~ From Roots to Shoots ~

SHREINER TREE CARE

FALL '17 / WINTER '18 NEWSLETTER

610-265-6004 • shreinertreecare.com

STEVE SHREINER PRESIDENT

WHEN A TREE FALLS ON YOUR PROPERTY

WHO PAYS?

A Note from Steve

Dear Clients,

I hope that you enjoy the latest edition of our newsletter. We are proud to share our company news and updates, as well as several informative articles.

This past June I turned 50, and it was a great time to pause and reflect upon the last few decades. I'm both grateful and humbled to think of all of the individuals, families, and businesses who have helped me along the way to build Shreiner Tree Care. Many thanks to all of you for making us a success!

Most notably, my high school sweetheart and wife, Meg worked in the office for many years until she left to raise our three children. Michael is a freshman at Penn College in Williamsport, Pa. studying horticulture and business. Lexi, a junior, and Samantha, a freshman, both attend the Academy of Notre Dame.

During the summer months, our children have shown interest in helping both in and out of our office. Michael started his training as an arborist and climbing trees, while our daughters have assisted the staff with filing and data entry. Meg and I couldn't be happier to see the second generation of Shreiner Tree Care working its way into the company!

In closing, I'd like to thank all of our friends and clients for your continued support of Shreiner Tree Care. Our employees and families appreciate your commitment and loyalty to our company.

The Seal of Approval!



This summer we received our Tree Care Industry Association Accreditation renewal. Congratulations to our entire staff for continually operating and performing at a professional, high standard. This was a rigorous, multilevel company inspection. This interview process ensures that we adhere to all of the best practices and industry standards. The inspection criteria measures our business practices to meet or exceed the industry's benchmarks for safety education training, accounting, insurance, client relations, hiring processes and much more. Our commitment to safety, education and professional service is our daily mission.

Great Job Team!



Here's the Dirt on Soil... Soil Structure in Residential Landscapes - Tyler Beatty, Arborist

Many plant health issues are caused by compacted, poor-quality soil. When new plantings have difficulty establishing healthy roots, it creates stressful growing conditions. These types of situations often make plants more susceptible to insect and disease issues. Establishing the proper soil composition from the start will produce happier and healthier plants long term.

In the woods, leaves annually create an all-important organic layer that makes the soil fertile. This organic layer not only helps regulate soil moisture and temperature, but also improves soil structure by allowing room for air and water. In an urban landscape, we remove the leaves annually, therefore removing the natural organic material and depleting the soil of many benefits.

When we build a home and redesign the landscape, we destroy the natural soil structure and existing soil layers through excavation and grading. We dig through the layers, bringing less fertile soils to the top where roots are expected to grow after construction. Then we try to establish a new landscape in the backfilled soil. Contractors also compact the soil and grade it out to a desired layout. Compacted soils prevent air and water movement, which is important for root growth.

It is important to understand that 80% of soil compaction happens during the first pass of equipment. So even when soil is not moved, dug up, or graded, the movement of large equipment over an area can impact existing trees' root systems negatively. So what can we do to improve the quality of soil with these issues? It's really pretty simple: loosen the soil and add organic material. Mulch, wood chips, and leaf compost all make a great organic layer to top-dress the soil. We also employ soil-fracturing techniques, depending upon the degree of compacted soil and soil fertility. Methods include air-spading, tilling, vertical mulching, and soil replacement.

These soil improvement methods will show their benefits immediately. Loosened soil will allow for healthier root systems on your trees and shrubs.



TOP SOIL IS REMOVED DURING CONSTRUCTION



PROPERLY AMENDED & FRACTURED SOIL





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This is a question I receive often, usually after a stressful storm damage event. I'm going to break it down into a couple scenarios because tree location and situations can vary. First and foremost, defining property lines is important and it's best not to guess. Get a survey!

SCENARIO #1: If the tree is clearly on your neighbor's property and falls into your yard without causing property damage, it's generally an expense shared by both neighbors. However, in certain situations — for example, when there is an unpleasant relationship — the impacted homeowner would typically clean the tree up to the property line. Most insurance companies do not assist in the cleanup cost because no damage has occurred and/or your deductible is higher than the cost of cleanup.

SCENARIO #2: If your neighbor's tree falls and causes damage to your property, your homeowner's insurance policy will pick up some of the expense of removing the tree. Certain aspects of the tree damage clean up are covered and others are not. Know what your policy will cover. Typically, most of the construction repairs (minus your deductible) are covered. I've seen situations where cooperative neighbors will sometimes pay the deductible and/or contribute to the cleanup costs of the impacted neighbor.

SCENARIO #3: If the property line bisects the tree trunk, then technically/legally either neighbor can choose what they want in regard to pruning or removal. However, written permission is strongly suggested before work is performed. In a storm event, property damage would trigger which insurance company would cover costs.

Ready to submit your INSURANCE CLAIM?

Protect Yourself From a Neighbor's Tree: If a neighboring tree looks unsafe or seems threatening, TAKE ACTION! I have assisted many clients by being the mediator, letting the neighbor know of my client's concerns. The next step is to follow up in writing, as it is the only way to be financially protected if the neighbor fails to address the situation and there is a future accident. Most often your neighbor is unaware of the condition, so it's best to have a conversation prior to sending a letter.

We train our arborists to examine neighboring trees that are close to the property. If we recognize a potentially hazardous situation, we will point it out to our client so action can be taken before there's a problem. It's a good idea to review your homeowner's policy and speak with your agent to better understand what's covered and what's not. Working on the cleanup together is always the best approach. - Steve Shreiner, Arborist

Emerald Ash Borer Management - John Dwyer, Arborist

As the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) has moved into our area, many homeowners are facing this dilemma – to treat or not to treat? Unfortunately, this invasive pest will kill every ash tree it encounters so there is no avoiding this crisis if you have ash trees on your property.

The emerald ash borer is a half-inch long metallic, green beetle from Asia. It is now in almost every county in PA. It was first identified in Michigan in 2002, and arrived in PA in 2007. The larval stage of this beetle feeds exclusively on ash trees. Trees will die within 2-4 years after infestation. Treatment is critical to protect and preserve your trees. Our arborists are actively working with our clients to develop cost effective management plans that will provide you with peace of mind and security about this impending issue.



Option 1 – Saving Healthy and Beautiful Ash Trees. High-value trees should be treated, while other less desirable or potentially hazardous ash trees can be scheduled for removal. Treatments are available which can save and preserve your ash trees. Injections performed every 2 years will control 99% of EAB larvae and are the most effective preservation techniques. Systemic treatment options provide a medium amount of control for one season. These systemic treatments can also be considered as a viable management tool when simply delaying the removal expense for properties with numerous ash trees.

Option 2 – Combination Approach: Preservation and Selective Removal. Certainly, each ash tree is different and plans should be made accordingly. A Shreiner arborist can help identify the healthy ash trees on your property and make management plans for how to best care for your trees.

Option 3 – Pre-emptive Removal. If you are not interested in preserving your ash trees, the safest and most cost effective approach is to remove them prior to their deaths. Planning in advance can help save hundreds or thousands of dollars by avoiding additional time and expenses spent removing dead trees. Wintertime removals are often less disruptive to the landscape and ground conditions are more favorable.

Option 4 – Not Treating Your Ash Trees... Not a Good Option. Once EAB begins attacking your ash trees, it will be a few quick years before the trees die so doing nothing is really only delaying the inevitable. Dead ash trees are hazardous trees. Ash tends to become brittle and fall apart when it dies. So, removing dead ash trees is more challenging and costlier than removing live ash trees due to the risks involved. By waiting, you will be putting yourself and your neighbors at risk.



Mother Nature's First Responders!TM

Emergency Storm Damage Cleanup and Tree Removal... WE ARE ON CALL 24/7 - 365



If you have been living on the Main Line for some time, you have probably seen damaging effects caused by ice storms, heavy snow falls, wind damage and those late afternoon thunderstorms in the summer. These storms can cause major damage to your trees and property damage. As the old adage says, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." In our business it's more like a ton of cure.

When our arborists prune a tree's canopy, this thinning process essentially increases the tree's ability to take on the added weight of snow, and the stress of wind loading. Additionally, there is less canopy surface to accumulate ice or hold wind like a sail.

So remember, routine tree inspections and periodic tree trimming

around your home is all that is needed to greatly reduce the chance of damaging events.

Think Trees! - Dean Diehl, Arborist

The ginkgo tree (Ginkgo biloba), also known as the maidenhair tree, is native to China. Fossils of this tree have been found dating back 270 million years, making this species pre-historic. It was living during the Jurassic period! This living fossil isn't the longest living tree, but it is the oldest species. The oldest living tree is the Bristlecone Pine. Some in California and Africa have been dated at over 5,000 years old.

Ginkgo trees tolerate pollution, confined soil spaces, diseases, and insect infestations. They are widely cultivated and thrive in difficult urban settings. Its fruit is well known for two reasons: the medicinal longevity benefits found in the seed, and secondly, when the fleshy covering of the fruit ripens and decomposes in the fall, it has an unpleasant odor. It is a dioecious species (separate sexes) so you can select to plant the male version without the offensive fruit.

After WWII, several ginkgos were found in Japan as the only living thing - plant or animal - to survive within a mile of the atomic bomb blasts in 1945. There are still six there today because as the country rebuilt, engineers preserved the surviving trees as a living memorial.

The ginkgo has many redeeming qualities. One such characteristic is in the fall, its leaves turn a brilliant yellow. Consider this tree for your landscape, and remember that it can stand up to the test of time in the harshest conditions.

