



Sharon Lilly Wins Society of Commercial Arboriculture's Arborist of the Year Award

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Award-winning officemate Sharon Lilly, an ISA member for more than 25 years, has worked at the international level for about 20 years as committee chairs and as an officer. As a staff member, she's been with ISA for 10 years.

Many people know that Sharon is the director of Educational Goods and Services. "Under EGS, I have a Gantt chart of 27 projects, about a dozen ongoing programs and publications, and nine committees and boards," said Sharon. "Including interns we have an EGS staff team of eight motivated and skilled professionals, but we couldn't do it without the army of about 100 dedicated volunteers!"

"I see Sharon as our experienced and knowledgeable guide who leads us to our destination," said Steve Bevil, science and research manager. "Being that she is the

director, she happens to be the only one with the map."

Sharon's work in the arboriculture field is exactly what earned her the Society of Commercial Arboriculture's Arborist of the Year Award at the ISA Annual Conference and Trade Show in Hawaii.

Her teamwork might be what has kept her at ISA headquarters for 10 years. "Sharon has high expectations for her team, but she holds herself to those same high standards," said Peggy Currid, educational projects manager.

"Sharon's leadership, coaching, organizational, and motivational qualities are commendable," said Luana Vargas, educational development manager. "She inspires people to give their best."

Sharon said working at ISA allows her to combine her passion for the profession

with her commitment to education.

This committed director, however, still makes time for her personal life and the lives around her. She is committed to her team's personal development, education, and growth, Luana said.

"My wife had to work on Christmas Day last year and Sharon took us in (including my dad who decided to come for a last-minute visit) for the holiday," said Andrew Koeser, EGS intern. "She's an excellent cook."

Besides cooking, Sharon enjoys playing softball, volleyball, skiing, skating, biking, and scuba diving. Her hobbies also include working puzzles, gardening, and making Christmas ornaments.

Sharon lives in Champaign with her husband, Joe, who she said has made her life exponentially better.