

~ From Roots to Shoots ~



FALL '22 / WINTER '23
NEWSLETTER



My Mentor: Sam Virgilio

"My high school phys ed teacher Sam Virgilio taught me how to climb trees way back when."

- Summer Drought
- Dead Ash Tree Dangers
- Winter Pruning Tips
- & more inside!

A Note from Steve



Dear Friends and Clients,

Many of you may not know the origins of Shreiner Tree Care. Its inception dates back to 1984 when I left St. Joe's Prep and transferred to Radnor High School. While attending Radnor High School, I had great classmates, a lot of fun, and looking back some pretty cool teachers. Ellie Doerr, Ms. Murphy, Mr. Fitzgerald, Mr. Chidester, and wrestling coaches Skip Shoemaker and Bill Gerstemeier to name a few. One teacher in particular set me on a path by introducing me to the art and skill of climbing and maintaining trees. My phys ed teacher and early mentor, Sam Virgilio.

Sam, also known as Mr. V, started his career at Radnor High School in 1963. Always the model of fitness, wearing his signature look of the 80s in an upturned, collared polo under an Oxford shirt. As long as the outside temperature stayed above 40 degrees, Sam was in shorts. During his career at Radnor, Sam was well regarded by all students and faculty. He was known for his friendly smile, gentle approach, and willingness to lend an ear. Sam enthusiastically embraced the roles of teacher, coach, and mentor to many students until his retirement in 1998.



At an early age, I started my neighborhood landscaping business. I really loved the physical work and the sense of accomplishment that came at the end of each day. During the Summer months, when Sam was not teaching, he operated his own tree care business. It was Sam who suggested I expand my landscaping business to include caring for trees. Sam offered to teach me how to climb. Over the next few years, even after I graduated, Sam continued to teach me the "ropes" of tree climbing and caring for trees. He took the time and energy to teach me all about arboriculture.

Since the first time I met Sam, I was impressed by his humility, his concern for others, and respect for all creatures. In his college years at West Chester University, Sam was the captain of his football, track, and gymnastics teams. He is also a world-class archer and a pretty darn good golfer as well. Sam is a devoted family man and has been married to his wife, Hattie for 61 years, I'll always think of Sam as one of my earliest mentors and will never forget the impact he has had on my life.

I feel fortunate that Sam and Hattie allowed me the privilege to interview and document some of his life experiences, and to thank him for contributing so much to my life. Please take a moment and enjoy this video.

Link to Interview: shreinertreecare.com/sam2022

Sincerely,

Steve

Scan



For Interview

The 2022 Plant Health Care Season

Henry Richmond-Boudwyns



This was a season of ups and downs. A cool, wet spring began the season which was, unfortunately, favorable for foliar diseases like anthracnose and cedar apple rust. The cold spring weather caused many fruit trees to bear less fruit. Temperatures eventually increased, along with pest activity. It was a particularly tricky season for many species of scale, an insect pest of many plants including laurels and hollies. Skip laurel shrubs are increasingly falling prey to the white prunicola scale insect. Diversity and plant selection is essential for a healthy landscape.

Summer was exceptionally dry and hot. Drought stress was common throughout landscapes, particularly those with new plantings. Watering was crucial for success. On a happier note, the spotted lantern fly have decreased their presence in the area.



What is lichen?



Lichen is an organism our technicians frequently get asked about. It comes in many shapes, sizes, and colors, and can be found growing on many surfaces from rocks to trees. There are over 20,000 different species of lichen in the world. While it can be surprising to see, it will not harm your trees. Lichen is fungus and algae living together in a beneficial relationship. The algae makes nutrients, and the fungus provides water. Together, lichen can survive harsh weather that could kill a fungus or an algae growing alone. Keep your eye out for it in your landscape, and remember: it's not harmful, but beneficial!



How to Keep Your Trees Happy: Proper Watering, Mulching, & Fertilization

John Dwyer

Water is a critical component of photosynthesis, the process by which plants turn sunlight into sugars. During this past season, drought trees were forced to drop leaves early, thereby reducing their photosynthesis and sugar storage potential. Sugars are used in all phases of a plant's life cycle, from growth and development to disease resistance and plant defense mechanisms. Though early leaf drop can help a tree survive drought conditions, it can have a prolonged effect on tree health and vigor.

This is where proper root care comes into play. A mulch ring around any landscape tree, both mature and newly planted, can help a tree during hot, dry weather. Mulch rings help retain moisture and have the added benefit of reducing soil temperatures. As mulch breaks down, it adds organic matter to the soil which is rich in nutrients.

Proper nutrient management enhances tree vigor and increases a tree's natural response to injury from insects and diseases. We practice prescription fertilization, a process where we take soil samples to identify nutrient deficiencies, and create a custom fertilizer that is best suited for a tree's specific needs.





Dead Ash Trees ... A Real Danger

Ryan Day

In our community, the landscape continues to reveal dead ash trees resulting from the feeding larva of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) insect. This invasive insect has ravaged the suburban ash tree population. Fortunately, treated protected trees are still showing a strong resistance to the feeding EAB insect.

Standing dead ash trees are becoming increasingly unpredictable and dangerous. Declining or dead ash trees that are in striking distance of property structures and people should be addressed immediately. Our arborists have been assisting clients in assessing their ash trees and property to prevent any possible threats.

It's recommended that neighboring and non-target trees should be inspected, and have a tree risk assessment performed to avoid potential hazards. Additionally, seasonal heavy snows or ice could create a larger problem by accelerating existing tree damage and causing dangers such as power outages.

*Think
Trees!*



A home in Villanova with a dead ash tree leaning over a child's play set. Immediate action must be taken.

Why Hire a Shreiner Arborist?



That's easy, it's our people!



Winter Tree Pruning and Removal

Tyler Beatty

There are several reasons to consider caring for your trees in the winter season. Without the presence of leaves, the canopy can be more easily pruned for better structure and appearance. Deadwood, lacking the presence of healthy buds, is easily recognized during pruning. Trees are less stressed because winter pruning does not stimulate new growth.



Some species like Elm and Orchard trees (Apple, Peach, Cherry) should only be pruned in the winter to prevent the spread of common disease issues like Dutch Elm Disease and Fireblight. Winter pruning allows cuts to be made without the presence of disease. The trees wake up in the spring and start compartmentalizing the pruning cuts immediately.

Access is another important factor to consider. Often the ground will be frozen, allowing us to bring large equipment into an area that may otherwise be inaccessible. Under these conditions, jobs are more efficient and keep property impact to a minimum.

Golf Course Tree Care

Mike Kachurak



In this region of Pennsylvania, we host some of the best golf courses in the country and world. Our arborists have been working with local golf courses for over 25 years to maintain their tree canopies. Trees are an important detail on a golf course. Trees provide many roles to a golf facility such as; aesthetically pleasing landscape around the club house, architectural features in the course layout, privacy screening, and the overall beautification framework for the golf course property. Many mammals, birds, and insects also benefit from golf course trees and shrubbery. Acorns benefit mammals, while insects and butterflies pollinate the flowers, producing berries that support birds and other wildlife. Many progressive clubs understand the importance of maintaining their natural surroundings and have an industry distinction of being recognized as Audubon Sanctuary Program participants.

To maximize the potential of trees on a golf course, consistent professional assessment and maintenance must be performed. Aspects of golf course tree maintenance include; tree safety assessment, pruning, and hazardous deadwood removal. Tree planting is also a consideration for different areas of course layout and property beautification.

Our knowledgeable arborists enjoy partnering with golf course facilities to maintain their canopies and to help keep their properties up to par. For more information about the Audubon Sanctuary Program, please visit: <https://www.usga.org/course-care/audubon-sanctuary-program-4f48d5a0.html>



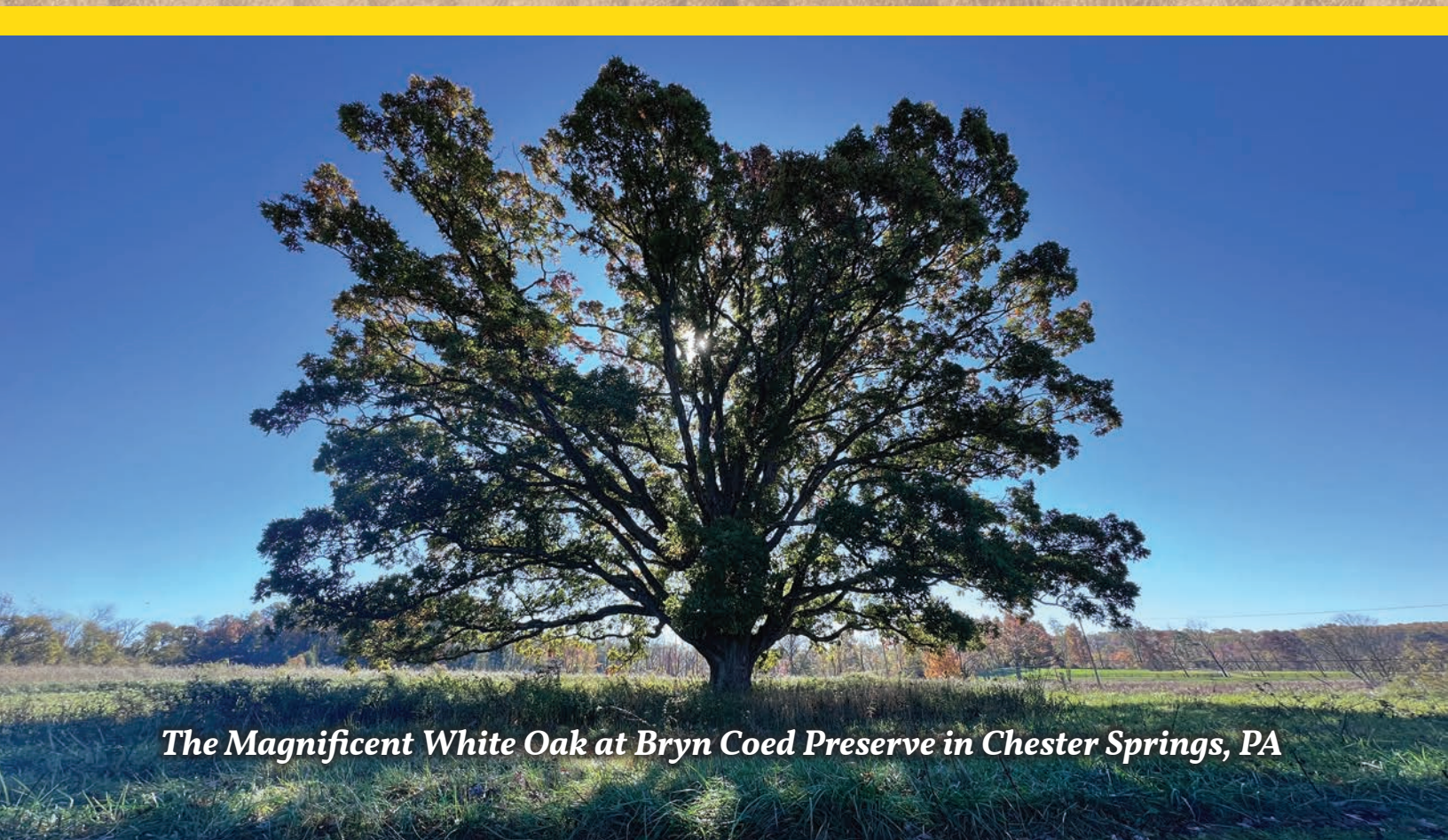


Women In Arboriculture



Rachel ascending into a tree canopy.

Rachel Brudzinski is an accomplished ISA arborist, who has served as a crew leader with us for the past four years. She has competed both nationally and internationally as a tree climber. She also regularly teaches various other industry seminars. This past year she conducted tree climbing classes for women at both the Morris Arboretum and Barnes Arboretum. There has been strong participation and enthusiasm to include more women in the industry. Keep up the good work.



The Magnificent White Oak at Bryn Coed Preserve in Chester Springs, PA

A Tree That Merits Distinction: The Osage Orange Tree

Maclura pomifera



Osage orange trees along Croton Road in Wayne, PA

The osage orange tree is also known as a bodark, hedge apple, prairie hedge, yellowwood, bow wood, or horse apple. If you have not heard of this tree before, you may be surprised when you see it, most especially for the unusual fruit that it produces. The fruit is often seen by roadsides, and as kids, we often referred to them as monkey brains.

Monkey Brains?

The osage orange fruit is about the size of a large orange or grapefruit, and it has a ripply, contoured surface. It is green in color, not yellow or orange, and the surface is covered with coarse hair.



Where is it found?

The osage orange tree may be found along streams, edges of wooded areas, and disturbed forests. This species of tree grows fast, is heat tolerant, will adjust to most soil conditions, and can be used as a windbreak. It's medium sized with a short trunk, and a dense round or irregular crown. The leaves are typically 3-6 inches long and 2-3 inches wide. The color of its bark ranges from brown to orange, and when peeled back, exposes bright orange wood. The osage orange will begin to produce non-edible fruit around ten years of age.



The fruit is round (3-6" in diameter), hard, and has a pale-green wrinkly skin resembling a brain. Although its fruit has limited uses, it's the osage orange wood that is highly valuable. Its lumber is one of the most decay-resistant woods in North America and is known for being extremely strong. The American Indian and the contemporary archer uses this species of wood to craft its bows.



YouTube's "Guilty of Treason" Visits Shreiner Tree Care

Mike Shreiner

The tree care industry, like many online communities, allows arborists to share ideas, content, and innovation across a variety of social media platforms. As a young and motivated arborist, I turned to YouTube in the hope of seeking more information on sharpening my skills as an arborist. I found a YouTube channel called "Guilty of Treason." The name sparked my interest immediately. Jacob Rodgers is the creator, and he is an ISA Certified Arborist from Washington State. His channel provided me with invaluable information on chainsaw sharpening techniques, felling trees, and rigging demonstrations. He travels the U.S. and to different countries working and documenting his daily life as an arborist. I spent my final semester of college living vicariously through his channel (after studying of course), wishing I was at work so I could practice these new skills I was learning.

I sent Jacob a message on Instagram thanking him for sharing such valuable information on his platform. For several months, Jacob and I shared ideas, stories and photos of each other's workday from one side of the country to another. I sent him a Shreiner t-shirt and invited him to come to Pennsylvania and work with us for a couple of days. The entire crew benefited from the experience and created lasting memories. It was an incredible opportunity. Until next time, Jacob! Thank you.

Video Link: shreinertreecare.com/got2022



Jacob Rodgers

Mike Shreiner

Wyatt Forest

Pat Jensen

Scan For Video