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Book Review

"Landscaping with Trees in the Midwest"

By Joe Russell, Ohio Chapter ISA President

In his latest work, our own Ohio Chapter member, Scott Zanon, has published a valuable text entitled "Landscaping with Trees in the Midwest". Zanon's background is rich in arboricultural experience and education including a B.S. from OSU in agriculture, service as chair of the Scarlet Golf Course Restoration Committee and several successful entrepreneurial endeavors including his own Wine Label, custom Hot Sauces and much more. This latest release follows Zanon's first book "Desirable Trees for the Midwest: 50 for the Home Landscape and Larger Properties" and has 15 additional listings bringing the total trees referenced to 65.

Adding to the value of the book, Scott has done an exceptional job of highlighting procedures for establishing new trees including watering techniques, the use of Mycorrhizal Fungi, fertilization and the use of mulch. The book features a section dedicated to the case of "Trees vs. Turf" in which Scott provides an unbiased approach to selecting new trees species with these future management requirements in mind. Throughout the text "Landscaping with Trees..." provides even an experienced arborist tremendous value with its simple and relevant layout of key information regarding the establishment and culture of woody plants.

The book is put together very well and has been laid out at about 7"x10" making it convenient to take in the field. The outstanding photography provides arborists serving the public with a quick convenient visual reference when proposing suggested species and discussing landscape goals. This book brings into focus many underused species of woody plants that are overlooked in our industry. Promotion of these plants will go a long way towards increasing diversity and reducing problems that we see often with monoculture plantings and profusion of a single species.

"Landscaping with Trees in the Midwest" should be considered a required text for arborists working with the public. It would also make a great resource for tree commission volunteers and any citizen honored with the important task of caring, managing and decision making for our Urban Forest. This text is available for sale directly through Scott who may be reached via email at scott@desirabletrees.com and also from the many online book stores.

