

A close-up photograph of pink cherry blossoms in full bloom, with green leaves and dark branches visible. The background is a soft-focus view of a tree canopy against a bright sky.

Illinois Trees

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE ILLINOIS ARBORIST ASSOCIATION

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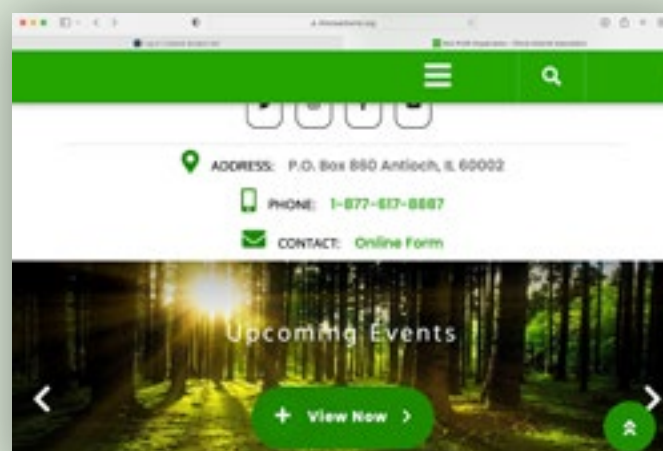
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Mission Statement

"Foster engagement, reinforce standards and exchange professional ideas supported by scientific research"



Visit the IAA Website

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

P R E S I D E N T ' S M E S S A G E



Finite Resources

HOW DO YOU USE YOURS?

Welcome fellow tree people to my second of four "Words from the President". Thank you to everyone who has made the effort to open the link to look at our newsletter. There are many things which we have limited quantities - time, money, attention. How we devote those resources says a lot about our priorities and I appreciate that you devoted a bit of your time and attention to our newsletter.

Every person and every company need to determine which activities they consider the best use of their limited resources. Think about the things you and your company have made the most important. Is it safety? Is it productivity? Hopefully, safety isn't being sacrificed in the pursuit of productivity, our industry is hazardous enough without folks cutting corners on safety. Where do building relationships and development, both business and personal, fall on that list?

Your Board of Directors recently completed our Strategic planning session, developing the road map for how we will serve you over the next several years. There is an amazing group of people serving on the Board at this time and I am excited for the direction we will be travelling. After a time of contemplation and discussion around what the Illinois Arborist Association does best, and can do

for the membership, we have reworded our mission statement to focus on our strengths. The new mission statement will be "Foster engagement, reinforce standards and exchange professional ideas supported by scientific research." Not a huge change, but one that provides a better sense of clarity for what we are looking to achieve as an organization.

Connectivity is part of our strategic goals, as the best way to elevate the tree care profession is to connect folks in the industry to the people and resources they need to take the next steps on their journey. We want to connect as many people in the industry as possible. We are not just looking to serve ISA Certified Arborists; we want to be a resource for anyone who impacts trees. In the spirit of that goal, I'm asking you to think about the people you know. Is there anyone who could benefit from making connections with people in our industry or learning more

about safe and professional tree care? Why not bring them with you to the next IAA or other tree related event you attend or share this newsletter with them?

Together, we are building the community to carry our profession forward. What a great way to spend some of our limited resources.

Stay safe,
Eric Hendrickson

"We want to connect as many people in the industry as possible. We are not just looking to serve Certified Arborists; we want to be a resource for anyone who impacts trees."

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Editor's Note

Hello fellow arborists, glad to have you here! I am happy to be helping with the organization and design of this quarterly newsletter. The board and article contributors want to create engaging and informative material that will help further your work in arboriculture, and hope you take away something you can use in practical ways in your industry.

As IAA members, we would love to help make your ideas and experiences known. Contributions, questions or comments can be made by contacting Amy Martin, [at this link](#).

Spring Tip 🌸 (Suggested by my arb friend - see magnolia sample above): Clip budding branches from magnolias, flowering quince, flowering cherry, forsythia, etc and place in cool water in a jar or vase indoors. Change the water often and watch the beautiful blooms open in your home or office.



Breaking Through the Glass Canopy Women in Arboriculture

WRITTEN BY SARAH CHRISTENSEN



I am honored to have this opportunity to introduce myself as IAA's newest Municipal Director. A little bit about myself: I have been the Forester for the Village of Bartlett for 11 years, previously work for The Care of Trees (Davey) and the Morton Arboretum, each for 4 years. During my tenure at Bartlett, I'm incredibly proud that we have become a Tree City USA community for the first time in the Village's history, I have obtained my ISA Municipal Specialist (now Urban Forest Professional) and TRAQ credentials, and I was successful in completing the Village's first digital inventory and management plan.

Even though I have only been a board member for a few months, it has been a great experience and I am excited to be a part of the group. Some of my interests in municipal forestry include education, community outreach, and advocating for the importance and value of forestry within Public Works. In this role, I hope to promote and develop these concepts to all our members' benefit!

Another area of forestry that I am very passionate about is the role of women in a male dominated industry. I believe the strength of our field lies in the variety of perspectives and skills each individual brings to the table. Don't get me wrong: I've never thought a person should be offered a position or

opportunity just because of their gender. However, I would be lying if I said it wasn't in the forefront of my experience as an arborist and professional.

I grew up in rural Western New York and went to college at Cornell University, where I earned a degree in Plant Science and a minor in Horticulture. During the summer between my junior and senior

year, I did an internship at the botanic gardens and arboretum on campus. It was an incredible experience where I gained valuable, hands-on information that you don't always get from the classroom. It was through this internship that I was first introduced to the concept of girdling roots as a result of planting trees too deeply. To this day, I use this knowledge every time I take a call about a struggling Norway Maple in the parkway.

After a summer of developing relationships with the staff, they eventually shared with me that they almost did not offer me the job. Some staff members were "concerned" with how professionally I dressed for my interview. I guess they took one look at my heels and thought I "may not be physically able" to perform the outdoor, manual labor the position required. This internship changed the trajectory of my career, where I first took an interest in trees more than gardens. What a shame that I was nearly robbed of this experience because of my footwear!

(continued on next page)

In recent years, the Illinois Arborist Association has seen a welcome and inspiring increase in women entering the field of arboriculture. It is difficult to get specific data on this growth, since gender has never been a demographic collected by IAA. However, in my 15 years of attending the conference, I have noticed this change firsthand. I have gone from counting the number of female attendees on one hand, to nowadays not even thinking about counting since the numbers are much more equitable.

Another great example is the Illinois Tree Climbing Competition. In 2024, we had the highest ever turnout of female competitors at nine. Historically, participation has been as high as four on very rare occasions. It was also the first time that a first, second, and third place were awarded for female climbers. To be eligible for an award, the competitors must successfully complete each event. Well done, ladies!

My increased involvement in IAA has made me more aware of ways the organization supports women in the industry. One example is the [Fran Ward Women in Arboriculture Scholarship](#) through the TREE Fund. This scholarship provides financial support for college students to foster a greater appreciation of shade trees and promote the science and practice of professional arboriculture by women. Details can be found on the [TREE Fund website](#).

As a way to shed light on this topic I am so passionate about, this article is the beginning of a series that will highlight other inspiring women in the industry of arboriculture. My goal is to interview other women to share their stories, including their backgrounds, challenges, and experiences in a male dominated field. I hope these candid conversations bring about some good discussions that we all can learn and grow from!

Norm Hall Memorial Fund in 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



“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

ILLINOIS TREE CLIMBING COMPETITION '25

MAY 31 QUALIFYING EVENTS
8:30AM
JUNE 1 MASTERS' CHALLENGE
8:00AM

HERRICK LAKE FOREST PRESERVE
WHEATON, IL



Arbor fair, food & more!

Bring your own lawnchair or blanket.



SIU Forestry Field Day

A Hands-On Experience for the Next Generation of Arborists

WRITTEN BY ANDREW RANNEY

The Southern Illinois University Forestry Field Day is more than just an event—it's a unique opportunity for forestry students to take their classroom knowledge into the real world. This two-and-a-half-day immersive experience is designed to equip students with hands-on training in crucial areas of arboriculture, such as chainsaw operation, tree felling, invasive species management, tree climbing, and chipper operation. Additionally, the event features a career fair, offering students the chance to network with professionals and explore various career paths within the industry.

Held at the Touch of Nature Environmental Center, with the first day taking place at Dixon Springs Agricultural Center, this event brings together students, faculty, industry professionals, and volunteers in a collaborative environment focused on safety and practical application. The event emphasizes the importance of safe work practices in arboriculture, with industry professionals providing expert guidance and mentoring throughout the training sessions.

Why Your Company Should Get Involved

My company, Skyline Tree Service, has been fortunate to participate in this event, and we've witnessed firsthand the impact it has on shaping the future of the arboriculture industry. The career fair, introduced a few years ago, has quickly become a vital part of the event, connecting students with potential employers and helping them to find their place within the industry. This

has been a crucial step in advancing the growth of the arboriculture workforce.

The career fair is an excellent platform for tree care companies to showcase their career opportunities and interact one-on-one with motivated students who are passionate about forestry and arboriculture. From non-profit organizations to commercial and municipal sectors, there's a wide range of career paths available in this industry for the students to explore.

With 38 students and 21 professional volunteers participating this year, the event continues to grow in significance and scope. Sponsors like Davey Tree, Kramer Tree Specialists, Noble Oak Safety & Training, SAVATREE, Great Lakes Urban Forestry, Stephanie Adams, Skyline Tree Service, and Bartlett Tree Experts have all contributed to the success of this event.

Sign Up for Forestry Field Day [MAY 12 & 13, 2025](#)

The SIU Forestry Field Day is scheduled for May 12 and 13, 2025. Don't miss your chance to be a part of this impactful event. Volunteer opportunities and booth spaces are filling up quickly, so [sign up now](#) to secure your spot. Don't miss out on the chance to interact with talented students who are eager to begin their careers in arboriculture. Your involvement can make a lasting impact, not only on the students but also on the future of your company and the industry as a whole.



FEATURED FORESTRY STUDENT:

Frannie Hannigan



As we gear up for this year's event, we're excited to share a student's perspective on the transformative experiences at SIU's Forestry Field Day.

1. What is your graduating year and major?

I'm graduating in May 2025 with a Bachelor of Science in Forestry and a specialization in Wildlife Habitat Management and Conservation.

2. What was your favorite part of the SIU Forestry Field Day?

My favorite part was felling. The professionals spent a lot of time explaining each step to ensure we felt comfortable enough to try it ourselves. Trying something like felling for the first time can be nerve-racking, but it was an unforgettable experience.

3. What skills did you find most valuable during the event?

Within all aspects of forestry, especially urban forestry, the importance of proper PPE was emphasized. The professionals did a fantastic job explaining the role of PPE, particularly for felling and chainsaw management. This is a critical tool I'll carry with me throughout my career.

4. How has this experience influenced your career goals?

The SIU Forestry Field Day broadened the spectrum of careers and specialties I could pursue. It was also invaluable to speak with professionals in the field, learn about their careers, and understand the day-to-day tasks they perform.

5. What aspect of the career fair was most beneficial for you?

The most beneficial aspect was learning directly from professionals actively working in the field of forestry.

6. What advice would you give to future students participating in the SIU Forestry Field Day?

Ask as many questions as you can, and be prepared for lots of hands-on experience. I walked away with much more confidence in tasks I had only previously discussed in class. It was great to leave with newfound confidence in my career.

ComEd Reliability G.O.A.T.s



WRITTEN BY KELVIN LIMBRICK

ComEd, the largest electric utility in Illinois, is dedicated to safety, reliability and stewarding the environment the utility works in. As an electric utility, ComEd is responsible for maintaining the power equipment that serves its customers, but it also maintains the green spaces under the power lines. Throughout northern Illinois, ComEd maintains more than 5,300 miles of overhead transmission lines, which cross prairies, wetlands, forests, agricultural lands, and suburban and urban areas. Throughout the service territory, ComEd transforms its green space into natural prairies. Following the Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM) protocol ComEd plans to restore approximately 15,000 acres of greenspace, growing the 500-acre ComEd Prairie Program and enrolling more acres in the Monarch Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances program.

Taking steps to preserve the environment, not only lowers maintenance costs and benefits local

species, but also creates a better world for our neighbors by improving air and water quality while addressing erosion concerns. Unfortunately, sometimes ComEd's vegetation management crews hit a wall; a steep, remotely located safety concern wall.

"We need a goat to get up and down these slopes."

"We need a goat to get up and down these slopes," was the conclusion following a meeting regarding vegetation management beneath transmission lines in and around Peoria International Airport's National Guard base. Elevation changes ranged up to 63 feet with steep grades in a riparian

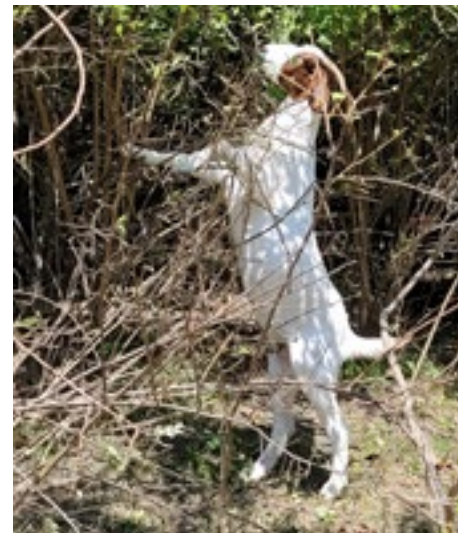
corridor where cuttings needed to be dragged out and the ability to use equipment was limited.

After researching the feasibility of this unique approach, ComEd's Vegetation Management staff launched a new pilot that hadn't yet been attempted in the Midwest: targeted grazing. Targeted grazing is a management technique by which livestock are managed strategically to achieve specific goals. Apt climbers that would eat woody vegetation were

needed for the program's success. Goats stood out for their natural climbing abilities and love of eating.

Overgrazing, or enabling livestock to graze in one controlled area without allowing time for the plant life to regrow naturally, stresses target vegetation reducing the plant's resources and ability to reproduce. Additionally, the goats' four-chambered stomach reduces the viability of any seeds they consume. Just add water, literal troughs of water for the goats to drink, and they will consume brush up to six feet tall by standing on hind limbs or pushing it down. Given enough time, they can munch an overgrown green space down to the roots.

"Overgrazing...stresses target vegetation...and its ability to reproduce."



Using crews of goats also mitigate safety and environmental concerns by eliminating the need for human crews to traverse uneven terrain or bring herbicide, equipment, and fuel into the area.

In 2019, ComEd selected the species, defined site and scope and selected a contractor, 'Goats on the Go,' and were ready to begin its pilot. The goats were enclosed in pens ranging from 1/2 - 3/4 of an acre by a low-voltage electric fence designed to keep them in and local wildlife out. The fencing was moved and adjusted as areas were completed to keep the goats productive. Once the vegetation was consumed in one area, they'd relocate to the next ComEd location for as



long as necessary. A herd of 240 goats graze at a rate of about 3/4 acre per day or 5 1/4 acres per week, and a smaller herd of 35 goats graze about 1/3 an acre per day or 2 acres per week.

Three years later in the Spring of 2022, ComEd crews seeded the sites with a native wildflower mix to compete with incompatible woody vegetation and reduce erosion concerns. The site was then left alone for the last two years of its five-year cycle to provide the native seeds ample time to grow.

In the Fall of 2023, ComEd reevaluated the Peoria locations, to find a thriving native prairie. The results reinforced two known facts: 1. Not all woody species are susceptible to girdling; 2. It takes multiple cycles of targeted grazing to make an impact, but the three-year series effectively controlled the vegetation.

Goat herds visit the pre-determined ComEd sites once per year in late summer and stay for a few weeks depending on the site and herd size, which is adjusted as needed. The results are approximately a 40 percent cost savings per cycle, not to mention the opportunity for employees to interact with the goats and share some great stories!

ComEd's Vegetation Management Department continues to evaluate the use of targeted grazing. Going forward, the team intends to evaluate opportunities to increase the number of sites and refine its methods as needed.



Tree Science *at your* Fingertips

WRITTEN BY MICHELLE CATANIA

The field of applied arboriculture is both an art and a science. Each pruning cut is creating a new form that may take a season or two to develop, and is an expression of the technical experience of the person making each calculated cut. This person is trained to be guided by the principles of best pruning practices based on science. Years of research has become the foundation of understanding the growth responses observed with each cut. Within the field of arboriculture, there are many ways this profession is applying the principles of best practices to the trees in our landscape, all of which are rooted in applied and basic science. Applied science aims to solve real world issues and typically offers science-based solutions, while basic science helps us build new knowledge on deepening our understanding of how something works.

Understanding how tree roots perform in urban soils, and offering science-based solutions, is a very exciting field of research (applied science). Deepening our knowledge on how urban tree roots perform in urban systems is a newer frontier for the field of arboriculture (basic science). Roots are by far the most elusive part of the tree, combined with the heterogeneity of the below-ground environment, it's no wonder conference talks that focus on below-ground are very well attended at urban tree conferences.

The data generated from well-documented,

reproducible research may provide practitioners the confidence to apply the “statistically significant” results in the urban landscape. Continually adapting field skills to incorporate newly generated standards of practice is a good foundation to build from, while improving the overall function of a tree's root growth in urban soils. To keep up with the insatiable demand to keep learning, every five years [The Morton Arboretum](#) hosts the [Landscape Below Ground \(LBG\)](#) conferences, with direct support from the [International Society of Arboriculture \(ISA\)](#). The most recent LBG was the fifth time collecting scientists from around the world that focus on urban tree root development in urban soils to present their research to each other and, I would argue more importantly, the practitioners.



Last October, 2023 the [Landscape Below Ground V](#) was a very well-attended 2-day conference, including a 1-day workshop, that hopefully many of you attended. It was an amazing line-up, including several of the original speakers that first met in 1993 who recognized the need to bring together researchers to exchange their science and generate new questions to test. Dr. Jake Miesbauer recently published the [Landscape Below Ground V: Introduction to a Special Issue](#) (January 2025) in ISA's online and freely available scientific journal, [Arboriculture & Urban Forestry](#) (AUF). In this [Special Issue: Landscape Below Ground V](#), you will find nine papers that were presented at the conference, in a collection referred to as a conference proceedings. I encourage you to read the high-level overviews of each one presented in the [Table of Contents](#), and from there, you can choose your own learning adventure!



Learn how linear trenching impacts root regrowth ([Koeser, Grabosky, Bensen & Moregnroth](#)) or it's impacts on root loss and tree stability ([Miesbauer, Koeser, & Kane](#)), and how to predict total root area as a means of understanding construction damage to the roots ([Grabosky, Pattanshetti, Zhang, Blake, Casario, Koeser & Miesbauer](#)).

Take a deep dive into understanding fine-root responses to prolonged waterlogging ([Patrick, Lo, Rigsby, Resenfeld & McCormack](#)) and understand seedling root development, growth and physiology following seaweed amendments ([Comin, Crossa, Valsecchi, Fumagalli, Vigecani, Corsini, Ferrini, Ravanelli, & Fini](#)).

Attempt to understand phytophthora's possible role in oak decline ([Watson & Adams](#)), the impacts of paclobutrazol in below- and above-ground biomass ([Rigsby, Smiley, Henry, Holmes & Loyd](#)), or even learn specifics about defensive enzyme activities that may be used to induce a roots' defense system ([Harley, Loyd, Malone, Trowbridge, Fite & Rigsby](#)).

Perhaps some of you can find interesting peer-reviewed basic and applied urban tree focused science from this catalog of free online resources spanning [back to the 1970's](#). I know this sort of literature is not easily digestible, which is why abstracts are able to offer a concise summary of the entire research study, including the research question, methods, key findings, and conclusions.

I worked in research labs for 10 years professionally and took great pride in providing clean, reproducible laboratory and field data that fed into this collection of resources. Many people have spent

their entire careers focusing on writing technical reports and peer-reviewed science articles, and in some instances almost forget how to make it useful to the end user - you! I am thankful we have a way around this! In the field of arboriculture, many researchers' favorite publications are written for [Arborist News](#). The articles in [Arborist News](#) are written with the end user in mind (you), just like [Illinois Trees: The Quarterly Publication of the Illinois Arborist Association](#). The basic and applied research questions that are being generated and explored will go nowhere if the boots on the ground are unable to understand them or unwilling to put them into practice.



“The articles in Arborist News are written with the end user in mind—you!”

Hopefully as we continue to have these researchers present their science at our conferences, the material becomes easier to understand how it can be incorporated into your tree

care program. If you need clarification, the authors are real people who would be elated to get an email from a practitioner asking more questions. I also encourage you all to find something new in these articles, and give it a try in your day-to-day work. It may be a simple adjustment to your tree pruning protocols, or a significant buy in for your plant health care program. If it's been scrutinized following the scientific method following peer-review, it's been vetted and ready to be applied.

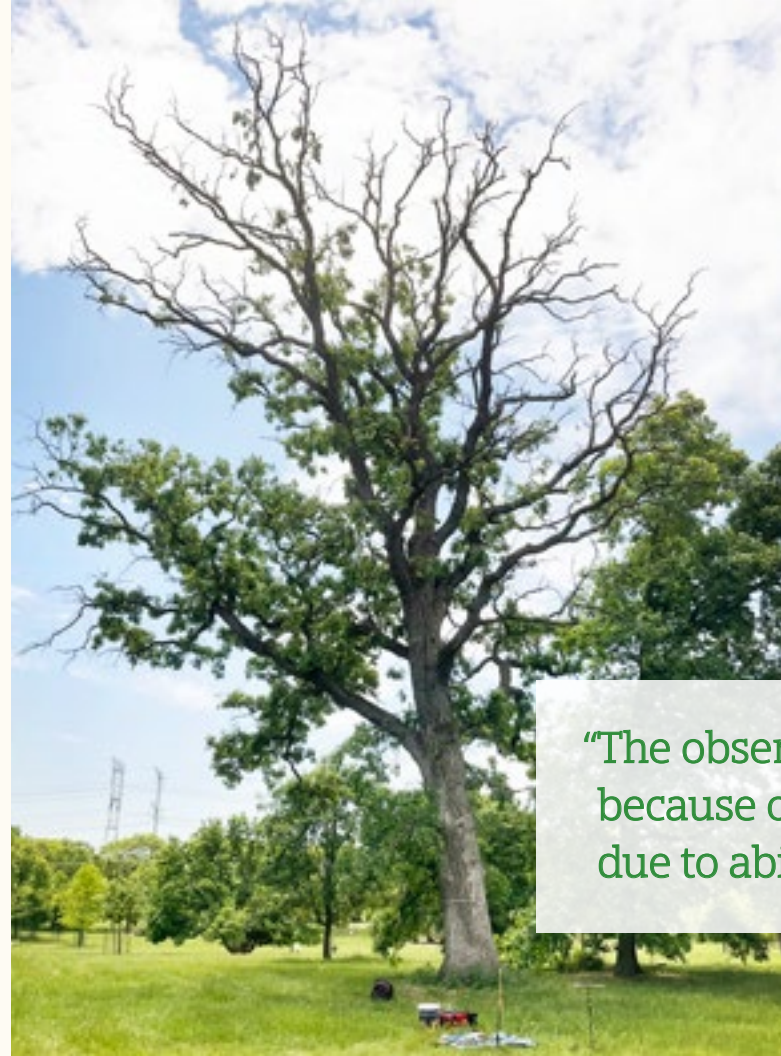
We are also encouraging dialog within our members, so please provide feedback at any opportunity. We completed our strategic planning process last month and really want to make certain we are delivering the best we can offer. Thanks for making the Illinois Arborist Association top tier! Enjoy the start of spring, and keep learning.

The Site & Soil Characteristics Associated *with* White Oak Decline *in the* Chicago Region

ROSALIND REMSEN,
BRYANT SCHARENBRUCH,
AND STEPHANIE ADAMS

The progressive dieback of mature oak trees due to a complex of abiotic and biotic factors, referred to as oak decline, has been an increasingly common occurrence in the Chicago region for several years. While declining oaks aren't novel for the Chicago area, it has become more common and intense in the seven-county Chicago region in the last 10 years. This phenomenon has led to the widespread decline or mortality of some of the most valuable landscape trees in the area. Up until recently, arborists' treatments have been primarily focused on treating symptoms and contributing factors, or the opportunistic pests and pathogens affecting these stressed trees. Root rots caused by Phytophthora species and related water molds are also suspected to be important opportunistic contributing agents in this decline complex.

The observed oak decline spirals occur not only because of the opportunistic biotic factors, but also due to a complex of abiotic factors that predispose the trees. The decline spiral occurs because the tree has predisposing factors, or unfavorable site or soil factors. These predisposing factors make them more susceptible to being stressed by acute stress events, or inciting factors, such as flooding, droughts, or construction activities. If arborists were to have a program that also



"The observed oak decline spirals occur not only because of the opportunistic biotic factors, but also due to abiotic factors that predispose the trees."

Surface soil samples were tested for respiration, bulk density, POXC (labile organic carbon), soil organic matter, gravimetric moisture, texture, wet aggregate stability, soil nutrients, pH, and electrical conductivity. A subsample of each tree's fine roots was tested for the presence of water molds using Agida DAS-ELISA Phyt tests. The site and soil characteristics were then compared between healthy-looking and declining trees, as well as compared with their tree health assessment scores with linear regressions and ANOVAs. A statistical modeling approach also analyzed which factors best predicted tree condition.

Based on these analyses, low zinc availability, deicing salts, compaction, fine textures, and poor

drainage appear to be the most important predisposing factors for the white oak decline spiral in the Chicago region. Species preferences were not a differentiating factor. Of all trees, including both healthy-looking and declining conditions, 88 were positive for the presence of a member of the water mold group. Of the declining trees, 97 were positive, while 77 of the healthy-looking trees were positive. This positivity rate is similar to our collaborators' studies at The Morton Arboretum.

Further research is necessary to identify which species of water molds are present, to confirm their pathogenicity, and to understand their role in the oak decline spiral. Additional research can also improve our understanding of the relationship between soil zinc availability and oak decline. We hope these results can help inform our management programs and strategies.

addresses the predisposing site and soil conditions while the tree is stabilized by other treatments, arborists may be able to better address the primary cause of the decline spiral.

The objectives of this study were to determine which site and soil characteristics were significantly related to white oak (*Quercus alba*, *Q. macrocarpa*, *Q. bicolor*) decline in the Chicago region. This study also provided samples, preliminary data, and an environmental survey for The Morton Arboretum's research on *Phytophthora* spp. and other water molds associated with the roots of declining white oaks. Trees on thirty-two sites were visited throughout the summer of 2023. During site visits several types of samples and data were collected. These included deep pedon samples, composite soil samples, fine roots for oomycete detection, site characteristics, tree health assessments, and site management information.

ArborSystems® TreeMec® Inject Emamectin Benzoate in one-quart bottles

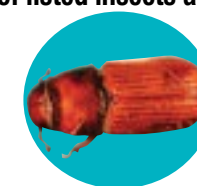
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Summer Conference
SIGN UP HERE

Check out the IAA Summer Conference

July 24-25, Bloomington-Normal Marriott Hotel & Conference Center

A planning committee is hard at work pulling together a top notch lineup of speakers and networking opportunities for Illinois' arborists. Registration will be open in late spring.



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INTREN
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Illinois Arborists Association



Pruning & Felling Safety

WRITTEN BY MIKE PRILLER

Power Line Safety

Thousands of trees get uprooted yearly from weather, many taking power lines with them. Many of us are tasked with removing these trees, or preventative trimming around power lines.

- ✓ Always assume that power lines are energized
- ✓ If working by or around power lines, please contact the utility company to discuss de-energizing and grounding or shielding the power lines.
- ✓ Always use extreme caution when moving ladders or other equipment around power lines. Remember MAD (minimum approach distance). Minimum approach distance (MAD) is the safe distance between a worker and energized equipment or power lines. It's used to protect workers from electric shock or electrocution.

Tree Felling Safety

- ✓ Felling a tree is more than just cutting it down. Felling means to cut the tree in such a way that it falls in a desired direction, without damaging other trees or property.
- ✓ To safely fell a tree, you must: Eliminate or minimize exposure to potential hazards found at the tree and surrounding area.

1. Identify what hazards are present in the area where the tree workers are operating.
2. Determine the felling direction and how to deal with any tree lean
3. Identify the retreat path so the feller can reach safety while the tree is falling.
4. Always use proper PPE, including eye, face, head, hand or foot protection.

Remember more people are killed or injured while felling and pruning trees. These accidents CAN be avoided when identifying and applying safe practices.

Phase to Phase Nominal Voltage (kV)	Distance, Phase to Employee	
	Phase to Ground Exposure (ft - in)	Phase to Phase Exposure (ft - in)
1 or less	Avoid contact	Avoid contact
1.1 to 15	2 - 1	2 - 2
15.1 to 36	2 - 4	2 - 7
36.1 to 46	2 - 7	2 - 10
46.1 to 72.5	3 - 0	3 - 6
72.6 to 121	3 - 2	4 - 3
138 to 145	3 - 7	4 - 11
161 to 169	4 - 0	5 - 8
230 to 242	5 - 3	7 - 6
345 to 362	8 - 6	12 - 6
500 to 550	11 - 3	18 - 1
765 to 800	14 - 11	26 - 0

Note 1: These distances take into consideration the highest switching surge an employee will be exposed to on any system with air as the insulating medium and the maximum voltage shown.

Note 2: The clear live line tool distances shall equal or exceed the values for the indicated voltage ranges.

Note 3: See 29 CFR 1910.269, Appendix B for information on how the minimum approach distances were derived.





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