

Illinois Trees

The Quarterly Publication of the Illinois Arborist Association

Volume 40 Issue 2
Spring 2024



Come One, Come All! *by Michael Collins*



Some of my favorite early memories of connecting with professional arborists took place at the Northeast Municipal Foresters (NEMF) meetings. If you lived out near the Mississippi, on the west coast of Illinois, these meetings were referred to as Northwest Municipal Foresters (NWMF). The concept behind the meetings was developed by municipal foresters that came before me. Specifically, Sandy Clark of Mount Prospect noted that Erwin Page of Arlington Heights had reached out as a neighboring community to connect with her and discuss urban forestry issues of the day in the 80s when she was starting her career. The intention behind the

meetings was to connect, commiserate, and educate by sharing information about urban forestry challenges and experiences. A speaker would typically set the stage for discussions amongst foresters. A sincere debt of gratitude and thanks to those pioneers who set the stage for these exchanges. They have made a real impact on my career development over the years.

Recently, the Illinois Arborist Association's Board of Directors met in Niles to discuss our strategic plan for the year ahead. As always, our priority is membership and the value

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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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Illinois Arborist Association

Mission Statement

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

President's Message

Greetings Illinois Arborists,

I would like to open my message thanking those who have reached out to me about my past messages. I felt this was a chance to use my voice to speak openly and honestly on topics that would get people to think. The responses I have gotten has made it worth the chance I took.

In this spirit I would like to bring up a topic that makes people very uncomfortable. That topic is change. In our industry changes are happening all around us. Be it a new chainsaw, new PHC innovations, or even starting the season new team members.

Moreover, embracing change builds a positive culture, empowering our team to overcome obstacles in the field and take on new opportunities with confidence. By remaining flexible and open-minded, we position our team for long-term success and impact.

I challenge all members to embrace change this season, have faith that it's not a threat, but a catalyst for positive transformation and progress.

Daniel O'Brien
Illinois Arborist Association President
Certified Arborist and CTSP

Dan O'Brien



Come One, Come All! (cont.)

you receive as a member of IAA. As a newly appointed Municipal Director, I am honored to represent Illinois' arboricultural industry and want to make sure I am doing all I can to provide educational experiences for all arborists in our community. My first motion as a board member was to change the name of these meetings to the Urban and Community Forestry Forum (UCFF). The Board also decided to expand the email listings of our events to all arborists, providing more information to our membership about all upcoming educational opportunities.

So why the name change from NEMF/ NWMF to UCFF? I talk with many tree care professionals across many industries in Illinois. In speaking to a commercial arborist, he was surprised to learn that NEMF meetings were open to all arborists and not just municipal foresters. I felt that a name change might cast a wider net and increase participation and exposure to all these gatherings. After of all, whether NEMF or NWMF, we are all on "team tree" and working together to improve the

urban forests of Illinois. These meetings are meant to provide information to all arborists, not just the municipal foresters. We strive to provide a platform for networking, education, and discussion to achieve a greater collective understanding. In fact, these opportunities and experiences are meant for all professionals and students alike. Input from everyone is crucial to our success moving forward. Whether you are an arborist or in process of becoming one, all are welcome! A diverse range of perspectives will help us face the next challenge down the road.

Starting out as a municipal forester in Riverside, I was in need of the type of professional mentorship and support the NEMF meetings had to offer. I was feeling overwhelmed with my new role as Forester, dealing with several challenges; ranging from managing a Spongy moth infestation to the typical tough customers and complaints we all face. If memory serves, my first NEMF meeting was held in Oak Lawn, hosted by Heather Green. The discussion

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Come One, Come All! (cont.)

was led by Dr. Fredric Miller, an entomologist at the Morton Arboretum, who needs no introduction. He provided a much needed insect update. For those of you who have not been doing this a while, Spongy moth used to be called Gypsy moth. You know you are getting old when entomologists change the name the insects you manage! Some discussion ensued about the potential impacts of the Emerald Ash Borer looming on the horizon. Given the millions of ash trees lost... I think the group was on to something.

On February 15th, the Village of Lombard hosted the newly renamed UCFF. Dr. Jake Miesbauer, Arboriculture Scientist at the Morton Arboretum, spoke about pruning trees to reduce the likelihood of failure. The Community Room was packed to full capacity! Some attended virtually, due to a registration cutoff. Over a 150 participants, a new record! As much as I would like to take credit with the name change, I think Jake's talk was the reason for the large turnout. It was exciting to see so many tree care professionals gathered to learn and develop pruning techniques that will ultimately benefit our urban forest. Thank you to all the speakers, hosts, and attendees that take time out of their busy work schedule to participate in these events. It would not be the same without you and what you bring to the table!

Please contact the IAA office with suggestions for speakers and topics for future UCFF events.

For more information on upcoming UCFF events, [click here](#).



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Below-Ground Assessment & Tree Compatibility Resources Review

by Michelle Catania

Arborists are very resourceful. Some of these resources can be described as your toolbox. Arborists are expected to master the art and science of the tree care industry. The more I talk to tree care professionals, the more I understand how the industry is also compartmentalized in specific areas of both practice and expertise. This is required as the complexity of the tree and its environment, coupled with societal pressures, will challenge even the most seasoned arborists. There is no need to be a master of all. Understanding your own limitations is important and knowing who and where to go when you need answers is a great way to build your toolbox, and confidence!

As many of you may know, I have a toolbox mostly composed of belowground soil-based information anchored to the scientific community. I am constantly asked about site conditions and the impacts on trees. I try to bring applied science to tree care professionals to not only deepen your understanding but to further my outreach goals of promoting urban tree growth and longevity. In this segment, I will be highlighting some fantastic online resources that may help you add more tools to your toolbox. And even if you do not care for the information for your own professional development, you are able to pass along some of these practical resources to others. This industry relies on each other so please share these resources, with confidence!

Urban soil is not a novel discipline. Most of the knowledge is built upon what we know about natural soil processes over time and space as well as impacts from disturbances. Historically, the United States has been world leaders in deepening our understanding of soil processes and mechanisms to protect soil from degradation, and most importantly, how it relates to agriculture.

In 1862 President Lincoln signed legislation to establish the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and referred to it as “The People’s Department”. Seventy years later in 1932, when FDR was elected U.S. President, he highlighted the necessity to conserve our nation's soil and water resources. This was also the first year of a persistent drought in the Great Plains causing widespread crop failures and exposing bare soil to wind erosion, thus leading to the Dust Bowl. Congress finally recognized the issue when on May 11, 1934 a huge dust cloud of very fine particles swept over Washington D.C. and continued to berate them, and the entire midwest and eastern United States, over years leading to very low air-quality – all originating from the degraded soils of the Great Plains. These events were known as “Black Sunday” or “Black Blizzards” with reports



Image 1: Black Sunday in Dodge City, Kansas on 4/14/1935. The dust turned day to night and many thought the world was coming to an end. Source USDA archives [Accessed 3/4/2024]

of zero visibility beyond 5 feet (Image 1)!

Some of the mechanisms deployed to help with solutions during the Dust Bowl was the creation of the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) backed by the labor force from depression era work programs like the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), the Civil Works Administration (CWA), and the Works Progress Administration (WPA). The conservation practices led by the

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~ Calendar of Events ~

April Events

April 11th - 12th, Advanced Training - Tree Worker Domain – Present Day Climbing (8:00am - 3:00pm)

Instructor: Jason Austin

[Click here to register](#)

April 18th, UCFF Meeting - Risk Assessment: The Human Element (10:00am - 12:00pm)

Speaker: Steve Lane

[Click here to register](#)

May Events

May 13 - 16th, SIU Arboriculture Field Days (All Day Event)

Director: Andrew Ranney

May 18 - 19th, Illinois Tree Climbing Competition (All Day Event)

Location: St James Farm, 2S541 Winfield Rd, Warrenville, Illinois 60555

[Click here to register](#)

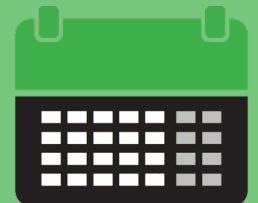
June Events

June 12th - June 14th, Spring Full TRAQ Course (All Day Event)

Location: Public Works Building Address – 15655 S. Ravinia Ave, Orland Park IL 60462

Instructor: Steve Lane

[Click here to register](#)



Below-Ground Assessment & Tree Compatibility Resources (cont.)

SCS earned them a role within the USDA as the primary program for private landowners and is known today as the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). The NRCS to this day plays a huge role in many of the restoration projects aimed at us never repeating the Dust Bowl. [all historical information adapted from “A Brief History of NRCS” found at nrcs.usda.gov/about]

So why did we have this little history lesson? Each person paying federal taxes is supporting fantastic programs. You are entitled to use these programs and should! At the federal level, the USDA and NRCS have some of the most robust information available to improve land management, promote soil conservation, and provide resources and tools to deepen your understanding of the health of these natural resources. At the local level, these programs in our area present themselves as Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD). [In Illinois](#), each county has a SWCD resource conservation officer and strives to “protect and sustain the viability of Illinois’ natural resources for future generations”.

Starting at the top and working down to local levels, I will try to highlight some of the resources that arborists can use from each of these programs. The [USDA](#) is focused on agriculture. From basic farming practices such as no-till to biotechnical advancements in research and science, this multi billion dollar agency is an incredible resource. This community may find information for Urban Agriculture or just take a dive deep into a bottomless rabbit hole of cool information.

What I have found most relevant to my work is the [NRCS](#), which “provides leadership in a partnership effort to help people conserve, maintain, and improve our natural resources and environment”. The NRCS has a section devoted entirely to [soil](#). They break soil into 2 categories: [soil science](#) and [soil health](#). One of

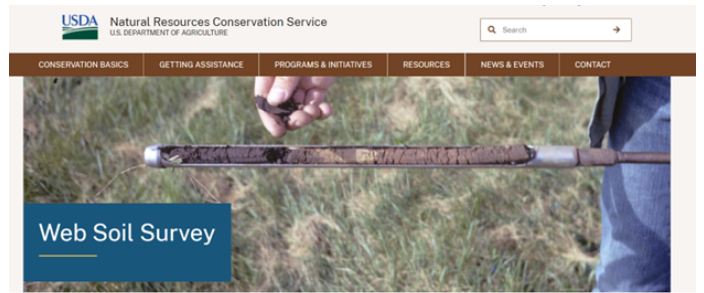


Image 2: NRCS-USDA Web Soil Survey landing page

the coolest tools for your toolbox in soil science is the [Web Soil Survey](#) (WSS). The WSS (Image 2) is an interactive GIS-based tool that allows you to extract information about your site. If you are new to mapping software, there are a lot of additional documents designed to guide you through the process of defining your area of interest (AOI) and how to interpret the reports generated by your inputs.

Once you are comfortable with the software, you will learn how to extract information from your AOI. As you can see in Image 3, I am exporting data from a relatively small area and have immediate access to the soil type and percentage, as seen in the table to the left of the map. An overlay on the map shows where the model is projecting the different soil types. This data is generated based on elevation, land use history, census tract data, Lidar, and

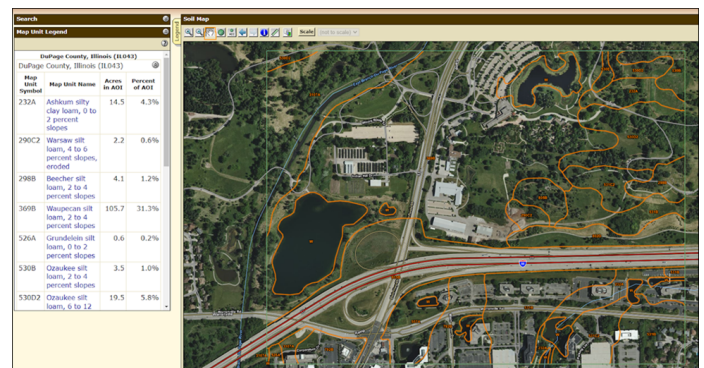


Image 3: Soil map for the main visitor complex at The Morton Arboretum generated from the Web Soil Survey [Accessed on 3/4/2024]

a few other computational inputs (full details are supplied in the report). From what I have experienced, it is pretty darn accurate.

Below-Ground Assessment & Tree Compatibility Resources (cont.)

In the online version of your AOI, I encourage you to explore the SOIL DATA EXPLORER tab on the top to see parameters for “Suitabilities and Limitation for Use”, “Soil Properties and Qualities” and “Ecological Sites”. Bringing the story back to the brief history lesson about soil erosion and the Dust Bowl, under the “Soil properties and Qualities” tab you can find information about soil erosion factors. More relevant in our region with increased precipitation, water storage capacity and supply can be found under the “Physical Properties” tab. As you can imagine, I can go on and on but the purpose of this is to introduce you to this resource and give you some encouragement to open every tab and explore it yourself! I suggest starting with a site you are very familiar with and see how this modeled data relates to what you can observe.

To take it a step further, you can generate a custom report for your AOI (Image 4). Select the “Shopping Cart” tab on the top. After selecting this poorly named feature, find the hidden box that says “Check Out” followed by “Get Now”. The output is a detailed map of the AOI with a legend describing the map features as well as a detailed description of each soil type identified. There is a lot of data for each soil type with the most relevant information for foresters to mind is slope, depth to water table, and drainage class. These 3 variables should be taken into account when managing a site with trees or selecting trees to be installed. If it has a high slope, shallow water table, and very poor drainage, you may want to reconsider adding that upland species or even installing a tree! I also recommend never, ever attempting to print this out! After you get to know the information that can support your goal, what you may choose to add to personalized reports can be extracted in smaller bites.

Not only can these reports add to your repertoire, they can serve to guide you on

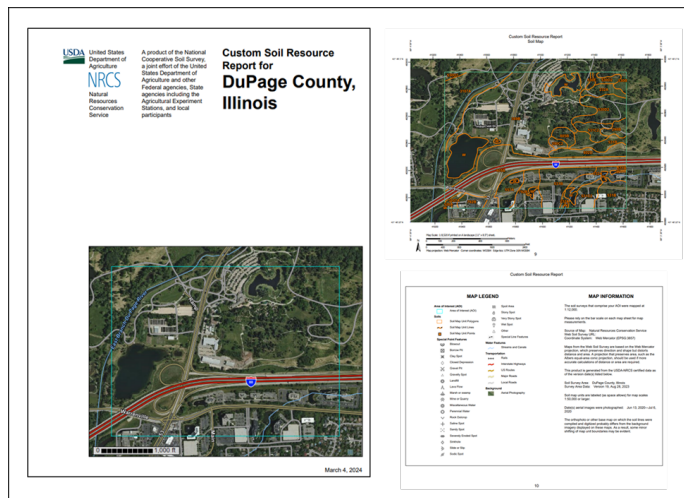


Image 4: Custom Soil Resource Report for DuPage County, Illinois generated via Soil Web Survey showing cover page on left and detailed map with legend on right [Accessed on 3/4/2024]

what you should observe at the site and most importantly how these observations will relate to tree performance, species tolerability, or remediation requirements.

The NRCS has incredible hands-on resources as well. Some of my favorites are ways to assess and monitor soil health. [Soil health](#) is not a direct measure of one parameter or function, rather an assessment on how each of these parameters function as part of a living ecosystem. If the system is healthy, then the output should be healthy. We strive for healthy urban trees – void of root defects and installed at proper grade – so we should have a clearer picture of the soil health. Improvements to soil health will likely lead to positive impacts on the health and longevity of the tree. To understand the function of the soil, the Soil Health section has some fantastic introductory resources in the **Soil Health Pages**, with 3 sections titled Soil Health Assessment, Soil Health Management, and Soil Health Education and Outreach.

One of the best documents in the [Soil Health Assessment](#) section is the [Soil Quality Indicator Sheets How-to Guide](#), which serves as part of understanding which function you should

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Below-Ground Assessment & Tree Compatibility Resources (cont.)

observe and how that relates to quality. Supplemental material for soil physical, chemical, and biological property assessments are then discussed in further detail. What this section does not dive into is the actual process of assessing via field methods.

As much as the [Soil Health Education and Outreach](#) section may be geared towards education, the materials in the section **Soil Quality Tests** are incredible. Here you will find the 88-page [Soil Quality Test Kit Guide](#) which serves as a recipe book for making your own test kit! It provides context into field sampling techniques as well as detailed instructions on testing protocols and interpretation (starts on page 49)! And if looking cool is your objective, there are links in the [Soil Quality Test Bucket](#) worksheet highlighting where to purchase most of these materials!

I built a mobile soil quality test kit as a learning tool to promote poking things with sticks. For professional arborists, I suggest finding soil sampling protocols that work for your project(s) and be consistent! There will be a learning curve and once you figure out what you really need from a site, such as performing the ribbon test for soil texture and measuring soil water infiltration rates, then you will have greater confidence understanding the site AND communicating the purpose of your observation.

Understanding the limitations of these resources for urban tree care is also important. The role of the USDA and NRCS is to promote better agriculture and natural resource management. For the arborist community working in the built environment, one of the best resources I can share is the [Ontario Landscape Tree Planting Guide](#) from [Vineland Research and Innovation Centre](#). While working on a project teaching community members about tree selection and

site preparation, I stumbled upon this resource and it changed me! It became the model for the [Vegetation Barrier Toolkit for Schools and Communities](#). The simplicity is perfect and should be available for all staff to reference. Print it out and put it in the lunchroom! Fun fact: Did you know the authors calibrated a poking stick to measure soil compaction! So go ahead and poke it, it's for science!

I am guilty of preferring printed documents for field use and have all 3 of these guides printed in color and stored in separate binders. The sheets are in plastic binder sleeves for weatherproofing. When I roll into a site with my Soil Quality Test Kit and binders with a ton of great resources, I have tremendous confidence in performing guided field assessments - mostly because I do not have to remember things, rather I can reference them - with confidence!

Lastly, I cannot leave out the [International Society of Arboriculture Best Management Practices Soil Management for Urban Trees](#). This easily digestible guide provides the technical expertise for arborists to perform site and soil assessments to support healthy, long-lived trees. Plus it is authored by the guy that introduced me to the field of arboriculture when he hired me to be his research assistant in the soil science lab at The Morton Arboretum in 2009 - thank you Bryant Scharenbroch!

I hope this gives you a few resources for your toolbox and it deepens your understanding of soil-plant interactions. As Research Director for the Illinois Arborist Association I am open to suggestions for either furthering this content by inviting others to join in on urban soil workshop development or highlighting soil related testimonials as a learning platform. In closing, I hope to keep sharing soils related information so if you loathe soil, I'm sorry but it may be a long and excruciating 2 years for you.

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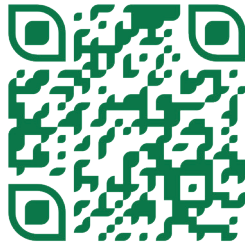
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Identification of Factors Leading to Oak Decline and Death

by Fredric Miller, Ph.D & Stephanie Adams, Ph.D

Multiple factors affect forest health, particularly exotic invasive plants, insects, and pathogens. Oak decline is a major forest health issue in Illinois and throughout the Midwest. In early 2023, the Illinois Forest Health program received USFS funding to begin a study to better understand the factor(s) responsible for the decline and rapid death of oaks occurring in both urban and rural forests.

Objectives of this study are to 1) obtain a broad picture of possible factors and their interactions contributing to oak decline, 2) conduct a statewide survey of rural and urban forests to better understand fine and feeder root-rots, and their role in oak decline, 3) create updated forest BMPs for rural landowners, natural resource managers, and urban foresters to assist in the management of existing oaks forests and future oak regeneration, 4) and conduct educational programs and workshops to assist residents of the natural resources and urban forest communities.

The project will prioritize new and existing small tract private landowners, NGOs, parks and camps, and underserved municipalities and communities that desire and/or would benefit from assistance in developing forest management plans that lack adequate and effective forest management resources.

To date, 182 oak trees at 16 different sites were sampled statewide. At each site, tree DBH, tree species, slope, aspect, rooting depth, and any biotic and/or abiotic factors were noted and recorded. A composite soil sample was also taken to determine soil texture, soil pH and nutrient levels. Preliminary results have revealed that 85% of the roots samples taken from declining white oak, northern red oak, bur,

black, swamp white, and shingle oaks tested positive (i.e. showed evidence) for the presence of water molds (Oomycetes). **Please note: this is a qualitative measure and only tells us that Oomycetes were present in the root rhizosphere of the oaks trees where we took samples. It does not imply root infection.**

Additionally, 56% of the trees that had roots testing positive were growing on flat sites (<5% slope). Overall 62% of the 182 trees sampled had rooting depths <10 inches and of those, 84% tested positive for evidence of Oomycetes. Within oak species growing on flat sites (<5% slope), 93% of white oak roots and 84% of northern red oak roots sampled tested positive for presence of Oomycetes. Sixty-three percent of white oak roots and 84% of northern red oak roots sampled from “hilly” sites tested positive, respectively. Regarding soil texture, many of the flat sites had silty-clay-loam (SCL) soils at a depth of 7 to 15”, and with 30-40% clay content in the subsoil (B-Horizon), a restrictive soil layer at a depth of 1 to 3 feet, and a seasonal high water table within 3 feet of the surface. In contrast, “hilly” sites had silty-loam, and SCL soils, but at a depth of 15 to 20 inches with 30-40% clay content in the B-Horizon, and a restrictive soil layer, and seasonal high water table greater than 6 feet. The sites with soil layers with higher clay content closer to the surface could potentially be slower to drain particularly during excessively wet springs and summers, and periodic flooding. For soil fertility and nutrition, oaks growing on poorer sites with <3% organic matter (OM), low fertility (CEC<10), and very low to low levels of soil P and Ca tended to have a higher percentage of roots testing positive for the presence of Oomycetes.

Not surprisingly, preliminary lab sequencing

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Identification of Factors Leading to Oak Decline and Death (cont.)

results have revealed that there appears to be a complex of Oomycetes associated with oak roots including Phytophthora, Phytophthium, and Pythium spp. So far, Oomycetes found in the oak root rhizosphere of **white oaks** include Phytophthora chlamydospora, Phytophthium citrinum, Phpy. vexans, Pythium torulosum, Py. vanterpoolii, Py. sp. Isolate Pyt726; **bur oaks**, Pythium aff. diclinum and Py. vexans; black oaks, Phpy. vexans, and **shingle oaks**, Py. aff. diclinum.

Based on studies conducted in the U.S. and Europe, some of the aforementioned Oomycetes are known pathogens on herbaceous and woody plants, and a few have

been found in soils associated with declining oaks, but in some cases, the evidence is circumstantial. **Further testing with Koch's postulate will be required to determine if any of these Oomycetes are capable of causing disease or are just saprophytes.**

Further oak root sampling is planned for the 2024 field season to obtain a more comprehensive assessment of additional Oomycetes spp. which might be associated with oak root rhizospheres, the potential to cause fine and feeder root rot diseases, and the role that site and soil factors contribute to overall oak decline.

TreeBiz – Biochar, What Do We Know? *by Paul Filary*

The warm weather, tasty beverages or the awesome folks at IAA that put on TreeBiz resulted in a big turnout for our most recent **TreeBiz event on February 7th at Bubblehouse Brewing Company in Lisle!** We had one of our largest crowds yet, thanks to the exciting presentation provided by the Director for The Morton Arboretum's Center for Tree Science, Meghan Midgley, PhD. Dr. Midgley talked extensively about biochar and what we know about it's impacts to urban trees. Biochar is a popular topic right now, and the turnout that we had and the questions that ensued displayed that very well.

Dr. Midgley presented some research that she has done as well as literature reviews of the minimal other research out there about biochar and urban trees. Minimal being the key term, there is lots more research to be had on this application and how professional arborists can best utilize it to maximize the benefits it may provide. As with many topics in arboriculture, the answer to it's benefits are debatable, and the purpose of TreeBiz events is to get the industry talking about what is going on in the biz and how we can all collaborate together to get better!

Join us for the next TreeBiz Social that will be on **April 17th at Miskatonic Brewing Company in Darien.** Ariel Dixon with Husqvarna will be joining us to talk about advances in battery powered power tools as well as gas powered equipment advances. Understanding how we can leverage technology to not only mitigate our impact to the environment, but improve the efficiency and productivity of our crews is key to growing our biz!

A huge shout out and thanks to our annual TreeBiz sponsors Wellbuilt Equipment, Arborjet and Aspen Fuels for their support and representation at this event. Additionally, thank you to Rainbow Ecoscience for also supporting this most recent event. If you are interested speaking or getting involved via sponsorship at future events, please contact event coordinator and IAA Commercial Director, Paul Filary at pfilary@kramertree.com

Follow this link to RSVP for the April 17 Tree Biz Event: [Click Here](#)

TREE Fund News & Happenings *by Mike Priller*

The Tour des Trees serves to advance TREE Fund's mission to explore and share the science of trees contributing to the lives of people, communities, economies, and the environment, and of the planning, planting, and sustainability of urban and community trees. **TREE Fund research** has produced better ways to plant and care for urban trees, making them more resilient, more resistant to pests, and less prone to failure. The Tour also supports **education programs** aimed at connecting young people with the environment and career opportunities in green industries. TREE Fund has been able to award more than \$5.4 million in grant and scholarship funding since 2002, and the Tour des Trees has been a key component in the organization's ongoing success.

Event expenses are defrayed by TREE Fund's generous **partners**, so funds raised by riders can be applied to new grants, payments on multi-year grants awarded in prior years, or added to permanent endowment funds that will sustain research into the future.

The 2024 Tour des Trees features both a live ride and a Virtual Tour des Trees at home event, so supporters can ride with us in person or support TREE Fund on their own time, in their own way.

See links below for registration and the Tour des Trees tab at the top of the page for key information for riders, volunteers, donors, and anyone considering participating in or supporting the event. We hope to see you on the Tour this year!

The 2024 ride will be roughly 425 miles and the schedule is as follows (subject to change):

- Riding Day 1: Stamford, CT to Middletown, CT- 82 miles
- Riding Day 2: Middletown, CT to Smithfield, RI- 82 miles
- Riding Day 3: Smithfield, RI to Falmouth, MA- 78 miles
- Riding Day 4: Martha's Vineyard loop- 73 miles (ferrying to the island and back)
- Riding Day 5: Falmouth, MA to Providence, RI- 103 miles

Register and create your fundraising page for the Tour des Trees or Virtual Tour des Trees at home here: www.tourdestrees.org

Click here to make a donation to a rider or team: www.tourdestrees.org

Please join me in riding for this great cause...I will be riding the virtual tour, last year was my first and I really enjoyed it.

Webinar Update

Advances in our understanding of the dynamic forces applied to a tree during removal operations: results and techniques to mitigate risk of failure

Tuesday, March 19, 2024, Noon (CST)

Matt Follett will be presenting his findings and research. CEUs will be available for this free webinar.



continued on page 18

TREE Fund News & Happenings (cont.)

Here we outline results from recent experiments focused on exploring concepts in both physics and tree biomechanics and how we can incorporate these to improve safety for those working in the arboriculture setting. These studies specifically examined the distribution of force through the tree during dismantling options, and questions if biomechanical models developed on wind and gravitational inputs into tree crown architecture would map to removal operations. Our results have direct implications for working arborists, and help to develop mitigation measures to reduce loading (stress/strain) in the stem

Registration will open two weeks prior

Spring Grant Cycle Deadline Coming Soon

In the Spring 2024 application cycle, grants from the Utility Arborist Research Fund Grant Program and the Barborinas Family Fund Grant Program are open for application. For details and application process, see our Research Grants page here: <https://treefund.org/researchgrants>.

Applications for the Ohio Chapter ISA Education Grant Program are due by March 15. See our Education Grant page for information. <https://treefund.org/educationgrants>.

Six student scholarships are available for application this cycle for students who aspire to careers in arboriculture, urban forestry and related fields. Applications for these scholarships are due by March 15. For a list of scholarships and the application process, please see our Scholarships page. <https://treefund.org/scholarships>.

In other news, Paul Putman, TREE Fund Executive Director, has been traveling and joining the chapter's conferences. Ours was the first one he attended and he thoroughly enjoyed it and looks forward to returning. Mark your calendar, November 18-20, 2024, with our TREE Fund Raffle on November 19, 2024 in Tinley Park.



Illinois Tree Climbing Championship

May 18th & 19th, 2024

St. James Farm + 2S541 Winfield Rd, Warrenville, Illinois 60555



Join the Illinois Tree Climbing Championship as a competitor and grow your skills as an arborist through competition and collaboration with other tree climbing professionals. All male and female and skill levels encouraged to register and compete in this great annual event.

Sponsor this great annual event and have your business or organization recognized at the event and on promotions leading up to the event. There are a variety of sponsorship levels available, learn about each level and their value below. Help us grow the arboriculture industry and support the practice of safe and professional arboriculture.

[Sponsor](#)

[Competitor Registration](#)

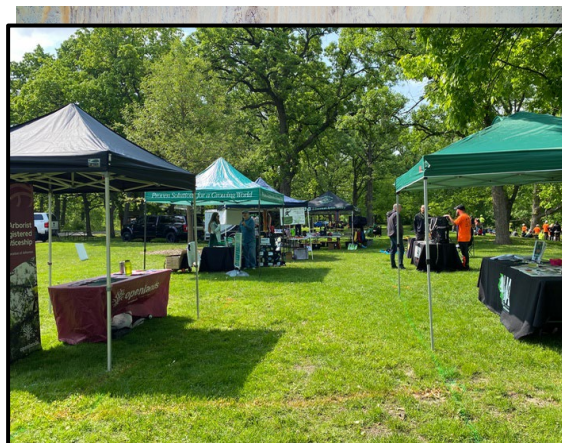
We are looking for volunteers for Saturday and Sunday. If you aren't available both days, please let us know which day will work. We also need volunteers to help with set-up on Friday, May 17 at 8am. THANK YOU!

[Judge/Volunteer](#)

Saturday, May 18th, 2024

The **Arbor Fair** which runs simultaneously with the Tree Climbing Championship, provides additional opportunities for the public to learn about the benefits of trees through educational display and interactive activities for children and adults. It is important for the public to understand that safe proper tree care requires knowledge, training, and expertise which is why most tree care tasks should only be performed by professionals.

[Arbor Fair Registration](#)



2024 Illinois Tree Climbing Competition

2024 ArborMaster TCC Climbing Kit Prize Package

The Illinois Arborist Association is pleased to announce the 2024 ArborMaster TCC Climbing Kit Prize Package for the Tree Climbing Champion (TCC), held in conjunction with the chapter's 2024 Tree Climbing Championship (TCC) event.

This kit is being offered to each chapter champion for both man and woman champions. The package is intended to help equip the chapter representative(s) for the ISA's International Tree Climbing Championship (ITCC) Competition.

Each prize package includes:

- Silky's *new* Zubat Ultimate Professional 330mm Hand Saw
- Buckingham Mfg's Treesqueeze™ 3.0 & ArborAir™ Tree Climber Kit
- Greenworks Commercial Logo'ed 12oz Stainless Steel Mug
- OREGON® Professional Maintenance Kit & OREGON® Logo'ed Backpack
- Portable Winch RopeWizer™ - The Easy Splice
- Vermeer Logo'ed 27oz BPA-free Eastman Tritan copolyester bottle w/threaded snap-fit lid, carrying strap
- ArborMaster® - 50% savings for a 2-Day or 3-Day Hands-On Training Module

Sponsored by the following Partners in Educational Excellence:



ArborMaster®



Summer Conference

July 18th & 19th , 2024

Marriott in Bloomington/Normal Hotel & Conference Center



Mark your calendars! The IAA Summer Conference has been scheduled for July 18th & 19th, 2024 at the Marriott in Bloomington/Normal and the field program at the ISU Arboretum. Discover the ultimate outdoor learning experience! The conference was designed to take full advantage of the season's splendor, with a special focus on outdoor sessions. Don't miss out on this extraordinary opportunity to expand your knowledge, network with like-minded professionals, and gain practical skills while enjoying the outdoors!

[Summer Conference Home Page](#)



Illinois Trees



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