

# PTCA NEWS

*Improving San Diego's quality of life through proper tree care.*

## UPCOMING PTCA SUMMER TREE WALK

### August Tree Walk: Bancroft Ranch House

Join us this August as we resume the regularly scheduled 2023 Summer Tree Walk Series!

For our final Tree Walk of the year, we will be taking a tour of the the historical Bancroft Ranch House in Spring Valley. Attendees will look at the history and development of the olive orchards in this area, and take a tour of the fresh water springs for which the area is named.

Our tour guide will be local historian Jim Van Meter. He has generously offered to have refreshments for us at end of our tour!

The adobe Bancroft house and surrounding grounds have a long history, mostly due to the presence of a nearby spring. This water source attracted people thousands of years ago to use the area. These people, the Indians presently



known as Kumeyaay, left evidence of their encampments in the vicinity.

Register online now for this event on Tuesday, August 8. This will be an exciting and educational event, you won't want to miss our last foray into our Summer Tree Walk Series for 2023.

We will resume our regular General Meeting schedule in September.

## SPECIAL PTCA PROGRAMMING

### A Year in the Orchard Part 3: Stein Family Farm

We are thrilled to invite you to the third installment of our popular series, "PTCA: A Year in the Orchard." This event will be held on Saturday, July 29th, at 8:00 AM at the Stein Family Farm in National City. Our expert arborists, Kurt Peacock and Dave Ephron, will guide you through a morning of informative sessions and practical demonstrations focused on summer pruning techniques.

In addition to hands-on pruning, we have a special treat in store for all attendees. Towards the end of the event, we will host a delightful fruit tasting session, featuring a variety of delicious fruits grown right here in the orchard. This will be a fantastic opportunity to savor the fruits of our labor and appreciate the results of proper pruning.

Whether you are a seasoned arborist looking to enhance your skills or someone with a budding interest in fruit trees, this event promises to be an engaging and enriching experience. Don't miss the chance to learn from the best and enjoy the beauty of the Stein Family Farm orchard.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, July 29th, at 8:00 AM. Registration is \$40 per person, and space is limited so make sure to reserve your spot early. Participants should bring hand pruners, loppers, hand-saws and gloves. Field attire is highly recommended. There will be no lunch provided, but attendees will receive 3.5 CEUs.

To secure your attendance, please visit our website at [www.ptcasandiego.org](http://www.ptcasandiego.org) and complete the registration form.



## Monthly Meeting Details

Date: Tuesday, August 8  
5:00 - 6:30 PM

Location: Bancroft House  
9050 Memory Lane,  
Spring Valley, CA

Cost: Free for Members  
*Space is limited, please register online prior to this event.*

**Summer Tree Walk Series**  
Bancroft Ranch House  
Jim Van Meter

## Register Online

[www.ptcaosd.wildapricot.org](http://www.ptcaosd.wildapricot.org)

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**For membership applications**  
 Please make request via e-mail  
 at [ptca@epicentermgmt.us](mailto:ptca@epicentermgmt.us)

**OUR MISSION** is to improve our community's quality of life by making our urban forest safer and more beautiful through education and proper tree care.



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**EDUCATIONAL MEETINGS** are held on the first Tuesday of each month. The new meeting site beginning with the September General Meeting is Marie Callendar's, located at 6950 Alvarado Road, La Mesa. The cost to attend general meetings is free for members (*who pre-register*), \$25 for members at the door, and \$30 for non-members.

During the summer months, arboricultural tours ("Tree Walks") are featured throughout San Diego County. These are free to members and 25.00 to non members.

Information and registration for upcoming meetings is available at our website at [www.ptcaosd.wildapricot.org](http://www.ptcaosd.wildapricot.org).

CEUs are available!

**PTCA ANNUAL SEMINAR & FIELD DAY** is

held every August, featuring industry experts bringing the latest research and information to San Diego's historic Balboa Park.

Cosponsored by the Professional Tree Care Association of San Diego and City of San Diego Parks and Recreation Department, this is your best local opportunity to get information or training in your field of tree care.

**Have an event for our calendar?**

Submit it to:  
[kathleen@epicentermgmt.us](mailto:kathleen@epicentermgmt.us)

**Interested in Advertising?**

Please Contact:  
[heather@epicentermgmt.us](mailto:heather@epicentermgmt.us)

**VISIT US ON THE WEB!**  
[www.ptcaosd.wildapricot.org](http://www.ptcaosd.wildapricot.org)

# The Handy Deviltry or The Devils Hand Tree? (*Chiranthodendron pentadactylon*)

By Dan Simpson, Professional Tree Care Association of San Diego - Emeritus

On our June tree walk in the Water Conservation Garden, we saw an unusual and uncommon tree. It has not yet matured to large stature but it is one I remember from long ago. It is not often planted in most landscape settings unless someone knows the species. The unique appearance of its red flowers make it easy to identify. This tree is named *Chiranthodendron pentadactylon*, or the Devils Hand tree. There are many variations on its common name ranging from the monkey hand tree to arbol de los manitas or tree of little hands. All names due to the appearance of its unique red flower. This is in the *Malvaceae* family and a single genus, *Chiranthodendron pentadactylon*, which means "five fingered hand red flower tree".

This flower does indeed look like a grasping red hand with five fingers and a thumb. Pollination requires transfer of pollen from the stamens or male parts with bright yellow strips on the underside of each of the red fingers. Curving downward through the fingers is the pistil or female part. Nectar feeding wildlife like orioles and bats perform the pollen transfer when they obtain the nectar held in the cupped sepals. I recall the nectar having a scent like buttered popcorn. The position of the pollen is ideal from dusting the heads of birds and bats. You might say the Devils Hand offers a sweet treat as a blessing for the assistance with pollination.

The home range of this tree is Guatemala and Southern Mexico but it is adaptable enough to grow in a variety of places that have conditions of soil and climate similar to its home. Coastal California is ideal for its cultural needs as the hand tree is also tolerant of our various soils, frost and drought. It can grow its rounded evergreen canopy to about 60 feet with a spread of 25 feet. The 6-8

inches large leaves are simple and palmately lobed with a cordate or heart shaped base where the petiole attaches to the leaf. Foliage is distinctive with the upper leaf surface a dull medium green and the underside is a paler color with brownish fuzz, which may help with transpiration.

There is continual leaf drop or foliage shedding despite this tree being an evergreen. The leaf drop as well as the spent flow-



**This tree, in Lassen Open Space, Santa Barbara, was nominated by Ken Knight in 2015. It measures 59 feet high, with a trunk circumference of 156 inches and a crown spread of 64 feet for a total of 231 points. Photo courtesy of Selectree.**

ers and a large woody seed pod that is 3 – 4 inches long can be a nuisance in a formal landscape setting. Shade could be obtained in a several years since it has a fast growth rate with 2-3 feet a year. Known issues are development of surface roots, and note to climbers, moderately weak branch strength. Keep your feet close to the trunk and branch attachment to reduce weight stress on branches. This hand tree shows no significant pest attraction or health hazards.

In fact, the Devils Hand tree was revered by Aztecs, possibly the blood red hands symbolized aspects of their religious practices. Ancient Mayan people used this species to create medicines for heart ailments, lower abdominal problems and also as a diuretic for edema. Natures Pharmacia!

I like this unique tree because it celebrates the richness of our connections to Neotropical trees and the Hispanic heritage of so many in the tree care industry.

Anyone taking a road trip up the California Coast will find the National Champion *Chiranthodendron* north of Santa Barbara in the Lassen Open Space. This champion was nominated by Ken Knight in 2015. The details on its size are 59 feet in height, crown spread of 64 feet and a trunk circumference of 156 inches or a 49 inch diameter. These total up to 231 points! Yes the devil is in the details and wins again.



**The Devils Hand tree was revered by Aztecs, possibly the blood red hands symbolized aspects of their religious practices. Photo courtesy of Selectree.**

## Library Legacy Returns to the PTCA Summer Seminar

This project began with the bequest of books from the personal library of Jim Thompson, a long time active PTCA member, Board member and president. Jim's story is held in the PTCA newsletter archives. He left us too soon but he believed in schooling later generations of tree care folks to serve. The PTCA mission statements of purpose is about education and tree care.

Knowledge of past, embraced by the present and applied to future. Or Buy, Read, Learn, Apply?

We offered up some of his library remnants last year and will do so again at our seminar in 2023. If you are an elder of tree care with books to donate to this project, please contact us via the PTCA directory. Proceeds are intended to support the PTCA and education on tree care.



## Saluting Branches 2023: Unite. Volunteer. Honor.

*Join the Saluting Branches initiative to give back to those who gave so much.*



Tree care companies, arborists and industry professionals are invited to volunteer their time and talents on September 20, 2023, the ninth annual Saluting Branches day of service.

There are 119 veterans' cemeteries throughout the country, many of which require professional arborist care for their trees. From structural pruning to removals, these veterans cemeteries need assistance to ensure their properties are safe and beautiful spaces for all who visit. Find a participating location near you!

Not a Tree Worker? No Problem! We have the need for many volunteers to make this event a success.

### **Non-Tree Field Work Opportunities:**

- Tree Planting
- Drag brush
- Rake up debris
- Pruning shrubs
- Weed planting beds

### **Other Volunteer Opportunities at the Event Include:**

- Assisting with Setup/Take down
- Greeter/Staffing the Registration Table (help get waivers signed, hand out hats, etc)
- Being a runner between teams in the field (Bringing waters, communications, etc)
- Setting up food and refreshments
- Take photos and videos!

### **Help get the word out by talking to fellow tree companies**

- Share on social media
- Contact local media outlets
- Help find us food donations for the volunteers

Contact us at [info@salutingbranches.org](mailto:info@salutingbranches.org) or 1-844-922-1151 to learn more about the Saluting Branches initiative and how you can help make this day a huge success.

## SAN DIEGO LOCATIONS:

- **Miramar National Cemetery**  
5795 Nobel Drive, San Diego, CA 92122
- **Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery**  
Cabrillo Memorial Drive, San Diego, CA, 92106

*Whether you have expertise in tree care or simply a strong desire to contribute, this is your chance to make a positive impact. Together, we'll honor and care for the trees that provide shade, beauty, and a sense of tranquility in our local green spaces.*

## The 2023 PTCA Proper Tree Care Booth at the San Diego County Fair Flower & Garden Show.

The Flower & Garden Show for 2023 called PTCA early to participate. Minor changes in scheduling made for one setup and one take down for our stint in the Horticulture Info Booth.

We had regular and new volunteers this year, staff the Booth to give the public up-to-date info about proper tree care. Each volunteer was able to tailor their message displaying ISA, Arbor Day, and CAUFC brochures. They also lent their arborist experience to answer varied tree questions from fairgoers.

Many thanks to the following members for volunteering:

- Stan Baczynski; 3 shifts
- Ron Matranga; 1 shift
- Monica Bockman; 1 shift
- Kurt Peacock; 1 shift
- Kurt Brickley; 1 shift
- Renee Roman; 1 shift
- Brad Brown; 2 shifts
- Joselle Spinosa; 1 shift
- Vicente Cortez; 1 shift
- Lee Wozniak; 1 shift
- Justin Koplin; 1 shift
- Isaiah Standing Warrior; 1 shift



Special thanks to Pedro Berry for presenting a 1-hour tree talk on the Flower & Garden Show Stage, and to Isaiah Standing Warrior for developing QR Code posters to display at the Booth for easy access by the public to the PTCA website to search for further info and/or a member for possible consultation and needed tree work. CEU's were earned for their participation.

Hosted by



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# TREETOPIA

A 3-day tree festival experience like no other.

All Outdoor  
Family Zone  
Tree Circus  
CEU Classes & Demos  
Live Entertainment

Arbor-Games  
Tons of Prizes  
Food Trucks  
Comps & After Parties  
And So Much More!



**The Professional Tree Care Association of San Diego and the City of San Diego Park and Recreation Department are co-sponsoring the**

## **34<sup>th</sup> Annual Seminar and Field Day**

### **Into the Canopy**

**August 18 and 19, 2023**

**Balboa Park Club ~ San Diego, CA**

*Seminar: Friday, August 18, 2023, 7:00 am to 4:00 pm*

*Balboa Park Club, 2150 Pan American Rd W, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA*

- 7:00 Registration and Refreshments
- 7:30 Welcome and Introductions
- 7:45 KEYNOTE: Dr. Matt Ritter, Trees Among Us 2nd Edition
- 9:00 Patrick Lee, Xylella update for San Diego County
- 9:45 Morning Break
- 10:00 Dr. Igor Laçan & David Kelley, Soils and site assessment for Arborists
- 11:00 Kieran Althaus, Oaks in California
- 11:45 PTCA Scholarship & Bichowsky Awards Presentation
- 12:00 Lunch (included)
- 1:00 Lisa Smith, Case Studies in Tree Failures and Advanced Body Language of Trees
- 2:00 Paul Lasiter, Chainsaw Changes in California
- 2:45 Afternoon Break
- 3:00 Dr. Jenn Yost, Dr. Natalie Love & Camille Pawlick, New tools from the Urban Forest Ecosystem Institute
- 4:00 Completion of CEU Forms and Adjourn

*Field Day: Saturday, August 19, 2023, 7:00 am to 3:30 pm*

*Balboa Park Club, Balboa Park, San Diego, California*

7:00 Registration and Refreshments

	Registration and Refreshments				
	Track I	Track II	Track III	Track IV**	
	Arborist	Tree Worker 1 – English	Tree Worker 1 – Spanish	Tree Worker 2 Round Robin	
7:30	Dr. Matt Ritter Tree Tour (outside)	ABCPR CPR / First Aid	ABCPR CPR / First Aid	Kevin Bingham Evolution of climbing (English)	Nick Araya Cabling for Tree workers (Bilingual)
8:45	Patrick Lee Xylella Sample Review (inside)				
9:30	Break				
9:45	Dr. Natalie Love Tree Walk Inventory Collection (outside)	CPR / First Aid continued	CPR / First Aid continued	Nick Araya Cabling for Tree workers (English)	Kevin Bingham Evolution of climbing (Spanish)
11:00	Lunch – Arborist Track			Paul Lasiter <i>Electric Chainsaws (Bilingual)</i>	
12:00	David Kelley & Dr. Igor Laçan Soils, soil pits and the fabulous underground world of trees (outside)	Lunch – Tree Worker Tracks			
1:00		Kevin Bingham Technical Movement & Physical Performance in Trees (Bilingual)			
1:45	Break				
2:00	Soils, continued	Nick Araya & Javier Quiroz Palm Rescue (bilingual)			
3:00	Raffle and CEUs				

**Continuing Education Units** available at both the seminar and field day for: ISA: Arborists and Tree Workers  
DPR: PCA, QAC, and QAL  
TCIA: Certified Tree Care Safety Professionals

**FREE PARKING** available in lots near the Balboa Park Club.  
Seminar and Field Day Locations are Handicapped Accessible  
**NO RECRUITING ALLOWED**

## Registration Information



Please fill out and mail or email the form below with your check or payment information to the PTCA by August 5, 2023 to attend either or both the PTCA Seminar and/or Field Day. Event costs are listed below. Take advantage of discounts and register early! For more than four attendees, download a "multiple registrations" form on the PTCA website. For more detailed information see the PTCA website at [www.ptcasandiego.org](http://www.ptcasandiego.org)  
Questions? Call (714) 639-6516 or email [ptca@epicentermgmt.us](mailto:ptca@epicentermgmt.us)

### Event Costs

	Seminar	Field Day	Both Days
<b>Non-Member</b>	<b>\$200.00</b>	<b>\$175.00</b>	<b>\$325.00</b>
<i>Early</i>	\$180.00	\$157.50	\$292.50
<i>Early Group</i>	\$162.00	\$141.75	\$263.25
<b>PTCA Member</b>	<b>\$175.00</b>	<b>\$145.00</b>	<b>\$275.00</b>
<i>Early</i>	\$157.50	\$130.50	\$247.50
<i>Early Group</i>	\$141.75	\$117.45	\$222.75

### Discounts:

**Early Registration:** Subtract 10% if registration PAID by Aug 1, 2023  
**4 or More Package:** Subtract 10% for 4 or more registrants submitted together from the same company or municipality (all costs are per person).

No refunds after August 10, 2023

## PTCA Registration form - Please provide full name and circle information for each attendee:

Attendee Name/Email:	Registering for: (circle)	COST	Lunch:	T-Shirt Size:
1. _____	Seminar    Field Day    Both Days	\$ _____	Reg    Veggie	S   M   L   X   2X   3X
Attendee email: _____	Select Treeworker Session: CPR – English    CPR – Spanish    Roundrobin (circle one)			
2. _____	Seminar    Field Day    Both Days	\$ _____	Reg    Veggie	S   M   L   X   2X   3X
Attendee email: _____	Select Treeworker Session: CPR – English    CPR – Spanish    Roundrobin (circle one)			
3. _____	Seminar    Field Day    Both Days	\$ _____	Reg    Veggie	S   M   L   X   2X   3X
Attendee email: _____	Select Treeworker Session: CPR – English    CPR – Spanish    Roundrobin (circle one)			
4. _____	Seminar    Field Day    Both Days	\$ _____	Reg    Veggie	S   M   L   X   2X   3X
Attendee email: _____	Select Treeworker Session: CPR – English    CPR – Spanish    Roundrobin (circle one)			
5. _____	Seminar    Field Day    Both Days	\$ _____	Reg    Veggie	S   M   L   X   2X   3X
Attendee email: _____	Select Treeworker Session: CPR – English    CPR – Spanish    Roundrobin (circle one)			

*\*All PREGREGISTERED field day attendees receive a commemorative t-shirt! Walk-ins are NOT guaranteed a t-shirt*

TOTAL COSTS: \_\_\_\_\_

DISCOUNT: \_\_\_\_\_

GRAND TOTAL: \_\_\_\_\_

Discounts:  
Before August 1 (10%)  
Four or More (10%)  
Both Discounts (20%)

## Contact Information

Business/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Best Contact Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Paying by Check, make payable to PTCA

Paying by Credit Card,

☐ VISA    ☐ MASTERCARD

☐ AMERICAN EXPRESS

Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Name (as on card): \_\_\_\_\_

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp: \_\_\_\_\_ V-Code \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

### Mail or email registration & payment to:

PTCA San Diego, c/o Epicenter Management

27537 Commerce Center Dr. #107 - Temecula, CA 92590

Email: [ptca@epicentermgmt.us](mailto:ptca@epicentermgmt.us) Fax: 714.639.6746 Online registration - [www.ptcasandiego.org](http://www.ptcasandiego.org)

# ANNUAL SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

DIAMOND - \$8,000.00 ANNUALLY			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ PTCA Annual Membership*</li> <li>✓ Seminar / Field Day sponsorship acknowledgment at beginning of programs</li> <li>✓ First choice on Field Day exhibit location</li> <li>✓ Opportunity to speak to attendees at Seminar/Field Day</li> <li>✓ Indoor display table and 4 lunch tickets for Seminar</li> <li>✓ Display table and 4 lunch tickets for Field Day</li> <li>✓ Logo on PTCA banner</li> <li>✓ Logo on PTCA web page with link to their web page</li> <li>✓ Logo on Seminar T-shirts</li> <li>✓ Prominent sign (5' x 10') displayed on stage during Seminar/Field Day</li> <li>✓ Half page Newsletter ad for the year</li> </ul>			
PLATINUM - \$5,000.00 ANNUALLY		GOLD - \$3,500.00 ANNUALLY	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ PTCA Annual Membership*</li> <li>✓ Seminar / Field Day sponsorship acknowledgment at beginning of programs</li> <li>✓ Opportunity to speak to attendees at Seminar/Field Day</li> <li>✓ Indoor display table and 2 lunch tickets for Seminar</li> <li>✓ Display table and 2 lunch tickets for Field Day</li> <li>✓ Logo on PTCA banner</li> <li>✓ Logo on PTCA web page with link to their web page</li> <li>✓ Logo on Seminar T-shirts</li> <li>✓ Prominent sign (4' x 8') displayed on stage during Seminar/Field Day</li> <li>✓ Significant sign (4' x 8') displayed in atrium area during Seminar/Field Day</li> <li>✓ Half page Newsletter ad for the year</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ PTCA Annual Membership*</li> <li>✓ Seminar / Field Day sponsorship acknowledgment at beginning of programs</li> <li>✓ Indoor display table and 2 lunch tickets for Seminar</li> <li>✓ Display table and 2 lunch tickets for Field Day</li> <li>✓ Logo on PTCA banner</li> <li>✓ Logo on PTCA web page with link to their web page</li> <li>✓ Logo on seminar T-shirts</li> <li>✓ Significant sign (4' x 8') displayed on stage</li> <li>✓ Quarter page newsletter ad for the year</li> </ul>	
SILVER - \$2,000.00 ANNUALLY	BRONZE - \$1,000.00 ANNUALLY	COPPER - \$500.00 ANNUALLY	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ PTCA Annual Membership*</li> <li>✓ Indoor display table and 2 lunch tickets for Seminar</li> <li>✓ Display table and 2 lunch tickets for Field Day</li> <li>✓ Logo on PTCA web page (static)</li> <li>✓ Logo on PTCA banner</li> <li>✓ Logo on seminar T-shirts</li> <li>✓ Significant sign (2' x 4') displayed in atrium area during Seminar/Field Day</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ PTCA Annual Membership*</li> <li>✓ Indoor display table and 2 lunch tickets for Seminar</li> <li>✓ Display table and 2 lunch tickets for Field Day</li> <li>✓ Logo on web page (static)</li> <li>✓ Logo on PTCA banner</li> <li>✓ Logo on seminar T-shirts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ PTCA Annual Membership*</li> <li>✓ Indoor display table and 2 lunch tickets for Seminar</li> <li>✓ Display table and 2 lunch tickets for Field Day</li> <li>✓ Logo on seminar T-shirts</li> </ul>	

\* Sponsoring contractors must meet insurance and license qualifications to be recognized as members.

## Learn How Safety Can Drive Your Business at EAW in San Diego

Experience the transformative power of integrating safety into your business at our upcoming Executive Arborist Workshop August 7-9, 2023, in San Diego, California. Join industry experts and thought leaders as we delve into the crucial intersection of safety and business strategies, equipping you with the knowledge and tools to cultivate a safety-centric culture within your tree care company.

This workshop is specifically designed for business owners, managers and safety professionals seeking to establish robust safety practices, bridge gaps between field and office workers and mitigate risks to safeguard both their workforce and their bottom line.

Immerse yourself in enlightening sessions and gain insights from industry experts who will share best practices and lessons learned from their experiences in fostering a culture of safety.

### What to expect

Explore essential topics such as creating effective safety plans, implementing comprehensive safety programs, ensuring OSHA compliance and integrating safety into daily operations. Gain valuable guidance on aligning safety practices with business objectives, optimizing HR and business-devel-

opment requirements, enhancing sales and marketing strategies and maintaining quality assurance.

Engage in interactive discussions and panel sessions, where industry leaders will share personal experiences and offer practical advice on building a safety-focused business. Learn from successful professionals who have effectively incorporated safety into their company's DNA, and discover how they have navigated the challenges and reaped the benefits of prioritizing safety in their operations.

### The take-aways

By attending this workshop, you will be empowered to instill a safety-first mindset throughout your organization, foster better communication and understanding between field and office workers and develop proactive strategies to minimize workplace hazards. Join us as we explore the symbiotic relationship between safety and business and unlock the full potential of integrating safety into your company's core values.

Secure your spot today at the Executive Arborist Workshop in San Diego, and embark on a transformative journey toward a safer and more prosperous future for your tree care business. For more information and to register, scan the QR code or visit [eaw.tcia.org/eaw-2023-san-diego-ca/](http://eaw.tcia.org/eaw-2023-san-diego-ca/).

## Proposed Z133 Standard Revisions Available for Public Review

On June 13, 2023, the ANSI Z-133 Safety Requirements for Arboricultural Operations committee voted to approve the draft of the 2024 Z-133. After editing and a review by the committee we expect that the new Z-133 will go out for a 45-day public review on July 28, 2023. The public (you, the working arborist) will be notified of its publication by the ISA, TCIA and the MAA.

Encouraged are all working arborists to review this draft. This will become the working copy for the next five years. Company owners and safety trainers should understand the significant changes about how this will affect your work. The section on electric safety has some major changes for non-utility arborist.

If you have any questions or concerns about the update or any of the changes you should send them to:

ISA – Z-133  
270 Peachtree St., Suite 1900  
Atlanta, GA. 30303

Comments must be specific to a particular numbered section(s) within the proposed draft standard, with a complete explanation of concerns and alternative language, if applicable.

All letters that come in by the closing date (45 days from start of public review) will be reviewed by the full committee and you will get a response. While we have been working monthly online, we expect to have an in-person two-day meeting in October 2023 to respond to all review questions.

## ANSI A300 Standards Public Review Period

ANSI A300 standards are the generally accepted industry standards for tree care practices. They are voluntary industry consensus standards developed by TCIA and written by a committee called the Accredited Standards Committee (ASC) A300, whose mission is to develop consensus performance standards based on current research and sound practice for writing specifications to manage trees, shrubs, and other woody plants.

Currently up for review is: " (Part 5)-2019 Management of Trees and Shrubs during Site Planning, Site Development, and Construction". A public review period was set, beginning Friday, July 28th and ending on Sunday, August 27th, 2023.

As with all public review periods, comments will only be taken on-line at [https://www.tcia.org/TCIA/Build\\_Your\\_Business/A300\\_Standards/A300\\_Comments.aspx](https://www.tcia.org/TCIA/Build_Your_Business/A300_Standards/A300_Comments.aspx). After you click the link, you will be asked to login before you can submit comments. You may provide comments directly to your A300 committee representative if you do not need an official response from the ANSI-accredited A300 committee. Visit the A300 committee roster for a list of your representatives.



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## 5 Common Injuries in Tree Care Workers – and How to Prevent Them

By Tom Doherty



Spring is the time for trees to start budding, flowers to bloom, and grasses to grow lush and green once again. This season of rebirth is welcomed after a cold, gray winter not only by homeowners but also by those who work in the landscaping industry; it's time for their busy, prosperous season to start.

The landscaping industry includes a wide variety of services, from gardening and masonry work to lawn care and installing irrigation systems. Some of these job types include far fewer risks than others. For instance, individuals responsible for planting flowers or gardens or those who do landscape design experience a low rate of accidents and injuries. Others, like tree care workers or arborists, face year-round risks that can put them in dangerous situations. These potentially hazardous circumstances can lead to severe injuries or even fatalities.

The tree care sector of the landscaping industry is commonly associated with precarious work conditions, with typical job requirements involving using tall ladders and working high amongst the top branches. Additionally, these workers often utilize hazardous equipment like chainsaws to complete their daily duties. According to the Tree Care Industry Association (TCIA) and the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), tree workers have 15 times the fatality rate and three times the nonfatal injury rate compared to all other industries.

### ***What Are the Most Common Injuries for Tree Care Workers?***

The TCIA reports that the month of May is when the highest number of fatal incidents to tree care workers occurs. While some tree care services are available year-

round, some work is more seasonal and takes place in the spring, summer, and fall. There's no doubt the duties involved with tree care can be physically demanding, requiring workers to climb, bend, lift, carry, kneel, shovel, and more.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics states that tree trimmers and pruners experience one of the highest rates of fatalities of all occupations. Here are a few of the most common injuries tree care workers suffer, and some prevention tips to ensure tree care business owners can keep employees safe while on the job.

### **1. Fall Injuries**

Falls are the most common fatal type of accident for tree care workers. They can also result in broken bones, concussions, and other injuries. Falls can happen for various reasons, including the following:

- Falling from the tree
- Off a ladder
- While climbing

Tree workers often must work from heights and climb high into the branches, and the most common type of fall is falling from the tree itself. However, they can also fall from ladders used to reach higher points or from the climbing system failing.

To help reduce potential injuries due to falls, workers should be well-trained in the types of fall hazards they are exposed to, as well as understand the correct procedures for utilizing, inspecting, and maintaining the fall protection systems they need to use regularly. They should also be supplied with the proper personal protective equipment (PPE) such as harnesses, gloves,

non-slip boots, belts, slings, and climbing equipment like harnesses, belts, slings, and carabiners.

## 2. Injuries From Contact with Objects

Contact with objects is the second most common injury tree care workers experience, according to TCIA. Fatal injuries can occur from falling tree limbs or even being struck by the tree itself as it goes down. Workers may also be injured by other objects, like equipment falling from heights.

These incidents can be reduced when workers understand the importance of being aware of their surroundings, as well as the location of other workers; they should never turn their backs on a tree when it is being cut or felled. Branches should be lowered safely to the ground immediately after they are cut rather than allowing them to free fall.

Additionally, workers should understand the basics of chainsaw safety. Using a chainsaw is strenuous work that can take a toll on the individual, making it easy to drop to the ground as they become fatigued.

## 3. Environmental Injuries

Tree care workers are outside in all types of weather, from the hot sun to the bitter cold. Working in hot weather can lead to heat stress or heat exhaustion, dehydration, and other injuries and illnesses. The cold can cause hypothermia or frostbite. Additionally, they may be exposed to plants like poison ivy, poison oak, and sumac that can cause allergic reactions such as rashes.

Regardless of whether workers are outside on a summer or a winter day, they should be required to take frequent breaks to decrease their exposure to the elements. They should understand what type of clothing can best protect them, like light-colored, breathable fabrics in the summer and cold weather gear like hats, gloves, and heavy coats in the winter.

Precautions should be taken when employees are working amongst foliage and could come into contact with poison ivy, oak, or sumac. They should understand how to identify these plants so they can avoid them as much as possible, and learn what treatments to apply if they are exposed to them.

## 4. Electrocution

Working in trees near power lines is often a requirement for tree care workers. Working close to a power line can put them at high risk of contact with the line which can lead to electric shock or electrocution. This contact is most often indirect, when a worker hits the line with a conductive tool like a metal pruner. Or, sometimes a branch the worker just cut and is holding in their hand could touch the power line. Workers may also physically touch the power line themselves inadvertently, especially if the wind picks up and pushes them towards it.

Tree care workers should take extra caution around



power lines. OSHA recommends that workers should always assume lines are energized, and they should follow the proper minimum distances to avoid contact.

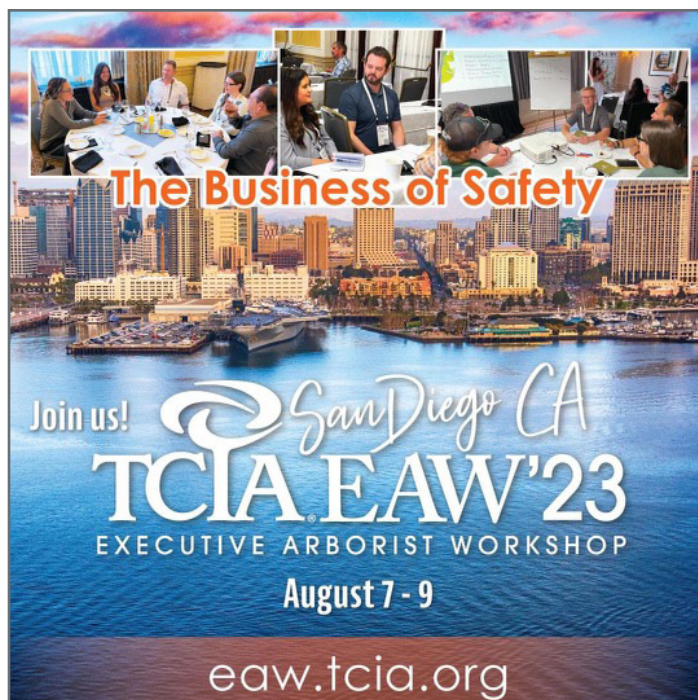
## 5. Transportation Accidents

Any occupation that utilizes vehicles as part of daily job duties is at risk for transportation accidents. Tree care workers are not only at risk driving to and from job sites, but automobile accidents and injuries can also occur when employees are working at trees located roadside.

A proper work zone must be set up at any jobsite near the road, including cones, signs, and barricades. Flaggers should be used to direct traffic through the area to help workers avoid getting hit.

## Ensuring the Safety of Tree Care Workers

It's essential that tree care workers take all the precautions noted above to ensure their safety while on the job. Keeping this information top of mind will help reduce the number of accidents, injuries, and fatalities in this important sector of the landscaping industry.



## Seedling grown from atomic bomb survivor tree planted at San Diego Botanic Garden

On Saturday, Aug. 5, San Diego Botanic Garden will join in partnership and unity with Green Legacy Hiroshima (GLH) Initiative to dedicate a newly planted ginkgo tree that descended from a mother tree that survived the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, Japan more than 70 years ago.

The Survivor Tree Commemoration will take place at the garden on Saturday, Aug. 5 at 4:15 PM, corresponding to the exact time in Pacific Standard Time that the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima on Aug. 6, 1945. The ceremonial event will also include guest speakers as well as a community wish-writing activity for attendees to participate in.

The result of a multiyear partnership with GLH, San Diego Botanic Garden received its ginkgo as a seedling from Shukkeien garden in Japan in 2020, and was recently planted at SDBG in June of 2023.

According to a news release, GLH is a global campaign aimed at spreading the universal messages of caution and hope that the unique survivor trees of Hiroshima represent. Known in Japanese as "Hibakujumoku", these survivor trees bring awareness to the dangers of arms of mass destruction as well as the sacred character of humankind and the resilience of nature.

Currently, seeds and saplings from the A-bombed trees are growing in more than 40 countries in a sustained, long-term campaign, joining other efforts to establish a nuclear-free and more ecological planet.



*San Diego Botanic Garden staff planting the Ginkgo tree. Photo courtesy of San Diego Botanic Garden.*

"The Hibakujumoku have an amazing ability to simultaneously commemorate the devastation wrought by the bombing of Hiroshima and instill a profound sense of hope in the future. If trees can survive such an event, and their progeny can be shared across the world, there's clearly so much we can do together to make the world a better place for people and plants," said SDBG President and CEO Ari Novy, in a news release. "We are honored to be part of this initiative and invite the community to join us in commemorating the history, legacy, and symbol of peace that this beautiful tree represents."

For more information about San Diego Botanic Garden, visit the website at [sdbg.org](http://sdbg.org).

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## Membership News

### DID YOU KNOW....

#### Organizational Membership Bundles

A membership bundle is a collection of members who are linked together and managed by one of their members – the bundle coordinator. The bundle coordinator is responsible for adding new members to the bundle. If your membership class is Commercial, Municipal Organization, Organizational & Professional Affiliate Organization or Vendor, you can add up to 4 additional members to your organizational membership

#### License & Insurance Information

Commercial members are required to submit CSLB License information and proof of insurance (see below) This is required to be on the referral list. Submit yours today to [ptca@epicentermgmt.us](mailto:ptca@epicentermgmt.us)

#### Annual Renewal

PTCA membership dues are renewed annually starting on July 15th. Invoices are sent electronically on July 1st each year. Invoices are due upon receipt. Failure to renew may result in a lapse of membership and forfeiture of membership discounts and other benefits.

### MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

#### Commercial *\$125.00 annually*

Commercial members provide tree-related services for municipal, commercial, residential, utility clients, and meet the following requirements: Minimum \$1,000,000.00 public liability and property damage insurance (combined single limit). California State Contractor's License with a classification of C-27 or C-61 (D-49). Worker's Compensation insurance certificate must specify a labor code of 0106 (tree pruning) and include coverage of tree work at heights exceeding twelve feet (12'). Current certificates shall be on file with PTCA annually. Members of this classification shall be entitled to refer to Association membership, including use of the Association logo in advertising and shall be entitled to vote on all matters pertaining to the Association, including changes to the Association's bylaws.

#### Vendors *\$125.00 annually*

Members who sell, rent or lease products utilized by the tree care industry or perform horticultural spraying, fertilizing, and consulting, etc. and are not involved in pruning or removal. Appropriate current state or ISA licenses or certificates shall be kept on file with the Association. Members of this classification shall be entitled to refer to Association membership, including use of the Association logo in advertising and shall be entitled to vote on all matters pertaining to the Association, including changes to the Association's bylaw.

#### Municipal – Organization *\$125.00 annually*

The governing body or representatives of

government, agencies, and schools. Members of this classification shall be entitled to refer to Association membership, including use of the Association logo in advertising. Members of this classification shall be entitled to reduced admission fees for attendance at workshops and seminars for four representatives. One per entity shall be entitled to vote on all Association matters, except bylaw changes.

#### Municipal – Individual *\$40.00 annually*

The governing body or representatives of government, agencies, and schools. Members of this classification shall be entitled to refer to Association membership, including use of the Association logo in advertising. Members of this classification shall be entitled to reduced admission fees for attendance at workshops and seminars for four representatives. One per entity shall be entitled to vote on all Association matters, except bylaw changes.

#### Organizational and Professional Affiliate – Organization *\$125.00 annually*

Representatives of other related horticultural programs. Members of this classification shall be entitled to refer to Association membership, including use of the Association logo in advertising, reduced admission fees for attendance at workshops and seminars for three representatives. One per entity shall be entitled to vote on all Association matters, except bylaw changes

#### Organizational and Professional Affiliate – Individual *\$40.00 annually*

Representatives of other related horticultural programs. Members of this classification shall be entitled to refer to Association membership, including use of the Association logo in advertising, reduced admission fees for attendance at workshops and seminars for three representatives. One per entity shall be entitled to vote on all Association matters, except bylaw changes.

#### Student *\$35.00 annually*

Must provide evidence/proof. Members of this classification shall be entitled to attend monthly meetings and reduced admission fees for attendance at PTCA of San Diego workshops and seminars. No processing/late fee charges.

Want to check your member status, category, member listing or add additional team members? Contact Heather Crippen for assistance ([ptca@epicentermgmt.us](mailto:ptca@epicentermgmt.us)).



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Tuesday, August 8, 2023 @ Noon (CST)

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Studies have shown that: (i) arborists can sometimes judge the extent of internal decay based on external signs; (ii) tools like tomography and resistance drilling can reliably illustrate the extent of internal decay; and (iii) assessing tree risk can be subjective. We conducted a study to see whether experienced and credentialed tree risk assessors changed their likelihood of failure ratings when using simple and advanced decay detection tools. We found that assessors didn't always assign the same likelihood of failure ratings, even with the benefit of viewing tomograms of decayed stems.

Registration is open now at [treefund.org](http://treefund.org). This research project was made possible through TREE Fund's John Z. Duling Grant Program.



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