

Introducing **Theresa Williams**



Happy fall, *Wisconsin Arborist* subscribers! I began helping out with the WAA long before I knew that I wanted to have a career as an arborist. I

originally became a student at Milwaukee Area Technical College to study landscaping. During this time, I began helping at conferences and field days any way that I could in order to meet with as many people in the business as I could. The work mostly consisted of handing out speaker pamphlets and collecting surveys but I had a chance to network with arboriculture students and professional arborists. I found that the WAA members were a group of people that had to be my people. I put aside my landscaping dreams and turned my attention to the study of arboriculture. I have never been able to dabble in only one thing, so, I also studied greenhouse production, landscape design, instal-

lation, and maintenance. During this time, I also served as the Horticulture Club secretary and as president the following year.

Today I am an ISA certified arborist and still stay busy with field work and the WAA. I have been active in the newsletter, the TCC event, field days, and I still occasionally collect surveys. Coming originally from a small town, I put a strong network on a very high pedestal. The opportunities that WAA provides for professional development and networking are priceless. It would take more than my fingers and toes to count the times that someone that I have met through WAA has been an asset for one reason or another. I am proud to help maintain and grow an organization that values its membership so highly.

Thank you for your comments and suggestions on ways to improve *The Wisconsin Arborist* newsletter. In our last issue, we began a new feature to introduce a WAA volunteer or new board member. "*Introducing...*" is meant to help recognize some of the hard-working volunteers who help make our organization thrive and to introduce you to someone you've seen, but maybe haven't met. In this issue we feature Theresa Williams.