

THE BUCKEYE Arborist

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○ MAY/JUNE

○ 2019

Ohio Chapter International Society of Arboriculture
www.ohiochapterisa.org

Meet the Member



Meet Scott Conover. Scott is one of the newest members of the Ohio Chapter Board of Directors.

Born and raised in Columbus, Scott currently resides in the Clintonville area. He currently works for the City of Upper Arlington, his employer since 2007.

Scott's favorite tree is the American Beech because they are a noble, stately tree. The wide, open canopy of a large beech was always one of his favorite trees to climb. He has always been interested in the natural world watching National Geographic and Jacques Cousteau specials as a child. After high school, Scott studied forestry at Hocking College where he got involved in a tree climbing and maintenance program.

In the mid 80's, Scott joined the Ohio Chapter ISA. He holds a BCMA, ISA Municipal Specialist and TRAQ. Eventually, he would like to become a registered consulting arborist. Scott finds the networking and sharing of information to be invaluable. Whether it's from a speaker at the Ohio Tree Care Conference or just casual conversations at the Ohio TCC and other events, he is always learning something.

Scott believes that some of our biggest challenges are dealing with misinformation about the care of trees. Not only from customers and residents, but from many tree companies. That's why taking every opportunity to educate the public is so important. Scott is fortunate to work for an organization that works heavily with the community. He also helps with volunteer groups that do invasive species removal and he holds tree I.D. and tree care classes. Being outside is the most enjoyable part of his job. Scott also likes the satisfaction of completing a really tough job that goes just as planned.

cont. on page 2

President's Branch

By Tyler Stevenson



Congratulations to all the competitors in the Ohio Tree Climbing Championship held at Cincinnati's Ault Park in April. It was a showcase of professional skills, knowledge, and safety from the best climbers in the state. We are honored to have Betsy Parks and Dustin Ford represent Ohio at the 2019 International Tree Climbing Championship in Knoxville, Tennessee this August. And many thanks to everyone involved in putting on this impressive event. These dedicated volunteers, led by the planning committee, include the clean-up crews, event judges and technicians, score sheet runners, social media gurus, and our gracious sponsors. If you couldn't make it this year, check out the pictures and full results in this issue and on our Facebook page.

Congratulations are also in order for the twenty students that recently graduated from the first arborist preparation course at Richland Correctional Institution in Mansfield. A graduation ceremony was held for the students in April and we got a chance to hear how the eight-week course changed their perspective on trees and their plans for life outside the prison walls. The team at Richland Correctional was so pleased with the course and response from the inmates, that they've asked us to offer another course this summer. Let us know if you're interested in being a part of this unique cultivar growing forward.

Another unique cultivar we look forward to growing is Ohio's first Student Chapter. We invited several OSU Forestry Forum students to our April board meeting to explore the potential and we are currently working out the organizational *cont. on page 3*



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Society of Arboriculture
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Articles

Submit articles in Word format to the Editor at info@OhioChapterISA.org for consideration. All articles are subject to technical review. Accepted articles may be edited for brevity, clarity and adherence to Chapter requirements and standards. Submissions must contain original work.

An ISA Certified Arborist in good standing may receive CEUs for work published in *The Buckeye Arborist*.

Advertising

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For advertising reservations and material deadlines, rates and data – as well as other Ohio Chapter ISA sponsorship and messaging opportunities – please contact the Ohio Chapter at info@OhioChapterISA.org.

Ohio Chapter ISA

The **Mission** of the Ohio Chapter International Society of Arboriculture is to advance responsible tree care practices through research, technology and education, while promoting the benefits of trees.

The Ohio Chapter **Values** investing in the future of professional arboriculture through education, research, safety and communication, while maintaining integrity and credibility.

Meet the Member Cont. from page 1

In his spare time, Scott enjoys working in his yard and throwing some stones on the ice with the Columbus Curling Club. He is also taking American Sign Language classes.

Take time to get to know Scott and remember that like every board member, he is your conduit to the chapter and the ISA. Contact a board member if you want to get more involved, would like to see different programs or have a thought or idea you would like to share. The board is here to serve you!

Our Condolences

Larry Hanks
1943 – 2019

Larry Hanks, age 76, passed away on March 27 in Miramar Beach, Florida. Larry was an active member of the Kentucky Arborist Association and supportive of the BYGLive! activities. Many considered him one of the quiet, unsung heroes of ISA and all things arboriculture. He will be missed by many who called him a friend and fellow arborist.

Ralph M. Veverka
1921 – 2018

Beloved husband, father, and brother, Ralph Veverka, age 96, passed away in February. Ralph joined the Ohio Chapter ISA in 1970 to share experiences with others in the profession of arboriculture, learn of new trees available, and improved plantings and maintenance techniques. He served as president of the Ohio Chapter ISA in 1978.



details with the students and a faculty advisor. We look forward to having them attend our various events and educational opportunities in the near future. The students will also be reaching out to our membership for speakers and other campus activities.

The final leaf on this issue's branch comes from my home at the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. This is a landmark year for ODNR's Division of Forestry as it chronicles the 40th Anniversary of our Urban Forestry Assistance Program. Way back in 1979, the division hired regional urban foresters to provide municipalities and government agencies throughout Ohio with the organizational and technical assistance to effectively manage the urban forest resources within their communities. Their lofty goal was to make Ohio communities great places to live, work, and play.

To celebrate the four decades of partnerships and successes we will be hosting a 40th Anniversary Forum in Columbus at the Ohio State Fairgrounds, Natural Resources Park, on June 21, 2019. This

daylong event will feature Dr. Jason Grabosky, Urban Forestry Professor at Rutgers University; numerous field demonstrations, and a celebration of urban forestry in Ohio. We are preparing for community leaders and distinguished guests from across the state to join us for this special gathering and hope that you will also be a part of our exciting event.

Ohio's deep-rooted urban forestry history and prolific culture is a product of the countless partnerships and collaborations our industry eagerly engages in and values. The Ohio Chapter ISA has been an integral partner of our program from the very beginning and over the years ODNR staff have served many Chapter roles including three of our past presidents. Accordingly, we would like to take this opportunity to invite the Ohio Chapter ISA membership to join us in celebrating the past forty years and increasing our tree's vigor for the next forty. Further event details and registration is available on our website. We look forward to seeing you in June!

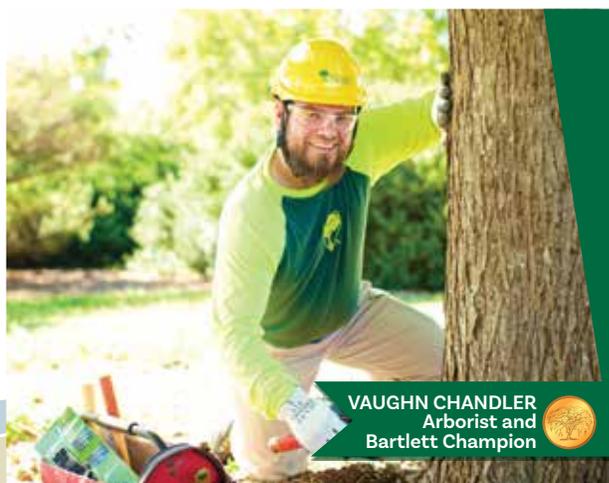
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By purchasing a *Trees4Ohio* specialized interest license plate for your vehicle, you help underwrite educational programs and services that directly benefit the trees of Ohio.

The plate provides one of the best **member benefits**; it directs readers to Trees4Ohio.org. This site is designed for consumer's looking for everything from proper pruning and mulching to how to find and hire an Ohio tree care professional. **Chapter members must login to OhioChapterISA.org and update their profile. You must check "available for hire" and each of the services you provide.** Your email address associated with your membership record is your user name. If you forgot your password or have not logged in before, use the "forgot my password" and an email will be sent to you with instructions. If you have questions or problems logging in, please contact the Chapter office.

The new specialized interest plate is available under Organizational Plates at <https://www.bmv.ohio.gov/vr-sp-organization.aspx>.

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Certification Corner

By Carrie Paulus, Education and Public Outreach Committee

Putting Your ISA Credential to Work!

Spring has arrived in spite of the tumultuous weather patterns in the buckeye state. Clean-up efforts are taking place after a destructive March and April hailed severe storms, flooding and tornados. In any hazardous tree emergency situation, it just may be the professional arborist who is the 'first responder' on a scene. If you were the individual needing services wouldn't you seek someone with professional credentials?

On the flip side, cherry, eastern redbud, magnolia, serviceberry, crabapple, plum and many other spring beauties prevail in abundance! Meanwhile Earth Day and Arbor Day presented opportunities for public education and awareness. Awareness of the benefits of trees, the value of our professional industry and the need for credentialed arborists – ISA certified arborists, specialists and qualified professionals. Invest 1 hour in your community; i.e. library, school, city hall, public place or event to educate others on the importance of hiring ISA Certified Arborists.

The Ohio Chapter Education and Public Outreach Committee supports individuals seeking ISA credentials through various means including certified arborist preparation courses and ISA Certified Arborist, Utility Specialist and Municipal Specialist certification exams. Opportunities are also offered for Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (TRAQ) courses, exams, and re-qualification courses for those already qualified and needing to renew this qualification. There is never a bad time to earn your professional credentials and let them work for you!

Thank you to the Ohio Department of Transportation Office of Aviation in Columbus for hosting the spring certified arborist preparation course. And special thanks to the following industry professionals for sharing their expertise and valuable time instructing attendees: Brian Kralovic with LaRoche Tree Service, Roy Montan with the Davey Tree Expert Company, Dan McCarthy and Will King with Ahlum and Arbor Tree Preservation. And appreciation for assisting and facilitation by James Cook with ODOT, Lola Lewis with ODNR Division of Forestry and Sue Mottl with the City of Stow.

Congratulations! Once you are certified, continue your professional development and earn CEU's by attending various programming throughout the year. Stay up on educational opportunities by visiting the Ohio Chapter website for the most current course listings and to register for programs. Don't keep your credential a secret, put your ISA credential to work for you!

The next certified arborist prep course will be held September 9, 10, 11, and 12 at ODNR in Columbus. Classes will be held each day 8:30 am – 4:00 pm. The ISA exam will be on September 13, 9:30 am – 1:30 pm. **Exam registration is separate from the preparation course** and must be done through the ISA. The deadline to register for the exam is August 15. Logon or create an account at www.isa-arbor.com and locate the certification link in your profile to complete an application or contact ISA at (888) 472-8733 or cert@isa-arbor.com.

If you are interested in hosting a certification course at your business, agency, municipality, or metro park, please contact the Chapter at info@ohiochapterisa.org or call (614) 771-7494.



We are honored to recognize the following individuals who recently received new credentials. Congratulations to all!

ISA BOARD CERTIFIED MASTER ARBORIST

ISA Utility Specialist	Patrick Patton, Saint Clairsville
Michael Lane Gandee, Cambridge	Zachary Riley, Hamersville
Bryant Noble, Athens	Stephen Mark Wengerd, Massillon

ISA CERTIFIED ARBORIST

Jung Hoon Ahn, Cuyahoga Falls	Patrick Jordan Hoffman, Cleveland Heights
Lance Bailey, Louisville	Philip Knopp, Columbus
Joel Matthew Brown, Cincinnati	Bryan A. Layne, Newbury
Joseph Capan, Kent	Dustin Moore, Westerville
Jason Steven Collette, Kirtland	Aaron Morris, Belmont
Paul DeLong, Chillicothe	Kevin Ptacek, Cincinnati
David Donaldson, Austintown	Derek Skapes, Lakewood
Charles Vincent Dupuis, Middlefield	Jose G Zaragoza, New Carlisle
Aaron Easterling, Mansfield	
Anthony James Frabotta, Yellow Springs	

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Career Spotlight



Position: Municipal Arborist/Utility Forester

David Bienemann is the municipal arborist/utility forester for the City of Hamilton, Ohio (a Cincinnati suburb). He has been in this position for 3 1/2 years.

This position is responsible for planning, organizing, and directing all activities related to the acquisition, planting, growing, maintenance, and removal of trees on city properties and rights of way. To provide support to the city's tree advisory board and on-going management of the city's urban trees as well as to assist other departments in related activities. This position is also responsible for project coordination of new construction and infrastructure updates regarding landscape removal and replacement. Working primarily at the community level, this position provides technical guidance and supervises urban forestry activities and coordinates and directs the utility line clearance program for the municipal electric system.

Dave describes his position in a nut shell as planning, coordinating and managing both the urban forestry and utility forestry operations, with a 50-50 split of time between the two programs. He manages 15-20 contract crews who perform arboriculture, vegetation management, landscaping, storm restoration, and environmental impact statements. He also supervises two Miami University interns throughout the year that assist in his duties.

The job description requires a four-year degree in forestry, botany, biology, environmental science and/or a conservation related degree. It also requires the applicant to be an ISA Certified Arborist.

When Dave was young, he watched Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom with host, Marlin Perkins. He decided then and there to get a degree/job in outdoors working with trees and wildlife. He grew up working on the farm in Iowa, participated in 4H/FFA and enjoyed being outside. Dave attended Iowa State University and received a degree in forestry and minor in fish & wildlife biology.

When asked what advice he would give to someone considering a career as a municipal arborist / utility forester, he suggested you, "follow your passion and give 150% to any job you take no matter how small or large. Always deliver excellent customer service to your clients, employer and fellow co-workers." Dave continued noting that you should, "be honest, be flexible, do what's right, be accountable, understand that failure is part of any job, learn you must improvise, overcome and adapt to any situation because nothing in life is ever black and white. Tell the truth no matter the cost. Look someone in the eyes when they're talking to you and really listen to what they have to say because it is important." Dave also suggests that you keep educating yourself throughout your career and always look for opportunities to improve your brand. He added how important it is to take time to thank those who helped you throughout your life and career.

Dave currently serves as vice president on the Ohio Chapter ISA board of directors.

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*Offer valid until 12/31/19

Ohio TCC Competition Results

On April 13, the Chapter held its annual Ohio Tree Climbing Championship (Ohio TCC). The weather was chilly and preparation work was halted on set-up day as tornado warning sirens blasted the area, but the challenge was on! Hosted by the Cincinnati Park Board, the event was held at Ault Park. Event chair Jay Butcher and his volunteers put on a class-act event as usual.

In addition to Cincinnati Parks, sponsors/exhibitors included @ Height, Arbor Elements, Arborwear, Bartlett Tree Experts, Endors Arborist & Rope Supply, Independent Tree, Madison Tree and Sherrill Tree. Thanks to their support, every competitor received prizes.

The sold-out event featured 29 male competitors and 3 female competitors, all vying for a chance to represent Ohio at the International Tree Climbing Championship this August in Knoxville, TN. Congratulations to the Masters' Challenge winners, Dustin Ford and Betsy Parks; we look forward to watching you compete!

Results of the five preliminary events:

Men's Division

Aerial Rescue

1st Place Dustin Ford
2nd Place Evan Beck
3rd Place Jacob Sauer

Belayed Speed Climb

1st Place Sam Baltodano
2nd Place Kyle Webb
3rd Place Tom Barman

Ascent Event

1st Place Nick Markley
2nd Place Evan Beck
3rd Place Dennis Boyd

Throwline

1st Place Nick Markley
2nd Place Menno Schlabach
3rd Place Cody Beshire

Work Climb

1st Place Sam Baltodano
2nd Place Nick Markley
3rd Place Dustin Ford

Women's Division

Aerial Rescue

1st Place Lily Soderlund (KY)
2nd Place Betsy Parks
3rd Place Rachel Brewster (TX)

Belayed Speed Climb

1st Place Lily Soderlund (KY)
2nd Place Rachel Brewster (TX)

Ascent Event

1st Place Lily Soderlund (KY)
2nd Place Betsy Parks
3rd Place Rachel Brewster (TX)

Throwline

1st Place Lily Soderlund (KY)
2nd Place Rachel Brewster (TX)
3rd Place Betsy Parks

Work Climb

1st Place Lily Soderlund (KY)
2nd Place Rachel Brewster (TX)
3rd Place Betsy Parks

Congratulations and a huge thank you to each competitor for sharing your time and expertise with fellow tree care enthusiasts and the many park spectators that were out on that beautiful day.

Next year's event will be held in the Cleveland area. Contact the Chapter if you're interested in serving on the planning committee.





Scholarships Available

The Ohio Chapter ISA Scholarship Program was designed to promote professional arboriculture in Ohio. Our goal is to assist individuals with the financial responsibility of professional development through higher education in the field or via the International Society of Arboriculture's certified arborist program.

The Chapter offers the following scholarships:

- Certified Arborist – Four (4) scholarships valued at \$750 are available to qualified individual seeking their ISA Certified Arborist credential.
- Professional Development – Two (2) scholarships are available for individual seeking additional professional development in one of the other ISA certification/qualification areas such as municipal specialist, utility specialist, BCMA, TRAQ, etc. Scholarship recipients receive \$500 to help cover appropriate study materials, testing, etc.
- Traditional Student – Three (3) scholarships valued at \$1000 are available for Ohio residents currently enrolled in a 2-year or 4-year accredited post-secondary arboriculture, horticulture, urban forestry or related degree program.



Visit the Chapter's website for complete details. Deadline for applications is July 1.

Safety Corner

By Brian Goodall

Finally, warm weather and sunny skies have come. We can all go outside and enjoy ourselves. One thing to consider is that we are not the only ones feeling this way. Insects, birds, and mammals alike are also enjoying the beautiful weather.

Keep your eyes out for the return of our stinging insect friends the wasps, hornets, and bees. Soon mosquitoes and other biting insects will be upon us as well. We are all familiar with the threat of these pests, but it does seem we forget what wrath they may bring until we forget the bug spray or even worse, we stumble across a hive in a tree. It also has been reported that this will be another "bad" year for ticks. Pretreat your clothes and check yourself regularly.

Birds are nesting as we speak, and the Indiana bat is hanging around. Be aware of active nests and the threats that they may pose to you and the birds themselves. Do not remove or disturb active nests. It should be advised to postpone work in trees known to harbor Indiana bats. If bats are found, any tree work cannot be pursued according to federal law as the bat is a federally and state protected species.

This brings me to a particular point. When we discuss safety, we often times just talk about what may cause harm to us and/or our property. Another safety issue that we should consider is our environmental impact. Safety should not only consider yourself and others, but the environment around you. We have a high potential to cause irreversible damage to

our environment. Trees are home to a countless number of different organisms that we can bring harm to while working amongst them. Take steps towards being environmentally aware when you are asked to work on a tree. Look for nests and hives. Watch for hollows that may not only pose a risk of failure in the tree but may also be an important home to a family of wood ducks. When a client asks you to remove the lichens on their trees, just say no. Being environmentally conscious and safe should be part of every crew's safety protocol.



SAFETY IN NUMBERS

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21st Annual Golf Outing Hawk's Nest Golf Course

2800 E. Pleasant Home Road
Creston, OH 44217
Phone: (330) 435-4611
www.playhawksnest.com



FRIDAY, June 14, 2019 11:00 am Start

Registration opens at 10:00 am
Net Proceeds Benefit Team Ohio & the TREE Fund

Entry Fee:

- \$500 per foursome
- Individual entry fee is \$150/person. Teams with less than 4 golfers may also register at \$150/person. Individual players and teams with less than 4 golfers will be assigned to a team by tournament coordinators unless they specify the desire to team up with other registered golfers.

Entry fee includes green fees, cart, prizes, dinner and more!
This year featuring gluten-free beverage options!

*Additional dinners are available in advance for \$25/person. Guests/spouses welcome.

Metal spikes prohibited.

For more information, contact the Ohio Chapter at (614) 771-7494.

Estimated tax-deductible portion: Entry fee per person less \$64 cost of goods/services per person.

Team Name (Optional) _____

Golfers' Names – PLEASE PRINT

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

- I/we are registering as Free Agent(s) and wish to be assigned to a team.
 I wish to order _____ additional dinner ticket(s) for non-golfer(s) at \$25 each.

Contact Name _____

Company _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____



Method of Payment:

- Check/Money Order payable to: **Ohio Chapter ISA**

To pay by credit card, please visit the Chapter's secure website at www.ohiochapterisa.org and Login (located in the upper right corner). For your protection, the Ohio Chapter does not accept credit card by phone, fax or mail.

If you do not remember your **Password**, use the **Forgot Login/Password** on the Chapter's website by entering the email address associated with your member record. Please contact the Chapter at (614) 771-7494 if you have any questions or have trouble logging in. We appreciate your support of the Ohio Chapter ISA.

Return completed registration form with check no later than June 1, 2019.

Remit to: Ohio Chapter ISA • PO Box 267 • Baltimore, OH 43105-9998

Questions? Call (614) 771-7494 • **Email:** info@ohiochapterisa.org • Visit www.ohiochapterisa.org

Thank YOU for your Support!



21st Annual Golf Outing ~ Sponsorship Opportunities

Event Date: June 14, 2019

Hawk's Nest Golf Club/Ohio State ATI

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Ohio State ATI proudly presents Hawk's Nest Golf Course, a beautiful 18-hole, par 72 championship course that's the favorite of golfers easy to reach near the junction of I-71 and I-76. On June 14, Ohio Chapter enthusiasts from all over the state will be there enjoying the beautiful conditions and fun to play course. Proceeds from this event benefit Team Ohio and their fundraising efforts for Tour des Trees and the TREE Fund, the leading non-governmental source of funding in the field of arboriculture. Contributions may be tax-deductible within the limits of the law.

CORNERSTONE SPONSOR - \$1,250

Benefits:

- Includes one golf foursome
- Opportunity to display one banner at event
- Opportunity to have promotional literature, equipment, and/or give-away items
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- Logo recognition in one issue of *The Buckeye Arborist**

CART SPONSOR - \$1,000

Benefits:

- Exclusive logo recognition on every cart
- Logo recognition in one issue of *The Buckeye Arborist**

PRIZE HOLE SPONSOR - \$300

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- Exclusive logo recognition on signage at a prize hole
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Benefits:

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Thank YOU for your Support!

The Buckeye Arborist May/June 2019

TREE Fund Update

By Kevin Jones

Greetings TREE Fund supporters! This is my first time composing the TREE Fund update for the Chapter, and so I thought a good way to start might be to revisit the mission of the TREE Fund. *TREE Fund's charitable mission is to support scientific discovery and dissemination of new knowledge in the fields of arboriculture and urban forestry.* The TREE Fund has awarded just under \$4 million in grants and scholarships that support our industry since it was established in 2002. In my humble opinion, the TREE Fund is the leading charitable organization in our industry that drives innovation and education. Keep an eye out in the coming months as the TREE Fund is in the process of finalizing the award for the Ohio Educational Grant.

As you may know, the TREE Fund's largest fundraiser is the annual Tour des Trees cycling event. The 2019 Tour des Trees will be on the road and rolling from September 16 to September 20. This year's tour will feature five days of riding; beginning and ending in Nashville, Tennessee, with planned overnight stops in Bowling Green, Owensboro, Pennyriple Forest State Park (all in Kentucky) and Clarksville, Tennessee. Daily mileage will range between 55 miles and 110 miles, with two anticipated century days.



So far in 2019, Team Ohio looks to be represented by a team of 4 veteran riders. Lisa Meranti of Cleveland, Laurie Skul of Canton, Dave Staats of Columbus, and yours truly of Hudson, are all signed up and currently training (and more importantly fundraising) for the tour. Our number of riders is down from the last few years, but this is probably to be expected after Ohio hosted the tour last year.

There are several ways to support our team. We have the upcoming Ohio Chapter golf outing on June 21 at the OSU ATI managed Hawk's Nest Golf Course (see registration form in this issue.) We are also planning the annual BBQ in

Kirtland; watch upcoming articles for more details.

We would like to thank the members of the Ohio Chapter for their generous support of the team of riders and the TREE Fund. We had a very successful silent auction and heads or tails extravaganza at the OTCC in February. As of the writing of this article, our team has raised over \$7,000 this year to support tree research and education. We have a way to go to meet our goal and would love your support. Our team fundraising link can be found here: <https://tour-des-trees-2019.yhero.com/us/team-ohio-2019>.

An advertisement for PennLine utility services. The background is a photograph of three workers in bright green safety gear and orange hard hats working in a snowy field. They are surrounded by large piles of cut branches and debris. A large utility truck with a crane is visible in the background. The PennLine logo and website are in the top left corner. The slogan "WE OWN IT. IT'S WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO." is in large white letters in the bottom right. A red banner at the bottom lists services: "Utility Line Maintenance // Right-of-Way Clearing // Herbicide Application // Storm Restoration // Mowing".

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Trees and Storms

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Purdue University, Department of Forestry and Natural Resources

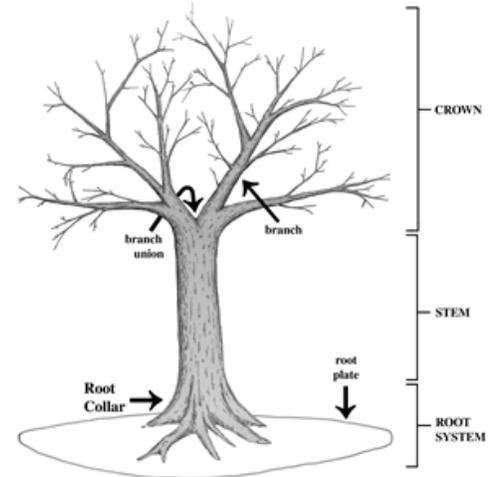
Trees are lost every year from storm-related events. Major damage to parts of the tree or even the entire tree can result from high winds, snow and ice. Trees provide value to the landscape and the community, and these trees can become aesthetic, financial and social losses in storms. In addition to physical damage or loss, risk and liability can become a concern to people and the surrounding property. Seasonal storms can cause extensive damage depending on timing and intensity. Deciding what to do with affected trees is an important process.

Over time, trees swaying in the wind develop extra strength to withstand directional forces. If conditions are consistent, trees will initiate changes in their development to compensate for these loading patterns. They are biologically engineered to adjust to external loading, under normal conditions. This fiber strength can minimize the impact of external forces, unless they are excessive, such as during a storm. Typically, these loads come from wind, however, ice and snow can cause damage from excessive weight on branches.

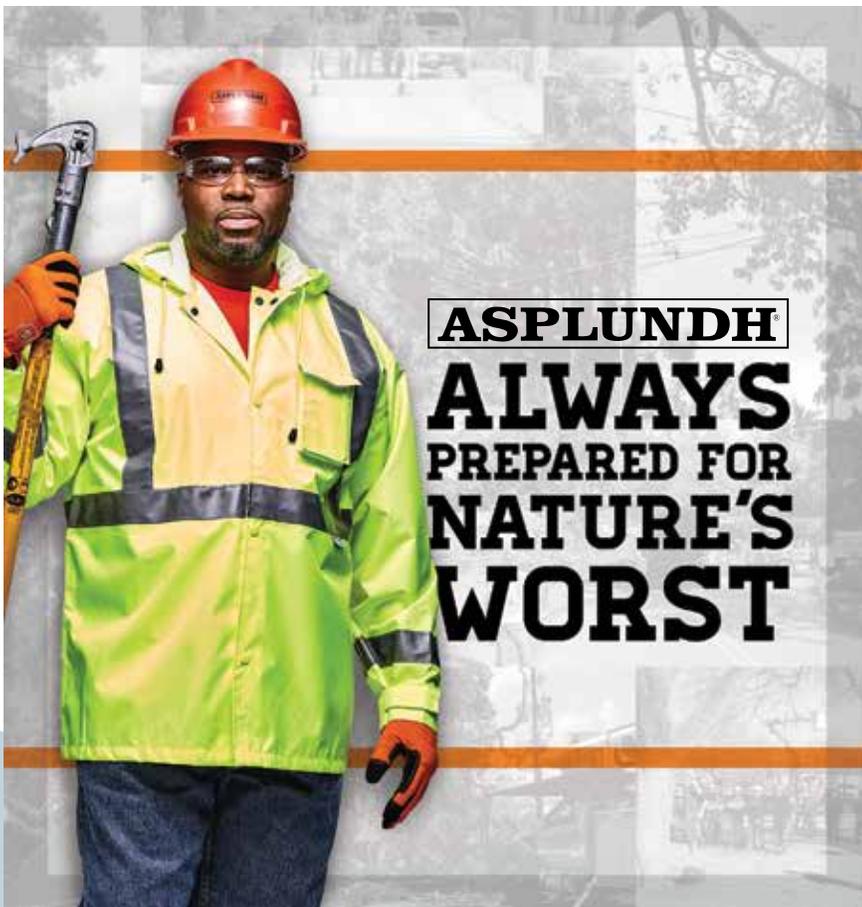
Typical weather events are not an issue for trees. They are engineered to withstand normal conditions. However, some storms can exert extreme

forces, resulting in injuries of varying degree. It is at this point that a tree owner or manager must make an informed decision based on the extent of the damage. The assistance of a trained arborist can help determine if a tree can be saved from sustained injuries or if it requires removal.

Parts of a tree to inspect



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The response to storm damage should be based primarily on two concepts: risk and sustainability. If the tree is an imminent or likely danger to people, property or activities; the decision leaves little room for options. However, if the risk is determined to be of an acceptable level and the injury to the tree not life-threatening, mitigation may be possible to save the tree and reduce the risk.

There are several types of tree damage which occurs from excessive weather to consider each with its own specific assessment considerations. All parts of the tree should be inspected during a post-storm assessment. Some common damage found includes:

Wind throw

The entire tree is “pushed over” by high winds. The loading forces on the aerial tree portions are too great for the developed root system. Previous harm from activities such as construction damage, lack of maintenance and attacks from pests predispose the tree to damage with poor anchorage or health. Inspect the root plate of each tree on a regular basis to determine if there are any root health issues. Look for fungal fruiting bodies, exposed roots, lifting or other damage. Often, a mature tree which has been completely uprooted is typically not salvageable.



Stem Failure

Trees will fail at their weakest point. Typically, failure is caused by the combination of a defect and external forces. Old injury sites or wounds are common on tree trunks and these damaged areas can lead to tree failure under excessive loads. Trunks can snap or buckle if the tree is unable to withstand the wind forces. Damage from stem failure is not normally possible to repair. Trees with major defects on the trunk



should be examined carefully to determine the degree of risk for that location. Look for decayed areas, cavities, nesting holes and fungal fruiting bodies for indicators. The extent and location of these defects will help determine the potential for failure.

Crown Twist

The tree canopy contains an array of leaves, twigs and branches which make up the crown portion of the tree. Many times, the crown can have an uneven geometry from competition or poor pruning, leaving an unequal appearance. The result of this situation in high winds can be trouble. Uneven wind loading on the lopsided crown produces a damaging twist on major branches and the stem. This twisting causes torsional stress, much like twisting a rope backwards, resulting in splits and cracking. This is especially damaging around old wounds or other defects, which can lead to failure. Close investigation is necessary to spot these often-subtle cracks. Often this damage can be mitigated in branches, however, take caution with damaged trunks.



Root Failure

Stability and anchorage are important roles of the roots for keeping a tree upright. Both the structural, woody roots and the fine absorbing roots create an effective network of strength to withstand wind loading forces. As the tree becomes larger, increased stress is put on the roots to maintain that stability.



Roots which are restricted, diseased or damaged can cause trees to fall or lean. Careful examination of the root plate is needed to determine if anchorage is compromised. Look for heaving of the soil and roots around the tree trunk which can present a high-risk situation.

The presence of pulled or broken roots as well as any mushroom development around the root system can be indicators of risk as well. Depending on the age, size and degree of exposure, mitigation may be possible. Young trees with healthy root systems can be up righted and staked or guyed with success. However, if more than 30% of the roots are exposed, removal may be the best option.

Branch Failure

Tree branches are easy victims of loading forces. Whether it is axial loading from snow or ice accretion, or lateral side loading from wind, damage is frequent. Because branches can sometimes be poorly attached to the main stems, they easily experience injury. However, this structural arrangement allows the branches to be flexible and disposable, and easily shed in times of stress to help dampen the impact of wind.



Poor architecture and development, such as codominant stems and included bark in branch junctions, predispose branches to failure and

often are the first to experience damage. Branch failure can be easily repaired and not lethal to the tree unless more than a half of the crown has been destroyed. However, they can create high risk situations in the wrong places. Learn to recognize broken, hanging limbs or other signs of damage to reduce risk. Often twisted and cracked branches are difficult to see and may need closer inspection by an arborist to identify. Be sure to use pruning best practices when correcting damaged branches.

There are other forms of damage, such as lightning damage which can be detrimental and even lethal to trees.

Storm Damage Prevention

It is impossible to protect a tree from storms or prevent damage from weather events. However, there are some actions that can minimize injury to trees.

The best preparation begins when trees are young or newly planted. Do not stake or guy trees unless absolutely necessary. This prevents development of internal adjustments to wind with response wood growth. Let the tree adjust to local conditions by allowing natural movement. Structural pruning helps the tree form a healthy, more wind-resistant crown. Inspection and corrective pruning of newly planted trees produces a stronger structure. Eliminate codominant stems by pruning these weak- forked branches. Choose a good, strong

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central leader for young trees. This will prevent losing the whole crown in the future.

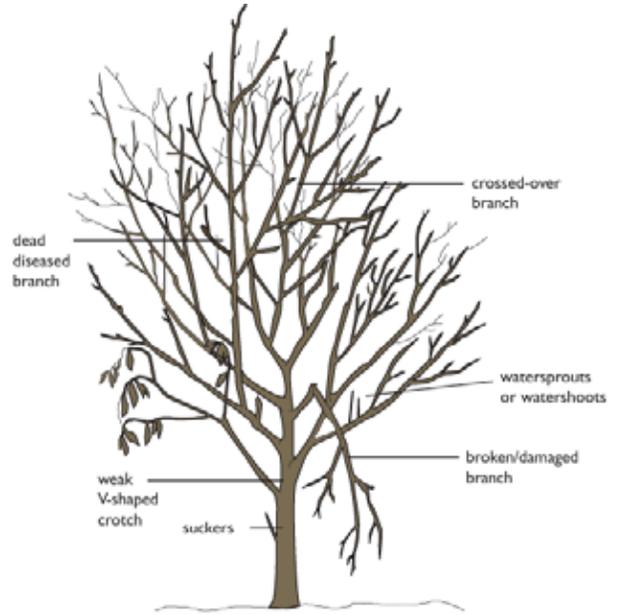
Pruning mature trees should be a carefully managed decision. Be aware of pruning doses on live green tissue to minimize wounding stress. Reduce loads on defective tree parts which have been identified during an assessment. Review over-extended branches and tall stems reducing the bending moment to help reduce the likelihood of failure.



Codominant stems on this maple as well as included bark are more prone to splitting.

Inspect trees for broken, dying, diseased and dead branches each year. Look for crossing branches which lead to problems where rubbing produces damage and decay. Always favor branches with a “U” shape or greater than 45° angle, which forms an optimal connection. These branches will have fewer tendencies to split or break from wind or ice loads. Eliminate branches with bark inclusion and tight or narrow

branch junctions. Branch training is essential for sustainable, long term tree plantings.



Functional pruning creates a healthier tree and is less prone to damage from ice and winds.

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Under no circumstances should a tree be “topped” to prevent wind or ice damage. Topped trees produce many small, poorly attached sprouts and as they grow, the canopy weight and density are actually increased. In addition, topped branches often develop decay and diseased stems, which further weaken the tree and make the branch more susceptible to breakage. Topping may seem to make a tree safer, but it actually increases the potential for storm damage with unhealthy epicormic sprouting and additional decay in branches.

When mature trees develop unequal crowns, prune to improve symmetry. However, remember pruning best practices and never remove more than 30% of the crown at one time. It may take several years for crown restoration. Good pruning techniques also promote faster healing of the cuts.

It is typically not recommended to “wind-proof” the tree by thinning out branches. Trees rely on proper branching habit and placement to dampen the wind energy affecting the tree. Excessive and unnecessary pruning creates wounds and additional stress on tree health. Allow the tree to develop fully and naturally, by pruning only when needed. However, proper health care includes pruning for vigor. This includes removing dead, dying or diseased branches, poor branch attachments, crossing branches and narrow branch angles. After this functional pruning, some thinning is achieved to reduce drag or sail in the canopy.

A healthy tree is the best defense to any challenge the tree may face in its lifetime. Appropriate watering and fertilization improve root growth and structure making the tree more stable. Monitor for pest problems and treat when needed to prevent insects and diseases from weakening tree health. Remove diseased branches, as needed, to minimize spread and potential damage.

Risk Assessment

Following a severe storm event, not all trees will need to be pruned or removed and many will need little or no treatment at all. After identification of the type of damage, risk assessment is the priority. One of the more critical tasks for a property owner is determining an acceptable level of risk. It is the responsibility of a tree owner to maintain and manage their trees to protect the safety of others. This usually requires assistance from a well-qualified arborist.

Post storm response includes:

- Safety first! Stay clear and look for dangerous hanging limbs, broken branches and other failures, before beginning cleanup. Keep others clear of the areas beneath and around damaged trees. Be alert for power lines which could be involved with the damaged tree. All utility lines should be considered energized and dangerous.
- Damage assessment is the next step. Review the affected tree or trees to determine the level of injury. Some trees may not require any action and can recover on their own. The challenging part of the assessment is deciding which trees can be pruned properly

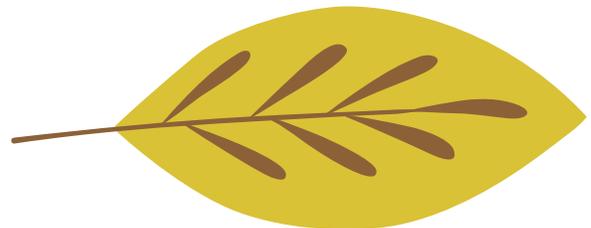
to a healthy state and which trees should be removed. Many factors are involved in the decision and damage may be hidden or difficult to determine.

- Match skills with the situation when it comes to reparation of damages and restoration. Be able to recognize when tree damage requires advanced training. Tree work is dangerous, and the hazards are compounded when storm damage is involved. Leaning trees, broken and pinned branches, as well as utility lines, can create life-threatening situations.
- Basic clean-up can be helpful in the post-storm response process. Removing downed branches and limbs, and performing basic pruning on smaller, injured trees can help speed recovery from the event. This also provides for a better evaluation of the site and the larger affected trees.

Hire a Certified Arborist

Finding a qualified tree care professional is important protection for a property owner. Sometimes less credible companies follow storms to take advantage of a bad situation. Educating home owners to hire a reputable arborist can protect them from being victimized. As a professionally trained arborist, you can determine if a tree can be saved. Even if the tree must be removed, your safety and training are needed to prevent additional damage or injury from the removal. An International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Certified Arborist can help save a tree or improve the risk situations which follow storms. Also, choosing an accredited company brings the highest level of standards for client satisfaction and safety.

Ohio Chapter members have the unique NEW benefit of being included in our new consumer website, *Trees4Ohio.org*. **Chapter members must login to OhioChapterISA.org and update your profile. Check “available for hire” and each of the services you provide.** Your email address associated with your membership record is your user name. If you forgot your password or have not logged in before, use “forgot my password” and an email will be sent to you with instructions. If you have questions or problems logging in, please contact the Chapter office.



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- 1.) The response to trees with storm damage should be based primarily on two concepts:
 - a. Retain and monitor
 - b. Risk and sustainability
 - c. Prune and fertilize
 - d. Mulch and water
- 2.) Which statement(s) is(are) true?
 - a. Damage from stem failure is normally possible to repair
 - b. A mature tree which has been completely uprooted is typically salvageable
 - c. Trees will fail at their weakest point
 - d. All of the above
- 3.) Branch failure is typically not lethal to a tree unless more than _____ of the crown has been destroyed?
 - a. 10%
 - b. 30%
 - c. 50%
 - d. 75%
- 4.) It is possible to protect a tree from storms and prevent damage from weather events?
 - a. True
 - b. False
- 5.) "Topping" is an acceptable and safer method in reducing storm damage in trees?
 - a. True
 - b. False
- 6.) What should be done if a tree develops an unequal crown?
 - a. Prune to improve symmetry
 - b. Fertilize to promote shoot growth
 - c. Prune 40% or more of the crown in one season
 - d. Nothing
- 7.) Removing branches with poor attachments and architecture is suggested to help prevent storm damage?
 - a. True
 - b. False
- 8.) What is the best defense against any challenges a tree may face?
 - a. Appropriate watering and fertilization
 - b. Monitoring for pests and treating when needed
 - c. Removing dead and diseased branches when needed
 - d. All of the above
- 9.) Following a severe storm event, one of the more critical tasks for a property owner is:
 - a. Determine an acceptable level of risk
 - b. Remove or prune all trees on the property
 - c. Water and fertilize all trees on the property
 - d. All of the above
- 10.) Post storm response may include:
 - a. Dangerous hanging limbs, broken branches, or other failures
 - b. Downed utility lines
 - c. Trees that may require no corrective actions
 - d. All of the above

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