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# OUT ON A LIMB

SPRING 2021, VOLUME 41, ISSUE 1



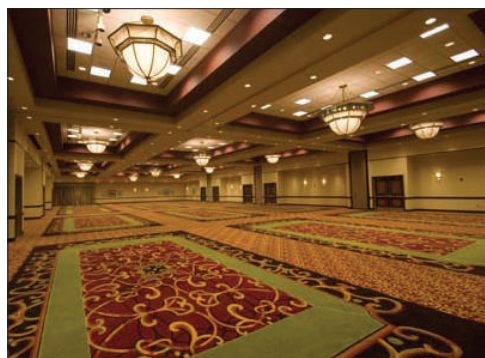
Do you know who is called "The Father of Tree Surgery?"  
Story on page 9.

## THE CONFERENCE THAT NEVER HAPPENED

By Jim Keepers, NE GREAT PLAINS Conference Coordinator

This is the first time in 18 years I have not written and put a photo montage in your association's March newsletter edition about the Nebraska Arborists Association (NAA) Winter Conference. I was very disappointed when our NAA board decided to cancel the 2021 NE GREAT PLAINS Conference because of COVID-19. Besides the conference being cancelled, the NAA was unable to give out any association awards or elect new board members.

I am happy to report all our present NAA board members have volunteered to stay on the NAA board for another year. You do know this is an unpaid position. Our board members usually spend hours taking care of your association business after a long day of working outside or on the weekend working on association issues. This, I must say, is dedication. The cancellation of the winter conference has also affected the NAA pocketbook. Luckily, your prior NAA board had the foresight to have reserve funds set aside that will help make up for the loss of conference revenue. The action of our prior NAA board members is in sharp contrast to other associations. The Western Nursery and Landscape Association Inc. (WNLA) Board of Directors with a vote of its membership decided to dissolve their association because they were unable to conduct their annual trade show due to the virus. Without the income from their 2021 Western, they couldn't sustain their association. This really shocked me because the WNLA has a membership of 1,890.



Empty exhibitor hall

So, enough of the bleak talk about the cancelled conference. Let's look on the bright side. Your conference committee now has more time to prepare for the 2022 event and your help to prepare is needed. So send me any speaker or topics suggestions for the conference. Let's get on the band wagon and start asking your vendors and other businesses you deal with to donate to the silent auction or be exhibitors at the conference. We need to strike now while the iron is hot and keep other conferences from signing up speakers, exhibitors, and obtaining sponsorships and silent auction donations.

Speaking of NAA funding, I am asking all NAA members to be sponsors of the 2022 conference. I know the virus hasn't hindered your work load. I know 2020 was a good year and it looks like 2021 will also follow suit. So how about being a sponsor of the conference? It doesn't matter how much or little you can give, any amount would be appreciated. Just think if every association member donated \$5.00 each for a sponsorship, we would have accumulated \$1,500.00. So every little bit helps. If you are a regular sponsor of the conference, you might consider giving a little more for the 2022 event.

Continued on page 3...

## A QUARTERLY UPDATE OF THE NEBRASKA ARBORISTS ASSOCIATION

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- President's Letter P.2
- Upcoming Events P.2
- Arborist Spotlight P.4
- Review of "A Special Or Unique Tree" P.6
- 2021 NAA Arborist School Announced P.6
- Watch Out The Cicadas Are Coming P.7
- Father Of Tree Surgery P.9
- Pine Wilt Update P.10
- Invasive Species Watch P.10
- A Special Or Unique Tree P.11
- Year In Review P.11
- Silent Auction Donations P. 12
- A300 Pruning Standards For Tree Care P. 12
- Memorial Day Remembrance P. 13
- "Decidious Tree Lift Game" P. 13
- Thanking Vietnam Veterans & Families P. 15
- Forest Health Bulletin P. 15
- Story Behind Tree Lift Game P. 17
- Is Your Company State Registered P. 17
- Update On Giant Murder Hornets P. 18
- Insurance Questions To Ask P. 18
- Nebraska's Arbor Day P. 19
- Positive Tree Stories P. 19
- NAA Historical Facts P. 20
- Newly Certified Arborists P. 20
- Pruning Decisions and Questions P. 20
- Rewrite Pesticide Regulations? P. 22
- New NAA Members P. 22
- Walnut Twig Beetle Discovered P. 22
- NAA Receives ASTI Grant P. 23
- NAA GREAT PLAINS Eastern Field Day P. 23

### SUBMIT ARTICLES:

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

Submission deadlines for the NAA 2021 quarterly newsletters:  
2nd Quarter - June 1, 2021  
3rd Quarter - September 1, 2021  
4th Quarter - November 1, 2021

Photo contributions throughout  
courtesy of Jim Keepers.

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

By: Jeff Grewe, NAA President



It's a new year with new challenges.

It goes without saying, the defining event of 2021, for our industry, has been the historically long and intense cold. It has certainly been the longest shut down we, at Arbor Aesthetics, have ever had. The next challenge is getting our fleet running again: dead batteries, gelled and iced fuel filters, job sites covered in snow... I could go on and on. But this is winter in Nebraska! We know this. We're conditioned for it. It's why we welcome spring with such fervor every year. And spring is nigh! It's hard to believe it's less than one month away.

Soon the birds will sing again, trees and flowers will blossom, and from the earth new life will spring. So too will our businesses: phones will ring, chippers will hum, tree men and women will return to their natural state, caring for, preserving, maintaining and removing the trees of our urban forest.

What a welcome return it is. It cannot come soon enough!

All the best,

Jeff Grewe, President  
Nebraska Arborist Association

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### NE GREAT PLAINS Eastern Field Day Events

Thursday, August 12, 2021-Chain Saw & Chipper Training (7.5 NAA CEUs)

Friday, August 13, 2021-Field Day Training (7.5 NAA CEUs)

*Carol Joy Holling, Ashland, NE*

### 2021 ARBORIST SCHOOL

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

Thursday & Friday, September 9-10, 2021

*VFW Hall & Wayne Park, Waverly, NE*

**Pruning, Climbing & Safety Seminar**

Thursday & Friday, October 14-15, 2021

*Carol Joy Holling, Ashland, NE*

**Plant Health & Tree Biology Seminar**

Thursday & Friday, November 18-19, 2021

*Carol Joy Holling, Ashland, NE*

# Save the Date!

**Nebraska GREAT PLAINS Conference**

Monday & Tuesday, January 17-18, 2022

*Embassy Suites, Lincoln, Nebraska*

Continued from page 1...

So, keep your eyes open every quarter and see how much money the NAA Conference Sponsorship Train has built up to fuel the train as it makes its way to Lincoln and the Embassy Suites.

Another advantage of the conference cancellation, you now have extra time to write up those NAA award and NAA board nominations. We will have some open positions on the board like NAA President-Elect. There are several great individuals in our association who should be considered for our board. The same goes for those individuals who should be considered for one of the NAA awards. I am still very grateful for the NAA presenting me two awards at the conference. I am at a loss for words to thank everyone and for having my wife present. I am a firm believer of recognizing individuals for their accomplishments while they are still with us and not waiting to say how great they were when they are gone and could not hear the praise. So, if you do have a person or persons you want to nominate for an award or to run for a position on the board and feel you are unable to write up a nomination, please contact me at [jlkeepers45@gmail.com](mailto:jlkeepers45@gmail.com) and I will help you out.

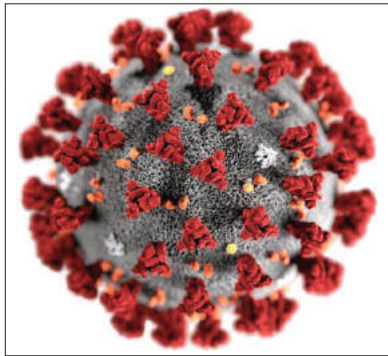


Empty workshop classroom

So, don't be down in the dumps because you were unable to spend two great days this past January meeting with your fellow arborists, learning some great information about our Arboriculture career field, and enjoying some great food and time off from the job. I guarantee our 2022 conference will make up for what you lost.

My goal is to keep you informed in our quarterly NAA newsletter on the progress your conference committee is making in the development and coordination of our conference. Just to get you a little excited, there will be a special evening event on the 17th. We will also have a special all day climber's workshop on the second day of the conference. We are also working with a rope company to have a special display in our exhibitor hall. Look for additional conference information in future NAA newsletters.

So please mark your calendar to attend the 2022 NE GREAT PLAINS Conference at the Embassy suites in Lincoln, Nebraska on the 17th & 18th of January 2022.



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# ARBORIST SPOTLIGHT

By: Jim Keepers, NAA Newsletter Coordinator

So as we venture into a new year, it is hard to imagine I have been writing this quarterly Arborist Spotlight since 2007. Time sure does fly by when you have the opportunity to write about the great women and men in our association. I am proud of the individuals who have passed through our association doors.

Well enough of taking up your valuable time. It is time to get to the point of this article and start talking about the individual I am spotlighting this quarter. The individual being featured is Luis Segoviano, a great climber, knowledgeable Arborist, and family man.

So, Luis let us see what information I have dug up about your personnel life and your support of our association. He was born in Mexico City, Mexico on March the 3rd 1990. So we are looking at a young climber only 31 years of age. His family moved to the United States when he was 5 years old and was raised in the great city of Omaha. He attended Bryan High School but like a number of youth, he was not able to graduate because he had to start working. He did receive his General Educational Development (GED) credential. I know I can hear you say 'What a Big Deal'. I spent four years in High School to receive my diploma and this individual gets a credential equal to my High School Diploma in just a few months. Well I want to set the record straight. He had to work during the day and then study at night when his mind and body was very tired. Then he had to take a battery of standardized examinations to achieve his GED. I am not sure several our membership could pass all these exams. This is a great accomplishment because there are no requirements in our 'Certified Arborist Career Field' to have a High School certificate or an equivalent credential. I have a lot of respect for Luis for his educational accomplishments.

You think his educational accomplishments are great, let us look at his work experience. In the summer of 2012, at the age of 22, he started tree work and after 2 months he started to climb trees. Luis credits his climbing skills to his mentor, Certified Nebraska Arborist Mike Ayres, owner and operator of A & C Tree Service. To this day, Mike Ayres is someone he looks up to. Luis told me the following: "I wouldn't be where I am now if it wasn't for Mike Ayres". I must agree with him and I have seen Ayres in action teaching at our NAA 'Pruning and Climbing Seminar'. I can see how he learned so fast because of the teaching skills of Ayres. The NAA is lucky to have this individual as a member of our association.

Speaking about Ayres, he is one of our Arborist School 'Pruning and Climbing' instructors. I was able to contact him to get some comments about Luis Segoviano. Ayres returned my phone call and the first thing I asked him if he was busy working outside in our Nebraska trees. His answer was he was down in Florida taking it easy. Such a rough life. He had the following comments to say about Luis Segoviano. Segoviano was one of his best students and he had turned into a great contract climber. I then asked Mike to tell me one of Segoviano's greatest attributes and he responded immediately with it is his devotion to family. That devotion carries over to Segoviano's free time in that he enjoys very much taking his family fishing. He has included his love of family life into the Midwest Climbers group he helped establish. The Midwest Climbers is a family of climbers sharing their climbing talents and enjoying their families at the same time.



Segoviano photo



Segoviano working in a tree



Segoviano family

Let us continue Luis Segoviano's Arborist story. He has worked full time for a number of years for A & C Tree Services and also started contract climbing helping our Torpy Tree Care, Out on a Limb, Tree Worx in Nebraska City and other Arborist companies in Omaha. He did work for Arbor Aesthetics for 9 months. He told me he did enjoy being around the people he worked with full-time but he decided that type of job was not for him and he has since returned to full-time private climbing work. While at Arbor Aesthetics, Segoviano worked in the trees with his brother-in-law Luis Villegas. This must have been an interesting working experience, and both told me 'Yes it was!' They are dear brother-in-law's and they both have great respect for each other's clambering capabilities. I would have enjoyed watching both of them working in the trees together because I have seen Luis Villegas in action and I must say they must have been a great duo in action!

Segoviano's future goal in life is to have his own arborist company and believe me I know he will achieve his goal. He does realize the time and effort it takes to start and run a business. He did tell me, "I want now to spend as much time as I can with my kids. Maybe in a couple of years I will start one but for now I want to enjoy the time I can with them why they are little."

I must not forget to let you know Segoviano achieved his Nebraska Arborist Certification in 2019. So again while working and raising a family he achieved his NAA Arborist Certification. Luis Segoviano and Luis Villegas-Hernandez both fall into a unique group of Latino Tree Climbing NE Certified Arborists. They both achieved their Arborist Certification in 2019.

There are three children in the Segoviano family. One young lady and two growing boys. Marilyn is the oldest at 10 plus years old and ready to become a teenager. Her two brothers are Keanu who is 2 1/2 years old and the youngest Romeo at 1 1/2 years old. I wonder if any of the three children will take after their father and become a climber. They keep both him and his fiancé Jessica Chaves very busy. Segoviano has been together with Chaves for a few years and have been engaged for some time. People have told me they act like a married couple because they do everything together with the family.



*Midwest Tree Climbers*

Luis Segoviano has competed in several climbing competitions. In 2019, he competed in the Iowa chapter event and in both ISA Midwestern Chapter sponsored climbing events held here in Omaha. If you have never attended a climbing competition it is worth your time. I was impressed with the event held here in Omaha. You will go away from the competition with a new respect for our climbers. He also assisted in the aerial rescue demonstration conducted during the last NAA summer field day.

When Segoviano was growing up, he did not know that climbing trees was something you could do for a living. He told me, “He just fell into it and I then fell in love with it.” It is a kind of meditation for him. He enjoys the new challenges and the different obstacles he must face every day when climbing a different tree located in a different location. He considers it an ‘art’. He also enjoys meeting different people and making clients happy when they see the work he has accomplished. He does what he says he is going to do for the tree and that doesn’t matter if it is just a little pruning or removing the entire trees. Segoviano’s goal is always to make the client happy in the end.

Segoviano is the founder of Midwest Tree Climbers Facebook Page created on April 14, 2019. Along with other climbers he has been putting together rec climbs for about a year now. He told me the following: “The rec climbs and the Facebook page were established so climbers from the Midwest could get to know each other, have a good time and learn from each other.” Climbing together allows fellow climbers to learn new climbing technique, tools, tricks, and establish a climbing networking system. The group wants to keep everyone working safely in the trees and establish a ‘Tree Climbing Community’. Due to the virus, they don’t have any rec climbs scheduled, but check the web page for their next scheduled event. I sure hope to attend and accomplish some great photography of tree climbers applying their trade in the trees.

When I did interview Segoviano, I asked him the following question. With the increasing number of Latinos working in the tree care industry, how do we go about getting them to become Certified Nebraska Arborist? He recommended getting the NAA exam translated into Spanish. ISA already has a Spanish Arborist Study Guide. He did tell me he didn’t have a hard time taking the NAA exam, but the reason might be because he came to the States at an early age and had mastered the English language. I feel another great accomplishment on his part. I don’t know if translating the NAA exam into Spanish would encourage more Latinos to take the exam, but it is something for our NAA board to look into.



*Segoviano instructing during ‘Pruning & Climbing Class’*

Segoviano did make what I feel are two outstanding NAA communication suggestions for reaching out to our Latino Arborists. There is a Latino newsletter titled “El Perico” and he recommended having the NAA advertise in it and write up articles about the association. His other recommendation was for the NAA to contact KBBX-FM Radio Lobo, 97.7, prod casting from Nebraska City, Nebraska and have radio information spots produced and aired about the NAA on the station. Luis’ fiancé’s godfather is a radio announcer on the station. So this young Latino climber does have some great communication suggestions I feel the NAA should look into to expand our Certified Latino Arborist base.

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I am jealous of his young man because I know he has a number of great years ahead of him working in our Nebraska trees. I know he will do an outstanding job pleasing a diverse customer base. We need more individuals like Luis Segoviano as Certified Nebraska Arborists. He could become the Latino voice of the NAA.

To sum up my “Arborist Spotlight” article, I want to leave you with a quote I feel applies to Luis Segoviano. “Climbing is something I have a passion for and I feel ‘very’ lucky I found this trade.”

# A REVIEW OF “A SPECIAL OR UNIQUE TREE” NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

By: *Jim Keepers, NAA Newsletter Coordinator*

Back in December of 2016, as I started to write and compile the articles for the last issue of our quarterly newsletter for the year, I was thinking of starting a new tree article. I told myself why go to the extra trouble because I never know if anyone was taking the time to read our newsletter. Did I really need the extra work? I decided what the heck and “A Special or Unique Tree” feature for our quarterly newsletter article was born.



## LISTING OF SPECIAL OR UNIQUE TREES

DATE & ISSUE	TREE NAME
Domingo Pine	2016/4
Northern Catalpa	2017/1
Lace Bark Pine	2017/2
Seven Son	2017/3
Concolor Fir	2017/4
Bald Cypress	2018/1
Pinyon Pine	2018/2
American Sycamore	2018/3
American Sweetgum	2018/4
Canadian Hemlock	2019/1
No Tree Listed	2019/2
Black Cherry	2019/3
Paper Bark Maple	2019/4
Tatarion Maple	2020/1
Hackberry	2020/2
Paulownia	2020/3
Osage Orange	2020/4
Lacebark/Chinese Elm	2021/1

This March 2021 issue marks the 17th newsletter article featuring a different tree I feel is special or unique to the state of Nebraska. I grant you not all the trees featured will grow within our entire state, but it is worth giving some of them a try. You just might be surprised at the results.

Even if you are on a tree removal crew and not sure if you want to move up the ladder and become a NAA Arborist Certified, you are one of the crew members who are in contact with the customer. You never know when the customer might ask you the following question. “What tree should I plant to replace the one you are taking down?” So I feel it is worthwhile to take a little time learning about some of the trees suitable for our diverse Nebraska environment.

The following is a listing of the trees featured in the NAA quarterly newsletter listed by date and issue. I feel this is a great listing of trees and ones that should be planted more in our landscapes.

This quarter’s “A Special or Unique Tree” is one of my favorite trees. I consider it a medium size tree with great structure and characterizes. Please take the time to read about this tree since it is not being planted a lot in our landscapes.

I have 15 of these trees planted on my acreage and hope to plant the two remaining ones this spring. If you are interested in any one of these trees, you are invited to stop by any time to take a look. Just give me a call at 402-618-8837.

I hope 2021 turns out to be a great year for you and remember the NAA Arborist Motto, “An Arborist takes care of a tree for life”.

## 2021 NAA ARBORIST SCHOOL DATES ANNOUNCED

By: *Kathi Schildt, NAA Executive Director*

The Nebraska Arborist Association offers one of the best courses in introductory arboriculture in the Midwest. Are you interested in being an NAA Certified Arborists? If the answer is yes, here is a great opportunity to get the needed training this fall. The Arborist school is conducted in three separate classes which are in a two-day format making it less disruptive to work schedules. If you are a company or municipality looking to train new arborists within your crew, an individual interested in a career in arboriculture, or just want to freshen your knowledge of tree care, the NAA Arborist School is the perfect fit. *See Page 2 of this newsletter for the specific dates and reference the enclosed brochure to register.*

The Arborist school includes study materials, and each class is designed to prepare the attendees to pass the NAA Arborist Exam, which is given at the culmination of all three classes in November. While it is not required for an individual to attend all three classes consecutively, attending all 3 classes, as well as passing the final arborist exam, are prerequisites for certification. The NAA offers scholarships for all three classes. The scholarship application form and instructions for completing the required paperwork can be found on the NAA website – [www.nearborists.org](http://www.nearborists.org).

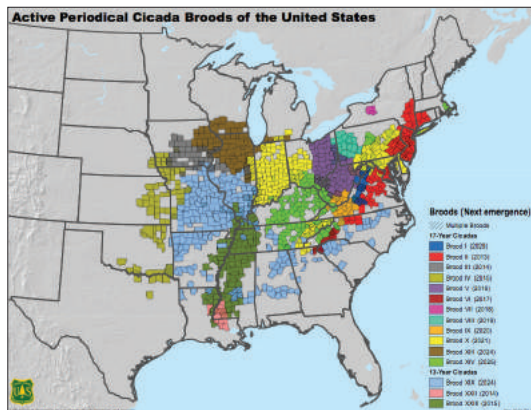
# WATCH OUT THE CICADAS ARE COMING

By: David Olson, Forest Health Specialist, NFS

As we continue to inch closer to the warmer months, many insects will begin to make themselves known through a variety of sounds. One of the most notable of these is the cicada, who most people know by its sometimes irritating buzz and 17 year emergence cycle. The periodical cicadas, as they are known, are the most famous members of their family in the U.S. However, there are actually 25 species of cicada that have been found in Nebraska alone according to state entomological records.

Cicadas spend most of their lives underground as nymphs (17 years in some cases), feeding on the roots of plants such as trees. They possess “raptorial” front legs which aid in their ability to cling to roots, and have a “piercing-sucking” mouthpart (think giant straw) much like other members of their order. When the time comes, these nymphs emerge from the earth at night and crawl upwards on trees or any other large object. They then molt to emerge as winged adults, leaving behind a nymphal casing which is often mistaken for an insect itself. The adults exist primarily to mate and are not strong fliers. The female will eventually deposit eggs in a branch of a tree, creating damage similar to hail, and start the life cycle over again.

While parts of eastern Nebraska will see the mass emergences of periodical cicadas from time to time, it is unlikely that it will be this year. The 17-year cicada exists in the Omaha area but last hatched in 2015 so it will be awhile before it is widely noticed again. Individuals of this species, however, will emerge every year, just in smaller numbers. Most people will also likely notice the “dog day” cicadas of the genus *Neotibicen* named for their large size and appearance with the hottest parts of the summer.



Map showing the active broods of periodical cicadas within the United States. The yellow color is set to emerge this year. Note that lack of a brood in an area does not mean the species is not present there.



Cicada damage from egg laying on a Tulip Poplar Photo Credit: Tim Tigner, Virginia Department of Forestry, Bugwood.org



A species of periodical Cicada. Note the red eyes and dark body compared with most usually seen in the late summer Photo Credit: Jon Yuschock, Bugwood.org

It is important to note that aside from the noise, cicadas pose no real threats to humans and are quite harmless. While nymphs do feed on tree roots and females will damage some twigs, they also have little impact on trees. There are no recommended controls for them and they are generally seen as beneficial since they provide a food source for many predatory animals. If you are looking to see large numbers of cicadas this year, consider traveling, as the periodical brood 10 is set to emerge in Eastern Tennessee, Western Ohio, Indiana, and Southern Pennsylvania in the late spring/early summer.

## CONFERENCE SPONSORSHIP TRAIN

The Conference sponsorship train is collecting funding so it can roll out of the station Omaha and make the trip to Lincoln’s Embassy Suites for the 2022 NEBRASKA GREAT PLAINS CONFERENCE starting on the 17th of January 2022. The goal for this train trip is \$5,000.00.

### LISTING OF PRESENT CONFERENCE SPONSORS:

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# “FATHER OF TREE SURGERY”

By: Jim Keepers, NAA Newsletter Coordinator

John Davey, the founder of Davey Tree Care, has been given the title of “Father of Tree Surgery”. Most Arborist historians agree John Davey’s scientific tree work as the beginning of modern Arboriculture. His book titled “The Tree Doctor”, published in 1902, opened the door to many of our present tree care practices. So, let us take a glimpse into John Davey’s life. From early childhood to his death, he lived by the motto “Do It Right or Not At All”.

He was born in Somersetshire, England, in 1846. During his youth he spent many hours studying two subjects: Agriculture and Christianity. He immigrated to America in 1873 and continued his studies of plants and theology. He opened the door to the scientific study of tree care when he founded The Davey Tree Expert Company in 1880. “John believed the health of a tree, like that of a human being, could be maintained through scientific means.”

His famous Arboriculture book “The Tree Doctor” is still being referred to today. This book is created with educating the general public on the scientific methods of caring and saving of trees. This one book established John Davey as “The Father of Tree Surgery.”

The Davey Tree Company grew along the East Coast of the United States. The company’s original clients were George Eastman, Kodak founder, the Rockefellers, the Colgate’s, and many other famous East Coast families.

The demand for Davey’s company’s tree work grew because of the leadership displayed by John Davey. In 1909, the company created the Davey Institute of Tree Surgery. Numerous Arborists have been trained in the Davey scientific method of tree care though this institute.

John Davey served as president of his beloved company for many years until his death in 1923 at the age of 77.

Just think of what our Arborist career field would have lost without the efforts of John Davey. Yes, he is the “Father of Tree Surgery”.



## SCHOLARSHIPS FOR THE NAA’S 2021 ARBORIST SCHOOL

Now is the time to either submit your application or submit one of your team members for a scholarship to the NAA’s 2021 Arborist School. Arborist School will be held at the VFW Hall & Wayne Park in Waverly, Nebraska and Carol Joy Holling in Ashland, Nebraska. Scholarship funds are limited so scholarship applications must arrive at the NAA office in Milford, Nebraska by the 1st of July. Scholarship applications can be obtained by contacting the NAA office by phone (402)761-2219 or email [staff@nearborists.org](mailto:staff@nearborists.org). Funding is limited due to the cancellation of the 2020 NE GREAT PLAINS Conference because of COVID-19. So now is the time to submit your application.



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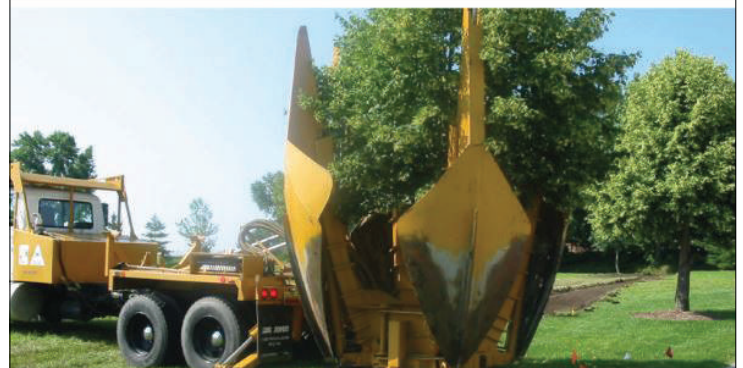
Help locate spadeable trees to purchase



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cell: (402) 610-3937

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# PINE WILT UPDATE

By: *Jim Keepers, NAA Newsletter Coordinator*

The other day I had the opportunity to read Dr. John Ball's "Forest Health Pest Update" dated February 3, 2021 and I discovered some very interesting information about Pine Wilt that I wanted to pass along to you my fellow Arborists.

We all know that Scotch pines and Austrian pines continued to die in large numbers in only a few months this past fall because of the pine wood nematode (*Bursaphelenchus xylophilus*) causing the pine wilt disease. Did you know these nematodes also carry bacteria and even a mite adding in the killing of these trees? So these trees were fighting a losing battle.

We know the carrier of this nematode is the sawyer longhorned beetle but did you know the beetles also carry the flue-stain fungus. This fungus causes blue streaks to form in the tree's sapwood and the nematodes love to feed on this fungus because it increases the nematodes development and reproduction.

We discovered the nematodes are native to the United States in our southern states and they have been slowly moving north since the 1970s. We also know that firewood was a major carrier of the nematodes but in Europe and Asia millions of their pines were killed by wood chip carriers. Nematodes are found in the United States so most of the native trees are not affect by them; however, the Austrian and Scotch pines have been susceptible due to over planting in our landscapes.

So, if the nematodes are native to our country, what has caused the pine wilt disease to become a spreading killer of our Austrian, Scotch, and some other evergreen trees? The answer is the increase of the nematodes and its carrier, the sawyer beetle. The sawyer beetle has been increasing due to wet springs and the long dry summers that are stressing our pines so they are unable to produce their chief defense resin. When sawyer beetles increase, they are able to carry more nematodes from their hosts dead pine trees to live pines.

Temperature during the summer also plays a major role in the increase of the nematodes. The ideal temperature range for nematode development is 68 to 77 degrees F. When the July temperature is lower than 68 degrees F the nematodes don't normally increase and the disease also doesn't increase.

As our summers warm, pine wilt disease will increase resulting in trees dying in a short period of time from four to six weeks. The disease is moving north fast out of Nebraska into South Dakota as their summer temperatures increase from 75 to 77 degrees F.

The future of Asian and European pines in Nebraska is bleak. Uninfected trees can be protected though injection but the chemical is very expensive and only lasts a total of three years. The recommendation is to treat only a high valued tree. You cannot treat an entire windbreak because of the cost. To help stop the spread of pine wilt, dead and dying Austrian, Scotch, and other infected evergreen trees must be cut down by the 1st of May. Then they will need to be burned, buried, or chipped to a specific size to kill the nematodes.

Yes, we can slow the spread of pine wilt, but in the next ten years we will see less and less of groves of Austrian and Scotch pines. So now is the time to develop long range tree planting plans and start planting more diverse pallets of trees.



**Scotch pine tree cookie showing Blue Stain fungus**



**Dead Scotch pine tree needs to be removed by 1st May.**



**Grove of Scotch pine trees showing dying Scotch pine trees.**

## INVASIVE SPECIES WATCH

### EAB QUARANTINE ENDS ON JANUARY 14, 2021

By: *Laurie Stepanek, Forest Health Specialist, Nebraska Forest Service*

There is no longer an emerald ash borer quarantine (neither state nor federal). The federal quarantine officially ends January 14, 2021.

We will still encourage folks not to move firewood and to continue to report possible EAB infestations in new locations.

For More Information, see: APHIS, (2020), December 14). APHIS Changes Approach to Flight Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). United States Department of Agriculture.

<https://contrent.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDAAPHIS/Bulletins/2b101f9>

# A SPECIAL OR UNIQUE TREE

By: *Jim Keepers, NAA Newsletter Coordinator*

I wanted to start off the 'Special or Unique' 2021 tree with a bang so I selected a medium size tree I feel should be planted a lot more in our landscapes. The tree being featured is the Lacebark or Chinese elm, *Ulmus parvifolia*.



**Leaves with seeds**

The tree is native to China, Korea, and Japan and was imported to the United States in 1794. I know it is not a Nebraska native tree and that will turn off a number of Nebraskans. I do recommend the tree for our environment because it is very adaptable to our soil type, pH issues, and climate changes. It will grow in zones 5 to 9.

The tree will reach a height of 40 to 50 ft. and has a spreading oval canopy of 35 to 45 ft. when mature. It is a medium to fast growing tree and averages 13 to 24 inches of growth per year. The leaves are small elm shaped about the size of a dime. The leaves are dark green in the summer and will turn a yellow to purple color in the fall. I have only seen my Lacebark elm leaves turn a dark red only once in the past 14 years. Since the leaves are so small and they usually fall off around the same time, there is not a major leaf removal problem. They are easily cut up by the lawnmower or the wind will help carry them away to your neighbor's lawn. The seed produced by this tree is not a major reseeding problem. They are oval in shape and are dispersed by the wind. I have never had a problem with seeds germinating in my tree beds.



**Tree trunk bark**



**Tree's canopy**

The Lacebark elm adds a lot of visual interest and beauty to the landscaping in both summer and winter. The tree's most striking feature is its exfoliating bark. The mottled bark of this tree is much different than the normal ridged elm tree. Another major feature of this tree is its resistant to Dutch elm disease and elm leaf beetle. The tree also makes a great street tree when you have enough planting area in the median (hell strip).

I highly recommend this tree for the average residential lot. They look great in a grouping.



**Leaves turning fall color**

# YEAR IN REVIEW

By: *Jim Keepers, NAA Newsletter Coordinator*

## SIGNIFICANT FEATURES IN THE NAA 2020 NEWSLETTERS

### ISSUE 1, SPRING 2020

- Do You Remember When? - P. 1
- President's Letter - P. 2
- Thanks Kevin - P. 3
- Arborist Spotlight - P. 4
- Year in Review - P. 7
- A Special or Unique Tree - P. 7
- Thank your NAA Members & Board - P. 8
- 2020 Silent Auction - P. 9
- 2020-The Start of A New Decade - P. 9
- New Members & Certified Arborists - P. 10
- Great Plains Photo Recap - P. 10
- Bagworm Update - P. 13
- Culture Corner - P. 14
- Gretna Tree Talk - P. 15
- Help Support Arbor Day - P. 15
- So What is Hartwood? - P. 15
- You Don't Need to Climb Trees - P. 16
- Bosnian Pine Scale - P. 16
- Lawngevity Lawn & Tree Service - P. 17
- Ideal Pruning Times - P. 17
- Plant Ice/Snow Resistant Trees - P. 18

### ISSUE 2, SUMMER 2020

- A Great Trip to Hong Kong - P. 1
- President's Letter - P. 2
- Arborist Spotlight - P. 4
- Interim NSA Executive Director - P. 5
- A look Back in NAA History - P. 7
- Departure of NAA Charter Member - P. 8
- Canadian Company's Support of NAA - P. 9
- Wood Mulch and Arboriculture - P. 10
- Certificate of Liability Insurance - P. 11
- A Special of Unique Tree - P. 12
- Understanding Growing & Planting Systems - P. 14
- ID That Tree - P.18
- Millard South Career Day - P. 18
- Murder Hornets - P. 19
- Heading vs. Thinning cuts - P. 20
- Congratulations, Christina! - P. 22

### ISSUE 3, FALL 2020

- Wednesday November 11 - P. 1
- President's Letter - P. 2
- Arborist Spotlight - P. 4
- Nebraska Tree City Awards - P. 8
- What is Erophytes Tilliae? - P. 9
- The Great Plains Tree System - P. 10
- The Deer are Cumming - P. 12
- EAB Resistant & Survivor Trees - P. 13
- Deaths by a Thousand Cuts - P. 13
- Hot Tree Problems for 2020 - P. 14

### ISSUE 4, WINTER 2020

- Another New Outbreak - P. 1
- President's Letter - P. 2
- 2019 Jim Kluck Award Honoree - P. 3
- Arborist Spotlight - P. 4
- Cavity Nesting Wildlife - P. 7
- 2022 Winter Conference Update - P. 7
- A Special or Unique Tree - P. 8
- Looking Back Into NAA History - P. 9
- Our Newsletter Creative Editor - P. 9
- On the Path to Eagle Scout - P. 12
- Chap Violations - P. 13
- New Association Team Member - P. 13
- Christmas Tree Trivia - P. 14
- NDA EAD Update - P. 14

# SILENT AUCTION DONATIONS

By: *Jim Keepers, 2022 Conference Committee Chair*

I know it is early to talk about donations for our silent auction to be held on the first day of the 2022 NEBRASKA GREAT PLAINS Conference but the early bird does get the worm.

At our 2020 conference, we were able to raise over \$5,000 for our educational fund which is the amount we could spend on scholarships for the fall 2020 NAA Arborist School. So, the NAA now has \$4,000 in the education fund allotted for scholarships for the 2021 Arborist School.

The money raised at the winter conference silent auction and raffle is used for our scholarship fund. With a larger silent auction and raffle, your association will be able to award more scholarships.

So, if you are buying a piece of equipment, getting an equipment item fixed, or buying company supplies please think about asking for a donation for the NAA Silent Auction. Your association has been fortunate over the years to be able to present scholarships to individuals who had a desire to become Certified NE Arborists but were unable to afford to attend the NAA's training class. Let's keep supporting this great NAA program.



**2020 NE GREAT PLAINS  
Conference Silent Auction  
display tables**

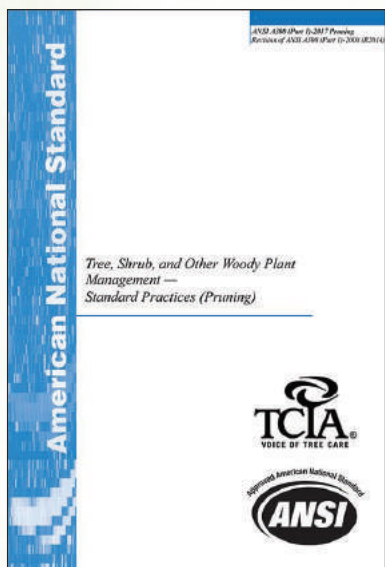
## A300 PRUNING STANDARDS FOR TREE CARE

By: *Jim Keepers, NAA Communications Chairperson*

The American National Standard (ANSI) Committee is now working on the revision of ANSI 300 (Part 1) "Pruning Standards". The most popular Arborist standard. I know I can hear my readers say "who cares what they are doing. I don't have the time to read about this committee and the revisions to the ANSI standards. I have trees needing pruning and removal." Well you are wrong, because what this committee puts down in writing referencing pruning standards has a direct effect on your operations in the field and possible OSHA violations.

The pruning practices written up by this committee sets the standards for the best practices in our tree care industry. So let's take a look at what is meant by best practices. "A procedure that has been shown by research and experience to produce optimal results and that is established or proposed as a standard suitable for widespread adoption." So it all boils down to ANSI 300 (Part 1) "Pruning Standards" establishes the ways you SHOULD and SHALL perform your pruning practices and there are no excuses from deviating from these standards.

Next year, the public will be asked to make comments regarding ANSI A300 (Part 1) proposed pruning standards. While this committee is doing its job, you have the opportunity to comment on any other ANSI standards you feel needs to be changed or updated.



**ANSI A300 (Part 1) - 2017 Pruning  
Standard Title Page**

## DMS IS LOOKING TO ADD A CERTIFIED ARBORIST TO OUR TEAM!

Qualifications to include:

- Arborist certification (ISA, NAA or equivalent)
- Ability to maintain the health of trees/shrubs with proper pruning
- Comprehensive knowledge of tree diseases and implementation of treatments
- Ability to remove entire trees and stump grind following removal
- Integrated Pest Management certification preferred or willing to obtain
- Certified Chemical Applicator license preferred or willing to obtain

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Applicant can send an email to [info@dmslandscaping.com](mailto:info@dmslandscaping.com) or call 402-289-3223 to request more information and job application forms



I suggest all Arborist companies have a requirement for new employees to acquire a basic knowledge of the ANSI A300 standards and seasoned employees should conduct a yearly review of these standards. Remember the SHOULD and SHALL are the keys words in all ANSI standards.

Your NAA board will keep you updated on all ANSI 300 revisions though emails and NAA newsletter articles. Let's stay safe out there among the trees because you or your crew members' lives depend on it.

# MEMORIAL DAY REMEMBRANCE

By: *By Jim Keepers, Navy/Air Force Military Veteran*

As a veteran with 30 years of service, I have a special place in my heart for our deceased Military Veterans who were also Nebraska Arborists. These individuals served our country with pride and we must remember their service to our country.

Memorial Day, a national holiday, is a special day established by Congress to honor deceased veterans. It was first called Decoration Day and then changed to Memorial Day. It is now celebrated in almost every state on the last Monday in May. Nebraska will celebrate this day of remembrance on the 31st of May 2021.



**Memorial Day grave site with flags**

I know it is a little early to make plans to celebrate this special day, but I wanted to take the time to at least honor those Nebraska Certified Arborist who served our country, but are no longer with us. It would be great if during your crew meeting on the morning of the 31st of May for you to take the time to read the names of the following deceased Nebraska Arborist Veterans

Neal Jennings – US Army

Orville Hatcher – US Navy

Wayne G. Willmeng – US Army

John Lueschen – US Army & Army Reserve

Ray Enfield – US Army

Terry Hughes – US Army Reserve

Larry Torpy, Sr. – US Army

Richard (Dick) O. Troy – US Marines

*If by some chance, I have not listed a deceased Certified Nebraska Arborist Veteran please send an email to me at [jlkeepers45@gmail.com](mailto:jlkeepers45@gmail.com).*

## “DECIDIOUS TREE LIFT GAME” NEW NE SPORT TO REPLACE NE FOOTBALL

By: *Jim Keepers, NAA Newsletter Coordinator*

### REQUIREMENTS:

- 2 Steam shovels
- 2 Experienced operators
- Mature deciduous trees with no leaves
- Large open field

### POINTS GIVEN FOR THE FOLLOWING:

- Height of steam shovel lift +10 points
- Time to do the lift +5 points
- Sound produced when tree trunk hits the ground +20 points
- Amount of dirt broken off tree base when tree hits the ground +15 points
- Time to pick up the tree trunk & move it to the pile +12 points

### PENALTY POINTS DEDUCTED FOR THE FOLLOWING:

- Steam shovel unable to pick up the tree trunk on first try –10 points
- Steam shovel loses tree trunk before it has stopped & then released –15 points
- Steam shovel drops tree trunk while moving it to the pile –12 points



The game is divided into four quarters with two halves. At half time the steam shovel is fueled, operator allowed bathroom break, and snack.

Cheerleaders perform in coveralls and have shovels. There is no band. Read how this new Nebraska “Deciduous Tree Lift Game” sport got started in the article titled “Story Behind Tree Lift Game” on *page 17*.

### If a tree could talk it would say:

“Look man, my needs are simple. Just give me a good organic soil to grow in, don’t make me compete with turfgrass all the time, give me a little water in a drought period and quit damaging my roots and trunk with your tools and I’ll grow fast and tall and give you the shade you always wanted.”



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# THANKING VIETNAM VETERANS AND FAMILIES

By: Jim Keepers, Navy/Air Force Veteran

I know everyone is familiar with Veterans Day celebrated on the 11th of November but do you know about Vietnam War Veterans Day celebrated on the 29th of March. I personally did not know about this national day of remembrance, did you?

They say the Korean War was the forgotten war, but I believe the Vietnam War is the war everyone wants to forget. After I came back from South East Asia, I never heard anyone say, "Thank You for Your Service". It was several years after I retired in 1995 before anyone started using that phrase to thank a Vietnam veteran for their service and I believe that was because of the "The War on Terror".

Things did start to change when Congress authorized the "Vietnam War Commemoration" back in 2012 under the Department of Defense auspices of the building of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, but it has been a slow process. In 2017, things started to change when President Donald Trump signed into law the Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act of 2017. This law established a national Vietnam War Veterans Day to be celebrated every March 29, in perpetuity. Presently, there are 6.5 million living veterans of the 9 million who served on active duty in the U.S. Armed forces from Nov. 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975.

So, I know you are now saying to yourself so what is the purpose of my article? My reasoning is twofold. First, we do have fellow Arborists in our association who are Vietnam veterans. Second, your relative or neighbor just might be a Vietnam veteran. I believe it is our responsibility to honor these veterans and their families for their service before we lose the opportunity. Veterans Affairs officials estimate, "We are losing more than 500 of these veterans every day".

A Certificate of Honor program has been established so a surviving Vietnam veteran and surviving Vietnam veteran spouse can receive a lapel pin to honor them or their loved ones for their service.

So, if you know of a Vietnam veteran or a surviving spouse of a Vietnam veteran please tell them about this honor program and have them to check out the Vietnam War Commemoration website to obtain a pin. I did request my pin and I would like others in the NAA who served during the designated period of service to receive the pin.

If your company wants to take that extra step, you can order one of the commemoration posters and display it at your business. Here are two examples of the posters you can order off the Vietnam War Commemoration website.



Uncle Sam Poster



Lapel Pin Poster

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Thanks for taking the time to read this article and let's make a special effort to help our Vietnam veterans not only with words but put in action.

## FOREST HEALTH BULLETIN

David Olson, Nebraska Forest Service is now offering a monthly advanced level forest health bulletin to all interested professional personnel. It will feature more in-depth discussions of topics related to Arboriculture and Forestry.

Anyone who is interested should email David at [davidolson@unl.edu](mailto:davidolson@unl.edu) with their name, agency/company, and email to get signed up.

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# STORY BEHIND TREE LIFT GAME

By: *Jim Keepers, Maturing Certified NE Arborist*

In my 26 years as a Certified NE Arborist, I had never seen mature deciduous trees being removed using a steam shovel. Then a total of seven mature deciduous were removed from the grounds at St. Augustine of Canterbury Episcopal Church in Skyline Ranches, Elkhorn, Nebraska.

The trees were removed to make way for a new church hall to be constructed on the site. The steam shovel dug around the trees and then just pulled them out of the ground. The bucket was then used to break up the tree. Then the tree trunk was broken apart by the ball which was raised and dropped several times to remove the excess dirt off the tree ball. What was left of these magnificent trees were stacked to later be cut up in sections for firewood.



I must say this entire tree removal operation could have only been performed by a very skilled steam shovel operator. Besides using the controls in the cab, the operator would place the bucket on the ground and use it to move the steam shovel a few feet left or right. I was fascinated with this tree removal operation and thought just for kicks lets create a new Nebraska sport game. I do wish I had videotaped the entire tree removal operation.



## IS YOUR COMPANY STATE REGISTERED?

By: *Jim Keepers, Certified NE Arborist*

All Limited Liability Corporations (LLC), Corporations and Partnerships, etc. must be registered with the Nebraska Secretary of State (SOS) and must have a Registered Agent. Most companies have a law firm as the Registered Agent. Just one less state legal requirement for a company to worry about.

Each LLC must file a Domestic Limited Liability Company Biennial Report (the "Report") with the Nebraska Secretary of State ("SOS") in odd-numbered years. Forms are typically sent by the SOS to the LLC's Registered Agent the first week in January of each odd-numbered year. This year's report must be reviewed, updated, and filed along with payment fee of \$10.00 to the SOS by April 1, 2021. If you do it online, an additional fee of \$3.00 will be charged.

If this report is not done, then your LLC will be administratively dissolved by the SOS. If your company is dissolved, then you could lose your company's name and be forced to change your company's name to be reinstated. To have your company reinstated it will cost you. This fee is determined by the SOS and could run from \$15.00 to \$500.00.

So what is the State's reasoning for this requirement? This is required so if someone wants to sue your company, they can contact the Secretary of State to determine whom to have the Sheriff serve the Summons on - the Registered Agent; and where to serve the Summons - the Registered Office. The State also needs to know where to send all official correspondence and any notice of change in laws pertaining to LLCs, Corporations, etc. *Information for this article was obtained from Attorney David Stage.*



# UPDATE ON GIANT MURDER HORNETS

By: *Jim Keepers, NAA Newsletter Coordinator*

In the last issue of the NAA newsletter, the lead story titled “Another New Outbreak” dealt with the efforts of Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) efforts to destroy their Giant Murder Hornet. This article is a follow up on how Mother Nature is doing her part to protect honeybees and their hives from the murder hornet.

A Canadian University conducted a study of Vietnam honeybees and discovered their use of poop to protect their hives. They called it “poop with a purpose”. The Murder Hornets won’t invade a honeybee hive because of the poop.

When the hornets enter the honeybee hives they kill the adult bees and remove the young bees for food. This attack by the hornets is a coordinated attack. During the study, the researchers recorded how the Vietnamese honeybees placed the feces around the entrance to their hives. When the honeybees had the opportunity, they made a special effort to obtain dung from pigs and chickens. The smelly poop had a more hindering effect on the hornets. The strong smelling and larger amount of dung restricted the hornets from entering the hive. The researchers described the bees shaping of the dung at the entrance of their hive as a “behavioral action to be a tool use by the honeybees”.

The researchers have not discovered if the smell acts as a repellent or the smell of the dung might just hide the bee odors. The bee odor is what lures the hornets to the beehive.

The Giant Murder Hornets are a concern to Washington State Department of Agriculture and the possible spread of the hornet through North America due to their destruction of the honeybee. No research evidence shows that our Canadian & United States honeybees have developed the same type of dung tool use to protect their hives.

So, the big question at hand is, would it be more beneficial or do more harm to import Vietnamese honeybees and introduce them to the American honeybee? Or would our native honeybees evolve to using this defense tool?

Remember Giant Murder Hornets are a major threat to honeybees, but they are a problem to humans. The following is a statement from an individual referencing the sting of a Giant Murder Hornet. “I got stung by one and it was the most excruciating sting in my life.” I will keep you informed in future NAA newsletters concerning the protection of the honeybee and the elimination of Giant Murder Hornet in the United States.



## INSURANCE QUESTIONS TO ASK

Proper and enough business insurance is very important no matter the size of the Arborist Company. It is important for an Arborist Company no matter if you are a two person operation or have numerous crews to take the time to review your insurance needs at the start of every new year. The following are some insurance questions to ask when you are reviewing your coverage.

1. If you have hundreds of cubic feet of mulch is it insured?
2. Are your outbuilding properly insured?
3. Do you have Arborist Errors & Omissions (E & O) profession liability coverage?
4. Are all the contents of your outbuilding adequately insured?
5. Have you added that new piece of equipment you bought to your policy?
6. Does your insurance agent understand your business?
7. Are your vehicles properly covered (comprehensive vs. liability)
8. How much insurance do you need & can you afford a loss?
9. Are all your tools & office equipment covered?
10. Will your insurance cover any type of emergency?
11. Are all your files listing items covered by insurance backed up?



**Did this Arborist Company have the right and enough insurance to cover the truck damage & driver's injuries?**



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# NEBRASKA'S ARBOR DAY

By: *Jim Keepers, NAA Newsletter Coordinator*

*Nebraska will officially celebrate Arbor Day on the 30th of April 2021*

J. Sterling Morton is credited with establishing Arbor Day. In 1872, he proposed the idea of a tree-planting holiday to be called "Arbor Day" and the date was set for April 10, 1872. On that date more than 'one-million' trees were planted in Nebraska. Other states followed Nebraska lead and passed legislation to officially observe Arbor Day as a day to plant trees. Schools across the United States followed their legislature lead and by 1882 began a tradition of celebrating a specific day to plant trees.

In 1885, the state of Nebraska took the lead in establishing Arbor Day as a state holiday and it is the only state in the nation to have it as a state holiday. Several presidents have declared Arbor Day a national holiday and former President Richard Nixon in 1972 declared Arbor Day to be the last Friday in April. Some states have designated it to be celebrated on different dates so the trees can be planted under the proper conditions to insure survivability.

The COVID-19 virus did restrict the celebration of Arbor Day in 2020. Hopefully we will be able to have an Arbor Day celebration on the 30th of April this year.

I am asking all Nebraska Arborist companies to make a concerted effort to support their local community's Arbor Day celebration this year. If that is not possible, it would be great for our Nebraska Arborists Association members to offer their services free of charge on that date to a community, nonprofit, school, or other organizations needing tree care.

Please send me photos and a short description of the tree work you or your company accomplished on Arbor Day so it can be featured in the NAA June newsletter.

Remember on Arbor Day our association's motto: "An Arborist takes care of a tree for life."

**HAPPY ARBOR DAY!**

## POSITIVE TREE STORIES FROM OUT IN WESTERN NEBRASKA

*Submitted by Chrissy Land, Western Nebraska, Community Forestry Specialist, NFS & Edited by Jim Keepers, NAA Newsletter Coordinator*

The following are some positive tree projects Chrissy Land wanted to share with our readers being accomplished by our fellow tree people in western Nebraska.

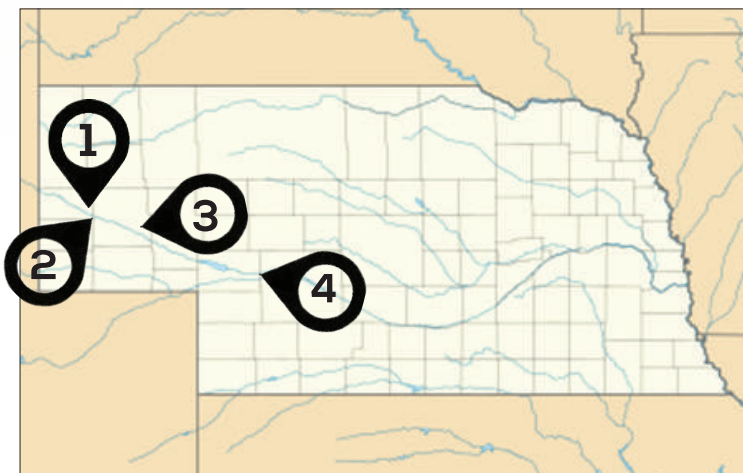
The City of Scottsbluff is doing a de-paving operation in one of their downtown parking lots. They are doing a big soil exchange and amendment for the trees scheduled to be planted next spring.

Amy Seiler and Annie Folk of the City of Gering are also doing a de-paving project to green downtown Gering. This resulted in their new downtown Plaza to become recognized as a new Statewide Arboretum Affiliate Site. There was a special tree that was guarded from the beginning of the project, kept safe from construction that still lives.

Susan Meyers, City of Bridgeport Tree Board has done some great leg work to re-instate a tree board and are looking fit to qualify for Tree City USA Award (TCUSA) status for 2020. They may even qualify for a growth award, so this is a great accomplishment.

Mike Epping, City of Hershey's Tree board member has done a fantastic job with the review and updating their tree ordinances this past year. With a focus on protecting their tree resources, Hershey now has an ordinance in place to ensure their green infrastructure will not become impacted with new development in the community.

Chrissy Land feels there are many more great stories to be highlighted in future Nebraska Arborists Association (NAA) newsletters for the tree accomplishments in western Nebraska. As the coordinator of our NAA newsletter, I agree with her and look forward to including those great stories of our western tree brethren in future NAA newsletters.



**1. Scottsbluff, 2. Gering, 3. Bridgeport, 4. Hershey**

# NAA HISTORICAL FACTS

By: *Jim Keepers, NAA Newsletter Coordinator*

Your Nebraska Arborists Association (NAA) will celebrate its 44th birthday on May 20, 2021. Membership in your association at that time consisted of 29 Charter Members and it was expanding to 36 members in a short period of time. The fore runner of your association was the “Arborists of Omaha.”

Your first association’s board positions were filled by the following individuals:

Neal Jennings, President

Chuck Talbitzer, President-Elect

Roy Rasmussen, Secretary-Treasurer

Directors: Dave Wysong, Wayne Willmeng, and Phil Pierce.

Your association had no Executive Director, so all association matters were handled by the board.

Phil Pierce is the only remaining member from the first NAA board.

The following are the remaining 29 Charter Members still gracing us with their presence:

Jack Nebelsick (retired)

Dennis Adams (retired)

John Housley, Sr.

Larry Torpy, Jr.

Phil Pierce

Steve D. Torpy

David Lanoha

Barbara (Torpy) Von Tersch (retired)



## NEWLY CERTIFIED ARBORISTS

Evan Arellano  
Ryan Broich  
Dawson Burnett  
Jesse Burnett  
Ben Chapin  
Brandon Clause  
Ebony Duis  
David Ferryman  
Nicholas Foral  
Grant Foster  
Ryan Gillen  
Mauro Gonzalez  
Tevin Griffin  
Ted Haubrich  
Michael Headlee  
Everett Henry  
Adam Ihde  
Ava Jones  
John Lacher  
Burt Lunn  
Levi Magnuson  
Anthony McLarty  
Alex Monette  
Caleb Morgenson  
Will Murray  
Amy Nakai  
Andy Nelson  
Robert Quinn

## PRUNING DECISIONS AND QUESTIONS

By: *Jim Keepers, Maturing Certified NE Arborist*

On the 14th of October, I pruned a branch off a Golden Raindrops Crabapple. The Golden Raindrops only bloom and bear yellow fruit in alternate years. The tree in question had a diameter of 7.6 inches and the branch’s diameter of 5.5 inches.

Here are the following questions to be answered referencing the pruning cut:

1. Was the branch too large to cut off the tree?
2. Will the tree be able to wound (not heal) over the cut?
3. Was the cut done properly?
4. How long will the tree take to build callus over the cut?
5. Should the large branch have been cut back to a lateral?



Showing just the pruning cut and trunk of the Crabapple tree.



Showing the entire Golden Raindrops Crabapple & pruning cut.



Showing just the pruning cut on the Crabapple tree.

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# WILL CONGRESS REWRITE PESTICIDE REGULATIONS?

By: *Jim Keepers, NAA Newsletter Coordinator*

Will congress take the next step and rewrite our ‘Pesticide Regulation’ and will it have an effect on an Arborist career field? That is the very big question at hand and all Nebraska Arborists should be aware of the possibility of a major law change.

The Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFA) was passed in 1947. In 1972, it had a complete revision. Additional changes have occurred over the years. With the passing of Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA) in 1996, this law required periodic review for pesticide registrations.



**United States Capital Building**

The Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA)’s Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP) is the office implementing FIFA. This office “oversees the registration of pesticide products and establishing maximum levels for pesticide residues in food”.

I know all these abbreviations can be confusing. The most important government agency and law for Arborist company owners to be aware of are EPA and FIFA.

When a chemical company requests a new pesticide be registered, the EPA requires the company to submit data on the chemical’s ‘toxicity’ and could require the company to provide data on over 100 different tests to their new pesticide. With this data, the EPO then decides if the use of this pesticide cause an ‘unreasonable risk to human health or the environment’.

U.S. Senator Tom Udall (D-N.M) and U.S. Representative Joe Neguse (D-Colo.) have introduced like legislation in both houses of Congress that would amend and rewrite FIFRA. The two bills are S.B 4406 and H.B. 7940. The bills title is “Protect American’s Children from Toxic Pesticides Act” (PACTA). If these two acts are passed by both houses of congress and signed by the President, they would ban the use of organophosphate and neonicotinoid pesticides along with agricultural herbicide paraquat.

## NEW MEMBERS

**Steve Baye  
Ryan Broich  
Luke Carlberg  
Alex Eckhoff  
Cody Grimm  
Mark Hazard  
Michael Headlee  
Jerry Imig  
Ava Jones  
Dustin Land  
Alex Monette  
Tyler Munn  
Don Partridge  
Alex Prideaux  
Roberg Quinn  
Alan Roesler  
Randy Schreck  
Colt Taylor  
Aaron Thiessen  
Mitch Waite  
Dakota Youngberg**

## WALNUT TWIG BEETLE DISCOVERED IN NEBRASKA

The Walnut twig beetle has been discovered in Gering, Nebraska. The beetle is known to carry the *Geosmithia morbida* fungi causing the thousand canker disease (TCD).

“Walnut twig beetles are not actually a serious pest,” said Rachel Allison, Western Forest Health Specialist for the Nebraska Forest Service. “The problem is the



**Walnut Twig Beetle – U.S. Forest Service Photo**

beetles often carry fungal pathogens on their bodies, which can infect the trees they feed on. Diseased trees initially exhibit yellowing foliage, followed by brown wilted foliage, branch dieback and tree death. Tree death occurs two to three years after initial symptoms appear.

Some plants in the family Juglandaceae including black walnut and butternut are highly susceptible to this disease while others, such as hickory and pecan are immune. Nebraska has been in a quarantine since 2010 prohibiting the movement of walnut wood into the state. At this time there is no treatment for the disease.

*From: NFS 26 May 2020 Thousand Cankers Disease, Walnut Twig Beetle Repot & SD Forest Health Report*

# NAA RECEIVES ASTI GRANT FOR CHAIN SAW WORKSHOP

By: Kathi Schildt, NAA Executive Director

The Nebraska Arborists Association has received a grant from the Arborist Safety Training Institute (ASTI) to help fund an upcoming training workshop. Join fellow NAA members for a Chain Saw Specialist workshop! NAA will also be hosting Chipper Operator Training on the same day. **NAA will host the training on Thursday, August 12, 2021.** We were lucky to receive ASTI grant that will cover costs for ½ of the day. A full training day will be offered, but at a lesser cost due to successfully obtaining this grant. The Chain Saw Workshop has been approved for 3.75 CEUs and Chipper Operator Training has been approved for 3.75 CEUS (not funded by ASTI).



When a tree worker is injured or incapacitated aloft, typically fellow crew members are the first to respond an emergency could develop any time, and tree care professionals must know how to react.

TCIA's Tree Care Academy Chain Saw Specialist course is designed to train tree care workers in hazards, as well as accepted practices for chain saw operation and other associated tasks. The course, which is built for crew members who often do not receive formal training opportunities, will increase employee involvement with overall safety compliance and self-policing.

The Chipper Operator Specialist course is designed to train tree care crews in hazards, as well as accepted practices for brush chipper operation and other associated tasks. The course, which is built for crew members who often do not receive formal training opportunities, will increase involvement and self-policing. Accidents involving brush chippers are a significant concern for tree care and landscape employers, the tree care workers who operate the equipment and manufacturers alike. Strong anecdotal information from the field tells us that chipper operators receive little or no formal training on chipper operation and field maintenance.

ASTI which was launched by the Tree Care Industry Association Foundation (TCIAF) in 2013, provides grants for job and safety training to minimize consequent deaths and injuries, and promote overall workforce safety that is critical for the tree care industry.

The NAA wishes to thank ASTI for their support in offering this valuable training to arborists in Nebraska - See you in August!

## NAA 2021 GREAT PLAINS EASTERN SUMMER FIELD DAY ANNOUNCEMENT

By: Kathi Schildt, NAA Executive Director

Mark the date and plan to be there!

The Nebraska Arborists Association is excited to announce the **2021 GREAT PLAINS Eastern Summer Field Day**. The event will take place on **Friday, August 13, 2021 at the Carol Joy Holling Center** in Ashland. This location provides us with a great opportunity to conduct breakout sessions and conduct demonstrations by vendors.

The keynote speaker has been confirmed; the NAA is pleased to have Phillip Kelley join us for the Field Day event. Watch for more details soon regarding this annual event!



### THE CHAIN SAWS HAVE CHANGED OVER THE YEARS

Photo Credit: By Gone Era of LoggingWoodworkerZ web site, Oct 3, 2006



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