



# MEMBER NEWS

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

October 2021

27537 Commerce Center Drive, #107 | Temecula, CA 92590

## PTCA GENERAL MEETINGS

### November General Meeting: Trucks and Trees

The PTCA is excited to host another in-person general meeting on Tuesday, November 2, at Filippi's Grotto, Scripps Ranch. This meeting will consist of two topics, both vitally important to your tree care business: Trucks and Trees.

#### Part 1 - What's in your fleet?

PTCA Board member and CHP officer, Michael Poffenberger will be presenting on CHP vehicle regulations and an introduction to BIT program. Michael will do a review of CHP truck regulations, enforcement and record keeping as it relates to the BIT (Basic Inspection of Terminal) Program. You don't want to miss this informative session.

#### Part 2 - Thanks to Trees with Danny Simpson

November is the time to give thanks. Those of us who work with trees might be unaware of how important trees have been to human advancement. We have so much to be thankful for, but history often shades the knowledge. Every one of us, regardless of ethnicity and belief, are connected to trees. For eons, early humans migrated around the world and as they followed the forests, they came to recognize the importance of trees

as producers of valuable resources. Strategic might and power of countries was often based on access to trees and wood. Everyday items with arboreal origins, when reflected on, will tell some of the tale of our shared journey throughout history.

Dan Simpson will share some examples of the variety of benefits and commodities humans have received from trees. Like sawdust these snippets of information are intended to provoke thoughts and insights for those of us who attend. We hope you will have a better understanding of how thankful we should be for trees.

Please remember to register in advance on the PTCA website at [www.ptcasandiego.org](http://www.ptcasandiego.org). We will be meeting at Filippi's Grotto, Scripps Ranch at 6:30 PM; the address is 29969 Mira Mesa Blvd, San Diego. This meeting is \$25 for members and \$30 for non-members. Participants will receive 1.0 CEUs.

Members are welcome to join the Executive Meeting beginning at 5:30 PM.

If you have any questions, please reach out to us at [ptca@epicentermgmt.us](mailto:ptca@epicentermgmt.us).

### Monthly Meeting Details

Date: Tuesday, November 2  
5:30: Executive Meeting  
*All Members Welcome*  
6:30: General Meeting

Location: Filippi's Grotto,  
Scripps Ranch  
29969 Mira Mesa Blvd  
San Diego

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

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

**Trucks and Trees**  
*Mike Poffenberger*

**Thanks to Trees**  
*Danny Simpson*

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

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### INDUSTRY NEWS

#### Registration Open for TCI Expo, November 4-6

TCI EXPO is the perfect opportunity to engage with industry professionals and your peers, evaluate the equipment and services your business needs to grow, and share a first-class education with your crew to stay on the cutting edge. This is a trade show experience you need and simply won't get anywhere else.

We've simplified our registration this year! Our NEW All-Access Pass will give you admission to more than 40 world-class sessions during the show, Nov. 4 – 6. Many of our sessions, forums and demonstrations give you the chance to earn continuing education units (CEUs) so you can stay on top of your certifications.

Included with your 3-day, all access pass:

- 40+ Sessions
- Ability to Earn ISA and CTSP CEUs



- Previously recorded digital session access until Dec. 31, 2021
- 8 Free Forums (CEUs)
- 3 Days trade show access
- 11 Live Tree Demonstrations (CEUs)
- TCIA/NATS Skills Arena

Worried about missing your favorite speakers and subjects? Don't stress, when you register for the All-Access Pass you also get access to previously recorded versions of the sessions and the ability to earn CEUs until the end of 2021. For TCI EXPO 2021, trade show admittance is FREE! Simply sign up online or call the office. You must be registered even though it is FREE.

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

## About the PTCA of San Diego

**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. 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.

Starting in September we will be returning to our in person meetings. We will meet at Filippi's Pizza Grotto (Scripps Ranch), located at 9969 Mira Mesa Blvd, San Diego.

The cost to attend general meetings is \$25 for members, \$30 for non-members.

Information for upcoming meetings is available at our website at [www.ptcasandiego.org](http://www.ptcasandiego.org), and in our monthly newsletter.

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:

[kathleen@epicentermgmt.us](mailto:kathleen@epicentermgmt.us)

## Interested in Advertising?

Please Contact:

[heather@epicentermgmt.us](mailto:heather@epicentermgmt.us)

**VISIT US ON THE WEB!**  
[www.ptcasandiego.org](http://www.ptcasandiego.org)

## PTCA MEMBER HIGHLIGHT

# October PTCA Member Highlight: Michael Binger

The PTCA has started a new section in our newsletter highlighting members and their contributions to the community and industry. If you or someone you know would like to be featured in the monthly newsletter, please contact Heather Crippen at [heather@epicentermgmt.us](mailto:heather@epicentermgmt.us).

**Name: Michael Binger**

**Company: San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance (SDZWA)**

I got into Arboriculture, very randomly, almost 20 years ago. A local "Tree guy" was knocking on doors looking for work. I told him if he gave me a job my mom would sign his contract. He looked at me and laughed at the 6'1, 175lb 19-year-old standing before him, but he gave me a chance. The first job I worked was at my mom's house, then it was straight to the wood pile.

From mid-August to the end of October in Northern VA (just 20 min from D.C.) I was on the wood pile, hand splitting wood with a maul and wedge. One afternoon the owner came to me, saying "I thought you would have quit by now." I told him, "I think this is the coolest job in the world." Hearing the stories that the guys would have when they came back was the highlight of my day. Eventually I earned my spot on the Truck, but it wasn't for another five years that I learned that lion tail pruning is wrong, spiking live trees is bad, and what a split tail was.

Things changed very quickly for my career and my passion towards the profession really leafed out. I never once considered this work. Some days are harder than others but NEVER work. I love what I do, and I love that there are others that share my same passion.

I got my Arborist and Tree worker certification about 11 years ago, and my TRAQ six months ago. I would like to become a Master Arborist in about 4 years. The hands-down most

memorable experience was when I was working at Bartlett in Northern VA at The Mount Vernon. I watched the sunrise over the frozen Potomac River 90 feet up with my tie-in at 115 feet on a 130-foot *Carya illinoensis* "Pecan Tree" that overhung the Mansion. It was the coldest I have ever been and at the time, and the first time I tied in over 100 feet. I pushed past my fear of heights (I still have it, just better under control). I really learned to trust my gear and trust in my own abilities, and to continue to reach for the next tie in.

The best advice I can give, communication. Communication is the most important part of the job site. It's how the job is started and how the job is finished. Communication dictates the speed, safety, flow, and morale of the job site. I currently work at the San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance (SDZWA) in Escondido. I work under an Arborist that has worked there for 40+ years. He has a team of 4, including himself, and we do everything that involves Arboriculture and more. Planting, structural pruning, removals, cabling (static and dynamic), Airspade, stump grinding, and just about everything else that is at height. I have the privilege to climb trees from all around the world and help fight to end extinction.

Thanks, Michael!



Removal of a hazardous Locust tree in Falls Church, Virginia in 2003.  
Photo Courtesy Michael Binger.



Michael Binger at the Work Climb event during the 2017 UTCA Tree Climbing Championship in San Diego, CA.  
Photo Courtesy Michael Binger.

## Welcome, PTCA New Members

Sean O'Neil  
• City of Lompoc  
• Lompoc

Jacques Rubidoux  
• City of Vista  
• San Marcos

Eugene Schwartz  
• Arborwest Tree Co.  
• San Diego

Ralph Villasenor  
• Brightview Landscape Development Co.  
• Grand Terrace

## Open Leadership Positions

The PTCA is seeking nominations and candidates for the below listed positions:

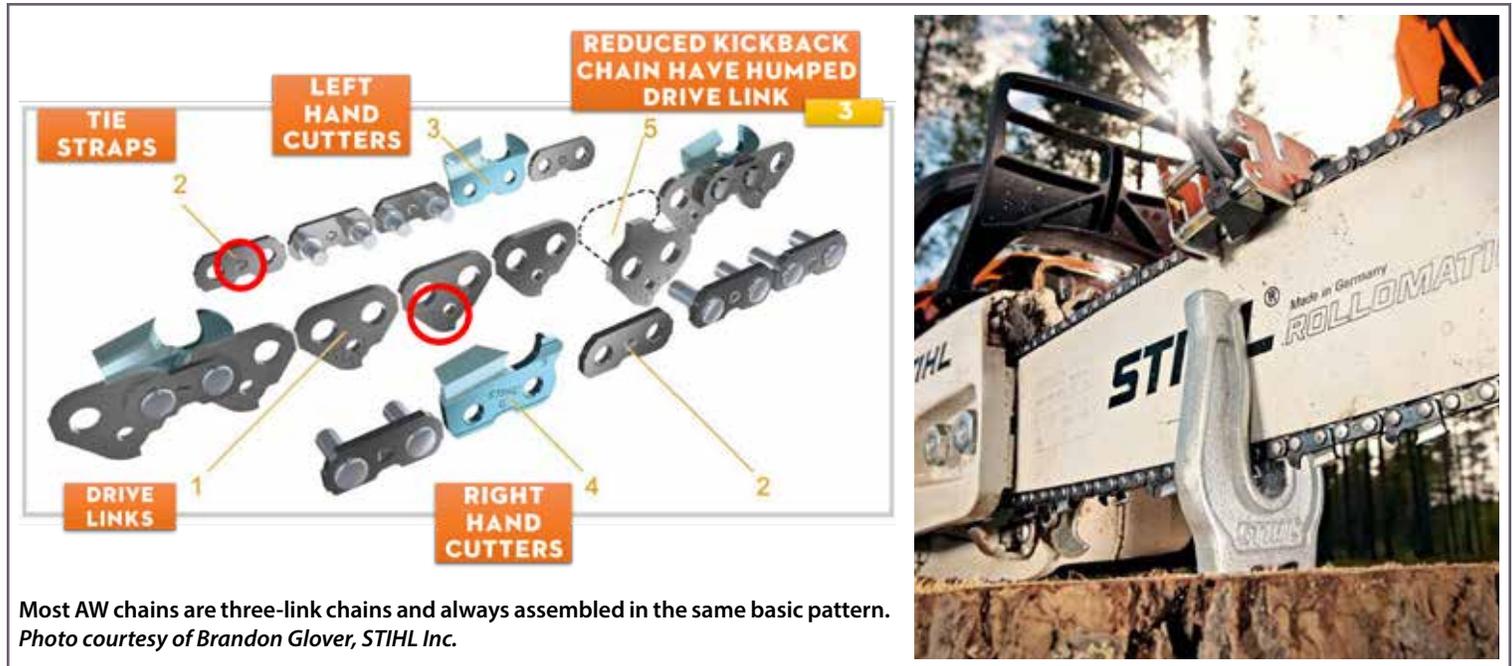
- President – Currently Vacant
- Secretary – Currently Vacant
- Education Committee - Currently Vacant
- Membership Committee – assistance always needed

## Other Ways to Get Involved

A great way to get involved with the PTCA is to submit your thought-provoking educational articles to the PTCA Newsletter!

We are looking for contributors, particularly local IPM, best safety practices, or other local stories of interest. Want to be featured in a future newsletter? Submit your article to Heather Crippen at [heather@epicentermgmt.us](mailto:heather@epicentermgmt.us).

## October General Meeting Recap



Most AW chains are three-link chains and always assembled in the same basic pattern.  
Photo courtesy of Brandon Glover, STIHL Inc.

Our October General Meeting was an intimate discussion on Chainsaw Sharpening and Maintenance with Brandon Glover from STIHL Inc. There were eight attendees, with the meeting running from 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM. Instructor Brandon Glover works as a Territory Manager for STIHL Inc. He has been with them for over 13 years, before that he worked in a lawnmower shop, and as a landscaper.

### Some highlights from the presentation include:

Safety should always be a priority when working with power tools. This should begin by using correct working methods, while also using high quality equipment and the appropriate protective safety clothing. Always make sure you wear the proper protective clothing to meet the job you are doing, which includes using chaps, helmets, hearing protectors, gloves, protective glasses, and boots. Go to [STIHLUSA.com](http://STIHLUSA.com) to see a full list of certified and available PPE.

Choosing the right saw chain is a crucial factor for working efficiently with a chainsaw, which is why you need to select the right chain based on the performance of your chainsaw.

Brandon provided a PDF that goes over the how a saw chain is constructed, different type of cutters, and how to maintain and sharpen your chain.

Guide bars provide precise guidance to the chainsaw with minimal friction loss. They have to take on the toughest jobs without warping. The PDF covers maintenance and tools needed to maintain your guide bar.

Any members interested in the PDF, please contact Rose Epperson at [rose@wcisa.net](mailto:rose@wcisa.net) for a copy.

We look forward to the November General Meeting discussing Trucks and Trees, and are working on developing exciting educational opportunities for the New Year. If there is a topic you'd like to see covered, feel free to reach out to [ptca@epicent-termgmt.us](mailto:ptca@epicent-termgmt.us).

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## INDUSTRY NEWS

### Free Webinar Series from the TREE Fund

The TREE Fund is proud to partner with the Alabama Cooperative Extension System to bring you free education offerings. We are now able to accommodate up to 3,000 participants! Mark your calendars for these upcoming free webinars from TREE Fund:



- **Growing Trees in Paved Sites**

Nov. 16, 12:00 PM Central

*Alessio Fini, PhD*

The TREE Fund's 1-hour webinars are free and offer 1.0 CEU credit for live broadcasts from the International Society of Arboriculture, the Society of American Foresters, the National Association of Landscape Professionals and sometimes the Landscape Architecture Continuing Education System. Registration information becomes available on our website approximately one month before each webinar date. Missed a webinar? Watch it anytime on our website at [www.treefund.org](http://www.treefund.org).

**Save the Date!**  
88th Annual Western Chapter ISA Conference and Trade Show  
May 2-5, 2022

Innovative Arboriculture: Experiencing the Urban Forest

Oakland Marriott City Center | 1001 Broadway | Oakland, CA  
[wcisacconnect.com](http://wcisacconnect.com)

### Pollinator Protection & IPM Practices

featuring Dr. Kevin Burls

Wednesday, November 3, 2021

11:00 am - 12:30 pm

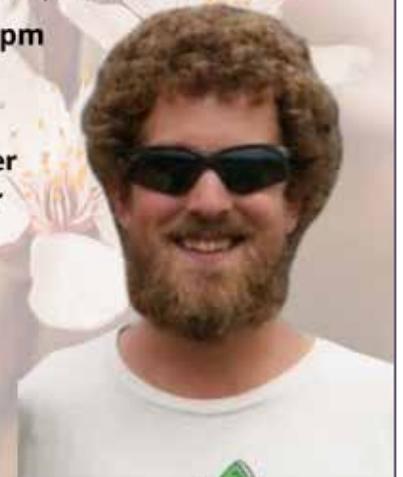
Registration

\$20.00 - WCISA Member

\$30.00 - Non-Member

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

1.0 ISA CEU



**asca 2021**  
ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
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Hyatt Regency Lake Tahoe Resort, Spa and Casino  
Lake Tahoe, NV

The ASCA Annual Conference focuses exclusively on providing you with the tools and knowledge you need to thrive as a Consulting Arborist. Not only will you be exposed to education you can't find anywhere else, but you will also gain access to the best resources in the industry—our attendees.

**Pre-Conference Workshop Speakers**  
Amber Howie, IML-North America  
Kevin Keenan, IML-North America  
Marty Shaw, RCA #470, Green Season Consulting  
Philip van Wassenaer, RCA #678, Urban Forest Innovations, Inc.  
John Wickes, RCA #455, Wickes Arborists, A Davey Company

**Annual Conference Speakers**  
Scott Baker, RCA #414  
Lewis Bloch, RCA #297  
Jeremy Chancey, RCA #646  
Jan Willem de Groot  
Jim Flott, RCA #441  
Steve Geist, RCA #340  
Ed Gilman  
Neil Hendrickson  
Michael Marshall  
Micah Pace, RCA #607  
Mark Williams, RCA #580  
Dennis Yniguez, RCA #362  
Drew Zwart, RCA #630

**Case Capsule Speakers**  
Darya Barar, RCA #693  
Ron Matranga, RCA #488  
Mike Sherwood, RCA #524  
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**ISA 2021**

**VIRTUAL CONFERENCE**

13-16 DECEMBER

## **Work Zone Safety for Tree Service Crews**

*By Joseph Zuffelato, NIP Group*



As a tree service professional, work zone safety is a top priority and should be kept at the forefront of your mind every minute you're working.

Tree service workers climb great heights, direct traffic on busy streets, perform groundwork, and operate potentially dangerous equipment. They must be alert and ready to react at any given moment.

Safety begins before crews even arrive at the job site, when the prep work begins for the job that day.

There are a few important observations to consider:

- What is the worksite like?
- Is the work to be performed near a busy road?
- What potential hazards could the crew's equipment present?
- Are there pedestrians nearby?
- What dangers could the drop zone present?

Before setting up a work zone, it's essential to consider the answers to those questions and possibly a few others. It's always best to anticipate the worst thing that could happen and be prepared rather than have it catch you off guard.

With that in mind, here are some other things you can do to improve work zone safety for your tree service crew.

### **Assemble Your Crew for a Work Zone Safety Meeting**

More than 700 people are killed in work zone accidents every year. This highlights the importance of implementing a safety-first campaign for your tree service business.

The first step of work zone safety is getting everyone involved in the job on the same page. There's an old safety motto that states, "Prepare and prevent, don't repair and repent."

We agree with the sentiment. Here are some ideas to put into action.

1. Discuss concerns with your crew once you analyze the site while posing some of the questions we asked above. Decide what your crew members need to be looking and watching for when working the area.
2. Next, walk through the plan of action, step by step, and decide how the work will be performed and what each person's role will be to execute the job. All positions are essential, and every crew member has to work together. Ensure that there are no unanswered questions and nothing left open for interpretation.
3. Lastly, discuss how long you expect the job to take. If the job lasts several days, the site may have to be kept safe even while the crew isn't present. This can include things like using caution tape to secure an area. You might also have to block a sidewalk until the work is finished or flag tree stumps to prevent lawn mower damage or keep people from tripping.

At the end of the day, it wouldn't hurt to review some of the safety guidelines you've already discussed while also coming up with new safety strategies that might make sense now that you've been at the work site for a day.

### **Drop Zone Safety is Paramount in the Tree Service Industry**

Acknowledging objects within the drop/fall zone of a tree removal job is important. This should always be at the forefront of your crews' minds, particularly your tree climbers.

When assessing objects below trees, it's reasonably apparent which things you should take into consideration. Things like structures, people, pools, traffic, and roadways stand out. But there are other things to consider in the drop zone. These include:

- Other items that might be important to the client, like the landscaping of their property.

- Children or pets that could quickly dart into the hazard area of your work zone.
- Underground considerations that large falling logs or trunks could impact. This can include irrigation (usually closer to the surface), poorly installed gas and water lines, or septic fields. The likelihood of damage to some of these underground objects is low but should always be considered. When in doubt, call 811 before doing the job. In fact, any time your crews will have to break ground, you should call 811 as a precaution.

### **Don't Forget Proper PPE to Keep Your Tree Service Crew Safe**

Proper PPE is vital for all tree service professionals because it can potentially save a life. Not only do crews want to ensure they have all the PPE required for the job, but crew members also need to inspect their PPE daily.

Here are some things to look out for:

- Some PPE, like hard hats, contain date codes that give a use-by date. PPE equipment shouldn't be used beyond that date.
- Inspect fabric PPE, such as chaps and gloves, for tears that could minimize the integrity of the protection. For instance, holes or loose fabric could pose an opportunity to catch onto things, causing a fall or hazard around powerful equipment like wood chippers.
- Ensure that ear and eye protection are in proper working order.

Remember that some jobs will require more PPE to meet OSHA & ANSI safety standards, like worksites near roadways and railroads. Be sure to go prepared to your work zone with proper, up-to-date PPE to increase safety for you and your work crew.

### **Always Be Aware of Traffic and People Around Your Worksite.**

When working around traffic, you should establish the drop zone for the work being performed. This will be the area that will need to be secured with cones and crew members to guide and stop traffic and pedestrians as your work crew does the job.

A rule of thumb for setting up cones is that whatever the speed limit is, then that should be the distance between the cones in feet. So, if the speed limit is 25MPH, the cones should be 25 feet apart.

Traffic flaggers should stand in safe areas along the shoulder while still being seen by the upcoming traffic to guide them. Proper equipment for flaggers should be used. This includes high visibility PPE, 'Stop'/'Slow' or 'Tree Work Ahead' signs, and traffic cones.

All crew members should also have Walkie Talkies to communicate with one another easily.

Flaggers should also be alert at all times and have excellent critical thinking skills. Guiding traffic is a mundane task, and it's easy to become complacent. Remind your flagging personnel to watch for surprises like bikers, animals, children, and other unexpected road traffic.

Accidents involving "struck by" incidents are high in the tree service industry. Flaggers can quickly get struck by a vehicle, while members of the public are also at risk of a fallen tree or limb if they're in the wrong place at the wrong time.



All crew members need to do their part to prevent these things from happening, but flaggers are often the first line of defense to achieve higher safety standards on the road near the work zone.

### **Equipment & Truck Safety is Also Important**

Once work begins, crews should be mindful of the equipment used on the job, whether in use or not. This is to protect your workers and other people.

Here are some key things to remember:

- When parking trucks and equipment, use the emergency brakes in vehicles to prevent them from rolling. Ensure that all equipment won't be prone to moving while unoccupied.
- Instruct your employees on the proper safety depth for chippers. Provide your employees with safety classes about machine and stump safety and make it a requirement that they attend. They should be educated about the risks involved in operating these machines and the complexity of their function. You might even get a discount on your tree service insurance when you can offer proof that safety is a top priority for your tree service business.
- It's always best to shut off equipment that isn't being used. Public safety should always be a prime consideration.
- Avoid leaving chippers or other equipment running unsupervised in and around the work zone.

### **Final Thoughts**

Work zone safety in your tree service business is a must. Having a few safety rules in place will help ensure a job is finished successfully while minimizing the risks to your crew and the general public.

Crews should always think ahead and be prepared. As the owner of a tree service company, you can mitigate risks by having meetings before work to offer general instruction and encourage safety to your crew members.

It's always a good idea to ensure that your crew members are all on the same page and better prepared to react more responsibly to unforeseen events.

Tree service work can't be safely executed without teamwork and a proper plan to help things go smoothly.

Carrying the right tree service insurance coverage is the best way to protect your business in the event of an incident.

## **Some Like It Hot! Tough Trees Defy Summer Heat and Drought**

*By Nancy Buley, Director of Communications, J. Frank Schmidt & Son Co.  
Photographs courtesy of J. Frank Schmidt & Son Co.*

Much of the Western United States suffered through a summer of unprecedented heat and drought. Shade trees certainly made the days more tolerable, and if you're like me, you're determined to plant trees and grow some shade before another summer rolls around.

Early autumn is prime time for tree planting. Although it may seem that spring is a more favorable time for planting, fall is a better time for establishing a healthy, vigorous, long-lived tree. Planted now, your tree will respond to the warm soil temperatures and will establish roots throughout the winter months in mild climates, or until the ground freezes in more severe climates. Roots will resume growing when the ground thaws. When spring arrives, your tree will be well established and will help deliver a cooler, shadier summer than many of us experienced this summer.

Now is also a great time of year to discover which shade trees are undaunted by heat, drought, high humidity, flooding or other weather extremes that came your way. It's the perfect time to discover which trees breezed through a long, hot summer, and to select trees with outstanding fall color.

Now's the time to visit garden centers, parks and public gardens and "test drive" shade cast by various trees. Do you want deep shade, dappled shade, a broad-spreading canopy, or a narrow, upright tree tailored to fit a tight space? Regardless of the size of your landscape, there's a tree that's right for you. If you observe, ask questions and buy a tree or trees based on thoughtful research, you'll be rewarded by cool shade for many years to come.

Here in the Pacific Northwest, where the mercury soared to an unbelievable and unprecedented 110-plus degrees F., heat tolerance has been top of mind. In my own landscape, I'm thankful to have planted a pair of **Forest Green® Oaks** (*Quercus frainetto* 'Schmidt') 25 years ago. They now tower above my house and helped to keep it cool during those extraordinarily hot days. Selected from a Mediterranean species commonly known as **Hungarian Oak**, it is well-adapted to our hot, dry summers and cool, rainy winters.

Oaks, in general, are tolerant of heat and drought and are adaptable across a wide range of growing conditions. Other characteristics include deep roots, strong wood and open branch angles that contribute to storm resistant structures. There are many species, so it is important to consult with local experts to learn which is the best match for your landscape. Most species are too large for typical residential landscapes, but a number of narrow or columnar cultivars are a good fit and still cast substantial shade. Several are described below, including two that were star performers in a 17-year trial conducted by U.S. Forest Service urban foresters in California.

Chinkapin Oak (*Quercus muehlenbergii*) is a natural choice for dry and windswept locations. Its glossy dark green foliage casts refreshing shade throughout the summer and turns yellow to yellow brown in the fall. Sometimes called Yellow Chestnut Oak, this native of the Northeast and Midwest has a reputation for performing well in alkaline soils. Hardy through USDA Plant Hardi-



**Forest Green® Oaks** (*Quercus frainetto* 'Schmidt')



**Seven-Son Flower** (*Heptacodium miconioides*)

ness Zone 5, it matures to a height and spread of about 45 feet after about 30 years in an average urban landscape setting.

**Texas Red Oak** (*Quercus buckleyi*) is a native of Texas and Oklahoma that offers bright fall color. Moderate in size for an oak, it grows in about 30 years to a height and spread of approximately 40' x 40'. Green, glossy summer foliage turns orange red to red in autumn. Dr. Greg McPherson, retired USDA urban forester who lead the aforementioned 17-year performance trial, describes it in one of a series of videos about Climate Ready Trees presented by Tree Davis, a non-profit tree planting organization in Davis, California.

For those seeking shade in space-challenged settings, there are several oak cultivars tailor-made for landscapes that don't have room for a classic, spreading oak. They offer the same oak adaptability and resilience in a slender package.

**Crimson Spire® Oak** (*Quercus robur x*) is a hybrid of our native White Oak (*Quercus alba*) and English Oak (*Quercus robur*). Introduced by our nursery more than 30 years ago, it is a tough and time-proven performer in landscapes from California to Colorado, Kansas to Chicago and beyond. Other narrow cultivars include **Streetspire® Oak**, **Kindred Spirit® Oak**, **Regal Prince® Oak** and **Beacon® Oak** (*Quercus bicolor* 'Bonnie and Mike'). The last is a selection of **Swamp White Oak** (*Quercus bicolor*) which is well-known for heat and drought tolerance.

For small-scale landscapes or container culture, we look to recommendations from Kansas, a state that's known for extremes in heat and cold. Dr. Jason Griffin, plant breeder and director of the John Pair Horticultural Center located near Wichita, describes trees that sailed through the state's historic heat and drought years

of 2011-2012, in a nursery trade magazine article entitled "The League of Extraordinary Trees." Two of the 10 tough and adaptable species he describes as having "superpowers" are small stature trees suitable for containers, courtyards and other small spaces:

**Seven-Son Flower** (*Heptacodium miconioides*) earned high praise from Dr. Griffin, who called it the "crape myrtle of the North." It has a lush, tropical appearance in summer, with glossy green leaves that fall in autumn to reveal rugged branches with exfoliating, gray-brown bark. Fragrant white flowers appear in clusters of seven in late summer, inspiring the "Hepta-" and "seven-son" segments of the Latin and common names. After the flower petals drop, the long-lasting ornamental calyxes remain on the plant. Bright red in color well into autumn, they are easily mistaken to be the flowers of crape myrtle. Left on its own, it will tend to grow as a large, rangy shrub, but it can easily be trained to be a single- or multi-stem tree.

**Chinese Fringe Tree** (*Chionanthus retusus*) delivers four-season beauty as well as heat and drought tolerance. Upright branches are smothered in clouds of fragrant white flowers in spring. A pollinator magnet when in bloom, it sports deep green, pest and disease-resistant summer foliage that turns yellow in autumn.

**Tokyo Tower Chinese Fringe Tree** (*Chionanthus retusus* 'Tokyo Tower') is an upright, narrow cultivar with predictable form (20' height x 10' spread) that bears small, blue-black fruits in autumn and delivers winter interest via golden-tan exfoliating bark.

*Nancy Buley, Director of Communications, J. Frank Schmidt & Son Co.*  
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