

~ From Roots to Shoots ~



SPRING / SUMMER '24
NEWSLETTER



**Think
Trees!**

More Trees Please....

“As our community’s trees age, more trees need to be planted.”

- *Historical Horticulture*
- *Plant Health Care*
- *Safety First*
- *Trees and Technology*

A Note from Steve



Dear valued clients,

I hope this message finds you well and you're enjoying good health.

After thirty-seven years of sharing our fall and winter newsletters, we're making a small change. We won't send out our usual edition this fall, opting for a year-end electronic seasonal wrap-up letter. It makes sense to us to sync this with the natural growth cycles, celebrating the start of new life in your gardens. Please enjoy this issue of Roots to Shoots – Spring Edition. Our newsletter aims to keep you informed and equipped to care for your trees and landscapes most effectively. We're here to provide professional care helping you make informed decisions about your outdoor spaces, and trees.

Over the winter, our team was busy getting ready to ensure your gardens look their best. We've dialed in our equipment and honed our skills for essential pruning, plant health care, and tree removal practices. An increased number of local townships are requiring residents and property owners to keep and care for the existing trees. When it becomes necessary to remove trees, they are often requiring replacement trees. I have included several township ordinances in our newsletter. We remain committed to the importance of planting new trees. Passing through neighborhoods, I see plenty of space for more greenery. As some of our older trees decline, planting new ones is essential. Our experienced arborists can advise you on tree selections that offer lasting seasonal beauty.

Lastly, there's an STC initiative that I'm excited to share! We've been collaborating with local schools and horticulture programs to introduce students to a career in arboriculture. It's vital to us to nurture the next generation of tree care professionals for the preservation of our community's landscape. If you know any young adults interested in an outdoor, hands-on, and rewarding job, we'd love to meet them. We offer thorough training, safety instruction, and provide the necessary gear for a career in this field.



I'm looking forward to a beautiful spring and summer together. Thank you for trusting us with your tree and landscape care.

Sincerely,

Steve



Local Municipalities Are Enforcing Tree Preservation

Ryan Day



Trees are dynamic living organisms that have evolved on earth for over 300 million years. Trees, without the influence of man have a regenerative process, which has kept them growing year after year. In our area we have an aging tree canopy, which like all living things declines and dies. Unfortunately, trees can't naturally replace themselves anymore due to limiting space resulting from the continued growth of our expanding communities. This has impacted the density of the tree canopy in our area.

Shreiner Tree Care has been a preservation company from day one. We continually plant new trees for clients and assist in community tree planting events, but more needs to be done to protect and increase the tree coverage. We all know the value and benefits of trees so let's all do our part to keep our home and the Main Line beautiful.

Think Trees!

Over the years local municipalities have instituted ordinances to safeguard against unwarranted removal practices. Trees are beneficial around your home providing beauty, shade, and increased property value. I included links below to the most up-to-date ordinances for each of the surrounding townships. It's our goal to educate our clients of their township's requirements, and then we coordinate with the different municipalities to adhere to those requirements to achieve the desired outcome for our clients.

Explore township regulations by clicking the button.



RADNOR

CLICK FOR INFO



LOWER MERION

CLICK FOR INFO



TREDYFFRIN

CLICK FOR INFO



HVERFORD

CLICK FOR INFO

Historical Horticulture

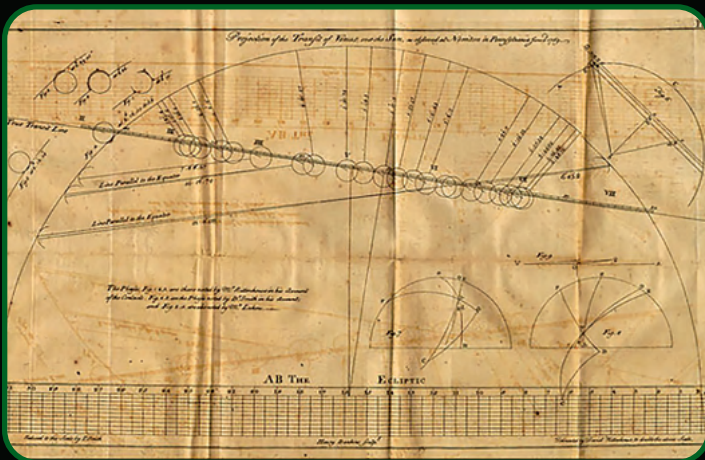
By Steve Shreiner

When was the last time your average day suddenly became exceptional? Maybe a serendipitous exchange sparked a new project or collaboration with a colleague. Perhaps while mentoring, teaching, or explaining a concept to another, you had an epiphany that expanded your knowledge profoundly. For me, it was the day I walked the grounds of a medical center located just north of Norristown, PA.

It was the early 2000s, and I was called to examine what seemed to be the last breaths of an old boxwood shrub. Little did I know that this land once belonged to the legendary David Rittenhouse, the namesake of Philadelphia's iconic Rittenhouse Square. The shrub's significance was a mystery then, but I felt a deep urge to preserve what was left of it. I eagerly offered advice. "Let's prune the dead stems, mulch the base, and nourish it with a low-nitrogen fertilizer." My hopes were high of extending its life a bit longer. Despite our efforts, the shrub waned over the years, and with a restoration project looming, its days seemed numbered. Yet, knowing its historical value, I instructed our foreman to save a piece of the boxwood stem. I thought, "Maybe I'll research this more." I never imagined where that thought would take me.



My curiosity piqued, I delved into the life of David Rittenhouse. Born in 1732, Rittenhouse was a prodigy, a master of mechanics, astronomy, and instrument-making, and he had a knack for precision. From his humble beginnings in present-day Fairmount Park, he advanced to become Philadelphia's chief surveyor. In 1763, he surveyed for William Penn to settle a boundary dispute that eventually became part of the Mason-Dixon line.

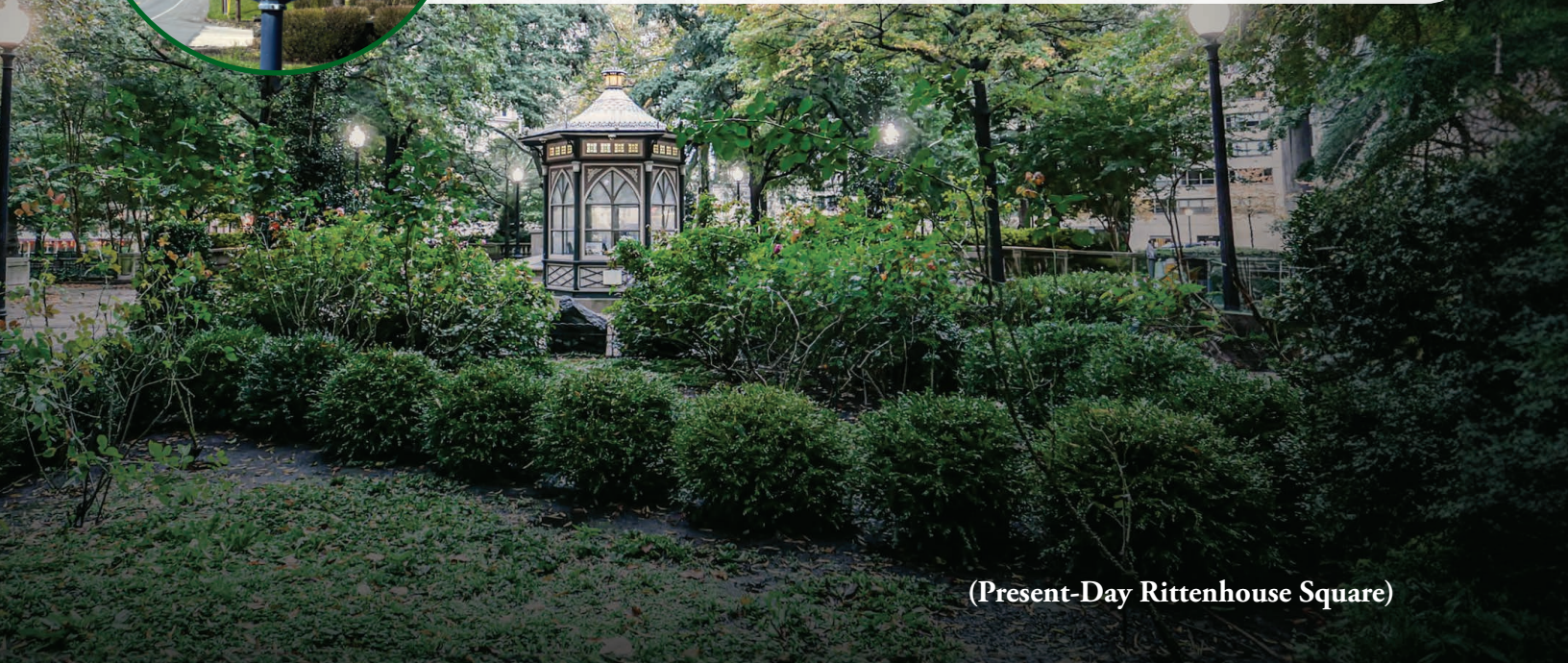


His astronomical pursuits were groundbreaking. From crafting telescopes to his detailed observations of the Venus transit, Rittenhouse was a figure of immense intellectual curiosity and capability. His work laid foundational stones for American science, earning international recognition through the pens of Benjamin Franklin and the eyes of the world during the Venus transit observations.

What does this have to do with the sliver of boxwood shrub kept by my foreman? Queen Marie Antoinette, moved by Rittenhouse's astronomical achievements, gifted him four sweet shrubs. These plants, transported by Ben Franklin across the ocean and continents, found a home on Rittenhouse's farm, a living testament to a global admiration for knowledge and discovery. Rittenhouse ordered the shrubs to be planted near the four corners of his cabin. They were symbols of intellectual kinship and respect, bridging continents and cultures. It finally dawned on me. The boxwood stem in my possession was one of the sweet shrubs planted nearly **253 years ago!**



In June 1939, the Historical Society of Montgomery County placed a dedication marker on the Rittenhouse property, acknowledging his achievements. Above is a picture of his farm. If you look closely, you'll notice one of the boxwood shrubs with chickens in the foreground.



(Present-Day Rittenhouse Square)

Passing away in June of 1796, the legacy of David Rittenhouse and his cherished shrubs is more than a tale of horticultural survival. It's a narrative that intertwines the blossoming of American science, the spirit of exploration, and a thirst for knowledge. Once enveloped in dense woods and now a vibrant heart of Philadelphia, Rittenhouse Square is a tribute to a man whose life was a constellation of science, innovation, and community achievements.

A boxwood stem took me on a quest I never expected. I have a renewed interest in the history of Philadelphia and of the Main Line. I'm reminded of our enduring natural landscape and how it connects us with previous generations. Who knows, maybe some of the trees our arborists care for today will be part of a great story in the future.

Plant Health Care

New Leadership in PHC

Greetings! My name is Nate Heller, I recently joined the Shreiner Tree Care (STC) team as the Director of Plant Health Care. My strong interest in plant science led me to earn a degree in Agronomy from Penn State in 2017. From there I built my professional skill set in the green industry at organizations including Merion Golf Club, The Country Club in Brookline, Massachusetts, and a short stint in the U.K. at Wimbledon.

Originally from the Philadelphia area, I moved back to the Main Line within the last year and now currently reside in Ardmore with my wife Robyn. The Plant Health Care team and I are eager for the warm weather so we may begin visiting your property and continue maintaining its beauty and care. In anticipation of the season, we are keeping busy training our technicians and preparing our equipment. Thank you for your continued partnership with STC. I'm looking forward to seeing you this season!



Prunicola Scale

Meet the White Prunicola Scale (*Pseudaulacaspis Prunicola*), the latest character in the drama unfolding in Main Line's green spaces. With its distinctive white, fuzzy outfit, this pest is fond of wreaking havoc on some of our favorite evergreens, Cherry Laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*) and Skip Laurel (*Prunus 'Schipkaensis*). Our Shreiner arborists have been on the front lines, and they're reporting a significant uptick in these uninvited guests on the laurels this season.

Here in Southeast PA, this pest doesn't just visit; it sets up shop and expands its family. Each female has the potential to produce three generations in a single year, laying up to 100 eggs at a time. A full-blown invasion can occur rapidly, leading to dieback and plant loss.

However, there's a silver lining. The White Prunicola Scale has a weakness: it's an armored scale insect, which means it develops a wax armor for protection as it matures. Our contact treatments are strategically timed to target them during their vulnerable crawler stage. Additionally, our systemic treatments provide a long-lasting shield, effectively keeping these pests at bay throughout the growing season.

Take a look at the picture above. If you notice any similar dieback, peek inside the foliage. Then, don't hesitate to reach out to us. We can help to combat any stealthy invaders you see.



Beech Leaf Disease

John Dwyer

Of all the species, beech trees are one of my favorites. From the stately Copper and Weeping varieties to the steadfast Native Woodland Beech, they adorn our landscapes with recognizable silvery-gray bark. These trees, which have weathered the storm against adversaries like bleeding canker, are now facing a new and formidable enemy. Beech Leaf Disease (BLD) was discovered along Lake Erie's shores in 2012. BLD has since marched across Pennsylvania, arriving on the Main Line in 2022. It begins inconspicuously, with just some dark, interveinal banding on the foliage. Then, it quickly turns ugly. Leaves twist, curl, and drop way before their time. In severe cases, buds are killed outright. Over the last decade, it's claimed thousands of beeches across northern Pennsylvania and upstate New York.

Now, who's the culprit? A tiny but mighty nematode—a kind of nightmarish roundworm. These microscopic marauders launch their attack from mid-summer to fall, burrowing into buds where they feast and hunker down for winter. Thousands can nestle in a single bud, causing the havoc we see.

The battle strategy involves maintaining tree vigor and targeting foliar nematodes during bud development. Nematicides must be used to treat entire beech canopies. Spraying alternatives are being explored, and tree injections may pave the way to the future. For a more thorough exploration of BLD, **consider reading this article.**



If you have a beech tree with signs of decay, call us today for an evaluation and to discuss care options. We'd be happy to help keep your beech standing tall and proud.

Why the need for Bio-Stimulate & Soil Conditioning?

In order to maintain healthy growing trees in the suburban landscape, it's recommended that your trees and shrubs receive supplemental nutrients on an annual basis to maintain their health and vigor. Our soil-injected fertilizer is formulated to deliver essential nutrients directly to the root system that are critical for promoting photosynthesis. Additionally, during this process it will relieve soil compaction allowing for more macro and micropores which will increase the uptake of key nutrients. This will enhance their resistance to diseases and pests, ensuring healthy foliage.

Emerald Ash Borer

The effects of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) continues to be seen in the area. Dead trees can be found along roadways and in the landscape. Declined trees are increasingly becoming a serious safety concern. Continued treatment is required to preserve your ash trees.



Emerald Ash Borer





Safety Never Takes a Vacation at STC

Damean Snyder

For the past 30 years, using cranes to assist in performing tree work has been an essential part of an arborist's job. Cranes are often used to remove trees due to structural and safety concerns.

A crane's presence on a jobsite ensures the safe removal of these hazardous trees. They also play a big role in creating a safe work environment for our crew, specifically the climbers. We participate in an annual crane and climber safety school hosted by Peter Nieves-Sosa, owner and operator of The Crane Man. This annual multi-day event demonstrates team collaboration, techniques, and processes to improve safety and efficiency when using cranes. Our crane operator, Mike Livingston, has participated in this event for the last 10 years as a climber, and now an instructor. Mike delights in the opportunity to pass along his 30 years of knowledge and experience to the next generation while using STC's very own 55 ton long-boom crane.



Veteran Shreiner arborist Mike Livingston, now our Crane operator/instructor is explaining the rope sling part at Crane Safety Climber School



Weekly Team Training

As a tree care company proud of our industry accreditation, we're deeply committed to our team and clientele. This commitment is expressed by dedicating ourselves to ongoing education. Every week, our arborists engage in hands-on training in cutting-edge industry techniques. These rigorous exercises hone skills in tree and shrub care, safety, and professionalism.



Why Trees Die?

Have you ever found yourself staring out your window, wondering, “What’s happening to my tree? I’ve tried everything but still can’t bring it back to life.” You’re not alone. I encounter this frequently when speaking with my clients.

Trees are like us in some ways; they need to breathe and eat to stay alive. Their version of inhaling and exhaling is called respiration, a process that transports water and nutrients from the tips of their roots to the peaks of their canopies. And for food? Through photosynthesis, trees turn sunlight into plant food for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. But when these vital functions are disrupted, it may end in a tree’s demise.

The reasons behind a tree’s decline can be as sudden as a thunderstorm or as gradual as the changing seasons. Human actions or environmental mishaps can immediately end a tree’s life. Soil contamination, chemical toxication, root saturation or disturbance, drought, or heat stress can all cause quick deterioration. Tiny culprits like pests or diseases nibble away and damage a tree’s health over time. But here’s the good news: with a keen eye and a bit of care, we can often steer a slowly declining tree back to vitality.

Getting your trees checked annually is the best approach for staving off early decay. Our team of arborists can diagnose and develop a management plan to ensure your trees continue to thrive. And on the off chance that a tree must be removed, we’re here to guide you through a replanting solution that’s right for you.

So, the next time you contemplate your tree’s health, remember that a bit of attention might just be what it needs to thrive again. We’d love to help in the process!

Mike Kachurak



Tree Care Technology

Tyler Beatty



Long before “Go Green!” became a global initiative, Shreiner Tree Care made it our mission to be environmentally responsible. We began in 1986, setting out to prioritize eco-friendly tree care and landscaping. Little did we know how fast and far technology would expand.

Today, our arborists are swapping traditional gas-powered machinery for electric hedge trimmers, weed trimmers, and pruning chainsaws. The nostalgia is there whenever we have to fire up a regular chainsaw. But the quieter, lighter, and instantly powerful tools are a game changer today. Battery life can be an occasional obstacle. Although, with the constant advancements in technology, we envision ourselves cutting with more power and extended battery life.

We didn’t stop at tools. STC has integrated three Teslas into our fleet, enabling us to travel efficiently across the Main Line. Electric vehicles match their gas counterparts in price, but beat them hands down in running costs. Spending pennies per mile to operate offers major advantages to us, which, in turn, reduces overhead.

STC is poised and excited about the future. We expect technological development to enhance the tree care trade. Still, we remain committed to reliability, safety, and service excellence for our customers and arborists alike.



We are proud to serve our clients with a dedicated team of professional ISA Certified Arborists. Providing our clients with friendly, knowledgeable, and skilled arborists has been the cornerstone of our 38-year reputation. Thank you for your continued loyalty.



- We are the First Family Owned **TCIA Accredited Tree Service on the Main Line**
- We are the only Main Line Tree Service with **3 ISA Board Certified Master Arborists**
- We are the only Main Line Tree Service with **15 ISA Certified Arborists**
- Our team is at the forefront of arboricultural training and learning

Our arborists are ready to discuss your tree and landscape needs



Call or Text
(610) 265-6004
For an Appointment



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