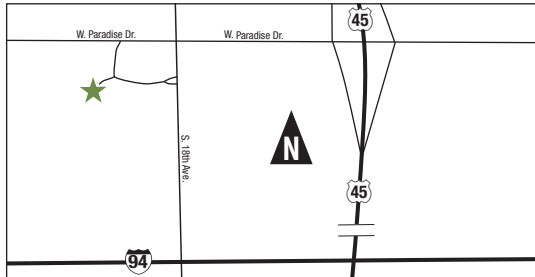


LOCATION:

1900 S. 18th Avenue – Prairie Center Entrance
West Bend, WI 53095
A smoke-free campus



PARKING – There is a parking lot available near the Prairie Center Entrance with 150 spots and also a parking ramp attached to the lot for any overflow.

**2026 Wisconsin Arborist Association
Program Committee**

Todd Haefke and Randy Krouse, Co-chairs

Eric Romsos, Exhibitor Chair / Gary Kohler, TCC Chair

Adam Alves	Anna Healy	Ryan Rodefer
Kyle Babicky	Fred Hoppe	Elton Rogers
Mitchell Berge	Laura Jull	Tyler Schiesser
Ian Brown	Abby Krause	Nathan Schuettelpelz
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Wisconsin Arborist Association
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Fall Seminar

Preserving the Future

September 30, 2026
in West Bend, WI

Two Tracks of Education

- Z133 Standards
- Tree Cultivars and Proper Planting
- Grafting Techniques
- Hickory Prescription
- Structural Pruning
- Prairie Tour

A Buffet-style Lunch will be Served

photo courtesy of Tina Johnson



2026 Fall Seminar Registration Form

Name _____
 WAA Member? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Student
 Address _____
 City _____
 State _____ Zip _____
 Organization _____
 Telephone _____
 E-mail _____

Additional Employees:

Name _____
 WAA Member? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Student
 Name _____
 WAA Member? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Student
 Name _____
 WAA Member? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Student

• • • • •

Prices, if sent BY September 16, 2026:

Conference Rates:
 WAA Members: # _____ @ \$140 _____
 WAA Non-members: # _____ @ \$160 _____
 With one-year membership included # _____ @ \$190 _____
 Student Member: # _____ @ \$ 0 _____

Delayed Registration

(all registrants postmarked after 9/16/26, except students) # _____ @ \$ 30 _____

Vegetarian Meals Needed # _____

TOTAL PAYMENT ENCLOSED: \$ _____

Enclose a check for the total due, payable to the *Wisconsin Arborist Association*. **Return this form and payment to Wisconsin Arborist Association, PO Box 189, Eagle, WI 53119-0189.**

On-line registration available at
www.waa-isa.org

NO REFUNDS AFTER SEPTEMBER 16, 2026
 Registration includes: break, lunch, networking and a great opportunity to increase your arboricultural knowledge.
Seminar Questions: Contact Tina Johnson
(262) 899-0060 or admin@waa-isa.org

Please join the WAA for the 2026 Fall Seminar in West Bend at the Prairie Center. The Program Committee has outdone itself again by offering another great line-up for this event. We are offering Two Tracks of Education, one indoors and one outdoors, so dress accordingly. Enjoy catching up with colleagues, while feasting on a buffet lunch. We look forward to seeing you in West Bend!

Plenary Session – Everything You Wanted to Know About the New Z (and Why You Need to Know It!) – John Ball

The new Z133, a revision to the 2017 edition, is out and available to everyone who performs tree care operations whether they call themselves arborist, foresters, grounds managers or landscapers. This new edition has some major changes include the addition of a training and education requirement and a complete revision of the electrical hazards section with the introduction to electrical levels of 1 to 4 arborists and radiofrequency awareness. The aerial rescue has been updated. This presentation will cover these, and more important changes, and the incidents we hope following the Z will prevent.

Indoor Concurrent Sessions

Better Trees for a Better World – Vanessa Mueller

We will discuss new cultivars of trees and evergreens, tried and true varieties, and why some old

ones have failed. We'll also talk about how the nursery industry is growing these plants and some of the newest research on proper planting.

Grafting Techniques: A Primer – Ben French

Learn some of the Basics of grafting! Come see some different cuts, techniques, supplies used in the grafting of woody plants. We'll shed some light on the origin of the trees you would encounter.

Changes to First Aid and CPR Training – John Ball

Just as arborists have the Z that undergoes periodic revisions, so does the first aid and CPR requirement for American Heart and Red Cross. This session will cover the recent changes in treatments and first aid kit requirements.

Outdoor Concurrent Sessions

The Hickory Prescription – Ron Gumz

Mature hickories don't give up their secrets easily. In this field-based session, we'll strip away assumptions and examine what a complete arborist prescription looks like. Using on-site, client-focused, and case-driven methodology, this

session will bridge textbook knowledge with real-world decision making where it matters most, in the field.

Pruning Medium, Upright and Fast-Growing Trees – Ryan Rodefer

A medium-sized, upright and generally fast-growing tree is not everyone's favorite tree to prune for structure. It is easy to get lost and overwhelmed. We will discuss methods, tips and tricks on how to approach these jobs and walk away with a feeling of accomplishment.

A Prairie Tour: The History and Use of West Bend's Prairie – Ryan Amerling

This will be a guided walk through the prairies of West Bend Insurance. We will talk about the history of the prairies and how they became what they are today. We will discuss the management methods and techniques used, the challenges we are facing today, and the role the prairies play in our water management design on the property. West Bend's vision and sustainability practices for preserving natural habitats for future generations will also be explained.

Program

7:30-8:15 am Registration
 8:15-8:30 am Welcome – Kyle Babicky, WAA President
 8:30-9:30 am *Everything You Wanted to Know About the New Z (and Why You Need to Know It!)* – John Ball

Track One – Concurrent Indoor Sessions

9:35-10:35 am *Better Trees for a Better World* – Vanessa Mueller
 10:35-11:00 am **Morning Break**
 11:00-12:00 pm *Grafting Techniques: A Primer* – Ben French
 12:00-1:00 pm **Lunch**
 1:00-2:00 pm *Changes to First Aid and CPR Training* – John Ball
 2:05-3:05 pm *Better Trees for a Better World* – Vanessa Mueller
 3:10-4:10 pm *Grafting Techniques: A Primer* – Ben French

Track Two – Concurrent Outdoor Sessions

9:35-10:35 am *The Hickory Prescription* – Ron Gumz
 10:35-11:00 am **Morning Break**
 11:00-12:00 pm *Pruning Medium, Upright and Fast-Growing Trees* – Ryan Rodefer
 12:00-1:00 pm **Lunch**
 1:00-2:00 pm *The Hickory Prescription* – Ron Gumz
 2:05-3:05 pm *Pruning Medium, Upright and Fast-Growing Trees* – Ryan Rodefer
 3:10-4:10 pm *A Prairie Tour: The History and Use of West Bend's Prairie* – Ryan Amerling

CEUs are available. ISA Arborist Certification and Certified Treecare Professional credits will be provided for all qualifying conference sessions.

Conference Speakers

Ryan Amerling – Landscaping Supervisor, West Bend Insurance Company
John Ball – Professor, South Dakota State University

Ben French – VP Production and Product Development, Johnson's Nursery
Ron Gumz – President, Wachtel Tree Science

Vanessa Mueller – Horticulturist/Wholesale Sales, Johnson's Nursery
Ryan Rodefer – Lead Arborist Engineer, Arbession

Conference Sponsors

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