



The Prairie Arborist

The Official Publication of the ISA Prairie Chapter Issue 3 2021



Photo by Kelli Anderson



Bonnie Fermanuik
President

As we move into fall, I hope you all took some time with family to enjoy the great weather we had this summer and Your batteries are recharged and are ready for the winter season.

The Chapter Board met September 16 to decide whether we could continue planning for the 2021 St. Albert. It was decided to cancel the live conference. Please see next column.

Board Positions. I want to thank the current board members for their work and dedication to the successful operation of the Chapter during this relentless challenge. Additionally, I would like to encourage any member interested in serving on the Board, to run for one of the open positions. Terms expiring include: Director for Saskatchewan, Director for Alberta, Vice President, and Secretary Treasurer. Both the Vice President and Secretary Treasurer positions are considered Executive positions and require that you have at least one term as a Director in the past.

Silent Auction. Our annual silent auction (in conjunction with the conference) is coming up fast. Please consider donating an item for this worthy cause. A portion of the proceeds raised at the auction goes to the Canadian Tree Fund in support of tree research in Canada. If you can help, please contact the office.

Conference Sponsorship: We are looking for sponsors to help offset the cost of hosting the conference. If you are in a position to assist with this, please contact Keith at the office. All sponsors will be recognized throughout the upcoming year in our newsletter and on the website.

Webinars. If you have specific topics that you are interested in for the upcoming webinar series please let us know.

To the Membership of the ISA Prairie Chapter,

The ISA Prairie Chapter Board has been closely monitoring the development of the Covid 19 virus and the restrictions implemented by the province of Alberta to curb the spread.

The Board met Thursday September 16 to discuss the latest developments.

The Board considered:

- Health and safety risks for all involved
- The fact that the 4th wave of Covid infections is expected to peak later in October
- Low conference registration numbers
- Employer implemented travel bans for employees
- Employer implemented Professional Development bans
- Cancelled registrations
- Financial risk to the Chapter

With the forgoing in mind the Board regrets to inform the membership that, the 2021 Prairie Chapter conference, planned for October 25,26, in St Albert, has been cancelled.

The Chapter will be working towards providing a webinar series in its place, to make up for the missed CEU opportunities. Please watch your email for notification of upcoming webinars. In addition, we will continue to advise the membership on other webinar and CEU opportunities as we are made aware of them.

Thank you for your understanding and patience through this unusual time in our history.

Take care. Stay well.

Bonnie Fermanuik, President

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April 1st to July 31



Save the Date

Certification Exam

The paper based exam that was to take place in St. Albert on October 24 has been **Cancelled.**

All Arborist Certification candidates are encouraged to write their exam on line

Apply for eligibility here:

<https://www.isa-arbor.com/Credentials/Apply-Now/Apply-for-Eligibility>

Enroll to write the exam here:

<https://www.isa-arbor.com/Credentials/Apply-Now/Enroll-to-Take-Exam>

Save the Date

Annual General Meeting and Board Elections 2021

This meeting will be virtual once again this year

The date is yet to be determined

There will be a 1 hour free Webinar worth 1 CEU in conjunction with the AGM

The AGM and Board Election will be held in conjunction with the Webinar

Please watch your email for information regarding the AGM/Elections and Webinar



Save the Date

Tree Risk Assessment Requalification

**Did you know that you can now renew your TRAQ designation on line?
Its true.**

You can register with any Chapter that is hosting an online TRAQ renewal.

For upcoming TRAQ renewal go here:

<https://www.isa-arbor.com/events/eventscalendar/index?category=ISA+Qualification%20Renewal>

For more information please call the Prairie Chapter office at 866-550-7464

Save the Date

The Prairie Chapter Conference

that was to be held in St. Albert, AB
October 25 & 26 2021 has been

CANCELLED

There is a webinar series being planned in its place.

Please watch your email for dates.

More information to follow as the planning unfolds



ASCA's Tree and Plant Appraisal Qualification (TPAQ)

This course is being revised.

There are no workshops available this time.



The 2022 Prairie Chapter Tree Climbing Competition

**is being planned for
August 27, 28 in Regina, SK.**

Wont it be great to be back to normal?

Submitted by Jean Mathieu Daoust

The International Society of Arboriculture and the Prairie Chapter tries to recognize outstanding achievements in the arboriculture profession, as well as the efforts by individuals to make an impact on the urban environment.

International Society of Arboriculture

True Professionals of Arboriculture Recognition Program

The True Professionals of Arboriculture program recognizes members and certified professionals who are role models to their peers and positively represent the profession to the public.

Prairie Chapter

Gold Leaf Awards — Outstanding Arbor Day Activities

This award program recognizes individuals, organizations, and communities for outstanding Arbor Day programs that promote trees, tree care and tree planting. Recipients of this award are chosen regionally by a chapter of the ISA.

Outstanding Landscape Beautification Activities

This award program recognizes individuals, organizations, and communities for outstanding Landscape Beautification programs or community landscape beautification projects that have a significant impact on communities or regions. Recipients of this award are chosen regionally by a chapter of the ISA.

Outstanding Contribution to the Board Board Member

In recognition of a Board member's sustained outstanding efforts or contribution to the advancement of the ISA Prairie Chapter and its goals, events or special projects.

Nominees must be serving on the Board currently or newly retired from the Board

Student Recognition Award

In recognition of sustained outstanding efforts or contribution to the advancement of the guiding principles of the ISA Prairie Chapter. Nominees must be a student enrolled in an arboriculture/horticulture program or newly graduated

Lifetime Achievement Award

In recognition of sustained outstanding efforts or contribution to the advancement of the ISA Prairie Chapter and the Arboriculture Industry on the prairies. Nominees must be retiring from active employment to qualify for this award.

If you would like to nominate anyone for any of these awards please contact:

Jean Mathieu Daoust 403-861-6013



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Drought & Trees - Impact, Care and Maintenance

By Toso Bozic

Due to climate change, Western Canada and USA area experiencing unprecedented levels of forest fires with devastating effects on people, communities, economy, and environment. Record breaking temperatures and prolonged drought greatly impact trees and forest communities.

The direct impact of drought on trees is characterized by slowing or eliminating growth, severe affects on over all vigour causing injury or death. Drought also impacts trees indirectly, by increasing their susceptibility to wild-fire, insect pests and disease. Severe droughts cause widespread tree mortality across landscape (urban, acreage, farm, county or province wide) with profound effects on the function of tree/forestry ecosystems and overall environment.

Native prairie plant communities (grass, shrubs and trees) are well adapted for dry summer and fall as well as for a period of prolong drought but, still the effect and impact of droughts on trees are devastating and long lasting. A drought may be short-lived (few weeks or a month) or, perhaps lasting one growing season or multi-year events, but its impact on a tree's health can last much longer. Trees that were already stressed by some other issue, like harsh winter/winterkill, poor soils, salt, herbicides and mechanical damage or insect infestation, are likely to decline even more following a drought.

How drought affects trees

No different than humans, trees need water to survive on hot, dry days. Many trees can survive for only short times under extreme heat and dry conditions. First tree response to the drought is the closing of the leaf pores called stomata. These pores are very important for photosynthesis process by controlling the amount of CO₂ they are taking to produce the sugar. Trees survive by moving water from their roots to their leaves through small cylindrical vessels that are connected within trees. Drought also disrupts the water transport by reducing the amount of water available for the tree.

Due to drought, the moisture in the air and soil are declining, small air bubbles are formed in the vascular system creating embolisms that block the water's flow.

Symptoms of Drought

There are many visible drought stress symptoms due to

(Continued on page 6)




ISA 2021 International Virtual Conference Registration Now Open

ISA is excited to announce the opening of early bird registration for the ISA 2021 International Virtual Conference!

The ISA 2021 International Virtual Conference offers an online forum for participants to network with others in the arboricultural profession.

This virtual event provides a lineup of more than 40 on-demand educational breakout sessions led by industry leaders from around the globe, sharing their thoughts and views about the research, practice, and technology in our industry.

Members can register now for a discounted rate of \$169! Don't miss this premier event and register today!

water deficiency. The effects are not always immediate and the full extent of the damage to the trees can take one to three years to become apparent.

In deciduous (hardwood) trees, some of the most common recognizable drought symptoms are:

- Scorching (margins/edge) of the leaves is browning
- Wilting, curling, bending, rolling and mottling of the leaves
- Lighter green to yellow-green foliage
- Leaves dropping/shedding or early autumn colour changes



Leaf Scorch on Aspen

UGA2122026

- Chlorosis
- Smaller size leaves, stunted shoots
- Seed/cone production is increasing as tree is under the stress
- Cracks on bark of young trees

In coniferous trees, drought symptoms are recognizable by shoots drooping, browning, second year needles yellowing and, they will often produce an abundance of cones the second year of a drought. As drought intensifies and prolongs,

the effect on the whole tree exhibits dieback of twigs, branches, and general thinning of the crown.

Leaves, twigs and small branches in the topmost and large lateral branches will begin to die. In the interior of the tree, leaves are more concentrated around the trunk with many trees producing epicormic shoots. Roots are the “engine” for the trees and when drought conditions persist, the fine hair-like roots, whose primary function is to absorb moisture, begin to die back. Under prolonged droughts, even the larger, fibrous roots are lost.

What can be done to reduce impact of drought?

To reduce the impact of drought, proper tree care includes:

- proper watering – see Blog page on Drought and Watering Trees
- Mulching - putting arborist wood chips mulch to protect roots from drying out – see Blog page on Mulching
- Do not prune or remove live branches
- Do not fertilize trees
- Control weeds to reduce competition for water
- Do not disturb soil by mechanical weed control as you may damage roots and expose soil to moisture loss
- Pest management control including spraying of insects such as defoliators,
- Avoid any mechanical damages such as cutting surface roots, damaging root collar or bark on trunk
- Considering planting diversity of trees and shrubs that are resistant to drought

Watering is crucial for your tree survival during the drought. There are several things to consider regarding watering during the drought:

1. **Test your water for sodium** before watering your trees. If it contains high

levels of sodium, it will kill your trees fast and not provide chances for them to survive.

2. **Check moisture** in soil by using a garden trowel or knife to a depth of 4 -6 inches.

3. **Amount of water** - still today, science does not provide an exact amount of water for each tree but there are some rules of thumb. During drought, trees grown in sites without lawn irrigation need approximately 10 gallons (38 liters of water each week per inch (2.5 cm) of trunk diam-



Photo from Missouri Botanical Garden

eter measured.

4. **Timing** – the optimal time to water trees is early in the morning. Try to avoid water late at night due to potential of developing fungus. Also, it is extremely important to water trees when temperature is scorching during the day. If your trees are showing signs of water stress in the middle of the day, by all means you should water them.

5. **Where/area to water** – very common mistake people practice is to put water hose right next to the

(Continued on page 7)

trunk. Trees should be watered what an arborist calls “**drip line**” –an imaginary line extending from the outermost branch tips straight down to the ground.

6. **Water delivery mechanism** – drip irrigation is the best way to water trees as you can control the amount of water delivered as well as the speed of water droplets. If you don't have drip irrigation and using a hose, sprinklers, water gator bags, and buckets, it is extremely important to perform long and slow soaking at the outer edge of the drip line. Avoid any water run offs and water hitting the trunk.

7. **Frequency of watering** –water trees once a week with slow soaking water. Avoid overwatering if you have heavy clay in your soil.

8. Do not forget to **water trees in fall** – see Blog about fall tree watering

Mulching is a must and provides a very important function during the drought - protects roots from extreme

(Continued on page 8)



Picture is from Alabama A&M

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(Continued from page 7)

heat and keeps moisture around trees. Create a donut-shaped wood chip cover around your tree to keep water inside. Applying 4-6 inches (10 -15 cm) of arborist wood chips mulch will greatly reduce loss of moisture in the soil. A layer of woodchips mulch will maintain more constant soil temperatures and moisture.

Fertilization – Avoid adding any fertilizer during the drought. Fertilize trees next spring

Weed control – remove any weed competition by either pulling or using herbicide

Pruning – avoid cutting any live branch with leaves. Remove dead branches next spring

Pest management – use proper identification and pest management techniques to reduce stress to trees

Mechanical damages- avoid any roots, root collar or trunk damage by lawn mowers and weed whackers

Tree diversity – plant tree species that are more resilient to drought as well



Drought Induced Leaf Scorch on Linden - Photo by NSF

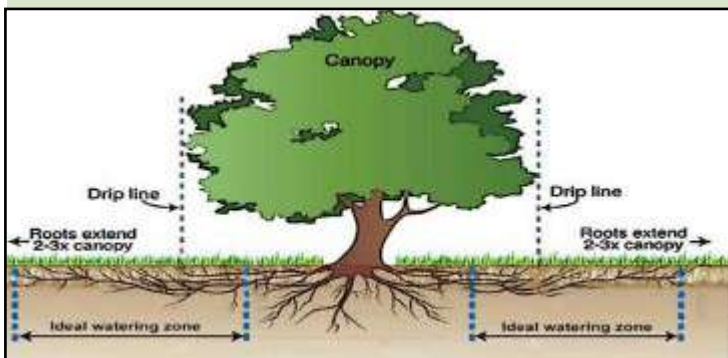


Photo source : Trees for Missoula -
<https://www.treesformissoula.org/watering-trees>

Overall, drought is very hard on trees and can kill them.

Providing water, wood chip mulch, manage pest problems, and avoid some common mistakes will go a long way to help trees survive, remain healthy and avoid long term negative impact of drought stress. Many trees have survived extreme droughts in the past. With a little help, trees can survive and thrive.

Toso Bozic P.Ag

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Pruning is the most common tree maintenance procedure. Although forest trees grow well with only nature's pruning, landscape trees require a higher level of care to maintain their structural integrity and aesthetics. Pruning must be done with an understanding of tree biology because improper pruning can create lasting damage or shorten the tree's life.

Reasons for Pruning

Because each cut has the potential to change the growth of the tree, no branch should be removed without a reason. Common reasons include:

- Removing dead branches, improving form, and to reduce risk.
- To increase light and air penetration to the inside of the tree's crown or to the landscape below.
- Generally, mature trees are pruned as corrective or preventive measures.

Routine thinning does not necessarily improve the health of a tree. Trees produce a dense crown of leaves to manufacture the sugar used as energy for growth and development. Removal of foliage through pruning can reduce growth and stored energy reserves. Heavy pruning can be a significant health stress for the tree.

When to Prune

Most light, routine pruning to remove weak, dead, or diseased limbs can be accomplished at any time during the year with little effect on the tree.

As a rule, growth and wound closure are maximized if pruning takes place before the spring growth flush. Some trees, such as maples and birches, tend to "bleed" if pruned early in the spring. It may be unsightly, but it is of little consequence to the tree.

Heavy pruning of live tissue just after the spring growth flush should be avoided, especially on weak trees. At that time, trees have just expended a great deal of energy to produce foliage and early shoot growth. Removal of a large percentage of foliage at that time can stress the tree.

A few tree diseases, such as oak wilt, can be spread through pruning wounds and provide access to pathogens (disease causing agents). Susceptible trees should not be pruned during active transmission periods.

How Much Should Be Pruned?

The amount of live tissue that should be removed depends on the tree's size, species, age, and pruning objectives. Younger trees tolerate the removal of a higher percentage of living tissue better than mature trees.

Generally, no more than 25% of the crown should be removed at once, and less for mature trees.

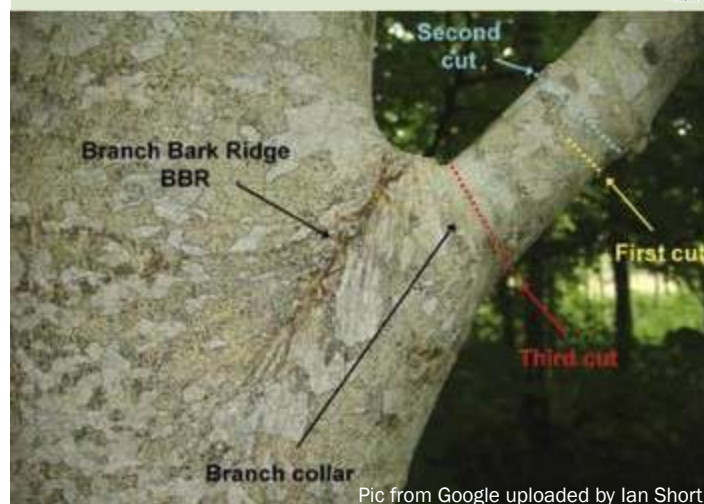
Removal of a single, large-diameter limb can create a wound that may not be able to close. Care should be taken to meet pruning objectives.

Making Proper Pruning Cuts

A correct pruning cut removes the branch just outside of the collar. Do not make cuts flush to the trunk. Trunk tissues above and below a flush cut branch often die, creating dead spots. If a collar has grown out on a dead limb, make the cut just beyond the collar. Do not cut the collar. There are many outside considerations that make it necessary to prune trees such as: safety, clearance, and compatibility with other components of a landscape.

Proper pruning, with an understanding of tree biology, can maintain good tree health and structure while enhancing the aesthetic and economic values of our landscapes.

This is from Tree Owner Information at Treearegood.org, check it out. Great info for explaining tree care to your customers.



Pic from Google uploaded by Ian Short

Keep Alberta DED free

- Under the Alberta *Agricultural Pests Act (APA)* "Pest and Nuisance Control Regulation (PNCR)" the Dutch Elm Disease (DED) pathogens, smaller European elm bark beetle, and the native elm bark beetle are named declared pests.
- DED prevention/control measures for Alberta are enforceable under the APA and are found on the STOPPED website.
- Elm trees from a DED infected province cannot be shipped into Alberta.
- Elm Pruning Ban is April 1-September 30 annually.

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By Emily Harris

Communication Coordinator | Coordonnatrice des communications
Tree Canada | Arbres Canada

“The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit.” — Nelson Henderson

Here are ten reasons why we should plant trees today and the benefits they will provide us for generations to come:

1. Trees bring communities together

All around us, trees mark the spots where every day and extraordinary life happens. Standing tall and immobile, they are a focal point in our neighbourhoods and our memories. Each one unique and with a distinct presence, trees mark special occasions in our lives from family picnics to engagements, moments of solitude and reflection to the starting point for new adventures. In our communities, trees identify meeting spots as they stand out from the surrounding urban sprawl, a meet-up at the tallest pine, or the weepiest willow can become the start of an adventure. As we plant new trees, we must remember that the trees of today will become the landmarks of the future and that we must choose their locations with care.

2. Trees mark a moment in time

If you've counted the rings of a tree or witnessed the old growth forests across our country, you know that trees have a long lifespan. Although most urban trees have a life expectancy of about 80 years, the oldest tree in Canada is estimated to be between 2,500-3,000 years old. There are a few places in Canada, like the city of Vancouver and the province of Ontario that have a Heritage Tree database, which distinguishes trees with historical or cultural significance. These trees tell a story about the history of the area and the people who have lived there. A tree planted today will become a landmark for the future!

3. Trees nourish us

Trees not only offer us many benefits, including shade, beauty or habitat for wildlife, but they can also offer the bounty of food! There are many trees that grow fruit and nuts, such as apple, maple, cherry, saskatoon berry, walnut, hickory, hazelnut, chestnut, butternut, and so many more. When thinking about planting a tree, consider this added benefit as well – not just for humans but for the other living things that share our planet too!

4. Trees provide a place to call home

Trees host many wildlife species, especially birds, mammals, and rodents. When it comes to habitat, every ani-

mal has its own specific requirements. Some prefer to live in the treetops rather than in the trunk, while others like dead trees or have a preference for deciduous or evergreen trees. That is why it is important to plant trees that offer a variety of habitat for wildlife.

Trees play an important role for animals, in rural settings as much as in the forest. Trees offering urban wildlife habitat let humans observe and appreciate the many animals living around them.

5. Trees are an investment with compounding benefits

By its simple nature, a tree offers compounding benefits as it grows and ages. As it ages, the tree grows in size, sequesters more and more carbon, intercepts more sun light, and gives an ever-expanding amount of space for people and animals to live and play. A tree that is well cared for in the urban environment may seem small, almost insignificant, at the time of planting, but they will grow and offer benefits to their surrounding environment and future generations, once in their prime.

6. Trees are gifts for the future

As a tree grows, so too does its benefits over time. Like we are able to offer and pass on the wealth of our knowledge as we age, so too does a tree in terms of the benefits it can provide. The time, effort, and resources we invest into planting trees in our urban and rural landscapes will primarily benefit those that follow us. When you plant a tree you must imagine what it will become in 50 years. You must imagine someone else walking beneath it and benefiting from the shade and beauty it offers. As you imagine that, give a silent moment of gratitude to those who planted and maintained the urban and rural canopies we get to enjoy today.

7. Trees build resilience against natural disaster Trees are great allies in adapting to climate change. They significantly increase community resilience in face of extreme climate events while offering concrete benefits to the population, including limiting the impact of natural disasters. With recurring wildfires affecting Canada, several cities now follow FireSmart planting principles to mitigate the impact of fires. Trees also act as wind-breaks and offer a protection against tropical storms, in addition to stabilizing steep slopes to reduce landslide risks. These are only a few examples of why trees are our allies to face natural disasters.

8. Trees are a natural solution to climate change

One way in which trees reduce the severity of climate change is through carbon sequestration. A tree that lives to 100 years old in a typical Canadian forest can sequester anywhere between 370 and 460 kg of CO₂ over its lifetime. To put that into perspective, that is the same

amount of carbon emitted from an 850 km drive in a compact car. Do you know what your carbon footprint is? Tree Canada has a carbon calculator to help you understand how much carbon you emit through energy usage and transportation. This calculator can also tell you how many trees you would need to plant to offset your yearly emissions.

9. Trees make us happy and healthy

There is a growing body of research that shows exposure to trees provide positive health benefits. More specifically, research demonstrates that walking in a forest can decrease symptoms of anxiety and depression, increase vigor, decrease cortisol levels, and increase our ability to recover from stress.

10. Trees support us, so we should support and plant more of them!

Quite simply, why not plant a tree? Whether on your property, with your employees or colleagues, or as part

of a planting event organized in your community; you simply need to find a planting opportunity that works for you. The benefits are clear, and the reasons are endless – what is your motivation to plant a tree?

Canada's Oldest Tree

From Monumental Trees Canada

Limber pine 'Whirlpool Point Limber Pine' along the river Whirlpool Point in Cline River, Alberta, Canada

There is one Limber pine (*Pinus flexilis*) along the river Whirlpool Point in Cline River (municipality of Nordegg).

This tree is called "Whirlpool Point Limber Pine". Estimated age for this tree is about 2500-3000 years, making it the oldest living Limber Pine in the world.

A core sample was taken in 1986 and the 10cm core counted 400 rings.

I made some trunk measurements in the spring of 2016 and the main trunk measured 108" circumference, the lower trunk, 185".

Extrapolating this data would make the tree about 3000 years old.

(Erwin Gruber, 15.03.2018): Heights of measurements above presumed point of germination are just estimated, might be corrected in case.

See images of the ancient limber pine taken by Dave Belcher at GigaPan.

Photo and description at GigaPan by Dave Belcher who apparently added the limber pine and measurements here.

(Continued on page 12)



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(Continued from page 11)

The girth was measured more than once

Girth at .2 metres — 4.70 metres

Girth at 1 metre — 2.74 metres

As this tree is a tree with multiple trunks, the girth can be larger than what would be expected of the tree of this age. Its height is not known.

Limber Pine *Pinus flexilis*

Description by Natural Resources Canada

Trunk: On mature trees, short, thick, Markedly tapered, Usually crooked

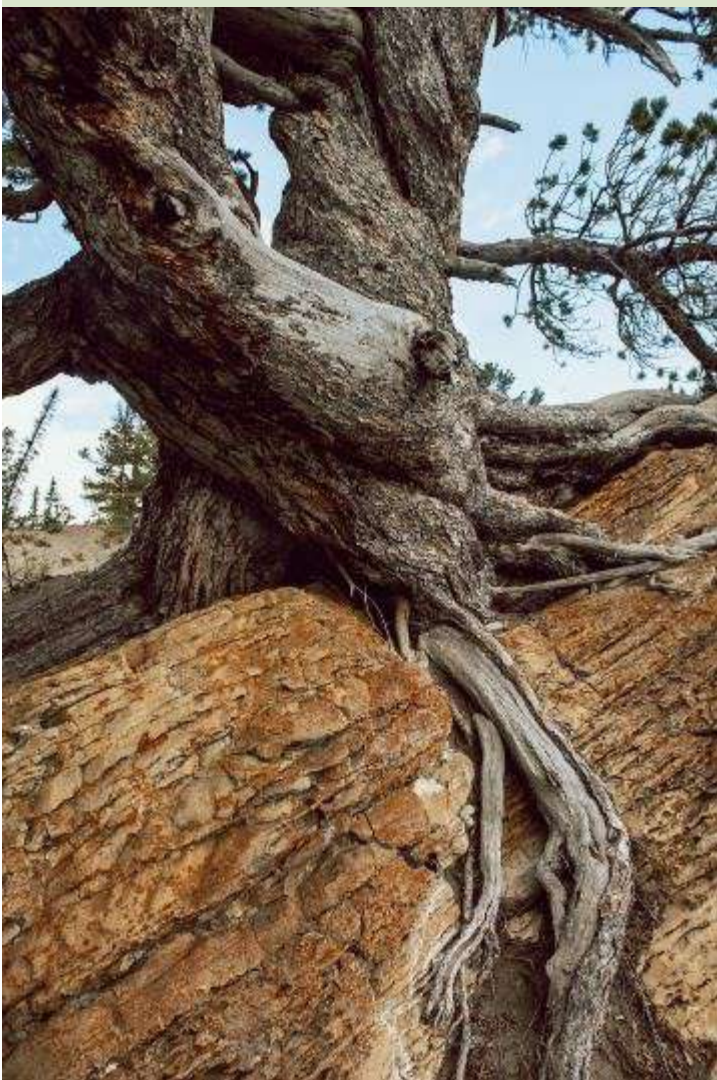
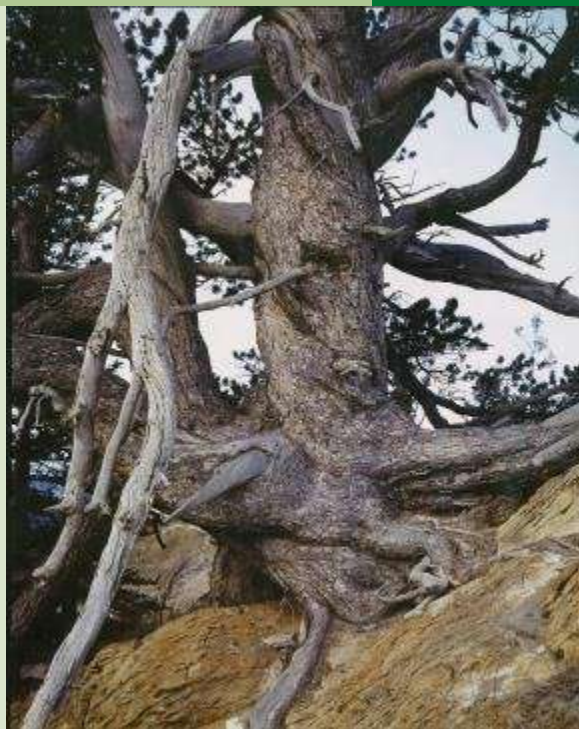
Crown: Irregular, extending over most of the tree's length, young branches very tough, flexible, hence the name "limber" pine, old branches tend to droop, tips upturned

Very old trees sometimes with lower branches longer than the height of the tree

Habitat: Above 1000 m to the tree line, Occurs mainly as single trees or in small open groves on dry rocky exposed sites, Grows on a variety of soils, In southern Alberta, forms forest outliers on rocky outcrops along the edge of the prairie

Light tolerance: Full sun

Range: Southern British Columbia and Alberta



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Communicating the "Why" of Tree Removals

Alexander Martin

Director, Ironwood Consulting Inc. www.ironwood-consulting.com

As part of an on-going research study on perceptions of arboriculture practices among the general public, increased scrutiny has highlighted itself on many counts.

Tree removals and their impacts have become scrutinized among the public, and coverage of tree removals have included criticizing arboriculture companies or provincial utilities by name on social media or in newspapers. Coverage has included arboriculture companies cutting down Dutch elm disease infected trees and city contractors removing trees to make way for a development.

Criticism over tree removal is not a new thing; however, our review of grey literature indicates that public criticism increased during the pandemic. In reviewing coverage of the incidents that impacted public property, we visited the sites to see if the removal of the trees were justified by literature.

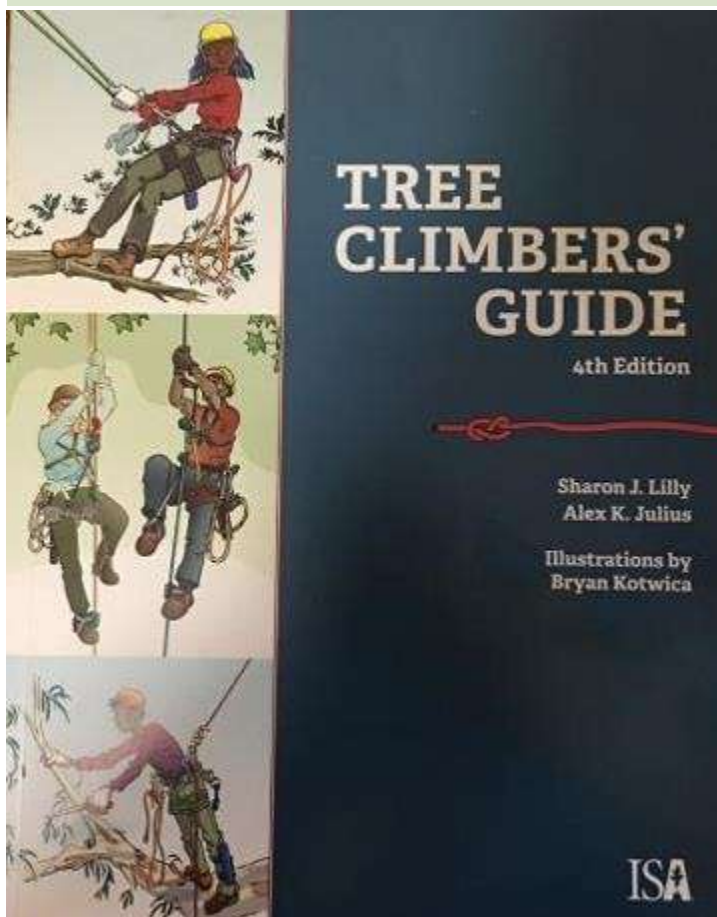
In almost 90% of the incidents examined, arboriculture industry standards, best management practices, and academic literature would have justified removal of the trees. This included objectives such as limiting pest

spread (ex. Dutch elm disease, emerald ash borer), utility line clearance operations, and removal of high-risk trees.

Despite support from arboriculture literature, companies were still criticized, including companies being tagged in social media posts shaming them for their involvement in tree removals. In recognizing this increased scrutiny, our survey research indicated that homeowners were usually unaware of the reasons behind the removals, prompting questions that were left unanswered by the companies removing the trees.

This highlights how communication proceeding the removal of trees, whether by way of forewarning or public education – the latter regularly appreciated several times moreover – led to reduced criticism from property owners.

The shift in public demand towards tree preservation may further underscore the need to take a sustainability-based approach to tree care operations, inclusive of tree planting initiatives. Additionally, those who have tailgate sessions with their crews, consider discussing interactions with clients such that your crews can appropriately educate clients about necessary tree removals.



The Newly Revised Tree Climbers' Guide, 4th edition is Now Available

Written specifically from the tree climbers' perspective, the newly revised Tree Climbers' Guide by Sharon J. Lilly and Alex K. Julius, helps arborists learn safe climbing and aerial tree work principles.

This guide is a basic text for tree climbers, as well as a study guide for the ISA Certified Tree Worker Climber Specialist® and Aerial Lift Specialist® exams. Each chapter includes a list of key terms and concludes with a workbook section.

Featuring more than 270 illustrations by artist Bryan Kotwica, the fourth edition includes three new chapters: Moving Rope Systems (MRS), Stationary Rope Systems (SRS), and Climbing Equipment.

Each chapter consist of a list of key terms and concludes with a workbook sections. Additionally, the *Tree Climbers' Guide* comes with appendices with answers to the workbook questions, a glossary and resources for further reference.



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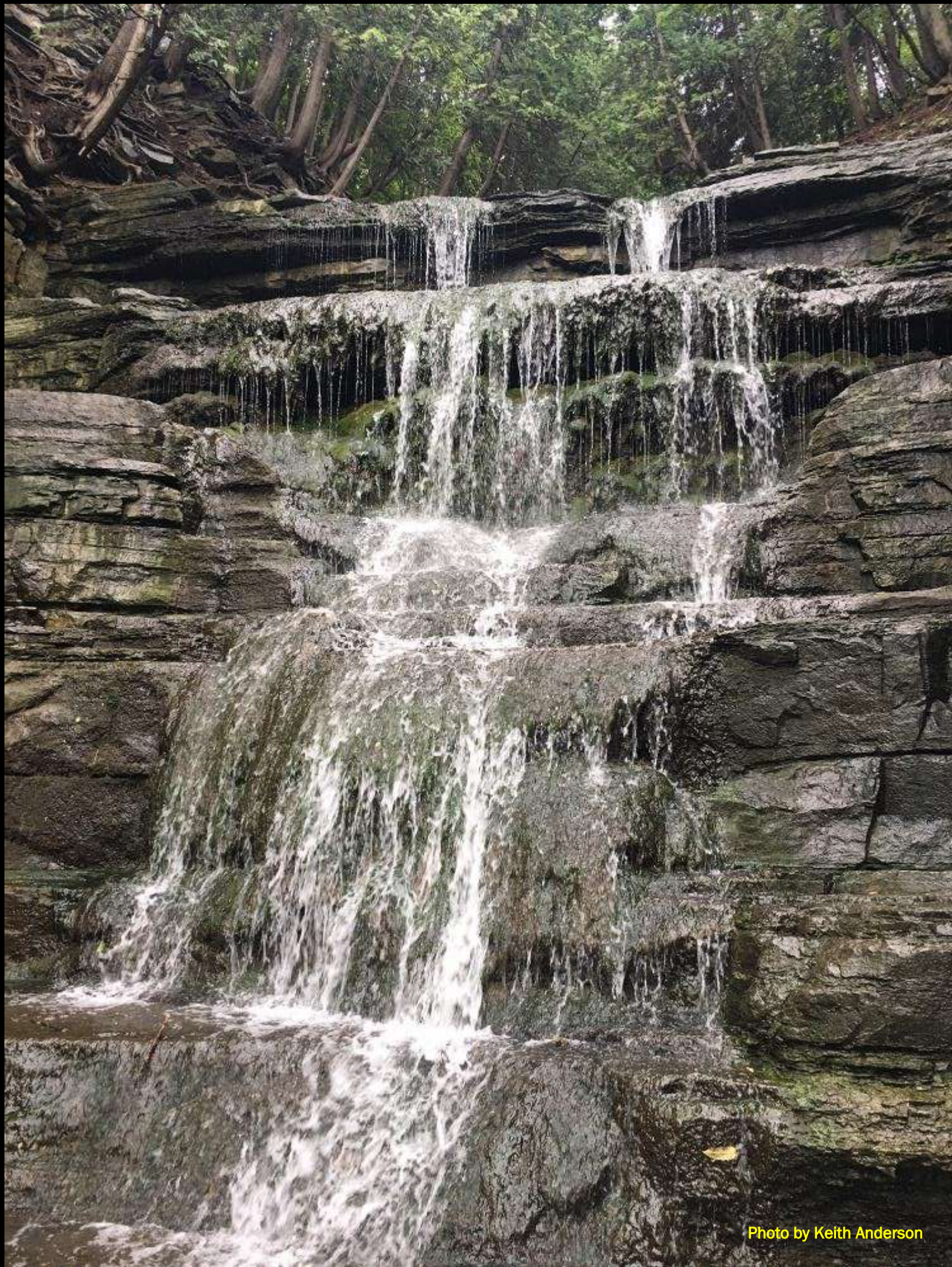


Photo by Keith Anderson