37th Pacific Northwest ISA Annual Training Conference
Boise, Idaho
September 16-19, 2016

Coming Events

August 13-17

August 27

September 12-14

September 15-16

September 16-19

September 26-29

September 28-29

October 1-2

October 9-15

October 11-13

November 8-10

November 16-17

Visit http://pnwisa.org for information about upcoming educational programs offered by PNW-ISA.

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Watch your email inbox and the Chapter website for regular updates on the ATC 2016 in Boise, Idaho. Information on the conference schedule, confirmed speakers and presentation topics, and registration details will be shared as soon as it is available!
The Chapter is literally humming with activity these days. Work continues on improving the website. More and more classes and workshops are being scheduled. The Regional TCCs are on the calendar. And of course, nowhere is it busier than Boise, Idaho where Lance Davison and his cadre of volunteers are hard at work planning the 2016 Annual Training Conference!

The members of your Board of Directors have been active as well, getting together in Portland in mid-May for a two-day meeting and strategy session.

It’s all so good! But we can’t do it alone. We are always looking for volunteers to help out with Chapter events, especially the TCCs and the conference. You’ll see more about this inside, in the article on the upcoming ATC and in Certification Corner. Read them, think about it, and then join in to help. I know it’s cliché, but it’s true ... you really do get more out of it than you put in!

Also in this issue ... Zeb Haney discusses Ergonomics in Tree Climbing 101, Jim Barborinas profiles the Tree Lilacs, TCC volunteer Katy Bigelow is featured in the Spotlight, Member Services Director Katie Lompa promotes the online Arborist Directory, and Julian Dunster shares his views on the use (and possible abuse) of the TRAQ form in Tree Risk Assessments. Something for everyone, right?

Just a reminder that the Chapter’s annual awards will be presented at the ATC in Boise, so please forward nominations to the Chapter office (there’s a form on the website, under Member Services).

And the Officer positions are up for election at this year’s AGM, so we’ll be looking for nominations for the positions of President-Elect, Secretary, and Treasurer as well.

In the meantime, best wishes to you all for a wonderful summer!

Susan Munro
Editor

Are you interested in submitting an article or photograph for the newsletter? Deadlines for each issue are as follows:

- Spring – February 1
- Summer – May 1
- Fall – August 1
- Winter – November 1

For further information, contact the Editor at munrosa@telus.net.

PNW-ISA

ADVERTISING RATES

PNW TREES (PER ISSUE*):
- Full page - $170
- Half page - $100
- Quarter page - $70
- Business card - $35

* There is a 10% discount for placing ads in four (4) consecutive issues.

PNW-ISA WEB PAGE:
- $50/two months

Contact the Chapter office at 503-874-8263 or 1-800-335-4391 for more information.

The mission of the Pacific Northwest ISA is to foster a greater appreciation of trees and promote the professional practice of arboriculture through education, research, and technology.
IN CANADA, APRIL 28 was our National Day of Mourning for workers killed or injured on the job. Here in BC, there were 122 workplace fatalities in 2015. These numbers are from across all industries, but there were arborists among them. And as I write this, the death of a BC Certified Utility Arborist, Jody Taylor, is too fresh in my mind.

Like many in our profession, Jody was experienced, skilled, well thought of by his peers, and he truly loved what he did for a living. Like all of us, I’m sure he went to work that day fully expecting to go home to see his daughter, whom he adored. But he never made it home. Too often I hear of others who never went home at the end of the day.

Tree work is hazardous by nature. Working at heights, chainsaws, chippers, electrical hazards, falling objects, complex rigging systems, traffic, weather, the structural integrity of the trees themselves, all these and more introduce hazards to the daily work. Job planning is critical in identifying all the possible hazards and in determining how the risks presented by those hazards can be reduced as much as possible.

A skilled tree worker routinely looks at all those hazards and plans accordingly. But one of the problems with doing things routinely can be complacency. If you’ve done something the same way a hundred times and nothing has gone wrong, it is easy to forget to ask yourself, “but what if something goes wrong this time?”

When the consequences are so high, we can’t afford to rely on chance. Every move must be planned out, and all the possible outcomes considered.

Yes, tree work is hazardous, but let’s not make it risky. Be safe out there.

Phil Graham
President

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Richard Acrey, Central Point, OR
Ashlee Allbury, Lantzville, BC
Justin Arends, Belmond, IA
Brian Arvish, Four Lakes, WA
Robert Bacon III, Bellingham, WA
Melissa Bennett, Seattle, WA
Erik Biddle, Clarkston, WA
Colin Blevins, Eastsound, WA
Dan Cacie, Port Coquitlam, BC
Robert Cissell, Anchorage, AK
Paul Clarin, Cashmere, WA
Stephen Collins, Richmond, BC
James Cooper, Everett, WA
Caroline Dalglish, Mission, BC
Tolulope Daramola, Kent, WA
Thomas Ellis, Montesano, WA
Justin Gammon, Corvallis, OR
Alfredo Garcia, Portland, OR
Nicholas Gero, Lake Stevens, WA
Sarah Greenleaf, Corvallis, OR
Elwood Hamilton, Calgary, AB
Matthew Hardman, Coquitlam, BC
Stephen Harvey, Richmond, BC
Robert Hatton, Portland, OR
Jared Hazel, Sitka, AK
Norman Heavenor, Victoria, BC
Matthew Kavanagh, Poulso, WA
Bryan Koschmann, Spokane, WA
Chris Koslosky, Upland, CA
Tracy Koslosky, Horseshoe Bend, ID
Grady Lazenby, Maple Ridge, BC
Nick Leboe, Squamish, BC
Terry Lee, Renton, WA
Ian MacConnel, Pullman, WA
Chris McKerracher, Port Moody, BC
Robert McTavish, Langley, BC
Chris McVey, Golden, BC
Andrew Misch, Sacramento, CA
Coney Moore, Bothell, WA
Amber Mottle, Burnaby, BC
Stanford Nash, Rexburg, ID
Marta Nelson, Snohomish, WA
Veronica Pagowski, Vancouver, BC
Tina Pash, Vancouver, WA
Trevor Peterson, Pullman, WA
Megan Plog, Seattle, WA
Kristina Prosser, Troutdale, OR
Stefan Rau, Seattle, WA
Aaron Roberts, Lakewood, WA
Robert Royer, Courtenay, BC
Diana Schilff, Kuna, ID
Colin Shackelford, Vancouver, WA
Matthew Sherman, Poulsbo, WA
Nathon Sold, Scappoose, OR
Megan Stoll, Poulsbo, WA
Chanda Stone, Beaverton, OR
Isaac Stukes, Tacoma, WA
William Suprunowski, North Bend, WA
Matthew Swanson, Plymouth, CA
Robert Tenney, Nampa, ID
Dallas Thom, Cascade, ID
Dustin Thomas, Kent, WA
Dwayne Thompson, Cranbrook, BC
Erik Tjossem, Mckinleyville, CA
Michael Trillo, Renton, WA
Ezequiel Ulloa, Lakewood, WA
Richard Valenti, Auburn, WA
Timothy Vandenberg, Abbotsford, BC
Troy Warnick, Tenino, WA
Zackariah Weimer, Kailua Kona, HI
Curtis White, Arlington, WA
Alexis Wiessler, White Rock, BC
Lea Wilson, Portland, OR
Suzan Wilson, Portland, OR
Taras Wiwczaruk, Surrey, BC
FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S DESK

Writing this May column almost always follows on the heels of the spring strategic planning retreat with the Board of Directors. True to form, we just met in Portland, OR, May 13-14. Last year, I shared information about two key action items approved by the board in Bend, OR.

The first was to move the Continuing Education Program Manager position from a 0.6 position to full time. The second was to execute a request for proposals to redesign the Chapter website. As noted then, I expected those initiatives to create a fairly heavy workload for the year.

And, indeed they did. The newly-designed, mobile-friendly website was launched in March to much acclaim already. The site is easier to navigate, has more information readily available, and provides new advances for our increased use of and need for better technology and tools.

If you have the combined attributes of being a PNW Member who is ISA Certified and For Hire, you should take advantage of the Chapter’s complimentary listing in the promotional directory. If you want more than a basic listing, options are available to show more information about you and your company for as low as $75/year.

The promotional directory is “the” go-to source for many of our green industry peers and colleagues in contact with customers requesting referrals for someone to hire. Take advantage of this member service. The more ISA Certified Arborists we have listed on the site, the more impact we can have on educating others about professional tree care.

The new and improved website is also helping promote the Chapter’s Classes & Events, which have increased dramatically since hiring staff to oversee the program. If you click here, you are likely to see as many as 12-15 classes open for registration right now.

An expanded calendar is already in the works for fall/winter 2016 and well into spring/summer 2017. The education updates being sent via email are designed to highlight specific upcoming classes with links to all classes available. Bookmark the page and visit the site often to see what’s new.

As the Annual Training Conference nears, your inbox will also see bi-monthly conference updates to keep you informed about the conference schedule, speaker lineup, and any special events planned. Conference registration will open in June.

Mark your calendars now for September 16-19 in Boise, ID. The conference theme—“Connect, Cultivate, Grow”—promises to deliver! Alongside the conference is the Chapter Tree Climbing Championship. The Pacific Northwest boasts about this dedicated, enthusiastic group of climbers. Come watch the action in Boise, September 15-16. You will be impressed.

Patty Williams
Executive Director

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If a tree dies, plant another in its place.
~ Linnaeus
Join us in Boise, Idaho for PNW-ISA's 37th ATC! September 16-19, 2016

Boise will be hosting the 37th Pacific Northwest ISA Annual Training Conference (ATC). It is our honor and pleasure to welcome the ATC back to the Treasure Valley. Boise last hosted this event in 2008, and this year’s conference is quickly shaping up to be another great success. Boise has grown since the last ATC, and the conference committee is excited to invite ISA professionals from all over the Pacific Northwest to Boise, “The City of Trees.”

The city of Boise is located in southwestern Idaho’s Treasure Valley at the western edge of the Great Basin and the Intermountain West. As Idaho’s capital city, Boise is home to a community that integrates agriculture, business, and industry into a thriving local economy. Boise has lots to offer its citizens and visitors alike with nearby recreation and entertainment, such as foothill trails, the Boise River greenbelt, a vibrant downtown, and a growing microbrew scene, which are just a few of the local attractions. Boise is an ideal setting for those who want to live, work, and play in their surrounding community.

This year’s ATC theme is “Connect, Cultivate, Grow!” This theme highlights the numerous ways in which the people of our industry utilize their specialized skills and knowledge within our communities – literally... “Connecting” with the community, “Cultivating” information, and “Growing” relationships. “Connect, Cultivate, Grow!” is woven through the conference thread via our speakers, topics, sponsors, and exhibitors; and as always, attending the ATC is an excellent tool for connecting with peers, cultivating continuing education, and growing relationships.

The conference schedule includes the PNW Tree Climbing Championship and Masters’ Challenge, Tree Academy, Field Day, special events, and indoor conference, which includes tracks for Climbing, Commercial, Municipal, and Utility arborists. You can look forward to hearing from industry leaders, such as Ed Gilman, Jim Urban, John Ball, Michelle Mitchell, and ArborMaster’s Ken Palmer. Local PNW tree experts Jim Flott and Brian French will be on hand to present during the Field Day portion of the conference. A brewery walking tour is one of three special events offered during the conference. This is just a sample of what will be an informative and exciting conference.

Volunteers are needed to help make this conference a success. For your service, volunteers will receive a 15% discount on conference registration. Available volunteer positions include, but are not limited to, helping at the registration table, hall monitors, announcers for guest speakers/room monitors, Field Day Stations, Vendor Reception, and more.

Volunteers are welcome to volunteer for their preferred track. Don’t wait… sign up now! To volunteer, please contact Kathy Robert, Volunteer Chair, mkrobert@q.com or call or text 208-724-0114. Stay connected, as there will be more information to follow as the conference date nears.

Conference Information will be updated regularly so stay connected! Follow the PNW-ISA on Twitter @goodtreepeople or Like our Facebook page at facebook.com/goodtreepeople. These outlets will provide online registration information, conference updates, sponsor and exhibitor information, and other PNW-ISA news.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Need Climbing Help?

Contract Climbers is here to connect a select group of highly experienced climbers with companies needing skilled help. We have a number of arborists, climbing photographers, and rope access professionals that are available to help with your project big or small, wherever it is in the northwest or the world.

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Update from The TREE Fund

Beth Buchanan wins Ken Ottman Volunteer Award

Please join us in congratulating Beth Buchanan of Mantua, OH, winner of the 2016 Ken Ottman Award for outstanding volunteer service to the TREE Fund. Beth is an energetic, passionate, and inspirational advocate and fundraiser for the TREE Fund. She serves as Ohio Chapter ISA’s TREE Fund Liaison and captain of STIHL Tour des Trees’ Team Ohio. Under her leadership, Team Ohio raised a record-breaking $103,100 in 2015. Beth will be recognized this August at the ISA Conference in Ft. Worth.

Announcing our Arbor Day promotion winners...

Congratulations to Kent Redding (TN) and Andy Kittsley (FL), winners of the TREE Fund’s Arbor Day promotion. Kent donated to the 2016 STIHL Tour des Trees during the week of April 25-29, and his name was drawn to win the artisan bowl. Andy received a donation to his 2016 ride that week, and he won a restaurant certificate. The biggest winner, though, was the urban forest, as the promotion raised over $10,000 for tree research and education! Thank you to all who participated. Look for our next donor promotion June 12-20.

Round up your friends and join us at TREE Fund After Hours – NEW!

Kudos and many thanks to the Collier family and friends for their successful fundraiser at TCIA’s 2016 Winter Management Conference. They raised $48,000 for the Collier Arborist Training Trust!

Collier Arborist Training Trust

Who: All 2016 ISA Conference registrants
What: Arborist App Share featuring Brandon Gallagher Watson, Rainbow Treecare Scientific Advancements; Golden Ticket Raffle; Mini-Auction; Raise Your Hand for Research; Aggies vs. Longhorns Heads or Tails Game
Where: Trade show floor, Food and Beverage Area, Aisle 500
When: Monday, August 15, 2016, 5:30 – 7:00 pm

Come grow with us!

General Tree Service, the largest and oldest locally owned tree care company in the PNW, has immediate openings for: Experienced Climbing Crew Leaders • Climber Trainees Landscape Maintenance Crew Leaders • Plant Healthcare Technicians Are you interested in a rewarding and productive career with a company that is serious about providing you with the resources and training to help you grow with them? With the experience and training provided by General Tree Service, many of our employees have gone on to succeed in local city positions, municipal positions, consulting, and even starting their own successful companies.

Successful candidates are dedicated and committed to: Safe Work Practices • Arboricultural Excellence • Great Customer Service Candidates must also pass a drug test and have an insurable driving record. Benefits include: 100% Company Paid Medical & Dental for Employees Partially subsidized premiums for dependents • Paid Holidays & Vacation 401(k) with Employer Match • 125 Plan • Tuition Reimbursement Company supplied quality climbing & safety equipment • Competitive Wages For more details, and to apply, visit us at www.generaltree.com

To date, the intrepid Phil Graham of Vernon, BC remains Team PNW’s sole rider in the 2016 edition of the STIHL Tour des Trees. Please show your support (for him and the TREE Fund) and sponsor his ride through the Carolinas this coming October!

For more information, and to donate, visit the Tour website at stihltourdestrees.org.

Submitted by Wendy Robinson, PNW TREE Fund Liaison.
Let’s Talk Ergonomics.

Ergonomics is the fitting of a job to a person. This can easily be seen in the contrast between the shapes and sizes of certain tools that climbing arborists use. We can often see that these are more comfortable to use. But why is this important? A recent OSHA study showed that MSDs (musculoskeletal disorders) were the source of approximately one-third of all injuries that resulted in time loss. In other words, the lack of ergonomics can literally result in being unemployed.

A simple way to avoid MSDs is through prevention. Stretching, exercises that involve core-strength movements, and training to use proper lifting/body motions can mitigate the repetitive nature of musculoskeletal injuries. Basically, focusing on moving in a natural manner, using good posture, and utilizing your larger and stronger muscle groups in all of the work you do.

Some examples in the tree climbing world would be using a handled ascender instead of simply gripping a rope, climbing with an ascender on each foot in order to keep a balanced use of energy while ascending, and of course, avoiding the use of climbing spurs. Other basic considerations would be using lightweight tools wherever possible, helmets that fit your head snug and squarely, and using gloves.

So, as you carry out individual tasks while working, think about each set of movements you do.

- Are you using good posture?
- Is this a task that you always do with one hand versus the other?
- Can you make a change to alleviate repeated strains?
- Are there tools you can use to make your job easier?

So prevent these injuries as best you can and you’ll be able to enjoy working in the best field possible.

By Zeb Haney, Tree Resource Inc., Federal Way, WA.

Images courtesy of Ed Carpenter.
Ready, Set, Dinocide!

Broad Spectrum Insect Control – Now Injectable

Nothing works faster than Dinocide at treating trees and shrubs for scale insects. Micro-injectable Dinocide is usually effective within 3-7 days, getting the job done twice as fast. The time it takes to be on and off your customer’s properties will be cut in half by using injectable dinocide applications. It kills a full spectrum of scale insect species, including whiteflies, Japanese beetles, mealybugs and flathead borers. Scale your insect treatment program down from weeks to days on any customer property that requires it.

Call 800-TREES Rx (800-873-3779) or visit www.maugetlco.com to learn more about tree care with Mauget.
The large and fragrant flower of the common lilac is a fondly held memory and experience for many of us. Most often planted as a shrub, lilacs have also been grown in tree form for some time. However, they are not used as often as they should as a tree. In addition to the more familiar shrub forms, there are tree forms of this plant. As we get better at selecting small maturing trees for use in smaller spaces, tree lilacs *Syringa reticulata* and *S. pekinensis* are definitely ones to consider.

Tree lilacs are relatively small, at most about 20 to 30 feet tall and 15 to 25 feet wide. Leaves are opposite, single, entire, broad-ovate, 2 to 5 and half inches long and about half as wide. Leaves are dark green on top and grayish green and reticulate (netlike pattern) on the bottom. The undersides might also be glabrous or slightly pubescent. Spring growth appears to be fresh, clean, and balanced. Newly emerging leaves have a wine colored hue, turning green as they expand. Bloom time is early summer. Flowers are white to cream color, born on stalks 6 to 12 inches tall and 5 to 8 inches wide. I have found them to be fragrant and agreeable while Dirr has noted that some smell privet-like, unappealing to some.

Trunks are for the most part very straight with perfect branch structure at almost a 90 degree angle of attachment before curving upward to form an ascending crown. Twigs and limbs are a bit brittle, somewhat of a concern for shipping or when children like to reach out and grab a limb. A little corrective pruning is beneficial as they age but otherwise they are relatively care-free trees. Generally, lilacs can be susceptible to disease and frost injury but the selections are found to be more resistant. Transplanting is relatively easy and they favor loose, well drained soils that are slightly acid, although they are known to be tolerant of a wide pH range. They grow best in full sun and will take some shade. They have good drought tolerance once established, important to consider as our climate changes.

Fortunately, more and improved varieties continue to reach the market. One of the oldest and well known selections is *Syringa reticulata* ‘Ivory Silk’ introduced in 1973. Others are ‘China Girl’ and ‘Summer Snow’ to name a few. Another closely related tree is *Syringa pekinensis* ‘Summer Charm.’ Make a point of requesting these for small planting space locations and you might find them more available.

Let me know what your experience is with the tree lilac to share with others in the future.

By Jim Barborinas, Urban Forestry Services, Inc. & Urban Forest Nursery, Inc., Mt. Vernon, WA.

jim@urbanforestryservices.com
Every so often new books come out that provide a fresh perspective on well established themes. This latest offering by Wiley is one such example. All of the fifteen contributors are based in Germany, and the source material offered is very much European – a good thing as it introduces perspectives, examples, and case studies less commonly seen in North America.

There are twenty chapters covering benefits, biology, species selection, drought, pathology, vitality, body language, architecture, inventory, risk assessment, preservation, pruning, invasive species, as well as governance, allotment gardens and green space, the role of urban forests for rest and relaxation, and aspects of how such areas are accepted by society in general.

With such a broad coverage, not all aspects get extensive, in-depth treatment, yet there is enough material to provide a solid foundation for each area discussed. It is especially refreshing to see the coverage include not just trees, but also how they provide links to other aspects of Green Cities, such as allotment gardens, open space, and the thoughtful and deliberate integration of designs that weave trees, ecology, and livable spaces together. The use of colour photographs and well designed graphics is a pleasant addition and a welcome change from line art and black and white pictures.

This is a useful and timely addition to the literature. It is comprehensive in coverage and will serve as an excellent all round book covering details of the tree, the landscape, and how these help to form a Green City. The book is a good addition for any arborists and urban foresters charged with managing trees in urban areas.

By Julian Dunster, Victoria, BC.
Continuing Education Opportunities

**Developing Field Assessment Skills for Common PNW Tree Diseases**

July 28 – Seattle, WA  
July 29 – Seattle, WA

**Improve Your Tree Disease Field Assessment Skills**

- In this all-day class (to be offered twice) at Seward Park in Seattle, morning lectures will cover visual assessment techniques for tree disease, using a combination of signs and symptoms of common diseases in native PNW trees.
- In the afternoon, we will be outdoors examining diseases of Douglas-fir, western hemlock, western redcedar, bigleaf maple, and Pacific madrone. The types of wood decay, fungus fruiting bodies, as well as structural and risk implications will be discussed, and sonic tomography and resistance drilling will be demonstrated as examples of advanced risk assessment techniques.
- The diseases to be covered will include *Phaeolus schweinitzii*, *Heterobasidion occidentale*, *Armillaria ostoyae*, *Porodaedalea pini*, *Kretzschmeria deusta*, *Phellinus sulphurascens*, *Neofusicoccum arbuti*, and others.
- This course will be of use to anyone interested in tree diseases, and particularly anyone conducting risk assessment of trees with disease. The instructors are Dr. Julian Dunster and Bob Edmonds (Professor Emeritus at the University of Washington).

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**Announcing the Return of the Community Tree Management Institute!**

**An All-New, Redesigned**  
Community Tree Management Institute (CTMI) will return this fall. CTMI is an intensive training and professional development course specifically tailored to the needs of those who have tree-related responsibilities in their communities – it provides participants with the information, skills, and leadership training to carry out their tree-related responsibilities more effectively.

Why change anything in such a successful program, you ask? We are shifting with the times! The new course uses state-of-the-art remote coursework technology along with three intensive two-day, face-to-face, retreat-style field sessions over the course of three months, teaching city planning, public works, and parks staff to “think like urban foresters.”

In the past, meetings have been spread out over eight months with many sessions of online content. With our redesigned approach, we have shortened the duration, improved online content, and increased the collaborative peer-to-peer learning component that most of the past 150+ graduates of the CTMI have valued so highly.

**SESSION 1 – Focus: ‘Community’**  
September 12-14, 2016  
Alderbrook Resort, Union, WA

**SESSION 2 – Focus: ‘Trees’**  
October 11-13, 2016  
Vancouver Hilton, Vancouver, WA

**SESSION 3 – Focus: ‘Management’**  
November 8-10, 2016  
Oregon Garden Resort, Silverton, OR

Participants are drawn from Oregon and Washington, and are limited to only 30 people. Cost is $525. For more information, go to [http://ctmi-2016.eventbrite.com](http://ctmi-2016.eventbrite.com) and register before June 30, 2016.

Reprinted from [Community Tree Connections, Number 83, Spring 2016](http://www.ctraining.org).
**Tree Risk Assessment – Use or Abuse of the TRAQ Form**

The Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (TRAQ) was designed to provide a systematic process for assessing tree risk. Part of the process was to devise a simple field data collection form. The form now used in teaching the course went through many iterations before it was released. When teaching the course it is always noted that although use of the form is mandatory for the course, it is not mandatory to use the form in your everyday field work.

The TRAQ form is designed to help the user collect data. Not all boxes need to be checked because many times there is nothing relevant to the assessment in hand. For the three Likelihood of Failure boxes dealing with Crown, Trunk, and Roots if there are no issues of concern the user would note None for Main Concerns, the Load on Defect would be not applicable, and the Likelihood of Failure would be Improbable. Apart from basic details about the locations, date and time frame, many other parts of the first page could conceivably be left unchecked.

Several users have contacted me and asked if the forms must be used in all assessments. The answer is an emphatic no! The TRAQ field data form was designed to serve as a way to collect information. There are other ways to do that, including written field notes, photographs, and tape recordings. It is up to the assessor to decide how best to collect and record the information that is important to the risk rating. You may choose to use the TRAQ form but it is not mandatory. I do not use it, preferring instead to document factors of importance with written notes and photographs.

Apparently, some Cities or municipal staff are now requesting that every tree assessed must be accompanied by a completed TRAQ form. Quite why that would be requested is not clear. The TRAQ form was never designed or intended to be used as an audit trail. One wonders what do staff think they gain by requiring a form for each tree? In many cases staff are not qualified to assess whether or not the form has been correctly used. Even if staff were themselves qualified in the TRAQ programme it is doubtful that they can render a judgement about the tree unless they have actually visited the site themselves. Even then, the very nature of tree risk assessment is subjective, so would staff automatically be able to contradict the initial assessor’s opinion? It is very unlikely the TRAQ form could be used as a means of quality control.

As one of the panel members involved in the design of the TRAQ course, including the process, the form, and the training course, I know that the data collection form was never intended to be used in this way. What staff or clients should expect is a well written report. We teach that in the TRAQ course and we provide sample reports in the course materials. By itself the TRAQ form is of very limited use as part of any submission. Simply ticking boxes on a form is not a good enough approach. Anyone wanting to review tree risk assessment work should expect to see the following components of a report:

1. Site address, date of assessment, assessor’s name, client’s name.
2. Synopsis of site conditions, ideally with photographs.
3. The Level of Assessment undertaken, and any additional tools or tests conducted.
4. Some details about any issues of concern, why they are of concern (or not) and the associated risk ratings of Likelihood of Impact, Likelihood of Failure, and Consequences leading to the final risk rating, as well as a timeframe for Likelihood of Failure, and the reinspection period (and no, that does not need to be every year).
5. If required, suggested ways in which identified risks can be reduced by mitigation, and what the residual risk would be if such measures were implemented.
6. Any other relevant factors.
7. The limitations that affect the risk assessment undertaken.

Once such a report is written, the field collection notes whether written on the ISA field data form, or in some other manner, become less relevant. The report should be capable of standing on its own, and the writer should include all of the information relevant to the identified risk assessment levels.

Hopefully, the concept of requiring a completed TRAQ form for every tree and every submission will not gain traction. That is an abuse of what was intended, and it serves no defencable purpose. It is more likely to make assessors think all they have to do is tick every box to have an acceptable submission. Or worse yet, to have reviewers reject assessments because they feel some boxes were left unchecked. Either scenario is wrong and reflects a lack of understanding. You need to write a well formed report that clearly documents the site, the tree, the assessed risk levels and how you think these can be managed. Anything less than that may be something that City staff should reflect on, but automatically requiring a completed TRAQ form is wrong, and should not be a mandatory part of risk assessment reporting.

Julian Dunster designed, implemented and taught the original Tree Risk Assessment Course and Exam (TRACE) that created the Certified Tree Risk Assessment credential – the first such credential for arborists in North America. He was one of the panel of experts that created the TRAQ programme and training course, and wrote the course manual for TRAQ and TRACE. He has instructed TRACE and TRAQ in several parts of the world. He can be contacted by email at jd@dunster.ca.
Around the Chapter

PNW-ISA’s Arborist Directory

As the Member Services Director on the PNW-ISA Board, I have a goal that I hope you will agree makes sense for your business. My goal is: **To have all PNW-ISA members who are For Hire, and are ISA Certified Arborists listed in the PNW-ISA online Arborist Directory before July 1, 2016.**

I need your help to reach my goal. Please read further to find out how you can enter your listing. To do so is FREE!

The PNW-ISA Arborist Directory:

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By Katie Lompa, Member Services Director.

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**PNW’s own Phillip Kelley, who volunteered as one of the judges at the 2016 ITCC in San Antonio, was recognized with the Volunteer Spirit Award at that event. Congratulations, Phillip!**

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Join Us in Fort Worth, Texas – The City of Cowboys and Culture

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The 16th largest city in the United States, Fort Worth was once known for its wild, outlaw reputation. However, the city has grown into a center of commerce, arts, and music offering wonderful experiences rich in Western heritage and cosmopolitan culture.

Early registration discounts end June 17, so don’t delay – register today! Visit the ISA Conference website for updates, and follow us on Facebook and Twitter (@ISAarbiculture, #ISAFortWorth).

See you in Fort Worth!

Highlights of the 2016 ITCC San Antonio

The 2016 International Tree Climbing Championship (ITCC), held April 1-3 in San Antonio, Texas, celebrated the 40th anniversary of this ISA competition at the same venue where the event celebrated its 10th anniversary in 1986 – Brackenridge Park. In addition to the ITCC, the event provided educational opportunities with demonstrations of safety and best practices along with exhibits by industry vendors and public engagement activities that created an exciting ISA experience for participants of all ages.

A special thank you goes to the ISA Texas Chapter and the City of San Antonio for providing an awesome team of volunteers who worked side-by-side with ISA staff to organize a highly successful Arbor Fair and Expo.

Congratulations to 2016 ITCC Masters’ Challenge Champions James Kilpatrick and Chrissy Spence, both of New Zealand. A full report of the event can be found here.

ISA General Membership Election is Open

The general membership election for three ISA Board of Directors positions and four Nominating and Elections Committee positions opened on May 16 and ends June 30, 2016. Eligible ISA members are encouraged to take this opportunity to have a voice in your Society’s leadership. Check your email inbox for a message from ISA that contains a link to the electronic ballot with instructions and nominee information. You can also learn about the nominees here.

Excerpts from ISA Today, March - May 2016.
SUMMER HAS BEGUN AND THE unseasonal high summer temps are early. The last several weeks I have been involved in an email thread regarding the Chapter’s Tree Climbing Championship (TCC) and a Certified Tree Worker Skills test that will be held in Boise, Idaho during the Annual Training Conference (ATC), on Friday, September 16. The ATC committee is working hard putting together the event and getting the needed volunteers. This includes getting approved CTW evaluators lined up.

This thread put into motion a realization that the Chapter and Board has lacked commitment and understanding of the time and effort it takes from the amazing volunteers who step forward to put the TCC and CTW events together. The Regional TCCs in Seattle and Portland have the same issues.

Every year we get about a month or two out before we start the process of organizing the event. Those individuals who step up then take on the tasks of looking for a park to have the TCC, and locating the TCC trailer (which can be time consuming in itself, only to find that the entire trailer has been purged again and needs to be restocked). The list of tasks goes on and on. I want to put a shout out to all those who have organized our TCC’s and done a great job pulling them all together every year, many times with little support from the Chapter and/or members.

At our May meeting, we as a Board voted to make a change and step up as a Chapter and support the events. The Certification Director will now oversee the TCC as part of the position’s job description. We are putting together a stipend plan for individuals who organize the events to help cover the personal time it takes to get them off the ground. In addition, Patty Williams and I are putting together a set of basic TCC guidelines with lists of sponsors, event judges, techs, timers, and all other volunteer needs. My goals are to find an individual who will take this on, provide them a stipend, develop a list of individuals in all regions who will take ownership of one of the TCC events, and develop a team that handles set-up and tear down at every event. More to come as this gets more defined!

~ Lyle Feilmeier, Certification Director.
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW . . .

CERTIFIED ARBORISTS

William Anderson,
Dayton, WA
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Thanh Bui, Bellevue, WA
Anna Carragee, Seattle, WA
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Jeffrey Ford, Central Point, OR
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Matthew Hardman, Coquitlam, BC
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Arborist ISA Certification (Exam Preparation)

Designed for park professionals, tree pruners, landscape architects and gardeners who are preparing to write the ISA exam. Topics include tree identification, plant physiology, pruning, installation and establishment. Textbook: Arborist Certification Study Guide (available at Commercial Solutions, 604-927-5800). The ISA exam is scheduled for Dec. 3 in North Vancouver. Note: 3 years of industry experience is required to write the exam (not included in the course). Burnaby Central School, 6011 Deer Lake Pkwy., Burnaby, Tues., 7:00-9:30 p.m. & Sat., 9:30 a.m.-12 noon, starting Oct. 11, 10 sessions., $300.

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Hi! I’m Katy and right off the bat I’ll say we need volunteers, all the time, every time for ISA Tree Climbing Competitions!

I didn’t come to tree climbing, let alone competing, like most of you: Many years ago I took a course from Tim Kover and after years of climbing straight up and down in my own backyard on a Blake’s hitch, someone said, “Why don’t you compete?” Well ... I laughed and laughed but in the end talked a friend into practicing things we didn’t know and showed up to our PNW comp in Olympia several years ago.

I can’t say how nerve-wracking it was to show up at a competition where those competing were mainly working full time climbing trees every day, but as the day went on, it was the volunteers belaying, score keeping, cheering, and judging who encouraged me thorough the whole day.

The last few years I have switched to the “back end” of competing – helping to set up. For anyone who hasn’t been on that side of things, you leave a comp nearly as exhausted as if you had spent all day climbing! I have such respect for those who take the time out to run and organize our comps, our ISA events, meetings, and heck, this whole organization. I’ve really never thought twice about giving my time back to a group that has helped me grow and succeed in my own practice.

I’m also proud of having put on my own tree climbing event in the Seattle area for five years running now. My goal has always been to include as many newbies and women as possible – even though it’s a non-sanctioned event, this past year we had 8 women compete – wahoo indeed! There is no way I could put that event on without the bevy of volunteers I had for days before and the day of.

So, I’ll say it again, if you are passionate about trees, any aspect of working with them, find a way to volunteer and share the part you are passionate about – you never know who you will inspire! Climb safe all!

(I am a climbing consulting arborist who works with a variety of clients in the Kitsap County and Seattle areas. While I love to work, I love to climb to rescue kitties too, when they are too stuck to get down. I’ve been running my own business since 2003 and have been a Certified Arborist since 2006.)

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