

Illinois Trees

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE ILLINOIS ARBORIST ASSOCIATION



SUMMER 2025
VOLUME 43

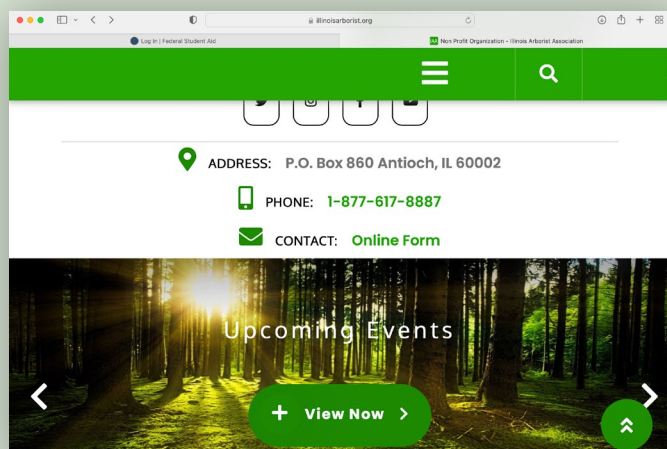
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Mission Statement

"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.



THE Reinvigoration OF Spring WHAT KEEPS YOU FRESH?

Welcome fellow tree people, by the time you are reading this we will already be well on the path into summer with most of the spring greening behind us. Spring is one of my favorite seasons as we move from the grey days of winter into the vibrant colors of plants awakening for the year. I'm not saying I dislike winter; it's a great time for structural pruning and the phone is relatively quiet because most people outside the industry don't think about trees until the leaves start to emerge. However, witnessing the daily changes in the trees and other plants as we move through spring perks up my spirit and refreshes my mind. I enjoy noticing the little differences from day to day and week to week.

Watching life regreen in the spring helps me to fully tune back into the state of the urban forest around me. Once again, I start to notice the timing at which various trees flower, leaf and set seed. I marvel at how Sugarberry trees (*Celtis laevigata*) leaf out branch by branch. I had almost slated an entire line of median strips of Sugarberries for removal the first spring I worked in Lombard because I had not been exposed to them earlier in my career. Fortunately, the season had lots of other projects on my plate, and by the time I returned in June to finally mark them, they were fully leafed out. Every spring I field calls from various homeowners, worried their trees might be dead, because "all" the other trees in their

yard or neighborhood are in full leaf. I have learned to wait until June before I start making final calls on the health of many tree species.

It is in my nature to be curious, to observe, and to try learn constantly. It helps keep life interesting. Do you enjoy observing things over time and noticing how the trees you care for change over time and react to the work you are performing? Through watching those changes over time, are you seeing positive changes in the health and structure of the trees? If not, could changes made to your management practices to reach goals within the canopy you care for? The trees we work with are growing and adapting entities, and we need to do the same. Please take some time to reflect on how you and your work is affecting the

trees you care for and those you work with. One of the goals of the IAA is to provide resources and education to assist the folks in this industry with continued growth in safety and knowledge.

Spring is the time when learning opportunities with the Illinois Arborist Association and other organizations begin to move back outside. Be sure to keep an eye out for information on upcoming classes and our IAA Summer Conference.

Be safe and watch out for each other,
Eric Hendrickson

"One of the goals of the IAA is to provide resources and education to assist folks in this industry with continued growth in safety and knowledge."

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Editor's Note

Summer is upon us! I hope you are able to learn something new from an article or two, find a way to attend an upcoming event or training, and learn about the cool things your fellow IL arborists are up to. We are a small community of tree workers and the more we can uplift and honor one another in our work and lives, the better off we all will be. Another thing we can do is give credit where credit is due. From the manager who has been in the industry for years down to the newbie serving their time learning new skills, professional acknowledgement is key to integrity and value in the workplace. Each one of us plays an important part in the jobs we're setting out to do.

And don't forget to water the trees as the temps get hotter and the dry spells go longer, pay attention to the needs of the trees in the populations you work with. We all need some extra hydration during the summer months!

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](#).





ILLINOIS TREE CLIMBING COMPETITION '25



The Illinois Arborist Association hosted the 2025 Tree Climbing Championship (TCC) at Herrick Lake Forest Preserve in Wheaton, IL. Preliminary events and the Masters' Challenge provided an ideal setting for climbers, judges, volunteers and spectators to come together and celebrate the skill and camaraderie of the arborist community.



This year's competition carried special significance, as we honored the memory of a beloved community member, Jeremy Dunivan. Jeremy's legacy lives on through his support, encouragement, and the warmth he brought to every event. In recognition of his impact, the IAA has officially renamed the Spirit of the Competition Award to the Jeremy Dunivan Spirit of the Competition Award. We were proud to present this meaningful honor to Colin De Larme.

Also recognized was Charles Shonts, who received the Norm Hall Outstanding Volunteer Award for his exemplary contributions and dedication to the success of this year's event.



(continued on next page)



MASTERS' CHALLENGE RESULTS

Women's Division

1st - Libby Bower

2nd - Dana Breowski

3rd - Alex Julius

Men's Division

1st - Cameron Hughes

2nd - Ryan Sams

3rd - Beau Nagan



PRELIMINARY EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Women's Division

Aerial Rescue

1st Libby Bower | 2nd Mariah Sachs | 3rd Lisa Mende

Belayed Speed Climb

1st Libby Bower | 2nd Mariah Sachs | 3rd Lisa Mende

Ascent Event

1st Libby Bower | 2nd Dana Breowski | 3rd Mariah Sachs

Throwline

1st Alex Julius | 2nd Dana Breowski | 3rd Libby Bower

Work Climb

1st Mariah Sachs | 2nd Libby Bower | 3rd Dana Breowski



Men's Division

Aerial Rescue

1st Beau Nagan | 2nd Cody Schwartz | 3rd Cameron Hughes

Belayed Speed Climb

1st Andrew Barnard | 2nd Ryan Sams | 3rd Andrew Nicholson

Ascent Event

1st Abdon Leon-Espinosa | 2nd Samuel Finco | 3rd Ryan Sams

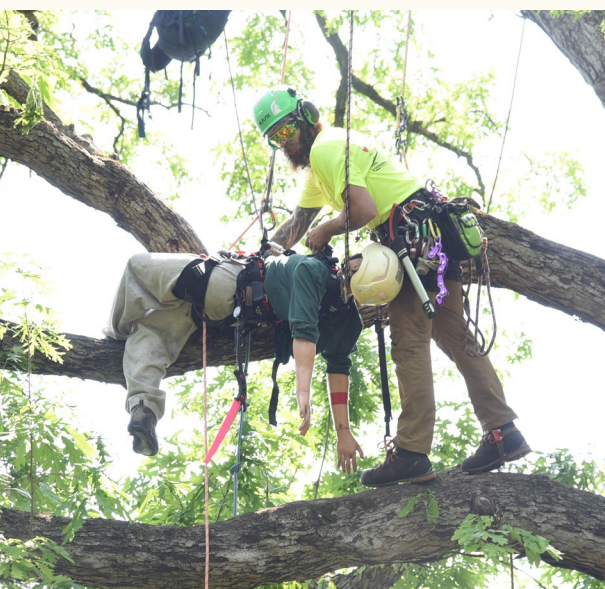
Throwline

1st Beau Nagan | 2nd Daniel Sancen | 3rd Ryan Sams

Work Climb

1st Ryan Sams | 2nd Beau Nagan | 3rd Andrew Barnard





SPECIAL THANKS

Competition sponsors:

- The Davey Tree Expert Company
- The Mulch Center

Lunch sponsor:

- Kramer Tree Specialists, Inc.

Vendor Sponsor:

- STIHL

A heartfelt thank you goes out to: All Gear, At Height, Arb Session, ArborMaster, Buck Tree, Davey, DGP, Echo, Greenworks, Kask, Marlow, Oregon, Silky, Stihl, Tree Stuff and all donors who helped support this event – your contributions helped make this year's TCC an incredible success.

Shoutout to our 2025 Competitors and Volunteers

With over 40 competitors and 50+ volunteer judges and support staff, the IAA TCC continues to thrive because of your commitment, skill, and enthusiasm. You make this event what it is – a true celebration of community and professionalism in arboriculture.

A special thank you to the organizers Charles Shonts and Eduardo Medina and to the scoring team: Steve Lane, Mike Priller and Nathan Paulus.



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**

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



Soil is the biologically active layer of the earth's crust. Soil tends to be highly manipulated and modified in the built environment compared to soils left undisturbed by humans.

Soil health directly impacts the health and longevity of trees in any environment, and are challenging to understand, especially in urban landscapes.

Many symptoms of poor soil health are observed in the tree and may appear as branch dieback, leaf chlorosis, and girdling roots.

There are three soil properties that need to be considered when evaluating the function of soil, and for arborists that ideal function of soil is supporting a healthy, long-lived tree. Understanding the chemical, biological, and physical soil properties for both healthy trees and trees in decline, is a critical component to improving or maintaining trees in the urban landscape.

A typical conversation I find myself having with arborists that learn I have an extensive background in urban soil science with a focus on tree health, is "Should I take a soil sample?", I tend to respond with: "What do you think that will identify?", next I ask "What will you do with the laboratory results?", and lastly "What do your sampling protocols look like?" Many times this creates more questions than answers and that's good!

One of the best, and most succinct references I can recommend is the [ISA Soil](#)

[Management for Urban Trees](#)



[Best Management Practices](#). It outlines the goals of urban soil management, how to perform soil assessments, reviews ideal sampling protocols, and describes what soil

modifications are best to reclaim a degraded soil's function to support healthy, long-lived trees. Side note: I also am a tad bi-ased since the first author, [Dr. Bryant Scharenbroch](#), is the former research-

er that hired me at The Morton Arboretum and unveiled the realities of urban soils. He is now an associate professor at [University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point, College of Natural Resources](#).

The biggest take-away from this article should be on how to properly sample a site to gather the best information in order to make a management decision for the tree. The top 18" of soil is the zone with the most roots. The top 6" to 8" of soil is the most appropriate depth for nutrient sampling. Nutrient sampling is what a laboratory will assess when you send a sample. [Illinois Extension](#) offers advice on commercial labs with very fast turnaround times. Note that the results will not be able to assess the physical properties of the site like drainage and compaction.

Soil sampling for laboratory analysis should be designed to reduce sampling the high soil variability at each tree and rather focus on capturing the entire landscape that is influencing the tree. If there are a row of 3 trees and 2 are declining, the 1 healthy tree is a good comparison and should also be sampled as the baseline. This baseline information will be compared to the 2 declining trees and provide a range of values for each test.



For this example of 3 trees where 2 are struggling, I would suggest 3 composite samples be sent to a recognized testing facility each with an individual identification that you can track. A composite sample is a composition of many subsamples from 1 rooting area that have been combined through mixing, and bagging a small portion of that for analysis (this is a subsample). The remainder can be returned to the site. For this step, I used a bucket for mixing the individual cores, or scoops, while removing most large roots and rocks. Then bag no more than 1-2 cups for analysis. Repeat this for the other 2 trees.

In general, these next steps (Figure 1) are a good sampling protocol and can be explored in greater detail in the Soil Management for Urban Trees BMP:

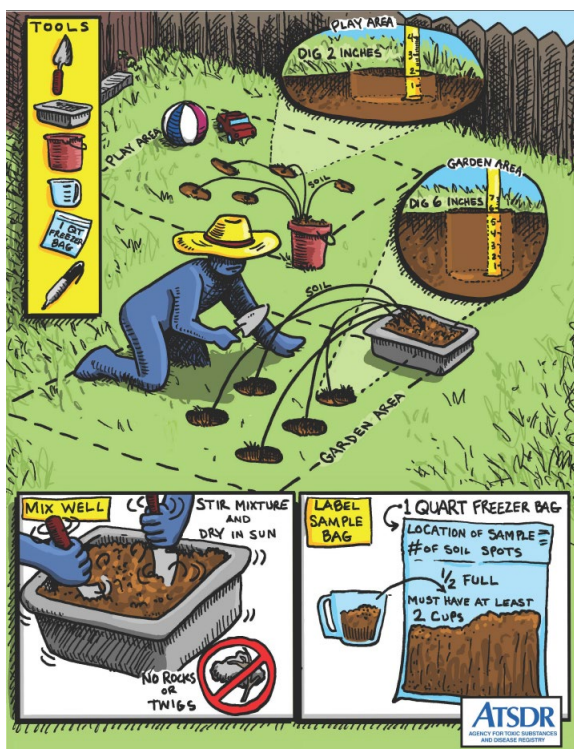


Figure 1: Soil sampling. Source: CDC Agency for toxic substances and disease registry.

Step 1: Determine the amount of samples needed. Identify your best sampling tool, such as a hand trowel or soil probe.

Step 2: Determine your sampling depth and stay consistent between each tree and subsample.

Nutrient sampling does not need to go further than 8 inches.

Step 3: At each tree, take an equal number of soil samples but be certain to remove the mulch layer prior to sampling. We only want to sample the mineral layers of soil. How to determine how many cores per tree: If the rooting area is approximately a 10 ft by 10 ft box, you may decide 10 individual, 6 inch deep soil probes, or hand trowels, worth of soil would be a good representative of that tree's rooting area. Add each of these 10 subsamples to a bucket, mix thoroughly, remove large rocks and roots, and bag 1-2 cups of this composite soil sample for 1 lab sample. Repeat this process at the other 2 trees.

Step 4: Store in a cooler or refrigerator until the samples can be mailed to the testing facility. Most commercial facilities have incredibly fast turn-around times.

Soil is the biologically active layer of the earth's crust. Soil tends to be highly manipulated and modified in the built environment compared to soils left undisturbed by humans. Soil health directly impacts the health and longevity of trees in any environment, and are challenging to understand, especially in urban landscapes. Many symptoms of poor soil health are observed in the tree and may appear as branch dieback, leaf chlorosis, and girdling roots.

There are three soil properties that need to be considered when evaluating the function of soil, and for arborists that ideal function of soil is supporting a healthy, long-lived tree. Understanding the chemical, biological, and physical soil properties for both healthy trees and trees in decline, is a critical component to improving or maintaining trees in the urban landscape.

Now the day has come and you have a soil test report (Figure 2 on next page) in your inbox with laboratory results! This is exciting, but now what?

Soil Test Report											
Reported To			Sample Information								
			Report Number								
			Report Date	8/8/2023							
			Lab Number								
			Sample ID	1							
			To Be Grown	LAWN - MAINTENANCE							
Analysis Results											
Analysis		Result		Soil Test Rating							
				Very Low	Low	Medium	High	Very High			
Organic Matter, %		7.2									
Phosphorus, ppm P (Bray-1 Equiv.)		6									
Potassium, ppm K		178									
Magnesium, ppm Mg		625									
Calcium, ppm Ca		2100									
Sodium, ppm Na		10									
Cation Exchange Capacity, meq/100g		16.5									
pH		6.9									
Soluble Salts (1:2), mmho/cm		0.1									
Sulfur, ppm S		8									
Zinc, ppm Zn		5.3									
Iron, ppm Fe		17									
Manganese, ppm Mn		38									
Copper, ppm Cu		1.7									
Boron, ppm B		1.6									
Annual Nutrient Requirement											
Pounds per 100 Square Feet						Pounds per 1,000 Square Feet					
Lime	Nitrogen (N)	Phosphorus (P2O5)	Potassium (K2O)	Magnesium (Mg)	Sulfur (S)	Lime	Nitrogen (N)	Phosphorus (P2O5)	Potassium (K2O)	Magnesium (Mg)	Sulfur (S)
0	0.4	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.1	0	4	3	0	0	1
Suggested Fertilizer Application											
	NPK Fertilizer Grade	Description				Annual Application Rate					
						lbs per 100 sq. ft.		lbs per 1,000 sq. ft.			
Product 1	28-0-3	Slow Release Fertilizer				0.7	OR	7.0			
Product 2	18-24-6	Lawn Starter				1.2	OR	12.0			
Comments											
Use both of the fertilizers listed above or other materials of similar NPK analysis. Split the recommended amount of 28-0-3 into at least 3 applications over the growing season, applying 1/3 in late spring, early fall and late fall. Split the recommended amount of 0-0-60 into 2 applications, spring and mid-fall. Water well after each application.											
See Fact Sheet "Interpretive Guide for Lawn and Garden Samples", located on our website, for an explanation of soil test results.											

Figure 2: Samples laboratory results from one soil sample (Catania, 2025)

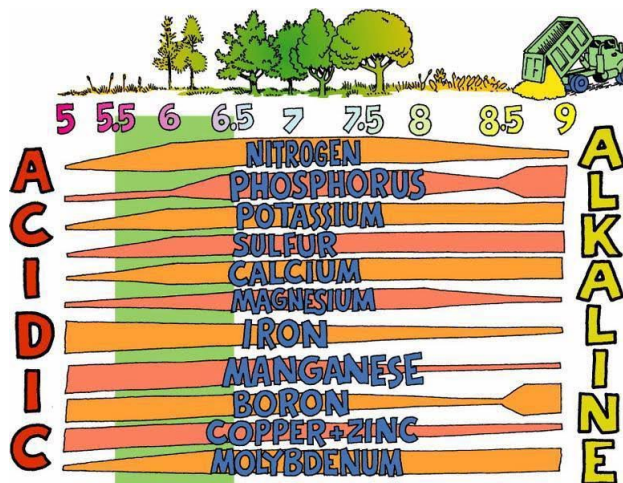


Figure 3: Relative availability of essential elements to plant growth at different pH levels for mineral soil. Source: International Society of Arboriculture, Bugwood.org

If you were to compare the healthy tree's (baseline) results to the other 2 trees, can you find anything that seems off? In the example above, the soil

phosphorus in this example is 'very low' while the magnesium is 'very high'. Is the soil pH dictating these values (Figure 3)? It is the master variable!

The interpretation of the results also need to take into account other factors such as the soil type, parent material, texture, bulk density, and water movement into and within the soil. In the BMP there is a great reference for ideal and limiting ranges for key soil physical, chemical, and biological properties. These non-nutrient parameters are assessed on-site. As an example, drainage is a fairly simple test of digging a small hole, adding water, letting it fully drain (now the area is saturated), then add more water to the hole to see how fast or slow the water can seep into the soil that is already saturated. This was always the first thing I did at each site so I can do other tasks while the water drains. If the water is still in the hole several minutes later, it is likely a slow draining site. It is a great test, and in my experience I have typically found declining trees in very poorly drained soils. Perhaps it is due to compaction...

There is so much more to explore and learn about assessing trees in the soil environment, but I wanted to make certain that if a sampling was required for laboratory analysis, the best methods are used and it is done with consistency. There are many training opportunities that the IAA offers that work on assessing soils for tree health. Be certain to keep an eye on the emails and check the calendar of events for future opportunities.

DON'T FORGET TO

keep learning!

Breaking Through the Glass Canopy Women in Arboriculture

WRITTEN BY SARAH CHRISTENSEN

This issue, I had a great conversation with Colette Coptic, Chicago Region Trees Initiative Community Manager with the Morton Arboretum.

Sarah: *Let's start by hearing a little about your background: where you grew up, where you went to school, job experience, etc.*

Colette: I grew up in Portland, Oregon. I moved to Chicago 11 years ago to go to Loyola University of Chicago, majored in environmental science, and ended up getting my master's there as well. I started in the aquatic realm of environmental work. Catching invasive crayfish on the Chicago River was a part of my lab. That was when I fell in love with the Midwest. Midwest landscape is where my heart is.

Sarah: *Wow, I have to say I'm surprised to hear that, coming from the Pacific Northwest!*

Colette: It is easy to love the mountains. It takes soul to love the prairie. If I were to start a blog, it would be about how awesome Midwest ecosystems really are: the diversity, the life that it can support. And the only reason why Illinois is boring is because of what humans have done to it.

But I got tired of being on a boat and smelling like sewage. I was doing very science-heavy lab experiments. But I really wanted to make more of an impact in my work, or a more applied version rather than research. I started doing research with woman named Tania Schusler on the perceptions of a term called green gentrification, which is the idea of when green amenities come into a neighborhood, it can raise property values and thus displace low-income communities. I would interview people and ask, "Do you think this is real?" and "What do you think the solution to this is?" Because everybody deserves



WITH
colette
CRTI COMMUNITY MANAGER

green amenities. Everybody deserves access to green space. It's really help helpful and important for health, for overall well-being.

Sarah: *Is this where your love of trees began?*

Colette: When I graduated with my master's, I was eager to get out there and be outside. I got a crew manager position with Audubon Great Lakes. I led a fantastic crew of nine young professionals doing invasive species removal and restoration work. This is when I learned tree ID for the first time. That's when the tree world was presented to me after seven years of school in Chicago. I really didn't know what the Urban Forestry world was. It's a perfect merge of my passion for equity and health for communities, but also my love of trees.

After Audubon, I got an outreach assistant job with the Morton Arboretum CRTI. And that kind of was just the beginning. I've held various positions at the Arboretum in the last three years now, and now I'm the community manager.

Sarah: *What does your day-to-day look like in your position now?*

Colette: It is my dream job. I get to work with communities, listen to what they need, and connect the dots across our region to build resources, increase knowledge and capacity, and get people inspired to value trees.

(continued on next page)



"Diversity makes us stronger. That's true for the urban forest too. In order to have a resilient urban forest, we need a lot of different kinds of trees. The same goes for a lot of different types of perspectives and people. If we want better results, more people need to be at the table."

Sarah: *That's awesome. You don't hear many people say they have their dream job.*

Colette: It just kind of happened. But also, there were a lot of advocates for me along the way.

Sarah: *What has your experience as a woman in a typically male dominated field been like overall?*

Colette: Although I identify as a woman, it is important to note that I also identify as gender fluid and queer. It has been extremely rewarding to connect with and support others in the LGBTQA+ community in this field. And I will say, the forestry non-profit space is dominated by women, so my perspective may be different than other women in the field. I do catch micro-aggressions every so often, but I don't think it's ever hindered my career. Honestly, I think there are incredible allies in this work as well that have really lifted me up. I don't know if that has anything to do with my gender or not, but I've seen that, and I really appreciate that.

Sarah: *Do you feel like your gender has ever impacted your career?*

Colette: I have received feedback in the past that I have come off as too confident in certain situations. And I can't help but wonder if a man would receive this type of feedback, or if it would be seen as a positive attribute instead. Also, I have probably overthought how feminine I'm presenting in these spaces. Sometimes I don't know what to wear, or how long my fingernails should be, because I want to be taken seriously. It's hard to tell if it's internalized misogyny of myself versus what others are perceiving from me.

But in addition to women being in the minority, I think there are many other identities that are underrepresented in our field, like race. There are not enough people of color trained and in this field. Diversity makes us stronger. That's true for the urban forest too. In order to have a resilient urban forest, we need a lot of different kinds of trees. The same goes for a lot of different types of perspectives and people. If we want better results, more people need to be at the table.

Sarah: *I love the analogy between trees and people! It's so true!*

Colette: Here's another connection: There's no wrong way to be a tree. Like, any tree can be big, or fat, or skinny, or have a lot of leaves or have a lot of flowers or what have you. And that's kind of how I see us all as people expressing ourselves too. And when we invite this kind of conversation to empower marginalized communities, it is not to take away from others. It's to learn.

Sarah: *Any advice you would give a young person interested in arboriculture as a career path?*

Colette: You definitely have to be scrappy in this field. You may have to do your time with the mindless "grunt work" part of the job that you are overqualified for to prove that you can do it and to get into the business. Find a mentor or mentors that will coach you and train you. Take the leadership role if you can, and get trained up as much as possible.

And most of all, don't be afraid to just be a person. I've actually found that the less I overthink how I'm being perceived in a professional space, the better it has served me to just be more of myself.

MILLER'S Insect Report

ELM ZIG ZAG SAWFLY

CALICO SCALE

As you probably have heard, the EZZSF was found in northern Cook county in 2024 and again this year feeding on “Frontier” elm (hybrid elm), American elm, and also feeding on Siberian elm.

Negin Almassi and other personnel with the Cook County Forest Preserve District, Trish Bethke and myself are all collaborating on tracking this critter and attempting to learn more about its life cycle and host preferences here in Illinois.

While it may not be considered a major forest pest, the EZZSF has the potential to be a significant defoliator of landscape and parkway elms. Additionally, we do know at this point which of the hybrid elms may be potential hosts. This pest is not lethal, but repeated defoliation either annually or in one season (EZZSF has multiple generations) may stress trees and predispose them to dieback and decline.

“Repeated defoliation annually may stress trees and predispose them to dieback and decline.”

Also, I have received several reports from arborists about heavy populations of Calico scale in Southwest Illinois (St. Louis area) causing some significant damage (i.e. dieback and decline) to maples. This

soft scale is a sap-feeder and like EZZSF will not kill trees outright, but is an additional stressor. I am not sure how far north it may spread, but with warmer winters, it may find a home in central and northern Illinois in the future.

If you notice either one of the above pests, I would really appreciate knowing as we will be monitoring their spread in the coming months and years.

As always, I greatly appreciate your help in “getting the word out.” If I can be of any assistance related to forest health issues, please feel free to [contact me](#).

Best regards,

Fredi-ric Miller, Sr. Scientist, Entomology

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



LEARN MORE ABOUT THE AWARDS PROGRAM AND NOMINATE AN ARBORIST OR PROJECT THAT HAS EXCELLED IN THIS FIELD.

IAA Awards Program

The Awards program presents an excellent opportunity for those who earn their livelihood in the arboricultural profession to be recognized for their accomplishments. Please take a moment to nominate a deserving individual, project and/or program for an award in the field of arboriculture. Awards will be presented at the Annual meeting on Nov. 18, 2025.

AWARD CATEGORIES

- Award of Merit
- Honorary Life Membership Award
- Gold Leaf Award
- Special Recognition Award
- Volunteer of the Year Award



Summer Conference

Collecting & Managing a Successful Tree Inventory

Join us for two days of hands-on learning and real-world insight into building and managing tree inventories!



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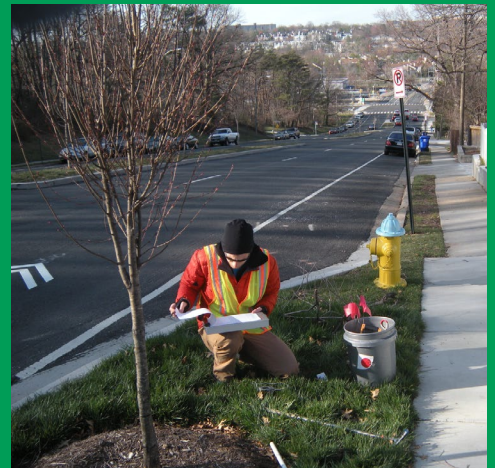
Tree Research and Education Endowment Fund

TREE Fund has awarded more than \$6.0 million in grants and scholarships since 2002 to empower tree care professionals, their customers, and the communities in which they live and work.

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Fall Grant Application Cycle opens August 1

Five research grants are accepting applications during the Fall 2025 Application Cycle. For descriptions and application process, see our website.



John Z. Duling Grant (*up to \$25,000*)

Jack Kimmel International Grant (*up to \$10,000*)

Safe Arborist Techniques Fund Grant (*up to \$15,000*)

Tree and Soil Research Fund Grant (*up to \$10,000*)

**Bob Skiera Memorial Fund Building Bridges Initiative
and John P. White Grant** (*up to \$30,000*)

Olivia Shetterly of College of DuPage received the Larry R. Hall Memorial Scholarship during the Spring 2025 Application Cycle

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Illinois Trees

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