

President's MESSAGE

As Calvin Coolidge once said, "No person was ever honored for what he or she received. Honor has been the reward for what was given."

After joining the WAA in 1985 and receiving for a number of years, I remember when I was challenged by a WAA vice president to start giving. "Dave," she said, "if you ever want to accomplish something within the WAA, you need to get on the board." And so the giving began: I served on the program committee for about 8 years, became a board member, served as publicity



chair, and helped wherever I could. And now, as your new president, I feel honored to follow in the footsteps of the many great folks who have given to me throughout the years.

Along this arboricultural path, I've been impressed each year that the dedicated volunteers of our organization rise to the occasion and tackle new challenges head on. And I encourage all of you to give whatever time you can to the WAA so that we can continue to do so.

Our summer workshop and Tree Climbing Championship is set for Thursday, July 6, at Regner Park in West Bend, WI. Please plan to join us for a great day and volunteer to help. We can always use an extra hand.

Meanwhile, as you make plans to give of your time, we are working to provide services that give to you. Directors have approved setting up a credit-card payment system for future WAA seminars. This will be implemented in coming months.

As reported in the November 2005 WAA newsletter, we are now a chapter with over 640 members and the board is pursuing an in-house paid staff person. I am strongly in favor of achieving this goal and in finding the best person to help the WAA in answering your calls, e-mails, questions and concerns and the many other tasks needed to help the WAA move to the forefront of arboriculture.

Please contact me or any of the board of directors to share your thoughts on this very important matter. We are here to serve, and looking forward to it!

Sincerely,

David Graham, President, WAA