

~ From Roots to Shoots ~



FALL '21 / WINTER '22
NEWSLETTER



Storm debris clean-up around greenhouse



Opening up driveways and pathways



Machines at work



Structural damage on student housing



More debris clean-up

Tornado Hits Temple Ambler Campus

Shreiner Arborists to the Rescue!

- *Pest Updates*
 - *Winter Pruning Tips*
 - *Trees & Storm Water*
 - *Oaks Under Attack*
- & more inside!

A Note from Steve



Dear Friends and Clients,

It's hard to believe that this season marks our 35th anniversary. As the saying goes, the days are long and the years are short. As I reflect back over the 3 1/2 decades of caring for trees, there are three constants that have made it possible. My supportive wife, Meg with her understanding of my passion and devotion. Our wonderful and loyal clients, for without you STC would not exist. Finally, our dedicated team, both past and present, who through their hard work and dedication have earned the trust and respect of the community.

As a first-generation business owner, I have enjoyed the challenges and the education I have received along the way. The guidance of several mentors and the help of the STC management team has made this journey a success. I am grateful to all of you for making Shreiner Tree Care what it is today; a vibrant company with talented arborists who care about the needs of our clients. Thank You!

Sincerely,

Steve



See More at shreinertreecare.com/our-history/



Arborists to the Rescue!

Tornado Brings Destruction To Montgomery County

On September 1st, 2021 a tornado ripped through the heart of Temple Ambler's 187-acre campus and arboretum, leaving behind a path of destruction.

Founded in 1911, the Pennsylvania School of Horticulture for Women was one of the first of its kind in the United States; teaching women how to garden and farm.

It was a pleasant surprise during cleanup to see one of the campus' specimen trees survive the high winds. Fortunately, the campus' state champion Turkish filbert tree, which also made it through Hurricane Sandy, was virtually untouched. A prodigious weeping beech that creates a shaded tunnel over a walkway was

relatively unscathed, even though a tree just behind it had fallen on to a building. The greenhouse lost some glass panes, but all 1,600 plant species were undisturbed and three beehives were left intact.

For decades, the campus has doubled as an outdoor learning laboratory for students majoring in horticulture, landscape architecture, and engineering. Thousands of plants and trees, some more than 100 years old, were twisted at the base, felled, or so heavily damaged they had to be taken down.

Despite the extreme devastation, our arborists along with the Temple staff continue to safely and thoroughly clean up the aftermath of Ida.

Daily Preparation Starts at 6:30 am with Saw Sharpening



Ryan Day



The Mighty Oaks Are Under Attack

For several decades the oak species has been under attack due to bacterial leaf scorch. BLS is a bacterium that spreads by feeding insects. Once the bacterium colonizes an oak tree, a chronic decline of the tree is underway. This takes many years but ultimately kills the tree. BLS has been a serious threat to red, black, and pin oak species.

A second potentially threatening pathogen, *Ceratocystis fagacearum*, is a fungal disease known as oak wilt. To date oak wilt has held to west of the Susquehanna River, but may be moving east. It appears to be not if, but when oak wilt will arrive.

Oak wilt attacks most oaks, but especially those in the red oak group. White and bur oaks are less susceptible than red oaks. Susceptible trees can die within a few weeks while those with some resistance may decline slowly for 2 - 3 years. Even if a diagnosis isn't confirmed, your trees could still be in danger.



Symptoms of Oak Wilt

Leaves at the top of the tree will turn brown along the edges and wilt, eventually falling while there is still some green color left. The fungus will continue to progress in the tree. When the ends of the twigs are cut, the outermost annual ring may be completely brown. A fungal mat develops under the bark, accelerating in the spring.

Spread

- Sap-feeding and bark beetles feed on the fungal mat that erupts through the bark in the Spring and pick up sticky spores. They spread the spores as they move short distances to adjacent oaks to feed on fresh, bleeding wounds. A fresh wound is required by the fungus in order to invade.
- Transport of infected logs is one way the fungus can be moved long distances.

Management

- Obtain a positive diagnosis that oak wilt is the cause of the wilting and defoliation.
- Break root grafts to nearby oaks before removing an infected tree.
- Prune only during November through mid-April.
- Trees not yet infected can be protected by injecting a fungicide once every 2 years.



How Trees Affect Stormwater & Erosion



Over the past decade, storms have increased in their frequency and intensity. What were once considered “100 year” storms now seem commonplace. The heavy downpours have had more than one longtime client mentioning they noticed more runoff, erosion, and flash flooding in areas of their neighborhood where it was not historically an issue. Thoughtful landscape design, including proper tree selection and placement, can slow water movement through the landscape and recharge groundwater. This will help reduce runoff and erosion.

Benefits of trees and landscaping include:

- Reducing the impervious area. Tree canopies overlapping driveways, roof lines, sidewalks and patios effectively help to slow down rainfall.
- Canopies can retain up to 7% of rain during short downpours. This allows the rainwater to evaporate back into the atmosphere.
- Trees break up the force of driving rain. Water drains down leaves and branches and soaks into the ground rather than forcefully hitting the ground.
- Leaves decompose and absorb water. In areas of the property that are left to be ‘wooded’, spongy organic layers serve to absorb water and reduce runoff.
- Tree roots prevent erosion. Roots help to stabilize the soil, especially along slopes and stream banks. In less intense rainfalls they can pool the water and allow it to be absorbed instead of washing away.

Plant Health Care

2021 Year in Review

It has certainly been an eventful year. A warm, wet spring was ideal for fungal diseases that can defoliate deciduous trees early. Common fungal diseases include cedar apple rust on crabapples and leaf spot on cherry trees.

The dry, hot summer was ideal for mites and our techs monitored boxwoods and other evergreen species closely for outbreaks. On a brighter note it was a fantastic year for flowering trees, especially the crape myrtles.

Henry Richmond-Boudwyns



Invasive Insect Species

Emerald Ash Borer



By now, hopefully everyone has heard of the invasive Emerald Ash Borer. In our last newsletter we spoke about the dilemma facing homeowners and property managers across the state. This pest has the potential to kill every ash tree it encounters. It is still possible to save your ash trees. Call us today to speak with an arborist to determine what treatment options are available for your trees.

Spotted Lanternflies



Where are the lanternflies? We anticipated their numbers to be even higher after an active 2020 season. However, we were pleasantly surprised to find them absent on many of our properties. Entomologists are attributing their absence to increased predation and natural fluctuations in population. Arborists are also now familiar with their preferred species and can systemically treat hotspots to combat feeding populations. Fingers crossed that this trend continues in 2022!

Give your trees and shrubs a healthy boost!

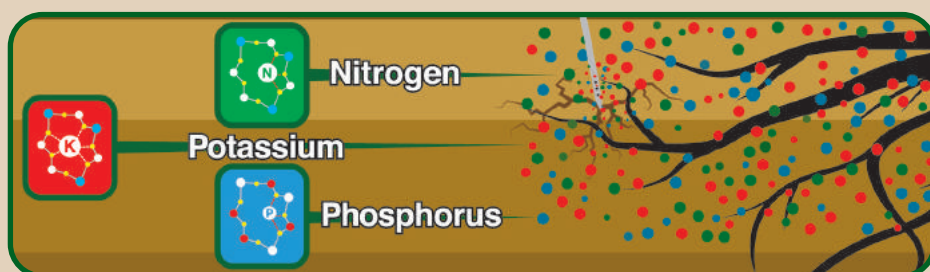
Fertilization is a critical component of tree care. Proper nutrient management enhances tree vigor and increases a tree's natural resistance to injury from insects and diseases. We practice prescription fertilization, a process in which we take soil samples to identify nutrient deficiencies, and create custom fertilizer mixes best suited for a tree's specific needs.

John Dwyer



Trees under stress, particularly those which are newly planted, impacted by construction or in the latter stages of their lives are of particular focus when a Shreiner Arborist inspects your property. Our arborists are also on the lookout for trees whose leaves are off color or have a sparse canopy. In these cases, soil and foliar samples can help identify nutrient deficiencies.

Macro & micro nutrients required for tree growth





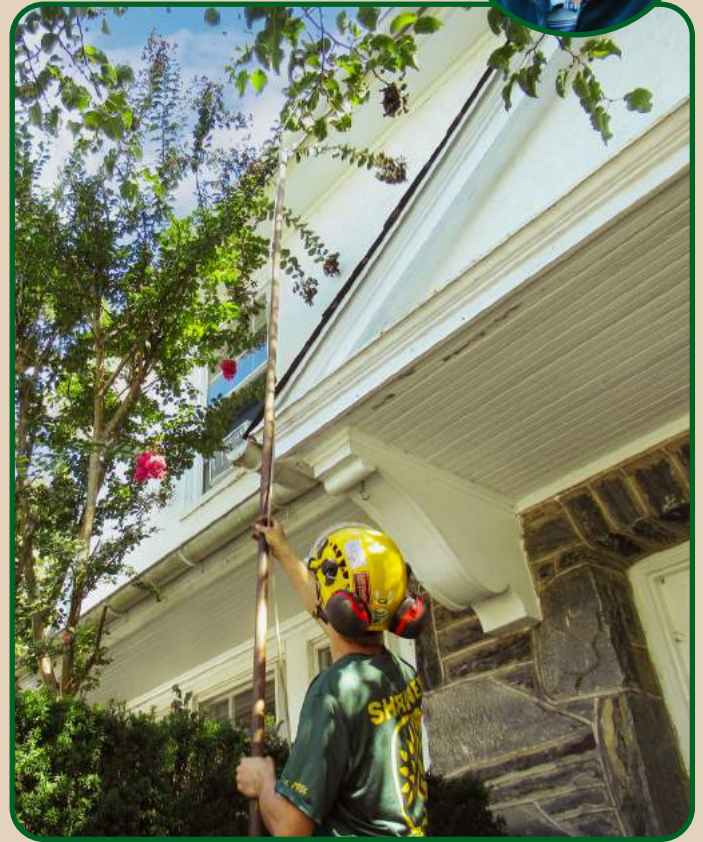
Clearance with Appearance

Importance of Pruning Trees Near Structures & Power Lines

It will soon be time for the annual leaf cleanup on your property. Trees that shed their leaves are known as deciduous. Deciduous comes from the Latin word *decidere*, which means to fall down or fall off. Trees “cut off” their leaves in a process known as abscission. This occurs as unfavorable winter weather approaches to conserve water and energy.

Besides the leaf clean up around your lawn and landscape, leaves also tend to find their way on to roofs and gutters creating issues during rain or snow. Tree canopies around structures can cause shade issues that can lead to moldy roofs, stained siding, and unappealing dirty patios.

Trees around your property, especially those near a structure, should be pruned properly to create an adequate clearance and aesthetically pleasing appearance. This is achieved through encroaching limb reduction, canopy reduction, and canopy thinning. These tree care solutions will aide in reducing tree debris on roofs and in gutters, and the issues related to shade.



Interns in Arboriculture

We greatly appreciate the college students who strengthen our crews each summer. Some of the students are actively enrolled in forestry or horticulture programs, while others are on board for the labor and love of caring for trees. This season we had another all-star group. Dave and Anthony, students at Williamson Trade School, and Tim, Troy and Sam (not pictured), who attend Kutztown University. All were hard-working and fast learners. We look forward to their return to the Shreiner team for the Summer 2022 season.

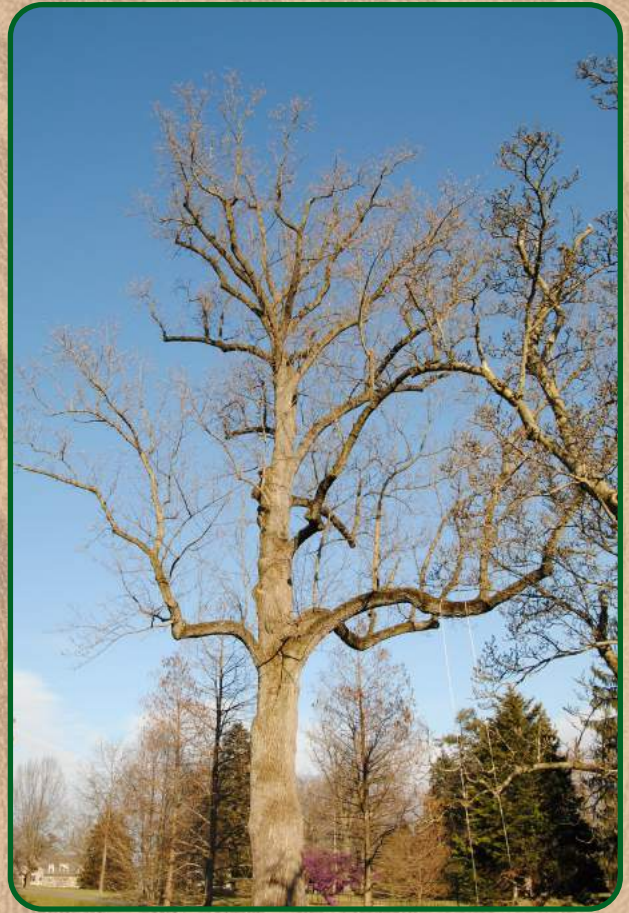


Winter Tree Pruning & Removal

For many trees and shrubs, the winter dormant season is the best time to prune. Without the presence of leaves, it is easier to see the branch structure and create a more attractive shape. Dormant pruning reduces the damage caused by insects and diseases. Deadwood, lacking the presence of healthy buds, is easily recognized during winter pruning.

Pruning wounds will close over or compartmentalize sooner when the plant awakens in the spring. If you need to remove a tree, winter is the best time as it causes minimal interference with the surrounding landscape.

*Think
Trees!*



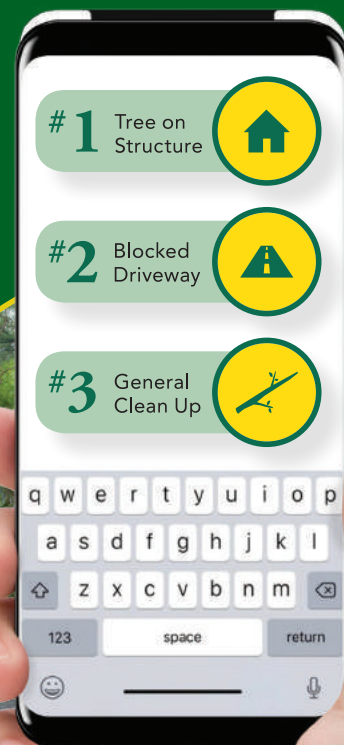
24/7 Emergency Storm Damage Text Service

Simply text our on-call arborist with your name & address, along with any pictures that you can safely take. Identify your emergency using the simple number code that corresponds to your situation. This allows us to prioritize damage based on severity and handle the damage in a quick and efficient manner.



Text

(610) 265-6004



We are Mother Nature's First Responders™