

An Arborist takes  
care of a tree for life.



# OUT ON A LIMB

FALL 2019, VOLUME 39, ISSUE 3



2019 NE SUMMER FIELD DAY – Great Success! Story & Pictures on pages 12 and 13.

## CYPRESS TWIG GALL MIDGE

Introduction By: Jim Keepers, NAA Certified Arborist & Article by David Olson, Forest Health Specialist, Nebraska Forest Service, University of Nebraska–Lincoln

While I was examining my Bald Cypress trees for bagworms, I discovered little white balls on the west side of one of my trees. The tree needles on the branches were sticking out of the balls. I knew it couldn't be the formation of the cones because it was too late in the year for little cones to form and the cones are not white. I was always under the impression that Bald Cypress trees were not susceptible to any disease or insect problems. Also only two of my Bald Cypress on the east side of my property had the problem and my other grove of Bald Cypress on the west side of the property didn't have the problem.

So I was stumped and turned to David Olson, our Nebraska Forest Health Specialist, for help. The following is his description of my Bald Cypress problem.

Bald Cypress trees are susceptible to an occasional pest, the cypress twig gall midge (*Taxodiomyia cupressiananassa*) Family: Cecidomyiidae. This small fly causes whitish galls to form on the needles of the tree where the larva will grow and mature before emerging next spring. While this insect does little actual damage to the tree, the galls can be unsightly on yard trees and may weigh branches down if enough are present. Insecticidal applications are neither recommended nor warranted, but populations can be reduced by removing and destroying the galls between fall and spring when they fall to the ground. This will prevent the adults from emerging in the spring and make reinfestation less likely.

It is important to note the differences between galls and the naturally occurring cones of the Bald Cypress. While they may form at the same time, cones will usually be more of a green color as opposed, to the whitish color of the galls. Additionally, cones will form directly on the woody stem of the plant with a scale like design, whereas, galls will be on the needles and will also have the ends of needles sticking out of the mass. Some varieties of Bald Cypress are believed to be less susceptible to the gall midge. This pest has been documented mostly in eastern counties of Nebraska in the Omaha area.



**Cypress gall midge:** Note the white color and location on the needles of the tree, impacted tissue is also beginning to brown.



**Tree needles sticking out of the white Cypress gall midge.**



**Bald Cypress Cones:** Cones are patterned and are attached directly to the woody stem of the tree usually being found in clusters.

## A QUARTERLY UPDATE OF THE NEBRASKA ARBORISTS ASSOCIATION

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### 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 2019 quarterly newsletters:

4th Quarter - November 11, 2019

*Photo contributions throughout  
courtesy of Jim Keepers.*

# FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Kevin Popken, NAA President

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It was great to see so many of you make it out to the Summer Field Day last month at Carol Joy Holling. We had a record turnout with attendees not only from our own membership but arborists from out of state. The SRT training the day before, lead by Don Coffey with our own Dustin Nelson, was also our best attended ASTI safety training to date. In recent years we as a board have focused more on bringing in great speakers and trainers to these events because we know that training is a primary function of the Association. This year and moving forward we have doubled down on that commitment... "By Arborists for Arborists." We hope that shows in our conference/field day line up and judging by the attendance numbers we think all of you agree.

We have much of the winter conference schedule and speakers worked out and the line up is definitely in keeping with this commitment ...it will be one you won't want to miss. With so much coming our way on the insect and disease front it is important to attend training events such as these, not just to maintain your CEUs for recertification, but more importantly to sharpen our skills and be prepared to handle the work ahead.

Finally, we are currently taking nominations for board positions as well as Arborist and Educator of the year, you can go to our website for a nomination form and send them in to me or the office.

Till the next conference – stay safe.

All the Best,  
Kevin Popken, NAA President

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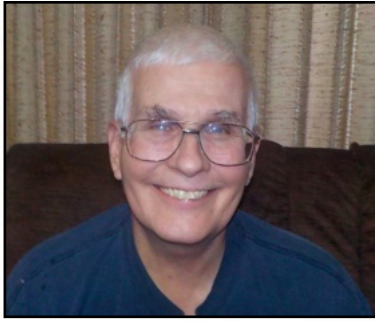
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# ANOTHER LOOK BACK INTO OUR ASSOCIATION HISTORY

By: Jim Keepers, NAA Newsletter Coordinator

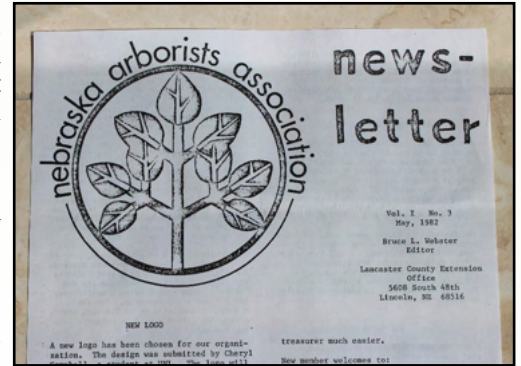


**Bruce I. Webster, first NAA Newsletter Coordinator/Editor**

Your NAA's newsletter was first printed in October 1981 and your first Association's newsletter editor was Bruce L. Webster. The newsletter was composed using a typewriter and then copies made. It was black and white and only two sided. It contained the following short articles: Jock Nebelsick's "President's Message", "Field Day Review", "NAA Board Nominations", "Display at Trees for Nebraska Conference", "Girdling Roots", "Representative Needed", and "Computer Madness".

The next issue of the newsletter came out in January 1982 and followed the same format. Succeeding issues were enhanced with the addition of the new and present NAA logo and formal lettering on the newsletter's heading. Your Association's newsletter was created by Bruce and enhanced over the years by future editors. Take a look at a copy of the title page of the 3rd issue dated May 1982, a black and white, two page issue and compare it

to our present color issue. There is a marked difference. As your Association has grown so has your newsletter.



So now let's take a look at the NAA's first newsletter editor Bruce Webster. He was originally from Michigan. He obtained his B.S. degree in Forestry from Michigan State University. His first professional job was an assistant to a county Horticulture Extension Agent in Michigan. His first forestry job was the Community Forester for South Dakota. His main responsibility was to assist cities with their Dutch Elm disease problem that was going through the State in the 1970's.

He moved to Nebraska and worked for the Nebraska Forest Service as the Lincoln Regional Urban Forester from 1978 to 1986 working out of the Lancaster County Extension Services Office. During this time, he received his master's degree, saw his son get his kidney transplant, and got hooked on Husker football. He worked on Pin Oak chlorosis, helped the Lincoln City Forester update the city's street tree forestry inventory plan, helped with clean up after the Grand Island tornado, and developed several inventory and Community Forest Plans for Cook and Auburn, NE, among other communities. He was a member of the Nebraska Arborists Association from 1979 -1986 and held the position of NAA Secretary/Treasurer and Newsletter Editor.

He moved to Tennessee in 1986, and worked as the State Urban Forester until 2014 and then was promoted to Forest Management Chief. During this time, he started the TN Urban Forestry Council (a requirement by the USDA Forest Service to participate in the expanded Federal Urban Forestry Program) and started the annual TN Urban Forestry conference. He oversaw three different tree grant programs beginning in 1991 and numerous other activities. He was an International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) member from 1973-2015. He then took the big jump and entered retirement.

He sang in his church choir prior to retirement and continues to do so in retirement. Also in retirement, he is a weather geek and data trivialist "Nashville's last below zero temperatures were February, 1996", chauffeur and care giver for his son, blueberry enthusiast, and he is trying to grow trees from seed. He told me, He is hopeful he will have a Bigleaf Magnolia and Fringetree next year.

Because of the efforts of an arborists like Bruce Webster, your Association was established on a strong foundation. Bruce was just another Nebraska arborist doing his share to build the NAA during those early years of growth. On behalf of the NAA, I want to thank him for all he did for the NAA in those early years.

## HOT NEWS - HOT NEWS - HOT NEWS

It was just announced on the radio that the Emerald Ash Borer has been discovered on the 10th of September on a homeowner's property in Ashland, Nebraska



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Nebraska GREAT PLAINS Conference

Tuesday & Wednesday,  
January 28-29, 2020

Cornhusker Hotel, Lincoln, Nebraska

### Nebraska Certified Arborist Exam

See Nebraska GREAT PLAINS Conference information for pre-registration (required)

January 27, 2020

### Winter Deciduous Tree ID Advanced Arborist Training

Friday, February 21, 2020  
VFW Hall and Wayne Park  
Waverly, Nebraska

### Advanced Arborist Training

Wednesday, August 12, 2020  
Carol Joy Holling Center, Ashland

### GREAT PLAINS Summer Field Day

Thursday, August 13, 2020  
Carol Joy Holling Center, Ashland

## ARBORIST SPOTLIGHT

By: *Jim Keepers, NAA Newsletter Coordinator*



**Father & Son – Larry & Randy Dillon**

As we enter into the fall of 2019, I wanted to feature a skilled and independent Nebraska Certified Arborist in my “Arborist Spotlight” article. This individual is an owner of a small tree care company who enjoys working in the trees and creating useful artistic byproducts from the tree he removes. Because he has a great love for professional tree climbing, he has given up his free time to help with NAA’s tree climbing demonstrations at NE Forest Service (NFS) open house at Horning State Farm Forest Festival for the past two years, assisted with the climbing education during the NAA’s “Pruning and Climbing Class,” and also helped out with the children’s climb during Arbor Day celebrations.

The arborist being featured this quarter is Randy Dillon, Owner and Operator of Dillon’s Tree Service, Omaha, Nebraska. He was born in Omaha’s Methodist Hospital on the August 3, 1975. He grew up in Leshara, Nebraska, a town of around 130 people, a growing metropolitan community. His dad had a 300 acre farm on the Platte River and Randy helped out on the farm until he was 10 years old.

Randy learned the skill of tree climbing, tree pruning, and tree removal from his father, Larry, who operated Larry Dillon Tree Service out of Leshara, Nebraska. His father was a Certified Arborist, even though Fremont was the only town at that time requiring Arborist Certification. His father’s business specialized in Cottonwood tree removals. Larry retired from the business in 1993, the same time Randy graduated from high school so Randy’s father was the driving force behind Randy’s desire to become a Nebraska Certified Arborist.

Randy’s career path did take a course correction. After graduating from ITT Technical Institute with an Associate Degree in Electronics Engineering, he traveled around the US putting in movie systems in hotels and then he did wiring for Cox telephones and cable. He then joined the Electrical Union and did structural wiring for phone systems, data, and security for eight years. His life then changed drastically. Charlotte, a very special person in his life, received a cancer diagnosis and couldn’t work anymore Randy then turned to the career field he loved when he was younger. Randy started Dillon Tree Service so he could stay in Omaha. He worked with anyone who could help him learn the proper arborist skills. He then received a NAA scholarship and attended the NAA’s Arborist School and achieved his Nebraska Certified Arborist status.

Randy is not one to belong to groups but he does enjoy belonging to the NAA. He does like to help other tree services when he can. He loves to do wood working and he has made a few things. Randy was the one who introduced me to Dan Nye’s Custom Sawmill & Lumber. Dan was an exhibitor at last year’s Nebraska GREAT PLAINS Conference. Randy does have one other passion in life and that is using different fruit wood in his smoker. He is always on the lookout for fruit wood that will enhance the quality of his smoking products.



**Randy demonstrating the art of tree climbing at 2019 Horning State Farm Forest Festival**

Charlotte is still a special person in Randy’s life and she does help him on different tree projects. She did assist at the Arborist booth at last year’s Horning State Farm Forest Festival. Charlotte did receive a scholarship to attend this year’s NAA Arborist School. She has a genuine interest in tree care and has no fear or misgivings about tree climbing. She is presently learning from Randy and picked up a lot of good climbing pointers from the skill climbing instructors. It looks like Charlotte is following the same path Randy took to become a Nebraska Certified Arborist. She is striving to pass the NAA Certification Exam and it is my hope we can add her to the NAA Certification roster.



**Oak Table Created by Randy**



**Randy blessing a large Sycamore tree before making his climb.**



**Randy’s ingenious art work!**

I very much enjoy writing about a Nebraska Certified Arborist like Randy because of his love of tree work and his willingness to help out other arborists. Randy did some pruning work for me at St. Augustine Church in Elkhorn, Nebraska and he did an outstanding job.

The NAA is fortunate to have an arborist like Randy in our Association. I hope Randy will be attending the 2020 Nebraska GREAT PLAINS Conference in January. When you see him at different NAA events, please say hi and tell him his skilled tree work is appreciated and also say hello to Charlotte.

# SUCCESSFUL ADVANCED SUMMER FIELD DAY

By: Jim Keepers, NAA Newsletter Coordinator

The SRT/Roping & Rigging Workshop held at Carol Joy Holling Center on August 8th was a very successful advanced summer field day. Your Association hosted this event and TCIA provided funding through its Arborist Safety Training Institute (ASTI). A total of 56 individuals attended this training. Donny Coffey, with 20+ years of Arborist training, instructed the class and Dustin Nelson, Nebraska Certified Arborist and NAA Board Member, monitored and assisted with the class. What made this class unique were the attendees. You had climbers with little climbing experience and climbers with lots of experience. The workshop also had individuals who were interested in entering the arborist career field.



## HAIL AND AUSTRIAN PINES

By: Phil Pierce, Consulting Arborist, and Nebraska Certified Arborist

For those who have not been around as long as I have, several weeks after a hail storm Austrian Pines turned very brown. At first I thought “was this a very bad year for Tip-blight and Needle Cast?” Then I realize that the timing is off and the extent of the browning is worse than any spring infection. Finally it hits me, I have seen this before!

The hail created many open wounds on the upper side of twigs and branches. These wounds got infected with the Tip-blight and Needle Cast fungi, greatly increasing the disease load on the tree. Some Austrian Pines have died from this over load. Other Pines have varying amounts of dead needles. Several will recover.

Infected Pines can be seen along the east side of I-680 south of Pacific Street in Omaha and at the southeast corner of 97th and Pacific Streets.

Little can be done at this time. Next year, spray Austrian Pine with a fungicide twice during the last week of April through the first week of May. With Nebraska’s changeable weather these dates vary a bit from year to year. Check with a Certified Arborist who is a member of the Nebraska Arborist Association. They get current information on the date of bud break, which is the start of “candle” elongation each spring; that is the time to start spraying.

If you are lucky enough to own an Austrian Pine after the next hail storm, spray the tree with a fungicide as soon as possible to keep the fungus from establishing in the hail wounds.



### Recommended Confers & Evergreens to replace the Austrian Pine:

- Lacebark Pine
- Limber Pine
- Ponderosa Pine
- White Pine
- Back Hills Spruce
- Douglas Fir
- Concolor Fir
- Jack Pine – doesn’t have a great form
- Larch & Bald Cypress – confers but not evergreens because they lose their needles in the fall

Picture from YAHOO

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# THE THREE SISTERS

By: *Jim Keepers, Certified NE Arborist*

The story of the three sisters and the battle fought by a special and unique Nebraska Certified Arborist along with his talented arborist crews to care for these trees over the years is one that needs to be told.

The three sisters are not human beings but three magnificent American elm trees fulfilling their mission as street trees along 85th Avenue in Omaha. These trees were planted very close to an edge of the front of the property so their mighty branches might spread over the street. These three trees joined other American elm trees lining the street proving shade, seasonal color and home for wildlife. It was a sight to behold!

History has it that this street and many other streets in Omaha were arched over by a large number of elm trees on both sides of the street. Omaha's 85th Avenue was one of the last surviving streets in Omaha to still have some stately elms lining its street.



**All that remains of the sister American elm tree before final removal.**



When the homeowners moved into their home on 85th Avenue, they were told there were originally four American elms in the front yard along the street line. The one on the north end by the driveway had to be removed before they moved into the home.

When the homeowners moved into this residence, they adopted these sister elm trees as part of their family and were sick to see them slowly die and be removed. Not long after they moved into their home, in the early 1970s, they had the first sister tree removed due to Dutch elm disease. It was located on the south end of the yard, next to the neighbor's driveway. The next tree to be removed was in August of 2015. It was not due to Dutch elm disease but because a major branch fell off the tree into the street and was blocking the entire street. They were lucky because there were no injuries from this branch failing. For safety reasons, they had the tree removed. So now there was only one magnificent American elm tree standing guard over the street.

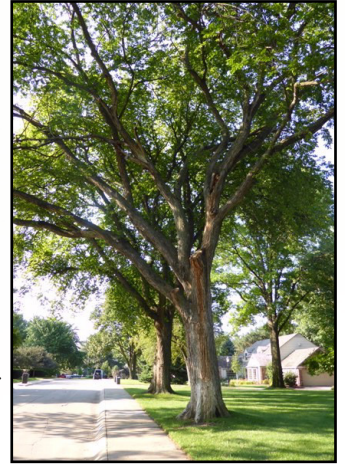
Because of the size of these trees and their location along a very busy street, a number of trained Arborists with unique climbing experience and bucket truck talent were dispatched over the years to accomplish the removal of these great and beautiful trees.

Over the years, the homeowner of the three sisters spend big dollar amounts trying to prevent the spread of Dutch elm disease in his trees. He worked directly with the Assistant City of Omaha Forester trying to save these elm trees but over time he just lost the battle. The Assistant City Forester introduced the homeowner to a unique Nebraska Certified Arborist who took over all of the homeowner's tree work. The Arborist's crews spent many hours working in the three sister American elm trees trying to save them or removing them.

I got involved with the last remaining sister American elm tree when the homeowner hired me to work in all of his landscaping beds this spring. The last remaining sister did produce some very small leaf growth this spring but then it just seem to give up and die. Two climbing Arborists were dispatched to remove this tree and still keep the traffic flowing along a very busy 85th Avenue. The entire branch structure was removed safely in about 4 hours. Removal didn't require the need of a chipper. Also a climber wasn't requiring to enter into the tree structure and the flow of traffic wasn't hindered. All that was left was a very large tree trunk and it was cut down and removed a few days later. By looking at the stump of the last sister, I estimated the diameter of the last sister American elm tree to be 24ft. It was hard to get an exact measurement of the trunk because of the root flare. The stump photo shows how this mighty sister American elm had a great root flare. The tree was so close to the road that I don't understand why it's roots didn't have an effect on the road.



**Sister America elm tree waiting for the stump grinder and final removal.**



**Sister American elm trees providing summer shade.**



**Sister American elm trees in the glorious fall color.**



**Sister American elm trees in their winter beauty.**

See the complete story of the last sister American elm tree removal along 85th Avenue in the December NAA newsletter.

In closing, I want to introduce you to this special and unique Certified Nebraska Arborist who made every effort to save these three sister American elm trees but in the end had to have his arborist's crews remove them. His name is Terry Hughes, the founder of Hughes Tree Service. The homeowner told me he was friends with Terry for many years and with his death he lost a special person. The homeowner's last words to me about Terry was "I MISS HIM"! I also feel the same way.

# THANKS CHIP

By: Jim Keepers, NAA Newsletter Coordinator

I want to take this opportunity to thank Chip Doolittle, ArborSystems president and 1995 Nebraska Arborists Association President for his donation of ArborSystems Boxer Insecticide to treat 200 Ash trees in Mahoney State Park. The chemical will provide two-year control of emerald ash borer and other insects and mite pests. It is actions of individuals like Chip who enhance your Association.

Chip's ArborSystems Company was presented the 2018 Community Forestry Award from the Nebraska Forest Service at the 2019 Nebraska GREAT PLAINS Summer Field Day.

Thanks Chip for being so generous and your devotion to enhance the trees in Nebraska and throughout the United States.



Chip working his booth at the TCI Expo

# ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL ARBORIST SCHOOL CLASS

By: Jim Keepers, NAA Newsletter Coordinator

I have been involved in numerous NAA Arborist School classes over the years and every year I wonder if we will have enough attendees to have a successful class. Again, I was surprised at our attendance at our Tree ID, Evaluation & Selection, Planting & Establishment Class. We had 39 registrations with 30 who signed up for full registration. These individuals showed a strong desire to pass the NAA Arborist Exam and fulfill all the necessary requirements to become a Certified Nebraska Arborist. I have never seen a class like this with so much diversity. We also had attendees from South Dakota and Wyoming. I believe this is a first for this class.

The class was a two day event held at the VFW Post Hall in Waverly, NE and Wayne Park. Justin Evertson, Nebraska Statewide Arboretum (NSA) Green Infrastructure Coordinator and Graham Herbst, Nebraska Forest Service (NFS), Community Forester Specialist performed our instructor duties. Both of these individuals did an outstanding job. I was very impressed with Justin's knowledge of the numerous trees in Wayne Park. The trees in this park are his babies.

If this class is an example of our Association's future and our ability to educate and train Nebraska Certified Arborists, then our future is very bright. Just a reminder that the foundation of the NAA Arborist School rests on the framework established by Arborist Dave Mooter and Phil Pierce. These are the individuals our Association owes a debt of gratitude.



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## RARE 'HEAT BURST' DAMAGE

By: *Jim Keepers, NAA Newsletter Coordinator*

Here in Nebraska and Iowa, we are faced with some very severe thunderstorms with high winds, rain and hail but we also face a very unusual weather condition called "Heat Burst". A "Heat Burst" is a very rare severe thunderstorm or more commonly stated a 'rare atmospheric phenomenon'. It is a downdraft of hot and dry air occurring during the late spring and summer seasons. It usually happens in the evening or overnight hours. You have very gusty winds over 80 mph with a rapid temperature increase and dew point decrease. The conditions in the atmosphere must be just right for the "Heat Burst" to happen.

This photo shows "Heat Bust" damage that occurred in the early morning of May 2017 in Northwest Iowa where winds exceeded 80 mph. | *Photo Credit: Dickinson County, Emergency Management*

## CATALPA SPHINX CATERPILLAR

By: *Jim Keepers, Certified NE Arborist*

Well this is one insect I have never seen before and I guess most of you have very little experience with this critter. I thought it would be worth while to have this one in your informational insect bag.

I was exposed to this caterpillar when my wife told me something is eating my Chinese and American Catalpa leaves and one of the American Catalpa tree is almost defoliated. She didn't use the term defoliated. She said all the leaves were eaten off. I had no idea what this worm (caterpillar) was called or how to treat it. My only experience with caterpillars that were similar in appearance was the tomato worm which my wife hates and always seems to run into them eye-to-eye in the tomato patch. I must say, these caterpillars were not as ugly as tomato worms and they did have an unusual design color.

After doing some research, I discovered I had Catalpa Sphinx Caterpillar doing all the damage to my trees. The insect research books describe the caterpillar as "large yellow-and-black-striped, each with a sharp 'horn' at the tail end". It is the larval stage of a large night-flying moth that is rarely seen. They usually feed in groups on the underside of the young leaves. The caterpillars grow to a length of 1 to 3 inches and spreads throughout the tree and feeds on the leaves. They can be found from May to August.

The pupa stage of the moth spends the winter in soil. The moth emerges from the soil in the spring and the female lays her eggs on the underside of the Catalpa leaves. After hatching, the larvae feed for several weeks. If not controlled, the caterpillar will develop into the second generation caterpillars within a year.

Catalpa trees can be sprayed in the spring with an insecticide containing acephate. You need to make sure that you spray the underside of the leaves. I would recommend spraying in the evening to reduce killing bees. You might need another treatment in midsummer to fight a reoccurrence of the problem. You can also remove the caterpillars by hand if the tree is small. Make sure you remove all the dead leaves from under the tree in the fall to reduce the overwintering of the pupal.

For those arborists who love to fish, the Catalpa Sphinx Caterpillar is great bait because the fish love them! So you can kill two birds with one stone. You can remove an unwanted pest and have free bait at the same time.



**A mass of young Catalpa Sphinx Caterpillar feeding on the underside of a Catalpa leaf.**



**Catalpa leaf damage caused by the Catalpa Sphinx Caterpillar.**



**A large Catalpa Sphinx Caterpillar feeding on a Catalpa leaf.**

## PLANT ICE RESISTANT TREES

**Ice storm susceptibility of tree species commonly planted in urban areas**

Susceptible		Intermediate resistance	Resistant	
American elm	Honey locust	Bur oak	American sweetgum	Ironwood
American linden	Pin oak	Eastern white pine	Arborvitae	Kentucky coffee tree
Black cherry	Siberian elm	Northern red oak	Black walnut	Littleleaf linden
Black locust	Silver maple	Red maple	Blue beech	Norway maple
Bradford pear		Sugar maple	Catalpa	Silver linden
Common hackberry		Sycamore	Eastern hemlock	Swamp white oak
Green ash		Tuliptree	Ginkgo	White oak

## A SPECIAL OR UNIQUE TREE

By: *Jim Keepers, Maturing Certified Nebraska Arborist*

Trees growing in our landscapes are usually planted following the designer's landscaping plan or the homeowner's gardening knowledge. So there is some plan or reason to the trees location in the landscape. The tree being featured didn't following any of the normal tree planting design rules. A bird just decided to discharge a tree seed in the back of one of my gardens and miraculously it germinated without any of my assistance into a unique clump tree. I have taken the time to prune out a number of the stems so the tree now has three mature stems.

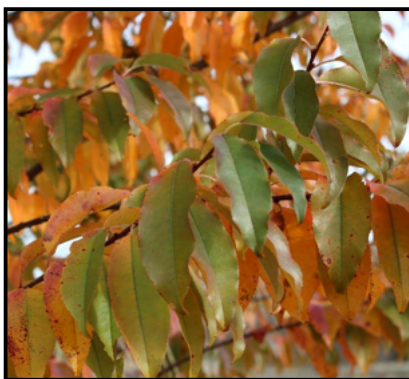
So let's take a look at my Black cherry, *Prunus serotina*, tree also called Rum cherry, or Mountain black cherry. This is a deciduous tree in the genus *Prunus*. It is wide spreading and common in North and South America. The tree is related to the Chokecherry, *Prunus virginiana*, but it is a small or more shrub forming tree with smaller and less glossy leaves. Its one drawback is the thousands of stray seedlings it produces because of its ability to produce numerous red to black fruit.

It is a medium-sized but very fast-growing tree that can reach a height of 50 to 80 ft. It can be identified by its long, shiny leaves, ovate-lanceolate in shape about 2-5 inches long. The leaves do have a great fall color yellow to red. The spring blooms are what makes this tree stand out in the spring. The blooms are small but are formed in long racemes containing several dozen flowers. Numerous edible reddish-black "berries" (called dupes) are produced in the fall. These dupes are what produces the stray seedlings.

In its youth, the bark of the Black cherry is thin, smooth, and banded and it resembles the bark of the Birch tree. The white bands on the trunk are called lenticels. These lenticels act as pores, providing a pathway for the direct exchange of gasses between the tree's internal tissues and atmosphere through the bark, which is otherwise impermeable to gases. A mature Black cherry tree can easily be identified in a forest by its very broken, dark grey to black bark. The bark has the appearance of very thick, burnt cornflakes. If you scratch a small tree branch, and odor is released, it smells like almond.

I wouldn't recommend this tree for the average homeowner's landscape but if you have a customer who is interested in a native tree and has a wooded area this tree is a winner.

Source: "*Dirr's Hardy Tree and Shrubs*"



## IDAHO COMPANY TO PAY \$12K FINE AFTER TREE-TRIMMING DEATH

BURLEY, Idaho — The Occupational Safety and Health Administration has fined an Idaho tree-trimming company after an employee was killed and another was injured when the work platform of a bucket truck fell about 65 feet.

The Times-News reported Monday that the federal agency fined Tree Trouble of Burley nearly \$14,800 but reduced it to \$12,000 after reaching a settlement.

Photo from TCLA Accident Brief for the week of 8-26-2019



# EDUCATION



# EQUIPMENT



# ENGAGEMENT

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## NEW DIRECTION FOR NAA SUMMER FIELD DAY

By: *Jim Keepers, Maturing Certified NE Arborist*

After 10 years of joint Summer Field Days with the Nebraska Nursery and Landscaping Association, the NAA held their own GREAT PLAINS Eastern Summer Field Day at Carol Joy Holling Center outside Ashland, Nebraska on August 9th. Not knowing how the attendance would be for this event, the Board budgeted for around 40 attendees and were pleasantly surprised when 143 attendees were at the event. The general session room was a little crowded but there was ample room next door for our exhibitors and ample outside space to work in the trees and have other exhibitors show off their equipment. The goal for next year's summer field is more space allocated for the event, great group of attendees and more exhibitors.

A special thanks goes out to Kevin Popken, Lon Nutter, Jeff Grewe, Jerel Converse, Kathi Schildt and her staff for a job well done. Thanks also to Chrissy Land and Graham Herbst with the Nebraska Forest Service for demonstrating the air spade exposing bad tree roots. Also our own Dustin Nelson did a great demonstration in the field with the assistance of his brother.

We were all pleased to see that Nebraska Certified Arborist John Housley, Sr was able to attend along with his son and grandsons. John, we really missed you at last year's winter conference in York, Nebraska. We look forward to seeing you in January for our next conference.

The NAA Board wants to thank everyone for attending our Summer Field. Your support of events like this makes your Association grow and succeed. Thanks again for attending and we look forward to seeing you at the 2020 Nebraska GREAT PLAINS Winter Conference at the Cornhusker Hotel in Lincoln on January 28-29, 2020.

### Thank You To Our Summer Field Day Exhibitors!

ArborSystems, Inc

Gene Steffy Auto Group

Mynatt Truck & Equipment

Rainbow Treecare Scientific Advancements

Great Plains Nursery

Vermeer High Plains

USDA- APHIS PPQ

CHI Health Creighton University Medical Center-Bergan Mercy  
Bleed Control Demo

Omaha Public Power District Demo



**PESTICIDE COMPLAINANTS** – if you or your clients want to file a complaint about pesticide misuse call Tim Creger, Nebraska Department of Agriculture, at 402-471-6882 or 402-471-2341.



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**2018 Community Forestry Awards**

Youth Award - *Maysaa Khalaf*

Outstanding Tree Care Award -  
*Improving Blue Springs*

Educator Award - *Sarah Browning*

Community Enhancement Award -  
*Diana Failla*

Business Award - *Arborsystems*

Volunteer Award - *Jo Langabee*

Green Industry Award - *Hughes Tree Service*

Media Award - *Larry Schultz*

For Future Generations Award -  
*WINR (Women In Natural Resources)*

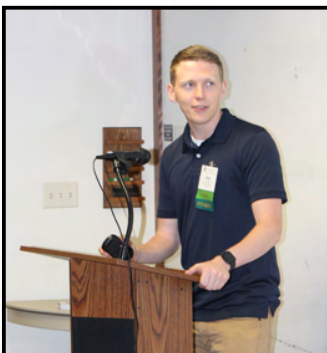
Dave Mooter Legacy Award - *Steven Rodie*



**SILVER SPONSORS**



**BRONZE SPONSORS**



## 2018 NEBRASKA TREE CITY USA AWARDS AND TREE CITY GROWTH AWARDS

Nebraska's Tree City USA Awards are sponsored by the National Arbor Day Foundation and coordinated by the Nebraska Forest Service. These awards are given in recognition for outstanding work in developing and managing a public program that emphasizes the importance of trees.

Nebraska's Tree City USA Awards are presented to those Tree City USA Award winners whose community forestry programs went above and beyond during the year.

Thanks again for all your efforts, award recipients! All recipients are listed in this issue. Each NE City award recipient is listed in order. Number of years presented the Tree City USA Award is to the left of the name. The simple GA to the right signifies the award of the Tree City Growth Award.

2018 Growth Awards and the number of years: Hershey, NE (2); Ogallala, NE (3); Norfolk, NE (4); Scottsbluff, NE (7); South Sioux City, NE (12); Creighton, NE (13); Gretna, NE (22); Lincoln, NE (28)

## VERTICILLIUM WILT

*By: David Olson, Forest Health Specialist*

Symptoms of Verticillium wilt are now becoming apparent in infected trees in the form of wilting and dying branches. This is most often seen in species of maple, elm, catalpa, and magnolia. The disease is caused by a fungal pathogen that lies dormant in the soil, often in pockets. If roots of a susceptible tree run into this fungus, it may infect the plant, often causing dieback on branches. Certain infections may also be chronic and lead to a slow dieback. Infested tree tissue may or may not show staining of the vascular tissues.

Unfortunately, there is no cure for this disease. Trees showing symptoms can be pruned back and properly mulched and watered to improve tree health. Remember to sterilize all tools used for pruning after each cut. If the tree dies or removal is desired, it is advised to plant a resistant species in its place. Resistant species include oak, willow, honeylocust, walnut, and linden among others.

*Nebraska's Forest Health Report Photo, July 2019*



## 2020 MEMBERSHIP DUES

The 2020 NAA membership renewal notice will be emailed in October. Membership dues are due to the NAA office by December 15, 2019. Each renewing arborist will receive a window cling/sticker for the 2020 year. When recertification fees are not paid within 90 days, certification status will be forfeited.

## SILENT AUCTION DONATIONS

Our Silent Auction, which benefits our education fund, has been a great event for many years. Because of the generosity of our conference attendees, your Association has been able to award numerous scholarships to students and young arborists so they could attend your Association training events, Summer Field Day and Winter Conference. To increase your Association's ability to award more scholarships next year, we are asking our membership to donate items for our silent auction. We are also asking for you to solicit business acquaintances, customers and friends for donations to our silent auction. Your donations to our auction are greatly appreciated. The donation form can be found on the NAA website. Donations can be sent to Kathi at the NAA office. Jim Keepers will also pick up your items in the Omaha area if needed.

## NAA HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

The NAA office will close for Thanksgiving on Thursday, November 28 and Friday, November 29. The office will close for the Christmas holiday on Monday, December 23 and reopen on Thursday, December 26. The office will be closed on Tuesday, December 31 and Wednesday, January 1 for the New Year's holiday. Mail, emails, and voice messages will be checked during the last two weeks of December so that urgent matters can be handled, if necessary, even during the days the office is scheduled to be closed.

The NAA staff and Board of Directors send best wishes to you and your families for the holidays. Thank you for your membership during 2019 and we look forward to serving you in the new year.

# RECOMMENDATION FOR HEALTHIER TREES IN AND AROUND THE LAWN

By: Jim Keepers, NAA Newsletter Coordinator

1. Designate a clear zone around trees & landscape plants where herbicides will not be used
2. Avoid as much as possible using herbicides in spring and early summer when trees are actively growing. Fall is actually a better time to treat for dandelions and other perennial weeds.
3. Never use soil sterilants or herbicides containing dicamba around trees & shrubs.
4. Apply granular forms of herbicides whenever possible.
5. Don't apply pre-emergent herbicides annually, but rather use them only every few years when weed pressures increase.
6. Avoid spraying any herbicide when it is windy.
7. Instead of a general application of herbicide across the entire property, try to spot-treat only where weeds are a problem.
8. Separate trees, shrubs and other landscape plantings from the lawn by planting in groups and mulching together.
9. Provide a 5-6' mulch ring around the trunk of individual trees.
10. Try to live with some weeds.



## 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 first day of the Nebraska GREAT PLAINS Conference. All award nominations must be submitted to the NAA office by November 16, 2019. The following NAA awards are open for nominations: Lifetime Achievement, Educator of the Year and Arborist of the Year. The requirements for each of these awards can be found on the NAA website – [www.nearborists.org](http://www.nearborists.org). 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 at the conference. The awards are a secret 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.

## NAA BOARD NOMINATIONS DUE TO NAA OFFICE

- Secretary – this is a three-year term from January 28, 2020 through January 2022
  - Director – This is a three-year term from January 28, 2020 through January 2022
- Nominations are due to the NAA office by November 30, 2019. Please visit the NAA website at [www.nearborists.org](http://www.nearborists.org) to obtain a nomination form and read a general description of NAA board member roles and responsibilities. Nomination forms should be mailed to NAA, PO Box 10, Milford, NE 68405 or emailed to [staff@nearborists.org](mailto:staff@nearborists.org). You can nominate yourself if you would like to run for one of these positions.



### VETERANS DAY 2019 MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11

Let us remember all our Nebraska Arborist Association Veterans who served our country proudly over the years. If you meet one of these members just don't say "Thank You For Your Service" but spend some time talking with them and maybe take them out for a meal! The NAA has a number of great veterans!

Photo: Yahoo web site

#### TREES CONSIDERED RELATIVELY GOOD COMPARTMENTALIZERS:

Hickory, Hackberry, Hard Maples (Sugar), Beech, Walnut, Red Cedar, Pine, Sycamore, Oak, Ash, Bald Cypress

#### TREES CONSIDERED RELATIVELY POOR COMPARTMENTALIZERS:

Boxelder, Soft Maple (Silver, Red), Alder, Birch, Butternut, Catalpa, Hawthorn, Persimmon, Cottonwood, Black Locust, Sassafras, Willow, Mulberry, Many Rose Family Members

Research conducted by Dr. Kim Coder,  
Plant Physiologist at the University of



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Call the NAA office for more information at  
402-761-2219 or email [staff@nearborists.org](mailto:staff@nearborists.org).



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