

Illinois Trees

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Summer 2022



And the Winners Are! *by Norm Hall*



Men's 1st Place: Kevin Mabry and Women's 1st Place: Alex Julius

The morning of June 25th started nice and quiet as IAA staff, volunteers and competitors began rolling in. Shiloh Park in Zion is the perfect setting for an event such as this. A shelter with electricity for the scoring Team. Picnic tables for breakfast and lunch food, and refreshments. And acres of trees to choose from. Thank you, Mike Priller and Zion Park District, for the use of Shiloh Park.

This is the first competition the IAA has had since 2019, so it was great to see all the familiar faces, the new faces and the usual

camaraderie that goes along with this event. This event had already been postponed once due to inclement weather, so when the rain showers rolled in, the event organizers agreed to keep the competition going if there was no lightning threat. Yes, the rain did roll in, and it rained off and on for the duration of the event. Thank you to all the volunteers, competitors, and spectators for being such good sports.

Let's start with the set-up Team. Without these dedicated arborists, this event would not happen. Thank you, Don Roppolo, Eduardo Medina, Phil Prohaska, Nathan Hadley, EJ Keuker, Gary Kohler, Tom Schumacher, Dan O'Brien, Sean Zieche, Mike Priller, myself, and Kyle and Tyler from Kramer

Tree Specialists. I know Todd Kramer was involved with the pruning of the event trees as well. Thank you, TK.,

These are the volunteers who braved the rain, by event; Work Climb, Mike Stanonik, Mike Dirksen, Sean Zieche, Bryan Kotwica, Eduardo Medina, Bobby Black, Theresa Kyriazes, Eric Bustria, Antonio Defily, Primo Murillo; Aerial Rescue, Gary Kohler, Nathan Hadley, Aaron Schauer, Cameron Lundin, EJ Keuker, Dale Day, David Jorns, Bob Hendricksen, Roberto Soto, Bill Black; Ascent Event, Dave Venzke,

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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 summer! I hope that everyone has had a safe summer so far and that you continue to do so for the remainder of the year! As an organization, the IAA has been BUSY! Municipal and Advanced Training workshops, along with ISA Certification workshops, are filling faster than ever before. I think it's safe to say that we are finally running full steam ahead following COVID restrictions.

On May 10-11 the IAA, in partnership with Illinois Forestry Association, hosted the SIU Forestry Days at the Dixon Springs Agricultural Center to share their knowledge about chainsaw operation, tree felling and invasive plant ID/management with SIU students! It's important that we train the next generation of arborists so that we can sustain our urban forest. Thank you to all staff, coordinators, hosts, speakers, sponsors, volunteers and students for making this event a success! We look forward to working with you all again!

On June 25, the IAA hosted the 2022 Illinois Tree Climbing Competition at Shiloh Park in Zion. Thank you to Zion for hosting and for all staff, volunteers, attendees and sponsors who made this event a success! Thank you to all competitors for your dedication to the industry and for showing off your skills. Congratulations to Kramer Tree Specialists for winning the 2022 ComEd Corporate Cup! Congratulations to Alex Julius, the women's division winner, and Kevin Mabry, the men's division and Spirit of the Competition winner! Both will advance to the International Climbing Competition to represent Illinois in Copenhagen, Denmark, in September; I'll see you there!

On July 13-14 the IAA held in Normal at the Fell Arboretum grounds at Illinois State University. The weather was perfect, the sessions were excellent and the networking was outstanding. Thank you to all staff, speakers, sponsors, exhibitors and attendees for making this event a great success! I look forward to seeing you all again and sharing more knowledge.

We hope to see you at the IAA Annual Golf Outing on August 19 in Wood Dale. If you're in the southern part of our state be on the lookout for an Emerald Ash Borer Workshop, on August 19 in Richview, led by IAA Program Director, Dr. Frederic Miller.

Each year, IAA coordinates with its member companies to participate in a Day of Service. The purpose of this event is to help beautify the trees at a location that is in need of professional tree care and to help enhance our urban forest and local communities.

Locations are determined by applications submitted to the IAA, reviewed and then decided upon. If you are an organization in need of professional tree care and making an impact in our communities, apply for this chance to beautify your trees and help enhance our urban forest!

Thank you all again for your dedication to the IAA and our industry and I hope to see you at an upcoming event soon. Have a great rest of your year!

Illinois Arborist Association President,

Aaron Schulz

And the winners are! (cont.)

Tom Schumacher, Phil Prohaska, Andrew Ranney, Isaias Oviedo, Jake Colliander, Sean Krauth, Greg Soltwisch, Charlie Eure; Belayed Speed Climb, Stephanie Adams, Dan O'Brien, Jason Sochacki, Steve Haigh, Hubertino Perez, David DeCicco, Maddie Peach; Throwline, Trevor Novacek, Juan Octaviano, Aidan Hendricksen, Rob Hendricksen. Don Roppolo and I were the support Team to all the events. Steve Lane was the official scorer. Mike Priller was the Park District support staff. April Toney and Ashley LaDuke were at the site by 6:00am to set-up coffee, breakfast bars, donuts and other refreshments. Thank you all for your support and dedication to this event.

Last, but certainly not least, the competitors, Beau Nagan, William Volchko, Chris Patnaude, Abdon Leon-Espinosa, Phil Reth, Fabian Gaytan, Matthew Phillips, Zac King, Carlos Banuelos, Michael Castle, Alex Julius, Lilly Soderlund, Libby Bower, Brendan Kostersoski, Jason Austin, Justin Rieke, John Nellist, Tristan Swiderski, Cormac Nagan, Kevin Mabry, Kenny Samuels, Sam Soltwisch, Logan Stine, Tony Perez. Thank you all for being such good sports and pushing through the challenging day.

Due to the continuing rain throughout the day, the event Co-Chairs and Master's Challenge Judges made the decision to NOT proceed with the Master's Challenge. The risk of injury to the competitors was too high.

The IAA would like to thank our sponsors,



Corporate Cup Winners: Kramer Tree Specialists

per category; Competition Sponsors, The Mulch Center, At-Height, Petzl, Yale Cordage, Kramer Tree Specialists, Wesspur, Arborwear, Teufelberger, ArborMaster Training, Arbssession, Your PROMO Partners; Event Sponsors, Davey Tree Experts, Midwest Arbor Supplies, All Gear Inc., Green Extraction Technologies LLC, SavATree, The Care of Trees; Limb Walk Sponsor, Russo; Competitors and Volunteers shirts provided by, Arborwear; Breakfast Sponsor, Norm and Kathy Hall; Lunch Provided by, Kramer Tree Specialists; Refreshment Sponsor, Davey Tree Experts.

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And the winners are! (cont.)



Spirit of the Competition Award: Kevin Mabry

The IAA also had its first annual Arbor Fair at this event. The following had a booth at the Arbor Fair; Openlands; At-Height/Petzl; Graf Tree Care; Your PROMO Partners; CRTI/Morton Arboretum; Illinois Arborist Association; Russo; SavATree, Gateway Technical College; Green Extraction Technologies LLC. Thank you, Arbor Fair attendees, for your support.

And now the moment you've been waiting for, 'the Winners'. In the Women's Division 1st overall went to Lilly Soderlund (Ohio). Lilly is from 'out-of-state', so she can't represent the IAA at the International's. Alex Julius (Illinois) took 2nd place and Libby Bower (Illinois) took 3rd place. Alex Julius will be representing the Illinois Chapter at the International Tree Climbing Championship in Copenhagen,

Denmark in September. In the Men's Division, Michael Castle (Texas) was 1st overall, Abdon Leon-Espinosa (Michigan) was 2nd overall, Cormac Nagan (North Carolina) was 3rd overall, Kevin Mabry (Illinois) was 4th overall, Beau Nagan (Illinois) was 5th overall, Phil Reth (Illinois) was 6th overall. Kevin Mabry will be representing the Illinois Chapter at the International Tree Climbing Championship in Copenhagen, Denmark in September. The 'Spirit of the Competition' award is given to the individual who cheered on his/her fellow competitors with the most enthusiasm. This year's 'Spirit of the Competition' award goes to Kevin Mabry.

Two companies competed for the Com-Ed Corporate Cup, Davey Tree Experts and Kramer Tree Specialists. The company whose competitors tallied the most points wins the Com-Ed Corporate Cup. This Year's Com-Ed Corporate Cup winner is Kramer Tree Specialists. Congratulations KTS.

BEST OF SKILL IN COPENHAGEN, DENMARK
ALEX and KEVIN!



Openlands Chicago Climbing Training

by Norm Hall

In 2019 Openlands Chicago contacted IAA and asked if we had the trainers to train a staff of 6 on climbing techniques to attendees that had never climbed or been exposed to climbing before. April contacted me and asked if we can offer that type of training. I said, “why not”. With the help of Beau Nagan and Cantigny, we were able to find 5 sets of climbing gear and held a 2-day training to 6 Openlands staff at Cantigny. We started with PPE and climbing gear inspection, moved into knot tying, how to put on a ‘work positioning’ harness, identified the parts of the climbing rope, installing a climbing rope in a suitable branch union, and then into tree ascending. We also introduced the climbers to foot ascenders and cambium savers. Keep in mind, these Openlands employees had never climbed or been exposed to climbing in the past. By the end of day 2 they were installing cambium savers, then installing their climbing



COVID-19 I was not comfortable training. April asked if we should purchase our own climbing gear since we were going to hold this training again. The IAA did purchase 6-sets of complete climbing systems; climbing ropes, work positioning harnesses, safety lanyards, eye & eye hitch cords, all needed connecting links and micro pulleys. There are also 5 cambium savers and 2 throwline kits.

In 2021 Openlands called again and asked if it's possible to hold the training closer to their home base. Eduardo Medina thought it would be possible to hold it in Lincoln Park near the intersection of Lawrence Ave. and N. Simons Drive. April called the Chicago Park District and received approval. Eduardo and I held the same course to different staff of 6. We followed the same curriculum.



rope, inspecting and donning climbing gear, ascending into the tree, limb walking and climbing to a 35' height.

In 2020 Openlands called the IAA again for this same training, but due to

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Calendar of Events

August Events

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

[Click here to register](#)

August 24 - 25th, Rigging Level 1, Speaker: Norm Hall
Vernon Hills, Illinois

[Click here to register](#)

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

[Click here to register](#)

August 31st, TreeBiz Social - Elmhurst Brewing Company. Speaker: Bruce Horrigan
Elmhurst, Illinois

[Click here to register](#)

September Events

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

[Click here to register](#)

September 20 - 21st Rigging Level 1 Speaker: Norm Hall
Carol Stream, Illinois

[Click here to register](#)

September 20th - November 22nd Certified Arborist Classes & Exam
Bensonville, Illinois

[Click here to register](#)

September 27th - Felling @Cook County Forest Preserve

October Events

October 3rd - TRAQ Renewal
Zion, Illinois

[Click here to register](#)

October 25 - 26th Rigging Level 1 Speaker: Norm Hall
Arlington Heights, Illinois

[Click here to register](#)

Openlands Chicago Climbing Training (cont.)

This year we held the same course, at the same location, but for 9 trainees. Jason Austin was the assistant for this course and on day-2 brought 2 extra sets of climbing gear. Jason agreed to do all the 'in-tree-training', so I let one trainee use my climbing gear, so all 9 were able to climb at the same time. The enthusiasm these trainees have is second to none. All were cheering each other on to climb higher, walk further out on the limb walk and use the foot ascenders. This program has turned out to be a huge success for both Openlands Chicago and the IAA. A huge thank you to the individuals who have helped make this program successful.

Now that the IAA owns 6 complete sets of climbing gear, if you or someone you know is looking for climbing training, the IAA is here to help.



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Meet the Candidates - IAA Board of Directors *by April Toney*

Each year, half of the IAA Board of Directors rotates out and new Officers and Directors rotate in. For members, this is your chance to vote in someone that you feel will make decisions that will benefit your sector of the membership and provide you with member benefits that will help you in the workplace.

Voting privileges are given to those who are members of the Chapter and the ISA. You should receive your electronic ballot within the next few weeks. Please take time to cast your vote.

Tony Dati for President 2022-2023



Tony Dati currently serves as the President-Elect of the Illinois Arborist Association, and has enjoyed his time so far. Tony has had the opportunity to meet and work with professionals from all sides of the industry. Getting to hear their wants, needs and be a voice for them is important. Tony is currently the Streets Superintendent with the Village of Niles. Tony began his career with Niles in 2006 and served as Village Forester from 2010 to 2018. Tony is a member of the ISA, IAA, SMA, APWA and has been a certified arborist for 10 years. Tony graduated from the Illinois Public Service Institute in 2016. Tony has presented at the Morton Arboretum, at the IAA Annual Conference, and at many local schools. In addition to his duties as Superintendent,

Tony oversees the Forestry and Lighting Division, Streets and Signs Division and all snow operations for the Village of Niles. With Tony's leadership, the Village of Niles won two National Awards. The first was the 2019 APWA Excellence in Snow and Ice Control Award. The second was the 2020 American Public Works Association Management Innovation Award. Tony was also awarded the 2020 CRTI Advocate of The Year Award, 2020 Village of Niles Above and Beyond Award, 2021 Niles Chamber of Commerce Distinguished Voluntary Service Award and the Public Safety Award of Excellence. He supervises crews ranging from three to more than 30 employees in all aspects of municipal work. Under Tony's supervision, the Village of Niles was named Tree City USA in 2014. In addition to Tree City USA status, the Village of Niles has received six growth awards. Serving on the Environmental Practices Committee, assisting in the drafting of a new tree ordinance and developing a community garden are some of the additional accomplishments Tony has achieved during his career. Tony has shown an ongoing commitment to the IAA Board and its membership throughout his career. Tony has served as the IAA Municipal Director and Vice President. There are many issues Tony would like to address. One of his goals is to expand our membership and partnerships with different professional organizations. All sides of the industry need to be successful in order for the industry to grow. No matter what side of the industry you serve, Tony's goal is to bring us all together.

Dan O'Brien for President Elect 2022-2023



Dan is a multi-faceted Arborist working, practicing, and teaching his skills and knowledge throughout the Chicago area Green Industry. A certified Arborist since 2007, Dan has spent the last 15 year honing his knowledge and skills through field work, more than 250 hours of continued education classes and has recently acquired his TCIA CTSP Certification in 2017. During his time in the field, Dan has worked for Chicagoland staple companies including McGinty Bros. Inc. (Long Grove), R.W. Hendricksen Tree Care (Wheeling). He also headed the Tree Care Rx Department for Turf Care Enterprises Inc. (Barrington). Dan's current role as Plant Health Care Supply Coordinator for Russo Power Equipment provides him

with the welcoming challenge of using his knowledge and skills within a retail and sales environment. His extensive industry knowledge of chemicals, equipment, soil amendment, climbing gear, and chainsaws paired with his eagerness to learn about new products, provides his customers with the best product selection, training classes, and networking opportunities. In his free time, Dan enjoys sharing his passion for trees and the outdoors with the next generation as both a parent and Assistant Scoutmaster.

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Meet the Candidates - IAA Board of Directors (cont.)

Chris Evans for Vice President 2022-2023



Chris Evans is an Extension Forestry and Research Specialist for the University of Illinois, where he specializes in forest restoration, invasive species, forest/tree health, and management. He formerly served as a Program Director for the Illinois Arborist Association. Chris has over 20 years of experience working in forestry and natural resources, including providing continuing education and training opportunities to professionals and the public. His current research includes understanding the impact tree pests on the increase of tree hazards in recreational areas, optimizing management efficacy of herbicide treatments, and evaluating the success of forest management.

Chris has a master's in forestry from Iowa State University and a bachelor's in wildlife biology from Murray State University. He currently chairs the Illinois Forestry Association's Technical Advisory Board and serves as Co-chair of the Terrestrial Plants Subcommittee of the Illinois Invasive Plant Council. Part of his goals for serving on the IAA board is to continue providing high quality continuing education in a variety of venues, particularly hands-on field-based training.

Eric Hendrickson for Vice President 2022-2023



Eric Hendrickson has been working in the arboriculture and urban forestry realm since discovering the field as a summer seasonal for the University of Michigan's Forestry Department in 1991. After moving back to the Chicago region in the Fall of that year, he learned the basics of climbing and aerial lift work at Hendricksen, the Care of Trees before moving into the municipal realm in late 1992. Over the course of his time with the Village of Glen Ellyn, he worked his way up from an entry level position to the crew leader/supervisor position in their Forestry Division. In 2013, Eric moved to his next challenge taking on the Forestry and Urban Landscaping Supervisor role he currently holds for the Village of Lombard.

Eric has been a Certified Arborist since 1993 and enjoys opportunities to share his knowledge and training with residents, the Village of Lombard Forestry Technicians and others interested in the field. He believes that education is crucial in promoting proper tree care practices to the people and contractors with which he interacts on a regular basis. He has held the Tree Risk Assessment Qualification since 2015 and obtained ISA Municipal Specialist certification in 2017. He has been teaching Arborist Certification and Municipal Specialist classes for the IAA since 2017. He previously served on the IAA Board as a Municipal Chair for three terms, 2015/16, 2017/18 and 2021/22. He currently serves as the Illinois State Liaison to the Society of Municipal Arborists and is a member of their SMA State Liaison Working Group. He participates in the Illinois Urban and Community Forestry Committee as a representative of SMA. He is also a member of the Chicago Region Trees Initiative's Tree Planting and Stewardship and Tree Risk Assessment work groups and received that organization's Forester of the Year Award in 2019. He is a member of the Illinois Urban Forest Strike Team, which responds to requests for tree risk assessments from communities which have experienced natural disasters.

Eric is seeking to continue to serve on the IAA Board in the role of Vice President. He is seeking to carry on the work that was started by Tony Dati and other Board members in expanding our relationships with other organizations which support those working in the municipal field and other aspects of the green industry.

Meet the Candidates - IAA Board of Directors (cont.)

Paul Filary for Commercial Chair 2022-2024



A passion for the outdoors and a desire to understand how forest ecosystems work, interact and impact urban communities has been Paul's driving force throughout his career in forestry and arboriculture. Paul became interested in arboriculture as his interest grew in understanding how we can manage urban forests to benefit urban communities environmentally, socially and in the interest of improving public health within urban communities.

Paul's career in forestry and arboriculture stemmed from an interest in ecology and diagnostics and evolved into experience with public sector exotic pest management and regulations, arboriculture sales, business management and marketing. He has a passion for advancing safe work practices, workforce development and professionalism within the commercial arboriculture industry. In addition, a strong desire to educate the public of the benefits of supporting professional arboriculture, understanding what that is and why it is beneficial for their trees and our urban forest. Paul has been active with the IAA over the past few years volunteering as the Commercial Director for the past two years, with dedicated involvement on a variety of committees intended to grow the benefits that the IAA has to offer to its members while also trying to make fun and engaging training and other professional development events. Projects for the IAA that Paul has developed, lead and worked on include the career fair at the annual conference, TreeBiz Social, social media input and other marketing efforts. Prior to his time on the board, he volunteered as an active committee member and committee chair on the workforce development committee. Along with others, he helped develop this committee and create the IAA Career Fair at the annual conference, which began in 2017.

Paul is excited to continue his efforts on initiatives helping to improve workforce development in arboriculture, bringing member input to fruition in the association and continue to improve the value to IAA membership through the development of fun and engaging training and professional development events. He believes interaction of like-minded business owners and arborists can lead to raising the bar in the industry and ultimately resulting in an enhanced urban forest, the benefits it provides, and more professionals attracted to careers in the industry

Not certified? Contact us.

Call April @ 877-617-8887

email: april@illinoisarborist.org



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Meet the Candidates - IAA Board of Directors (cont.)

Kevin Mabry for Commercial Chair 2022-2024



Kevin Mabry is the ideal candidate for the Commercial Director position within the Illinois Arborist Association. A consummate outdoorsman, he obtained a bachelor's in forestry from SIUC. In 2008 Kevin first became a certified arborist in Colorado, where he dedicated his life to urban forestry and arboriculture to care for our urban canopies. Kevin Mabry has been fortunate enough to have been able to work for several wonderful companies in other states, as well as in Illinois where he worked with Kramer Tree Service and Homer Tree.

In 2014, Kevin Mabry moved back to central Illinois, where he opened his own business catering to commercial and residential arboriculture. His focus has been on spreading arboricultural awareness to central Illinois. While there are many amazing trees in Southern Illinois, there are a lot of arboricultural practices that are arboratrocities!!!

Since 2020, Kevin Mabry has focused on bringing his knowledge about trees as well as rigging and climbing to southern Illinois. Kevin Mabry has set up classes in aerial rescue and helped get local tree companies and industrial corporations to get involved in learning smarter, safer practices by helping train people and in aerial and ground techniques as well as proper pruning and Plant health care.

Kevin Mabry believes that with his passion and energy, as well as new training ideas he can drive much more ISA and IAA involvement in all of Illinois. The best way to develop an amazing tree community is by education and training. As the communication director for the IAA, Kevin Mabry will help develop programs that bring tree care workers from all over the state, as well as from other chapters. He believes it is important to pool and share knowledge because an educated industry will also educate the community they are surrounded by, which will in turn create a much higher quality urban forest.

That is why Kevin Mabry is the perfect candidate for commercial director of the IAA. He is already immersed in the arboricultural desert that south of I-80 is and understands the unique challenges to recruiting anyone to any training, much less active IAA members. Kevin Mabry will be the perfect person to help Illinois to continue to develop a high quality strong arboricultural community with dedicated ties to the IAA.

Aaron Schulz for ISA Council Representative 2022-2025



Aaron received his B.S. in Agricultural Science with an emphasis in Arboriculture-Urban Forestry from Western Illinois University in 2010. He previously worked as a Climber and Plant Health Care Technician for The Care of Trees – Naperville. He currently works as a Plant Health Care Coordinator and Consulting Arborist for King Tree Specialists Inc, a TCIA Accredited company based in Groveland, where he is responsible for chemical applications, plant diagnosis, consulting, and sales. Aaron received his ISA Certification in 2012 and ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualification in 2013. Serving the IAA and its members Aaron currently sits as the 2017 Commercial Director and is the Chair of multiple committees, including

Legislative and Plant Appraisal. He is also the IAA Advanced Training trainer for the Central-Southern region of Illinois. Outside of work hours he enjoys riding his motorcycle, brewing his own beer, and spending time with his wife and dog, Kirsten, and Leo.

Meet the Candidates - IAA Board of Directors (cont.)

Steve Lane for ISA Council Representative 2022-2025



Steve Lane is the lead urban forestry consultant with Great Lakes Urban Forestry Management, and a recent Past President of the IAA. He also plays the bass in a bunch of lousy garage bands you've never heard of, and probably never will.

Over the past 15 years since engaging with the IAA, Steve has served as commercial chair, 4 years in the executive committee, and been chair of the Advanced Training program. He has also attended nearly every Strategic Planning meeting over that 15-year period, helping to shape the organization and engaging with membership. Steve speaks regularly at IAA events and has represented the chapter by speaking at ISA conferences in both Texas (2016) as well as Knoxville (2019). As result of all this experience working with the chapter and its membership, Steve believes he is uniquely qualified to represent the IAA at the Council of Representatives (CoR) position for the chapter.

His goals for this term, should you choose to elect him as your CoR representative, will be to work with ISA to provide more and easier to access education opportunities for our members. We are in an era where new techniques, products, and information are becoming available every day. Having access to that information is what sets us apart as professionals. I want to make sure our members are receiving ever dollars' worth of their membership dues and more when it comes to education and access to information as well as CEUs.

In addition, I want to be a voice for the chapter's members when it comes to how ISA can do things better. Every year I attend the annual conference in Tinley Park, and every year I speak with people with legitimate complaints on a wide array of topics related to how their membership benefits them or could benefit them better. As CoR representative, I can bring these issues to ISA and work with them to make us both better organizations.

If I gain your vote, know that I am here to represent you and your interests. I want us all to be better as an industry, and I feel that being your CoR representative will provide a platform to be able to do this. Thanks for your time

Alexander Tucker for Municipal Director 2022-2024



Aleksander Tucker has been a municipal arborist with the Village of Arlington Heights for six years. He is passionate about the care of trees and continuing to advance the field of arboriculture. He acquired his bachelor's degree from the University of Miami in Ecosystem Science and Policy and has been interested in ecology and protecting our natural environment from a young age. Aleksander also understands the importance of educating the public. He leads an outreach program where he visits schools, engaging students and teachers through interactive activities, to learn the importance of protecting their urban forest environment. Aleksander also volunteers with the League of Women Voters'

Environmental Action Committee and has given talks at the Arlington Heights Garden Club and Rotary Club events.

During his time in office, Aleksander hopes to contribute to the development of arboriculture as a field and to help make advanced arborist training more widely available. He also aims to increase membership in the IAA. In his spare time, Aleksander is an avid drummer and enjoys playing in his band.

Meet the Candidates - IAA Board of Directors (cont.)

Theresa Kyriazes for ISA Council Representative 2022-2024



Theresa began her career in the Chicago Park District at the Lincoln and Garfield Park Conservatories. Here Theresa learned the fundamental techniques of propagation, design, and maintenance of the conservatory's living collections. Theresa also served as the Horticulturist and Greenhouse grower at the Oak Park Conservatory before leading the Horticulture team at the Park Ridge Park District.

At the Park Ridge Park District, Theresa began to manage the tree collection for the District. Upon hiring, Theresa quickly recognized the severity of the Emerald Ash Borer as EAB began to rear its ugly head. Theresa quickly created a plan to combat the devastation from EAB. She used her landscape design skills to create a diverse reforestation plan to offset the impact of removing nearly one-third of the District's tree canopy.

Equipped with the knowledge of EAB and the skill of diversification design, Theresa began a three-year tenure at Wheaton College, leading the grounds team in maintaining the historic college grounds, including their tree collection. Theresa recognized the campus's beautiful, diverse, and mature tree collection. With the assistance of students and faculty, Theresa obtained the 'Tree Campus USA' recognition through ArbNet.

In 2018, Theresa was responsible for nearly 5,000 trees in the Elk Grove Park District. Theresa led the grounds team to the proper installation, pruning, and maintenance of the District's collection. Theresa created The EGPD Morton Park Arboretum in the District to promote education to staff, residents, and visitors on the District's trees while ensuring a dedication to preservation for future generations.

Theresa recently accepted the Elk Grove Village Public Works Department position to manage over 15,000 trees as their Land and Forestry Foreman.

Theresa is a believer in lifelong learning. She provides training opportunities to her staff as they carry on the legacy of those before them. Theresa holds a BS in Business Management, is an ISA arborist, and is a qualified Tree Risk Assessor. Theresa and her staff attend many IAA classes and seminars.

Theresa is a timing judge at the IAA tree climbing competitions. After volunteering at her first IAA tree climbing competition, she went home and exclaimed to her husband, "I found my people!"

Theresa's purpose for running for the Municipal Director at IAA is to be the voice of the municipal employee. Theresa recognizes the challenges and rewards of a public servant. A task she does not take lightly.

Not certified? Contact us.

Call April @ 877-617-8887

email: april@illinoisarborist.org



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The TREE Fund supports the scientific exploration of urban and community forests and how they contribute to our lives, our communities, our economy, and our planet.

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ANNUAL CONFERENCE

November 30- December 3, 2022
Omni Louisville Hotel - Louisville, KY

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In-Person and Virtual
40th Annual Conference & Trade Show
Registration Guide

November 15 & 16, 2022

5th Annual Job Fair

November 15th, 2022 - 1:15pm - 2:30pm



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**Professionalism in
Arboriculture**

IAA 40th Annual Conference & Trade Show

Even Hotel Chicago & Tinley Park Convention Center

November 15 & 16

Hotel Reservations

Attendees will enjoy a conference rate of \$149/night for a standard double room. Rooms are limited so please make your reservations by calling: 708-444-1100. Please book your room with the Illinois Arborist Association Conference and Trade Show. The cutoff date is Monday October 24, 2022 to receive discounted rate.

Even Hotel & Tinley Park Convention Center (formerly Holiday Inn)
18501 South Harlem Avenue
Tinley Park, IL 60477
708-444-1100

Why attend?

Your profession continues to evolve at a rapid pace. Yesterday's answers may not be the best solutions to today's problems. The IAA conference is designed to provide the latest tools, resources and research findings to help you best manage the urban forest.

Network

Strategize with your peers around the state and some of the top professionals around the country.

Education

Educational tracks for Commercial, Municipal, Utility, Research, Joseph Kramer Arboriculture Demonstration Area, Spanish and IFA: Illinois Native Trees - Ecology and Utilization. Additional short sessions to cover hot topics.

Equipment & Supplies

Visit over 25 tree care suppliers and see the latest products and equipment.

We are excited for this year's IAA Annual Conference, Trade Show & Job Fair! We have an outstanding lineup of speakers from all over and we're committed to creating an event experience where our attendees, speakers, and exhibitors can safely and effectively conduct business and provide quality learning and networking opportunities. IAA's COVID Plan is in accordance with state, local and Illinois Convention Center requirements. We're actively monitoring and adapting these plans so that we are doing our part to keep you a safe and enjoyable learning environment. [Click Here for the IAA COVID Plan.](#)

2022 Annual Conference Registration

Conference prices are for both in-person & virtual attendance.

Early Bird Registration ends October 14th. Monday Sessions: (Choose one at right, add'l fee)

Full Conference

Early Bird IAA Member - \$295.00
Early Bird Non-Member - \$350.00
At-Door IAA Member (after 10/14) - \$315.00
At-Door Non-Member (after 10/14) - \$370.00

Daily (Tues. or Wed.)

Early Bird IAA Member - \$215.00
Early Bird Non-Member - \$250.00
At-Door IAA Member (after 10/14) - \$225.00
At-Door Non-Member (after 10/14) - \$260.00

Full Time Student (must show ID)

Full Conference - \$85.00
Daily - \$30.00

Membership to the Illinois Arborist Association is required for the member rates. **Annual dues for the IAA are \$55 which can be paid at the time of registration to receive the discounted rates.**

Virtual attendees will be viewing the following:

Tuesday's General Sessions & Commercial Sessions
Wednesday's General Sessions & Municipal Sessions

Monday Sessions - Advanced Training Classes

See Next Page for Class Descriptions

Practical Plant Diagnostics

Cost: \$100

Instructor: Dr. Stephanie Adams

Abiotics: Diagnosis, Causes, & Management

Cost: \$85

Instructor: Aaron Schulz

[CLICK TO REGISTER & PAY ONLINE](#)

or email all information to april@illinoisarborist.org

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No refunds after October 14, 2022.

Speakers & topics are subject to change.



IAA Annual Conference & Trade Show

Advanced Training - Monday Sessions - November 14, 2022

Monday Sessions are In-Person

Cost: \$100		Title & Speaker	
Time: 8:00am - 4:00pm CEU's Available: 7		Practical Plant Diagnostics - <u>Dr. Stephanie Adams</u> , Morton Arboretum Description: TBD	

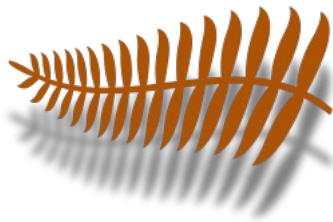
Cost: \$85		Title & Speaker	
Time: 8:00am -2:00pm CEU's Available: 5		Diagnosis & Management Domain: Abiotic Problems -"outdoor field diagnosis, weather and time permitting" - <u>Aaron Schulz</u> , Oak Bros Tree Care Description: This IAA Training Course will provide an in-depth study of common abiotic stresses on trees and woody plants. We will discuss specific abiotic disorders associated with environmental conditions, nutrient deficiencies, chemical injury, animal and mechanical damage along with various other stresses people inflict on plants. We will also cover diagnostic skills needed to recognize these stresses and suggest remedies to correct, minimize or prevent these problems. We will discuss the importance of laboratory analysis of soil, water and tissue samples in properly diagnosing plant problems. We will focus on the types of stresses that predispose trees to decline. Materials will be covered through PowerPoint slides and field demonstrations. A 20-question multiple choice quiz will be given at the end of class. Recommended Reading <i>Abiotic Disorders of Landscape Plants, A Diagnostic Guide</i> , Lawrence R. Costello. Edward J. Perry, Nelda P. Matheny, J. Michael Henry, Pamela M. Geisel, 2003. Upon completion of the Abiotic Problems module, each participant will gain knowledge of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 decision-making process • A better understanding of tools to aid the arborist while diagnosing plant problems. 	

IAA Annual Conference & Trade Show

Tuesday November 15, 2022

General Sessions - Streamed Live

8:00am - 8:30am	ISA Update - 15 Minutes Presentations from Vendors - 15 Minutes
8:30am - 9:15am CEU's Available: .75	<p>Breeding for EAB Resistance in Ash - <u>Rachel Kappler</u>, Holden Forests & Gardens</p> <p>Description: EAB threatens the survival of ash trees in the U.S. where it's been an important hardwood for riparian and wetland forests, soil conservation and urban green spaces. Lingered ash trees that've maintained healthy canopies for two years after other large ash had died were identified in forests long infested by EAB. EAB egg bioassay experiments confirmed these trees have an increased level of resistance due to defense responses. Population models predict that tree reintroduction is important for species persistence. This presentation discusses these findings and how it relates to tree-improvement programs that could be successful in producing EAB resistant seed.</p>
9:15am - 10:00am CEU's Available: .75	<p>Using exotic parasitoids for EAB management – <u>APHIS</u></p> <p>Description: TBD</p>
10:00am - 10:30am	Break with Exhibitors
10:30am - 11:50am CEU's Available: 1	<p>Oak Decline Update - <u>Dr. Stephanie Adams</u>, Morton Arboretum</p> <p>Description: TBD</p>
11:50am - 1:00pm	Lunch with Exhibitors



IAA Annual Conference & Trade Show

Tuesday November 15, 2022

Municipal Sessions

1:00pm - 2:00pm
CEU's Available: 1

Tree Conflicts: Infrastructure Repair and Replacement - Joe McCarthy, City of Chicago Bureau of Forestry

Description: The replacement of aging infrastructure and installation of new infrastructure regularly and increasingly conflicts with street trees. Urban Foresters cannot solely be reactive to plans by removing and replacing impacted trees and specifying protection methods to minimize impact on the rest. Foresters must be included early in the design and must be knowledgeable on standards and regulations governing the design to best influence changes that would mitigate impacts on trees. As proposed changes can challenge the status quo and deviate to such a degree that Agencies may resist, Foresters may need to engage the public to advocate for agreeable solutions.

2:00pm - 2:45pm
CEU's Available: .75

"Developing a Tree Risk Management Plan for Your Community" - Grant Jones, Village of Oak Park

Description: Often we hear that our communities need a tree risk management plan but what does one look like. Grant shares plans he helped create for a small community in Ohio and a mid-sized suburban community in Illinois. Those attending will learn the components of both plans, considerations made during their creation, how the plans were implemented, and lessons learned during their use. These experiences will be beneficial for other communities as they consider developing their own tree risk management plans.

2:45pm - 3:15pm

Break with Exhibitors

3:15pm - 4:00pm
CEU's Available: .75

Bridging the Gap Between Utility & Muni- Joe Hansen & Brandon Naser

Description: As municipal foresters we are often the first point of contact for residents regarding tree and utility conflicts. We field questions and provide perspective into the work required that must take place to keep the lights on while operating within the boundaries of tree preservation ordinances. This presentation will discuss typical questions, concerns, conflicts, and examples of working with utility companies and their contractors as told from a municipal perspective and will provide insight for improving operations through information sharing and educating the public.

Commercial Sessions – Streamed Live

1:00pm - 2:00pm
CEU's Available: 1

Arbor Aesthetics: Starting your own company - Jeff & Amy Grewe, Arbor Aesthetics Tree Service

Description: Jeff and Amy will share relatable stories of workplace culture frustrations and failures along with real-world solutions to take back to your organization. You'll be encouraged and inspired to embark on a personal growth and leadership journey, as they have, to develop the skills necessary to attract and keep the right people for your organization.

IAA Annual Conference & Trade Show

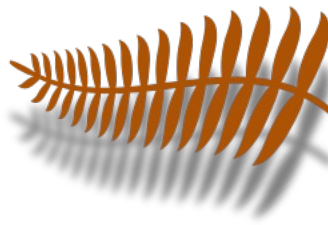
Tuesday November 15, 2022

Commercial Sessions – Streamed Live, Continued

2:00pm - 2:45pm CEU's Available: .5	Leadership in Arboriculture - <u>John Hanson</u> Description: "Engaged Leadership is needed in every industry, especially today. Engaged teams are more productive, have higher retention and possess stronger morale. But what is Leadership? There is a mind-numbing quantity of ideas out there on this important topic. John has a unique take on what it is, along with 40 proven strategies to Engage & Empower your team to achieve more."
2:45pm - 3:15pm	Break with Exhibitors
3:15pm - 4:00pm CEU's Available: .75	Panel Discussion - <u>Heather Dirksen</u>, SingleOps Description: Join us for a panel discussion where business owners discuss the technology they use in their businesses to make their team and delivery of service more efficient and consistent. Predetermined questions will focus the panelists on a variety of topics including strategic implementation, production, return on investment and growth. Come and leverage the wisdom of these pioneers in the industry and interact with the panel in discussion!

Utility Sessions

1:00pm - 2:00pm CEU's Available: 1	Drones and Herbicide Application - <u>Davey</u> Description: TBD
2:00pm - 2:45pm CEU's Available: .75	Goats and vegetation management - <u>ComEd</u> Description: TBD



IAA Annual Conference & Trade Show

Tuesday November 15, 2022

Utility Sessions, Continued

2:45pm - 3:15pm

Break with Exhibitors

3:15pm - 4:00pm
CEU's: Available: .75

Topics to be covered in Demo Tree Session

3:30pm - 5:00pm

TREE Fund Raffle

Come have a few drinks, network with the exhibitors and stay for the raffle! Bring some extra cash as raffle tickets will be sold throughout the day on Tuesday. All proceeds will go to support the TREE Fund.

The Tree Research and Education Endowment Fund (TREE Fund) is shaping the future of trees and the arboriculture profession. The TREE Fund provides research grants, scholarships and educational programs to advance knowledge in the field of arboriculture and urban forestry. With this knowledge, arborists and citizens will be better equipped to ensure that healthy, mature trees remain an integral part of the urban and suburban communities of our future.



IAA Annual Conference & Trade Show

Wednesday, November 16, 2022

General Sessions – Streamed Live

8:00am - 9:00am
CEU's Available: 1

"Say goodbye to "we've always done it this way" - Heather Dirksen, SingleOps

Description: Change is not easy. For you, your customers, or your team. However, when done right - everyone can walk away a winner. Heather Dirksen, VP of Operations at SingleOps, is no stranger to change. Heather will share some of her biggest lessons learned while implementing new technology and processes in green industry organizations ranging from 1M-60M in annual revenue. This session will provide valuable insight to business leaders as they contemplate how to take their company and team to the next level.

9:00am - 10:00am
CEU's Available: 1

Improving Schoolyard Air Quality with Vegetative Barriers - Michelle N Catania

Description: Poor air quality is a leading cause of diminished health for half the world's population, especially in urban settings along major transportation corridors. The Morton Arboretum and Chicago Region Trees Initiative, based in Chicago, Illinois, USA, along with the United States Environmental Protection Agency and Environmental Law and Policy Center, have been working together to develop a program and toolkit for the installation of vegetative buffers along school properties within 500 feet (152 m) of highways. Our focus is on improving the health and wellbeing of communities that have experienced historic environmental injustices while promoting the benefits of trees. We developed a toolkit designed to take a community group step-by-step through the process of planning, creating, and caring for a vegetation barrier as part of their school's science curriculum.

10:00am - 10:30am

Break with Exhibitors

10:30am - 11:15am
CEU's Available: .75

Gloom and Doom Part 1: Disease Update - Diane Plewa, Plant Clinic

Description: Diane Plewa talks about trends in disease issues found on trees and woody ornamentals submitted to the University of Illinois Plant Clinic over the past few years. Her presentation includes common diseases and updates to invasive threats.

11:15am - 12:00pm
CEU's Available: .75

Gloom and Doom Part 2: There is Hope: Options for Managing Insect and Mite Pests Affecting Our Woody Plants - Dr. Fredric Miller - Joliet Junior College

Description: Our woody plants face many challenges and pest problems. In this session, we will discuss research on the feeding preference of assorted leaf-feeding insects for assorted woody plant taxa, and suggestions of possible plant selections for replanting and diversification of our urban forest and landscapes. We will include an update on post EAB management for existing ash tree populations, and a review of some of the more persistent and prominent insect and mite pests. The session will conclude with an update on the status of invasives including the spotted lanternfly, viburnum leaf beetle, and elm zigzag sawfly.

IAA Annual Conference & Trade Show

Wednesday, November 16, 2022

Municipal Sessions – Streamed Live

12:00pm - 1:00pm	Lunch with Exhibitors
1:00pm - 2:00pm CEU's Available: 1	Urban Forestry Consulting-Software Development - <u>E. Schulte</u>, PlanIT Geo Description: Tree canopy assessments have a lot to offer. They allow cities and nonprofits to take a data-driven approach to setting goals, prioritizing planting, responding to storms, and improving tree equity and public health. Historically, tree canopy assessments involved a lengthy and difficult-to-budget process, but technical advances are significantly reducing the processing time and overall cost. More communities can now access tree canopy data and can afford to update that data more frequently. This presentation will explain the tree canopy analysis process and share examples of how communities are taking advantage of accessible tree canopy data.
2:00pm - 3:00pm CEU's Available: 1	Small, but mighty storyline about U.F. - Village of Berwyn: <u>Frank/Alfredo/Sandy Calvello/Vargas/Feijt</u> - Frank- City Arborist, Alfredo-Certified arborist Trim Crew leader, Sandy- Executive Director of Berwyn Park district Description: We will be speaking on the importance of cooperative between entities and public relations.

Commercial Sessions

1:00pm - 2:00pm CEU's Available: 1	Impact of water on Treatment Performance – Can the water source really make such a drastic difference? - <u>Lee Fredericks</u>, Rainbow Ecoscience Description: Effective pesticide applications require attention to factors that influence product performance: product selection, label instructions, equipment calibration, and application timing. Applicators also learn about product performance from trial and error and from industry and university recommendations. Experience and education allow applicators to see what happens to control programs when rates are changed, products are compared, and various application techniques are attempted. However, one factor that doesn't get much attention is the quality of the water used to spray the product, this talk will present details and strategies on how to account for water quality.
2:00pm - 3:00pm CEU's Available: 1	Compact Lift Ops, Mtn., and Use - <u>Dave Webb</u> Description: TBD



IAA Annual Conference & Trade Show

Wednesday, November 16, 2022

Utility Sessions

1:00pm - 2:00pm
CEU's Available: 1

Topics to be covered in the Demo Tree Sessions

2:00pm - 3:00pm
CEU's Available: 1

Topics to be covered in the Demo Tree Sessions

IFA

1:00pm - 2:00pm
CEU's Available: 1

Natural Resources within an Urban Matrix - Chris Evans, University of Illinois

Description: Natural ecosystems such as forests, prairies, and wetlands often occur within an urban or residential matrix. This presents a unique set of challenges to management. Natural areas tend to be smaller and more fragmented, leading to increased pressure from invasive species, smaller population sizes, and reduced connectivity to other suitable habitats. Some management practices, such as prescribed fire, are difficult to implement. This presentation will cover the challenges, practices, and adaptations needed to manage natural areas in the urban interface.

2:00pm - 3:00pm
CEU's Available: 1

Managing Wildlife in the Urban Interface

Description: TBD

2022 IAA Job & Career Fair - 1:00pm - 3:00pm - Sam Tinley Room
THANK YOU JOB FAIR SPONSORS!



TBD





2022 IAA Annual Conference & Trade Show

FREE To Attend!
Arboricultural Job Fair

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November 15, 2022

Illinois Arborist Association

2022 ARBORICULTURE JOB FAIR



- Meet & network with local
arborist professionals

- Learn about career
opportunities in arboriculture

- Sponsor event, interact with
qualified talent

- Build relationships and start
your career in arboriculture



IAA JOB FAIR DETAILS

November 15, 2022

1:15 pm – 2:30 pm

Register Online!

FREE - Attendee Registration

Booth Registration

Sponsorship Registration



Annual Career Fair November 15, 2022 1:15pm - 2:30pm

Illinois Arborist Association Workforce Development Annual Career Fair

Great Opportunity for:

- Municipal Arboriculture
- Commercial Arboriculture
- Utility Vegetation Management
- Vendors of the Arboriculture Industry



**Event Sponsor - \$350
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Sponsorship Includes -

- Booth w/2 representatives
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- Debrief with attendees & lead guided trade show floor tour
- Dinner and interaction w/attendees after conference

Booth Space Only

\$100 - Commercial/Municipal
\$50 - Non-Profit or Educational Organizations

(Table w/2 representatives)

The greatest challenge we all face in arboriculture is finding career minded and qualified employees. The IAA Career Fair is an excellent event that brings businesses and qualified career seekers together to grow our industry!

Take advantage of this great opportunity and promote careers in arboriculture at your company! Sponsoring companies will be able to interact with attendees throughout the day and promote careers at their companies. Don't miss out on this opportunity to grow your company and identify future employees for your company!

[Be A Sponsor - Online Sponsorship Registration Form](#)

[Booth - Online Booth Registration Form](#)

[Swag Bag - All attendees receive swag - Donate Items](#)

IAA Workforce Development - Contact Paul Filary at pfilary@kramertree.com

2022 IAA Career Fair

November 15, 2022

Agenda for Day:

- 11:30 am – 12:00 pm - VIP group arrives, checks in, lunch on their own
- 12:30 pm – 1:15 pm - Welcome, Sponsors & Careers in Arboriculture Presentation
- 1:15 pm – 2:30 pm - Career Fair
- 2:30 pm – 2:45 pm - Break into groups (3-4 students/sponsor – VIP & Sponsors)
- 2:45 pm – 3:30 pm - Sponsors tour students around trade show
- 3:30 – 5:00 pm - TREE Fund Raffle & Prizes
- 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm - Dinner at TBD

IAA Annual Conference & Trade Show

Tuesday Spanish Sessions - Eduardo Medina

8:40am-10:15am	Pruning techniques-Técnicas de poda
10:15am-10:45am	Break
10:45am-11:50am	Fuerzas en el cordaje- Forces in rigging
11:50am-1:00pm	Lunch
1:00pm-2:45pm	(YAAX -CHE) La ceiba el árbol sagrado de los Mayas-(YAAX -CHE) The ceiba the sacred
2:45pm-3:15pm	Break
3:15pm-4:00pm	Training in arboriculture-Entrenamiento en la arboricultura

Tuesday, November 15, 2022

Demonstration Tree

8:40am-10:00am	Throwline-throwing, manipulating and setting/ MRS Friction savers
10:00am-10:30am	Break
10:30am-11:15am	Canopy Anchors for SRS and transferring to MRS
11:15am-11:50am	Base anchors systems for SRS
11:50am-1:00pm	Lunch
1:00pm-2:00pm	Mechanical Climbing devices overview
2:00pm-2:45pm	Redirects for MRS and SRS
2:45pm-3:15pm	Break
3:15pm-4:00pm	Eduardo Spanish session

Wednesday, November 16, 2022

Demonstration Tree

8:00am-10:00am	Spar work positioning and effective cuts to minimize risk around utilities
10:00am-10:30am	Break
10:30am-12:00pm	Tips and tricks in rigging and climbing while not one handing saws
12:00pm-1:00pm	Lunch
1:00pm-3:00pm	Rigging down the tree

IAA Annual Conference & Trade Show
Even Hotel Chicago & Tinley Park Convention Center
November 14 - 16, 2022

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IAA Summer Conference is a Wrap!

by Tony Dati

With the 2022 summer conference in the books, it's really makes you stop and think about conferences in general over the past couple years. Covid -19 really hindered the in person learning experience. That's something I truly missed. The IAA in general has done a fantastic job at changing with the times. This might be one man's opinion, but I'll stick by that statement. Hybrid conferences seem to be a great way to keep everyone involved and up to speed. That wave of learning allows for organizations to present speakers you've never heard or have never seen before. The ability to Zoom with leaders in our industry all the way across the world is astounding. Sometimes you need to turn it all off and get your hands dirty as Stephanie Adams showed us. The ability to stand before the greats in our industry and let them literally put the soil in your hands and learn about it through feel and smell cant be duplicated any other way. Having the opportunity to expose roots with Lee Fredericks or walk around trees learning about soil nutrition from Aaron Schulz was an experience I will always remember. I for one am a hands on learner and will always enjoy that type of experience. I really enjoyed the great conversations I had with many of you.



Bouncing ideas off each other and learning about your experiences helps keep my passion charged up and my imagination fueled. If you didn't get a chance to attend the conference this summer, don't worry it won't be the last. I don't know where the conference will be held next year, but I wouldn't be sad if was in the same location.

The arboretum was really beautiful and was such a short walk from the hotel. The grounds were amazing and the tree canopy seemed to be endless. Thank you to all the presenters this year. Mike and Jim did a great job presenting and continue to make a positive impact on our industry.

I would like to extend my gratitude to the legendary Dr. Fredric Miller and IAA President Aaron Schulz for putting together such an excellent program and being exceptional hosts. There is much that happens behind the scenes and I would be remiss if I didn't thank Executive Director April Toney and Ashley LaDuke for all their hard work and time. Thanks to all the volunteers that come thought each and every year. I can't wait to see everyone at the next IAA event. Whether its hybrid, virtual, or in person, I'm sure it will be epic.



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Illinois Trees



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