who and What is IWPMAN?	1
President's Message	3
Nectria or Coral Canker on Trees	6
Calendar of Events	7
Electrical Hazard Awareness: What are you doing about it?	9
Daily Resident Education	11
Live from Bloomington - 2022 IAA Summer Conference	13
2022 IAA Summer Conference Proposed Program	14
It's Back! Illinois Tree Climbing Competition	16
Improving Your Business & Advancing the Industry	17



Don't forget to
hold this date for
the upcoming IAA
Annual Conference
& Trade Show the
week of November
14th, 2022

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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



Happy Spring to all of our members! We've had some wild weather so far but hopefully Spring is here to stay and we can get out to enjoy the beautiful Illinois outdoors. With COVID restrictions lifted we've been able to host in-person Certification Workshops and NEMF/NWMF meetings. Keep an eye on the IAA calendar of events for more training events being offered by the IAA and partner organizations.

On May 10-12 we are partnering with Illinois Forestry Association and Southern Illinois University for the SIU Forestry Field Day. Come join us in Dixon Springs to help encourage students to join the forestry and arboriculture industry.

May 21 is the IAA Tree Climbing Championship (TCC) located at Shiloh Park in Zion. I hope you'll join us to cheer on our competitors and learn more about what our industry has to offer. The TCC is a great event to network with colleagues and attend our Arbor Fair.

The Board of Directors have worked hard on putting together a strategic plan and budget that best represent IAA membership. We hope you will take advantage of the training opportunities we have planned!

Speaking of opportunities, our Summer Conference is scheduled for July 13-14 in Normal. I hope you're join us and freshen up on your diagnostic skills, take a deep dive into soil science, apply use of plant growth regulators and air-tools, learn about mock tree hazard assessments, and reflect on alternative careers in arboriculture.

Have a great spring, take part in learning, and stay safe!

Illinois Arborist Association President,

Aaron Schulz

Who and What is IPWMAN? (cont.)

largest deployment provided over \$500,000 worth of resources to the Village of Coal City following a tornado that devastated most of the community in November of 2013.

IPWMAN was started in 2009 by a group of 12 individuals who recognized that public works mutual aid was being done, it just wasn't organized. They saw many local agreements were in place, but they also had the foresight to see that during large events, local agreements would quickly become exhausted, causing a need for a statewide network of agencies. With the help of other mutual aid agencies like ILEAS, MABAS, IDOT, IEMA, and the County Engineers, IPWMAN developed a mutual aid agreement, incorporated and elected a board of directors. Three months after its inception, IPWMAN had its first deployment, proving that there was a critical need for this type of network.

Today, IPWMAN is governed by an Executive Board and 16 Regional Directors (2 directors from each of the 8 IPWMAN regions). All positions are elected from employees of member agencies, allowing the organization to be controlled by its members. Both Executive Board members and Regional Directors serve on a volunteer basis, receiving no pay for their work. The IPWMAN regions are set up following the IEMA regions, thus eliminating confusion on which agency belongs to which region.

A Stricken Agency's Perspective

Municipalities know different types of disasters can strike at any time – floods, blizzards, derechos and tornados are potential events that can (and do) happen regularly in Illinois. Emergency management and planning – from tabletops and training classes to equipment purchases and operational contingency planning – communities attempt to be prepared to respond no matter the disaster. Mutual aid that can draw from a large geographic area is a significant component of most municipal emergency response plans - be it ILEAS for police, MABAS for fire, or IPWMAN for Public Works.

The Village of Woodridge joined IPWMAN in 2009 as a "belt and suspenders" mutual aid protection – the Village was already a part of the DuPage County Public Works Mutual Aid Agreement and the thought was its not likely we'd ever exhaust the

resources that other DuPage communities would be able to share, but let's be conservative and join both.

On Father's Day, June 20, 2021, an EF3 tornado impacted four communities in southern DuPage County, including Woodridge. The tornado had wind speeds up to 140 mph which damaged/destroyed homes/business, with over 600 impacted properties including significant tree loss of just under 400 parkway trees and countless private trees, which were ultimately tub ground into over 10,000 cubic yards of chips, not including all of the material hauled away by private contractors.

Since first joining IPWMAN in 2009, the Village has responded and helped other communities, but this was our first request where Woodridge needed assistance.



The response from other agencies to Woodridge's request was overwhelming – there were 34 agencies that ultimately assisted the Village following the tornado, nearly all IPWMAN members. It was clear each organization sent top notch employees to assist – everyone was highly skilled and had great attitudes and worked hard. The results were unbelievable in how quickly the initial phase of the clean-up was completed.

The process to request mutual aid is simple with a single phone number to call and the IPWMAN duty officer will coordinate the resources you need in a responsive and seamless fashion so you can focus on the management of the event. However, with their experience from other disasters responses, the IPWMAN staff can also help the stricken agency brainstorm through the plan and potential challenges likely to arise.

IPWMAN functioned exactly how it should by

continued on page 5

Who and What is IPWMAN? (cont.)

drawing from a larger area when there is a disaster impacting multiple towns that a local mutual aid agreement just can't respond to. What was proven true after June 20th was that the resources, know how, and genuine interest in serving the public, is done no better than by local government agencies helping one another.

Since joining IPWMAN, Woodridge has paid membership dues of \$3,500 (\$250 a year for an organization of our size). The cost to the Village of the mutual aid response for the Father's Day Tornado was \$0, aside from the food, water, and fuel provided to the responding agencies. But had the Village needed to hire contractors to have done that same work, it would have cost approximately \$300,000.

If your town is not a member of IPWMAN – it's time to ask yourself, why not, remember it's not if a disaster is going to happen, but when it will happen. For more information or to join IPWMAN, please visit www.ipwman.org or feel free to contact IPWMAN via email at info@ipwman.org or by calling 1-844-IPWMAN-9.

Mark Doerfler became actively involved in the Illinois Public Works Mutual Aid Network and was elected Secretary in 2015, a position he currently holds. Mark is part of a group of people that serve as a "Field Deployment Team". This group deploys as an Incident Management Team and assists a stricken agency organize the IPWMAN resources responding to the incident. He has served as the Operations Chief for Public Works during the cleanup efforts of the Naplate (2017) and Coal City (2015) tornados and the Incident Commander for Public Works during the cleanup efforts of the Diamond (2014) tornado.

Mark is employed as a Fire Engineer with the City of Champaign Fire Department. He has a Bachelor's Degree in Construction Management from Illinois State University. Mark is married and



has two boys, ages 8 and 10. While no training is available for fatherhood, Mark's sons have taught him most of his disaster management skills.

Chris Bethel has been the Director of Public Works for the Village of Woodridge since 2006. The Department has 32 employees and is responsible for capital improvements, engineering, water distribution, sanitary sewer collection, road maintenance, storm sewer, forestry, traffic control, and fleet maintenance. He currently serves as Chair of the DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference Director of Public Works Committee and is also on the JULIE Statewide Board of Directors.

Chris was recognized as the Village of Woodridge Employee of the Year in 2013. He graduated with his B.S. in Corporate Communications and an M.P.A. in Public Administration, both from Northern Illinois University. He has over 25 years of experience in local government and has previously served in other communities as the Director of Public Works, Assistant Village Manager, and Acting Village Manager.

Nectria or Coral Canker on Trees

by Stephanie Adams, Ph.D

Nectria canker is a fairly common and potentially fatal disease of trees caused by *N. cinnabarina* and *N. galligena*. Both Nectria fungi are weak (opportunistic) pathogens that commonly cause secondary diseases in trees that were mechanically damaged (ex. hail, animal and insect feeding, freezing, pruning). They also infect non-vigorous trees that are unable to defend themselves. *N. cinnabarina* has been reported on 187 genera of plant hosts and *N. galligena* has been reported on 53 genera of plant hosts in the United States.

Symptoms of the infection appear as cankers, twig blights, and branch dieback (Figure 1).



Figure 1: The dense production of fruiting bodies gives it the name coral canker.

The cankers may initially appear sunken because the surrounding tissue continues to grow around the infected areas (Figure 2). The sunken areas may appear darker in color. They are commonly associated with target (perennial) cankers on many tree species.

Signs that are sometimes associated with Nectria canker are burnt-orange, salmon, pink, or cream-colored bumps growing out of the bark near a cankered area (Figure 3). The disease is called coral canker because of the colorful bumps (Figure 4). When the fungi are not active, these bumps may turn brown. The unusual texture and patten of the bumps will remain visible.

The bumps are the fungal fruiting bodies called



Figure 2: Large stem canker

perithecia, which produce spores, and they are responsible for infection and spread. Infection can occur year-round so long as temperatures are above freezing.



Figure 3: The fungal fruiting bodies can be pink, salmon, orange, and cream white.

continued on page 8

Calendar of Events

April Events

April 21st, NEMF – “Too Much or Not Enough?: Changes in Precipitation and Tree Health” Tricia Bethke. Virtual and in-person at the City of Park Ridge, 10:00 -12:00pm.

[Click here to register](#)

April 21st, NWMF - OSHA and Tree Safety, Speaker: Brian Bothast
Moline, Illinois 6:00 - 8:00pm

[Click here to register](#)

April 27th, TreeBiz Afterhours Social, OSHA, Brian Bothast. 4:30pm-6:30pm at Lil Beaver Brewery
Bloomington. Illinois

[Click here to register](#)

May Events

May 10 - 12th, SIU Student Forestry Field Days at the Touch of Nature
Makanda, IL

[Click here to register](#)

May 19th, NEMF, Tree Planting on Private Property (In person or virtual)
Niles, Illinois

[Click here to register](#)

May 21st, Illinois Tree Climbing Competition at Shiloh Park
Zion, Illinois

[Click here for more info](#)

July Events

July 13 - 14th, IAA Summer Conference in Bloomington/ Normal Marriott
Normal, Illinois

[Click here to register](#)

August Events

August 19th, IAA Golf Outing and Salt Creek Golf Course. (1pm Shot Gun Start)
Wood Dale, Illinois

[Click here to register](#)

August 25th, NWMF - Identifying Common Wood Decay Fungi. Speaker: Chelsi Abbott
Moline, Illinois

[Click here to register](#)

September Events

September 1st - November 2nd, Certified Arborist Classes and Exam in Homewood
Homewood, Illinois

[Click here to register](#)

Nectria or Coral Canker on Trees (cont.)



Figure 4: The dense production of fruiting bodies gives it the name coral canker

There are no cures for Nectria canker, only management options exist. To manage the disease, prune out as many cankered branches as possible. Prune at least 6" beyond the last canker symptom. This will remove the fungus from the canopy. Pruning during dry weather (72 hours before a rain event) will reduce the potential for spread. Sanitize tools with 70% rubbing alcohol (isopropyl alcohol) between each cut to prevent spread.

Vigorous trees have a higher chance of resisting infection or living with the infection for longer. Have the leaves tested for nutrients and fertilize as recommended by the results and water according to the host species' needs. To prevent the disease be sure to plant hardy plants, which will prevent winter damage. Also prevent mechanical injury to the branches and main stem. These openings are where the fungi can enter the tree.

Citations:

Wisconsin Extension:

<https://pddc.wisc.edu/2015/07/29/nectria-canker/>

Penn State Extension:

<https://extension.psu.edu/nectria-canker>

University of California Extension:

<http://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/GARDEN/PLANTS/DISEASES/nectriacanker.html>

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Electrical Hazard Awareness: What are you about it?

by Matt Millette

Whether you are a residential, commercial, municipal, utility, public or private arborist, we are all exposed to electrical hazards when performing arboricultural operations. In fact, close to 20% of all arborist deaths were caused by the flow of electricity from either direct or indirect contact. This is only second to struck-by incidents. What if I were to tell you that these incidents are not the true cause of arborist deaths, but complacency. Arborists work in a potentially hazardous environment, therefore we begin to normalize the risks that we take on a daily basis.

Compliance is a critical component of a reputable organization, but does compliance lead to complacency? It is critical that your organization has an awareness and establishment of an Electrical Hazards Plan. In fact, your organization shall have an electrical hazard abatement plan as established by OSHA 1910.269. In order to stay compliant with OSHA and ANSI our organizations must fulfill the requirements of a safety program around electrical hazards. These safety standards state that organizations must provide two documented items in regards to electrical hazard awareness: Employer-certified training and On-the-job training with verification. What does that mean for your organization? Employers must certify that employees who work 10 feet or closer to energized conductors are trained in the special hazards involved in these operations through documentation, on-the-job training and verification that your employees have the skills necessary to perform line clearance or incidental line clearance vegetation operations. A key component of an EHAP program is documentation. Anytime I see documentation needed, I immediately ponder if this “critical item” has become a “checkbox or compliance item”. Are we just pencil whipping our

documentations or are we fully immersed with our awareness program?

The forestry industry is one of the most dangerous professions in America. We work with incredibly complex equipment in a dynamic environment and 99% of the time we complete the task without incident. We start to normalize our risk to this danger because we face that danger on a daily basis. Complacency becomes as large of a threat as struck-by or electrical contact.

We have a vast range of working experience in our industry. Many of us are veterans to the arboricultural industry and are repeating these programs on a yearly basis. Here is where complacency and the danger begins. We repeat the same messages, in the same tone, on the same winter snow day, year after year. This training has become a “compliance” item and has become potentially stale and dangerous. Team members that treat this as a compliance item are not engaged and are normalizing the everyday risk of electrical hazards. This culture of complacency directly influences newer team members. Veterans of the team need to take the opportunity to guide the next generation of Arborists into a safe work environment, starting with electrical safety.

So how can we change it up and maintain engagement with veteran team members as well as the new and impressionable team members? Let's take a look at a couple of suggestions:

- Don't sugar coat it because Electricity kills! Team members respect honesty and direct communication around the hazards that exist in our industry.
- Make your training engaging- Don't just read training materials...develop an engaging conversation with your team around this

continued on page 10

Electrical Hazard Awareness: What are you about it? (cont.)

topic. Make sure that if language barriers exist, training is inclusive for all team members to engage around safety with electrical hazards. Additionally this can compensate for the complacency of veteran team members.

- Quiz yourself and the team- Asking questions is the best test of knowledge. Try not to just ask your co-workers these questions, but yourself too.
- Establish a program of continuous observation and education throughout the year- Many of our organizations tend to focus on an annual training program. Instead propose a program of consistent feedback and education throughout the entire year to keep this hazard as a top focus.

Electrical hazard awareness and abatement plans must be a foundation of your safety culture. This can only be accomplished through engagement, honesty and education of yourself and team members. Simple documentation isn't the answer to "compliance" because compliance leads to complacency, which is the first step to disaster. Let's think about our annual EHAP refresher in different terms, so we can break the cycle of normalization and bring this to the forefront of our daily conversations. Maybe then we can truly and honestly identify..."What am I doing about Electrical Hazard Awareness?"

Citations:

1. "Fatal Occupational Injuries By Event" U.S. Bureau Of Labor Statistics, 6 April 2022, <https://www.bls.gov/iif/oshcfoi1.htm>
2. "TCIA:Electrical Hazards Awareness Program" Tree Care Industry Association, 6 April 2022, http://www.tcia.org/TCIA/Education_Events/Education/TCIA_Credentialing_Programs/Electrical_Hazards_Awareness_Program/Electrical_Hazards_Awareness_Program.aspx
3. Braverman, Beth. "The 10 most dangerous jobs in America." CNBC, 28 Dec. 2019.<https://www.cnbc.com/2019/12/27/the-10-most-dangerous-jobs-in-america-according-to-bls->

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Daily Resident Education *by Joe Hansen*

With Arbor Day right around the corner, most of us are trying to come up with a new spin on our annual speech praising the benefits of trees and why we should plant/care for them. Some of us type something up and read it out loud; while others jot down some notes, and then the ambitious just go out there and talk about the things we have said a million times over and over. What we should remember is that one of our major roles as urban forest practitioners is education. We should always speak to the public about proper tree care and the benefits of trees. Issues we believe to be common knowledge and take for granted, are what the residents need to hear and not just on Arbor Day.

In our day-to-day world it is easy to get bogged down by our ever-expanding roles. Where a phone call would be the trigger to a response, is now expanded with the use of web-based request systems, email, and text messages. Throw in Microsoft Teams for internal communications, and now we have a lot more to worry about keeping track of. With technological advancements in communications, comes a change in our processes and how we efficiently correspond our message. It can be easy to have a canned response for a typical weekly question, but keep in mind, the person asking the question is probably someone who cares, and that is a huge opportunity to show them a little more.

For example, if a concerned resident contacts you about the health of their parkway tree, it shows that they care. Automatically we assume a resident is complaining, because let's face it, this is not an uncommon



occurrence! But in this example the resident is giving the indication that they are worried about the health of the tree, they are not complaining and demanding that we should remove it. Now let's go out there and take a look.

Once on site, you see an 18" Norway maple with multiple occurrences of deadwood, tip dieback and thin canopy (where there is canopy) and girdled roots. You determine that about 65% of the tree is dead and that it is time to remove it. When you go knock at the door to speak to the resident (or call them back) you have a lot to discuss and since you already know the resident cares, you have a lot of talking points to help ease their understanding of the issue and educate them.

Sample talking points for this case could be:

- Poor species selection for this region, expand on that by briefly describing the species predisposition for girdling roots, further compounded by compacted soils in the urban environment
- Explain how shifts in climate and weather further impact trees e.g., warmer summers, wetter springs, harsher winters, especially those already stressed by other conditions prevalent in the urban forest
- Depending on presence of a root flare, you

continued on page 12

Daily Resident Education (cont.)

may be able to explain proper planting techniques and how that may have further attributed to the trees decline in health

- This may be a good time to bring up species diversification and why it is not such a great idea to plant another maple in its place since they make up such a large percentage of our canopy
- Then go ahead and praise your municipalities proactive, scientific, and best management practices approach to the planting and care of the parkway trees!

That example could be used for many different species of trees and their conditions. Another good example, one which I am sure many of you are already using, is explaining proper pruning practices.

Many of the pruning requests we get are unfounded from our perspective; “the limb is growing over my driveway/towards my house, the tree is messy, the tree is overgrown and needs thinning, the tree needs to be shaped, the limb will hit something if it falls,” etc. We already know why in most cases we would not prune for these conditions, but this is another great opportunity to expand on the resident’s knowledge even if they do not like your initial “no, we will not prune because...” response.

A few examples are:

- Provide a brief explanation of CODIT, response growth and required expenditure of energy by the tree to respond to these potentially unnecessary wounds
- Explain conditions where pruning would be required and necessary like thresholds for larger deadwood removal, cracks, decay,

weight reduction, etc.

- Again, praise your municipalities proactive, scientific, and best management practices approach to inspections and pruning!

These are just a few things to think about when you speak with residents. It may seem like a lot, but these responses should only take a few minutes to discuss and will often result in a question or two from the resident, which will provide you with more opportunity to share knowledge. Even if they are not happy with your response to their request, you have taught them some new things to consider that may have an impact on how they care for their own private trees, which is the other crucial half to our urban forest.

You may even consider having some links to share in emails, or have a list of some stock responses typed out in a Word document that you can copy & paste to easily share. With those you can take your time to craft your message for quick impactful statements that are easily absorbed by the reader.

Just remember, we are not only here to care for our municipality’s trees, but we are also here to teach others how we can all work together to have a healthy urban forest. There are countless opportunities for education, large and small, in our day-to-day encounters. Every seed you plant may bear fruit when they share their newly obtained knowledge to their family, friends, and neighbors. That leads to them asking the right questions when interacting with tree care companies proposing work on their private trees, and it raises the bar in the commercial industry to sell proper tree care to their clients as the expectation is now higher.

Not certified? Contact us.

Call April @ 877-617-8887

email: april@illinoisarborist.org



Live from Bloomington

2022 IAA Summer Conference



The IAA is pleased to announce, that for the first time in three years will be having the 2022 IAA Summer Conference in person and on site in Bloomington, Illinois.

The focus on the conference will be Tree Health with an emphasis on procedures and practices on how to keep trees healthy, how to diagnose problems in the field, and the use of an air spade to alleviate soil compaction and promote a good rooting environment.

We have a great line up of topics and speakers for the conference starting on Wednesday evening, 13 July with a series of a meal function and a time to catch up with friend, colleagues and to network. Following, there will be informal roundtable discussions centering on soil nutrition, the use if plant growth regulators (PGRs), and a field test for diagnosing Phytophthora. These sessions are designed to give everyone a chance to review and build on their arboriculture knowledge, discuss current PHC issues, and do some brainstorming.

On Thursday morning, the 14th, we will head to the field (ISU arboretum) and have a rotating program where you will have field-hands on demonstrations and discussion on soil health and nutrient management, disease diagnostics and how to use a field test kit, how can we make better use of PGRs to help improve tree health, and “dirty” air spade demonstration. Right after lunch, we will return the field and have an introduction to the Illinois FAST program and a mock tree hazard assessment demonstration. The program will conclude with a time of reflection on alternative arboriculture careers and 25 years of service to the profession.

For details on the conference schedule, topics and speakers, please refer to the conference program on the next page.

ISA CEUs will be available for all sessions.

I hope to see all of you in Bloomington on **July 13 and 14, 2022!**



2022 IAA SUMMER CONFERENCE PROPOSED PROGRAM

13 and 14 July 2022

WEDNESDAY EVENING: 13 JULY 2022

5:00 to 6:00 pm: Dinner, Open Bar, and “Catching Up”

7:00 to 8:30 pm: Subject Matter Round Tables Discussions

- Using PGRs – Lee Fredericks
 - A Review of Plant Problem Field Diagnostics – Stephanie Adams
 - Soils-Plant Nutrition Mgt. – Aaron Schulz
- (Attendees will rotate between Round Tables at 20-30 minute intervals)

THURSDAY ALL DAY: 14 JULY 2022

7:00 to 8:00 am: Check in and Breakfast

8:00 to 8:15 am: Welcome and Announcements (Aaron Schulz/Fredric Miller)

8:15 to 9:00 am: Field Program at ISU Arboretum

(Approximately 60 minutes per session and 3 groups rotating between sessions) (Aaron Schulz, Lee Fredericks, Stephanie Adams)

- **Group A:** Oak Decline Issues, Using a Field Diagnostic Test – Stephanie Adams
- **Group B:** Using PGRs and Air Spade Demonstration – Lee Fredericks
- **Group C:** Plant-Soil Nutrition – Aaron Schulz

9:00am to 9:45am:

- **Group A:** Using PGRs and Air Spade Demonstration – Lee Fredericks
- **Group B:** Plant-Soil Nutrition – Aaron Schulz
- **Group C:** Oak Decline Issues, Using a Field Diagnostic Test – Stephanie Adams

9:45am to 10:15 am: Mid-Morning Break

10:15am to 11:00am

- **Group A:** Plant-Soil Nutrition – Aaron Schulz
- **Group B:** Oak Decline Issues, Using a Field Diagnostic Test – Stephanie Adams
- **Group C:** Using PGRs and Air Spade Demonstration – Lee Fredericks

11:00am – 12:15am

Attendees walk the campus, look at the other tree issues, and enjoy the arboretum.

- 12:15 to 1:15 pm: Lunch

1:15 to 2:15 pm: Tree Hazard Assessment Basics and FAST Mock Exercise (Mike Brunk and Gang)

2:15 to 3:00 pm: Alternative Careers in Arboriculture: Life after 25 years in the public sector (Jim Semelka)

3:00 to 3:15 pm: Closing Comments (Aaron Schulz/Fredric Miller)

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It's Back! Illinois Tree Climbing Competition

The Illinois Arborist Association is holding it's 2022 Tree Climbing Championship on **May 21st**, at Shiloh Park in Zion. Resident and out-of-state climbers will compete in the 5 preliminary events for the camaraderie and championship. The Illinois Chapter has added the 'Ascent Event' to replace the 'Secured Footlock' event this year. The Ascent Event tests the competitor's skills in setting up an ascent and descent system using mechanicals to ascend and descend a climbing rope to a determined height around 60'.



The other 4 preliminary events are (1) Work Climb, (2) Aerial Rescue, (3) Belayed Speed Climb and (4) Throwline. All scoring is based on Safety, Skillset and Time. We have 30 competitors, including 3 women climbers this year.

The 3 top scoring 'in-state' Men's Division competitors will compete in the Master's Challenge Event to determine the champion. The top scoring 'in-state' Women's Division competitor will also compete in the Master's Challenge Event. All competitors must meet certain criteria set by the International Tree Climbing Championship Rules Committee to be eligible to qualify for International competition.

The International Tree Climbing Championship (ITCC) is going to be held in Copenhagen, Denmark in September 2022.

The competition will start at 8:15am and run until the 5 preliminary events are completed. The Master's Challenge will start around 3:00pm.

This year, at the event, the Illinois Arborist Association is offering to train arborists who would like to be trained on scoring the 5 preliminary events. If you are interested, please email Norm Hall.

BEST OF SKILL TO ALL COMPETITORS!



Improving Your Business & Advancing the Industry

by Paul Filary

Collaboration and the exchange of professional ideas is one of the core principles of the Illinois Arborist Association mission. To meet that principle and provide fun and beneficial, networking opportunities for our members, IAA started an all new quarterly evening event called TreeBiz Social After Hours. This education and networking event is intended to bring arborists together to collaborate and learn how to grow their businesses or organizations while advancing the arboriculture industry.

IAA started these events in August 2021 and have continued to do them on a quarterly basis. To respect the busy times of the year for our members, we typically focus on having an event in February, April, August and December of each year. Each event has a guest speaker on a different topic relevant to advancing your business. Past topics have included branding, sector partnerships and equipment inspections. The events are free to attend and include one CEU for all applicable attendees. The ability to put these events on is through the generous sponsorship of industry vendors and a great opportunity for sponsors to display their products and services to arborists throughout the state. Our goal is to do at least one of these events each year in either central or southern Illinois to reach that portion of our membership.

Collaborating, networking and developing relationships with others in our industry is the best way to learn and advance our businesses and industry, while also enhancing your own career skills. We strive to provide engaging speakers who speak on topics that can help our members learn how to handle day to day business operation challenges. We are excited to pursue future topics on business skills such as managing workers compensation claims, leadership, succession planning and managing industry related regulations. In addition to business



skills, we hope to have speakers on technical topics like equipment capabilities, inspection and maintenance, or industry specific software and technology. The ultimate goal is to bring local arborists, our members together and collaborate to learn and advance the industry.

We have been fortunate to see these events grow in attendance with each one we've had. We look forward to continuing that growth and being a positive impact and benefit for our members. To learn more about these events and when the next one is in your area, check out the list of upcoming [TreeBiz Social Events Here](#).

Inform others in the industry, members or non-members to attend or sponsor. Be a part of the movement to advance arboriculture, grow your business and attract more workforce to our industry. We thank everyone who has attended one of these events, and look forward to meeting many more. Below are the details of the next upcoming TreeBiz Social event –

April 27th, 4 pm – 6 pm

Lil Beavery Brewery

Bloomington, IL

OSHA Regulations & Arboriculture

Brian Bothast, OSHA

Register at <https://illinoisarborist.org/iaa-treebiz-social-after-hours-sessions/>

2022 ArborMaster Climbing Kit Prize Package

The *Illinois Arborist Association* is pleased to announce the 2022 ArborMaster Climbing Kit Prize Package for the Tree Climbing Champion (TCC), held in conjunction with the chapter's 2022 Tree Climbing Championship (TCC) event. This climbing kit is being offered to each chapter champion both man and woman.

Each prize package includes:

- Silky's Sugoi Professional 390-33 Hand Saw
- Buckingham Mfg's Tree Squeeze(TM) 2.0 & BuckPack Pro
- Greenworks Commercial Logo'd 20-Can Backpack Cooler
- OREGON's Pazado™ CRKT – Columbia Knife & Tool with frame lock, titanium nitride coated blade and stainless steel handle & OREGON logo'd Red Tool Bag
- Vermeer Logo'd 16oz Perka Kerstin 16oz Stainless Steel Mug with molded cork base
- Samson Rope's New 11.5mm ARBORMASTER® Wildcat 150' Climbing Line
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Illinois Trees



Inside this issue

Who and What is IPWMAN?

Nectria or Coral Canker on Trees

Electrical Hazard Awareness: What are you doing about it?

Daily Resident Education

It's Back! Illinois Tree Climbing Competition

Improving Your Business & Advancing the Industry