

Branching Throughout Minnesota

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UPCOMING EVENTS

October 26-27
MSA Fall Conference
Mankato, MN

October 26
Certified Arborist Exam
Mankato, MN

November 10
Day of Service
Fort Snelling Cemetery
Bloomington, MN

The Arborescence

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MINNESOTA SOCIETY OF ARBORICULTURE

Fall 2006



MSA Bylaws to be Voted on during Fall Conference

By Paul Buck, MSA President

It has been a while since we reviewed the MSA bylaws. At this year's fall conference we will take a look and vote on these changes. Although a rough sketch, here are the bylaws with the new proposals in **red**. The old bylaws being adjusted will be **green**.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 The membership of the organization shall consist of Regular Members, Student Members, Associate Members, General Members, Lifetime Members and Honorary Members. Only **r**Regular, **Lifetime and Honorary** members in good standing shall have the right to vote or hold. *Explanation: Correcting an oversight that Lifetime & Honorary members did not have the right to vote or hold office.*

ARTICLE IV. DUES

Section 2 Membership dues shall be assessed with each application for membership and shall be assessed annually thereafter. The annual membership dues shall be as follows:

- Regular members shall pay **\$30.00** **40.00** per year
- Student members shall pay \$10.00 per year
- Associate members shall pay **\$45.00** **50.00** per year
- General members shall pay **\$25.00** **30.00** per year

Cont. on pg 6

Treasurer's Message, Greg Krogstad

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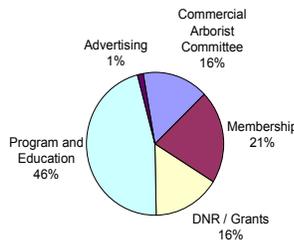
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Many members have had questions or wondered about the finances of our organization. As a member of the Minnesota Society of Arboriculture it is important to understand where our revenues are generated and where they are being spent. This information allows us all to make better decisions about how we align with our societies mission and goals. Therefore, I would like to briefly review 2005 as a historic view of our societies spending.

First, let's start with revenues. The pie chart below shows us the income raised through program and educational events consists of almost half the

Income 2005

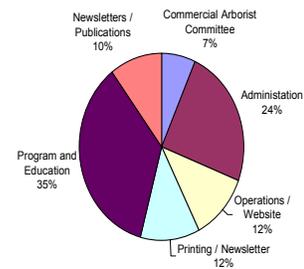


revenues for the society. Programs and Education are heavily driven

by the time and dedication of society volunteers. Furthermore, it is membership dues, grants and committees that constitute the remaining revenues to the society.

As in all societies we have expenses that support and serve our mission and purpose. The pie chart below shows

Expensis 2005



these expenses for 2005. Program and educational opportunities, newsletters and printing represent 57 percent of the societies spending. Also, 37 percent of the expenses could be attributed to administration and operational costs.

Is summary, it is clear that educational opportunities and programs, which are immensely volunteer driven, play the prevalent role in our society.



**Tap into Tree
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Preventing Frost Cankers/Sunscald and Frost Cracks. Wrap or No Wrap?

Dr. Gary Johnson

Winter temperatures wreak havoc on our Midwestern landscape trees, often causing frost cankers and frost cracks on tree trunks. For many years, trunk protective wraps were touted as being very beneficial in preventing trunk damage from the sun. Unfortunately, research to date has yet to empirically and conclusively prove that trunk wraps prevent anything; they may actually cause even more problems. The conundrum is that some experience suggests that trunk damage from winter temperatures may be prevented by tree wraps applied in the winter.

Sorting Definitions. Frost cankers - a.k.a. sun scald - (Figure 1) may appear as longitudinal splits on the south or southwest sides of the bark along the main stem or branches, or simply as sunken dead areas. It is speculated that cambial tissues are damaged when trees begin coming out of dormancy and are subjected to sudden temperature changes in the late winter/early spring.



**Figure 1:
Frost Canker
Gary Johnson-photo**

Frost cankers are often mistaken for frost cracks. Frost cracks (Figure 2) are formed during extreme winter temperature fluctuations (i.e., when temperatures plummet) and can be found on any side of the stem or branch. These are similar to frost cankers in that they are longitudinal; however, a true frost crack extends into the stem's wood.



**Figure 2:
Frost Crack
Gary Johnson-photo**

More About Frost Cankers. Some young, thin and/or smooth-barked species like maples, crabapples, and lindens, seem to

suffer more from frost cankers. Perhaps these young trees are more susceptible since they have yet to develop thick, outer-bark tissues. In the Midwest, frost cankers occur primarily during late winter months when the sun is heating the bark cambial tissue but temperatures are still dropping at night. Although it is common to claim that a particular tree species is susceptible to frost cankers, transplant stress, and, more importantly water stress caused by root loss during transplanting may be the leading predisposing factor to frost cankers regardless of species.

Tree Wraps: What Do They Actually Do?

Photosynthesis occurs in the stem too! The thin bark of younger trees is composed of photosynthetic organelles that may have the ability to re-fix CO₂ during respiration, a process called cortical photosynthesis. Throughout the year, light penetrates the organelles and sunlight energy is trapped.

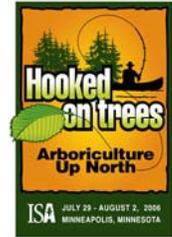
As the tree ages and the bark becomes thicker and woodier, or if stems are wrapped, less light reaches the photosynthetic organelles (University of Illinois, 1997). Stems are part of the photosynthetic cycle, meaning that even during the dormancy of winter the sugars necessary for a young tree's life can be produced.

Continued on page 4

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The Tree Care Company Licensing and Regulation Task Force has been appointed by the MN Department of Agriculture.

The Task force's duty is to explore and develop recommendations to present to the Minnesota legislature in 2007.

Some of the many issues to be discussed will be enforcement, safety, Arboricultural knowledge, and abolishment of redundant city

licenses. The first meeting was scheduled for September 21, An MDA webpage has been set up for more information and updates:

www.mda.state.mn.us/tcr/taskforce.htm

Are Wraps Harmless? Trunk wraps or other protective wraps have long been used to protect against winter temperature fluctuations. However, one report found that commonly- used paper tree wraps may do the opposite of this theory, they actually cause a faster rate of temperature change (Litzow and Pellett, 1983). Trunk protection via paper wraps and plastic guards has also been found to retain moisture between the wrap and the tree, which creates an inviting haven for insects, fungi and bacteria. So avoid the problem and remove all stem coverings before spring weather begins if you choose to use these products.

Finally, the worst scenario is plain forgetfulness. If a person forgets to unwrap the materials on the growing tree, the wrap remains in a fixed position and may eventually girdle the stem, possibly hurting or killing the tree.

What Does Help?

So, trunk wraps may not reliably reduce winter stem damage from the sun. However, here are some research-based recommendations that should be heeded.

Avoid water stress in newly planted trees. Predisposition to frost cankers has been associated with trees stressed by root loss and dry soil conditions. Water the upper 6-8" of the soil- *but don't flood it!* - throughout the growing season until the soil freezes for 1-3 years for a newly planted tree.

Don't stress your trees! Plan before you plant. Frost cankers and other preventable problems are often caused by stresses that result from putting sensitive trees in poor locations such as water-logged soils, constricted rooting areas, dry and sandy soils, or areas surrounded by concrete or black top.

Do not wound the tree's stem. One of the main causes of frost cracks is a "flush cut" pruning wound, or **any accidental wound** to a young tree's trunk. For proper pruning techniques visit: http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/howtos/ht_prune/prun001.htm

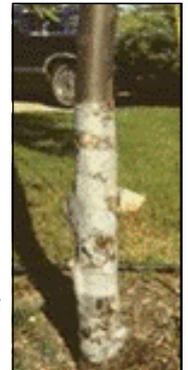


Figure 3: Paper wrapping gone bad.
Gary Johnson-photo

For More Information:

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- Lifetime members shall pay a one-time fee of 10 times the Regular membership rate.

Section 3 Dues shall be paid prior to January February 1st of each year. No member shall be entitled to the return of dues upon termination or discontinuation of membership.

Explanation: In an effort to further expand our educational opportunities, we are asking members to increase their dues. Currently, the membership directory (\$5), spring & winter picnics (\$5/ea.) consume half of your dues. These are nice perks but our goal is to further educational efforts. Additional funding will allow for improved opportunities.

ARTICLE VI. DUTIES OF OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1 The President shall preside at all meetings of the membership and Executive Committee, appoint all committees and their respective chairpersons, execute all documents, convene special meetings of the organization, serve as an ex-officio member of the Legislative Committee and Liaison Committee, and perform other duties incident to the office.

Section 3 The Secretary shall keep all records, issue notice of all meetings of the membership or Executive Committee, keep minutes of all such meetings, notify members of their nomination, conduct such correspondence as delegated by the President, and serve as an ex-officio member of the Nominations Committee, Membership Committee, Publications Committee, and Publicity Liaison Committee and Certification Committee.

Section 4 The Treasurer shall receive, manage, and disburse all money and property of the organization as directed by the Executive Committee, keep accurate records of such money and property, submit a financial report at the annual meeting or as directed by the Executive Committee, and serve as an ex-officio member of the Awards Committee and Ethics/Certification Membership Services Committee.

Section 6 The Executive Committee shall manage the general and financial affairs of the organization, act for the organization between the annual meetings, designate the time and place of the meeting, approve payment of all just bills, review and approve all Standing Committee appointments made by the President, and fill vacancies which may occur in any office of the organization.

Section 7 Immediate Past President shall serve as the ex-officio member of the Jamboree Tree Climbing Championship Committee and the Commercial Arborists Committee.

Explanation: Reorganization of standing committees changed some of the Executive Committee members' duties.

ARTICLE VII. STANDING COMMITTEE

Section 1 The organization shall have the following standing committees and such others as deemed necessary by the Executive Committee: Membership Services, Commercial Arborists, Legislative, Ethics/Certification, Awards, Publicity, Program and Education, Publication, Nomination, Liaison, and Jamboree Tree Climbing Championship.

Explanation:

- *Ethics, Awards & Nomination committees were rolled into the new Member Services committee. Those three committees have very specific tasks. It seems more appropriate they all support each other under one umbrella.*

- *Legislative committee is removed from standing committee status to a liaison position. Legislative activity seems more appropriate for MN STAC. The liaison position provide for communication and action should the need arise.*

- *The Commercial Arborists committee has been working as a standing committee and is fully recognized.*

Jamboree committee is correctly renamed Tree Climbing Championship.

ARTICLE VIII. NOMINATION AND ELECTION PROCEDURES

Section 1 The Nomination Membership Services Committee shall solicit **by mail** nominations from the regular membership for elected offices at least sixty days (60) prior to the annual meeting. Nominations shall be returned to the Secretary at least thirty days (30) prior to the annual meeting. The two individuals receiving the most nominations for each office shall be placed on the ballot. In case of a tie for the first or second nomination position, all individuals involved in the tie will be nominated. Only rRegular, Lifetime and Honorary members in good standing shall be eligible for nomination.

Section 2 Officers shall be elected by ballot at the annual meeting and shall hold office of two years beginning January 1st following the annual meeting. Only regular members in good standing at the time of the annual meeting shall be eligible to vote. Nominees elected to office shall have received a majority of votes of those eligible members attending and casting ballots prior to and/or at the annual meeting. The Nominations Membership Services Committee shall supervise the election.

Explanation: Besides the name change, nominations & elections will no longer be limited to only mail service. With new technology, this allows for multiple ways of nominating & casting ballots, thereby increasing membership involvement.

There are a few typographical errors also being corrected during this amendment. Please visit the MSA homepage to view the proposal in its entirety: <http://www.isa-msa.org/>



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