

# Tree Talk



Education, Training, Communication, Professionalism & Public Awareness in Arboriculture

April 2016 Volume 5, Issue 2



**Wright Tree Service paying respects to a fallen police officer**



## President's Letter:

### Letter from the President

Thank you for electing me to serve as President of this association. I look forward to continuing to help others see the benefits of trees during my service. In the coming year my goals are to continue to focus on improving this association by expanding membership, holding as many educational and training seminars as possible, and continuing with the prospect of becoming a local chapter of the ISA. Each one of our members plays an important role in achieving these goals.

I recently had the honor of accepting a volunteer appreciation award from the Iowa Veterans Cemetery, and it reminded me how important it is to share our skills, and how much these gestures can benefit others. The 25 or so volunteers that attended for our 2015 day of service were all thrilled to make a difference at these hallowed grounds.

I want to remind you all that myself and the board are volunteers, and we all take a great deal of pride in the work we do to help our colleagues in the green industry. Working together as a team, we have accomplished a lot in the past few years, BUT we have much greater visions for the future of this organization.

I want to urge all of our members to give us input and get involved- and get your tree friends and colleagues involved! The board wants to know what your goals and desires are for this association, and we are all excited about working together to achieve them. I feel that we all have a responsibility to the future generations to help spread the word about the benefits of trees through education, training, and volunteering in our local communities.

Please check out our website and Facebook page, and see how you can get involved. I look forward to seeing you over the course of the coming year.

Mindy Charron



## Welcome New Board Members:

As your incoming President, I would like to welcome the newest members of our board, Jim Rock serving as the Northwest Representative, and Bill Reese serving as Representative at Large. I know I speak for the existing board members when I say we look forward to working with you in the coming year! Several of the existing board members have changed roles but we all have the same goal in mind!.I would also like to say goodbye to Andy Dahl, thank you for all you have done with this board, you will be missed!

We need to have a board meeting soon, but in the immediate future, we need to decide about the seminar featuring Jim Flott in the quad cities area. This seminar was originally set up for the first week of May, but recent information that this is a VERY BUSY week for nurserymen eliminates the main target audience for this seminar on proper tree planting and rooting production of young trees. There is a possibility of holding this seminar with Jim in late April (25, 26, or 27th). Guy Gibson also mentioned that a June date could be good. More recently, Scott has introduced the idea of our own team giving the seminar as a "cheap CEU" training? There is an Arbor Day celebration in central IA the weekend before at the Iowa Arboretum. We need to make a decision SOON because if we are having this seminar in April, it is only about 30 days away. Maybe we should try to meet Thursday April 7.

It has been suggested that we have board meetings during set weeks of set months. May I suggest the first or second week of January, March, August, and October.

I would like to suggest a meeting before the end of April to wrap up a few loose ends in the meantime.

few topics we need to discuss...

- Climbing competition in September
- Winter EHAP trainings with possible certification?
- Committee to set up standards of qualifications to borrow associate owned gear
- Seminar in Scott's neighborhood late April / May ?
- newsletter
- membership duties? check arborist news for recently certified arborists to try to reach out to them.

Upcoming events at the Iowa Arboretum that the IAA is involved with...



## **Maple Syrup Celebration - Saturday, April 9 - 8AM to 1130AM**

This is a fundraiser for the Xi Sigma Pi honor society with the Forestry Department at ISU. They have asked for volunteers to demonstrate climbing and the Arboretum newsletter mentions "timber sports demonstrations". We have 1 volunteer (so far) to demonstrate climbing and Brandt and I demonstrating pruning of young trees. If any of you have any interesting topics you would like to share this day, please let me know. More volunteers would be welcomed.

## **2016 Volunteer Recognition Ceremony - at the Iowa Veterans Cemetery - Tuesday, April 12 100 PM**

We have been invited based on our day of service at the cemetery last year. I have attached the invite, and I think it would be nice for some of us to attend.

## **Arbor Day Celebration - Saturday April 23 - 10AM to 1200 noon**

There are 12 volunteers signed up for this day, and Butch Christianson is handling most of this event. If you want to get involved, bring the kids and come show them the fun of climbing !

Finally,

I would like to send a big THANK YOU to TreeStuff.com. The email has been circulating, and I hope you are all aware that we receive a 7% discount as a member of the IAA.

This is an exciting offer for our membership! I will be sending the discount code along with the above volunteer opportunities to our membership in the next couple days. Another benefit of membership with the IAA !!! They also recently donated 4 kids climbing saddles and 2 friction savers. THANK YOU SO MUCH TO [TREESTUFF.COM](http://TREESTUFF.COM) and keep supporting those that support us!

Thank you !

Mindy Charron

President, Iowa Arborist Association

[515.201.7073](tel:515.201.7073)



IAA BOARD MEETING  
4-4-16  
Landmark Restaurant, Williamsburg

Members Present: Guy Gibson, Todd Reese, Rachel Deskins, Todd Fagan, Brandt Jelken, Jim Rock, Chip Murrow  
Meeting called to order at 10:07

Members read the minutes.

Todd Fagan motioned to approve the minutes.  
Guy Gibson 2<sup>nd</sup>.  
**Approved.**

**Treasurer's Report:**

Todd Reese gave the report letting the board know the balance to date had all known payments and receipts entered.

Rachel Deskins made a motion to approve the reports.  
Mindy Charron 2<sup>nd</sup>.  
**Approved.**

Brandt Jelken made a motion to "Make a donation of \$500 to Shade Tree"  
Todd Fagan 2<sup>nd</sup>.  
**Passed**

Dr. Jeff Iles will be contacted to see if he is doing Tour de Trees this year. If so the board will most likely make a contribution to his ride.

**Old Business:**

- Species Rating guide needs to be updated in 2017. A committee will need to be formed for this.
- Where are we at with becoming a Chapter of ISA
  - March 14<sup>th</sup> Jim Skira sent to the ISA Board the application for Iowa to become its own chapter (This was actually submitted Oct. 9, 2015).



- April 14<sup>th</sup> is the 30 day deadline where MWISA Chapter can ask for a 90 day extension (Brandt Jelken gave reasons of why the Iowa chapter should challenge an extension).
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## Workshop Committee:

- Winter Workshop
  - People saying they did not receive CEU's
  - Todd Fagan looked into this and found ISA does have the sheet and will try and get this rectified in next few weeks.
- EHAP Workshop
  - TCIA can run whole thing
    - TCIA will set cost
    - 40 – 45 people
  - Brandt Jelken felt that IAA should be noted/acknowledged somehow with helping put together the workshop
    - Todd Fagan would look into that
  - Would like to hold two trainings in the winter months, one east one west
- Todd Fagan made a motion to "Have TCIA run EHAP Training"
- Rechel Deskins 2<sup>nd</sup>
- **Passed**
- Arboretum Work Day / Day of Service
  - Check with Dowling for volunteer kids
- Jim Flott
  - Was brought to the board's attention that spring was a bad time for nurseries to attend workshops, more of a lull in mid-summer.
  - Contacted Jim Flott and found he was available on Tuesday, June 28<sup>th</sup>.
  - Rachel will contact Scott Carlson about the change.
  - Charging \$85 member, \$100 non-member with a \$10 savings if registered by June 10<sup>th</sup>.

## Newsletter:

- Submittals to be in by April 11<sup>th</sup>
- Guy Gibson made a motion "To spend \$200 on membership drive mailing"



- Discussion
  - Make the newsletter a hard copy and include cover letter and membership dues form for July dues.
  - Mail to present members and Iowa members of ISA.
- Brandt Jelken 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- **Passed**

## New Business

- Standards for borrowing Climbing Gear
  - Board needs to make some inspection regulation for all owned tree equipment
  - An inventory needs to be made of all equipment
    - Check out and Check in procedure for borrowed equipment
    - Unfit/Worn equipment must be destroyed and recorded as gone
- Brandt Jelken suggested a committee needed to be created to make rules for checking out equipment.
  - Todd Fagan to head committee
    - Scott Carlson?
    - Matt Brewer?
  - For Kids Climbing equipment only
- Insurance
  - Our company now has raised rates and dropped some coverages
  - Jim Rock and Guy Gibson will look into other companies
- Rachel Deskins is to work on Intuit to set up member pay for conferences.
- Todd Reese is to work on a spreadsheet for arborist members to supply what services offered and area of work so we can answer questions of who people can contact with tree related questions.
- Shirts
  - Guy Gibson mentioned he has 3 ordered, would be cheaper to order 10
  - Todd Reese made a motion to order 10 shirts at \$100.
  - Rachel Deskins 2<sup>nd</sup>
  - **Passed**



- Kids Climbing Day at the Arboretum April 23<sup>rd</sup> or 24<sup>th</sup>
- Iowa State Forestry Society program
  - Mindy and Purficuts doing a climbing demonstration
  - Brandt Jelken doing a pruning demonstration

## ADJOURNMENT

- Motion for adjournment made by Rachel Deskins.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> by Brandt Jelken
- Meeting adjourned 12:22 pm.

## “The Van” a story by Scott Carlson

Years ago when my business was still new I was working in a walnut tree on the west end of town. The bearded and bespectacled home owner watched safely from outside the work area sipping on a Big Gulp. He kept smiling and motioning to a big, ugly bread truck parked on the corner of his lot. I was not sure what he was trying to communicate. When I finished pruning the tree and we were wrapping up the cleanup he guided me over to kick the tires on a 1988 GMC step van. He told me a short story that I will now tell you.

He had been a HVAC student at a local community college a few years prior to our visit. An instructor had modified his personally owned work van with a few work stations for students to learn “hands-on” skills at. The van was parked in the colleges parking lot semi-permanently. One day somebody with some sort of authority came sniffing around their class asking who owned the handsome unit parked out there. The instructor confessed. “The van” he was informed by the authority “has to go.” Despite a feeble attempt to explain that the eyesore was actually a teaching aide, the exasperated instructor threw up his arms. Apparently he was not happy with a few other school policies and was not having a good day. In an act of defiance and/or ignorance he asked, “Who wants a van?” The room stood silent. “Come on, somebody make an offer.” My customer offered \$100. “Sold.”replied the instructor. Problem solved.

Which brings us back to the beginning of the story. “I bought it because it was too good of a deal not to.” explained the customer. “Now it is taking up space and collecting dust. I don't have a need for it... but you do.” he said slickly. He was right. At my first job with Marv's Tree Service there was a van full of ropes, saddles, saws and dudes. It was very similar to this one.





“Hmm...” I thought remembering the funnel and hose in Marv's van that served as a urinal and kept us on the job when nature called. My eyes became dollar signs. With a mechanic's inspection and a little negotiating the van was mine and the urinal was soon to be real. Turned out I traded the \$1200 job even up for the van. We drove that van for many years. It let us down regularly.

Several years later as we were heading home in the van sweaty and filthy from a long day in a small town. I was driving. Tony and Jim (the names have been changed to protect the innocent) were riding and smoking. There was a strange squeak accompanied by a shimmy(?) and a clunk or two. I was able to ease to the side of the road. Immediately Tony got out disgusted and angrily called his girlfriend. “Yeah, come get me. This piece of \$#^%\* is broke down again.” he barked. Simultaneously Jim got out and silently slid under the van. Apparently the carrier bearing-shackle thing-a-ma-jiggy that holds the drive shaft up had partially failed allowing it to sag. A few seconds later Jim requested a chunk of rope. I grabbed one of the remnants that is always hanging around for just such situations. A little tying, cutting and cussing later, Jim rolled out from underneath and said, “Let's go.” It was not fixed but it would get us back to the shop. Jim got in the, now operable van feeling pretty good about having saved the day. Tony got in even more angry now that he had to make a second call to cancel his girlfriend's rescue mission. Both resumed smoking.

So what is the point of this rambling story? This was a teachable moment for me. What were the priorities of these two guys? One wanted to immediately separate himself from the discomfort. The other optimistically embraced a little bit more discomfort and discovered that the problem could be easily mitigated. Jim's actions saved me a tow truck bill, a long wait on the side of the road with guys still “on the clock” and gave me the luxury of making the repair at our own shop instead of the closest one to the breakdown. My dollar sign eyes had long since been downgraded to cents. Those early years were pretty lean. Tony's actions would have resulted in a late night or early morning call asking, “Are we working or not?” that I would answer with my cleanest, wrenchless hand from underneath the van and the thing-a-ma-jiggy. I would not have an answer until the wrenching was successfully done, whatever the hour.

Jim's answer to the inconvenience was to make it better. Tony's answer was to flee. Attitude is contagious. We owe it to ourselves to be more like Jim and less like Tony and to employ more Jims and fewer Tonys.

We have long since retired the old, ugly van and have a newer, nicer van that lets us down less often.

Thank you,  
Scott Carlson Certified Arborists  
Celebrating 18 years of art, science and excellence.

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The Iowa Arboretum is hosting several events this spring, including a 5k Run/Walk on Arbor Day (April 23<sup>rd</sup>), as well as, an Arbor Day Celebration and Educational Programs. For more information be sure to visit their website [www.iowaarboretum.org](http://www.iowaarboretum.org).





**2016 Officers:**

**President  
Mindy Charron**

**President-Elect  
Rachel Deskins**

**Past President  
Brandt Jelkin**

**Treasurer  
Todd Reese**

**Secretary  
Chip Murrow**

**Northeast Representative  
Todd Fagen**

**Northwest Representative  
Jim Rock**

**Southeast Representative  
Scott Carlson**

**Southwest Representative  
Tom Corbitt**

**Representative at Large #1  
Guy Gibson**

**Representative at Large #2  
Bill Reese**

**ISA Liaison  
Matt Brewer**



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