

**WAA Annual Conference and Trade Show/
WDNR Urban Forestry Conference**
SCHEDULE AND LOCATION OF EVENTS
Addendum to Registration Brochure



Funding support provided by the USDA Forest Service

These institutions are equal opportunity providers.

Sunday, February 15, 2026

9:00-11:00	WAA Board of Directors Meeting	Grand A, KI Convention Center
11:00- 1:00	Safety Committee Meeting	Grand A, KI Convention Center
11:30- 4:30	Registration	KI Convention Center Lobby South
CONCURRENT WORKSHOP SESSIONS		
Session A 1:00-4:30 – Ballroom A1A2 Bugs and Crud – Chad Rigsby, Bhawana Ghimire <i>CA, UFP, BCMA-S – 3</i>	Session B 1:00-4:30 – Ballroom A3A4 Fundamental Electrical Hazard Awareness: All About Arborists Working in Trees Adjacent To, or In, Utility Rights-of-way – Wes Tregilgas <i>CA, BCMA-M, US – 3; CTSP – 3.5</i>	Session C 1:00-4:30 – Grand BC Certified Arborist Exam Review – John Wayne Farber <i>CA, UFP, US, TC, TWA – 3; BCMA-S, BCMA-P, BCMA-M – 1</i>
EVENING ACTIVITIES		
4:30- 5:00	Student and New Member Welcome – Sponsored by the WAA Membership Committee	Grand BC
5:00- 8:00	WAA Welcome Reception and Networking Program – Sponsored by the Wisconsin Arborist Association	Grand DEFGH
5:00	Tree Climbing Committee Meeting	Grand A
5:30	WAA Past Presidents Meeting	Riverview 1
6:30- 8:00	Arbor-Master Trivia – Sponsored by the Wisconsin Arborist Association and the Wisconsin Urban Forestry Council; TREE Fund Auction Begins	Grand DEFGH

Monday, February 16, 2026

7:30- 3:30	Registration	KI Convention Center Lobby South
7:30- 8:30	Continental Breakfast with Exhibitors	Exhibit Hall C – or on your own at Pub Social
MORNING SESSION		
General – Ballroom A 8:30- 9:30 Motivations, Barriers, and Opportunities for Increasing Credentialed Tree Workers – Beau Brodbeck <i>CA, BCMA-M – 1</i>	Climber’s Corner – Meeting Room B1-B3 8:30- 9:30 Take Pride in Your Pile – Josiah Georgeson <i>CA, BCMA-M – 1</i>	
9:30-10:00	WAA President Welcome – Ian Brown WI DNR Representative – Secretary Karen Hyun Wisconsin Urban Forestry Council Update – Linda Cadotte TREE Fund Update – Luke Scheberl ISA Update – Caitlyn Pollihan Meet the WAA Board Members	
10:00-10:30	Break with Exhibitors and Poster Presentations	
General – Ballroom A 10:30-12:00 Ways to Benchmark Your Community Through the 3-30-300 Rule and More! – Rich Hauer <i>CA, BCMA-M, UFP – 1.5</i>	Climbers’ Corner – Meeting Room B1-B3 10:30-12:00 Aerial Rescue Demonstration – Gary Kohler, Shelly Wollerman <i>CA, BCMA-M, TC, TWA – 1.5; CTSP – 1.5</i>	
12:00-4:00	ISA Arborist Certification Exam	
12:00-1:00	Lunch and TCC Awards Program	
AFTERNOON SESSIONS		
Breakout Session A 1:00-2:00 – Ballroom A1A2 Trees and Homeowner’s Insurance: A Need for Adoptions of Climate-Smart Tree Risk Assessment – Beau Brodbeck <i>CA, UFP – 1; BCMA-S, BCMA-M – .5</i>	Breakout Session B 1:00-2:30 – Ballroom A3A4 Cemetery Forests Through Different Lenses – Dan Buckler, Elton Rogers, Bob Smail <i>CA, UFP, BCMA-S – 1.5</i>	Professional Track 1:00-2:30 – Grand BC Break the Stigma: Is Your Mental Health Important? – Zeus Arreguin <i>CA, BCMA-M – 1.5; CTSP – 1.5</i>
Climbers’ Corner – Meeting Room B1-B3 1:00-2:30 – Practical Arborist Solution Sessions • First Aid Practice and Applications – Gary Kohler, Shelly Wollerman <i>CA, TC, TWA, BCMA-M – .5; CTSP – .5</i> • Chainsaw Maintenance and Sharpening Demonstration – Paul Ahlen <i>CA, TC, TWA, BCMA-P – .5</i> • Hands On Roots – Luke McCormack <i>CA, BCMA-S – .5</i> • Advancing Your Canopy Anchor, MRS and SRS – Sam Finco <i>CA, TC, BCMA-P – .5</i> • Ascent Methods – Thomas Schumacher <i>CA, TC, BCMA-P – .5</i>		Business Track 1:00-2:00 – Grand A Growing Together: Exploring Opportunities with the Urban Forestry Council – Urban Forestry Council Panel <i>CA, UFP, BCMA-M – 1</i>
Utility Track 1:00-2:30 – Riverview 2 Innovative Remote Sensing Technologies in Vegetation Management: ComEd’s Journey and Insights – Nick Day <i>CA, US – 1.5; BCMA-S, BCMA-M – .75</i>		
2:30-3:00	Break with Exhibitors and Poster Presentations	
Breakout Session A 3:00-4:00 – Ballroom A1A2 Utility Storm Work: Unloading Wires Under Tension a Teaspoon at a Time – Wes Tregilgas <i>CA, US, BCMA-M – 1; CTSP – 1</i>	Breakout Session B 3:00-4:00 – Ballroom A3A4 AI for “Tree People” – Philip Potyondy <i>CA, UFP, US – 1; BCMA-S, BCMA-M – .5</i>	Professional Track 3:00-4:00 – Grand BC Mental Health CPR – Hallie Ringhand, Joanne Edmundson, Nate Good <i>CA, BCMA-M – 1; CTSP – 1</i>
Climbers’ Corner – Meeting Room B1-B3 3:00-4:00 – Practical Arborist Booth Sessions – See details above.		Business Track 3:00-4:00 – Grand A Increasing Insurance Perception of Tree Risk – Ian Brown, Joe Hansen, Eric Petersen <i>CA, UFP, BCMA-M – 1</i>
Utility Track 3:00-4:00 – Riverview 2 Building a Climate-Resilient Canopy for Your Electric Utility – Nick Day <i>CA, UFP, US, BCMA-M – 1</i>		
EVENING ACTIVITIES		
4:20- 5:30	WAA Annual Business Meeting – ALL MEMBERS WELCOME! – Your vote counts! Please join us to elect our next Board Members! ***New Location***	Grand BC
5:30- 6:30	Ascent Event Climbing Competition – Hosted by the WAA TCC	Meeting Room B1-B3, near Climber’s Corner
5:30- 9:00	Exhibitor Social & Blue Light Special Fundraiser	Exhibit Hall C

Tuesday, February 17, 2026

7:30- 3:30 Registration
 7:30- 8:30 Continental Breakfast with Exhibitors

KI Convention Center Lobby South
 Exhibit Hall C - or on your own at Pub Social

MORNING SESSIONS

General 8:30-9:30 - Ballroom A1A2 Root Strategies and Leaf Tolerance to Drought - Luke McCormack CA, BCMA-S - 1 9:30-10:30 - Ballroom A1A2 Proper Tree Pruning: Just What Does the A300 Pruning Standard Tell Us? - Rich Hauer CA, TC, TWA, UFP, US, BCMA-P - 1	Utility Track *** New Location *** 8:30-9:30 - Ballroom A3A4 WPS Electric Path to Ground - Cody Rye, Travis Orlando CA, TC, TWA, UFP, US, CTSP - 1; BCMA-P, BCMA-M - .5 9:30-10:30 - Ballroom A3A4 Condition-Based Utility Vegetation Management: Aren't We Really Talking About Asset Management? - Robert Vanderhoof CA, US, BCMA-M - 1	Professional Track 8:30-9:30 - Grand BC Reading the Tree Leaves: Using Clues from Plant Damage to Identify Insects - PJ Liesch CA, BCMA-S - 1 9:30-10:30 - Grand BC Urban Soil Management for Trees - Luke Scheberl CA, UFP, BCMA-S - 1	Climbers' Corner 8:30-9:30 - Meeting Room B1-B3 Don't Play Russian Roulette with Rigging - Josiah Georgeson CA, TC, TWA, BCMA-P - 1; CTSP - 1 9:30-10:30 - Meeting Room B1-B3 Lanyards: Work Positioning and Beyond - Johanna O'Boyle CA, TC, BCMA-P - 1; CTSP - 1
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10:30-11:00 Break with Exhibitors and Poster Presentations Exhibit Hall C

General 11:00-12:00 - Ballroom A1A2 Smart Tree Management: Superpower or Hoo-ha? - Philip Potyondy CA, UFP, BCMA-M - 1	Utility Track 11:00-12:00 - Ballroom A3A4 Cutting Time, Not Corners: The Story Behind a Cooperative's Cycle Reduction - Josh Mitchell CA, UFP, US, BCMA-M - 1; CTSP - 1	Professional Track 11:00-12:00 - Grand BC Oak Decline Research Update - Roz Remsen CA, UFP - 1; BCMA-S, BCMA-M - .5	Climbers' Corner 11:00-12:00 - Meeting Room B1-B3 Solving Rigging Challenges Before They Happen - Sam Finco CA, TC, TWA, BCMA-P - 1; CTSP - 1
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12:00-1:30 Lunch and Awards Program Grand DEFGH

AFTERNOON SESSIONS

Breakout - Session A 1:30-2:30 - Ballroom A1A2 Don't Get Caught With Your Plants Down: Abiotic Tree Disorders, Prevention and Solutions - Laura Jull CA, UFP - 1; BCMA-S, BCMA-P: - .5 2:30-3:30 - Ballroom A1A2 Great Garden Designs, Healthy Trees: Never the Two Shall Part - Jeff Epping CA - 1; BCMA-S, BCMA-M - .5	Breakout - Session B 1:30-2:30 - Ballroom A3A4 Current and Future Urban Forest Health Issues - Bill McNee CA, UFP, BCMA-S - 1 2:30-3:30 - Ballroom A3A4 A Census of Wisconsin's Entire Urban Forest - Dan Buckler CA, UFP, BCMA-M - 1	Professional Track 1:30-2:30 - Grand BC Urban Oak Decline: Preservation and Management Options - Zack Shier CA, UFP - 1; BCMA-S, BCMA-M - .25, BCMA-P - .5 2:30-3:30 - Grand BC The Urban Woodland Project: Mapping, Insights, and Future Standards - Jeremy Kane CA, UFP, BCMA-M - 1	Business Track 1:30-2:30 - Grand A Growing Future Arborists: Youth and Pre-Apprenticeship Pathways - Dannel Vance, August Hoppe, Cole Hager CA, BCMA-M - 1 2:30-3:30 - Grand A An Arborist Trek to Mount Everest (With a Safety Message) - Dave Scharfenberger CA, BCMA-M - 1; CTSP - 1
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Continuing Education Units (CEUs) available for sessions:

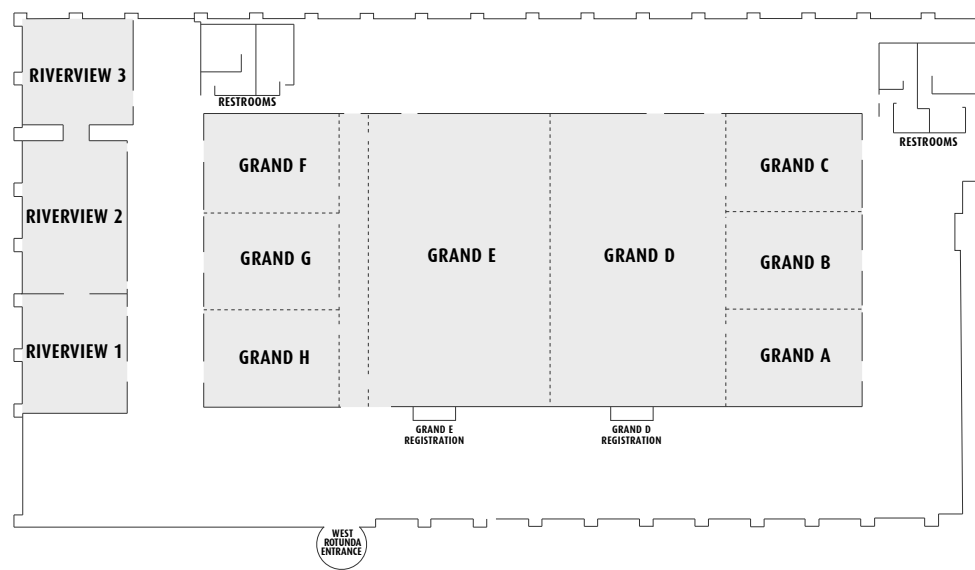
- ISA Certified Arborist
- Certified Treecare Safety Professional

CEU Key:

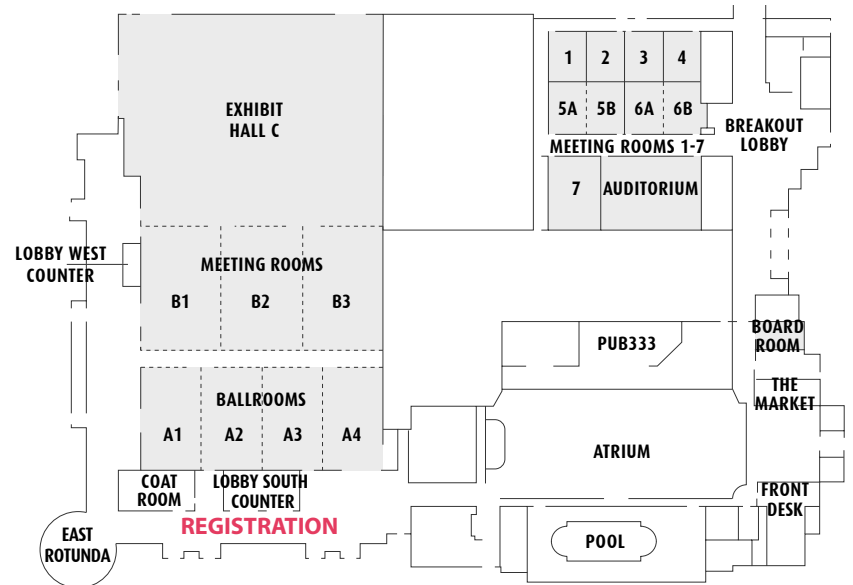
BCMA-M — BCMA Management	CA — Certified Arborist	UFP — Urban Forest Professional
BCMA-P — BCMA Practice	TC — Tree Climber	US — Utility Specialist
BCMA-S — BCMA Science	TWA — Tree Worker Aerial Lift Specialist	CTSP — Certified Treecare Safety Professional

KI CONVENTION CENTER FLOOR PLANS

WEST - Second Floor



EAST - First Floor



THANKS TO ALL OF OUR 2026 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SPONSORS!

PLATINUM OAK SPONSOR Conference 	GOLD OAK SPONSOR Welcome Reception 	GOLD OAK SPONSOR Lunch 	GOLD OAK SPONSOR Trade Show & Welcome Reception 		
SILVER OAK SPONSOR Trade Show & Exhibitor Breakfast 	SILVER OAK SPONSOR Sunday Workshop 	SILVER OAK SPONSOR Welcome Reception 	SILVER OAK SPONSOR Lanyard 		
BRONZE OAK SPONSOR Registration Welcome 	BRONZE OAK SPONSOR Registration Welcome 	BRONZE OAK SPONSOR Tree Stand 	BRONZE OAK SPONSOR Refreshment Break 	BRONZE OAK SPONSOR General Sessions 	Refreshment Break Sponsor