



SAVANNAH TREE FOUNDATION

Preserve. Protect. Plant. Since 1982.

Certified Arborists: Caretakers for Your Trees

Tree experts, known as arborists, provide a variety of services to help protect the valuable investment you have made in your trees. Arborists are professionals trained in the art & science of planting, caring for and maintaining trees. Arborists can be members of a number of professional organizations including the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA), the American Society of Consulting Arborists or the Tree Care Industry Association.

ISA is a worldwide organization dedicated to fostering a greater appreciation for trees and to promoting research, technology, education, and a greater public awareness of the benefits of trees. An ISA Certified Arborist is an experienced arborist who has passed an extensive examination covering all aspects of tree care and has demonstrated at least three years of professional experience. Every three years the arborist must accumulate 30 Continuing Education Units to ensure he or she is keeping up with the latest information in tree research and care techniques.

There are other levels of certification within ISA, including: ISA Certified Arborist/Utility Specialist (involving utility line clearance); Certified Arborist/Municipal Specialist (involving city trees); Certified Tree Worker/Climber Specialist (involving CPR and aerial rescue training); and ISA Board Certified Master Arborist, which represents the pinnacle of the profession. The City of Savannah, Chatham County, Georgia Forestry Commission, Georgia Power and the Savannah Tree Foundation all have ISA Certified Arborists on staff.

Reasons to hire a Certified Arborist include:

- To train or prune trees to develop strong structure
- Protect trees from construction damage
- Correct damage, including removing dead or diseased wood
- Remove excess weight at branch ends
- Diagnose for pests and diseases
- Determine fertilizer needs
- Choose the right tree for your site
- Emphasize safe work practices and handle emergency situations



When hiring a Certified Arborist, consider the following:

- Certification through the ISA Certified Arborist program
- Proof of insurance
- A list of references (or get personal references from friends & family)
- Avoid the services of companies that advertise “topping trees” or “tree topping.” This practice is harmful to trees and is not an accepted tree-friendly practice.
- Avoid companies that use tree spikes to climb trees being pruned (tree spikes should be limited to trees being removed).

Our research has verified the following Savannah area tree service companies have ISA Certified Arborists on staff in 2017:

Shannon Baughman
Bartlett Tree Experts
912- 351-0111

Derrick Catlett
Downey Trees Inc.
912-650-0125

Jamie Corcelius
South Eastern Tree
912-965-0958

Chris Gerards
Legacy Trees
843-816-0317

Patrick Grant
912-507-6840

Jerry Holcomb
912-271-0133

Shem Kendrick
Coastal Arbor Care
912-272-3361

Michael Pavlis
Ossabaw Consulting
912-658-8833



You can also check the ISA website to verify arborist certification or find a list of local arborists at any time: <http://www.isa-arbor.com/findArborist/findarborist.aspx> .
