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care of a tree for life.



# OUT ON A LIMB

FALL 2022, VOLUME 42, ISSUE 3



Creighton University Arboretum. Story on page 7.

## 2022 ARBORIST SCHOOL: TREE ID

By: *Alyssa Brodersen, NAA Executive Director*

The first section of Arborist School – Tree ID, Evaluation & Selection, Planting & Establishment was held at the Waverly VFW on September 7th & 8th. The class welcomed 53 students that were eager to learn. Justin Evertson is the lead instructor for Tree ID and works for the Nebraska Forest Service/Nebraska Statewide Arboretum. Justin has been working at the Wayne Arboretum since 1995, and his careful thought and planning have created a beautiful area ideal for these hands-on classes.



After a morning of introductions and presentations, the class walked around the Arboretum to view the vast number of trees that Justin and his team have planted and cared for over the years. The class ended the day back at the VFW, where they went through a few more presentations and then took a quiz on the different trees they had learned about throughout the day.

On the second day, after some classroom review, the class headed back to the Wayne Arboretum to plant a tree before the weather got too warm. In the afternoon, Graham Herbst, Nebraska Forest Service, spoke about “Planting & Pruning with a Purpose.”

Throughout the two-day event, the attendees asked many great questions and engaged with the topics. The Nebraska Arborists Association looks forward to hosting section two of Arborist School - Pruning, Climbing & Safety Class on October 13-14th at Carol Joy Holling in Ashland, NE.



**Be sure to reserve your spot for this great event!**



## A QUARTERLY UPDATE OF THE NEBRASKA ARBORISTS ASSOCIATION

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### SUBMIT ARTICLES:

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

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT



As I begin to close out my term as President of the NAA, I am reflecting on the messages I have been fortunate enough to share with you over the last three years. Of those messages, the nearest to my heart is surrounding mental health. I am grateful to have had this platform to raise awareness around and destigmatize the mental health issues that are so prevalent in our industry. I would like to share a personal story.

### I think of depression like cancer.

Roughly three months ago, I started showing signs of fatigue: sleeping a lot, low energy, mental fog, etc. I thought it might be COVID, so I took a test. It was negative. I thought it might be from the tick bite I received around the same time... it's doubtful.

As it turns out, it is my old companion, **depression**.

**Like cancer, I will never be cured of depression**, but I do get to enjoy months and even years where my depression will go into remission.

**Depression is something that will always be with me.** Today, I have a lifetime of experience that better allows me to manage it: therapy, exercise, coaching, meditation, medication, meaningful work, etc.

**I share this with you, as I shared this with my team this morning, to shine a light on a mental health condition that affects all of us.** We are all touched by anxiety, depression, and mental health disorders in one way or another.

**Vulnerability and transparency are powerful.** By telling my team the truth, I've created a safe space for them to ask for help. By telling them the truth, I've eliminated whatever stories they might have been telling themselves.

**My current depressive state and lack of performance does not reduce my value as a human being.** It's quite the opposite: my struggles with anxiety, depression, drug addiction, etc., allow me to empathize with a world being crushed under the weight of it all.

**It is up to me** to not become trapped and crippled by my depression and anxiety.

**It is up to me** to ask for and to get help.

**It is up to me** to give meaning to my mental health struggle.

As I share this with you, my depression has lifted, but I know all too well that it is never far away. I know that this resonates with many of you reading this.

Here is my message to you:

- It is okay to struggle.
- Have the **courage** to ask for help.

All my best,  
Jeff Grewe, President, Nebraska Arborist Association

# A LETTER FROM KATHI SCHILDT

It is with pleasure (and a little sadness) that I announce that the Nebraska Arborists Association (NAA) has a new Executive Director and Account Coordinator. I have enjoyed the many years I spent as this great association's Executive Director. I have watched it grow into the amazing organization it is today and cherish all of the friendships I have made along the way. I began working with the association in January of 2004 under the direction of another association management company.



Kathi Schildt



Alyssa Brodersen



Jamie Oborny

Upon my departure, I started my own company, Advanced Association Management (AAM), in 2010. I was pleased to have NAA join the "AAM Family" in 2011. AAM has over twenty clients that serve a variety of professional trade associations.

Alyssa Brodersen transitioned into the Executive Director position for the Nebraska Arborists Association in July of this year. You may have had a chance to meet her already at the 2022 GREAT PLAINS Conference, Advanced Tree ID, Field Day, or Arborist School. Alyssa graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with a bachelor's degree in Hospitality, Restaurant, and Tourism Management with an emphasis in Event Planning and Lodging and a minor in Communication. For eight years, she was the Event Manager at the Courtyard by Marriott in downtown Lincoln, NE. She has been the Associate Director for the association since October of 2021 and has been with Advanced Association Management since October 2020. Alyssa has enjoyed her time working with the Nebraska Arborists Association during this last year, and she will continue working hard to provide the association and its members with top-notch service.

Jamie Oborny has also joined the team at AAM. She began her role as the Account Coordinator for the Nebraska Arborists Association in June 2022. Jamie graduated from Southeast Community College in Lincoln. Jamie has 17 years of association management experience and is a welcomed addition to the team. Jamie also worked with the NAA in 2012, so some of you may remember her.

## NEWLY CERTIFIED ARBORISTS

Maverick Helgoth & Theodore Vaughn

## NEW MEMBERS

Diego Alban  
Corbin Augustine  
Benjamin Beaudette  
Sian Brandt  
Molly Cave-Capps  
Mark Charipar  
Benjamin Doyle  
Andrew Duff  
Chris Engelhart

Sam Feilmeier  
Seth Frame  
Lexis Funk  
Justin Graves  
Ryan Harless  
Jorge Heinrich  
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Joe Kuntz  
David McClarnan

Joe Murphy  
Sarah Ochiutto  
Trevor Pollard  
Jess Reyes  
Lyndsay Rupe  
Stevie Smith  
Dan Wittnebel

# ARBORIST SPOTLIGHT

By Alyssa Brodersen, NAA Executive Director

We asked for nominations, and membership delivered. This issue's spotlight goes to Jake Popham of Omaha, NE!

Jake was nominated for the Arborist Spotlight by a team member at Arbor Aesthetics Tree Service. Jake has been with Arbor Aesthetics Tree Service since December of 2020 and became a Nebraska Arborist Association member in August 2021 and a Nebraska Certified Arborist in February 2022.

Jake began his career path working at a Menards Greenhouse where he learned the basics of plants through a retired nurseryman. He then pivoted by working at a family-owned wood shop manufacturing various products. When Covid struck, Jake was forced to find a new job (like many during that time). Jake found his footing at a local nursery, Tree Shrubs and More, where he soon realized that he wanted to take care of larger trees, instead of potted nursery stock. After hearing more about tree work and what it was like to be in the industry from a salesman at Davey Tree, Jake began to research businesses in his area and joined the team at Arbor Aesthetics. During his time at Arbor Aesthetics, Jake has attended Arborist School, the 2022 Winter Conference and 2022 Field Day. Jake is now a crew leader and climber for the company.



Jake Popham



Jake Popham and family.

When I asked the team at Arbor Aesthetics about Jake they said: "Jake is a fast and eager learner and is always excited to gain new skills - not just in the trees but also in our shop, taking on maintenance of our vehicles and small engines. Jake wonderfully exemplifies what it means to be an Arbor Aesthetics employee by acting on our Core Values: Ownership, Courage, and Show up and Serve."

The co-worker that nominated Jake said: "Jake has been a great asset to the Arbor Aesthetics team. He is always willing to learn something new, take on ownership of tasks, and is overall a team player. He is one of our field trainers and takes pride in teaching new employees how to safely operate on a jobsite. Whether he is hauling brush, cleaning up the jobsite, demonstrating proper pruning cuts or climbing, he takes every opportunity he has to help others learn. He is also learning how to keep our equipment operational and running and has been a great asset in fixing any issue that may come up with our chippers to avoid breakdowns on the jobsite."

Jake's wife, Claudia, is a teacher in Omaha Public Schools where she teaches the Spanish side in the dual language program. She is an amazing woman who has supported Jake in his various career changes. Their daughter, Natalie, is now two years old and has taken a liking to grabbing tree leaves and fruit. Jake says that she is a future arborist in the making!

When I asked Jake why he choose Arboriculture he said: "I wanted to become the solution to the issues that I was causing because of nursery sales. We are selling poor nursery stock, bad species, and improperly planting them in the wrong spots. Instead of adding to our tree problems, I wanted to remedy these issues by trimming and removing."

## NAA CERTIFIED MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENT

As a reminder, Certified Arborists that are due to recertify at the end of 2022 will need to provide the NAA Office with:

- Proof of current CPR and First Aid Certification.
- Proof of Insurance (Public Liability with minimum limits of \$500,000/\$1,000,000 and Workmen's Compensation Insurance) or a signed letter stating that you will do tree work only for an insured company or government agency.
- Proof of 30 Continuing Education Units in the last three-year period (2020-2022)
- Payment of 2023 membership and certification fees and all documentation is due by December 21, 2022.
- Please contact the NAA office if you have questions about certification requirements.

When I asked Jake what he loved the most about his career he said: "There's a feeling you get, climbing to the top of a massive tree and just looking at the world around you, hearing the birds and feeling the wind. Everything we do as arborists is so engaging and fun, I can't find myself doing anything else as a career. I feel so alive doing what I do."

Jake is a great example of the hard working, dedicated people that work in the arborist industry and have a true passion for trees and caring for them. If you know an arborist who is exceptional in the industry please nominate them by filling out the Arborist Spotlight form at <https://www.nearborists.org/newsletters> and sending it into the Nebraska Arborists Association office so that we can continue to showcase our members and all of the great work that they do.

## CALL FOR NAA AWARD NOMINATIONS

The NAA awards committee requests 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 nomination forms must be submitted to the NAA office by November 15, 2022.

The following NAA awards are open for nominations: Lifetime Achievement Award, Educator of the Year Award, and Arborist of the Year. The requirements for each award can be found on the website [nearborists.org/awards-nominations](http://nearborists.org/awards-nominations).

It is not a requirement for all three of these awards to be presented every year. If you nominate an individual, the association requests your willingness to ensure the award winner and family members attend the NAA business meeting at the winter conference. The awards are a private event, so nominees are not notified of their nomination or selection. The nominating individual is notified of who has been selected for each award. Please submit a nomination form to the NAA office before the deadline if you feel someone is qualified for one of these awards.

Nomination forms should be mailed to NAA, 521 First Street, PO Box 10, Milford, NE 68405, or emailed to [staff@nearborists.org](mailto:staff@nearborists.org).

### SAVE THE DATE!

#### Pruning, Climbing, & Safety Seminar

October 13-14, 2022  
(13 NAA CEUs)

Carol Joy Holling, Ashland, NE

#### Plant Health & Tree Biology Seminar

November 17-18, 2022 (11 NAA CEUs)  
Carol Joy Holling, Ashland, NE

#### *Save the Date!*

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# CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY ARBORETUM

by Ebony "Ebb" Duis, Creighton University Arborist and Groundskeeper

When you first step onto the Mall of Creighton University's Omaha campus, your eye is immediately drawn to the trees flanking on either side of the brick-paved plaza. Creighton University was founded in 1878, and from its original building's erection that same year, Creighton Hall, the university has been changing the landscape and urban forest of central Omaha.

According to Creighton.Edu, Creighton University sits on about 140 acres in the city's heart. It is home to 1.7 million square feet of landscaping, including 500,000 square feet of ornamental beds. These beds are specifically chosen sites that host a plethora of perennials, shrubs, and, most importantly, trees. These plants that are chosen are native as well as adaptive species planted in their best possible sites for optimal pests and disease resistance and survival.

Creighton University has earned recognition from Tree Campus Higher Learning every year since 2008 and is set to be awarded again in 2023. Through the planning and care taken by Creighton staff (and students), Creighton has been designated a Nebraska Statewide Arboretum affiliate and landscape steward. With this prestigious designation, the university was also able to be a part of the inaugural group of awardees recognized as Tree Campus USA in 2008 (now Tree Campus Higher Education). Tree Campus Higher Education is nationally accredited and instills programs on campuses that "effectively manage their trees, develop connectivity with the community beyond campus borders to foster healthy urban forests," according to the Ignatian Solidarity Network. This organization strives to engage the student population by using service learning opportunities on and beyond campus in forestry.

Through the special planning and continuous care by the Facilities Management crews and staff, the students and faculty, as well as integrated pest and disease management and effective plant health care, Creighton has cultivated a unique arboretum and green space that students, staff, and civilians alike are proud of and enjoy.

From the historic horse chestnuts of the Ignatian Garden to the eastern redbuds on the path to Rigge Science Building to every northern catalpa, hackberry, honey locust, little leaf linden, oak, and maple (and more) in between, Creighton University's arboretum is a sight to see.



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# A WINDY WORKOUT: STORMWISE PRESCRIPTION HELPS STRENGTHEN TREES

Anna Zarra Aldrich University of Connecticut

*Techniques that rely on adaptive silviculture can help trees become more resilient to severe storms*

If a tree sways in the woods, what could it tell us about how likely it is to fall?

This is the question Amanda Bunce, a Ph.D. student in the Department of Natural Resources and the Environment, is working to address with the Stormwise Program in the Eversource Energy Center.

Stormwise is a collaboration between the Eversource Energy Center and researchers in the College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources (CAHNR). CAHNR researchers provide the Eversource team with vital information about roadside vegetation in the state to support informed decision making to improve the resiliency of Connecticut's power grid.

Bunce studies biomechanics, or how trees move in the wind, in forests across Connecticut. These measurements help Bunce determine how likely the tree is to be damaged or fall in a storm.

Recent destructive storm events in the Northeast have inspired utility companies like Eversource Energy, researchers, and other collaborators to work together on management approaches that will help adapt our forests to disturbances like increased storm activity, in an attempt to better prepare communities in the face of climate change.

“This is one element of the Eversource Energy Center’s overall work to keep Connecticut’s power on,” says Robert (Bob) Fahey, associate director of the Eversource Energy Center and Cloutier Professor in Forestry. “Along with initiatives focused on sustainable energy, advanced outage prediction modeling, and workforce development, we’re taking a holistic view to addressing these challenges.”

The first measure Bunce looks at is frequency. This is a measure of how quickly the tree is moving back and forth. Tall, skinny trees have frequencies around 0.1 or 0.2. This means it takes 10 seconds to complete a sway from one side, to the other, and back again. Shorter, thicker trees have much higher frequencies. This means they complete a sway more quickly and could be seen to vibrate more than to sway in the wind.

Trees with higher frequencies tend to be more stable and less likely to fall during strong wind events. That stability seems to be mostly based on the stouter shapes of trees with higher sway frequency.

Bunce obtains these measurements using instruments called inclinometers. The device is kept in a weather-proof box and strapped to the tree. It then measures the incline of the tree in both the North-South and East-West directions.

*Continued on next page...*

Tree frequency has long been studied in plantation forests, primarily in Europe. This effort is the first-time researchers have applied these concepts to an area like Connecticut.



Amanda Bunce, a graduate student in the Department of Natural Resources, inventories trees within the UConn Forest. (Tom Rettig/UConn Photo)

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This has come with challenges, as Connecticut’s forests are significantly different than timber plantations, which have a single type of tree that are all the same age. Nutmeg State forests are much more complex, both structurally, and with regards to biodiversity. The ways in which we use them are also more complex.

“Our forests are multiple-use,” Bunce says. “Anywhere we grow trees for timber is also somewhere people hike, or gather mushrooms, or watershed protection, and it’s a wildlife habitat, too. We have a lot more responsibility than just growing timber.” The other measure Bunce looks at is displacement. This determines how far the tree sways in the wind. While a tree’s frequency is always the same, regardless of how strong the wind is, its displacement depends on wind strength.

“It’s important to us, because how far the tree sways is a big deal in regards to if it falls down,” Bunce says.

There has been much less research on this measurement due to the complications and variability in wind strength and speed.

#### Woodland Workouts

Luckily there are methods to help trees become more resilient – they need to “work out.” For instance, gradually exposing a tree to more wind develops its resistance and makes it more resilient in a storm.

To do this, the team has applied their Stormwise Prescription to test forests around the state. This prescription involves assessing a roadside forest and first removing trees that are growing into the road, over powerlines, or are “stressed” in some regard. Stressed trees include those that are hollow, infected with fungus, or ridden with pests.

Next, healthy, well-balanced trees are selected for retention, and the team removes trees around them to strategically open patches in the forest to let in more wind. This frees up resources for the remnant trees, allowing them to grow stronger. This kind of technique is known as adaptive silviculture, a complex process of controlling the growth of trees to improve the overall capacity of the forest to handle change and disturbances like storms.

“We’ve got a lot more science to do,” Bunce says.

#### The Art of the Forest

Bunce, who studied art as an undergraduate, saw an important opportunity to help the community connect with the work she’s doing through unconventional outreach.

She collaborated with the Digital Experience Lab at the Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum in Ridgefield to produce an artistic display of her work. For the exhibit, which was displayed from Oct. 2019 to Aug. 2020, Bunce attached an inclinometer to a tree and its information was transmitted to the Aldrich Museum. There, guests could watch a live digital feed of the tree’s movement.

“The thing that always drew me to art is that you can use it to tell a story and using it to tell the story of science is brilliant and vital,” Bunce says.

Bunce says she hopes outreach like this installation helps the community understand the value of her work.

“I want people to look around and see what’s happening and work together,” Bunce says. “We can do a tiny amount of adaptive silviculture. But what’s really going to matter is if everyone gets on the same page.”

*The Eversource Energy Center at the University of Connecticut is a partnership between New England’s largest energy provider and the School of Engineering; the College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources; and the School of Business, located in the Innovation Partnership Building at UConn Tech Park. The partnership, established in 2015, is dedicated to using cutting-edge research to solve real-world challenges where weather, security, and energy intersect.*

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# UTIP SUMMARY FOR NFS ANNUAL REPORT

By Justin Evertson, Nebraska Forest Service

## *NFS Urban Tree Improvement Efforts*

With the threat of climate change and emerging insects and diseases, it's vitally important that more tree species be identified to survive these threats and help expand the species diversity of Nebraska's community forests. In 2020, NFS joined with forestry organizations in several other Great Plains and Southwest states to help raise the awareness and availability of underutilized, climate-adapted tree species in the region through a program titled "Urban Tree Improvement: Climate-resilient Trees for the Arid Urban Landscape" or "UTIP" for short (Urban Tree Improvement Program).



The program is funded via LSR funds from the US Forest Service.

UTIP is modeled on a long-standing program in Texas which also goes by "UTIP" and which has identified several tree species tolerant of hot and dry conditions of the southern Great Plains. Through UTIP, these Texas trees are distributed to other state participants for trialing, including Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arizona, Kansas, and Arkansas. Nebraska is the most northern state in this consortium, and we're far enough north that many of the Texas trees would likely not be cold and hardy here. As such, we have chosen a different path, and instead of using the Texas trees, we're instead seeking trees that will likely have the cold tolerance necessary to survive here.

In the spring of 2022, NFS obtained a variety of tree seedlings and small nursery trees from Forrest Keeling Nursery in Missouri and the Kansas Forest Service to be distributed for trialing across Nebraska. Species included southwestern white pine, lacebark elm, desert willow (*Chilopsis*), American Smoketree, thornless Osage orange, several oaks, and a loblolly/pitch pine hybrid. Over 310 seedlings were then distributed to 12 trial sites across the state. Trial sites include parks as well as NSA arboretum affiliates. We'll be tracking the survivability and suitability of these trees as we advance, and if they prove adaptable, we'll work with nurseries to make them more commercially available in Nebraska.

Recently, NFS staff worked with a city forester in Colorado to collect acorns from various Gambel oaks and Gambel oak hybrids growing in Colorado and brought them back to Nebraska to be raised by the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum and then distributed to our trial sites in the coming years. Gambel oak can be somewhat of a shrubby tree but has good heat and drought tolerance and can grow into a nice shade tree over time. These trees should be especially well-adapted to western and SW Nebraska.

We anticipate targeting additional tree species from surrounding states in the coming years, especially looking south and southwest to Kansas, Oklahoma, Colorado, and New Mexico. Soapberry, net leaf hackberry, pinyon pine, limber pine, Shumard oak, Buckley oak, pecan, and other species will be sought. We are mainly concentrating on regionally native species, but we'll also have our eyes out for uncommon urban survivors already growing in our communities. We anticipate that these tried-and-true species hold the best genetic formula to be adapted to our climate-shifting future. We'll see.

A promotional graphic for Nebraska 811. It features a man and a child planting a tree in a park. The text reads: "IT'S FREE! • IT'S EASY! • IT'S THE LAW!" and "ALWAYS CALL OR CLICK AT LEAST 2 DAYS IN ADVANCED OF ANY DIGGING PROJECT!" Below this is the "811" logo with the tagline "Know what's below. Call before you dig." and the "Nebraska 811" logo with "netcall.com" above it. Social media icons for Facebook and Twitter are in the bottom right corner.

# NAA BOARD NOMINATIONS

Nominations are due to the NAA office by November 15, 2022.

The positions for Treasurer and Director are currently open.

Please visit the NAA website at [www.nearborists.org/awards-nominations](http://www.nearborists.org/awards-nominations) to obtain a nomination form and read a general description of NAA board member roles and responsibilities.

Nomination forms should be mailed to NAA, 521 First Street, PO Box 10, Milford, NE 68405, or emailed to [staff@nearborists.org](mailto:staff@nearborists.org). You can nominate yourself if you want to run for one of these positions.



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# 2022 NEBRASKA GREAT PLAINS SUMMER FIELD DAYS

By: *Alyssa Brodersen, NAA Executive Director*

The Nebraska Arborists Association's GREAT PLAINS Summer Field Day had a strong turnout again this year. This year, attendees were able to attend two full days of sessions at Carol Joy Holling in Ashland, NE.

Our sponsors allow us to keep putting on quality events for our members, and their continued support is greatly appreciated. The association would like to thank the following Field Day sponsors for their contributions:

**Gold Sponsors:** Vermeer High Plains, Arbor Aesthetics & Arbession

**Silver Sponsors:** A-Plus Tree Service Inc, Advanced Association Management, ArborSystems, Inc. & Rainbow Ecoscience

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This year's sessions focused on Tree Care Safety, Arborist Rigging, Aerial Rescue, and Gear Inspection. The association also offered a CPR & First Aid Certification class for Certified Arborists needing to recertify and new members just getting their first certification.

Phillip Kelley & Jack Montgomery provided excellent training on the four-session topics, and attendees were very engaged. Though the weather was hot on the first day, the attendees were eager to get outside and watch the trainers in action during Arborist Rigging. The trainers demonstrated different techniques and skills while removing some limbs from a tree damaged in a storm a few weeks prior. Carol Joy Holling was very appreciative of the work done as some of the limbs had become dangerous for campers.

On the second day, attendees were able to meet with a variety of exhibitors. The association would like to thank all exhibitors who could attend this year's event: ArborSystems, Inc., Arborjet/Ecologel, Bobcat of Omaha, Nebraska Golf & Turf, Rainbow Ecoscience, SiteOne Landscape Supply, USDA-APHIS-PPQ, Vermeer High Plains and Wild Birds Unlimited. Your participation allows us to bring new and exciting information to our attendees.

In Mid-morning, the instructors took the attendees back outside to demonstrate different aerial rescue strategies as they worked through various scenarios. During the class, they reinforced the need for tree care safety from the previous day's sessions. Later that afternoon, the group headed back inside to cool down and learn the importance of gear inspection and selecting quality products.

We want to thank everyone who attended the 2022 Nebraska GREAT PLAINS Summer Field Days, and we hope to see you again next year.



# THANKS FIELD DAY EXHIBITORS

On behalf of the association, we thank the following exhibitors for coming out and supporting the NAA at the summer field day and demonstrating their equipment and products.

Arbor Jet/Ecogel

ArborSystem, Inc.

Bobcat of Omaha

Nebraska Golf & Turf

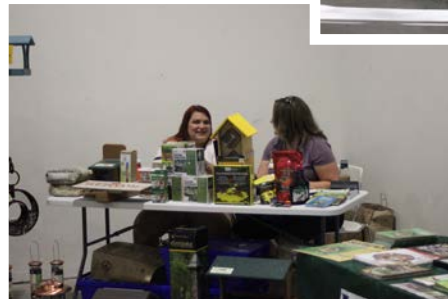
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# 2023 GREAT PLAINS WINTER CONFERENCE

January 17 - 18, 2023  
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## CHECK OUT ONE OF OUR EXCITING KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

*"Courageous Leadership: Living a Life of Influence" presented by Dan Meers the "KC Wolf"*



Dan is just one of the many great speakers that have been lined up for this event!

Dinner and games on Tuesday night of the conference.  
Dinner tickets must be purchased in advance.

# SAFETY STANDARDS

By Amy Nakai, Rooted Tree Specialists

A while back, I heard a forestry podcast regarding safety in arboriculture. It was by far the most safety-forward message I had heard in the tree-care industry since I can remember. I was fascinated. I was hooked. Stats. Equipment. Time. Life. It was captivating.

Does your company have an AED in the work trucks? Does your company have climbers' tourniquets? Does your work have an updated First Aid kit in all work trucks? Better yet, does every crew member know where all of this stuff is at a moment's notice? Do all crew members know the address of the job site, or were they just passengers?

The NAA hosted an incredible field day presentation this summer on safety standards. Questions were asked of the group, "How many companies have daily EAP meetings?" "How many have safety meetings?" Sadly, hardly any hands rose.

Search "safety standards" and "tree care" online—you will find hardly any articles. Why is this not discussed more frequently? We sacrifice our lives daily for the perfect-looking tree. We help the desperate client worried about a limb through their house. Yet, as the #2 most dangerous job—according to OSHA—we, as an industry, rarely discuss or follow proper safety procedures.

We must set standards for our upcoming arborists to show them that the hottest new training in the tree care industry is elevating safety standards. In the NAA summer's field day exercise, we were challenged to discuss daily Emergency Action Plans, have an AED onsite and have tourniquets while climbing. We have one of the most dangerous jobs, yet you can drive by job sites around the city and see tree crews out without helmets, chaps, gear, traffic cones, or high visibility shirts. How can we remedy this for our future arborists?

We need to begin setting forth standards that become habits. As we do this, clients will realize the rewards of our extra care and concern. The more we explain this to our clients—that we value our safety and theirs more than the potential of damaging their grass—the higher standard we set for our community.

Additionally, the more we practice these safety standards daily, the more valuable we become as tree care professionals, not just people hired to remove a tree. How can we, as the tree care industry in Nebraska, begin to set forth new procedures that demonstrate to our community that we do not take shortcuts but value our community as a whole?

Let's start changing that thought process and elevating our daily safety standards to showcase our incredible talents.

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## THERE IS STILL TIME!

NAA Arborist School kicked off on September 7th and will end on November 18th.

Read about the Tree ID class on the front page!

If you are short on Continuing Education Units (CEUs), there is still time to sign up for the remaining classes.

Apply online @ [HughesTree.com/careers](https://www.HughesTree.com/careers)

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# Spotted Lanternfly: What to Look for



## Hosts

- Tree-of-Heaven (highly preferred)
- Grape
- Hops
- Apple
- Walnut
- Pine
- Wide variety of hardwoods

## Adults and Nymphs



Nymphs



Adult

FH27-2019

- Strong jumpers
- Often feed in large groups
- Spring to Fall

# KILL ON SIGHT: WHY YOU'RE BEING ASKED TO STOMP OUT THE SPOTTED LANTERNFLY

by Jacqueline Fernandez, WOWT-TV

OMAHA, Neb. (WOWT) - Step on it, squash it, spray it, whatever you have to do to kill it.

That's what entomologists and farmers are asking you to do when it comes to eradicating the hugely invasive spotted lanternfly.

The insect is notorious for sucking the life out of more than 70 different species.

It's an issue for grape growers like Jim Shaw with Soaring Wings Vineyard and Brewing. He says he's expecting the bug to be in Nebraska in a couple of years.

"What they'll do is they'll just land on this trunk and they'll stick their proboscis through the bark and right below this bark is something we call the cambium layer and that cambium layer is green and carries the fluid up from the vine," says Shaw.

The black and white bugs were already spotted in Iowa. "They're really good hitchhikers. The adults like to sort of travel, hop onto vehicles, other things and can easily hitchhike around," says extension educator and insect diagnostician at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, Kyle Koch.

He says the spotted lanternfly made its way to the Midwest from China and while the bugs aren't a major concern now, they need the public's help getting rid of them so they don't become a problem in the future.

"If you can collect that specimen if you can kill it, collect it, take an image of it, whatever you can get of it so we have some sort of record that we can trace back and be able to confirm that it's actually a spotted lantern fly and be able to go from there."

As far as the next steps for the vineyard, Shaw says it's a waiting game.

"I'm not real worried, it's just more cost and more work when this pest comes in," says Shaw. "The Japanese beetles came in a couple of years ago, and they were and they are still fairly devastating. We've had to develop a program to interdict those properly and it's worked, It's just more money and more expense for the farmer."

"As far as Iowa goes, it remains to be seen whether there's an established population that will result from this. It is really going to come down to the public reporting them and us being able to confirm and go from there," says Koch.

The spotted lanternfly is not only a pest for farmers but homeowners as well. They like to feed on black walnut, maple, and willow trees, to name a few. The process not only damages the trees but also produces a sticky mold that can drop onto decks and cars in residential areas.

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### Spotted Lanternfly - What to Look For Nebraska Forest Service

Spotted Lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*) is an aggressive invasive species that is present in several states. It is currently found in Pennsylvania, Virginia, Delaware, Maryland, New York, West Virginia, Ohio, Connecticut, Indiana, and New Jersey with sightings in several other nearby states. Although this pest is not present in Nebraska, it is important to be vigilant for it.



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

## THANKSGIVING HOURS

The NAA office will close for Thanksgiving on Thursday, November 24 and Friday, November 25. We wish you all a safe and happy Thanksgiving!

