

CONFERENCE AGENDA AT-A-GLANCE

2026 INDIANA ARBORIST ASSOCIATION
79TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE



Tuesday, January 20, 2026

Urban Forestry Program

Sponsored by Indiana Department of Natural Resources

7:30 a m	Registration Open (Liberty Hall)
8:30 am – 8:45 am	Welcome and Introductions <i>Lindsey Purcell, Director and Rick Carter, President</i>
8:45 am – 9:45 am	Community & Urban Forestry in Indiana - Jacob Roos, IDNR, CUF Program Coordinator IAA Annual Awards Program, Richard Karber, Awards Chairperson
9:45 am – 10:30 am	Nursery Panel Discussion <i>Kyle Daniel Moderator</i>
10:30 am– 11:00 am	Break for Networking
11:00 am– Noon	Soundscapes from Around the World and at Home: Why What We Hear Matters <i>Bryan C Pijanowski, Purdue University</i>
Noon – 1:00 pm	Networking Lunch IAA Announcements
1:00– 2:00 pm	Fruit Tree Pruning <i>Miranda Purcell, Purdue University</i>
2:00 – 3:00 pm	The Economics of Maintaining Cemetery Trees and Landscapes <i>RJ Laverne, Davey Tree Expert Company</i>
3:00 – 3:30 pm	Break for Networking and Trade Show
3:30 pm – 4:30 pm	Beyond the Numbers: Transforming Tree Inventory Data into Results <i>Steve Lane, Response Growth Collective</i>
4:30 pm – 5:00 pm	IAA Business Meeting; open to all members

WEDNESDAY, January 21

7:00 am – 4:00 pm	Registration Open (Liberty Hall)	
7:00 am – 8:00 am	Breakfast on Trade Show Floor (Liberty Hall)	
8:00 am – 9:00 am	Structural Soils <i>Michelle Catania, The Morton Arboretum</i>	
9:00 am - 10:00 am	What's Killing Our Trees? <i>Lindsey Purcell, Lp Consulting Group</i>	
10:00 am – 11:00 am	Break with Exhibitors	
11:00 am – 12:00 pm	IDNR Nursery and Compliance Updates* <i>Eric Biddinger, IDNR</i>	
12:00 pm – 1:30 pm	Indiana Arborist Association Luncheon: New President Welcome and Past President Recognition	
Track Selection	Program Topics	Program Topics
1:30 pm – 2:30 pm	Factors & Forces: Tree Risk Assessment for Tree Workers <i>RJ Laverne, Davey Tree Expert Company</i>	Cabling and Bracing; Standards, Tips and Tricks <i>Marco Vargas, Bartlett Tree Experts</i>
2:30 pm – 3:00 pm	Break with Exhibitors Liberty Hall	
3:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Beyond the Target: The Science Behind Herbicide Injury and Plant Prognosis* <i>Kyle Daniel, Purdue University</i>	7 Questions to Ask Before Buying Gear <i>Alex Julius, Davey Tree Experts</i>
4:00pm – 5:00 pm	Perception versus Reality: Which Tree Pests Matter?* <i>Joe Boggs, Ohio State University</i>	Chainsaws: The Not So Silent Killer <i>Jamie Chambrelli, SavATree</i>
5:30 pm – 7:30 pm	Social Activity on Site See Registration Desk for Tickets and Details	

THURSDAY, January 22

7:30 am – 4:00 pm	Registration Open	
7:00 am – 8:30 am	Breakfast	
<i>Track Selection</i>	Program Topics	Program Topics
8:00 am – 9:00 am	Utility Storm Work – Unloading Wires Under Tension a Teaspoon at a Time <i>Wes Tregilgas, Wright Tree Service</i>	Branch Pruning Research <i>Kelby Fite, Bartlett Tree Experts</i>
9:00 am - 10:00 am	Invasive Pest Management* <i>Joe Boggs, Ohio State University</i>	Team Building and Ethical Practice <i>Matt Hogarth and Lindsey Purcell</i>
10:00 am – 11:00 am	Break with Exhibitors	
11:00 am – 12:00 am	Rigging to Compression on Vacation and Why it Matters <i>Wes Tregilgas, Wright Tree Service</i>	Urban Soil challenges and strategies to remediate* <i>Kelby Fite, Bartlett Tree Experts</i>
12:00 pm – 1:30 pm	Indiana Arborist Association Luncheon Raffle & Silent Auction Wrap-Up, Final Break with Exhibitors	
1:30 – 2:30 pm	Getting to know all the pretty weeds in the ROW* <i>Andrew Mertz, Duke Energy</i>	This Might Shock You <i>Randy Miller, Eocene</i>
2:30 – 3:30 pm	What Does OISC Do?* <i>Aaron Kreider, OISC</i>	How Efficient is Your Operation? <i>Sarah Cummings, SavATree</i>
Travel safely!	Conference Closed; Thank you for attending!	

Wednesday and Thursday will include Climbers Corner flash talks on various topics from special guests.