

Presentation Details

Tuesday 8:30 AM – 8:45 AM

Welcome, Introductions and Updates

Lindsey Purcell, Executive Director, IAA

Andrew Mertz– President, IAA

Tuesday 8:45 AM – 9:45 AM

Cornering A Unicorn: Forging a Scalable Urban Wood Marketplace

Urban and community wood utilization is not a new concept; however, in the United States the opportunities for diverting wood and woody debris from landfills and creating revenue from a wide range of wood products are vast. This presentation will highlight the current challenges and opportunities to convert tree “waste” into regenerative supply chain that reinvests revenue back into the communities that need it the most.

Speaker: Jeff Carroll, CEO & Co-Founder, Urban Wood Economy

Tuesday 9:45 AM – 10:30 AM

Planting Fact vs. Fiction: What does science say about planting trees?

There are many opinions on the best management practices of planting trees, usually formulated based on anecdotal evidence and past experiences. This presentation will address the best management practices of handling/transporting trees and planting containerized and balled-in-burlapped trees based on available data from research trials.

Speaker: Kyle Daniel, Nursery and Landscape Specialist, Purdue University

Tuesday 10:30 AM – 11:00 AM

Break for Networking in Veterans Hall

Tuesday 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

IDNR, Community and Urban Forestry Update

Update on the IDNR Community & Urban Forestry program. Introduction to new staff members, update on current and upcoming projects and why it is important to everyone, not just arborists.

Speaker: Jacob Roos, IDNR, CUF Program Coordinator

IAA Annual Awards

Recognition of efforts in our chapter and state.

Richard Karber, AEP, Awards Chairperson

Tuesday 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Lunch served in Veterans Hall

Tuesday 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Keynote Address: Increasing Your Personal and Professional Impact and Influence

Increasing Your Personal and Professional Impact and Influence- This presentation will help attendees with the "non-tree" aspects of moving their arboriculture and urban forestry efforts to the next level through personal effectiveness, organizational growth, and collaborative action.

Speaker: Paul Ries, President, Insightful Nature, LLC

Tuesday 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

The Urban Green Infrastructure Resilience Cohort

This presentation will give an overview of the Indiana-focused Urban Green Infrastructure Resilience Cohort at the Environmental Resilience Institute at Indiana University, recently granted \$5 million from the USDA Forest Service's IRA competitive funding program. Program results from the pilot project will be presented along with an overview of plans for the new funding.

Speaker: Dr. Sarah Mincey, Associate Clinical Professor, O’Neill School, Indiana University

Tuesday 3:00 PM – 3:30 PM

Break for Networking in Veterans Hall



Presentation Details

Tuesday 3:30 PM – 4:30 PM

CommuniTree: A Model for Partnerships and Community Development

Working in partnership, local, state and federal partners have come together to create a unique urban forestry program in Northwestern Indiana. The CommuniTree program was formed in 2016 to address issues of low tree canopy throughout the NW Indiana Region. This session will share both the successes and the challenges of CommuniTree, with special emphasis on the workforce development aspects of the program.

Speaker: Andrew Hart, US Forest Service and Leopold Sawyers, Student Conservation Association

Wednesday 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

Improving the Biology of Soils with Biochar

The connection between soil and tree health offers potential organic solutions that were previously unavailable. The health of urban trees is measured by their resiliency to stress within their environment. Results of tree's ability to recover from specific urban stresses will be shared.

Speaker: Mark Mann, PGMS

Choosing the Right Gear for Your Style

When faced with purchasing tree gear it can be daunting with all the choices and options. But choosing the right gear should be based not on price but your intended use. This session will talk about the differences between gear and what features you should look for when making your next purchase to ensure the gear fits your style.

Speaker: Travis Vickerson, Vertical Supply Group

Spotted Lantern Fly in Indiana

Spotted Lanternfly has been in Indiana for some time, and several organizations have made efforts towards containing its spread. This talk will give an update on how those efforts have been going and what we can expect in the upcoming season.

Speaker: Bob Bruner, Purdue University



Wednesday 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

Midwest Bats; Challenges and Opportunities

Bats are a critical ecosystem component, but have in recent years experienced massive declines in population. Necessary vegetation management along Rights-of-Way present unique challenges in regulatory compliance, but also conservation opportunities.

Speaker: Stephen Beard, Duke Energy

Aerial Rescue: the Three A's

This presentation will focus on the patient aspects of aerial rescue. Discussing how to properly assess the scene and injured worker, how to assist in the rescue and aid those responding to the emergency.

Speaker: Travis Vickerson, Vertical Supply Group

The Future of Beech Trees; BLD and Beyond

Beech trees are important in our native forests as well as designed landscapes. What is their future? Biological threats including phytophthora, beech bark disease, wood decay pathogens, foliar feeding arthropods, and beech leaf disease will be discussed. Current management strategies for beech leaf disease will be presented along with results from recent research trials.

Speaker: Beth Brantley, Bartlett Tree Experts

Wednesday 10:00 AM – 11:00 PM

Break with Exhibitors in Veterans Hall



Wednesday 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Railroad Tracks and Utility Wires; nothing to get tangled with!

We cross road-to-rail intersections with little thought of what takes place as trucks and trains share this small piece of ground. This session covers what to do if stuck at railroad tracks, and what to do if equipment ends up in powerlines. Knowing the steps to follow during contact with utility powerlines can save a life.

Speaker: Fred Whitford, Purdue University

Presentation Details

Arboricultural Rigging Concepts

Tree removal operations from jobsite setup, hazard controls and gear inspections to rigging system designs and dynamics.

Speaker: Jim Tough, SavATree

Sucking and Boring Insects; the price of climate chaos

Trees stress out by chaotic weather are more susceptible to pests. In addition to providing management tips, Cliff will discuss how his new bilingual series of 5 minute YouTube videos on key pests can improve your understand and increase your ability to communicate with clients.

Speaker: Cliff Sadof, Purdue University

Wednesday 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Climate Smart and Soil Health: A tree-based practice assessment

After a summary of what climate change means for Indiana, we'll cover what the landscape looks like for climate smart commodities in the state and elsewhere. As we incentivize landowners to collect carbon in our soils, soil health practices will begin to include consideration of agroforestry or conversion of land to perennial crops. The arborist then becomes more valuable over time, while a mechanism for small acreage landowner aggregation needs development.

Speaker: Hans Schmitz, Purdue University

Wednesday 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

Indiana Arborist Association Luncheon in Veterans Hall

Introduction of our New President and Past President Recognition as they pass the gavel.

Wednesday 1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

Identifying Common and Important Wood Decay Fungi

Learn the important aspects of decay fungi biology including life cycles, decay types, and identification of decay in urban trees.

Speaker: Chris Luley, Urban Forest Diagnostics

Wednesday 2:30 PM – 3:00 PM

Break with Exhibitors in Veterans Hall



Wednesday 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

What Happened in 2023? Office of the Indiana State Chemist

I will discuss what OISC saw in 2023 in addition to what has been happening with regulation changes in Indiana.

Speaker: Aaron Kreider, OISC

Thursday 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

You, Me and the Z: Consensus Industry Standards

An overview of the evolution & application of industry standards and how they apply to you.

Speaker: Mike Tilford, SavATree

Planting for the Future: Woody Plants and Climate

This presentation will cover the basics of tree and shrub planting, from plant selection to post-planting care. Also, we will discuss how climate change impacts the decision-making process. What tree and shrub species are recommended for planting? How will these recommendations change through time? What plant traits will be desirable with an uncertain future? We do not have all of the answers to these questions, but knowledge of the basics will still result in success for the foreseeable future.

Speaker: Chad Rigsby, Bartlett Tree

Presentation Details

Thursday 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

Hire, Retain and Lead an Elite Team

Finding and retaining team members has become increasingly challenging for many companies. Why do some companies struggle more than others in this area? Why does this seem like such a daunting dilemma? Don't lose hope! There are steps you can take to overcome this challenge and be the company everyone wants to be a part of. Whether you are a team of 2 or 2,000 this presentation will provide tried and true methods to hire, retain and lead an elite team.

Speaker: Mason Brandenberger, Brandenberger TCP

Thursday 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

Ensuring the Future of Reliability

For most utilities, vegetation management looks like a lot of mechanical trimming and a little bit of herbicide. However, with labor shortages, rising costs and ever-present dangers of tree trimming, how certain can we be of the sustainability of our current practices? During this presentation we will walk attendees through an approach currently being executed on utilities through an innovative alternative to conventional trimming, utilizing thoughtful planning and judicious use of low-cost herbicide tools that result in significant savings and ensures utility maintenance goals.

Speaker: Jeremy Gilbert, EDKO Vegetation Managers

Modern Approaches to Urban Tree Nutrition

Our urban soils and trees face a unique challenge that should not automatically be addressed using traditional forestry or agricultural methods. This session aims to provide modern information and options for tree care companies who are ready to advance their knowledge and practices regarding urban tree and soil nutrition. Techniques and products for new companies, as well as established firms will be presented with science-based systems and case study anecdotes.

Speaker: Zach Shier, Joseph Tree Service

Worker Compensation Jeopardy

Come play Jeopardy while learning about Workers Compensation

Speaker: Jim Bryant, Arborisk

Thursday 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Break with Exhibitors in Veteran Hall

Thursday 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Overview of ROW Maintenance Equipment

An unbiased look at different types of vegetation management equipment commonly used in ROW maintenance and the capabilities and limitations of each.

Speaker: Hal Acree, Progress Rail

How to Get What You Want: Pruning Prescriptions

In order to improve the quality of tree care interventions, such as pruning, a process of evaluating tree conditions and preparing an objectives-based prescription before pruning a tree should be created. This presentation will describe a method of how to communicate the tree conditions that concern the prescribing arborist, and which branches to prune to the arborists performing the work. Additionally, a survey on what trees really need will be presented to assist the arborist on proactive pruning to reduce risk.

Speaker: Lindsey Purcell

Trees and the Law

Learn how Indiana law impacts urban trees and our decision-making for tree risk and consulting.

Speaker: Kent Frandsen, Attorney

Thursday 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Indiana Arborist Association Luncheon

Raffle & Silent Auction Wrap-Up



Presentation Details

Thursday

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

ROW and Site Assessment for Chemical Control

This presentation will discuss and cover Integrated Vegetation Management practices with a focus on chemical control in the Right-of-Way and Total Vegetation Control sites. We will cover the necessary steps that need to be taken to ensure effective and ethical herbicide applications that foster environmental stewardship.

Speaker: Greg Schweizer, ENVU

Vascular Streak Dieback

Vascular streak dieback is a recently recognized issue of native understory shrubs and trees in nursery settings. We will discuss the symptomology concerning VSD, potential causes and exacerbating conditions, and look-alike issues.

Speaker: John Bonkowski and Janna Beckerman, Purdue University

Crane Operations and Ground Crew Safety

Speaker: Hans Tielmann, NJ Crane Experts

Thursday

2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

ANSI A300 Updates

Speaker: Andrew Mertz, Duke Energy

Key Factors for Safe Grapple Saw Use

Speaker: Hans Teilmann, NJ Crane Experts

A Really Bad Case of the Crab(apples)

"Crabs, aka 'crabapples' are some of the most popular landscape trees. They are popular with pathogens, too, often times leaving them defoliated, deformed, dying or dead. This talk will cover scab, rust, fire blight, and collar rots on crabapples. Information is applicable to other closely related trees and shrubs, including flowering pear and cherry, hawthorn, and serviceberry.

Speaker: Janna Beckerman, Purdue University

goes into this event and we are hopeful it was a positive experience and enhanced you personally and professionally.

Key items to remember after the conference:

- Be sure to submit your ISA CEU forms to the front table before leaving. Always keep the yellow copy or take a picture for your records.
- The IAA will submit your Pesticide Applicator CEU forms turned into the front table after the conference. Keep an image on your phone.
- Look out for the conference survey which you will receive by email to help us review and plan for the next year.
- Anyone who wants more information on getting involved with our chapter, please email lindsey@indiana-arborist.org for an informal chat.

Be safe and make it a great 2024!

The IAA Board of Directors

Lindsey Purcell, Executive Director

Ashley Mulis, Business Manager

Thank you for attending and supporting our annual conference. There is much planning and effort that