
University of Minnesota Department of Forest Resources



Minnesota Tree Care Advocate

People Helping Trees Help Communities

2017 Tree Care Advisor State Fair Summary

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Thank you for participating in the Tree Care Advisor station at the 2017 Minnesota State Fair's **Eco Experience** building. **Tree Care Advisors, University of Minnesota students and staff**, and **other volunteers** helped hundreds of people better understand how trees and shrubs impact the quality of their lives and how they can best be cared for.

You were part of an outreach and technical assistance program that directly contributed **192 volunteer hours** to this effort. When port-to-port travel times are included, that total rises to (conservatively) **384 hours**. Converted to the dollar value of volunteer time in Minnesota (\$26.40, published values for 2016), you were part of **more than \$10,000 contribution** to the health of people, trees and communities.

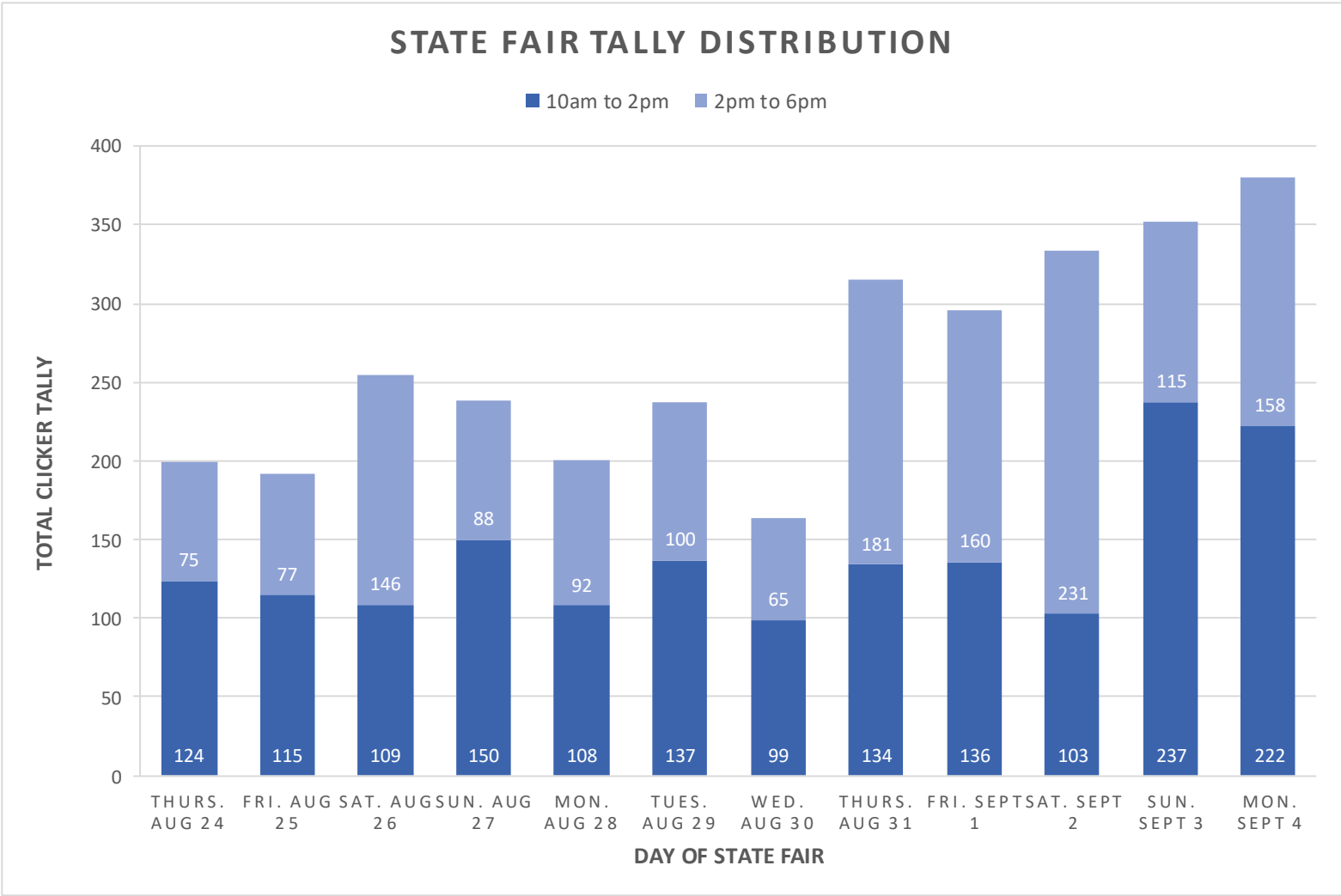
TCA Booth Staffing:

- **19** Tree Care Advisors
- **3** University staff
- **2** University students

In 2017, individuals that staffed the TCA booth completed an average of 8 volunteer hours.

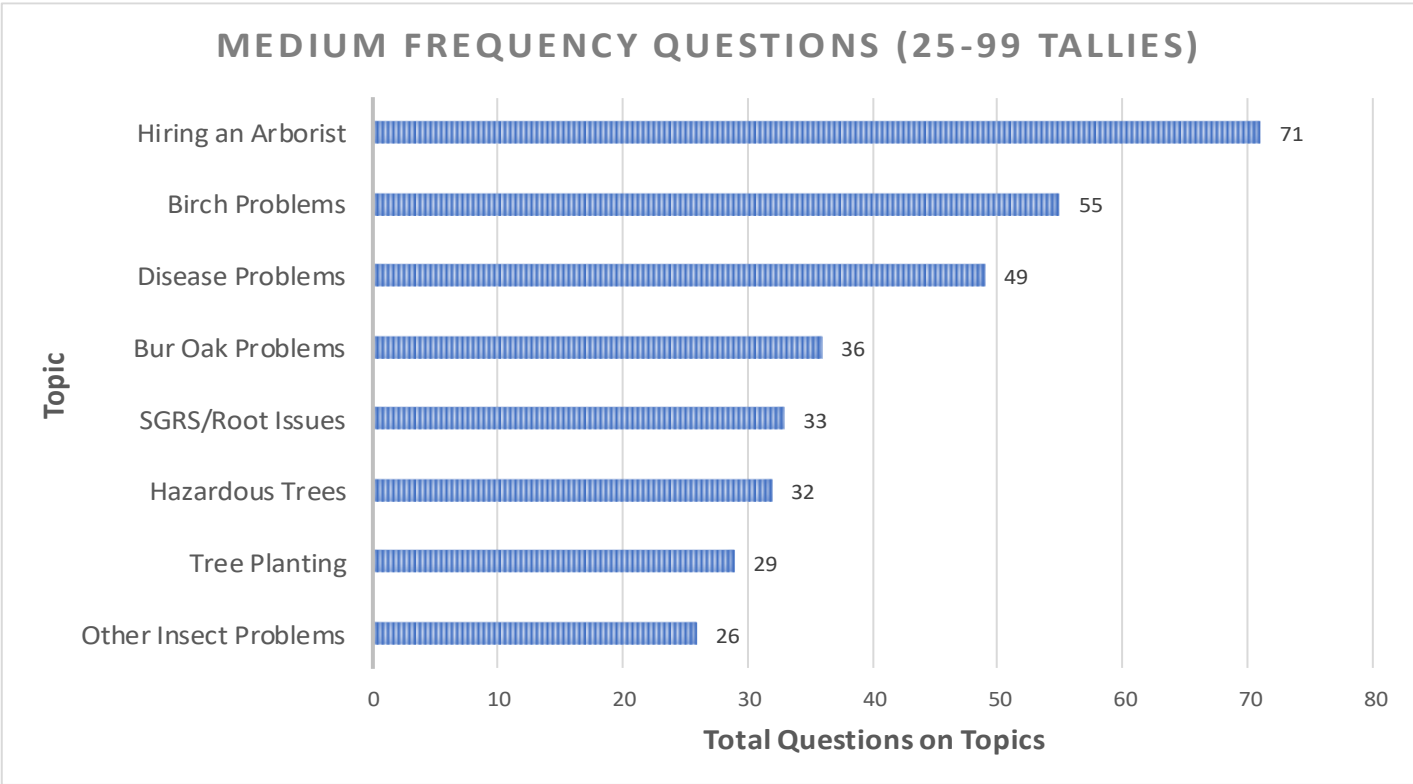
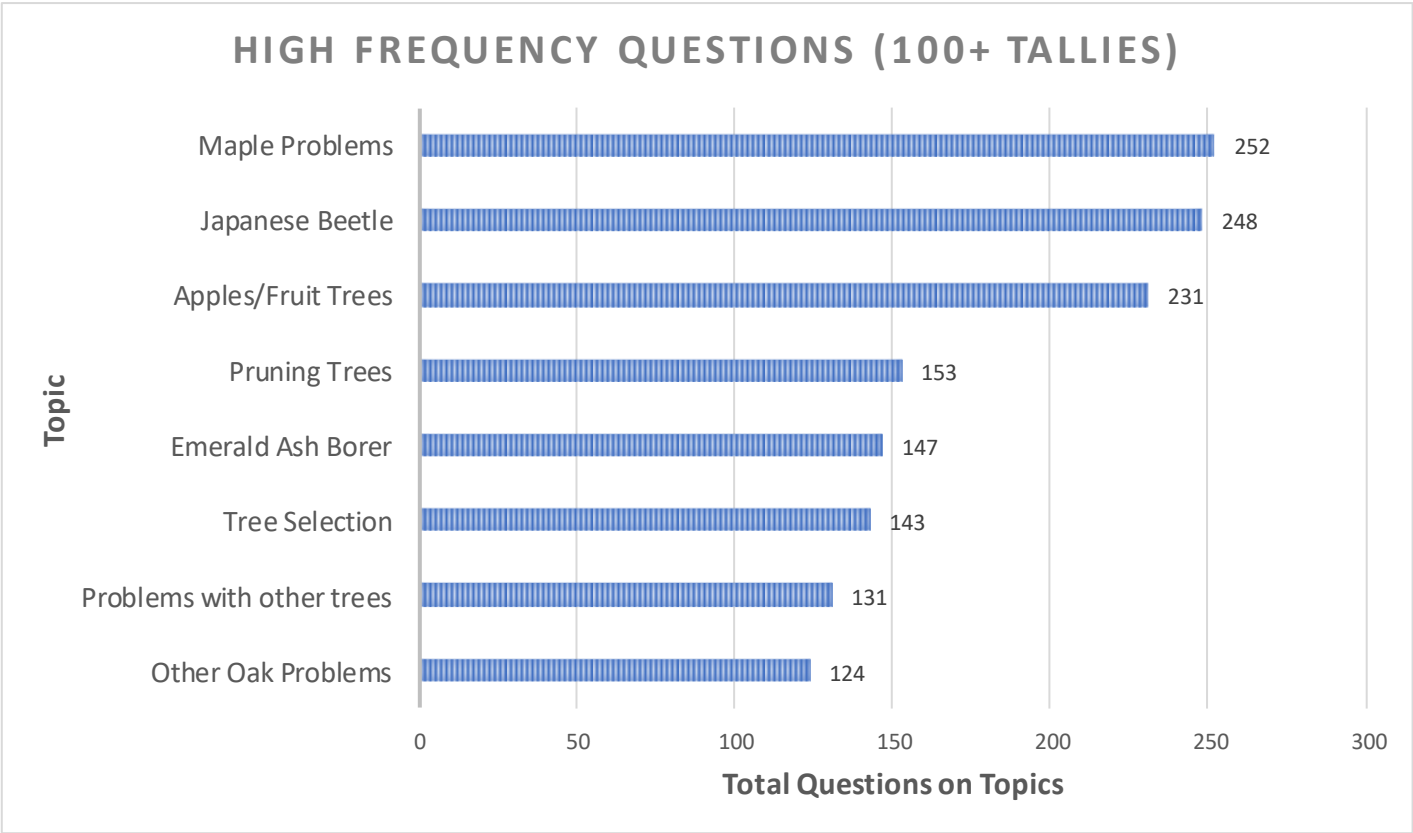
Question Tally Frequency

The following graph shows **how many questions** from the public were asked at each shift and each day of the 2017 State Fair Tree Care Advisor booth.

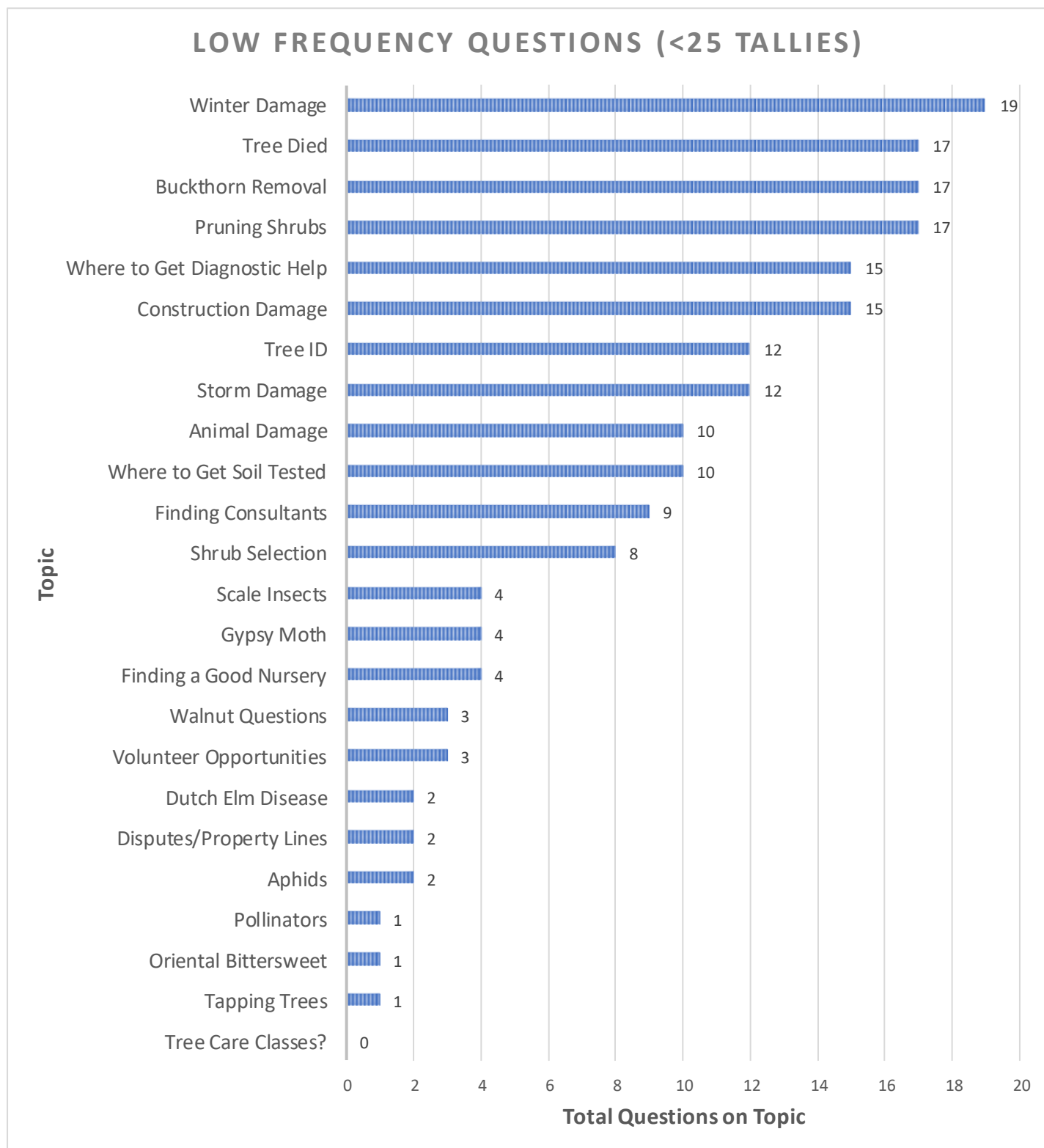


In 2017, a total of 3,162 questions were asked by the public.

Question Topic Counts



Question Topic Counts (cont.)



2017 Tree Care Advisor State Fair Volunteer Survey

After each year's Eco Experience building "Ask a Tree Care Advisor" booth, we ask volunteers that participated to fill out a **survey** and share about their experience. This survey is meant to summarize the **year's successes** from the volunteer perspective and to find ways to **improve** the State Fair booth for the next year.

On the following page, we have included **testimonials** from the anonymous survey as to what kind of volunteer event the Tree Care Advisor booth is. Our hope is that even more Tree Care Advisors will **get involved next year!**

Thank you to the 12 individuals that completed and returned this survey!

Overall Experience Testimonials

"It's the best way of getting a sense of the issues, preferences and perceptions of the general public when it comes to tree health, what they want trees to do, and the emotional values that connect people to trees."

"I enjoy working with the general public. Most questions I could answer but need more evergreen knowledge."

"People are very appreciative of the information and I always learn a lot. "

"It was great to hear the increased awareness of need to diversify the urban tree canopy. Lots of good discussions!"

"Answering questions was really fun and it was great to meet people."

"The experience is always good. My comments are shown above."

"Had a great time and learned new things from my partner. We were busy- people really appreciate that we are there. I'll do it again next year."

"Total Fun! I love teaching homeowners about trees and how to care for them; watering, mulching, pruning, selection, planting...."

"It was great. I feel very satisfied with this as a volunteer experience. I feel that I am truly helpful to people asking questions."

"Enjoyable to interact with and educate the public about tree care topics."

"This is one of my favorite TCA/Master Gardener activities of the year. I look forward to it. People are so grateful for good information and help!"

"A great learning experience for me."

Thank you!

Thank you to the following individuals that took part in the 2017 State Fair “Ask a Tree Care Advisor” booth at the Eco Experience Building!

Tree Care Advisors

Dave Daubert
Susan Evarts
Gordon Hanson
Mimi Hottinger
Patsy Huberty
Christopher Johnson
Dave Knapp
Annette LeDuc
Mary Magers
Sally McNamara
Mike Oslund
Janet Palmer
Ann Rantanen-Lee
Deb Reiersen
Paul Richtman
Jennifer Shaltz
Mary Jane Smetanka
Gary Unger
Doris Wickstrom

University of Minnesota Students & Staff

Alex Miller
Ryan Murphy
Daniel Yoder

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Karen van Norman
Susan Heffron

Thanks to all who helped!

-Gary Johnson and Ashley Reichard