



Did I Hear Something About Change?



Nothing seems to highlight change for me like fall. With the vibrant colors and cool temperatures, there is no avoiding it. I try to hold fall off as long as possible so I don't have to deal with the real issue, that is, winter. I tell myself that there is going to be one more warm spell before the cold stuff gets here for good. I've come to realize that I've cheated myself out of the many benefits that come along with the changing seasons. The simple or not-so-simple art of the world preparing itself for the next step is quite remarkable. This year I made a concerted effort to get out and enjoy this period of transition, and it's amazing how much more prepared I feel for winter.

Forgive me if I'm making a lame analogy, but I think that arboriculture in our state is going through a "fall" of its own. With EAB and financial woes looming, we are dealing with a very important transition. We need to prepare ourselves appropriately so we can deal with these important issues. We can't deny that these problems are here. We need to do everything we can to get involved and make a difference. Educating ourselves about these issues and how they will affect us is an important step that needs to be taken. I think that the WAA and DNR have done a lot to help with disseminating information, but there is another step that we need to improve on. As has been mentioned in the past, we need to be diligent about contacting our legislators to raise our concerns about certain issues. Funding for EAB and community forestry programs is going to be tough to acquire, now and in the future. A lack of funding for these programs affects both commercial and public arboriculture. Your voice is needed to raise awareness about funding problems. I urge you to contact your elected officials and express your concerns on these or any other issues. If enough of us choose to act we can make a difference.

The last step I want to mention does not involve enjoying this period of transition. It does, however, involve taking note of what is going on around us and using that information to prepare ourselves for the future. Being unprepared is not a fun feeling, and on that note, I'm off to a budget meeting.

Josh DePouw,
WAA President