



TCA Member Profile: Bruce Granos, Class of 1993

By: Gary Johnson

It seems like I've known Bruce Granos for as long as I've known Minnesota. Turns out that's true. One of the main reasons I was hired by the University of Minnesota was to develop a sustainable, statewide urban forestry volunteer program, similar but distinct from the Master Gardener program. Bruce was a member of the 'alpha' class that began in January, 1993, one of those brave souls that loved trees and people enough to take a chance. I'm glad he did.

This newsletter features two member profiles, not an ordinary move, but you'll understand why as you read through those interviews. Two exemplary TCAs "helping trees help communities."

G. How long have you been a Tree Care Advisor, Bruce?

B. Since the beginning, the 1993 class.

G. What inspired you to become part of the TCA program?

B. I have always loved trees. Back in 1986, I found a near one acre lot to build on and then commenced to fill it with trees and shrubs that would attract wildlife. I learned of the TCA program through the Master Gardener group in Dakota County.

G. What volunteer activities have you devoted most of your time?

B. Most of my efforts the past few years have been conducting plant health care diagnostic clinics in my county. At least 50 % of the questions pertain to trees and shrubs. I am continually amazed at some of the questions we get.

G. Is there any one volunteer experience that ranks as the best or one of the best? Why?

B. I rank teaching tree care and pruning classes through the local school districts as my most satisfying experiences as a TCA.

G. What is your professional background?

B. I have been a mortgage underwriter for many years. I started with the VA and was with Bell Mortgage the past 30 years until my recent retirement.

Editor's note: don't ever, ever tell a volunteer program coordinator that you have recently retired!

G. Are you a hometown boy?

B. Born and raised in Minneapolis near Lake Nokomis and the airport.

I got to appreciate tree care watching the Park Board take care of their park and boulevard plantings.

G. Which county or counties have you worked in primarily?

B. I have worked mainly in Dakota and Hennepin counties.

G. Your former employer recently contributed a substantial donation to the TCA program. Tell us a bit about how this came about.

B. Bell mortgage has a pay it forward program where they allow employees to contribute company funds to the program of their choice. This year I chose the TCA Program.

Another Editor's note: A big thank you to Bell Mortgage and Bell State Bank and Trust for supporting our work, as well as a big thank you to Bruce for nominating us.

G. What has motivated you to remain an active TCA volunteer for 24 years?

B. My love of trees and shrubs and our outstanding leader Gary Johnson. The ongoing education has been exceptional.

Okay, sorry, but another Editor's note: Seriously, I didn't prompt him to say that!

G. What book are you currently reading or have just finished?

B. I am a magazine junkie. Discover and Popular Mechanics are my favorites. Gardening magazines and all science topics are a must.

Thank you, Bruce for 24 years of dedication to this program and for all of the people you've helped through your classes and workshops. We hope you never leave us!