

*An Arborist takes  
care of a tree for life.*



# OUT ON A LIMB

Spring 2022, VOLUME 42, ISSUE 1



*How much do you know about sap movements?  
Story on page 12.*

## NAME THAT TREE - WINTER EDITION!

*By: Alyssa Brodersen, NAA Associate Director with input from Justin Evertson, Nebraska Forest Services, UNL*

Winter gloom and 14-degree weather didn't keep this group down. We had 33 attendees at the Winter Tree ID Class in Waverly, NE this year. The class consisted of new arborists and seasoned veterans, each one of them came ready and willing to learn.

Justin Evertson has been the Winter Tree ID instructor for the past few years and does a wonderful job describing the different kinds of trees and how to identify them in the winter. He provided the class with a list of some trusty tree ID resources and listed some helpful apps as well.



**Justin Evertson quizzing the class on branch identification.**

After a morning of classroom review where Justin provided information about how to identify certain trees by key characteristics such as branch pattern, overall plant size, bark characteristics, bud characteristics, leaf scar configuration/patterns, leaf/fruit persistence and twig configuration, shape, and lenticels the attendees had lunch and were able to network. This group had a lot of engagement and did a great job sharing what they have experienced in the field.

After lunch, the attendees were able to view samples that Justin had collected the day before. They went through and identified each one and talked about some of the things that may make it difficult to identify a tree in the winter. Next, they took a short quiz to see what they had learned, and then the group headed over to Wayne Park. Justin has been working in the park since 1995 and has had the pleasure of watching his hard work grow into a beautiful park.



**Tree ID group discussing some rare trees planted at Wayne Park.**

Wayne Park in Waverly, NE, is the perfect place for a tree ID class because Justin and his team have spent their time there planting about 500 trees and 200 shrubs. The park contains about 150 unique species of trees and about 50 different species of shrubs. With around 200 different kinds of trees and shrubs planted in the park, the class was able to view a wide range of specimens and work on their identification skills.

The class was able to successfully identify many of the trees using the skills that Justin was able to teach them and knowledge from past experiences.

NAA will be hosting another tree ID class in the fall, and we highly encourage members to check out this beautiful park.

## A QUARTERLY UPDATE OF THE NEBRASKA ARBORISTS ASSOCIATION

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### SUBMIT ARTICLES:

If you have anything you would like to submit for inclusion in the Quarterly Update, please contact [staff@nearborists.org](mailto:staff@nearborists.org).

*Photo contributions throughout  
courtesy of Jim Keepers.*

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

Dustin Nelson, President Elect  
DnTree  
Weeping Water, NE  
dustytreecare@gmail.com

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

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

Samantha Rozic, Secretary  
US Department of Agriculture  
Mead, NE • (402) 489-6543  
samantharozic1@gmail.com

Jeff Melies, Director  
Omaha, NE • (402) 306-1895  
jeffmelies@yahoo.com

Tom Anderson, Director  
Wright Tree Service, LLC  
Glenwood, IA • (402) 672-0163  
tanderson@wrighttree.com

Tim Crowl, Director  
Crowl Tree Service  
Superior, NE  
(402) 469-3337  
treemancrowl@yahoo.com

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

### **NAA Office Information:**

Kathi Schildt, Executive Director  
Alyssa Broderson, Associate 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



It is cliché to say that times are unprecedented or difficult or... you fill in the adjective. We have sky high inflation, supply chain nightmares, Russia, China, war in Ukraine, politics, Civil War brewing at home, and good luck hiring even an entry level groundie. Times are... uncertain.

I don't like to give advice: no one likes to be told what to do... especially tree guys and gals. So, I'll share my experience. I don't watch or listen to the news. I don't focus on things that are outside of my control. I don't get my information from nor do I spend much time on Facebook. Both social and news media's intention is to manipulate us. I try not to fall for it.

We are all people. Take politics and religion away, and most of us have the same values: we love our family, country, and community. We want the best for each other, our family, and ourselves.

Today I focus on my family, my business, and the people whose lives I influence. I omit from my life that which brings me down that I have no power to do anything about. I've found it to be a pretty liberating way to live.

The good news is that our association is strong. Our financial position is sound. Our learning events are exceptional (I go to a lot of events and I'm very proud of ours). Spring will soon be here and our trees will continue to grow.

All my best,

Jeff Grewe, President  
Nebraska Arborist Association

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **NE GREAT PLAINS Eastern Summer Field Day**

Thursday & Friday, August 11-12, 2022

Carol Joy Holling, Ashland, NE

### **2022 Arborist School**

#### **Tree ID, Evaluation Selection, Planting, Pruning & Establishment Seminar**

Thursday & Friday, September 8-9, 2022

VFW Hall & Wayne Park, Waverly, NE

#### **Climbing, Rigging & Safety Seminar**

Thursday & Friday, October 13-14, 2022

Carol Joy Holling, Ashland, NE

#### **Plant Health & Tree Biology Seminar**

Thursday & Friday, November 17-18, 2022

Carol Joy Holling, Ashland, NE

### **Nebraska GREAT PLAINS Conference**

Date and location to be established (January 2023)

# ARBORIST SPOTLIGHT

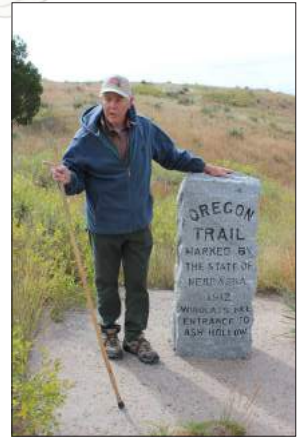
By Jim Keepers, Finders Keepers Landscaping, Certified NE Arborist

This issue's spotlighted individual is Ogallala's own George Acker, owner, and operator of A + Community Tree Care and A + Plus Insurance. I had the opportunity to meet George back in 2012 when he attended the NAA's "Pruning, Climbing, and Safety Seminar." I figured he was attending the class to earn some CEUs, but I later discovered he had signed up to attend the entire Arborist School and wished to become certified. So at age 66, he wanted to become a true Certified NE Arborist. George did complete his goal and became Nebraska Certified and joined the ranks of your Association's mature Arborists.

George Acker was born on the 16th of October in Fairbury, Nebraska. He has two older sisters and one older brother in the family. George attended Fairbury High School and excelled in basketball, football & track.

George played an active role in the Cub/Boy Scout program for years. He moved through the Webelos-to-Scouts transition program and earned numerous merit badges. George achieved his Eagle Scout award from Troop 302, Fairbury, Nebraska, on the 23rd of May 1964. He continued to support the Scouting program, and on the 25th of March 2001, he was awarded "The Silver Beaver Award" for distinguished service to youth. George's work in the Boy Scout program inspired his son Sam to join the program, and he also received his Eagle Scout award.

George ventured away from home and attended the University of Nebraska –Lincoln. He obtained a bachelor's degree in Natural Sciences with an endorsement in Secondary Education and a Master's Degree in Education. He has an excellent mind for education, and he wanted to pass along his knowledge to the next generation by becoming a Science Teacher at Ogallala Junior High School. He held this position for nine years. In 1997, the local JAYCEE presented George with the "Outstanding Young Educator Award." NE Governor Mike Johanns also appointed him to the "Governor's Council to Keep Nebraska Beautiful" for a 2-year term.



**George beside Oregon Trail Marker, Windless Hill**



**George with 7th grade students seeding park land 1979 (photo by Wayne Jacobsen)**

George and his 7th-grade science class established the Ogallala Nature Park. Under his guidance, his students in March of 1976 petitioned the Ogallala City Council to set aside a 12-acre site on the South Platte River for a nature study area. The area was a trash-filled old sandpit. His students cleaned up the area and, for the first two years, planted native prairie grasses. In 1978 an outdoor classroom was built in the park, and in 1979 over 1,000 trees and shrubs were planted there.

George then moved out of the teaching world and entered the insurance field, and after 41 years, he is still helping his neighbors with their insurance issues.

George met his wife Jan through an introduction by John & Jeanne Lambert. It was strictly a business introduction because Jan had just traded in her VW bug for a Honda Accord, and she needed a new insurance quote. She took both the insurance quote and George, and they've been married for 35 years. Jan has worked for Raymond James Financial Services for nearly 29 years. Together, they have one son, Sam, a dog, Kirby, and a grand dog, Artie.

I asked Jan about his interest in trees, and she said he has always been interested in trees and has planted trees his whole life. He decided to pursue his Arborist Certification later in life because he wanted to continue learning and teaching others about trees. His sister Kristen said that their mother had George climbing trees to trim branches by the time he was 7. She would stand beneath the tree to make sure he was safe and point to small branches that needed to come off. Their mother said, "God needed their help to make the trees a little more perfect with some trimming."

George does have the drive to support his local community. He has served on the Ogallala Tree Board. After becoming an Eagle Scout in his youth, George led Cub Scout and Boy Scout troops and served as District Scout Commissioner. Recently, he has been a Scout merit badge counselor for forestry, bird study, and environmental sciences. He enjoys hunting and fishing when he takes the time to go, bird watching, and telling tall tales.

Jan surprised me when she said George has survived three types of cancer and had four joint replacements (2 joint revisions).

*Continue on the next page..*



**George learning knots at 2012 "Pruning, Climbing & Safety Seminar"**

*Continued from the previous page.*

Jan said it has never dampened his sense of humor. He wrote “Go Big Red” on the incision site for his Colorado Buffs surgeon to discover before surgery. He has always considered himself to be very fortunate.

I was fortunate because I had the opportunity to be with George and his charming wife Jan during the “Ash Hollow Fall Field Day” in Lewellen, Nebraska. George worked on the planning team, and he did a super job. It was well worth the long drive to western Nebraska to attend this event and meet my fellow Arborists and Foresters. If you haven’t read the lead story in NAA’s December newsletter titled “The Untold Story,” then I recommend you do so to learn about Ash Hollow.

I appreciated George’s remarks when I asked him if he read the NAA newsletter. He told me the following: “I have made a point to read every issue, and I have kept them on file since 2012 for reference.”

## TREE INSECT AND DISEASE PROJECTIONS FOR 2022

*By David Olson, NFS, Forest Health Specialist*

2021 was a challenging year for many trees in Nebraska, mostly due to harsh environmental conditions experienced in the early and late winter. However, some trends we’re also noticing among insects and diseases indicate they may be more of an issue in the coming season.

**Zimmerman pine moth:** This pest seems to be making a comeback after declining in frequency the last decade or so. Three species are present in Nebraska and are most likely found on pines such as Austrian, Ponderosa, and Scotch. Young and stressed trees are more likely to be impacted and show symptoms with popcorn-like pitch masses on the trunk and major limbs.

**Scale Insects:** Several scale insect species have been increasing in population the last few seasons, particularly magnolia scale, pine needle scale, oyster shell scale, and kermes scale. Scales require accurate identification and precise treatment timing to achieve control. Manual control can also be effective on small trees, although non-targeted insecticide treatments should be discouraged as they can greatly exasperate the problem.

**Herbicide damage:** Although it is not a disease or insect, we will likely see substantial damage to some species from growth regulator herbicides. The most heavily impacted trees include oak, redbud, mulberry, Kentucky coffeetree, and hackberry. This will usually impact the first flush of leaves in the spring, giving them a curled appearance. Most trees will recover from this, although the long-term impacts are unknown.

**Bagworms:** Due to the extreme cold temperatures last year, bagworm populations fell significantly across the state. Unless a similar event occurs this year, we should expect their numbers to start increasing again gradually. Remain vigilant for early instars around the time catalpa trees begin to bloom.

**Spotted Lanternfly:** Not yet found in Nebraska, this is a major pest to remain vigilant for as it is causing significant damage in the East. Suspected finds should be reported to either the NDA or NFS with a picture or sample of the insect.



**Herbicide damage**



**Bagworms**

## NAA ELECTION BOARD RESULTS

Dustin Nelson, Certified NE Arborist & owner/operator of DnTree LLC, was elected NAA President Elect, and Tim Crowl, Certified NE Arborist & owner/operator of Crowl Tree Service, was elected as NAA Director. Because of COVID, the terms of your NAA Board of Directors were extended for one year each. The length of terms for all your board members is now back on schedule.

## DONATE TREES TO THE OMAHA ZOO

During Advanced Tree ID, an Omaha Zoo employee let attendees know that the Zoo is looking for freshly cut branch donations to help feed the animals.

Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo encourages you to donate your healthy tree branches to help feed the animals! According to the zoo's Facebook page, the zoo uses around 200 tons of fresh, leafy branches every year to feed their animals. If you're doing any Spring cleanup, consider donating your branches. Insider tip: "The elephants love the ficus from the Lied Jungle."

The trees must be on their approved species list (listed below), must not have been sprayed with any chemicals (organic or conventional), must be live wood, and ideally have fresh leaves and not wilted. The zoo is looking for limbs at least four feet in length and trunks/larger logs that can be moved with a bobcat tractor.

If possible, before donating, please call or text 402.657.4846 with the species you are donating, load size, and estimated delivery or pickup time and date. This contact will also be able to provide you with more information about the donating process.

### Approved Tree Species:

Apple/Crabapple  
Aspen  
American Beech  
Birch  
Cottonwood  
Dogwood  
Elm (All Species)  
Ginko  
Grapevine  
Hackberry  
Honeylocust  
Ironwood (Hop Hornbeam)  
Linden (Basswood)  
Mulberry  
Olive (Autumn or Russian)  
Pear (Bradford or European)  
Poplar  
Redbud  
Sycamore  
Tulip Tree  
Willow (All Species)

Information obtained from Omaha Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium Facebook page.



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# ARBORIST OF THE YEAR

By Jim Keepers, Finders Keepers Landscaping, Certified NE Arborist

It is a great pleasure to announce that the 2022 NE Arborist of the Year is Certified NE Arborist Lon Nutter. Lon is now in a unique group of only 22 Arborists who have received this award.

Lon is presently employed as a supervisor at Asphlundh Tree Expert LLC and has worked for the company for 28 years. He has held the following positions on the Nebraska Arborists Association (NAA) Board: Treasurer, President-Elect, President, and Past President. As the Nebraska GREAT PLAINS Field Day committee chairperson, he has played a significant role in organizing and directing numerous NAA Summer Field Days. Because of his efforts, your association's education fund has issued education scholarships to individuals deserving to attend the NAA's Arborists School. Because of Lon's efforts, Asphlundh Tree Expert has donated a chainsaw for the Nebraska GREAT PLAINS Winter Conference raffle for multiple years.



Lon Leading the 2017 NE GREAT PLAINS Conference

Matt Grell, General Foreman at Asphlundh, who started working with Lon over 28 years ago on an Arborist crew, had this to say about Lon. "I can honestly say I have never worked for or alongside anyone with his passion for Arboriculture. Congratulations on this award, my friend; it is very much deserved!"



Lon giving safety presentation at the 2021 NAA Arborist School

Our association membership appreciates all the time and effort Lon has spent giving back to the NAA over the years. He does not ask for any credit for the work he has done. Lon's efforts were the main reasons the NAA's 2021 Summer Field Day was a very successful event in attendance, exhibitor participation, and skilled presenters. It was difficult to project the number of attendees who would attend the 2021 Field Day because of COVID. The virus caused the cancellation of the 2020 summer event. The 2021 Field Day was a record event, and part of the reason was due to the programming efforts of Lon. The electrical hazard demonstrated was outstanding, and Lon can take direct credit for having the demonstration at the event.

Lon returned to college recently, and we want to congratulate him for completing his Bachelor of Science-Business Degree.

When Lon is not working hard at his job, going to school, or supporting the NAA, he loves to hang out with his family and friends and enjoys hunting, shooting, sporting clays, and golf.

Lon Nutter is an individual who stands out above his fellow Certified Arborist. NAA Executive Director Kathi Schildt stated the following: "I appreciate Lon for always being so helpful and generous with his time, talent, and donations."

The following comments from fellow Arborists describe Lon to a tee. He has a love for the outdoors and especially loves trees. He loves to look at trees, diagnose trees, and talk to customers about trees. He really could talk for hours about trees. He loves being an arborist and could never imagine going into a different career field. He has enjoyed being a mentor throughout his career and has been a valuable asset to the Nebraska Arborists Association.

In closing, I want to leave you with the following words read by NAA Present Jeff Grewe during the presentation of the 2022 NAA Arborist of the Year award. "On behalf of the NAA Board, Staff, and its membership, let's now insure Certified NE Arborist Lon Nutter is recognized for the contributions he has given to our Association."

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# TREES IN NEBRASKA'S FORESTS

By: Phil Pierce, Certified NE Arborist/Consulting Arborist

The Nebraska Arborist Association has a committee updating the tree species ratings for our state. The list of tree species and their rating was last made in 1995. The Guide for Plant Appraisal, 10th Edition, by the Council of Tree & Landscape Appraisers, uses species in functional limitations. The Council has members from seven organizations: AmericanHort, American Society of Consulting Arborists, National Association of Landscape Professionals, Association of Consulting Foresters, American Society of Landscape Architects, International Society of Arboriculture, and Tree Care Industry Association. The guide is most often used to appraise trees in the urban forest.

I am the chair of the NAA committee and am gathering tree information from all over Nebraska for this project. In addition to concentrating on urban trees, I wanted to know what species dominate our forested areas since these trees are naturalized and thrive with little human intervention.

At this point, I have five sources of forest data. Two are from the state's western half, and two are from the east. One is from the flood plain of the Platte River. I have combined the data and listed, in ranked order, the species that dominate our woodlands. Many more species grow in these forests but are not dominant. Three floodplain species, Cottonwood, Boxelder Maple, and Black Willow, are ranked much higher in floodplain/wetland forests.

## Eastern NE Woodland

Hackberry  
Linden  
Elm, American  
Oak, Red  
Ironwood  
Walnut  
Oak, Bur  
Mulberry  
Hickory  
Cottonwood  
Eastern Redcedar  
Maple, Boxelder  
Kentucky Coffeetree  
Honeylocust  
Elm, Siberian

## Western NE Woodland

Pine, Ponderosa  
Hackberry  
Oak, Bur  
Elm, American  
Eastern Redcedar  
Cottonwood  
Ash, Green  
Elm, Siberian  
Honeylocust  
Maple, Boxelder  
Mulberry  
Linden  
Walnut  
Birch, River  
Aspen, Quaking  
Russian-olive  
Willow, Black



April 13, 2021



May 13, 2021

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## UPDATE ON TATARIAN MAPLE

The following is an update on a unique Maple that outshines the standard Red Maple in any landscape. The tree in question is the Tatarian Maple (*Acer tataricum*) or 'Hot Wings.'

The tree is not grafted, but single stem trees are grown from cuttings, and the clump stems are grown by planting 3-4 cutting in the same container. The tree can be grown from seeds, but the seeds are somewhat viable, so cuttings are the best. One of the significant benefits of Hot Wings is their seeds have a low germination rate, so they don't produce little clone trees like a Silver Maple.

The greatest feature of this tree is not its good green attractive foliage but its showy red-winged seeds (samaras) shining brightly against its green foliage. It also has bright white flower clusters during May.

Information source: [Info@thetreefarm.com](mailto:Info@thetreefarm.com)



# WOMEN IN TREE CARE

By Amy Greve, Arbor Aesthetics, NE Certified Arborist

The end of the quarter brings us to Women's History Month. While the impact women have made in our industry is endless and could certainly fill an entire newsletter every quarter, I thought I'd carve out this space to shine the spotlight on two women in the NAA, each on a unique career path. Without further ado, allow me to introduce what may be a familiar face to many: Tricia Merchen, NAA and ISA Certified Arborist and Arborist Account Manager at Terry Hughes Tree Service.



**Tricia Merchen**

Though Tricia has been with Terry Hughes since 2013, she has been in the green industry far longer, using her degree in landscape design for 16 years prior. Having known Stacy for more than 20 years, she was looking for a change, and he was looking for an arborist!

For someone in the industry so long, I was curious if anything had changed since when she started, both in general and her experience as a female. Tricia responded, "We are definitely working smarter and not harder! We have made great strides in making tree work safer and a career that will carry through to retirement. Gender wise, if you are confident in your role and do your job well, doors will open."

Indeed, confidence is a must for anyone entering this industry, and it's advice Sarah Hardy, NAA Certified Arborist, would also give to women entering this field. Sarah is new to the industry herself, working for One Life Tree Service in Lincoln, Nebraska, since July of 2021. "Stand up for yourself. Don't be afraid to demand respect, maintain your boundaries, and do something every day that scares the hell out of you. You decide what you are capable of."



**Sarah Hardy**

It's not uncommon for biases to get in the way of believing women can perform in the tree care industry, particularly in a production environment. Sarah shared, "Speaking from personal experience; I don't have biceps the size of Texas. They're close, but not quite. If you're anything like me, you might need to brain your way through problems and not just muscle your way through. Fall in love with problem-solving. There is a chance that men who have never worked with women before may be uncomfortable, confused, and even annoyed that you are fully capable of doing the same job as them. Take no notice of this and focus on the work and learning everything you can. They will get over it and probably become a good friend."

Sarah's experience is one I heard many times over during the Women in Tree Care forum at the Tree Care Industry Association Expo in November 2021. There was resounding evidence from every woman I spoke to that women CAN do the same work men do – but they work smarter, not harder (like Tricia mentioned) and utilize technology and specialized equipment to compensate for lesser physical strength, when needed.

That's the thing about the future of tree work. "Arboriculture is constantly evolving and advancing. I love being part of an industry where the learning never stops," says Sarah.

It's true – the learning and growth opportunities are seemingly endless, and to keep up with the latest, Tricia supports her career development by taking advantage of continuing education through her employer. "Hughes Tree Service encourages continuing education and is quite generous in making sure we have opportunities throughout the year."

Finding an employer who supports your career development is important, and so is finding an employer whose work culture fosters learning and positive encouragement. Sarah of One Life Tree Service says of her education and development, "I try my best to learn everything I can about our operation and practice my skills whenever I can. I think the most important way I support my career development is by trying new things even if they look difficult and/or maybe impossible. I've also had the support of my co-workers and boss at One Life Tree Service. My co-workers are patient teachers, motivating peers, and skilled arborists that do what they can to get everyone home in one piece at the end of the day."

I know I'm not alone in taking inventory of women in attendance at every NAA and TCIA event I attend. As of 2022, there are 39 women members in the NAA, 28 of whom are NAA Certified Arborists. These numbers are growing quickly; even just in the last eight years, I have been involved in the tree care industry. I am excited to start seeing even more women funnel into this career field and see the positive effects women have on just about everything they touch.

*Continue on the next page..*

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Sarah shared this same sentiment when I asked her what excited her about the future of arboriculture. “I would love to see more female arborists in the future. I think that women have a lot to offer this industry, and honestly - why let men have all the fun?” Tricia agrees, and it’s what she loves most about her career in arboriculture: “No two days are alike.”

It’s been an honor to connect with these two women who represent new and seasoned careers in tree care, and I respect the positive influence they carry. As Tricia said best, “Hard work is rewarded no matter who you are.”

## OPTIMUM TIME TO PRUNE TREES HAS CHANGED



It was previously recommended the best time to prune most shade trees was during winter dormancy. New research shows the optimum time to prune living branches is late spring and early summer because pruning at this time promotes the quickest sealing of pruning wounds, known as CODIT or Compartmentalization of Decay in Trees. Late spring and early summer are when tree cells are most active during the growing season; hence sealing occurs the quickest.

Winter, or anytime during the dormant season, has commonly been the recommended time to prune shade trees. We know trees can be pruned almost anytime without killing them, but there are ideal times to prune and times when pruning is best avoided.

We may not have a choice on timing, such as after a wind or ice storm and broken branches need to be removed for safety, but when we have a choice, aim for the ideal time, especially if you are a do-it-yourselfer pruning smaller branches off a smaller tree. Pruning of large branches in large trees should be left to professionals. Reference ANSI A300 Pruning Standard - Part 1 (2017)

Source: International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Pruning Guidelines Updated

## PESTICIDE APPLICATOR RECERTIFICATION

Suppose your Commercial/Non-Commercial pesticide applicator license expired on April 15, and you missed in-person recertification training or missed taking the training online this year. In that case, you can renew a Commercial/Non-Commercial license for this year by retesting at one of the testing locations or through Pearson VUE. For questions regarding the testing schedule or licenses, contact the Nebraska Department of Agriculture at 402-471-2341.

Find dates available for commercial testing after the license expiration date at Nebraska Pesticide Applicator Testing Sites. Or visit Pearson VUE Testing Service for information about dates and testing locations

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## NEWLY CERTIFIED ARBORISTS

- Jase Andersen
- Jordon Cave
- Jaron Dock
- Tanner Doescher
- Kelli Douglas-Trost
- John Filbert
- Kris Hans
- Jerald Hardin
- Sarah Hardy
- Jonathan Mason
- Preston Meyer
- Zach Nelson
- Shawn Parsons
- Jake Popham
- Samuel Popken
- Justin Prosocki
- Cory Rotundo
- Trevor Smith
- Nelson Snipes
- Brad South
- Luke Swanson
- Zachary Tucker

## NEW MEMBERS

Shaun Ahren  
Lord Ameyaw  
Larry Anderson  
Ricky Aragon  
Yvete Atkinson  
Kyle Behrens  
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## A LOOK BACK IN TIME

Would it be possible to cut out a cookie from this tree trunk using the saw pictured?

Don Nichols, photo  
Midwest Tree Climbers Facebook Page

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# WINTER SAP MOVEMENTS

By Phil Pierce: Certified NE Arborist

Dr. Kim Coder, University of Georgia, has a chart that says sap movement in the current annual ring during the growing season is 28 inches a minute for Red Oak and one inch a minute for Birch.

I have been injecting trees for over 50 years, first with fungicides for Dutch elm disease and iron for Pin Oak chlorosis. In 2010 I started injecting dye into living trees. At the EAB injection workshops in Omaha, 2016, and in Lincoln, 2017, we peeled a strip of bark off a live tree and put dye in so that all could watch the dye move up the tree. The dye movement was very rapid.



**Stump-cut about 4 inches below injection holes**

On December 1, 2021, I injected a large Silver Maple with dye at the tree's base to see how fast sap (free water) moved in the wood when the tree was dormant (no leaves on the tree). Three holes were 10 inches deep, and four were five inches deep. The tree was cut down on December 6.

The stump cut is about four inches below the seven injection drill holes. The dye moved up the trunk about 46 inches. That is about 9.2 inches per day. This is hundreds of times slower than when the tree is in leaf.

We know that water, with dissolved minerals, enters the roots and moves up through the wood to the rest of the tree. Most of the water transpires (evaporates) through openings in the leaves. Some water is lost through openings in the bark of young twigs and some is used in other processes within the living tree.

The wood of deciduous trees is characterized as either diffuse-pours or ring-pours. Maples are diffuse-pours. Diffuse-pours species move more water in older annual rings than due ring-pours species. This is why you can see dye movement near the center of the trunk at the stump cut. Notice that there is little dye near the center 10 inches above the injection holes, except for intermittent spots along with one injection site.



**Zig-Zag dye pattern**

The close-together zigzagging of the dye is due to the annual growth of the wood. Springwood has thinner cell walls than summerwood. So the dye can leach further, laterally, in the ring. This helps when counting rings. I get 13 rings (years) for the 5-inch injection and 23 years for the 10-inch injection.

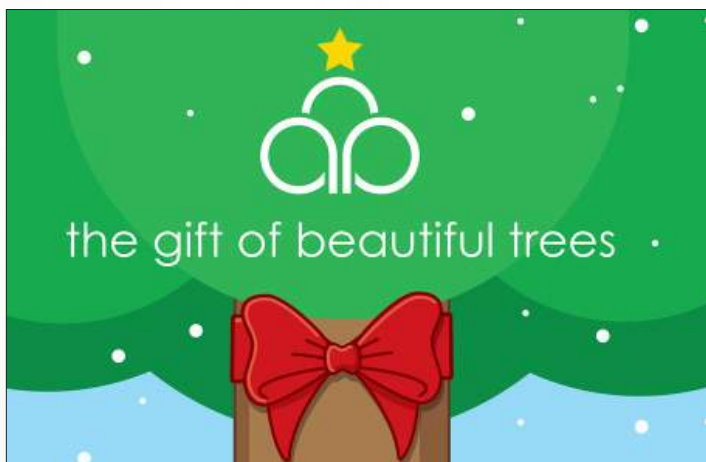
The larger zigzags are due to changes in the spiral twist of the vessels/fibers in a given year. I do not know what causes this change in the wood growth pattern.



**Cross section about 10 inches above drill holes**

# THE GIFT OF BEAUTIFUL TREES

By Jeff and Amy Grewe, Arbor Aesthetics Tree Service, Certified NE Arborists



Arbor Aesthetics Tree Service, owned by Certified NE Arborists Jeff and Amy Grewe, again offered "The Gift of Beautiful Trees" to a family in need of tree care this past December.

This year, a total of \$15,000 in FREE tree trimming or removal services was given to families in need. This program was unique because instead of offering the tree service to one or two families, they were able to provide tree services to several families. They partnered with the following five local Omaha tree companies: Acme Lawn & Tree, American Arborist, Champion Tree, Cut & Grind Tree Care, and Dillon Tree Service.

The actions of these six tree service companies demonstrate their willingness to work together as a team to help families in our community who need tree services.



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# THE GREAT DIFFERENTIATOR

By Jeff Greve, NAA President

There is one great differentiator that I have witnessed that separates those who achieve what they want in life and those who do not. It's not intelligence. It's not energy level. It's not charisma nor connections. It's the willingness to do "the work."

"The work" looks different depending upon who you are. It can take the shape of marital counseling, group therapy, cognitive therapy, hiring a personal coach, hiring a business coach, hiring a Leadership coach, getting a mentor, getting a sponsor, committing to a 12 step program, checking yourself into a 30-day treatment facility, etc.

I have personally done all the things listed above.

It started by admitting that I was not where I wanted to be. I may or may not be to blame for the way things are, but no matter, I'm the only one that can do anything about it. I have to do "the work" if I want a different life for myself.

Talent and privilege can only go so far. The rest is work.

## LIABILITY INSURANCE

With the New Year, all Certified NE Arborists need to have your insurance company, your company or yourself send in a "Certification of Liability Insurance" renewal to the NAA office. Licensed City of Omaha Arborist need to send in an additional copy of your "Certification of Liability Insurance" to Kaylynn Collins, City of Omaha, Park Maintenance Dept., 1523 South 24th St., Omaha, Nebraska 68108. If you have an Arborist License with another Nebraska City, check with the City office issuing your City's Arborist License to insure they receive your "Certification of Liability Insurance" renewal.



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## DON'T USE WOUND DRESSINGS

By: Jim Keepers, Finders Keepers Landscaping, NE Certified Arborist

While it is best to hold off on pruning trees until early spring, now is an excellent time to remind people not to use tree wound dressings, pruning paint, or any products available for sale that says it will promote the healing of tree wounds. When a tree branch is pruned, human instinct is to put a band-aid on the wound, but this is one of the worst things we can do. Tree wounds do not heal; instead, they seal off wounded or damaged areas; no wound dressing product has been shown to promote healing.

When a tree is wounded, such as with pruning, it sends defense chemicals to the wound to seal it off. Then, during the growing season, the tree develops wound wood to close the wound. Research has shown that any type of tree wound dressing interferes with a tree's natural defense mechanisms and the sealing process. Wound dressings also trap moisture, promote decay, and prevent wound wood from forming.



A tree developing wound wood.

# A SPECIAL OR UNIQUE TREE

By: Jim Keepers, Finders Keepers Landscaping, NE Certified Arborist



**These capsules contain small nuts.**

The tree I would like you to consider planting this spring is the American Hophornbeam (*Ostrya virginiana*). There is some confusion between this tree and the American Hornbeam (*Carpinus caroliniana*) because they both have the same common name, ironwood.

Let's take a closer look at the American Hophornbeam. We know this tree likes well-drained soil because it is an upland tree species. One of the significant features of this tree is that it can thrive with neglect, and because of this feature, it is an outstanding candidate for a landscaping tree to survive in our changing Eastern Nebraska climate. Because it is a small understory tree, it can survive under larger trees at the edge of the woodlot or forest and out in the full sun. Its fall color is not sensational like the Red maple, but it does add lighter fall color to the landscape.

This tree prefers a little more acidic soil but will adapt to our local soil conditions just so the pH stays in a regional range. This is not an excellent tree for landscapes with a soil pH of seven and higher. This tree is hardy in Zones three to nine, and it can survive flooding conditions. I was surprised to read this tree is very sensitive to deicing salts, so it is not a good candidate to be planted in an easement (hell strip).

One of its unusual features is how it got its name. Because this tree has fascinating hop-like fruit similar to the hop vines, it was given the name hophornbeam. The fruit from this tree hangs down from the tree branches starting in summer and until fall. The dark green leaves of this tree are an excellent backdrop for these pale green papery capsules. The capsules contain nuts and are eaten by various wildlife.

The tree has a prolonged growth rate and, after 15 years, will only be an average of 10 to 15 feet. Depending on the climate and soil conditions, it will eventually reach 25 to 40 feet. The branches are horizontal, with many of them drooping. It has male and female catkins developing in April. Its leaves are alternate and simple and about two to six inches long. Because it is an understory tree, the length of the leaves varies because of the shade conditions. The leaves fall early and are supposed to 'feel like felt,' but I have never experienced the feel of these leaves.

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# 2022 NEBRASKA GREAT PLAINS CONFERENCE

By Alyssa Brodersen, NAA Associate Director

The Nebraska Arborists Association was happy to announce that the 2022 Nebraska GREAT PLAINS Conference would be in-person this year at the Embassy Suites in Lincoln, NE. The board, staff and attendees all looked forward to getting together for the first time since 2020 and you could feel the excitement and comradery as attendees began to check in. We had a great event with a total of 284 attending the conference between the two days.

The Nebraska Arborists Association would like to thank all of the sponsors that help make the Nebraska GREAT PLAINS Conference possible. Platinum Plus - Terry Hughes Tree Service, Platinum - Arbor Aesthetics Inc & Rooted Tree Specialists, Gold - American Arborist, ArborSystems, Bartlett Tree Experts, Finders Keepers, Landscaping, LLC, Lawngevity Lawn & Tree, Monster Tree Service & Vermeer High Plains. Silver - Advanced Association Management, Great Plains Nursey, Jim's Tree Service, Lincoln Electric System, Makovicka Physical Therapy, Mutchie Tree Care Inc. & Nebraska Forest Service. Bronze - A-Plus Tree Service Inc., Hall Brothers Tree Service & Housley Lawn & Nursery Sales Inc. Your contributions to the Association are very appreciated and we value our partnerships with each of you.

This year we had another great lineup of speakers. The conference kicked off with an energizing presentation from Aaron Davis, a former member of the Nebraska 1994 National Championship football team. Aaron made sure that everyone was awake and ready for packed day of speakers. The attendees spent the morning attending breakout sessions, meeting with exhibitors, buying raffle tickets for the gun and chainsaw raffles and bidding on silent auction items. Thank you to Lon Nutter, Asplundh Tree Experts, for donating the chainsaw for one raffle and to Kathi Schildt, Advanced Association Management, for obtaining the gun for the other raffle. There was a numerous amount of individuals and companies that contributed to the silent auction items as well. The Nebraska Arborists Association appreciates all of their contributions that help bring in funds that go towards the educational fund every year.

All of the attendees got back together for lunch and the annual business meeting. During the meeting, Dustin Nelson was elected to President Elect and Tim Crowl was elected to a Director position. The Nebraska Arborists Association is confident that both members will do a great job in their new roles. Jeff Grewe, NAA President, also had the pleasure of announcing the 2022 Arborist of the Year recipient. Much to his surprise, Lon Nutter was presented with the award and greeted by his family that had been snuck in during presentation. Lon Nutter is an NAA Past President and Certified Arborist that has contributed much to the association over the years. Please take the time to read Lon's award nomination featured in this newsletter edition.

The Nebraska Arborist Association would like to thank all of the exhibitors that participated in this year's conference: Arbor Systems, Bartlett Arborist Supply, Great Plains Nursery, Makovicka Physical Therapy, Nebraska811, Nebraska Forest Service, Rainbow Ecoscience, Ryan Lawn & Tree/ CM's Outdoor Solutions, SiteOne Landscape Supply and Vermeer High Plains. These exhibitors had some great products to show our attendees. Bartlett Arborist Supply set up a truss for their vendor display and it was definitely an impressive booth.

After the annual business meeting the attendees finished up the day in breakout sessions and continued to participate in raffle purchases and silent auction bidding. When the conference concluded for the day the silent auction and raffles ended and the live auction began. Jim Keepers, was kind enough to be the auctioneer this year with the help of Amy Grewe, Jeff Melies and Tom Anderson. Thank you to everyone who participated in the silent auction, live auction and raffles.

To finish out the night, the Nebraska Arborists Association hosted a dinner for members that purchased tickets and a corn hole tournament. We had eight teams that participated in the tournament and Jim Keepers and Jordan Flug ended the night victorious. First, second and third place winner all receive trophies for their accomplishments.

The second day of the conference was fully packed with another collection of great speakers that kept the day moving quickly. The attendees enjoyed the breakout sessions and some final time with the vendors before heading back home when the conference concluded at 4:00 pm.

The dates and location for the 2023 Nebraska GREAT PLAINS Conference have not yet been finalized. If you have any suggestions for speakers or topics that would benefit membership, please feel free to contact the Nebraska Arborists Association office at [staff@nearborist.org](mailto:staff@nearborist.org).

The association would like to thank all of the great members and staff that made this event a success and would also like to thank all of the attendees for your participation. The Nebraska GREAT PLAINS Summer Field Day will be held in August this year and we hope to see you there!

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