

An Arborist takes
care of a tree for life.



OUT ON A LIMB

WINTER 2022, VOLUME 42, ISSUE 4



USDA Christmas Tree Permits. Story on page 3.

PRUNING, CLIMBING & SAFETY

By Samantha Rožić, Cypress XM

Pruning, Climbing and Safety, the second of the arborist school series, was hosted at Carol Joy Holling in Ashland, NE on October 13th and 14th. There were over sixty attendees, one of our largest groups ever for this class! Tom Anderson, Jerel Converse, Lon Nutter, Mike Ayres, Tim Crowl, and Mike Seuferer taught the classes. These gentlemen contain a wealth of knowledge and experience in the arboriculture field and were ready to share that knowledge with the attendees.

On the first day, the team of instructors taught the basics of knot tying and how they are used practically in climbing. Along with knots, the instructors discussed the necessity of having equipment that was in clean and working order for the safety of the climber and others working around them. The group finished the afternoon outside watching demonstrations and practicing their climbing and knot tying skills on a large Burr Oak.



The morning of the second day, Tom discussed gear inspections and then Lon Nutter provided a safety talk in the afternoon. Lon went over the ANSI Z133 Standard and showed examples of what can happen to those who do not practice safe methods during climbing and tree work. The group finished by asking questions to the instructors and the group.

The attendees were attentive and asked great questions of the instructors. Overall, the class was a success and fun was had by all. The last series of Arborist School, Plant Health & Tree Biology, took place on November 17th and 18th at Carol Joy Holling in Ashland, NE and had great attendance as well.



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

Save the Date!
2023 Nebraska GREAT PLAINS
Conference
Tuesday & Wednesday
January 17-18, 2023
Embassy Suites, Lincoln, NE

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

As I write this letter, I have just returned from the Tree Care Industry Expo with five team members. I attend the Expo with my team every year. It has become a tradition, and every year it allows me to reflect on the significance TCIA membership has had in my life, business, and ability to contribute to the NAA.

I first attended the Expo in 2013. I had been in business for seven years, and I had three employees. We grossed less than \$200k per year. I was broke, physically broken, and

desperate for a better way.

It has been nine years since that first Expo: we are now more than ten times the size, we are profitable, we are making a difference in the industry, and my business is much easier to manage. I'll say that again: at ten times the size, my business is EASIER to manage.

Running a tree company is hard...really hard!

I recently talked with my team about "A Players." "A Players" learn both the inside and outside of their company. "A Players" bring their knowledge and experience back to their company. "A Players" create certainty in their lives, making themselves indispensable and irreplaceable.

I call you to be an "A Player" in your own company and the Nebraska Arborist Association. Venture beyond Nebraska to network with and learn from the best in the industry. There is much more to tree care than we find in the eastern half of Nebraska. The NAA is a top-notch state association. This did not happen by accident and is not a guarantee for the future. Unless you grow yourself inside and outside of your companies, both inside and outside the NAA, bring what you have learned back to your team and your NAA community. You cannot give what you do not have; we will not learn and grow if we stay in our comfortable silos in Nebraska.

This is my last President's Letter. I am excited to see the leaders who step up to contribute their talent, energy, and vision to the Nebraska Arborist Association.

Your lives, businesses, and our NAA community will shine as bright as you choose.

All my best,
Jeff Grewe, NAA President

UPCOMING EVENTS

Nebraska GREAT PLAINS Conference
"Time Spent Among Trees Is Never Time Wasted"
Tuesday & Wednesday, January 17-18, 2023
Embassy Suites, Lincoln, Nebraska

NAA Certification Exam
Tuesday, January 17, 2022
1:15 – 5:15 p.m.
Embassy Suites, Lincoln, Nebraska

NAA Winter Tree ID Class
Date to be established (February 2023)
Location TBD

SILENT AUCTION DONATIONS

The Nebraska Arborists Association's (NAA) silent auction will take place at the Nebraska GREAT PLAINS Conference on January 17, 2023, at the Embassy Suites Hotel, in Lincoln, Nebraska. The NAA is the primary organization in Nebraska providing education and training for future Certified Nebraska Arborists. Our annual regional winter conference is open to arborists, horticulturists and all others interested in proper tree care.



Proceeds from our silent auction go to the NAA education fund. This fund provides NAA Arborist School scholarships to individuals who want to become a Certified Nebraska Arborist but otherwise would not be able to attend our training and educational classes because of funding constraints.

Please consider using our silent auction as an opportunity to promote your company. Silent auction forms can be filled out online via the QR code to the right and emailed to staff@nearborists.org or mailed into the association office.

USDA FOREST SERVICE CHRISTMAS TREE PERMITS AVAILABLE ONLINE THROUGH RECREATION.GOV

October 14, 2022

For the third season, the USDA Forest Service is selling Christmas Tree permits through Recreation.gov, which makes it more convenient for visitors to find and purchase permits to cut holiday trees from their favorite national forest. Permits are currently available and may vary by national forest.

“Many families are discovering their local forest for the first time to bring home their special holiday tree,” said USDA Forest Service Chief Randy Moore. “These experiences help connect people to their local national forest and become treasured family memories.” Lynn G. expressed their delight when visiting the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forest in Colorado, “This was our first year cutting down our own tree and we weren’t entirely sure what to expect. Our children (ages 10 and 5) had a blast and have already asked to do this again next year.”



Recreation.gov makes it easy to purchase a permit. “Visitor feedback has been extremely positive,” said Rick DeLappe, Recreation.gov Program Manager. “Of the more than 9,000-star ratings submitted by those who purchased permits on Recreation.gov during the 2021 season, 96 percent gave 4 or 5 stars of their experience.” This comment was from a visitor to the Bridger-Teton National Forest in Wyoming.

As an alternative to visiting a Forest Service office in person, visitors can go to Recreation.gov and search for their local national forest. Once on Recreation.gov, national forests provide important details, like cutting area maps, types of trees to cut, and important planning tips on their respective permit pages. “It is important to remember that visitors will need to print the permit and display it on the dash of their vehicle on the day of their visit to cut their trees,” said DeLappe. Also keep in mind that many national forests may continue to sell permits in person or through local vendors.



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Fourth graders with an Every Kid Outdoors pass are eligible for a free Christmas tree permit and can apply by entering the pass or voucher number when purchasing a permit. And kids of all ages can download, color, and decorate their tree with this Christmas tree ornament coloring page for a fun, handmade addition to their tree.

Cutting a Christmas tree improves forest health. The permit system helps to thin densely populated stands of small-diameter trees. Local forest health experts identify areas that benefit from thinning trees and tend to be the perfect size for Christmas trees. Removing these trees in designated areas helps other trees grow larger and can open areas that provide food for wildlife.

ARBORIST SPOTLIGHT

By: Jim Keepers, Nebraska Arborist,
Edits and layout by Kylie Schildt, NAA Editor

During the past 16 years, I have had the opportunity to interview and write about some very unique Nebraska Arborists. For this arborist spotlight article, I wanted to select someone special. To accomplish this goal, I needed to find an individual to feature who was different and unique to our arborist career field. I am pleased to say I have found the individual I have been looking for, and now I have the pleasure of telling you the story of this young person.

The individual featured is Samuel Popken, called Sam at home by his parents, Kevin and Zoryana Popken. How can this typical 17-year-old high school student attending Mead High School in Mead, Nebraska, with three brothers and one sister, be such a special person? Sam is the youngest individual to achieve the distinction of becoming a Certified Nebraska Arborist at the age of 16 years. This is an incredibly unique accomplishment at his age. I must say some credit belongs to his parents, high school instructors, church, and desire to achieve some awe-inspiring goals at a very young age.

Kevin and Zoryana have instilled the desire to achieve in all their children and encourage them to give back for all they have received in their early lives. Sam's brothers and sister have the same outlook on life, but I do not have the words in this article to tell you all about the rest of Popken children, so I must stay on track and give you a few facts about this young man.

As any average 17-year-old sophomore, you would think Sam would be spending his time causing some mischief at Mead High School or around the City of Fremont. No, Sam is not like a number of his peers. He is a member of FFA. I was surprised to find out this premier youth organization's mission is to prepare its members for leadership and careers in science, business, and technology in Agriculture and Arboriculture. Sam fits into this group 100 percent. I am proud to say Sam is one of his generation's growing Nebraska high school leaders who want to change the world. You can see this trait in the way he handles himself in all the tasks he accomplishes.



John Housely, Sr. & a young Sam

Sam holds the position of FFA vice president at Mead High School. He is also a member of the Family Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) along with the National Honor Society, the high school track team, a member of the Omaha Waypoint Church Youth Group, and the Senior Patrol Leader in his local Boy Scout Troop. It makes me tired just thinking of the hours Sam spends leading and giving back to others.

The question becomes, how did Sam, a member of the Popken clan, still find time to earn some money now and for his future? Sam excels in his work ethic. He started working for a local farmer and mowing lawns in the Fremont community. He also managed to squeeze in some time to work in a local Mead restaurant after school and found some hours to work in the Fremont Walmart. You would think this young man would get so tired and would not want to venture into a new career field, but Sam is not that kind of person. Sam has a great personality and spends time developing his social life as well.

We see Sam as a new breed of young individuals entering the arboriculture field. These men and women demonstrate that our certified arborists come from various backgrounds and ethnicities. They are well-educated and can communicate effectively with their customers. Sam is one of those individuals. He is not much of a talker, but it is worth listening to him when he does. He is the future of the Nebraska arborist career field.

What started Sam on his path to becoming the youngest Certified Nebraska Arborist? I will blame it on his dad, Kevin Popken, for exposing Sam to the tree care industry when Sam was in elementary school by bringing him to Nebraska Summer Field Days and Winter Conferences. The desire to breathe sawdust and work outside when it was hot in the summer and cold in the winter just got into Sam's blood. I wonder if his mother, Zoryana, liked the idea of her husband and her son working in this career field.

Most of us dreaded the COVID virus, but it was a blessing to Sam in a very unusual way. In March 2020, when Sam was forced to go to online learning, he discovered he had more free time on his hands. He decided to go with his father's company crews at Fremont Lawngevity Lawn and Tree and start to take on the tasks of the arborist ground crew personnel. The ability to work outdoors in a hazardous trade while allowing him time to improve the environmental conditions for the trees got into Sam's blood. It caused Sam to decide that the arborist career field was what he was born to do.



Sam with his parents, Kevin and Zoryana Popken



Track award winner



Mighty Sam in a tree

Sam realized he desired to go to college after high school instead of jumping into the career field after completing school. He sees the need to increase his knowledge about the planting and care of trees now and in the future. Sam is still determining what college he will attend and what his major will be, but I know he is reaching the time in high school to start looking at schools and making some major education decisions. With the guidance of his parents, I know he will make the right decisions.

Another certified Nebraska arborist that played a significant role in the development of Sam's arborist skills and talents is certified Nebraska arborist Andy Nelson. Andy is the lead climber of Lawngevity Lawn and Tree and the brother of Dustin Nelson, our current NAA President-Elect. Andy is a unique individual and a great climber and has the patience to show Sam the climbing basics and the importance of safety when working in a tree. I had the experience of being with the Lawngevity crew when they were removing a large tree in Fremont, and Kevin was not present. I watched Andy as Sam climbed around this giant tree and made his pruning and removal cuts. Andy did not tell Sam what to do but watched him, and when he saw that Sam was going to make a wrong move, he instructed him by asking him questions about what he was doing wrong. Safety was never an issue because Andy ensured Sam was tied to the tree adequately at all times. The NAA needs more individual climbers like Andy, who have the patience and willingness to instruct a teenager while working in a tree.



Dad, Kevin, with Sam at Fremont ECO Fair

Sam and his younger brother Caleb are interested in their father's arborist business. You never know; we might have two Popken brothers running the company while senior Popken watches his sons in action. That would be great for the Popken family and the NAA. The Popken kids are great and have some great parents. Sam will be working in the trees again this coming summer. He must be supervised by another certified arborist until he reaches the age of 18, according to the City of Fremont requirements.



Sam moving ground bush

Sam is also a cross country star, loves running, and enjoys competitive events. He medaled two times this year. I know cross country is rugged running. I was surprised to learn that Sam can be very funny, as he has always seemed reserved and quiet when I saw him at NAA events. I understand he opens up with his friends. The most impressive thing about Sam is the respect he shows toward adults. When Sam has a conversation, he does not just say yeah instead of yes or no.

I must include his FFA accomplishments. Sam is Vice President of the Mead High School FFA. This year he received 2nd place in the Agricultural Proficiency Award in Forest Management at the State FFA convention in Lincoln, Nebraska. He has also spoken at the FFA state conventions. The Mead High School FFA Teacher Leader, Mr. Blomendahl, will take Sam and his fellow FFA students to the National FFA Convention this year in Indianapolis, Indiana. I asked Mr. Blomendahl to give me some information about Sam, and he stated the following: "Sam is a very developed public speaker and is a leader on Mead's High School Nursery and Landscape FFA contest

team. Additionally, he has developed a very in-depth Supervised Agricultural Experience program in which he has honed skills related to arboriculture."

You might say Sam needs more time to accomplish another event or activity, but you would be wrong. Church activities and giving back to the community are very important to Sam. This past summer Sam and other members of the Waypoint Youth Group here in Omaha played an active role in the Youth for the Nation in Dallas, Texas. In addition to all of Sam's extra high school activities and church involvement, he has volunteered to work at NAA high school career fairs because he has a strong work ethic and is proud to be a certified Nebraska arborist.

Today's youth seem to get a bad rap, but I am pleased to say, Samuel Popken, the youngest Certified Nebraska Arborist ever, is an exception to the rule. He has become a great ambassador for our association and the arborist career field within the Nebraska FFA community of over 6,000 young people statewide.



Certified NE Arborist Andy Nelson giving Sam climbing instructions.

I am proud to conclude my NAA arborist spotlight articles featuring Samuel Popken. This young man is one of the shining lights in our association. His parent's teachings and the arborist skills he has learned from his father and Andy are the key reasons for Sam's maturity and desire to excel in high school, achieve his NAA Arborist Certification and serve his community and church.

When you see Kevin and Sam at the 2023 Nebraska GREAT PLAINS Conference, make the point to speak to them and tell Kevin that he and his wife, Zoryana, have done a great job raising this young man. Also, tell Sam that you are proud to have him as a member of the NAA and for being the youngest ever certified NAA Arborist. The NAA should take advantage of Sam to spread the word about a great career our youth can have in the arborist career field.

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NEBRASKA STATEWIDE ARBORETUM DISTRIBUTED MORE THAN \$149,000 IN GRANT FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY LANDSCAPE PROJECTS IN 2022-2023

LINCOLN, Neb. (Nov. 14, 2022) -- From Grant to Auburn, Lincoln to Valentine, community landscapes across Nebraska are getting a financial boost from The Nebraska Statewide Arboretum's (NSA) Greener Towns and Waterwise Landscapes programs.

Between the 2022 and 2023 planting seasons, more than \$149,000 is being distributed to support 30 specific projects in 16 communities across Nebraska. Each funding recipient is required to match the award with local funds and volunteer support.

"The economic impact is significant," said Sarah Buckley, sustainable landscape specialist for NSA, "but the way these projects bring people together to improve their community may be even more important."

Greener Towns was created to help Nebraska communities improve their green infrastructure for pollinator habitat, stormwater management or other economic, environmental, aesthetic and social goals. Greener Towns is coordinated by the NSA and is funded by the Nebraska Environmental Trust, a beneficiary of the Nebraska Lottery.

Waterwise Landscapes was created to help Nebraska communities protect and conserve our water resources. These projects help collect and filter rainwater runoff, as well as create landscapes that use less water than traditional landscaping or high input turf. Waterwise Landscapes is coordinated by the NSA and is funded by the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy.

Applications for the next round of Greener Towns and Waterwise Landscapes funds are open now through December 2022 for projects to be planted in 2023. For more information visit plantnebraska.org/funding or contact Sarah Buckley at sarah.buckley@unl.edu.

2022-2023 Greener Towns Projects

- Auburn, Nemaha County Hospital Bed Upgrade - \$1,000
- *Butte, Community Gazebo Plantings - \$248
- Grand Island, Stolley Park Historical Garden - \$10,000
- GI Central Community College Pollinator Garden - \$3,033
- *Grant, Grant City Park Bandshell Planters - \$366
- Gretna, Heartland Equine Therapy Riding Academy - \$275
- *Lincoln, Bryan High School Beautification - \$264
- Lincoln, Beattie Elementary - \$1,031
- Lincoln, Eden Park Restoration - \$1,500
- Lincoln, Aldersgate Gardens - \$5,000
- Lincoln, Airpark Community Center - \$10,000
- Lincoln, Union Plaza - \$10,000
- *Neligh, Neligh-Oakdale FFA Teaching Garden - \$12,100
- *Omaha, Whispering Hollow - \$428
- Omaha, Baldwin Wildlife Education Center - \$575
- *Omaha, South 24th St. BID (3 phases) - \$9,000
- Omaha, Westview High School Arboretum - \$18,650
- Schramm State Park, Treehouse Classroom - \$750
- *Sidney, Living Memorial Gardens - \$1,561
- Valentine, Main Street - \$25,000
- Waterloo, VILA Prairie Garden - \$543

2022-2023 Waterwise Landscapes Projects

- Beatrice, Bioretention Garden - \$20,000
- Columbus, Cen. Comm. College Pollinator Garden - \$632
- *Gering, Ever Green House Bioswale - \$7,000
- *Hemingford, Hemingford Community Care Center - \$651
- Lincoln, Naumann Eagle Scout Project at Pius X - \$410
- *Lincoln, UNL Bee Lab Habitat Garden - \$375
- Omaha, Bancroft Elementary Pollinator Garden - \$1,408
- Omaha, The Colina - \$8,000

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NEBRASKA TREE PROGRAM CELEBRATES 100 MILLION TREES AND SHRUBS PLANTED

By Paul Hammel, September 6, 2022

LINCOLN — A 50-year-old program that annually distributes hundreds of thousands of tree and shrub seedlings celebrated a milestone recently, planting a tree at the Nebraska State Capitol to represent that 100 million trees and shrubs have been put in the ground.

The Conservation Tree Program, run by Nebraska’s Natural Resources Districts since 1972, distributes trees and shrubs for windbreaks, erosion control, wildlife habitat, and other conservation purposes.

Officials estimated that the 100 millionth tree was planted this spring and that, all told, 50 trees and shrubs per Nebraska resident have been planted through the program across the state.

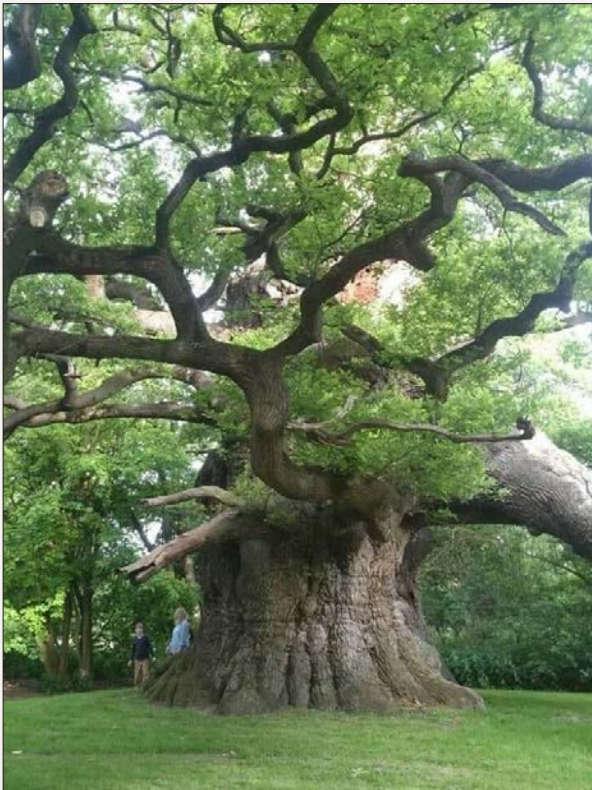
“Nebraska has a proud history of planting trees and putting the 100 millionth tree in the ground reflects Nebraskans’ willingness to invest in the future,” said Dr. Orval Gigstad, president of the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts.

Nebraska was once known as the “Tree Planters State” due to its commitment to establishing trees on the mostly treeless prairie. A majority of the NRD conservation trees come from a nursery at the U.S. Forest Service’s Bessey Nursery in Halsey.

The trees and shrubs are sold in bundles — the NRDs take orders between November and March, then distribute the trees and shrubs in April in time for planting.



A ceremonial 100 millionth tree was planted Friday on the grounds of the Nebraska State Capitol to commemorate the work of the state’s Natural Resources Districts to get trees and shrubs planted for wildlife habitat and erosion control. (Courtesy Nebraska Association of Resources Districts)



The Majesty Oak, or simply Majesty, also known as the Fredville Oak, is the largest maiden (i.e. non-pollarded) oak in Britain, if not Europe. It is located in Fredville Park, Kent, in Nonington near Snowdown.

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<https://www.campbellsnursery.com/careers>

2023 MEMBERSHIP DUES

The 2023 NAA membership renewal notices were emailed in October and mailed in November. They will be mailed a second time to those not yet renewed in December. Membership dues must be returned to the NAA office by December 15, 2022. Each renewing certified arborist will receive a new certification card upon renewal. When recertification fees are not paid within 90 days, certification status will be forfeited. Please call the NAA office if you have any questions about your membership.

2023 SLATE OF NOMINEES BALLOT

This ballot has been prepared so that as members you may vote on the slate of officers as prepared by the Nominating Committee in accordance with the bylaws. In compliance with Articles VII, VIII and IX of the bylaws, the Nominating Committee has prepared a slate to be submitted to the membership. In further concurrence with the bylaws and as defined by Roberts Rules of Order, the slate lists one candidate per position. In an effort to allow individuals to review candidate information, below is information about the individual on the ballot. In order to move forward with the business of the association, it is imperative that you return your ballot by the time specified. Without your vote and active engagement in the business of the association, we will not be able to have an association to promote our profession. Ballots need to be returned by January 10th. Board candidates will be introduced at the start of the 2023 Nebraska GREAT PLAINS Conference NAA Business Meeting. All members listed in this notice of the Annual Meeting are eligible candidates and have agreed to have their names placed on the ballot. The membership will vote on candidates prior to the conference. The NAA Board will have an opening to elect a person to serve as Treasurer and Director. Individuals elected will officially begin his/her term on January 17, 2023.



Cardenas

Jorge Cardenas (TREASURER)

If elected, I would like to extend outreach to the Spanish-speaking community, increase membership and accreditation into the Nebraska Arborist Association, utilize resources available to me (Asplundh and other connections) to benefit the association, place emphasis on right tree - right place, as well as collaborate with others in the association and the industry to work toward driving the association in a positive direction.

Michael Seuferer (DIRECTOR)

My name is Michael Seuferer. I was first introduced to arboriculture in 2012. I started as a groundman for Asplundh Tree Experts, and I immediately fell in love the everything about it. While working hard to become the best arborist I could be, I was developing a deep passion for arboriculture, more specifically climbing. Three years later I became a crew leader and was now leading and teaching men and women how to do what I love, safely and efficiently.



Seuferer

Today I am still a crew leader for Wright Tree Service, and I am learning as much as I can along the way. I have reached a point where I want to be more active in the local arborist community, so I decided to run for a position on the Nebraska Arborists Associations Board of Directors.

While being on the board I wish to share the knowledge and experience that I have gained over the years. I also wish to inspire others to be the best possible arborists they can be. Most importantly, I want to continue to learn and meet some of the most amazing people in the world.

CLIP HERE



2023 SLATE OF NOMINEES BALLOT

YOUR VOTE MATTERS! PROXY BALLOTS MUST BE RETURNED BY 01/10/2023.

- I accept the 2023 Slate
- I do not accept the 2023 Slate
- I abstain from voting

First & Last Name (Required)

Treasurer..... Jorge Cardenas
Director..... Michael Seuferer

Ballots must be returned by January 10, 2023 to the NAA office by mail or fax to (402) 761-2224.

TREES FOR NEBRASKA TOWNS PROGRAM by John Woodworth, November 4, 2022

Ready to enhance your community forest? We want to help. The Trees for Nebraska Towns (TNT) program provides \$5,000-\$25,000 to support public space tree planting projects in communities throughout Nebraska. We offer funding support, as well as guidance and technical assistance, for projects that:

- Emphasize planting of large maturing trees in public spaces
- Thoughtfully plan for diversity, sustainability, longevity, and resilience
- Include companion plantings
- Contribute habitat for wildlife and beneficial insects
- Increase awareness and appreciation for the value of our community forests

Want to plant trees in your community but not ready to take on a large project? Check out our Ten Free Trees program.

2022-2023 Timeline

1. Call for Applications November 2022 through January 2023
2. Project Selection February 2023
3. Project Planting May through October 2023
4. Reimbursement Requests Due December 10, 2023



OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS

The NAA office will close for Christmas and New Year's on Friday, December 23 and reopen on Tuesday, January 3. The Nebraska Arborists Association staff wishes all of you a happy holiday season!

FIND YOUR CREW

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IOWA NEWS: CEDAR RAPIDS PLANTING SEEDLINGS GROWN IN GRAVEL BEDS

by: The Associated Press, Marissa Payne Nov 5, 2022 / 11:45 AM CDT

CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa (AP) — Sunlight sparkled and birds sang from their perch atop towering tree limbs last Saturday morning at Bever Park while a volunteer group planted seedlings — the first seedlings grown in gravel beds to be planted in a city park.

The gravel bed seedlings offer an additional source of tree stock for parks as the city of Cedar Rapids works with local nonprofit Trees Forever on the ReLeaf initiative to replant about 42,000 trees on public land after the 2020 derecho destroyed most of the tree canopy.

The Cedar Rapids Gazette reports the city Parks and Recreation Department began growing trees in gravel beds in June as a pilot project. Trees planted in gravel beds are less costly to produce and contain more root mass than field-grown seedlings.

Carole Teator, the city's ReLeaf program manager, said last winter the city ordered oak seedlings from the Iowa State Forest Nursery and then planted them in a gravel bed, where they grow fibrous root systems. The seedlings were only given water while there.

When a tree is moved from where it is initially planted, Teator said, it goes through transplant shock because it loses so many roots. The seedlings then spent the summer growing roots, which she said should help them establish quicker in their new location and “give these trees a great head start” in their permanent home.

“Any great experiment, you never know what the results are going to be, but we were ecstatic to see the fibrous roots on the seedlings as they came out of the gravel bed” last Friday, Teator said.

To get the first seedlings in the ground, the Bever Park Neighborhood Association planted 179 tree seedlings last Saturday near the Zoo Hill Pavilion in Bever Park.

Teator said the seedlings, especially oaks, need 60 to 100 percent sunlight to grow, which is why they were planted in a more open, sun-exposed area of the park. She said the natural regeneration of new oaks can be difficult if they are already surrounding mature oaks.

Brendan Paul, president of the neighborhood association, said the group is working on the restoration of the forested areas of the park that were destroyed in the derecho. Naturally, the residents were interested in working with city staff to do the gravel bed seedling planting when the opportunity arose, he said.

In a time of growing political divisions, Paul said, it's helpful for people to partake in something tangible happening in their own communities.

“This you can see,” Paul said. “You can point, ‘I was here today. I did this. I worked with people I know that live in the community with me.’”

Parks and Recreation Director Hashim Taylor and other city officials joined in the planting action. Taylor planted two trees, which he enthusiastically dubbed “Hashim trees” — the very first trees he's ever planted.



In this photo taken on Tuesday, April 22, 2014, oak trees stand against the sky at the Arbor Lodge State Historical Park and Arboretum in Nebraska City. People across the nation will observe Arbor Day on Friday, but no state will celebrate with as much fervor as Nebraska, where the celebration of trees got its start 142 years ago. (AP Photo/Nati Harnik)

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Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium's mission is to inspire, educate and engage people to serve as lifelong stewards for the conservation of animals and their habitats.

“It’s a community effort,” Taylor said.

The city also received a \$25,000 contribution from the Cedar Rapids Parks Foundation to put toward the reforestation of municipal parks as part of ReLeaf. The donation will assist in purchasing supplies including tree tubes, tree stakes, gator watering bags, and seedlings.

Previous Parks Foundation contributions have been used to purchase four water wagons to assist with tree planting and care.

Laurie Worden, president of the Cedar Rapids Parks Foundation, said the organization strives to put funds toward efforts that can be beneficial not only to promote sustainability and accessibility of the parks system but for the community.

“Folks can come together in neighborhood parks, and anytime we plant something, that’s really good for people and the planet,” Worden said.

Teator said Trees Forever is helping to increase the available tree stock and is in talks with some nurseries about increasing what they’re planting now.

Trees planted at nurseries currently will be planted in the city in four years, Teator said, and other cities will be in need of trees in that time as well. That’s why it’s important to work ahead to boost the supply chain and anticipate future needs, as outlined in the ReLeaf plan.

In 2023, Teator said the city will get seedlings in April, giving the seedlings until October to develop roots. The goal is to plant well above 500 seedlings each year.

The gravel bed seedlings will be planted only in the parks and not in the right of ways because of their small size, Teator said, but she said this size allows for quicker planting than landscape trees.

In the future, Teator said the city plans to track which species are being planted in the gravel beds and plant rows of different species to experiment with which ones do better.

“We’re going to keep experimenting every year to see what works, but right now for the first year, I think we’re thrilled with the results,” Teator said.

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The largest Oak Tree in the United States (currently) is called the Seven Sisters Oak Tree. Foresters estimate it to be about 1200 years old!

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Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays from your dedicated NAA staff members, Alyssa Brodersen and Jamie Oborny and the entire staff at Advanced Association Management. We hope you have a great holiday season with your friends and families and look forward to serving all the NAA members in the new year.

From back left to right:
Taylor Moore, Jenn Eurek, Courtney Fegter, Kylie Schildt, Kim Pair, Alyssa Brodersen, Kelsey Burkhardt, Shianne Yarrington, Kathi Schildt, Jamie Oborny

NEXT TIME YOU'RE IN LINCOLN, TAKE A TOUR OF THE STATE CHAMPION TREES ON UNL'S CAMPUSES

by John Woodworth, November 4, 2022

Being from Nebraska, one thing I've heard all of my life from outsiders is: "So Nebraska is pretty much just cows and corn, right?" My normal response is an eye roll and a sigh as I explain, "No, it's not all cornfields and cows... there is boundless diversity of flora and fauna across our great state." One area in particular in which we see abundant diversity is our native trees. Nebraska is home to roughly 50 native species of trees ranging from hardy ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) to fruit-producing pawpaws (*Asimina triloba*).

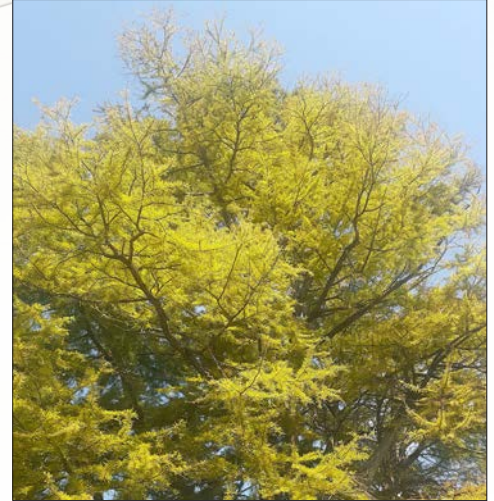
In addition to its diversity of trees, this Great Plains state also has some amazingly enormous specimens. The Nebraska Forest Service has compiled a list, updated annually, of all the state champion trees – those that are the largest of their species. The list includes the location, height, and trunk circumference of numerous hefty trees across the state.

As a UNL alumna, I'm proud that five of the ten state champion trees found in Lincoln grow on or very close to the two UNL campuses, which is likely the result of the strong horticultural history associated with the university. When I was a student, one of my favorite things to do was to hammock outside the Student Union in the spring and look at all the budding trees, flowering and buzzing with life. I also loved walking around the east campus during the fall and seeing the mosaic of yellows, oranges, and reds against the baby-blue October sky. The landscapes and tree diversity present on the campuses always put a smile on my face, even in my toughest hours. They made me proud to be a Cornhusker.

I compiled this list of state-champion trees in Lincoln in the hopes that it will inspire others to notice and appreciate the natural beauty that abounds in Lincoln and on the university campuses.

State Champion Trees in Lincoln, Nebraska

- Bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) — height: 56 feet, circ. 13 feet; located at the North end of Maxwell Arboretum on UNL's East Campus
- River birch (*Betula nigra*) — height: 62 feet, circumference: 6 feet; located at 3401 Pershing St.
- Chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*) — height: 45 feet, circumference: 4.42 feet; located at St. John's Catholic Church, 7601 Vine St.
- American elm (*Ulmus americana*) — height: 70 feet, circumference: 18.5 feet; located at Idylwild Park (near 33rd and Vine streets)
- Siberian elm (*Ulmus pumila*) — height: 88 feet, circumference: 17 feet; located at 40th and Holdrege streets, UNL East Campus
- Honey locust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*) — height: 85 feet, circumference: 14.5 feet; located at 3256 Holdrege St.
- Silver maple (*Acer saccharinum*) — height: 76 feet; circumference: 25.9 feet; located at Hillcrest Country Club
- Northern red oak (*Quercus rubra*) — height: 80 feet, circumference: 15.5 feet; located at the corner of 34th and Starr streets
- Pin oak (*Quercus palustris*) — height: 115 feet, circumference: 15.6 feet; located on Woods Ave.
- Shingle oak (*Quercus imbricaria*) — height: 62 feet, circumference: 7.17 feet; located on UNL City Campus



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PINE WILT: A FATAL DISEASE OF SCOTCH PINE

by Laurie Stepanek

Scotch pine, a popular tree for ornamental plantings, windbreaks, and Christmas trees, is rapidly disappearing from Nebraska's landscape. The tree is susceptible to pine wilt, a disease that has killed thousands of Scotch pines in the southeastern part of the state since the mid-1990s. This publication discusses pine wilt and how to control the disease.

Symptoms - Trees affected by pine wilt initially develop faded, grey-green needles, which quickly turn brown. Symptoms develop rapidly in late summer or fall. Some trees die branch by branch, especially from late fall to late spring. Dead needles may remain on the tree for a year or more.

Susceptible Trees - Scotch pine is highly susceptible to pine wilt. Austrian pine is moderately susceptible. Native pines such as ponderosa and eastern white pine rarely die of the disease, while spruces, firs, junipers, and redcedar are not susceptible.

What Causes Pine Wilt? Pine wilt is caused by a microscopic worm-like organism called the pinewood nematode. The nematode attacks tissues in the wood, causing decreased water flow and death of susceptible trees. Bacteria associated with the pinewood nematode may play a significant role in disease development.

How Does Pine Wilt Spread? Pinewood nematodes are carried from tree to tree by pine sawyer beetles. Immature pine sawyer beetles tunnel in the wood of dying pines, such as those dying from pine wilt. When the beetles mature and emerge from the wood, they may carry thousands of nematodes on their bodies. Adult beetles fly to healthy trees to feed, carrying the nematodes with them. The beetles chew on twigs, creating wounds through which the nematodes infect the trees. Susceptible trees die within a few months following infection.

Diagnosis - If a Scotch Pine in the eastern half of the state rapidly turns brown and dies in late summer or fall, pine wilt is likely the cause. Laboratory testing can help confirm pine wilt but is usually not necessary. In other pine species, and in the west, other causes for browning are more likely and should be considered before pine wilt is suspected.

Control

- Trees with pine wilt cannot be saved
- Diseased trees must be destroyed to prevent the beetles from spreading the nematodes to nearby healthy trees
- Trees should be chipped, burned, or buried before the beetles emerge from the wood
- Do not save diseased wood for firewood
- Woodchips from diseased trees are safe to use as mulch, even around pines
- Healthy, high-value trees can be protected from pine wilt with a trunk injection

Trunk Injection - Healthy trees can be protected from pine wilt with a trunk injection of abamectin or emamectin benzoate. The treatment should be applied by a certified arborist who is well-trained in the procedure. The treatment greatly reduces the chance that a tree will die of pine wilt, but it is not 100% effective. Trees must be re-treated every 2-3 years, and the cost may run a few hundred dollars per treatment for a large tree. Because of the expense, usually, only high-value trees in excellent health are treated.

Removal Guidelines

- If a tree dies May 1 - Oct. 1: Remove and destroy it immediately.
- If a tree dies after Oct. 1: Remove and destroy it by April 30.



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Tuesday, January 17**Keynote Speaker: 8:05 - 9:00 a.m.**

Courageous Leadership – Dan Meers

Morning Session: 9:15 – 10:15 a.m. (check one) PPE; A Safety Story from Head to Toe - Korey Conry Diseases You Can ID by Eye - Brian Hudelson**Break: 10:15 - 10:45 a.m.**

Exhibitor Time & Silent Auction Bidding & Raffle

Morning Session: 10:45 – 11:45 a.m. (check one) Keeping Employees on Board with On-Boarding - Korey Conry Invasive Species and Biocontrol - David Nielsen**11:45 – 12:45 p.m.**

Lunch & NAA Business Meeting

12:45 – 1:15 p.m.

Exhibitor Time & Silent Auction Bidding/Raffle Sales

1:15 – 5:15 p.m. NAA Certification Exam (Pre-registration Required)**Afternoon Session: 1:15 – 2:15 p.m. (check one)** Aerial Rescue & Assessment - Eric Freesmeyer The Art & Science of Arboriculture Sales - Jake Conley**Break: 2:15 - 2:30 p.m.**

Vendor Time & Silent Auction Bidding & Raffle

Afternoon Session: 2:30 – 3:30 p.m. (check one) Equipment & Climbing Technology - Warren Williams It's Not Just a Tree: How Species Differ in Their Care - John Ball**Closing Keynote Speaker: 3:45 – 4:45 p.m.**

The Z: Paragraphs to Live For - John Ball

4:45 – 6:00 p.m.

Exhibitor Time & Silent Auction Bidding & Raffle (Silent Auction Closes at 6:00 p.m.)

6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Live Auction Begins & Social Time

6:15 p.m. Dinner Begins (Ticket Required)**7:00 p.m.** Cornhole Tournament Begins (Teams must sign up by 3 p.m. at the registration desk)**Wednesday, January 18****Keynote Speaker: 8:05 - 9:05 a.m.**

Longevity in Arboriculture – Mark Chisholm

Morning Session: 9:15 – 10:15 a.m. (check one) Climbers Workshop Diseases of Deciduous Trees & Shrubs - Brian Hudelson**Break: 10:15 – 10:45 a.m.**

Exhibitor Time

Morning Session: 10:45 – 11:45 a.m. (check one) Professionalism - Mark Chisholm Advanced Tree Risk Assessment**12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

Lunch & Exhibit Hall Open

Afternoon Session: 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. (check one) Climber Workshop Oak Diagnostic & Oak Wilt**Break: 2:30 – 3:00 p.m.**

Exhibitor Time – Exhibit Hall Closes at 3:00 p.m.

Closing Keynote Speaker: 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Rethinking Leadership - Craig Bachmann



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