



# The Prairie Arborist

*The Official Publication of the ISA Prairie Chapter Issue 4, 2013*



Photo by Matt Davis



Bonnie Fermanuik

Season Greetings to all the Prairie Chapter membership. Winter moved into the Prairies early and it has presented many challenges for the arborists out in the field.

Extreme temperature changes, deep snow, freezing rain, and don't forget the -30 temperatures with a windchill.

Your board has been busy trying to prepare for the 2014 year.

At the AGM in Edmonton it was decided to return to a separate TCC event held earlier in the season and the annual Conference held a little later on in the fall. This should reduce some of the pressure on the host committees.

The 2014 conference will be held in Saskatoon. The host committee has been working hard already. Watch for the latest updates on the website and in the newsletter.

A proposal for a membership fee increase was also brought to the AGM table. The increase will take effect in 2015.

Thanks to Don and Colleen for volunteering to keep the Chapter office running until we can find new office space and a new executive secretary.

**TRAQ** is presenting a number of challenges as the International body tries to finalize an acceptable delivery model. The Chapter plans to offer 3 programs in 2014.

All courses require a minimum registration so when the registration information comes out, please register early to avoid disappointment or course cancellation. Tentative locations and dates include: Lethbridge in late March, Edmonton in early June and Winnipeg to be announced.

Remember that education and mentorship is critical to the development of our industry. Make a New Years resolution to take a course or share your knowledge by mentoring a new staff member.

All the best to You and Your family  
Take time to enjoy your loved ones

Bonnie

### Letter to the Prairie Chapter Members - from the Treasurer

The ISA Prairie Chapter as some of you know is sorting out its finances. During the last Annual General Meeting in Edmonton the membership voted in favour of a Chapter membership fee of \$125 starting in 2015.

Reasoning for increase was to provide a more reliable revenue stream to pay for the increased costs of running the chapter and the need to pay our office staff a more equitable wage.

The 2013 annual conference was a success and will allow the Chapter to reinvest in a GIC to replace the one cashed in last year.

We would like to thank all the Sponsors, for the overwhelming and generous support this year.

Thank you all for supporting the ISA prairie chapter and lets make the Chapter and conference even better in 2014.

**Jean-Mathieu Daoust**  
**Secretary Treasurer 2014**

**Don Hay-Secretary-Treasurer 2013**  
**Awards Chair 2014**



Saskatoon

### 2014 ISA Prairie Chapter Conference

Planning is well underway for the 2014 ISA Prairie Chapter Conference.

The conference will be held at TCU Place, Saskatoon SK, on Monday October 27 and Tuesday October 28.

The theme of the conference is  
**The Roots of Success.**

The program's key theme areas are:

- Tree Roots – healthy trees and soil in the urban community
- Successful business – train the trainer, hands-on workshops for the arborist
- Urban forestry challenges – discussion forum
- Designing space for trees – success can be achieved when landscape architects, designers, utility specialists and arborists collaborate.

### 2014 ISA Prairie Chapter TCC

TCC will be held in Saskatoon, SK in late August or early September.

Date and location will be announced in January. Check the website for updates

*Submitted by Terri Smith –Saskatoon*



University of Saskatchewan

### Alberta News

*Submitted by Mimi Cole Director for Alberta*

Greetings!

Snow..... that seems to be the buzz word here in central Alberta lately. I'm not sure we've had this much so early in the season for many years.

It's hard to believe that less than two months ago, we spent a beautiful fall weekend at the TCC, in Edmonton, where climbers from around the Chapter challenged themselves and each other... A great sense of camaraderie. If you've never been to one of these events, you should go sometime.

The Prairie Chapter's annual conference followed the TCC and it was a great success. Thanks to Bonnie Fermanuik, our new President, and her crew for all their hard work. The lineup of speakers offered learning opportunities for all sectors of the industry.

Seven new people wrote the ISA Certified Arborist exam which is another indicator of growth and awareness in the industry.

Late in November, STOPDED held a meeting in Red Deer to update members on tree pest issues. A presentation was given that showed the spread of the Emerald Ash Borer across the country. With this pest, it is not a matter of *if* it comes, only *when* it gets here. Its arrival can be slowed but not eliminated.

Monitoring for Dutch elm disease continues even though provincial funding has not yet been secured. Letters to the Minister advising him of the risk of not funding the monitoring program will be sent.

A thought provoking talk by Dr. Ken Fry, Entomologist & Lecturer at Olds College gave a hint to the changing face of education as it relates to the horticulture program. There will be a meeting in January 2014 with various stakeholders, to discuss the details of the change. Stay tuned, things will be different.

I wish you all a happy holiday season and thank you for your support in letting me represent you at the ISA table.



**M.J. "Mimi" Cole**  
**Rocky TreeGrl Ltd.**

## Becoming Qualified

The ISA Certification Program has led the way as a credentialing body in the arboricultural industry for many years. In order to meet the needs of the profession and respond to the demands of our stakeholders, we are now exploring new opportunities with qualifications. ISA is looking to expand training and credentialing opportunities with this new initiative.

Qualifications, much like certifications, promote professional development and help set you apart from the competition. But when thinking about which credential is essential to your career, it is important to [understand the difference between a certification and qualification](#).

## TREE RISK ASSESSMENT QUALIFICATION

The first Qualification that ISA will launch is the Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (TRAQ). This new qualification was developed with the help of an international panel of experts and is scheduled to **roll out March 2013**.

TRAQ is a new ISA program that was originally started by the Pacific Northwest Chapter called TRACE that ISA has now taken under the credentialing umbrella and modified to follow the methodologies outlined in the ISA Best Management Practice for Tree Risk Assessment.

### *Obtaining the Tree Risk Assessment Qualification*

The qualification consists of a 2-day educational course followed by a ½ day assessment that includes both a written and field component. It is required that you attend the course and successfully complete the assessment in order to receive this qualification.

When applying to participate in a TRAQ event, applicants must agree to the terms, conditions, and policies outlined in the

[Tree Risk Assessment Candidate Handbook](#).

To be eligible to register for the course and take the exam, you must have earned one of the following credentials:



- ISA Certified Arborist or ISA Board Certi-

fied Master Arborist

- European Tree Worker, European Tree Technician, Fachagrarwirt Baumpflege
- AHC30810 Certificate III in Arboriculture (Australia), NZ National Certificate in Horticulture (Arboriculture) (Level 4)
- United Kingdom Qualifications and Credit Framework Level 2 Certificate or Diploma in Arboriculture
- Connecticut, Louisiana, and Rhode Island Arborist Licenses, Maryland Tree Experts, Massachusetts Certified Arborist, New Jersey Certified Tree Expert, New Hampshire Arborists Association Certified Arborist
- SAF Certified Forester
- An arboriculture or urban forestry degree that is part of a national qualifications framework or is from a college or university that is accredited or recognized under a system that is substantially similar to accreditation.
- TRACE or TRAQ

If you would like us to consider any other credential, contact ISA at [qual@isa-arbor.com](mailto:qual@isa-arbor.com)

### Course Content

The course includes Tree Biology and Mechanics, Tree Inspection and Assessment, Data Analysis and Risk Categorization, and Risk Reporting.

### Qualification Period

The TRAQ credential is valid for five (5) years from the



Poplar leader broke at old topping cut

date it is earned. A credential holder is required to re-take the course and pass the exam every five years in order to renew the credential. No CEUs are needed to maintain this qualification. CEUs will be offered to current ISA certification holders for attending the course as it is an educational event.

**TRAQ Fees**

For events that are co-hosted by ISA and a local Chapter or Associate Organization, the participant fees are:

ISA Member	\$625
Non ISA Member	\$750
Exam Retake	\$150

For TRAQ events hosted solely by a Chapter or Associate Organization, the host has the authority to set course fees at their own discretion. Because of this, course prices are likely to vary between events.

**Course Locations**

The course is anticipated to be available all over the world with ISA Chapters having the opportunity to be the first to offer it. Course dates and locations will be based on chapter willingness to host, geographic distribution, trainer availability, and industry demand. Course offerings will be listed on the [ISA Events Calendar](#), as they become available as well as this section of the website.

**Applying for the TRAQ Course**

For events that are Co-hosted by ISA, all participants are required to submit an application and must register online or by phone. For events hosted solely by a Chapter or Associate Organizations instructions will be provided for each event. Available TRAQ courses will be listed on the ISA website.

**TRACE credential transfer into the new ISA program**

If you held the TRACE credential, you have been transferred into the new ISA TRAQ program and your current expiration date has been carried over. ISA will provide all transferees with new program information and a certificate.

A separate process is in place for TRACE credential holders in British Columbia. Information on that process is available on the [TRACE to TRAQ](#) page.

**Additional TRAQ information**

For other questions TRAQ pertaining to the TRAQ qualification review the [Participant Common Questions](#) and the [Tree Risk Assessment Candidate Handbook](#) or email [qual@isa-arbor.com](mailto:qual@isa-arbor.com).

*Continued next page*

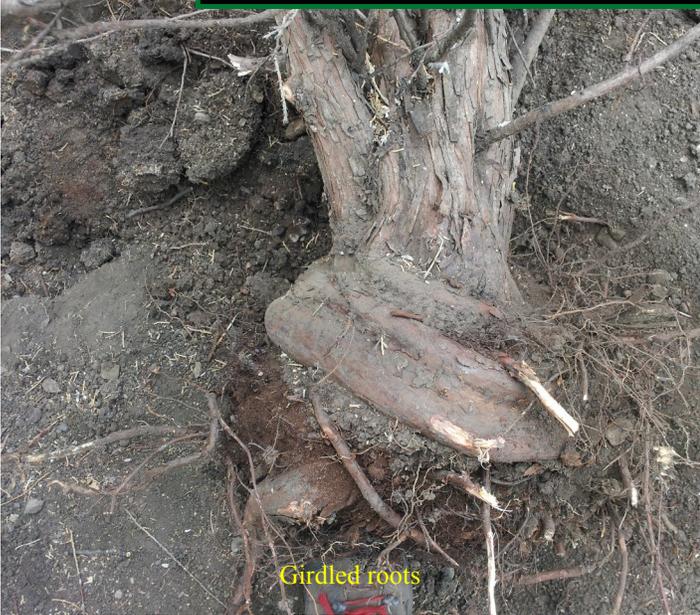


Waterlogged soil, basketed

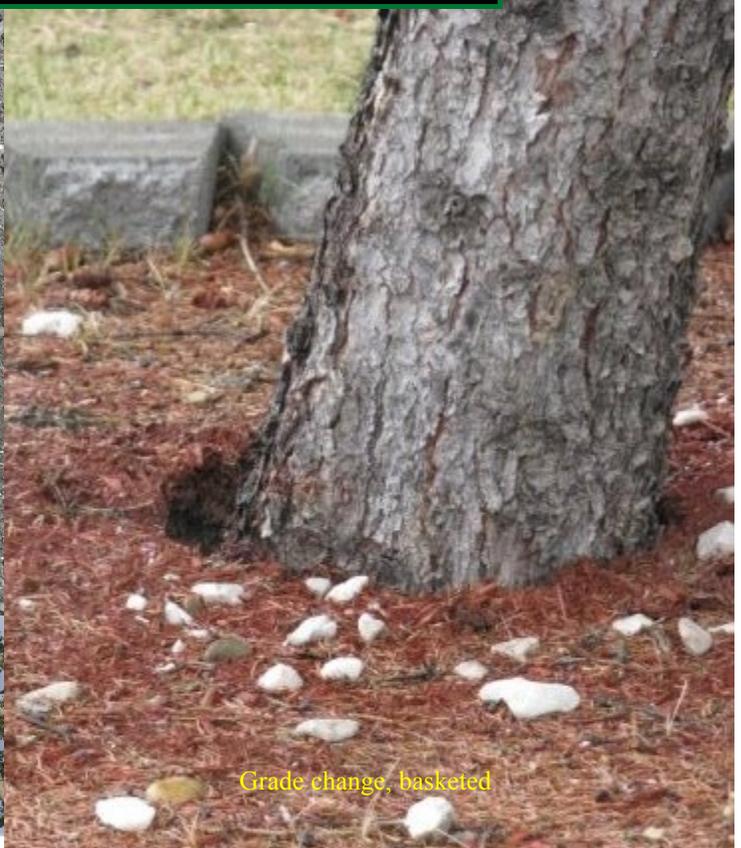


Wet with snow load, basketed

# Tree Risk Assessment



Girdled roots



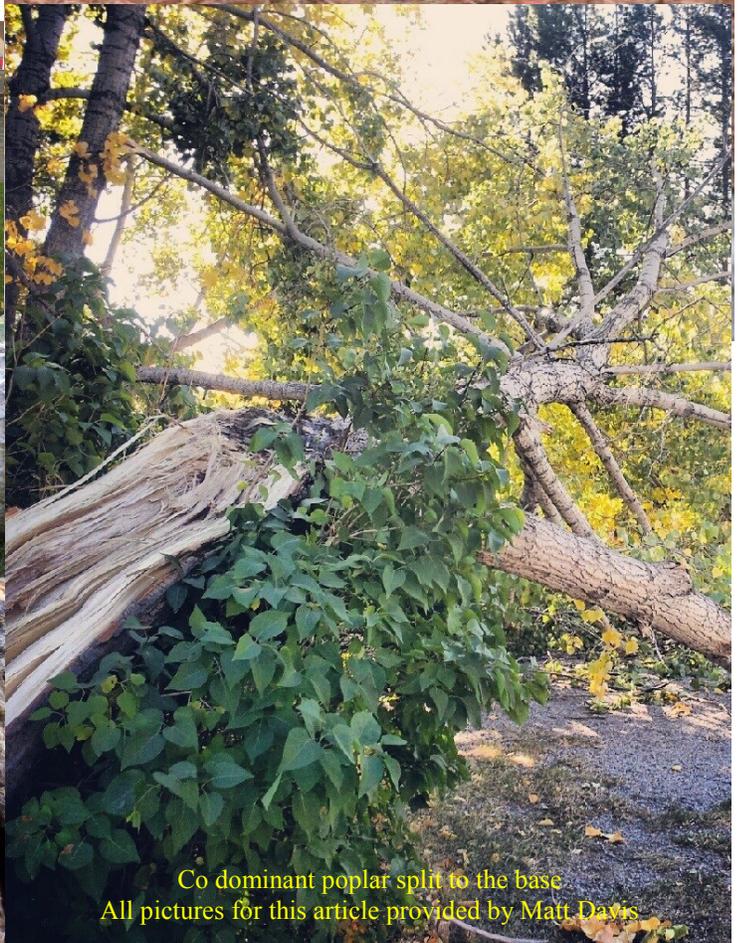
Grade change, basketed



Roots cut during construction



Poplar leader broke at old topping cut



Co dominant poplar split to the base  
All pictures for this article provided by Matt Davis

March 5-7th at Harrison Hot Springs Resort,  
Harrison Hot Springs BC

Registration is now open!

Please visit [www.womenarborists.ca](http://www.womenarborists.ca) for conference details and follow us on [twitter@womenarborists](https://twitter.com/womenarborists).

The Women's Arboriculture Conference is a unique experience as it is an inter-disciplinary forum addressing trees, their place in our world and our relationship with them.

Speakers and delegates who are arborists, foresters, horticulturists, landscape architects and designers, land planners and managers, and master gardeners are meeting with the shared purpose of discussing and problem-solving tree-related issues.

Men and women delegates are welcome and female experts are highlighted as speakers.

Thank you to these supporting sponsors of the ISA 2013 Conference



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See insert for a complete list of sponsors

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## This is the World's Longest Wood Carving. It was Made from a Single Tree Trunk

November 14, 2013 marked the ninth annual [Guinness World Records Day](#), where people around the globe attempt to break world records.

Unveiled that day at the [Palace Museum in Beijing](#) was an astonishing wooden sculpture by Chinese artist Zheng Chunhui. The wooden carving took four years to complete. The sculpture, carved from a **single tree trunk**, measures 12.286 meters long, 3.075 meters high and 2.401 meters wide (40.308 x 10.088 x 7.877 ft).

The sculpture is based on the famous scroll painting [Along the River During the Qingming Festival](#) (c 1085-1145), which captures the daily life of people and the landscape of the capital, *Bianjing* (today Kaifeng). The original painting is one of the most renowned work among all Chinese paintings and has even been called, 'China's Mona Lisa' for its recognizability. [\[Source\]](#) Zheng's intricate sculpture features boats, bridges, buildings and over 550 individually carved people. The

Palace Museum where the sculpture was unveiled is also home to the original scroll painting.

[Sources: [Ecns.cn](#), [Daily Mail](#), [Guinness World Records](#), [My Modern Met](#)]





Source: Twisted Sifter

## Thank You Arboriculture Canada Training & Education Ltd.

Announcing the 2013 Arboriculture Canada Training & Education Ltd. "Spirit of the Competition" Prize Package for the ISA Prairie Chapter 2013 Tree Climbing Championship (TCC) event. This "Spirit of the Competition" prize kit is presented to the person who wins the vote of the TCC chairperson, judges and technicians for having the best sportsmanlike attitude and behavior throughout the duration of the competition!

### Each prize package includes:

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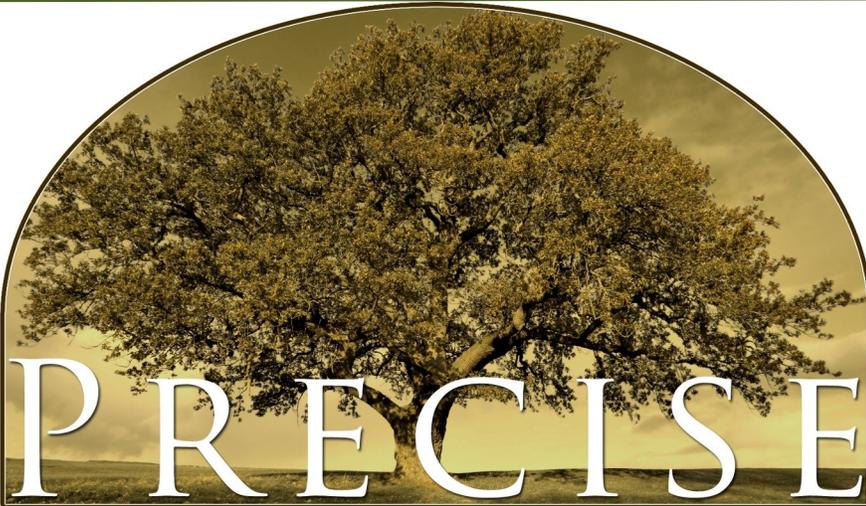
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**The total value of this Prize Kit is approximately \$1,000**



Found this pic on TwistedSifter.  
Keith

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## Decay development

Click for the USDA [Wood Decay in Living and Dead Trees: A Pictorial Overview](#) (PDF).



Injuries result from inappropriate pruning cuts, storms, ice, snow, animals, wind, excess weight, temperature extremes, trunk wounds, disease, chemicals, and other stresses. A tree reacts to injury by creating boundaries around it. The boundary-setting process that resists loss of normal wood function and resists the spread of discoloration and decay has been referred to as compartmentalization.

**Discoloration** is the orderly response of the tree to microorganisms resulting in darkened wood

but no strength loss. **Decay** is the orderly breakdown of tissue resulting in strength loss. The rate of the discoloration and decay process depends on the severity of the wound, position in the tree, size of the wound, time of year, species, tree age, and the types of infecting microorganisms.

**Compartmentalization** may be described using the CODIT (Compartmentalization Of Decay In Trees) model. Four different boundaries (also called walls) in trees have been presented in CODIT: wall 1, wall 2, wall 3, and wall 4. Each forms in a different manner and protects the tree in unique ways.

The walls are numbered in increasing order of their ability to retard movement of decay organisms. For example, wall 3 is stronger than wall 1. Wall 1 may or may not be present at the time of wounding. Walls 2 and 3 are present in the tree at all times. Wall 4 forms in response to injury.

**Wall 1:** Xylem vessels immediately above and below an injury plug with chemicals when a tree is injured. This plugging response forms wall 1. Some plugging occurs normally without injury. Plugging forms a weak boundary in some trees such as a hackberry (*Celtis*) and poplars (*Populus*), but is stronger in others such as many of the oaks (*Quercus*). Because wall 1 is weak, decay in some trees can advance rapidly up and down the trunk from the injury resulting in long columns of decay and hollow branches and trunks.

**Wall 2:** The growth rings make up wall 2. The transition from one growth ring to the next retards advancing decay organisms. Decay organisms often have a tougher time moving across growth rings (wall 2) than they do up and down the stem (wall 1). The functioning of wall 2 can be demonstrated when you view a cross section of a trunk or branch that was injured previously. A darkened region often appears to stop its advancement inward toward the pith at the boundary of one growth ring with the next. This is wall 2 working.

**Wall 3:** The rays make up wall 3. They have plenty of decay fighting capability because they are rich in starch. Discoloration and decay have a tougher time moving across wall 3 than walls 1 and 2. The strength of wall 3 can be demonstrated by viewing a cross section of a trunk or branch injured several years ago. Notice that there is a clear demarcation between darkened tissue and normal light colored wood. If walls 2 and 3 fail and decay organisms

break through, the affected trunk or branch can become hollow. Wall 4 forms the outside edge of the hollow.

**Wall 4:** This is the strongest boundary that retards spread of discoloration and decay in trees. This reaction zone forms from the cambium along the edge of the outer-most growth ring present at the time the tree was injured. It begins at the point where the tree was injured and it may extend all or part way around the tree. Wall 4 stays in the same position in the tree but may extend further around or up and down the trunk with time. It does not move out with the new cambium. There may be numerous wall 4s in a tree, depending on its wounding history. Wall 4 forms the edge of a hollow.

Wall 4 develops in response to many different types of injuries. It can take several years for wall 4 to reach the other side of the trunk - or it may never reach that far. Wall 4 extends above and below the injury essentially in the shape of a pipe. It may develop a few inches or many feet above and below the injury.

Wall 4 prevents discoloration and decay organisms from moving into the wood produced after the injury occurred. This means it is extremely difficult for discoloration or decay to move from inside wall 4 to the outside of wall 4. Although this task appears simple, it is vital to the longevity of trees. Imagine if decay organisms could spread into wood formed after injury - trees could not live to become old majestic masters.

The obvious **advantage of wall 4** is

that it retards decay; but there are two very important disadvantages. The **first disadvantage** is that sugars cannot move across wall 4, i.e. sugars have a more difficult time moving in or out of the portion of the bank (xylem) surrounded by wall 4. As a result, some stored starch can get trapped in the rays and xylem located inside of wall 4. However, the starch is available to decay organisms. The tree may have wasted the effort required to produce the sugar and store it as starch. It earned the money (made the sugars), deposited the money in the bank (stored it as starch), then could not withdraw some of the money (starched was trapped inside).

You can imagine how much stress this causes the tree by imagining your stress after you earned money, deposited it in a bank, and could not get some of it back. Creation of wall 4 also makes the energy bank ~~smaller so less starch~~ can be stored. This occurs because wall 4 essentially shuts off new deposits of sugars into the walled off portion of the xylem.

The **second disadvantage** is that a crack can form along wall 4. This separation or delamination is called a ring crack and it may follow wall 4 all or part way around the trunk. One or more secondary cracks, called radial cracks, can form from the ring crack along a ray.

Another serious crack is the closure crack that occurs as the callus and woundwood attempt to grow over and close the wound. This crack often extends from the point of injury out to the current location of the bark. Sometimes

this crack never closes. Even if it closes, the crack remains along with its associated weakness. Cracks in trees cause weakness that can make them susceptible to breaking. In fact, cracks are probably of more concern than the decay that results from injury. Trees vary in their ability to form walls 1, 2, and 3. These walls are weak in trees that are poor compartmentalizers of decay

(See: [list of species by compartmentalization ability](#)). Hollow trunks result from weak walls. These three walls are stronger in trees that are good compartmentalizers. Following injury to a poor compartmentalizer, wall 4 may reach the opposite side of the trunk quickly, within a few years. Because walls 2 and 3 are stronger in a good compartmentalizer, wall 4 may only need to be produced around part of the trunk.

## Reaction Wood

A vertical trunk forms normal wood plus some reaction wood when moved in the wind. Horizontal branches and leaning branches must form reaction wood in an attempt to prevent them from bending and cracking under their own weight.

**Compression wood** forms on the underside of branches and contains more lignin than normal wood. Wood with a high lignin content is especially strong in compression.

**Tension wood** forms on the upper

*(Continued on page 15)*

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(Continued from page 13)

sides of hardwoods and contains more cellulose than normal wood. Wood with a high cellulose content is especially strong in tension and can resist bending downward. Both strategies appear to work most of the time.

**Trees in the woods** suddenly exposed when most surrounding trees are removed can bend and sometimes break. See: [more on this story](#).

#### Hardwoods

such as oaks form a type of reaction wood called tension wood on the upper side of the branch. Once this fails to prevent the branch from drooping, they switch to develop more wood on the undersides, called normal wood, as shown here. This results in an oval cross section.



**Conifers** form a type of reaction wood called compression wood on the undersides of horizontal limbs. Compression wood attempts to prevent the branch from drooping. The pith in this pine is clearly way above the center point on this branch indicating much more development under the branch than on top. These branches form an oval in cross section.



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



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**Submitted by Jean-Mathieu Daoust**

Sometimes I find it hard to write to arborists about trees or industry related topics. It can be somewhat intimidating at times to provide you with current and pertinent information.

To finish off the year I would like to share a newfound interest and

hobby which some of you already enjoy and others may wish to entertain.

My wife was researching and setting up our nursery for our baby girl and some of the research done recommended adding a fish tank to the nursery to help with room humidity as well as give the child something entertaining to look at. Kind of like a living mobile.

Well as it turns out I really enjoyed having a fish tank and began doing research. I developed an interest in planted aquariums and succumbed to a serious condition I call gallonitis. The end result being, I now own 3 fish tanks.

Through my research I began to notice a lot of similarities between tree and fish science. Both are extremely dependent on having correct pH and water/soil hard-

ness, both are also susceptible to nutrient deficiencies and toxicities.

Most interesting is the symbiotic relationship between the fish, plants and bacteria in the ecosystem. The process of the nitrogen cycle is important to know to keep a healthy home for aquatic inhabitants. Fish waste is turned into ammonia, bacteria convert ammonia into nitrite which are both toxic to the fish.

Finally another form of bacteria converts nitrite into nitrate which is not toxic to fish at low concentrations in addition plants require nitrogen to thrive in the aquarium. Planted tanks also require different substrate (soil) for rooting and nutrients. That rainbow colored shiny gravel does not have properties conducive to plant



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## ARBORICULTURE

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**Prairie Provinces - Spring, 2014 Schedule**

**Edmonton, AB**

Chainsaw Safety & Cutting Techniques - Apr. 29  
Tree Pruning - Apr. 30

**Calgary, AB**

Chainsaw Safety & Cutting Techniques - May 1  
Tree Pruning - May 2  
Tree Climbing, Fall Protection & Work Positioning - May 20 & 21  
Technical Tree Felling & Cutting - May 22 & 23  
Tree Appraisal Qualification - May 26 - 28

**Saskatoon, SK**

Tree Climbing, Fall Protection & Work Positioning - May 8 & 9



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growth. Depending on the species of plants, nutrients are often absorbed from either the foliage and/or the roots.

Setting up can be as simple or as complex as you wish. Basic requirements are filter, substrate and light. Aeration and oxygenation are provided by the filter through surface agitation of the water. Oxygen enters the water whenever the surface tension is broken such as a wave or any surface movement, Co2 also transfers at the water surface.

The filter also provides the most important role of housing the beneficial bacteria which makes the nitrogen cycle possible. Substrate can come in many forms.

Some aquarists even use actual soil from the garden.

cause of tree/plant death and decline.

I learned that all bodies of water have some salt concentration which the plants and fish are adapted to and thrive in, as a result none of my plants died and newly introduced fish losses went from 50% to 5%.

Another great benefit I have found is that the water from doing regular maintenance through water changes has done wonders to my houseplants and trees/shrubs most likely due to the presence of nitrates, it would be a shame to waste perfectly good water.

As a recap of my past three articles I hope that some of you can enjoy learning something new on your smart device while enjoying the hobby of aquascaping. Have



Proper research should be done before doing this because not all plants thrive in the same type of medium.

Finally adequate lighting is essential to success and to avoid an abundance of algae growth, a common requirement seems to be 2-3 watts per gallon of water. Adding salt to the freshwater is also highly recommended to keep the ecosystem healthy.

At first I was apprehensive about adding salt to a freshwater planted ecosystem. In our world, salt is a major

a Merry Christmas and a happy healthy New Year.



Photos are courtesy of [www.plantedtank.net](http://www.plantedtank.net)

Morgan Hay



...The first rule of safety is cultivating a possitive mental attitude...



Do we get CEU's?

Don't know...  
Do we get lunch?

Attā Boy, Dougie!!

Eh, Chip, good call on the training!

Later...

...And then he said, "drop & give me 20! the next time it'll be 50!"

I must've done 1000 push ups!

## ROOTS, SHOOTS AND SUCKERS

Always remember you're unique - just like everyone else.

"Honk if you don't exist" -random bumper sticker I saw

What if nothing exists and we're all in somebody's dream? Or what's worse, what if only that fat guy in the third row exists? -Woody Allen

How do I know anything really exists? -Kick it really hard.

I'm not afraid to die, I just don't like the thought of being gone so long

He's dead Jim. Kick him if you don't believe me

A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory

He who laughs last probably doesn't get it.

My Wife Says I Never Listen, Or Something Like That...

Its simple, if it jiggles, its fat

The difference between stupidity and genius is that genius has its limits.

If a cow laughed real hard, would milk come out her nose?



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October	September 15
December	November 15
March	February 15

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### Utility

It was a record year for our Utility team, Josh Spitzig and Jorrie Villaneuva achieving their UTT certifications, with Bernabe Beringuela getting his UTW after the spring session. Andy Sabandal will be joining them shortly with his UTW, after submitting his hours to the IVMAA.

### Calgary

This year we had three of our Arborists earn their ISA certifications! Congratulations to Sarah Coulson, Wayne Fleury, and Lito Ricoperto who join our team of ISA certified arborists.

### Edmonton

In our Edmonton branch for 2013, we had two of our arborists obtain their ISA certifications; Congratulations to Scott Fowler and Dylan McKenzie!

### British Columbia

It's been a great season for our BC team, with both Greg Tipman and Troy Aleck achieving their Certified Utility Arborist certificates (CUA!) Another congratulations to Greg Evans who received his Apprentice Utility Arborist (AUA) certifications this year as well!

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