

## **2011 Safe Trees, LLC, Tree Risk Assessment (Hazard Tree) Workshop Report.**

### **Safe Trees, LLC is a Hayes Tree, LLC Company.**

During August and September of 2011 Safe Trees, LLC of Rochester, Minnesota conducted six regional Tree Risk Assessment workshops in the four states of North Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Iowa. How did it go? A great time and learning experience was enjoyed by all!

We registered 175 great people in total at the six venues, averaging just over 29 attendees per workshop, an ideal size for audience participation and learning experience. The morning indoor sessions included a lot of information on all aspects of tree risk assessment, followed by an afternoon outside field exercise. All of the field exercises were set up in advance to take full advantage of the field trees for evaluation and analysis, to see a sample agenda visit [www.safetrees.com](http://www.safetrees.com).

### **The 2011 workshops schedule;**

August 9<sup>th</sup>, Duluth, Minnesota; Lakeside Lester Park Community Center, field exercise at Lester Park.

August 16<sup>th</sup>, Bismarck, ND; Sertoma Park Community Center, field exercise just outside in Sertoma Park.

September 8<sup>th</sup>, St. Paul, Minnesota at Fort Snelling State Park Interpretative Center, field exercise in park at Picnic Island.

September 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin at the Wilderness Hotel, field exercise in the town of Wisconsin Dells at Bowman Park.

September 22<sup>nd</sup>, Des Moines, Iowa at the Grandview Park Community Shelter, field exercise just outside in Grandview Park.

### **Workshop Comments;**

“It was just great! There are so many factors to consider when evaluating a tree and an exception to every guideline. The photos you chose to illustrate your points were very clear and your explanations got to the heart of the matter at hand. I really appreciate you sharing your formidable expertise with us. It was an \*exceptional\* workshop,” many thanks, Kristina Hughes, Tree Care Advisor Minneapolis.

**Others;** Excellent, thanks very interesting! The instruction was great! The hands on was well worth it. Very informative, open to questions and very knowledgeable. Excellent, I highly recommend the class.

## Workshop Images and comments from Safe Trees, LLC;

### Duluth Workshop, Minnesota, Lester Park, August 9, 2011.



A workshop group photo with the park silver maple. The lower stem in the maple has an average 10% of diameter remaining wall or a 20% t/R (sound wood shell/to radius) ratio. The city of Duluth in this case decided that given the maple is not in eminent danger of failing they will replace the tree when the play area in the background is replaced. They now understand that given the species profile and stem form; there is a greater probability of a branch shed than what would be a rare stem failure.



Ed Hayes finishing a demo sample with an F-400 Resistograph of the south side of the maple's lower stem. Removal in time was the recommendation for this maple. Both easy and advanced decay detection tools are used during the field training. Attendees have the opportunity in the field to make assessment decisions and try out the tools, this photo by Levy Tree, Duluth, MN.



A large white pine with good exposed buttress root flares and obvious positive indicator of root decay, the cavity opening. This tree did fail the root decay assessment (more than 2 of 3 root flares had significantly less sound wood than a 15% of diameter (dbh) guideline). Lucky, this pine is located inside the edge of the woods with crown protection from other pines and away from target areas, this photo by Levy Tree, Duluth, MN.

Thanks to Louise Levy, Levy Tree of Duluth ([www.levytreecare.com](http://www.levytreecare.com)) for help with registrations and organization.

**Bismarck Workshop, North Dakota, Sertoma Park, August 16, 2011.**

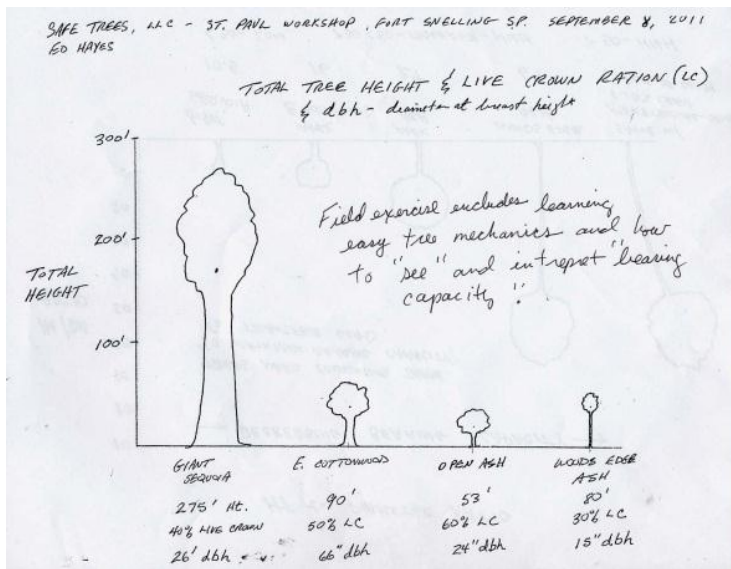


A workshop group photo in Sertoma Park. This Bismarck workshop turned into both a failure evaluation and a tree dissection workshop, as a week or more prior to the event a storm moved through the area. At the time we decided to leave several failed trees on site for field analysis. This added a great dimension to the learning effort and was enjoyed by all.

The photo just to the upper right revealed a surprising high amount wood decay that is developing in branches and stems of the E. cottonwoods Populus deltoides in this park from just small dead branches, all to be incorporated into their risk assessment surveys.

Thanks to Jackson Bird, Bismarck City Forester for arranging the venue, event sponsors and more. Jackson's persistence in the face of local flooding and other workloads paid off in landing this workshop in North Dakota.

**St. Paul Workshop, Minnesota, Fort Snelling State Park, September 8, 2011.**



All of these workshops included a classroom and field review of basic tree mechanics and responsive (or Adaptive) growth. See a comment below under the Des Moines workshop for an example of responsive growth.

In the images above note the massive E. Cottonwood has developed enormous lower stem bearing capacity based on its height and greater than a five foot lower stem diameter cross-section. Its eventual mode of failure then is dependent on the soundness of its lower stem, roots, and defined by its decurrent stem form and its noteworthy species failure profile.

Thanks to Faith Applequist, of Quality Tree in Minneapolis ([www.treequality.com](http://www.treequality.com)) for helping with the registration.

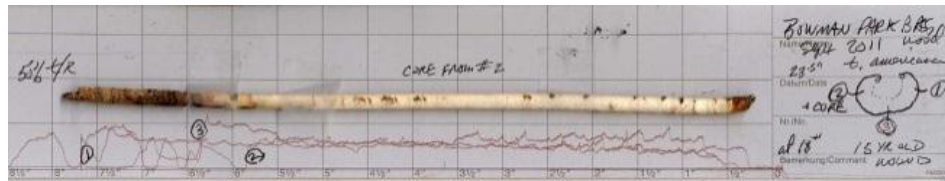
### Wisconsin Dells (two workshops), Bowman Park, September 13 and 14, 2011



A workshop group photo with the park Norway spruce, a terrific example for a discussion of responsive (adaptive) growth.

This photo was from the first day in the Dells.

This first workshop on the 13<sup>th</sup> filled by mid-August, so we added a second workshop on the 14<sup>th</sup>.



Above, the roughly 35 year old Bowman Park American basswood Tilia americana. This park tree sustained a lower stem wound during an auto accident about 17 years ago. A car out of control entered the park and propelled a picnic table into its lower stem, wow, (a personal communication with city staff). The class decay evaluation discovered a relatively consistent 10% of diameter or 20% t/R ratio sound wood remaining wall around the lower stem central column of decay. The risk of failure of this basswood stem from the lower stem defect (decay) is improbable under all but extreme weather conditions. Its prognosis can improve over time even

if the ratio of sound wood remains the same as the tree continues to add bearing capacity, (secondary growth).

Thanks to Paul Markworth from Wachtel Tree, Merton, Wisconsin ([www.healthytrees.com](http://www.healthytrees.com)) for helping with the registration.

### **Des Moines Workshop, Iowa, Grandview Park, September 22, 2011.**



Above the Des Moines workshop group photo and the workshop decay evaluation tree. The above E. Black walnut *Juglans nigra* has only a 5% of diameter or 10% t/R ratio of sound wood in the lower stem. The tree is in poor condition due to long term site stress, removal was the recommendation.



Note the old wounds on this E. Black walnut, are showing very good responsive growth as extra wood is added around the cavity openings. Black walnut trees have good resistance to wood decay and this particular tree appears to be in good condition.

Thanks to Skip Moore, the former City Forester of Des Moines and now City Council for assistance in securing the venue and park site.

We all had a great time at these recent workshops and at the end of each day we all had advance the practice of tree culture, made some new friends and enjoyed the learning experience.

Thanks to all those that participated!

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