

Arborescence

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President's Message, Don Mueller

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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

Spring is finally here, and whether you're public sector or private sector, you've probably shifted into high gear. Tree planting gets you moving in the spring, but then the pruning projects start piling up, followed by plant health issues, removals, and storm damage. The phone doesn't quit ringing, it seems like everybody wants to talk to you about the trees in their yard, and new tasks add to the bottom of your list faster than you can cross things off the top.

This winter, I spent a lot of time thinking about safety as part of a safety team for the Department of Natural Resources. I volunteered to analyze lost-time injury reports within the Division of Forestry to see if there are trends behind the numbers that our safety team can address. As I looked for patterns among the injury reports, it became clear that in forestry it's not usually the dangerous stuff that gets us, it's when someone forgets to pay attention to detail while doing something routine that injuries occur.

That got me thinking back to some of the first formal safety training I received as a rookie arborist working near San Francisco. I attended a two-day training session with Don Blair, some in the classroom and some in the trees. He cited studies that showed a disproportionately high number of injuries to arborists with less than one year on the job or more than 10 years. He also cited a number of "last cut of the day" injuries in which the victim took his eye off the ball due to fatigue or distraction.

Without a doubt, working as an arborist exposes men and women to potential hazards

on a daily basis. This industry has responded to the challenge by making a remarkable transformation in workplace safety.

There has been a revolution in climbing equipment. Industry leaders like John Ball have brought scientific analysis to the cause of preventing injuries. Most reputable organizations have institutionalized safety training and personal protective equipment as measurable parts of job performance for their arborists. Power equipment is better designed for safety and efficiency.

Although there are still too many dramatic incidents that make the news, we're getting pretty good at identifying the dangerous stuff. But what about the routine things that could hurt us? Especially if we're a little tired and a little distracted at this busy time of year. Remind yourself and the people working around you to take a little break, don't be in a rush, don't cut that corner, remember to wear your PPE, buckle up, and check your mirrors. Your friends and family want to see you safe home at the end of the day with all your original equipment still intact.



PHOTOGRAPHER UNKNOWN

Tap into Tree Experience at MNtrees.org

New
New



Karen Zumach
Membership
Co-Chair

Frostbitten toes in December. That's how my first winter in Minnesota began. I'm Karen and one of the two new members of the membership committee for MSA. A recent transplant from the zone 6 state of Connecticut, I'm having quite a time adjusting to the weather here in Minnesota, and still marvel at the notion of an entire country of people living north of here.

I graduated from the University of Connecticut with a degree in geology and worked as an environmental geologist for a consulting company for about five years. With the majority of my days working at contaminated industrial facilities, the job became really depressing... Bound and determined to improve the earth in one way or another, I decided to return to the University of Connecticut, this time for another bachelor's degree; in horticulture and landscape design. During my urban horticulture seminar, I frequently inquired as to where in the country I should live to pursue a career in urban greening. Each and every week, the Twin Cities came up in the top three....

My husband, a native Minnesotan, couldn't be happier. The story is familiar; I'm sure, to all you all. He moved to Connecticut to start his own wooden boat restoration shop, found and married me, and returned to Minnesota to settle down... We've lived here since September and he has returned to work at St. Paul Shipwrights, specializing in wooden boat restoration.

I began working for Tree Trust in October as one of their urban forestry program coordinators. I had been coveting this job since last spring and was thrilled to see it posted when I finally moved to Minnesota. I really enjoy my job and love the opportunity I have to educate people about tree care and the benefits of trees. Never in a million years would I have guessed that I would become a certified arborist living in Minnesota and working for an amazing non-profit. Sometimes, you just never know.

I look forward to getting to know the faces associated with the names I've been going over in preparation for the membership directory. Enjoy the nice weather; I hear it only lasts a few months!

Next issue we will introduce Tracy Beaufeaux, the other co-chair.

“Minnesota Tree Care Conference” to be held at MN Landscape Arboretum

The MSA's Minnesota Tree Care Conference to be held on Friday, October 10, 2008 at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum in Chanhassen. The main session topics will concern “Management of Emerald Ash Borer” and other borers plus “Creating a Culture of Safety” within our industry in Minnesota. See update article on bottom of page 7.

There will be Certified Arborist testing at the arboretum on the afternoon of Thursday, October 9. On Thursday, October 9, the evening before the Conference there will be a networking social and MSA awards program for those who are able to arrive early. For more info, contact Jim Nayes at 612-803-9033

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Victim Centered Care: Aerial Rescue Concepts



By Sam Kezar

There are multiple ways in which a climber can be injured. There are also an infinite number of potential situations for those injuries while working aloft in a tree. How, then, do we prepare for these varieties of situations and injuries? The answer is practice, slow, step-by-step practice of aerial rescue and emergency response.

Having everyone know CPR, first aid, and the basics of emergency protocol is the first step in any emergency action plan (i.e. 911, not becoming the second victim, ect.).

Basics trauma life support used by paramedics is what will really help arborists in emergency situations. This may sound complicated, but it isn't. It is recommended that arborists be able to stabilize the victim as best they can until professionals arrive. That should be your main goal when caring for a victim.

The following acronym was given to us by Dr. Andy Boggust, a professor of emergency medicine at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN. It is the basis of what Emergency Medical Professionals (EMP) use and it can best help arborists stabilize victims in emergency situations.

Air goes in and out

Blood goes round and round

Circulation will make you happy

Disability will make you frown

Environment will keep you safe and sound.

These ABCs are very easy to follow and can help decide whether to move or remove a victim from the tree. It follows a process in which the rescuer should not look at the next area (letter) until the first is stabilized or functioning properly. Each letter follows the lifeline of the victim.

Here is an example on how this process would be used to stabilize a victim. First, check to see that the victim is breathing (**A**irway). If the victim is not breathing, rescue breaths may not be effective aloft. It is recommended that the victim be lowered to the ground and rescue breaths or CPR be administered depending on the situation.

Alternatively, if the victim is breathing, do not move the victim and start checking for any bleeding (**B**lood). When checking for bleeding, look for external (visible) bleeding as well as the low spots for pooling blood (legs, arms, lower back etc.), indicating an internal injury. If there is external bleeding, attempt to stop the bleeding by adding direct pressure to the wound. If internal bleeding is suspected, or the bleeding cannot be controlled effectively, it is recommended that the victim be lowered to the ground.

However, if the bleeding can be controlled in the tree, or there is no bleeding, proceed to check the victim's circulation (**C**irculation). While checking for circulation, the rescuer is also checking for broken bones or areas where ropes or other objects are constricting circulation of blood

throughout the body. If constricting ropes or objects are present, they should be removed as quickly as possible. In the case of broken extremities, check for internal bleeding and try to stabilize the broken limb or bone. If there are no broken bones and circulation is good, the victim should remain where he is and be monitored.). However, if the victim's condition worsens and the previous area (letter) becomes unstable, that area must be controlled, or the victim must be removed from the tree in order to stabilize that area.

At this point, the victim is stable and should not be removed from the tree by the initial arborist rescuer unless the victim's condition worsens.

The next step is to check for any disabling injuries. If there is a possibility of the victim having an injury that could disable him in any way, the victim should not be moved until EMP can stabilize him. However, if the victim's condition worsens in any of the previous steps, he should be removed from the tree. Having a neck collar in our rescue kit can help in these situations to stabilize a possible neck or spinal injury.

Finally, the surrounding environment should be stabilized and made safe for the victim and other rescuers. Any remaining loose wood or other hazards that may be present should be removed from the tree. This last step is in place to make sure that there can be no further harm done to the victim or the rescuer.

Article Continued on Page 6

Ralph's Rant - No Profit Sharing for MSA



Presented by

Ralph Sievert

Eight thousand, six hundred, thirty two dollars and seventy six cents (\$8,632.76). That's the amount of money that MSA believes it deserved as described in ISA's profit sharing policy for hosting an ISA conference. For an organization like ours that's a lot of money. Think of all the good things we could do with it to help further the cause of arboriculture in our state and region.

However, for an organization the size of ISA this amount of money is an easily justifiable expenditure. Especially considering the goodwill it would garner with a chapter our size. Unfortunately, MSA will not be seeing these funds because the ISA Board of Directors would not pass a motion I made to do such at the Board meeting in July 2007. Instead they bought into the financial wizardry of the ISA staff that calculated profit sharing using overhead allocations instead of basing it only on gross profit.

MSA members should know that during the months leading up to the conference that was held in Minneapolis, we were continually told that the conference budgets for a profit. Therefore we expected that a profit would be made. Using this understanding, local parties worked to absorb costs with the idea that this would translate into even more profits returning to our chapter. For example, MN DNR arranged for grants to be used to offset costs. The MPRB absorbed various big ticket items such as police security, 15 passenger vans, Cushman's, plywood for under vehicle wheels and more. Just waiving the permit fee for the use of Loring Park saved ISA about \$10,000.00. Furthermore, in a Board report it was stated that sponsorships set a new record and exhibit space sales were 10.1% higher than the previous year. Things were certainly looking good for the profit margin.

Following the conference I learned from an ISA staffer that there was no profit to share. However, during our discussion he made some interesting comments. After I pointed out that the lack of profits was hard to believe, I learned that there was a time when profit sharing was

calculated based on only gross profits. However a previous Finance Director changed this to include overhead allocations. This means that prior to this staff change MSA would most certainly have received a profit sharing check. When I pointed out that many parties worked hard to save ISA money so that their profit would be larger, I was told that this was appreciated because otherwise the conference would have lost even more money. MSA EC members were completely dismayed by this news. It became obvious that there is really no incentive for a chapter to help ISA save money. The perception that finances are calculated to ensure that there will not be a profit to share is hard to ignore.

Over the years MSA has been a staunch supporter of ISA. This is evidenced by the \$10,000 we loaned ISA during the financial crisis about 10 years ago. To MSA the simple solution to the profit sharing problem was to make the calculations using gross profits as was done in the past. We believe that this was the intention of the profit sharing policy when ISA's elected Board put it in place. Obviously MSA's loyal support of ISA was not enough to help retrieve our \$8,632.76.

Perhaps there is salvation for the brave hosts of future conferences. At the ISA Board meeting in February 2008, ISA's Conference & Events Committee proposed a procedural change that ISA will use when dealing with host chapters in the future. If a host chapter jumps through the proper ISA hoops, they have the potential of receiving \$25,000 for their efforts. I voted against this change because it is not known what the hoops are and because the field of competing locations is limited to only two. This change gives too much control to the C&E Committee in deciding who the future hosts will be or, more importantly, not be.

Despite the good intentions of this change I remain skeptical. Time will tell if chapters benefit by receiving \$25,000 for the privilege and pleasure of hosting ISA's annual conference and trade show. My enthusiastic suggestion to host chapters will be a simple one, "plan for a really BIG beer garden".

The "Real"

Ralph Sievert, Jr



MN TREE CARE CONFERENCE

By Jim Zwack, Program & Education

The Minnesota Tree Care Conference will be held on Friday October 10, 2008 at the University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. A social event that includes the Awards Ceremony will be held on Thursday, October 9 at a location in the Twin Cities to be determined. Keep your eyes open for upcoming details on this event.

The Conference will kick off with keynote sessions that cover two important topics in our industry. First, Joe Boggs will enlighten and entertain with a session titled "Bored to Death By Insects". Joe is an Assistant Professor in the extension system of Ohio State University, and is a regular contributor to "In the Garden with Ron Wilson" which can be heard locally on 100.3 FM on Saturday mornings.

Our second keynote speaker is Paul Fletcher from Bartlett Tree Experts. His program is titled "Creating a Culture of Safety". This program was well received at a Society of Commercial Arboriculture education event this winter in Lancaster, PA, and Paul has graciously accepted our invitation to share both his personal and corporate philosophies and guiding principles on this critical topic.

Breakout sessions are aligned on tracks that generally follow the two keynote sessions. Topics include:

Safety session kickoff - Dr. John Ball

Aerial Rescue - Norm Hall

Arborist Ergonomics - Barbara Baum

Getting in Front of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) - Joe Boggs

A facilitated discussion on EAB with a commercial, state agency, and research perspective

An indoor-outdoor session on root problems, diagnosis, and treatment options - Gary Johnson and Dave Hanson

Mark your calendars now, and be sure to attend what promises to be an excellent educational event sponsored by the MSA!

Aerial Rescue Concepts (Cont.)

This process will help in a lot of situations where, in the past, the victim may have been lowered prematurely. In addition, there must be a level of decisiveness while using this process. Situations may present a case where a victim has a broken back or other severe damage that may debilitate him if moved. But, if the victim is not breathing or will die of severe bleeding, he must be removed from the tree to stabilize his condition. In any situation, life is the most important thing.

It must be noted that the rescuer's life should not be compromised at any time. If the tree or rescue scene is not safe for the rescuer to enter, no rescue should be attempted in the first place. However harsh it may seem, one death is preferable of two. Do not try and break contact in emergencies involving electricity.

Using this process is not the only technique that needs to be used by companies. Each tree care company should meet with, and if possible, have sessions with the local EMP to go over their Incident Command System. This can accomplish many things. First, the EMP will be acquainted with you and the industry of arboriculture. Secondly, the transfer time at an accident site may be reduced, thus increasing the chance of saving a life. Finally, insight may be gained in newer or other first aid practices that can be used, in addition to refinement of current practices. This is a very important process as most rescue crews throughout the country are not prepared for emergencies in trees or without anchors from above.

We as arborists work in a very high-risk profession. Safety should be the number one concern, but profitability often overcomes safety concerns. By training our workers to be prepared for aerial emergencies, we will be training our workers to be prepared for accidents that happen on the ground as well, saving us time, money, and most importantly, lives.

TREE Fund Grants Awarded and Events Planned



The TREE Fund board voted to award ten John Duling grants totaling \$68,195. It also approved increasing the maximum award from \$7,500 each to \$10,000 each. The TREE Fund encourages grant recipients to publish their findings in professional journals like *Arboriculture & Urban Forestry* and to make presentations at industry conferences. This is part of our effort to support technology transfer and to help arborists obtain the continuing education units they need to maintain certification.

Several TREE Fund special events are on the horizon. Check out the 2008 Tour des Trees route from Indianapolis to St. Louis at www.tourdestrees.org where you can register to ride, support a rider, volunteer, or sponsor the event. The 500+ mile ride takes place July 21-26!

Once again, ISA Annual Conference attendees can conveniently use their registration form to sign up for:

- **14th Annual TREE Fund Golf Outing on Sunday, July 27**
- **Raise Your Hand For Research Gala Auction on Monday, July 28**

Asplundh is lining up hole sponsors and golfers (visit www.asplundh.com) while ISA Chapters and many industry supporters are sending in descriptions of their fabulous auction items. An online auction site will be available again to preview and bid on live and silent auction packages. Please join the fun, and support the research and education programs of the TREE Fund by contacting Special Events Manager Lynn Day at Lday@treefund.org (630-221-8127 ext. 258).

Treatment approved to fight emerald ash borer in Indiana

April 8, 2008

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. - Indiana soon will have a new weapon in the war on emerald ash borers. The Indiana State Chemist on March 28 approved the use of a new anti-emerald ash borer (EAB) treatment called Tree- äge™, an insecticide developed by Swiss agrochemical company Syngenta and Massachusetts firm Arborjet.

Tree- äge™ has an active ingredient called emamectin benzoate and is injected directly into the ash tree's vascular system, which the part of the tree EAB larvae feed on. Because of this direct-injection, the insecticide will not harm anything that contacts the tree, such as butterflies, birds and squirrels. Michigan officials also approved the chemical after yearlong preliminary studies.

"This material is very promising based on results in Michigan, and we are in the process of doing tests of our own in field sites in Indiana," said Purdue University entomologist Cliff Sadof. "Preliminary evidence suggests that a single treatment could provide two years of control." Trees best suited for Tree- äge™ application are those in close proximity to areas with emerald ash borers, and optimal application time is mid-May through mid-June.

"The product is best used to protect healthy trees before they become infested with EAB," said Jodie Ellis, Purdue entomologist and emerald ash borer specialist. "The control provided by this insecticide approaches 100 percent for the larvae, which feed underneath the tree's bark, damaging the tree's vascular system, and for the adult beetles that feed on ash leaves."

However, this insecticide is only available for use by trained professionals. "Property owners in or near areas with EAB infestations who wish to protect ash trees in their landscapes should contact a tree care company with a certified arborist to talk about pricing and whether or not this particular treatment suits their situation," Ellis said. "Because of the cost, Tree- äge™ should be used only on ash trees that are valuable in landscapes or on trees that owners are willing to spend money to protect.

"And consumers should make sure they're educating themselves and understanding what a tree care professional plans to do. It's OK to ask questions and to call around before choosing what best fits your needs." While the research thus far is promising, Sadof cautions that results are preliminary and this treatment will not provide lifelong emerald ash borer immunity.

Further information about Tree- äge™ and other treatments for emerald ash borer are available at the Purdue EAB homepage at: <http://www.entm.purdue.edu/EAB/> or by contacting Ellis at (765) 494-0822, ellisj@purdue.edu.



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*The Minnesota Society of Arboriculture and
 The City of Eagan Parks and Recreation Department Present*

2008 Minnesota Festival of Trees

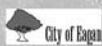
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*An Arbor Day Celebration and
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 (Qualifying Event for 2008 International Event in St. Louis, Mo.)*

Activities for everyone to enjoy include:

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- *Educational Booths*
- *Food Vendors*
- *Eagan Arbor Day Poster Announcement*
- *Arbor Day Tree Planting Ceremony*
- *FREE Tree Seedlings*

For more information: www.msa-live.org



ISA Exam Calendar

| <u>Exam Dates</u> | <u>Application Deadline to ISA</u> | <u>Location</u> |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------|
|-------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------|

Certified Arborist/Utility/Municipal Exams

- | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| • June 27, 2008 | June 11, 2008 | St. Louis Park |
| • September 5, 2008 | August 18, 2008 | Alexandria |
| • October 9, 2008 | September 23, 2008 | Chanhassen |
| • November 21, 2008 | November 5, 2008 | Andover |

Tree Worker Exams

- | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|------------|
| • October 9, 2008 | September 23, 2008 | Chanhassen |
|-------------------|--------------------|------------|

For more information, please Gail Nozal 651-451-8907 or email her at gnozal@frontiernet.net