



# MEMBER NEWS

Improving San Diego's quality of life through proper tree care.

APRIL 2019

PO Box 796 | Orange, CA 92856

## May 2019 PTCA General Meeting

Join us this May for the next PTCA General Meeting. We will once again meet at Filippi's Pizza Grotto in San Diego. After an Executive Meeting of our Board (all members are welcome!), we will begin our General Meeting at 6:30 PM.

This month, Ricardo Aguilar, of Aguilar Plant Care, will be presenting on what to expect after our unusual weather and excess rainfall. This will be a good session for diagnosing problems.

Remember how the disease triangle focuses your investigation? The host and the pathogen can be in balance until the environment changes and begins to favor one or the other. What types of influences will those high winds and above-average rainfalls have on our trees and landscape? We will also discuss other unexpected issues,

including weed outbreaks, requiring more chemical control; pest populations like insects or rodents; disease and disorders like Anthracnose or Fireblight; and more. Ricardo will give us his opinions on what signs and symptoms we might expect to see and potential response measures.

We look forward to seeing you on Tuesday, May 7! Remember, this is your best monthly opportunity for CEUs and a great chance to network with other tree-care professionals in the San Diego area.

The cost for this meeting is \$25 for members and \$30 for non-members. If you bring a prospective member as your guest, they get dinner free!

Please visit our website at [www.ptcasandiego.org](http://www.ptcasandiego.org) to register, or contact our office at 714.639.6516.

### Monthly Meeting Details

Date: Tuesday, May 7, 2019

Location: Filippi's Pizza Grotto  
969 Mira Mesa Blvd  
San Diego, 92131

Cost: Members - \$25  
Non-Members - \$30

Register: [www.ptcasandiego.org](http://www.ptcasandiego.org)

**Executive Meeting 5:30 PM**  
*All Members Welcome!*

**General Meeting 6:30 PM**  
*Dinner Included with Meeting Price*

#### Scheduled Topic

Unusual Weather: What Now?  
Ricardo Aguilar; Aguilar Plant Care

### Highlights from this Issue

Page 3 March Meeting Summary

Page 5 PTCA So. County Arbor Day Recap



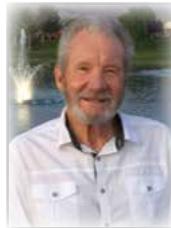
*A photo of one of our volunteers from the March 29 South County Arbor Day Service Event! Read more on page 5.*

Page 6 TREE TIPS:  
Mulch Mounds, Oh My!

Page 7 TREE OF THE MONTH:  
Evergreen Pear (*Pyrus kawakami*)

### PTCA NEWS

## Celebration of Life: Richard Magargal



Pahrump, NV: Beloved father and grandfather, Richard "Rich" Margargal, passed away on March 10, 2019. He was born in San Bernardino, California, on April 24, 1938.

His light will be truly missed in Pahrump but he will live on in our memories and in our actions as we love our neighbors as ourselves and preach the gospel following his example.

Richard is survived by his four children, Ron Salazar of Adelanto, Calif., Rene Wallace of Pahrump, Richard K. Magargal of El Cajon Calif. and Jennifer Charpentiere of Escondido Calif., as well as 13 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

A Celebration of Life is scheduled for 2:00 PM, Saturday, April 27th, at Mountain View Community Church, 1191 Meadowlark Way, Ramona, CA, 92065.

### 2019 SUMMER TREE WALK SERIES June Details

Our June tree walk will be at the San Diego Zoo. We plan to explore the tree tales in the 'Africa Rocks' exhibit. Admission will be comped for a limited number of people; **pre-registration is required**.

No walk-ins please. Please use the website portal at [www.ptcasandiego.org](http://www.ptcasandiego.org) to register, similar to registering for a general meeting.

If you have a Zoo Membership, please let us know!

Plan to meet between 4:15 - 4:35 PM at the Lion Statue by the Main Entrance. After check-in of participants, we will enter as a group at 4:45 PM. **No entry for late arrivals!**

The Zoo closes at 6:00 PM and we will need to be off the grounds by then.



# President's Update

April 2019



**Evan Sims**  
Plan-It Geo, LLC  
ISA Certified Arborist  
WE-9314AT, TRAQ  
ASCA Registered  
Consulting Arborist #582

Happy April, Members!

As my term as your PTCA president nears an end, I have been reflecting on the past, and looking in to the future of our organization. We have accomplished quite a bit in the last few years, especially with adding better structure and support from Epicenter Management. Additionally, the summer seminar continues to grow each year. All credit, of course, goes to those on our Seminar Committee who work very hard all year to plan a quality program.

As I look forward, I see loads of opportunity to further the mission of the PTCA in educating local arborists. Our ability to further this mission lies in the commitment of the professionals who volunteer to lead the PTCA. We have had some great

additions to the Board of Directors recently, but there are still plenty of opportunities to volunteer and add value to the PTCA. If you are reading this, and have wondered how you can impact San Diego's urban forest, and the professionals who care for it, on a bigger scale than just your day to day job, this is the place to do it. The organization is very open to exploring new ways to engage with the next generation of tree care professionals and stay relevant. We very much welcome anyone who has even just a few hours a month to volunteer to ensure the PTCA continues to grow and provide value to the industry we love.

If this sparks interest, I encourage you to call me (858-245-6176) or any board member for more information on what you can do to give back and open new doors in your professional career!

Thanks!

*Evan Sims*  
PTCA President

## UPCOMING PTCA MEETINGS

**MAY**  
May 7, 2019  
General Meeting  
"Unusual Weather:  
What Now?"  
Ricardo Aguilar, Aguilar  
Plant Care

## 2019 TREE WALK SERIES

**JUNE**  
June 4, 2019  
San Diego Zoo:  
Africa Rocks  
Dan Simpson

**JULY**  
May 7, 2019  
Escondido Park  
Chris Gunther

**AUGUST**  
May 7, 2019  
Santee Lakes  
Quint Driscoll

## PTCA PERSPECTIVES

### March Meeting Summary

April is the month our nation celebrates Arbor Day. The speakers and topics reflected this theme. We heard from Rachele Melious, of Tree San Diego, on their Tree Steward Training program; and Brian Bruce from Rainbow Tree Care Scientific Advancements, about the Saluting Branches Program.

Rachele Melious introduced Tree San Diego as a 501(c)(3) organization that is working to reverse the significant deficit in our urban forest. The awareness of the benefits of healthy trees in an urban forest requires increasing the quantity of trees. That translates to planting the right tree in the right location for providing maximum environmental benefit.

Tree San Diego works with a variety of collaborative agencies and organizations for funding and labor. As they accomplished their community planting projects, they identified a need for volunteer education and monitoring of the new trees that were being planted. Consequently, The San Diego Regional Tree Stewardship Certification Program came into being. This led to the development of their Tree Stewards Manual. Now in its 2nd edition, this has become a useful training aid for volunteers and trainers.

Rachele shared an engaging animated program they have developed to showcase the different training modules. These included a wide range, from knowledge of soil, planting, and watering at installation, to monitoring and management of tree health afterward. Workshops they have conducted with the manual have proved effective for a wide audience from 5th grade to adult. This program has expanded to the point where they have their program and have influence.

Next, Brian Bruce shared the story of Saluting Branches. This non-profit organization was created by Rainbow Tree Care several years ago. Saluting Branches is explained as Arborists United for Veteran Remembrance. This is a national day of service charity for tree care professionals to give back to our military veterans and their families.

When Brian and others tried to get the movement started they reached out to other organizations for guidance. The common response was "nice thought but it will never work", "too complicated". Brian's group persevered and the successful result was Saluting Branches; A day of service for veterans cemetery's across the nation.

The mission statement reads: We Honor American service men and women by organizing volunteer tree and landscape care for the property dedicated to our veterans. The services provided range from tree removal and stump grinding to tree planting and pruning. They have arranged for a large number of industry sponsors and there is even a unique commemorative rope that is awarded each year. One sponsor, Chik-Fil-A, donated over 1,000 lunches last year!

Please consider joining the event here in San Diego on September 18, 2019. Visit the website (<https://www.salutingbranches.org/>) to see video tributes and get details on how you can get involved.

Thank you, Brian, your presentation generated some emotional memories for several members.

## **March 2019 General Meeting Minutes**

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**Members Present:**

Evan Sims (*President*), Miguel Sibrian (*Vice President*), Ricardo Aguilar (*Secretary*), Brad Brown (*Treasurer*), Dan Simpson, Delia Juncal (*Epicenter Management*).

**Executive Meeting called to order at 5:30 PM by President Evan Sims.****Old Business:**

- Reviewed minutes from March meeting.
- March minutes approved.

**New Business:**

- Board discussed the positives of the updates to the PTCA bylaws as mentioned by Mike Poffenberger last month.
- Board discussed different ideas on how PTCA can continue to build "value" in being part of the PTCA..

**Executive Meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM by Evan Sims.****Member Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM.**

- Stan Baczynski announced that the PTCA will have a booth at the upcoming San Diego Fair. Tentative dates are: June 14, 15, 16; June 21, 22, 23; and July 1 and 2. Please sign up to volunteer if interested.
- Brian Bishop announced that we can hold a North County Arbor Day at Quail Botanical April 26th. Please contact Brian if you are interested in joining.
- Dan Simpson (Education) gave a upcoming schedule on speakers and education events.

**Speaker:****Rachele Melious, Tree San Diego**

- Rachele shared details on the Tree Steward Training and Certification Program of Tree San Diego.
- She also offered suggestions on how PTCA members can get involved in the program.

**Brian Bruce, Rainbow Treecare Scientific Advancements**

- Brian shared details on Saluting Branches, a service project honoring veteran cemeteries.
- Saluting Branches is a non-profit organization dedicated to recognizing and honoring our veterans by helping to make their final resting places a safe and beautiful environment for all who visit.
- The next event for Saluting Branches September 18, 2019.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.**

Meeting took place at Filippi's Pizza Grotto, Scripps Ranch, 9969 Mira Mesa Blvd, San Diego, on April 2, 2019.  
Minutes submitted by Secretary Ricardo Aguilar.

**UPCOMING PTCA EVENTS**

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: PTCA Proper Tree Care Info Booth**

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The PTCA is still looking for volunteers to staff the booth at this year's SD County Fair. Shifts run from either 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM, or from 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM. Our booth dates are: Sunday, June 16; Friday - Sunday, June 21-23; and Monday - Tuesday, July 1-2.

Both the Friday and Monday morning shifts will ensure that the booth is properly set up. Stan B. will email photos of the booth setup to these volunteers, and he will handle the initial setup on Friday, June 14.

The Sunday afternoon shifts will en-

sure that the booth materials are stored and stowed away in the shelves/cabinets of the booth. Stan plans to work the afternoon shift on Tuesday, July 2, to remove the materials.

Volunteers will be assured 2 free passes into the fair per shift taken. Offsite parking is free, including a shuttle to/from the main gate on Saturdays and Sundays from both Torrey Pines HS and Mira Costa College. See sdfair.com for onsite and Horse Park pricing.

This year, the booth will be outside the O'Brien Building, under the shade

cloth where the Garden Displays are built. Other horticultural/garden organizations will be staffing our booth on the days that we aren't.

To volunteer, please contact Stan as soon as possible to secure a date that works for you. You can reach Stan by phone at 619.582.0168 or by email at treestan@cox.net.

Thanks for volunteering to spread the word about proper tree care to the public!

**Stan Baczynski**  
**Fair Booth Coordinator**

## So. County Arbor Day Service Event Recap



On Friday, March 29th, the PTCA hosted its South County Arbor Day Service Event. The event took place at Bethune K-8 School in South Bay Terraces area of San Diego.

Monica Bockman, PTCA member and ISA Certified Arborist, is the Science teacher at the school. She noticed the trees on campus were in need of some professional help so she contacted Kurt Peacock, PTCA South County Arbor Day Coordinator, about the school as a work-site. Due to the school schedule for Spring break, we held the event a month earlier than usual so the campus would be free from student traffic.

Participating in the event this year were crews from Coastal Tree Care and West Coast Arborists. Kurt Peacock and Monica Bockman also participated. Big Shout out to Coastal Tree Care Owner Joseph Eads and West Coast Arborists' Area Manager Mike Palat for sending two awesome 2-man crews who got a lot done from 8:30 AM - 2:30 PM.

From Coastal Tree Care, Arborist Adam Hall and Groundman Eulises

(Euli) Dominguez did a great job with a bucket truck on Several *Pinus eldarica* near the school entrance that needed corrective work to promote long term survival of these trees. A Floss Silk Tree (*Ceiba speciosa*) also received heavy deadwood removal and some structural correction, along with four perimeter pines near the playground. A large, overgrown Raywood Ash also received overdue thinning and reductions of competing leaders.

The West Coast duo, Alberto Lopez and his groundman, were tasked with removal of some decay-riddled Mimosa Trees (*Albizia julibrissin*) in the interior of the school. It was noted that a resident woodpecker had been exploring these trees for nesting sites so we decided to leave 3 short trunks of one tree as wildlife snag for our avian friend.

Kurt Peacock did structural pruning of two Jacaranda and one Raywood Ash, channeling the spirit of Ed Gilman & Brian Kempf's *Structural Pruning* Workshop. Monica and the school custodial staff and volunteers helped drag brush to chipper sites, and all mulch was left on site for use by the school. The school provided hearty sandwiches, water and sodas so everyone was well fed. While we did not get to everything on the list, we made a big difference to some trees in need.

If any members know of a site or organization in need of our help for 2020, let Kurt Peacock know so we can continue to make a difference in our community!



### Western Chapter ISA's 85th Annual Conference

### We're in this Boat Together



**Sheraton Waikiki, Honolulu, HI**  
**April 29 - May 2, 2019**  
**wcisaconnect.com**



## Mulch Mounds, Oh My!



*The mulch mound around the base of this tree has caused new roots to grow around the root flare. These new roots are now girdling (choking) the tree causing it to decline (see lack of leaves/growth in the crown of the tree).*

*Photo: Russell Tree Experts*

Two days ago I stopped by the local gas station/grocery store compound around sunrise to replenish my truck's fuel tank. As I drove on the service road passing the commercial property I felt something strange tugging at my peripheral vision, like large chocolate chips dotting the edge of my field of view. I took my eyes off the road for a moment, and sure enough, seemingly overnight the landscape had changed. It was as if a very large community of rodents had decided to move in and dig burrows in the landscape, leaving all the soil in regular mounds, perfectly spaced on the lawn. The next moment I saw that each mound had a tree growing out of it. Then the colors of breaking dawn also brought the light of knowledge to me as I realized "It's spring, and the mulch mounders are at it again".

You know when these mysterious beings have been in your neighborhood because all of a sudden trees look like they decided to burst fully formed out of the soil, shouldering through the earth's crust, leaving it mounded up at the base of their trunk. You know you have been visited by a very dedicated contingent of mounders when even telephone poles or street signs are enjoying the benefits of multiplying mulch. (Yes, though this sight was unrecorded, I have heard eyewitnesses testify to it).

Please forgive my attempts at humor. It really is light-hearted, and I bear

no ill will to the people who deliver the mulch so generously. As an arborist, I do take issue with the practice itself though, for three main reasons that perhaps are not immediately evident to those trying to do a good deed:

1. Mulch can create a hardened hydrophobic layer that actually sheds water. This effect is made worse when the mulch is mounded in a way that directs water away from the root crown of a tree, where all the roots are on a newly planted tree.
2. When the root crown is buried in such thick mulch, new roots start forming, trying to grow up to a more favorable place (the surface), where water and oxygen are more readily available. While they grow, they will likely stay contained within the mulch ring, which can contribute to a circular pattern of growth, causing girdling of the stem in later years. (See photo).
3. When enough water is provided to saturate the mulch, moisture will persist for longer periods of

time around the trunk tissue. This, combined with warm temperatures from the composting process, provides a favorable environment for pathogens like bacteria and fungi to develop and cause disease.

Why do we mulch anyway? For very good reasons. Established mulch rings help keep weeds away, help maintain moisture levels, provide organic matter for the soil (improving both chemistry and structure), and maintain a clear zone where mowers will not enter and cause soil compaction or mechanical damage to the tree. Like anything else in life, any good thing carried to an extreme usually ceases being a good thing. Overmulching actually defeats some of the reasons for mulching to begin with!

There you have it. Even the topic of mulch leads to a basic principle in life: Too much of a good thing... can lead away from what is good.

Here's another one: Mulch mounders are people too, and I can live alongside them in peace as fellow human beings. But the practice of mounding mulch makes life difficult for trees. They can't run away, they can't open up their mouth and bawl for help. So I have to speak up for them if I can.

And I can.

Thank you for reading!

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## Evergreen Pear (*Pyrus kawakami*)

Our tree of the month for April is the Evergreen Pear, *Pyrus kawakami*. This member of the Rosaceae family is native to Taiwan and China but has been in Southern California for many decades. It is evergreen to partially deciduous and in spring provides a show with its white blossoms.

At this time of year there are also other *Pyrus* species in bloom. In order to tell the difference you need to consider a variety of traits. One such feature is that the scaffold branching is wider spreading and not as upright in habit with tight codominant stems that can fail in time as we see on *Pyrus calleryana*. Another feature is the mature dark brown bark on the trunk is furrowed and block shaped rather than smooth. Yet another way might be the old Christmas folk song that brags about finding a gift partridge in the bare branches. You will not find a partridge in an evergreen pear!

The Evergreen Pear attains a mature size of approximately twenty feet with an equal spread and is ideal for smaller spaces needing some dense summer shade. Unlike the familiar fruit varieties harvested from *Pyrus communis*, this pear species does not produce consumable fruit. In fact, the small quarter inch diameter fruit is sometimes classed as litter when it accumulates on hardscape surfaces.

The glossy medium green ovate shaped foliage does not offer the splash of fall color associated with *P. calleryana*. The *P. kawakami* tolerates a wide range of soils and conditions and can be found providing both spring blossoms and summer shade in the main plaza area of Balboa Park. Some of these trees have been in place for decades.

Next time you are there take a good look at how they are doing with the heat island and the twinkle lights. One key challenge for this species and many other Rose family members is from Fire Blight which results from the bacterium *Erwinia amylovora*. This is mainly spread by bees through the blossoms and causes the newly emerging stems to develop small oozing cankers. As the foliage and stem growth begin to decline it takes on a blackened appearance. The affected plant parts look fire blackened, hence the name.

This disease becomes more prevalent in warm moist spring conditions when the splash of rain drops increases bacterial movement



An example of *Pyrus kawakamii*.  
Photo: R. Baldwin, M. Ritter and J. Reimer

on stem surfaces and entry into the flowers. I suggest visiting the UC IPM website to read up on the details for pruning of diseased wood. Knowing how and where to cut will be important if you are trying to develop or maintain an espalier or narrow screen planting.

Another issue is when white fly and aphid populations increase and contribute to sooty mold on the leaves. Between the Selectree website and the UC IPM website you should be able to find enough information for successful management of attractive Evergreen Pears.

### INDUSTRY 411

## Recycle Your Green Waste Or Else (CLCA)

An increasing number of cities are threatening to fine landscape companies that are not complying with the phased implementation of a 2014 California law mandating increased recycling of landscape and pruning waste.

As of January of this year, businesses that generate four cubic yards or more of commercial solid waste in a week have to arrange for organic waste recycling services. Organic waste includes landscape and pruning waste, as well as nonhazardous wood waste.

The legislation requires the contract

or work agreement between a business and a gardening or landscaping service to require the organic waste generated by those services to comply with the requirements of this act.

CLCA member Patrick Nelson of Sacramento's Republic Services notes that communities in their service areas are starting to fine businesses for non-compliance.

Patrick, his company and other waste management companies are offering ways to help landscape contractors comply with the requirements to keep

organic waste separate and have it handled appropriately. He encourages all CLCA members to work with their waste management company to develop solutions.

Another option for landscape companies is to use a recycling service to divert their landscape material waste and have it re-purposed/re-used.

Full info on the law can be found online at:

[www.calrecycle.ca.gov/recycle/commercial/organics](http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/recycle/commercial/organics)

## Oh No, Not Fire Blight!

If you notice droopy, dried-out flower clusters on your pears, Asian pears, quince, apples or crabapples, fire blight may be the cause.

Fire blight is caused by a bacterium and is a common and frequently destructive disease that shows up in April and May. Fire blight can also affect pyracantha, ornamental pear trees, and some other landscape plants.

The first sign of fire blight is often blackening of flowers, shoots or leaves followed by a watery, light tan ooze from affected shoots. Open flowers are the most common infection site and remain susceptible until petal fall.

Initially, fire blight infections might be localized, affecting only a flower cluster, but then the infection grows downward, extending into twigs and branches. These twig cankers kill more and more tissue as they advance. Dead, blackened leaves and fruit cling to dead branches throughout the season, giving the tree a scorched appearance -- hence the name "fire blight." Fire blight development is favored by warm, humid weather in spring, and is spread by splashing rain and insects. Our recent weather, including intermittent rain and hail, has produced ideal conditions for the spread of fire blight.

Monitoring trees regularly, a couple of times a week, will allow you to identify and deal with new fire blight strikes before they become a branch infection. It is important to remove and destroy any new fire blight infections before they spread and affect more tissue. Dip pruning shears in a 10-percent bleach solution after each cut.

If fire blight strikes have been ignored, the infection will spread and infect the branch. Once the wood is infected, the branch must be pruned out well below the infection. In this case, you will need to remove the

diseased wood in summer or winter when the bacteria are no longer spreading through the tree. Again, dip pruning shears in a 10-percent bleach solution after each cut.

It is critical to make your cuts in the right place. Find the lower edge of the visible infection in the branch, trace that back to the branch's point of attachment and cut at the next branch juncture down with-

*Lynnde Sharpton, UC Master Gardener of Butte County*

out harming the branch collar (this is the distinct enlarged portion of woody tissue formed at the base of a branch where it attaches to the trunk). This will remove the infected branch and the branch to which it is attached.

For more detailed information on identifying and controlling fire blight, see the UCIPM Fire Blight Pest Notes.

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## LOCAL CALENDAR

### Upcoming Industry Events

**April 26, 2019**

**Arbor Day in Balboa Park**

*San Diego, CA*

[friendsofbalboapark.org](http://friendsofbalboapark.org)

**April 27, 2019**

**Spring Garden and  
Butterfly Festival**

*Cuyamaca College, San Diego, CA*

[www.cuyamaca.edu](http://www.cuyamaca.edu)

**April 27, 2019**

**City of Norwalk Arbor Day Festival**

*Norwalk, CA*

[www.caufc.org](http://www.caufc.org)

**April 27, 2019**

**City of Santa Fe Springs**

**Arbor Day Festival**

*Santa Fe Springs, CA*

[www.caufc.org](http://www.caufc.org)

**April 29-May 2, 2019**

**WCISA Annual Conference**

*Honolulu, HI*

[www.wcisa.net](http://www.wcisa.net)

**May 16, 2019**

**SCA Presents: Z133 Safety**

**Standards & Procedures**

*Los Angeles, CA*

[www.sca-trees.org](http://www.sca-trees.org)

**May 22, 2019**

**Street Tree Seminar Meeting**

*Los Angeles, CA*

[www.streettreeseminar.com](http://www.streettreeseminar.com)

**June 8, 2019**

**WCISA Tree Climbing**

**Championship**

*Rocklin, CA*

[www.wcisa.net](http://www.wcisa.net)

**June 27, 2019**

**Working with Cranes - Senna Tree**

*Arcadia, CA*

[www.sennatree.com](http://www.sennatree.com)

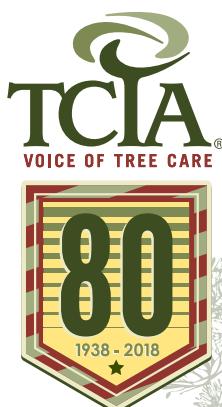
**July 29, 2019**

**TRAQ & TRAQ Renewal**

*Lakewood, CA*

[www.wcisa.net](http://www.wcisa.net)

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**RESOURCES**

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**80** **TCIA**

Years that the Tree Care Industry Association  
has been working to advance tree care  
businesses and the industry

**15,148** **EHAP**

Electrical Hazard Awareness Program  
enrollees and certifications  
in the last 10 years

**8** **ROCs**

TCIA Regional Outreach Coordinators  
serve as local resources for our members

**9,256** **TREE CARE ACADEMY**

Individuals enrolled and credentialed  
in the last 10 years

**452** **ACCREDITATION**

Branches representing  
205 companies have  
earned and maintained  
accreditation since 2004

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Figures accurate as of Jan. 1, 2018