



THE CONNECTICUT ARBORIST

Volume XXXV Number 1

Connecticut Tree Protective Association, Inc.

Summer 2024

CTPA Summer Meeting - Thursday, July 18th

Summer is upon us, and we are ready to have the summer meeting! This year it will be on Thursday, July 18th at the Farmington Polo Club. We are optimistic that the weather will be favorable. Registration for exhibitors and attendees is open and the flyers have been mailed. As always, we like to encourage people to pre-register for the event. For exhibitors, that means registering before July 8th and for attendees it is before July 12th. The board has worked diligently to line up great speakers and topics. We hope all who attend will take advantage of the value that each speaker will bring.

Session in Spanish

There will be two sessions in Spanish. These will not be repeated. Leo Roldan, Davey Tree Experts and Pepe Ramirez, Davey Tree Experts will give both talks. The first talk is "Importance of Job Briefings, Proper

Work Zone Set-Ups, and Identifying Hazards/Risks." At 10:30 am, for 1 hour and 15 minutes under the Sycamore Tree, Leo and Pepe will discuss how to identify hazards and methods for mitigation. A demonstration will be given for job site set-up and job briefing. At 1:00 pm under the Sycamore Tree, again for 1 hour and 15 minutes, Leo and Pepe will talk about the "Evolution of Climbing Systems." Leo and Pepe will demonstrate and share the systems from the foundational start to more advanced, modern climbing systems as well as the pros and cons.

Educational Sessions (English)

The first talk of the day will start with Beth Brantley, Ph.D., Bartlett Tree Experts, giving a talk on "The Future of Beech Trees". This talk will be in the Clubhouse at 9:00 am (repeated at 1:00 pm) and will cover the challenges facing beech trees in

the forest and in the landscape. A review of beech leaf disease will be featured along with management strategies and results from recent research trials.

The second talk at 9:00 am (repeated at 1:00 pm) is taking place way in the back of the property by the horseshoe pits. Todd Martincheck, James Richard and Eric Consolini, all from Asplundh, will be giving a talk on, "Importance of Job Briefings, Proper Work Zone Set-Up, and Identifying Hazards/Risks". This talk is identical to the talk being given in Spanish and will cover identifying potential risks, methods for mitigation and demonstrations for job site set-up and job briefing.

The next set of talks starts with a look into the future with Artificial Intelligence (AI). Josh Behounek from Davey Resource Group will speak at 10:30 am (repeat at 2:30 pm) in the Clubhouse about, "Branching Out: Integrating AI Into Arboriculture and Urban Forestry". This presentation will be a glance into the future of greener, smarter cities with the help of AI innovation.

To round out the talks, Marianne Bonito from U.S. Department of Labor - OSHA, will talk on, "What to expect when OSHA Arrives". Her talk will take place in the Aqueduct room (the room next to the kitchen). Compliance Assistant Specialist Bonito will guide the group on how

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Tom Ingersoll and Allan Fenner - Walkin' and Talkin' Trees Summer Meeting 2023

We Advance the Care of Connecticut's Trees

Arbor Day 2024 - Beardsley Zoo, Bridgeport

The Connecticut Tree Protective Association held its annual Arbor Day poster contest. Fifth graders from around Connecticut were invited to submit a poster about "My Favorite Tree". There were nine towns and 12 schools that submitted posters. The board of directors voted, and twelve student posters stood out.

Each of the students were invited to celebrate Arbor Day on Friday, April 26, 2024 at the Beardsley Zoo in Bridgeport. Stacey Marcell of Northeast Horticultural Services, Arbor Day Committee Chairperson, made arrangements with the Beardsley Zoo to host the poster ceremony and plant a tree.

The zoo was very warm and welcoming of the CTPA, student, teachers, family and friends of the winners. News Channel 12 was on site to cover the story and highlight Arbor Day. A black walnut tree was planted on site with the help of the kids shoveling dirt. The Beardsley Zoo will take care of the tree and nurture it in its new home.

After the poster ceremony, where each winning student gave a brief speech on why the tree they drew for their poster was their favorite, the Beardsley Zoo generously gave a VIP tour. All participants were invited to stay as long as they liked and enjoy the zoo.

We would like to thank Northeast Horticultural Services, and the great staff of the Beardsley Zoo for making Arbor Day of 2024 one that won't be forgotten.

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The 2024 Connecticut Tree Climbing Competition

This year's CT Tree Climbing Competition was held at Seaside Park in Bridgeport on May 4th. It was a beautiful site to hold the competition. The park is on the Long Island Sound and is a habitat to many birds. Especially parakeets! We would like to thank the City of Bridgeport Parks and Recreation, particularly Bret Caulfield, for making it possible to hold the climbing competition at Seaside Park.

The trees used for the competition and an additional four trees were pruned ahead of the competition by volunteer crews. We would like to thank these crew members for their hard work, time donated and the level of professionalism they gave to the City of Bridgeport. The crews were from Northeast Horticultural Services, Emmons Tree Service, Bartlett Tree Service and Davey Tree Experts. This group worked safely and diligently in the rain and cold breeze coming off Long Island Sound. Set-Up day was Friday, May 3rd and another volunteer crew came to set the trees up according to ISA specifications. This usually takes all day and is needed so the competition can run smoothly the next day. We would also like to thank the volunteers and crews that attended set up day. We appreciate all your hard work.

Competition Day started at 6am with the volunteers and climbers coming together. Coffee and donuts were served as the climbers signed in and laid out their gear

for inspections. There were 27 climbers this year - all male. Despite the best of efforts, there were no female climbers. Hopefully, next year there will be a few ladies in the mix. Once the inspections were completed, Emmett Shutts took the reins and gave an overview of the day to the volunteers and climbers. The group then gathered for the annual photo to commemorate the day.

Emmett led the group on a walk-through of the events. The competition got underway around 8:30am. Things ran smoothly and the scores were close. The Throw Ball event seemed to be especially difficult. After five hours, the scores from the preliminary rounds were tallied. Tim Reynolds, Jake Slade and Sam Schunk transitioned to the Master's Challenge. All 3 are Climbers from Connecticut. The three climbers were sequestered as the tree for the Master's Challenge was quickly prepped. Each climber was brought out to make his Master's Challenge climb. Each climber is given greater latitude as to which techniques to use in this round, and so it was interesting to see the different approaches each climber took. Jake Slade came out the winner of the day with a score of 239.33, Tim Reynolds coming in second with a score of 231.67 and Sam Schunk finishing third with a score of 145.33. Congratulations to all who participated and volunteered. We hope to see you all 2025.



The ANSI A300 Standards are now Consolidated into One Document

All arborists should be familiar with the ANSI A300 Tree Care Standards. Most arborists probably know these standards as a set of separately printed publications, each covering an essential aspect of tree care such as pruning, soil management and tree support systems. Their distinctly colored covers have become widely known. That has now changed. The ANSI A300 Tree Care Standards are now a single document, with each of the 10 subject areas published together under one cover. This new publication will be overviewed shortly.

However, first, some background.

The ANSI A300 Standards provide a set of consensus standards for use in the tree care industry. This means that these standards have been developed by a committee of individuals who are representative of the arboriculture industry. These standards are intended to be used by arborists and those who work along with arborists in the care of trees. The Accredited Standards Committee for the A300 Tree Care Standards, or the ASC A300 for short, is the official name of the representative body that produces these standards. In doing their work, the ACS A300 follows the procedures established by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). This work is done under the oversight of the Tree Care Industry Association (TCIA). TCIA is also the Secretariat of this set of standards.

The A300 process dates back to 1991. The first set of A300 standards to be produced were the pruning standards, which were labeled as Part One. These were first published in 1995 and have been revised twice since then, before the current version. Also, since 1995, nine additional “parts” of the standards have been published, with the most recent one, Part Ten, Integrated Pest Management, published in 2016.

Please note that the ANSI Z133 – the tree care safety standard – is not a part of this series. That continues to be produced and updated under a separate process.

In 2023, these 10 individual A300 publications were consolidated into one document, known simply as the ANSI A300 Tree Care Standards. The first release of the newly formatted document was in November 2023. Why was this done?

At this point, it appears the process of adding new parts to the standards has reached a conclusion. It is probably fair to assume that, for the ASC A300, when both new parts of the standards and revisions of existing parts of the standards were both going on, treating each of these efforts as separate projects made sense. Now, the focus can be put on treating all parts of these standards together as a unified whole.

This has clear benefits for the users of these standards. Over the past nearly 3 decades, as the full array of A300

standards were being developed, in order to stay current, users of the A300 needed to reference 10 separate documents, with each of these documents on its own revision cycle and each with its own release date. Just keeping track of what the current version of each part of the standard is became something of a chore. Now that is no longer necessary. All revisions will be finalized at the same time. This has the added benefit of allowing users to be comfortable knowing that any updates in one section of the standards will be reflective of any revisions or updates made elsewhere in the current version of the standards.

There has been some change in terminology. What were once called “Parts” (e.g. Part 1 – Pruning) are called “clauses”. These clauses are listed in the consolidated standard in the same order as each of the various parts were listed, starting at Clause 5. Said another way, Clause 5 covers the Pruning standards, Clause 6 (formerly Part 2) covers the Soil Management standards, and so on, up to Clause 14, the Integrated Pest Management standards, which was formerly known as Part 10.

The first 3 clauses relate to introductory items, such as scope and purpose, that were previously in the introductory section of the individual Parts. However, Clause 4 is new. It is a General clause that contains items common to each of the subsequent clauses, such as worksite inspection, work specifications and work practices.

The consolidated version also seeks to be more consistent with regards to how each clause is laid out. Most notably, Clause 4 through Clause 14 each begins with a flowchart. These flowcharts allow for a quick graphic overview of how the various elements of that clause fit together.

Clause 15 is also new. It provides the Definitions for all of the technical terms used throughout the A300 standards. Thus, there is no need to be concerned that the use of a term such as ‘codominant stem’ means the same thing when used in the pruning standards (Clause 5) as when it is used in the planting or transplanting standards (Clause 10). How does this help?

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ANSI A300 - continued

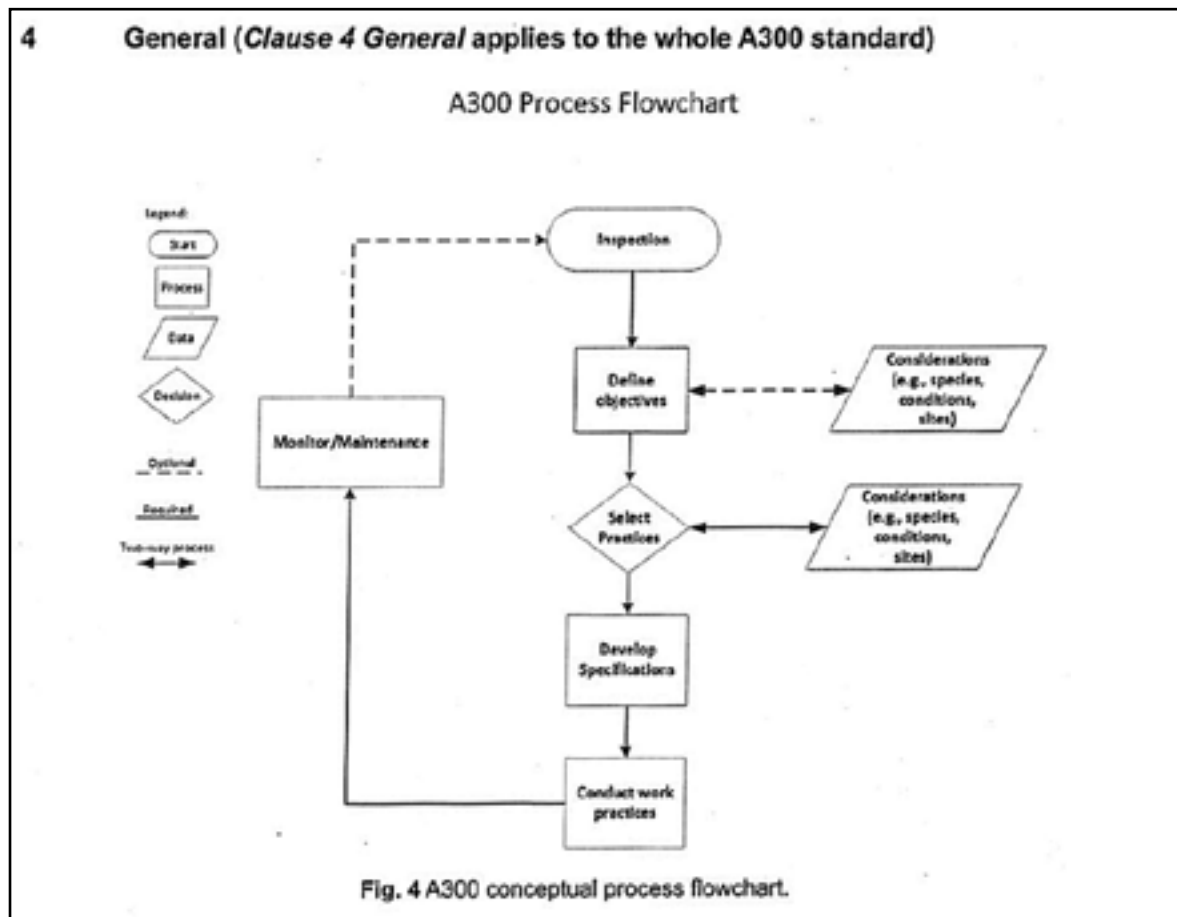
The ASC A300 sees these standards as providing the basis for the “development of work practices, written specifications, best practices, regulations and other guidance documents” (Clause 1.2 – Purpose). Having all of the standards in one place makes a fairly straight-forward statement – that the various pieces of these standards are all connected. It also allows for easy cross-reference. As a result, this committee hopes that these standards will be used increasingly to provide guidance regarding how work is done in the field and how tree care specifications are written.

To that end, the Annex of each clause (Clauses 4 to 14) comes with recommendations as to how to write specifications using the standards, complete with sample specifications. These should be helpful for those seeking to put these standards into immediate use in their practice.

Revising and updating the standards still remain as key parts of the process. TCIA has set a goal of revising the full consolidated standards every five years, with the next revision due out in 2028. The ASC A300 continues to meet regularly, with input from those outside of the committee always welcome. As the ASC A300 gets closer to producing the next version, a formal draft of the proposed changes will be released. Public comments on the draft will be encouraged and will be used by the ASC A300 to guide what will become the next version of the Tree Care Standards. Printed copies of the ANSI A300 – 2023 Tree Care Standards are available through TCIA ([ANSI A300 Tree Care Standards \(tcia.org\)](https://www.tcia.org)) and the ISA ([International Society of Arboriculture - ISA-arbor.org](https://www.isa-arbor.org)). TCIA also has available on their website an [electronic version of the standards](#). This electronic version comes bundled with an [on-line course](#) that provides an introduction to A300 standards (clauses 1-4) and the Pruning standards (clause 5). Those who take this course are eligible for 9.25 CEUs.

CTPA has already made the decision to include the new A300 Tree Care Standards in with the handouts for the Arboriculture 101 course. Previously, only ANSI A300 Parts 1 (Pruning) and 3 (Support Systems) were included. The consolidated standards will be used in conjunction with the continued use of several of the ISA Best Management Practices.

(Note – Bob Rouse of TCIA provided assistance with the assembly of this article.)

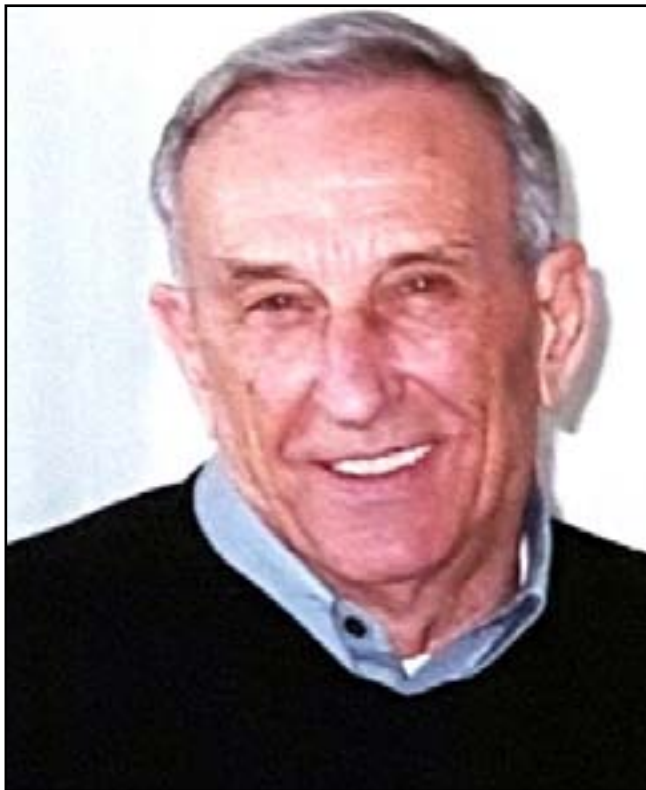


Healing Garden Update

The Healing Garden at the Rocky Hill Veterans Home and Hospital continues to flourish. The five trees that were planted representing the 5 branches of the military are doing well and are getting big! The garden is lovingly cared for by Sandy Ingellis. She faithfully goes to the garden to open it up in the spring and regularly visits to maintain the gardens for everyone to enjoy. It is a true labor of love and we appreciate all the hard work Sandy continues to pour into it. The veterans, their family and friends as well as the staff use the garden as a way to get sunshine and fresh air and enjoy the outside. We thank all who helped make this a reality for the veterans.



Prescott "Pep" Baxter



The CTPA would like to recognize Prescott "Pep" Baxter, long standing arborist in the State of Connecticut (PMCS 0000607), who passed away on April 19, 2024. He was 95 years old.

Mr. Baxter joined the Naval Air Force at the age of 18 and at the age of 21, he started working at Tennett Tree Service as a groundman. He and his wife, Bernice, purchased Tennett Tree Service in 1977 and it has been a successful business all these years. He was active in the CTPA and was versatile in the field of arboriculture having worked in utility, municipal, private and DOT tree care. We celebrate his many years of dedication and hard work. He was admired and loved by many and will be missed.

Arboriculture 101 - Class Goals

The Arboriculture 101 classes continue to take place with the 40-45 seats being filled in each class. Our fall class is half full so if you are interested in taking the class or know of someone who is interested, please go to www.ctpa.org for more information and to register for the classes. These classes are three hours in length once a week and the students are attentive and ask great questions. We are grateful and thankful for all the volunteer instructors that continue to teach the classes with the enthusiasm as if it were their first classes.

It has been a long standing policy that any student that has paid for the classes and has taken them, can return at any time and retake one or all of them again. We are pleased to see students return to either brush up on their knowledge or to retake a class they may have missed or maybe they did poorly on one section of the exam.



Looking for Volunteers!

The CTPA continues to look for people to volunteer for committees in the association. These committees are:

- The Safety Committee, Chairperson Emmett Shutts, meets three times a year to discuss EHAP classes, safety talks for the Summer Meeting, possible workshops and safety in the industry.
- The Education Committee, Chairperson Carter Peck, meets as needed to brainstorm ideas for workshops. This committee works together in all aspects of a workshop from contacting speakers, setting up venues, making catering arrangements and volunteering the day of the workshop.
- The Climbing Competition Committee - Bud Neal, Charlie Iselin, Emmett Shutts and Casey Tresp are the Chairs behind the competition. Each year this event is made possible by many volunteer hands and the more hands, the lighter the work.

At the Summer Meeting, there will be booths set up in the registration area as well as the CTPA booth for people to come and chat with a chairperson. Sign up to volunteer for any of the committees that you are interested in joining.

CTPA's Summer Meeting (continued)

OSHA determines which inspections take priority. She will discuss how the process of an inspection occurs, including a look at the four focus hazards. The talk will also cover the different types of citations, the citation process and the resources available. There will be a questions and answer session at the end.

This year we are excited to have the Eversource Live Line Trailer. This trailer is similar to the Asplundh Voltz Wagon, which has been very popular at past Summer Meetings but is also in high demand throughout the region. Eversource is generously allowing us to feature their Live Line Trailer at this year's summer meeting. There will be three sessions of about 30 minutes in length. CEU's will be given at the trailer for this session. A separate CEU sign-up sheet will be at the Live Line Trailer. Session times run 10:10 am, 11:40 am and 2:10 pm.

CEU's are available for the following:

State of CT Arborist (3D) – 5.0 CEU's,
ISA – 3.75 CEU's, CT Forest Practitioners – 2.0 CEU's,
Advanced Certified Tree Wardens' – 5.0 CEU's,
TCIA CTSP (OSHA – 1.25 CEU's
Job Site Briefing (English) – 1.25 CEU's
Eversource Live Line Trailer - .50 CEU's.
Job Site Briefing (Spanish) – 1.25 CEU's
Climbing Systems (Spanish) – 1.25 CEU's.

We are offering many educational opportunities and know it is not possible to attend everyone. Based on the schedule, the maximum number of talks one person can fully attend is four. We hope you can find four talks that interest you and understand that CEUs will be allowed only for this maximum number of 4 talks.

The summer meeting is not just about attending talks! We have a big selection of exhibitors to visit, ranging from arborist supplies to big equipment. Please be sure to visit the field exhibitors and see the latest. The tent exhibitors is where you can find many of the educational exhibitors, including The Agricultural Experiment Station, USDA, PPQ, APHIS, CONN OSHA, Federal OSHA, DMV and The Tree Wardens' Association of CT. In addition, exhibitors with the latest products and services to offer will also be there. Be sure to check out the exhibits in both locations!

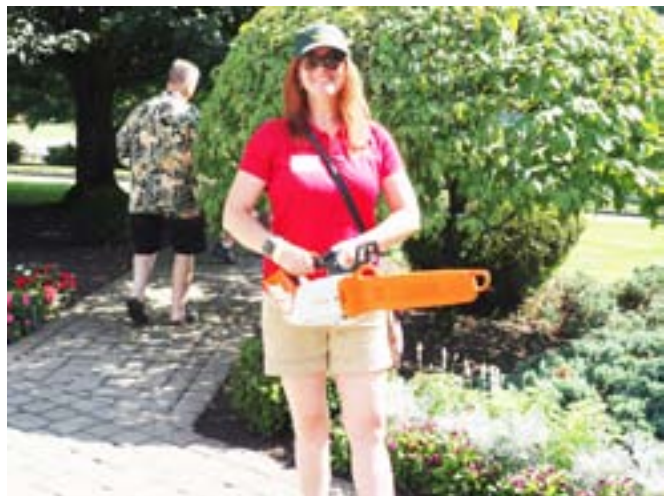
The Farmington Polo Club has always been a favorite location for our summer meeting because of the food that is available all day (chili and clam chowder in the morning, Steamship Round, Ham, Chicken, salads, potatoes and vegetables for lunch and in the afternoon, cheeseburger and hotdogs with ice cream to top the day

off. For those who need to cool off, there is the pool with a lifeguard on duty.

While in the tent, stop by the CTPA booth. There will be a few new items for sale and don't forget to purchase a raffle ticket before 3 pm. It is always exciting to see who wins the chainsaw and all the other generously donated items from our vendors. The CTPA Board continues to do good and valuable work through the Oscar P. Stone Scholarship and Research Fund, including annual student scholarships. The funds raised through the raffle are crucial to this Research Fund remaining active. It is the donations of the exhibitors and the purchase of tickets by the rest of the attendees that make this a great resource in the support of our industry.



To Register for the Summer Meeting please go to www.ctpa.org. We are looking forward to meeting in person again and having a great day of talks and an exhibitor show.



The CTPA will be holding a raffle to support the Oscar P. Stone Research Trust Fund. This fund rewards scholarships to students pursuing high education in the field of arboriculture. Please purchase a ticket to continue the scholarships and win a great prize!