

2019 KAA - Shade Tree Conference - Speaker Biographies

Mark Chisholm – Mark Chisholm is a third-generation arborist who works with his father Steve, mother Laura, and brother Steve for the family-owned Aspen Tree Expert Company. Mark has won the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) New Jersey Chapter Tree Climbing Championship for 21 years and is a past president of the chapter. He has conquered the wider tree-climbing world on three occasions, most recently in 2010. The ITCC in Tampa, FL 2015 marked the 20th time Mark has placed in the top 5 overall! He is the creator and owner of the interactive TreeBuzz.com website that sees over 80,000 users each month. He is a Licensed Tree Expert with the state of NJ, an ISA Certified Arborist and a TCIA CTSP. Mark is also a spokesperson for STIHL Inc, Teufelberger Fiber Rope Corporation and Kask Helmets.

Todd Kramer – Todd is an ISA Certified Arborist®, ISA Certified Tree Worker®, ISA Climber and Aerial Lift Specialist, TCIA Certified Tree Care Safety Professional, and a Certified Crane Operator through the Crane Institute of America. Todd enjoys a refreshing and practical approach to teaching and instructing various arboriculture skill sets. He has been involved in production tree climbing for more than 25 years and has been instructing seminars on rigging, crane assisted tree removals, aerial rescue, emergency response and industry related leadership throughout the United States for more than 15 years. Todd has been involved on a variety of arboriculture projects in the commercial, municipal and utility sectors. In addition, Todd is a 10-time Illinois Arborist Association competitive tree climbing champion. Todd is currently the Training and Performance Manager at the family owned and operated Kramer Tree Specialists in West Chicago, Illinois.

Mike Montague – Mike is the VP of Online Learning at Sandler Training and has been involved with Sandler Training for over 20 years as a student, Certified Trainer, and now VP of Online Learning. He is also the host of the How to Succeed podcast, Sandler Summit, and educational webinars for Sandler, creator of the Social Selling Success course, and contributor to the best-selling, LinkedIn the Sandler Way book. He has entertained and educated thousands of audiences as a speaker, on-air radio personality for Kansas City radio stations, and MC for other live events. He has also been an opening act for Billy Idol and Frankie Valli as a DJ and he was named one of Kansas City's Rising Stars of Business in 2015. – For more information on Sandler Training, please visit www.sandler.com/sell

Christopher J. Luley, Ph.D. – Dr. Luley has been providing urban forestry consulting service throughout his 35+ year career in urban forestry and arboriculture. His degrees are from SUNY Environmental Science and Forestry (BS-Botany) (MS-Forest Pathology) and Iowa State University (PhD-Plant Pathology working on tree diseases). He managed the Plant Diagnostic Clinic for Iowa State and was State Forest Pathologist for the Missouri Department of Conservation before returning to New York. He has over 50 technical research and popular press articles in publication, and three books in press. He recently created treerot.com to help arborists identify the common wood decay fungi on living trees. Dr. Luley received the R. W. Harris Author's Award from the International Society of Arboriculture in 2015.

Randall Gammill – Randall worked with the Missouri Division of Worker's Compensation from 1992-2004 as an employer consultant. While working with the Division, he made frequent presentations on workers' compensation and human resources management. Randall wrote the Division's original employer guide titled An Employer's Guide to Workers' Compensation Basics as well as developed the computer program that calculates and analyzes the experience modifier. In 2004, Randall joined Connell Insurance in Branson and became a partner in 2006. Randall now specializes in workers' compensation, self-insurance consulting, and human resources consulting.

Wes Tregilgas – Wes is the Safety Manger for Wright Tree Service. He has worked for large investor owned utilities and vegetation management contractors after operating a commercial arboriculture company that he started in 1999. Wes has received outstanding customer service awards from industry organizations and recognition from utility executives for finding new methods of creating an innovative customer experience.

Colby Kost – Colby is the Traffic Control Supervisor for the City of Olathe for the past 15 years and has 25 years of Traffic Control Experience. He has served 12 years on 2 different international board of directors that write traffic control standards for the Federal Highway Administration. Colby teaches multiple traffic control courses yearly to workers from diverse fields on the importance of following safe practices when working within the Right of Way.

Jennifer Smith – Jennifer is the Plant Protection Supervisor and Kansas City Metro Area Specialist with the Kansas Department of Agriculture, where she works to ensure the health of the state's native and cultivated plants. She previously worked as a Horticulture Extension Agent with K-State Research and Extension in Douglas County and as a horticulturist for the City of Lawrence, Kansas. She has been a certified arborist with KAA since 2002 and served as president in 2010.

Guy Sternberg – Guy and his wife Edie founded the Starhill Forest Arboretum in 1976 that has now been donated in trust to Illinois College. He developed the Oak Ridge Quercetum that is recognized by the US Forest Service as a National Living Memorial. Guy has been profiled in several Illinois public TV series, has multiple tree-related interviews on local TV stations, newspapers and has been a frequent conference speaker for over 25 years throughout the US, Canada and Europe. He has served as a consultant for communities, universities, historical sites and many other notable sites. His memberships are too many to list; but founding and/or lifetime memberships in the International Society of Arboriculture, International Oak Society and International Dendrology Society are just a few of the many notables. Guy has introduced over 25 trees, has more than his tree count in published articles and has equally as many awards. Basically, "Guy" knows trees and Quercus are his specialty...