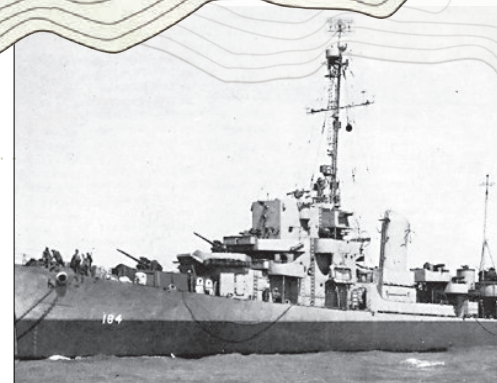


An Arborist takes
care of a tree for life.



OUT ON A LIMB

SPRING 2023, VOLUME 43, ISSUE 1



A Proud American. Read full article on page 6.

2024 GREAT PLAINS WINTER CONFERENCE

By *Alyssa Brodersen, NAA Executive Director*

This year, we had another great lineup of speakers. To kick off the conference, our Keynote speaker, Nicole Benjamin, spoke about “Building Habits for Longevity as an Arborist & in Life.” This talk was about four foundational habits—Food/Fuel, Sleep/Recovery, Exercise/Movement, and our Environment—and how they influence daily decision-making. Next, the group split into breakouts, and Kim Todd presented on choosing trees for challenging places while Jay Goughnour spoke about bur oak blight and the two-lined chestnut borer.



Hughes Mulch Products Booth



Kim Todd Presenting

After a short break with exhibitors, Richard Hauer talked about “Tree Tolerance to Moisture Stress,” and Juan Contreras presented “Building Bridges in a Multilingual Industry.” After lunch, Ryan Russell gave attendees information about conservation methods and presented two projects in which he successfully applied the strategies he discussed. At the same time, Scott Carlson instructed his group on proper pruning techniques. In our last breakout sessions of the day, Richard Hauer spoke about advancements in tree injection research and technology. Gary Johnson talked about the influence a soil base has on the health and longevity of urban trees. At the end of the first day, Korey Conry spoke about arriving at the job safely when driving and the inspections that arborists can do to ensure the safest trip.

Continued on page 3...

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



2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dustin Nelson, President DnTree LLC

10825 108th Street, Weeping Water, NE
Phone: (402) 880-0280
Email: dustytreecare@gmail.com

Samantha Rozic, President-Elect Heroes Lawn Care

PO Box 390324, Omaha, NE
Work Phone: (402) 899-0225
Home Phone: (402) 890-2992
Email: srozic@heroeslawncares.com

Jorge Cardenas, Treasurer

Asplundh Tree Expert, LLC
5906 South 77th St, Ralston, NE
Cell Phone: (402) 217-4684
Email: jcardenas6@asplundh.com

Tom Anderson, Secretary

Wright Tree Service, LLC
62171 US Hwy 275, Glenwood, IA
Cell Phone: (402) 672-0163
Work Phone: (402) 672.0163
Email: tanderson@wrighttree.com

Tim Crowl, Director

Crowl Tree Service
3710 Highway 8, Superior, NE
Cell Phone: (402) 469-3337
Email: treemancrowl@yahoo.com

Michael Seuferer, Director

Asplundh Tree Expert, LLC
4330 W Huntington Ave., Lincoln, NE
Cell Phone: (402) 432-1276
Email: michael.seuferer@gmail.com

Ann Powers, Director

University of Nebraska - Lincoln
3310 Holdrege St., Lincoln, NE
Cell Phone: (402) 890-3956
Email: apowers4@unl.edu

Alyssa Brodersen, NAA Executive Director

521 First Street, PO Box 10, Milford, NE
Phone: (402) 761-2219
Email: alyssa@nearborists.org
Website: www.NEARborists.org

Phil Pierce, NAA Board Advisor

Consultant Forester
18307 S 132nd St., Springfield, NE
Home Phone: (402) 253-2860
Email: foresterphil@gmail.com

Stacy Hughes, NAA Board Advisor

Terry Hughes Tree Service
15802 Fairview Road, Gretna, NE
Work Phone: (402) 558-8198
Email: stacy@hughestree.com

FROM THE PRESIDENT

It's a new year. And with that comes new challenges. Whatever they may be, we must do our best to persevere and rise to the top of our goals. This article, like most of my articles, is directed at employees and owners alike. No matter your position, you will have obstacles in your way. It's how you decide you want to handle these hurdles that will determine how you land. Will you land on your feet, running and ready to jump the next barricade? Or will you land face-first in the mud? I know I've done both. Even if you don't stick your landing, you can always get back up, wipe your knees off, and keep on going. These are all metaphors, of course. I don't want to speak of specific challenges because there are many, and everyone's adaptation to them will be different. I just wanted to take the time to remind those of you reading this that nothing is forever, and if you choose to, you can rise up from almost any circumstance through sheer will and determination. If you find yourself having trouble reaching whatever goal you may have, take a moment to sit down and write out what you want. Once you know what it is you desire, figure out what is keeping you from that goal. From there, you can make a "plan of attack" and conquer whatever it is that you want to achieve. Oftentimes, the only thing holding you back is you. So, take this time, in this newly formed year of 2024, to go out and accomplish what it is that you have always wanted. Even if you fall short, you can get up, wipe your knees off, and try again.

Dustin Nelson, NAA President



UPCOMING EVENTS

Advanced Climbing

Wednesday & Thursday, June 26-27, 2024
Elmwood Park, Omaha, NE

GREAT PLAINS Field Day

Thursday & Friday, August 15-16, 2024
Carol Joy Holling in Ashland, NE

2024 Arborist School

Tree ID, Evaluation & Selection, Planting & Establishment Seminar
Thursday & Friday, September 12-13, 2024
at the University of Nebraska – East Campus in Lincoln, NE

Pruning, Climbing & Safety Seminar

Thursday & Friday, October 10-11, 2024
at Carol Joy Holling in Ashland, NE

Plant Health & Tree Biology Seminar

Thursday & Friday, November 14-15, 2024
at Carol Joy Holling in Ashland, NE

Nebraska GREAT PLAINS Conference

January 21-22, 2025 - Embassy Suites in Lincoln, NE

Continued from page 1...

After the sessions concluded, the group participated in the silent and live auctions, had dinner, and enjoyed a cornhole tournament. Kent Zimmermann & Jeremy Doty won first place & Rose Pelelo-Ray and Jorge Cardenas won second place.

On the second day of the conference, Gary Johnson discussed the evolution of arboriculture. After Gary's Keynote, the group separated into breakouts again.

James Komen gave a recorded presentation on wielding the A300 standards, and Scott Carlson spoke about girdling room excavation.

Once these presentations concluded, the attendees had more time with exhibitors and a chance to buy additional raffle tickets for the chainsaw and gun raffle at the end of the day. Late in the morning, Richard Hauer talked about municipal tree care, and Gary Johnson gave a presentation on pruning.

After lunch, James Komen presented "Tree Risk Assessment and Legal Liability in Nebraska" via a pre-recorded presentation. This breakout was highly attended and included essential information for Nebraska and actual case studies. Brandon Magee also gave an entertaining and informative presentation on chainsaw safety at that time. To finish up the presentations for the day, our Keynote speaker, Nicole Benjamin, talked about the lessons she had learned through her arborist career and how these lessons can help people grow personally and professionally.

Continued on page 4...



Arborjet | Ecogel Booth



NAA Past President & 2024 Board

Top: Tim Crowl, Tom Anderson, Michael Seufferer

Bottom: Jeff Greve, Ann Powers, Samantha Rozic, Dustin Nelson, Jorge Cardenas

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2024 GREAT PLAINS
WINTER CONFERENCE



Tom Anderson Auctioneer for the Live Auction



3rd Annual Cornhole Tournament



First Place Winners – Kent Zimmerman & Jeremy Doty



Nicole Benjamin Presenting



Scott Carlson Presenting

Continued from page 3...

As the conference ended, attendees left with a wealth of knowledge shared over the two days. From practical advice on tree selection and pruning to insightful discussions on holistic well-being, the event provided valuable insights for arborists at all stages of their careers. The networking opportunities, highlighted by the auctions and cornhole tournament, added a fun and engaging element to the experience.

We look forward to seeing all of you at the 2025 Great Plains Winter Conference!

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Stock Seed Farms
Tomahawks Axe Throwing
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2024 GREAT PLAINS ANNUAL CONFERENCE AWARD WINNERS

By Alyssa Brodersen, Executive Director

The Nebraska Arborists Association announced the 2024 Educator of the Year, Arborist of the Year, and Lifetime Achievement award winners during the Nebraska Great Plains Conference annual membership meeting on January 16th in Lincoln, NE.

Jennifer Morris, Forest Health Specialist - Nebraska Forest Service

Jennifer Morris received the Educator of the Year award for her unwavering commitment to education and forestry. From her roots in Omaha, she forged a unique path through various roles, displaying passion and expertise.

Jennifer's impact extends to the Nebraska Forest Service, Morris Family Orchard, NE Arborist School, and NAA initiatives, enhancing tree health and Arborist education in Nebraska. An active instructor and nature lover, she's a deserving recipient recognized for her invaluable contributions to forestry education.

JENNIFER MORRIS EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR



Kent Zimmerman, Right-of-Way Supervisor - Norris Public Power District

Kent Zimmerman was celebrated as the Arborist of the Year. Kent boasts a remarkable 35-year career at Norris Public Power District (NPPD). Starting as a lineman in 1989, Kent's journey evolved with NAA Arborist School in 2005, enhancing his arboriculture expertise. As Right-of-Way Supervisor, he championed arboriculture's importance within NPPD, fostering certification among colleagues. Kent's influence reaches beyond work, supporting community programs and inspiring his son to become a Certified NE Arborist. His dedication, advocacy, and mentoring truly make him a deserving recipient.

KENT ZIMMERMAN ARBORIST OF THE YEAR



Tom Wiens, Owner - Modern Arboriculture

Tom Wiens, the esteemed recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award, is a seasoned arborist with a profound impact on arboriculture. Starting at Wiens Tree Surgery Company, his early hands-on experience forged a lifelong dedication to tree well-being. Tom, a founding member of the Rocky Mountain ISA Chapter, pursued continuous education, including with renowned arborist Alex Shigo. In 1985, he founded A-1 Landscape, which he later renamed Modern Arboriculture. Tom's business focuses on two main goals: bringing health to the trees as naturally as possible and leaving them with their structural integrity and their dignity. As NAA president in 1992, he led with enthusiasm. Tom's credentials are a testament to his expertise, holding certifications through the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA): Certified Arborist, Certified Tree Worker/Climber, and Certified Arborist/Municipal Specialist. He is currently a member of ISA, the Tree Care Industry Association (TCIA), and the Nebraska Arborists Association (NAA). Beyond his business endeavors, Tom is a passionate educator. Teaching at local Garden Clubs and engaging with the Master Gardener program, his main goal in life is to educate people about healthy tree care. Tom's diverse skill set, passion for healthy tree care, and extensive contributions to arboriculture make him a deserving recipient of this prestigious award, reflecting a lifetime dedicated to arboriculture. On behalf of the Nebraska Arborists Association board of directors and its members, we would like to thank all of the 2024 award winners for their dedication and contributions to the arboriculture profession.

TOM WIENS LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



WE LOST A PROUD AMERICAN

By Jim Keepers: Mature Certified Nebraska Arborist

On the 24th of January, 2024, just two months & 20 days from his 100 Birthday, we lost a WWII Veteran and our most senior retired Nebraska Arborist, John “Jack” H. Nebelsick, prior owner of Acme Tree Service, Lincoln, Nebraska. I was honored to represent our association at Jack’s visitation on Thursday, February 1st, at Roper and Sons South Chapel in Lincoln, Nebraska. I was unable to attend his military funeral.



Now that I have passed along the sad news about Jack’s passing, I want to tell you the good news about Jack’s life so you can understand who he was and what he has done for our country and the Nebraska Arborists Association (NAA). I figure most NAA members have very little knowledge about Jack, and I could count myself in that same category a few years ago. My knowledge changed when I started conducting my research on the 29 NAA’s Charter Members and their work in the formation of the NAA. I had the opportunity to conduct a formal interview with Jack and his wife, Bonnie, in 2011. I then stayed in touch with them by phone. I do regret not stopping by for another in-person visit with Jack this past year just to talk with him about the early years of the NAA. Now it is too late.

So, let’s stop wasting words and get down to Jack Nebelsick’s story. He was born in Lincoln and received his primary education in local Lincoln schools. After High School, in 1942, he joined the Navy at age 18 and obtained a rank/rating of 3rd Class Fire Controlman. He spent four (4) years serving his country during WW II. I will save just one highlight of his dangerous Navy career for the conclusion of this article.

After leaving the Navy, Jack attended the University of Nebraska at Lincoln and graduated with a degree in agriculture. He spent six years working as a farmer and the next six years in Puerto Rico supporting his church’s agriculture projects. He was a very religious individual, and his church meant a lot to him. After coming back to the States, he spent five years as a County Agent in Colfax County, Nebraska. In the fall of 1969, Jack started to work for Acme Tree Care in Lincoln, Nebraska. He learned about tree care from the owner, John Ruthven. Jack never told me why he left Extension to start a new job in tree care. During his training, Jack had the untimely event of falling 10 feet out of a tree and landing on a jagged stump, but for some unknown reason, he came away with only a few scratches. There were no bucket trucks or lifts when Jack got into the trade, so climbing was the only way to ascend a tree. There were also very few chippers in service, so all the branches that had been cut off from a tree were hauled away in their trucks and dumped in ditches along county roads. There were also no wood chips to regrind the wood waste into mulch and sell to the homeowner.

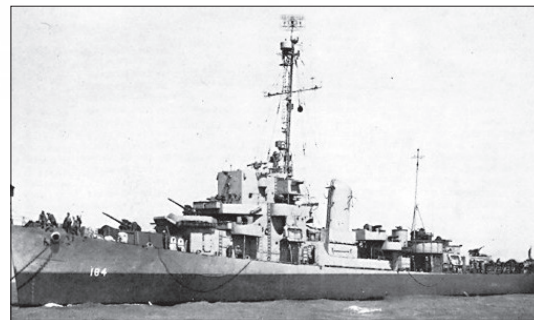


Jack Nebelsick, US Navy Fire Controlman, 3rd Class (FC3)

On March 3rd, 1977, the Nebraska Arborists Association was formed, and Jack was one of the 29 Charter members who formed the association. Jack was one of the five individuals who took part in the ad hoc committee that drafted the constitution and the bylaws for this new arborist’s association. The 29 Charter members approved the recommendations of the committee, and your NAA association was born and registered in the state of Nebraska. Member’s registration at that time was \$10.00, with \$5.00 for association registration and \$5.00 for the initial initiation fee. Jack was a very active member of the association, and in 1982, he was elected president of the NAA. Jack stayed active in the Arborist trade through the 80s, but as the business declined and he increased in maturity, he sold his business in 1995 to Mr. Bob Odom. The company is still in operation today in Lincoln. After selling the business, Jack decided he had enough adventure in his life and shunned any formal tree jobs to spend more time with his family.

Jack lost his first wife but was lucky enough to find another lovely lady, Bonnie, and they were married on August 10th, 1990. They were married for 34 years. Together they have six children, 14 grandchildren, and 8 great-great-grandchildren at last count. So, you see, Jack’s extended family did keep him busy.

The NAA has never forgotten about Jack Nebelsick’s accomplishments. In 2014, he was presented with the NAA’s Lifetime Achievement Award, and in 2019, he and Bonnie were honored at the GREAT PLAINS Conference as the conference’s special honored guests. As I stated earlier, I wanted to save a little of Jack’s Navy experiences to the end of this article. As an ex-sailor myself, I will leave out his shore leave escapades. Jack joined the Navy at age 18 and was assigned as a crew member on the USS Wesson Destroyer Escort (DE 184).



USS Wesson Destroyer Escort (DE 184)

The USS Wesson was a Cannon-class destroyer escort ship. Jack achieved the rank of 3rd Class Petty Officer, had a rating of Fire Controlman (FC3), and spent four years in Navy service. His job on the USS Wesson was to operate, maintain and repair the ship's 'Weapons Control System'. Jack didn't talk a lot about his Naval experience during our talks, but he did provide me with the following information about a significant USS Wesson engagement during the battle of Okinawa engraved in his memory.

His ship, the USS Wesson, served in the Pacific Ocean during the war and provided escort service against enemy submarines and air attacks for US Navy vessels and convoys during the war. During the battle of Okinawa, the USS Wesson was struck by a kamikaze aircraft. The following is a timeline of this event. On the 7th of April, the USS Wesson took up station screening the Landing Craft Infantry (Large) LCI(L)-U52 and LCI(L)-558. At 0340, the ship fought off a small enemy air attack, which lasted until dawn. At 0917, the USS Wesson opened fire on three enemy planes crossing her bow and then engaged a single plane diving from the clouds to the ship's starboard. The kamikaze plane crashed into the ship's torpedo tubes amidships. Five men died instantly, one went missing, and 25 were wounded, two of whom died later. The USS Wesson eminently lost power but was able to regain limited power several times. The ship suffered a fire on the boat deck, as well as flooding in the engineering spaces. All power was lost aft, propulsion was lost on the port shaft, and the rudder jammed full right. The USS Lang (DD-399) came alongside and transferred a submersible pump and gasoline, then took the USS Wesson under tow. The tow line parted at 1133, and the USS Wesson was able to steam into the Kerama Retto Bay, an island near Okinawa under her own power, with the USS Lang providing screening. The USS Wesson was then repaired and went back to the station. Jack, being a Fire Controlman, played a major role in operating and repairing the ship's fire control system. "The Naval History & Heritage Command" was the source of Jack's information".

For any Naval history buff out there, the USS Wesson was decommissioned by the US Navy on the 24th of June 1946, transferred to Italy on the 10th of Jan.1951, and then renamed the Andromedia. This proud ship was finally scrapped in January 1972. Jack had a very dangerous four-year career aboard the USS Wesson but never suffered any major injuries. His Navy career was more dangerous compared to his future arborist career. He survived WW II ship duty but could have killed himself when he fell out of that tree a few years later. Jack's ship received "Seven Battle Stars" for its WWII service because of Navy sailors like Jack.

As a Navy Veteran and Arborist, I am proud and honored to have taken the time to interview and then later just to talk to Jack Nebelsick and stay in contact with him and Bonnie these past 13 years. A lot of NAA's history was lost with the passing of Lincoln Arborist Jack Nebelsick. We still have a few NAA remaining members of the NAA's 29 Charter Membership. Our oldest is John Housley, Sr.

I appreciated the opportunity the NAA Board has given me to inform our association members of the role Jack and the other NAA 29 Charter Members have played in the formation and early growth of our association. I am looking forward to writing more about the history of the NAA for future NAA "Out On A Limb" publications. We must never forget Jacket Nebelsick's service to his country and your Nebraska Arborist Association. May his soul and the soul of our other departed Arborist rest in peace!

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EMBRACING GROWTH: LESSONS FROM TREES

By Amy Greve | Arbor Aesthetics Tree Service

The NAA brought us some great speakers at the 2024 Great Plains Conference last quarter - one of which inspired this reflection. As arborists know, before we can understand proper pruning, we must first understand how and why trees grow the way they grow. During his presentation on Proper Pruning, Scott Carlson overviewed two mechanisms that control tree growth: apical dominance (growing upward) and secondary growth (responsible for new outward growth of tissue). I won't get into the science of either of those mechanisms because this article isn't about science.

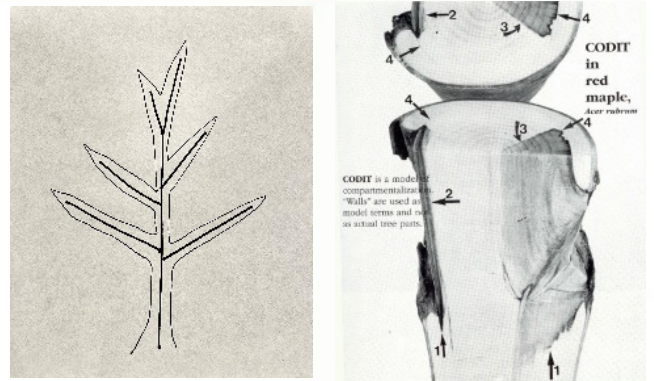
We arborists also know, "Trees don't heal, they seal," meaning that when a tree is injured (by way of pruning, in this case), it compartmentalizes the decay (CODIT!) so that it doesn't spread and kill the tree. Mr. Carlson displayed a simple 'stick figure' tree with another tree growing over the top of it to illustrate the two aforementioned growth mechanisms and said, "Isn't it cool that it's kind of like a new tree just growing over the top of the old one every year, containing that year's wounds within?"

It really got me thinking, and I'll admit my mind started to wander amid his presentation. There is a great lesson to be learned here. We talk a lot about personal growth here at Arbor Aesthetics, being that our company's purpose is "Meaningful growth for people and trees."

Do humans heal, or do we seal? Certainly, our bodies do miraculous things to heal from physical injury so we can keep on keeping on. But when it comes to emotional injury and trauma - which are inevitabilities of the human condition - how do we move on with our lives? Do we compartmentalize? Do we let the pain of our misfortune spread like decay and consume us? Do we block it out and try our best to forget? Of course not, and we've all tried any number of these things, only for our anguish to come out sideways down the road when we least intend or expect it to. (Therapy is for everyone, folks!)

In order to heal (...or seal!), we must feel, process, and EMBRACE our experiences as a part of our journey. Then - we grow, with marks forever on our souls and new lessons to carry us forward as higher versions of ourselves.

CODIT Photo source: *Trees, Associates and Shigo* by Alex L. Shigo, Ph.D.



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MW-ISA HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Phil Pierce was presented with the Honorary Lifetime Membership Award at the MWISA Conference last month.

The Honorary Life Membership is bestowed upon members of the Midwest Chapter of ISA who have contributed materially and substantially to the progress of arboriculture in the chapter and have given unselfishly in their efforts to support the advancement of arboriculture. This is no easy task. It takes years of dedication and commitment, a humble approach to serving a community of arboriculture.

Phil Pierce is a graduate of the University of Virginia Forestry Management program. He began working for the City of Omaha Forestry Department in 1971 and became City Forester in 1990 until his retirement in 2000.



In 1977, Phil, along with 28 other Charter Members, formed the Nebraska Arborist Association, of which he served as President in 1984. Throughout his career, Phil has been recognized as Arborist of the Year (2010), received the Branching Out Award for outstanding contributions to restoring Omaha's trees, created Omaha's licensing exam, and hosted and led numerous educational events. He has also been an active Midwest ISA chapter member, ISA Certified Arborist since 1990, Chapter president in 2002, test proctor, and repeat conference presenter.

Since retiring from the City of Omaha, "Forester Phil" continues to be an active practitioner of arboriculture as an educator, researcher, and consultant. His research interests include the biomechanics of fluids in trees, monitoring for tree pests and diseases, and the annual change in phenological milestones in trees.

NEW MEMBERS

Lord Ameyaw	Chloe Glass	Douglas Rangel
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Leah Beda	Jonathan Hood	George Shiroma
Ty Betzer	Tyler Jamison	Edward Smith
Nathan Edmonds	Breckin Johnson	Kim Todd
Benjamin Eisenberg	Sienna Kunze	Kevin Voogd
Joshua Etherington	David Maslowsky	Tom Wiens
Cullen Fisch	Bryan Murrell	Morgan Wilson
William Gades	Cade Nelson	John Wolken
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MANAGING CANKERS IN LANDSCAPE PLANTS

By Sarah Browning, UNL Extension Educator

Dead branches in trees can have many causes, but canker infections are one of the most damaging and difficult to manage. A canker is a dead section of a tree or shrub's bark caused by a fungal or bacterial pathogen, and can occur anywhere on the twigs, stems, branches or trunk.

Canker pathogens are often considered “weak” pathogens, because they don't infect healthy vigorous trees or penetrate into healthy bark. However, they can enter through wounds – such as pruning, insect or hail damage - killing the bark, cambium and water-conducting tissues around the infected area. Stressed or low vigor trees are particularly susceptible to canker infections, often lacking the vigor to compartmentalize infections and limit their spread.

CANKER SYMPTOMS

Death of the bark and water-conducting tissues limits the plant's ability to transport water into growth beyond the canker. In deciduous trees and shrubs, early symptoms of a canker infection can be seen as leaves wilt from a lack of water. As the canker expands, eventually girdling the branch, all growth beyond the infection dies.



Botryosphaeria canker causing severe gumming on the trunk of this peach tree. H.J. Larsen, Bugwood.org



A typical Nectria canker on an apple branch. Bruce Watt, University of Maine, Bugwood.org.

Closely inspect the stem or branch, especially in thin-barked plants, looking for a dark or discolored area of bark. Discolored bark may be darker than normal - black or dark brown, reddish-brown, orange-brown - or lighter than normal - light tan to white. The canker, or dead section of bark, is often slightly sunken below the level of healthy bark.

On older trees with thick bark, cankers can be harder to find, but sometimes cracks develop around the dead section. Look for cracked and discolored sections of bark at the base of any dead branches.

In evergreens, a common symptom of a canker infection is sap leaking from the infected area. As the sap dries, it turns white. Look for streaks of dried white sap on the tree's trunk, and try to pinpoint where they are coming from to find the canker.

Eventually, in both deciduous and evergreen plants, canker infection results in dead and dying branches. If the infection is on the main trunk, the entire plant may die.

COMMON CANKER DISEASES FOUND IN NEBRASKA

Canker-causing fungi and bacteria are host specific, meaning each type of pathogen attacks a certain host plant, or group of plants. But unfortunately, almost every plant is subject to some type of canker-causing pathogen. Below are some of the canker diseases commonly affecting trees in Nebraska.

DECIDUOUS TREES

- *Botryosphaeria canker* – commonly found on dogwood. Has a very large host range, with over 100 different genera of woody trees and shrubs, susceptible to infections which can occur through wounds, lenticels, and cracks in the bark.
- *Cytospora canker* - apple, ash, aspen, birch, cottonwood, elm, maple, peach and willow. Infects only through wounds or other openings in the bark.
- *Fireblight* – Caused by the bacteria *Erwinia amylovora*. Hosts include plants in the rose family, including apple, blackberry, cotoneaster, crabapple, hawthorn, mountain ash, pyracantha, quince, raspberry and spirea.
- *Nectria canker* – crabapple, pear, quaking aspen, black walnut, American elm, red maple, sugar maple, linden, and red oak. Pruning wounds are common points of entry.
- *Thyronectria canker* – most common on honeylocust, but may also infect American elm, white ash, mockernut hickory, willow and bur oak. Common infection sites include pruning wounds and sunburned bark.
- *Hypoxyylon canker* – species of red and white oak, maple, beech, basswood and sycamore. Infected bark sloughs away revealing fungal stoma beneath.



Bark cracks often appear on the edges of the dead tissue killed by canker infection. USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org.

EVERGREEN TREES

- *Cytospora canker* – Colorado, Norway, and white spruce. Branches and tops of trees may be killed.

MINIMIZING CANKER PROBLEMS IN YOUR LANDSCAPE

As mentioned earlier, although canker pathogens are commonly present in the environment at all times they are not able to attack healthy plants. However, weak or stressed trees are susceptible to canker infection. So, what causes stress in landscape trees and shrubs? Drought, overwatering, poor planting sites, physical damage, insect damage, stem girdling roots, planting depth problems, improper pruning, frost, sunscald, fire or herbicides. Usually the canker pathogen enters a plant through a wound or branch stub.

The best way to prevent cankers on landscape plants is by keeping them healthy and vigorous through best management practices.

1. Choose plants well-adapted to the growing site and using disease resistant cultivars when they are available.
2. Make sure new trees are planted at the right depth and remove stem girdling roots before planting.
3. Keep trees watered during periods of drought. Moisten soil 18-24 inches deep, focusing on the area from the trunk to the tree's dripline. Trees should receive 1 inch of moisture per week throughout the growing season from rain or irrigation.
4. Keep plants mulched to conserve soil moisture and moderate soil temperatures. Mulch also keeps mowers and string trimmers away from tree bark, preventing mechanical damage.
5. Use good pruning practices to avoid unnecessary bark damage. Don't leave branch stubs and don't remove more than 20% of a tree's canopy at one time.
6. Protect the trunks of young, thin-barked trees from winter sunscald by shading or wrapping.
7. Fungicides are not normally effective in preventing infection or minimizing canker enlargement, with the exception of some products available to minimize fireblight infections.



Cytospora canker can attack the main trunk, killing the top of a tree, or infect the smaller side branches. Sarah Browning, Nebraska Extension. H.J. Larsen, Bugwood.org

Prune out branches killed by cankers. Tops of evergreen trees killed by Cytospora canker can also be pruned out, although the pyramidal shape of the tree will be lost. Make pruning cuts several inches below the dead section. Clean pruning tools between cuts to prevent spreading the infection further. Clean tools by wiping them with 70% denatured alcohol or a 10% bleach solution.

For more information, including detailed management for many types of cankers, refer to Diseases of Trees in the Great Plains, https://www.fs.usda.gov/nac/assets/documents/research/publications/rmrs_gtr335.pdf, from the US Forest Service.

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2024 WINTER DECIDUOUS TREE ID

By Alyssa Brodersen, NAA Executive Director

On February 23, 2024, the Nebraska Arborists Association (NAA) hosted a Winter Deciduous Tree ID class at the Dinsdale Family Learning Commons on the University of Nebraska - Lincoln East Campus. This marked the first time the NAA held an event at this location, and it proved to be an excellent choice.

The Dinsdale Family Learning Commons provided a comfortable and conducive environment for learning about tree identification. The spacious meeting area and modern facilities offered a welcoming setting for learning, and the arboretum offered many different trees for the class to identify. The class had a total of 44 students registered. Attendees included NE Forest Service staff and students, new arborists, and arborists who had attended the class in the past and were excited to see a new space and new trees.

In the morning, Jorge Cardenas, an NAA board member, welcomed the group and reviewed the schedule for the day. Ann Powers, a new NAA board member, also attended the morning section of the class and assisted Justin with information about the Arboretum and where to find certain trees on campus.

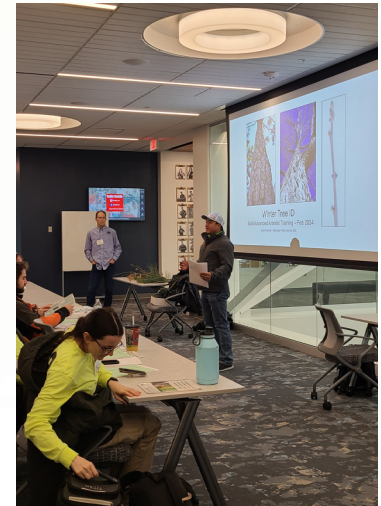
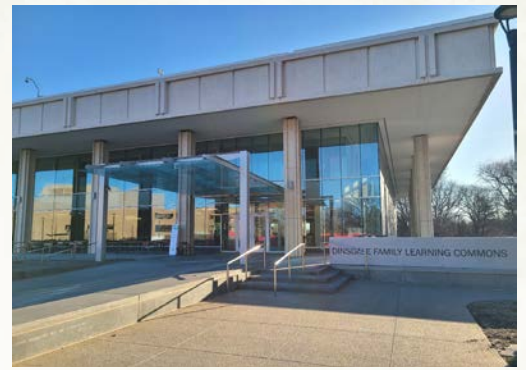
The highlight of the event came in the afternoon when students had the opportunity to take a guided walk through the Earl G. Maxwell Arboretum with Justin Evertson, the Tree ID instructor. Justin led the group through the arboretum, where they had the chance to apply their newfound knowledge and identify various deciduous trees in their winter state.

The hands-on experience of identifying trees in the arboretum was invaluable. Students were able to see firsthand the distinctive features of each tree species, such as bark texture, branching patterns, and overall tree shape. Justin provided insightful explanations and tips for identifying trees, enhancing the learning experience.

At the end of the day, the group headed back to the classroom to take a quiz with photos of trees to continue to reinforce what they had learned throughout the day.

Overall, the Winter Deciduous Tree ID class hosted by the Nebraska Arborists Association was a great success. The choice of the Dinsdale Family Learning Commons as the venue proved to be ideal, offering a comfortable and educational setting for attendees. The guided walk through the Earl G. Maxwell Arboretum provided a unique and enriching experience, allowing participants to

deepen their understanding and appreciation of tree identification. The association is excited to host the Tree ID section of Arborist School on campus as well.



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NAA ELECTION RESULTS



Samantha Rozic was elected President-Elect.



Thomas Anderson was elected Secretary.



Ann Powers was elected NAA Director.

NEWLY CERTIFIED ARBORISTS

- Carlos Aispuro-Rodriguez
- Diego Alban
- Joshua Etherington
- Levi Evans
- Michael Headlee
- Ben Heusinkvelt
- Jonathan Hood
- Dalton Johnson
- Sienna Kunze
- Jacob Maslonka
- Kirby Messier
- Jack Parr
- Rose Pelelo-Ray
- Ann Powers
- Ryan Steggall
- Alex Washa
- Jacob Williams

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 if you have not done so already. The licensed City of Omaha Arborist needs 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 ensure they receive your "Certification of Liability Insurance" renewal.



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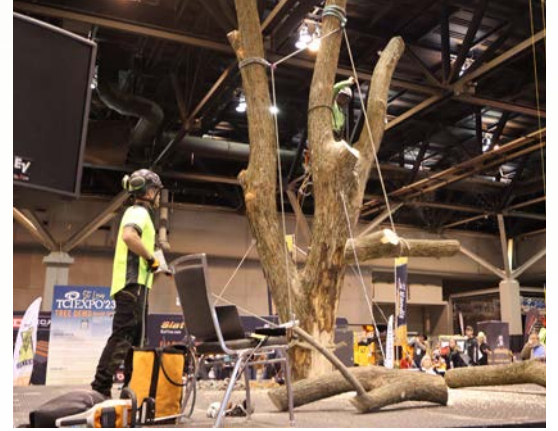
The Demo Dome

'23 TCIA EXPO- ST. LOUIS

By Dustin Nelson, NAA President

Attending a TCIA Expo is an incredibly mind-blowing experience for owners and employees alike. This year, in St. Louis, was no exception. This was my second time at the Expo. The last was Pittsburg in 2017. I liked some aspects of the Pittsburg Expo better, but St. Louis pulled all the stops when it came to exhibitions and equipment demos. In the large arena, they had live equipment demos where anyone could go and run large-scale equipment within the set areas at set time intervals. This area was referred to as "The Demo Dome" and was a TCIA first. It was hard to get pictures that could capture the sheer size of these areas. It was truly one of those things where "you had to be there."

This area was separate from the regular showroom floor. The show floor was nothing to be forgotten about either, with live demonstrations/Instructions using actual trees that were brought in and set up using cables and guying. A chainsaw vendor was doing live demonstrations inside a sealed area. And even though there was a large demo dome to showcase the latest and greatest, there was no shortage of shiny toys on the regular show floor.



Lawrence Schultz in tree demonstrating

To cover all of the expo ground was quite a feat. It was a rather large area with only one regular entrance/exit, and the classrooms were located outside the showroom and often upstairs. The classes and Instructors were top-notch. Some were so popular they had to refuse people at the door because they physically couldn't fit another person in the room. The main amphitheater room, known as the "Ferrara Theater," was rather interesting as it was a theater seating type room.



Chainsaw demonstration in the Stihl booth

I didn't get a chance to spend much time in this room, but I found it rather interesting. My only real complaint with the Expo, aside from some of the classes being too crowded (which is always hard to gauge when setting up these types of events), was that some of the classes and show floor demonstrations would overlap by about 10-15 minutes making it impossible to attend the entire lecture on both topics. Needless to say, I did my best to see it all, and I definitely got a good amount of exercise running back and forth to do so. I am not trying to sell anyone on the Expo, but I think every Arborist should see it at least once in their career. If you need a large amount of CEUs in a hurry, this is the place to do it. There was no shortage of CEU opportunities. Overall, it was a great trip and well worth the time off from the busy life of running a small business.



Andy Nelson of Lawngrivity testing out some new "toys"



Nicole Benjamin speaking



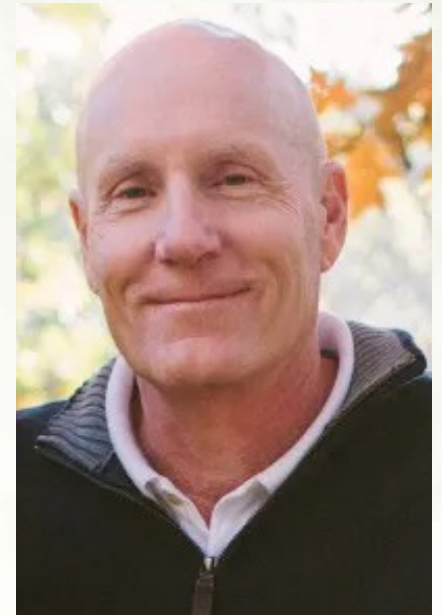
Open discussion- "Conversation with the Industry" in the Ferrara Theater

GREGG SCHMADEKE

August 22, 1953 – December 9, 2023

Gregg D. Schmadeke, age 70, passed away peacefully at his home on December 9th, 2023.

Gregg, also known to his favorite people as “Dad” and “Papa,” will be forever remembered for his work ethic, stewardship of the land, and loyalty to his Family. He was born on August 22, 1953, to Clarence and Eva Schmadeke. Gregg was raised in Weeping Water, NE, and participated in high school basketball, legion baseball, and 4-H. He went on to graduate from The University of Nebraska at Lincoln with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration. Gregg earned his Certified Public Accountant designation in 1977, passing all parts of the CPA exam on the first sitting. After five years as a public accountant with Haskins and Sells, Gregg purchased a Computerland franchise. He built a successful business with multiple stores over seven years before selling his ownership in the business to focus on his family and hobbies.



Gregg married his high school sweetheart, Deb Cooper, in 1980, whom he affectionately called “Coop.” Together, they built a home with their three daughters, recently celebrating 43 years of marriage.

Gregg’s accomplishments in business were impressive, but his true passions were his family and his hobbies. His hobbies ranged from making stained glass windows, building custom furniture, and baking a killer apple pie. Gregg had a love for sports, playing intramural basketball for years as well as playing in his golf league. He enjoyed skiing at Mary Jane Mountain in Winter Park, CO, and trips to Disney World with the kids, and planning adventures for him and Debbie to faraway places such as London, Scotland, New Zealand, and Australia.

Gregg’s greatest love, outside of his family, was his trees. He was a Certified Arborist in the Nebraska Arborist Association and a Master Gardner Emeritus with the UNL Douglas/Sarpy County Extension office. As a dedicated volunteer at the extension office for years,

Gregg would answer questions on plants and trees to callers and visitors. Over the past forty years, he is estimated to have planted over 300 trees between his acreage in Omaha and family land in Cass County. In 2021, Gregg’s longtime aspirations were fulfilled when his acreage, which he named Three Oaks Arboretum, was designated an affiliated site of the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum.

Left to celebrate Gregg’s memory is his loving wife, Deb Schmadeke; children, Megan Thom (Christian), Keri McLouth (Cale), and Laura Gordon (John); eight grandchildren, Spencer and Olivia Thom, Ella, Noah, and Lillian McLouth, and Cooper, Brock and Tucker Gordon; sisters, Marilyn Rembolt (James), Linda Stander (Leo), and Joyce Furry Sievers (LeRoy); many other extended relatives and friends. Gregg was preceded in death by his father, Clarence Schmadeke, and his mother, Eva Schmadeke.

KEEP THE LION’S TAIL OUT OF YOUR TREES

By: *Jim Keepers, Maturing Certified NE Arborist*

Asking you to keep the lion’s tail out of your trees might seem like the ranting of an Arborist who has spent too much time working in the thin air up in the trees. What I am talking about is the name given to an incorrect pruning method called “Lion’s Tailing Pruning,” also known as “gutting.” So, what is the definition of a lion’s tailing pruning? “It is a pruning method where all of the interior branches are removed, leaving only tufts of leaves and small branches at the ends of the tree’s large limbs.” When trees are pruned using this method, it increases the sunburning of the remaining leaves. Yes, tree leaves can have extreme sunburns, and there is no sunscreen you can spray on the leaves to protect them from burning. In addition, the tree can suffer from ‘malnutrition’. I know this also sounds strange, but by having the tree’s leaves reduced in this pruning method by the uneducated Arborist, the tree lacks the ability to produce food, and its growth is hindered. You can then say the tree has been starved. Lastly, this pruning method increases limb breakage. Too much leaf weight is put on the end of the tree branches; thus, it cannot withstand increased wind speed and snow load. This extra weight will cause branch failure.



The only solution is to make sure you hire a Nebraska Arborists Association (NAA) or International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Certified Arborist for your next tree pruning task to avoid the problem altogether. These individuals have the required City Arborist Licenses and are up to date in their Arborist pruning skills. **Remember: “An Arborist Takes Care of a Tree for Life.”**

CATALPA TREES ARE BEAUTIFUL, AND MESSY

By Mark Peyton | Nov 9, 2023

I've got a tree in my front yard that has prompted a number of people to ask me what kind it is. It is a northern catalpa. I had never seen a catalpa until we moved to Gothenburg, but there are a number of them here in town, and I've seen them along the river. The northern catalpa is a native species to Nebraska, mainly along the Missouri. Everyone knows that this area of Nebraska was pretty much treeless except for the willows and cottonwoods that grew along the river and the red cedar that grew in the canyons both north and south of town. Catalpas in this area were originally planted.



The catalpas were planted for a variety of reasons. The wood is excellent, and woodworkers utilize it in a number of ways. Telephone poles were made from catalpa, as were fence posts, and the railroad planted groves of them to use as ties under the rails and as a source of firewood. The seeds, leaves, roots, and bark were used in a number of ways as a form of medicine, and they make great shade trees. Catalpas grow quickly and they will grow up to 50' tall with the tallest catalpa in the country, found in Indiana, at a height of over 85 feet.

Other than its size, the catalpa has three distinctive features that set them apart. In the spring, the tree will sport hundreds of large, white, showy flowers. Inside the flowers are colorful yellow and purple markings called nectar guides. The guides tell bees where the nectar is located, and in getting to the nectar, the bees transmit pollen from one flower to the next. At night, the flowers give off a fragrance to attract moths, which, like the bees, transfer the pollen.

Once pollinated, the flower petals drop from the tree, and many people don't like that "messy" aspect of the tree. The pollinated flower then begins to grow long green pods filled with seeds. When mature, the pods turn dark, and it was this aspect of the tree that gave it the names "cigar tree" and "bean tree". The hundreds of pods will also eventually fall off the tree after opening and dispersing the seeds. This is another "messy" aspect of the tree.

The third distinctive characteristic of the tree is the leaves. They are huge! They are the largest leaves of any "native" tree in Nebraska. There are exotic trees that have larger leaves, for example, the Paulownia tree, which is imported from China. I don't know if there are any Paulownia trees in Gothenburg. Jeff Kennedy would know, but given they are an aggressive, invasive species, we may not want them here. The catalpas are also invasive, which is why I have three of them in my yard. Out front is the biggest one. It started as a seed blown in from what I suspect is the "mother" catalpa a block west of my house. I dug it up as a seedling and transplanted it to my front yard. The second tree, I also suspect, is from the same mother tree. It is growing along my vegetable garden. The third immigrant from the mother tree is growing along my shed. I'm planning on transplanting it, but I'm not sure.

Check out Mark's newest book, *The Naturalist's Almanac: A Naturalist's Journey Through the Year* from Page Publishing author Mark Peyton. This book is a compelling guide that takes readers through the course of a year as the author documents the changes in nature he observes as a naturalist, from animal migration patterns to weather events, in his home state of Nebraska.

NEW SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The NAA board would like to introduce a new scholarship for newly certified arborists. This scholarship will allow the individual selected to attend the 2024 TCIA conference and be reimbursed for up to \$1,000 in registration and travel expenses. One applicant will be selected from the submitted applications. The new scholarship can be found under the membership tab.

In addition to the new scholarship, NAA has a Continuing Education Scholarship Application available on our website for students and individuals new to the tree care industry or working to obtain their Certified Arborist accreditation. The scholarship can be found under the membership tab.

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THE MYTH OF SOIL AMENDMENTS PART II

“If you have a clay soil, add sand to improve its texture”

By Linda Chalker-Scott, Ph.D., Extension Horticulturist and Associate Professor, Puyallup Research and Extension Center, Washington State University

I was waffling on what myth to debunk this month when I received an August issue of *American Nurseryman*. One of the articles featured a high-end landscape renovation. The horticulturist on this job stated, “...the soil was bad, too. We had to completely renovate the soil types with compost and sand.”

As I've already dealt with the fallacy of incorporating organic amendments to permanent landscape installations (August 2000 B&B), I won't repeat it here. But the equally misguided practice of adding sand to improve a clay soil texture needs to be addressed.

SOIL TEXTURE

Soil texture is determined by particle size, which ranges from microscopic clay flakes to more rounded silt particles to sand grains. While undisturbed sandy soils are well aerated and well drained, they are nutrient poor since sand and silt cannot bind mineral nutrients. In contrast, clay soils do bind mineral nutrients but have poor drainage and aeration. Thus, a soil with both sandy and clay characteristics should be optimal for plant root health. So it's easy to see how the practice of adding sand to clay soils has evolved.

The problems occur when sand and clay are mixed in incorrect proportions. An ideal soil has 50% pore space (with the remainder consisting of minerals and organic matter). The pore spaces in a clay soil are all small, while those in a sandy soil are all large. When one mixes a sandy and a clay soil together, the large pore spaces of the sandy soil are filled with the smaller clay particles. This results in a heavier, denser soil with less total pore space than either the sandy or the clay soil alone. (A good analogy is the manufacture of concrete, which entails mixing sand with cement - a fine particle substance.

The results are obvious.) A soil must consist of nearly 50% sand by total volume before it takes on the characteristics of a sandy soil. For most sites, it would be prohibitively expensive to remove half the existing soil and add an equal volume of sand and then till it to the necessary 18-24”.

Mineral amendments of large particle size, such as perlite, may provide some benefit but can also be costly depending on the size of the site. (Reducing this task to amending only the planting hole is a recipe for plant failure and perhaps will be addressed in a separate column.)

SOIL STRUCTURE

Soil structure is the next level of organization for soil particles. Sandy and silty soils don't have much structure (and these soil qualities are primarily determined by particle size). Soils with more clay content, such as the various loams, aggregate into larger chunks called peds. Highly aggregated soils are optimal for root growth and aeration, but can be easily destroyed by any activity that results in soil compaction.

Soil structure can be improved through proper site preparation and management. One of the least invasive and most cost-effective ways to do this is by the use of organic mulches. This is especially effective for landscapes that receive high volume foot traffic. My landscape restoration classes now routinely have wood chips spread on site to allow soil recovery to begin as they prepare the site and install new plants. One particular site, a small lot near a bus stop, consisted of weeds, bare soil, and a few existing trees and shrubs. When we tried to take a soil core, the corer bent!

We had 8-10” of wood chips spread over the whole site as we began our work. A month later, we moved aside part of the mulch and dug out a shovelful of rich, loamy soil. Had I not seen it for myself, I'm not sure I would have believed these stunning results. The addition of the wood chips allowed the site to retain soil moisture and reduced the constant impact from foot traffic, thus enabling the soil to regain its structure.

BOTTOM LINE:

- Clay soils are not inherently bad, but can be problematic if they lack good structure.
- To significantly alter a clay soil, sand must be incorporated to about 50% of the total soil volume.
- Many problems associated with clay soils (poor aeration, drainage, etc.) can be alleviated through good management practices.

For more information, please visit Dr. Chalker-Scott's web page at <http://www.theinformedgardener.com>.



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