



Illinois Trees

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE ILLINOIS ARBORIST ASSOCIATION

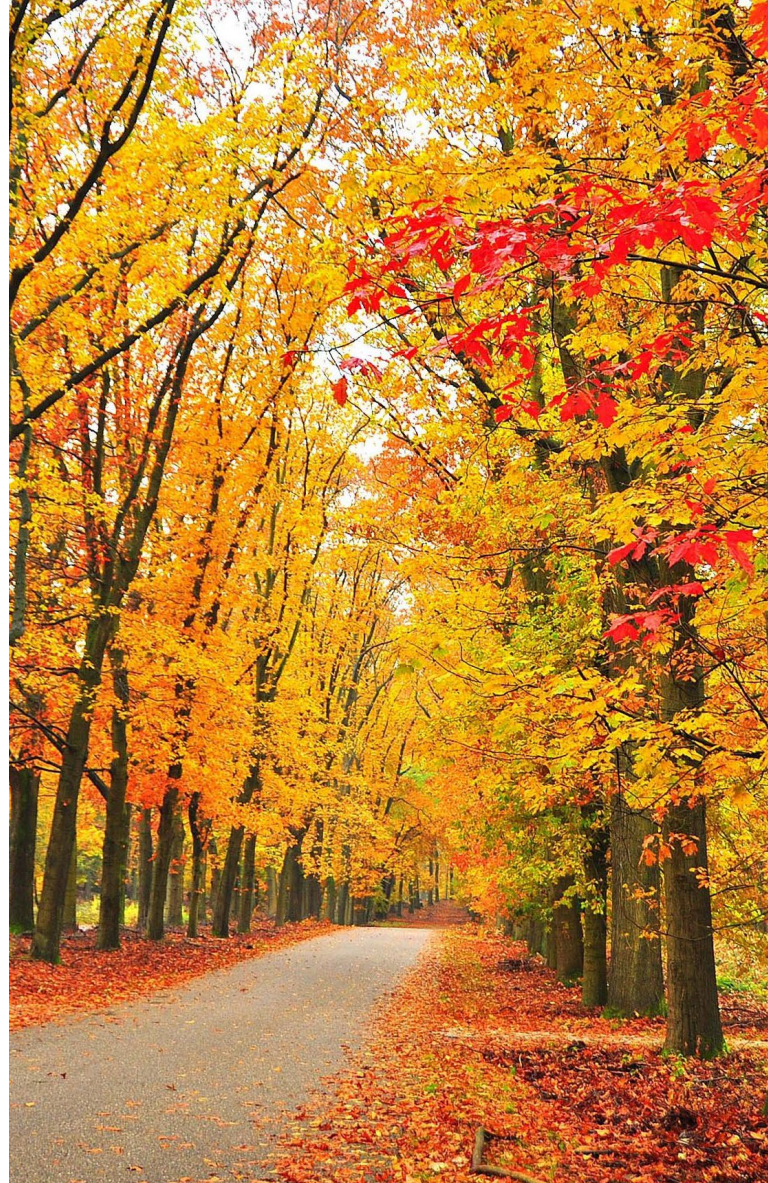


FALL 2025
VOLUME 44

Starved Rock State Park

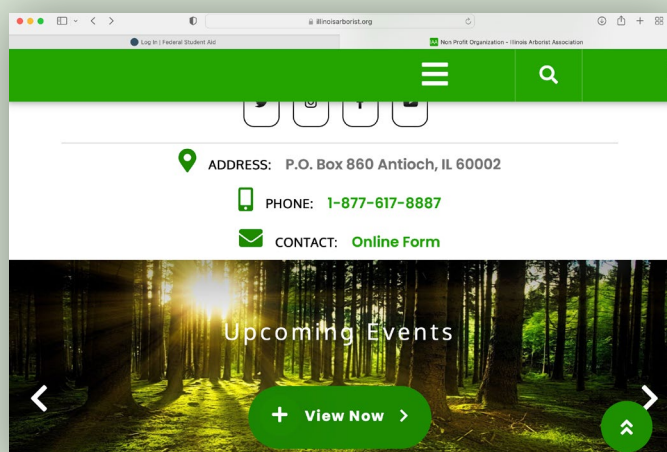
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Mission Statement

"Foster engagement, reinforce standards and exchange professional ideas supported by scientific research among those in the tree care industry."



Visit the IAA Website

for updates on events, certification classes, and important issues impacting our industry.

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Editor's Note

Fall really is one of the best seasons for arborists. Planting new trees, taking in the beauty of the fall foliage and pruning after the leaves have fallen. Fall is when community members pay special attention to the trees in their array of changing colors. It reminds them of the importance of trees environmentally as well as aesthetically as they add value to properties and public spaces.

Sometimes we are disenchanted with being outside when we work with trees day in and day out. However, I challenge myself and each of you to take a walk with family and friends at this time of year and enjoy the true beauty of the season with your loved ones. Taking time to connect in nature is always worth it and you may have some of your most memorable conversations in the process.

"Anyone who thinks fallen leaves are dead has never watched them dancing on a windy day." - S. Tamir

We would love your input as members. Contributions, questions or comments about this publication can be made by contacting me, Amy Martin, [at this link](#).





PLANNING YOUR **Legacy** WHAT DIFFERENCES WILL YOU MAKE?

Hello fellow tree people. Hard to believe my time as President of the IAA is almost up, but it is. I hope that the past year has treated you well and you feel good about the progress you have made towards your goals. I'm reaching a point in my career where many of my goals are focused on those who will carry forward our forestry program once I retire. I'm also writing this shortly after the passing of my wife's grandfather in May, so thoughts of those who have influenced me and my trajectory are on my mind.

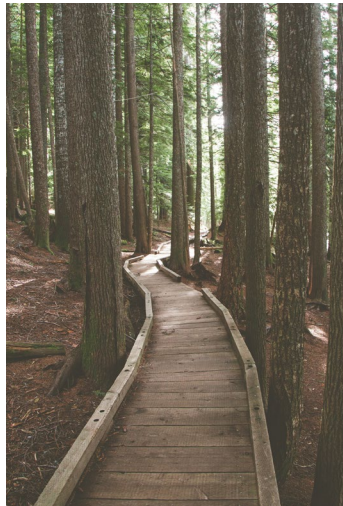
Looking back, there are a great number of people who played a significant role in who I am and where my path has travelled. Neither they nor I may have realized it at the time but each of those relationships impacted how my journey played out. There were both positive and negative impacts, or at least that is how I saw them at the time. Now, I mostly just think of them as stops or turning points on the trail leading to where I am today which I feel is a pretty good place.

Take a moment, if you would, to reflect on those

who have influenced your path. Feel free to sit for a while with those memories. What was it about

those interactions which most affected you? Too often in our hectic lives we find it challenging to make the time to reflect on how we got here and where we are heading. It's good, now and again, to look back on the path and take in the memories.

Now take a moment to reflect on what influences you are having on other folks in your life. Are you making mostly beneficial impacts on those people and their journey? If not, is there a way to change the interactions to achieve mutually beneficial results? What can you do to impact those travelling with and around you through life so that their trajectory can be safe, productive and satisfactory? Remember, it may not seem like a big deal to you or them at the time, but throughout our journeys we are continually accumulating those little pieces that make us who we are.



**"It's good, now
and again, to
look back on
the path and
take in the
memories."**

Be safe and watch out for each other,

Eric Hendrickson

IAA Fall Event Calendar

OCT	Event	Location
2	MATP Aurora, P/RF	Aurora
9	Careers in Arboriculture	Lisle
10	Site Assessment & Design	Cantigny Park
14/15	AT Climbing MRS	Lincoln Park Zoo
15	Tree Biz Social	Palatine
24	MATP Evanston, Rigging	Evanston
NOV	Event	Location
5-7	Full TRAQ	Zion
17	Monday Sessions	Tinley Park
18. 19	IAA Conference	Tinley Park
21	MATP Fremont, AL/CS	Fremont
DEC	Event	Location
11	MATP Lake Bluff, CS/F	Lake Bluff

Get the links to sign up at IAA's website here



UPCOMING PROGRAMMATIC CHANGES TO THE ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualification Credential

ATLANTA, Ga. – The International Society of Arboriculture (ISA), under the guidance of its Credentialing Council and with the support of subject matter experts, announced significant updates to the ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (ISA TRAQ) program in February 2025 through the Arborist News publication. These programmatic changes will become effective 5 November 2025, and include updates to the credential's terms of validity, training materials, and written and performance-based examinations.

This decision follows the most recent Job Task Analysis (JTA) for the program and the ISA Credentialing Council's guidance based on international standards (ASTM 2659-24). ISA routinely conducts JTAs for all credentials to ensure they remain current and relevant to the industry, employers, and the general public. For ISA TRAQ, the JTA process involved a comprehensive review of the program's scope and learning objectives, leading to changes in the training content, materials, and examinations.



Key Changes to the ISA TRAQ Program (effective Nov. 5, 2025)

- **Term of Validity:** The ISA TRAQ credential will now be valid for seven (7) years, extended from its previous five (5) year term. 1
- **Elimination of ISA TRAQ Renewal Program:** To earn a new certificate for the ISA TRAQ credential after expiration, credential holders must complete the full ISA TRAQ program, including retraining and retesting. The ISA TRAQ Renewal program will be discontinued following publication of the updated program. 2
- **Examination Updates:** There will be changes to the ISA TRAQ program impacting both the written and performance-based components of the examination. 3
- ✓ **Written exam:** Expanded from 100 to 110 multiple-choice questions, including 10 pretest questions used for exam development. Candidates will continue to have two (2) hours to complete the exam, with a required passing score of 75%. The exam will now be divided into three domains, with the following question distribution:

Domain in the examination	Percentage of questions associated with domain
Assessment Methodology	61%
Basic Tree Assessment and Risk Analysis	21%
Reporting Assessment Findings and Recommendations	18%

- ✓ **Performance-Based Exam (PBE):** The PBE will incorporate a revised Basic Tree Risk Assessment Form to evaluate candidates' ability to perform a basic tree risk assessment in accordance with the ISA TRAQ curriculum.

- **ISA TRAQ Candidate Materials:** To support reliable and consistent delivery of program resources, promote fairness and impartiality, and reduce ISA's carbon footprint, candidates approved for the ISA TRAQ program will no longer automatically receive printed materials by mail. Instead, all participants will be provided digital access to the materials required to prepare for the program.

ISA extends its appreciation to its Credentialing Council, volunteer subject matter experts, and the more than 3,000 ISA TRAQ credential holders who contributed input through the JTA validation survey. Their expertise and feedback were vital in shaping these updates and ensuring the credential continues to meet professional and public needs.

- 1 The seven (7) year validity applies only to candidates who complete the updated ISA TRAQ program (with revised content, materials, and assessments) after 5 November 2025. Any candidates completing or renewing under the current version of the ISA TRAQ program will continue to earn a certificate valid for five (5) years.
- 2 Please note, the ISA TRAQ Renewal Program will remain available under the current version of the program. Renewal under this version will maintain a certificate valid for five (5) years.
- 3 The current version of the ISA TRAQ examination will continue to be available after 5 November 2025 for candidates needing to retake the exam for up to one year from the start date of their original ISA TRAQ program.



**15
OCT**

MITIGATE TO ELEVATE:
PROACTIVE RISK STRATEGIES FOR LOWER INSURANCE COSTS

Emmett's Brewing Co.
Palatine, IL

Oct. 15, 5:00pm
"Mitigate to Elevate"

Join us at this TreeBiz Social for a deeper dive into the role of proactive risk management in keeping your insurance premiums in check. Mick from ArboRisk will lead a practical and engaging discussion on how tree care companies can shift from a reactive approach to a proactive culture of safety and loss mitigation. With real-world examples and plenty of opportunities for group discussion, this talk is designed to spark conversation and leave you with actionable takeaways.



Careers in Arboriculture

Demonstration Event • Oct. 9, 2025

GATEWAY TO TREE SCIENCE AT THE MORTON ARBORETUM

The IAA is pleased to invite you to our 3rd Annual Careers in Arboriculture Demonstration Event on Oct. 9, 2025 at The Morton Arboretum, hosted at the Gateway to Tree Science.

This unique event offers attendees the opportunity to engage with industry professionals through live demonstrations, educational presentations, and a career fair featuring local companies and organizations hiring for tree care and related roles.

An evening reception will follow the day's activities, creating additional networking opportunities with industry leaders, educators, and peers.

Don't miss this chance to explore meaningful careers in arboriculture and connect with the professionals shaping the future of the field.

A heartfelt thank you to The Morton Arboretum for generously hosting us again, and to all our prospective sponsors and supporters helping make this event a success.

- 9:00am **Check In**
Displays & Career Fair Booths
- 10:00am **Welcome**
IAA Rep, Morton Arboretum Rep & Event Sponsors

[WEBPAGE & REGISTRATION](#)

[CONSIDER SPONSORING THIS EVENT >>](#)

Agenda of Events

- 10:30am **Tree Planting**
Speaker: Daniel Miraval & Michelle Catania
- 11:30am **Lunch** - Displays & Career Fair Pavillion Area
- 12:30pm **Abiotic/Biotic Diagnostics on Trees**
Speaker: Jen Morgan
- Root Collar Excavation**
Speaker: Daniel Miraval & Brianna White
- 1:30pm **Aerial Production Applications**
Speaker: Phil Prohaska & Arboretum staff
- 2:30pm **Break** - Displays & Career Fair Booth, Pavillion Area
- 3:00pm **Urban Forest Population Management**
Speaker: Nathan Paulus
- Drone Use in Arboriculture**
Speaker: Greg Butler
- 4:00pm **Careers in Arboriculture**
Panel: TBD
- 4:30pm **Career Fair** - Food & Refreshments, Pavillion Area





Update ON Factors Responsible for Decline of Illinois Rural, Forest & Urban Oaks 2023-2025

PREPARED BY: FREDRIC MILLER, STEPHANIE ADAMS,
CASSIDY RAYFIELD, AND JENNIFER NORBUT

INTRODUCTION

Since the late 1970s, oak decline and mortality have plagued Midwestern-upland oak hickory forests, particularly species in the red oak group (*Quercus* Section *Lobatae*) across the Ozark Highlands of Missouri, Arkansas, and Oklahoma (Martin et al. 2011; Reed et al. 2017). Drought is a common inciting factor in oak decline, while advanced tree age is considered a predisposing factor, and opportunistic organisms such as *Armillaria* root fungi and red oak borers are believed to contribute to oak decline and mortality. Declining trees first show foliage wilt and browning followed by progressive branch dieback in the middle and/or upper crown. Trees eventually die if crown dieback continues.

More recently, rapid oak decline has been on the increase throughout the Midwest (Reed et al., 2017). Reports of oak trees declining and dying within 1 to 2 growing seasons has been reported for both oaks growing in natural areas and rural forests as well as trees living in urban areas such as landscapes, parks, parkways, and recreational areas. The rapid

decline of oaks in “urban areas” is not surprising due to the prevalence of competition with turf, soil compaction, mechanical wounding, improper site and plant selection, and other human-caused activities. Rapid decline and death of oaks in rural forests is puzzling and more alarming due to the loss of mature trees, minimal oak regeneration and major ecological benefits.

Oak decline is defined as a disorder or phenomena that occurs on a relatively short temporal scale, across many individuals, of which the decline is often irreversible without intervention. It is typically witnessed in mature trees, but a tree in decline does not always die, but decline episodes are marked by high mortality within a population (Gosling et al. 2024 and references therein).

Multiple causal agents are commonly associated with oak decline. Manion’s (1981) decline model separates factors that might cause decline diseases into three categories; predisposing factors such as genetics and soil factors; inciting factors such as defoliators, drought and pollution; and contributing factors, such as secondary pests and pathogenic fungi (Figure 1).



Figure 1: Manion’s tree decline spiral (Taken from Manion, 1981)

Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA) and related testing techniques have been used to determine the presence of oomycetes (“water

molds') associated with oak root absorptive root-rhizosphere interface. Following lab culturing, DNA sequencing has identified a number of pathogenic oomycete species potentially responsible for oak fine root rot and death.

Based on studies conducted in the U.S. and Europe, a number of oomycetes have been confirmed to be pathogens of herbaceous and woody plants, and a few have been found in soils associated with declining oaks. Studies utilizing Koch's postulate have identified these species as pathogenic on oaks.

The oomycetes or "water molds" consist of over 100 to 500 species and the absorptive root pathogens are found in three genera, the *Phytophthora*, *Pythium*, and *Phytopythium*. In the past, the oomycetes were classified as fungi, but while they possess fungal-like morphology, they are not considered true fungi and more recently they have been reclassified with kelp and diatoms. Some species are pathogenic and are capable of infecting plants while others are saprophytes. Several oomycetes are quite destructive including *Phytophthora infestans*, which causes sudden oak death (SOD).

The genus *Phytophthora* (from the Greek *Phyton*, a plant, *phthora*, destroyer) is among the most destructive group of plant pathogens forest ecosystems, (i.e. *P. cinnamoni* and *P. ramorum*) which affect oaks (*Quercus* spp.). There are numerous *Phytophthora* species, with many still to be described in forests worldwide. *Phytophthora* as a genus demonstrates extreme variability in genetic and phenotypic plasticity, pathogenicity, host range, and long-term survival strategies.

Consequently, the biology, ecology, pathology, and genetics of the majority of *Phytophthora* species are still poorly understood. Often only small shifts in environmental conditions whether biological, chemical, or physical are required to trigger a *Phytophthora* disease event.



"The genus *Phytophthora* is among the most destructive group of plant pathogens in forest ecosystems which effect oaks."

The species of *Pythium* are cosmopolitan, widely distributed throughout the world, and occupy several diverse ecological niches. Some species of *Pythium* are known as pathogens of various plants, including forest and fruit trees; they lead to rot of fruit, rot of roots, and stems, and pre- or postemergence dampingoff.

In a previous article, we provided a brief preliminary report of possible factors that may contribute to oak decline and death. Since then, we have made progress on determining the extent of *Phytophthora*, *Pythium*, and *Phytopythium* spp. infecting oak roots in Illinois urban and rural forest settings. Additionally, recent studies by Watson and Adams (2024), Remsen (2024), and Remsen et al, (2025) have added to our knowledge regarding the role of oomycetes in urban oak decline.

In order to further understand the multiple factors affecting oak tree health, The Morton Arboretum in cooperation with the Illinois Forest Health program, and the University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point, undertook a long-term study to better understand the factor(s) responsible for the decline and rapid death of oaks occurring in both urban and rural forests.

► **This article will continue the next issue with the project objectives and results. Stay tuned for the Illinois Trees Winter issue for more information on this study.**

ANNUAL CONFERENCE



**TINLEY PARK
CONVENTION CENTER**
NOV. 17-19, 2025

MONDAY PRE CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

NOV. 17, 2025 8:00AM-4:30PM

Time/Room	Session	Speaker(s)	CEUs
8:00AM - 12:00PM Room: TBD	Understanding Construction Impacts to Trees During Construction	Joe Hansen, Tree Preservation Officer, Village of Wilmette	4 CEUs
12:30 - 4:30PM Room: TBD	Prescribed Fire Basic Training	Kevin Rohling and Christopher W. Evans, Extension Forestry and Research Specialists, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	4 CEUs
8:00AM - 4:30PM Room: TBD	The Urban Soils & Nutrient Management Module	Dr. Fredric Miller, Senior Scientist-Entomology, The Morton Arboretum	8 CEUs

TUESDAY GENERAL SESSIONS

NOV. 18, 2025 7:30AM-11:50AM

Time/Room	Session	Speaker(s)	CEUs
7:30AM - 8:30AM Room: SP 1 & 2	Update from ISA, IAA Online Learning Update, Presentations from Vendors & Sponsors	Various	-
8:30AM - 9:15AM Room: SP 1 & 2	Soil & Tree Health Management - Air Tools	Rosalind Remsen, Technical Advisor, The Davey Tree Expert Company	0.75 CEUs
9:15AM - 10:00AM Room: SP 1 & 2	What's All the Buzz? Planting for Bees, Butterflies & Other Bee-t-ful Friends	Dr. Laura Jull, Associate Professor, University of Wisconsin-Madison	0.75 CEUs
10:00AM - 10:30AM Room: SP 1 & 2	BREAK	-	-
10:30AM - 11:50AM Room: SP 1 & 2	Are You a Leader or a Boss?	Randall H. Miller, Director of Research and Development, Eocene Environmental Group	1.25 CEUs

TUESDAY JIM SCHUSTER PLANT HEALTH CARE CORNER SESSIONS

NOV. 18, 2025 1:00-4:00PM

Time/Room	Session	Speaker(s)	CEUs
1:00 - 2:00PM Room: Exhibit Hall	Diagnosing Plant Problems: The Nuts and Bolts of Effective Field Diagnostics	Dr. Fredric Miller, Senior Scientist-Entomology, The Morton Arboretum	1 CEU
2:00 - 2:45PM Room: Exhibit Hall	Oak Diagnostics & Management: Oak Wilt, Oak Decline, and Bur Oak Blight	Rosalind Remsen, Technical Advisor, The Davey Tree Expert Company	0.75 CEUs
2:45 - 3:15PM Room: West Exhibit Hall	BREAK	-	-
3:15 - 4:00PM Room: Exhibit Hall	Long-term Effects of Tree Injections to Treat Emerald Ash Borer in Fraxinus Pennsylvanica	Dr. Jake Miesbauer, Arboriculture Scientist, The Morton Arboretum	0.75 CEUs

TUESDAY MUNICIPAL SESSIONS

NOV. 18, 2025 1:00-4:00PM

Time/Room	Session	Speaker(s)	CEUs
1:00 - 2:00PM Room: SP 1	Involving Multi-Institutional Stakeholder Groups to Advance Local Urban Forestry and Arboriculture-Related Initiatives	Asia Dowtin, Ph.D., Assoc. Professor of Urban Forestry, Michigan State University	1 CEU
2:00 - 2:45PM Room: SP 1	Efficient and Effective Tree Watering in the Urban Environment	Jim Semelka, Consulting Municipal Arborist, Great Lakes Urban Forestry	0.75 CEUs
2:45 - 3:15PM Room: West Exhibit Hall	BREAK	-	-
3:15 - 4:00PM Room: SP 1	How Illinois Tree City USA Feeds Our Profession, What's New, Federal Program Updates	Mike Brunk, Urban & Community Forestry Program Administrator, Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources	0.75 CEUs

TUESDAY UTILITY SESSIONS

NOV. 18, 2025 1:00-4:00PM

Time/Room	Session	Speaker(s)	CEUs
1:00 - 2:00PM Room: Sam Tinley Room	Remote Sensing Technologies in Vegetation Management: ComEd's Journey and Insights	Nick Day, Principal Program Manager, ComEd	1 CEU
2:00 - 2:45PM Room: Sam Tinley Room	Two Hands Are Better Than One, Faster	Brandon Dobnick, GTC Supervisor, SavATree	0.75 CEUs
2:45 - 3:15PM Room: West Exhibit Hall	BREAK	-	-
3:15 - 4:00PM Room: Sam Tinley Room	Meeting Client Expectations	Randall T. Miller, Director of Research & Development, Eocene Environmental Group	0.75 CEUs

TUESDAY IFA SESSIONS

NOV. 18, 2025 1:00-4:00PM

Time/Room	Session	Speaker(s)	CEUs
1:00 - 2:00 PM Room: SP 5 & 6	Conservation Connections: Forests, Moths, Birds & Bats	Kevin Rohling, Extension Specialist in Forestry, University of Illinois	1 CEU
2:00 - 2:45 PM Room: SP 5 & 6	Urban Wildlife	Seth Magle, Director, Urban Wildlife Institute, Lincoln Park Zoo	0.75 CEUs
2:45 - 3:15PM Room: West Exhibit Hall	BREAK	-	-
3:15 - 4:00PM Room: SP 5 & 6	Attracting Bats by Providing Natural and Artificial Roosts	Joy O'Keefe, Assoc. Professor, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign	0.75 CEUs

MARTES SESIONES DE ESPAÑOL

NOV. 18, 2025 8:40AM-4:00PM

Hora/Sala	Sesión	Oradores	CEUs
8:40 - 10:00AM Sala: SP 3 & 4	Historia del Cordaje - History of Rigging	Eduardo Medina, Davey Tree Expert Co. & Felipe Cornejo, Bartlett Tree Experts	1.25 CEUs
10:00 - 10:30AM Sala: West Exhibit Hall	TOMAR PAUSA	-	-
10:30 - 11:50AM Sala: SP 3 & 4	Arboles y Raices - Trees & Roots	Daniel Miraval, Emerald Tree Care LLC	1.25 CEUs
11:50AM - 1:00PM Sala: West Exhibit Hall	ALMUERZO	-	-
1:00 - 2:00PM Sala: SP 3 & 4	Herramienta Para Cordaje - Rigging Tools & Techniques	Eduardo Medina, Davey Tree Expert Co. & Felipe Cornejo, Bartlett Tree Experts	1 CEU
2:00 - 2:45PM Sala: West Exhibit Hall	Instalacion de Cuerda - Rope Installation	Eduardo Medina, Davey Tree Expert Co. & Felipe Cornejo, Bartlett Tree Experts	0.75 CEUs
2:45 - 3:15PM Sala: West Exhibit Hall	TOMAR PAUSA	-	-
3:15 - 4:00PM Sala: SP 3 & 4	El Camino Seguro - The Safety Way	Eduardo Medina, Davey Tree Expert Co. & Felipe Cornejo, Bartlett Tree Experts	0.75 CEUs

PLATINUM SPONSORS:



TUESDAY DEMONSTRATION TREE

NOV. 18, 2025 8:40AM-4:00PM

Time/Room	Session	Speaker(s)	CEUs
8:40 - 10:00AM Room: West Exhibit Hall	Job Briefing & Proper Tree Inspection	Libby Bower, Brandon Dobnick, Cameron Hughes, William Volchko, Lily Soderlund	1.25 CEUs
10:00 - 10:30AM Room: West Exhibit Hall	BREAK	-	-
10:30 - 11:50AM Room: West Exhibit Hall	Climbing Systems (Including Canopy Anchors & Branch Union Selection)	Libby Bower, Brandon Dobnick, Cameron Hughes, William Volchko, Lily Soderlund	1.25 CEUs
11:50AM - 1:00PM Room: West Exhibit Hall	LUNCH	-	-
1:00 - 2:00PM Room: West Exhibit Hall	Setting & Using a Retrievable Block & Basal Redirect Block (Forces & Scenario Examples)	Libby Bower, Brandon Dobnick, Cameron Hughes, William Volchko, Lily Soderlund	1 CEU
2:00 - 2:45PM Room: West Exhibit Hall	Spanish Session: Rope Installation - Instalacion de Cuerda	Eduardo Medina, Davey Tree Expert Co. & Felipe Cornejo, Bartlett Tree Experts	0.75 CEUs
2:45 - 3:15PM Room: West Exhibit Hall	BREAK	-	-
3:15 - 4:00PM Room: West Exhibit Hall	Tip, Tie, & Lift (Using Mechanical Advantage)	Libby Bower, Brandon Dobnick, Cameron Hughes, William Volchko, Lily Soderlund	0.75 CEUs



GOLD SPONSOR:



 a MasTec company



WEDNESDAY GENERAL SESSIONS

NOV. 19, 2025 8:00AM-12:00PM

Time/Room	Session	Speaker(s)	CEUs
8:00 - 9:00AM Room: SP 1 & 2	Building Capacity for Urban Forestry Research & Practice: Lessons Learned from Multi-Institutional Collaborations & Partnerships	Asia Dowtin, Ph.D. Assoc. Professor of Urban Forestry, Michigan State University	1 CEU
9:00 - 10:00AM Room: SP 1 & 2	Prescription Pruning: How to Get What You Want for Your Trees	Dr. Jake Miesbauer, Arboriculture Scientist, The Morton Arboretum	1 CEU
10:00 - 10:30AM Room: West Exhibit Hall	BREAK	-	-
10:30 - 11:15AM Room: SP 1 & 2	Survival Rates of Parkway Trees	Dr. Jess Vogt & Lindsey Williams, DePaul University	0.75 CEUs
11:15AM - 12:00PM Room: SP 1 & 2	Illinois Pest Update	Tricia Bethke, Plant Health Care Outreach Specialist, The Morton Arboretum	0.75 CEUs

WEDNESDAY MUNICIPAL SESSIONS

NOV. 19, 2025 1:00-3:00PM

Time/Room	Session	Speaker(s)	CEUs
1:00 - 2:00PM Room: SP 1	What Can We Do for Our Trees in the City? A Tale of Soil Profile Rebuilding	Yujuan Chen, Associate Professor, Tennessee State University	1 CEU
2:00 - 3:00PM Room: SP 1	A Tree Decline Disease Concept	Glen Stanosz, Emeritus Professor of Tree & Forest Health, UW-Madison	1 CEU

WEDNESDAY COMMERCIAL SESSIONS

NOV. 19, 2025 1:00-3:00PM

Time/Room	Session	Speaker(s)	CEUs
1:00 - 2:00PM Room: SP 2	Plant Health Improvement with Potassium Phosphite	Bill Stringfellow, Director, Quest Products Corporation	1 CEU
2:00 - 3:00PM Room: SP 2	Pruning Mitigation Strategies	Dr. Jake Miesbauer, Arboriculture Scientist, The Morton Arboretum	1 CEU

WEDNESDAY UTILITY SESSIONS

NOV. 19, 2025 1:00-3:00PM

Time/Room	Session	Speaker(s)	CEUs
1:00 - 2:00PM Room: SP 3 & 4	Two Hands Are Better Than One, Faster	Brandon Dobnick, GTC Supervisor, SavATree LLC	1 CEU
2:00 - 3:00PM Room: SP 3 & 4	Goats: ComEd's Transmission Roomba	Kelvin Limbrick, Sr. Program Manager, ComEd Vegetation Management	1 CEU

WEDNESDAY IFA SESSIONS

NOV. 19, 2025 1:00-3:00PM

Time/Room	Session	Speaker(s)	CEUs
1:00 - 2:00PM Room: SP 5 & 6	Ticks and Tick-Borne Diseases	Chris Stone, Medical Entomologist, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign	1 CEU
2:00 - 3:00PM Room: SP 5 & 6	Herbicide Safety	Chris Evans, Extension Specialist in Forestry, University of Illinois	1 CEU



WEDNESDAY JIM SCHUSTER PLANT HEALTH CARE CORNER SESSIONS

NOV. 19, 2025 1:00-3:00PM

Time/Room	Session	Speaker(s)	CEUs
1:00 - 2:00PM Room: Exhibit Hall	Biology & Parasitic Fungi ID (Part 1 of 2)	Chelsi Abbott, Plant Pathologist/Education Specialist, The Davey Tree Expert Company	1 CEU
2:00 - 3:00PM Room: Exhibit Hall	Saprotrophic Fungi ID and Wood Decay Management (Part 2 of 2)	Chelsi Abbott, Plant Pathologist/Education Specialist, The Davey Tree Expert Company	1 CEU

WEDNESDAY DEMONSTRATION TREE

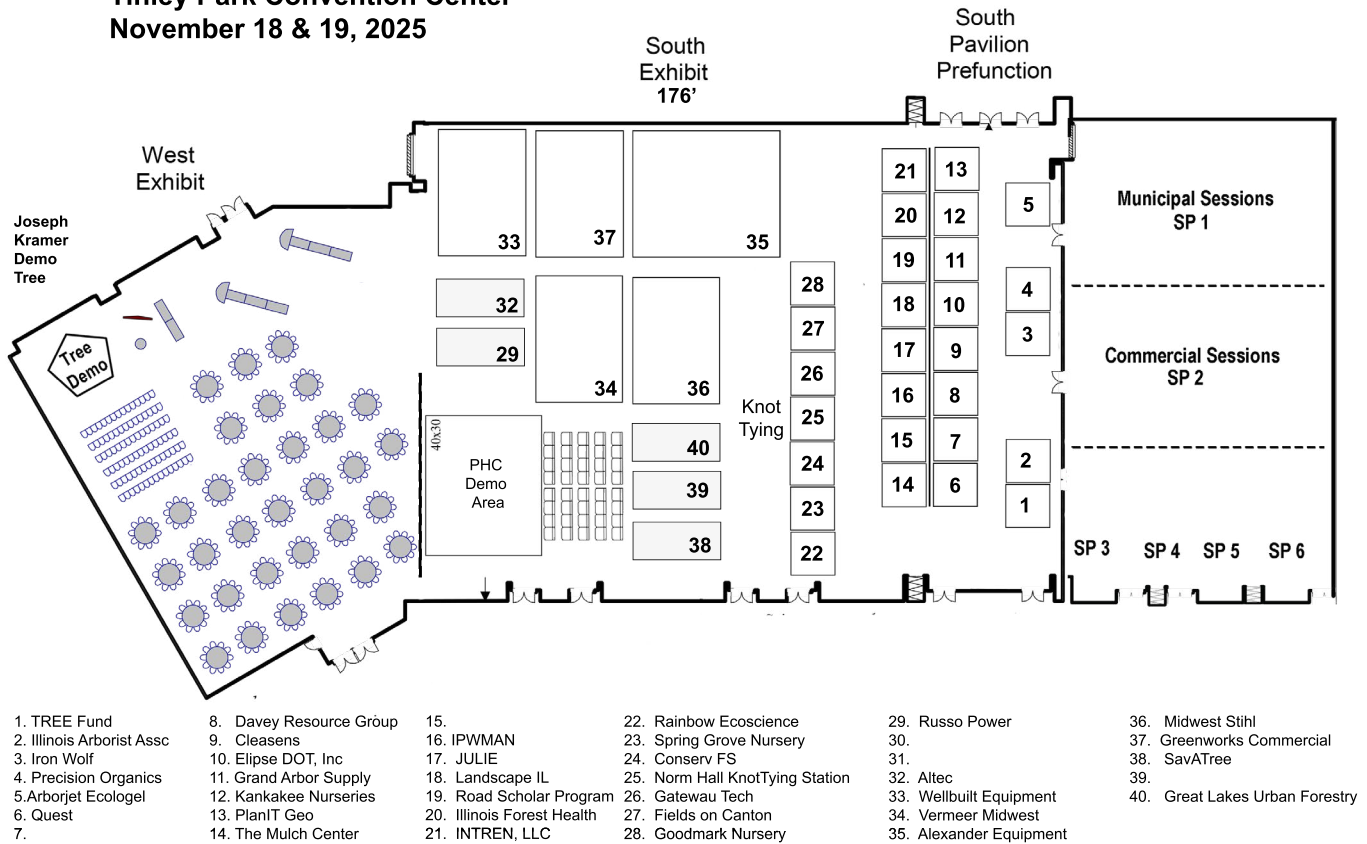
NOV. 19, 2025 8:00AM-3:00PM

Time/Room	Session	Speaker(s)	CEUs
8:00 - 10:00AM Room: West Exhibit Hall	Dragon Tail Technique and Balance Limb Removal Using a Spider Leg (or Single Rope)	Libby Bower, Brandon Dobnick, Cameron Hughes, William Volchko	2 CEUs
10:00 - 10:30AM Room: West Exhibit Hall	BREAK	-	-
10:30AM - 12:00PM Room: West Exhibit Hall	Proper Notches in a Tree (Open Face vs Traditional and Proper Angle)	Libby Bower, Brandon Dobnick, Cameron Hughes, William Volchko	1.5 CEUs
12:00 - 1:00PM Room: West Exhibit Hall	LUNCH	-	-
1:00 - 3:00PM Room: West Exhibit Hall	Rigging the Tree Down (Incorporating Aerial Rescue Techniques on a Spar if Applicable and Time Allows)	Libby Bower, Brandon Dobnick, Cameron Hughes, William Volchko	2 CEUs

IAA 2025 Annual Conference & Trade Show

Tinley Park Convention Center

November 18 & 19, 2025



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Norm Hall Memorial Fund for Training & Education

Norm Hall was, and still is, remembered well in our industry. Norm was an extraordinary arborist, educator, leader, mentor and friend to all. Norm had an impact on everyone, whether you knew it or not. Did you know Norm was co-creator of the Port A-Wrap? Most of us have seen or used this device at one time or another. Many of us have seen, read, or attended a training created, taught or attended by Norm.

In November 2023, we lost Norm, a massive personal and professional loss to our industry. To honor Norm's legacy of safety and skills, we have established the Norm Hall Memorial Fund for Training and Education. This fund was born from a collective desire to carry on the vision or empowering arborists through "hands-on" training. The purpose of the fund is to enable more arborists and tree workers to participate in hands-on training.

Our goal is to reach \$50,000 by January 2026. We need your help doing this. Below you will find a QR code which will direct you directly to Norm's Scholarship Page where you can make a donation. Thank you for your support!

Norm Hall
Memorial
Fund

TRAINING



Norm's passing was huge blow to the tree care industry and his legacy will always be remembered. His impact and influence on so many are very apparent. It is because of people like Norm Hall that our industry is safer, healthier, and more professional. Not a day goes by that I don't think of him multiple times, and so much of my career has been formed by his wisdom and experience.

Norm was the type of friend where, when he needed help, you dropped what you were doing to help him. That's who he was, and that's who I try to be each and every day. All we can do is lead by Norm's example: show everyone compassion, be a teacher, do things right, don't take shortcuts, and be selfless.

Norm made me feel valuable and believe that what I was doing was making an impact. I only hope I impacted his life as much as he did mine. I'm forever grateful to have known him and called him a friend.

Tony Dati

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treefund.org

Stop by the TREE Fund booth at the IAA Annual Conference & Trade Show:

- Receive info about TREE Fund's grants and scholarships
- Learn about our free Webinar Series and how to earn free CEUs towards your certification
- Purchase tickets for the annual raffle to support TREE Fund (Nov 18).

Help endow the new **Norm Hall Fund** and support education and training for arborists.

Scan the QR code to donate.



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WHAT WE KNOW AND WHAT WE DO NOT KNOW ABOUT TREE STABILITY

Karl Niklas, Emeritus Professor, School of Integrative Plant Science, Plant Biology Section, Cornell University

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