

Schedule of Events

Thursday, October 12, 2023

- 9:00a - 11:00a **MSA Board Meeting** – Lake Superior Room
- 11:30a - 3:30p **ISA Certified Arborist, Utility Specialist, and Municipal Specialist Exam** – Duluth Room
- 11:30a - 4:00p **Lunch & Altec Tour** - Lake Superior Room, Offsite – Altec, Inc.
Lunch at 11:30 in Lake Superior Room. Transportation arrives at 12:15 to depart for Altec. Meet in hotel lobby.
Sponsored by Teupen and Altec, Inc.
- 4:00a - 8:00p **Registration** – Lyric Conference Center
- 6:00a - 8:00p **MSA Welcome Reception** – Lyric Conference Center
Sponsored by Bartlett Tree Experts & Davey Tree Expert Company

Friday, October 13, 2023

- 7:00a - 8:30a **Registration & Breakfast** – Lake Superior, Lake Michigan, Lake Huron Room
- 7:45a - 8:00a **MSA Welcome & Updates** – Ryan Gustafson
- 8:00a - 9:00a **Climate Adaptation Strategies & Resources for Forest Management** – Maddy Baroli
This talk will provide an introduction to general climate adaptation concepts, practical resources from NIACS specifically designed to support climate adaptation in urban forests, and how to use the USDA Forest Service 'Climate Change Tree Atlas' tool to inform planting and management. An overview of Tree Atlas results for species in Minnesota will be provided.
- 9:00a - 10:00a **Forest Health Issues for Minnesota** – Eric Otto
Important forest health issues that currently impact or could potentially impact Minnesota's trees and forests will be covered in this presentation. These issues include emerald ash borer, oak wilt, and more. Updates from 2023 will also be provided for these issues including different forest canopy trends that were observed.
- 10:00a - 10:30a **Networking & Exhibitor Break**
- 10:30a - 11:30a **Lightning Talks**
Talk 1 - The Cold Hard Truth: The Impact of False Springs on Flowering in Native Wood Species – Jessica A. Savage
I will talk about my research on floral freezing tolerance and what it can tell us about the risks associated with false springs (warming temperatures followed by a hard freeze). This research is focused primarily on native, woody plants in Northern Minnesota.
Talk 2 - The InnovaTree™ Poplar Variety: The Good, The Bad, and the Unknown – Jeff Jackson
The Natural Resources Research Institute, Duluth, MN, uses traditional breeding techniques to develop fast-growing poplar varieties. One of their top performers, InnovaTree™, was recently patented and licensed for sale. It was rigorously tested in research plantations throughout the upper Midwest. Its fast growth and disease resistance provide value for many applications. We will discuss good and bad landscape applications for it, and what is still unknown about it.
Talk 3 - Viscoelastic Behavior of Trees and Branches Under Load – Morris Levy
This presentation focuses on the mechanical concepts that govern deformation of tissues. The participant will learn about mechanical concepts of elasticity and viscosity, and their combination to provide varying strength to biological materials. The information presented is intended to give attendees the background necessary to understand what they observe in the field.
- 11:30a - 12:30p **MSA Awards Luncheon**
The MSA President's Award will be awarded and the 2023 Minnesota Community Forestry Award recipients will be recognized.
- 11:30a - 12:30p **ISA Membership Outreach Focus Group Lunch** – Duluth Room
Must be pre-registered with MSA.
- 12:30p - 1:30p **Leadership** – Cyrus DeVere
- 1:30p - 2:30p **ANSI A300 Industry Standards for Pruning and Proper Pruning Practices** – Chad M. Rigsby, Ph.D.
This talk will provide an overview of part 1 of the latest ANSI A300 tree care industry standards for pruning, as well as discuss the best practices for pruning trees and shrubs in the field. We will cover arborist responsibilities, specifications, cut types, work practices, and improper practices according to the standard. We will also cover best practices for young and mature tree and shrub pruning.
- 2:30p - 2:45p **Networking & Exhibitor Break**
- 2:45p - 3:45p **City Forester Panel** – Clark Christenson, Sara Hudson, Ryan Wintlend, Moderator: Jacob Busiahn
- 3:45p - 4:45p **Connecting It All Together** – Kathryn (Katie) Fernholz
This presentation will reflect on the day to provide some key take-aways and the big picture. It will address the scale and pace of change in the practice of arboriculture, the relevance of standards and best practices to support the continued advancement of the professional practice, and the importance of collaborative approaches and a growth mindset during times that require us to stretch our skills and trust in the knowledge and abilities of many others to be successful.
- 4:45p **Closing Remarks**

Speakers

Maddy Baroli – Climate Adaptation Specialist, Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science

As a Climate Adaptation Specialist with the Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science, Maddy supports a variety of natural resource managers through the process of climate change adaptation planning, with a special focus on urban & community forestry. Maddy is passionate about the intersections of climate change, forestry, and social equity. She completed her Master's in Forest Conservation at the University of Toronto and lives in Traverse City, Michigan.

Jacob Busiahn – Owner, Tettegouche Treecare

I grew up on a farm in southwest Minnesota. After graduating from the University of Minnesota with a bachelor's degree in Forestry, I worked for the USFS in wildland fire, spent seven years as a city forester for Shakopee and Eden Prairie, MN, and now own/operate Tettegouche Treecare located in Duluth, MN

Clark Christenson – City Forester, City of Duluth, MN

Before working for the City of Duluth, Clark was a consulting forester who helped landowners manage their property. Currently he helps one large amalgamation of landowners manage their trees.

Cyrus DeVere – CEO, APlus Tree

Kathryn (Katie) Fernholz – President, Dovetail Partners

Kathryn is a forester by training with 25 years of experience in the forest sector. Her career has focused on sustainability concerns, including leadership on family forestry, urban forestry, innovative wood products, supply-chain assurances, and standard setting. Kathryn has a B.S. in Forest Resources from the University of Minnesota. She served as Chair of the Minnesota Society of American Foresters and was appointed to the Minnesota Forest Resources Council in 2002 and 2019.

Sara Hudson – Parks and Recreation Director, City Forester, City of Ashland, WI

Sara has called the shore of Lake Superior and Ashland, WI home for nearly 20 years. She holds a BS in Natural Resource Management and Conservation Biology from UW-Stevens Point. Sara has worked for the City of Ashland since 2006, in 2010 she became the Parks and Recreation Director and in 2020 took on the role of City Forester. She loves spending her time mountain biking, skiing and exploring the outdoors with her husband, two daughters and a brittany named Maple Syrup.

Jeff Jackson – Extension Educator, University of Minnesota Extension

Jeff Jackson is an Extension Educator focused on forest ecosystem health and the Natural Resource Research Institute's hybrid poplar program. He is part of an Extension Education team that specializes in collaborative learning and social-ecological innovation. Jeff's chief area of interest is developing networks of people who work together to support the innovative use of natural resources.

Morris Levy – Associate Professor Emeritus, Biomechanics, University of Minnesota – Duluth

Dr. Levy is an expert in human biomechanics and has over 20 years of experience teaching tissue mechanics. He has conducted research in mountain biking, youth Nordic skiers, canoe portaging and running. He was the faculty director of the MMAD Lab at UMD, a setting that allows researchers from a wide range of disciplines to gather in a single space. In that setting, he collaborated on projects involving performing artists (ballet dancers and pianists).

Eric Otto – Forest Health Specialist, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Eric Otto works as a forest health specialist for the Minnesota DNR covering northeast Minnesota. He works on multiple insect and disease issues impacting tree and forest health in that region. He previously volunteered for the Peace Corps in Ghana working in agriculture, and has also worked seasonal forestry positions in Minnesota, Wyoming, and Maine. Eric holds a Ph.D. in plant pathology and a B.S. in forest resources, both from the University of Minnesota.

Chad M. Rigsby, Ph.D – Research Scientist, Bartlett Tree Research Laboratories – Bartlett Tree Experts

Chad joined the Bartlett Tree Research Laboratories team in 2018 and is based at The Morton Arboretum. Chad's research focuses on a variety of topics centered on trees and their management including pruning, soil, root, and pest management, tree stress, growth-defense tradeoffs, and tree planting practices. In addition to research, Chad also works with Bartlett Tree Experts arborists and other groups to educate on and implement best management practices and science-driven tree care.

Jessica A. Savage – Associate Professor, University of Minnesota – Duluth

I have been a faculty at UMD for seven years. For my research, I study seasonal changes in plant physiology with a focus on the plant vascular system. I also run a phenology-centered citizen science program called Nature's Timekeepers. I got my PhD from the University of Minnesota - St. Paul. I completed a postdoc position at Harvard University and was an independent research fellow at the Arnold Arboretum before starting as a faculty in Duluth.

Ryan Wintlend – Superintendent, City of Superior, WI

I have worked for Superior Parks, Recreation, and Forestry for 9 years. I have been the tree foreman for 6 years, obtaining my ISA certified arborist 5 years ago. Within the month, I have been promoted to the Superintendent of that Department.

2023 Programs & Education Committee

Louise Levy – Chair
Breana Aguilar
Christian Feichtinger

Tony Foehrenbacher
Dan Gjertson
Ryan Gustafson

Sydney Hudzinski
Courtney Johnson
Brian Volz