



The Prairie Arborist

The Official Publication of the ISA Prairie Chapter Issue 3, 2013





Bonnie Fermanuik

As in-coming president I would first like to THANK all of you who participated in our fall conference.

Your support and participant was key to the overwhelming success of the conference.

A big thank-you goes out to all the sponsors and volunteers that that contributed to the conference and TCC.

We hope you all gained from the educational and networking sessions.

The recent support and participation was awesome and motivating for me to start the next 2 years as President of the Prairie Chapter. The Chapter has some steep challenges ahead to improve its financial position. As a board we are exploring new efficiencies and avenues to create new revenue streams.

I encourage all businesses out there to make use of our Newsletter and web site to advertise and don't miss out on the opportunity to list yourself on our website under the 'Hire an Arborist'.

If you have ideas or are willing to assist in Chapter activities we would love to hear from you.

Please be patient when contacting the Chapter office as we are currently operating with volunteer staff only.

Did You Know.....?

ULS sponsored the Work climb and expenses for climbers to go to the ITCC.

Arborcare sponsored the Masters Challenge and the supper.

Lodgepole Tree Services sponsored the Saturday lunch and

The Arborest sponsored the Friday night pizza feast at the climbers and judges meeting.

The breakfast was partly sponsored by the chapter and an anonymous generous and altruistic arborist and his fabulous wife; both of whom shall remain anonymous.

Check out the attachment to find out who else sponsors Prairie Chapter events. Please support our supporters.

Professor Ed Gilman instructs conference attendees in the art of singing to trees. Just one more tool for your IPM Kit Bag.





ISA 2013 Prairie Chapter Conference Report

The ISA Prairie Chapter Conference was held on October 8th and 9th with a Pre-Conference Day with Ed Gilman on October 7th.

After attending the conference, I once again feel enlightened and invigorated. I particularly enjoyed the pre-conference day. Ed Gilman taught us the importance of correcting structure in young trees and how to get a central leader from even the most multi-leadered trees. A demonstration at a City of Edmonton park reinforced those teachings. I'm so glad I attended that day!

October 8th offered a day full of great information. Thanks to Davey for sending some informative speakers on Tree Risk Assessment and i-Tree Advances, very useful information for Urban Foresters. I found Shawna Randolph's session, entitled 'Media – Control Your Message', very informative. These tools could be used not only with the media, but also municipal politicians and colleagues as well.

Ed Gilman was back on the 8th as well with two sessions, 'Sidewalk and Tree Conflict – Tree Protection Zone' and Pruning Mature Trees – Repairing Storm Damage'. Both offered solutions to the issues Urban Foresters deal with regularly and were entertaining and thoughtful.

On October 9th, my day started with 'Boulevard Root Trenching' with Heidi Mapstone from Stantec. Heidi, a Certified Arborist herself, spoke about soil volume requirements to grow large trees and presented a planting detail to show how Stantec is already increasing soil volume by trenching in the center of boulevards. It was a surprise to see a Landscape Company taking the lead in the fight for better tree planting. And a great reason to encourage Landscape Architects and Technologists to become Certified Arborists!

Dr. Leonard Burkhart from Davey showed us 'Examining Roots With An Air Tool' can provide us with information about what's going on below the soil. Awesome to see this tool in action. So many possibilities!

I thank the ISA Prairie Chapter for providing this conference. So much great information from a wide variety of speakers (there were many others I did not mention). Every time I attend one of these conferences, I feel invigorated and validated to do the work I do. Thanks for another great year!

Sherry Boerefyn
Urban Forester, City of Edmonton



Again this year, the Spirit of the Competition Award (containing rope, equipment and many other climbing arborist goodies) was sponsored by ACTE, and it was awarded by secret ballot to our true gentlemen Head Judge of the Rescue, Mr. Laurie Newsham, of Olds College. Laurie pledged to do what previous Spirit Award winners have done in the past, to re-gift

it out to deserving students at Olds College, at his sole discretion.

This was especially fitting as Laurie has been Lead Instructor of Arboriculture at Olds College since Dwayne Neustaeter left that position to found ACTE (then Arbormaster Training) many years ago.

Laurie also served us as our very own hard working and super-dedicated PCTCC Chair for six consecutive seasons!

Hats off to Laurie for being such a fine gentlemen and a great Head Judge in our 2013 PCTCC!

I would also like to extend my personal gratitude, appreciation and admiration to all the volunteers and great people that helped us put on the PCTCC in Edmonton this year. From the City of Edmonton and their beautiful trees and park and their many staff that participated and help plan and pull off the event to the many fantastic commercial sponsors we had, including: Arborcare, the Davey Tree Company, Arboriculture Canada, Tree Frog, Lodgepole, ULS Landscaping, Arbor Supply, Vermeer, Stihl Edmonton, Prairie Roots, Green Drop and others that contributed time, money or sent staff to participate in this year's premier climbing arborist event in the prairies. And, of course, "un grand merci-beaucoup!"

to Monsieur Yannick Portauw, for being our Head Climbing Technician for the competition.

Without an incredibly solid team of dedicated and experienced professionals such as Laurie, that volunteer their services to run the PCTCC each year so smoothly and seamlessly, we would be unable to hold such a first class event in our chapter, so thanks again, everyone.

As I step down from serving as your Chapter President, It will be both my honor and pleasure to continue to serve my chapter as your PCTCC chair in the coming year, mostly due to the untimely serious illness of our previous Chair, Mr. Geoff McLeod. I realize I have some big footsteps to fill (literally and figuratively) as I follow

in the path that others before me have recently walked. This is especially meaningful to me as next year, the PCTCC will be held in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Geoff's hometown.

We (myself and our new Board) are

thinking of holding the climbing competition in June this coming year, possibly even the Canada Day long weekend, and may be asking for your input and opinions by means of a survey or something like that, long before then.

If you have any ideas about how we can improve our TCC next year and in the future, please drop me a line any time, either on Facebook, or email, gerard@forttrees.com.

Warmest regards this winter,

Gerard Fournier, BCMA PR-0130BT, TRAQ

PCTCC Chair

Unless otherwise stated, photos on these pages were submitted by Gerard Fournier



The Masters Challenge Participants
 Left to right Ian Jones 3rd, Ken Moore 2nd, Jesse Antonation 1st, Charlene Scott 1st, Whitney Renney, 2nd, Bonita Kliever 3rd



Caitlyn and Tony test Dr. Gilman's theories on branch attachments

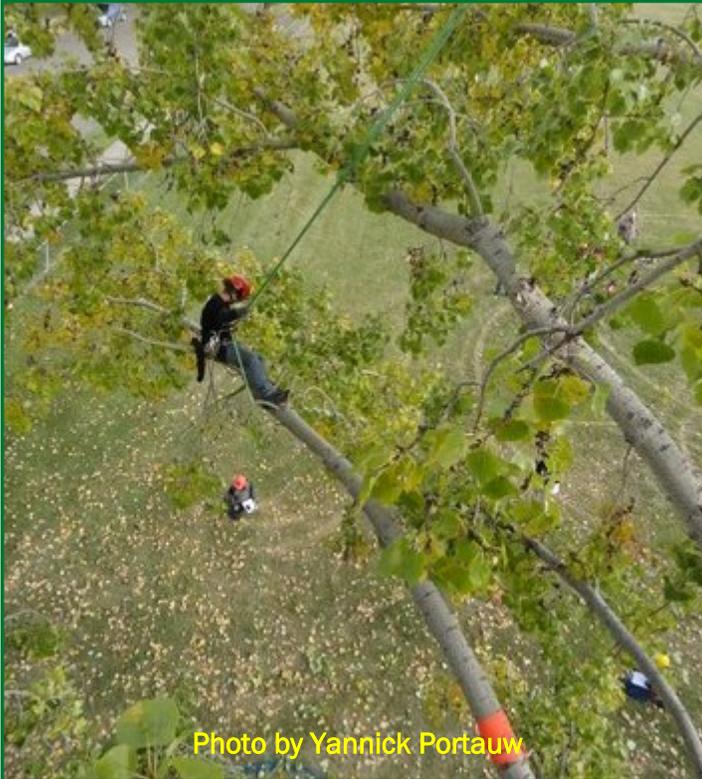


Photo by Yannick Portauw



Trying out the air spade at the Edmonton Conference



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Diamond Willow

Submitted by Keith and son, Jacob Anderson

Jake and me recently took an interest in Diamond Willow and researched on-line what to look for and how to find it. What we discovered was that we had been walking by it for years and that we even had some right here on our patch of prairie south of Battleford, SK.

The following information is put together from a few sites on the internet and our own observations. All the pictures on these two pages are from our place. The walking sticks shown are from our place as well.

The sticks with the dark coloured wood are made from found wood— some dead and standing some dead and laying under or on the prairie grass. The blond wood are

Some claim to have found this same diamond response to fungal infection in Aspen however Jake and me haven't found any of these yet.

The diamond shaped cankers seem to result from the tree growing around the site of the fungal attack which is always at a branch attachment. As the tree grows, new layers of wood are produced around the affected area *and* the diamonds deepen.

Several species of willow have been identified as having diamonds. In the prairie provinces these include Bebb's Willow (*Salix bebbiana*) and Sharp Leaf Willow (*Salix acutifolia*). Moss' Flora of Alberta, lists over 50 species of willow. My guess is that all species are susceptible to some degree or other.



sticks cut green from willows that have diamonds showing as a depression in the bark.

Diamond Willow is not a species of willow, but is thought to be the result of an attack by one or more types of fungus (and the compartmentalization of that infection) on several susceptible species of willow.

Cankers, or diamonds, form as a result of the tree's response to the fungus. The diamonds are actually more like elongated ovals with pointed ends.



From Wikipedia

Diamond willow is willow with wood that is deformed into diamond-shaped segments with alternating colors. This is most likely the result of attack by a fungus (*Valsa sordida*, and possibly others), which causes cankers to form in the wood in response to the



Diamond Willow

infection.^[1] Diamond willow is prized by wood carvers and furniture makers for its strong contrasting colors (red and white) and its sculptural irregularity of shape.

There are at least six different species that have been identified as being susceptible to diamonding, including *Salix bebbiana*, the most common diamond willow,^[2] plus *S. pseudomonticola*, *S. arbusculoides*, *S. discolor*, *S. scouleriana*, and *S. alaxensis*.

The diamonding is usually found with a branch at its center or is found in the Y of a tree. Diamonding in willow does not seem to be specific to an area that willows grow in, and where one bunch of willow will have diamonds, the next clump of willows may have none at all. Although diamond willow is often thought of as being a northern phenomenon, of the boreal forest, there

to the fungus. The cankers seem to result from the tree growing away from the site of attack. This usually happens at the junction of a branch on a larger branch or main stem.

If the branch is relatively small it seems to die very quickly. If the branch is larger, it may continue to grow and the diamond is formed on the branch and the stem. By growing away from the fungus, new layers of growth occur further and further away from the site of the fungal attack. Thus the affected area gets larger and deeper. If the tree has been affected in several places close together, then the diamonds run into each other. This can result in pronounced ridges if some sapwood continues to survive, or it may strangle the small ridge of sapwood, which then dies.



is mention of diamond willow growing as far south as Missouri.

Diamond formation and shape

The tree grows diamond-shaped cankers in response

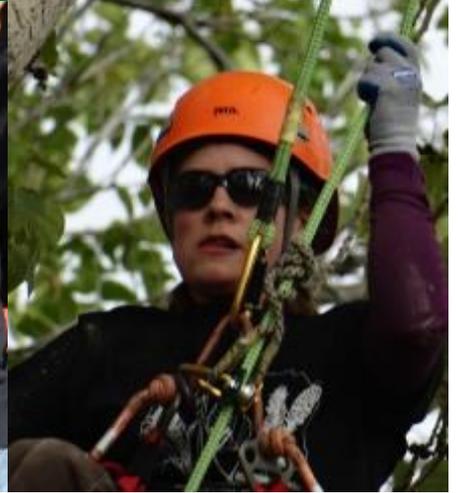
The shape of the diamonds seems to vary from one clump of willow to the next, although there may be some general tendencies within a single species. Some stems will form long narrow diamonds; others will be short and wide. Usually all the diamonds on the stems in one clump will have similar growth patterns. If the new layers of sapwood do not move back very much each year, then the diamonds will be deep bowl- or cleft-shaped. These stems will be able to survive longer than those whose diamonds are flat

The bark that is left overtop of the diamond changes quite markedly from the bark over the living sapwood. Depending on the species of willow, the living bark is usually smoother and slightly lighter in color. The bark over the diamond usually becomes rougher and somewhat darker. It also becomes tougher and adheres much more to the underlying wood. The sapwood is white to cream in color—again depending on the species, but also on the location. The heartwood is reddish-brown. This color tends to darken with exposure to light over a number of years.



Laurie Newsham—Arboriculture Instructor at Olds College and long time supporter of the Prairie Chapter looks on as climbers do the impossible. Laurie also received the 2013 Spirit of the Competition Award

Good on Ya my friend



Mens Champ Jesse Antonation



Women's Champ Charlene Scott



Photos submitted by Caitlyn Snyder and Matt Vinet

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:

- STIHL Hard Hat System
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- 150 ft piece of Velocity from Samson
- Gift Certificate for one free Arboriculture Canada Training & Education Ltd. -2-Day Training Module
- \$100 gift certificate from Buckingham Manufacturing
- Marvin Pruner Head, Marvin Saw Head, Saw Blade and a Freddy t-shirt.
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The total value of this Prize Kit is approximately \$1,000

Jeff Collins, Artist in residence at the City of Edmonton Urban Forestry Department

By Jenna Turner, Edmonton Arts Council

In June, the Edmonton Arts Council put out the call for the first official City of Edmonton departmental artist in residence at the Westwood Central Services yard with the Urban Forestry department. The residency is built around opportunities to follow the City's urban foresters on field trips as they prune, plant, and maintain Edmonton's trees and green spaces. We were happy to see many local artists apply, and are very excited to announce that Jeff Collins was selected for the residency.

Jeff Collins is a fixture in the Edmonton arts scene. He has been painting for more than 18 years and has developed an extensive body of landscape and abstract work. He has exhibited widely in Alberta and has a long history of involvement in Edmonton's arts community, helping to establish ArtsHab 1 (where he currently resides) and its gallery, as well as working with the Alberta Craft Council, the Works Art and Design Festival and more.

Although he was born in Edmonton, Collins has also lived in a number of other cities in the province, ultimately returning to Edmonton specifically for the river valley and the forests. It's clear why this residency was so appealing to him.

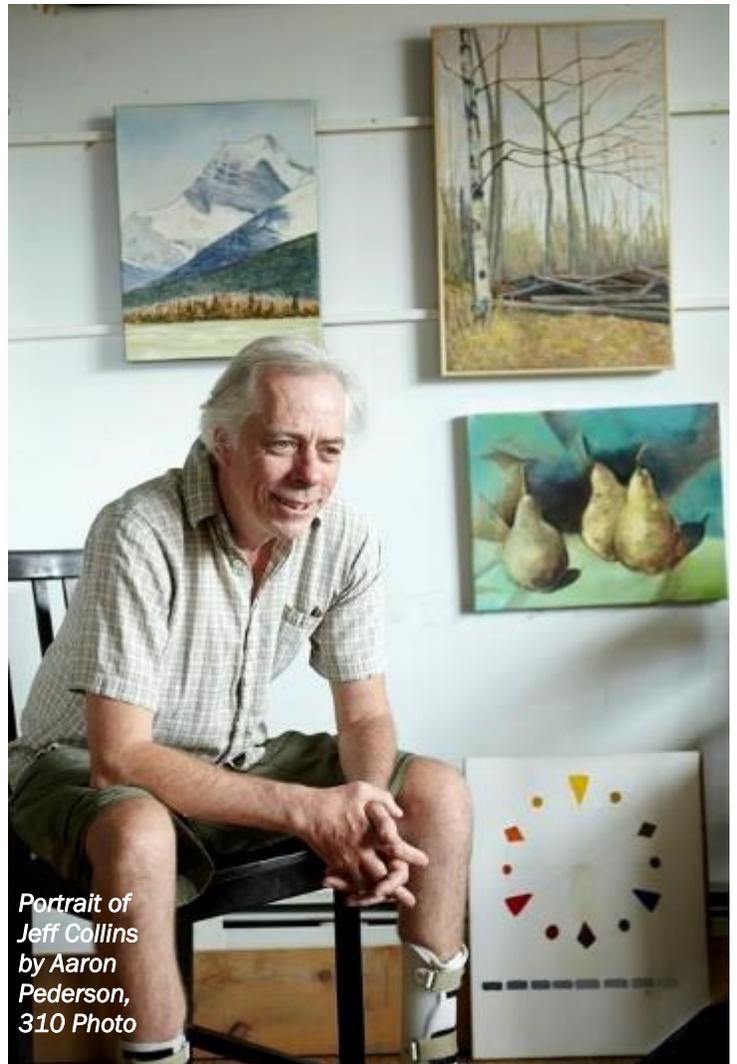
"There are places you can go in Edmonton's river valley where you are miles from civilization, but at the same time, you're in the heart of the city," Collins says. "I love that the river valley has been kept so natural, with very little development." Because of that, he's looking forward to working in partnership with the urban foresters, watching their day-to-day operations, mutually sharing experiences and expertise with them, as well as seeing

first-hand their vision for keeping the city green and beautiful.



Released in 2008, the Art of Living is the City of Edmonton and the Edmonton Arts Council's joint cultural plan. One of its major recommendations was the establishment of expanded artist-in-residence projects. Collins gives credit to the City of Edmonton for initiating the residency, saying that he was thrilled to see the posting. "In the last ten years, the arts have become very prominent in Edmonton, and average citizens are taking note of how important the arts are in their lives," he says. "Especially under this administration, the City has helped to sustain the arts, make them flourish and grow."

At the end of the day, Collins is also looking forward to the structure the residency will provide, giving him "an amazing opportunity to work every single day, nine to five, on a concentrated study to develop a body of work." He plans to do a combination of traditional oil paintings on location with the foresters, as well as a parallel body of abstract work that will be "inspired by [his] surroundings in a deeper sense."



Portrait of
Jeff Collins
by Aaron
Pederson,
310 Photo

On behalf of the entire
membership of the
ISA Prairie Chapter
Thank you

I would like to thank the out going Board members:
Gerard Fournier, Don Hay, Geoff Mcleod and also the
work horse and brains of the Chapter, Colleen Bready
Hay.

Congratulations and welcome to the new and continu-
ing members:

Kevin Cassells, Jean-Mathieu Daoust, Mimi Cole, Kelvin
Kelly, Matt Vinet, Matt Davis and Gordon White as your
Certification Liaison

Thanks for all you do and all your support.

Bonnie Fermanuk,
President ISA Prairie Chapter

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Artist - Doris Sheldon

Doris has been carving since 2003 and enjoys the crea-
tive process very much. The majority of her carvings are
done in found wood. "This type of wood has very inter-
esting colours and comes in a great variety of shapes
and sizes. The challenge of found wood is finding these
pieces before the wood is too old".

Doris has won artist competitions with her work, over
the years including the **Prairie Canada Carving Champi-
onships April, 2011 in Winnipeg MB.**

The "Best of Show" award was given during the Carving
Championship in Winnipeg, MB. This is a judged show
for carvers only. Carvers use this opportunity to display
their work for competition and to learn from more expe-
rienced carvers and judges.

The Guardian (see next page) also won a first place rib-
bon in the Bark Open Class at the Northern Alberta
Wood Carvers Association Carving Competition April,
2010 in Edmonton, AB. It also won second place in the
Bark Open Class at the Wheat City Carvers Competition
April, 2011 in Brandon MB.

"I was very pleased and honored to be given these
awards by the various clubs.

I learned a great deal about various finishes and carving
techniques from the other carvers and judges attending
the shows".

Check out Doris' website at:
www.cottagecountrycarving.com

She can be contacted at:

doris@cottagecountrycarving.com



Smiling Leaves—Poplar



PRAIRIE CANADA
CARVING CHAMPIONSHIP
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Best of Show
2013

The Guardian



Bark Carving
I'm not sure if this is Balsam Poplar or Cottonwood bark. Editor

Feathered Cap

Birch

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2013 ISA International Conference and ITCC

August 3 -7 2013 in beautiful Toronto Ontario.

I know lots of us made the trip to see the International Tree Climbing Championships (ITCC) and to cheer on our own Jesse Antonation representing the Prairie chapter making his third appearance in the world championships.

Charlene Scott from Alberta was also representing the Prairie Chapter making her 4th? appearance in the com-



After 3 days of looking up at the ITCC, Matt gets the kink out of his neck by looking down

petition. It was well worth the trip, what a beautiful setting on Toronto Island.

Jesse in a field of 47 placed **17th in the world**. Quite the accomplishment for a prairie tree climber.... So proud!

ITCC Mens results: http://www.itcc-isa.com/resources/events_ITCC_ResultsMen.pdf

Charlene Scott placed 17th (in the world) Way to go Charlene!

ITCC Womens results: http://www.itcc-isa.com/resources/events_ITCC_ResultsWomen.pdf

As you may know by now both Charlene and Jesse have respectively repeated as Prairie Chapter mens and women's champs and will be travelling to Milwaukee in August 2014 to represent the Prairie Chapter.

Congratulations, it truly is an accomplishment and a reward for the very hard work it takes to get to this level. Scott Forrest won the title of 2013 ITCC Men's World Champion making this his second championship win. Women's champion Nicala Ward-Allen, who has competed four times at the international competition, captured her first championship title.

Rake masters Challenge

The first rake masters challenge, I believe was held in Minneapolis in 2005. It is basically a Masters challenge



The Prairie Chapter's Rake Master Challenge Team at the International Tree Climbing Championship in Toronto

for grounds people, a test of their skills. Challengers are divided into teams. I wish my memory was clearer on this, or as a good reporter I took notes...I think there were 4 teams, New England (the winner, I think) and our own Prairie Chapter and 2 other chapters. The events seemed to be

- Log rolling
- Tying an item to a rope
- Raking
- Running

In no particular order....

(We DID NOT win...but not for lack of spirit) hopefully the pictures will speak for this event...

(Continued on page 16)

(Continued from page 15)

Great conference held in downtown Toronto at the convention center. **Martha Barwinsky** gave a great talk entitled: Partnerships in Urban Forest Management – The Winnipeg, Manitoba Story

Very good talk, proud to be from Winnipeg after sitting through this. Winnipeg has really made great advances in urban forestry. Interesting to note; Martha credited the success of Winnipeg’s DED program, in part, to ordinary citizens of Winnipeg. Citizens take note: with EAB coming we cannot rely on Government to save our trees.....

Day of Service

On Sept 28th the ISA Prairie Chapter held its second annual “Day of Service.” at Elmwood Cemetery. Elmwood Cemetery, located in east Winnipeg on the



The Green Drop Crew

banks of the Red River is blessed with an abundance of beautiful mature trees. Approximately 1200 of these trees are American Elms.

Unfortunately, the Cemetery is losing these majestic Elms due to Dutch Elm Disease. Elmwood Cemetery is owned and operated by The Friends of Elmwood Cemetery Inc., a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the restoration, reforestation and beautification of the grounds.

The City Of Winnipeg provides surveillance, sanitation and elm Bark Beetle control for Dutch Elm Disease Management. However, as the Cemetery is a not-for-

profit entity it does not have access to public funds for additional tree maintenance to preserve its valuable elm canopy. There is a critical need for pruning of the trees in the cemetery to help slow down the rate of loss, however there is a shortage of funds for this work.

In 2012 The International Society of Arboriculture along with The Friends of the Elmwood Cemetery hosted “A Day of Service”, with several of ISA’s member companies, and Winnipeg’s finest Arborists donating their time and equipment to prune trees in the Cemetery.

Over 50 mature Elms were pruned, and as a result of the publicity surrounding this event, a significant amount of funds were donated by the public to be earmarked for tree maintenance and preservation. In 2013, six of Winnipeg’s best tree services along with over 20 of Winnipeg’s finest arborists and countless vol-



Trilogy Tree Perseveres despite the Monsoon
Bonita Kliever, Cam Johnson, Paul Gladstone

unteers, returned to the cemetery to continue where we left off in 2012.

Fittingly, the day also coincided with National Forest Week . Unfittingly, the weather did not co-operate. The rain started early in the morning and continued most of the day, only letting up as the day drew to a close...

Undeterred, a small army of arborists and volunteers braved the elements and showed up to prune 63 mature elms, most of which were giants that had never been pruned.

(Continued on page 17)

(Continued from page 16)

Thanks to all the companies and agencies that donated equipment and employees:

City of Winnipeg Forestry
Green Drop Tree Care
Alliance tree care
Trilogy tree
Timberland tree
Davey tree
City Of Winnipeg Forestry
Vermeer Canada

Thanks to companies who donated goods or financial contributions, or in kind:

Sobeys
Starbucks
Danny's Whole Hog
Trees Winnipeg
Davey Tree

And of course thanks to all the hardworking volunteers. Including the employees of Elmwood Cemetery. Special thanks to Davey tree and Steve Soderstrom for their most generous contribution.

A particularly fitting autumn joke as this has probably happened to you, I know it has to me.....

Last October my wife bought a magnolia tree from the local nursery, but after only a few weeks the leaves shriveled. It appeared to be on its last legs. My wife took some leaf samples and marched into the nursery to demand an explanation.

"I know exactly what's wrong with your magnolia," said the manager.

"Good," said my wife. "What's it suffering from?"
"Autumn," he replied

How do you get a man with one arm out of a tree?
Wave to him

Thanks to everyone who has written communicated with me recently regarding concerns or compliments regarding the Chapter and trees in Manitoba in general, always happy to chat.

Matt

I can be reached at: mvinet@greendrop.com

The Green Industry Show & Conference

November 14 & 15 | 2013 | Edmonton EXPO Centre at Northlands | Edmonton | AB

Industry-leading Workshops for Tree Care Professionals

Thursday, November 14 (8:15 am—12:30 pm)

Urban Tree Problems

There are many causes for urban tree decline; insects, diseases and poor root development etc. This workshop brings together three experts who will examine some of these causes.



Dr. Ken Fry, Olds College, will examine insects and diseases and how to mitigate damage with conventional and bio-controls. Invasive plant species will also be reviewed.

Tyler Wist, University of Saskatoon, is leading a Western Canada study on ash trees and will review his research and the solutions to solving this species' problems.

Anita Schill, Olds College, will demonstrate how to perform a forensic investigation to determine tree decline.

Friday, November 15 (8:15 am—12:30 pm)

Managing Work Crews for Excellence

Kevin Kehoe

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- **Effective work planning**
- **Responsible delegation**
- **Motivating workers**
- **Effective communication with workers**
- **Dealing with difficult people**

On June 15th, Forestry launched its Root for Trees initiative at the Summer Solstice Tree Festival. Through partnerships with citizens, communities, businesses and corporate groups the Root for Trees initiative aims to expand Edmonton's urban forest canopy to 20% from its current 10%.

Root for Trees contains a variety of naturalization options including grant applications, facilitated planting events and self guided planting projects. Over the sum-

mer 51 naturalization events and 4 public events were scheduled resulting in 21, 038 trees and shrubs planted in Edmonton exceeding the goal of 16, 000 plants.

Root for Trees continues to gain attention by local Edmontonian's by already scheduling planting events into the spring of 2014.

*Submitted by Joy Lakhan
Greening Technician, City of Edmonton*



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Prairie Provinces - Fall, 2013 Schedule

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NEW COURSE! For anyone who has taken our one day Chainsaw Safety & Cutting Techniques course, and wishes to learn how to fall larger trees and use mechanical advantage for falling backleaners.

Hazard & Danger Tree Cutting & Falling Calgary Nov. 19 & 20

Tree Dynamics & Integrated Risk Assessment Calgary Nov. 21 & 22

Chainsaw Train the Trainer - Caroline, AB - Oct. 20 - 25
This Train the Trainer program is targeted for those wanting to become trainers in the safe use of chainsaws. This 5 day program is an intense period of training that focuses on leadership and training techniques and skills, with a specific skills focus on the Arboriculture Canada 1 day module - Chainsaw Safety & Cutting Techniques. (space limited)



Have Fun - Learn Faster - Retain More



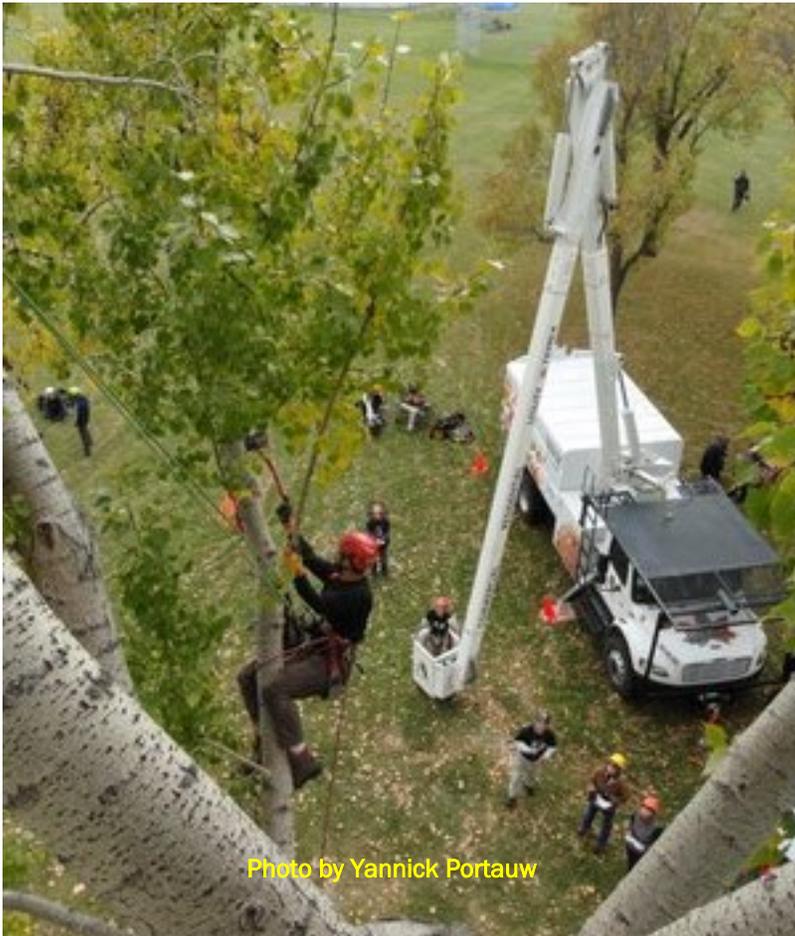


Photo by Yannick Portauw

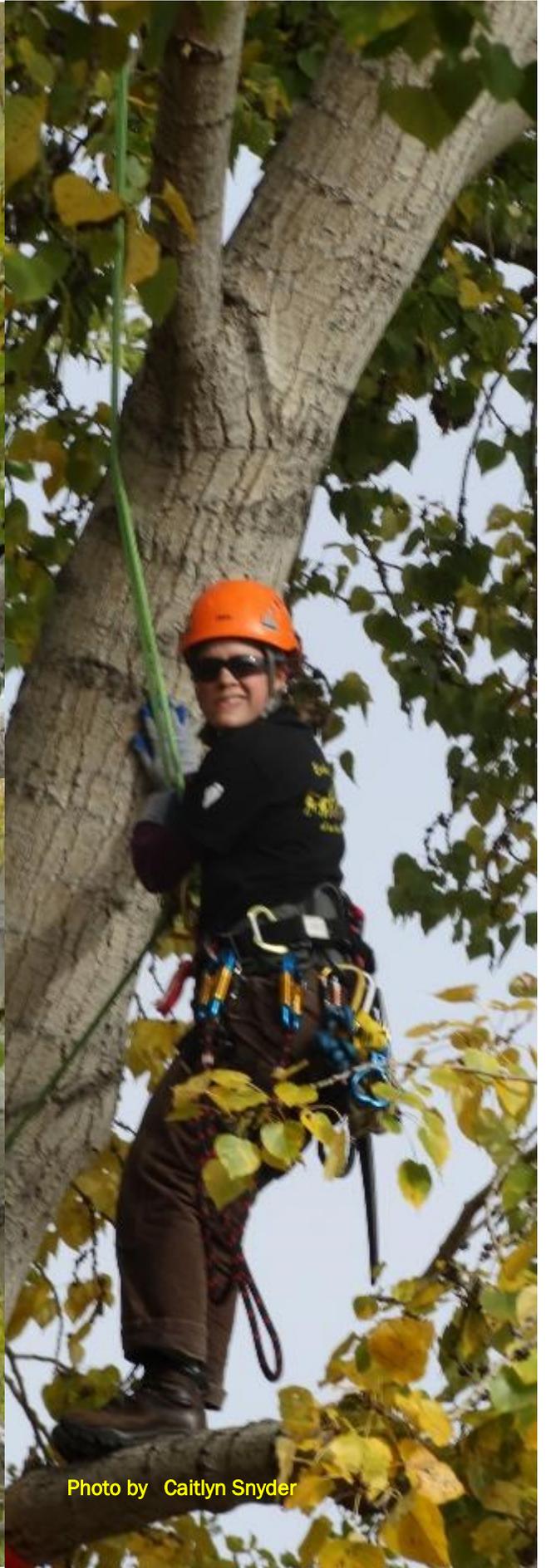


Photo by Caitlyn Snyder



Photo by Yannick Portauw

When was the last time you sharpened your hand pruners or replaced the blade on your handsaw? If you can't remember stop reading and start sharpening! Keeping your tools sharp will reduce wear and tear on equipment as well as your body and quite possibly reduce chances of injury. The cost of a fresh blade far outweighs the cost of a sore shoulder at the end of the day aside from time saved.

More importantly would be the mental or personal toolbox which requires sharpening in the form of learning. As a certified arborist we are required to achieve learning goals in order to recertify. One of my preferred methods of acquiring CEU's is to attend the prairie chapter climbing competition and conference due to the added benefits such as networking with local industry members.

Being a climbing arborist I find that the best way to learn and improve climbing skills is to spend a few days watching and climbing other passionate climbers. It's always fun to watch the masters and try to replicate newly learned climbing methods and technique during a recreational climb.

If you have the chance I strongly recommend attending the international events due to the increased diversity of the event. The trade show is massive and offers a higher selection of different products. Attendees also have the opportunity to attend a wider variety of speaker sessions including symposiums of concurrent sessions. Participating in workshops with Arboriculture Canada Training and Education, for example, are also a great way to improve

more on technical skills such as climbing and rigging which cannot be offered in the timeframe of the conference. Continuing education shouldn't just be a method of up keeping certification it's about making you better at what I am sure you already excel at.

Whether you pick up a book, research online or attend some type of formal training I would encourage everyone to try and learn something new in an area in which they are less familiar in. Think of this as maintenance and personal improvement in a field where there is still so much more to be discovered.

As a member of the Prairie Chapter Board of Directors I would be pleased to hear your thoughts on how we can improve on learning opportunities through workshops and conference speaker sessions.

Submitted by Jean-Mathieu Daoust

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ROOTS, SHOOTS AND SUCKERS

Always take life with a grain of salt, and a slice of lemon and a shot of tequila.

Some people hear voices. Some see invisible people. Others have no imagination whatsoever.

Why does someone believe you when you say there are 4 billion stars, but check when you say the paint is wet?

Hospitality is making your guests feel like they're at home, even if you wish they were.

When tempted to fight fire with fire, remember that the Fire Department usually uses water.

The voices in my head may not be real, but they have some good ideas.



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My back yard- Fall colour lasted more than 2 days this year. Woohoo! *Editor*