

# PTCA NEWS

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

## UPCOMING PTCA GENERAL MEETING

### September General Meeting — Making the Cut: Business According to the Book

We hope you're still riding high on the wave of inspiration and knowledge gained from our recent Annual Seminar and Field Day. The event brought together passionate tree professionals from across San Diego, fostering a dynamic atmosphere of learning, collaboration, and growth. As we reflect on the valuable insights shared and connections made, we're thrilled to keep the momentum going with our upcoming September meeting on "Making The Cut: Business According to the Book."

Are you finding yourself engaged in discussions about pruning systems, methods, and different types of cuts when interacting with clients or crafting proposals? If not, it's time to delve into this crucial aspect of our profession.


Introducing the Best Management Practices (BMP) manual—a priceless resource in the world of tree pruning. In our current landscape, there is no more vital guide to ensure the safety of your business within the legal realm. Adhering to the BMP guidelines offers you a shield of protection that stands strong in the face of legal challenges.

But it doesn't stop there. Understanding the nuances of contemporary tree service practices and being able to convey this knowledge effectively can prove to be a game-changer. Not only can you bolster your financial bottom line, but you can also find ways to streamline your workload, allowing you to simultaneously serve the best interests of trees, customers, and the communities we serve.

We're excited to announce that Master Arborist Brad Brown will be leading a session on harnessing the power of the BMPs to your business's advantage. Join us to discover the intricacies of integrating this invaluable resource into your everyday operations. Learn how to leverage the BMP manual when interacting with the everyday client, as well as when maneuvering within the complex network of a tree's canopy.

We hope you will join us on Tuesday, September 5, for our general meeting. The meeting location has changed, we will be gathering at Casa del Charro, 890 W. Valley Parkway, Escondido, at 6:00 PM. Anyone interested in attending the Executive Meeting is encouraged to attend at 5:00 PM. This meeting is FREE for members that pre-register within 24 hours prior to the event, \$35/member on-site, and \$35 for non-members. To register, visit our website at [www.ptcaosd.wildapricot.org](http://www.ptcaosd.wildapricot.org).

Don't miss this opportunity to enrich your tree care expertise and elevate your business acumen. The BMP manual is not just a book—it's a blueprint for success in our industry. Let's come together to unlock its potential and propel our profession to new heights.



**MAKING THE CUT**

**CASA DEL CHARRO - ESCONDIDO**

**MAKING THE CUT:**  
BUSINESS ACCORDING TO THE BOOK

**ISA BOARD CERTIFIED MASTER ARBORIST:**  
BRAD BROWN - TREE LIFE CONSULTING

**DEEP DIVE INTO BMPs OF PRUNING:**  
BECOME FAMILIAR WITH THIS IMPORTANT LITTLE BOOK. PROTECT YOURSELF IN A COURT OF LAW, WHILE EARNING MORE MONEY, AND WORKING LESS

**WHERE:** CASA DEL CHARRO  
890 W VALLEY PKWY  
ESCONDIDO CA 92025

**WHEN:** TUESDAY, SEPT. 5TH  
5:00 PM - 6:00 PM (EXECUTIVE)  
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (GENERAL MEETING)

**COST:** FREE FOR PRE-REGISTERED MEMBERS  
\$35 AT THE DOOR OR NON-MEMBERS

FOR MORE INFORMATION & SIGN UPS PLEASE VISIT  
<https://ptcaosd.wildapricot.org/>



### Monthly Meeting Details

Date: Tuesday, September 5  
5:00 - Executive Meeting  
*All Members Welcome*  
6:00 - General Meeting

**NEW LOCATION** Casa Del Charro  
890 W Valley Pkwy  
Escondido, CA

Cost: Free for Members  
*Pre-Registration Only*  
\$25 for Members  
\$35 for Non-Members

**Making the Cut**  
*Brad Brown*

**Register Online**  
[www.ptcaosd.wildapricot.org](http://www.ptcaosd.wildapricot.org)

### Highlights from this Issue

- Summer Tree Walk:**  
Page 3 August Tree Walk Recap
- Tree of the Month:**  
Page 4 The Banyan Fig of Lahaina (*Ficus benghalensis*)
- PTCA News:**  
Page 6 Legacy Library Update
- PTCA News:**  
Page 7 Bob Bichowsky Memorial Award Recipient
- A Year in the Orchard:**  
Page 8 Part 3: Stein Family Farm Recap
- PTCA News:**  
Page 10 34th Annual PTCA Seminar & Field Day Recap

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**For membership applications**  
 Please make request via e-mail  
 at [ptca@epicentermgmt.us](mailto:ptca@epicentermgmt.us)

**OUR MISSION** is to improve our community's quality of life by making our urban forest safer and more beautiful through education and proper tree care.



.....  
**EDUCATIONAL MEETINGS** are held on the first Tuesday of each month. The new meeting site beginning with the September General Meeting is Casa Del Charro, 890 W Valley Parkway, Escondido. The cost to attend general meetings is free for members (*who pre-register*), \$25 for members at the door, and \$35 for non-members.

During the summer months, arboricultural tours ("Tree Walks") are featured throughout San Diego County. These are free to members and 25.00 to non members.

Information and registration for upcoming meetings is available at our website at [www.ptcaosd.wildapricot.org](http://www.ptcaosd.wildapricot.org).

CEUs are available!

**PTCA ANNUAL SEMINAR & FIELD DAY** is

held every August, featuring industry experts bringing the latest research and information to San Diego's historic Balboa Park.

Cosponsored by the Professional Tree Care Association of San Diego and City of San Diego Parks and Recreation Department, this is your best local opportunity to get information or training in your field of tree care.

**Have an event for our calendar?**

Submit it to:  
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**VISIT US ON THE WEB!**  
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## PTCA SUMMER TREE WALK SERIES

## PTCA August Tree Walk: Bancroft House Recap



**Sara performs to historic bell ringing ritual for our visiting group.**



**Alden stands by the on site veterans memorial.**

Our tree walk event this month was a revisit to the Historic Bancroft House in Spring Valley. This was also a brief connection with history. We visited this site in 2009 for a summer tree walk. Much has changed on this site since that time. But not for our contact, who is Jim Van Meter, he is still the resident caretaker. Not as easy of a job as one might think. When night time alarms go off, he goes to see what's happening. In residence he responds much we would in our own home. Alas, he has been forced to kiss the ground a few times from vandal assaults and responding deputies. Still he is very committed to his job.

Jim shared with our small group the county plans for improvement of the site into a park with more appeal. The house itself has only a few trees around it. My first thought as we few PTCA members gathered around the tables where school groups would assemble on their visits, was they need to plant some more trees here. Jim recognized that fact by explaining they could not plant more trees. The soil protects the history beneath its surface.

Much is hidden beneath the ground and there have been some excavations by Archaeology researchers from our local University. The few olive trees there were actually a late addition to the site. They were planted during the times of agricultural expansion in San Diego County. The Hubert Howe Ban-

croft House is so designated because of its prior famous resident. It is listed in both State and National registries. Mr. Bancroft was a pioneer historian of the west, specifically writing about California, Mexico and Central America. Many of his works are now residing in University archives. This adobe and surrounding area is the place of the original spring which provided a name for the area we all call Spring Valley. There were quite a few entripes in the area that sparked early growth. Lemons, olives and other tree crops were notable in that era. There is also a historic Rock House on the property which has some notorious and colorful history. It is worth exploring online for a bit of its past. We entered in through a locked gate to walk about the area where the spring still offers moisture to the soil and the sole residents standing. The water source, as Jim explained, is from Cuyamaca lake and flows over deep buried granite, with a few other outlets in the immediate area.

As I recall, there were many more *Phoenix canariensis* palms present at our prior walk in 2009. They all seemed to be holding their own with the exception of one which appeared to have been affected for the So. American Palm weevil and have only a collapsed crown remaining. Those few *Phoenix* are overshadowed by an enormous Eucalyptus tree. Based on its tall upright stature and appearance plus capsule morphology found beneath its canopy, it is most likely *E. tereticornis* or Forest red gum. *E. camaldulensis* tends to spread wider and not grow as tall. There were a few California Pepper trees, *Schinus molle*, to help tell the tale of the early years as well.

Jim pointed out some of the excavation traces as well in this area. This was an educational visit for some of us since I think we often overlook the presence of history for the trees above grounds as well as the evidence of human activity. Even the prehistory remnants have tales to tell that we do not often learn about on a site visit. This area is also a local veterans memorial which has been a rally point for several generations. Truly it was thought provoking history on several levels for those who attended.



**Jim shared some of the artifacts from time that reside in the old historic adobe house. It reminds me of some of the history we saw last year in North County.**



**The dead phoenix will not rise from its own remains!**



# The Banyan Fig of Lahaina (*Ficus benghalensis*)

By Dan Simpson, Professional Tree Care Association of San Diego - Emeritus



A photo from beneath the canopy of Lahaina's famous Banyan Fig. Photo courtesy of Dan Simpson.

Many of us watched the fiery disaster in Lahaina, on Maui, Hawaii. With shock and awe, we also felt sadness at the massive losses that community suffered from the fire. Many of us have traveled there and seen this magnificent specimen tree in the center of the town. This special tree has long been mentioned among arborists who have visited with it. As a tree person on vacation, I always make it a practice to visit any significant or historical tree that is within my travel route. So yes, I have visited this tree, several times and felt the power of its presence at the heart of Lahaina. Indeed, this tree has gathered much spiritual energy, or mana, for and from the people. If you have never seen this tree and do not know about it, I hope to share some of its details.

## The Big Banyan by Danny Simpson

One tree to shade them all, one tree to love them.  
That one tree will stand tall and wide above them.  
Its huge embrace reaches more than just an area of space.  
It is an icon of community and a spiritual anchor for a time and a place.  
An enduring symbol of strength and unity for many a mournful face,  
People who live and love will need much at this time of loss.  
The Ohana will survive and this tree will regrow to share its Mana.



Visitors under the Lahaina Banyan Tree. Photo courtesy of [www.wondersofmaui.com](http://www.wondersofmaui.com).

The *Ficus benghalensis*, commonly called Banyan Fig, is native to Pakistan, Sri Lanka and to India, where it is considered the National Tree. Both Hindu and Buddhist religions consider this tree species sacred. It is often planted and grown widely around many temples and



Defining features of the *Ficus benghalensis*, including trunk, leaf shape, and fruit. Photos courtesy of Selectree.



places of worship. The thick white sap can be harvested and used to make an inferior grade of rubber. It has ethnobotanical value for its medicinal properties as an anti-tumor, anti-diarrheal, and wound healing. The bark and leaves provide tannins and the fibrous aerial roots are useful as a temporary binding material. Before you rush out to start a pharmacy grove realize that this fig tree species can grow to an enormous spread. It is not suitable for just any yard. It is best suited as a shade tree in large parks or other similar settings. The larger specimens can cover an area of thousands of square meters. In fact the Guinness records in 1989 listed the largest tree in the world as being a *Ficus benghalensis*. That being said, it also can be tamed and maintained as a small miniature container plant.

It is an evergreen species with leaves of dark green that are the size of your hand. The yellow midrib and venation is prominent and provides strength for the leaf to resist damage from rain and strong winds. They have the usual fig type fruit, about an inch in size, which is edible when red and widely consumed by people and wildlife in tropical environments. These huge maturing trees are tolerant of many soil types and conditions. It even does well in sandy beach soil and salt spray.

A few days after the disaster, I was at a social function and spent time speaking with a former resident of Lahaina. He is in the food service, catering trade, and I am retired. We connected as tree folks who knew the big Fig in Lahaina. He had the richer memories since I had only visited the tree and the community a few times.

The Banyan tree in Lahaina was planted in 1873 in the Courthouse square. Over the years, it has grown to cover almost an acre. The broad spreading canopy of large limbs was supported by aerial roots which grew as support pillars. These were aided by old pilings that had been placed strategically under the big limbs. Some of the pilings were strapped in place with old heavy strapping over the limb and secured to the large piling. The aerial roots embraced the pilings and grew downward until they reached soil. Once they got a grip in the soil, they increased water and nutrients. And unless you know what you are seeing sometimes you do not notice the oldest pilings which are fully engulfed with roots and look like just the tree. The tree received support to spread its canopy and the shade canopy supported the people as they rested beneath it. All of them, meeting, greeting and sharing life. I recall seeing a plaque of recognition beneath the tree. It was presented by the National Arborist Association many decades ago.

Several of us have discussed the fire impact on the tree. The consensus is that it will recover with time.



**Another example of the trunk of *Ficus benghalensis*. Photo courtesy of Selectree.**



**The Lahaina Banyan Tree as it stands today. Photo Courtesy of Kevin Eckert.**

## WANT TO HELP?

The Maui Strong Fund is providing financial resources that can be deployed quickly, with a focus on rapid response and recovery for the devastating wildfires on Maui.

Hawaii Community Foundation will not be collecting a fee for donations to the Maui Strong Fund; 100 percent of the funds will be distributed for community needs.

<https://www.hawaiicomunityfoundation.org/maui-strong>



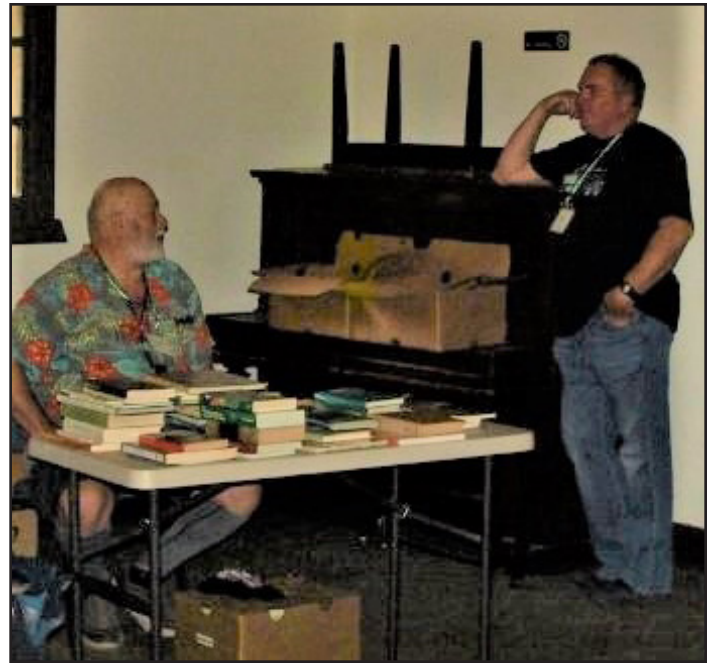
## Library Legacy Project Update

By Dan Simpson

This event appears to be successful again. The goal is to get donations of arboriculture books from the professional libraries of our elder members and tree care folks. Jim Thompson and Danny Simpson had several discussions on the value of personal reference libraries. When Jim passed his books went to Danny to fulfill Jim's wishes. The idea of a book sale meshed with other discussions with older members. We realized the PTCA did not have a process to honor our members who have passed on. The idea led to the title of Library Legacy Project. The purpose is to get the books technical info and love of trees into the hands of an emerging generation of tree care professional. These books are the ones that we relied on for learning and developing. They hold inspiration for those that need it. This year Danny offered up some of his private reference library. One lucky seeker of knowledge scored my personal copy of "A New Tree Biology" with Dr Shigo's autograph inside.

Many of the books have highlighting and notes of the prior owners focus. This can be a key point of study for the new learner. So looking at the lower median prices there provides price guidance and then we reduce it a bit more. After all we do not want or need a storage warehouse and staff to market and maximize revenue. We want to support the up and coming generations.

All of the funds from the book sales will go toward long term support of an annual scholarship as a PTCA memorial to members who have passed. To date we have



funded two scholarship awards. Cuyamaca College does offer a two year degree in Arboriculture. The book table was also a popular meeting point for many attendees including quite a few former students.

I also want to express my appreciation to all the sturdy young folks who rushed over as I was unloading and quickly carried the heavy boxes inside for me. THANK YOU ALL!

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# Announcement of the Bob Bichowsky Memorial Service Award

**"Outstanding knowledge of arboriculture, unflagging perseverance and selfless dedication to our industry"**



This year, the PTCA presented its 14th Annual Bob Bichowsky Memorial Award during our August Seminar and Field Day. This award is presented in memory of the late Robert Bichowsky, a long time consulting arborist, an active past member, and past President of our professional tree care association.

**How do we recognize a potential candidate for this award?** It is not a popularity contest but a group of prior recipients gather to discuss candidate qualifications.

They consider many candidates, their long-term connections and history of commitment and dedication to trees, our industry, our organization and our community. The PTCA seeks to acknowledge awardees' long-term involvement with our organization and outreach events and supports of our goals. These are for public participation but without public acclaim.

Our choice this year has been engaged in service to our community trees for many decades, and has been involved with the PTCA and its functions for almost the same period. Our selected individual is a tree service owner/ operator. He is an inspiration for service and is currently on

the PTCA Board of Directors, but has also served as a past president and treasurer of our organization and has done several presentations at our monthly meetings and seminars.

He is one of the key individuals who works behind the scenes to offer value to PTCA membership. He has been involved with the Annual Seminar & Field Day event longer than most of you have been members. The calm guidance he provides at meetings and events has allowed us to focus and move our organization forward in serving our tree care industry, and also our community.

For their consistent commitment to support and serve trees, the PTCA and our local tree care industry, our selection committee has chosen, as this year's recipient of the Bob Bichowsky Memorial Service Award: **Mike Poffenberger**.

Congratulations, Mike and Thank You for support!



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| Past recipients of The Bob Bichowsky Memorial Service Award (Margie Bichowsky - 1st) |
|--|
| 2010 - Robert Walton   |
| 2011 - Alden Pedersen  |
| 2012 - Dave Shaw   |
| 2013 - Dan Simpson   |
| 2014 - Rich Magargal   |
| 2015 - Bob Squibb  |
| 2016 - Ron Matrangola  |
| 2017 - Harvey Pedersen   |
| 2018 - Pete Ryken  |
| 2019 - Steve Hooker  |
| 2020 - Stan Baczynski  |
| 2021 - Jack & Suzanne Maloney  |
| 2022 - Dave Ephron   |
| 2023 - Mike Poffenberger   |



## A Year in the Orchard, Part 3: Stein Family Farm Recap

By Kurt Peacock

On Saturday July 29th, the PTCA held the third installment of its "Year in the Orchard" series with ISA Certified Arborists Kurt Peacock and Matt Smith. Kurt installed and maintains a collection of over 80 deciduous fruit trees, citrus, and avocados to teach the art and science of all aspects of fruit tree care. The Stein Family Farm is a 501c3 nonprofit owned by the City of National City.

This installment of the series focused on summer pruning of deciduous fruit trees (critical for size control), pests and disease signs and symptoms, and proper fruit harvesting. Twenty eager attendees were instructed as to proper pruning mostly current seasons growth. A discussion at the start was held to highlight the unique circumstances that occurred (Long cold wet winter/spring) affecting every aspect of the orchards biomechanics and ability to produce/ripen fruit. Everything was 4-6 weeks late in timing, which made it difficult to schedule these sessions during the growing season.

As a special bonus attendees were treated to a fruit tasting featuring fruit from the orchard as well as

Kurt's home orchard, 2 miles due South of the Stein farm. Peaches, Nectarines, Aprium, Pluerry, Plum and Mulberries were on the menu. The Aprium and Pluerry are interspecific hybrids of Apricot, Plum and Cherry that have longer harvest seasons and very intense flavor.

Certified Attendees received 3.5 CEU's for the bargain price of \$40 and ate some outstanding fruit. A fourth installment of the series featuring season-ending orchard tasks and dormant spraying is tentatively scheduled for late November/early December. It will be confirmed by early October, weather permitting. Sign-ups for the annual January (Jan. 13th, 2024) dormant pruning seminar will be posted in September on the PTCA events page.

You can visit the Stein Farm on most Saturdays from 10AM – 2PM for tours of the buildings, animals, and the orchard. It is free but donations are appreciated for operating costs. Special thanks to Chris, farm caretaker, and Lori Peoples, the Chair of the Stein Fam Board of Directors, for being such good hosts.



All photos by Pedro Berry.



## Membership News

### DID YOU KNOW....

#### Organizational Membership Bundles

A membership bundle is a collection of members who are linked together and managed by one of their members – the bundle coordinator. The bundle coordinator is responsible for adding new members to the bundle. If your membership class is Commercial, Municipal Organization, Organizational & Professional Affiliate Organization or Vendor, you can add up to 4 additional members to your organizational membership

#### License & Insurance Information

Commercial members are required to submit CSLB License information and proof of insurance (see below) This is required to be on the referral list. Submit yours today to [ptca@epicentermgmt.us](mailto:ptca@epicentermgmt.us)

#### Annual Renewal

PTCA membership dues are renewed annually starting on July 15th. Invoices are sent electronically on July 1st each year. Invoices are due upon receipt. Failure to renew may result in a lapse of membership and forfeiture of membership discounts and other benefits.

### MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

#### Commercial *\$125.00 annually*

Commercial members provide tree-related services for municipal, commercial, residential, utility clients, and meet the following requirements: Minimum \$1,000,000.00 public liability and property damage insurance (combined single limit). California State Contractor's License with a classification of C-27 or C-61 (D-49). Worker's Compensation insurance certificate must specify a labor code of 0106 (tree pruning) and include coverage of tree work at heights exceeding twelve feet (12'). Current certificates shall be on file with PTCA annually. Members of this classification shall be entitled to refer to Association membership, including use of the Association logo in advertising and shall be entitled to vote on all matters pertaining to the Association, including changes to the Association's bylaws.

#### Vendors *\$125.00 annually*

Members who sell, rent or lease products utilized by the tree care industry or perform horticultural spraying, fertilizing, and consulting, etc. and are not involved in pruning or removal. Appropriate current state or ISA licenses or certificates shall be kept on file with the Association. Members of this classification shall be entitled to refer to Association membership, including use of the Association logo in advertising and shall be entitled to vote on all matters pertaining to the Association, including changes to the Association's bylaw.

#### Municipal – Organization *\$125.00 annually*

The governing body or representatives of

government, agencies, and schools. Members of this classification shall be entitled to refer to Association membership, including use of the Association logo in advertising. Members of this classification shall be entitled to reduced admission fees for attendance at workshops and seminars for four representatives. One per entity shall be entitled to vote on all Association matters, except bylaw changes.

#### Municipal – Individual *\$40.00 annually*

The governing body or representatives of government, agencies, and schools. Members of this classification shall be entitled to refer to Association membership, including use of the Association logo in advertising. Members of this classification shall be entitled to reduced admission fees for attendance at workshops and seminars for four representatives. One per entity shall be entitled to vote on all Association matters, except bylaw changes.

#### Organizational and Professional Affiliate – Organization *\$125.00 annually*

Representatives of other related horticultural programs. Members of this classification shall be entitled to refer to Association membership, including use of the Association logo in advertising, reduced admission fees for attendance at workshops and seminars for three representatives. One per entity shall be entitled to vote on all Association matters, except bylaw changes

#### Organizational and Professional Affiliate – Individual *\$40.00 annually*

Representatives of other related horticultural programs. Members of this classification shall be entitled to refer to Association membership, including use of the Association logo in advertising, reduced admission fees for attendance at workshops and seminars for three representatives. One per entity shall be entitled to vote on all Association matters, except bylaw changes.

#### Student *\$35.00 annually*

Must provide evidence/proof. Members of this classification shall be entitled to attend monthly meetings and reduced admission fees for attendance at PTCA of San Diego workshops and seminars. No processing/late fee charges.

Want to check your member status, category, member listing or add additional team members? Contact Heather Crippen for assistance ([ptca@epicentermgmt.us](mailto:ptca@epicentermgmt.us)).





## PTCA SEMINAR &amp; FIELD DAY

## Recap: 34th Annual PTCA Seminar &amp; Field Day

We had over 392 attendees join us in Balboa Park on August 18 and 19th for "Into the Canopy" our 34th Annual Seminar and Field Day! Stay tuned for another great program next summer!



*Dr. Matt Ritter took attendees on a fascinating tree walk as part of Saturday's Field Day. Photo courtesy of Pedro Berry.*

## THANK YOU TO OUR 2023 SPONSORS!



*Saturday afternoon's climbing session was popular with attendees. Photo courtesy of Pedro Berry.*



*Nick Araya shared his expertise on cabling as part of the tree worker track. Photo courtesy of Pedro Berry.*





Our partners with UTCA sent everyone home safe! Thanks Javier and Martin! Photo courtesy of Pedro Berry.



Paul Mason got "hands-on" with the new electric chainsaws during the demo on Saturday. . Photo courtesy of Pedro Berry.



Center: Dr. Natalie Love really loves her work – and it showed during Saturday afternoon's tree walk.

Clockwise from top left: 1 & 2. Palms, palms, palms – including a great rescue demonstration.

3. Lisa Smith looking over the crowd from the stage POV during her talk on Friday

4. Kevin Bingham and "tools of the trade" were a big part of the treeworker education on Saturday

5. Dr. Natalie Love shared tricks on how to use your iphone during tree inventory.

6, 7, & 8. The outdoor session on Soils include a walk through a soil pit. David Kelly and Igor Lacan outdid themselves for this demonstration.

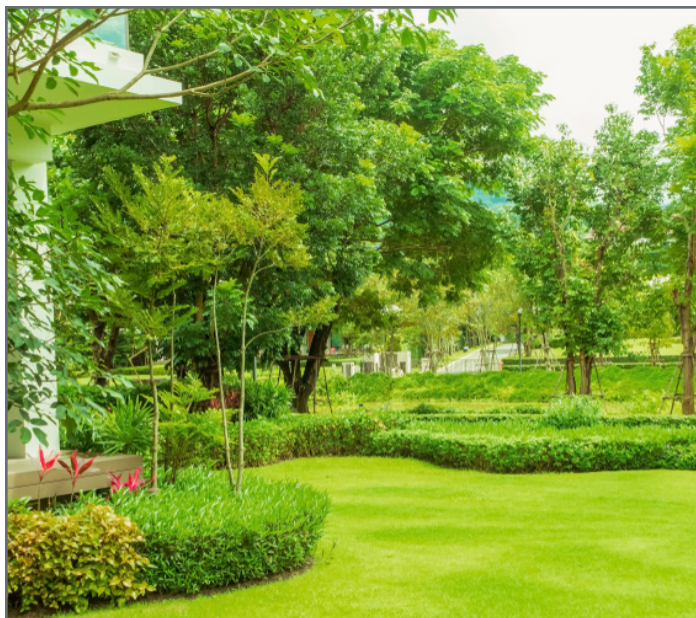
Check out more photos on our Facebook page!

All photos by Tina Stout.



# 6 Ways for Tree Care Businesses to Reduce Risk to Save Lives and Money

By Tom Doherty



Trees come in all colors, shapes, and sizes. Proper tree care keeps trees beautiful and prevents them from posing risks to people and property.

For the businesses that provide tree care services, the risks can be even greater. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 82% of injuries in the tree care industry were fatal in 2021, which is down from 91% in 2020, but are still some of the highest numbers of all professions.

Besides serious injuries and fatalities, accidents put a company at risk for costly lawsuits and damage to the company's reputation. In this article, we will explore six effective ways to cut down on insurance claims and decrease risks by reducing falls; considering weather, equipment, and chemical risks; and reducing commercial auto accidents.

## 1. Reduce Falls

Falling is one of the main causes of injury for workers in all industries, but is especially prevalent in the tree care industry. The most common fall risk is climbers who fall to the ground or fall while in a large tree. Aerial lifts have helped to improve safety, but workers can still fall from the lift, or the lift can fall with them in it.

The Texas Department of Insurance provides an informative Safety Fact Sheet with lots of helpful tips for employers, supervisors, and employees to prevent falls.

Here are some measures they recommend for employers:

- Supply hard hats, climbing spurs, harnesses, saddles, and climbing lines.
- Gather input from employees on how to stay safe on job sites.
- Ensure employees can identify hazards and they know how to avoid them.

- Require employees to use fall protection and proper climbing techniques.
- Train employees on how to steer clear of drop zones.
- Comply with all necessary safety regulations.
- Monitor workers for safety practices and weather-related health concerns.
- Take extra precautions when working around power lines.
- Proper fall prevention measures could save one (or more!) lives.

## 2. Reduce Risks in Cold Weather

While tree care work mostly takes place during the warmer months, tree care workers may also work in extremely cold temperatures. Severe weather can cause trees to fall onto roadways or powerlines, which means tree workers have to battle ice, slippery conditions, blinding snow, harsh winds, and freezing temperatures.

When the temperature drops below freezing, people can lose body heat quickly. As their bodies work overtime to maintain a healthy body temperature, it taxes their other bodily systems. As their bodies struggle to stay warm, they are at a greater risk of becoming ill or injured.

Here are some tips to help keep tree care workers safe and warm while out in the field on the coldest of days:

- Reduce the time they spend outside by using relief workers or rotating schedules.
- Provide warming tents or trailers where workers can get warm.
- Provide dry clothing for workers to change into.
- Provide cold-weather gear such as hats, boots, and gloves.
- Monitor employees for signs of hypothermia or frostbite.
- Make first aid kits with chemical heat packs and a thermometer accessible on job sites.

Be sure to keep the lines of communication between workers and supervisors open about the weather conditions and temperature.

## 3. Reduce Risks in Hot Weather

The summer sun also takes a toll on tree care workers. Those who work outside daily are at risk of heat exhaustion, sunburn, and dehydration.

When it's extremely hot outside, tree care workers may experience symptoms of dizziness, confusion, nausea, muscle cramps, or headaches. These are signs of heat exhaustion which can lead to a life-threatening condition called heatstroke.

Some workers may be at risk of getting severe sunburns. With repeated exposure to the sun over time, they may develop skin cancer if they don't take measures

to protect their skin.

Dizziness and headaches can also be a sign of dehydration which can lead to serious health issues such as seizures, kidney failure, or shock. In extreme cases, it can lead to a coma or death.

Here are some other tips for reducing safety risks in extremely hot weather:

- Check the forecast and consider rescheduling work if it's too hot.
- Train employees on how to recognize signs of heat exhaustion and dehydration.
- Allow workers to take breaks from the heat.
- Supply plenty of drinking water.
- Monitor workers who seem to be affected by the heat.
- Encourage workers to wear lighter-colored clothing which does not absorb the heat as much as dark clothing.
- Encourage tree workers to wear waterproof sunscreen with a high SPF rating.

A valuable tool is the OSHA-NIOSH Heat Safety Tool App, which gives the heat index for the location as well as precautionary recommendations.

#### **4. Check Equipment Before Using It**

There are two issues with equipment that involve safety risks with tree care workers: having the proper equipment and ensuring the equipment is in good working condition. If equipment malfunctions or isn't working properly, workers are at risk of getting cuts from saws, suffering from ear or eye injuries, or falling.

The following reminders are good practice anytime before heading out for a job:

- Inspect belts and harnesses for cracks, cuts, and broken stitching.
- Be sure clips, buckles, and rivets are not broken or loose.
- Inspect ropes and lanyards for signs of wear, fraying, or sun damage.
- Be sure snap catches and carabiners close properly and they are the right size for the D-rings.
- Supply protection for the eyes and ears such as protective eyewear and ear plugs.
- Store saws, ropes, and harnesses in one location when not being used.

Tree care companies that use chippers should also be sure the chipper operators are out of the line of falling trees and debris.

#### **5. Reduce Chemical Risks**

Caring for trees sometimes requires handling toxic chemicals which can cause tree care workers to become seriously ill or cause burns or severe injuries to their skin. Tree care workers should be aware that even chemicals

and pesticides with low toxicity levels can be dangerous if they are inhaled or ingested, or if it makes contact with their skin. Any contact with chemicals or pesticides can cause health issues.

To avoid chemical risks, be sure to:

- Choose products with the lowest toxicity levels when possible.
- Require workers to read the labels and follow the instructions exactly when using them.
- Require workers to wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) as noted on the label.
- Provide workers with Material Safety Data Sheets that outline necessary precautions.
- Prohibit workers from eating, drinking, or smoking when using pesticides and chemicals.
- Require workers to wash their hands thoroughly after using chemicals or pesticides even if they wear gloves.
- Require workers to place chemicals and pesticides in the bed of a truck rather than the cab.
- Encourage workers to wash their clothing separately when they've used chemicals or pesticides.

As an added precaution, be sure workers and supervisors have the phone number accessible for Poison Control: (800) 222-1222.

#### **6. Reduce Commercial Auto Accidents**

As tree workers must travel daily to job sites, they are also at risk of getting into an automobile accident. Commercial auto accidents can be costly for tree care companies for several reasons: a bad accident damages trucks and can put them out of service, drivers and passengers can be hurt and not be able to work, and then there's also the emotional trauma of being in an accident.

Safe driving practices can help prevent auto insurance claims which in turn will help keep commercial auto premiums lower. The following auto safety tips serve as a reminder of how to keep drivers safe while driving to and from job sites:

- Check the driving records of all drivers.
- Keep an updated list of all approved drivers for the company.
- Establish clear policies and procedures for driving company vehicles and ask drivers to sign a form acknowledging them.
- Be sure all approved drivers understand what their responsibilities are if they get into an accident.
- Be proactive if a driver gets into an auto accident and work closely with the claims adjuster.
- Establish a plan for repairing and maintaining vehicles.

Lastly, take the time to assess accidents that have happened over the year to learn how to prevent future accidents.



## (Re)Introducing the ISA Certified Tree Climber Credential

The International Society of Arboriculture has rebranded the ISA Certified Tree Worker Climber Specialist program as the ISA Certified Tree Climber Credential.

The ISA wanted the name and logo for the credential to reflect the most vital competencies assessed in the program. The new name is a better alignment for how credential holders identify themselves and how employers promote roles associated with the job, and visually, the logo illustrates the commitment to safety made by credential holders and those who employ them.

Perhaps not as readily noticeable, but of fundamental importance, is the fact that the examinations for this program (both written and skills) have undergone extensive revision, overseen by experts and practitioners in the field, to ensure that they test knowledge and skills that are up to date with current practices and techniques used in the field by professional tree climbers. The new examinations will be available to candidates for the program in 2024 and you can read more about the Job Task Analysis that was performed for this credential in the June 2023 issue of *Arborist News*.

We are grateful to all current credential holders for this program and hope you are as excited as we are about this change, and that you will continue this journey and commitment to professionalism and safety with us.



## Proposed Z133 Standard Revisions Available for Public Review

The first public review and comment period on the proposed draft revision to the ANSI Z133-2017 standard is open until **September 4, 2023**.

Anyone with comments is encouraged to submit them online. All comments should specify the subsection in question, indicate the comment, provide revised wording of the subsection, and include a rationale for the change.

Every comment will be brought to the consideration of the Z133 Committee in its October 2023 meeting. Following that meeting, by end of December 2023, you will receive a formal response from the committee on its decisions regarding your comment(s).

For incomplete or unintelligible submissions, ISA will reach out by email to the contact provided to resolve any questions on the submission. If no response to ISA's queries is received within 10 business days, the incomplete or unintelligible comments may be discarded and may not receive a committee response.

The email contact for comments, questions, or concerns, is [z133@isa-arbor.com](mailto:z133@isa-arbor.com). In case of any difficulty, you may also reach out by phone to +1 678.367.0981 x226. Please leave a voicemail if not immediately answered.



### More about the Z133 Proposed Revisions and the Public Review

The American National Standard for Arboricultural Operations—Safety Requirements (commonly referred to as the Z133 standard) is a United States safety standard for use across the arboriculture industry. The current edition of the Z133 was published in 2017. Since that year, the Z133 Committee has drafted revisions to refine the standard, ensure better safety outcomes, and keep pace with developments in the industry.

To ensure that the revision process is open to all parties who are directly and materially interested in the standard, the Z133 Committee's proposed draft is submitted to a public review and comment period. This crucial step ensures that every perspective is considered, and it often results in substantive changes and improvements to the committee's draft.

## Free One-Hour TREE Fund Webinar

### *Identifying social barriers to equitable tree planting and quantifying potential benefits to overcoming them*

Tuesday, September 12, 2023 @ Noon (CST)

The urban forest is not equitably distributed, with under-resourced communities receiving fewer benefits from trees than more affluent ones. Recently, governmental and green organizations have made the reduction of this inequity one of their primary goals, but these efforts often do not garner buy-in from their intended communities, and consequently fail to achieve their objectives. This is in part because these organizations are frequently outsiders to the communities where they work and do not understand the social barriers or concerns that residents may have towards greening efforts. This presentation will describe surveys that were administered to Chicago-area residents and greening organizations that identified barriers that resi-

dents experienced when planting trees. We found that while residents generally appreciated the benefits that trees provide, interest in planting more trees was more strongly related to their perceptions of existing neighborhood conditions than with socio-demographic conditions. We will also describe strategies that greening organizations may employ to better address tree equity.

TREE Fund's one-hour webinars are free and offer 1.0 CEU (only for live broadcast) from the ISA, the SAF, the NALP, and sometimes the LACES. Space is limited and pre-registration is highly recommended; in doing so, you'll receive a reminder email the day before the broadcast.



## Saluting Branches 2023: Unite. Volunteer. Honor.

*Join the Saluting Branches initiative to give back to those who gave so much.*

Tree care companies, arborists and industry professionals are invited to volunteer their time and talents on September 20, 2023, the ninth annual Saluting Branches day of service.

There are 119 veterans' cemeteries throughout the country, many of which require professional arborist care for their trees. From structural pruning to removals, these veterans cemeteries need assistance to ensure their properties are safe and beautiful spaces for all who visit. Find a participating location near you!

Not a Tree Worker? No Problem! We have the need for many volunteers to make this event a success.

### **Non-Tree Field Work Opportunities:**

- Tree Planting
- Drag brush
- Rake up debris
- Pruning shrubs
- Weed planting beds

### **Other Volunteer Opportunities at the Event Include:**

- Assisting with Setup/Take down
- Greeter/Staffing the Registration Table (help get waivers signed, hand out hats, etc)
- Being a runner between teams in the field (Bringing waters, communications, etc)
- Setting up food and refreshments
- Take photos and videos!

### **Help get the word out by talking to fellow tree companies**

- Share on social media
- Contact local media outlets
- Help find us food donations for the volunteers



Contact us at [info@salutingbranches.org](mailto:info@salutingbranches.org) or 1-844-922-1151 to learn more about the Saluting Branches initiative and how you can help make this day a huge success.

### **SAN DIEGO LOCATIONS:**

- **Miramar National Cemetery**  
5795 Nobel Drive, San Diego, CA 92122
- **Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery**  
Cabrillo Memorial Drive, San Diego, CA, 92106

*Whether you have expertise in tree care or simply a strong desire to contribute, this is your chance to make a positive impact. Together, we'll honor and care for the trees that provide shade, beauty, and a sense of tranquility in our local green spaces.*