

An Arborist takes  
care of a tree for life.



# OUT ON A LIMB

FALL 2017, VOLUME 37, ISSUE 3



So What is Unusual Growth on this Cottonwood Tree  
Out in the Forest? See story on page 13 for the Answer.

## TREE BARK ID

By Jim Keepers, NAA Newsletter Coordinator

Every tree has a strong outside layer. I guess it could be compared in some ways to the outside layer of our skin. On a tree, the outside layer is called the bark. It is all the tissues outside of the vascular cambium. The vascular cambium (plural cambia) is the plant tissue located between the xylem and the phloem in the tree. I will skip the tree biology lesson and talk only about the tree bark.

The bark is the protective layer for a tree. When the bark is destroyed by animals and/or man, the tree is forced to build callus on both sides of the wound and slowly close up the damaged area over several years. We say a tree doesn't heal itself but calluses its wound over to keep decay from spreading into the tree. There are two bark layers the inner and the outer. The inner bark is living tissue on the tree trunk and stem. The outer bark is dead tissue on the surface of the trunk and stem.

Some trees are easy to identify like the honey locust with its thorns while other trees like the Sweetgum have average bark. The bark of the Sweetgum is grayish but it is not very dark nor very light. The ridges between the tree's fissures are narrow and irregularly formed. Last, but not least, the fissures are very shallow. Some trees are very easy to identify where others are very difficult. Arborists need to develop their tree bark identification skills especially when it comes to winter tree identification.

Let's have a little contest to see who can identify the most Eastern Nebraska trees by their tree bark. Let's break the competition into two groups: 1A - male vs 1B female and 2A - young vs 2B - old with the dividing age being 40 for the age group. This is an individual contest and not a group event. I will present the winner of each group a new NAA shirt at the NAA business meeting during the Nebraska GREAT PLAINS Conference. Results of the contest will be published in the fourth quarter issue of the NAA newsletter. Please send me your best guess along with your name, job title, e-mail address and years in career field to the following e-mail address; [jlkeepers45@gmail.com](mailto:jlkeepers45@gmail.com). I hope you enjoy this activity!

Quiz on page 7!

**NEWLY  
CERTIFIED  
ARBORIST**

Michael Freeman



## NEW MEMBERS

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Rob Tewes  
Ben McEndarfer  
Tyler Leetch  
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Jake Rynes  
Jaime Lorenzo  
Nolan Millar  
Sean Wuelling

## A QUARTERLY UPDATE OF THE NEBRASKA ARBORISTS ASSOCIATION

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- President's Letter P.2
- First Woman In Nebraska History of Arboriculture P.3
- Arborist's Spotlight P.4
- Training NE Certified Arborists P.5
- Cicada Killer Wasps P.5
- Women Behind Mature Arborists P.6
- Mark Harrell Retirement P.6
- Bark ID Quiz P.7
- Eastern Summer Field Day P.9
- Hot News from UNL P.9
- A Special or Unique Tree P.10
- Joint Winter Event P.12
- Welcome Dr. Eric North P.12
- Burl P.13
- Japanese Beetles P.13
- Chemical or Insect Defoliation P.14
- Community Forestry Degree P.14
- Utilization Beyond Mulch P.15
- Nebraska Severe Weather P.15

### 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](mailto:jlkeepers45@gmail.com) or (402) 332-0715 or (402) 618-8837.

Submission deadlines for the NAA  
2017 quarterly newsletters:

4th Quarter - December 1, 2017



## 2017 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

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

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

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

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

Kim Slezak, Director  
Slezak Ag & Natural Resources  
Milligan, NE • (402) 629-4383  
Cell: (402) 629-4456  
kim@slezakag.com

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

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

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

Dr. Mark Harrell, NAA Board Advisor  
Nebraska Forest Service  
Lincoln, NE • (402) 472-6635  
mharrell2@unl.edu

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

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

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Lon Nutter, NAA President

It was great to see you all at the 2017 Great Plains Summer Field Day. This joint event with NNLA was again a success in programming and networking, and we will have future discussion regarding the plan for next year. Please be sure to provide feedback regarding any programming or otherwise you would like to see for the 2018 event.

I hope you all had a safe and productive summer. It flew by and by the time I got to take a breath, the leaves were beginning to turn. The fall has many opportunities to earn NAA CEUs and continue your development and expand your knowledge in this industry. Please check the NAA website for upcoming events.

I had the opportunity last month to attend the NAA Tree ID, Evaluation & Selection, Planting & Establishment Seminar. This was part one of NAA's three-part Arborist Seminar where aspiring arborists can attend the classes, then sit for the NAA certification exam. When I asked the group how many were there for initial certification, a good majority were there for that reason. Some were there for CEUs and others were there just to become better at tree identification.

Whatever your motivation to attend these classes, or any industry events, the main thing is we are there to become better at what we do. For those attending for initial certification, this to me is the point where one takes their career in our industry to the next level. This is not an easy achievement. The time, effort, and knowledge gained sets you apart from those who haven't achieved NAA certification.

Certification achieved or not, we all need to continue to gain knowledge in our respective fields of expertise. The NAA is offering many events in the near future, but also take advantage of other opportunities. Attend an industry trade show to see new and innovative equipment, attend a safety summit to learn safer ways to do your job, work to build a working relationship with an Extension Educator or even peers in your industry. Whatever opportunity is out there, take it.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### NAA ARBORIST SCHOOL

All classes will be held at Carol Joy Holling Center,  
Ashland, NE  
- Plant Health & Tree Biology Class, November 15-16, 2017

### ADVANCED RIGGING/FELLING & CLIMBING CLASS

October 10-12, 2017 Carol Joy Holling Center  
Ashland, NE

### AERIAL RESCUE

(Funded in part by the Arborist Safety Training Institute)  
November 20, 2017  
Carol Joy Holling Center - Ashland, NE

### AERIAL LIFT

November 21, 2017  
Carol Joy Holling Center - Ashland, NE

### 2018 NE GREAT PLAINS CONFERENCE

January 23-24, 2018, Hotel RL 3321 South 72nd St.,  
Omaha, NE

Former General Electric CEO Jack Welch once said that if you are not continuing to be innovative and striving to find a better way, you are getting ready to die on the vine. I truly believe in Jack's message. We must continue to invest in ourselves to become a better employee, a better company, a better service provider to our customers, and ultimately a better you.

I hope to see you all at some future NAA events. Have a great fall, and KEEP 'EM SAFE!!

# THE FIRST WOMAN IN NEBRASKA'S HISTORY OF ARBORICULTURE

By: Jim Keepers, NAA Newsletter Coordinator



I consider myself a student of history. I feel we can learn a lot about women who have made significant changes in the past affecting the future of the arborist career field. The arborist industry has for years been male-dominated. There are certain women in our state, however, who have led changes in the industry. The Tree Care Industry Association (TCIA) recognized how women have and are changing the tree care industry. In TCIA's September 2017 issue the association started running a series of articles profiling women who work in commercial tree care and the jobs they perform. These articles are a great read for all owners of commercial tree businesses. Our work force always needs new workers and I feel there is a large pool of women who can fill those jobs.

Now it is time for me to fill you in on a few facts about the first female I consider to hold the title of First Woman in Nebraska's History of Arboriculture. I never met this lady or knew anything about her until I started to research the history of the Nebraska Arborists Association (NAA). During this process, I had the opportunity to meet and interview some of the 29 living association Charter members or their next of kin who formed the association.

I had the opportunity in 2012 to sit down with the lady in question and her husband Bill to talk about the history of the NAA. I also recently spent some time with Bill Von Tersch and Larry Torpy, Jr. trying to fill in additional information about this individual to make sure my information is accurate. I also want to thank Terri Torpy, Larry Torpy's wife, for providing me with additional family history. If I make some historical mistakes in this article please forgive this writer.

The lady in question is Barbara (Torpy) Von Tersch. She is the daughter of Lawrence and Mary Ann (Russoniello) Torpy. I usually don't reveal birth dates, but I feel her birth date is important for the reader. Barb was born on September 28, 1943. She graduated from Westside High School in 1961. She is the oldest of three children. She has two brothers, Larry Jr. and Steve who both have their own arborist business and sister Susan. Larry Jr. and Steve are both among the NAA's 29 Charter members.

After Larry Sr. returned from the war he met Mary. She had a little money and wanted to open a pizza business, but Larry Sr. had other ideas. He had been working as a climber for Asplundh. He wanted to start his own arborist business. In 1949 Torpy Tree Service was established. Barb, their first child, was only six years old when this occurred. She was a little confused when her father Larry Sr. brought home his red truck with a sign painted on it that said "Torpy & Son" and 14 years later her brother Larry Jr. arrived. Barb told me she still remembers the day her father brought home the red truck and said the boys will follow!

Barbara started in the arborist career field in 1962 working in her father's business. She learned how to use a chainsaw and started out as a ground person moving brush. She then moved to bucket truck work. She became so skilled that she ended up running three arborist crews. The local Omaha phone company was so impressed they wanted to hire her away from the Torpy family business, but she said no. As the Torpy Tree Service grew, Barbara took her arborist skills and moved over into the company's office to help her mother. In 1977, along with her father and two brothers, they became members of a unique group of Lincoln and Omaha Arborists, NAA 29 Charter Members, who established the statewide Nebraska Arborists Association.

Barbara met Bill Von Tersch at Tinnens Hamburger, 43rd & Dodge, in 1959. She was dating a friend of Bill's. Bill remembers she was driving a green station wagon that was a company car with chainsaws in the back. Bill told me it was love at first sight. Bill worked in the Torpy family business for sixteen years. They have been married for over 61 years! Just a side note, Bill was a Marine for four years.

Barbara did not pursue NAA arborist certification because she retired from the family business to raise her family before the certification program was started. Barbara and Bill have six children, seventeen grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. She went from being a talented arborist to a super mom and grandmother. She and Bill didn't leave the arborist field completely. Both Terri and Larry Jr. told me they helped Larry's company Torpy Tree Care when there was a need. She also helped during the 1975 Omaha tornado and assisted the Red Cross at the same time.

**HONEYDEW** not to be confused with the melon, it is actually plant sap that has been moved through the insect body and comes out the other end. We are getting some calls with honeydew accumulating on cars, driveways and patio furniture. Wash the honeydew off with soap and water and scout for the insect that is causing it. Think aphids, scale, mealy bugs, whitefly, and lace bug. Strong streams of water should help get rid of them once you find them.

Scott Evans, Extension Assistant – Horticulture,  
Douglas-Sarpy County Extension, Weekly  
Update September 11th, 2017

The association honored Barbara and the remaining living 29 NAA Charter members at the 2015 Nebraska GREAT PLAINS Conference.

Barbara and her husband now live on an acreage in Waterloo. She has an apple orchard, breeds Rhodesian Ridgeback dogs and enjoys riding her horses. She attends St. John's Church in Valley.

Her husband, Bill, wanted to make sure I added the following to this article. She has a deep love for animals and don't get her upset. I will leave it at that, Bill. One more note before I forget. Barbara has no idea I was writing this article about her. I hope it is a big surprise and I have gotten all the facts straight!

I hope I was able to give you a short bibliographical history of Barbara (Torpy) Von Tersch's life and the reasons why I feel she deserves the title of The First Woman in Nebraska's History of Arboriculture. I was impressed with her kind and generous personality during my interview. Thanks Barbara for your arborist accomplishments!

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# ARBORIST SPOTLIGHT

By Jim Keepers: NAA Newsletter Coordinator

As the Nebraska Arborists Association (NAA) newsletter coordinator, I have had the opportunity to write about some unique and special people. This quarter I am not writing about a specific arborist but about an individual who has helped with the growth of the association in membership, certification, education and winter and summer events. I also have personal experience watching this individual grow and expand her knowledge of the arborist career field. I have worked hand in hand with this individual since she first came on board in 2004.



The individual being featured this quarter is your own association's Executive Director, Kathi (Stauffer) Schildt. I know Kathi will have a fit about this write up but I feel she deserves the recognition for her individual growth and support she has provided to all the members of the association. So Kathi, you don't have a say about this NAA newsletter article!

I know it is not polite to talk about a lady's age or birthday but I feel it is important to realize the accomplishments of this individual in a short period of time. Kathi was born in Lincoln, Nebraska on February 27, 1966. She is the baby of the family with an older brother and two sisters. She graduated from East Butler High School in 1984, obtained her Undergraduate Degree from Doane College and her Masters of Arts in Management from Doane University in 2017. She grew up in Milford and lived in a house just a few blocks away from where her company is now located.

Kathi married her husband Rod Schildt, a dairy farmer from Pleasant Dale, Nebraska in 1989. I understand they met because she turned the wrong way down a one-way street in downtown Lincoln and almost hit him with her car. Fate does have a way of making things happen! They have been married for over 28 years. I must interject that Rod has always been there to help with the NAA annual winter conference and now the Nebraska GREAT PLAINS Conference without any pay whatsoever. Her children have also helped with events in the past.

Speaking of children, she has four children and three dogs. Kathi also has a new title which she is very proud of. We can now call her grandmother as her oldest daughter Kara and her husband had their first child in early September. Kathi is thrilled to welcome a granddaughter, Hayden. I know her second daughter Kylie personally because we work together on the NAA quarterly newsletter. Kylie works remotely from Kansas City as the marketing director and account manager for AAM. I must not forget to thank Kylie for providing me the information on her mother. I also want to take this opportunity to personally thank Kylie for the great work she does on the layout of our newsletter. Kathi's third daughter Meghan recently started a two-year program at UNMC to become a Physician's Assistant. We just might have her give some medical related workshops in the future at our Nebraska GREAT PLAINS Conference. Her last child and only son Marty, who I met when he was around five, is now attending Doane University and plays for the Doane baseball team.



Renovated AAM office in Milford, NE.

Now let's look at Kathi's work history as it applies to our association. I met her when she started working at McBride & Associates (the prior management company of the NAA) back in 2004 when she filled the position of Membership Services Administrator. I realized at that time Kathi's full potential and her ability to grow at McBride & Associates. McBride also realized her potential and promoted her to fill the position of NAA's Executive Director on December 1, 2004. Kathi left McBride & Associates in the spring of 2010. In January of 2012, Kathi came back as NAA Executive Director now with her own business. I was a member of the NAA committee who had the task to select the management company to assist with the running of the NAA. Kathi's company won hands down because of her presentation, experience and knowledge of the NAA.



Now let's take a short look at Kathi's business Advanced Association Management (AAM). Kathi started AAM in October of 2010. She started in her home and two months later, moved into a rental space in the Trade Center on 56th and Old Cheney in Lincoln with a partner. She bought her partner out and then moved to a building she acquired in Milford, Nebraska. With the help of her husband Rod, they renovated the building and moved into the new facility in 2012. It took them six months to do the renovation project while she still supported her clients. She has a range of associations who she worked with at previous companies that became some of her first clients, including the NAA. She also took over the association duties for the Nebraska Nursery and Landscape Association (NNLA). Her company has grown to thirteen associations managed by Kathi and her four employees – Tiffany (longest member of the team), Jodi, Taylor and Kylie. They all do a great job!

So what are Kathi's outside work interests? She loves to swim, travel, scrapbook, go fishing with Marty on the lake they live near, go to baseball and softball games, and garden (flowers not vegetables) on their acreage near Pleasant Dale. She has three dogs (Apollo - Brittany spaniel, Shortstop & Chevy - Peke-a-poo's), loves to do puzzles, and spends as much time with her kids as she can. Her new interest is obviously baby Hayden!

In closing, I must give her a lot of credit for keeping me on the straight and narrow when I was your association president. We have worked together on the NAA winter conference and the joint NAA/NNLA Conference since she became involved with the NAA. She has always put our association first. She has helped grow the NAA in membership and arborist certification program. She has worked tirelessly to expand the association's educational programs and winter and summer events.

I have very much enjoyed working with Kathi over the years and I hope if the 'Good Lord' is willing, I will continue to have a number of more years working with her. I do look forward to this adventure! So when you see Kathi working tirelessly at the 2018 Nebraska GREAT PLAINS Conference, take a few minutes to thank her for a job well done!



# TRAINING NEW NEBRASKA CERTIFIED ARBORISTS

By Jim Keepers, NAA Newsletter Coordinator



The NAA kicked off its fall Arborist School with the Tree ID, Evaluation & Selection, Planting & Establishment Class. Justin Evertson, NSA Green Infrastructure Coordinator and Graham Herbst, NSA Community Forester Specialist were the instructors for the two-day event. Association President Lon Nutter attended the first day of the class and I attended on the second day. Having the President of the NAA in attendance for the first day of class shows he has a deep and concerned interest in the training of new NAA certified arborists. I enjoy meeting the new candidates and the NAA board allows me to assist. I feel it makes a big difference when NAA certified arborists are present at our association training classes.



There were a total of 22 attendees in the class with most of them going for their NAA arborist certification. The attendees' tree knowledge was very diverse with some knowing the basics and others having more experience in the field. It looks like we will have a great group of students working towards their certification. The next Pruning & Climbing Class should be very interesting and educational as well.



# CICADA KILLER WASPS

By Jonathan Larson Douglas-Sarpy County Extension Educator



Cicada killer wasps are large and impressive insects, females routinely measure around 2 inches in length and males are around 1.5 inches. Both sexes are dark orange in color on the head and thorax and transition into black on the abdomen. There are three prominent light yellow stripes on the abdomen as well. Their legs and wings usually have an orange tinge to them. If you look closely at the last pair of legs on a female wasp you will notice spurs as well.

Female are powerful flyers and can catch cicadas on the wing. She stings the cicada to paralyze it and then takes her quarry back to a hole in the ground. Sometimes they will jump from tree branches in the hopes of launching themselves towards their burrow. Most other times though she drags the paralyzed cicada back to a burrow. Once the cicadas are in the hole the female lays an egg that a larvae will hatch from to feed on the paralyzed cicadas. Male eggs get one cicada and female eggs get two to three. Much like a mason bee, the female will construct multiple cells in each burrow capping off each with mud to maximize her brood. Female cicadas do all the hunting and digging,

even occasionally working together to construct a burrow. The aforementioned leg spurs are used to dig the tunnel out. Each tunnel can be 12-15 inches below ground and can be up to 36 inches long. Once the nest is full the female will seal the entrances and the eggs will hatch. Larvae develop over two weeks and they spend the winter as a larva in a cocoon then pupate in the spring and emerge in June-July.

While these insects are not a sting hazard, they do frighten some people. The males in particular can be territorial and fly towards your face. As males they have no stinger, but are equipped with a "pseudostinger" which can look formidable. In years with high numbers cicada killers may also do some damage to lawns as they dig their tunnels. If control is desired there are very specific methods of achieving it. Renovating the portion of your landscape that is infested and making it less attractive to wasps should be the first thing Nebraskans consider. Cicada killers like open well drained soil typically, so rock or wood mulch can deter them from certain areas. Filling in holes in retaining walls may also help. In terms of insecticides, applications of dust products containing a pyrethroid insecticide, made directly into the burrow entrances are effective. Broadcast liquid sprays over the area where cicada killers are nesting will likely not be effective in reducing the cicada killer population. Dust applications should be made at dusk, when the wasps are the least active. It may sound comical, but a tennis or badminton racket is also an effective control tool. Swatting the wasp with these will physically control them, just remember to ice down your elbow when you finish, don't want to get cicada killer elbow!



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## GUMMOSIS

Gummosis is a physiological condition affecting cherry, peaches, and plum where a gum-like sap builds up on the bark of the plant. It almost looks like amber but missing the petrified insects that will allow me to clone dinosaurs. Gummosis is not a disease or insect but a response to physical injury (hail, insects, lawnmower) or diseases (canker). We've had a few calls about this and most of the callers were hit with hail earlier in the season and also had recently pruned.

Scott Evans, Extension Assistant – Horticulture, Douglas-Sarpy County Extension, Weekly Update September 11th, 2017



# WOMEN BEHIND OUR MATURE ARBORISTS

By: Jim Keepers, NAA Newsletter Coordinator

The Nebraska Arborists Association (NAA) has a rich history with a unique membership. We seem to emphasize our members in all our publications but forget about their better halves. I thought it was time to look at the ladies who are married to our older arborists. The first to be featured is a very gracious and reserved lady who always seems to be in the background but has always played a major role in her husband's life over the past 50 years. The lady leading off this new series is Carmen (Cramer) Housley. Carmen is the wife of John Housley, Sr. John Sr. is one of the original 29 NAA Charter members who formed the association in 1977. When the association first started the association's arborist certification program, John was among the first group of Nebraska Arborist in April 1989 to receive the NAA's Arborist Certification.

It is not easy to acquire information on a lady who has played a major role in John's life when she is always in the background. I must thank Carmen's daughter Kris (Housley) Gillen for providing the background information on her mother.

Carmen was born and raised in Omaha and has two sisters. She graduated from Tech High School in Omaha in 1956 and then attended the University of Omaha. During her college years she met John Housley, Sr. who was also attending the university. They married on October 24, 1959. Carmen has loved, supported, and given John guidance for the past 58 years. Congratulations to the Housley's!

Carmen's life changed when they moved to Elkhorn after their marriage. She worked at the telephone company for a short period and then took over the duties of bookkeeper for John's various businesses. John has had a number of interesting businesses. Carmen also took care of their three children: Randy, Kristine and John, Jr (recently deceased) while running the household. She still does the bookkeeping for Housley Lawn and Nursery which started in 1951. Daughter Kris said, "My Dad will not let her retire!"

Carmen has eight grandchildren with several them working in either of two businesses, Housley Lawn & Nursery or JR's Lawn Care. Her outside activities are playing cards with her card club groups and enjoying her outside flowers. She loves to have her grandchildren visit and enjoys attending all their activities. Her favorite pastime is watching Nebraska football.

This short narrative on Carmen Housley shows she has been a major factor in John Housley, Sr's life. She supplies the support John needs in good and bad times. I am pleased to be able to spend time telling you about this unique and special lady.



## NOMINATIONS FOR NAA BOARD POSITIONS

The call for NAA board position nominations is open. The following position is open: Director. The term for this board position is three years.

You can nominate yourself or any NAA association member. A written nomination stating the individual's qualifications for the position must be submitted to the NAA office by November 15, 2017, so the NAA nomination committee can meet and select for the position. Duties for the open position can be found on the NAA website – [www.nearborist.org](http://www.nearborist.org).

The NAA office will notify the individual selected for the open position and request a photo, short bio and reasons for running for the position. This information will be featured in the NAA 4th quarter newsletter. Voting for the vacant NAA board position will take place at the annual NAA business meeting held on January 24 during the 2018 Nebraska GREAT PLAINS Conference. The newly elected NAA board member will assume his/her new duties after the completion of the Nebraska GREAT PLAINS Conference.

If you are interested in running for the open NAA board position, or know someone who is qualified and willing to run, please submit your nomination to the NAA office before the deadline. Your time and dedication to serve on the NAA Board is appreciated!

## RETIREMENT OF MARK HARRELL

By: Kyle Martens, Communications Specialist, Nebraska Forest Service (NFS) (Comments from Jim Keepers)

Mark Harrell retired after more than 36 years at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, having worked at Forestry, Fisheries and Wildlife and the Nebraska Forest Service.

Harrell was an active member of the Nebraska Arborists Association and the International Society of Arboriculture. He served as an instructor at NAA's annual arborist seminar and was a member of NAA's certification test committee. He also served on ISA's board certified master arborist test committee and on ISA Midwestern Chapter's board of directors and scholarship committee. He received the Builders Award, Educator of the Year Award, a Presidential Citation and an honorary life membership from NAA in recognition of his many contributions to the education and professional growth of its members and the Author's Award of Excellence from ISA's Midwestern Chapter. He was also a member of the Great Plains Tree Pest Council and served four terms as its chair and served on the City of Lincoln's Community Forestry Advisory Board. Mark and his wife Dottie plan to stay in Nebraska but want to do lots of traveling. He has taken up a new interest in cooking and trying new recipes. He has received Emeritus Status at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Jim: On behalf of the NAA, I want to wish you the best in your retirement years. You have been a great supporter of the NAA and have helped me eminency in developing informative and educational insect and disease articles for the NAA newsletter. I hope you won't be a stranger and still attend the Nebraska GREAT PLAINS Conference. "You Done Good" these past 36 years.

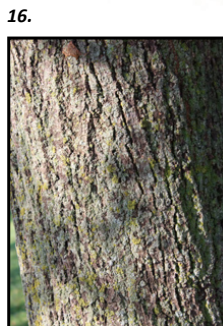


Mark presenting at the 2016 Nebraska GREAT PLAINS Summer Field, Mulhall's, Omaha, Nebraska



# BARK ID QUIZ

Try and identify the most Eastern Nebraska trees by their tree bark. This is an individual contest and not a group project. The winner of each group will receive a new NAA shirt at the NAA business meeting during the Nebraska GREAT PLAINS Conference. Results of the contest will be published in the fourth quarter issue of the NAA newsletter. Please send your best guesses along with your name, job title, e-mail address and years in career field to the following e-mail address, [jlkeepers45@gmail.com](mailto:jlkeepers45@gmail.com).



## DON'T FORGET!

NAA membership renewals must be paid by December 20th in order to be in the Conference directory. Renewal information will be sent in late October. If you are an NAA Certified Arborist, your annual certification fee will be due by December 31. When recertification fees are not paid within 90 days, certification status will be forfeited and the arborist must apply for new certification.



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# ENJOYABLE EASTERN SUMMER FIELD DAY

By: Jim Keepers, NAA Newsletter Coordinator

Thanks to the efforts of Lon Nutter, NAA President, and the rest of the NAA Committee for the Nebraska GREAT PLAINS Summer Field Day held at Doane University in Crete, Nebraska. Field Day was a great success with an attendance of over 100 with 70 of these attendees being NAA members. Fourteen exhibitors showed off their arborist and horticulture products and equipment. The portable saw mill was a highlight of the exhibitor displays. Dr. John Ball's opening keynote presentation on "Diversity – Think Genera, Not Species" kicked the event into high gear. In addition, Dr. Ball gave a very informative breakout session titled "Tree Worker Safety. Special thanks go out to Rob Dein, Arbor One, and Steve McDunn, Lawngevity Lawn & Tree, for their informative climbing field demonstration - "Advance Single Rope."

A special thanks goes out to those NAA members who attended especially when they could have been working in the trees on such a beautiful day. It was the best weather that I have seen for a summer field day in a long time.



## HOT NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN



LINCOLN, Neb. —John Erixson has been named the next state forester and director of the Nebraska Forest Service (NFS). Erixson had served as deputy director of the NFS for two years and was promoted to state forester following a national search.

"I am proud of how well the Nebraska Forest Service serves Nebraska, and I know as director and state forester John will lead the Nebraska Forest Service to continue delivering the excellent programs and services that ensure the health of our forests and communities," said Ron Yoder, associate vice chancellor for the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Prior to coming to NFS, Erixson, a Nebraska native, spent more than 20 years managing natural resources in Idaho for a private consulting firm before returning to Nebraska. Erixson holds a bachelors and masters of science in resource management from the University of Idaho. He is an active member of several regional and national organizations, including the Society of American Foresters and the Invasive Species Council.

"There is an impressive legacy of forest stewardship in Nebraska. To say I have big shoes to fill is a bit of an understatement," said Erixson. "A large part of my role starts with serving Nebraskans and I am looking forward to giving back to my home state."

Erixson assumes leadership of the Nebraska Forest Service at a challenging time. The emerald ash borer was discovered in Omaha in June of 2016 and will destroy most of Nebraska's green ash trees as it spreads across the state. Questions or comments about the Nebraska Forest Service can be directed to Kyle Martens at 402-413-9248, kmartens3@unl.edu.



# A SPECIAL OR UNIQUE TREE

By Jim Keepers: NAA Newsletter Coordinator



This quarter we will take a look at a tree I just cannot stop singing praises about. The tree in question is *Heptacodium miconiodes*, Seven-Son Shrub. I know it sounds strange calling a multiple stemmed, deciduous shrub a tree but with selective pruning this shrub that grows 15' to 20' at maturity with a spread of 10' can be trained to become a single-trunk tree. I have two of these trees on my property. I was lucky to find them in a fall sale corner of a local nursery. They never realized they had these trees and were uncertain what price to charge me, so I was able to buy them for a very low price.



There are three things making this tree unique. Terminal cluster of fragrant, creamy-white flowers form on the end of the tree tranches in late summer to early fall. The flowers appear in whorls within each branched clusters. Each whorl contains seven tiny flowers (driving its name of seven-son flower from the whorl). The second unique quality are the equally showier, small purplish-red fruits called drupes crowned by five very showy, sepal-like rose calyces that elongate after bloom and last into late fall. It looks like the white flowers have turned to red. Last but not least is the tree's tan bark exfoliates to show off the attractive brown inner bark. The bark has great winter interest.

The shrub/tree is native to China, but it has become rare and hardly exists in the wild. It has just started to become available in the nursery trade and makes a great ornamental plant for the garden. It is still difficult to find in the local nurseries but can be special ordered. The Painted Lady Butterflies just love the nectar from the Seven-Son white flowers. See the related article titled "Invasion of Painted Lady Butterflies" in this issue.

If you want your customer to have a stunning shrub or small tree in their garden, I would recommend the Seven-Son Shrub. Your customer's garden will be the talk of the neighborhood.

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# JOINT WINTER EVENT

By Jim Keepers, NAA Winter Conference Committee Chairperson

The 2018 Nebraska GREAT PLAINS Conference will be held on January 23-24 in Omaha at the newly remodeled Hotel RL off 72nd Street. A change to the conference will be the reduction of workshop (presentation) tracks. We will now have three tracks to choose from instead of the four from last year. With the track reduction, we have additional funding to bring in some new and interesting speakers.

For our climbers, we will bring in Ed Carpenter, President & Sr. Instructor of North American Training Solutions (NATS). He will give two climbing workshops each day of the conference. For our non-climbers we will have a unique Plant Health Care Presentation given by Kent Honl from Rainbow Treecare Scientific Advancements along with Dr. Eric North, University of Nebraska-Lincoln who will present a talk titled "Trees as Witnesses" along with a session titled "Impact of EAB and the Treatment on the Ability of Ash Trees." Dr. North is new at the university so I included his bio along with information on the new Community Forestry degree program in this issue. There will also be technical sessions for those who are interested in drones and computer security. We will have presentations that will interest everyone who attends.

I will save the surprise of our keynote speakers for when the conference attendee brochure is published. I know you will find them both very interesting!

We will again have a great exhibit hall along with our silent/live auction and NAA raffle so watch for some great items to bid on. Mark your calendars to attend the 2018 Nebraska GREAT PLAINS Conference in Omaha. I hope everyone will bring a coworker or a friend to the event. As our conference theme states, we are "Growing Toward the Future" through the 2018 Nebraska GREAT PLAINS Conference. I look forward to seeing you all in January!



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## NEBRASKA GREAT PLAINS CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships are available for the 2018 NE GREAT PLAINS Conference to be held in Omaha on January 23-24, 2018. The hotel is the same location as last year. Scholarship application and instructions can be found on the NAA website, [www.nearborists.org](http://www.nearborists.org). Students, young arborists and aspiring arborists are eligible to submit for the conference scholarships. All applications must be submitted to the NAA office by November 24, 2017. Just like last year, special Future Farmers of America (FFA) scholarships will be offered to Nebraska high school students. There is a separate application for this scholarship so contact the NAA office. Last year the Bryan High School FFA took advantage of these scholarships to attend the conference. Contact the NAA Office at 402-761-2219 for additional details.

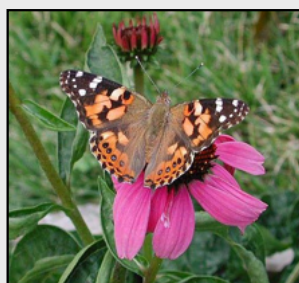
## WELCOME DR. ERIC NORTH



Eric came to Nebraska from Minneapolis, Minnesota, where he worked in municipal forestry, as an arboricultural consultant, and as an instructor and researcher in the Department of Forest Resources at the University of Minnesota. He holds three degrees in urban forestry from the University of Minnesota and is an International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) certified arborist. Eric's research has included growth and biometrics of urban trees, volunteer efficacy in community forestry, and tree ring analysis. Along with research and teaching,

community outreach has been an important facet of Eric's career. He has served on state and local tree boards, helped start a non-profit with friends ([BrewingABetterForest.org](http://BrewingABetterForest.org)), and worked with and trained volunteers across Minnesota. He hopes to continue working with communities throughout Nebraska. Eric lives in Lincoln with his wife and two dogs.

## INVASION OF PAINTED LADY BUTTERFLIES



If you saw a lot of painted lady butterflies, you're not alone. It's the largest migration in more than 12 years. They breed in southern U.S. and Mexico and "rarely reach the high numbers needed to allow successive generations to move North but heavy winter rain in the desert likely beefed up their food supply and gave the population a boost this year." Beautiful and

tough as nails, they're athletic despite their dainty looks and are able to elude hungry birds with their fake eye. "Birds try to peck those eyes instead of the body and all they get is a peak full of wing."

Side note for those trivia experts. Painted Lady Butterflies are found on every continent except Australia and Antarctica. The color yellow also seems to attract the most Painted Ladies.

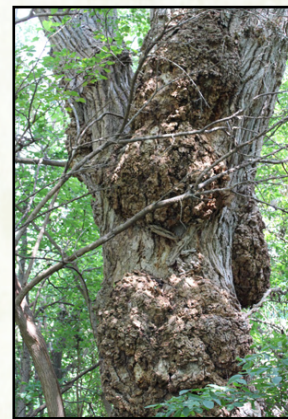
Nebraska Statewide Arboretum (NSA) Facebook Page September 8th



## BURL

By: *Jim Keepers, NAA Newsletter Coordinator*

A burl is a tree growth on the outside of the tree bark that has grown into a deformed shape. This growth is found in the form of a rounded outgrowth on a tree trunk, branch or roots. It is filled with small knots from dormant buds. New sprouts can develop on the outside of the burl. The tree cambium produces the burls. Normally a trunk burl is covered by bark, even if it is underground. Insect infestation and certain types of mold infestation are the most common causes of this condition. Stress is also a cause of a burl. This stress may be environmental or humanly introduced.



You can find burls in Nebraska on cottonwoods and oaks. Burls can grow to great size in numerous tree species. Burls are sought out by furniture makers, artists and wood sculptors because the product produced from the burl is very unique due to its color and texture. Burl wood is very hard to work with because the grain in the burl is not straight but misshaped. Different tree species produce different type of burls and because of this they are valued at a higher price. Burls with grain that has grown erratically are the ones artists prize the most.

The harvesting of burls can be a problem. The removal of the burl can cause the death of the tree. Removal of a burl can require the use of equipment that is expensive and difficult to get to a tree's location without damaging the tree and the surrounding trees.

## NEBRASKA GREAT PLAINS WESTERN SUMMER FIELD DAY

The Nebraska GREAT PLAINS Western Summer Field Day will not be held this year. I talked to Miles Imel at our Eastern Summer Field Day and he indicated Western Field Day would not be held in 2017. He is looking forward to a 2018 event in western Nebraska. He is requesting help with this event. I am asking all arborist and nursery and landscaping individuals to contact Miles if you are interested in helping with the 2018 event. His e-mail address is [peacefulprairienursery@gmail.com](mailto:peacefulprairienursery@gmail.com) & phone number is 308-631-7452.

*Submitted by Jim Keepers*

## MONEY RAISING EVENT

By *Jim Keepers, NAA Winter Conference Committee Chairperson*

Over the years, the winter conference committee has tried different methods to raise funds for our association's educational fund. In 2000, we passed the hat around at the conference and asked for donations. Next, we moved to raffling off two gift baskets and then to a conference chainsaw raffle. I must give credit to Terry Hughes for his donation of numerous chainsaws for these raffles. We then progressed with the start of a silent auction and an equipment raffle. Two years ago, we joined the NNLA's live auction.

Last year the conference's silent/live auction along with the NAA raffle raised a total of \$5,764.78. That was broken down into the following categories: silent auction - \$3,085.18, Live auction - \$2,006.25, NAA shared with NNLA - \$122.35 and NAA raffle - \$561.00. You can see the money raised for the NAA education fund has grown over the years.

With limited funding in the educational fund, the NAA board decided to give scholarships to students, young arborists or future arborists so they could attend one of the NAA's yearly educational and or training events. Several individuals have taken advantage of these scholarships. The program has become a big success for the association.

We have been able to educate several talented young or aspiring Arborists through our association's scholarship program. I want to make sure every effort is spent by association members to continue the success of the conference auctions and raffle.

In closing, I would like to make two requests. We need our association members to go out and obtain items for the live and silent auction. Any item will be gladly accepted and it does not need to be arborist related. I am personally working on the two prizes for the NAA raffle. I am also requesting attendees at the 2018 Nebraska GREAT PLAINS Conference be generous and bid on the auction items and buy a raffle ticket. Remember we will take cash, checks and credit cards as auction/raffle payments!

## WHY DO JAPANESE BEETLES LOVE CERTAIN TREES?

By: *Jonathan Larson, PhD, University of Nebraska Extension, Douglas-Sarpy Counties*

This is the question Jim Keepers asked Dr. Jonathan Larson. My former advisor at Kentucky did some work on this in the 90's. The short answer is no I can't tell you exactly what makes Birch trees tastier to them than Silver Maple trees. A more complex answer I crafted with Dr. Potter is below:

Japanese beetles are generalists, they are willing to take a bite out of nearly any plant they encounter. When they land on and bite something like Silver Maple or Redbud there is some ratio of sugar and plant-based chemicals that they find unpalatable and they fly off. When they land on and taste Linden, Grape, or Birch they find a ratio more acceptable to them. As they feed on these plants their damage induces a high amount of air-borne chemicals to be released from the plant that attract other beetles. They can smell the tree's stress and use those cues to find acceptable feeding sites, hence the clusters of beetles we often find. The research hasn't found consistent plant chemical representatives that we can point to and say, "This chemical is why they like Birch and not Redbud." But we do know that they can follow the smell of a wounded tree like a shark follows blood in the water.



# CAN A NEBRASKA TREE WITHSTAND CHEMICAL OR INSECT DEFOLIATION?

By: Mark Harrell, Forest Health Program Leader, Nebraska Forest Service, University of Nebraska -Lincoln

Before Mark Harrell retired from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, I asked him the following two questions. Can a young newly planted, three-year old tree, survive chemical defoliation? Also, can an established tree like a Linden survive yearly defoliation from the Japanese beetle for a number of years?



## QUESTION ONE RESPONSE:

Regarding the trees with the chemical injury, for the trees that are coming back already, I'd say they have a good chance of leafing out well next year if they do well for the remainder of this year. The injury was certainly a setback at a time when the trees were already in a somewhat weakened condition, but if they're able to produce enough food during the rest of this year to have enough to push out the buds next year, they should come through okay. For any that are not coming back yet, the stress from both the chemical injury and the transplanting might leave them with too little food to come out next spring. It's hard to say what to expect. If they never look good for the rest of this year, they probably won't survive. If they start to look better in the next few weeks, then it just depends on whether they can build up their depleted food reserves well enough before winter.

## QUESTION TWO RESPONSE:

For the Lindens and the Japanese beetle, most healthy trees can withstand two to three years of heavy defoliation and still survive okay. They would certainly be stressed and more vulnerable to other things like root diseases, cankers and borer, but if they started out pretty healthy, they would probably survive okay with just a few years of heavy defoliation. I'm not an expert on Japanese beetles, but I think a typical pattern is that they have some bad years and then some not

so bad years, and during the not so bad years the trees have a chance to recover a little from them.

Adult Japanese beetles are hard to control. I've included a link below to a site with good information. A big problem with systemic control is that bees feed on linden nectar and pollen and can potentially be killed by the treatment.

<https://www.extension.umn.edu/garden/insects/find/japanese-beetles/>

# NEW COMMUNITY FORESTRY DEGREE AT UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN

By: Eric North: Urban and Community Forestry, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

The need for a community forestry degree at University of Nebraska-Lincoln was recognized by the Nebraska Forest Service with support from the U.S. Forest Service, the School of Natural Resources, and the Department of Agronomy and Horticulture. In November of 2016, Dr. Eric North was hired to lead the development of the new degree. Eric officially started at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in April of 2017 and his primary responsibilities are to lead the development of a new degree program and teach courses in community forestry and arboriculture.

The proposed undergraduate degree will be titled Regional and Community Forestry. This degree will be a unique offering for students interested in working with trees, forests, and natural resources in both rural and urban communities here in Nebraska and throughout the country. Building a new degree from scratch involves support from the university, communities of Nebraska, and industry. With that in mind a survey of industry, government (local, state, and federal), and communities was conducted to gauge support and capacity needs for the proposed degree.

Currently, four new courses are being developed by the School of Natural Resources in partnership with the Department of Agronomy and Horticulture in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources. The new courses under development are: Dendrology (the study of trees and their identification), Tree Biology, Arboriculture, and Green Space and Urban Forestry Management. These four new courses will be combined with existing in course work from soil science to community planning to horticulture sciences, and economics. The first course in Dendrology is being taught this fall (2017) with over 20 students enrolled.

If there are any questions or comments regarding the new degree or research and community outreach ideas, please feel free to contact Dr. Eric North at [eric.north@unl.edu](mailto:eric.north@unl.edu) or 402-472-3838. More information can be found at <http://trees.unl.edu>.

**SUDDEN BRANCH DROP (SBD)** is a poorly understood physiological phenomenon that occurs on calm – windless days where apparently healthy branch come tumbling down. Last year most reports came in on ash trees. However, it is known to occur in sycamore, Bradford pear and many oaks. Unlike typical limb failure that snap where the branch attaches to the trunk SBD breaks happen 3' up to 12' away from branch attachment. Some leading hypothesis include drought stress, ethylene gas, water transport and poor pruning practices. This makes you appreciate how much more we have to learn about trees.

Douglas-Sarpy County Extension Weekly Update, 24 July, Scott Evans, Extension Assistant-Horticulture



# UTILIZATION BEYOND MULCH

by Kim Slezak, NAA Director

The morning breakout session at the Summer Field Day was well received with two dozen plus in attendance. Graham Herbst and John DuPlissis of the Nebraska Forest Service (NFS) started the session with some statistics and examples of urban wood utilization from their personal experiences. One thing Graham shared was the story of a historic sycamore from Forest Lawn Cemetery in Omaha being carefully removed after its decline, milled by Andy Classen and utilized in various wood projects by several people. John spoke of his experience in Wisconsin where urban wood utilization has planted many businesses and reduced expenses of at least one municipality that no longer has log 'waste' to deal with since it all goes to a local mill that sorts for highest use.



ClassWoodworks in Omaha run by Andy Classen and Urban Lumber Company of Kansas City, MO represented by Tim O'Neill came with presentations sharing their stories and work in utilizing urban trees. From wedding log card boxes to tables, counter tops, cabinets, coffee tables, entertainment centers, mantels, bookmatched-halves, wall coverings, art, frames, slabs... the possibilities are endless.

"Urban trees account for about 74 billion trees in the contiguous US. This is an amount equal to about 1/4 of the estimated 319 billion live trees growing in the nation's commercial timberland." - Sam Sherrill, Harvesting Urban Timber

"If great great grandpa planted that red oak 120 years ago, and a storm took it down, what better way to memorialize loved ones by taking that tree, sawing into lumber and building a heirloom piece to last the test of time." - Andy Classen

"We are dedicated to making the most out of our local natural resources, specifically our neighborhood trees. Taking trees that are discarded as waste and sawing them up into usable lumber." - Tim O'Neill

Audience questions centered around logistics and costs. Comments suggested that we all agreed the highest use for each tree should be the target. Of course, for some trees and the smaller stuff, it will still be mulch or firewood. But for many companies it's more of a logistics issue – how are the good logs sequestered, if you will, for processing by the arborist that took them down or someone/somewhere else. Not everyone has a skid steer or loader to handle one ton and larger logs. And clients don't want the logs lying in their yards for weeks, so timing is important. Shared resources were mentioned. Not everyone needs a sawmill. Hold the logs then hire one for a day when warranted. Collaborate.

Kiln availability was discussed as was the training NFS has offered and will likely repeat and build upon. In August 2016 there was a kiln workshop. In June 2017 there was a sawmill workshop. An upcoming workshop is likely one on grading – how to know if the tree you've been asked to take down may hold lumber so it can be removed in the largest possible trunk piece(s). But as Tim pointed out he put what some would consider an ugly log on the mill just to see what was inside and ended up with a slab having round void within. He put in on the sale floor and it was exactly what a shopper was looking for to complete a dream project. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder – inside and out.

As NFS plans future workshops, they will be shared through their list-serve. To receive their emails, sign up at <http://nfs.unl.edu/subscribe>, checking the topics you wish to receive. Wood products, utilization is near the bottom of the list. They are looking on developing a forest products association. Perhaps industrial wood clusters could be formed for collaboration and improved efficiencies on logistics, which in turn increases likelihood of better returns on investments. Could even provide a small stipend beyond saved costs for the original tree owner, such is Tim's wish and mine. For every tree has value and benefits dead or alive.

# NEBRASKA IS NO STRANGER TO SEVERE WEATHER

By: Scott Evans, Horticulture Program Coordinator, Douglas-Sarpy Counties & Certified NE Arborist



Nebraska is no stranger to severe weather: wind, hail, snow, scorching heat. Some even joke that it can all happen in the same week. On June 16 the Omaha Metro area was in the direct path of Mother Nature's fury. Wind speeds clocked in over 80 mph and some radar estimates have them even higher. People sought shelter indoors but some of our trees didn't fare as well.



I lost power. So what did I do? I went out looking at the tree damage. Time and time again I pulled up to homes that had lindens, crabapples and pear trees snapped off at ground level. The damage left me speechless because all I could think about was proper tree planting. The trees that I saw that were in the ground too deep. We know that proper planting is essential for tree health, but it becomes even more relevant when it comes to the trees ability to withstand storms.

I know there are a lot of other factors that can also lead to tree failure. I also saw many trees that were planted properly up-rooted. I couldn't stop thinking that if the person(s) who planted the trees took that extra 10 or 15 minutes would it have prevented the tree from snapping.

Planting trees at the proper depth is just one of the many steps we can take for tree health. With many homeowners in the market for new trees, we need to help spread the word on proper tree planting.





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 402-761-2219 or email [staff@nearborists.org](mailto:staff@nearborists.org).

## CALL FOR NAA AWARD NOMINATIONS

The NAA awards committee is requesting nominations for the association's annual awards to be presented at the NAA business meeting during the 2018 Nebraska GREAT PLAINS Conference. All award nomination packages must be submitted to the NAA office by November 15, 2017. The following NAA awards are open for nominations: Life Time Achievement Award, Educator of the Year Award and Arborist of the Year. The requirements for each of these awards can be found on the NAA website. It is not a requirement for all three of these awards to be presented on a yearly basis. If you nominate an individual, the association requests your willingness to ensure the award winner along with family members attend the NAA business meeting. The awards are a secret event so nominees are not notified of their nomination or their selection for the award. The nominating individual is notified of who has been selected for each award. If you feel someone is qualified for one of these awards, please submit a nomination package to the NAA office prior to the deadline.

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