

Brandon Pankey

Vice President / President-Elect

About Me

With nearly two decades of arboriculture experience and work in over 30 states, I bring a combination of technical expertise, business leadership, and a deep commitment to advancing our profession. My career began in forestry in Northeast Washington State, where I worked in logging from a young age, and evolved into tree climbing as a teenager with a landscape company. From there, I traveled across the country, honing my skills, collaborating with industry leaders such as Bartlett, Davey, and Asplundh, and learning from diverse markets and operations. I hold multiple professional credentials, including ISA Board Certified Master Arborist and TRAQ (#SO-9997B), TCIA Certified Tree Care Safety Professional (#06015), and an Associate's Degree in Business Management with an accounting concentration from Peninsula College, and I will be completing my bachelor's degree this winter.



As president of Blue Pine Works LLC, I lead a company committed to technical excellence, ethical practices, and education. We are a registered training agent for arboriculture apprenticeships in our region, using TCIA and ISA standards to provide rigorous training for emerging professionals. Our focus extends beyond day-to-day operations—we invest in our team members' professional development, mentor the next generation of arborists, and engage our community in the value of trees and proper tree care. Our work specializes in tree preservation in rural and expanding environments, wildland–urban interface management, urban forestry consulting for emerging municipalities, invasive species management, and plant health care.

Our mission goes beyond the trees themselves. We aim to help newly developing municipalities combat deforestation and urban canopy loss, while empowering rural landowners to sustainably manage their properties in the face of expanding urbanization. This includes protecting wildlife habitats, maintaining ecosystem health, and fostering safe, healthy communities. By bridging the gap between rural land management and

urban forestry, we work to ensure that growing towns and cities retain their natural heritage while meeting the needs of new populations.

My leadership style emphasizes advanced problem-solving, strategic networking, careful delegation, accurate budgeting, creative marketing, and public speaking—all rooted in a dedication to continuous improvement and adherence to the highest industry standards. I am actively involved in the Minnesota Society of Arboriculture, attending educational events and the annual climbing competition, and I volunteer with the Pine County Master Gardeners and the Pine City Northern Lights Lions Club, where I promote environmental stewardship and community engagement.

With my company now stable and my team equipped to handle greater responsibilities, I am in a position to dedicate more time to MSA leadership. As vice president, I would bring a strong commitment to the chapter's mission, work to expand outreach in rural and emerging markets, strengthen collaboration across the industry, and uphold the professionalism, safety, and education that ISA and MSA represent.

How can you contribute to the MSA Board of Directors?

I am running for Vice President of the Minnesota Society of Arboriculture because I believe in the vital role MSA plays in advancing our profession, strengthening our statewide network, and providing education that drives excellence. With nearly 20 years in arboriculture and experience in over 30 states, I bring a blend of technical expertise, leadership, and community engagement that aligns directly with MSA's mission.

As president of Blue Pine Works LLC, I lead a company committed to ISA and TCIA standards, specializing in tree preservation, wildland–urban interface management, invasive species control, and municipal urban forestry consulting. We are a registered training agent for arboriculture apprenticeships, equipping the next generation of professionals with the skills and knowledge needed to excel. We actively integrate modern technology and equipment into our operations, from AI to training platforms and tools to help reduce bodily strain. Beyond our operations, I volunteer with the Pine County Master Gardeners and Pine City Northern Lights Lions Club, working to promote environmental stewardship and public engagement.

If elected Vice President, I will work with the Executive Committee to expand MSA's educational outreach, particularly to rural and emerging markets where resources are

limited, urban canopy loss is accelerating, and community engagement is critical. I will foster stronger connections between professionals, municipalities, and landowners, ensuring MSA continues to be a leader in both technical excellence and public impact. My goal is to help MSA grow its membership, enhance its programming, and strengthen the value it provides to every arborist in Minnesota.

Why do you think you would make a good board member?

A good MSA board member is someone who's all-in on the mission to advance arboriculture, raise the bar for professionalism, and keep safety and education front and center. They stay plugged into the industry by showing up to events, building strong connections, and keeping a pulse on what's happening in the field. They know how to lead and make solid decisions that represent the membership while keeping the big picture in mind.

They communicate clearly, work well with others, and help build bridges between committees, members, and partners. They understand how important education and training are, and they look for ways to create programs that meet real needs and bring more people into the fold. They're willing to get out there, promote MSA, and make sure voices from all corners of the industry—especially rural and underserved areas—are heard. Most of all, they lead with integrity, follow through on what they say they'll do, and show up ready to work.