



NEW JERSEY PROJECT LEARNING TREE FORESTRY CAREER PROFILES

A photograph of a forest floor with sunlight filtering through the trees. The ground is covered with fallen leaves and small green plants. Several tree trunks are visible in the background, and a large fallen log lies across the middle ground.

Acknowledgements:

This work was made possible through a generous grant from the Sustainable Forestry Initiative, Model Program Initiative.

Contributors:

Andy Bennett
Bernie Isaacson
Bill Zipse
Carrie Sargeant
Don Donnelly
Jason Grabosky
Jay Kaplan
Joe Greipp

Larry Kuser
Lisa Simms
Neil Hendrickson
Paul Cowie
Rick Dutko
Sam Hensen
Steve Maurer
Wayne Dubin

Compiled by:

Levon Bigelow
Frank Gallagher
Nanik Song
Pam Zipse



Forest Career Profiles

Andy Bennett

Ridge & Valley Forest
Management



Education

B.S in Forest Management
University of Tennessee

Job Title

Owner at Ridge & Valley Forest
Management

Career Advice

Spend time learning how to relate with people and work with others. Knowledge without the ability to speak to people is useless knowledge. One of the best ways to grow is to read. I loved the classroom, but I've learned more from reading than I have from anything else. Working on a team is my recommendation, as I think you grow more quickly as you watch others do their jobs and begin to see what works for them and apply that to yourself. Lastly, spend time learning how to be an effective planner. This one skill will serve you personally and in your profession, no matter what you end up doing for work.

Profile

I am the owner and operator of Ridge & Valley Forest Management. I have two employees who work with me. We are private consulting foresters who assist landowners in northwest NJ with the stewardship of their land. Consulting with landowners takes on several forms throughout the day. On some days, that may mean that one of us is in the field on a landowner's property mapping trails and other property features as part of creating a forest management plan for the property, measuring trees as part of a forest inventory, finding boundary lines and identifying them with paint or signage, marking trees to be harvested as part of a thinning project or timber harvest, or simply just walking a property with a landowner and answering questions. On other days (especially for me as the business owner and administrator), that might mean sitting at the desk sending emails and making phone calls to a local tax assessor or forest service official to ask questions about a certain property, creating maps of a property on a computer program, writing and editing a forest management plan, sending out proposals to landowners who are interested in our services, or meeting with employees to plan our day/week/month.

As much as I enjoy the outdoors and getting in the woods, it's all about the people I have the pleasure of working with – employees, clients, subcontractors, tax officials, forest service employees, etc. Building relationships with each of these individuals is by far my favorite part of work. In my career, I have always found that cooperation makes everyone involved more successful, because each person is not just looking out for their own interests. That's how we all win. For our landowners, one of the most tangible things we do is assist them in reducing the tax burden on their property through the NJ Farmland Assessment Program, which can add up to significant financial savings for landowners. As I mentioned earlier, we assist people in stewarding their land. This is important work because landowners have a responsibility to themselves and their communities to better their land year after year and ensure that their land is being managed in a sustainable and healthy manner.

More Information

[Ridge & Valley Forest Management](#)



Forest Career Profiles

Bernie Isaacson
NJ Forest Service



Education

B.S. in Ecology, Evolution,
and Natural Resources; Minor
in Geographic Information
Systems (GIS) and Urban
Forestry
Rutgers School of Environmental
and Biological Sciences

M.S. in Forestry
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Job Title

Assistant Regional Forester

More Information

[NJ Forest Service](#)
[NJ Fish and Wildlife](#)

Profile

I am an assistant regional forester for the state of New Jersey. Due to my technical background, I usually help others in the New Jersey Forest Service to include scientific data in their work.

Every day is different. Most days I'll work with different sets of data to identify and explore trends in forest growth that we can use to help inform forest management decisions. I like being able to use forest science to provide data that will give the public confidence in natural resource management. I want the NJ Forest Service to exceed citizens' expectations and encourage a positive outlook of our State agencies and institutions.

We put in a lot of work that allows New Jersey to be sustainable regarding our use of the State's natural resources. We also provide a feedback mechanism that shows the State how their management decisions affect the environment. The NJ Forest Service inspires both conscious use of natural resources, and the connections citizens have to those natural resources.

Career Advice

"Get outside and explore the world around you. Making the connections to what you've learned about nature with your own eyes can be very powerful. Learn the hands-on skills (such as using a compass) to become a more well-rounded naturalist. Volunteer, and stay in touch with natural resources, even if you don't pursue them in your career. Take different courses offered by NJ Fish and Wildlife such as hunter education, trapper education, fishing education, chainsaw safety, firefighter training, etc. These skills and the knowledge they provide will help you on your path to becoming an outdoor professional."



Forest Career Profiles

Bill Zipse

NJ Forest Service



Education

A.A.S. in Pre-professional Forestry
Paul Smith's College

B.S. in Forestry
Northern Arizona University

Job Title

Supervising Forester

Career Advice

Now is a great time to get into forestry. As for your education, consider schools with programs that align with what you're looking for. It would also be a good idea to pick up data mining and management skills, as they will be useful. Volunteer to get some experience in forestry! That'll help out with building connections as well.

More Information

[NJ Forest Service](#)

Profile

I am a supervising forester for the state of New Jersey. I oversee the strategic operations for four programs in the state: State Lands Management, Forest Health, Urban and Community Forestry, and the Forest Resource Education Center.

In the field, I help train new foresters in safe and efficient field techniques. While I'm at the office in Trenton, I check in with the program managers to review the status of each of the four programs listed above, assist with data and administrative tasks, and offer advice and guidance regarding other problems that may need to be solved. Earlier on in my career, I really enjoyed doing the hands-on work in the field to complete different projects. Now that I've progressed to where I am, I enjoy helping others to advance their programs just like I used to.

I helped design a contract for a statewide inventory of New Jersey's forests, and it's really rewarding to see the newer foresters take over and run with it. It's been great seeing those employees grow, and the data we've received so far will be very useful in informing future management decisions. Forests play an extremely important role in our valuable natural resources, and as such, they are critical in providing a good quality of life for everyone. In addition, this job provides me with an opportunity to represent the will of the people in New Jersey regarding how they want their resources to be managed.





Forest Career Profiles

Carrie Sargeant
NJ Forest Service



Education

B.S. in International Agriculture
and Natural Resource
Management;
Environmental Studies
Certificate
M.F. in Forestry at Yale School
of Forestry and Environmental
Studies

Job Title

Urban and Community Forestry
Coordinator

Career Advice

*"If you love science and/or
trees, follow that passion. It is
incredibly rewarding, so do your
best; achieve, learn, grow, and
volunteer! Think about dual-
majoring with a non-science
degree."*

More Information

[The NJUCF program](#)
[Rutgers Urban Forestry Program](#)
[Society of American Foresters](#)
Your local Shade Tree
Commission!

Profile

I run the State's urban and community forestry (UCF) program. This involves working with local governments in New Jersey to create and maintain healthy, safe, and resilient trees and forests in the state's communities by providing technical and monetary assistance.

On a typical day, I cooperate and communicate with local governments and lead the UCF staff, ensuring that they perform various tasks and assist our partners. I'm also involved with educational programs, implementing grants, developing community forestry management plans, and ensuring urban forests are included in municipal planning.

I really enjoy helping people make their communities better places to live. I still remember one specific planting project that I led years ago on a street that had virtually no trees on it. After we finished the planting project, a few older men brought out lawn chairs and sat down under the newly planted trees and smiled in the shade. I also enjoy getting the young people involved and watching their appreciation for our natural resources grow.

This work is important because we help make New Jersey a better place to live, work, and play. Our trees and forests are important tools that contribute to the betterment of our planet through the many ecological benefits that they provide.





Forest Career Profiles

Don Donnelly

New Jersey Audubon



Education

B.S. in Natural Resource Management
Rutgers School of Environmental and Biological Sciences – Forestry Focus

Job Title

Stewardship Project Director/
Forester

More Information

[NJ Forest Service](#)
[NJ Audubon](#)



Profile

I am a stewardship project director/forester for NJ Audubon, a non-profit organization. This involves forestry that is centered on Audubon property and assisting private landowners who share similar management goals. I also secure outside funding to help local governments with their forestry projects and advocate for policies through various forms of outreach. In addition to working with NJ Audubon, I do private consulting work for woodland owners to develop 10-year forest management plans for their property to determine how they can increase wood production and benefit the land and the community. This allows them to receive a reduction on their property taxes.

I really enjoy the diversity of jobs I get to do in my work; I get to participate in traditional forest management, marking, thinning, timber harvesting, and more. With NJ Audubon, especially in the last 8 years, I've been taking part in the educational side of forestry. I've come to enjoy the public workshops, presentations, and overall engagement involved. It's a great feeling when someone comes up to me after a meeting or presentation and says I've changed their minds about forestry, and how they understand that it's not just about logging and cutting down trees.

Stressors on the environment such as fragmentation, invasive species, high deer pressure, and the dense population of people in NJ limit the ecosystem service output our forests produce. They can't function by themselves like they used to, so it's important that we're being proactive with vegetation management.

Career Advice

Work on your communication skills! They are very important in this field. Study hard in your forestry courses, and aim to be a bit broad. Branch outside of vegetation management and study areas such as wetland or wildlife ecology. Find a way to surround yourself with people in the field you want to work in. Take it seriously and be respectful, that'll get you somewhere and it'll be noticed and appreciated.



Forest Career Profiles

Jason Grabosky

Rutgers University



Education

A.A.S. in Nursery Management
State University of
New York Cobleskill

B.S. in Ornamental Horticulture
California Polytechnic State
University at San Luis Obispo

M.S., Ph.D. in Ornamental
Horticulture
Cornell University

Job Title

Full Professor and Director of
Rutgers Urban Forestry Program

More Information

[NJDEP](#)
[Committee for the Advancement
of Arboriculture](#)
[International Society of
Arboriculture](#)
[Society of American Foresters](#)
[Tree Care Industry Association](#)

Profile

I am a professor and the director of the Urban Forestry Program at Rutgers University. I have three main duties under these titles: teaching tree related topics, cooperative extension (which involves training, outreach, and technology transfer), and research.

Typically, my days involve preparing for a class, teaching, and debriefing after class to make sure students understand the concepts in lecture. I try to take my students outside whenever I can, so they're immersed in the environment. This allows the students to be more engaged in the lesson and helps them immediately apply what they're learning to the outside world. I also answer emails and phone calls with questions from the public and manage multiple student graduate programs as an advisor. On a day that isn't so busy with other duties, I'll get to work on some of my research.

The environment is worth protecting and conserving. My work is about engaging and informing people about connecting with and understanding their environment, so they make reasonable and sound management decisions. Thus, being able to interact with people and help them answer questions is a large component of this job. My favorite days are when I see students' eyes brighten when they understand a concept, or when they come back years later and say I've made a difference in their lives.

Career Advice

Believe in yourself. If this field interests you, listen to what you want to do, and build your own toolkit to help you answer the questions you want to answer. Don't take no for an answer – you'd be surprised at the number of open and under-filled tree care professions are out there. They may not make you rich, but you'll definitely be satisfied.



Forest Career Profiles

Jay Kaplan

Public Service Electric & Gas
(PSE&G)



Education

B.A.Sc. in Urban Forestry
Rutgers School of Environmental
and Biological Sciences

Job Title

Supervisor of Vegetation
Management

More Information

[PSE&G](#)
[International Society of
Arboriculture](#)

Profile

I work as a supervisor of vegetation management at PSE&G. As utility foresters, we work to reduce tree related damage and interference to power lines. We like to say that we “keep the lights on, one tree at a time”.

Each day is different from the next with utility work. Some of my duties include checking on tree crews that we contract to do tree maintenance, planning new construction, conducting restoration work, accounting, dealing with storm preparation and damage, and engaging in public relations.

Since utility forestry isn't that popular among residents in a community, I really enjoy getting involved with the public outreach side of the business. I help clear misconceptions and get citizens to understand why we do what we do after giving talks or conversing with them. I had someone come up to me after a presentation and say “I still don't like utility pruning, but now I understand why you do it.” The resulting appreciation for this necessary work is very rewarding.

Career Advice

Being a supervisor of vegetation management involves a lot more than just trees, so try to get as much experience as you can in different fields. Diversify your education, work on time management, get familiar with politics and relevant regulations, and get as many certifications as you can. Also, communication skills are crucial in the field of utility forestry





Forest Career Profiles

Joe Greipp

Robert A. Winters Arboretum
at Meadow Lakes



Profile

As the arboretum director, I manage the daily operations of a private 100-acre arboretum and care for all aspects of the landscape. I like to describe an arboretum as a zoo for trees, as they contain unique, rare, and very old trees on display. Our arboretum also happens to be located in a retirement community of 350 residents.

A typical day for me involves managing our own in-house staff and working with contractors. When I work with contractors, I set a scope of arboretum management work for them to complete, award them with a contract, and follow through to make sure they do everything correctly.

Education

B.S. in Environmental Planning
and Design
Rutgers School of Environmental
and Biological Sciences

Job Title

Arboretum Director

Career Advice

Study hard, specialize your education according to what you want to do, and get certifications on the way, such as certified arborist, certified master arborist, and certified pesticide applicator. They're like merit badges which show you can do your job well, and it also looks great to potential employers.

More Information

[International Society of
Arboriculture](#)
[Tree Care Industry Association](#)





Forest Career Profiles

Larry Kuser

Fernbrook Nursery



Education

B.S. in Economics
Cornell University

M.S. in Developmental
Psychology
Fordham University

Self-Taught Nursery Manager

Job Title

President and Owner at
Fernbrook Nursery

More Information

[Fernbrook Nursery](#)



Profile

I am the owner of Fernbrook Nursery, a 350 acre wholesale nursery growing trees and shrubs which we sell from Maine to Virginia. Typically I oversee all the operations of the nursery including marketing, but I also supervise daily the container growing operations; managing the labor crews, deciding what plants to grow in what size pots, and setting up schedules for planting, pruning, irrigation, weeding, and pesticide applications. I also do all the propagation of plants and determine what we buy from other nurseries to grow on to larger sizes by taking into account various factors such as market trends, diversity, deer resistance, and growth habits.

This job is very rewarding for me because I love being and working outside. I also have a passion for growing things, so being able to get out and plant these trees and shrubs is amazing. I'm able to work with a lot of autonomy while I'm at the Nursery, which is also a plus for me.

I remember when I worked with the NJ Shade Tree Federation and the NJ Tree Foundation to complete various tree plantings. After 30 years, it's great to revisit planting locations, such as a few streets in Trenton, to see how immense the trees are now. It's nice to see that vision from the past come alive. Aside from the many important benefits trees provide for the ecosystem, our work helps to beautify the streets in New Jersey. We are able to contribute in making the world a better place to live, work, and play.

Career Advice

This job involves some hard physical work in all-weather conditions, so be prepared for that. Make sure you enjoy what you're doing and stick with it. Get out in the woods and start observing natural systems and environmental interactions! There's no substitute for hands-on experience and the understanding that can provide.



Forest Career Profiles

Lisa Simms

NJ Tree Foundation



Profile

As the executive director of the NJ Tree Foundation (NJTF), a non-profit organization, I wear many hats. I lead, direct, and manage my employees and the operations of the foundation, which include fundraising, bookkeeping, planting operations, and administrative work.

I also lead the Green Streets program, which is a re-entry program that creates transitional jobs planting trees for individuals under parole supervision. Since spring 2006, the program has planted 14,648 trees and employed 94 parolees. In all of our programs combined, we have planted over 250,000 trees with a 95% survival rate for community-based plantings.

Every day is different with the NJTF. Some days I'm in the office planning and directing, and other days I'm out in the field overseeing planting projects. I really enjoy working with different cities; planting with them is a wonderful experience, and returning to various planting sites to see the tree & community development over the years is extremely rewarding. I also enjoy some of our special projects that we do, which are unexpected tree plantings that aren't covered by a particular program. One specifically was a planting at an all-inclusive playground for children with special needs. Working with my team to accomplish projects such as this provides an incredible sense of fulfillment that makes it all worth it.

The importance of urban tree plantings can be seen when you look at cities like Camden, NJ, which previously had virtually no urban trees. Now, Camden has thousands of trees planted in their urban communities, due to our programs.

Education

B.S. in Environmental Science
Rutgers School of Environmental
and Biological Sciences

Job Title

Executive Director

Career Advice

Study in school and get a relevant degree (forestry, natural resource management, etc.), get experience in the field, volunteer, and follow your passion! It will be rewarding if you see it through and enjoy your work.

More Information

[New Jersey Tree Foundation](http://www.njtreefoundation.org)





Forest Career Profiles

Neil Hendrickson

Bartlett Tree Experts



Education

B.S. in Forestry (Silviculture)
Rutgers School of Environmental
and Biological Sciences

M.S. in Forest Science
University of New Hampshire

Ph.D. in Forestry
Yale University School of
Forestry and Environmental
Studies

Job Title

Northeast Technical
Representative

More Information

[Bartlett Tree Experts](#)
[International Society of
Arboriculture](#)

Profile

As the northeast technical representative for Bartlett Tree Experts, I participate in and assist my colleagues with their research, provide technical support, give lectures, and run workshops. Some of the research my colleagues conduct at the lab includes understanding and treating pests and diseases (including biological controls), managing urban soils, and understanding and managing tree biomechanics, to name a few.

I enjoy learning more – and often, re-learning – about trees in the field. Diagnostics is kind of like CSI but for trees. I find it all very interesting; there's always something new popping up. This work really provides me with a sense of purpose, and I'm very passionate about it. The 9-11 Memorial is a good example. Among the debris removed from the site was the remains of a Callery pear tree. When it sprouted new leaves the next spring, it was recognized as the last living thing to leave the site, and an intensive effort began to bring the tree back to health and back to the site as a key part of the memorial. It represents resilience and renewal. The care of this tree, and the hundreds of swamp white oaks that surround it at the 9-11 Memorial, is Bartlett's responsibility, and one we have reverence for and take pride in. I feel privileged to play a small part in it.

The impacts of our changing environment on our trees and landscapes are already becoming apparent, and they are likely to grow larger and more complicated with each passing year. It is critical that we continue to try to understand how trees react to this changing world, and what we can do to improve their survival and longevity so that we promote sustainability of our urban ecosystems.

Career Advice

Find your passion, something that will interest you for a lifetime. If it's trees, get an education involving arboriculture, horticulture, forestry, or a related field. Do internships to help your focus. Above all, learn to think about how to look at and solve problems in nature, by applying the scientific method. Then your career won't feel like work.



Forest Career Profiles

Paul Cowie

Paul Cowie and Associates

PAUL COWIE AND ASSOCIATES
consulting arborists / urban foresters



Profile

I'm the owner of Paul Cowie and Associates, a professional consulting firm that provides expert advice in the management of urban forests.

I work primarily in three different areas: tree diagnostics, municipal forestry, and project design. Tree diagnostics involves analyzing and identifying tree healthcare issues. Municipal forestry involves working with municipalities on their street tree programs to manage and improve their tree resource. As a design team specialist, I collaborate with landscape architects on urban site design and development projects.

I spend roughly half of my time in the office and the other half in the field. On a typical day, I'll meet with a client to determine their goals, analyze the steps required to fulfill those goals, and help them build a program to achieve and maintain a healthy urban tree resource. I really enjoy seeing how my colleagues and I can have an impact on bettering the environment through the thoughtful planting and management of trees.

Urban forestry is especially important in highly populated areas in order to help reduce air temperature, manage stormwater runoff, and reduce pollutants in the air as development pressures increase. A great deal of collaboration among different professional specialties is required to make sure our projects are successful, and to achieve a healthy balance of cityscape and greenspace.



Education

B.S. in Natural Resource Management
Rutgers School of Environmental and Biological Sciences

Job Title

Owner of PC+A

Career Advice

Combine your natural sciences with other fields so you are more knowledgeable. This will increase your professional value and allow you to offer more comprehensive services to clients. Also, acquire hands-on experience in the tree care industry to understand tree planting, pruning, insect pest management, and plant health care management. Take a few courses on GIS as well, as it is incredibly important in just about any field.

More Information

[Paul Cowie and Associates](#)



Forest Career Profiles

Rick Dutko

NJ Forest Service



Education

B.S. in Natural Resource
Management
Rutgers School of Environmental
and Biological Sciences

Job Title

Facility Manager at the Forest
Resource Education Center

Career Advice

*"No matter what you want to do,
be passionate about it. Follow
your dreams and be persistent
about doing so. Get involved in
clubs and organizations, and get
as much experience as you can
in the field that you want to be
in."*

More Information

[The New Jersey Forest Service](#)
[New Jersey Fish and Wildlife](#)
[Conserve Wildlife](#)
[New Jersey Audubon](#)

Profile

I am the facility manager of the NJ Forest Service Forest Resource Education Center (FREC). This involves making sure the facility is properly operating during business hours, running educational programs, keeping on top of administrative duties, and maintaining the grounds.

Each day at the FREC is different; some days involve preparing our location for the arrival of students or the general public for one of our programs, while others involve inspecting the grounds to ensure the FREC is safe and clean for our visitors. Our goal is to educate the public – people of all ages – about the importance of protecting and appreciating our environment. We want them to feel a sense of connection to the outside world, so they are more inclined to make environmentally conscious decisions each day.

I really enjoy when students come for one of our programs and say something along the lines of "this is the best field trip ever!" That really provides us with a feeling of accomplishment in our goal to educate and inspire.





Forest Career Profiles

Sam Hensen

NJ Forest Service



Education

B.S. in Forestry and
Conservation
University of Massachusetts
Amherst

Job Title

Assistant Regional Forester

Career Advice

*"Take as many classes as
you can, and get as many
certifications as you can! They
will increase your value in the job
market."*

More Information

[NJ State Lands](#)

Profile

I am an assistant regional forester for the state of New Jersey. I work specifically in State Lands Management with stewardship plan development. In addition to forest inventory and forest management plan development, my duties include outreach to stakeholders for their input on plan implementation, oversee day to day operations to guarantee continued progress of projects, and coordinate the Utilization & Marketing Program, which involves keeping an eye on niche markets to ensure that various forestry-related products are not off course and link the public to licensed, experienced forest industry professionals.

When I'm in the field, I perform traditional forestry tasks such as taking inventories of the trees and shrubs in different stands. This involves determining the number of trees in a stand of a certain size, noting the species composition, measuring tree height and diameter, and taking tree cores to determine age. When I'm in the office, I work on developing management plans, contacting stakeholders, and making sure the components of our ongoing projects continue to progress.

I really enjoy the day to day operations of working in State Lands Management. To me, it's like putting together the pieces of a puzzle. I fill in roles and duties where there seems to be gaps so we can continue moving forward with our work. I also really enjoy the public service aspect of working with the New Jersey Forest Service. Sustainable forestry allows humans to utilize forest products in a way that will allow the forests to remain intact and viable in the future and can also increase the strength of the forests overall.





Forest Career Profiles

Steve Maurer

NJ Forest Fire Service



Education

B.S. in Forest Resources
University of Georgia

Job Title

Assistant State Fire Warden

Career Advice

Pay attention in your science classes and try your best in school. Take classes that are relevant to what you want to do, and work to achieve strong communication and writing skills.

More Information

Forest Fire Service
The National Wildfire
Coordinating Group
FEMA

Profile

I'm the Assistant State Fire Warden for the state of NJ, and I have quite a few duties as such. These include coordinating and designing training, mobilizing employees to fight forest fires in NJ and assist with western fires, monitoring the weather station network, and maintaining the 7 weather stations that we have here.

Around this time of the year (late August), I keep up with current western fires, monitor e-mails for updates, and answer phone calls. Other times of the year involve administrative duties, such as fulfilling orders and making sure the bills get paid. This season has been a rainy one, but when it doesn't rain as much, we do more prescribed burning to reduce fire fuel loading, and I go out to service the weather stations more frequently.

I enjoy the degree of variety in this job. One day could involve me being on one end of the state, and on the other end the next day. Going on multi-week fire missions are always incredible experiences and I get to meet great people in this field from all around the country.

It's critical that our weather data is accurate and meets national standards, so we can monitor wildfire potential in all areas throughout the state. We at the Forest Fire Service work to keep New Jersey residents safe from wildfire and to fulfill our mission of "Protecting Lives, Property, and Natural Resources".





Forest Career Profiles

Wayne Dublin

Bartlett Tree Experts



Education

B.S. in Plant Science
Rutgers School of Environmental
and Biological Sciences

Job Title

Vice President and Division
Manager

Career Advice

Don't expect things to be handed to you. You have to be willing to work hard and earn what you want; Bartlett has high expectations for their employees. Also be willing to try new things.

More Information

[Bartlett Tree Experts](#)
[International Society of Arboriculture](#)

Profile

As both the vice president and a division manager for Bartlett Tree Experts, I have many duties. These include overseeing all of the operations in New York – except for Long Island – and New Jersey (which includes 8 locations) and managing their performance; hiring arborist representatives; leading the overall operations to ensure safety, quality, and profitability in the company; and delivering the highest quality of tree care to residential and commercial properties.

In my office, I do administrative tasks such as business planning, paperwork, and check my phones and e-mails. When I'm out in the field, I'll travel to one of the 8 locations I oversee to provide support to the local office. This involves participating in their daily meetings, checking in with arborist representatives and local managers, and reviewing their financial reports. Also, as vice president of the company, I am a member of many organizations which I attend meetings for, including the Rutgers Gardens Advisory Board, Board of NJ ASLA Education Foundation, I'm the vice chair of the NJ Community Forestry Council, the immediate past-president of the NJ Shade Tree Federation, and the Bartlett Voting Member on the ANSI A300 Council.

I enjoy all of the interactions with the people I get to see, meet, and converse with. The personal and professional relationships I've made are deep and lasting ones that I value highly. People really love and enjoy their trees, and they count on us for the best care and management to be delivered in the most professional manner. It's a valuable service that I feel good about each day.

