

An Arborist takes
care of a tree for life.



OUT ON A LIMB

SPRING 2018, VOLUME 38, ISSUE 1



How successful were the 2018 NE GREAT PLAINS Auctions and Raffle? See page 9 for the answer.

2018 NEBRASKA GREAT PLAINS CONFERENCE RECAP

By: Jim Keepers, NAA Winter Conference Committee Chairperson



Planning for the 2018 Nebraska GREAT PLAINS Conference kicked off in March 2017 when the NAA & NNLA joint committee met to review the results of the 2017 conference and start the preparations for 2018. In the following months, the joint committee members discussed the hotel selection for the conference and decided on the Hotel RL as the conference location. The conference theme and the breakout speakers and topics were selected. The exhibitor brochure was

finalized and sent out to all prospective exhibitors. The format for the conference directory was established and committee members were encouraged to obtain conference sponsors. The joint committee thanks the sponsors who advertised in the directory and sponsored the 2018 conference.

The committee would also like to thank all those who attended the conference. Despite the snow storm and difficult travel conditions, 260 people attended the first day of the conference and heard from a great line-up of speakers. On the second day 245 people attended and enjoyed another day of interesting topics.

The joint committee is now planning to meet to review the conference statistics and evaluations. We will also begin planning for the 2019 Nebraska GREAT PLAINS Conference. Watch for updates on the conference in upcoming newsletters and on the website!



SOME ARBORIST RELATED THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER

Safety – why are we more reactive not proactive?

Accidents – more caused while driving the chipper truck.

Climbing - we have now become rope climbers instead of tree climbers.

Saddles/harnesses – should bridges be replaced every 6 months?

First Aid Kits – is your First Aid Kit fully equipped?

A QUARTERLY UPDATE OF THE NEBRASKA ARBORISTS ASSOCIATION

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SUBMIT ARTICLES:

If you have anything you'd like to submit for inclusion in the Quarterly Update, please contact Jim Keepers at jlkeepers45@gmail.com or (402) 332-0715 or (402) 618-8837.

Submission deadlines for the NAA
2018 quarterly newsletters:

2nd Quarter - June 1, 2018

*Photo contributions throughout
courtesy of Jim Keepers.*

2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kevin Popken, President
Lawngevity Lawn & Tree
Fremont, NE • (402) 721-0873
kjpopken@gmail.com

Lon Nutter, Past President
Asplundh
Omaha, NE • (402) 610-1975
lnutter@asplundh.com

Jerel Converse
City of Omaha
Omaha, NE • (402) 415-9767
jerel.converse@cityofomaha.org

Rachael Monico, Secretary
CM's A Cut Above
Omaha, NE • (402) 679-1347
remonico@cmscustomlawn.com

Jeff Melies, Director
Terry Hughes Tree Service
Gretna, NE • (402) 558-8198
jeffmelies@yahoo.com

Jennifer Morris, Director
Nebraska Forest Service,
Lincoln, NE, 402-685-0815
jmorris12@unl.edu

Jeff Grewe, Director
Arbor Aesthetics
Omaha, NE 68134
(402) 408-5600
jeffrey@arboraesthetics.com

Eric Berg, NAA Board Advisor
Nebraska Forest Service
Lincoln, NE
(402) 472-6511
Cell: (402) 306-1893
eberg2@unl.edu

Phil Pierce, NAA Board Advisor
Consulting Arborist
Springfield, NE
(402) 253-2860
foresterphil@gmail.com

Stacy Hughes, NAA Board Advisor
Terry Hughes Tree Service
Gretna, NE
(402) 558-8198
stacy@hughestree.com

Kathi Schildt, Executive Director
NAA Office
521 First Street
Milford, NE 68405
(402) 761-2219
(402) 761.2224 (fax)
staff@nearborists.org
www.nearborists.org

FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Kevin Popken, NAA President

I want to thank our past presidents that I have had the privilege of working with: Lon Nutter, Wyatt DeWeese and Kent Holm who have made significant contributions to the betterment of our association. I would also like to thank Kathi, Jodi, Kylie and Tiffany for all they do to keep things running smoothly day by day and at all our events. A lot of work goes on behind the scenes to make things happen.

Our association is more than a fellowship of people with a common interest in trees and their care, the training and experience that our association provides contributes long term to the increased awareness and importance of the Certified Arborist within the communities which we serve. We all play a part in that process, from the code of ethics we agree to conduct ourselves by to the importance we place on educating ourselves to provide our community with the information necessary to make the best decisions possible regarding our trees.

Whether you came into this career for financial reasons and/or for the love of trees, ultimately both are necessary components to keep you in it long term. As an association we will only be relevant as long as we acknowledge both components, to provide our members with the education and skills to be both safe and productive in your field as well as up to date, useable knowledge related to trees and their care. On the customer and community side we also need to educate the public about the importance and value of hiring a certified arborist, what that should mean to them and why it matters.

Your membership and certification carries value and you should be eager to use and promote it to set yourself apart from others who are not certified to the customers and communities you are serving. Our association will always work to improve upon educational opportunities we offer to you as an arborist while at the same time educating the public on the importance and value of contacting and working with a Certified Arborist.



UPCOMING EVENTS

13th Annual Gretna Tree Talk
Saturday, April 17, 2018
Thomas Elementary School, Gretna, NE

NE GREAT PLAINS Eastern Summer Field Day
Friday, August 3, 2018
Location TBD

2018 Arborist School
Tree ID, Evaluation & Selection Planting
& Establishment Seminar
September 6-7, 2018
Carol Joy Holling, Ashland, NE

Pruning, Climbing & Safety Class
October 4-5, 2018
Carol Joy Holling, Ashland, NE

Plant Health & Tree Biology Class
November 14-15, 2018
Carol Joy Holling, Ashland, NE

If you have suggestions or know of opportunities for the association to be a part of, pictures from the field, etc. that could be used in promotional pieces feel free to send them to me at kjpopken@gmail.com



Can you Name this NEW TREE SPECIES
Destined for Nebraska?

See NEW SPECIES
Answer on Page 7.

WOMEN IN ARBORICULTURE

By: Helen Thompson, Project Manager, Corporate Public Relations, Davey Tree Expert Company



She's a lover of trees, nature, the science and practice of arboriculture and the industry that encompasses it all. She is a woman who encourages other women to consider a career in arboriculture and is dedicated to carving a path for her and others who have a passion for this industry. Katie Harper is the northeast recruiting supervisor for the Davey Tree Expert Company and a certified arborist.

Though it appears that her career in arboriculture is where she was always meant to be, it was never her intended destination. Harper started out at Penn State University majoring in animal science and as time went on she realized this wasn't the right direction for her.

"I was kind of lost in the world of academia because I now realized I didn't want to go into animal science, but I wasn't sure exactly where it was that I wanted to go from there. It wasn't until a tree climbing class I took at Penn State that I was exposed to the world of arboriculture."

It was also through this climbing class that she met her first Davey manager. Once Harper discovered arboriculture was the path she wanted to take, she dove head first and secured an internship with a Davey residential/commercial office for that summer, and never looked back.

"It doesn't matter what field it is, it's always important to put yourself out there, make contacts and absorb as many experiences as you can. While I was interning, I realized I wanted to focus more on the tree diseases and entomology side of arboriculture and met the technical supervisor when he was at the office for a visit. I knew then that I wanted to get an internship with him at the Davey Institute, and I did just that the next summer."

She expressed the importance of not only making connections in the industry, but getting the most applicable, well-rounded education possible to propel you into your career. Harper graduated from Penn State University with a bachelor's degree in agriculture science and minors in arboriculture and leadership development. With the minor in arboriculture, she had taken several classes that gave her the knowledge needed to be a plant healthcare technician, which was her first full-time job with Davey upon graduation. Not only did she graduate with her degree and two minors, but she entered the workforce with two valuable internships under her belt in the industry she wanted to be a part of and the company she wanted to start her career with.

Though Katie started her career as a plant healthcare technician, her path at Davey eventually led her to a recruiting position within the company.

"It was an exciting career move for me, because being in recruiting allows me the opportunity to share this career that I love so much with potential recruits and shine a light on this great industry that really offers so many different paths and welcomes you in with open arms. The green industry always feels like a big family to me, and that's part of what makes it so great."

As a recruiter, Harper often does class visits at universities and says it is not uncommon for the students to tell her she is the first female certified arborist they've ever met. Each time she hears that it furthers her drive to make a difference as a woman in the industry and encourage others to join her.

"The highlight of my job is representing women in such a positive way. People like to say that this industry isn't for women, but in reality, it's not for every man either. So, why count us out before giving half the population a chance? It is possible. Representing women in this industry is one of my greatest joys."

Harper noted that often women themselves don't see arboriculture, or this industry in general, as a place that they can really succeed – but, that's just not true. Part of that is just the general lack of awareness that there actually is a place for them in this field.

"In my case, I'm a detail-oriented, artistic communicator and a hard worker. So, working with clients was something that I really excelled at and this is a piece of the job that most companies need more of."

Harper has one piece of advice for the women who are in arboriculture and those who aspire to be:

"The sky is the limit and you are capable of more than you know. There are so many opportunities in this industry and all you have to do is go for it. Get all of the certifications you can, and try as many new things as you can and you will excel. You just have to go for it."



ARBORIST SPOTLIGHT

By: Jim Keepers, NAA Newsletter Coordinator

This quarter's article will highlight three Nebraska Certified Arborists. Most of us know there have been brothers, husbands and wives, and brothers and sisters in the Nebraska Arborists Association; but now we have a father, son and grandson in the association and all three of them are Nebraska Certified Arborists. These three individuals are John Housley Sr., Randy Housley, and Michael D. Housley. Before I go into a history about these three individuals, I want to give a special salute to Mrs. Carmen Housley the wife of John, the mother of Randy and the grandmother of Michael. This lady is a unique woman, and I was proud and honored to feature her in the article "Women Behind our Mature Arborists," in the fall 2017 issue.



Randy, John Sr. and Michael Housley



Housley Business in Elkhorn.

John Housley, Sr. was born on February 27, 1938, in Elkhorn to Raymond & Cecelia Housley. He graduated from Elkhorn High School in 1956. John attended the University of Omaha and met his wife Carmen. They have been married for 58 years. They have two sons, Randy and John Jr. (JR) and a daughter Kristine. They also have several grandchildren. Sad to say that John Jr. (JR) passed away last year.

John first became interested in trees when he was a member of the Happy Timers 4H group in Elkhorn. He started to work when he was thirteen years old, shoveling snow in the small town of Elkhorn during the winter and picking up pop bottles along the roads in the summer. He saved enough money to buy his first lawnmower and went into the lawn cutting business. John also earned money by helping his father in his egg business. John's father would drop him off in Omaha at 7:30 a.m. and pick him up at 5:30 p.m. John's involvement in the arborist trade started in 1956 when he realized he needed to do something in the winter when there were no lawns to mow. John was not a fancy climber, but he got the job done. He also had a trash hauling service to make ends meet and added Christmas Tree sales to his business in 1960. He also started selling and planting trees from a nursery in Fremont.



John Housley, Sr. younger years serving the public.



John was a member of the Omaha Arborist Association and one of the 29 NAA Charter Members who created the Nebraska Arborists Association (NAA) in 1977. Because John had a First Class Omaha Arborist License, he was awarded one of the first NAA Arborist Certifications. John still holds this NAA certification today. I believe John is one of the oldest and longest Omaha Arborists holding a NAA Arborist certification and still working in the field. John is also an ISA Certified Arborist. In 1974 he built his present building off Main Street in Elkhorn and started to sell John Deere and Toro equipment, chainsaws and landscape supplies. John was named NAA Arborist of the Year in 2003 and received one of the first four NAA Lifetime Achievement Awards in 2011. John is a veteran and spent eight years in the Army Nebraska National Guard.



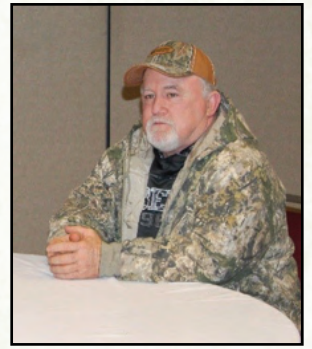
John Housley Sr., with Mark Harrell & Dave Mooter.

John has been a valuable supporter of the NAA as a sponsor and silent auction donor for the NAA winter conference since its creation. John can be seen at the NAA winter conferences with his son, Randy, and now his grandson, Michael. John has a wealth of tree knowledge and is always willing to share that information with anyone. Whenever I have a tree-related question, I can always go to John for an answer. He still sprays trees in the summer and directs snow removal in the winter. John can be found at the Housley Lawn & Nursery store early in the morning and late in the evening taking care of customers. John has no immediate plans to retire.

ASSOCIATION NUMBERS AS OF JANUARY 2018

Members: 290
Certified Nebraska Arborists: 188

Now let's look at the next Housley following in his father's arborist footsteps. Randy was born in Elkhorn in 1962 and graduated from Elkhorn High School in 1980. He was an avid football player and wrestler. Randy graduated from the University of Nebraska at Curtis in 1982 with a degree in Commercial Horticulture. He has two sons, Michael and Danny. Randy was an active school parent for his two sons during their high school days.



Randy Housley

Randy started to work for his dad on the weekends and in the summer. Randy's interest in the business increased and he purchased Housley Lawn and Nursery. He also partnered with his brother John Jr. in other Elkhorn business ventures. Randy is a Nebraska Certified Arborist, ISA Certified Arborist, and has his Omaha Arborist 1st Class License. He has served on the Elkhorn Tree Board and the Public Schools Foundation. Randy has followed in his father's footsteps by attending the winter conference and supporting the association through live auction donations.

Randy is an easygoing individual who works hard and is always willing to help others. He has a special love for animals, and he loves to spend time at the river hunting and fishing with his family. I respect and admire Randy's work ethic!



Michael Housley being instructed by Certified Arborist Mike Ayres on knots.

The final Housley family member in this unique group is Michael Housley. He was born in Omaha in 1983 and grew up and attended school in Elkhorn. After graduating from Elkhorn High School, he attended Cloud County Community College in Concordia, Kansas, on a baseball scholarship. He also attended Briar Cliff University in Sioux City, Iowa, on another baseball scholarship. He completed his formal education by attending Kirkwood College in Cedar Rapids for truck driving training and received his Class A CDL. He spent three years driving throughout the United States and covered all fifty states. He helped in the family business during the summer months. Three years was enough time driving semis, so he went back to working in lawn care and worked in his uncle JR's business in 2014. He obtained his ornamental pesticide license in 2008. With the passing of his Uncle JR., he showed a desire to become a Nebraska Certified Arborist. I had the pleasure of meeting Michael last spring when he was fertilizing one of my customer's lawns. I was very impressed with this young man and encouraged him to apply for an NAA scholarship to attend the fall NAA Arborist School. He was awarded the NAA scholarship and then passed the NAA Arborist Certification exam after completing the class. Michael completed the requirements and was awarded his NAA Certification in December 2017. He then immediately obtained his Omaha 1st Class Arborist License.

I want to allow Michael to express in his own words what he thought about the NAA Arborist School.

"I can't say enough how great the whole experience at the Arborist School was. I was very green as you know going into the school and the instructors were fantastic. The effort everyone put into the school is evident. The instructor's presentations were great and allowing the time for questions and answers was key in me succeeding on the test. I think every class gave me the tools I needed to pass the exam and I'd recommend anyone taking the test to take ALL three courses."

Michael is pleased to have found his true place in life. He still loves sports and enjoyed playing baseball as he grew up. He still plays softball and likes to work out. He wants to keep the Housley family tradition of working in the lawn and tree care industry alive and well. I have no doubts Michael will develop into a superior arborist, and I am pleased I had the opportunity to meet him and help him on his way. We need more young people entering the arborist career and becoming Nebraska Certified Arborists.



Michael Housley learning to climb during the 2017 Pruning & Climbing Class.

There are two younger Housleys following in their father JR's footsteps. We could have more Housley Certified Arborists in the future. I want to personally thank John Housley, Sr. for all the support he has given me, his local community and the NAA. If you have the opportunity to see these three Housleys at future NAA events, please thank them for their support of the NAA.



ASTM INTERNATIONAL

is an international standards organization developing and publishing voluntary technical standards for a wide range of materials, products, systems, and services. ASTM F887, 2016 edition, Nov 15, 2016 – "Standard Specifications for Personal Climbing Equipment."

YEAR IN REVIEW

By Jim Keepers: NAA Newsletter Coordinator

FEATURES IN THE NAA 2017 NEWSLETTERS

- Nebraska GREAT PLAINS Conference “Planting Seeds of Knowledge” kicked off the year. Total attendance on day one was 330 and on day two was 255. The exhibitor hall had 48 diverse exhibitors. The conference was dedicated to Orville Hatcher, retired Omaha City Forester in issue 1.
- NE Certified Arborist, John Wynn Sr., City of Omaha, was awarded the NAA 2017 Arborist of the Year in issue 1.
- ISA Certified Arborist, Eric Berg, Nebraska Forest Service, Community Forestry and Sustainable Landscape Program Leader, was awarded the NAA 2017 Educator of the Year in issue 1.
- NE Certified Arborist, Marilyn Heins, Heins Lawn and Landscaping, LLC, was awarded the NAA 2017 Lifetime Achievement Award in issue 1.
- Arborist Spotlight - All the NAA award winners were featured in the article in issue 1.
- NAA Winter Tree ID Class held on February 10, 2017 in issue 1.
- Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) discovered in Pulaski Park in Omaha in issue 1.
- NAA sponsors the 12th Annual Gretna Tree Talk in issue 1.
- The arrival of the Japanese beetle covered in detail in issue 1.
- Arborist Spotlight – Jeff Grewe, NE Certified Arborist and owner of Arbor Aesthetics was featured in the article in issue 2.
- Branch Flagging was the lead off article in issue 2.
- Simple Trees: Herbicides for Dandelions Can Damage Trees article was addressed in issue 2.
- Best Trees & Shrubs for Birds article was a featured article in issue 2.
- NAA Director’s Business Wins American Small Business Championship (ASBC) was another featured article in issue 2.
- Arborist Spotlight – Kathi Schildt, NAA Executive Director in issue 3.
- Training New Nebraska Certified Arborists - NAA Tree ID, Evaluation & Section, Planting & Establishment class was held at the Carol Joy Holling Center in issue 3.
- Tree Bark ID Quiz was the lead article in issue 3.
- The First Women in Nebraska’s History of Arboriculture – Barbara (Torpy) Von Tersch featured in issue 3.
- Retirement of Mark Harrell was highlighted in issue 3.
- Women Behind our Mature Arborists – Carmen (Cramer) Housley was featured in issue 3.
- Nebraska GREAT PLAINS Eastern Summer Field Day, held at Doane University in Crete, was addressed in issue 3.
- John Erixson was introduced as new the new Director of the Nebraska Forest Service in the article Hot News from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in issue 3.
- Dr. Eric North, School of Natural Resources, and the Department of Agronomy and Horticulture, was welcomed to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the new Community Forestry Degree program was featured in issue 3.
- Nebraska is no Stranger to Severe Weather article addressed by Scott Evans, Horticulture Program Coordinate, Douglas-Sarpy Counties & NE Certified Arborist cover another major Omaha summer storm in issue 3.
- Arborist Spotlight featured Rafael Estrada, owner & operator of Tree Landscape Cleaning Restoration LLC. He is the first Latino Certified NE Arborist. His story can be found in issue 4.
- Advanced Arborist Training article deals with the following two areas of training, Aerial Rescue & Aerial Lift. These were two of the advanced arborist classes offered by the NAA and featured in issue 4.
- Three Common Bracket Fungi was a major article in Issue 4.
- NAA Advanced Rigging/Felling/Climbing Class was also featured in issue 4.
- Training New Nebraska Certified Arborists: Pruning & Climbing Class along with Plant Health & Tree Biology Held at Carol Joy Holling Center, covered in two different articles in issue 4.
- The second Women Behind Our Mature Arborists article featuring Edwyn (Edi) Williams Pierce in issue 4.

NEW MEMBERS

Sheldon Garcia
Brian Glover
Bruce Rempe
Zachery Sheibal
Michael Payne
Michael Housley
Robert Hood
Jonathan Mason
Mark Scudder
Troy Moyer
Megan Blakely
Damian Berling
Rony Interiano
Dylan Willis
Joshua Bounds
Dusty Klein
Michael Stanek
John Wolken
Kasey Bogus
Matthew Hanson
Jake Walters
Ross Morris

13TH ANNUAL GRETNA TREE TALK

By Jim Keepers, NAA Newsletter Coordinator

Join your fellow arborists for the 13th Annual Gretna Tree Talk. This event is hosted by the Gretna Arbor Society (Tree Board) and sponsored by the Nebraska Arborists Association. This event will take place on April 14, 2018, at Thomas Elementary School located off Hwy 370 and 200th St. There is no registration fee, but we are asking for canned food donations for the Gretna Food Pantry. Help those in need by donating some canned foods.

Registration will begin at 7:45 a.m. with coffee for those individuals who are not early risers. There will be a special gift for all attendees and lots of free literature for your review. Three CEUs will be available for NAA Certified Arborists.

John Fech, Extension Educator, UNL Metro District, will kick off the talk with his presentation “Get Rid of Your Trees...at Least Some of Them.” Scott Evans, Horticulture Program Coordinator, Douglas-Sarpy counties will then present “Lesser Known Landscape Trees.” After a break, Scott will discuss the “Pollinator Plants/Program.” Trees play an important role in this program so I will follow Scott and talk about “Planting Bare Root Trees.” I will close the talk with the awarding of some special and unique door prizes.

Mark your calendar for the morning of April 14. We hope to see several Nebraska Certified Arborists at this event.

Remember “AN ARBORIST TAKES CARE OF A TREE FOR LIFE!”




Prior attendees at the Annual Gretna Tree Talk.

ANSWER TO NEW SPECIES?
Palmis fakeus – Artificial Palm Tree

A LOOK BACK IN NAA HISTORY

By Jim Keepers, NAA Newsletter Coordinator



Kathi Schildt
NAA Executive Director

Welcome New NAA Executive Director

The NAA Board of Directors is pleased to announce that Kathi Schildt has assumed the role of NAA Executive Director effective December 1, 2004 and wishes to extend a word of thanks to Daphne Petersen for her service to the association. As many of you know, Kathi joined McBride & Associates, which provides the association's professional management services, in January of 2004 as the Membership Services Administrator for NAA working very closely with Daphne Petersen. Daphne served the association as Executive Director since December 2002. Daphne resigned effective November 30; her husband has accepted a position in Denver, Colorado.

As we begin planning and program discussions for the new year and beyond, Kathi encourages you to contact her with any comments, suggestions, or concerns that you may have. Kathi can be reached at the NAA office at kschildt@assocoffice.net or (402) 476-3852. She looks forward to working with all of you in 2005!

Kathi assumes the duties of NAA Executive Director on December 1, 2004 replacing Daphne Petersen.



NAA First Annual Tree Climbing Competition, 1999
Picture lower left: Steve Enfield, Larry Torpy and Phil Pierce; Back row: fourth from left Evan Rail



NAA 2nd Annual Tree Climbing Championship 2000 - Phil Pierce listens to Chip Doolittle while Chip gives instructions to the climbing judges.



NAA 2nd Annual Tree Climbing Championship 2000 - Stacy Hughes right presents climbing Trophy to Jerel Converse



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Certified NAA Arborist Kent Holm selects items he wants to bid on at the silent auction tables.



Conference attendees choose their items before the silent auction table is closed.

CONFERENCE AUCTION/RAFFLE ANALYSIS

By: Jim Keepers, NAA Chairperson, Nebraska GREAT PLAINS Conference Committee

I first want to thank everyone who donated items for both the silent and live auction and the raffle. I also want to thank those who took the time to bid on the items and buy a raffle ticket. All the money the NAA earned goes into the association's educational fund to pay for scholarships for individuals to attend the NAA Arborist School and other educational events.

The following is a short comparison of the money raised this year compared to the prior two years.

YEAR	NAA Raffle	NAA Silent/Live Auctions	Grand Total
2018	\$492.00	\$4,211.72	\$4,703.72
2017	\$561.00	\$5,203.78	\$5,764.78
2016	\$382.00	\$2,463.94	\$2,845.94

From a historical perspective, at the NAA Winter Conference in 2003 a total of \$286 was raised on the raffle of two gift baskets. There was only a silent auction and it raised \$814 for a grand total of \$1,100. The auctions and raffle have enabled the association to increase its education fund and award more scholarships to men and women striving to become Nebraska Certified Arborists.

The association now has \$5,764.78 educational funds for fiscal year 2017-2018 for scholarships. The educational budget is based on the amount of money raised from the prior year auctions/raffle.

TREE PRUNING TIMING - NEW GUIDELINES

By: Jim Keepers, NAA Newsletter Coordinator

While attending the TCI EXPO this past fall, I had the opportunity to attend Dr. Chris Luley's presentation on "Small & Young Tree Pruning." Dr. Luley is the president of Urban Forest Diagnostics, LLC.

I was very impressed with his pruning presentation. We have all heard over the years that you can prune when the saw is sharp. We all know that is just an arborist saying passed down through the years. We have been trained that trees can be pruned normally all year long except Oak and Elms that must be pruned during the winter. For best pruning results, trees should be pruned in the winter, but this standard has now changed. The new standard is the following: trees pruned in April, May and June have the smallest reaction zones and the quickest wound closure during those months. This doesn't mean that damaged trees can only be pruned during these three months.

The reaction zone is a unique plant defense found in trees: A protective chemical boundary that separates wood infected by pathogens from healthy wood present at the time of injury and infection.

The parenchyma cells in the tree are the cells causing a tree to wound over (not heal) when the tree is properly pruned at the branch collar. So what are the parenchyma cells in a living tree? These are the cells contained in the sapwood and consist of living tissue that serves as storage cells and are oriented along the length of the tree-trunk.

I also want to address a new pruning word I learned that was addressed during Dr. Luley's pruning presentation. The word is "dose." When I think of the word, I think it refers to medications but when used in tree pruning terms it means the following: the amount of tissue (branches) removed from a tree. Normally only 1/3 of a dose is removed when pruning a tree.

My goal in this article was not to go into the biology aspects of a tree but to inform you of the new pruning time for trees. I know this is a change to our normal pruning cycle but as educated Nebraska Certified Arborists we need to change with the times. My goal is for Dr. Luley to give his pruning talk at the 2019 Nebraska GREAT PLAINS Conference.



Community Forester Keith Wood, Colorado State demonstrates proper tree pruning.

2018 GREAT PLAINS WINTER CONFERENCE

“Justin Evertson did an outstanding job of pinch-hitting on Lucinda’s topic.”

“The stimulation of hearing new information and differing points of view is always worth the time.”



“Without a doubt this year I met more new arborists at the trade show than I have ever seen. Great job NAA!!”

“Enjoyed another winter conference with great speakers and time to catch up with old friends.”

“The conference had my attention the entire time. Great speakers this year.”



“I really needed Thor Schrock’s talk on securing my technology.”

“As a company we see the value of using the NAA winter conference to better ourselves.”



“Networking and building relationships is always important at the conferences.”



Join us!



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A SPECIAL OR UNIQUE TREE

By: Jim Keepers, NAA Newsletter Coordinator



Fall coloring



Leaves (needles) turning green to yellow in the fall

The tree being featured this quarter is famous along the River Walk in San Antonio, Texas. The tree is classified as a conifer, but it is deciduous because it loses its leaves (needles) during the winter. This tree is the Bald Cypress with a scientific name of *Taxodium distichum*.

The Bald Cypress is listed as a slow-growing tree, but I disagree with this description. The leaves, or should I say needles, are flat blades on small twigs along the tree branches. These needles are twisted at the base and lay in two horizontal ranks. The needles are different from another deciduous conifer, the Larch, whose needles form in bundles off its twigs. The two trees are easy to differentiate during the growing season. The Bald Cypress needles turn yellow to golden brown and from a distance a grove of Bald Cypress will stand out for miles. The tree has both male and female flowers and the cones are green and round appearing in a cluster shape. The cones turn grayish brown when they mature. The cones

disintegrate and release large seeds at maturity. One of the unique characteristics of this tree is the knees (fingers) the tree produces in wet growing areas. It is said these knees provide oxygen to the roots. In our clayish Nebraska soils when not overly irrigated the knees are not produced. The knees are items wood carvers search out and cut off at ground level to produce artistic wood carvings. This tree has no serious insect or disease problems. I would recommend this trees for any large landscape, but it must be planted in groupings to obtain its full fall colors.

Tree coming down?

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WINNER



Winter structure with needles still hanging on the branch.



Tree bark & branch structure



Knee or Finger - Wikipedia Photo

CALLING 911: YOUR DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES

By: Jim Keepers, NAA Newsletter Coordinator

Calling 911 can be a frightening experience for anyone. Many times, the individual who calls 911 is the individual on the crew with the least amount of experience. Make sure that individual knows what to do when calling 911. These are the steps you should follow when placing a 911 call:

1. What is the location? Have it written down when you arrive at the job site and give it to the individual who would make the call.
2. Who is injured? Nature of the accident? How high up in the tree? Remember firefighting crews may have little or no aerial rescue training.
3. Level of Consciousness (A, V, P, U) A - Awake, V - Verbal, P - Pain, U - Unconscious
4. MOI - Method of Injury

Remember to go over the work and hazards of the job site when you first arrive at the job location. Also, have spare climbing gear including rope and saddle available on the ground for a possible rescue.



Phil Pierce gives instructions to a future Nebraska Certified Arborist in the proper method of removing an injured climber from a tree.



CHAPS & HARDHAT VIOLATIONS

Illustration by Bryan Kotwica. Permission granted by Tree Care Industry Association and TCLA Crew Leader Specialist training program.

OSHA holds the employer, not the employee, accountable when chaps are not worn while operating a chainsaw during ground operations. The new ANSI Standard, "ANSI Z133-2017" under the General Safety section states: "Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) requirements, Cut-resistant Leg Protection shall be worn while operating a chain saw during ground operations." If the owner fails to provide/require the use of chaps, it is 'A Serious Violation by OSHA standards.' The maximum penalty, per occurrence, is \$12,481 and if the employer gets a repeat or willful violation, the fine goes up tenfold.

The employer can also be cited per occurrence. In other words, if it is a four-person crew and none of them have a hardhat on, the fine could be over \$48,000. Crew Chiefs need to remember to ensure all your crew members are wearing their hardhats!



Family planting tree in Leo Royal Park, Gretna for Arbor Day 2017.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

The State of Nebraska will celebrate Arbor Day on Friday, April 27. I am asking all NAA members to set some time aside to assist their City, City Tree Board or local schools in celebration of Arbor Day. Plant a tree or provide some tree care. Your participation in these special Arbor Day events shows you and your company desire to help spread the word about proper tree planting and care. Please send your articles and photos of your participation to the NAA office to include

in the June issue of the NAA newsletter and on social media. Remember 'An Arborist takes Care of a Tree for Life.'



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NAA HONORS SPECIAL INDIVIDUALS

By Lon Nutter, NAA Past President & Jim Keepers, NAA Newsletter Coordinator

During the NAA business meeting at the 2018 Nebraska GREAT PLAINS Conference some special individuals were recognized for their achievements. The following awards were presented: Educator of the Year, Justin Evertson, Nebraska Forest Service; Arborist of the Year, Wyatt DeWeese, Terry Hughes Trees Service; and Lifetime Achievement Award, Chip Doolittle, ArborSystems. An additional Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Mark Harrell, Nebraska Forest Service. Mark was unable to attend the ceremony and his award will be presented later.

NAA EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

Justin Evertson is someone dedicated to the advancing the education of Arborists. Justin works as a Green Infrastructure Coordinator with in the Nebraska Forest Service (NFS). He also works directly with at least 50 different communities across the state annually on landscape projects involving parks, schools, libraries, fairgrounds, courthouses, nursing homes and business districts. In addition, in his hometown of Waverly, he serves on the Park and Tree Advisory Committee and has planted hundreds of trees and shrubs throughout the city. The park in Waverly is Justin's baby! Justin is a valuable resource to the NAA as he offers education at many events including the Arborist Seminar and Winter Tree ID. One of Justin's special aspects of his teaching is his unique jokes. If any of you have had the opportunity to attend one of Justin's sessions, you will be fully aware of Justin's passion and expertise in arboriculture.



President Nutter presents NAA Educator of the Year to Justin Evertson



John Wynn, 2017 NAA Arborist of the Year, presents the Arborist of the Year Jacket to Wyatt DeWeese, wife Lia, and children Brady & Jolee.

NAA ARBORIST OF THE YEAR AWARD

Wyatt DeWeese, Production Manager, Hughes Tree Service, oversees the plant health care for the company as well as many other operational areas for Hughes. His expertise in the winter is pushing snow all hours of the day and night. He is extremely knowledgeable in the field of arboriculture and shares his knowledge with those within his organization as well as others in the industry and the community. Wyatt is an asset to Hughes, the customers they serve, as well as the community. Wyatt has served on the NAA board on several different occasions and held many positions including President Elect, President and Past President. His leadership during his duties as NAA President has helped guide the NAA to the success we enjoy today. Wyatt has also served his community as a volunteer firefighter, kids' soccer coach, works with Sarpy County Fair events, and helps with local 4H. Wyatt is the future of the NAA and deserves the recognition this of this award.

NAA LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Chip Doolittle, Owner/Operator ArborSystems, has made significant contributions to the field of arboriculture through his development of his Wedgle Tree Injection System. Chip has held a numbers of arborist positions over the years, and in 1993 he started his present business ArborSystems. That was the same year he received his patent for the Wedgle injection system. His injection system is one of the most widely used trunk injection methods in the country. He has also received a total five patents and has filed for several more for his related tree treatment systems. Over the past ten years, he has taught numerous tree injection workshops around the United States and for the NAA. Chip and Dr. Mark Harrell, Forest Health Program Leader, Nebraska Forest Service, University of Nebraska - Lincoln, worked together to help solve the problem of Pine Wilt and in 2006 they came up with a treatment for the problem. A year later Chip received a patent involving a new method of trunk injection for conifers.



Lon presents the NAA Lifetime Achievement Award to Chip Doolittle. Also pictured is Chip's wife Marilyn.

Chip has held the position of NAA President Elect, President and Past President from 1994 to 1997. He is also a board member of the Midwest Chapter of the ISA, and he was the first certified tree service in this Chapter. Chip became a Nebraska Certified Arborist in 1990. His major role now in the NAA is on the exhibitor side of the house. One additional comment about Chip's accomplishments as an exhibitor, Chip was one of the only exhibitors present at numerous NAA's Winter Conference when it was an independent conference. This is something the senior members of the NAA will never forget. Chip's achievements speak highly of his character and he is very deserving of this award.

LET'S NOT FORGET OUR FALLEN DEAD

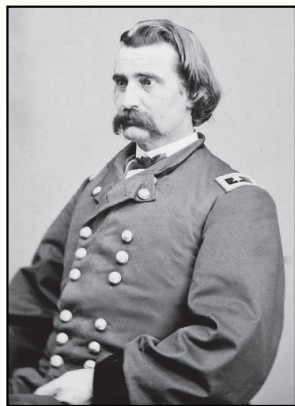
By: Jim Keepers, USN and AF Retired

Memorial Day formally known as Decoration Day was officially proclaimed on 5 May 1868 by General John Logan, national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, in his General Order No. 11, and was first observed on 30 May 1868, when flowers were placed on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery. The first state to officially recognize the holiday was New York in 1873. By 1890 it was recognized by all of the northern states. The south refused to acknowledge the day, honoring their dead on separate days until after World War I (when the holiday changed from honoring just those who died fighting in the Civil War to honoring Americans who died fighting in any war).



Photo via City of Orlando

It is now celebrated in almost every state on the last Monday in May (passed by Congress with the National Holiday Act of 1971 (P.L. 90 - 363) to ensure a three-day weekend for Federal holidays). More American soldiers died in the Civil War than all of the soldiers who have died in all of the combined wars since that conflict.



To help re-educate and remind Americans of the true meaning of Memorial Day, the "National Moment of Remembrance" resolution was passed in December of 2000 which asks that at 3:00 p.m. local time, for all Americans "to voluntarily and informally observe in their own way a moment of remembrance and respect, pausing from whatever they are doing for a moment of silence or listening to Taps."

I know it seems May 28 is a long time away when we are still fighting winter cold, but now is the time to mark your calendar so you can visit a local cemetery and pay your respects to a relative or a friend who served our great county. Nebraska has two National Cemeteries. One in Sarpy County, 14250 Schram Rd., and the other located at Fort McPherson in Maxwell.

General John Logan returned to politics after the Civil War as a Republican and served in both the House and Senate. He was on the 1884 Republican ticket as vice president with presidential candidate James Blaine. Logan died on 26 December 1886 and is buried at the United States Soldiers' & Airmen's Home National Cemetery in Washington, DC.

NEWLY CERTIFIED ARBORISTS

Sheldon Garcia
Ben McEndarfer
David Bell
Michael Payne
Michael Gillinger
Ian Rider
Lewis Buckley
Michael Housley
Jason Olsen
Benjamin Springer
Troy Moyer
Megan Blakely
Rochelle Bolte
Jay Moore
Robert Tewes
John Bohrer
Ryan Anderson
Michael Fink
Luke Miller

FIRST NAA NEWSLETTER

The NAA Newsletter was first published in 1981 and it was only two pages long. The newsletter has had several format changes over the past 37 years. Our present format was established in the spring of 2015, Issue 1. The next biggest change occurred in the Summer of 2015, Issue 2 when the newsletter was printed in color and in the NAA Office. I have been fortunate to be the coordinator of the newsletter. The association has had several individuals at the NAA office who have done a great job working with me on this newsletter but I must say Kylie Schildt, Marketing Director at AAM and Kathi's daughter, has done a superior job with the layout of our present newsletter. I also appreciate the others in the NAA office who do a super job proofreading all the articles I submit for the newsletter. To keep the newsletter going strong, we need additional

Bruce L. Webster, NAA Secretary-Treasurer & Editor
Lancaster County Extension Service
5608 South 48th
Lincoln, NE 68516
Phone (402) 423-3806

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the reading of this first official newsletter. As you well know, if you have been involved in any newsletter publication, it is a monumental task. However, your officers have felt that this is one manner in which we can help you feel a part of this organization. To further this objective the newsletter will include not only professional arboricultural topics but also items about the association and its members. So look for your name in print sooner or later -- and if you have items of information about what you are doing or thinking please send them to the editor, Bruce Webster. We trust that you will find this newsletter helpful and interesting and if so will be reminded that the Nebraska Arborists Association is working for you.

Let me conclude this introduction to the newsletter with a personal greeting to each of you.

— Jack Nebelsick

FIELD DAY REVIEW

The day was wet, but the company and discussion were as good as the steaks.

September 15 was our fall field day at Neal Jennings' farm west of Lincoln. Our discussion had just started when the rain came, but we moved into Neal's equipment shed and continued.

The topic for the day was tree injection, and we were fortunate to have several

arborists who have had experience with some of the different methods.

Warren Wolfe of Creative Sales led off the discussion with a review of Dutch Elm Disease and some of the injection methods and chemicals that have been developed in recent years. He made note of continuing research in injection of chemicals for DED.

Injection of growth regulators was brought up. The most progress being made is in the area of preventing fruiting. Of particular note would be chemicals for injection to prevent crabapple formation or "cotton" on cottonwoods.

Injection for iron chlorosis was the most discussed topic for the day. Warren Wolfe reviewed Creative Sales' products. John Fischbach outlined his method of liquid iron injection. Rich Schweitzer reviewed the success he's had in using maguet products.

Some concluding comments were made regarding the greater acceptance of tree injection on the part of both arborist and home owner, coinciding with a growing reluctance for the traditional spraying techniques.

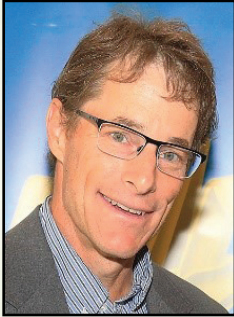
NOMINATIONS

As mentioned in our last board meeting minutes, it is time to nominate officers for 1982. If anyone wants an officer position, contact any of the current officers. Hopefully the next newsletter will contain a paragraph about those who are running so you'll know a little about who you're voting for.

advertisers. Your support in obtaining new advertisers would be greatly appreciated. I am always looking for newsletter articles submitted by NAA members.

MARCESCENT TREES HOLD THEIR LEAVES THROUGH WINTER MONTHS

By: Justin Evertson, Nebraska Forest Service, Green Infrastructure Coordinator



Justin Evertson

Trees and shrubs are often categorized into evergreen or deciduous depending on how the transition from summer to winter impacts their leaves. Coniferous species such as pine, spruce, cedar and fir are green throughout the year, including the winter. The waxy-coated needles of these “evergreens” can retain green chlorophyll throughout the cold months. It’s important to note that evergreen needles don’t actually last forever, but rather are shed every 2-5 years depending on the species. This needle drop often goes unnoticed as it overlaps with newer needles that stay green.

Deciduous species, on the other hand, generally drop all their leaves in autumn, which is why we also call it fall. Cooling temperatures and shortening daylength triggers deciduous species to develop an abscission layer at the base of the leaf petiole (stalk), leaving the leaf dangling until wind or gravity pull it off. However, on a few species this abscission layer does not develop completely and the withered leaves can be retained well into winter and even into the following spring. This retention of dead leaves is called marcescence.

In our region, the most prominent marcescent species are oaks. Although most oaks show some level of marcescence, species such as shingle, white, scarlet, black and pin oak are especially capable of holding on to their spent leaves well into winter. Other tree species with varying degrees of marcescence include beech, ironwood, muscledwood, horsechestnut, smoketree, boxelder, Japanese maple and some sugar maples. Marcescent shrubs include witchhazels and semi-evergreen viburnums.



Photo of Columnar taken 1 March 2018

Marcescence can also apply to flowers, seeds and fruits. Many trees retain fruit parts or seeds through winter: coffeetree, ash, catalpa, sycamore, pagodatree, hawthorns and crabapples. The marcescent male flowers of white ash (deformed by gall insects) can be very prominent, providing a very useful winter identification ID aid.

Marcescence can vary depending on genetics, growing conditions and the age of trees. Oaks often lose much of their leaf retention as they mature. Leaves protected from wind and snow can also last longer on some species. Scientists aren’t sure why marcescence evolved, but one theory is that it may provide some protection from deer and animal browsing during winter. Another theory is that winter leaf retention can help capture more snow and increase spring soil moisture.

Depending on one’s perspective, marcescence has both benefits and drawbacks. For wildlife enthusiasts, marcescent trees and shrubs provide winter protection for several types of birds, greatly increasing backyard diversity. Also, for someone like me who doesn’t like to rake leaves, I appreciate that oak leaves are shed gradually through fall and winter thus allowing more time for leaf cleanup (or lack thereof) to occur. People who like to get their raking done promptly in the fall, however, often despise this spread out chore. Another potential problem is that marcescent species can be more prone to damage from ice storms and heavy snow loads, although oaks seem to weather these occurrences fairly well.

One benefit of marcescent species growing in importance is that they help expand the palette of trees suitable for windbreaks and visual screens. As we lose many of our evergreens to a growing list of diseases, insects and weather extremes, we’d be smart to diversify our shelterbelts by adding more marcescent species like shingle, scarlet and black oak. Across a community, marcescent species are helping to soften the harsh winds, thus making our winter existence much more tolerable.

From the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum, e-mail, 24th January & the Omaha World-Herald



HUNDREDS GATHER TO PROTEST GLOBAL WARMING!

WILL THE JAPANESE BEETLE REACH ITS PEAK IN 2018?

By Dr. Jonathan Larson, Nebraska Extension, Douglas-Sarpy County Educator

The Japanese beetle is one the rare pests that is a problem for us as a larva and as an adult. When young this insect is a white grub that chows down on the roots of turf leaving behind large brown dead patches. As an adult the Japanese beetle is a voracious pest that feeds on over 300 different kinds of plants. It skeletonizes green leaf tissues, leaving behind just the veins of the leaf in a doily or lace-like pattern. They also attack flowers and occasionally fruits such as grapes. Flowers will appear finely shredded as if blasted with sand. The Japanese beetle is 7/16th of an inch in length, with copper colored wings and an emerald body and white tufts of hair along its abdominal edge.



Adults emerge from the ground and begin feeding on plants in late May or June. *Japanese beetle damage on a vegetable plant.* 2017 was a high intensity year for Japanese beetles, and we expect 2018 to have just as many if not more. If you want to control these pests consider cultural and insecticidal approaches and remember that controlling one life stage does not necessarily mean you will be free of the other. White grubs can be preventively controlled with neonicotinoids (like, clothianidin, imidicloprid, dinotefuron) and chlorantraniliprole applied in May or June. If you are treating curatively, later in the year products like clothianidin and Dylox can control >50% of the grubs.

For adults the best strategy for the future is to plant less Japanese beetle attractive plants. For example instead of planting lindens or birches perhaps choose sweet gums or red oak. For a list of plants that are attractive or not attractive adult Japanese beetles go to: <http://www2.ca.uky.edu/entomology/entfacts/ef451.asp>.

When treating for adults you can protect a tree for the season with a systemic soil treatment of neonicotinoids in April or May. This can be done on all susceptible trees except for lindens. Neonicotinoids are not allowed to be used on linden trees at all. You can protect foliage with foliar sprays, adults can be controlled with chlorantraniliprole or pyrethroid products like cyfluthrin or bifenthrin. These can provide 3-4 weeks protection. Sevin (carbaryl) is another option but typically lasts 1-2 weeks. These can be applied to lindens. Exercise caution when using these insecticides as they can also affect pollinators. Be sure to follow label instructions explicitly to avoid harming pollinators. Botanically, both Neem and Pyola can protect plants but only last 5-7 days, requiring multiple reapplications.

HI ARBORIST: CAN YOU IDENTIFY ME THIS WINTER?

By: Jim Keepers, NAA Newsletter Coordinator

For the individual entering the arboriculture career field, tree identification can be a difficult task during our Nebraska winter months. The standard identification keys such as leaves, flowers or fruit are gone. The only tree signs remaining are the buds, bark, and tree structure. The experienced arborist also might have some difficulty. That is why the NAA started the Winter Deciduous Tree ID Class.



This course is relatively new and under the teaching leadership of Justin Evertson, Nebraska Statewide Arboretum. The course was originally held at various locations throughout the state, but recently has been held at Wayne Park in Waverly. The class was moved to its present location because of the diverse deciduous park trees.



This year there were a total of eleven arborists and other tree lovers who attended the class. The NAA thanks Justin for providing instruction for the class. In addition, I want to thank Kevin Popken, NAA President, for his efforts in developing NAA's advanced arborist training classes. The NAA is striving to offer additional advanced arborist training classes to its members in the future to improve their tree care qualifications. Look for additional advanced classes this year.

“If you cannot identify a tree, how do you know what problems it might have?”



SUNSCALD: It is when the cambium and bark tissue on the south/southwest side of trees are exposed to rapid temperature fluctuation during winter and die. Now is the time to start thinking about how to protect your newly planted tree from potential damage. The tissue on the sunny side of the tree will warm up and deacclimate to the cold. When the temperature drops quickly below freezing the warmed tissue is unable to reacclimate and the tissue freezes and is damaged. Susceptible trees include Maple, Linden, Honeylocuts, Birch, Crabapples, Fruit trees, Tulip trees, Aspen, and Willow. To prevent sunscald the bark needs protected from the sun. This can be done by leaving lower branches on the tree or shade the bark by putting up a board

on the south/southwest side of the trunk during winter. Roppolo and Miller said “the answer to minimizing sunscald injury may be as simple as the timely watering of newly planted trees.” A reflective wrap or white tree guard would help. Poorly planted trees, dry soils and root damage are all other factors that can make trees susceptible to sunscald.

ESPALIER CAN BE A FRUITFUL UNDERTAKING

By Jan Riggenschach, Syndicated Garden Writer

If you'd love to grow fruit trees but think your yard is too small, an age-old practice could solve your problem. Called espalier (pronounced ess-PAL-yay), this system is a fancy French name for a fairly straight-forward process: training woody plants to grow flat, so they take only a very narrow bite out of your yard.

Espalier is much more common in Europe than in the United States, but as American yards shrink, I'm betting it will become commonplace in this country, too.

All you need to get started are some young fruit trees, a trellis or fence for support, and a pair of pruning shears.

For success in the long term, you'll need certain personal qualities, particularly attention to detail and patience. Espalier is a fun, artistic endeavor, but it is not low maintenance. Plan on snipping here and there and tying up wayward branches a minimum of three times every summer.

The reward is great: high-quality fruit, plus a living sculpture or privacy fence to beautify your yard. This system is perfect for dwarf fruit trees, which often lack the sturdy root systems they need to keep from blowing over. Trained flat and tied to wire or trellis, espaliered trees aren't fazed by wind. The careful pruning also provides good air circulation and exposure to sunlight, which means a high yield of bigger fruit and fewer problems with diseases or pests. Spraying and harvesting is also easier.



Espalier provides a harvest of high-quality fruit, plus a beautiful living sculpture.
Photo credit: Courtesy of Schiffer Publishing

The hardest part is getting started. In the beginning, there are many decisions to make. Which kind of fruit trees will you grow? What kind of support do you want to provide for them. Which style (fan-shaped, u-shaped, or palm-shaped, to name just a few possibilities) do you prefer?

Start with young, unbranched saplings, called whips. Make your first cut low on each whip, wherever you want its lowest branches. As the branches grow, keep soft ties or plant tape on hand to train the branches to grow according to your plan. Words are fine for an introduction to espalier, but I think anyone would need to study diagrams to really understand how to train fruit trees into the desired shapes. “Espalier Fruit Trees for Wall, Hedge, and Pergola” (Schiffer Publishing, 2014), by Karl Pieber and Peter Modl, offers plenty of diagrams plus inspiring photographs.

The authors offer helpful tips, too. For example, for a wall espalier, fasten a trellis to crossbars, not directly to the wall. A minimum of 4 to 6 inches from the wall is needed for easier pruning and better air circulation. And if you're using wire to support your espalier, choose plastic-coated; galvanized wire eventually corrodes.



WHO NEEDS A TRUCK WHEN THE FAMILY CAR WILL DO!

NEBRASKA CHEMICAL UPDATE

By: Jim Keepers, NAA Newsletter Coordinator



Will the herbicide Dicamba be banned because of wind drift in the state of Nebraska? According to an article in the Omaha World-Herald on January 29, 2018, “Nebraska won’t go as far as other states and ban or limit use of a controversial weedkiller (Dicamba) this year.”

Dicamba controls annual and perennial rose weeds in grain crops and highlands, and it is used to control brush and bracken in pastures, as well as lagoons. It kills broadleaf weeds before and after they sprout. It is used by homeowners to kill weeds in their lawn by increasing plant growth rate. Dicamba is toxic to conifer species and does harm to deciduous trees and can kill them if sprayed on the bark or around the root area. It is less toxic to grasses. It also lasts long in the soil and can build up over time.

New federal restrictions have been applied to Nebraska farmers if they want to use Dicamba to control weeds in their soybean fields. The farmers must have special training or hire someone who has received special training to apply this chemical. I don’t know if any additional restrictions have been applied to the commercial or homeowners use of this product. This is something the association needs to keep track of in the future.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is closely watching the use of Dicamba by Nebraska farmers during the upcoming growing season. The main problem with this chemical is that it evaporates and drifts under certain weather conditions such as wind and high temperatures, damaging nonresistant soybeans and other crops as well as gardens and trees.

The City of Gretna was faced with the problem of chemical leaf damage when 22 newly planted Oak trees in May showed signs of leaf curl and deformity. The Nebraska Department of Agriculture was notified and leaf samples were taken. It was discovered that Dicamba was inside the leaves. An investigation was done, but a source of the chemical spray was not found. It was decided that the chemical had been carried by the wind from a long distance to these trees.



Education on the proper use of this chemical is a must for all Nebraska Certified Arborists who apply Dicamba to their customers’ properties. All Nebraska chemical applicators must be EPA certified to apply chemicals of this type. Nebraska Certified Arborists should also inform their customers of the proper use of Dicamba. All arborist companies must inform their employees of the increased hazards and restrictions of using this chemical.

In closing, I want to leave you with the following quote from the Omaha World-Herald: “If they don’t follow these restrictions and new guidelines, this herbicide (Dicamba) is going to be gone, it’ll be taken off the market.”



New NAA President Kevin Popken presents Lon Nutter outgoing President with the NAA Presidents Award for his service as NAA President Elect and NAA President for three years. Thank you, Lon!





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