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Fall Newsletter & Updates

11/19/2024 | Issue 12

Letter from the President



President's Message

"Driest October on Record" has been the headline in Louisville these days! Now that it's officially the Thanksgiving season, I'm thankful November has brought some rain—with showers yesterday and more forecasted for next week. The Parklands' Horticulture and Natural Areas teams are committed to watering new trees for two years after planting when rainfall is insufficient. Since July, we've been watering hundreds of trees every 10 days to ensure their success. While it's not the most challenging job, it's an important one that we take pride in. After all, why plant a tree if you're not going to care for it? I know Kentucky Arborist Association (KAA) members feel the same way, and we all need to share the importance of watering trees during droughts with the public and our clients.

The 2024 Kentucky Tree Climbing Competition, held in Danville, Kentucky, on October 11th and 12th, was a huge success! Although I couldn't attend, the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, highlighting the quality of the competition, the professionalism of KAA members, and the great experiences enjoyed by competitors, volunteers, and the public alike. Past President and co-committee chair Cory Petry has been instrumental in organizing KAA's Tree Climbing Competition for nearly 15 years. His leadership, along with the hard work of location co-chairs like Jason McKinley, has helped establish Kentucky's competition as one of the most sought-after in the country! Many other members of the KAA Board of Directors also volunteered to make this event a success, including our Component Executive, Bonnie Burnick. I'd be remiss if I didn't thank the entire Board and all the volunteers for their efforts in making the 2024 KYTCC such a success! As fantastic as the competition is, we strive to improve it each year. Please feel free to reach out to me at aboggs@theparklands.org with any suggestions for improvements or future locations.

We're also close to finalizing our new website for ordering Kentucky Arborist Association gear and clothing. The Board is excited about offering a line of quality merchandise that will not only be functional but will also promote the KAA. This project is being led by committee chair Drew Combs, and I can't wait to see our members sporting KAA gear! Drew is also developing a survey to gather feedback from KAA members about the organization. Stay tuned for more details in the coming months.

Planning is ongoing for the 2025 KAA Conference in Versailles, KY, scheduled for February 20th and 21st. We've secured an excellent venue at the KYTCS building at 300 North Main Street, Versailles, KY 40383. If you're a regular attendee, we'd love to hear from you! The Board welcomes feedback and suggestions on the educational program, tradeshow, and overall event. Our goal is to continually improve the annual conference to meet the needs of our members. Member input helps keep the conference valuable and relevant for you, your business, and your staff. Without your feedback, we rely solely on discussions among Board members to make decisions. So please, let us know how we can make this conference even better for you.

Our KAA Board of Directors meetings are listed on our website and are open to all members. If you'd like to attend, please contact Bonnie at info@ky-isa.org. We are still looking for a few new Board members to fill positions left by long-serving directors. Being part of the KAA and this Board is both rewarding and impactful, and we'd love for you to join us!

A Special Thank You to all our Volunteers!

Aaron Boggs

**Visit Our
Website!**

2024 Kentucky Tree Climbing Championship by Cory Petry

The 2024 Kentucky Tree Climbing Championship (KYTCC) was held in the heart of beautiful Danville, KY. Competitors and volunteers traveled from across the Commonwealth, the region, and as far as Sweden and Ontario to participate in this exciting event that showcased the skills of today's professional tree climbers.

Making it to the Master's Challenge for Kentucky were Ryan Kessler (Lexington), Scott Preston (Louisville), and Aaron Griffith (Louisville). Because of our hard-working volunteers, we had the time and resources to allow the highest scoring out-of-chapter competitor (Williston Goodfellow, who made the trip from Ontario, Canada) climb in the Master's Challenge again this year. Unfortunately, 3 of the 4 Master's climbers were disqualified for various reasons including a broken branch, unsafe acts, and dropped piece of equipment. But if there was a positive, it was that Ryan Kessler learned from being DQed in 2023 and finished off the day with a strong climb and took the top honor as the 2024 KYTCC winner!

We are very proud for Ryan to go on to represent Kentucky at the 2025 International Tree Climbing Championship in New Zealand!

I would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to all of the volunteers and sponsors of the KYTCC. Without their generosity we would not be able to continue the tradition of excellence and camaraderie that the KYTCC is known for. Plans are already underway for the 2025 KYTCC, so stay tuned for details. Anyone interested in participating as a competitor or a volunteer can reach out to me via email (corypetry@gmail.com) to be added to our mailing list.



Calendar of Events

- Feb 17-19, 2025, Tree Risk Assessment Qualification Full Course, KYCTCS, Versailles, KY [Register Here!](#)
- Feb 20-21, 2025, KAA Annual Conference, KYCTCS, Versailles, KY Link: TBD
- March 21, 2025, Tree Risk Qualification Renewal Course, Shelby County Cooperative Extension Office, Shelbyville, KY [Register Here!](#)
- April 11, 2025, Aerial Rescue, Louisville, KY Link: TBD
- April 23-25, 2025, ISA Certified Arborist Qualification Prep Course

[See Pictures from KYTCC 2024](#)

Tree Fund/Tour des Trees - Roots & Routes of New England

**Thank you to all our riders,
volunteers, staff, supporters, and
sponsors!**



The 2024 Tour des Trees was a wonderful celebration and it was great to see all of our riders- both veteran and first-timers- conquer the roots and routes of New England. The fundraising has wrapped up for this year and we are very thankful to all of you for what you have done to help TREE Fund continue in its mission to fund projects that discover and disseminate new knowledge in arboriculture and urban forestry.

This year's event featured 79 riders traveling over 430 miles in five days, and it all kicked off with a celebration, tree dedication, and dinner at the Bartlett Arboretum and Gardens in Stamford, CT helping the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) to celebrate their 100th anniversary right where it was founded.

[Read More](#)

and Exam, Woodford
County Cooperative
Extension Office, Versailles,
KY Link: TBD

• **Board Meeting Dates:**

Jan 14, 2025 March 11, 2025

May 13, 2025 July 8, 2025

Sept 9, 2025 Nov 11, 2025

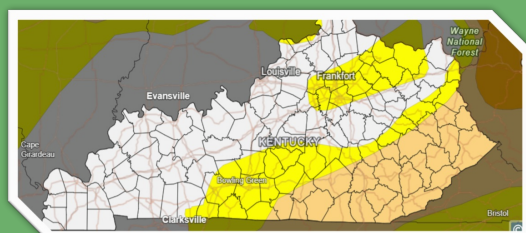
Time: 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm

Check KAA Calendar for locations

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KAA](#)



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Drought & Dryness Categories		% of KY
D0 - Abnormally Dry		24.5%
D1 - Moderate Drought		22.8%
D2 - Severe Drought		0.0%
D3 - Extreme Drought		0.0%
D4 - Exceptional Drought		0.0%
Total Area in Drought (D1-D4)		22.8%

Drought in Kentucky Summer 2024

This past summer, central Kentucky experienced low to no precipitation, with some areas going 30 days or more without a drop. Temperatures remained in the upper 80s - 90s, too. Little to no precipitation and high temperatures combined to place stress, some life-threatening, on our trees. We began to observe trees going into dormancy in late July and accelerate through early August. For these trees, the growing season was shortened 30-60 days.

Drought in trees causes a myriad of problems and concerns for trees. But the biggest problem is lack of sufficient stored energy for next year's initial flush of new growth. Trees depend on precipitation, in the form of rain showers or dew, for continued growth on their root systems and for the business of making food through photosynthesis.

[Click Here to See More!](#)

Oak Wilt Disease

A devastating oak tree disease has been confirmed in Jefferson County. The Purdue University Plant and Diagnostic Laboratory confirmed in August, 2024 that a



suspected case in; the Fern Creek area was actually Oak wilt. While it was known to be in southern Indiana, this the first confirmed case in Jefferson County, Kentucky.

Oak wilt disease is a fatal disease of red and black Oak Trees. This group includes red, black, Pin, and shingle oaks. Oaks in the white and Bur oak species are much less susceptible to Oak Wilt.

[Click to Read More](#)

ISA Virtual Event

ISA invites you to join the 2024 Virtual Event November 1-30, 2024, featuring a total of 20 sessions, including 11 brand-new sessions enhancing your expertise in arboriculture. This is a fantastic opportunity to earn a total of 14.5 CEU credits, with 6.5 CEUs available specifically from the new content.

Key Highlights:

- 20 Total Sessions
- On-Demand Access
- CEU Credits
- Past Conference Recordings

Don't miss this out on this enriching experience!

[Register Here!](#)



Kentucky Arborists Association | PO Box 992 | Georgetown, KY 40324 US

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