

# Wisconsin Arborist Association 2010 Annual Board Meeting and Business Meeting

## Program Committee Report

The WAA Program Committee offered 4 programs to the membership in 2010. Several new concepts were tried this year including moving the Annual Winter Conference from the traditional Super Bowl weekend. Due to a scheduling conflict we were unable to make the change for the current conference. However this option may be looked at for the 2011 conference.

**The Summer Conference** was held at Johnson's Nursery Jackson site. The day included field tours of the conifer and deciduous shade trees, talks on the nursery production and Johnson's IPM Program. **Thank you to The City of West Bend for assisting and Johnson's Nursery for hosting the event.**

**Arborfest/TCC** was held in Appleton again this year at Erb Park. The day started with thunderstorms which delayed the climbing competition and cancelled the educational sessions for the public. Arborfest is intended as a public relations event to promote the professionalism of Arboriculture. The WAA has held this event three years with mixed results mostly due to weather conditions 2 of the 3 years. The future of the event is in discussion. The value of the day to our membership could be large but a dedicated group of volunteers is needed to have the event be successful. We will need to find a new location for 2010. **Thank you to the City of Appleton, and all volunteers of the TCC.** Anyone interested in hosting the event should contact the program or publicity committees.

**Fall Workshop** was held at the Wilderness Lodge in Wisconsin Dells. Speakers were Randall Stamen-Arboriculture and the Law and James Downer- Unraveling the Web of Soil Microbiology. Attendance for the workshop was down this year.

**Annual Winter Conference** is currently in session. The program committee has made some changes to the traditional format. The most notable changes include:

1. The addition of the introductory courses held on Monday and Tuesday. These sessions are geared to those looking for the basics of arboriculture or refreshers on the oldies but goodies. These sessions 6 topics and allow for 9 CEU's to be earned over the 2 days.
2. We have a demo tree in the exhibit hall for the Climber's Corner presentations 6 CEU's are offered during the 5 Sessions.
3. The format of the business meeting has been changed for this year to reduce the amount of reports being read and to increase membership input in how the WAA operates. A focus group will be conducted to gain further insight into some issues that were identified from the recent Membership Survey. Rich Hauer who conducted the membership survey has also agreed to facilitate the focus group. It is the intent of the Board of Directors to use the information gained through the survey and focus group to better serve the membership in 2010 and beyond.

It has been an enjoyable year being the Program Chair for the WAA. **I would like to Thank everyone who was involved in the planning and operations of the events for the WAA in 2009.** It takes a large group of dedicated volunteers to put together a series of high quality events for the members.

Respectfully Submitted, Brian Pelot- WAA Program Chair