

## Excellence—In All We Do

**F**ourth year in a row!!! Once again, we have been awarded an Excellence in Arboriculture **Grand Award** for 2005—the highest award there is. We also won an **Award of Distinction** and an **Honorable Mention**. We are still the only firm in Wisconsin to have won these coveted awards from the Tree Care Industry Association.

The 2005 Grand Award was a tree preservation project for the Wisconsin Lutheran College athletic complex. John Gall lead the project working with the Zimmerman Design Group. Steps were taken to preserve the beautiful oaks on the adjacent Milwaukee County Underwood Parkway. These steps included root pruning, deadwood pruning, vertical mulching with an air-spade to reduce compaction, along with Cambistat treatments to encourage fine root growth. Special care was taken with all removals to make sure oak wilt would not be introduced to the 100-plus-year-old trees that were being preserved. There was a significant grade change on the site that made preservation of these trees a challenge. The outcome is preservation of some beautiful trees.

The Award of Distinction was for a residential improvement project a the DeChant residence, directed by Tony Arnoldi. This multi-faceted project at this Brookfield site involved extensive plant health care treatments to rescue declining trees around the home. Then we turned to the large natural area for removal of buckthorn that was destroying young forest growth. This was combined with removal of declining and hazardous trees in the overstory and extensive pruning of remaining trees to improve health and safety, and extend life span. The work rescued the declining forest while creating a safe and beautiful property.

The final award was an Honorable Mention for a unique project with the City of Mequon. Dave Scharfenberger worked with City Forester Ken Baker in using a grant from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to train City crews in tree pruning. Instead of being in a classroom and talking about trees, there was a combined focus of getting work done while giving valuable training. Two Wachtel Arborists (Nick Peterson and Joe Scharf) carried out an hour of on-site training for young tree pruning each morning for the two new City employees each day. The balance of the day was spent pruning trees with the experienced Wachtel Arborists working alongside the City crews. Over four days of work, 376 trees received proper pruning. This will improve their structure and extend their lives. The Mequon City crews also received valuable training.

Wachtel is proud of the variety of work we do and the extensive experience and passion that our entire team brings to professional tree care. It takes an entire team to perform this award-winning work. This commitment to excellence is part of every job we do.