

Branching Throughout Minnesota

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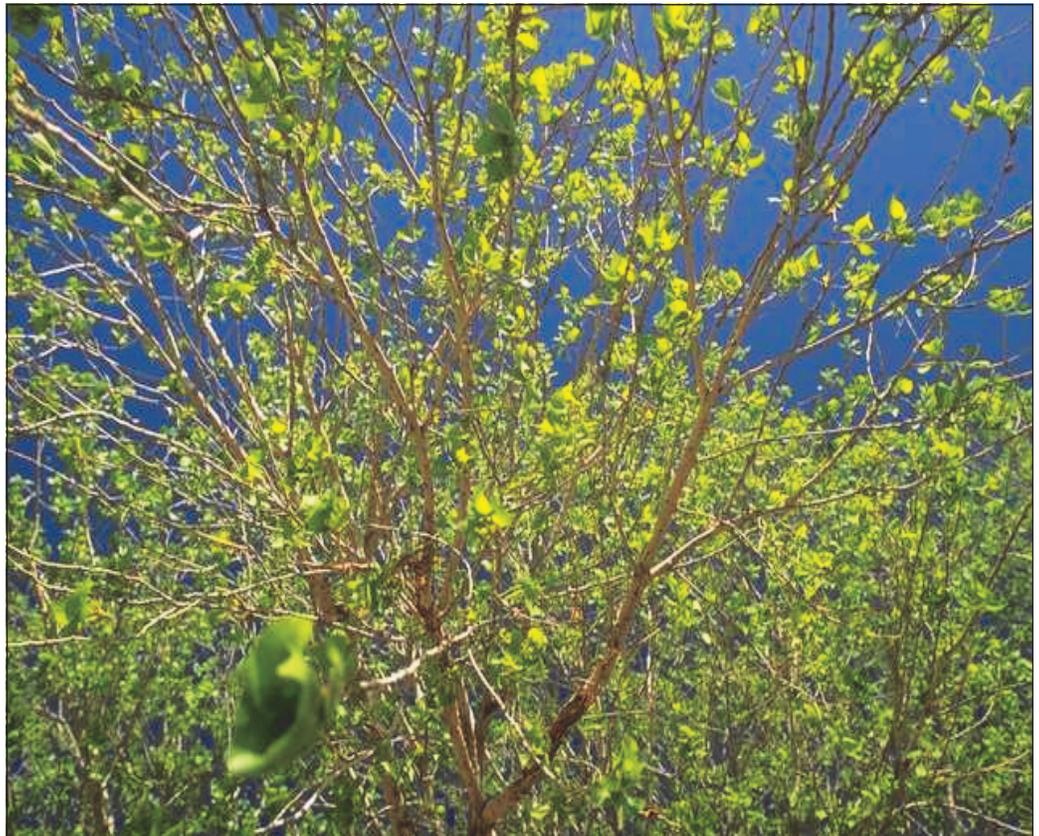
'07 Certified Arborist Exams

April 6 St. Paul
June 13 Mpls
Sept 28 Braham
Nov. 9 Andover

The Arborescence

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MINNESOTA SOCIETY OF ARBORICULTURE

Spring 2007



PHOTOGRAPHER UNKNOWN

Final Thoughts

Presented by:
Ralph Sievert & Don Mueller, ISA
2006 Conference Co-Chairs

Volunteerism made ISA 2006 a Huge Success

After five years of preparation and planning, the ISA Annual Conference and Trade Show is over. By all accounts the conference was a huge success. Nearly 2,200 individuals attended the event. ISA set a record for both Trade Show and Field Day exhibits. Feedback from around the world was overwhelmingly positive.

In case you didn't know, the key to this success was the outstanding effort put forth by

Minnesota's volunteers. This effort was apparent from start to finish. For example, organizers at the International Tree Climbing Championship (ITCC) said that they were spoiled by the volunteer help they received. All total, nearly 200 volunteers took part in the conference.

If you were unable to attend, you missed an outstanding ITCC and Field Day at Loring Park on July 29th and 30th. It was the 30th anniversary of the ITCC and the competition did not disappoint. It may have been 100 degrees but even that did not dim the

Continued on page 5-ISA

**MSA
Executive
Committee**

President

Paul Buck
City of Plymouth Forester
763-509-5944
pbuck@ci.plymouth.mn.us

Vice President

Don Mueller
MN Dept of Natural Resources
651-772-6148
Don.mueller@dnr.state.mn.us

Secretary

Rebecca Seibel-Hunt
Majestic Tree Care
612-522-3210
rebecca@majestictreecare.com

Treasurer

Greg Krogstad
Rainbow Treecare
952-922-3810
gkrogstad@rainbowtreecare.com

Past President

Jim Nayes
Living Sculpture Tree Care
612-803-9033
Jim_nayes@mac.com

ISA Liasion

Ralph Sievert
Minneapolis Park & Rec.
612-313-7735
rsievert@minneapolisparcs.org

**Editor and
Advertising Sales
Office**

Patty Nolt
P.O. Box 64
Wayzata, MN 55391
612-720-6347
thewren@wrensmarketing or
thewren@wrensaniques.com



*President's message,
Paul Buck*

A new year and a new charge for the Executive Committee met with committee chairs to review our successes and look forward to 2007 and beyond. From that meeting, three closely related goals were identified if MSA was going to make a bigger impact.

The first goal facing MSA is Outreach, both amongst our members and other green industries. We need to move away from the Metro Society and truly make our association representative of all MN. To that measure you will notice a commitment to bringing programs to the out state membership. MSA's safety program went on the road to Cloquet & Morton. Our 2007 fall conference will be in St. Cloud, after Mankato in 2006. The Festival of Trees/Tree Climbing Championship/Arbor Day event is recruiting other Cities and venues for future years. Our partnership with MTGF has been a bonus as we are able to reach out to other green industries and inform them of the value and importance of trees in their landscapes & decisions.

All this outreach leads directly to our second goal, education. Not only are we going to try to bring our members the highest quality and practical educational opportunities, but we need to expand our educational efforts to reach & teach our consumers. One idea in

the hopper is creating an educational opportunity at the Great Get-together, the MN State Fair. The education committee will be looking for additional members for other great ideas. Go ahead and get involved, your program ideas might be the next big seminar!

The combination of increase outreach & education this leads to our third goal, volunteerism. With ~400 members we should be supporting each other and lending a hand at each event. Together we can accomplish greatness. Each member can take the MSA message to their local level. Give a seminar at a garden center. Reach out to your local schools and libraries. Let people know you care about the environment. Be willing to put your mouth where your heart is and become the local expert. Make an appearance on local cable TV or radio.

Please note a change this year at the STSC. MSA has reserved the 3rd lunch period on April 3rd so we can have a business meeting/lunch. Our main goal will be to discuss updates to the MSA constitution & bylaws. We need a quorum to make any decisions so please plan on attending and bring your creative ideas along with rumbling stomachs. Lest you think we forget about a social function, everyone is invited to the Spring picnic at the North Mississippi Regional park (194 & 49th Ave N. Mpls.) on April 3rd 5:00 – 10:00pm

Remember, Trees are good & Fun is good!



PHOTOGRAPHER UNKNOWN

**Tap into Tree
Experience at
MNtrees.org**

ISA Certification-Most Frequently Asked Questions

By Gail Nozal,

MSA Certification Chair

How many CEU's do I need?

Certified Arborists need 30 CEU's in 3 years, Board Certified Master Arborists need 60 CEU's (20 in Science, 20 in Practice and 20 in Management) in 3 years, Tree Workers need 15 CEU's in 3 years, Utility Specialist need an additional 6 CEU's on top of their Certified Arborist CEU's in 3 years, and the Municipal Specialist need an additional 12 on top of their 30 Certified Arborist CEU's in 3 years.

Where can I find CEU's?

Last year MSA pre-approved 168 CEU's hours for events happening in Minnesota! Most of these are available at conferences, workshops or seminars. You can obtain additional CEU's by turning in Arborist News quizzes and you can also obtain credit by purchasing ISA publications and workbooks that offer CEUs and turning them in for credit. www.isa-arbor.com

Continued on page 6

National Oak Wilt Symposium

By Eugene Gehring-
ISAT President

Plan to see oak wilt at its worst in both urban and rural settings in Central Texas. Learn how private landowners, arborists, local communities, cities, state and federal agencies are working together to effectively manage this disease in Texas and other states.

2007 will mark the 20th anniversary of the Texas Cooperative Oak Wilt Suppression Project. Lessons learned from this multi-agency project will be discussed in both oral presentations and field trips.

Oak wilt researchers and management specialist from across the United States will come together to present the latest findings about the biology and management of this devastating tree disease.

The NOWS will be highlighted by two days of oral presentations, your choice of field trips, a Texas-style social event, and ample time to network with those directly involved in studying or managing oak wilt. Also, presentations will be made available in a published proceeding.

The "rural" oak wilt field trip will focus on issues related to oak wilt epidemiology and control in the Central Texas oak-juniper woodlands. The destination will be the Ft. Hood Army Installation, approximately 70 miles Northwest of Austin in the northern edge of the Edward's Plateau region of Central Texas. Ft. Hood is a 217,000-acre army installation which houses two mechanized divisions, and has been the target of numerous oak wilt surveys, studies, and control efforts. Participants will meet with representatives of the

Nature Conservancy for briefings on the unique ecosystem at Ft. Hood and the efforts made to preserve the habitats of many endangered species. The impact of oak wilt on oaks growing in Golden Cheeked Warbler habitat will be viewed along with trenching and other oak wilt control activities and regeneration in existing centers. The results of studies on inoculum availability and vector transmission in relation to species composition will be discussed.

The urban oak wilt tour bus will depart the hotel at 8:00 am for a day in Austin and the surrounding Texas Hill country. After a driving tour of the majestic Texas State Capital grounds and a visit to the Historic Treaty Oak, the tour will traverse through heavily live oak forested Austin neighborhoods and the Texas Hill Country to focus on oak wilt suppression projects in developed and rapidly developing areas. At the various stops knowledgeable speakers will discuss oak wilt biology, epidemiology, and suppression. Planned demonstrations include Texas style trenching utilizing a rocksaw that cuts 60 inches into the Hill country limestone. Both micro and macro injection (infusion) techniques for the delivery of fungicides directly into the vascular tissue will be observed. A potential new technology to aid in diagnosis of oak wilt, the Handy PEA chlorophyll fluorimeter, will also be demonstrated.

There will be ample opportunity to converse with oak wilt professionals from Texas and across the country. This field trip includes lunch and a tour at the renowned Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin. Participants should be pre-

pared to board and exit the bus several times and walk no more than one block at any stop.

You'll experience a piece of history on Lake Austin when you board The Commodore's Pup, which is the original Lake Austin riverboat and the longest-operating riverboat in Texas. Drift down the slow, easy river while sipping your favorite cold drink. Along the way you'll see the Loop 360 bridge, Tom Miller Dam, Austin Country Club, Laguna Gloria, Mt. Bonnell, beautiful lakeside mansions, Westlake Beach, and the scenic bluffs along Lake Austin.

A traditional Texas BBQ dinner will be served at Westwood Country Club. Nestled on 11 oak-covered acres hugging the Lake Austin shoreline, Westwood Country Club masterfully blends the charm of early 1900's architecture, picturesque surroundings and modern expansions to create a facility unique among Austin clubs. At the heart of the complex is the McClendon home, a medieval French mansion built in 1925 by Judge and Mrs. James W. McClendon. Its flagstone walkways, Mexican tile floors, hand painted ceilings, and native rock fireplace offer a unique Texas ambiance.

Registration before May 4, 2007 is \$295; \$350 after. Space is limited, so register early. For more information or to register; www.isatexas.com

MSA MEMBER SPOTLIGHTS

TIDBITS OF INFORMATION

TCC COMPETITION

For those climbers who are interested in participating in the 2007 Tree Climbing Championship, the new address for Lynn Wells is listed below. Please forward this off to people who may be interested.

fnlynn@comcast.net

CERTIFICATION

Questions regarding certification tests, locations, requirements and qualifications can be directed to Gail Nozal. Her email address is:

gnozal@frontiernet.net

Do you have an interest in the following ?

Awards

Certification

Commercial Arborist

Day of Service

Festival of Trees

Membership

Program and Education

Publications

Publicity

Social Outings

Tree Climbing Championship

Then join us, meet new people and have some fun!!!

Commercial Arborist Committee Update

The Commercial Arborist Committee (CAC) met in February after a long break from meetings since the ISA conference. We discussed local Tree Industry happening's. From the MDA State licensing recommendation, new work compensation insurance news, St Louis Park licensing changes, to the upcoming TCC & Festival of Trees at Cherokee Park in St. Paul on May 19th.

Did you folks see the February 07 TCI magazine, The MSA's 06 Minnesota Trampoline Tree Fun(d) climb at Fort Snelling made the front cover! If you don't receive this trade magazine, you can go to http://www.treecareindustry.org/PDFs/TCI_Mag_Feb07.pdf,

page 68 to read all about this fun event. Also all the Ropes and Gear from this event will be auctioned off at this year's Shade Tree Short Course, bring your checkbook and be prepared for some bargain's.

If you want to join or attend our committee meetings and help our Industry move into the 21st century. We like to have fun and get business done also. Please contact Dave Nordgaard by email at tntreeman@aol.com



**Dave Nordgaard-Top Notch Tree Care,
Commercial Arborist
Committee Chairperson**

The CAC's Mission & Goals are:

- A. Promote and create public awareness of professional arborists through fun community educational events.
- B. Raise the standard of living for all practicing arborists.
- C. Locate, contact, and encourage "Tree Guys" to join the professional movement.
- D. Work with MSA to create public education and awareness events.
- E. Support a scholarship fund and advertising efforts that promote professional arborists.
- F. Have fun while accomplishing the above



Member Happenings:

MSA Membership Committee Chairperson Ryan Rosenow will be relocating to central Michigan this spring. Ryan's wife Jenny has accepted a two-year position within General Mills that will take them to the Emerald Ash Borer capital of the world! Ryan has worked on behalf of the MSA members to improve the new and renewing membership welcome package. If you haven't renewed your membership, please do so today to see what you're missing! We will miss Ryan, we shall await his return, and we wish his family all the best.

And – we are looking for a new Membership Committee Chairperson. If you are a sociable tree-loving guy or gal, please show your support for MSA by taking a more active role. This is a great entry level volunteer position because Ryan has done most of the work for you! Call or email Patty or Rebecca for more information. Rebecca@majestictreecare.com (612) 522-321

enthusiasm of the climbers, spectators and exhibitors. For the first time Minnesota's Citizens Tree Academy provided educational opportunities for the general public. Many thanks to James & Susan Burks and Rebecca Seibel-Hunt for all their hard work on this effort. The warmer temperatures had a hidden benefit in that beer sales at the MSA Beer Garden topped \$5000. Thanks to Summit Brewing for sponsoring this successful fund raiser.

On Sunday afternoon the Tour des Trees riders entered Loring Park to jubilant applause. They had returned from a 500 mile trek that started in Thunder Bay, Ontario. The tour covered two counties and three chapters. MSA was proudly represented by riders Jim Zwack, Paul Buck and Brian Asmus. Their efforts helped with Minnesota's contribution to tree research. A special thanks to Jim Zwack for helping organize the tour route. It was one of the most scenic tours that the TREE Fund has ever had.

On Sunday evening, July 30th, the Opening Ceremony was held at the Minneapolis Convention Center (MCC). Those in attendance were given a hearty Minnesota welcome. For MSA the proudest moment came when our own Gary Johnson received the Outstanding Educator Award from ISA. Congratulations to Gary on this terrific international achievement. From now on he may officially be referred to as the "Award Winning" Gary Johnson.

Following the Opening Ceremony everyone proceeded upstairs for the Welcome Reception. The theme "Gather Around the Campfire" was a great fit. Guests were entertained with Scandinavian music, caricature artists, virtual fishing, chain saw sculptures, Paul Bunyan and live birds from the University of Minnesota's Raptor Center. Authentic campfire cuisine gave everyone a real taste of Minnesota's north woods.

The success of the Welcoming Reception can be directly attributed to the generous sponsorship provided by Rainbow Treecare and Rainbow Treecare Scientific Advancements. As a Platinum Level sponsor, their \$15,000 helped put on a party that was quite a hit and impressed our international guests. Be sure to extend your appreciation to the employees of Rainbow Treecare and Rainbow Treecare Scientific Advancements the next time you have a chance. They stepped up to help out just when we needed them. This was a truly selfless gesture that is deserving of recognition.

Numerous local sponsors also played a significant role in supporting the conference. Their donations helped pay for volunteer's food vouchers and T-shirts. Many are small businesses that had to dig deep to help. They have been listed on the website and past issues of Arborescence. Be sure to thank them for their help.

Monday morning, July 31st, was the kick off to the educational sessions. ISA President Bob Tate welcomed everyone to ISA's 82nd Annual Conference. Jon Olson, President of the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, welcomed everyone on behalf of Minneapolis. A highlight for MSA was the third and final welcome which came from Mayor Katie Himanga of Lake City, MN. As the only mayor in Minnesota, and possibly the country, that is a certified arborist her appearance was a special one. Thanks to Mayor H for taking a break as the Hospitality Committee Chair to help out.

The educational sessions ran from Monday through Wednesday, August 2nd. Among the speakers were a number of local experts from Minnesota. Our own Lisa Burban did an outstanding job moderating two discussion panels that tackled the topics of responding to and mitigating invasive pests. Breaks on the trade show floor gave attendees ample time to visit with exhibitors. Just outside of the trade show doors, Minnesota's Tree House of Horrors provided an extra educational opportunity. The proximity of the educational sessions to the trade show made for an ideal conference setup.



It is simply not possible to state in words how much the generosity of MSA's volunteers is appreciated. An event of this magnitude could not have happened without them – without you!



If you thought the evenings were a time to rest up from a busy day, you were wrong. Monday evening was the TREE Fund's 8th Annual Gala Auction held at the Hyatt. This event raises money for tree research by auctioning donations from chapters. Minnesota raised \$2,200 by auctioning a Boundary Waters Canoe Trip with Don Mueller and his wife. On Tuesday evening over 200 baseball fans attended a major league baseball game in the climate controlled comfort of the HHH Metrodome. The happiest participant was a student from Arlington, TX who got to watch her team pounce on the mighty Twins.

On Wednesday the conference was broken down according to ISA's professional affiliate organizations. The utility arborists and the researchers continued their sessions with quality speakers at the MCC. However, the commercial arborists and municipal arborists went off site and held tours that pertained to their respective areas of interest.

Those attending the Society of Commercial Arboriculture's tour visited S&S Tree and Horticultural Specialists in South St. Paul where a bar-b-que lunch and music followed several speakers. Those that attended the Society of Municipal Arborists (SMA) tour enjoyed highlights of the Minneapolis urban forest, research at the University of MN and a picnic lunch at Minnehaha Falls. A special thanks to Kirk Brown who served as master chef at the SMA lunch.

The conference finale took place on Wednesday evening during the Closing Reception at the Hyatt. A desert bar (and liquid desert bar) was a welcome treat for all who had worked so hard during the week. Conference Co-Chairs Don Mueller and Ralph

“How can I check how many CEU Credits I have currently?”

“How are CEU’s Awarded?”

Continued CEU Credit Questions

How can I check how many CEU’s I have currently?

You can check your CEUs on line by logging into your account using your username and password on the ISA website at www.isa-arbor.com, or by calling the ISA certification department at 217-355-9411 or by sending us an email at ceu@isa-arbor.com. If you don’t have a username and password, please contact ISA for assistance.

How can the seminar I am sponsoring receive CEU’s?

If you would like to offer CEU’s for your educational program it is pretty simple. Email your detailed outline or agenda

to Gail Nozal (gnozal@frontiernet.net), Certification Chair 30 days prior to your event. Don’t forget to include details about break times and meals.

How are CEU’s awarded?

The Certification Chair will review the outline for the educational program. CEU’s will be awarded but the sessions must directly correlate to the certification type and the domain categories.

I attended an 8 hour course how come I only received 6.5 CEU’s?

Only actual seat time is calculated when figuring CEU’s. Break times and lunch are NOT included in the totals.

If you have additional questions about CEU’s feel free to contact Gail Nozal,

2007 ArborMaster® Climbing Prize Package



Announcing the 2007 ArborMaster® Climbing Prize Package for the (Minnesota Society of Arboriculture) Tree Climbing Champion (TCC), held in conjunction with the chapter’s 2007 Tree Climbing Championship (TCC) event. This climbing kit is being offered to each chapter champion (both man and woman, if applicable)! The package is intended to help equip the chapter representatives) for the International Tree Climbing Championship (ITCC) Competition.

Each prize package to include:

- Husqvarna 338 XPT
- \$50 gift certificate from Sherrill Arborist Supply
- 150’ ArborMaster® Climbing Line with eye splice from Samson Rope Technologies
- 50% savings on an ArborMaster® 2-Day Training Module
- \$100 gift certificate from Buckingham Mfg
- Buckingham Rope Bag



Schedule of Events

- March 15 Executive Committee Meeting,
all are welcome! Minneapolis
Park & Rec. Building -Minneapolis

- March 16 Tree Safety Seminar-Morton,
Jackpot Junction

- April 3 MSA Business Luncheon
MSA Winter Picnic
Shade Tree Short Course
Earle Brown Heritage Center,
Brooklyn Center, MN

- April 6 Certified Arborist Test St. Paul

- April 19 Executive Committee Meeting,
all are welcome! Minneapolis
Park & Rec. Building -Minneapolis

- May 15 Deadline For Newsletter Editorial
and Advertising

- May 17 No Executive Committee Meeting

- May 19 Festival of Trees
Cherokee Park, St. Paul

- May 19 MN Tree Climbing Championship
Cherokee Park, St. Paul

- June 1 Arborescence in the Mail

- June 13 Certified Arborist Test
Minneapolis

- June 21 Executive Committee Meeting
all are welcome! Minneapolis
Park & Rec. Building -Minneapolis

- September 28 Certified Arborist Test
Braham

- October 26-27 MSA Fall Conference
St. Cloud

- November 9 Certified Arborist Test
Andover

- November 9 Day of Service

MARCH 2007

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APRIL 2007

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MAY 2007

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Want to Contribute?

MSA is looking for a few good people. Okay, not just a few. But if you are passionate about this industry and want to share that enthusiasm, we are looking for the following: Writers, committee members and photo's. Please contact any member of the Executive Committee or just call the MSA office

A Municipal Perspective on Tree Contractor Licensing

By: Jim Vaughn,
City of St. Louis Park

We've all seen or experienced the tree contractor, who would look better on an FBI wanted poster than a tree ("professional"), climbing a tree with spikes on, only to trim a few branches off. Or the ground crew with no shirts, gloves, helmets, ear protection on, or face without a scratch on it, throwing branches into an old, noisy chipper. Or how about the one...you get it – there are numerous instances we can all visualize where sub-par, sub-standard tree work was performed as we wince to our chagrin.

From personal experience, I can honestly say that annually dozens of trees in St. Louis Park are pruned or removed by unlicensed and unprofessional tree contractors, most of who operate as I just described. Many of these unprofessional tree contractors perform sub-standard work, often times doing more damage than good to trees and citizen's emotional and financial health. Often these unprofessional and unlicensed (yes, these two notions do fit together) tree firms don't complete the job, pressuring customers/residents to pay (often times upfront before the job has started), then skipping town without any recourse for the resident. Other times, city staff is left to follow-up on work that does not comply with City ordinance, only to find the same situation as a resident – no recourse. For example, the contractor removes a diseased elm tree, bucking up the wood for the resident to keep as firewood. Or they will leave a tall stump with the bark intact. We all know the intent of any Dutch elm disease (DED) sanitation program is to rid the diseased wood, with the bark intact, from

Hey, if hair cutters need licenses, why not tree cutters?

the City. When an unlicensed contractor leaves yards and trees in these situations, and we (City or resident) are unable to locate them and have any leverage for them to come back and do the right thing, then we have problems, leaving many wary and disappointed property owners and a stain on our profession.

In St. Louis Park, we've been licensing tree contractors for many years, with an average of 40 contractors licensed in any given year. Basically, our license requirements are very simple and require proof of worker's compensation insurance and liability insurance. Once you show proof of these two items and pay your \$60.00 (what a bargain), your company is given decals for each vehicle, along with a current year's license. This licensing program

has worked well for us, allowing us to create a master list of all tree contractors.

With this master tree contractor list, I am able to send messages to all of the listed contractors regarding current standards I'd like displayed, or updates to ordinances, policies or other local pertinent information. Sometimes, using this master contractor list, I am able to drive up to a tree contractor working in our city and check if they are licensed (sometimes the truck decals are not on yet) or not. If not, we require them to get licensed or get fined. We also distribute this list upon resident requests or when we mark a diseased elm or oak tree; we drop this list in the letter we leave for the resident at the time of tree marking. Finally, a monthly updated list can be found on our website, available for downloading.

By creating this licensing system, we are able to contact contractors, hopefully raising the standards of professionalism, use leverage on them when needed and create incentives to get licensed, such as promoting and recommending this list to our constituents for their use in hiring a contractor.

I've only given a tiny side of my story and realize tree contractor licensing is controversial, with many proponents and opponents. Currently there is a task force meeting regularly discussing the possibility of a statewide licensing program. This subject needs to be examined and reasonably concluded, with defined outcomes, for the good of our industry and professionalism. Hey, if hair cutters need licenses, why not tree cutters?

TCC Judges needed May 19th– No Experience Necessary!!!!

We need ISA Certified Arborists that would be willing to help judge. We also need climbers (aerial rescue, CPR and first aid certified to assist as in-tree technician). We need volunteers to work the competition as timers, runners and just general do-gooders Please Call George (612) 910-8274 or Lynn Welles (612-910-8274) or email: georgewelles@comcast.net or fnlynn@comcast.net

OUTSTATE COURSES- CLOQUET

**Safety
First**

Jim Naves, Living Tree & Landscaping



Dr. John Ball presented at the Cloquet Winter workshop on February 3, 2007.

Did you know, there is three times more likely to be killed on the job as a tree worker than as a police officer or firefighter? Safety should always be a top priority on our worksites. Pruning is the most common activity in arboriculture.

About 47% of total sales volume is pruning and an additional 29% is removals. If you are a tree worker, in other words doing the actual work of arboriculture – pruning/removals, the odds of you being killed or seriously injured this year are 1 in 120. And next year you will have the same chance of being hurt.

Always do a visual inspection of every tree before you begin pruning or removal. Look for fungal fruiting bodies near the base of the tree, trunk cracks, extensive canopy dieback, evidence of lightning strikes, electrical wires, cavities, or other defects. When this is done have a short discussion of what the arboricultural operation will be and how you will proceed and how much area will be included in the work zone. Never let homeowners into the work zone while the crew is working.

In some of the most common accidents a tree worker is “struck-by” a branch or a tree. This usually involves a failure to communi-

cate. A tree worker yelling “headache” is not good enough. Instead the climber should give the command “clear” and then he or she should stop until the ground person responds with “all clear”. If there is more than one person on the ground crew then one person should be designated as the responder for them. Improper rigging is another common cause of “stuck-bys” since our rigging equipment is now stronger than the trees themselves. Sometimes improper rigging can cause complete tree failure.

The most common accident that kills arborists involves electrical hazards. Always check for electrical hazards in and around trees before beginning work. Do not work in trees where there are electrical hazards unless you are an arborist who has the training and experience to work safely in the vicinity of such hazards.

Safety is a process of managing risk. We should all know that the higher we work in trees, the greater the risk of serious injury or death for both the climber and ground crew if there is an accident. The usual outcome for a fall from 40 feet or higher is death. Seriously consider charging more for tree work above 40 feet so you are compensated for both your risk and your time.

Remember: you can't enjoy tomorrow, if you don't work safe today

Thinning or Pruning? Myth or Fact

A good friend of mine said that he became a better arborist as he became more selective with his pruning of mature trees. The quality of his pruning went up and the cost of debris disposal went down.

Dr. John Ball said, “Crown cleaning, not thinning, should be the focus of our pruning efforts on mature trees.” He also said “We are not being paid by the pounds of brush created but by our skill in recognizing what to prune from the tree and only eliminating these branches.” The selective removal of branches to increase light penetration, improve air movement, and reduce weight are off-described objectives of thinning. Thinning is one of the most common types of pruning. Does it really achieve these objectives or is it mostly myth?

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Thinning to improve light availability to lower and interior branches may not be beneficial to the tree as a whole. Branches that produce so

little food that they do not meet their own needs have minimal diameter growth and thus develop an enlarged collar when compared to more actively photosynthesizing branches. Branches are normally sloughed off when they no longer capture enough energy to support themselves and provide some additional photosynthate for the rest of the tree. Interior branches typically have leaves that have less efficient photosynthesis, so thinning outer/upper branches to prolong the life of these less efficient branches is counter-productive for the whole tree.

Thinning to improve turf growth under trees usually doesn't work because you would need to remove more than one-third of the canopy to really get better turf. The light quality after being filtered by tree leaves leads to sparse, spindly grass growth. If on the other hand the canopy can be raised to ten feet, the quality of light reaching the turf is sufficient for reasonable growth.

Current thought is that increased air movement through the canopy resulting from thinning may increase the wind drag on the tree and individual branches within the canopy leading to tree/branch failure. However, more research must be done before a definitive

answer to the increased air movement question is confirmed.

Thinning to reduce weight on branches is a myth. When describing the above ground weight distribution of a tree, Dr. Ball said, “About 55% of the weight of a mature tree is in the trunk. Another 35% of the above ground weight of a tree is in the major limbs. About 8% is in the branches and twigs. The foliage is 2-3% of the tree.” A side note is that about one-third of the total weight of the tree is underground. Think about this if you really desire to reduce a tree's weight by thinning. Perhaps thinning will become a less used pruning treatment when arboricultural science catches up with arboricultural practice.



1st group of out-state participants- unknown photographer

MSA HAPPENINGS AT THE SHADE TREE SHORT COURSE

The past year the Executive Committee reviewed the current By-laws and Constitution and has recommended changes. Since this is your organization, it's up to you to approve or reject these proposed changes. To that end, MSA has "reserved" the 3rd lunch period on April 3rd at the STSC for MSA to hold a special membership meeting. For any official action to be taken we need at least 75 members present at the special meeting so your attendance is vital. We will give an overall MSA update and then discuss and vote on the proposed changes.

For a complete listing of the changes, please check out the August 2006 *Arborescence* issue. Here is a brief synopsis:

Article III Voting rights:

Correct an oversight that Lifetime & Honorary members did not have the right to vote or hold office.

Article IV Dues:

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:

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

Article VII Committees

- *Ethics, Awards & Nomination committees combined 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 VII Elections

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 increas-

ing membership involvement.

Please plan on attending and letting your voice be heard on this important vote. If you can not be there, please feel free to contact one of the Executive officers.

Later that evening (4:30 p.m.), please join your fellow arborists and coworkers for a Spring picnic and Social gathering at the Kroenig Interpretive Center (SE corner of 94 & 47th Ave N). Enjoy a meal and beverages provided by MSA and unwind while you re-connect with lost friends and/or meet new colleagues!

MORE ISA FINAL THOUGHTS-continued from page 5

Sievert were able to properly thank all the Conference Committee Chairs and volunteers that did so much work. The Conference Committee Chairs were: Paul Buck & Lara Newberger from the City of Plymouth, Gary Johnson & Dave Hanson from the University of MN, Jim Zwack & Amy Caldwell from Rainbow Treecare, Kirk Brown from Tree Trust, James Burks from the City of Crystal, Jim Vaughan from the City of St. Louis Park, Rich Hauer from the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point, Mark Stennes from S&S Tree & Horticultural Specialists, Katie Himanga from Heartwood Forestry, Susan Burks from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Cathy Roth from Fresco Arborist Supplies, Gary Albig from Albig Tree Care, Patty Nolt from MSA and Paul Domholt, Matt Timinski & Jim Hermann from the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board.

It is simply not possible to state in words how much the generosity of MSA's volunteers is appreciated. An event of this magnitude could not have happened without them – without you! As the Conference Committee Co-Chairs we can not overstate our appreciation for your volunteerism and sacrifice. This truly was a once in a lifetime experience and Minnesota came through. We expected nothing less and were not disappointed. Thank you.

The Minnesota Society of Arboriculture and the St. Paul Parks and Recreation Dept.
Presents:

Minnesota



Festival of Trees

Sat., May 19th
7:00 am - 4:00 pm
Cherokee Park
777 Chippewa
St. Paul

Arbor Day Celebration and Tree Climbing Championships

Sponsorship and Vendor Opportunities

- | | |
|--|-------------------|
| • Corporate Sponsor | \$1500 |
| Includes a 20 x 60 vendor booth, All ad material will list only "Corporate Sponsors", Company name and logo will be listed on the event banner and t-shirts, wall certificate, listed in the program book and the opportunity to promote your own company to the public. | |
| • Master Challenge Sponsor (Finals) | \$750 |
| Includes a 20 x 40 vendor booth, Company name and logo will be listed on t-shirts, wall certificate, listing in program book and the opportunity to promote your own company to the public. Name and company logo on Master's Challenge banner. | |
| • Preliminary Event Sponsor | \$600 |
| Includes a 20 x 40 vendor booth, Company name will be listed on 1 event banner and t-shirts, wall certificate, listed in program book and the opportunity to promote your own company to the public. | |
| • Major Sponsor | \$ 500 |
| Includes a 20 x 40 vendor booth, Company name will be listed on and t-shirts, wall certificate, listing in program book and the opportunity to promote your own company to the public. | |
| • Vendor Sponsor | \$250 |
| Includes a 10 x 20 vendor booth, Company name in program book and t-shirts. | |
| • Associate Sponsor | \$50-\$200 |
| Includes a Table Top Display area, Company name line listing in the program book. | |
| • Speaker Sponsor | \$TBD |

Activities for all to enjoy and FREE Admission

- | | |
|---|---|
| • Tree Climbing Championship (7 am—4 pm) | • Tree Planting Activities |
| • Featured Speakers | • Arbor Day Tree Planting Ceremonies |
| • FREE Tree Seedlings | • Food Vendors |
| • Children's Activities for Arbor Day | • TREE CLIMBING FOR ALL AGES |
| • Educational Booths | |
| • BACK AGAIN, FREE Aerial Bucket Rides | |

Questions: Dave Sundmark: 651-632-2429 dave.sundmark@ci.st.paul.mn.us



Patty Nolt, Editor
P.O. Box 64
Wayzata, MN 55391

NATIONAL OAK WILT SYMPOSIUM



June 4-7, 2007

Join us in Austin, Texas for the
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