

An Arborist takes  
care of a tree for life.



# OUT ON A LIMB

WINTER 2020, VOLUME 40, ISSUE 4



A scout turns a simple tree planting into an Eagle Project. Story on page 12.

## ANOTHER NEW OUTBREAK?

By: Jim Keepers, NAA Newsletter Coordinator

When you look at the main photo for this article, I know you must think another deadly disease beside COVID-19 has infected the inhabitants of Washington State and eventually will infect the rest of the United States. I know if I saw individuals walking around my trees in space suits I would be intimidated. Yes, it is a frightening picture and what these individuals are dealing with is very serious and could cause you and me some serious harm.



WSDA crew standing with a tub of  
Giant Murder Hornets

So why are Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) scientists dressed up in heavy protective suits? They are vacuuming Asian Giant Hornets from their nest. The nest was found in Baine, Washington and this was the first time a nest had been vacuumed. This event occurred on the 24th of October of this year. A total of 100 hornets were collected. I wonder who had the job of counting the hornets. After the tree hollow nest or also called hive was cleaned out, the tree was cut down to make sure there was not a queen hornet still inside.



Giant Murder Hornet

The scientists wore the suits to prevent the hornet's painful stings and face shields to stop the hornets from spitting venom in their eyes as they vacuumed the hornets into the tub. This sure sounds like an enjoyable job anyone would volunteer to accomplish. I wonder who picked the short straw for this task. Would you be the first one in line to wear the suit and face shield? If you are, please send me your name and contact information so I can put you on the top of the Nebraska volunteer list. The hornet's stinger has been measured and it averages 6 millimeters in length. I wonder

who jumped at the opportunity to measure the stinger. Individuals who have been stung by the hornet state the following: "It is like a hot nail being driven into one's skin." That sure sounds like a fun experience.

All kidding aside, The Asian Giant Hornet is a serious issue. The Centers of Disease Control and Prevention states the following. "Murder hornets, are usually found in Asian countries like China, Japan, Thailand, South Korea and Vietnam, kill at most a few dozen people per year, while regular hornets, wasps and bees kill an average of 62 people per year in the U.S".

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  
2021 quarterly newsletters:

- 1st Quarter - February 1, 2021
- 2nd Quarter - June 1, 2021
- 3rd Quarter - September 1, 2021
- 4th Quarter - November 1, 2021

Photo contributions throughout  
courtesy of Jim Keepers.

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

By: Jeff Grewe, NAA President



If this year could be summed up in one word it would be: CANCELED! With so many of the events and traditions that keep us connected, engaged and moving forward both personally and professionally, canceled, it's a struggle to know how to fill the void. I know it's been a struggle for me. Here are a few of the opportunities I've found to get me by in this socially distant time.

Midwest Tree Climbers Facebook Page: This is a local group of tree climbers and arborists offering tips, tricks and forum to ask questions. This group is open to the expert as well as the novice tree climber. Bonus: there are several tree climbs hosted each year with several of the most experienced climbers in the area in attendance.

TCIA Virtual Expo: The TCI Expo, the largest Tree Care expo in the world, held annually in November, was canceled due to COVID. Thankfully TCIA has opted to hold a Virtual Summit this January 13-15. This is a great opportunity to learn from some of the best in the industry from the comfort and safety of your home or office. No flight or hotel stay required.

TreeBuzz: This is a popular online forum to learn from and connect with arborists and tree care professionals from across the country. Found at treebuzz.com

These are just a few of the opportunities available to us all. I'm sure there are more.

While it is true that we live in possibly the most fraught time in living memory, it is also true that times have never been better (and may never be this good again) for the green industry. For that, we may count ourselves blessed.

All the best,  
Jeff Grewe, President  
Nebraska Arborist Association

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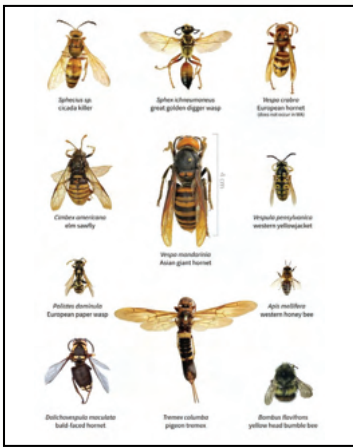
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**Comparison Chart of hornets, wasps and bees**

*Continued from page 1...*

It doesn't seem to be a major human issue but there is another issue to be concerned about. Murder hornets pose a greater threat to honeybees who farmers depend on for pollination.

Presently these murder hornets have only been found in the state of Washington and the Canadian province of British Columbia. There is no worry they will be coming in our direction. However, I have heard that story before. What happens when a visitor to Washington state takes a tree log because of its shape and texture and brings it to Nebraska? Will there be a queen murder hornet inside setting up her nest? I believe the question has not been addressed at this time.

I just love reading the news release from the WSDA about their vacuum operation. I believe it is worth your time to read what they did to get the hornets mad and come out of the nest. I am not sure it was such a smart move. The WSDA stated the following: "To get more of the giant hornets to exit the hive, the team wacked the tree with a wooden board to disturb the insects. Team members then sucked up the flurry of mad hornets flying out of the tree-hollow using a vacuum."

I am not sure if the WSDA teams follow up action was overkill, but I agree with what they did. "After things died down, the team took extra steps to make sure the nest had been destroyed. They filled the tree hollow the hornets were inhabiting with spray insulation foam, wrapped the tree up

with cellophane, pumped carbon dioxide gas inside the tree to put any remaining hornets to sleep, and set baited traps in the area to catch any stragglers returning to the hive." That I believe was the end of any hornets left in the nest.

I hope you have enjoyed this article about the Asian Giant Hornets. I did enjoy the time researching and writing this article. I sure hope these hornets stay on the west coast. I firmly believe no one can tell you being an Arborist is not an interesting and challenging job. If they do, just show them a picture of the Asian Giant Hornet and see what they then have to say about our interesting and challenging career field.

*All the photos provided by the Washington State Department of Agriculture.*

## 2019 JIM KLUCK HONOR AWARD TO JEFF KENNEDY

*Gothenburg Leader Newspaper Feature: Gothenburg Nurseryman Recognized*

Nurseryman Jeff Kennedy of Kennedy Landscape Services in Gothenburg received an award from the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum at a reception in Lincoln, Nebraska

The Jim Kluck Honor Award which he received recognizes individuals or organizations who have contributed to statewide landscape efforts. It was given in honor of Kennedy's efforts as a nurseryman and at the Ehmen Park Arboretum.

Kennedy has been involved in tree-planting and park improvements in Gothenburg since the 1980s. He was one of the first appointees to the Gothenburg Tree Board in 1987.



**Jeff Kennedy receiving the Jim Kluck Honor Award from Justin Evertson**

## THE VIRUS DIDN'T WIN

*By: Jim Keepers, NAA Newsletter Coordinator*

I am pleased to report our 2020 NAA Arborist School was a complete success. COVID-19 was a destructive influence to the classes but because of the work of Kathi, our Association Director, and our superior instructors our three diverse classes did take place.

**The following is a breakdown on class attendance:**

- Tree ID, Evaluation & Selection, Planting & Establishment – 18 attendees
- Pruning, Climbing & Safety Seminar – 34 attendees
- Plant Health & Tree Biology – 15 attendees

Kennedy has helped improve and diversify the Ehmen Park Arboretum to include more than 100 trees representing 62 unique species, many of which are unique to the area. The park has also dramatically increased its improvements and outreach through the Gardeners Garden Club which has provided tree labels, helped develop an educational brochure, and from the late George Cox, another longtime nurseryman in the community.

Beyond Ehmen Park, Jeff has been instrumental in planting trees and improving green spaces at the Lake Helen recreation area, sports complex, cemetery, schools, street trees and corridor plantings. He's active in Nebraska's green industry associations, has served on the Nebraska Community Forestry Council, helped plant the Dawson County Fairgrounds Arboretum in Lexington and provided trees to the Trees for Nebraska Towns Initiative.

The award is named after Jim Kluck, a nurseryman from Schuyler who helped people and communities across the state improve their landscapes.

# ARBORIST SPOTLIGHT

By: *Jim Keepers, NAA Newsletter Coordinator*

Time sure does fly by. It seems like just the other day I sat down at my computer and wrote up the Arborist Spotlight article for the fall newsletter issue. What makes writing these articles so hard is there are several talented individuals in our association I could write about. I also wanted to make sure I select individuals who give up their time and talents to make our state of Nebraska a better place to call home.

I have ventured just a little west to Gothenburg, Nebraska for my selection. The individual is none other than Jeffery (Jeff) Kennedy. So, Jeff come on down, take a seat and let other members of the NAA read why I have selected you to be featured in our Arborist Spotlight article.

I can start off by saying you are a special individual. I use the word special because that is what your daughter told me when I asked her for information about her dad. So, Kristin thanks for your help.

As we open the book on Jeff's life, we find out some very interesting information about this special individual. Jeff is the owner of Kennedy Landscape Services in the town of Gothenburg. He is a Certified Nebraska Arborist and a nursery/landscaper. Taking everything into consideration, Jeff is a very skilled and talented arborist.

Jeff was born in Ainsworth, Nebraska on June 10th, 1961. Just a bit of trivia to add to Jeff's story - the town is named after a railroad engineer, James Ainsworth. Jeff has an older sister Dana Kennedy and a younger brother Jason Kennedy. In 1969, and in the second grade, his father moved the family to Fremont, NE. In 1973, and in the 6th grade, they moved again to Wayzata, MN. They finally moved to Gothenburg, NE in 1975 when Jeff was started 9th grade. Jeff has lived in this town ever since. Jeff has always been a small-town native.

He finished up his education in Gothenburg in 1979, graduating from the local high school. He then attended a few years at the local college in Kearney before it became UNK.

To quote his daughter, "He is happily single, ha!" He has a daughter, Kristin, and a son, Andrew. Kristin has two children, Mason, age 7, and Jett, age 1. Jeff is a very proud grandpa. Kristin says he calls her almost every day to ask about his two grandsons. Good going, grandad!



**Jeff's high school photo**

His first job was working for Kinder Morgan and he stayed there until he started his own business, Kennedy Tree Service, in 1999. He got the tree bug while at Kinder Morgan by spending time selling trees. Around 2007, Jeff added a greenhouse to his business and Kennedy Landscape Services was born.

Jeff's business mission statement is the following: "To provide plants and care instructions for a variety of plants anywhere from trees to shrubs to annuals and perennials." His business claims to have the largest selection of perennials between Omaha and Denver.

You can say growing plants has always been in Jeff's life. He received his love for plants and landscaping from his dad, Bruce. Jeff even had a greenhouse in his backyard when he worked for the gas company. Jeff's right-hand person at the nursey is Cindy, his business manager. You can meet her and see her in action on the company's web site.

Jeff also owns another business, Quality Fire Extinguisher Service. He sells and maintains fire extinguishers for the local businesses in and around the Gothenburg area.

Jeff plays a very active and important role in the Gothenburg business community as President of the Gothenburg City Council. He has been on the council since 2002. Kristin told me he is extremely passionate about the Gothenburg business community.



**Outside photo of Kennedy Landscape Service**



**Inside photo of Kennedy Landscape Service Greenhouse**

He is a leader when it comes to looking for ways to better the lives of the local citizens and keep the business community growing.



**Jeff with daughter Kristin, son Andrew and grandson Jett**

the best is his work ethic and the drive to always better oneself and always continue to educate ourselves as he always has done”.

Jeff has had a major impact on both of his children’s lives. His daughter, Kristin, has her own business that has taken a hard hit because of the virus and his son, Andrew, has become a contractor though his dad to treat trees for the Emerald Ash Bore (EAB) disease. His son is now planning to future his tree career and become a Certified Nebraska Arborist.

Jeff is a very proud Certified Nebraska Arborist and very much enjoys caring and learning about trees. I cannot remember a NEBRASKA GREAT PLAINS Conference without seeing Jeff attending.



**Jeff honor wall**

So, what does Jeff do in his free time? He loves to go to their cabin at Johnson Lake or their place up in Long Pine, NE and spend time with his family. He loves his grandsons and enjoys doing little things to make their day better. When these grandsons visit him he has new activities for his oldest grandson, Mason, or a new ice cream flavor in the freezer for the boys. Good going Jeff!

On the music side of the house, Jeff loves classic rock’n’roll. When he is working on a landscape or planting a tree his pickup door will be always open and you can hear a Led Zeppelin song being played.

If Jeff could, he would work 24 hours a day. I believe he has soil running through his veins. He never takes a break and the local Gothenburg community appreciates his work ethic. His daughter did say it took him three years to finish the landscaping around her house, but it looks amazing.

Kristin told me several great things I could write but the following is something I feel is the most important quality Jeff has passed onto to his two children. She told me the following: “Her dad instilled in them many great things but one of



**Jeff with grandson Mason**

I have also included the write up of Jeff receiving the Jim Kluck Honor Award in 2019 from the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum. Please take a few minutes to read the award citation.

You now know a lot more about this individual and I know he has a lot more goals to accomplish and tasks to complete as his life matures.

In closing, Jeff thanks for being such a great representative of the NAA in Gothenburg and I know you live by the NAA creed “An Arborists takes care of a tree for life.” I look forward to seeing you at the 2022 NEBRASKA GREAT PLAINS Conference.

## **SCOTT EVANS “EXCELLENCE IN EXTENSION”**

*By: Jim Keepers, NAA Newsletter Coordinator*

I am pleased to announce Scott Evans, Horticulture Program Coordinator for Extension in Douglas-Sarpy Counties and Certified Arborist has received the award of the 2020 “Excellence in Extension” for exceptional teaching and learning.

I have known Scott for a number of years, and I am very pleased he has received this award. Scott has a passion for teaching and sharing his knowledge with others. Being a certified arborist has allowed him to address the major tree issues faced by homeowners in both Douglas and Sarpy counties. He is an asset to the Nebraska Arborist Association (NAA) because of his educational expertise. So, the next time you stop in at the extension main office off of Center Street to ask a tree question and thank Scott for the assistance he gives to the NAA.



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## CAVITY-NESTING WILDLIFE

By *Jim Keepers, Maturing Certified NE Arborist*

Why is it important for an Arborist to leave cavity trees standing in wood lots on acreages or in forests? According to the Arbor Day Foundation, there are over 1,200 species of birds, mammals, and amphibians who use these cavities for shelter and homes. However, arborists need to recognize when a cavity tree has become a safety issue and must be removed.

The Cavity Conservation Initiative is a new Southern Californian program whose goal is to achieve the safe retention of trees showing the development of cavities caused by storm damage, insect invasions, and disease. Because of their efforts, they are insuring the future of cavity-nesting wildlife and enriching forest diversity. Older and declining trees play a key role in the life cycle of cavity-nesting wildlife.

To become a well-rounded Arborist, you must be informed of the benefits a declining tree provides to the environment. You must give the homeowner the guidelines for the identification and management of cavity trees, educate the general public of the benefits of retaining these trees, and last but not least, what I feel is the most important, to inspire people to become a proponent of sound and safe tree care.



## 2022 WINTER CONFERENCE UPDATE

By *Jim Keepers, Conference Chairperson*

GREAT NEWS – I am excited to announce the 2022 NEBRASKA GREAT PLAINS Conference will take place at the Embassy Suites in Lincoln, Nebraska on January 16, 17 & 18. Exhibitor set up will take place on the afternoon of the 16th.

We have selected the following conference theme “REMEMBERING THE PAST TO BUILD ON THE FUTURE”. We are excited to focus on the association’s past accomplishments and leverage them for the association’s future growth.

I am pleased we are returning to the Lincoln Embassy Suites. It is a great hotel with great facilities, pleasant environment and great rooms for your overnight stay.

I have again accepted the position of conference chairperson and have already started to build the conference committee. Recently, Nebraska certified arborists, Kait Barth of Mulhall’s Nursery, and Amy Nakai of Great Plains Tree Care, have joined the conference team. We still need some additional seasoned NAA members to join. Speakers are presently being lined up along with workshop topics. If you have any speaker recommendations or conference topics to cover, please contact me. Other associations are on the hunt for speakers for their 2022 event and we need to beat them to the punch.



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Before closing this article, I want to make a conference sponsorship pitch. It would be great if you could set aside a funds this year and next year for sponsorship of the 2022 Conference. Your sponsorship dollars help support the continuation of the NEBRASKA GREAT PLAINS Conference. It allows us to bring in great speakers, host the event at quality venues, and provide exceptional events for networking with colleagues.

We have a variety of conference sponsorships available but if you have any specific sponsorship ideas or requests let Kathi know. Please stay safe and well!

# A SPECIAL OR UNIQUE TREE

By: *Jim Keepers, NAA Newsletter Coordinator*

The tree being featured this quarter is not one to be planted in the standard homeowner's landscape but one to be grown on an acreage for someone who is adventurous and wants to have something very unusual.

The tree being featured is the Osage orange, *Maclura pomifera*. It is defined as a small spiny North American deciduous tree. I object to the word spiny. I would call the spines thorns and they do hurt if you get too close to this tree. The tree is also called 'bowwood' because it was used by American Indians to carve bows and other weapons of war. Today, several artistic gardeners use this tree to build unique fences for their garden. See attached photo showing a garden fence design. It is also used as a thorny hedge when pruned.



**Vegetable garden fence**



**Artistic garden fence**

It is an easy tree to grow and will survive in zones 4-9. It grows to a height of 30 to 50 feet. It is very invasive because its fruit seeds are carried by birds. You usually see this tree growing along fence lines. It flowers in May through July and its bark is deeply furrowed and turns dark orange in color as the tree matures. The leaves are 5 inches in length and dark green in color. In the fall, the leaves don't produce any color and just turn a dead brown color.



**Leaves absent of fall color**

The Osage orange is noted for the fruit it produces called hedge apples. The fruit is roughly spherical and bumpy and is 3-6 inches in diameter. It turns bright yellow green in the fall. It is neither an apple nor an orange. It is related to the fig and mulberry, but the fruit is not edible for humans. I am not sure if animals like the fruit.

The hedge apple is a type of multiple fruit produced from individual flowers producing compound syncarp fruit. The trees have separate sexes (dioecious) with only the female trees forming the hedge apples.

The hedge apple fruit is sometimes used in fall containers to create an accent in the decoration. The hedge apple has a reputation for repelling insects from a homeowner's basement in the winter. This is another old wise tale. The University of Iowa State did a research study on the hedge apples and found the following: "The compounds within the fruit can repel German cockroaches only but the fruit as a whole will not." So, don't spend your money on hedge apples for insect control.

I do have this tree growing on my acreage. I have said a number of choice words during pruning because of the thorns. Like I said, it adds no fall color to my landscape, but I like having the tree to show its structure and the fruit it produces. So, don't make a mad rush to plant this tree in your customer's landscape.



**Spines/thorns**



**Hedge apple fruit**

# WINTER DRIVING CONDITIONS

By: *Jim Keepers, NAA Newsletter Coordinator*



With fall in our rear-view mirror and winter opening its door, it is time to prepare for almost any type of driving conditions.

Make sure your private vehicle has been winterized by making sure your tires are in good shape and the gas tank is not running on empty. Have at least a blanket, warm clothes, and some energy bars in case you get stuck.

The key to winter driving after a long workday is to take your time and be alert for the other driver. We want you to be around for another year.



# LOOKING BACK INTO HISTORY

By: *Jim Keepers, NAA Newsletter Coordinator*

I am a firm believer we can learn a lot from our Association's history. It could be good, or it could be bad! It also allows us to appreciate what we have accomplished.

Back in the spring of 1986, members of the Nebraska Arborists Association offered their time and talents to prune the trees around Steinhart Lodge as a volunteer project. Steinhart Lodge is located just east of the present Lied Lodge in Nebraska City. The Arbor Day Foundation held their seminars there before the Lied Lodge was built. This is just one example how our association members stepped up to help the local community.

I have included the photo/caption from the NAA newsletter Vol 6, No. 3, Apr. 18, 1986 in this article. The following is a listing of the 19 individuals who accomplished the task: Bruce Webster, Randy Hayden, Sam Rhoades, Frank Litz, Dave Mooter, Ken Lucht, Phil Pierce, Tim Enfield, Alvin Sabel, Tony Snyder, Bob Eggli, Jack Nebelsick, John Fischbach, LeRoy Thomas, Ruth Thomas, Conrad Meier, Brace Dierking, Scott Greenwood and Dennis Mullany.

Your association performed its last service project back in 2016 at the 4H Center just south of Gretna. That was over 5 years ago. I challenge our association membership, under the guidance of our NAA Board of Directors, to step up and commit to performing a community service project in 2021. Let's dedicate the new year as the year of community service for the NAA.

I don't want to forget to thank our individual NAA companies who yearly give back to their community though their different community outreach programs. I am not listing these NAA members by name, but you know who you are, and I do appreciate your community efforts.

I have one last favor to ask. I am only familiar with a few of the Arborists in the photograph. I would appreciate our membership taking the time to provide me with any information about these individuals. In conjunction with our NEBRASKA GREAT PLAINS Conference theme "REMEMBERING THE PAST TO BUILD ON THE FUTURE," my goal is to spotlight these individuals at this 2022 event.

## OUR NEWSLETTER CREATIVE EDITOR

By: *Jim Keepers, NAA Newsletter Coordinator*

I felt it was about time to introduce our newsletter readers to the individual I count on to take my newsletter articles and photos and create what I feel is an outstanding arborist publication every quarter. Without her graphic and artistic talents, our NAA newsletter would just be a bunch of jumble words and photos. The individual I want you to meet is Kylie Schildt.

Kylie is the Director of Marketing and an Account Executive at Advanced Association Management. She is also the daughter of Kathi Schildt, our Executive Director. She has over thirteen years of graphic design experience and received her Bachelor's degree in Marketing from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 2013. Her portfolio includes design and marketing work for Cabela's, the LUX Center for the Arts, along with all graphic design and marketing needs for Advanced Association Management's 20+ association clients. Her favorite recent project was designing the 2020 Nebraska Wine Passport.

She has been employed with AAM for over six years and, along with her marketing responsibilities, she serves as an Account Executive for Nebraska Poultry Industries, the Caribbean Cable Telecommunications Association, the Nebraska Winery and Grape Growers Association and the Mid-America Cable Telecommunications Association. Kylie and her husband, J.R. Douty, recently moved back to Nebraska from Kansas City with their Brittany spaniel, Camp, and their 10-month old daughter, Kathryn "Kit" June (aptly named after our favorite NAA exec.) In their spare time, they work on renovating their 110-year-old farmhouse in Seward, Nebraska.

I have lost track of the number of years I have been working with Kylie on our newsletter. I must tell you; I do appreciate all of her talents she puts into what I feel is a superior publication. It is individuals like Kylie who makes, what I feel, one of the best state arborist association newsletters in the nation. I have been proud to work with her and I hope to continue our cooperative efforts for a number of years to come the good Lord willing.



**Steinhart Lodge Project Tree Pruning Crew**



# COMMENTARY

By Jim Keepers: *Maturing Certified NE Arborist*

With the closing of 2020, a very harsh and cruel year, I want to leave you with a few of my observations, opinions, and recommendations. I am not a very gifted writer, but I wanted to put my thoughts into print. So, please forgive me if my words are not eloquent but I sure hope they hit the mark.

I first want to commend Kathi and her staff at the NAA office. They had to work under some trying conditions because of the virus but they came through with flying colors. Second, I want to commend the NAA Board for their leadership this past year and their willingness to serve on the board another year. A special thanks goes out to our certified Nebraska arborists for the tree work they have accomplished this past year no matter the virus constraints or the weather conditions. I know the virus has caused some very unusual working conditions, but no matter what, our Arborist Crews are out in the field accomplishing their daily tasks. I don't want to forget the rest of the NAA membership. You are doing your best to support your customers and you are appreciated for your efforts. Speaking of membership, I hope everyone will renew their NAA membership. We need you all in our NAA family.

Thanks also goes out to those individuals and arborist companies who attended or sent an employee to the 2020 NAA Arborist School. It was very different this year, but it was a success. I know we will have some gifted and well trained NAA certified arborists coming out of this year's school. Thanks also to all the instructors dedicated their time to teach. Without you there would be no school at all.

I know everyone was disappointed about our 2020 Summer Field Day and the 2021 NEBRASKA GREAT PLAINS Conference that were cancelled because of COVID-19. But that is water under the bridge. The outlook for a summer field day this coming August looks very bright. If the virus is under control this spring, we might also be able to have an Advanced Arborist Training class. So, if we do, please take the time to attend or send your employees to one of these great events.

I humbly thank everyone for awarding me the NAA Arborist of the Year and NAA Lifetime Achievement Award. I will cherish these awards forever. Regretfully, we won't be presenting these awards in 2021 because the virus caused the cancellation of the conference. So, you now have ample time to submit your nominations for these awards to be presented at the 2022 business meeting on January 16, 2022.

The NAA is a super association and I have met some great individuals. It would take me a long time to list everyone, so I am just going to say thank you to all the members for making this association outstanding and attending our training and educational events. I also want to give a shout out to your present NAA Board of Directors. They have done and will continue to do an outstanding job in 2021. If you want to join the NAA board or have someone you want to nominate, please contact the NAA office.

I never thought I would have so much to say and I appreciate you taking the time to read my commentary. In closing, I want all of you to be safe and stay well along with your family. If you need any help or assistance, please let me know because the NAA is also a family and we help our own. The virus has been bad, but it has not kept your association down and won't in the future.

My prayers go out to you if you have lost someone because of the virus.

In closing remember, "An Arborist takes care of a tree for life" Your job is to live up to this motto.

**Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!**



**Trees & the beauty of Mother Nature**



**Are the needles on this evergreen tree diseased and dying or are just the tree shedding its old needles?**

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# ON THE PATH TO EAGLE SCOUT

By: *Jim Keepers, Maturing Certified NE Arborist*

For several years, I have stressed the need for NAA Arborists to get involved with their city tree board. This effort enables Nebraska cities to enhance their tree canopy through different community tree planting activities. This past September, I had the opportunity to be involved in a scout-directed community tree planting project.

The following story tells how I assisted the community with a fall tree planting project and helped a scout complete his Eagle Award requirements.

The City of Gretna this past August was awarded 10 free trees through Nebraska Statewide Arboretum's "Free Trees for Fall Planting" program. At the same time, boy scout, Seth Hensel, was looking for a worthy Eagle Scout project. Seth had talked to Heather Byers at Great Plains Nursery and she told him to contact me at the Gretna Arbor Society (Tree Board). Seth made the contact and the Gretna Arbor Society board members approved Seth taking over the community fall tree planting project as his Eagle Scout Project. I know you are now thinking how planting ten trees warranted the award of Eagle Scout to Seth.

Since Arborists are around tree work every day, the planting of ten trees seems like a very minor task. This is not true when you have never planted a "RootMaker" grown tree yourself or tried to organize a group of scouts and adults into a cohesive tree planting team.

I won't go into complete detail on this project but I would like to highlight Seth's accomplishments. He learned a lot about RootMaker grown trees, how to coordinate press coverage, creating a tree planting and safety demonstration, lining up the volunteers (10 scouts & 11 adults) and supervising the entire planting to include mulching, watering, and post tree care.

Along with these endeavors, Seth had to write up his Eagle Scout proposal, construct a project folder and submit a final project report.

I have worked with a number of volunteers and have had to go back and replant the trees again. Seth's time and effort to ensure his volunteers did everything correctly shows tree planting is an art and it is important to do it properly.

I was very impressed with the efforts of Seth Hensel, a member of Scout Troop 463. This story just goes to show how NAA Arborists can pitch in and assist their local city Tree Board with proper tree planting and care and at the same time help out a scout to receive one of scouting's highest award.

I look forward to attending Scout Seth Hensel Eagle Scout Award Ceremony.

One final note. All the photos in this article were accomplished by Seth's mother.



## 2021 MEMBERSHIP DUES

The 2021 NAA membership renewal notices are being sent out. Membership dues are due to the NAA office by January 1, 2021. Each renewing certified arborist will receive a new certificate with an extension of one year. When recertification fees are not paid within 90 days, certification status will be forfeited.

## HOLIDAY HOURS

The NAA office will be closed on the following dates so staff can enjoy time with their friends and families:

**December 24 & 25 for Christmas**

**December 31 & January 1 for the New Year's Holiday**

The NAA staff and Board of Directors send best wishes to you and your families for the holidays.

*We look forward to serving you in the new year!*

## CHAP VIOLATIONS



OSHA holds the employer, not the employee, accountable when Chaps are not worn while operating a chain saw during ground operations. The new ANSI Standard, “ANSI Z133-2017” under the General Safety section states: ‘Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) requirements, Cut-resistant Leg Protection shall be worn while operating a chain saw during ground operations.’ If the owner fails to provide/require the use of chaps, it is ‘A Serious Violation by OSHA standards.’ The maximum penalty, per occurrence, is \$12,481 and if the employer gets a “repeat” or “willful” violation, the fine goes up tenfold.

So Crew Chiefs, make sure you make a concerted effort to have your crews wear chaps during ground operations with a chain saw because you don’t want your boss to pay the OSHA fine.



**Rugged Certified NE Arborist wearing ANSI standard Chaps during ground operations.**

*Illustration by Bryan Kotwica. Permission granted by Tree Care Industry Association and TCIA Crew Leader Specialist training program.*

## NEW ASSOCIATION TEAM MEMBER

*By: Jim Keepers, NAA Newsletter Coordinator*



I want to take this opportunity to introduce you to Andee Arnoldy, the newest member of the Advancement Management Team. She will assist Kathi in the day to day operations of the Nebraska Arborists Association (NAA). So, the next time you call the NAA office you just might have the opportunity to talk to her on the phone. So please welcome Andee to the team.

Andee is originally from Kennebec which is in rural central South Dakota. She recently graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in May 2020 and majored in Hospitality, Restaurant, and Tourism Management. She has specialized in the event industry and has exceptional planning skills. She previously worked as an Event Manager at Catering Creations in Omaha and was the Event Intern at the University Affairs & President’s Office on UNL’s Campus. In her free time she likes to go on walks with her dog, Arlo, and explore new local businesses.

## DROUGHT

Over 98% of Nebraska and most of Douglas along with Burt, Dodge, Sarpy, Washington, Colfax and Stanton Counties are in D2 – Severe Drought. Cuming County is in a D3 – Extreme Drought. It will be imperative to water newly planted trees to prevent winter injury.

More information on weather ready landscapes: <https://weather-ready.unl.edu/weather-ready-landscapes>



**The water table has been lowered way below the top of the wall because of the 2020 drought.**

# FUN CHRISTMAS TREE TRIVIA

Christmas Trees have been sold commercially in the United States since about 1850.

Christmas Trees were first lit with candles.

The Germans brought the first Christmas Tree to the United States.

Thomas Edison's assistants Edward Hibberd Johnson came up with the idea of electric lights for Christmas Trees in 1882.

Christmas Trees generally take six to eight years to mature.

Teddy Roosevelt banned Christmas Trees from the White House for environmental reasons.

Christmas Trees are grown in all 50 states including Hawaii and Alaska.

In 1923, President Calvin Coolidge started the National Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony now held every year on the White House lawn.

98 percent of all Christmas Trees are grown on farms.

The tallest living Christmas Tree is believed to be the 122-foot, 91-year-old Douglas fir in the town of Woodinville, Washington.

77 million Christmas Trees are planted each year.

The Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree tradition began in 1933. Franklin Pierce, the 14th President, brought the Christmas Tree tradition to the White House.

Never burn your Christmas Tree in the fireplace. It can contribute to creosote buildup.

In 1963, the National Christmas Tree was not lit until Dec. 22nd because of a national 30-day period of mourning following the assassination of President Kennedy.

Tinsel was once banned by the government. Tinsel contained lead at one time. Now it's made of plastic.

In 1979, the National Christmas Tree was not lit except for the top ornament. This was done in honor of the American hostages in Iran.

34 to 36 million Christmas Trees are produced each year.

California, Oregon, Michigan, Washington, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania and North Carolina are the top Christmas Tree producing states.

Best-selling trees are Scotch Pine, Douglas Fir, Fraser Fir, Balsam Fir and White Pine.



## NDA ANNOUNCES NEW EAB FINDS, RESCINDS STATE EAB QUARANTINE

The Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA) recently confirmed that emerald ash borer (EAB) had been found infesting ash trees in Hall County, Nebraska. EAB was first found in Nebraska in June 2016, in Douglas county, and most recently was discovered in Buffalo and Washington counties.

Due to the confirmations of EAB in several new counties in Nebraska in 2020, covering a wide geographic area, NDA has determined that regulatory enforcement of a state quarantine is no longer warranted, and will rescind the Nebraska EAB quarantine effective immediately.

The USDA maintains the federal EAB quarantine, and any person considering interstate movement of ash nursery stock, ash material, or any hardwood firewood or hardwood mulch is encouraged to contact NDA to determine certification requirements.

NDA will continue to work with the USDA and other partners to slow the spread of EAB in Nebraska, including monitoring for EAB in non-infested counties and using biocontrol releases as a long-term strategy for managing EAB. Additionally, NDA will continue EAB education and outreach efforts to promote the responsible disposal of ash materials and the "Don't Move Firewood" campaign.

The Nebraska EAB Working Group, which includes NDA, the USDA, Nebraska Game and Parks and the Nebraska Forest Services, offers the following suggestions to help prevent the human-assisted spread of the insect:

- Since EAB can easily be moved in firewood, always use locally-sourced firewood and burn it in the same county where you purchased it.
- Consider treating healthy, high-value ash trees located within a 15-mile radius of a known infestation. Treatment will need to be continually reapplied and will only prolong the tree's life, not save it. Trees that are experiencing declining health should be considered for removal.
- If you are in a non-infested county and think you have found an EAB infestation, please report it to the Nebraska Department of Agriculture at 402-471-2351, the Nebraska Forest Service at 402-472-2944 or your local Extension office.

Additional information on EAB can be found on NDA's website at: [nda.nebraska.gov/plant/entomology/eab/](http://nda.nebraska.gov/plant/entomology/eab/). Additional information on EAB and Nebraska-specific recommendations for homeowners and municipalities can be found on the Nebraska Forest Services' website at [nfs.unl.edu/nebraska-eab](http://nfs.unl.edu/nebraska-eab).



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