

**Dakota ISA Virtual Conference  
February 16-18, 2021**

**Our first conference, as with almost every professional gathering include  
TCI EXPO and the ISA Annual Conference, is going virtual.**

While we will miss the opportunity to see everyone and visit, we have a great line up of topics and speakers for this conference. The topics range from pruning to soils management and the all important subject of safety. The speakers are among the top speakers in their fields and speak often at regional, national and even international conferences.

The conference will be available live via zoom Sessions are available at the date and time listed below; but for those that are unable to log in at these times, sessions will be recorded and available from February 19 to March 1. ISA CEU's available.

All times are Central Standard Time.

**February 16 Program**

**8:30 am- Welcome and Intro**

A welcome from our president , Aaron Kiesz, and vice president Scott Liudahl and an introduction to our new association.

**9:00 am- Tree Selection for the Dakotas (Todd West)**

Todd West is a Professor in the Department of Plant Science at North Dakota State University. Todd leads the woody plant improvement program and has been instrumental in the development and release of new tree and shrub cultivars adapted to the Northern Plains. He will share his top choices for planting in the Dakota as well as new releases.

**9:50 am- Break**

**10: 00 am- Tree Roots and Urban Soils (Tom Smiley)**

Tom Smiley is a well-recognized authority in arboricultural profession. He is a plant physiologist and soil scientist with the Bartlett Tree Labs. Today Tom will talk with us about the problems for tree roots imposed by urban soils and specific address barriers such as sidewalks and other paved environments..

**11:00 am- Conserving Mature Trees (Chad Giblin)**

Chad is the director of operations for City Forestry LLC and a former member of University of Minnesota. We will round out the morning with a presentation on the importance of preserving mature trees in our communities. This process requires tree risk assessment, root system protection and enhancement, retrenchment pruning, and in some situations, supplemental support . Chad will take us through this entire process.

**Noon Adjourn for the day**

**February 17 Program**

**9:00 am - Training young trees**

Chad will continue his discussion with today's focus on properly training young trees to ensure they do become value assesses as they age. Chad is widely known for his training techniques for obtain the proper

structure on these trees as well as other common species.. This is a very interactive presentation with plenty of discussion and short video clips to illustrate the techniques.

**10:20 am - Break**

**10:30 am - Field Diagnosis of Tree Problems (Joe Zeleznik)**

Joe Zeleznik is the Extension Forester for North Dakota State University. He, as with many of us, has to answer one of the most frequent questions from tree owners "What is wrong with my tree?" Joe will walk us through the process of investigating what may be the stressor or stressors that are impacting the tree.

**11:30 am- Emerald Ash Borer : Coming Soon! (John Ball)**

John Ball is the Forest Health Specialist for the SD Department of Agriculture and the Extension Forester for South Dakota State University. John will cover the current situation of emerald ash borer in the Dakotas and the region. He will cover the common symptoms and signs of an infested tree as well as the life cycle of the insect. Treatment methods and timing will also be covered.

**Noon Adjourn for the day**

## **February 18 Program**

**9:00 am- Tree Removal Basics and Safety**

Philip Kelly is a Certified Arborist and Safety Trainer for Wrights Tree Service. He is also one of the "cutting edge" speakers in the arboricultural industry. We all have trees to remove, either by felling or dismantling, and there will be many more as emerald ash borer continues to expand in our states. Phillip will cover all the tricks of the trade for safe felling and rigging.

**10:20 am - Break**

**10:30 am- Chain Saw Safety (John Ball)**

Chain saws have been one of the most basic tools of the production arborist for more than a half century. But today's saws bear little resemblance to the 1949 McCulloch 3-25, in maintenance or operations. This session will address today's chain saws, including the rapidly expanding array of cordless electric chain saws and the standards for their safe operation.

**11:00 am- Urban and Community Forestry Update  
(Rachel Ormseth and Gerri MaKay )**

Our two state urban and community forestry specialists will provide an update on what the SD Department of Agriculture and the North Dakota Forest Service are doing for community forestry in our states including current project and future grant opportunities.

**11:40 am - Jr Arborist Program—training the next generation (Christina Lind)**

We are always in need for young folks to decide to follow in our footsteps and become arborists or urban foresters. The challenge is few students know that our profession exists! This is an exciting new program at McCrory Gardens, funded by an ISA grant, to introduce kids to our profession. Christine Lind, McCrory Gardens Education Coordinator, will discuss the program and the experience of teaching eight and ten year old kids how to climb!

**See the North Dakota Urban and Community Forestry Association or the South Dakota Arborist Association websites for registration details**

**<https://sदारбористс.com/workshop-and-conferences-page/>**