

# Graf Tree Care, Inc.

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**Urban Forestry**

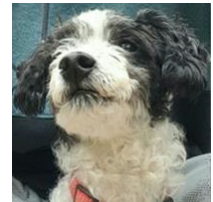
**Professionals**

**Since 1999**

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## Graf Tree Care moves into New Facility

In January of 2016, we purchased an empty 5,200 square foot building in Batavia, IL. After the design phase and architectural drawings were completed for our custom buildout, the interior construction began in April. Our 900 square foot office was built with a mezzanine overhead for storage. Company Owner Phil Graf decided to use this opportunity to showcase urban wood utilization. Recycled wood planks were used to create our desks, cabinets, shelves, window sills, and a conference room table; all from trees that were removed by our crews and milled right here in Batavia. Our 4,300 square foot shop includes a 66 foot long work bench made from solid Oak, a rolling shop table made from Ash wood, and an indoor wash bay for keeping trucks and equipment clean. Scott Turney was hired as our Fleet and Facility Manager to keep us up and running efficiently in the new building. We moved in on November 1, and have been operating much more efficiently in our new home, complete with our shop dog, Ringo.



## Zac King – Master Arborist



In November, our Plant Health Care Coordinator, Zac King, reached the highest professional level of Certification the International Society of Arboriculture has: **Board Certified Master Arborist**. This certification is based on years of practical work experience, along with intense independent study. Zac has worked hard in the field in our daily operations, attended conferences and seminars, and studied on his own in order to attain this prestigious certification. We are very proud to have him as an integral part of our team, as he continues to lead our Plant Health Care Division with his experience and new and innovative tree care applications and techniques.

**Below is a brief re-cap of more news from each of our three divisions:**



Chris Scott, our Residential Consulting Arborist, is in his 27<sup>th</sup> year in the tree care industry. He will continue to manage operations for the tree pruning and removal crew, as well as service our residential client base. The tree crew will be led in the field by Josh Engel, our Safety and Education Coordinator, and assisted by Arborist Apprentices Matt McClure and KC Johnson. Although the weather has been a challenge to start the year, we are expecting a good and productive season.



Zac King and Greg Ratfield, our Plant Health Care Apprentice, will lead this division this spring for the usual fungicide and insecticide treatments. Our Spring Fertilization Program has improved over the past few years, as we have become more proficient in creating customized fertilization regimes for your trees. Please consider how important an annual root feeding can be for trees in our nutrient-poor urban landscape. If we are not currently fertilizing your trees each spring, please contact us so we can set up a time to evaluate your trees.



Certified Arborist Leslie Delles, our lead data collector, along with Zac and Phil are out in the field collecting data for GIS Tree Inventories, Reforestation Planning, Urban Forestry Management Planning, and Tree Risk Management. Steve Lane, our GIS Coordinator, is using tools such as 3D modeling and canopy cover / canopy volume analysis to improve our urban forest. Steve will continue speaking and educating on a national level, this time at the 55<sup>th</sup> annual Minnesota Shade Tree Short Course at Bethel University. Jim Semelka has joined our team as a Municipal Consulting Forester. Jim brings over 40 years of experience in urban forest management and is an ISA Certified Arborist Municipal Specialist.



- Phil Graf IL 1553-AM, Municipal Specialist, Owner and Company Founder
- Chris Scott IL 1521 – A, Tree Pruning/Removal Division Manger, Residential Consulting Arborist
- Zac King IL 4615–B, Board Certified Master Arborist, Plant Health Care Division Manger
- Steve Lane IL 4656 – A, Natural Resources Management & GIS Division Manager, Ecologist
- Leslie Delles IL 9099-A, Tree Inventory/Data Management Technician
- Jim Semelka IL 0732-AM Municipal Specialist, Municipal Consulting Forester