

An Arborist takes  
care of a tree for life.



# OUT ON A LIMB

SPRING 2017, VOLUME 37, ISSUE 1



2017 NE GREAT PLAINS Conference attendees check out the silent auction items. Story on page 1.

## PLANTING SEEDS OF KNOWLEDGE

By Jim Keepers: Nebraska GREAT PLAINS Conference Chairperson

The 2017 Nebraska GREAT PLAINS Conference was a great success. The snow storm on Wednesday didn't hinder our attendance. On Tuesday our attendance topped off at 330 and on Wednesday it was 255. We exceeded our attendance from last year by sixty-seven on Tuesday and thirteen on Wednesday. We had eighteen FFA students from Omaha Bryan High School with their instructor/ FFA Leader who attended the conference on Tuesday. We had seven students from Northeast Community College along with their instructor, Kurt Pytleski, who attended both days of the conference. This was the most students we have ever had at our conference.



Orville Hatcher

Our total exhibitors were forty-eight including thirteen new exhibitors. Seventeen sponsors supported the event. Dr. Ball was unable to drive down from South Dakota due to the



Mrs. Bev Hatcher along with her son, daughter-in-law and granddaughter were present at the NAA business meeting.

weather, but Phillip Kelley, North American Training Instructor, stepped in and presented 'The Key to Tree Worker Safety' and Kent Holm, Douglas Co. Environmental Services along with Graham Herbst and Amy Seiler from the Nebraska Forest Service assisted with the Wednesday morning keynote panel presentation. Dr. Ball's keynote presentation on Wednesday afternoon was cancelled.

The silent and live auctions along with the NAA raffle were well received with the proceeds going into both the Nebraska Arborists Association and the Nebraska Nursery and Landscape Association's individual educational funds.

The conference was dedicated to Orville Hatcher, past president of the NAA and retired Omaha City Forester.

*continued on page 7...*

## A QUARTERLY UPDATE OF THE NEBRASKA ARBORISTS ASSOCIATION

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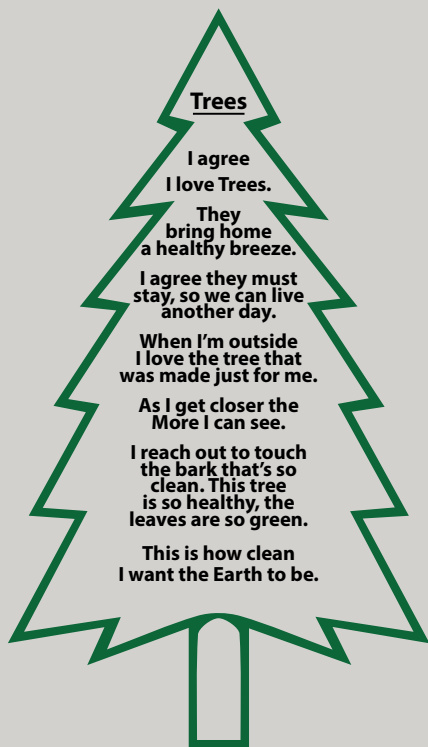
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### SUBMIT ARTICLES:

If you have anything you'd like to submit for inclusion in the Quarterly Update, please contact Jim Keepers at [jlkeepers45@gmail.com](mailto:jlkeepers45@gmail.com) or (402) 332-0715 or (402) 618-8837.

Submission deadlines for the NAA  
2017 quarterly newsletters:  
2nd Quarter - June 2, 2017  
3rd Quarter - September 8, 2017  
4th Quarter - December 1, 2017

*Photo contributions throughout  
courtesy of Jim Keepers.*



Trees By: Delaney Driscoll

Delaney Driscoll is a 5th grade student at Palisades Elementary School. She wrote this poem last year and was one of the 4th grade Arbor Day poetry contest winners at her school.

Nebraska's 2017 Arbor Day  
Celebration is April 28.

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Lon Nutter, NAA President

It was great seeing everybody at the 2017 Nebraska GREAT PLAINS Conference. The conference had a lot to offer and I felt it was a success. I would like to thank Jim Keepers, the rest of the planning committee, and NAA staff for putting together such an outstanding event.

Congratulations to this year's award winners at the conference business meeting. John Wynn, Sr. was awarded the Arborist of the Year Award; Eric Berg was awarded the Educator of the Year Award; and Marilyn Heins was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award. All three of these individuals have contributed greatly to our association and the field of arboriculture and their work is greatly appreciated. Again, congratulations on receiving these well-deserved awards!

Also at the business meeting, new board positions were appointed. Congratulations to our new NAA President-Elect Kevin Popken. I feel the association made a great choice in selecting Kevin as the next NAA President and I look forward to seeing the positive direction he will take the association. Also, congratulations to new board member Jeff Melies who was appointed to a NAA Director position. Jeff brings a lot of industry experience to the table and I look forward to serving with him on the board.

With the appointment of Kevin to the NAA President-Elect position, we see former NAA President Wyatt DeWeese leave the board. On a personal note, thank you Wyatt for all you have done for me and the association. To me, you have been a great mentor and have better prepared me for my duties as NAA President. I hope to be as good of leader as you have been and I hope you will stay involved with the NAA in whatever capacity you are able.

As we prepare and get going through the 2017 growing season, I encourage us all to make safety our number one priority. There are a lot of hazards that can cause us not to make it home safely every day, and we need to do a good job of identifying and eliminating those hazards. A good pre-job survey is essential in achieving this objective. If a hazard cannot be eliminated, it's okay to not perform that task until that hazard can be eliminated. No job, customer, activity, or tree is worth risking an incident.

Have a great and safe 2017, and I hope to see you at upcoming NAA events.

## MW-ISA CLIMBING COMPETITION

The MW-ISA Climbing Competition will be held June 3-4, 2017, in Springfield, MO. Please contact Jerel Converse if you are interested in assisting with this event.

# KEEPING IT CLEAN AND SAFE...

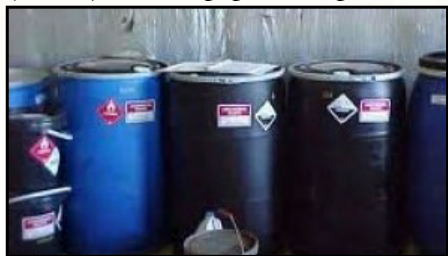
By Stacy Gillman, Stormwater Assistant - Douglas County Environmental Services

We would like to thank everyone who stopped by our booth at the 2017 NEBRASKA GREAT PLAINS Conference and took time to learn a bit about the potential impact that maintenance facilities can have on the environment.

Take a look around your company's maintenance buildings and yard and recognize any activities, operations, or site conditions that could result in the discharge of pollutants. Identify the types and sources of pollutants associated with these activities. For example, it might be runoff from stockpiles of soil or salt/sand piles for winter weather operations. Are there any exposed containers of fertilizer or pesticides where rainwater or snow melt could wash some of the material into a storm drain?



Pollutants in stormwater runoff can cause significant harm to our rivers, lakes, and streams. A Facility Runoff Control Plan (FRCP) can help prevent pollution by identifying areas in your maintenance facility that need attention and identifying good housekeeping behaviors.



For example, locate storm drains and ask the question, "How are these protected?" In your FRCP, develop control measures appropriate to site operations, environmental conditions, activities of concern, and to the targeted pollutants. These measures can include practices like using appropriate signage and labeling and keeping potential pollutants covered so they are not exposed to rain and therefore don't generate stormwater runoff. In addition, when it comes to your vehicles and equipment, make sure you have a supply of absorbent material in fueling areas to take care of any spills and you have a fuel shutoff system in place.

Formal and informal training of your staff will help encourage them to follow the best practices in your FRCP and to identify other appropriate actions that need to be taken to minimize potential pollution.

Provide a mechanism for monthly inspections and document corrective actions. This also helps identify areas that need improvement, both from a physical location and employee behavior standpoints. Using visual reminders such as posters and appropriate signage also aid in reinforcing desired behaviors and addressing potential pollution problems.



Everyone can play a part in improving the environment and waterways - if you see a potential pollution problem, be proactive and take care of it!

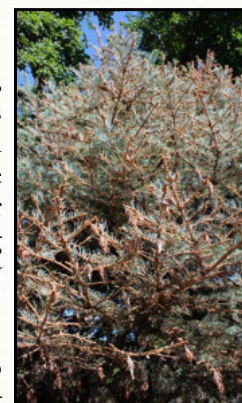


**THIS WILL HAPPEN WHEN OUR TREES ARE NOT PROPERLY TREATED FOR INSECTS & DISEASES!**

## BAGWORMS ON EVERGREENS

*Nebraska Extension: Hort Update, 10 March 2017*

Check evergreens, especially spruce, Juniper and Arborvitae, for overwintering bagworms. As many as 500 to 1000 eggs can overwinter in one female bagworm. Removing and destroying bagworms from now until May can help reduce the bagworm population. Destroy bagworms by crushing or immersing in soapy water. If bags containing eggs are discarded on the ground, eggs may still hatch and larvae return to the tree.



It is too early to apply insecticidal products to evergreens for bagworms. Wait until after egg hatch. Products are most effective in reducing damage if applied during the early stages of bagworm development. Insecticides, as well as *Bacillus thuringiensis*, are best applied from mid to late June. They can be applied up until about mid-August, but increased damage will occur the later they are first applied.

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# ARBORIST SPOTLIGHT

By Jim Keepers: NAA Newsletter Coordinator

I have the unique opportunity to feature three different certified arborists in this quarter's article. These individuals are very different and unique, but have a quality in common making them stand out amongst their arborist peers. The Nebraska Arborists Association recognized these individuals at the annual business meeting held during the 2017 Nebraska GREAT PLAINS Conference. These individuals are Marilyn Heins, John Wynn Sr., and Eric Berg. Please take a few minutes to see who these individuals are, what they have accomplished, and why they were awarded such significant NAA awards.



**NAA President Lon Nutter presents the NAA Lifetime Achievement Award to NE Certified Arborist Marilyn Heins**

Marilyn Heins was awarded the NAA's Lifetime Achievement Award. This award is the highest honor granted by the NAA. This award recognizes outstanding individual service to the association in advancing the principles, ethics, and practices of arboriculture in Nebraska. This award is not presented each year by the NAA, so that tells you the criteria for this award is very high and the individual receiving this award stands out among their fellow arborists. This award was instituted in 2011 and only twelve arborists have received this prestigious award.

Marilyn Heins grew up on a farm near Auburn, Nebraska. She graduated from Peru State College and spent the next twenty-five years as a Home Economics teacher in Central City and Fullerton, Nebraska. She married Jim Heins on June 10, 1973, and they were married for twenty-nine years before Jim passed away on September 1, 2002. They were a very devoted couple and had two children Aaron and Michelle who live in Denver, Colorado. They have seven grandchildren.



**NE Certified Arborist Marilyn Heins & guests**

Let's now look at some of Marilyn's arborist achievements. Jim Heins' lawn business expanded in 1995 into Heins Lawn and Landscaping, Inc. and Marilyn and their son Aaron took on a more active part in the business. That was the same year Marilyn left her teaching job to devote full time to the family business. She became a Certified Nebraska Arborist in 1996 and devoted fifty percent of her time doing manual labor and the other fifty percent doing tree consulting and the business bookkeeping. That was the same year she became a lifetime member of the Nebraska Arborists Association. In 2001 Marilyn became the president of the NAA. The term of office at that time was one year. Marilyn was the first and only female president of the NAA. As an NAA board member, president-elect, president and past-president Marilyn played an important role in the growth and development of the NAA. She was recognized for her arborist achievements as the 2004 Arborist of the Year.



**NAA President Lon Nutter presents NAA Arborist of the Year to NE Certified Arborist John Wynn, Sr.**

Marilyn's desire to serve and her love of trees seems to go hand-in-hand. In 1998 she was selected to fill one of the arborist's positions on the Nebraska Forestry Council and she held this position until 2010. She served as secretary for the council during these years. While a member of the council, she spearheaded the "Nebraska Heritage Tree" registration and was instrumental with the organization's many tree campaigns such as their "anti-topping" and their "10 second decision, 20 year mistake program." She has been an active player in verifying many of Nebraska's "Champion Trees." In 1997, while she was involved with the NE Forestry Council, she helped start the Central City Tree Board and the city's successful tree planting program. Central City has become a Tree City USA award winner for over twenty years because of Marilyn's actions.

You would think that a busy lady like Marilyn would not have any other time left to give, but she does. She has been a very active member of her church Grace Lutheran for over thirty years. She has filled a number of church council chairperson's positions and has been the church's treasurer/financial secretary for years.

Marilyn was very surprised and appreciative of the recognition the NAA gave her with the presentation of this award. Her daughter-in-law Michelle was present at the meeting along with Jeremy Kucera, Amy Kucera and Paul Beyer all from Central City.

In closing, I want to say that I am proud to know this unique lady. Her achievements in life along with her dedication to the arborist career field warrants the recognition given to her by the association.

Now let's take a look at our second unique individual, John Wynn, Sr. He was awarded the NAA Arborist of the Year. This award was first presented in 1996 and 19 NAA arborists have received this highly coveted award. This award recognizes an outstanding arborist who has a positive impact on the association due to their strong commitment to arboriculture and tree care in Nebraska. The individual must be an NAA member, perform their primary arborist duties in Nebraska, and be a member of the association for a minimum of five years.

John was born in Omaha, Nebraska to Rose and Jack Wynn. He graduated from Bryan High School and began doing lawn work and tree trimming out of high school. He began his professional tree trimming career clearing lines for the power company, and has worked for several tree services in Omaha.

In June of 1997, John began working for the City of Omaha Parks Department as a Tree Trimmer 1. He worked his way up and built lasting working relationships along the way. He had one particularly influential mentor at the City of Omaha, Walt Mertz, who taught John about tree care, career choices, and life in general.

In March of 2010, John was honored to accept the position as the Forester for the City of Omaha. This position had been vacant for a number of years. He had to fill the shoes of individuals like Orville Hatcher and Phil Pierce. John eagerly pursued his duties and responsibilities.

John recounted one story from when he began doing tree work. He was learning to climb, and a more experienced and senior trimmer suggested that maybe forestry just wasn't for him. He hinted that maybe John just wasn't cut out for the job. Then and there John set a goal for himself that he would not only succeed in learning to climb, but that he would become the best climber and arborist that he could possibly be.

John is a focal point when it comes to Omaha's tree issues. He has had to face some unique agricultural challenges as Omaha City Forester including the devastating flooding along the Missouri River that killed many old and stately trees in Omaha parks, and the planting of new trees to replace the loss of flooded out trees. He is now faced with the issue of the Emerald Ash Borer infestation and deciding what ash trees to remove, treat and new trees to plant within the boundaries of the City of Omaha.



**Certified NE Arborist John Wynn Sr., and family**



**NAA President Lon Nutter presents the NAA Educator of the Year award to ISA Certified Arborist Eric Berg**

Besides solving tree issues, John works in the Omaha political arena almost daily. At the same time, he insures his city arborist crews are performing their arborist duties in a safe and skilled manner. John also takes an active part in the community by planting trees at public events. He was the City of Omaha point person for the Midwest International Society of Arboriculture (MWISA) tree climbing event. The planning for this event took numerous hours on John's part and involved coordination with several state arborist associations.

The award of the NAA Arborist of the Year was a complete surprise to John at the NAA business meeting. Present at the award ceremony was John Wynn, Jr. and John's mother Ross Wynn who was overjoyed with John's award. John is married to his lovely wife, Jodi, and has three children: John Jr., Tyler, and Zach.



**ISA Certified Arborist Eric Berg & Kona, "The Wonder Dog"**

The association is fortunate to have an individual like John Wynn, Sr. and I highly respect this man for his arborists talents. The next time you see John at our events, please thank him for the job he has done as the City of Omaha Forester and the recognition he has brought to the Nebraska Arborists Association.

The last unique individual to be recognized in this article is Eric Berg, Nebraska Forest Service (NFS), Community Forestry and Sustainable Landscape Program Leader, International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Certified Arborist, Municipal Specialist MW-4103AM and NAA Board Advisor. Eric was awarded the NAA Educator of the Year at the NAA annual business meeting. Eric was unable to attend the meeting, but the award was presented to him by NAA board members during a Nebraska Forest Service staff meeting at UNL.

The NAA Educator of the Year recognizes the important role that teaching and education plays in enhancing the quality and professionalism of the association's members. This award was commissioned in 2005 and only twelve educators have received this award. When the subject of this award comes up in discussion among fellow arborists you think of Steve Rodie, Mark Harrell and Brad Jakubowski. Now, the name of Eric Berg will be listed with these talented and gifted individuals. Eric is married to Ann who is a labor and delivery nurse at Bryan Hospital and is also working on her MS to be a midwife. They have three daughters: Kaylie, Lily, and Emily. Another family member is Kona, "The Wonder Dog" who is a ten-year-old mixed chocolate lab.

Eric originates from Colorado where he attended Colorado State University and studied natural resource management. His previous work experience includes range conservation work in South Dakota; Stewardship Forester with the Colorado State Forest Service; Research Associate with Colorado State University assigned to the Department of Defense; and District Forester for twenty-one counties in Kansas with the Kansas Forest Service. Before moving to Nebraska, he was employed by the Kansas Forest Service at Kansas State University where he coordinated the Community Forestry Program from 1998 to 2006.

Eric joined the Nebraska Forest Service in February 2006. He came to Nebraska with a strong background in community and urban forestry while working in the State of Kansas and gained vast experience in tree care through working with the Kansas Arborist Association.

Eric works with the NAA to accomplish program objectives, specifically the objectives of the NAA Arborist School. Eric is instrumental in arranging the schools NFS/NSA instructor schedule. He is a strong supporter of the NAA Arborist Certification Program. He has also been one of the key instructors at the NAA Nebraska GREAT PLAINS Eastern Summer Conference. He is always willing to spend his time on the weekend to make arborist related presentations to the public at events such as the Annual Gretna Tree Talk.

Eric and I have discussed the value of both NAA and ISA Arborist Certification. I have enjoyed our discussions and respect his judgement and educational expertise. He was a loss to Kansas but a great addition to Nebraska. I am pleased to say, "Thanks Eric for a job well done!"

# A YEAR IN REVIEW

By: *Jim Keepers, NAA Newsletter Coordinator*

Take a look at what happened in 2016!

The Nebraska GREAT PLAINS Conference “Education: The Key to Success” kicked off the year with a two-day conference. Total attendance on day one was 263 and on day two was 242. The exhibit hall had fifty diverse exhibitors (NAA Newsletter, Spring 2016, Volume 36, Issue 1).

NE Certified Arborist, Dan Sundermeier, owner and operator of American Arborists was awarded the NAA Arborist of the Year (NAA Newsletter, Spring 2016, Volume 36, Issue 1).

NE Certified Arborist, Graham Herbst, Nebraska Forest Service, Community Forestry Specialist for Eastern Nebraska was awarded the NAA Educator of the Year (NAA Newsletter, Spring 2016, Volume 36, Issue 1).

Missy Ragatz, Omaha Symphony Art Director and Gretna Arbor Society (Tree Board) member featured in the NAA Newsletter “Arborist Spotlight” (NAA Newsletter, spring 2016, Volume 36, Issue 1).

NAA sponsored the 11th Annual Gretna Tree Talk (NAA Newsletter, Spring 2016, Volume 36, Issue 1).

NAA Service Project, “The NAA Goes The Extra Mile” accomplished at the Eastern 4-H Center south of Gretna. Dan Sundermeier, owner/operator of American Arborists and Jeff Grewe, owner/operator of Arbor Aesthetics provided crews and equipment for this project. Wyatt DeWeese and Lon Nutter, NAA board members, oversaw the project (NAA Newsletter, Spring 2016, Volume 36, Issue 1).

Jeff & Amy Grewe, owners/operators of Arbor Aesthetics and their son, Miles Frederick were awarded the 2015 Green Industry Award from the Nebraska Forest Service (NAA Newsletter, Summer 2016, Volume 36 Issue 2).

Gretna Arbor Society (Tree Board) received the 2015 For the Future Generations Award from the Nebraska Forest Service (NAA Newsletter, Summer 2016, Volume 36, Issue 2).

Climber Kyle Webb was featured in the NAA Newsletter “Arborist Spotlight” (NAA Newsletter, Summer 2016, Volume, 36 Issue 2).

Ansel Ash, Lincoln’s Green Ash located on UNL’s East Campus was removed by NE Certified Arborists from the University Services because of Sudden Branch Drop (SBD) (NAA Newsletter, Summer 2016, Volume 36, Issue 2).

EAB officially found at Pulaski Park, in Omaha, by the City of Omaha, confirmed by USDA on June 8, 2016 (Summer 2016, Volume 36, Issue 2).

Orville K. Hatcher, NAA Past President and retired City of Omaha Forester passed away in June (NAA Newsletter, Summer 2016, Volume 36, Issue 2).

NAA received grant funding from Tree Care Industry Association (TCIA) and conducted two Arborist Safety Training Workshops, chain saw operation/safety and chipper operator training (NAA Newsletter, Summer 2016, Volume 36, Issue 2).

NAA conducted a three-day Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Tree School. Phil Pierce, Consulting Arborist and NE Certified Arborist was assisted by Lon Nutter, NAA President and Certified NE Arborist (NAA Newsletter, Fall 2016, Volume 36, Issue 3).

Mark O. Harrell, PhD., Nebraska Forest Service, Forest Health Program Leader featured in the NAA’s Newsletter “Arborist Spotlight” (NAA Newsletter, Fall 2016, Volume 36, Issue 3).

NAA Nebraska GREAT PLAINS Eastern and Western Summer Field Days were held at Mulhall’s Nursery in Omaha and multiple locations in Scottsbluff, Nebraska. The Eastern event featured a number of new exhibitors and a special thanks goes out to the exhibitors who were present at the Western event (NAA Newsletter, Fall 2016, Volume 36, Issue 3).

The NAA Tree ID, Evaluation & Selection, Planting & Establishment class was held at the Carol Joy Holling Center. Justin Evertson, Nebraska Statewide Arboretum and Graham Herbst, Nebraska Forest Service were the instructors for the class. This was one of the largest classes ever conducted by the NAA (NAA Newsletter, Fall 2016, Volume 36, Issue 3).

A new certified arborist color identification card with photo was designed and created by the NAA Staff. Special thanks go out to Jodi Roth, NAA staff member, for her efforts on this project (NAA Newsletter, Winter 2016, Volume 36, Issue 4).

NAA Pruning and Climbing Class held at the Carol Joy Holling Center. Jerel Converse, City of Omaha, was again the lead instructor with Robert Schreiner, Nebraska City Utilities, and Mike Ayers, A & C Tree Service assisting with the instruction. All three of these climbers are NAA Certified Arborists. In addition, other Certified NAA Arborists assisted with the class (NAA Newsletter, Winter 2016, Volume 36, Issue 4).

NAA Advance Rigging/Felling and Climbing Class conducted at the Carol Joy Holling Center. Tony Tresselt, North American Training Instructor was the lead instructor and Rob Dein, Arbor One, assisted. This marks the third year for this advanced class. Special credit goes to Kevin Popken, Lawngevity Lawn & Tree, for the work he has done creating this training class (NAA Newsletter, Winter 2016, Volume 36, Issue 4).

Michael (Mike) Ayers, owner/operator featured in the NAA Newsletter “Arborist Spotlight” (NAA Newsletter, Winter 2016, Volume 36, Issue 4).

NE GREAT PLAINS Conference joint NAA & NNLA committees worked hard the entire year on the 2017 conference (NAA Newsletter, Winter 2016, Volume 36, Issue 4)

NAA membership increased to 295 and Certified NAA Arborist have increased to 186. Names of new members and newly certified arborists are listed in the newsletters (All 2016 NAA Newsletter Issues)

NAA Plant Health & Tree Biology Class held at Carol Joy Holling Center along with the NAA Arborist Certification Exam and City of Omaha Ordinance Test. This class featured presenters from Nebraska Extension, Midwest Labs, Nebraska Forest Service and NAA Board members (NAA Newsletter, Spring 2017, Volume 37, Issue 1)



*continued from page 1...*

During the NAA business meeting the following awards were presented. The NAA Lifetime Achievement Award went to NAA Certified Arborist Marilyn Heins, the NAA Educator of the Year went to ISA Certified Arborist Eric Berg, and the NAA Arborist of the Year went to NAA Certified Arborist John Wynn, Sr. All three of these individuals are featured in the “Arborist Spotlight” article in this issue.



During the NAA business meeting, the following individuals were elected to the following board positions:

President Elect – Kevin Popken

Secretary – Rachael Monico

Director - Jeff Melies

Vacant Treasurer Position – NAA board will appoint this position at the next board meeting



I want to shout out a special thanks to Tiffany, Jodi, & Kathi at the association office. Tiffany came up with the conference theme and worked diligently on the exhibitor/attendee brochures and the directory. I have had the experience of working on nine NAA winter conferences and five joint NAA/NNLA winter conferences for a total of fourteen conferences, and I must say the working relationship between both association committees was outstanding this past year.



The NAA is in need of association members to volunteer to work on the 2018 NE GREAT PLAINS Conference. It does take some time and effort but the rewards are plentiful. Please contact the NAA office if you are interested in being on the committee.



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# PINE WILT DISCOVERY IN NEBRASKA

By: *Jim Keepers, NAA Newsletter Coordinator*

There are no formal written records but according to sources in the Nebraska Forest Service (NFS), Pine Wilt was discovered in Lincoln, Nebraska in 1980 by Dr. Jerry Riffle, a USDA Forest Service pathologist. He confirmed the presence of the pinewood nematode in a Scotch pine located in the city of Lincoln, Nebraska.



Trees die quickly when infected often within two to three months. Their green foliage fades to light brown and cut wood surfaces are not sticky.

The following actions must be taken to stop the spread of Pine Wilt. Destroy trees by chipping, burning, or burying. During summer, destroy trees within one month of fading green color. In fall and winter destroy trees by the end of April to limit the spread of Pine Wilt from the dead tree on the left to the healthy trees on the right.

High-value healthy Scotch Pines can be treated with a trunk injection of abamectin (Grayhound, Aracinate) to provide some protection.

Identification & control information obtained from NFS publication “Diseases of Evergreen Trees”

## INITIAL EMERALD ASH BORER (EAB) FIND IN NE

By: *Julie C. Van Meter, Entomology Program Manager/State Entomologist, Nebraska Department of Agriculture & Jim Keepers, NAA Newsletter Coordinator*

The initial EAB find was at Pulaski Park in Omaha by the City of Omaha, and it was confirmed by USDA on June 8, 2016.

The find in Greenwood was confirmed by USDA on June 15. This was the result of a property owner contact, and the specimen was collected by a member of the Nebraska Forest Service.

The only other confirmed find was in Omaha and was made by Douglas County Extension staff. Since this was in Douglas County, the specimen was not required to be sent on for confirmatory ID to a USDA lab.

No other EAB infestations have been found in the state of Nebraska as of this date.

The USDA has enacted a parallel quarantine to regulate interstate movement of all hardwood wood species not just Ash trees, 3' in length or less out of the following Nebraska counties Douglas, Sarpy, Cass, Dodge and Washington.

If wood chips are to be moved out of the quarantine area, they need to be certified as meeting the requirements of the quarantine (less than 1 inch in any two directions). Chips and other regulated articles remaining in the quarantine area don't need to be certified.

It is critical for NAA Arborists to be on the lookout for EAB outside of the Nebraska quarantine counties. If you feel, you have discovered EAB, please send in a sample to Julie C. Van Meter, Entomology Program Manager/State Entomologist, Nebraska, Department of Agriculture to receive confirmation.

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS NEEDED

Looking to serve on an NAA committee? The NAA is in need of volunteers to serve on the committee to plan Western Summer Field Day in beautiful western Nebraska. Please contact the NAA office if you would like to volunteer.

If EAB is discovered outside the Nebraska quarantine area, the USDA will most likely expand the quarantine county area in Nebraska and recommend treatment within fifteen miles of the finding.

See the article in the NAA Newsletter Summer 2016, Volume 36, Issue 2, “The Invasion Has Started” for additional EAB information.

## OSHA BANS BODY BELTS & LANYARDS IN BUCKETS

In its announcement of a Walking-Working Surfaces and Personal Protective Equipment (Subpart D) final rule on November 18, OSHA put tree care employers on notice that conventional body belts and lanyards used for fall protection in aerial lifts would no longer be acceptable as of the effective date of the rule, January 17, 2017.

TREE CARE INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION  
TCIA's Safety Department

## NEW MEMBERS

John Bohrer  
Adrian Bolter  
Eric Brown  
Dave Cavalieri  
Cory Chase  
Scott Cisar  
Ryan Costanzo  
Ryan Daly  
Greg Datz  
Sarah Dein  
Kenneth Dotzler  
Jacob Eggert  
Ed Hewitt  
Aaron Holloway  
Jordan Hughes  
Colin Johaneck  
Chris Keim  
Brandon Lafferty  
Duane Locke  
Jeffrey Lonowski  
Brian Louison  
Lucas Ray Miller  
Randy Mortenson  
Jason Olsen  
Ward Opfer  
Dave Shields  
Leon Spencer  
Ben Springer  
Nicholas Strudl  
Jeff Trautman  
Amon Vanderlinden  
Ashley Waltemath  
Shane Watters

# HELPING YOUR CLIENTS WITH JAPANESE BEETLE PROBLEMS

By: Dr. Jonathan L. Larson; Nebraska Extension Entomologist



An adult Japanese beetle resting on a leaf (Photos by Jim Kalisch; UNL Entomology Dept.)

Japanese beetles are an invasive scarab beetle that damage over 400 different species of plants. Adults are 1/2 inch in length and are emerald green with copper colored wings and tufts of white hair along the edge of their body (Picture 1).

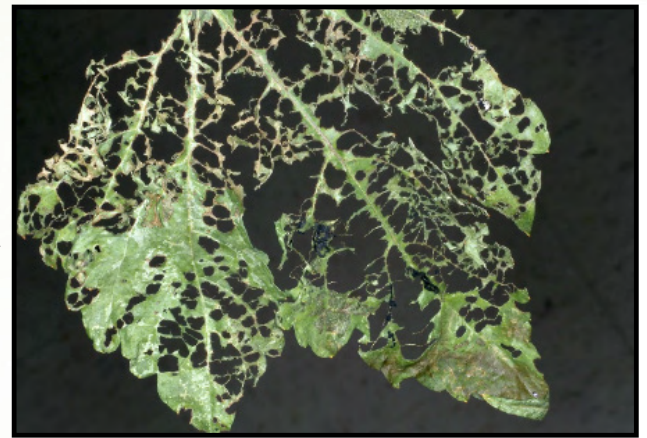
Usually they can be found feeding on leaves but will also consume fruits and flowers.

These beetles have sharp chewing mouthparts that skeletonize leaves leaving behind lacey or doily-like leaves (Picture 2). Flower feeding results in shredded flowers that look sand-blasted and fruit can be hollowed out.

## LIFE CYCLE OF JAPANESE BEETLES

Japanese beetles have an annual life cycle. Adult beetles are active typically from June into late August. During this time they can fly considerable distances looking for food and for mates. This June-August timeframe is also when the most damage to trees and shrubs will occur.

After mating, females lay their eggs in the soil below turf. Immature Japanese beetles are white grubs that feed on the roots of turf from July up until about September. Once the first frost hits, they will burrow deeper in the soil to overwinter. In the spring they move upward in soil, pupate, and emerge as adults in June starting the whole process over again.



Feeding damage from an adult Japanese beetle.

## MANAGEMENT OF JAPANESE BEETLES

As the Japanese beetle moves further into Nebraska we will need to reconsider what plants we put into landscapes. Landscapers should consider moving away from roses, lindens, birches, Japanese maples, and purple leaf plums and begin utilizing more redbuds, oaks, tulip trees, and lilacs instead.

If clients already have susceptible plants in their landscape, control of adult Japanese beetles can be accomplished by either applying an insecticide directly on the surfaces of leaves or by using a systemic Imidacloprid treatment in April or May before adult beetles actually emerge.

*Continued on next page...*



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Continued from previous page...



Linden tree with complete beetle damage to the entire tree (Photo by Jim Keepers, NE Certified Arborist)

This gives the plant enough time to absorb the product and transfer it to the leaves to protect them. Imidacloprid can be applied to many plants but cannot be used on lindens. If you are treating for adult beetles during June-August, you can use a variety of insecticides including some organic products. Synthetic insecticides that work well include carbaryl, bifenthrin, cyfluthrin, and lambda cyhalothrin.

These all typically last 2-3 weeks on the leaves. Always be cautious to keep insecticides away from flowers. If blooms are contaminated then pollinators will be harmed. Chlorantraniliprole also works and lasts for about 4 weeks on the leaf surface and also poses little to no hazard to pollinating insects. Organic products include neem and pyola which provide excellent control but only last 3-7 days on the plant. You will need to make reapplications to ensure efficacy. Clients can also be advised to simply collect Japanese beetles by hand and kill them in buckets of soapy water (it is quite cathartic) or they can place floating row covers over shrubs like roses to protect them.

## NEW NFS STAFF MEMBER

By: Jim Keepers,  
NAA Newsletter Coordinator

Kyle Martens, Nebraska Forest Service (NFS), Communications Specialist, joined the NFS staff in October 2016. He was born and raised on his family's farm in northwest Iowa. His undergraduate degree is a BA in Electronic Media Communications from the University of Northern Iowa. He is presently pursuing his MS degree in Natural Resources, Human Dimensions, at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Kyle is a staunch advocate of public service, having completed terms with AmeriCorps and several citizen advisory boards. He also volunteers with nonprofits, nature centers and public land trusts.

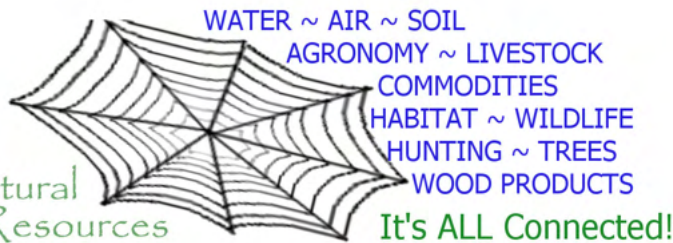
He just recently created, designed and produced an outstanding EAB brochure titled "Emerald Ash Borer What Lies Ahead For Nebraska". This publication is highly recommended for all NAA Arborists to read. I also recommend all arborist companies have copies of this publication to give to their customers. Copies can be obtained through Graham Herbst or Amy Seiler at the NFS.

## PRUNING EVERGREENS: TIMING

Nebraska Extension: Hort Update, 10 March 2017



Prune evergreen shrubs, such as juniper and yew, in late March to mid-April before new growth begins. Light pruning may also be done in late June or early July. Prune Japanese Yew, Spruce and Fir between April and August, but only if needed. Prune pines just after they have finished new growth (candling), typically mid-June to mid-July.



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Gerald Slezak, Certified Crop Advisor  
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Summer 2016

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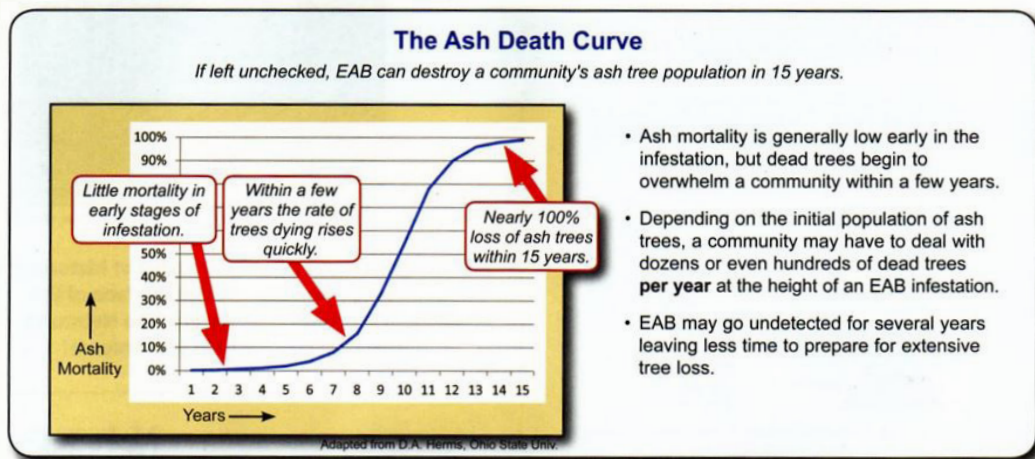
# NEBRASKA EMERALD ASH BORER (EAB) FACTS

- 44 million Ash trees will be lost in the coming 10-15 years.
- 1 million of these Ash trees line community streets, school yards and parks.
- \$275 million will be spent by local governments to respond to EAB attacking publically owned trees.
- Experts cannot project the damages communities will see when decayed Ash trees “fall down” in a community.
- One severe weather event could bring down dozens of dead Ash trees onto utility lines, structures and automobiles costing thousands of dollars.
- One-quarter of urban Ash trees are managed by cities – response cost could send shockwaves through Nebraska’s economy
- LB 461, “Tree Recovery Act” introduced by Sen. Patty Pansing Brooks of Lincoln in 2015 would provide financial assistance to Nebraska communities to cope with EAB

Sources: Nebraska Forest Service, *Trifold – “Emerald Ash Borer: Readiness Planning for Nebraska Communities”* & Nebraska Forest Service, *“Annual Report 2016”*

## NEWLY CERTIFIED ARBORISTS

Mick Bayne  
John Chandler  
Tim Corbett  
Heather Dinslage  
Jeremy Doty  
Rafael Estrada  
Norvin Hansen  
Aaron Holloway  
Chris Keim  
Shaun Klement  
Clint Maynard  
Amon Vanderlinden  
Ashley Waltemath



## NAA PLANT HEALTH & TREE BIOLOGY CLASS

By: Jim Keepers, NAA Newsletter Coordinator



John Fech, Extension Horticulture Educator

The 2016 class was conducted at the Carol Joy Holling Center in Ashland, Nebraska. I had the opportunity to help monitor this class along with Kevin Popken. I also assisted with the NAA Arborist Exam and the City of Omaha Tree Ordinance Test at completion of the class. Many thanks to Kevin Popken for rearranging the class schedule when one of our key presenters was unable to attend. We had one of the largest classes I have ever seen with thirty-one participants. Most of the attendees returned to take the NAA certification exam on Friday morning. Special thanks go out to Lon Nutter, John Fech, Jennifer Morris, Tim Mundorf, and Laurie Stepanek for taking time from their busy schedules to make class presentations.



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8

93

### ASTI

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7,477

### TREE CARE ACADEMY

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### CTSP

Certified Tree Care Safety Professionals have graduated in the last 10 years.

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## A SPECIAL OR UNIQUE TREE

By: Jim Keepers, NAA Newsletter Coordinator

My second pick to highlight under the title of special or unique tree is the Norther Catalpa, *Catalpa speciosa*. There is also a Japan Catalpa, *Catalpa ovata*. I would rate the Catalpa in my top five tree picks. I have two Northern Catalpa started from seed twelve years ago and one planted also twelve years ago as a B & B tree. You cannot tell the difference between these trees.

The Catalpa can reach a size of 40 to 60' in height with a spread of 20 to 40'. The tree is hardy to zones from 4 to 8. The leaves are whorled and 4 to 6" long. It has a medium to fast growth with flowers that are perfectly corollas white, tube bell-shaped and 2" long and wide. They do have a fragrance and usually flower after all threat of frost has passed. The tree produces a capsule fruit green changing to brown in color 8 to 20" long and about 1/2" wide. The fruit is sometimes called a cigar. One drawback is the Catalpa wood is quite brittle and frequently small branches do break off in wind or ice storms. The tree trunk is resistant to rot and the wood from the tree has been used for railroad ties. Major insect problem is the catalpa sphinx that will defoliate the entire tree, but the tree will produce new leaves. This tree is not suited for residential landscape but is great for acreage plantings.

If you have a tree you want to submit for this article, please send me a short article along with photos.



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## PLANTING IT FORWARD

By: Kyle Martens, Nebraska Forest Service (NFS),  
Communications Specialist

By now, we have all heard about last summer's discovery of the emerald ash borer (EAB). Truthfully, it almost felt anti-climactic (preparations for Nebraska began in 2005). Yet, for whatever reason, it took more than a decade before its detection in the state was confirmed. However, less than a year after its discovery, Nebraska in many ways is better off for the recovery that lies ahead.

The plus side to EAB is that we have seen this before. Any seasoned arborist or forester will tell you that there was a miscalculation (to what degree is arguable) in the replanting efforts after Dutch elm disease. Of course, in the world of landscape trees, many communities and homeowners need species that are low maintenance, shade producing and add color to the landscape. The ash tree accomplished all of these and has done so in Nebraska for well over 50 years.

The downside is that this resulted in high concentrations of ash species, creating canopies that would be vulnerable to whatever future insect or disease that came along. We cannot change the past, but this time around, we will not have the option of telling our kids, "We just didn't know any better."

Replanting after EAB will not be some star-studded affair with ticker tape falling from the sky. It will be a slow, intentional effort that will likely take a few decades. However, with every tree that goes into the ground, we can all share in the satisfaction that we did our part to ensure the survival and rejuvenation of our communities' trees.

What we are really talking about here is the need for tree diversity. Even before EAB, the change of seasons is a constant reminder that, really, only a handful of tree varieties get any planting consideration. Now, in some odd twist of fate, we have an enormous opportunity to get the situation right side up. Planting it forward focuses on the long-term, and it starts with resources.

The Nebraska Statewide Arboretum and Nebraska Forest Service developed a brief list of species to replace ash trees. It is not the end-all be-all of tree lists, but it gives homeowners and communities a place to start. Many of these species are large, native, shade-producing trees with long lifespans.

The list was also focuses on hardy trees that are equipped to mitigate the next bout we are certain to have with either insects or tree diseases. This spring, this Arbor Day, or your next tree call, consider directing your friends and neighbors to this list. If we want to lay claim to the Home of the Arbor Day, we need to focus on the future and start planting it forward.

A list of potential trees to replace existing ash is available online or for download at: <http://nfs.unl.edu/ash-replacements>

## NEW REVISED A300 (PART 9)- 2017 TREE RISK ASSESSMENT STANDARD

"The purpose of this document is to provide standards-for-practice and specification-writing guidelines for conducting tree risk assessments as well as establishing best practices, training materials, regulations and other performance measures for risk assessment" (TCIA "Reporter News," March 2017, Number 388).

Part 9 contains definitions of tree-risk-assessment terms and details of three tree-risk-assessment levels. An IPM specification-writing flowchart and flowchart for establishing and evaluating an IPM program as a commercial service is also included.

This publication is recommended reading for all individuals doing tree risk assessment.

## NAA WINTER TREE ID CLASS

The 2017 Winter Tree ID Class was held on February 10, 2017, in Waverly, Nebraska at the VFW Hall and Wayne Park. Special thanks to Justin Evertson, Nebraska Forest Service, Green Infrastructure Coordinator for conducting this NAA class. Justin is the coordinator for the park and he was the perfect person to instruct the ID class. The learning experience was very high for the attendees.



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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**12TH ANNUAL GRETNA TREE TALK**  
 April 1, 2017  
 Thomas Elementary School, Gretna, NE

**EAB INJECTION AND TREE PHYSIOLOGY WORKSHOP**  
 May 8-9, 2017  
 Lancaster Event Center and Mahoney Park  
 Lincoln, NE

**NE GREAT PLAINS EASTERN SUMMER FIELD DAY**  
 August 4, 2017  
 Doane University, Crete, Ne

**NE GREAT PLAINS WESTERN SUMMER FIELD DAY**  
 Date and location to be determined

**BUCKET/LIFT TRAINING**  
 Date and location to be determined

**TREE ID, EVALUATION & SELECTION, PLANTING & ESTABLISHMENT**  
 September 7-8, 2017  
 Carol Joy Holling Center, Ashland, NE

**PRUNING, CLIMBING & SAFETY**  
 October 5-6, 2017  
 Carol Joy Holling Center, Ashland, NE

**ADVANCED RIGGING/FELLING & CLIMBING CLASS**  
 October 10-12, 2017  
 Carol Joy Holling Center, Ashland, NE

**PLANT HEALTH & TREE BIOLOGY CLASS**  
 November 15-17, 2017  
 Carol Joy Holling Center, Ashland, NE

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