

An Arborist takes
care of a tree for life.



OUT ON A LIMB

SPRING 2019, VOLUME 39, ISSUE 1



What are the pit falls of running an Arborist Crew? See story below for the answer.

RUNNING A CREW: THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE INDIFFERENT

By Dustin Nelson, Certified NAA Arborist & New NAA Director

Running a crew is a goal most people getting into the Arborist industry strive to achieve. Often new impressionable workers look up to those individuals running the crews and calling all the shots. It's an exciting, rewarding, and often thrilling line of work. And to those of us who have moved up the ladder into leadership positions, the pay and benefits often aren't bad either. But is it all sunshine and rainbows? Just like any other industry it is a job that comes with its fair share of headaches and responsibility. Before running a crew, it's better if you know the good, the bad, and the indifferent.

As a leader, you have people you are responsible for. This includes not only making sure everyone is doing what they need to be doing when they need to be doing it, but also it is YOUR job to make sure they got home safe to their families. It's always good to try to lead by example. Everyone must wear all appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) and do their best to get the job done in as safe a manner as possible. It's best to stress working as a team because three people can work extremely hard but if they aren't working together, they are working against each other. It can really be a beautiful thing when a small group of workers get together and work efficiently toward the same goal.



Aerial work on Happy Hollow Cottonwood removal.



Two Crane Operation during Tree Removal.

As a leader, you have an excellent opportunity to share your knowledge of the industry and contribute to the growth of the next generation of Arborists. That is one of the most rewarding aspects of this job. Sometimes it can be a bit frustrating trying to teach your workers complicated techniques when they are 30+ feet above you and loud equipment is running. But with modern advances in technology, like integrated headsets, the stress is lessened. It helps to utilize the drive back at the end of the day to talk about any questions or concerns.

As a leader, you will find that production goals and long work weeks can be mentally draining if your work/home life becomes off balance. It is extremely important to make time for yourself and do things you enjoy with those close to you. This is where working for the right company comes into play. *Continued on page 3...*

A QUARTERLY UPDATE OF THE NEBRASKA ARBORISTS ASSOCIATION

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- President's Letter P.2
- Running a Crew Continued P.3
- Arborist's Spotlight P.4
- A Look Back in NAA History P.6
- Hot News: Action to be Taken Now P.6
- Western NE Increasing Tree Diversity P.7
- Oaks Most Suitable for the Midwest P.9
- NAA Honors the Best P.10
- Give Back to Our Community Program P.12
- Remembering Memorial Day P.12
- Gift of Beautiful Trees P.13
- Arbor Day P.13
- Investors Do Your Homework P.14
- Conference Recap P.16
- Summaries for Winter Conference P.17
- Meet the NFS Deputy Director P.17
- Timely Topics P.18
- Emerald Ash Borer Over-Wintering Mortality P.19
- Update on the NAA Board P.20
- A Special or Unique Tree P.21
- An Unusual Midwest Crime Trend P.22
- Reporting on Association Numbers P.22
- Winter Desiccation on Evergreens P.23
- Windbreaks Need Wildlife P.23

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 2019 quarterly newsletters:

- 2nd Quarter - June 7, 2019
- 3rd Quarter - September 13, 2019
- 4th Quarter - November 11, 2019

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Kevin Popken, NAA President



I want to begin by thanking all who were able to attend this year's winter conference in York. As often is the case the weather was not ideal but that did not deter many from making the trek out for the conference. In fact we had more attendees this year than for the conference last year in Omaha. Doing the joint conferences has made it a challenge to find suitable venues to accommodate all the sessions, attendees and exhibitors. The York conference center did a great job making sure things went as smooth as possible.

I also want to thank our board and conference committee who provided direction and vision to the event, proposing topics and speakers to meet the needs of the varied audience that was present. A big thanks also to Kathi, Katlyn and the staff of AAM our management company who see that everything is always taken care of behind the scenes, their professionalism and attention to detail is always evident.

This summer's field day is already in the works as well as the 2020 winter conference. We always appreciate ideas and suggestions for speakers and topics that you, our members would find valuable so please contact myself or another board member with your ideas, they are much appreciated. Finally, welcome to our newest board members, Dustin Nelson and Samantha Steward who I know will bring fresh ideas and energy to the board. We look forward to their input over the next term.

All the Best,

Kevin Popken
NAA President

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Continued from page 1...

Because vacation time is a necessity, make sure whatever company you choose offers enough to satisfy your needs. If not, then it will only be a matter of time before you get burned out and lose passion for your work. It has often been said that employees can make or break a company. Bad attitudes are contagious so finding employment that shares these views is ideal.

As a leader of a tree crew, you will often have to deal with customers first hand. This is what can really set a good foreman apart from the rest. It's always best if you can calm the waters or handle any issue first hand before they must go up the chain of command. To some this might not be the most enjoyable experience. Often



Tree removal using a bucket.

you need to descend from the top of a tree to sort some wild issue out. Which can be frustrating to say the least. At the same time, those in positions above you appreciate your efforts probably more than you realize.

All in all, being a crew leader is an amazing experience. You get more freedom

to do things the way you see fit. Whether it be overly complicated rigging, or experimenting with climbing techniques, if you can keep those managers above you happy, it's your show.

UPCOMING EVENTS

NE GREAT PLAINS Eastern Field Day Events

Thursday, August 8, 2019, Special Event

Friday, August 9, 2019, Carol Joy Holling, Ashland, NE

2019 ARBORIST SCHOOL

Tree ID, Evaluation & Selection, Planting & Establishment Seminar

Thursday & Friday, September 5-6, 2019

VFW Hall & Wayne Park, Waverly, NE

Pruning, Climbing & Safety Seminar

Tuesday & Wednesday, October 1-2, 2019

Carol Joy Holling, Ashland, NE

Plant Health & Tree Biology Seminar

Wed-Thurs, November 13-14, 2019

Carol Joy Holling, Ashland, NE

Nebraska GREAT PLAINS Conference

Monday & Tuesday, January 27-28, 2020

Cornhusker Hotel, Lincoln, Nebraska

YEAR IN REVIEW

By: Jim Keepers, NAA Newsletter Coordinator

SIGNIFIC FEATURES IN THE NAA 2017 NEWSLETTERS

• ISSUE 1, SPRING 2018

2018 Nebraska Great Plains Conference RECAP, p. 1

Women in Arboriculture - Kati Harper p. 3

Arborist Spotlight -Housely Family, p. 4

NAA Special Award Honors, p. 14

2018 GREAT PLAINS Winter Conference, p. 10

A Special or Unique Tree - Bald Cypress, p.12

Lets' Not Forget our Fallen Dead, p.15

Marcescent Trees Hold Their Leaves through Winter, p. 16

Espalier can be a Fruitful Undertaking, p. 18

Nebraska Chemical Update, p. 19

• ISSUE 2, SUMMER 2018

Common Hackberry – Natural Tree Pruning, p. 1

A Special or Unique Tree – Pinyon Pine, p.3

Arborist Spotlight – Heather Byers, p. 4

Hughes Tree Service Supports Nebraska Arbor Day, p. 6

Bur Oak, King of the Forest, p. 9

Trees for Bees and Other Pollinators, p. 10

Technical Notice: Sterling 30FT. Web Wheels, p.12

Nebraska Environmental Trust, p. 13

Passing of Arborist Allan Leroy Enfield, p. 15

• ISSUE 3, SUMMER 2018

Veteran Day 2018, p. 1

Arborist Spotlight – Sheila Schrader, p. 4

Important Legal LLC Information, p 5

Glorious Day at Great Plains Nursery, p. 6

2018 Great Plains Eastern Summer Field Day, p. 7

Let's Look Back into Our Association History, p. 9

Is CPR Training Worth the Time and Effort?, p. 12

Women Behind Our Mature Arborists, p. 13

• ISSUE 4, FALL

Passing of a Good Friend & Strong Supporter of the NAA, p. 1

Arborist Spotlight – Dan Nye, p. 4

The Art of Tree Worker Communications, p.6

NAA Pruning, Climbing & Safety Class Update, p. 9

NAA Educational Booth, p. 12

Nominees Ballot, p. 13

A Special or Unique Tree, p. 14

ARBORIST SPOTLIGHT: THANKS DR. MARK HARRELL

By: *Jim Keepers, Chairperson Nebraska GREAT PLAINS Conference*

Over the years, we all have had the opportunity to cross paths with some very interesting and highly educated people. Most of these individuals are very busy and it is hard for them to find the time to get your questions answered. The individual being featured in this quarter's Arborist Spotlight article doesn't fall in that category. He has always been willing to take the time to help out no matter how busy his work schedule. The Nebraska Arborists Association (NAA) and the Nebraska Nursery and Landscaping Association (NNLA) felt the best way to honor Dr. Harrell was to dedicate our joint 2019 Nebraska GREAT PLAINS Conference to this special individual. On behalf of the NAA and the NNLA, I want to thank you Dr. Harrell for your dedicated service at the University of Nebraska –Lincoln in support of Nebraska Arboriculture and Horticulture industry.

In addition to the conference dedication, Dr. Harrell was awarded the NAA's Lifetime Achievement, the association's highest award. This award is unique because it is only given to individuals who have demonstrated their willingness to go that extra mile in support of Arboriculture and the NAA through out the state of Nebraska.

So let's take a look at the young man who developed into Dr. Harrell. Mark is now Professor Emeritus at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and retired University of Nebraska-Lincoln Nebraska Forest Service, Forest Health Program Leader. Mark retired from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) this past September, after spending 36 years at UNL working in Forestry, Fisheries and Wildlife and the Nebraska Forest Service (NFS). His final position was in the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Nebraska Forest Service (NFS), Forest Health Department. Under his leadership, his department provided programming for the State of Nebraska in Forest and tree insects, diseases and environmental issues. He was Nebraska's Statewide Forest Pest Specialist.



A very young Dr. Harrell

Mark was an active member of the NAA's Association and the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA). He served as instructor at numerous NAA's annual winter and summer conferences along with presenting specific Arboriculture insect and disease seminars for the association. He was a member of the NAA's certification and exam committee and served on the association's Board of Advisors. He also served on the ISA's board-certified Master Arborist test committee and on the ISA Midwestern Chapter's board of directors and scholarship committees.

He received the Builders Award, the NAA's 2007 Educator of the Year Award, a Presidential Citation from the NAA and an honorary lifetime membership from NAA in recognition of his many contributions to the education and professional growth of its members. He also received the Author's Award of Excellence from ISA's Midwestern Chapter, and was also a member of the Great Plains Tree Pest Council. Having served four terms as its chair and serves on the City of Lincoln's Community Forestry Advisory Board.

Mark received a Bachelor of Science in Biology from the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia in 1975. He also met his charming wife, Dottie, at William and Mary. Thanks Dottie for being there when Mark needed you!

Mark's interest in insects was sparked in an undergraduate class in Entomology. He received his Ph.D. in Entomology, with minors in Forestry and Plant Pathology, from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1980.

My association with Mark goes back to 2000 when I attended the NAA Arborist School. Mark was the tree insect & disease instructor for the class. I have also worked with Mark on numerous occasions during my years as monitor of the Arbor School and chairperson of the NAA winter conference. So, in the past 17 years, he has spent numerous hours educating myself and other NAA Arborists.



Dr. Harrell & wife Dottie pose with his NAA Lifetime Achievement Award



Dr. Mark presenting at the 2016 Nebraska GREAT PLAINS Summer Field



Dr. Harrell & wife Dottie



Dr. Harrell, wife Dottie & family

Now let's take a look at what some of Mark's co-workers and friends have to say about this unique individual. Dr. Scott Josiah, Retired NE State Forester & Director NFS, University of Nebraska-Lincoln stated, "Mark Harrell is a consummate and trusted professional who has led the NFS Forest Health program for decades. He is well recognized as a leader on forest health issues in Nebraska, the Great Plains, nationally and even internationally. We at the NFS were truly fortunate to count him as one of our own for so many years."

Laurie Stepanek, Forest Health Specialist, stated the following, "Mark is a great supervisor---I enjoy my job and a big part of that is because of Mark. He has encouraged me in my work and cared about me as a person."

Friends like Chip Doolittle, ArborSystems, state the following, "I have known Dr. Mark Harrell for over 20 years and one of Marks hallmarks besides being unswervingly honest, is that he is very, very patient, especially with "newbie smart alecks like myself."

I could go on and on with the glowing comments received from individuals in the arboriculture career field about Dr. Harrell but article space doesn't allow. I feel Phil Pierce, Consulting Arborist and Certified NE Arborist, statement sums up many of the reasons why the 2019 Nebraska GREAT PLAINS Conference was dedicated to Dr. Mark Harrell.

"Mark has been a great asset to the trees of Nebraska."

**In need of professional and qualified tree help?
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Nebraska Certified Arborists have undergone additional training in the field of arboriculture and are required to maintain insurance and CPR/First Aid certification.

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The EMERALD ASH BORER (EAB) is now in Nebraska. EAB is able to kill all ash trees, regardless of their health, age or size. It has killed hundreds of millions of ash trees already in the U.S. As of July 2017, it was found in two locations in Nebraska: Omaha and Lincoln.

ACTIONS FOR HOMEOWNERS TO TAKE:

- Check your ash trees for symptoms. Symptoms include canopy dieback, sprouting from base, and D-shaped exit holes on tree trunk.
- Have a certified arborist inspect the tree and have it treated or removed depending on the health of the tree.
- Caution! Ash trees become very brittle when they die and will explode when they fall.

To avoid spreading EAB, collect or purchase firewood where you will burn it. Don't bring wood with you when you travel and leave unburned wood at the campsites. Visit www.dontmovefirewood.org for more information.

Contact a Nebraska Certified Arborist to evaluate your Ash trees. Don't wait!

Source: Nebraska Forest Service, www.nfs.unl.edu/nebraska-eab

An Arborist Takes Care of a Tree for Life.

NAA BOOKMARK

With the gifted artistic assistance of Kylie at the NAA office, we have developed a new NAA Bookmark. This bookmark will be given out to the attendees of the upcoming 2019 Eastern Summer Field Day.

Please contact the NAA office if you are interested in obtaining a pack of the bookmarks for your organization or company.

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A LOOK BACK IN NAA HISTORY

By: *Jim Keepers, NAA Newsletter Coordinator*

Knowledge about the individuals who played an important role in the formation and growth of the NAA is vital for all our association members. Having said this, I would like to take a few moments to recognize an individual who blazed the trail for the development for Nebraska Arborists Association through the 1980s, Dave Mooter, Nebraska Forest Service Forester and Certified Arborist.

After fighting an uphill battle against cancer, Dave passed away on February 7, 2012. On the night before his passing, Dave was awarded the NAA's first ever Lifetime Achievement Award. I still vividly remember the event, Justin Evertson with Nebraska Statewide Arboretum was the MC for the ceremony and had a hard time reading the citation.

Eric Berg, Nebraska Forest Service, graciously accepted the award in Dave's honor. It was a very emotional moment for all in attendance during the presentation.

Dave was a key player in the growth of the NAA and its statewide certification program. He played an active role in the review of the certification requirements and the rewriting of the NAA exam. He, along with Phil Pierce, helped with the development of the annual NAA Arborist School. He formally served the NAA as president in 1985 and was awarded the NAA's Arborist of the Year in 2006. He was even successful in persuading state leaders to add "Home of Arbor Day" to overhead signs welcoming people to Nebraska.

Words often fail me when trying to express my gratitude for the service Dave gave to the association and the Nebraska Forestry community. It would be easy to fill up this entire newsletter with listings of Dave's Arborist accomplishments.



Dave Mooter on the right with his friends John Housley, Sr. and Mark Harrell.



Dave Mooter and wife Gail receiving the 2006 NAA Arborist of the Year Award

I want to thank Dave's wife, Gail, and their children for sharing Dave with us over the years. He was a wonderful husband and father. I know Dave's fighting spirit still burns bright in our Nebraska Certified Arborists, all while striving to achieve the goals Dave set forth for proper Nebraska tree care.

In closing, I want to leave you with a quote summing up the man, Dave Mooter - "A Fighter for Nebraska Trees" - remember "An Arborist takes care of a Tree for Life."



Dave Mooter speaking at the NAA Winter Conference

HOT NEWS: ACTION TO BE TAKEN NOW

By: *Jim Keepers, Maturing Certified NE Arborist*



The following information is for all arborist business owners to check to see if they need to file their Limited Liability Company Biennial Report to the State of Nebraska, Business Service Division. The payment for the report is \$10.00 but when you file online there is a charge of \$3.00. You will need your Secretary of State Business Services Account Number to file this report.

Nebraska law requires a biennial report and fee to be filed and paid by April 1, 2019. For all NE Limited Liability Companies. Failure to file the report and pay the fee by June 1, 2019 will result in administrative dissolution of your domestic Limited Liability Company. A notice will be sent to you as the registered agent on file for your company. If your company lawyer is the registered, that individual will forward the form to you.

I never realized I needed to register my Limited Liability Company with the State of Nebraska. I just happened to stumble on this requirement when my lawyer was working on my will. So if your LLC Company is not registered with the State of Nebraska, you need to take action now to get it accomplished.

WESTERN NEBRASKA INCREASING TREE DIVERSITY

By: Amy Seiler, Director of Parks and Recreation City of Gering, Nebraska & Prior NFS, Community Forestry Specialist for Western Nebraska

Horse chestnut, yellowwood, baldcypress, and English oak. They're breathtaking trees. Their form, stature and beauty captivate us and draw us in, inviting us to touch, climb, and photograph. We lament in the western half of Nebraska that we do not have these beauties to admire. But wait! These regal beauties do exist in our western community forests, plus many more unique species that are doing quite well considering western Nebraska's challenging soil pH (7.5-8.3), low organic matter and unpredictable climate.

My travels through the western half of the state have shown me that we have some tree enthusiasts pushing the envelope when it comes to species selection. To my astonishment Imperial, Nebraska has a Tuliptrees and baldcypress graces the ponds of Cody Park in North Platte, along with goldenrain tree and cork tree. In a drive through Gothenburg, you'll want to stop every few blocks to check out the unique species they are incorporating into their landscapes. Yellowwood, horse chestnut, Shantung maple, Turkish filbert, John Pair maple, baldcypress, the list could go on and on. In Ehmen Park (one of the newest affiliates in the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum network) the diversity of oaks alone are amazing. Scarlet, Chinkapin, Emporer, Bur, Shumard, swamp white oak and several more. Drive the streets and you will see shingle oak, Sawtooth oak, elm cultivars like Frontier and Princeton, and a lacebark elm at the hospital.

The Dawson County Fairgrounds in Lexington is a showcase of diversity. My favorite attraction at the fairgrounds is the oak and elm trials that have been set up by ReTree Ambassador and UNL extension educator emeritus Dave Stenberg. The growing conditions are less than desirable but elms like Emerald Sunshine, Accolade and Frontier are thriving thanks to Dave's good care. The oak trial has bur oaks from different collection sites around Nebraska, along with swamp white, Heritage and Chinkapin oak. Dave also has many other treasures on site, too many to highlight in this short article. Heading west to the panhandle the communities of Rushville and Gordon have filled their cemeteries with Douglas fir and Concolor fir. They are impressive in size and stand guard over beloved family members who have been laid to rest there.

As I travel through the far west communities I am amazed at the large bur oaks I have found. Gering has a beautiful bur oak with many of its lower branches still attached. It's a grand site in a neighborhood that is almost 100 years old. Creighton Valley Cemetery, south of the small town of Melbeta, has numerous oaks as well. Possibly my favorite oaks out west are in the village of Morrill which is six miles from the Wyoming/Nebraska border. Two large oaks have welcomed travelers passing through town on Highway 26 for more than 100 years. It's rumored that the oaks were brought into town in a coffee can from back east and planted.

Ohio buckeye is another tree that I have frequently noticed in Gering and Scottsbluff. They are abundantly producing seed and with the help of good people like Dr. Don Gentry in Gering we are collecting buckeyes for NSA's Bob Henrickson to grow. Listen, if they can grow in Gering, they can grow anywhere.

I no longer lament the lack of trees out here in the west. I am convinced that with careful siting, knowing the seed source location and proper planting practices we can grow some pretty cool stuff out west.

One final thought: I have been inspired by western nurseryman like Bruce Hoffman of McCook, Dick Meyer of Scottsbluff, Jeff Kennedy of Gothenburg and many others who are blazing a trail in regard to plant selection. They have encouraged their communities to step outside the comfort zone of Hackberry, Ash and Honeylocust to diversify their community forests. They do this, I am certain, not only because of their love of trees but also for love of their communities. Yes, mistakes will be made but there will be success as well and it will make our community forests a more diverse, healthier and certainly more beautiful place to live.

Reprinted from the NSA publication "The Seed", Fall 2014



INFORMATION ABOUT WESTERN NEBRASKA:

Average Rain Fall – 15.69 inches

Combined Land Area – 14,181 sq. miles

Percentage of State Land – 4.70%

NE Cities – Alliance, Chadron, Kimball, Sidney, Bridgeport & Scottsbluff-Gering

Largest City – Scottsbluff-Gering



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OAKS MOST SUITABLE FOR THE MIDWEST

By: Jim Keepers, NAA Newsletter Coordinator

Oaks are very common in our state, as they are not fast growers but have a longer life. Their growth rate depends on the soil they are planted in and the care they are given. Over 500 butterflies and moths, hundreds of birds, mammals and insects call Oaks home. Oaks can live 1-200 years and some up to 500 years. The Oak leaf is very easy to identify except in the Sawtooth and Shingle Oak, as these leaves don't look like Oaks at all. They also retain their leaves a long time during the winter. Oaks acorns sprout everywhere and squirrels do help their spread. Their propagation rate is very low. Only 1 out of 10,000 acorns will germinate. Newly established Oaks need lots of water during their first 4 to 5 years of growth but then become drought tolerant. No other tree removes more pollutants and CO2 than the Oak. All the different species of Oaks have acorns that are unique in size, color, shape and cap. These features make the tree easy to identify. I highly recommend this tree for any homeowner if they have enough space to plant them. The chart will give you the height, width and fall color of selected Oaks.

I want to thank NSA, NFS and the Loveland Garden Club for providing the basic information for this article.

Additional information about hybrid Oaks can be found on the following web sites: www.arboretum.unl.edu, trees@unl.edu and www.lovelandgardenclub.org



Bur Oak



Chinkapin Oak



English Oak



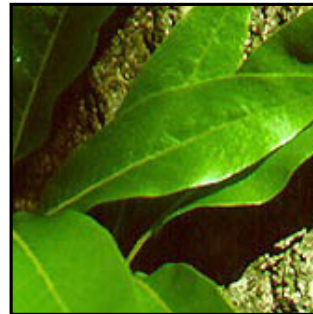
Northern Red Oak



Gambel Oak



Sawtooth Oak



Shingle Oak



Shumard Oak



Swamp White Oak



Chestnut Oak



White Oak



Black Oak

Oak tree Name

Bur	50'-70' by wider
Chinkapin	60'-70' by
English	40'-70' by same
Northern Red	50'-50'
Gambel	15'-30' by 12'-20'
Sawtooth	35' -45' by 35'-45'
Shingle	50'-60' by wider
Shumard	40'-90' by 40'-60'
Swamp White	40'-60 by wider
Chestnut	60'-70 by
White	50'-80' by same
Black	50'-60' wider

Height/Width.

Fall color

Dark Green
Yel/Green to Or/Red
Green
Russet
Bronze to Yellow
Bright Yellow
Bronze
Yellow to Red
Yel/Brown to Red
Yel/Green to Or/Red
Bright Red
Orange/Red

PRUNING FRUIT TREE UPDATE

Most fruit tree pruning is done during the dormant season when no leaves are on the tree. March is the best time to prune. Cultivars or varieties of trees susceptible to winter injury are best pruned in late spring before growth begins, rather than in January or February. Regardless of the cultivar grown, do not prune any tree before January or winter injury can occur. Reprinted from Hort Update for February 25, 2019

NAA HONORS THE BEST

By: *Jim Keepers, NAA Newsletter Coordinator*

One of the highlights of the 2019 Nebraska GREAT PLAINS Conference was the association's business meeting and the presentations of the yearly awards.

The first award presented was the Nebraska Arborists Association (NAA) Educator of the Year. This award was presented for the first time back in 2005 to Professor Steven Rodie. The 2019 NAA Educator of the Year Award was presented to NE Certified Arborist Rob Dein, owner and operator of Arbor One in Blair, Nebraska. Rob received this award for his Arborist teaching skills he has demonstrated during the NAA's "Climbing & Pruning Classes," NAA's "Advanced Rigging and Climbing Classes," as well as his Arboriculture teaching skills demonstrated during numerous Nebraska GREAT PLAINS Winter and Summer Conferences.



NAA Educator of the Year Award presented to Certified NE Arborist Rob Dein by NAA president

He has also demonstrated his teaching skills when he conducted Arborist training classes through out the state for Nebraskan organizations like the Nebraska Forest Service as his work with North American Training Service conducting climbing classes on the exhibitor floor at the TCIA EXPO and overseeing safety and education of tree crews currently working in California.

Because of his Arborist education skills he was selected to travel to Madagascar Africa to train climbers working in trees studying Lemurs as part of a program with the Omaha Henry Doorly Zoo.

Rob's depth of experience, unwavering commitment to safety and his soft spoken delivery style have made him an exceptional trainer and educator. We as an association are fortunate to have someone like Rob available from our own membership to draw from for training Arborists here at home. We are proud that one of our own can represent us across the country and abroad.



NAA Arborists of the Year Award presented to NAA Certified NE Arborist Joel Leetch by NAA president Kevin Popken and assisting Wyatt DeWeese, last year's winner.

The second award presented was the NAA Arborist of the Year. This award dates back to 1996 and a number of unique and talented Certified Nebraska Arborist have received this award. The winner of the 2019 NAA Arborist of the Year Award was Joel Leetch of Leetch Tree Service in Grand Island, Nebraska.

he barely has time for things he loves to do like spending time with family, hunting, and fishing. Joel's goal is to educate the customer on why his methods are better for the tree, but in the end he may still lose the job. His unwavering commitment to sound practices and education of his customer base is what earned Joel this award. Joel thank you for adhering to the NAA's standards of proper tree care. Your efforts are the reason you have received the NAA Arborist of the Year Award.

Joel is both a Certified NAA and International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Arborist who performs work all across the state of Nebraska. Joel has been doing tree work for approximately 30 years and has been so busy lately,

The last and the most significant association award presented to past or present individuals is the NAA Lifetime Achievement Award. This award originated back in 2011 and only fourteen individuals have received this award. The NAA Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Dr. Mark Harrell, Professor Emeritus University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and retired University of Nebraska-Lincoln Nebraska Forest Service, Forest Health Program Leader.

Not only did Dr. Harrell received this award, the 2019 Nebraska GREAT PLAINS Conference was dedicated to him and his wife, Dottie. I could write pages and pages as to why Dr. Harrell received this special NAA award. The article in this month's issue titled "Thanks Dr. Mark Harrell" goes into great detail about his accomplishments and what he has done for the association and our Nebraska trees.



The NAA lifetime Achievement Award presented to Dr. Mark Harrell, Professor Emeritus University of Nebraska-Lincoln by NAA President Kevin Popken.

Mark on behalf of the NAA and myself personally, I want to thank you for your 36 years of University service and I wish you and Dottie many enjoyable trips around the world.

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GIVE BACK TO OUR COMMUNITY PROGRAM

By: Kevin Popken, President of the NAA & Introduction by Jim Keepers, NAA Newsletter Coordinator

The following article is about an Arborist community program established by Certified Nebraska Arborist Kevin Popken, Lawngevity, Lawn & Tree in Fremont, Nebraska. Kevin is very community centered and family oriented and I was able to convince him to write up a few words about his program at Lawngevity Lawn & Tree.

Our goal at Lawngevity, Lawn & Tree is to give back to our community 5% of our gross tree sales. That may be in the form of tree trimming and removal, free mulch, a free service call (i.e. fixing a flag pole or hanging Christmas lights with our lift). It may be to a deserving member of our community such as the blind or disabled or a veteran, or it may be available to an organization that is making a difference in the community such as Midland University, Jefferson house, the Bridge, Habitat for Humanity etc....



Program recipient, Ray Peterson.



Andy Nelson, tree foreman, is in the bucket.

While this has been a part of who we are since we began in the Arborist trade in the 80's. We have become more intentional about it in that we have a percent of sales goal to reach each year. Most tree work is done typically in the winter months when we have more time available, but we provide product and services year round as the need(s) arise.

Meet Veteran Ray Peterson the latest recipient of our "Give Back to Our Community" program. Ray (Army Tanker) had a large ash tree in his front yard with a significant split creating a hazard for his and his neighbor's house. We removed the tree at no charge. Kevin closes out his remarks with the following statement: "Thank you Ray for your service to our country".



What Caused this Tree to Fail?

REMEMBERING MEMORIAL DAY

By: Jim Keepers, USN & AF Veteran



As a veteran with 30 years of service, I have a special place in my heart for our military veterans who served our country and are no longer with us. A special day was established by Congress to honor these individuals. At first called Decoration Day and then changed to Veterans Day, it is now celebrated in almost every state on the last Monday in May. Nebraska will celebrate this day of remembrance on May 27, 2019.

We are fortunate to have two National Cemeteries in Nebraska. One in Sarpy County, 14250 Schram Rd. and the other located at Fort McPherson in Maxwell.

I know it is a little early to make plans to celebrate this special day but I wanted to take the time to at least honor those Nebraska Certified Arborist who served our country but are no longer with us.



SEWARD COUNTY BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to NAA Executive Director, Kathi Schildt on receiving the Seward County Business of the Year award. Advanced Association Management currently manages the Nebraska Arborists Association along with 18+ additional trade and non-profit organizations.

- Neal Jennings – US Army
- Orville Hatcher – US Navy
- Wayne G. Willmeng – US Army
- John Lueschen – US Army & Army Reserve
- Ray Enfield – US Army
- Terry Hughes – US Army Reserve
- Larry Torpy, Sr. – US Army

GIFT OF BEAUTIFUL TREES

By: *Jim Keepers Certified Nebraska Arborist with assistance from Amy Grewe, Certified Nebraska Arborist*

I wanted to give you an insight into another one of our NAA Arborist Companies who have gone out of their way to give back to their local community, and Arbor Aesthetics owned and operated by Jeff and Amy Grewe is just that.

Jeff and Amy started their “Gift of Beautiful Trees” in December of 2015. They requested anonymous nominations on their website and Facebook page. Their first recipient was a veteran who was nominated by his neighbor. This veteran who we will call Mr. D. had some dead limbs hanging directly over his wheelchair ramp leading up to his front door and some dangerous dead trees in his yard.



Jeff and Amy Grewe along with their crew and award recipient.

In 2016, the recipient of their holiday tree program was Jill who just recently had a battle with thyroid cancer. She had two Red oak trees needing a good pruning job because of storm damage and an Ash tree in her front yard needing removal.

2017 marked the year they couldn't make a decision so they decided to selected three different family's to help out. There 2018 pick has not been completed as of this date.

Jeff and Amy sit down before Christmas and then decide what nominee to select. The following rating system is what they use to make their selection:

- Need (What's the family's story? How badly do they need financial assistance?)
- Danger (How dangerous/dire is the situation? If a tree were to fail, are people or property at risk?)
- Ease (How easy is the project for our crew? Do we have the equipment necessary to do the work? Would it take more than one day with a full crew?)

They then give each category a rating of 1 to 5. They normally perform the work in January and February when their work tree work is slow. They have a crew of 5 to 6 individuals and that enables them to accomplish large projects in a short amount of time. They didn't want to brag on what they have accomplished in the past 4 years but a good estimate is over \$15,000 for their “Gift of Beautiful Trees” holiday project.

Certified Nebraska Arborist Jeff and Amy Grewe demonstrate that with a willingness to help their community, a company like Arbor Aesthetics can make a difference when it comes to tree care.

I want to personally thank Jeff and Amy for their community actions and I am proud to call them both Certified Nebraska Arborist and members of the Nebraska Arborists Association.



Terry Hughes Tree Service crews perform tree care at Sarpy County Fair Grounds in support of Arbor Day 2018.

ARBOR DAY – FRIDAY APRIL 26, 2019

By: *Jim Keepers, NAA Communications Committee Chairperson*

Arbor Day originated in Nebraska City, Nebraska by J. Sterling Morton. The first Arbor Day was held on April 10, 1872 and an estimated one million trees were planted that day. This year, Nebraska will celebrate Arbor Day on the last Friday of April.

We request all NAA members to take an active part in your community's celebration of Arbor Day. Please contact your local City Tree Board to see what trees need care. Let's make this a special day by honoring the memory of Certified Arborist Dave Mooter, a staunch supporter of Arbor Day.

Please submit a short description of your participation in this year's Arbor Day celebration along with any photos. Be sure to include who took the photos, so credit can be given. Email your inputs to Jim Keepers at jlkeepers45@gmail.com before the 3rd of June for inclusion in the June issue of the NAA newsletter.

INVESTORS DO YOUR HOMEWORK

By: Thomas P. Kerins Investment Advisor Representative at Fortress Wealth Advisors



Investors and potential investors can save themselves a lot of regret if they take time to investigate before making a move. You wouldn't make a snap decision about buying a new home or even a new car. It behooves you to be as judicious when you're making your investment decisions. Unfortunately, the image of investing Hollywood has created is one of fast action and split-second decision making, much like a hockey game. Real investing is just the opposite. It is more measured, more deliberate; far more like a game of golf than a game of hockey.

Whether you're a do-it-yourself investor or looking to engage an advisor to help you, take time to step back, reflect and learn about the process. We all want investing to be effortless, but that often leads to disappointing results.

To start, you can use a mutual fund as your investment vehicle or purchase individual stocks. A mutual fund is a professionally managed portfolio of stocks that offers shares of its fund to the general public. An individual stock represents a singular business you might be familiar with, like your favorite fast food restaurant. You'll want to investigate the internal financial workings of the company to determine whether their stock will likely be profitable. Earnings are important to consider. Are the stock's earnings growing? How fast? How steady? Does the stock pay a dividend? Is the dividend sustainable? What about debt? Is the company carrying an overly large amount? Knowing about a particular stock or mutual fund will give you two advantages. You will be less likely to invest in something that doesn't conform to your overall risk tolerance, and you will be less likely to give into fear and sell during a downturn.

If all of this investigative work seems overwhelming, consider engaging an advisor to assist you. An investment advisor can help you navigate the enormous range of available investment vehicles. They can also do much of the investigative work needed before choosing an investment. I'm not suggesting that working with an advisor relieves you of your responsibility to do your homework. Again, some basic investigative work will likely save you from bad surprises down the road.

First, you'll want to interview at least two or three advisors. Don't be afraid to ask hard questions like "What qualifies you to be an investment advisor? This is an important question because rigid qualification standards found in other professions (medicine, law, engineering), are almost nonexistent in the investment industry. Almost anyone can call himself an "Investment Advisor" after passing some fairly basic exams. So, you will find a wide range of professionals working in the industry, from a former college finance professor, to an accountant who moonlights, to a recently unemployed high school gym teacher. Professional designations may help you discern an advisor's sophistication. Titles such as CFA, CFP, MAFIP or PhD provide evidence of formal education in the field. None guarantees competence, but they offer a benchmark.

The other hard question to ask is "How are you compensated for the services you provide?" An enormous range of compensation programs exist. How your advisor is compensated provides valuable insight as to what motivates him to serve you. Probably the oldest form of compensation is the straight sales commission approach. An advisor receives a portion of the amount you invest each time you purchase an investment product. One of the drawbacks is that the advisor is compensated only when he sells you something. If you go for long periods with no new money to invest, your advisor may not be motivated to continue monitoring your account.

This conflict is eliminated with a fee-only compensation program. In this model, your advisor receives a small annual fee to continually monitor your account and make changes when appropriate. A fee-only advisor doesn't need to continually sell you new investment products to earn a living. Still, neither compensation program guarantees the competence of the advisor. They only indicate what motivates him.

Finally, do your homework on investment products. Know what you are investing in. A good rule of thumb: If you can't explain in about three sentences what you are investing in and why, you probably don't understand it well enough to be investing in it. Too many investors put money into products they don't understand because the products sound too good to be true. Remember what your mother told you about things like that!

When entering the investment arena, take the time and make the effort to gain a basic understanding of the investment world. Your efforts will be well rewarded!



Watch out for those signs with miss leading words.



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CONFERENCE RECAP

By: *Jim Keepers, NAA Winter Conference Chairperson*

The 2019 Nebraska GREAT PLAINS Conference held at the Holthus Conference Center in York, Nebraska was a resounding success despite the weather and the distance from Omaha. It was the first time it was ever held outside of the Omaha/Lincoln area and it still drew a large attendance. It shows how our association members are willing to go that extra mile for a well-planned and educational enriched conference. Along with the outstanding speakers and interesting exhibitors, the conference did feature a first ever dinner with entertainment on the first night of the conference. I want to take the time to thank Kathi Schildt and her staff along with Jeff Grewe, Jerel Converse and Kevin Popken for their help and assistance on the NAA winter conference committee.

Next years winter conference will be held as an independent association event, 2018 was our last joint conference with the NNLA. The good news out of this dissolving of our partnership is we already have a location and date. It will be held at the Cornhusker Hotel on the 27th & 28th of January 2020 in Lincoln, Nebraska. So please mark your calendars. So let's take a look at the attendance numbers for the conference and compare them to last year's event:

2019 Conference:	2018 Conference:
Attendance 1st Day	Attendance 1st Day
NAA – 133	NAA - 162
NNLA – 87	NNLA - 78
Total - 220	Total – 240
Attendance 2nd Day	Attendance 2nd Day
NAA – 125	NAA – 162
NNLA – 70	NNLA - 65
Total – 195	Total – 227
Grand Total – 415	Grand Total – 467
Exhibitors - 32	Exhibitors – 45



These figures don't count students or non-members. We had 14 York FFA students attend the event under our conference scholarship program, which also has an affect on the attendance totals. There were other paid registrants who weren't able to attend due to the snow. So the question to be answered is if the weather and the location cause less attendance or was it a combination of both.

I am happy to say all the speakers made it to the conference and we did have a few new exhibitors who either just joined the NAA like Dan's Custom Sawmill or others like CM's A Cut Above who are interested in joining the association. The conference annual silent & live auction along with the two NAA raffles were a complete success. Information about the conference auctions and raffles can be found in a related article titled "Summaries for Winter Conference Silent/Live Auction and Raffles"

In closing I want to recognize those conference sponsors. Without their help, your conference couldn't have gotten off the ground.

PLATINUM SPONSORS: NE Forest Service, Arbor Aesthetics

SILVER SPONSORS: Advanced Association Management, Bluebird Nursery, Crop Insurance Solutions, Finders Keepers Landscaping, LLC, Midwest Underground, Mutchie Tree Care, Papio Valley Nursery and York County Visitors Bureau

BRONZE SPONSORS: Anderson Nurseries, Inc., Jim's Tree Service, Housley Lawn & Nursery and Unilock

Thanks again everyone for attending our annual winter event and I look forward to seeing you at the Nebraska GREAT PLAINS Summer Field Day and the 2020 Nebraska GREAT PLAINS Conference.



What Caused this Tree to Produce Roots in this Pattern?

SUMMARIES FOR WINTER CONFERENCE SILENT/LIVE AUCTION AND RAFFLES

By: *Jim Keepers, Conference Silent/Live Auction Chairperson*



I first want to thank every company and individual who gave items to the silent and live auction and for donating the prize items for the two NAA raffles. I also want to thank everyone in both associations who participated in the combined auctions and the NAA raffles. The designated NAA money raised from these events goes into the NAA restricted educational fund so scholarships can be given to individuals in order to attend the NAA Arborist School. The education budget is based on the amount of money raised from the prior year auctions and raffles. The following funds were received:

1. NAA Silent & Live Auction: \$4,057.34
2. NAA Chainsaw Raffle: \$528.00
3. NAA Gun Raffle: \$854.02

I wanted to thank Kevin Popken and Randy Dillon for their help setting up the silent/live auction and Jerel Converse for conduction the two raffles. Also a special thanks goes out to Wyatt Dewese for getting the battery chainsaw, batteries and battery charger from Ty's Outdoor Power & Service. In

summary your association will have a total of \$5,439.36 restricted educational funds for fiscal year 2019-2020 for scholarships.

You can see by amount of funds raised, it takes numerous activites to acquire ample funding for the awarding of scholarships. A total of nine scholarships were awarded to individuals so they could attend the 2018 Arborist School.

All the educational funds not used during the fiscal year go back in the NAA education fund, from there the board can make the decision to pull from this fund to support additional scholarships for other educational requirements throughout the year.

I hope this article gives you a better understanding of the importance of your invovlement and support with the auctions and raffles at the GREAT PLAINS Conference. Thanks again for everyone's support of these worthwhile and fun events.

MEET THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR THE NEBRASKA FOREST SERVICE

By: *Benjamin Boball, NFS Communication and Marketing Associate*



Steven Jara was named Deputy Director of the Nebraska Forest Service (NFS) in May of 2018. Prior to being name Deputy Director of NFS, Jara served for 11 years as the East Campus Residence Director at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL). Jara received his bachelor's degree in Economics and Management Information Systems from UNL and his graduate work is also in Economic from UNL. Jara currently serves on the Invasive Species Council, Nebraska Union Board as a faculty advisor and Nebraska 150 Commission.

Jara was born and raised in Soesterberg, Holland and is a Nebraskan by choice. Jara did have a little influence from his parents who were born and raised in Western Nebraska (Ogallala and Brule). Jara and best friend Amber Jara are the proud parents of four children Khloe, Alexandria, Cecil and Mateo.

Quote from Steven: "Forest stewardship has a rich history at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and in the State. I am truly excited to be a part of this legacy and look forward to serving all Nebraskans!"

NEW MEMBERS

**Peter Vue
Daniel Nye
Brad Kindler
Brent Beckstrom
Jake Conley
Chris Adams
Joesph Perkumas
James Tracy
Morgan Neely
Brice Necker
Jay Ulmer
Isaac Eno**

NEWLY CERTIFIED ARBORISTS

**Samantha Steward
Brandon Bogus
Justin Maxson
Steve Sclichting
Troy Krasser
Zachary Kalal
Dillion Kraft
Chris Adams
John Tyler
James Tracy
Morgan Neely
Brice Necker
Jay Ulmer
Jacob Tolliver
Luis Segoviano
Matt Horan
Dylan Willis
Jeron Sundberg
Luis Villegas-Hernandes
Jake Walters**

TIMELY TOPICS

By: John Ball, Forest Health Specialist SD Department of Agriculture, Extension Forester SD Cooperative Extension

Emerald ash borer must survive our winters like any other insect that wants to make South Dakota home. The trick for many insects is not hibernating like bears or head south like many birds and the monarch butterflies, instead they supercool in last autumn (which sounds kind of cool!). This is the ability to cool liquids, like water, below their normal freezing point without forming ice. Ice crystals forming in a cell is a killer for any life.



Emerald ash borer is in the larval stage during the winter.

Your car radiator also has liquid that better not freeze as the ice will damage the radiator much like ice formation damages a living cell. We use an antifreeze in our car radiators to keep the liquid from freezing. Insects make their own antifreeze out of alcohol, proteins, and sugars. Much like the antifreeze in your car, this allows the insect to survive a lower temperature than 32°F, but there is still a limit to supercooling. Once the temperature drops below the specific threshold for an insect, the liquid will quickly freeze, and the insect die.

The supercooling ability for emerald ash borer differs throughout its natural range in Asia. Those from the southern part of the range, central China, may not be able to supercool as deeply as those from northeastern China. It appears that the introduction of emerald ash borer to this country came from more of the middle of its range – we got lucky – they might not be as tolerant to cold as ones from the north.

Studies in Minnesota and Ontario have found that emerald ash borer as a larva can supercool to about -25°F in midwinter. This does not mean every larva dies once the temperature dips that low. Some will be protected by thicker bark (and bark can provide about 5°F of insulation) while others survive in lower trunks covered by the snow.

But all the larvae up in high branches, which have thinner bark and are exposed to the cold, may not be so lucky. If the temperature drops overnight to -25°F for several hours or longer, we might kill more a third of the population. If we have the temperatures drop to -35°F we might kill almost all of them as well as most of our car batteries.

This past spring while we were stripping bark from infested trees, about one-third of the larvae found were dead. Many had that shriveled and black appearance like a banana set in the freezer for a while (bananas do not supercool). While we can count on our cold winters to kill a lot of larvae, it is not cold enough, long enough to stop the numbers from growing each year. The population will grow each year, along with ash mortality, just slower than more southern communities. We will be sampling the emerald ash borer larva population in two weeks to see if the cold had any effect on survival. This will be reported in the next update.

Reprinted from Pest Update (January 23, 2019), Vol. 17, no. 2

WHO HAS THE FIRST-AID KIT WATCH?

By: Jim Keepers, Certified NE Arborist



So who on the crew has the “first-aid kit” watch? I know this sounds like a simple question but according to ANSI Z133, 3.2.2 it is a requirement not an option to have this kit at all job sites. Our Arborists work around a lot of dangerous equipment no matter how small or large the task and it is very easy for them to get hurt.

No matter if you are a one person operation or a crew, someone must routinely check the individual or crew’s first-aid kits. All expired and used materials must be replaced before the kit goes out into the field on an individual truck or crew truck. I know this sounds like a simple task but I have cut myself numerous times on a job site and I always rely on my first-aid kit to have the items I need to stop my bleeding.

Tips when it comes to first-aid kits:

1. Know the location of the kit & have it being part of the job briefing before the start of the job. This goes for the single person job up to the crew project.
2. Know the location of the kit in the truck and everyone should be trained in first-aid. Even those not certified NE Arborists. Everyone needs to know what is in the kit and how to use the items inside. An emergency is not the time to learn what is in the kit.
3. Don’t make the mistake of assuming what you need will be in the kit. Everyone needs to know exactly what is in the kit.
4. Have all the company first-aid kits asset year to see if new items need to be added. You might need a larger kit.
5. Consider adding a “Bleeding Control Kit” to your first-aid equipment.

EMERALD ASH BORER OVER-WINTERING MORTALITY

By: John Ball, Forest Health Specialist SD Department of Agriculture, Extension Forester SD Cooperative Extension



Snow can provide some additional insulation to protect the larvae.

Emerald ash borer is spending the South Dakota winter snug beneath the bark. Well, not exactly snug, there is no central heating in the trees, so the temperatures drop close to that of the ambient air temperature. As mentioned in a previous update (January 23, 2019), emerald ash borer can survive very cold temperatures through a mechanism called super cooling where water is removed from cells and replaced with a natural “anti-freeze.” This process allows the larvae to survive temperature to -20°F or lower by midwinter.

We have been surveying winter mortality and even teamed up with a class at Roosevelt High School for the last check. The mortality survey is tedious work. Trees that are known to be infested from sampling conducted last fall are harvested, the trees cut into small sections, the wood thawed for a day or two and then bark peeled away to reveal the larvae. Since the larva typically live in the phloem-cambial layer just beneath the bark, it is relatively easy to find them – if they are there.

One interesting find from our sampling is it appears the larval density is lower now than two years ago. It was very common to peel back branches and find more old galleries (tunnels) within necrotic tissue than new galleries. The sampling completed at Roosevelt yielded only two larvae for an hour of peeling by about 10 people – science is not always exciting (or like on TV).

We did not try to determine the density of the larvae populations in the trees (at least to a high degree of accuracy), but it appears to be low, about one per square foot. Some studies have found closer to 10 larvae per square foot of phloem in heavily infested trees. The difference is most likely that this is still a relatively young infestation with most trees infested for only the past two or three years.

We found mostly larvae with the average length about an inch, these are mature larvae. This is typically the last feeding instar and is found in late summer and autumn. We also found a few smaller larvae, those that may be taking two years to complete their development.

There were also some larvae found slightly deeper in the outer sapwood. These were curled pre-pupae, the stage that forms in the autumn preceding forming a pupa. We did not find any pupae but did not expect to as these develop in the May regardless of whether it's a one- or two-year life cycle for the insect.

The larval mortality was very high within the upper canopy where the bark is the thinnest and provides the least amount of insulation. The survival was much better in the trunks where the thicker bark provided better insulation. We also found more pre-pupae in the larger wood of limbs or trunks. Since there is more surface area in the trunk and limbs, the insect population is higher in this tissue. While we lost a lot of larvae in the upper canopies, we lost much fewer in the larger limbs and trunk, so we probably had an overall larvae mortality of about 30%, about what we predicted in the January 23rd Update - good, but not enough to change our management strategy.

If you have a healthy ash that you want to keep – treat it this spring if you did not do so last year. If you have an ash that you do not want to keep, either it's too small (less than 10 inches in diameter) or older but has defects, e.g. cavities and dead branches, and not worth treating plan on removing the tree.

Reprinted from Timely Topics, Pest Update (March 6, 2019) Vol. 17, No. 5



GRETNA 2018 LOYALTY AWARD

Jim Keepers, Certified NE Arborist, owner and operator of Finders Keepers Landscaping, LLC and Gretna Arbor Society (Tree Board) chairperson accepts the Gretna 2018 Loyalty Award from Tim Matulka, 2018 Gretna Area Chamber of Commerce Board President.

This was a new award for the Gretna Chamber

Photo by Jack Barna

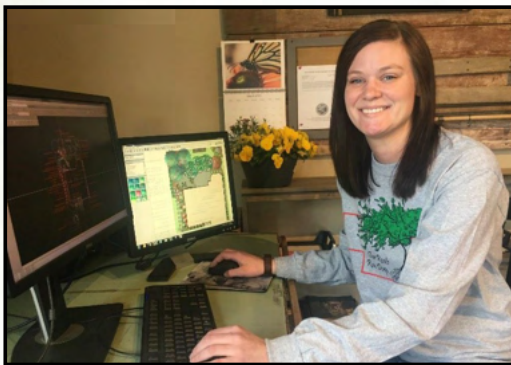
UPDATE ON NAA BOARD & NEBRASKA GREAT PLAINS CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

By: *Jim Keepers, Coordinator of the NAA Newsletter*



Jeff Grewe

Certified Nebraska Arborist, Jeff Grewe was elected to the position of NAA board President-Elect. He will hold this position for one year and then move over to NAA President for two years and then fill the position of Past President for one year. Jeff is co-owner of Arbor Aesthetics with his wife, Amy. Jeff is a present NAA board member and has 13 years' experience in the Arborist career field. He is also a gifted photographer! His emphasis on the board will be on professionalism and skills development. I have known Jeff a long time and know he will fill the three different NAA board positions with a desire to do the best job possible.



Samantha Steward

Certified Nebraska Arborist, Samantha (Sam) Steward has been appointed by your NAA board to complete the term of NAA board Secretary previous vacated by Rachael Monico. Sam is a landscape designer at Nebraska Nursery and Color Gardens in Lincoln, Nebraska and a very new Certified Nebraska Arborist. She looks forward to bringing new ideas to the NAA board. I know she will be a great voice for all the young members of our association.

Certified Nebraska Arborist Jerel Converse was elected to a three year term as NAA board Treasurer. Jerel is currently employed with the City of Omaha Parks. He just completed a term on the NAA board and has been the lead instructor for the NAA's Pruning and Climbing Class. He brings a vast amount of Arborist climbing experience to the NAA board and I know he will be keeping a sharp eye on all NAA funds.



Jerel Converse

Certified Dustin Nelson was elected to a three year term as an NAA board director. Dustin has been in the Arboriculture field since 2010. He presently works for Terry Hughes Tree Service. In a short period of time, he has been able to hone in his Arborist climbing skills. I know this young climber will bring a lot of new and fresh climbing ideas to the NAA board.

Beside the election of new NAA board members, The 2020 Nebraska GREAT PLAINS Conference has been formed by the NAA board and is looking for committee members. Jim Keepers is the committee chairperson and Sam Steward is a committee member. Please contact the office if you are willing to join any NAA committees.



Dustin Nelson

FREE 14TH ANNUAL GRETNA TREE TALK

Hosted by the Gretna Arbor Society & Sponsored by the Nebraska Arborists Association

SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 2019
THOMAS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, 11221 NORTHRIDGE DR.
(HWY 370 & 200 ST.), GRETNA, NE

7:45 – 8:15	Registration
8:15 – 8:30	Opening Remarks, <i>Jim Keepers, Chairperson, Gretna Arbor Society</i>
8:30 – 9:00	Chemical Trespass is a Growing Concern <i>Justin Evertson, NSA Green Infrastructure Coordinator</i>
9:00 – 9:30	Nutty About Nut Trees <i>Justin Evertson, NSA Green Infrastructure Coordinator</i>
9:30 – 10:30	The Future of Our Community Forests is in the Great Plains <i>Eric Berg, NFS Program Leader</i>
10:30 – 10:45	Break (Refreshments Served)
10:45 – 11:45	Learning the Skills of Fruit Tree Pruning <i>David Lott, Nebraska Extension Educator, Horticulture</i>
11:45 – Noon	Closing Remarks/Door Prizes

3 CEUs available for Master Gardeners & NAA Certified Arborists. Bring non-perishable food items for the Gretna Neighbors Food Pantry

A SPECIAL OR UNIQUE TREE

By: *Jim Keepers, NAA Communications Chairperson*

In last quarter's NAA issue, I was going to feature a unique evergreen but ultimately got side tracked when we made our fall trip to Celina, Texas and saw a magnificent mature Sweetgum tree going in a local neighborhood. Now back on track and I want to introduce an evergreen tree not normally seen around the Omaha/Lincoln area, the Canadian hemlock, *Tsuga Canadensis*.

I feel the Canadian hemlock is one of the most beautiful conifers based on its shape, branching and needles. The state of Pennsylvania felt the same and even declared it its State Tree. The tree does have a unique quality in that it can be sheared to any height and shape. Thus this tree becomes an ideal privacy screen or hedge.



Canadian hemlock tree summer **Canadian hemlock tree winter.**



Blue Spruce branch with needles

As you see by the picture, this tree grows in a pyramidal shape and has very soft, feathery deep green needles that form flat, horizontal sprays on the twigs compared to the sharp stiff needles of a Blue spruce tree. It can grow in zones 3 – 8. I have not seen them planted a lot with new home landscapes. I fear one of the problems with planting the hemlock in a new landscape is the tree's roots are drowned from over watering to get the sod started. The tree does have a slow to medium growth rate and can put on less than 12" to 24" per year, which is average for an evergreen. All the books I have read have stated this tree needs a minimum of 6 – 8 hours of direct, unfiltered sunlight each day. I know my hemlocks don't receive this amount of sun light and have grown very well. However, I have seen other locations where the hemlock is planted under trees like Cottonwoods and have not reached their full potential. The trees end up with thin needles like their growth has been stunted.



Canadian hemlock branch with needles

Like most evergreens, their roots love to grow in acidic, loamy, moist, sandy and well-drained soils and they are not drought-tolerant. So heavy, compacted new development soils would not be an ideal location for the Canadian hemlock. The trunk bark of a young tree shows the development of it vertical lines. As the tree matures the vertical lines of tree show deeper grooves. I have never seen any cones produced by my hemlock but I understand birds like the cone seeds and juncos, chickadees and siskins do like to eat them. I am not a bird expert, so I don't know if this is the reason I have not seen the cones.

I understand Native American Indians and Colonists used hemlock bark to make tannins for tanning leather and for medical purposes and are now used to make a tea rated high in Vitamin C, since the Canadian hemlock needles are not poisonous like a regular hemlock.

I would recommend you take a chance planting this tree if you have the right location because you will be happily surprised by the beauty it gives to the landscape.

Let's review some of the qualities of the Canadian hemlock:

It can be sheared to any height or shape.

Grows in a pyramidal shape

Good for screening and groupings

Prefers a sight with both sun and shade – 6 hours sun

Cannot stand heavy clay soil, wind or drought

Its needles are soft and has a great branch structure

Will produce lots of small brown cones like Christmas tree ornaments



Canadian hemlock bark

DORMANT OIL APPLICATIONS APPLY IN MARCH TO CONTROL OVERWINTERING INSECTS

March is the month to apply dormant oil sprays to fruit, nut and ornamental trees to kill insects and mites overwintering in cracks and crevices on trunks and branches. Temperatures need to be above 40F when applying dormant oils. Pests controlled include aphids, scales, spider mites, insect eggs and some hibernating caterpillars. A few dormant oils are labeled for use on white flies, mealybugs and lacebugs. Dormant oils kill by suffocating insects and mites. They are most effective if applied as late in winter as possible, but before spring growth begins. At this time, insects are weakened and easier to kill. Also, dormant oils can damage tender plant tissue and should not be used once flowers or leaves begin to grow. Follow label directions when using any pesticide.

Reprinted from Nebraska Forest Service, Hort Update for February 25, 2019

AN UNUSUAL MIDWEST CRIME TREND HAS MADE ITS WAY TO NEBRASKA AND IOWA

By: John Chapman, Channel 6 News, WOWT, Omaha, Nebraska

Thieves are stealing black walnut trees and selling them for profit. Both private and public land is being targeted, especially in rural areas. Nebraska Game and Parks has caught poachers in the metro already.

“These thieves will go in at low light or at night, probably a truck and at trailer situation, and they may use electric chain saws to take down several logs at night and try to sneak out. And then they’ll go and sell fresh cut walnut trees to a local sawmill,” Greg Wagner with Nebraska Game and Parks said the theft of black walnut trees is making its way across the Heartland.

“The black walnut theft problem has been widespread. It’s mostly been big in Indiana, Illinois, it’s been a big problem in Iowa of late, Missouri major problem. Now we’re seeing it move west and north and it’s a problem in Nebraska presently,” he said.

According to Wagner, poachers can get around \$600 for a large piece of a walnut tree. After the wood has been cut and dried, it’s a rich, dark piece of wood that people want for furniture, flooring or cabinets. “It’s got a really rich grain. It’s real dark. It’s got superb workability, so it finishes nice,” Dan Nye with Dan’s Custom Sawmill said. “You can use it for virtually anything like flooring and cabinetry.”

Nebraska Game and Parks officials have caught people stealing the trees in western Douglas County. That thief was cited and the landowner plans to press charges. Wagner said people who live in rural areas should look out for each other to prevent the thefts. “Form a community watch program, get to know your neighbors and their vehicles and find out who’s going to be on a given piece of property in one day or tomorrow. Make sure you communicate with your neighbors. That’s the big thing,” he said.

Black walnut trees are valuable to woodland ecosystems. The nuts are eaten by mice, squirrels, raccoons and many species of birds. “They can grow really big. They’re a long-lived tree,” Michelle Foss with Fontenelle Forest said. “They help provide shade in the summertime. They also provide a food source in the winter in the form of the walnuts.” Anyone who witnesses trespassing or theft should call 911 or Nebraska Wildlife Crime Stoppers at 1-800-742-7627. *2019 Nebraska Forest Service email dated Feb 25th, trees@unl.edu*



REPORTING ON ASSOCIATION NUMBERS

By: Jim Keepers, NAA Communications Chairperson

Most associations just go about bragging about their membership numbers. So let’s get down to the NAA numbers. At the close of 2018 the association had 343 members and 174 Certified NE Arborists state wide.

Numbers themselves don’t tell the entire story about an association. It is the people that make up the differences. Let’s start at the top with our Association Director and NAA Board of Directors. Kathi Schildt came onboard as Membership Services Administrator in January of 2004 and then moved over to NAA Association Executive Director in December 2004. She held this position until spring of 2010, NAA then hired her back to her filling the



Husband and wife, Certified Nebraska Arborists duo, NAA President-Elect Jeff and Amy Grewe.



Educator of the Year, Rob Dein, and wife, Sarah. Both Certified Nebraska Arborists.

same position when she formed her own management company, Advanced Association Management. The NAA board completes the top association management team. Just take the time to look deeply into the 2019 NAA board. I feel our present board is a very diverse board under the skilled leadership of President Kevin Popken and President-Elect Jeff Grewe. I feel the present NAA board represents the diversity of our association both the members and certified Arborists.

We have father and sons, father and grandsons, brother and sisters and husband and wives who are Certified NE Arborists. Our age spread for Certified NE Arborists goes from a high of 83 to the low 20s. So membership and certified numbers do count when you are paying the bills but the quality and experience of these individuals is what counts for an association to survive and grow.

WINTER DESICCATION ON EVERGREENS WATCH FOR BROWNING OF FOLIAGE ON THE SOUTH OR EAST SIDE OF EVERGREENS



Cold, dry, windy winter conditions with little snow cover and extreme winter temperature fluctuations increase winter desiccation injury on evergreens. Especially in arborvitae and boxwood, but also pine, spruce, fir, juniper and yew, because evergreens lose more moisture from green foliage during winter than deciduous plants with no foliage.

Damage occurs when the amount of moisture lost is greater than what can be replaced by roots, often due to frozen or dry soil. Plant tissue dries out resulting in browning of foliage and dieback, which is often not seen until spring. Injury is found on the outer portion of the branches and is most severe on the side of the tree facing the wind or a source of radiated heat, such as a south or west-facing brick wall or street.

Actions that can be taken now are placing burlap wind screens between plants and prevailing winds or radiated heat sources; applying antidesiccants according to label directions when temperatures are above 40° F; and watering if soils are not frozen and air temperatures are above 45° F.

Prevention includes wise plant selection for the planting site's growing environment, correct summer and fall watering, and avoiding late season fertilization.

When spring arrives, it will be important to remind homeowners not to be in a hurry to prune damaged tissue. While green needles may be brown, the buds on the branches may still be viable and will eventually open. If damage is not too severe and twigs are not killed, the area may eventually fill in. With evergreens, pruning cannot be done past where there is green leaf tissue. If this is necessary, consider replacing the plant with one better adapted to the site.

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WINDBREAKS NEED WILDLIFE

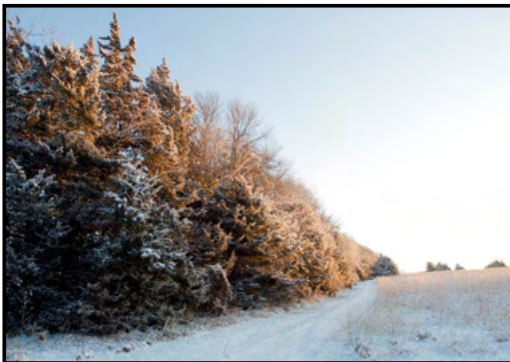
By: Benjamin Boball, Nebraska Forest Service Staff, Communications and Marketing Associate

Nebraska-native David Zahn has several properties across the state, but his favorite is the one where he and his wife wake up every morning to hear songbirds singing. "Julie and I love them... They're very special to us and our property."

For more than 20 years, the two have worked to maintain the windbreak on their small acreage south of Syracuse, Nebraska. It acts as a temporary home to their tiny friends, and Zahn says it's not unusual to spot a number of other birds, deer, and small mammals near the trees. Creating wildlife habitat is important to many landowners, but is also important to the state's economy. According to Nebraska Game & Parks, hunting has an \$848 million economic impact on Nebraska. But more and more windbreaks are disappearing, and with them the precious shelter these birds and mammals call home. In Nebraska, over half of the original windbreaks were cut back or lost entirely due to diseases, insects, and a shifting farm economy. That is cause for concern among several researchers, including University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Shelterbelt Ecologist, Jim Brandle.



"Given the size of our fields, these windbreaks basically provide the only cover that's out there," Brandle said. While there is a lack of quantitative field research on the topic, it has long been posited by researchers like Brandle that the loss of windbreaks has a detrimental effect on wildlife in the Plains.



"There's not much diversity here other than what you find in windbreaks, fence rows, and roadside ditches. The rest is all cropland. Now, as you go west there's obviously grassland. But here in the eastern part of the state, it can be the only habitat for any number of bird species and small mammals," Brandle added.

Wildlife is only one part of a larger discussion on the state of windbreaks in Nebraska, but for landowners and nature enthusiasts like the Zahns, it's an important one. For a couple hoping to pass the land down someday, windbreaks and the habitat they provide are intertwined with stewardship. Continuing that legacy, they say, is as important as the land itself.

From January BRANCHING OUT column from Nebraska Forest Service Contact: Benjamin Boball 402-472-6160 bboball2@unl.edu



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