



The Prairie Arborist

The Official Publication of the ISA Prairie Chapter Issue 1, 2015



Photo submitted by Jody Sklover
Spruce Valley Gardens Inc.



Bonnie Fermanuik

Well the winter storms still continue to give us a very unusual winter with extreme wind chills, numerous rain storms and fluctuating temperatures.

I know we are all hoping that the trees can endure the climate change better than most of us.

With spring around the corner I think it is time to look at the upcoming season. Are you ready to staff up, have you reviewed the Best Management Practices that ISA

have put out? Most importantly have you looked at your training and safety issues?

It has always been a concern of mine that we strive to provide the best safety training available for a profession that can be one of the most dangerous. Take the incentive to offer in-house training. Take advantage of the various ISA programs, publications and other references, or hire a safety training professional to come in and train your staff.

Fall Conference

The Circle of Life "A Tree's Story"

The Lethbridge committee is well on its way to finalizing the 2015 Fall Conference. October 19, 20, 2015 Lethbridge.

TRAQ Workshops

If the interest is there we will offer at least one TRAQ Workshop in each province so watch for upcoming information.

The next TRAQ Workshop will be in Red Deer April 22-24. Call the office for details 866-550-7464.

"Thanks Davey Tree"

What does Continuous Sponsorship mean to the Prairie Chapter? Since Davey Tree agreed to be our continuous sponsor in 2012, we have been able to do some longer term planning. Davey Tree provides and sponsors leading edge speakers for our annual conference and is also the exclusive sponsor of ArborFest. This kind of support has helped the Chapter to get back on it's feet and remain viable.

Davey Tree works hard, behind the scenes offering assistance for many of our events. On behalf of the Chapter, Thank you.

"Reward people who bring problems to the surface-and reserve blame for those who don't come together to help solve them."

Chapter Exam Dates

May 9 in Olds.

October 18 (tentatively) in Lethbridge, at the conference

Go to this link for details

[view the calendar for a list of exam dates and locations](#)

For more information, contact Gordon White Certification Liaison.

Phone: 403-899-5682

gwhite@okotoks.ca

ISA Certified Arborist, Municipal Specialist and Utility Specialist Exam

Olds College – Land Science Centre

Saturday May 9, 2015

8:30am – 12:30pm

Registration Deadline: Thursday April 23, 2015

Maximum Seats Available: 40

Register on the ISA Website:

<http://www.isaprairie.com/get-certified>

The Prairie Chapter Tree Climbing Competition 2015

will be in Winnipeg's St Vital Park

September 12 & 13

This host committee is being headed up by MB. Director Matt Vinet of Greendrop Winnipeg

TRAQ is BACK in 2015

For details and upcoming workshops check out [TRAQ events](#)

The next TRAQ in the Prairie Chapter will be in

Red Deer Alberta, April 22-24

[Tree Risk Assessment Candidate Handbook](#)

14.5 CEU's available

Call the office for more info 866-550-7464



**Landscape Alberta Spring Workshop
March 11, 2015
Coast Plaza Hotel, Calgary, AB**

“Bring about What You Think About”
Eddie Lemoine

Register online at
<https://laspringworkshop2015.eventbrite.ca> or,
call 1-800-378-3198

**Landscape Saskatchewan
Management Clinic
March 17, 2015
Saskatoon Inn, Saskatoon, SK**

For more information or to register, visit
<https://lsmanageclinic.eventbrite.ca>.

Save the Date
The next TRAQ Workshop
in the Prairie Chapter will be in
Red Deer Alberta, April 22-24

Save the Date
ISA Certified Arborist, Municipal specialist and
Utility Specialist Exam
Olds College May 9, 2015 8:30am - 12:30pm

Save the Date
The 2015 Prairie Chapter Tree Climbing Champion-
ships will be in Winnipeg September 12 & 13

Save the Date
The 2015 Prairie Chapter Conference and Tradeshow
will be at the Lethbridge Lodge October 19 & 20, 2015

Save the Date
Green Industry Show & Conference
November 19 & 20, 2015 BMO Centre at Stampede Park
Calgary

The Cost of Not Maintaining Trees Symposium

CLICK HERE for more details

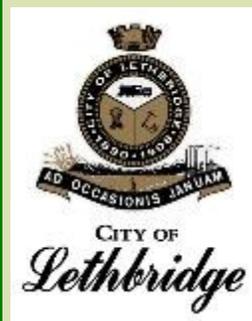
March 18-19, 2015
University of South Florida
Patel Center of Global Sustainability
Tampa, FL - USA

Logos at the bottom include: UF IFAS Extension, Urban Forestry South, AREA (Arboricultural Research and Education Academy), UF IFAS University of Florida Center for Landscape, PCGS (Professional Council of Green Services), ISA (International Society of Arboriculture), UAS (Urban Arboriculture Society), Urban Forestry Institute, and ISA Florida Chapter.

Join us in Lethbridge, Alberta
October 19 and 20th

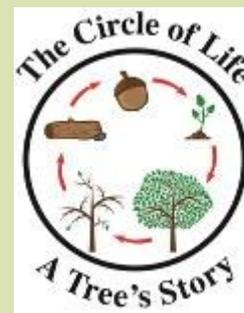


Photo from Google Images www.csuleth.ca



ISA PRAIRIE CHAPTER CONFERENCE and TRADE SHOW

Pre-Conference October 18th
CEU'S and CEC's available



Some of the Lethbridge Conference Speaker Highlights



Dr. John Ball

South Dakota State University, Currently a Professor of Forestry at South Dakota State University in Brookings, SD with a split appointment in

teaching (arboriculture, forest ecology, and landscape maintenance and nursery management) and forestry extension). I also serve as the campus arborist for the University and as the Forest Health Specialist for the

South Dakota Department of Agriculture. I also teach rock climbing as a PE course and lectures for the emergency medical technician courses in the Health department and trauma lectures for professionals. I previously served as the landscape and tree care manager for Arrowhead Tree & Landscape, a utility and tree care company in Duluth, Minnesota and the director of technical services (landscape and tree care) at Carpenter-Costin, a large tree care and landscape planning company operating along the North Shore area of Boston. I also served as a land-

scape manager for Light's Landscape in Kalamazoo, Michigan. My most current research projects involve tree worker safety and measuring performance of workers engaged in arboricultural activities as well as mountain pine beetle population reduction tactics. I have more than 120 publications in journals including *American Nurserymen*, *Arborist News*, *Grounds Maintenance*, *Journal of Arboriculture*, *Journal of Environmental Horticulture*, *Journal of Forestry*, *HortScience*, *Arboriculture & Urban Forestry* and *Plant Disease Reporter* on tree care, plant health care, tree worker safety and

transplanting techniques. I have more than 150 papers presented at regional, national and international conferences on plant health care, worker safety and transplanting. I most recently spend a week training tree workers in Hong Kong. My most recent national/international award is the Alex I. Shigo Award for Excellence in Arboricultural Education presented at the International Society of Arboriculture Annual Conference in 2010.

USDA Forest Service lab of Dr. Alex Shigo in 1977 and continues to investigate the role of stress, disease, and beneficial fungi on tree and forest health. He an affiliate Professor of Plant Biology at the University of New Hampshire, has published more than 110 research papers and articles, and has received national and regional awards for excellence in research and education.

function and the spread of infection. This presentation will (1) explore how dynamic processes contribute to tree survival and (2) how these processes can become impaired, resulting in risk and potential failure, and (3) how lessons learned from tree response to natural disturbances can support tree care.



Kevin T. Smith, of the USDA Forest Service

Will discuss, "Dynamic responses to tree injury and infection"

Kevin began his research work in tree biology and mycology in the

Presentation abstract:

Trees developed sophisticated survival strategies to cope with physical injury and infection long before becoming part of the landscape of our cities and towns. Mechanical wounding disrupts healthy functioning and provides a pathway for infection by disease-causing fungi and their associates. Trees actively respond to injury by processes of compartmentalization and wound closure. These processes resist the loss of normal



Dwayne Neustaeter is president, curriculum programmer and lead instructor of

Arboriculture Canada Training & Education Ltd., an organization focusing on meeting the training and business needs of arborists and related industries. Dwayne's background and experience complement his current activities of program development,

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Alberta - 2015 Spring Schedule

Chainsaw Safety & Cutting Techniques
Edmonton, May 5 / Calgary, Mar. 30, May 7, July 13

Tree Pruning: Edmonton - May 6 / Calgary - May 8

Tree Climbing, Fall Protection & Work Positioning - April 19 & 20

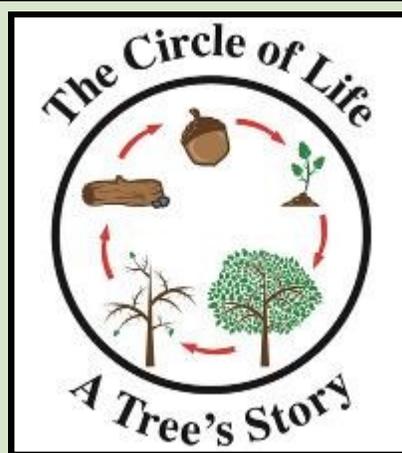
Technical Tree Falling & Cutting - April 21 & 22

Tree Appraisal Qualification - May 25 - 27

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workbook writing and development and testing in the field. He instructs classes and seminars on safety and a wide range of skills for arborists around the world. Dwayne has over 20 years experience in the tree care and related industries, focusing on total tree care operations, instruction and testing at a post-secondary level and lastly with instruction, program development & certification with private training businesses. Dwayne has been involved in ownership and management of businesses for over 20 years. He is passionate about helping organizations in the green industry with management issues such as: team building, standard operating procedures, occupational hazard compliance, and strengthening business practices that will serve to improve the bottom line and minimize risks. Dwayne's dynamic presentation style will inspire and motivate business

operators to go back to their businesses with renewed energy and practical action steps. As the current SCA President, International Tree Climbing Competition Operations Chair, past-president of the ISA Prairie Chapter and past member of multiple ISA Committee's, he remains involved in associations and committees across North America to give back to the industry and continue learning.



The Circle of Life, "A Tree's Story"

Save the Date for the annual
ISA Prairie Chapter Conference in
Lethbridge Alberta,
October 19 and 20, 2015.

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available.

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are available for rent

For more information on
sponsorship opportunities or
Tradeshaw Booths

Call Keith at the Prairie Chapter
Office 866-550-7464
Or
Conference Chair Maureen
(403) 634-3062

Famous Quotes

"It's a great day to be a new tree."

Gerard Fournier 2015



City of Saskatoon – Michelle Chartier, Terri Smith and the Urban Forestry Crew

Arboriculture Canada Training and Education- Dwayne and Nancy Neustaeter

Arborist Supply Co Inc. – Rob Romeril

Tree Whisperer & TreeStuff Climbing Gear- Mark Friesen

Arbour Crest – Robin Adair

GreenDrop Winnipeg – Matt Vinet

Adair Tree Care – Matt Davis

B&B Tree Service- The Herman Brothers

Stump Solution- Russell Smella

Super Pro – Bronco Scorupan

Schwinghammer Tree Service – Rick Schwinghammer

TreeWise – Dave Lutes

Arborest Expert Tree Service- Keegan Seward

Vermeer Canada – Saskatoon

Prize sponsors

Arboriculture Canada Training and Education

Arborist Supply Co Inc.

Tree Whisperer & TreeStuff Climbing Gear

Vermeer Canada

Event Sponsors

Footlock- Arbour Crest

Work Climb– B&B Tree Service

Aerial Rescue - GreenDrop Winnipeg

Speed Climb- Adair Tree Care

Throwline combo- Schwinghammer and Superpro

Food Sponsors

Dave Lutes- TreeWise

Keegan Seward- Arborest Expert Tree service

Russell Smella—Stump Solutions

Special thanks to the City of Saskatoon- for hosting, Tree Prep, gators, photocopies and your awesome committee and staff.

Scores are available on line

<http://www.isaprairie.com/tcc-scores>



The 2014 Arboriculture Canada Training & Education Ltd.

"Spirit of the Competition"

award recipient was Garrett Smith from the City of Saskatoon.

Congratulations Garrett Smith

This "Spirit of the Competition" prize kit was presented to the person who won the most votes at from their fellow climbers, judges and techniques for having the best sportsman-like attitude throughout the duration of the competition!

Each prize package included:

STIHL Hard Hat System

\$100 gift certificate from Vermeer

150 ft piece of Velocity from Samson

Gift Certificate for one free Arboriculture Canada Training & Education Ltd. 2-Day Training Module
MarvinPruner Head, MarvinSaw Head, SawBlade and a Freddy t-shirt.





Geoff McLeod

Geoffrey David McLeod, born December 21, 1971, in Regina, Saskatchewan, was granted his angel wings on March 4th, 2015, in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. His final days were spent at home surrounded by family and friends. Although his life would seem too short to many, those who truly knew him understood that the quality of his life far exceeded the quantity of time he was given.

Geoff is survived by his loving wife, Jamille McLeod, along with their beautiful daughters, Grace Margaret (age 5) and Bethany Frances (age 3). He leaves his parents, Gary and Fran McLeod of Regina; sister, Heather and her husband Kevin Shalley, also of Regina; brother, Scott McLeod and his wife Debbie of Ottawa, Ontario. Also left to grieve are Geoff's niece and nephews; Conner, Hannah, Liam and Zach, as well as many other family members, friends and colleagues.



Geoff was predeceased by his grandparents, Elsie and Neville Webb and Charlotte and Roy McLeod. Graduating from Martin Collegiate High School in 1989, Geoff went on to University and successfully obtained a Bachelor of Science in Biology

from the University of Regina (1997), along with a degree in Forestry Management from the University of British Columbia (2001). He went on to complete a Masters of Science in insect Chemical Ecology at Simon Fraser University (2005).

Geoff was successfully working with the City of Saskatoon as the Parks Superintendent of Urban Forestry and Pest Management when he was diagnosed on May 29, 2013. Fully devoted to his family and friends first, Geoff also found time to be avidly involved with various charities and organizations such as: International Society of Arboriculture (ISA), Save our Saskatoon Elms (SOS ELMS), Prairie Urban Forest Alliance (PUFA), Entomological Society of Canada (ESC), Saskatchewan Dutch Elm Disease Association (SDEDA), North Saskatchewan Rugby Union (NSRU), Gophers Rugby Club, Synergy Crossfit, Wildlife Rehabilitation Society of Saskatchewan (WRSOS), Advisory Commit-

tee on Animal Control (ACAC), Bug Busters Committee, New Hope Dog and Street Cat Rescues, along with many other charitable organizations that demonstrated his love for animals, nature, and health.

Geoff was always ready to help and his volunteer efforts had a positive impact on many communities within Saskatoon. A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, March 14, 2015 at 1:30 p.m. at Saskatoon Funeral Home. All are welcome to attend.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to any of the above noted associations and charities. Email condolences may be sent to mail@saskatoonfuneralhome.com. Arrangements are entrusted to Saskatoon Funeral Home (306-244-5577).

The preceding obituary is from the Star Phoenix. The colour photos are from Geoff's Facebook page.

Geoff was a great guy, a good family man, an excellent volunteer, and arborist. He had a great sense of humour and if something you said struck him funny he would let you know



with a great big smile and laugh. You will be missed my friend. *Keith*



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Planting hole size and configuration

Planting and establishing trees is all about managing air and moisture in the soil. Manage these correctly and trees will grow quickly following planting. Four of the most common causes of poor plant establishment are 1) planting [too deeply](#), 2) under watering, 3) over watering and 4) over-mulching (See: [over-mulching](#)). Planting too deeply in compacted soil can also lead to very slow root development. Each of these problems can lead to extensive tree death, poor growth, or a slow decline after planting. If appropriate trees are planted at the right depth and they are irrigated properly, the planting has a good chance of success. As simple as this appears to be, problems often arise that lead to poor establishment or plant failure.

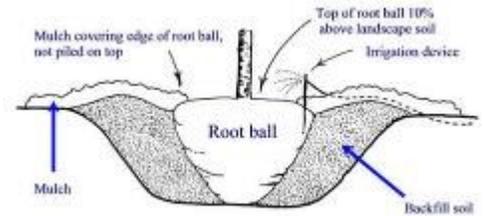
Before digging the hole, **1)** find the point where the top-most root emerges from the trunk (dig down next to the trunk to find this point), and **2)** measure the distance between the top-most root and the bottom of the root ball. Dig the hole slightly shallower than this depth and as wide as possible (at least 1.5 times the width of the ball-dig a much wider and shallower hole in [compacted soil](#)).

Do not dig the hole [deeper](#) than the root ball. Consider drilling holes below the root ball in compacted soil or rock to encourage some deep roots.

When planting on slopes set the tree so the top-most root in the ball on the uphill side is about [even with the soil](#). The side of the root ball on the downhill side will be well above the surrounding soil. Bring in enough soil to cover the sides of the root ball with soil. Apply mulch to finish the planting job as shown in the diagram above.

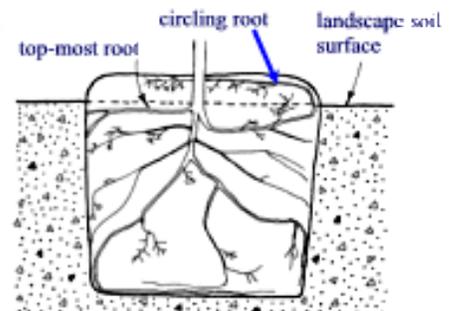
When planting in rock or very compacted soil break up the substrate as

best as possible to allow roots to anchor into the landscape (see: [how to break up soil](#)). If this is not done, roots are likely to be very shallow and the tree may grow poorly. Drilling holes in rock below the root ball might help encourage some deep roots that could help secure the tree in windy weather.



Proper planting detail

Dig the hole wider in compacted soil. If you form a berm of mulch (preferred) or soil (less preferred) around the root ball to hold irrigation, keep it less than about 4 inches high. Water held in a taller berm wastes water because it simply runs through the root ball. It might be more appropriate to make the berm from mulch since the berm typically ends up on top of the root ball



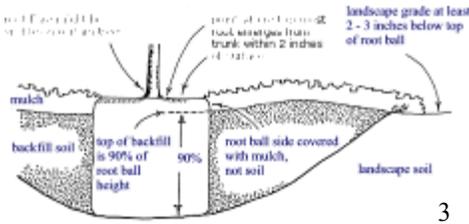
eventually. Placing soil over the root ball cuts off oxygen and water.

Apply mulch to finish the planting job as shown in the diagram above. When planting on slopes set the tree so the top-most root in the ball on the uphill side is about [even with the soil](#). The side of the root ball on the downhill side will be well above the surrounding

soil. Bring in enough soil to cover the sides of the root ball with soil. Apply mulch to finish the planting job as shown in the diagram 3.

Plant so top 5-10% of root ball is above grade

This ensures that the point where



the top-most root emerges from the trunk remains at or slightly above ground even if the root ball settles.

Cover the sides of the root ball with mulch, or perhaps soil. Form a water ring (berm) from mulch only if trees will be irrigated with a hose.

The water ring is not needed if trees will not be watered after planting or if trees are irrigated with a low volume head. Water rings made from soil can lead to problems because the soil is typically pushed over the root ball later.

Roots will grow extremely fast into the mulch and surrounding soil and trees establish quickly using this planting technique.

Planting too Deep

Fig 4, There are three problems here:

- 1) There is no visible root flare so the tree might be too deep in the root ball;
- 2) the burlap and string are still on the top of the root ball; and
- 3) there should be no soil placed over the root ball.

You can clearly see in this photograph a light coating of soil covering the root ball. Only a light covering (about one or two inches) of mulch should be placed over the root ball-never soil. Soil cuts off oxygen and water from the roots and might encourage growth of roots



over the main support roots. These roots could become stem girdling roots. [See inside the root ball.](#)

Mulch can damage trees

Too much mulch applied over the root ball or resting against the trunk



Mulch should not be piled against the trunk (above) because roots may grow there (below) and girdle the trunk.

(see right photos) can cause problems for trees, especially when there is a larger range in particle sizes.

Roots often grow up and into the mulch causing stem girdling roots which can kill trees (lower photo). This is especially troublesome on trees planted within the last 10 to

20 years.

In addition to causing problems described below, mulch can also hide



This declining tree has too much mulch over the root ball. Sixteen inches was piled against the trunk. Kill the grass, pull mulch away from the trunk, and spread the mulch out un-

decay and dead spots on the lower trunk and major roots. Decay in this portion of the tree can cause the tree to become unstable. Keep mulch about 12 to 18 inches from the trunk for any size of tree.

Over-mulching root ball cuts off water/causes root problems

Too much mulch over the root ball can intercept water that could have reached the roots. This can cause the roots to dry on newly planted trees causing [stress and tree death](#). For this reason mulch should be pulled back from the trunk at least 12 inches (24-inch diameter circle). This allows water to freely enter the rootball.

Remove all the mulch and soil on the tree pictured at right until you find the root flare. Remove roots growing up into the mulch and soil,

(Continued on page 12)

cut roots that deflect around and are growing close to the trunk, and reset the mulch about 3 inches deep. Irrigate as appropriate if many roots were cut.



Before removing mulch and soil from the cherry tree (see after photo below)



Here is the soil and mulch removed from on top of the root flare on the tree pictured above.

Girdling roots kill trees



After removing soil and mulch, it is easy to see roots that grew up into the soil and mulch placed over the root ball. These can cause problems for the tree if they are not removed or severed.



Remove and cut these roots to improve tree health before placing a thin layer of mulch back on top of the root system.

Roots wrapped around the trunk can kill trees. This tree is only one of two remaining on this site where several dozen died from roots wrapping completely around the trunk.



After removing about a 10-inch-deep layer of soil and mulch that was piled against the trunk and over the root system a thin layer of mulch was placed over exposed roots and soil.

Here is the base of the tree showing roots wrapping the trunk. Girdling roots killed this tree. The roots grew in the mulch that was maintained over the root ball and on the trunk for many years. Roots enjoy growing in mulch so keep it at least 12 inches from the trunk so this does not happen.

Stem girdling root removal



Roots that girdle the stem (stem girdling roots) can be removed. There are many examples of this discussed below. If removal is easy and can be performed without damaging the trunk then go ahead and remove them. If removal is difficult consider simply cutting them without removing.

One research report showed that removing all roots growing horizontally from two sides of the trunk caused no shoot die-back in the crown. Arborists who remove

(Continued on page 13)

(Continued from page 12)

stem girdling roots as part of their regular tree care program report that roots can be removed until their total cross sectional area is 25 percent of the trunk cross sectional area at 4.5 feet from the ground.

We used this 25% guideline to removed roots from ten 25-inch diameter live oak with no visible impact on the tree. The final cut when removing roots should be make tangent to trunk because new roots often grow back in the direction of the removed roots.



Roots grew up into the mulch that was maintained against the trunk of this declining tree for many years. There are too many roots growing over the root flare to treat.



Chisels and power saws were used to cut roots that were embedded into the trunk. Roots must be cut all the way through so trunk can expand. Chisel is a great tool for cutting roots that are embedded deeply into the trunk as shown above.

"Illustrations, PowerPoints or photos by Edward F. Gilman, Professor, Environmental Horticulture Department, IFAS, University of Florida."

Advice Column

Everybody is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing it is stupid.

Albert Einstein

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Tree Falls on Tent in Jasper National Park

A couple from Calgary are suing the Federal Government after a tree fell on their tent while they were camping in Jasper National Park. The couple and their nine-month old son were camped in a designated site and a tree fell on their tent at about 1a.m. during a storm.

One of the occupants suffered cracked ribs and a broken arm, one received a concussion and scrapes and bruises. From what I can find out, the baby was okay.

The lawsuit names the Attorney General of Canada as the defendant, in the amount of \$116,000 and claims that federal employees failed to inspect the trees in the campsite or mitigate the risk to campers.

In December of 2014 the feds are reported to have issued a statement of defence that denies any responsibility for the injuries and that the Park employees are trained in hazardous tree assessment and “took all prudent and reasonable steps to ensure that visitors to the park, and to Whistlers campground in particular, would be reasonably safe from the falling of hazardous trees.”

It will be interesting to see how this story unfolds.

It is unfortunate that the family sustained injuries from this moment of bad luck. I'm really glad that the injuries weren't any more severe, but if the staff were trained in Hazard Tree Assessment and used the tools of that training to determine the risk factor, I don't know what else the Feds could have done to mitigate the risk.

Mother Nature gets the last word just about all the time.

There are risks to walking on a sidewalk, riding a bike, skiing, skateboarding and everything else. At what point will we all accept the risk factor of what we choose to do? When it gets right down to it, should we stay home and be careful on the stairs or take chance and venture out into the world knowing that *stuff* can happen?.

Personally, I hope the injured have a full recovery from their injuries and go camping again. I also hope that the staff trained in hazard tree assessment crossed their T's and dotted their I's and can prove “reasonable safety”. I hope common sense prevails. *Editor*



Photo is from Google Images - www.jaspernationalpark.com

TREE CARE DEPARTMENT CAREER OPPORTUNITIES



TREE HEALTH CARE TECHNICIAN

- ✓ ISA Certified (able to obtain)
- ✓ Valid driver's license
- ✓ Manitoba Pesticide Applicator License (able to obtain)
- ✓ Perform all aspects of tree & shrub care
- ✓ Excellent identification/diagnostic skills re tree & shrub (some turf)
- ✓ Participate in all Arborist duties
- ✓ Seasonal—opportunities to advance to full time

ARBORIST SALES

- ✓ Strong sales/consultant skills-prepare quotes/assessments
- ✓ Excellent identification/diagnostic skills re trees & shrub (some turf)
- ✓ ISA Certified (able to obtain)
- ✓ Manitoba Pesticide Applicator License (able to obtain)
- ✓ Valid driver's license
- ✓ Able to perform all aspects of tree & shrub care
- ✓ Full time

Note: training available for ideally qualified candidates.

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OR TO SUBMIT RESUME EMAIL;**



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Nick Stewart nstewart@greendrop.com

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If its your job to swallow a frog, its best to do it first thing in the morning.
If its your job to swallow two frogs, then it is best to swallow the biggest one first.



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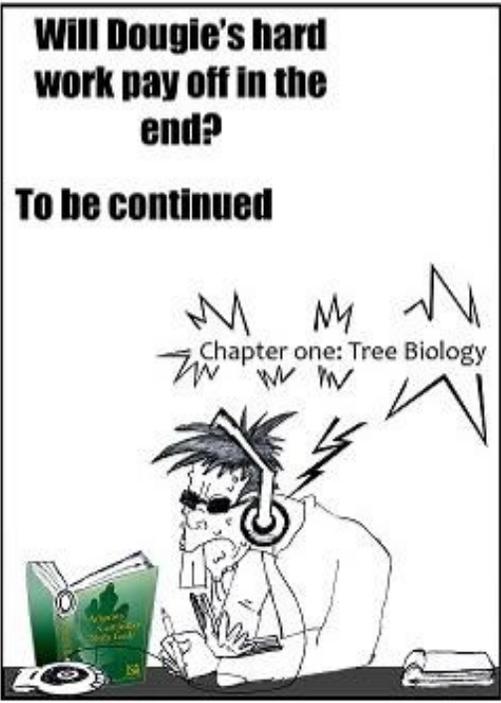
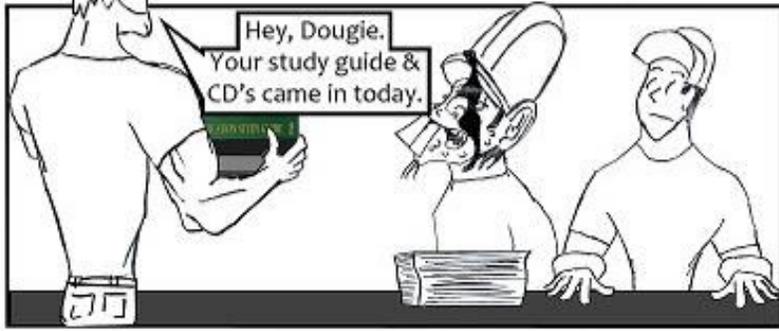
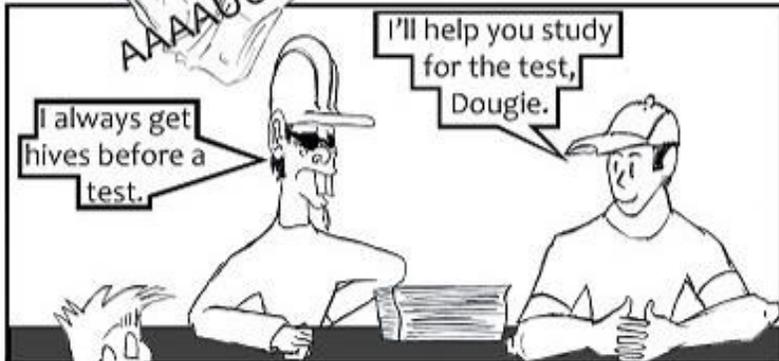
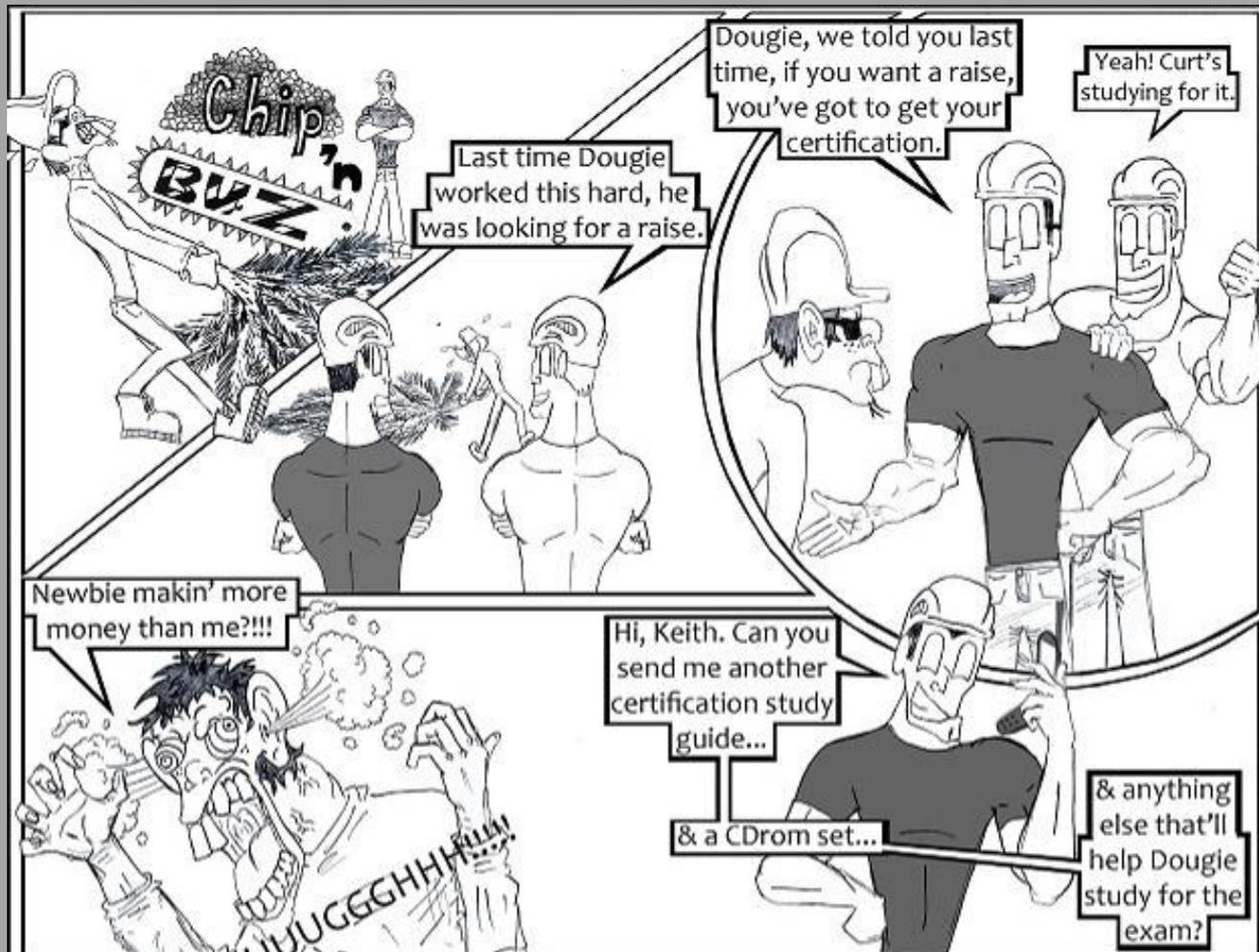
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The Prairie Arborist is published four times per year and is the official publication of the International Society of Arboriculture—Prairie Chapter.

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