



**Jeff Otto**

- Bachelor of Science degree in Forest Management, 1980, University of Missouri-Columbia.
- Member of International Society of Arboriculture - Certified Arborist.
- Member of Kansas Arborists Association - Certified Arborist.
- Current Board of Directors member - Kansas Arborists Association.
- Co-owner of Longhofer Lawn and Tree Care, Wichita, KS.
- Working in Arboriculture since 1981.



**Dustin Branick**

Dustin learned to appreciate trees at a young age from growing up in central Kansas where trees are few and far between. He understood the benefits trees can offer and has been dedicated to caring for them since. He graduated from Kansas State University in 2005 while working for the Division of Biology in the Plant Ecology Department. After graduating, he worked as an arborist for a private tree care company in Kansas City before accepting his current position as the Horticulture & Forestry Supervisor for the City of Leawood. Dustin also works part time with Urban Tree Specialists of Parkville, MO as a consulting arborist.

Dustin is a Board Certified Master Arborist by the International Society of Arboriculture and is also a Kansas Arborist Association Certified Arborist. He has previously served as a board member for the Kansas Arborist Association and currently serves on the MW-ISA Board of Directors. He currently volunteers on the Heartland Tree Alliance Steering Committee and hosted the first ever TreeKeepers course in Leawood, KS this past year. Dustin holds the Tree Risk Assessment Qualification from ISA and aided in hosting the first two TRAQ courses in the Kansas City area. He is also a 2011 graduate of the Municipal Forestry Institute and currently resides in Overland Park with his wife and four children.



**Aaron Kiesz** is currently the City Forester for the City of Aberdeen’s Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department. Before moving to Aberdeen, Aaron worked for the State Department of Agriculture as the State Urban Forestry Coordinator. Aaron has earned arborists certifications from the International Society of Arboriculture and the South Dakota Arborists Association. He is currently the President of the South Dakota Arborists Association and has been serving on the board for over 12 years. Aaron also serves on the State Conservation Commission. He is a graduate of South Dakota State University.



**Justin Matlock**, Rainbow Treecare Scientific Advancements “*Midwest Territory Arborist*”, has over 15 years of tree care experience. As the Midwest Territory Arborist, Justin provides products, equipment, protocol training and education to tree care professionals across Kansas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri, Iowa, and Nebraska. He strives to not just be a “distributor” but a true resource for his clients. He gained a Bachelor’s Degree from the University of Montana in Outdoor Recreation Management with an emphasis in Natural Resources. His home town is Kansas City, KS where he currently lives with his wife and three boys. His hobbies and interest include coaching youth baseball, playing the guitar, hiking, camping, and fly fishing. His favorite tree is the Bur oak. If he could invite 3 people to a dinner party, he would choose Jim Carey, Larry McMurtry, and John Muir. Not particularly in that order.



**Brian Houser** is currently employed as an Environmental Inspector for the City of Omaha Parks and Recreation Department. A Nebraska native, Brian graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with a bachelor's degree in Horticulture. Brian has earned arborist certifications with both the Nebraska Arborist Association and the International Society of Arboriculture. With a background in Horticulture he has developed a deep appreciation for how trees impact all aspects of our lives. Brian supports the City of Omaha's response and management of Emerald Ash Borer through tree assessment and inventory. He has aided in the implementation of GIS software to better manage the City's tree population. Brian enjoys working with the

community, being outside and appreciating nature. In the past two years, he has had the opportunity to assist in organizing the Midwest ISA TCC, hosted in Omaha, NE. Brian is looking forward to the opportunity to serve on the Board of Directors, to both expand his knowledge and support the Midwest ISA, tree care professionals and the community.



**Mike Sestric**-Graduated University of MA., Amherst B.S. Arboriculture 1995, ISA Certified Arborist, ISA Certified Tree Worker Evaluator, TRAQ, CTSP, recipient Presidents Award MW-ISA, Past- President MW-ISA, President MW-ISA, Past Board of Director MW-ISA, Twice the MW-ISA Conference Chair, Past-President St. Louis Arborist Association, and all around nice guy