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Arborescence

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MINNESOTA SOCIETY OF ARBORICULTURE

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PHOTOGRAPHER UNKNOWN

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

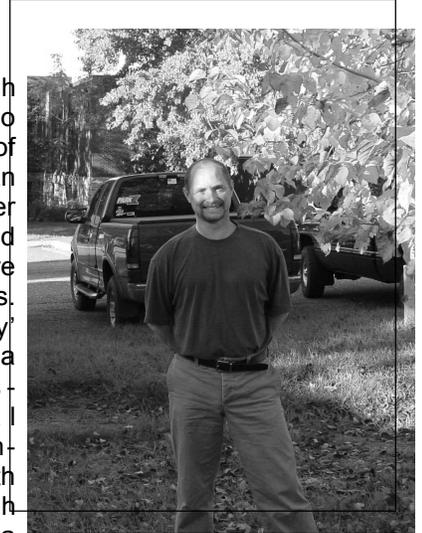
Greetings! This is my first opportunity to speak to you as president of MSA, and I hope it will be just the beginning of an ongoing conversation. Over the last few months, as the start of my term approached, I gave a lot of thought to MSA and its purpose for existing. What is MSA's mission? What do arborists and urban foresters want from a professional organization? What should MSA focus on and how do we work effectively with other organizations to serve our members and support the profession?

I've always found it helpful to fully understand the terminology I'm trying to use, so I reached for Webster's and looked up the definition of 'society'. Society is defined as "the institutions and culture of a distinct, self-perpetuating group ... (who) participate in characteristic relationships, share mutual interests, institutions and a common culture." If you look at MSA from that perspective, you realize that we're all "tree people" that's the common culture, the mutual interest we share. In spite of the differences that sometimes divide us, we are all interested in what makes trees tick. We appreciate the infinite beauty and wonder that lies within a single tree or a whole forest. We are curious to know more about how trees grow, what puts them into distress, and how we can each be more successful at caring for trees in a human-influenced landscape.

At its core, MSA is about professional education and networking sharing information, ideas, experiences and opinions with

e a c h other so that all of us can be better equipped to care for trees. 'Society' implies a professional relationship with e a c h other, a two-way exchange of information and support. If you are a member of a society, you don't just take something away, you also contribute part of what you have. When individuals contribute, we all become a little stronger.

What do you get from MSA? You get educational opportunities and you become part of a cooperative group of other professionals who have similar interests and ambitions. What does MSA need from you? Financial support through dues or sponsorships, your time and your energy serving on a team or committee, and your participation. But most of all, we need your ideas. I encourage you to contact me, one of the other members of the executive committee, or a committee chair to let them know about opportunities to strengthen this Society that we share.




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

PHOTOGRAPHER UNKNOWN

New New

Pierce Wasmund, the Newest Executive Committee Member!



Hello, I am Pierce Wasmund the new Vice President of the MSA. I write you to introduce myself.

I grew up in the St. Paul area and graduated from Roseville High School. I am married to Sarah who is also an arborist and have one child. I enjoy most outdoor activities and spending time with my family. Always interested in the outdoors

I decided to go to school for forestry. I started at the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point. Attending that school for three years, I then transferred to the University of Minnesota where I graduated with a degree in urban forestry.

My working experience in arboriculture began after my freshman year in college. I found a job working as a groundman for a treecare company in the west metro. After that first summer I was hooked. The idea of working with one tree at a time while managing an entire landscape appealed to me. Now I work as an arborist/ climber for Northern Arborists out of Lake Elmo.

Involvement in the MSA began while I was in School. I was involved with the Urban Forestry Club and the Society of American Foresters; both organizations provided plenty of volunteer opportunities and networking. I have also been involved with the MSA's tree climbing championship and the Certified Tree Worker program.

Being new to the Executive Committee, I am still learning my place. I hope to help the MSA continue its advancement of arboriculture, and to meet other members and help voice what they want MSA to be.

“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. The full program will be ready to see at the Shade Tree Short Course

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 Naves at 612-803-9033

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All of our products show a guaranteed analysis and expiration date right on the package so you know you're using quality materials.

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Rethinking Positioning Lanyards

A complete climbing (or work positioning) system enables arborists to safely and effectively perform tasks at height. The positioning lanyard is an integral part of this system. However, many climbers do not allow the lanyard to reach its full potential as a positioning tool. Using a lanyard in the flipline configuration—passed around a limb and attached to the side D's of a harness—will satisfy most positioning requirements. (Fig. 1)



FIGURE 1

Still, many scenarios demand more than what a flipline can provide. The Single Rope Technique (SRT) is one way to expand the usefulness of positioning lanyards and, in turn, the effectiveness of a complete work positioning system. (Fig. 2)



FIGURE 2

The term SRT is used here to describe the lanyard configured as one leg of rope with a single attachment point in the tree and a single attachment point on the harness (typically the bridge or other appropriate connector at the front of the harness).

SRT requires the use of a length adjuster capable of being released while under load. The Peztl Grillon and Trango Cinch are two such devices. A Gibbs-type ascender will not release in a controlled manner while loaded and is therefore not appropriate in this application. Prusik adjusters may be used but tend to clamp down and bind when used SRT. The adjuster must also be movable from one place to another on the harness. Mechanical devices attached with quick links or prusiks terminated directly to side D's should instead be connected to the harness via carabiner.

The simplest method for attaching the lanyard to the tree is a carabiner choke. (Fig. 3)



FIGURE 3

The carabiner must be loaded along its major axis (spine) and should not be used against small diameter limbs that may impose a sharp side load on the 'biner. Snaps should be avoided when creating a choke as damage will occur to the gate and locking mechanisms. Around smaller limbs or when choking is not required, an appropriately rated prusik may be used as shown in Fig. 4.



FIGURE 4

The prusik is adjusted so that the 'biner is held away from the limb, thus side loading will not occur. When a choke is required around small diameter limbs (or anytime a carabiner choke is deemed inappropriate), a sling is girth hitched to the tree. (Fig. 5)



FIGURE 5

Long limb walks and delicate tip work, or blocking down large sections of a trunk, the SRT configuration for positioning lanyards is an excellent tool for use in all areas of the tree. The methods and equipment highlighted here are just a few of the many options available. An important point to remember is that all parts of the system must be compatible and should be tested together on the ground before using them at height.

Now go expand your work positioning system!

Taylor L. Hamel is a modularist, system expander, and an ISA Certified Arborist. Email him...treehamel@yahoo.com

TREES PAY US BACK

Healthy trees mean...

Healthy People

- 100 Trees remove 1.2 tons of CO₂/yr
- 100 Trees remove 130 lbs of pollutants/yr

Healthy Environment

- 100 mature trees catch about 77,000 gallons of rainwater per year!

INFORMATION COMPILED FROM THE MN DNR
WEBSITE: MNTREES.ORG.

Representing MSA on the ISA Board of Directors

Presented by Ralph Sievert

The title of this article is likely to get me in trouble with some of my fellow ISA Board members. You see, the ISA Board of Directors is frequently told that we are NOT representing our respective chapters or organizations. Instead we are serving ISA and making decisions that are in ISA's best interest despite the chapter implications.

Since 1998 I have served MSA as a member of the ISA Board of Directors. This year I'll be chairing the all powerful Nominations & Elections Committee. This committee handles the solicitation and review of nominees for ISA volunteer leadership positions as well as oversight for ISA elections. Doesn't that sound impressive?

The BOD has the final word in all decisions pertaining to ISA. We meet twice a year. Once at the annual meeting and once in February or March. The winter meeting, as it used to be called until our international colleagues pointed out is not winter everywhere, is now held in Atlanta, GA. This meeting used to be held and hosted by the chapter that was hosting the conference the following year. You'll recall that MSA hosted this meeting in winter 2005. This was changed after a few whiners complained that moving the winter meeting around posed an inconvenience for BOD members traveling from far off lands. I opposed this change and am on record as such. My feeling is that the host chapter benefits as do BOD members when we travel to the host city.

Because the BOD has over 30 members and meets only twice a year, the ISA Executive Committee is responsible for many of the decisions that are made between BOD meetings. The EC meets more frequently, either by conference call or in person. The EC is composed of the President, President Elect and 5 Vice Presidents. The Vice Presidents are elected from the BOD. The current President and President Elect are previous BOD members. Despite the fact that the EC is made up of previous or current BOD members, there remains an underlying mistrust of the EC. This stems from the time when the EC was made up of individuals that never served on the BOD but were elected to higher office directly from the membership.

Now that I've explained a little about the BOD, let's get back to the representation role. Certainly there are routine decisions made by the BODs that have little or no bearing on MSA. These include such things as hiring the Executive Director, approving the annual budget, setting policy that guides staff decisions and approving committee recommendations. However, there are times when I look at an issue and ask myself, "How will this affect

MSA?" Technically this is not the approved way of thinking for an ISA BOD member.

The typical decisions that have the potential to affect MSA usually involve funding and the expenditure of funds. Shortly after I was elected as MSA's ISA BOD member, ISA suffered severe financial problems. In fact, the organization almost went bankrupt. Thanks to the diligence of many of my fellow BOD members, the financial woes were righted and ISA moved forward. MSA assisted by loaning \$10,000 to ISA until it could be repaid. Unfortunately, many BOD members have either forgotten about these challenges or were not on the Board at that time. As a result they like to spend money. Lots and lots of money. I typically vote against the needless expenditure of funds. Especially an increase in dues. This has gotten me in trouble more than once. Sometimes just questioning a proposed expenditure has drawn the wrath of more than one fellow BOD member.

As with any organization, there is a certain level of politics involved when serving on the BOD. Some BOD members have personal agendas that they are eager to see fulfilled. Heck, I did all I could to bring the 2006 ISA Conference to Minneapolis. The majority of others are genuinely dedicated to the good things that ISA brings to the world of arboriculture.

I use the ISA mission statement as a guide for my service on the ISA BOD. The mission statement simply states the following, "through research, technology, and education ISA promotes the professional practice of arboriculture and fosters a greater public awareness of the benefits of trees". The fact that my decisions may not be on lock step with my fellow BOD members is of little consequence. I remain committed to representing MSA on the ISA Board of Directors in such a way that keeps each organization healthy and viable.

TCC Judges needed May 16th— 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: george_welles@comcast.net or fnlynn@comcast.net



3225 Snelling Ave So. Mpls, MN 55406
612-721-8616

Equipment 101: Care and Inspection of Climbing

Often our lives depend on the equipment we use to perform our jobs.

Climbing can be extremely dangerous and we should all take steps to minimize our exposure to on the job hazards. Keeping our equipment well maintained should be a part of every climber's daily routine. The following is meant to be a basic guideline for the care and inspection of climbing hardware.

Take responsibility for your own equipment

Many of the items we use on the job should be considered Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Climbing lines, saddles, and related climbing gear should not be "shared" among employees. Each employee should be responsible for his/her own climbing equipment. Most manufacturers recommend keeping a written log of inspections of critical climbing related gear. Rope, saddles and hardware should be inspected prior to each use and stored properly between uses. "Sharing" equipment makes it difficult at best to know what each piece of gear has been subjected to in the field. Every piece of gear in a system that has been exposed to an extreme shock load should be carefully inspected and removed from service if damage is found. Other factors that can affect serviceable life include; extreme temperatures, wet and/or abrasive conditions, chemical exposure, as well as compatibility with other gear.

KEEP A WRITTEN LOG OF INSPECTIONS OF GEAR

INSPECT EACH PIECE OF EQUIPMENT BEFORE AND AFTER EACH USE

Inspect each piece of equipment before and after each use

In addition to daily checks, hardware items should be thoroughly inspected at least every 12 months. (Directive 89-656 requires PPE to be subject to periodic checks for the purpose of detecting any deterioration of equipment that could lead to a dangerous situation.)

Hardware should be checked for:

- Any cracks, gouges, deformations and excessive wear.
- Connectors (carabiners, snaphooks, screwlinks) having scratches, gouges or wear 1mm deep should be removed from service. Also look for corrosion and pay attention to the angles, hook and gate. All parts should be in alignment and work correctly.
- Return springs should positively close and "auto-lock".
- Pulleys require examination of the sidepieces, sheaves and axles.
- Sheaves should turn correctly with no play. Ascenders and rope grabs need to have the teeth or cams checked in addition to the springs and rivets. It is recommended that they be tested on the various sizes of ropes that they are used on. They should slide easily up the rope and jam when pulled down the rope.
- Cleaning can be done with a brush and soapy water. If necessary oil pins and springs with silicone and wipe friction components with a rag.
- Blocks are exposed to some extreme forces and any crack or abnormality could be serious. They must close securely and sheaves should be free of debris or anything that could cause them to hang up. Aluminum, although strong, is less durable to impact when compared to stainless steel. Blocks should not be dropped out of the tree and any impact with solid objects should be avoided.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR!

WHEN USED PROPERLY, HARDWARE CAN LAST MANY YEARS

When used properly and taken care of hardware can last many years. On the other hand one extreme event can render an item unsafe after a single use.

Some manufacturers recommend that serviceable life of hardware not exceed ten years. Others contend that hardware that is well cared for will last longer. Not all situations can be anticipated and dangers are many when working at heights. Good judgment is needed and safe practices must

be followed to maintain a safe working environment.

Other Resources

The ISA Arborists' Certification Study Guide offers some guidelines for equipment inspection. One manufacturer that offers inspection advice is Petzl.

More information about inspection standards can be found at www.petzl.com

INVASIVE PEST THREAT PROMPTS MDA TO ASK CONSUMERS TO CHECK WOODEN PLANTERS

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) is asking consumers for help in tracking down wooden planters from Indiana that might be hiding a nasty tree pest called emerald ash borer (EAB). Officials made the request after learning that the boxes made from potentially infested ash wood were improperly shipped to Minnesota in violation of federal quarantine.

The planter boxes in question are labeled "Nature's Own Planter's" by Lawson Products. They are about 24 inches by 8 inches in size, and made from ash tree slabs with bark attached.

EAB is a serious insect pest that has killed 20 million ash trees in Michigan and thousands more in Ohio, Indiana and Illinois.

People who might have this product to contact the MDA at 651-201-6343. Also as an added precaution, people should burn the planters or double-wrap them in 6mm plastic bags and put them in the trash.



2008 Minnesota Chapter Tree Climbing Championship

(Qualifying event for the ISA TCC in St Louis, MO)

Saturday May 17th, 2008
Central Park, 1497 Central Parkway
Eagan, Minnesota

The Minnesota Society of Arboriculture Tree Climbing Championship welcomes professional tree climbers of all skill levels.



Winners will be eligible to compete at the ISA Tree Climbing Championship in St Louis, Missouri, summer 2008

Men and Women's division. Competition is open to non-resident guest climbers.

Pre-registration and fee payment is required:

MSA Member: \$75

Non-member: \$105 (fee includes MSA membership, required for competition)

For further information contact:

George Welles, Northeast Tree, Inc. @ e-mail George@northeasttree.net, ph) 612-910-8274
Lynn Welles, Northeast Tree, Inc. @ e-mail Lynn@northeasttree.net, ph) 612-910-8280 or
Northeast Tree, Inc. @ e-mail sales@northeasttree.net, ph) 612-789-9255



Mission Statement of the Tree Climbing Championship Committee:

To promote proper and innovative arboricultural climbing techniques and equipment through friendly competition and fun educational activities.

MSA MAKES CHANGES

By Don Mueller, 2008 President

MSA's Executive Director Patty Nolt will be leaving at the end of February. As a result, MSA's Executive Committee is doing a little restructuring that will keep us aligned to meet the needs of our changing organization.

In the time Patty has been with us, our membership has grown to over 570 active members, the number of certified arborists has expanded significantly, this newsletter has a refreshing new look, we've navigated our way through hosting an international conference, and we've expanded our educational offerings. Patty's vision and energy have been a driving force for our society.

As we move forward, MSA will be leaning on volunteers more than ever to lead this organization. That may seem daunting until you really think about it; MSA members are the leaders in

arboriculture and urban forestry in Minnesota. We have an awesome resource right here within our own talent pool! So if you're asked to help out with an MSA project, I'll hope you'll say yes. Or better yet, don't wait to be asked volunteer!

Effective immediately, MSA's new address is PO Box 26151, St. Louis Park, MN 55426. Please discontinue using MSA's general telephone number as well. You can contact MSA executive committee members and committee chairs directly if you have concerns, questions or suggestions. Contact information for all of the officers and committee chairs is published in the newsletter and on our new website, www.msa-live.org.

Thank you in advance for your support as we make this transition.



MSA
 PO BOX 26151
 ST. LOUIS PARK, MN 55426

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

2008 Minnesota Festival of Trees

*Saturday, May 17th, 2008
 8:00 am to 5:00 pm*

**Central Park
 1497 Central Parkway
 Eagan, Mn**

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

Activities for everyone to enjoy include:

- *Mn State Tree Climbing Championship*
- *FREE Fun Family Events*
- *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>
March 7, 2008	February 20, 2008	Minneapolis
March 14, 2008	CTW SKILLS EXAM	St. Louis Park
June 27, 2008	June 11, 2008	St. Louis Park
August, 2008	July (<u>NOT CONFIRMED</u>)	SE Minnesota
September 5, 2008	August 18, 2008	Alexandria
November 21, 2008	November 5, 2008	Andover

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