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ROCHESTER ARBORIST WORKSHOP

February 20, 2025

Rochester Event Center
Rochester, MN

Featuring

Chris Luley, PhD
Kevin Bingham

Speakers



Chris Luley, PhD

Dr. Chris Luley has a 40+ year career in urban forestry and arboriculture. He is the former State Forest Pathologist for the Missouri Department of Conservation and ran the Plant Diagnostic Clinic at Iowa State University. He is currently based in upstate New York and operates Urban Forest Diagnostics. His book "Wood Decay Fungi" is well known to many arborists and his collaborative website www.treerot.com is popular. He is a recipient of the R.W. Harris Author's Award from the International Society of Arboriculture and the Lifetime Achievement Award from New York State Arborists, ISA Chapter, Inc. and Author Award from the Midwest Chapter of ISA.



Kevin Bingham

Kevin Bingham has been an ISA Certified Arborist since 2001. His passion for tree climbing began when he was a child. Kevin has invented the Singing Tree Rope Wrench and the Singing Tree Rope Runner, among other inventions that are taking the tree climbing world by storm. His company Singing Tree Rope Tools LLC is a premier design company started in 2012.

Rochester Arborist Workshop Planning Team

Organizers

Jay Maier, Chair
Mitch Hoy

Other Contributors

Scott Ferris
Nick Grebe
Sydney Hudzinski-Huber

Agenda

- 7:45 : Welcome and Opening Remarks
- 8:00 : **Woundwood, Callus, Decay and Plant Health Care** (Luley)
Assessment of callus and woundwood are critical to evaluating tree health and resistance to pests and decay fungi. Wound response is also directly tied to the ability of trees to contain decay fungi both before and after infection. Learn how to identify the various wound responses of trees, what they mean for pest and decay resistance, and when specific wood decay fungi are present in at tree.
- 9:00 : **Movement as a Tool** (Bingham)
As climbing arborists, movement is our most important tool. This presentation will explore the significance of human motion in our work and how we can optimize the use of our bodies. It will also highlight the importance of recovery and the consequences of atrophy.
- 10:30 : **Evaluating Trees for Decay** (Luley)
Arborists are required to assess trees for decay as part of their daily work context, such as sales calls, climbing, or during formal tree risk assessment. TRAQ qualified arborists are required to determine tree stability when decay is present and make subsequent judgments about tree failure potential. Yet the arboricultural industry has not provided an acceptable process for assessing trees for decay. This presentation will provide arborists with background details on why simple inspection process is important and effective, how to assess trees for decay presence and severity, and how to make basic judgments on tree stability.
- 11:30 : Lunch and Door Prizes
- 12:30 : **An Approach to Ideas** (Bingham)
As arborists, we constantly face unique problems that require adaptation, improvisation, and fabrication. This talk will discuss how we can approach these challenges and make decisions, recognizing that there is always a better solution.
- 1:30 : **Decay Biology and Management** (Luley)
Many arborists lack basic biological information on decay fungi cycles, decay types, infection biology, and development and impact of decay fungi on urban trees. More focused on biology then identification of individual fungi, this presentation provides an introduction to decay that all arborists should have to make judgements and recommendations about decay impacts on urban trees and provides basic management tools for decay fungi.
- 3:00 : **Re-imagining General Tree Care** (Bingham)
This presentation will examine the current trajectory of the industry and its implications for the trees. The talk will be an exploration and imagination of alternative models for the role of arborists in society.
- 4:00- : **Social and Climbers Corner** (Grebe, Ferris, & Hudzinski-Huber)
- 6:00 :

*Breaks with exhibitors will happen between sessions throughout the day.
ISA CEUs and MN Tree Inspector Recertification available*