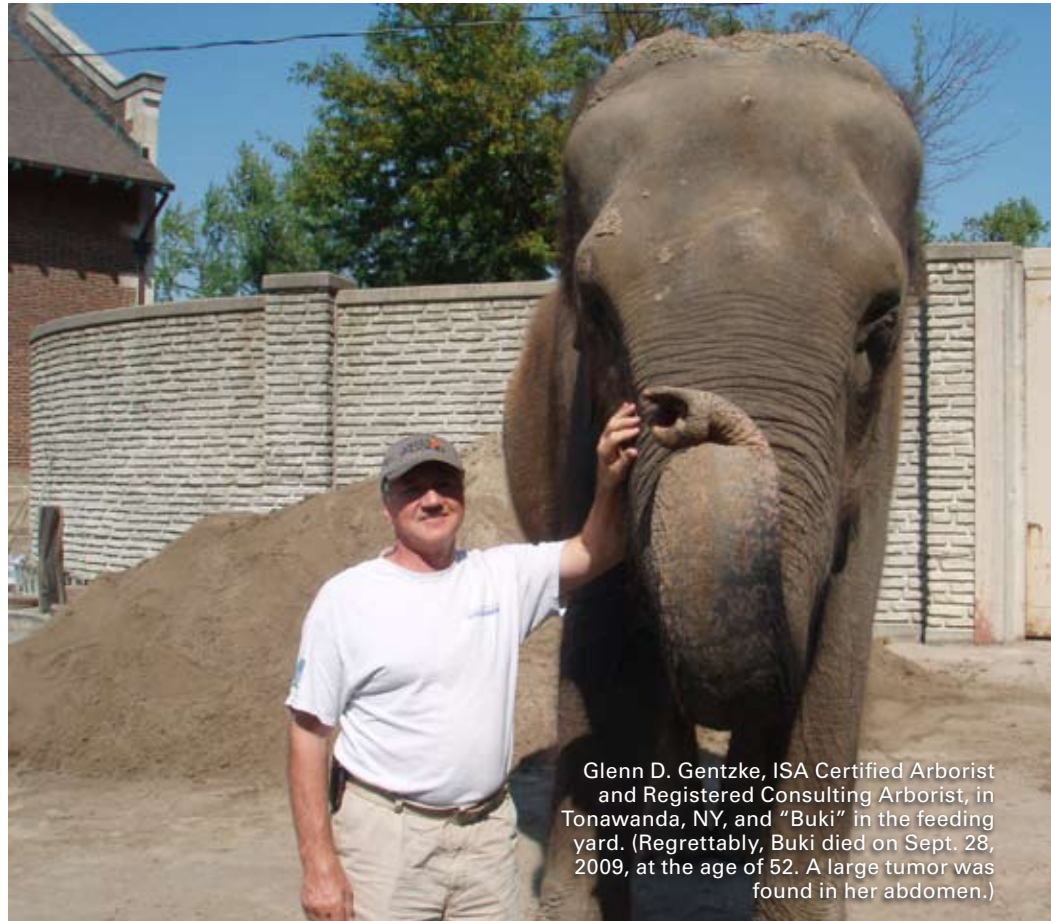


# Arborist and Buffalo Zoo Join Forces to Feed the Elephants

Glenn D. Gentzke, RCA #485

Recently, while chipping the branches of a large Crimson King Norway maple (*Acer plantanoides*) I had just cut down, a dump truck pulled up and two zoo-keepers in municipal jumpsuits got out. One came up to me and asked if she could have the branches for “browsing” at the zoo. She said the elephants and gorillas loved them. I said yes, of course, and helped them to load their truck. I consider myself somewhat of a “tree hugger” and was pleased to provide this service.

I asked the zookeeper what other species of trees the animals could use. She replied that many tree species were toxic to the elephants (*Quercus*, for example), and that we’d have to coordinate with the Buffalo Zoo to determine what I could provide. I gave her my card and was contacted by the zoo shortly thereafter. The zoo does not have the resources to drive out to job sites, but they would be grateful if I could deliver the branches (cut in six to twelve foot lengths) to the zoo. My



Glenn D. Gentzke, ISA Certified Arborist and Registered Consulting Arborist, in Tonawanda, NY, and “Buki” in the feeding yard. (Regrettably, Buki died on Sept. 28, 2009, at the age of 52. A large tumor was found in her abdomen.)



Glenn D. Gentzke, is seen dumping two tons of willow branches in the feedlot at the Buffalo Zoo.

range is typically within a 40-mile radius of the zoo, so “drops” normally add a few hours of my time to any job.

In the days following, I worked with the Buffalo Zoo to provide “browsing” in the form of weeping willow (*Salix babylonica*) branches and leaves. I learned this is a favored delicacy of the Asian elephants and gorillas at our zoo in Buffalo, New York. Other favored local species include crabapple (*Malus*), Crimson King Norway Maple (*Acer plantanoides*) and Sun-

burst Thornless Honey Locust (*Gleditsia triacanthos* var. *inermis* ‘Sunburst’). (Western New York falls in zone 6 on the USDA plant hardiness map.)

As arborists, we strive to “go green,” recycling all our byproducts. The August/September 2009 issue of *Tree Services* features an article by Don Dale entitled “Recycling for Profit, green waste is big business.” In the piece, he states, “When you recycle your own wood waste you can generate some income.” In our industry,

revenues can come from consulting, tree appraisals, “expert witnessing,” and the sales of mulch, compost, barbecue-flavoring wood (restaurant sales), firewood, timber and from the collection of green waste dumping fees. Additional revenues may come from commissions earned in subcontracting such as stump-grinding.

We have a moral obligation, however, to give back to our communities whenever possible. Often this means accepting municipal contracts without profit or at a loss. The zoo is a good example of this. Recently, I began showing photographs of my zoo adventure to prospective clients. All seemed impressed with this good deed; I am convinced that it has contributed to the closing of sales. To me, this is truly a “profitable” effort. I strongly urge you to contact your zoo and see if you, too, can be of assistance. The elephants and I thank you! 🌿



“Koga” sleeps and dreams of willow branches, yet to come.



Two grateful recipients, “Jothi” and “Surapa” relax in the yard.

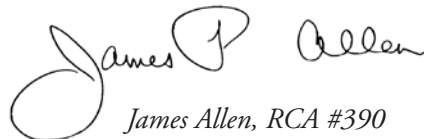
### Engaged Membership

A call was put out to volunteers to populate these forces with the secondary goal of identifying future leaders. Hopefully those of you that are interested in supporting ASCA raised your hand. Those of you that have yet to volunteer, I hope you will be encouraged to step up and contribute to the ASCA’s continued development and success.

### Measurable Results

I have begun the implementation of Board priorities; the Education Program Development and Website Upgrade as primary goals during my Presidential term, as well as reinforcing Core Values and ensuring that ASCA membership is a rewarding and pleasant experience.

Please join me as we actualize our goals and move toward *where the puck is going to be!* 🌿

  
James Allen, RCA #390  
ASCA President

## Passing the Torch

Barb Neal, RCA #428, is stepping down as Technical Editor for *The Consultant*. Serving as newsletter editor since 2005, Barb started out working with John Lichter on an ad hoc committee on the newsletter and ended up volunteering to be the Technical Editor. We appreciate Barb’s many years of service to ASCA—lending her expertise and wisdom to carefully guide the newsletter ship. Barb will stay on with *The Consultant* in her new role as Advisor. Many thanks, Barb!

J. David Hucker, RCA #388, has taken the helm as Technical Editor. A full time consultant and native of Philadelphia, David has been a member of ASCA for 12 years and currently serves on the Board. For the past five years, he has skillfully handled the Q & A department for the newsletter and offered occasional editorial comment. We appreciate David stepping up to fill Barb’s big shoes and know the newsletter is in great hands. 🌿