

Illinois Trees

The Quarterly Publication of the Illinois Arborist Association

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Fall 2024



Water Your Trees! *by Michelle Catania*

As I debated on what soil-related topic to take a deep dive into, I am observing trees in the landscape declining. It may be due to the lack of substantial rain in the Chicago region. And if it's not directly related to a lack of available soil water, a good dose of water would not be a deal breaker in helping a tree cope with another biotic or abiotic stressor. The same goes for my kids. Whenever they come to me with any medical complaint (outside of the obvious blood squirting issues that require pressure), my first question is "have you drank enough water?". So, do your trees have adequate water?

As a caveat, I am not at the point in my life where I stay up to date on regional weather, so please keep in mind I am only discussing what I see during my travels from my north Chicago suburb to the Arboretum oasis that awaits me after horrendous interstate travel.

Illinois' soils are typically dominated by the smaller sized particles. Illinois has a rich glacial-interglacial history. The associated mechanisms over prolonged periods of time have slowly weathered silicate-based rocks, like quartz, into the smallest fractions ([Soils-Illinois, NRCS](#)) in the soil texture triangle (*Figure 1*), thus creating high compositions of clay sized particles in our soils. These clay-dominated soils have a much higher surface area than other soils textures. High clay will impact water availability to the tree and is one of the reasons folks like me discuss the importance of using [feel methods for texture](#) to determine the composition of sand, silt, and clay particles in the soil (*Figure 2*). Knowing this information will help practitioners understand the amount of water that could be made available to a tree. This will aid in understanding how to best mitigate the impacts of prolonged drought-like conditions

and how it relates to the water budget – a method of tracking all inputs and outputs of water in a system (*Figure 3*).

Let's take a deeper dive into soil texture and

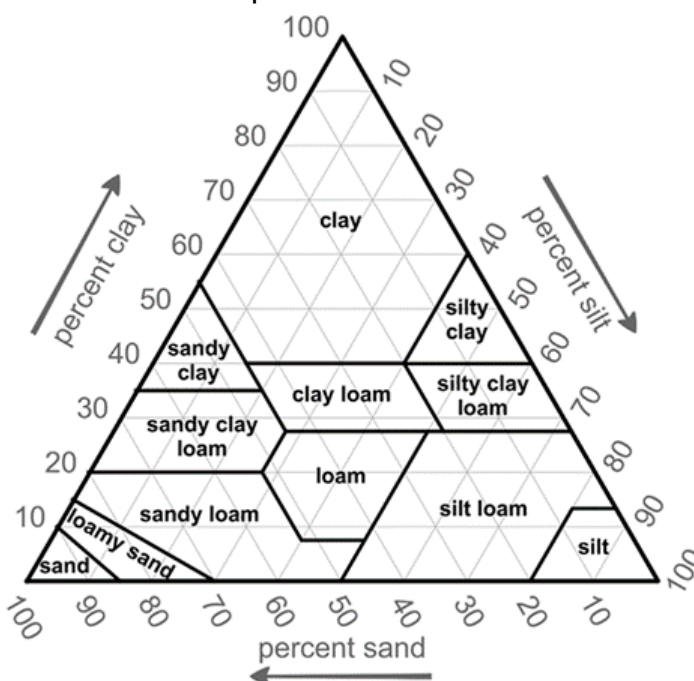


Figure 1: USDA Soil Texture Triangle (USDA NRCS)

water content, and understand the variability in soil water holding capacity in relation to these 2 variables. In *Figure 2* the area under the top line, or 'field capacity', and above the bottom line, or permanent 'wilting point', is all the water that can be available to a plant. The area between the two lines varies based on particle sizes as seen on the x-axis. In a high clay soil with high surface area, the soil has the highest potential water content, yet the amount of available water is less, as indicated by the more narrow area between the top and bottom line. On the other end, a sandy soil has much larger particles and a lower surface area, thereby having very low water holding capacity. But why does it dramatically curve down to the left? A sandy soil has very little to offer for water storage capacity, and when fully saturated, the difference is minimal

continued on page 4

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Don't forget to visit the IAA Website for updates on events, certification classes, and important issues impacting our industry.

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Illinois Arborist Association

Mission Statement

"Foster interest, establish standards, exchange professional ideas and pursue scientific research in Arboriculture"

President's Message

Greetings IAA Members,

Fall is here and soon the workload will start to wind down. For some this is a relief, and they can pat themselves on the back and give thanks for another successful season. For others this is the time to slow the work for others and do work on our professional selves. That's right, it's almost time for the IAA Annual Fall Conference.

Coming up in November this one conference can provide an average of 10 to 12 CEUs. Going to this one show every year is the easiest way to maintain your CEUs to keep your Arborist Certification valid. We offer classes in many different disciplines so there are classes for everyone. From the Climbing Corner with world class climbers to the PHC Corner with some of the most passionate speakers taking the myth and mystery out of Plant Health Care, and that's just a part of the trade show floor. There are class sessions on a host of topics for the municipal and commercial arborists alike. The IAA even offers some classes in Spanish.

This is just one of many events the IAA hosts and runs for our members. Remember to keep an eye on our events page and social media posts for all the opportunities we offer to our members and community outreach. It is said that we only use 10% of the technology we have at our fingertips. I believe this is true for the average IAA member too when it comes to taking advantage of all the IAA has to offer.

Are you getting the most from your membership? If so, are you giving back to the community by volunteering to help at the Fall Annual Conference? My challenge to you is to make sure you get the best value out of your IAA membership. Make us work for you.

See you at the Annual IAA Fall Conference.

Cheers,

Dan O'Brien

Daniel O'Brien
Illinois Arborist Association President
Certified Arborist and CTSP



Water Your Trees! (cont.)

to that when it is depleted of soil water. To complete this Goldilock story, the soil texture with the optimal soil water storage capacity is a **silt loam**. A **silt loam** has a high affinity for water storage and the widest band of plant available water. A **silt loam** soil is considered a more evenly textured soil (composition of sand, silt, and clay particles), and has the highest water holding capacity. Therefore, a silt loam offers the best reservoir of soil water for plants to access during prolonged periods of no precipitation. They have a great savings account! Most of our soils are classified as silty-clay to silty-clay loams, thus having higher clay content than the preferred silt loam. Knowing this can help manage soil water storage.

In addition to particle sizes, two other factors can increase or decrease soil water holding capacity. The first is the percentage of organic matter and the second is the bulk density of the soil. A soil with a higher organic matter content will store more water due to the sponge-like effects of organic matter and likely have a lower bulk density. Soils with higher bulk density, or more mass per given area, will not store as much water as opposed to lower bulk density soils. And what is a very common occurrence in urban soils? Soil bulk densities greater than

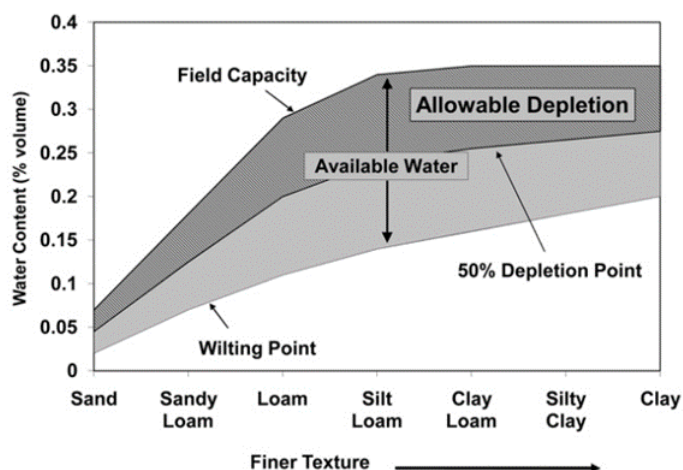


Figure 2: Relationship between plant available water & soil texture (Utah State University, Intermountain Tree Fruit Production Guide)

root limiting or root restricting densities!

In *Figure 2*, all the water above the field capacity line will be freely drained (gravimetric water). This water will freely drain out of the soil into the groundwater. These conditions can occur during the growing season after a substantial rain event, or in the terminology of the water budget, a recharge event, as seen in *Figure 3*. Conversely, all water below the 'wilting point' is hygroscopic water that is held very tightly to the surface of the particles and requires a lot of energy to remove (*Figure 2*). The laboratory analysis for this is to weigh an air-dried soil sample, place it in an oven for 24-hours at 105°C, (221°F), then reweigh to calculate the water loss. If this is the necessary lab procedure, you better believe this water is inaccessible to roots and fungi!

The temporal and spatial distribution of water on earth in solid, liquid, and gaseous forms is the hydrologic cycle. One component of the hydrologic cycles is a water budget as seen in *Figure 3*. Understanding a water budget may help you manage your trees, especially during times of drought. This water budget is a way to

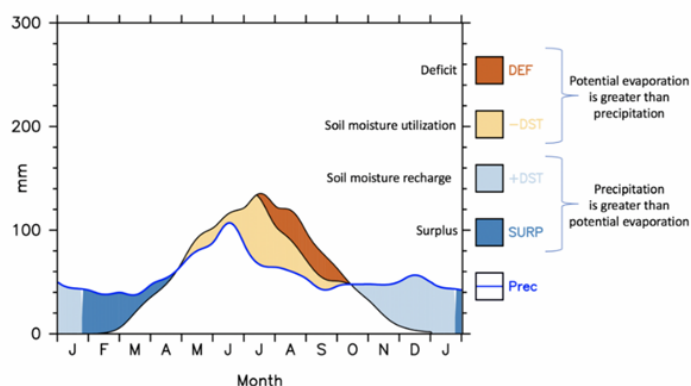


Figure 3: Annual water budget example. Solid blue line is the precipitation (input). The blue colors below the line are water recharges and surplus, while the orange colors above the line are water utilization and deficits (output). (Source: University of Nebraska, Geography Lab Manual, Water Budgets & Balances)

show recharge and deficits throughout the year.
We are in a deficit!

continued on page 5

Water Your Trees! (cont.)

Given our typical continental climate with distinct seasons and a variety of weather conditions, Illinois has a vegetation tug o' war history of short-grass to deciduous forest during this interglacial period. Precipitation events during the growing season and snowpack during the winter have been a source of water recharge for our soils. Throughout the dormant season, as well as after substantial rain events, soils may slowly become saturated (recharged) then any additional water added will move through the soil and will recharge groundwater, thus adding water to the water table (surplus). This surplus is no longer available to terrestrial life. We are also experiencing a shift in precipitation and our declining trees are fantastic indicators to these stressors.

Currently, we have not received substantial rainfall in a very long time. *Figure 4* is some alarming looking graphics that we can use as indicators. But for urban trees there may be a better solution. While attending the 42nd Illinois Arborist Association Annual Conference

& Trade Show in Tinley Park from November 18-20th, please attend the Panel Discussion about Climate Change and the Drought Project, with the State Climatologist Dr. Trent Ford, and Arboretum researchers Drs. Jake Miesbauer and Christy Rollinson (11/19 at 10:30am). These 3 experts will discuss the state of the science on drought and how it impacts tree care decisions. As tree stewards, I implore you to water your trees, I encourage you to encourage your community to water trees, and always water your trees as you scratch your head and wonder what ailment it may or may not have.

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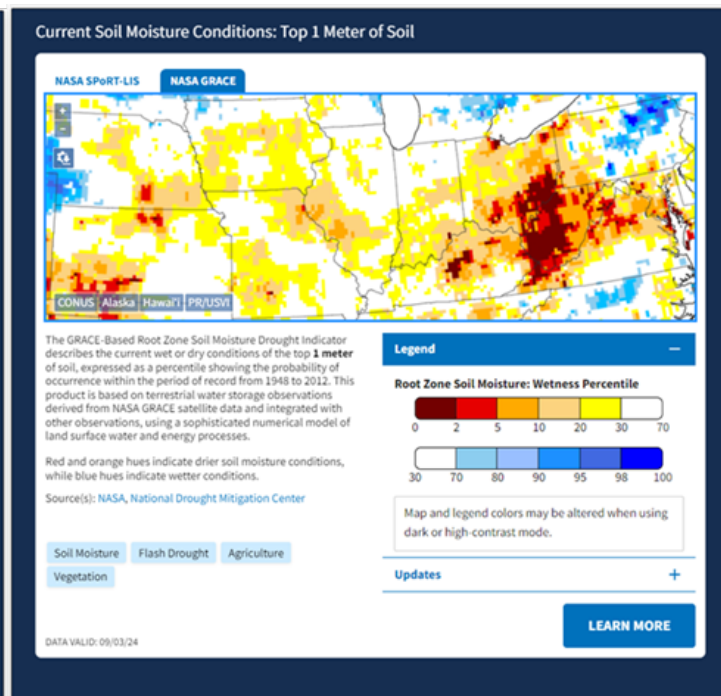
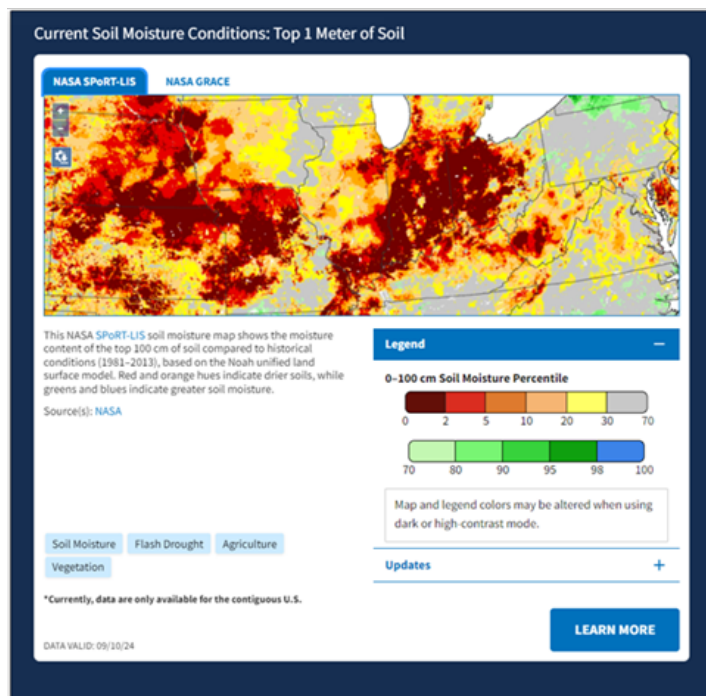


Figure 4: Current Soil Moisture Conditions in the top 1 meter of soil compared to historical conditions (1981-2013) on the left and root zone soil moisture drought conditions compared to historical conditions (1948-2012) on the right. Source: NOAA NIDIS at drought.gov

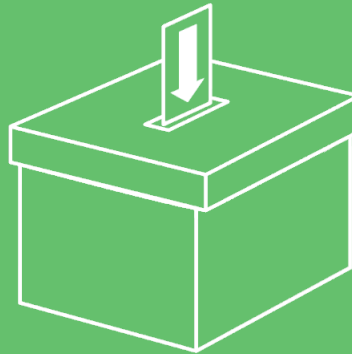


We need your vote!

Illinois Arborist Association General Membership Election



VOTE



Deadline to vote is October 18th



CONTACT US FOR A QUOTE TODAY!

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the future
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~ Calendar of Events ~

September Events

September 27th (8:00am - 1:00pm), Advanced Training - Pest Diagnosis Management - Plant Health Care Module

Instructor: Dr. Fredric Miller

Location: Cantigny – Education Center – 1S151 Winfield Rd, Wheaton, IL

[Click here to register](#)

October Events

October 4th (8:00am - 4:30pm), Advanced Training - Pest Diagnosis Management - Insect & Mite Pests Module

Instructor: Dr. Fredric Miller

Location: Cantigny – Education Center – 1S151 Winfield Rd, Wheaton, IL

[Click here to register](#)

October 8th - November 7th (6:00pm -8:30), ISA Municipal Specialist Exam Prep Course

Instructor: Bryon Doerr

Location: Homewood Public Works, 18355 Pierce Ave Homewood, IL 60430

[Click here to register](#)

October 9th - 11th (All Day Event), Full TRAQ Course

Instructor: Steve Lane

Location: City Hall Council Chambers – 301 West Madison Street, Ottawa, IL 61350

[Click here to register](#)

October 10th, (10:00 - 12:00), UCFF Meeting

Instructor: Melissa Custic and Paul Filary

Description: Melissa and Paul will talk about the history of collaboration between these two organizations and highlight some of the new initiatives and ongoing efforts to ensure an enduring partnership.

Location: Lombard Village Hall: Community Room – 255 E Wilson Ave, Lombard, IL 60148

[Click here to register](#)

October 17th & 18th, (All Day Event), IAA Careers in Arboriculture

Instructor: Various Speakers

Description: Our IAA Careers in Arboriculture Demonstration Event is designed to help career seeking professionals interested in arboriculture to do just that. Attendees will get to see live arboricultural practices and applications in action, demonstrating to attendees how the work is actually done. You'll interact with current arboriculture professionals and ask questions to learn more about the types of work that you might be most interested in. Following the demonstrations, we will provide an evening dinner, networking and career fair to help attendees learn of current opportunities available in the industry.

Location: The Morton Arboretum

[Click here to register](#)

November Events

November 1st (8:00am - 4:30pm) Advanced Training - Pest Diagnosis Management- Soil & Nutrient Management Module

Instructor: Dr. Fredric Miller

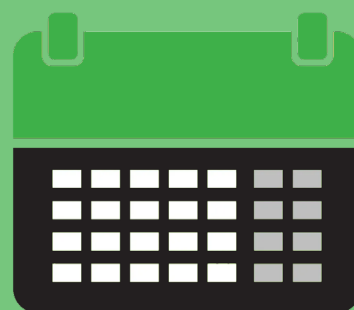
Location: Cantigny – Education Center – 1S151 Winfield Rd, Wheaton, IL

[Click here to register](#)

November 18th - November 20th, 42nd IAA Annual Conference & Trade Show

Location: EVEN Hotel & Tinley Park Convention Center - 8451 Convention Center Drive, Tinley Park, IL. 60477

[Click here to register](#)



Growing Resilience: The Vital Role of Utility Vegetation Management

by Eric Francke

The management of trees around the electrical utility may be an often misunderstood and niche part of the arboricultural industry, but its critical importance cannot be understated when it comes to utilities customers, public safety, property owners and tree workers in general. In the Midwest, trees represent a significant cause of outages for utilities. Utilities are presented with unique situations when it comes to developing a plan for their vegetation management programs. Who owns the tree? Is the tree or part of the tree breaking Minimum approach distance? Can this tree be trimmed to support reliability as well promote a healthy growth habit? These factors and a never-ending list of others make the management of trees and their interface with the utility a major undertaking for utility stakeholders at large.

Understanding the utility space, equipment, and terminology is essential for fully comprehending the examples and processes discussed in this article. Beginning with the utility space, it's crucial to note that the primary conductive electrical lines, which span from pole to pole, are invariably situated at the pinnacle of a utility pole. Typically carrying voltages ranging between 12-34 kV, these lines are designated as primary distribution lines. While the configurations of these conductors may vary, a helpful guideline is that the highest wires on a pole typically denote the highest voltage. Beneath the primary electrical lines, depending on regional requirements or specific demands, secondary voltage lines may be present, ranging from 120-480V. These lines have undergone voltage reduction, or "stepped-down," via transformers to facilitate power accessibility for end consumers. Additional wiring is often found below the secondary distribution lines. The majority of these lines are dedicated to communication purposes, encompassing cable, phone, and fiber optic transmission.

Holyoke Gas & Electric Department, 2024,
<https://www.hged.com/services/electric-service/utility-pole.aspx>

Utility providers prioritize the highest reliability concerns first. Conductors that carry power in the distribution space of a utility ROW typically provide power to entire neighborhoods, or groups of consumers. One tree failure, natural growth or other means of interrupting the flow of electricity could cause power outages for potentially hundreds or

Terms	Definitions
ROW	the legal right, established by usage or grant, to pass along a specific route through grounds or property belonging to another
Easement	a right to cross or otherwise use someone else's land for a specified purpose.
Conductor	Lines which carry electrical current
Kv	Kilovolt
Primary conductors	4Kv-35Kv
Secondary conductor	120-480v
Insulator	Non-Conductive object or material
Transformer	Electrical device that increases or decreases voltage

thousands of people. The risks of a loss in power could be extremely dangerous for many end consumers including hospitals, venues and even homes that require medical equipment. The environment also plays a major factor when it comes to extreme cold, extreme heat and even rain. Power outages mean that air conditioning and furnaces cannot run, sump-pumps cannot evacuate water from a home's foundation, and the list goes on.

So who owns that tree? Utilities have a responsibility to maintain vegetation around their equipment. The nature of utility Rights of way (ROW) is such that many stakeholders, customers and municipalities have vegetation growing, intentionally or not, within that utility space all throughout their service territory. Proper management plans take into account all the factors listed above, as well as who to contact for ownership of the tree. Every utility has specifications to determine the distance vegetation should be maintained to support the health of the tree as well as enhance the

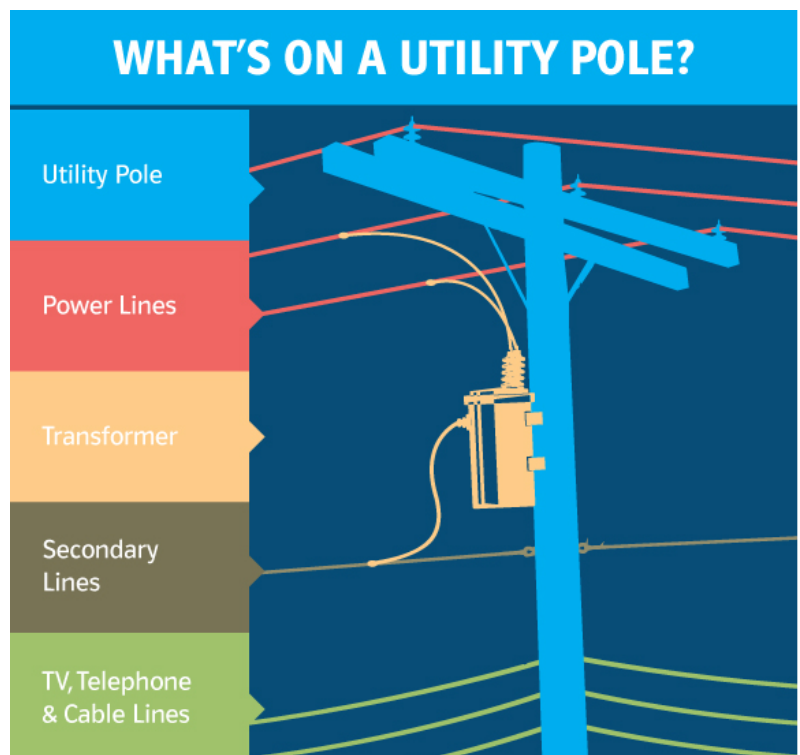
Growing Resilience: The Vital Role of Utility Vegetation Management (cont.)

reliability of the system, and these plans are shared with the tree owner. Everyone has seen examples of trees trimmed around electrical lines that begs the question “Why is there a hole in that tree?” Utilities typically do not have ownership of trees in their ROW. This means there needs to be an understanding and agreement with property owners on the best strategy for the reliability of the utility. A customer may have a list of reasons why they do not want their silver maple removed, and if the management plan for the utility can support directional pruning, then both stakeholders have achieved their objective. Visually, it may not be the most appealing site to see a Norway Maple with a massive “V” of foliage and limbs taken from the center where a central leader should be. But if the utility, the property owner and most important, the Norway Maple, can support the trimming and it is done properly, then the reliability of that circuit which potentially serves thousands of customers has been bolstered.

Lastly, it's important to address the "Ten-ton silver maple in the room" — storms. As reiterated, trees stand out as the primary contributors to electrical outages for utility companies. To mitigate this risk, utilities implement a cyclical tree trimming regimen. This involves periodic pruning to maintain a safe distance between trees and power lines, preventing natural growth encroachment and reducing the likelihood of tree-related outages. An example of the impact of severe weather on utility infrastructure is the Derecho of 2020, which swept through Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Indiana, leaving approximately 800,000 utility customers in northern Illinois without power. With winds reaching up to 120 MPH, this storm posed significant challenges to vegetation management efforts. Even seemingly healthy trees succumbed to uprooting, trunk breakage, and limb loss. Such extreme weather events strain any vegetation management plan to its limits. Without regular maintenance, the presence of trees near utility infrastructure would

exacerbate the devastation caused by high winds, underscoring the critical importance of ongoing tree management and maintenance protocols

Utility Vegetation Management (UVM) plays a crucial role in ensuring the reliability and safety of electrical utilities. By systematically monitoring, pruning, and removing vegetation near power lines and other utility infrastructure, UVM reduces the risk of power outages caused by tree-related incidents such as branches falling on lines during storms or vegetation interference with equipment. Additionally, effective UVM helps utilities comply with regulatory requirements, minimize wildfire risks, and enhance the overall resilience of the electrical grid. Beyond reliability, UVM contributes to environmental sustainability by promoting healthy tree growth and preserving biodiversity. In essence, UVM is not merely about trimming trees; it's about safeguarding communities, preserving nature, and ensuring uninterrupted access to essential electricity services.





42ND ANNUAL

ILLINOIS ARBORIST
ASSOCIATION

CONFERENCE & TRADE SHOW



NOVEMBER
18TH - 20TH, 2024

TINLEY PARK CONVENTION CENTER

IN-PERSON/VIRTUAL

ILLINOISARBORIST.ORG



IAA ADVANCED TRAINING NOVEMBER 18TH, 2024

Location: Tinley Park Convention Center

Choose One

8:00am-
4:00pm

CEU's
Available: 7

Sam Tinley
Room (Testing
Tuesday 8:00
to 12:00)

Utility Specialist Prep Class

Matt Millette, Davey Resource Group

The Utility Specialist Prep Class is designed to help individuals prepare for the ISA Utility Specialist exam. We highly recommend purchasing the Utility Specialist Study to aid in your preparation. You can purchase a copy of the study guide by clicking on the link below. Please note that the exam incurs a separate fee. It will be held on Tuesday, November 19th, from 8 AM to 12 noon in the Sam Tinley room. Anyone wishing to take the exam must fill out the exam application and submit it to the ISA by November 1st. The prep class is worth 7 CEUs.

[Application for the
utility specialist exam](#)

[Utility Specialist
Certification Study Guide](#)

8:00am-
4:00pm

CEU's
Available: 7

SP 5/6 Rooms

Insect & Mite Pests

Dr. Fredric Miller

This advanced training (AT) class will focus on the proper identification, biology, and management of insect and mite pests affecting woody plants. Emphasis will be on current PHC tactics and strategies for use in arboriculture, landscape, and urban forest settings. An update will be provided on newly emerging pests, invasive pests, and insect-pathogen complexes, (i.e., spotted lantern fly (SLF), elm zigzag sawfly, and drippy disease of oaks). Weather permitting a walking field exercise will be conducted on the conference grounds.

8:00am-
4:00pm

CEU's
Available: 7

SP 3/4 Rooms

The New Z Electrical Hazard Section: Changes in Training Requirements for Arborists

Dr. John Ball, SDSU

The new Z Electrical Hazard section has some major changes that impact all arborists. A key one is that arborists have training on electrical system hardware identification and function, minimum approach distances to energized electric supply lines and safe work practices among other components. These requirements must be met for any arborist to work within 10 feet of an electric supply line or communication line. This also includes the tree. So, for an arborist to work within a tree that is less than 10 feet from even a communication line or secondary line, they must have this training. This workshop will cover all the knowledge requirements. We will cover how electricity works, identification and function electrical system hardware found along distribution lines, minimum approach distances (MAD), safe work practices and emergency response to aerial incidents. We will also cover the four electrical levels for arborists and their MADs and practices.



GENERAL SESSIONS

NOVEMBER 19TH , 2024

8:00am-8:30am	15 Minute ISA Update and 15 Minute Presentations from Vendors
8:30am - 9:15am CEU's Available: .75	The New Z133 - What Does It Mean To You? Dr. John Ball, SDSU The new Z133 is coming out and inside there will be numerous changes and updates to the standard. The Electrical Hazards section has been completely revised. A training component has also been added to the Standard. This session will cover the highlights to the new Z.
9:15am-10:00am CEU's Available: .75	Sneaky Saprobes; Saprophytic Fungi Biology and ID Chelsi Abbott This session will go over the biology and ID of saprophytic fungi; how they are different from parasitic fungi and what they mean from a tree health and structural integrity perspective.
10:00am – 10:30am	Break with Exhibitors
10:30am – 11:45pm CEU's Available: 1.5	Panel Discussion about Climate Change and the Drought Project Trent Ford, Christy Rollinson, and Jake Miesbauer TBD
11:45pm - 12:00pm	Award Ceremony
12:00pm - 1:00pm	Lunch with Exhibitors



AFTERNOON SESSIONS NOVEMBER 19TH , 2024

Choose One

1:00pm -
2:00pm
CEU's
Available: 1

Municipal

New Tools To Understand and Manage Chicago Region's Trees at the Local Level **Lindsay Darling, CRTI**

This talk will showcase a suite of new digital tools from the Morton Arboretum's Chicago Region Trees Initiative. These tools help foresters detect shrubby invasives, identify places to plant trees, apply for grants, and offer a variety of ways to communicate the importance of our urban forest and engage with the broader public and other stakeholders. While many of these tools are geared towards the Chicago region, we hope to expand them to the rest of the state.

1:00pm -
2:00pm
CEU's
Available: 1

Commercial

Using Plant Phenology to Predict Treatment Timing **Aaron Schulz, Oak Bros Tree Care & Removal, LLC**

When treating trees and shrubs for insects, mites, or diseases, applicators must be precise in their timing so that control can be established. We commonly use growing degree days to predict vulnerable stages of insects, mites, and diseases but with our climate shifting, growing degree days are not always a reliable source. What if a more predictable way to time treatments, such as plant growth stages, existed? Plant phenology uses cyclical biological events based on climatic conditions (bud swell, leaf development, flowering, fall color, etc.) to coincide with insect, mite, and disease vulnerability. This session will explore the benefits of adding plant phenology to your treatment program so that you can reduce pest resurgence from the use of broad-spectrum pesticides and deliver a more predictable outcome for your clients.

1:00pm -
2:00pm
CEU's
Available: 1

Utility

The Importance of Utility Vegetation Management **Brian Sprinkle, Iapetus Infrastructure Services** TBD

Location:
Joseph Kramer
Demonstration
Tree



AFTERNOON SESSIONS

NOVEMBER 19TH, 2024

1:00pm -
2:00pm
CEU's
Available: 1

IFA

Oak Origins: From Acorns to Species and the Tree of Life Andrew Hipp, The Morton Arboretum

How did oaks become such important and beloved trees across the northern hemisphere? What are oak species? What are oak hybrids, and how important are they? How do oaks shape the forest? This lecture, based on Hipp's forthcoming *Oak Origins* (University of Chicago Press, 2024), answers these questions and many more. It touches on the natural history and biology of reproduction in oaks; the origins of oak species and their hybrids; and the estimated 56 million years of oak evolutionary history. The lecture covers research spanning more than a century and illustrates it with trees we all know and love.

Choose One

2:00pm-
2:45pm
CEU's
Available: .75

Municipal

Artificial Intelligence in Urban Forestry – Lee Mueller, Davey Resource Group, Inc.

The practice of urban forestry is rapidly changing. New technologies, relying on massive datasets and machine-learning algorithms, are becoming increasingly common. Rightly so, there remains some trepidation about artificial intelligence. Yet, appropriately developed and applied, advances in artificial intelligence and machine learning promises to support and enhance the work of urban foresters. This presentation explores applications of new and emerging tools (e.g., ChatGPT, object detection, sensors) including how these technologies have been applied in the past and future possibilities for urban tree monitoring and management.

2:00pm-
2:45pm
CEU's
Available: .75

Commercial

Principles of Persuasion, How to Increase Your Level of Influence Jeff Joutras, Step Forward Into Growth Leadership

Let's Face it, everyone is trying to influence somebody, every day. In this presentation, attendees will learn the principles of influence, principles backed by research. Principles that are scientific, ethical, and applicable. Oftentimes, increasing your level of influence comes down to minor changes that won't cost you anything or will only require a small investment. Learn how to move more people in your direction to achieve a favorable result. This will include examples for sales and marketing professionals, managers and business owners who want to improve their level of influence with clients and staff. Understand the psychology of persuasion and create a specific action plan to improve your results!



AFTERNOON SESSIONS NOVEMBER 19TH, 2024

2:00pm- 2:45pm CEU's Available: .75 Utility Location: Joseph Kramer Demonstration Tree	The Importance of Utility Vegetation Management Brian Sprinkle, Iapetus Infrastructure Services TBD
2:00pm- 2:45pm CEU's Available: .75 IFA	Fragmentation, Fire, and Funding: Challenges Facing Oak Management in Our Modern Landscape Jordan Winkenbach – American Bird Conservancy Widespread oak regeneration failure and an aging canopy class presents a serious concern for continued oak habitat cover. The oak regeneration crisis is driven primarily by a lack of active management, made more difficult and complicated within urban/suburban landscapes and on privately owned lands. Public perception of prescribed fire and tree removals, smoke management, historically high deer populations, and rapidly increasing costs associated with management are among the most difficult hurdles to overcome. Newly available funding opportunities for private lands management, increased education and outreach, and collaborative management strategies will all be needed to preserve our oak ecosystem resource.
2:45pm- 3:15pm	Break With Exhibitors
	Choose One
3:15pm-4:00pm CEU's Available: .75 Municipal	Oak Decline Research Update Dr. Stephanie Adams Oak Decline has been associated with environmental factors, but findings from a preliminary 2021 survey have found that disease-causing organisms (pathogens) and secondary insect pests are also associated with declining trees. Stephanie Adams will explain how the changing environment has impacted how hosts and pathogens interact and how and when secondary pests and diseases invade stressed trees. She will also explain current treatment trials that are underway.



AFTERNOON SESSIONS NOVEMBER 19TH, 2024

3:15pm-4:00pm
CEU's Available:
.75

Commercial

ELDT and OTR Requirements and DOT and CDL Acquisition

Daniel Greer, Eclipse DOT Inc

Join us for a dynamic session tailored for arborists, focusing on Entry-Level Driver Training (ELDT) and DOT compliance. Learn how to navigate the complexities of DOT regulations, ensuring your team is road-ready and compliant. Discover practical tips and strategies to streamline your training process, avoid costly fines, and maintain safety standards. Perfect for arborists looking to elevate their operations and meet industry requirements efficiently. Don't miss this opportunity to enhance your knowledge and keep your crew compliant and safe on the road.

3:15pm-4:00pm
CEU's Available:
.75

Utility

Location: Joseph
Kramer
Demonstration Tree

The Importance of Utility Vegetation Management

Brian Sprinkle, Iapetus Infrastructure Services

TBD

3:15pm-4:00pm
CEU's Available:
.75

IFA

Fire's Effects on Oak Seedlings in Grass-Invaded Central Hardwood Forests

Dan Marshalla and Jen Fraterrigo, UI

Oak tree dominance in Illinois has diminished over the past century, partially due to fire suppression. Prescribed fire is increasingly being used as a management tool including to improve oak regeneration. Several factors affect the post-fire survival ability of oak seedlings including seedling size, invasion by Japanese stiltgrass, and factors related to fire history such as fuel load and soil nutrients. Understanding the determinants of post-fire oak survival will give forest managers a better idea of when to burn their land.

4:00pm –
6:00pm



Tree Fund Raffle

Come have a few drinks, network with the exhibitors, and stay for the raffle! Bring some extra cash as raffle tickets will be sold throughout the day on Tuesday. All proceeds will go to support the TREE Fund. The Tree Research and Education Endowment Fund (TREE Fund) is shaping the future of trees and the arboriculture profession. The TREE Fund provides research grants, scholarships, and educational programs to advance knowledge in the field of arboriculture and urban forestry. With this knowledge, arborists and citizens will be better equipped to ensure that healthy, mature trees remain an integral part of the urban and suburban communities of our future.



SPANISH SESSIONS NOVEMBER 19TH, 2024

Instructor: Eduardo Medina, Davey Tree Expert Co.

8:40am – 10:15am	Trabajo Con Gruaas – Eduardo Medina and Phil Reth
10:15am – 10:45am	Break with Exhibitors
10:45am – 11:50am	Seguridad Labora
11:50am – 1:00pm	Lunch with Exhibitors
1:00pm – 2:45pm	Trabajo Seguro y Eficiente En Tierr
2:45pm – 3:15pm	Break with Exhibitors
3:15pm – 4:00pm	Biología Del Arbol Para Poda

JOSEPH KRAMER DEMONSTRATION TREE NOVEMBER 20TH, 2024

Demonstrators: Nicole “Carnie” Benjamin and Lilly Soderlund

8:40am – 9:10am	Your Daily Autograph - JSSA/Job Brief & ERP/EAP
9:10am – 10:00am	EHAP, Deal With It
10:00am – 10:30am	Break with Exhibitors
10:30am – 11:15am	Planning the Work & Managing The Climb for Efficiency, Safety & Longevity
11:15am – 11:50am	Out On a Limb
11:50am – 1:00pm	Lunch with Exhibitors
1:00pm – 2:00pm	The Importance of Utility Vegetation Management - Brian Sprinkle
2:00pm – 2:45pm	The Importance of Utility Vegetation Management - Brian Sprinkle
2:45pm – 3:15pm	Break with Exhibitors
3:15pm – 4:00pm	The Importance of Utility Vegetation Management - Brian Sprinkle



GENERAL SESSIONS

NOVEMBER 20TH , 2024

8:00am –
9:00am

CEU's
Available: 1

Leadership & Talent – Organizational Succession Planning **Kevin Martlage, Nextier Advisors**

Succession planning is key for any organization to conduct as strategies are further defined, your team continues to grow, and leadership looks toward the future. Additionally, it is always best practice for you to have a good understanding of the current and future workforce as you continue to align skills with your team's impact and advancement. Succession planning can also help enhance individual and team engagement using transparent and intentional conversations about individual career paths, leadership development opportunities and performance. If done properly, succession planning will enhance team engagement, provide a common language for individual and team development conversations, identify potential leadership opportunities, and provide a high-level overview for continual improvement. All of this is critical as you sustainably develop and advance your organization and team. Regardless of where your company and team are currently, planning is critically important as you review strategy, skills, development, and organizational advancement. Join us for this interactive conversation about the importance of succession planning as you continue to advance your company, team, and individuals toward your common goals.

9:00am –
10:00am

CEU's
Available: 1

Evolution of GIS as an Arboricultural Solution

Nathan Schuettpelez, Wachtel Tree Science

Implementing GIS into your arboricultural operations is critical to evolving in a technologically advanced market. Paper maps get lost, and squirrels destroy metal tags (weird, right?). This discussion will provide a basic understanding of geographic information systems (GIS) and how to implement them into your commercial or municipal operations right now! GIS will improve your communication with clients and/or residents, help manage high-stress storm response, and provide efficiency to your team.

10:00am - 10:30am

Break With Exhibitors

10:30am –
11:15am

CEU's
Available: .75

The Importance of Utility Arboriculture **Randy Miller**

Utility arboriculture is critical for striking the balance between the indispensable benefits of both trees and electric power. Trees must be vigorous, and electric power safe and flawlessly reliable. Yet, tree conflicts with power lines have caused catastrophic fires and ruinous blackouts. In that context, this presentation focuses on how utility arboriculture addresses tree conflicts with power lines. Attendees will be able to recognize electric safety principles and understand how trees cause power outages. They will be able to explain some history, problems with and solutions to utility pruning as well as the fundamentals and benefits of integrated vegetation management.



11:15am -
12:00pm

CEU's
Available: .75

The Illinois White Oak Initiative Jason Meyer, White Oak Initiative

The data is clear – while there are plenty of mature white oaks in the woods today, there is a severe lack of regeneration (seedlings) that will replace today's mature trees. This has broad ecological, economic, and social implications. The White Oak Initiative is a national, multi-sector coalition that serves as advocates and catalysts for active upland oak forest management, with a focus on white oak regeneration. This presentation will describe the issue at hand, the history of the White Oak Initiative, and how a proactive approach to forest management will ensure a sustainable future for this keystone species.

12:00pm-1:00pm

Lunch with Exhibitors

AFTERNOON SESSIONS NOVEMBER 20TH, 2024

Choose One

1:00pm -
2:00pm

CEU's
Available: 1

Municipal

Pruning Trees to Reduce Likelihood of Failure – Jake Miesbauer, The Morton Arboretum

Tree pruning is one of the most common practices employed by tree care professionals. Proper pruning can improve tree structure, remove, or mitigate defects, and help to enhance tree health and aesthetics. It is important to keep in mind, however, that each pruning cut is an injury that the tree must respond to, and if done improperly can be counterproductive. This presentation will help the audience better understand how proper tree pruning can achieve targeted goals of reducing the likelihood of trees being damaged in storms.

1:00pm -
2:00pm

CEU's
Available: 1

Commercial

How To Eliminate Mischief™ While Building a Sustainable Foundation for the Future Kevin Martlage, Nextier Advisors, LLC

The key to building a successful and sustainable foundation for the future is deeply rooted in your company's business culture and the elimination of Mischief™. A critical part of any team's success is to ensure that there are clear expectations and understanding of what is important among all members of the team. While this understanding is critical there must also be a firm foundation built on trust, communication, and effective conflict



resolution, as you eliminate Mischief™ and impact those around you. Join this interactive and informative session as we dig into how to advance your business from the inside by focusing on shared values and alignment around a supportive business culture. During the session we will introduce you to the Mischief Model™ and will discuss the fifteen traits of a high performing, high trust, and highly accountable business culture. The Mischief™ model has been developed over 50 years of work with organizations, non-profits, and impactful leadership teams around the world. During our discussion we will also introduce you to the Nextier Culture Index™ which will help you critically assess your current business culture across fifteen different team impact areas. Awareness around these concepts and their impact on your business culture will help you understand how to begin to create a sustainable foundation which will support your team's ability to collaborate and advance together.

1:00pm -
2:00pm
CEU's
Available: 1
Utility

Trees on Wires/Trees Under Tension – Trees Under Tension Tim Walsh, The Townsend Company, LLC

One of the greatest risks that arborists can face is dealing with the hazards associated with trees that have fallen on wires. We will discuss this hazard, and some of the science-based mitigation techniques, training, best practices, and new concepts

1:00pm -
2:00pm
CEU's
Available: 1

IFA

Public Gardens as Sentinels against Invasive Plants

Kurt Driesilker/Michelle Beloskur, The Morton Arboretum/MIPN

Botanic gardens and arboreta in North America are harnessing their botanical and horticultural expertise to document plant taxa that are escaping from cultivation on their properties. The Public Gardens as Sentinels against Invasive Plants (PGSIP) working group has developed standardized guidelines to help gardens organize and share their data from their collections to characterize these situations when they occur. By collecting and sharing data from gardens across North America, PGSIP aims to provide a clear picture about plants escaping cultivation and potentially becoming problematic before large-scale invasions occur and before commercial adoption of these taxa.

Choose One

2:00pm -
3:00pm
CEU's
Available: 1

Municipal

Oaks, Gall Wasps, and Pest Update Dr. Fredric Miller

2024 was one of those years where galls appeared on many types of trees. In this presentation, we will discuss some of the more common and potentially important galls found on trees, primarily oaks, including the recent gall malady that has been plaguing our swamp white oaks and bur oaks. Identification, life cycles, potential harm, if any, to the tree, and effective PHC management practices will be presented. A brief roundup of tree issues in 2024 will conclude



2:00pm -
3:00pm
CEU's
Available: 1

Commercial

Close Encounters of the Herbicide Kind Glen Stanoz, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Herbicides can be useful tools for management of residential and forest landscapes. But it seems that more and more often trees are “non-target” victims of many commonly applied herbicides. Damage may be acute or chronic, and difficult to positively attribute to chemical application. Learn symptoms exhibited by trees exposed to common herbicides, and the implications for trees, tree owners, and arborists.

2:00pm -
3:00pm
CEU's
Available: 1

Utility

Utility Vegetation Management is Urban Forestry Randy Miller

The intent of urban forestry is to manage trees to enhance the physiological, sociological, and economic well-being of urban society, while the primary objective of utility arboriculture is to manage vegetation, so it doesn't interfere with safe, reliable environmentally sustainable power delivery. It is indisputable that safe, reliable electric power contributes to the “... physiological, sociological and economic well-being of urban society”. This presentation focuses on the consistencies on how urban forestry principles apply to utility arboriculture.

2:00pm -
3:00pm
CEU's
Available: 1

IFA

Individual Plant Treatments to Control Woody Invasive Plants Chris Evans, University of Illinois

Vegetation management on woody plants is often done using Individual Plant Treatments (IPT). These can include foliar applications, cut stump, basal bark, and injections. IPT treatments can be extremely selective, easy to apply, and can be used nearly year-round. This presentation will discuss the methods used for each of the IPT applications, tips and techniques for success, and common herbicides and tools used with IPT applications.

JOSEPH KRAMER DEMONSTRATION TREE NOVEMBER 20TH , 2024

Demonstrators: Nicole “Carnie” Benjamin and Lilly Soderlund

8:00am – 10:00am
10:00am – 10:30am
10:30am - 11:50pm
12:00pm – 1:00pm
1:00pm – 3:00pm

Storm Damage Management Practices
Break with Exhibitors
Post Storm Pruning
Lunch with Exhibitors
Elements of Rigging



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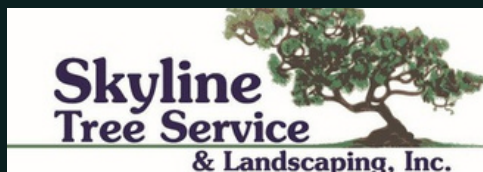
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Jim Schuster Plant Health Care Corner





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Dive deep into the world of plant health with leading experts at our two-day conference! Whether you're a seasoned arborist or just starting, this event is designed to expand your knowledge and skills in plant care.

Day 1: Tuesday, November 19, 2024

- **8:40 - 9:10 AM: *Climatic Impacts and their Contributions to Tree Stress***
- Speakers: Cory McCurry, Midwest Arborologist & Lee Fredericks, Rainbow EcoScience
- **9:10 - 10:00 AM: *Selecting Trees and Shrubs for Disease and Pest Resistance***
- Speaker: Nathan Maren, The Morton Arboretum
- **10:00 - 10:30 AM: Break**
- **10:30 - 11:30 AM: *Plant Health Projects Funded by TREE Fund***
- Speaker: Paul Putman, TREE Fund
- **11:15 - 11:50 AM: *Rob, ArborJet (TBD)***
- **11:50 AM - 1:00 PM: Lunch**
- **1:00 - 2:00 PM: *Soil Building: Components & Timelines***
- Speaker: John Lloyd, Precision Organics
- **2:00 - 2:45 PM: *Soil Typing and Understanding Soil Amendments***
- Speaker: John Lloyd, Precision Organics
- **2:45 - 3:15 PM: Break**

**IAA 42nd Annual
Conference & Trade Show**
EVEN Hotel & Tinley Park
Convention Center

Day 2: Wednesday, November 20, 2024

- **8:00 - 10:00 AM: *Bark and Ambrosia Beetles: Identification and Ecology***
- Speaker: Demian Gomez, Texas A&M Forest Service
- **10:00 - 10:30 AM: Break**
- **10:30 - 11:50 AM: *Tree Support Systems***
- Speaker: Aaron Schauer, Gateway Technical College
- **12:00 - 1:00 PM: Lunch**
- **1:00 - 1:30 PM: *Adapting for a Sustainable Future: Transforming a 99-Year Nursery Legacy to Reduce Carbon Footprint for the Next Century***
- Speaker: Michael Porter, Kankakee Nursery
- **1:30 - 2:00 PM: *Goodmark (TBD)***
- **2:00 - 2:30 PM: *From Farm to Parkway: Tried & True Selections that Thrive***
- Speaker: Becky Thomas, Spring Grove

Don't miss this opportunity to enhance your plant health knowledge and network with industry experts. Register today and take the first step toward better tree care!

For more details and registration, visit <https://illinoisarborist.org/annual-conference-trade-show/> or contact April at april@illinoisarborist.org.

Annual Golf Outing a Swinging Success!

On August 2nd, we gathered for our much-anticipated annual golf outing at Fox Run Golf Links, and it was a day to remember! The weather was absolutely perfect, with comfortable temperatures, creating the ideal setting for an unforgettable day of golf. The course itself was in great condition, offering the perfect backdrop for friendly competition and great fun.

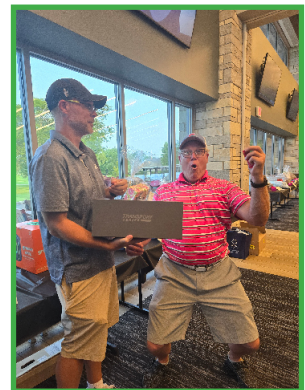
The day began with smiles all around as golfers teed off, making their way through the beautiful greens. Each swing and putt showcased both skill, enjoyment and comedy as golfers enjoyed the experience. After completing the rounds, everyone regrouped for a dinner—a lively Mexican fiesta to end the evening.

Laughter, camaraderie, and excitement and errant golf balls filled the air. The event ended with the much-anticipated raffle. With an array of fantastic prizes, the raffle was the perfect capstone to a truly wonderful event.

Of course, the day wouldn't have been complete without recognizing the performances of our standout golfers. A big round of applause goes to the following contest winners:

- **Longest Putt:** Doug Ladner
- **Longest Drive (Women):** Kasha Ward
- **Longest Drive (Men):** Ryan Zieche
- **Closest to the Pin:** Pete Ritenour
- **Low Score:** Rob Baughman, Mark Simon, TJ Blockus, Brian Hissem

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who participated and contributed to the success of this fantastic outing. Special thanks also go to those who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure everything ran smoothly. We look forward to seeing all of you next year for another round of fun and great memories on the fairways!





Tree care professionals trust TREE Fund to help advance new research in arboriculture. Show your support for our programs and help our industry grow!

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Illinois Trees



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