

MEET THE 2017 ISA TRUE PROFESSIONALS ARBORICULTURE

The ISA True Professionals of Arboriculture recognition program spotlights innovative arborists, their best practices, and the successes they have had in educating their communities, clients, colleagues, and employees. By recognizing arborists who go above and beyond, celebrating their efforts, and providing ISA's membership and certified professionals with opportunities to learn from the successes of their colleagues, ISA True Professionals can inspire others to learn and apply successful techniques in their own practices.



KEN ALMSTEAD is CEO of Almstead Tree and Shrub Company, LLC, in New Rochelle, New York. He is strongly committed to community outreach and involvement.

He maintains a policy within his company that all of his arborist employees participate in local Arbor Day or Earth Day activities, such as tree plantings and educational presentations for local organizations and schools. To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Almstead family business, Ken created a campaign ("50 Trees for 50 Years") to donate 50 trees and their lifelong care within the region to be enjoyed as legacy trees in public areas along with educational signage. He also donated his company's time and expertise to inject 41 ash trees in New Jersey's Liberty State Park to discourage emerald ash borer (EAB) infestation. Ken works tirelessly to educate the public about EAB, as well as about devastating tree diseases affecting the area, through his newsletters, email blasts, and one-on-one conversations with his clients.



SCOTT ALTENHOFF is the urban forestry management analyst for the City of Eugene, Oregon, Parks and Open Space Division where he focuses on strategic

urban forestry planning, public engagement, and overseeing the updated forestry management program he developed for the city. Scott is an accomplished climber and has worked on scientific research climbing projects in the "big trees," such as the California giant sequoias with Steve Sillett and other researchers and climbers in Whitaker's Forest Research Station. He also co-founded the Pacific Tree Climbing Institute and has played a major role in developing and teaching safe single rope technique (SRT) climbing to many arborists in the region, as well as developing and teaching beginning and advanced arboriculture curriculums at a local community college. Scott is a familiar face in his community, helping people understand that trees enhance livability and improve human well-being while promoting the importance of arboriculture and urban forestry.



JIM BARBORINAS and his wife, Annie, are co-owners of Urban Forestry Service, Inc. and Urban Forest Nursery, Inc. in Mount Vernon, Washington.

Jim serves on the TREE Fund Board of Trustees and strongly supports tree research. He and Annie established the Barborinas Fund, a TREE Fund Endowment, to fund research focused on the improvement of tree varieties for nurseries and the procedures and methods for growing, transplanting, and establishing trees in urban environments. Jim advocates the use of fabric growbags in production planting to improve the transplanting process and outweigh other challenges of production. He is working to improve the efficiency of planting trees in growbags and reduce the time and labor involved in backfilling bags with liners and soil. Jim and Annie hope that eventual research through the Barborinas Fund can provide better understanding of the different characteristics of root systems and how they may react with different growbag fabrics or methods of production.



JOEL GREIFENBERGER is owner of Valley Tree and Landscape Service, Inc. in Long Beach, New York. He is a mentor and teacher to his employees,

training them in electrical hazard, CPR/first aid, and general tree care skills that make their work in the field safer and more efficient. He also organizes workshops on tree pruning and removal. Joel is a driving force behind the New York State Tree Climbing Championship (NYSTCC). He has successfully incorporated the ISA Certified Tree Worker Climber Specialist® and the ISA Certified Tree Worker Aerial Lift Specialist® programs into the NYSTCC in an innovative way to bring professional training to as many arborists in the area as possible. Joel and his work team frequently volunteer their knowledge and services for community programs, and following Hurricane Sandy in 2012, Joel devoted many months of his time and resources to help his neighbors recover from the massive destruction of their trees and property.



TERRENCE P. FLANAGAN is owner of Teragan and Associates, Inc. in Lake Oswego, Oregon. He is an active ISA volunteer and served

as the 2013-14 president of the ISA Board of Directors. Terry assisted in the development of an arboriculture degree program at Clackamas Community College and chaired the panel of experts who created the ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (TRAQ) program. He now serves as a TRAQ instructor and a mentor instructor who trains new TRAQ instructors to teach the course worldwide. Terry was also a co-founder of Friends of Trees, a nonprofit tree planting organization in Portland that is still going strong since 1989. Founded for the purpose of planting trees in Portland neighborhoods, Friends of Trees was built by committed volunteers dedicated to improving the urban canopy, restoring natural areas, and sharing knowledge about trees and tree care within their communities. This type of educational outreach and information-sharing exemplifies Terry's professional philosophy.

