

2014 ISA True Professionals of Arboriculture™ Recipients

The True Professionals of Arboriculture™ recognition program honors arborists and tree care professionals for their positive impact on the industry in and around their communities. Visit www.isa-arbor.com and the *Arborist News* for future case studies from each of the winners.



Chris Ahlum

—True Professional of Arboriculture

ISA Board Certified Master Arborist®
Vice-President/Owner—Ahlum & Arbor Tree
Preservation, Columbus, Ohio (US)

Chris Ahlum is vice president and co-owner of Ahlum & Arbor Tree Preservation in Columbus, Ohio. Ahlum maintains high standards for quality, technical expertise, and safety among his company employees. He supports their educational development with training seminars taught by national experts and invests in the latest technology.

An adjunct professor at Columbus State Community College, Ahlum is dedicated to educating future arborists. He is one of the youngest tree care professionals in Ohio to become an ISA Board Certified Master Arborist® and earned the ASCA Registered Consulting Arborist designation at age 27. Chris currently serves as an ISA Certification Board member and as a certification exam proctor.

Chris Ahlum grew up in the industry and says he cannot think of a career he would enjoy more than being a professional arborist. He is an ambassador for the industry and a role model to his peers and employees—qualities of an ISA True Professional of Arboriculture.



Andy Dahl

—True Professional of Arboriculture

ISA Certified Arborist®/Municipal Specialist
Campus Arborist—Landscape Services,
University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa (US)

Andrew Dahl is the campus arborist for landscape services at the University of Iowa in Iowa City where he leads a crew that manages 8,000 trees. He has increased the number of campus tree species from 140 to 220 and helped establish a learning orchard on campus as a way to educate students about the care of fruit and nut trees and supply produce to UI housing cafeterias.

An ISA Certified Arborist Municipal Specialist®, Dahl is dedicated to saving trees and teaching others that trees are long-standing legacies. Whether educating the Planning, Design, and Construction Department about tree protection zones during capital projects or planting trees with first-graders, Dahl strives to teach others about the importance of trees and taking a responsible role in their care and well-being.

Andy Dahl is an achiever who leads by example—an ISA True Professional of Arboriculture.



Richard Gibney

—True Professional
of Arboriculture

ISA Certified Arborist®
Owner/President—Gibney
Design Landscape Architecture
PC, Wading River, N.Y. (US)

Richard Gibney of Wading River, New York, is owner and president of Gibney Design Landscape Architecture PC. He is an ISA Certified Arborist® and licensed landscape architect who consults with municipalities and consumers about the best methods for tree care and preservation. In one community alone he has inventoried 1500 trees, administered removal and pruning contracts, overseen more than 250 tree plantings, and introduced 40 new tree species.

Gibney looks for opportunities to promote ISA certification, and he encourages and assists his employees in becoming ISA certified arborists. He also makes ISA certification a requirement for contracted arborists on most of his projects. Gibney also promotes proper tree care through lectures, educational seminars he has developed, and articles for local publications.

Richard Gibney demonstrates the ethical and environmentally-sound principles of an ISA True Professional of Arboriculture.



Mark Hoenigman

—True Professional
of Arboriculture

ISA Certified Arborist®
President—Busy Bee Service,
Cleveland, Ohio (US)

Mark Hoenigman is president and part-owner of Busy Bee Services in Cleveland, Ohio. An ISA Certified Arborist® and one of Ohio's first Certified Tree Worker Evaluators, he is considered a cutting-edge arborist and ambassador for arboriculture.

Hoenigman follows a proactive and holistic approach to tree care, focusing on the creation of healthy soil and tree root systems. He stays current on industry research and technology, and was a key contributor to the development and production of the 2010 and 2014 Biomechanics Research Weeks at Davey Research Farm. Hoenigman also works with a group of local arborists to mentor and educate young arborists about best management practices with free or low-cost training programs and networking opportunities.

Actively involved with many industry organizations and initiatives, Mark Hoenigman exemplifies an ISA True Professional of Arboriculture.



Steve Nimz

—True Professional of
Arboriculture

ISA Certified Arborist®
Consultant—Stave Nimz &
Associates, Honolulu, HI (US)

Steve Nimz, head consulting arborist for Steve Nimz & Associates in Honolulu, believes in freely passing on tree care knowledge to others. This philosophy has helped eight of his employees start their own tree care businesses, which Nimz feels has improved the quality of arborists in Hawaii.

Nimz is credited for raising arboriculture standards in Hawaii. In the 1970s, he championed the effort to make a state contractor's license mandatory for all tree care companies. He also arranged the first ISA Certified Arborist exam in Hawaii in 1996, earning his first ISA credential. Nimz is active in public outreach, volunteering his time with the Aloha Arborist Association and other green industry non-profits to speak to consumers and teach them about the value of trees and their proper care.

Improving the integrity of the profession and educating the public—actions of an ISA True Professional of Arboriculture.

