# Illinois Trees The Quarterly Publication of the Illinois Arborist Association

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# Arborist Great, Gone Too Soon!

by April Toney

Norm Hall's dedication and tireless efforts have profoundly shaped the landscape of the Illinois Arborist Association. It is an honor and a privilege to acknowledge the remarkable contributions of Norm Hall, whose commitment to arboriculture has left an indelible mark on the heart of our industry.

Norm had been the driving force behind the Illinois Arborist Association Tree Climbing Competition (TCC) for 18 years, where he chaired and ran this incredible event with unwavering enthusiasm and expertise. Additionally, he volunteered to set up and judge other Chapter TCCs.

Norm's influence doesn't stop there. He took on the monumental task of organizing the Advanced Training Programs Tree Worker Domain and contributing to its success. From creating the curriculums and exams to coordinating sites and training the trainers, Norm has been the pillar of this crucial initiative. His commitment to education is unparalleled. Norm also wrote the curriculum





for the Municipal Arborist Training Program (MATP), and the Commercial Arborist Training Program (CATP), and he developed and ran the Community Hands-on Training Program (CHOT), to bring safety training to professional crews, and communities throughout the state of Illinois. Through his efforts, countless individuals have received the training necessary to excel in their roles as arborists. His motto was always "Safety First". For years, Norm had been a familiar face at the IAA Joseph Kramer Demonstration Area at the Annual Conference, sharing knowledge and expertise with all who sought to learn. His dedication to education further manifested in the creation of the Pruning and Knot Tying e-learning videos, providing accessible resources for learners far and wide.

The impact extends beyond training programs. Norm also organized the Day of Service, fostering a spirit of industry engagement and *continued on page 4* 

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Don't forget to visit the IAA Website for updates on events, certification classes, and important issues impacting our industry.

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#### Mission Statement

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

# President's Message

Greetings Fellow IAA Members,

Anyone who knows me can tell you I love telling stories almost as much as I love trees. Here is a short one about how I joined the Illinois Arborist Association.

In the Fall of 2006 I had just been hired as the new "Hot Shot" spray tech at McGinty Bros Inc, Long Grove. After a few years in the industry as a PHC Tech, I thought I knew about all there was about trees. One morning Charlie McGinty walked in as I was making yet another pot of Coffee. He asked why I wasn't at the IAA Fall Conference? I didn't even know the IAA existed let alone that a trade show was going on. He sent me down to the show where I met my boss Brian McGinty who jokingly told me "Keep your ears open and you mouth shut and learn something." I did my best with the first and last request, the second is a tall order for me. I walked into that show knowing it all, I walked out humbled by how little I knew. The IAA trade show's classes were eye opening and informative. The speakers had unknowingly raised a challenge before me. If I was going to turn my job into a career, I was going to have to up my game. By the next IAA Fall Conference, I had my dues paid, certification under my belt, and I was ready to learn everything the Speakers had to teach me. I have attended the Annual Conference since and learn something new every year.

About 5 years ago. I realized how those classes had shaped my career and gave me the knowledge to provide for my family. I called the IAA office and talked with April to ask how I could get on the ballot in hopes of serving on the board. My goal was to start giving back to the IAA and my fellow Arborists. Since then, I have been honored to serve as Industrial Director, Vice President, President Elect. Just recently I started my term as the President of the IAA. Where my title has changed a few times, my goal has remained steadfast.

That is my story. I ask every member of the IAA to take a moment to look back and see how your Arborist Certification(s) and the IAA has helped shape your career? I encourage you to share this experience with those you work with. Last, I challenge all of you to find a way to give back to our industry in your own way.

Cheers to you, Daniel O'Brien Illinois Arborist Association President Certified Arborist and CTSP

Dan O'Brien



### Arborist Great, Gone Too Soon! (cont.)

giving back. The four (4) Day of Service events that he ran from 2019-2022 totaled over \$140,000 in services. This dollar amount served as a match for the grant money that the IAA was awarded to train arborists.

Other accomplishments: Norm was the IAA President in 2009.

He won the following IAA awards:

- Honorary Life in 2004
- Special Recognition in 2002 and 2015
- Volunteer of the Year in 2020
- Award of Merit in 2021



As we reflect on Norm's multifaceted contributions, we are reminded that the strength of our organization lies in the passion and commitment of individuals like him. His legacy is not just a collection of achievements but a testament to the transformative power of one person's dedication to a greater cause. To many of us, Norm was much more than a colleague, co-worker, and arborist...he was also a very good friend.

# You will be missed Norm!



## Careers in Arboriculture Demonstration Event – Huge Success!

Our inaugural Careers in Arboriculture Demonstration Event was a great success! Thanks to our host, The Morton Arboretum, and all our sponsors! Event sponsors included Bartlett Tree Experts and Davey Tree, while additional sponsors were The Municipal Arborist Podcast, Kramer Tree Specialists, and Arbor Management. We can't make these types of events happen without the support of our industry partners and sponsors of these educational events, thank you!

#### The event took place at The

Gateway to Tree Science at The Morton Arboretum over two days, including an evening dinner and career fair on day 1. If you haven't visited the Gateway, you need to do so! It's an awesome exhibit that displays everyday challenges in our urban environment and how trees react to them. A great space to bring your team for hands-on training, tree ID, or whatever training needs you feel your team could benefit from. Contact Michelle Catania (mcatania@ mortonarb.org) at The Morton Arboretum for more details.

Attendees ranged from working professionals seeking a transition in their career to students pursuing degree programs in the study of forestry, arboriculture or other related fields. Multiple universities and colleges were represented. We had about thirty attendees each day who were engaged in the various demonstrations and presentations. It was an excellent atmosphere to display everyday work practices in arboriculture and the work in action. The event on day 1 kicked off with a tree spade planting demonstration and concluded with professional climbing systems demonstrated in a mature Honey Locust. Following the day 1 demonstration, attendees had the opportunity to attend a dinner and career fair at the Double Tree Hotel in Lisle. Organizations from non-profit to commercial



arboriculture were present and engaging with attendees about career opportunities and how to get their start in the arboriculture industry.

Our lineup of speakers and demonstrations represented a spectrum of career opportunities in the industry and opened the eyes of the attendees as to the countless opportunities in our industry. It was an excellent opportunity for everyone to see what the arboriculture industry is all about and for businesses and organizations to interact with local individuals seeking careers in arboriculture.

We look forward to a debrief with the planning committee for this event to learn how we can continue to grow and offer this event on an annual basis. We will look to send out a survey to those who attended to gain their input to continue to improve upon this event! Keep your eyes out for a set date and location for next year's event and don't miss your opportunity to partake and help grow the workforce for the arboriculture industry!

#### Paul Filary

IAA Commercial Director, Workforce Development Committee Chair pfilary@kramertree.com

### 2023 Illinois Tree Climbing Competition by Don Ropoolo



Left to Right: Don Ropollo, Libby Bower, Ryan Sams, Beau Nagan, Logan Stine, Eduardo Medina

The 2023 Illinois Arborist Association Tree Climbing Championship was two days this year, May 20 and 21 at Salt Creek Forest Preserve in Wood Dale. The event was energizing and engaging. The weather was amazing and there were lots of tree care professionals competing, volunteering, cheering, sharing ideas and learning.

The Arbor Fair continues to be a growing successful complementary part of the Tree Climbing Championship event with more organizations participating and engaging with industry professionals and the public.

Thanks to all our sponsors and volunteers that make the event not just possible, but fun!

We decided to run the event as a two-day

event this year as many other chapters do. The goal was to decrease the time pressure of completing all the preliminary events as well as the Masters Challenge all in one day. The purpose of this was twofold, one to make it less stressful for the volunteers running the events and the competitors trying to get the event done in one day before dark. The other goal was to increase the opportunity for more competitors because we would not have as much of a time constraint, trying to get through the entire event

in one day.

We completed all five preliminary events on Saturday and ran the



continued on page 8

### ~ Calendar of Events ~ December Events

**December 6th - TreeBiz Social - Half Day Brewing Company (4:00 - 6:00pm) Aaron Schauer** 200 Village Green Lincolnshire, IL 60069

Wisconsin has an apprenticeship program, but what does that mean for IL companies? Come learn about the WI apprenticeship program and the instructional components offered by Gateway Technical College. We'll discuss what apprenticeship means and how it can assist in recruiting new talent. Additionally, we speak about opportunities for IL companies and the educational opportunities offered through Gateway Technical College in Kenosha, WI. Check us out before the meeting at www.gtc. edu/forestry! I look forward to seeing you in December! <u>Click here to register</u>

December 21st, NEMF - Colette Copic, Chicago Regio Trees Initiative (10:00am - 12:00pm) Community Room, Village Hall – 255 E Wilson Ave. Lombard, IL 60148 <u>Click here to register</u>







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### 2023 Illinois Tree Climbing Competition (cont.)

Masters Challenge with the top qualifiers from the preliminary events on Sunday.

### Here are the results!

1st Place Beau Nagan & Libby Bower 2nd Ryan Sams 3rd Logan Stine Corporate Cup – Davey



As it turned out, we had about average participation and would

love to have more climbers compete in the future, especially increasing participation from different genders! If you know of anyone interested, please encourage them to check it out. We're also happy to answer any questions to help encourage and support participating.

Don't miss out next year, the attending the competitionis free and welcome to all.



#### by Fredric Miller, Ph.D.

The spring of 2024 will be a banner year for the periodical cicada with both the 13 and 17-year broods emerging throughout most of Illinois. With the exception of a few counties in extreme southern Illinois, the central portion (Springfield and south) will welcome the 13year periodical cicada (Brood XIX) and areas north of Springfield will experience Brood XIII. Mathematically, it is a very rare event for both 13 and 17- year broods to emerge in the same year (see Figures 1A and B). In fact, the last time these two broods co-emerged (i.e. every 221 years) in Illinois, was in 1803 when Thomas Jefferson bought the Louisiana Purchase from France. I can tell you, having personally experienced the co-emergence in 1998 of the Missouri Broods IV (17 year) and Brood XIX (13 year), it was guite noisy.

What can we do to mitigate or prevent ovipositional damage to our younger and more vulnerable woody plants while at the same time enjoying this unique biological and ecological event? Here are some practical best management practices (BMPs) for homeowners, and members of the forestry, orchard, and green industries:

- First and foremost, enjoy the event as it will only last for a few weeks and will be at least 13 years before another emergence
- If possible, avoid 2024 spring plantings of very young trees and whips that are approximately less than two inches in diameter/caliper. Consider waiting until after adult activity has ceased and/or fall to plant
- If you have a limited number of susceptible plants, cover them with fine netting and make sure to gather the netting around the trunk and as near to the ground as possible. Once the emergence event is over, be sure to remove the netting
- Application of a systemic insecticide may help in reducing damage to susceptible

plants, but you will need to apply the chemical well in advance of the cicada emergence in order it to be taken up by the plant. If you are in a drought situation, like in spring-summer, 2023, you may have to water plants in advance to insure good uptake.

- Studies have shown that application of contact insecticides has not shown to be effective and is not practical for large scale operations, and can be harmful to beneficials leading to insect and mite outbreak unrelated to the cicada emergence
- Mature and health trees will show some terminal branch flagging later in the season (i.e. August), but will only result in some "natural pruning" and is not harmful to the plant

The periodical cicada Illinois Brood XIII consists of three species, Magicicada septendecim, M. cassini, and M. septendecula and Brood XIX, also known as the **Great Southern Brood** is made up of four different species, M. tredecim, M. neotredecim, M. tredecassini, and M. tredecula.

There are both annual cicadas and periodical cicadas. While both groups spend most of their life cycle underground, the adult annual cicada is active in late summer (i.e. July and August) while "periodicals" emerge in late spring and early summer (i.e. May and early June). As their name implies, annuals emerge every year. Periodical cicadas are only found east of the Rocky Mountains (**Figure 1A**).

Immature and adult periodical cicadas have a piercing-sucking mouthparts that are used for extracting plant sap from fine roots, and twigs and branches. The adult cicadas feed very little with most of the plant damage resulting from the females using their saw-like ovipositors to lay eggs in small twigs and branches. The nymphs feed for 13 to 17 years, depending on the brood; 13-year life cycles in the southern

states and 17-year cycles farther north (**Figures 3 and 4**).

Upon emergence from the soil, the adult cicadas briefly feed on a variety of woody plants. Feeding damage from the adults is minimal at most, but once mating has been completed, the adult females, with their sawlike ovipositor, will begin cutting longitudinal slits in the twigs and branches of woody plants and will lay up to 20 eggs in each of these "egg nests" (Figures 4, 5, and 6). An adult female can lay up to 600 eggs during her lifetime (Brown and Zuefle, 2009). After about 6-10 weeks, the newly hatched nymphs will drop to the soil, burrow in and then begin feeding on the fine roots of the host plant spending the next 13 or 17 years underground (Brown and Zuefle, 2009) (Figures 4, 5, and 6).

While most cicadas are considered "generalists" (i.e. broad host range), like all living creatures, they have their preferred host plants for egg laying including apple (Malus spp.), hickory (Carya spp.), maple (Acer spp.), and oaks (Quercus spp.) (Brown and Zuefle, 2009). Members of the birch (Betulaceae), dogwood (Cornaceae), walnut (Juglandaceae), willow (Salicaceae), linden (Tiliaceae), and elm (Ulmaceae) plant families may also be attacked. Additional hosts may include introduced exotic ornamentals such as Rosa spp. Cotoneaster spp., Forsythia spp., Ginkgo biloba, Pyrus spp., and Syringa spp (Brown and Zuefle, 2009). However, plants with resinous sap (i.e. conifers, Rhus spp) gum production by Prunus spp., and persimmon (Diospyros virginiana) are typically not preferred for egg laying since the sap tends to prevent egg hatch (Brown and Zuefle, 2009) and escape by the nymphs. For a more comprehensive list of host plants refer to the following references (Forsythe, 1975, White, 1980, Miller, 1997, Miller and Crowley, 1998, Cook et al., 2001).

While adult ovipositional damage on mature trees and shrubs is usually no more than "natural pruning", very young woody plants and whips can be damaged and even killed due to the females ovipositing on the young stems causing wounds that may lead to breakage of the stem, top kill, and also provide entry for canker causing fungi and wood-boring insect pests (Figures 6 and 7). A number of studies have found that there appears to be a minimum and a maximum twig/branch diameter that is preferred for oviposition ranging from 3 to 11 mm (1/8 to 7/16 in.) (White, 1980, Karban, 1982, Miller, 1997, Miller and Crowley, 1998). Other forms of cicada damage include a reduction in overall plant health and depletion of energy reserves resulting in decreased flower and fruit production where heavy populations of nymphs feed on the fine roots of trees and shrubs. Ovipositional wounds may allow for entry of canker-causing pathogens and woodboring insect pests.

Host preference of the periodical cicada is not fully understood. Preference for native versus exotic plants, leaf arrangement, resin levels, light, and plant architecture may play a role in determining which plants are utilized for egg laying. For example, in a study in Delaware by Brown and Zuefle (2009) they found that nonnative plants tended to be more favored than native plants. In contrast, in a study by Miller and Crowley (1998) at the Morton Arboretum, Lisle, Illinois, they found no significant differences in plant damage between natives and non-natives. Regarding plant architecture, Brown and Zuefle ((2009), in examining 428 plants, found that the probability of oviposition increased with increasing branch/twig diameter and plant structure. In other words, plants with "bushy", dense growth habits or with numerous long branches had higher rates of oviposition, but fewer wounds per stem length compared with plants with a less dense and a more upright growth habit. Their results suggest that "bushy" plants or plants with many stems may

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impede cicada oviposition, and also may dilute the number of wounds.

In most situations, conifers are rarely attacked probably due to arrangement of needles on the twigs which impedes the ability of the female to oviposit and resin which can trap and kill eggs preventing egg hatch of young nymphs. This may also be true for gum producing plants such as Prunus spp. (i.e. cherries, peaches, plums) (White, 1980, Karban, 1983, Cook et al., 2001). Miller and Crowley (1998) found that conifers and evergreens differed in their susceptibility to ovipositional damage. For example, plants with needles or leaf scales that did not completely encircle the twig and twigs that were less stout and flexible (i.e. hemlock, juniper, arborvitae, yew) did experience some damage as compared with conifers with stouter twigs and needles that completely encircled the branch (i.e. pines, spruces, firs). White (1980) found that black walnut (J. nigra), Osage orange (Maclura pomifera) were rarely used for egg laying due to their spongy pith which contributed to egg desiccation. Stem diameter is also a critical factor. Plants, such as tree of heaven (Ailanthus altissima), Kentucky coffee tree (Gymnocladrus dioicus), and sumac (Rhus spp.), which had thick, stout stems near or exceeding 10 mm (3/8 in.) in diameter were not attacked. Interestingly, however, female cicadas did attempt to oviposit in the leaf rachis of G. dioicus (diameter =4 mm or 5/32 in.) which is within the range of stem diameters for egg laying.

What about nymphal feeding on plant roots? In a study by Speer et al. (2010), they found no effect from root parasitism (feeding) by cicada nymphs prior to emergence when feeding on five Midwestern Forest trees, Acer saccharum, Fraxinus americana, Quercus palustris, Q. velutina and Sassafras albidum, but three of the species **chronologies** showed a significant reduction in growth the year of or the year after the emergence year, and three **chronologies** showed an increase in growth five years following the cicada emergence event.

Another interesting phenomenon is that cicadas may use sunlight (solar) as a cue in selecting host plants. In field experiments by **Yang** (2006) it was discovered that female cicadas use the local light environment of host trees during the summer of emergence to select long-term host trees. Light environments may also influence oviposition microsite selection within hosts, suggesting a potential behavioral mechanism for associating solar cues with host trees.

Once ovipositional damage has occurred how long is it before the plants "heal up" (i.e. callus over) the wounds? In two studies by Miller (1997) and Miller and Crowley (1998), examining 140 exotic and native woody plant genera, and 14 different urban forest parkway tree taxa, they found that most plants calloused (healed) over their wounds within 1-2 years after a cicada emergence; exceptions being alder (Alnus spp.), black walnut (Juglans sp.), redbud (Cercis sp.), lilac (Syringa spp), lindens (Tilia spp.), honey locust (Gleditsia triacanthos), northern red oak (Q. rubra), hackberry (Celtis occidentalis), 'Redmond linden" (Tilia americana 'Redmond'), and Littleleaf linden (T. cordata) which took at least three years to heal. Of course, plant health, growing conditions, and level of injury all affect wound healing rates. In spite of heavy ovipositional damage and delayed wound healing on susceptible plants, no significant canker-causing pathogens or insect pest issues were observed on these same woody landscape plants, and urban parkway tree taxa.

What about protecting vulnerable plants with insecticides? Miller and Crowley (1998) found that applications of non-systemic (i.e. contact) insecticides were not effective and

adult females were not deterred from landing on host plants. In a more recent study, **Ahern, et al. (2005)** compared the efficacy of a neonicotinoid systemic insecticide, imidacloprid, and a nonchemical control measure, netting, to reduce cicada injury. They determined that netted trees sustained very little injury, whereas unprotected trees were heavily damaged. Fewer egg nests, scars, and flags were observed on trees treated with imidacloprid compared with unprotected trees; however, the hatching of cicada eggs was unaffected by imidacloprid.

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Figure 1A: Active Midwest periodical cicada broods



Figure 1B: Active Illinois periodical cicada broods



Figure 2: Life cycle of the 17-year periodical cicada

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Figure 3: Adult periodical cicada



Figure 4: Periodical cicada egg nest



Figure 5: Young periodical cicada nymph

### TREE CLIMBERS' GUIDE, 4<sup>TH</sup> EDITION

The *Tree Climbers' Guide* is one of the few books written specifically for tree climbers and covers aspects of a climber's work such as pruning, rigging, and cabling.

This guide also serves as a study guide for the ISA Certified Tree Worker Climber Specialist<sup>®</sup> exam.\*

### THE 4<sup>TH</sup> EDITION HAS BEEN UPDATED TO INCLUDE:

- More than 270 illustrations to help clarify and complement the text.
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\*Any educational or preparatory material, whether published by ISA or not, should NOT be considered the sole source of information for an ISA certification examination. This publication and the ISA certification program exams are developed through separate processes and entities.

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Figure 6: Ovipositional damage to woody twigs and branches



Figure 7: Late season flagging due to egg laying by adult female periodical cicadas

## IAA's 41st a Resounding Success by April Toney



The 41st Annual Conference of the Illinois Arborist Association (IAA) proved to be a triumph, drawing well over 700 attendees for two days of enriching experiences at the Tinley Park Convention Center on November 7th and 8th. The event featured a diverse array of sessions, including classes, demonstrations, and specialized tracks catering to various interests within the arboriculture community.

On the first day of the conference, participants had the opportunity to attend two highly sought-after classes. The first class



focused on Tree Risk Assessment in the Urban Environment, and the second delved into Insect and Pest Management. Both classes were filled to capacity, highlighting the eagerness of arborists to deepen their knowledge and skills in these critical areas.

Recognizing the diverse needs of its members and attendees, the IAA organized sessions tailored for the Illinois Forestry Association (IFA) and Spanish-speaking attendees. These specialized tracks aimed to address specific challenges and interests within these groups, fostering a more wide-ranging and comprehensive learning environment.

A standout feature of this year's conference was the Joe Kramer Tree Demonstration Area, which showcased an all-women's team of instructors. Lilly Soderlund and Nicole Benjamin led a captivating two-day demonstration on modern climbing and rigging techniques. The audience's response was overwhelmingly positive, with attendees actively participating in the activities. At one point, the entire audience was on their feet, fully engaged in the presentation. Another returning highlight was the Jim Schuster

### IAA's 41st a Resounding Success! (cont.)

Plant Health Care Area, which experienced a significant increase in participants this year. The sessions in this area provided hands-on experiences, allowing attendees to see and touch various examples of plant issues. The growth in attendance prompted the need for additional seating, reflecting the increasing popularity and relevance of this segment of the conference.

None of the conference's success would have been possible without the support of dedicated sponsors who played a pivotal role in ensuring the quality of educational sessions, networking opportunities, and the provision of food for attendees. Their commitment to the arboriculture community was evident in the seamless execution of the event.

The Illinois Arborist Association's 41st Annual Conference was undeniably a resounding success, bringing together arborists from across the region for two days of education,



networking, and fun. The variety of sessions, the engaging demonstrations, and the increasing participation in specialized tracks and handson experiences underscored the relevance and impact of this annual gathering. As the IAA looks forward to future conferences, the success of the 41st conference serves as a testament to the vitality and growth of the arboriculture community in Illinois.





Past Presidents and Board Members of the IAA.

### TREE Fund Raffle Sets New Record

by Mike Priller



Each year at the annual conference on Tuesday night the IAA holds a raffle for the TREE Fund. All proceeds from the raffle go to the TREE Fund supporting scholarships and grants.

The night is filled with networking, laughing, and everyone hoping to get that one prize they had their eye on. This year was no exception, over 115 items were up for raffle, including carabiners to chainsaws, ropes to gear bags, wood carvings to plasma cut saws, there was something for everyone.

The evening raffle was a huge success, not only did people have a GREAT time, but we

raised **\$3508.00** for the TREE Fund. This was a new high, Thank You to all the attendees who participated in the event.

A Thank You goes out to Jonathan Cain and Paul Putman from TREE Fund for helping with the raffle, Dan O'brien for being our MC for the event, and again to all the ATTENDEES that made this the best raffle yet...HERE's to next year.







### A special **THANK YOU** goes out to our donors and sponsors:

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