



KENTUCKY ARBORISTS' ASSOCIATION

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Spring Newsletter & Updates

4/10/2025 | Issue 13

Letter from the President



President's Message

Dear Kentucky Arborists' Association Members,

Spring is here, bringing fresh growth not only to our trees but also to our organization. I'm excited to share updates on the progress we're making as a community dedicated to advancing the health and sustainability of Kentucky's urban and natural forests.

Membership & Financial Updates

As of the end of 2024, our membership remains steady at 225. However, we know there are many professional arborists across the state who have yet to join KAA. I encourage each of you to reach out to colleagues and invite them to become part of this incredible organization!

We remain committed to financial transparency, ensuring our members have access to key financial updates. We are currently working to correct our checking account balance, and the accurate figures will be provided in this newsletter. [Click for "2025 Statement of Activity to Date"](#)

Website Enhancements

Thanks to the leadership of Drew Combs, our website now offers job postings, event listings, educational opportunities, and an exciting new addition—the KAA Webstore! Be sure to check out our new merchandise and show your KAA pride at [SHOPKAA](#).

KYTCC Success & Future Plans

The 2024 Kentucky Tree Climbing Championship (KYTCC) in Danville was a resounding success, with 23 climbers, 10 sponsors, and 33 dedicated volunteers. Thanks to everyone's hard work, the event turned a profit, allowing us to invest in a rescue dummy to enhance climber safety. While the 2025 location is still being finalized, Otter Creek is a strong contender.

TRAQ Course & Continuing Education

Bill Fountain shared exciting news about the upcoming **TRAQ Handbook Version 3**, which will now have a validity of seven years. Additionally, discussions are underway about integrating courses with conferences to enhance learning opportunities. Free CEU sessions via Zoom remain available, providing accessible and

valuable education at no cost to our members.

Tree Fund & Research Initiatives

Dave Leonard highlighted the ongoing investment in tree research and education, with **\$3.4 million allocated** to studies advancing the field. The **Utility Arborist Research Fund** has been launched with an initial \$50,000, and the **John Z. Duling Grant Program** continues to support innovative projects. We also encourage members to follow the upcoming **Tour des Trees**, a 450-mile cycling event in Michigan benefiting The Tree Fund.

Leadership Updates & Opportunities

We're excited to welcome **Drew Combs** as our new President-Elect and appreciate his dedication to advancing KAA's initiatives. Additionally, two board positions were filled at the conference, with **Jonathan Green and Julie Collins** stepping into key roles.

We also extend a warm welcome to **Heather Wilson, Nic Williamson, and Cary Craycroft**, who were elected to serve three-year terms on the KAA board. Their leadership will be instrumental in guiding our committees, and we encourage all members to support them in shaping KAA's future.

Promoting Arboriculture in Underserved Areas

The **KY Greenworks Development Grant** has allocated **\$50,000** to support arboriculture in underserved areas across Kentucky. To ensure these funds are used effectively, we value input from our members—please share your expertise by completing the **Workforce Survey for KY Green Industry Employers** see below .

Looking Ahead

As we continue to grow and strengthen our association, I encourage all members to stay involved, participate in events, and take advantage of the many educational resources available.

Our next **board meeting** will be held at **Galvin's on Main in Georgetown, KY, on April 8th**. If you have any topics you'd like the KAA to discuss, please reach out to me at aboggs@theparklands.org.

Thank you for your dedication to arboriculture and to the Kentucky Arborists' Association.

Best regards,
Aaron Boggs
President, Kentucky Arborists' Association

[Visit Our Website!](#)

Thank You Scott and Ryan!

KAA extends our gratitude to Scott Preston and Ryan Kessler for proudly represent us at the ISA 2025 North America Tree Climbing Championship (NATCC) in New Braunfels, Texas, US. Your dedication and skill showcase the excellence of our arborist community!

International Society of Arboriculture

Congratulations to Krista Strating and James Earhart for winning the ISA 2025 NATCC Masters' Challenge
[#natcc2025](#)



Calendar of Events

- April 23-25, 2025, **ISA Certified Arborist Qualification Prep Course and Exam**, Campbell



Tree Research and Education Endowment Fund Celebrates 10 Year Anniversary of Free Webinars



Tree Research and Education Endowment Fund (Tree Fund) will celebrate the tenth anniversary of its free TREE Fund Webinar Series this past March.

Tree Fund's Webinar Series began in the spring of 2015 as a new way to present the research and feature the researchers that received funding from TREE Fund grant programs. The series--which is co hosted by the Alabama Cooperative Extension System--has grown in size over the ten years, with over 5,000 participants viewing the webinars live in 2024.

Viewers of the live webinars who are certified arborists through ISA are eligible to receive one, free Continuing Education Credit (CEU) for attending.

Webinars are scheduled for April 8 and May 6. Pre-registration is required and available on TREE Fund's website

[TREE Fund Webinars](#)

[Arborists News Now Available](#)

[TREE Fund Website](#)

County Cooperative
Extension, Highland
Heights, KY Link: [Click
Here to Register!](#)

- May 7-9, 2025, **Tree Risk Assessment Qualification Full Course**, Campbell County Cooperative Extension, Highland Heights, KY Link: [Click Here to Register!](#)

- Sept 17-19, 2025 **ISA Certified Arborist Qualification Prep Course and Exam**, Location TBD

- Oct 9 -11, 2025, **KYTCC 2025**, Location Shelby Park, Louisville, KY.

- Nov 12-14, 2025 **Tree Risk Assessment Qualification Full Course**, Location TBD

- **KAA Board Meeting**

Dates:

Jan 14, 2025 April 8, 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

[Pictures 2024 KYTCC](#)

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UCFS ANSI A300 Representative Update by
Gordon Mann, Consulting Arborists, Mann Made
Trees

[Click to Read More!](#)



Backyard Conservation Program

[Click to Read More!](#)



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PROFESSIONALS
2024 Awards of Excellence Winner

Uncovering Advanced Strategies for High-Performance Teams and Transformative Cultures

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Celebrating Kentucky's Tree City USA and Tree Campus Higher Education Communities

By Jack Baggett, Urban Forestry Partnership Coordinator, Kentucky
Division of Forestry



The Kentucky Division of Forestry is pleased to report that 39 Kentucky Communities are currently recognized as Tree City USA Communities. This program, sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation in partnership with the Kentucky Division of Forestry, recognizes cities and towns that meet four foundational standards of sound urban forestry management:

1. A tree board or department
2. A community of tree ordinance
3. At least \$2 per capita invested annually in urban forestry
4. An Arbor Day observance and proclamation

[Click to Read More!](#)



**SAVE THE DATE — April 24, 2025
8am-4:30pm — Canopy Con 25**

This year we will be at the Fayette County Extension Office (1140 Harry Sykes Way, Lexington, KY). Registration cost: \$40, students \$10, and includes breakfast, lunch, and snack.

The official registration is NOW OPEN and get more information at

<https://ufi.ca.uky.edu/canopy-con-2025>.

Stop at the KAA table and talk to our members! Sign Up! **Student Membership Free!**

Likelihood of Included Bark Failure Survey



All participants can enter to win one of ten \$100 USD gift cards to an arborist store!



UNIVERSITY OF
TORONTO

UFIFAS
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA



College of Natural Resources
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

Researchers from the Universities of Toronto, Florida, and Wisconsin-Stevens Point are researching how arborists perceive the likelihood of failure of included bark. They've put together a survey with scenarios and photos and are looking for tree care professionals to rate the likelihood of failure. **See \$100 incentive above.**

Any comments or questions can be directed to the principal investigator, Alexander Martin (University of Toronto – Mississauga) at alexif.martin@mail.utoronto.ca.

Link: [Click to take the Survey](#)



▶ Scan me!

KAA Survey! KAA wants your opinion.



Forsythia

Star Magnolia



**KY GreenWorks
Workforce Development Initiative**



bit.ly/KYGWemployersurvey

KY GreenWorks Flyer

**Make your voice heard and please
take the survey.**

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

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