

An Arborist takes  
care of a tree for life.



# OUT ON A LIMB

SPRING 2020, VOLUME 40, ISSUE 1



You Don't Need to Climb Trees to be a Certified Nebraska Arborist. See article & photos on page 16.

## DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN?

By: Jim Keepers, Chairperson NE GREAT PLAINS  
Conference

The first Nebraska GREAT PLAINS Conference was held February 18-19, 2013 hosted by the Nebraska Arborists Association and Nebraska Nursery and Landscaping Association in Lincoln, Nebraska. A climbing rig was assembled in the exhibitor hall where Kent Holm was awarded the NAA's Arborist of the Year Award and Terry Hughes along with Phil Pierce were awarded the NAA's Lifetime Achievement Award.

After seven years of joint conferences, both associations agreed to host a winter conference separately. During the seven years of jointly held winter conference, the events were successful both financially and educationally. The last event that was done jointly in York, Nebraska exceeded our attendance estimates and auction/raffle projections.

Our 2020 Nebraska GREAT PLAINS Conference marked a new beginning for the NAA. There was some concern about attendance and the weather. Would our winter conference attendance match or exceed our last independent conference held in Nebraska City? Would we still be able to contribute silent auction and raffle funds to the association's education fund? Based on the turnout for the NAA's independent Nebraska GREAT PLAINS Field Day, our hopes were high.



Conference attendees awaiting the key note speaker



Climbing Rig set up in the 2013 first ever joint NE GREAT PLAINS Conference



Terry Hughes & Phil Pierce receive the 2013 NAA Lifetime Achievement



Kent Holm with his wife after receiving the NAA 2013 Arborist of the Year.

Mother Nature was good to us this year. Attendance was not hindered by the light snow we received the morning of day two of the conference. The silent auction and raffle was successful. To top everything off, we had thirteen exhibitors and eleven conference sponsors who help cover the costs of the conference. *Continued on page 3...*

## A QUARTERLY UPDATE OF THE NEBRASKA ARBORISTS ASSOCIATION

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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 2020 quarterly newsletters:

- 2nd Quarter - June 1, 2020
- 3rd Quarter - September 1, 2020
- 4th Quarter - November 1, 2020

*Photo contributions throughout courtesy of Jim Keepers.*

# FROM THE PRESIDENT

By: Jeff Grewe, NAA President

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I am honored and humbled to be serving as your new NAA president. I believe in great learning events and purpose-driven leaders. It is my mission to strengthen both of these over the next two years.

I want to take this opportunity to share with you my vision for the NAA. My focus for the next two years will be increased collaboration with the Tree Care Industry Association (TCIA) and the ISA. Combining our resources with national and regional associations will allow us to offer better learning events for our members. The board is currently working with the Midwest ISA chapter to potentially combine our winter conferences next year. I will keep you posted on the progress.

I'm in communication with the TCIA to bring the Crew Leader Certification workshop to Nebraska next January which covers skills such as maintaining crew morale, resolving conflict, enhancing safety and productivity, and communicating with clients, to name a few.

You are the future of the NAA. I believe that the strength and future of the NAA lies with its members. The NAA needs your talent, your passion, and your energy to continue on its vibrant path. I encourage and even challenge you, our members, to contribute to and become involved with the NAA. Attend events within the association but also outside of it, like the TCIA Expo and Winter Management Conference. Your personal and professional growth will also enable you to give more back to the NAA and make it a richer experience for us all. We should not be content with where we are. None of us stays the same. If we are not growing, we are dying. If we are not actively honing our skills, we are neglecting them. Skills are perishable: get out of practice and we lose them.

Find mentors! Make new friends. Your association membership puts you within arm's reach of an incredible network of talented, educated and experienced individuals. Reach out to others who've already traveled the road you want to go down. Find more experienced climbers to talk to and attend local rec climbs. Reach out to fellow business owners who are one step – or even many steps - ahead of you. Be bold in your pursuit of knowledge, and be generous in sharing your knowledge. Remember - a high tide raises all ships!

All the best - Jeff Grewe, President Nebraska Arborist Association

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**Kathi assists Phil & Jeff as they sign up for their ISA CEUs**

*Continued from page 1...*

See a complete listing of all the silent auction & raffle donators along with the exhibitors and sponsors listed separately in this newsletter.

Attendees were able to obtain CEUs from the Conference but the event offered so much more.

The theme for the conference was “The Conference by Arborists for Arborists”. I attribute the great turnout to the conference planners because they stuck to the theme and lined up very skilled and knowledgeable speakers.

I have been involved in numerous NAA’s winter conferences for many years and this was the best line up of speakers we have ever had at any winter event. The total attendance for the 2020 Nebraska GREAT PLAINS Conference was 264. Our hope is to exceed the 2020 winter conference attendance in 2021.



**Old & young Certified Arborist enjoying a conference presentation.**



**Kathi & Whitney discuss the conference with the two Chips.**



**Let us not forget our strong women performing numerous jobs in the Arborist Career Field.**

At this time, I want to personally thank Kathi, her staff, along with the NAA Board of Directors for their support and actions in the preparation of the conference and the job they did during the conference. It does take a team to set up and run a conference.

I want to give a special thanks to all the Arborist companies who had all or most of their crews attend the conference. A special thanks goes out to Stacy Hughes (Terry Hughes Trees Service), Rick Clark (Lincoln Landscaping), Jeff and Amy Grewe (Arbor Aesthetics), and Kevin Popken (Lawngevity Lawn & Tree), as well as many other companies for allowing their employees who attend the conference. Forgive me, if I have left any other companies off the list.

Thanks again for everyone’s attendance and I hope to see you all at the Nebraska GREAT PLAINS Field Day Event on August 12-13 at Carol Joy Holling in Ashland, Nebraska.

One last plug for volunteers to help with the 2021 NE GREAT PLAINS Conference! If you are interested, please contact the NAA office at [staff@nearborists.org](mailto:staff@nearborists.org).



**Alicia Gentle, Injury Prevention Coordinator CHI Health Creighton University Medical Center-Bergan Mercy instructs the proper procedure for “Bleed Control”.**

## THANKS KEVIN

*By: Jim Keepers, NAA Conference Chairperson*

On behalf of the Nebraska Arborists Association, I want to take this opportunity to thank Kevin Popken for his service as the NAA president-elect and president for the past three years. As he moves into the NAA past president board position, I know he will be Jeff Grewe’s right hand man. These past three years, Kevin has taken an active role in developing the agenda for the NAA Arborist School and the Advance Arborist Classes. The attendance numbers for these classes has continue to grow over these past three years because of Kevin’s efforts. A special thanks also goes out to Kevin’s wife Zoryana for holding down the homestead and taken care of their five children while Kevin spent numerous hours working on NAA issues. Thanks Kevin for a job well done!



**Kevin’s wife, Zoryana, attends her first NE GREAT PLAINS Conference**



**Past NAA president presents Kevin Popken with the outgoing president’s place.**

# ARBORIST SPOTLIGHT

By: Jim Keepers, NAA Newsletter Coordinator

When I started to research the “Arborist Spotlight” for the March newsletter at the start of a new decade, I wanted to start with a bang. After working with a group of Arborists I made a complete change of direction. Instead of one individual, I have ended up featuring a group of six young men who are dedicated to the Arboriculture career field and I am proud to feature these individuals in this article.

On a cold December day in 2019, I went out with a crew of six knowledgeable and dedicated Certified Nebraska Arborist from Arbor Aesthetics. During these past 20 years, I have gone out into the field with numerous Certified Nebraska Arborist crews to photograph their tree operations and I must say these crews impress me.

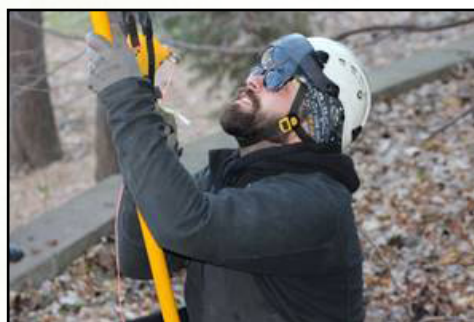
The house was located off of Pine and 114th Street. It was a brick ranch home with very little to no back yard. A nature preserve with a stream filled with ducks was located just off the back porch of the house. Two huge trees requiring pruning were hanging over the back of the house. There was a limited area to lower the large branches down without hitting the house after they were removed and a little area to cut up the branches after they hit the ground.



**Back yard showing the nature preserve on the left.**



**Luis Villegas setting his line in the tree.**

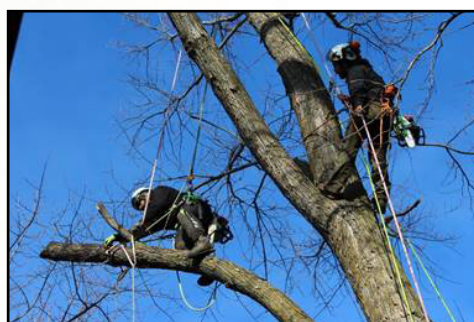


**Jake Tolliver working hard to set his line in the tree before Luis gets his set.**

A sight survey was accomplished by a Certified Nebraska Arborist from Arbor Aesthetics days before the crew arriving so the crew did have an idea of the working conditions, but you never get a full perspective of the job until you arrive at the site. Upon arrival, the lead crew member did assess their limited work area. Two climbers set up their climbing ropes while other climbers and ground personnel stayed on the ground. I was impressed by how the climbers on the ground assisted the two climbers in the trees as they tied off the limbs to be pruned to prevent the falling branches from hitting the house. The crew on the ground worked together to lower the pruned branches, cutting up the branches and removing all the wood to the front of the house.



**“Spiritual Leader”, Adrian Bolter giving instructions to the climber Luis to make sure the limbs being pruned off the tree won’t hit the house.**



**Luis & Jake working together in the tree.**

There were a few times I thought the falling branches would hit the house. I was very impressed with the precision and skills the crew members used to prune. The chain saw crew on the ground did wear chaps. Which is something several ground crews don’t wear! There was no damage to the house and everyone in the trees and on the ground completed the removal safely.

Let’s take a glimpse at these young, rugged and unique Nebraska Certified Arborists. Nebraska Certified Arborists, Adrian Bolter gave great direction from the ground. Adrian started to climb trees when he was eighteen years of age. He has over fourteen years of experience working in trees. He became a Certified Nebraska Arborist in 2019 and is a Crew Leader/Climber. His crew leader handle is “Spiritual Leaders”. I was impressed with the way he worked with the other crew members, especially the climbers. He is married and has a twelve-year-old son. He attended High School in Omaha and went directly into the career field after graduation. He loves his job and being outside no matter the weather. When he is not working, he enjoys fishing.

The two climbers in the trees were Jake Tolliver and Luis Villegas-Hernandez. Jake is a Crew Chief/Climber and he became a Nebraska Certified Arborist

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Great Plains Field Day Events

Carol Joy Holling in Ashland, NE  
Wednesday & Thursday, August 12 – 13, 2020

### Arborist School

**Tree ID, Evaluation & Selection, Planting & Establishment Seminar**

VFW Hall & Wayne Park in Waverly, NE  
Thursday & Friday, September 10 – 11, 2020

### Pruning, Climbing & Safety Seminar

Carol Joy Holling in Ashland, NE  
Thursday & Friday, October 15 – 16, 2020

### Plant Health & Tree Biology Seminar

Carol Joy Holling in Ashland, NE  
Thursday & Friday, November 12 – 13, 2020

two years ago. He is married and attended High School in Omaha and has a Horticulture Science Degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He has five years' experience in the career field with the last two at Arborist Aesthetics. He has a love of trees and the adventure associated with climbing. In his free time, he just enjoys chopping wood for the sheer experience! He did express to me the need to teach young people that green is important.

Luis Villegas-Hernandez worked in the trees during the pruning removal. Luis Villegas-Hernandez is a Crew Leader/Climber. He became a Certified Nebraska Arborist in 2019. He came to the states with his family ten years ago. He is a High School graduate with some college and he is newly married. He has seven years' experience in the career field. Before working at Arbor Aesthetics, he spent three years working at Enfields Tree Service. In his spare time, he enjoys playing volleyball.

Here are some special words about Luis from Jeff & Amy Grewe, the owners of Arbor Aesthetics. "Luis is loyal, trustworthy, honest and hard-working. He binds the crew together and is loved and respected by everyone in our company and by our customers. He brings an element of fun and friendship to the workplace. We are very lucky to have him on our team!"

Let's take a look at the rest of this special Arborist crew. Matt Horan is a Crew Leader, Climber, Plant Health Care Specialist and Certified Nebraska Arborist. Matt is a 2012 graduate of Gretna High School and still lives in Gretna. He became a Certified Nebraska Arborist in 2019.



**Matt Horn wearing chaps as he cuts up the Branches on the ground.**



**Crew demonstrates team work as pruned branch is lowered to the ground.**

He has five years' experience in the career field and one and a half years at Arbor Aesthetics. He started to do tree work in High School and worked before working at Eden Tree Care. He moved to Arbor Aesthetics because of the job opportunity and a great environment. In Matt's free time he loves to play video games.



**Dylan Willis coordinated with the customer and assisted the crew in the removal of the limbs for chipping.**

Dylan Willis is a Plant Health Care Specialist and Sales Representative for Arbor Aesthetics. He became a Certified Nebraska Arborist in 2019 and is also a Certified ISA Arborist. He has a forestry degree from the University of Madison. He started spraying trees while working at Eden Tree Care and now has two years' experience at Arbor Aesthetics. He is passionate about tree insects and diseases. He loves the company culture at Arbor Aesthetics. On his off time, he enjoys art and hiking. He would also like to run for an NAA Board of Directors Position.



**Mike Kennedy carries log to the front of the house to be chipped.**

entrance story into the Arborist Career Field is different. He had no prior experience working in or with trees. All his experience was in the service industry. We need more Mikes in the Arborist Career Field. Mike enjoys rock climbing in his off time.

In closing, I know with individuals like Jake, Adrian, Luis, Matt, Dylan and Mike, the future of the Nebraska Arborists Association is in great hands. Thank you, gentlemen, for a job well done and a dedication to safe and superior tree care.



**Jake Tolliver, Matt Horan, Dylan Willis, Mike Kennedy, Luis Villegas, & Adrian Bolter.**



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## YEAR IN REVIEW

By: Jim Keepers, NAA Newsletter Coordinator

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## A SPECIAL OR UNIQUE TREE

By: Jim Keepers *Maturing Certified NE Arborist*



So, let's start your year off with a tree I feel will knock your socks off. The tree being featured is the Tatarian Maple, Hot Wings. Its Latin name is *Acer tataricum*. It is a very reliable tree for our high Ph soil here in Eastern Nebraska.

It is classified as an ornamental tree and has an average height and width of 20'x 25'. A good size Maple for some of the smaller front lawns in our newer Eastern Nebraska developments. It has an oval spreading habit. I have been working with one to see if I can suppress the spread of the branches and create a stronger center leader. I did fail on the leader a few years ago when a storm took it out and I had to start over, but I am making progress.



The tree is very water-thrifty and has a moderate growth rate. A great feature to consider when we have our drier summers and some heavy ice storms in the winter, it will grow in filtered sun, partial sun but is a lover of full sun. So you can say it is a very reliable tree for harsh growing conditions especially in new landscapes where all the topsoil has been removed.



It has good green, attractive foliage but its greatest feature is its showy red-winged seeds (samaras) shining brightly against its green foliage. It also has bright white flower clusters during May.

So, I would recommend this tree to your customers after you have removed one of their trees.

## QUESTION

**What United States President started the United States Forest Service and protected roughly 230 million acres of public land?**

Answer can be found on page 18.

# THANK YOU NAA MEMBERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

My wife, Trish and I want to thank you all for the NAA awards you presented to me at the Nebraska GREAT PLAINS Conference. I want to give a special thanks to my wife for putting up with me these past 20 years while I was doing my work in supporting the NAA. I also want to thank Kathi for giving me the proper guidance when I was president and helping me with the creation of the NAA newsletter. I don't remember what I said after Kevin read my bio and gave me the awards so I want to take this opportunity to thank you all and let you know I couldn't have received these awards without the support you all have given me over these past twenty years. The membership of the NAA is made up of great individuals and I know the association will continue to grow and prosper in the years to come. Thank you very much and I wish you the best for years to come.

Jim, Maturing Certified NE Arborist



**NAA Arborists of the Year Award**



**NAA Lifetime Achievement Award**

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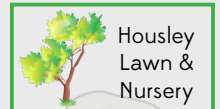
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## 2020 – THE START OF A NEW DECADE

By: *Jim Keepers, Maturing NAA Newsletter Coordinator*

At the start of a new decade we question what changes will we face in our Arborist career field during the next 10 years? I know some of us will be getting older and our ability to work will slow us down. This is a fact we cannot change. So, let's address some of the questions arising in this new decade requiring us to find answers for if we want to succeed as an individual Certified Arborist or Arborist Company.

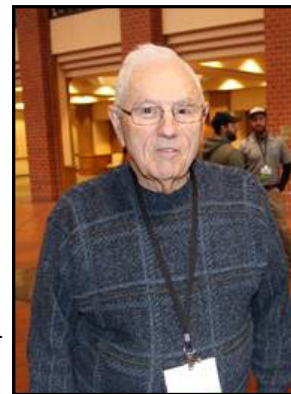
How much will social media continue to change our working lives and will we be able to adapt? How does a company handle the generation who has uses their phones for a lot of their communication with others? How much will our changing

climate affect our ability to fight new diseases and insects attacking our trees? Will new equipment lighten our manpower needs or will it take a more educated Arborist to operate the technical aspects of the equipment? Will we stay with the traditional ways of training our Certified Arborists or find new and exciting ways to enhance our association's Arborist School? Will our association continue to grow and draw people into the arborist field?

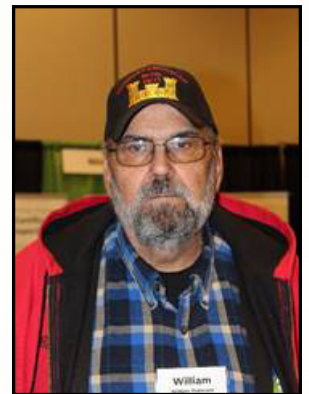


**John Housely, Sr. and Tom Wiens**

I feel we will find answers to these questions. It will be hard but the challenges I feel will be worth the time and effort. How long will we be able to have Senior Nebraska Certified Arborists like John, Phil, Tom and Bill around to be our sounding board when we have Arborist problems we are unable to solve? These individuals are the keepers of the NAA history. Who will fill their shoes? Will our next generation step forward to take over the changes of our career field and lead our association into the future?



**Bill Hudson**



**William (Bill) Peterson**

I don't have the answers for all these questions. I do know after going out into the field with our young Arborist Crews and watching our NAA board members in action, the NAA is in great hands and the next decade will be very exciting under the leadership of these individuals. I am excited to be writing about our association and I hope I can look back in ten years and say we did a great job enhancing the Nebraska Arborist Career Field.

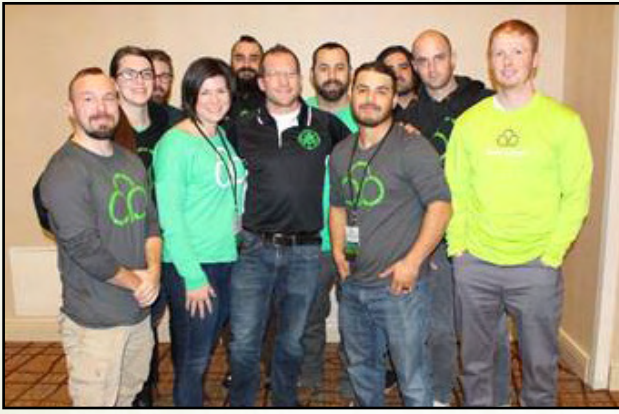


**Philip (Phil) Pierce**

Let us all remember "An Arborists takes care of a Tree for Life".

## 2020 NE GREAT PLAINS CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE

There was approximately 264 people in attendance at the 2020 NE GREAT PLAINS Winter Conference.



Jeff & Amy's Arbor Aesthetics crew.



Kevin Popken's Lawngevity Lawn & Tree crew.



Ph.D. Eric North, Assistant Professor UNL students

## 2020 RAFFLE PRIZE WINNERS



## THE NEXT GENERATION OF YOUNG ARBORISTS



Rick Clark's Lincoln Landscaping Crew



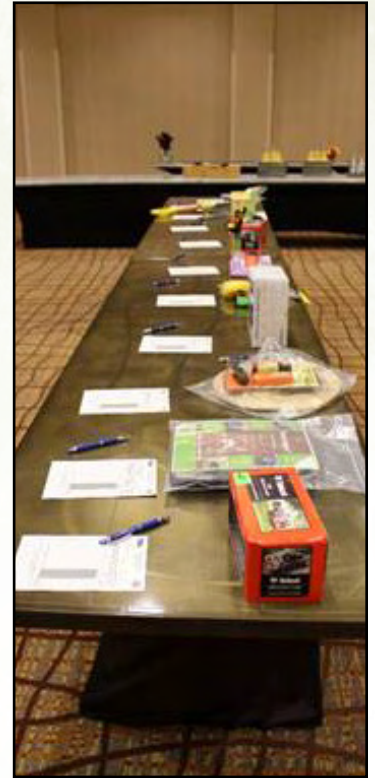
## NEW MEMBERS

Alan Roesler  
 Alex Eckhoff  
 Amy Nakai  
 Ben Chaplin  
 Brian Barrera  
 Burt Lunn  
 Cody Grimm  
 Dakota Youngberg  
 Diego Santana  
 Don Partridge  
 Dustin Land  
 Ebenezer Evanoff  
 John Nolan Long  
 Julian Santana  
 Luke Carlberg  
 Mark Hergenroder  
 Michael Headlee  
 Nicholas Whitney  
 Nick Meister  
 Ryan Gillen  
 Shaine Rothmeyer  
 Steve Bay  
 Steven Decock  
 Tevin Griffin  
 Tom McLarty  
 Travis Fricke  
 Zackary Lines

## NEWLY CERTIFIED ARBORISTS

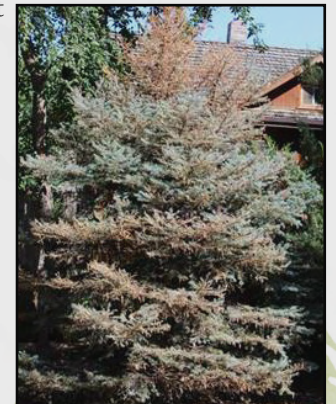
Cindy Hook  
 David Barnes  
 Tevin Griffin  
 Burt Lunn  
 Amy Nakai  
 Ebenezer Evanoff  
 Everett Henry  
 Lucas Ansell  
 Jason Indra

# 2020 NEBRASKA GREAT PLAINS CONFERENCE - A PHOTO RECAP -



## BAGWORM UPDATE

Insecticide control for bagworms is no longer effective, because the insecticide (even systemic products) will not move through the bags. Mark your calendars for next June to control the next generation of bagworms with insecticides.



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**THE ROUTE TO BUSINESS GROWTH BEGINS HERE!**

# CULTURE CORNER

By: Jeff & Amy Grewe, Certified Nebraska Arborists, Arbor Aesthetics Tree Service

## Core Values: The Compass Every Company Needs

Core Values are the fundamental beliefs of a person or organization. Whether you work on your own, work on a team, or have a team – core values guide you toward your mission, vision and goals and are the compass that steer your ship toward growth, longevity and a fulfilling career.

### The Pain of Not Having Core Values

Do you ever feel frustrated that your team doesn't think like you do? Do you feel like you are all working toward something different? Do you have anyone in your organization who doesn't feel like the right fit but you can't quite put your finger on why? Do you find making critical changes to your staff to be too subjective, so you stall out and let them stay? Do you have a hard time articulating what makes your company competitive? Core values can help get the right people working for you and the right customers calling you.

### “My company is too small and that's overkill.”

No company is too small. In fact, defining your own personal or family values is a good place to start. Remember that these core values aren't just something you live by when you clock in for the day. These values represent your beliefs and behaviors in all areas of your life. If they don't ring true for you at home, they won't transfer well to the workplace.

### “My people don't care about things like that.”

Consider that individuals who “don't care” about defining or living out your values perhaps do not belong at your company. And on the other hand, you'll find it easier to attract like-minded individuals who work and think like you to come work for your company. That's a win!

### Always a Work in Progress

Don't let perfection get in the way of “done.” Our company has seen many iterations of core values, and after three years of fine-tuning and testing, we think we've finally settled on “the ones.” Even so, we will likely see a continual evolution as our company changes and grows.

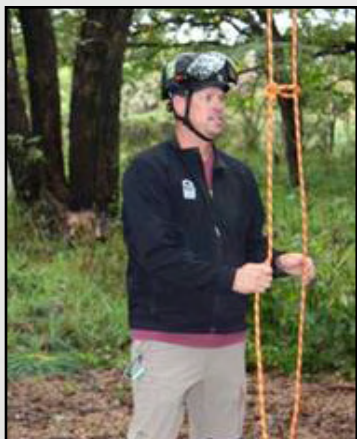
### 3 Rules for Core Values

1. Make them easy to remember. If your people can't recall them from memory, they simply won't work well.
2. Display them prominently. Make a poster. Write them on a marker board. Write them on a sticky note. It doesn't need to be fancy – it just needs to be displayed for all to see – even your customers!
3. Talk about them often. Weave your values into everyday conversations with your people. Reinforce behavior that reflects your values. Connect the dots between the decisions that you make and the values that you use to guide you in making them. Bring them to life!



## HOT NEWS

The Tree Care Industry Magazine, Volume XXXI, Number 2 – February 2020 under the heading of “Profiles in Arboriculture” article title “Taking Care of Trees and Business in Nebraska” features the Nebraska Arborists Association (NAA) on page 52. Copies of the magazine can be obtained by contacting the NAA office, 402-761-2219. Recommend any NAA Certified Arborist working with their Nebraska Tree City USA Board obtain a copy of this magazine.



Tom Anderson instructing at the 2020 Pruning & Climbing Class.



Samantha (Sam) Steward setting out the silent auction items at the winter conference.

## NAA BOARD OF ELECTIONS RESULTS

Samantha (Sam) Steward, Certified NE Arborist and Landscape Designer with Nebraska Nursery & Color Gardens was elected Board Secretary & Tom Anderson, Certified NE Arborist with Wright Tree Service was elected NAA Board Director. If you are interested in running for a position on the NAA board, NAA board nominations are due to the NAA office by November 30, 2020. You can nominate yourself or another NAA member for the position. The NAA web site – [www.nearborists.org](http://www.nearborists.org) will carry a nomination form and a general description of the open position on the board.

# GREटना TREE TALK

By: Jim Keepers, Chairperson Gretna Arbor Society (Tree Board)

Come one come all to the 15th Annual Gretna Tree Talk hosted by the Gretna Arbor Society (Tree Board) and sponsored by the Nebraska Arbor Society (NAA). The event will take place on March 28th. Registration starts at 7:45 & speakers start at 8:15. Event will conclude at 12 noon. Location is Thomas Elementary School, 1121 Northridge Dr. (Hwy 370 & 200 St.) Request a donation of perishable Food Item for the Gretna Food Bank.



Community gardeners, Extension Master Gardeners and local Arborist attend the

The following is a listing of speakers and presentations.

“These Trees are Another Story” - Jan Riggensch, Garden Speaker & Syndicated Garden Writer

“Designing with Trees in Mind” - Rachel Anderson, Community Landscape Specialist, NSA Break (Refreshments Served)

”Overlooked Tree” - Bob Henrickson, Asst. Director of Horticulture Programs, NSA Closing Remarks/Door Prizes

Certified NE Arborists can receive 3 CEUs.

# ARBOR DAY POEM

By: Thomas Lacey

Arbor day is here again,  
and what do my eyes behold?  
But millions of people planting trees,  
all of them big and bold.

As I walk to join the fun,  
I see an amazing sight.  
It's a giant Douglas Fir,  
With all Its amazing might!

I look to my left, then to my right,  
There are trees everywhere!  
Weeping Willows, Acacia Trees,  
reach high into the air!

And in the middle of all this,  
I plant my own little tree.  
And during the next Arbor Day,  
All will come to see,  
these amazing little trees  
that all came to be.

# HELP SUPPORT ARBOR DAY

By: Jim Keepers, Newsletter Coordinator



Tree planting in Gretna's Leo Royal Park for Arbor Day 2019.

The State of Nebraska will officially celebrate Arbor Day on Friday, April 26th . This is a very significant day for the celebration of tree care in our state. Now is the time for all Arborist Companies and especially our Certified Arborists to make plans to help their local Tree Board or School Administrative Offices in the celebration of this special day by providing tree care to include tree planting, pruning and removal. Your help will spread the word in your community as members of the Nebraska Arborists Association, you are available to assist in their tree related issues. This is a very important time for our local City Governments when it comes to the care of their Ash trees because of the threat of Emerald Ash Borer. Your assistance is needed now. Please email me at [jlkeepers456@gmail.com](mailto:jlkeepers456@gmail.com) with photos and what you did for your local community on this special day.

This Arbor Day information will be included in the June issue of the NAA Newsletter. Remember “An Arborist Takes Care of a Tree for Life”.

# SO WHAT IS HARTWOOD?

By: Jim Keepers, Maturing Certified NE Arborist

Hartwood is found in the center of a tree trunk or branch. Its name is derived from its position in a tree. It is the dead center of tree also called duramen. The color of the Hartwood is darker than the rest of the wood and this is caused by tannins or other substances in the wood. The Harwood can also give off an unusual smell. The wood itself is very strong, resistant to decay and gives support to the tree trunk and branches. Decay can develop in the Hartwood and this is not seen until the tree has been cut down. Trees can survive if decay has formed. The Sapwood is found outside of the Hardwood and over time the living Sapwood cells are changed to Heartwood.



Freshly cut branch of a very old Crabapple with Hartwood in the center.



Freshly cut stump of an old Crabapple with Hartwood in the center.



Center Hartwood being destroyed by decay over the years.

# “YOU DON’T NEED TO CLIMB TREES TO BE A CERTIFIED NEBRASKA ARBORIST”

By: *Cindy Hook, Certified NE Arborist, & Arbor Aesthetics Tree Service Team Member*



**Cindy learning to climb during NAA 2020 Pruning & Climbing class**

If you would have asked me five years ago what I would be doing with my career, I would have never thought I would become a Certified Arborist. I was working for a grocery store. At the time, I loved it and thought I would be there for life. Looking back, I am grateful I decided to leave and pursue other avenues. I went through several jobs that just never felt right. Then, I met Jeff and Amy.

I started working part-time in the office. I answered phones and did daily tasks. As things started to slow down in the winter, I began doing sales training to help build up the business. It was a great learning opportunity. I realized I really liked learning about trees and running the business, so we discussed attending Arborist School in the fall. I started reading some books about trees that we had in the office during my down time.

In the spring, I started taking over the scheduling of our tree crews. It was a very difficult task, but I took it on. The more I did it, the more I grew to love it. It's like figuring out a complicated puzzle, but with the pieces changing every day. I understand now why most companies don't schedule their crews out in advance, however, it is part of what makes Arbor Aesthetics stand out.



In addition to scheduling, I also manage payroll and accounts payable, and daily office tasks like answering phones and fielding customer questions. The fast-paced environment works well for me and keeps me busy. No matter the day, there is always something to tackle and I wouldn't want it any other way.

This fall I attended the Nebraska Arborists Association (NAA) Arborist School. I went along with two of my coworkers that work out in the field. I learned a lot, but also built relationships with my coworkers and several other Certified Arborists through the NAA. I even got up and climbed a tree! It gave me a whole new perspective on what our crew goes through on a daily basis. It is a dangerous, tiring job. They don't get the credit they deserve!

After months of studying and many sleepless nights, I passed my arborist exam! I knew it was a difficult test and I was nervous I would fail, but with the support of my coworkers,

we all passed. I wouldn't be the Arborist I am today without the support of everyone at Arbor Aesthetics. With the exception of our part time receptionist and one new crew member, our entire staff is certified through the NAA. That's 10 staff members!! Becoming a Certified Arborist has improved my interactions with customers and I am often able to educate them and answer their tree-related questions without having to escalate them to someone else which is a great feeling.

I look forward to furthering my career and learning as much as I can with the support of the NAA.

## BOSNIAN PINE SCALE ARTICLE

By: *Jim Keepers, Maturing Certified NE Arborist*

One of the most common problems on pine trees is Pine Needle Scale. The Scotch, Mugo and Ponderosa are the primary hosts for the scale. I did discover it on my Bosnian Pine trees. It will start slow and then infest the entire tree. It will appear as whitish scabs on the needles and stems of the tree. It will take several years to develop. Perfect weather conditions and stressed trees are usually the problem. My Bosnian Pines didn't have enough air flow between the trees so this helped spread the scale. The insect is protected by a cover of scabs or scales protecting it over the winter. The eggs hatch in May/June when the nymphs or crawlers come out. It is the best time to treat to achieve scale control. Also, around the month of August is also a good time to treat. Dormant Oil, Insecticidal Soaps and other registered chemicals can be used to treat the problem. Chemicals have little effect on the scales themselves. I have had my Bosnian pines sprayed for a number of years and the scale problem seems to be under control.





# LAWNGEVITY LAWN & TREE SERVICE PROJECT

Information provided by Kevin Popken, Certified NE Arborist & Past President of the NAA

Kevin Popken the owner and operator of Lawngevity Lawn and Tree has a yearly company's goal is to donate at least 5% of his company's sales back to the community in the form of service projects. This past year they broke all service project records and donated 20% of his company's sales.

He ran "ads" in the past to get nominations but he didn't really feel they received deserving/needy nominations but just folks who wanted free tree work. He is now less



**Lawngevity Lawn & Tree Crew left to right Branden Clause, Kevin Popken and Andy Nelson who worked diligently to haul away hundreds of flood damaged material during the spring Fremont floods. Photo provide by Kevin Popken**

formal, he looks for someone deserving tree work...or some other need his company may be able to address with the people and equipment on hand. Whether it is replacing a flag stuck on a pole or a veteran with a large split Ash that is in line to fall on his home.

When the floods went through Fremont his company found numerous service projects. He and his employees used their hook truck to move flooded debris that ended up being a full month of hauling at no charge. Working with the nonprofit Samaritans Purse, they did hundreds of loads valued at over \$40,000. This was certainly above their typical level for a community service project.

They have four camps in our area (2 church based and 2 BSA) that always need cleanup and hazards to be dealt with so whenever it is slow in the winter his crews go through the camps and clean up issues they may have. You can see by the flood relief and camp clean ups, Kevin's company was 20% of the service projects.

I want to close this article with a few personnel works from Kevin a man devoted to his family, his church and his local community. We have very good people in the Fremont area who need to pay bills and we feel good about helping those in need. There are always needs that we can put our efforts toward so I think it is a win for all.



**Ice jam on the Elkhorn River at the US Highway 275 Bridge during the spring 2019 Nebraska floods. Photo provided by Dean Jacobs, Fremont Tribune Newspaper**

## IDEAL PRUNING TIMES

Source: Hort Update for September 17, 2019

Pruning is an invigorating process which stimulates new growth. Whenever pruning is done during the growing season, new growth will quickly follow. Late summer/early fall pruning of evergreens, such as yew or boxwood, and spring or summer-flowering shrubs leads to the development of new growth. It takes time for this new growth to harden off and develop full cold hardiness, making the new growth very prone to damage from freezing temperatures in October/November or winter injury. If pruning needs to be done before winter, wait until plants are dormant. The EXCEPTION to this rule is removal of dead, diseased or damaged branches; this can be done at any time.

Ideal pruning times:

- Spring flowering trees & shrubs - immediately after flowering
- Summer flowering trees & shrubs - late winter or early spring
- Oaks - dormant season pruning is recommended, no pruning from April through June
- Most shade and non-blooming ornamental trees - during dormancy, just before growth begins in spring, February to early April
- Fruit trees - January through March; start with most cold hardy first and prune the least cold hardy just before new growth begins.
- Most cold hardy - apple, pear, tart cherry, plum; least cold hardy - sweet cherry, peach, apricot
- Evergreen trees (spruce, fir) - late winter while still dormant, February through early April
- Pines - during candle stage, late May to early June
- Evergreen shrubs (juniper, yew, boxwood) - before new growth begins, late March to early April; light pruning in late June or early July if needed



**Justin Evertson, NSA, Infrastructure Coordinator explains the art of pruning during the NAA's Arborist School.**



**Graham Herbst, NFS, Eastern NE, Community Forester Specialist points out the location of a proper pruning cut during the NAA's Arborist School.**

# PLANT ICE/SNOW RESISTANT TREES

By: Jim Keepers, NAANewsletter Coordinator - Source Document: TRICARETIPS, TCIA, January 12, 2020

I know everyone is gearing up for spring and summer work and the last thing you want to talk or read about is planting ice resistant trees. If you are able to remember back in October of 1997 we had a terrible ice storm when the leaves were still on the trees and this storm decimated numerous trees. The tree that received the hardest hit was the Bradford Pear. This tree was touted as one of the best trees to plant but now it is not recommended because of the bad crotch angles on its branches.

So how do you know if a tree is resistant to ice damage? "There are a number of growth features that increase a tree species' susceptibility to breakage in ice or snow storms," says Tchukki Andersen, BCMA, CTSP\* and staff arborist with the Tree Care Industry Association. "Among them are included bark, decaying or dead branches, the increased surface area of lateral (side) branches, broad crowns or imbalanced crowns, and small branch size."

I know most Arborists know what included bark is but I want to refresh everyone's memory. It is the in-grown bark in the branch junctions. The branch is weakly connected to the tree trunk and under icing conditions the branch will break under the increased load or weight on the branch. The Bradford Pear is a prime example. The Aristocrat Pear is less susceptible to ice storm damage because it has less included bark.

You also need to consider the lateral branches of the tree and how much ice and snow load they will take. More branches causes more lateral area for the ice and snow to accumulate. More load increases the chances for branch breakage. Trees like American Elm, Hackberry and Honey Locust grown in the open form broad crowns and are susceptible to ice damage. Just think back to the 1997 and what trees in the home landscape received the greatest ice damage.



Source - bingcom/images

## ANTHRACNOSE IN SHADE TREES

Fungicide applications are only warranted on severely affected plants with a history of repeated infections or those with severe shoot death. Applications should be planned for spring application starting at bud break. Prune out dead branches/twigs, rake up and destroy infected leaves to reduce disease pressure for next year's growing season. Source: Hort Update for September 17, 2019

Planning and planning again before you plant a tree in your customer's lawn is critical. You don't want to be called back in a few years and have a mad customer saying you shouldn't have plant that tree in that specific location. You need to know what will be the mature size of the tree. Will the house or other structures restrict the tree growth? Know the location of the overhead wires, sidewalks and driveways. Also a pruning schedule should be established with the customer so the trees will be more resistant to ice storm damage. Suppressing pruning will stop or suppress the growth of the lateral branches and increase the development of a strong leader.

Also remember, after an ice storm every effort must be made to remove damage tree branches and removal of the tree should occur if the tree cannot be saved. I remember a period of time when a number of "arborists" came into Omaha and butchered our damaged trees and it took years for these trees to recover. I still remember spending hours in my customer's back lawns just trying to clean up all the tree damage covering the ground before we could address the tree pruning requirements.

Ice and snow covered trees are beautiful to the eye but they can be a nightmare to take care of. As Certified Arborists, we must do our best to help our customers plant the best trees for our Nebraska weather conditions. We also need to educate our customers so they won't go around their property shaking the tree to remove the ice and snow. Just let Mother Nature's sun melt the ice and snow off the tree.

## ANSWER

Theodore (Teddy) Roosevelt, Jr. the 26th President of the United States from 1901 - 1909.



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