Becoming an ISA Certified Arborist

An arborist by definition is an individual who is trained in the art and science of planting, caring for, and maintaining individual trees. ISA Certified Arborists are individuals who have achieved a level of knowledge in the art and science of tree care through experience and by passing a comprehensive examination developed by some of the nation’s leading experts on tree care. ISA arborist certification is a nongovernmental, voluntary process by which individuals can document their base of knowledge. It operates without mandate of law and is an internal, self-regulating device administered by the International Society of Arboriculture.

Individuals hiring tree care companies look for the best qualified people to work on their prized tree. ISA Certification will help them select you over other companies. Communities also want their staff to be the best qualified possible to care for public trees. ISA certification will ensure city staff are knowledgeable and able to do what is best for the trees and community.

Anyone can apply to be an ISA Certified Arborist. While the process seems simple, it is actually very difficult to achieve and maintain this standard. There are four parts to becoming an ISA Certified Arborist. You must (1) meet the eligibility requirements for admission to the examination which varies with education, (2) successfully complete the examination, (3) maintain the necessary number of continuing education units (CEUs) to recertify after three years, and (4) pay the necessary recertification fees every three years.

Learn more about ISA Arborist Certification and start the application process at: www.isa-arbor.com/certification/certification.aspx.

Prepare for Insect and Disease Attacks

Spring is a time of new growth and renewal. It brings much anticipated relief from the cold and sometimes dreary winter. It is also a time for insects and diseases that may attack your trees to also grow and renew.

Just like all biological beings whether a plant or animal, insects and diseases are in a struggle for it’s species survival. They do this by adapting specific mechanisms and reproduction techniques for them to thrive in their environment. Unfortunately for us, people have created places that are great for some pests. We have done this by overly stressing a tree. The stress may be from having a tree outside or at the extremes of it’s adapted growing regime, or mechanical damage by people. Natural environmental factors like storm damage, drought, and old age can also stress a tree to the point it is more susceptible to attack by a pest. Then there are pests that are outside of their normal environment that find an easy life here since no tree has any natural defenses against it.

Do not panic over the thought of pests attacking your trees. You just need to be aware of what may attack your tree and watch for it or if needed provide the preventative treatment to ward off known attackers. There are many good references you can get to learn about insects and diseases of trees. Many of the references are free or low cost. University extension, state and federal forestry, and some commercial web sites provide excellent information and may list potential treatment options, if treatment is possible, or needed.

The key is to learn what your tree is, what may attack it, and what you should do to help your tree. As always protect your tree from unnecessary damage and provide supplemental water during drought. These efforts alone will allow most trees to survive and repel attacks.

Tree Resource Improvement and Maintenance Cost-Share Program

Is TRIM for your community? YES! Many communities have storm damage and all had needs prior to the ice storm. TRIM is one way to meet some of these needs. Awarded communities can receive up to $10,000 in cost-share funds for various tree projects. Whether you are familiar or not with TRIM, start working on your application. The NEW, CURRENT application was recently mailed to 5,000 MDC community contacts. If you did not receive a copy, download one from www.mdc.mo.gov/forest/urban/TRIM/.

To help explain TRIM a little better and start helping you with your application, a TRIM workshop will be held. You are encouraged to attend. This will allow you to meet with your MDC urban forester and compare with other communities what they think is important.

The workshop is on April 17, 2007 at 9:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M. in the MDC Southwest Regional Office Conference Room, 2610 N. Mayfair Ave., Springfield, MO. Contact Cindy Garner at 417-895-6880 Ext. 237 or cindy.garner@mdc.mo.gov. Registration is Required (40 person limit).
Book Review

Coincide: The Orton System of Pest Management allows timing of pesticide application with visual indicators of plant development, usually the pests’ host plant is not the indicator. An example is bagworm, treat heavily infested trees when common lilac is in full bloom. This book may be ordered through some bookstores or directly from Labor of Love Conservatory by calling 630-668-8597.

SOMETHING ABOUT A TREE

If I could learn the secrets of the tree,
The art of living fully in one spot;
Of using wisely that which is my lot;
To grow above my lesser company
Though still a part of my community;
To fight the menace of an inner rot
Or outer parasite, for one cannot
Of all such enemies be wholly free.
If I could learn to alternate the days
Of strong production with the days of rest
And in my older years provide the best
Of strength, of beauty, and of shaded ways.
How fortunate indeed my life would be,
If I had all the power of a tree.

- Clark L. Stevens
Durham, New Hampshire

April 2
Tree Selection and Planting Workshop, United Methodist Church, Stella, MO, 6:30 PM Contact Jon Skinner (Jon.Skinner@mdc.mo.gov), 417-629-3423.

April 12
MCFC State Meeting, MDC State Office, Jefferson City, MO, 10 AM Contact Justine Gartner (Justine.Gartner@mdc.mo.gov), 573-751-4115 extn. 3116.

April 16 - 18

April 17
TRIM Workshop, MDC Southwest Regional Office, 2610 N. Mayfair Ave., Springfield, MO, 9 AM. Contact Cindy Garner (Cindy.Garner@mdc.mo.gov) at 417-895-6880 Ext. 237. Registration is Required (40 person limit).

April 18

May 2

May 15 - 16
ISA Certified Arborist - Examination Training, Kansas City, KS. Contact Chuck Conner (Charles.Conner@mdc.mo.gov) at 816-665-6250

May 21 - 22
Storms Over the Urban Forest National Conference, Atlanta, GA. Contact National Arbor Day Foundation (conferences@arborday.org) at 888-448-7337, www.arborday.org/storms.

May 22
Tree Identification Workshop, Downtown City Park, El Dorado Springs, MO, 4:00 PM Contact Jon Skinner (Jon.Skinner@mdc.mo.gov), 417-629-3423.

May 23

May 24
Tree Identification Workshop, South Park, Monett, MO, 4:00 PM Contact Jon Skinner (Jon.Skinner@mdc.mo.gov), 417-629-3423.

June 5

June 14
MCFC State Meeting, MDC State Office, Jefferson City, MO, 10 AM Contact Justine Gartner (Justine.Gartner@mdc.mo.gov), 573-751-4115 extn. 3116.

Arbor Day
April 6 - Missouri
April 14 - Exeter
April 20 - Carthage
April 27 - National

“The Stump” web site:
www.geocities.com/rocksandtrees/thestump/

To add or remove your subscription, update your address, change contact information or convert from the paper to the email - web version of “The Stump”, contact:
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Forestry Division
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Use of names of commercial products or organizations does not imply an endorsement or recommendation by the Missouri Department of Conservation.