

~ From Roots to Shoots ~



FALL '19 / WINTER '20
NEWSLETTER

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Tree Maintenance Around Power Lines:

Who's Responsible?

- *Pest Updates*
- *Evergreen Tips*
- & more inside!

A Note from Steve

As we close out the 2019 growing season we are left with a few reminders. Emerald Ash Borer insects have established a strong and unfortunate foothold in our community. With unprotected trees all around us, safety will be an important concern for next spring.

Spotted Lanternfly. Wow, what a lot of excitement this critter stirred up. A nuisance both in number and by their feeding which draws the sap out of trees. The sap by-product, "Honey dew" has been a mess for patios, walkways and lawn furniture. However, at this point, we are not seeing any tree decline or mortality. Our arborists have been scouting, informing clients and treating to suppress infestations. Next spring and summer, our plant health care team will be at the ready to combat this invasive insect.

With record rainfall over the past several years, tree and shrub growth has been above normal, resulting in the need for pruning and raising tree canopies to curtail this growth. Additionally, invasive plant species have also thrived in this ideal growing environment. Addressing invasive species is unfortunately an ongoing requirement to keep landscapes healthy and looking their best.

This September's weather was beautiful and dry. Almost to the point of concern but this will surely change abruptly with the seasonal wet weather we experience in autumn.



Winter has always been an ideal time to care for your trees. Without the presence of leaves, the interior structure of your plants can be evaluated and proper corrective pruning can be performed. This corrective or structural pruning establishes long-term benefits for your trees in both form and safety. Ornamental trees and selective shrubs also benefit from being maintained during this dormant period. Rejuvenation and canopy reduction are best achieved at this time. Our Arborists are prepared and looking forward to working outdoors this winter.

Our team is appreciative and grateful for your ongoing trust and support. Thank you for relying on our arborists to care for your trees and landscape.

Steve

Happy Retirement, Dean Diehl

Certified Arborist & Great Guy!

What a super-duper person to have shared 16 years with us! Dean is retiring after many years of dedication and loyalty to his clients and our company. We are truly grateful to Dean for his unwavering positive attitude and work ethic he consistently demonstrated through thick and thin.

He will surely be missed, but his humor, his many life stories, and his good-natured mannerism have had a wonderful impact on the entire team.

Best wishes and thank you for your great service to our clients and their trees.

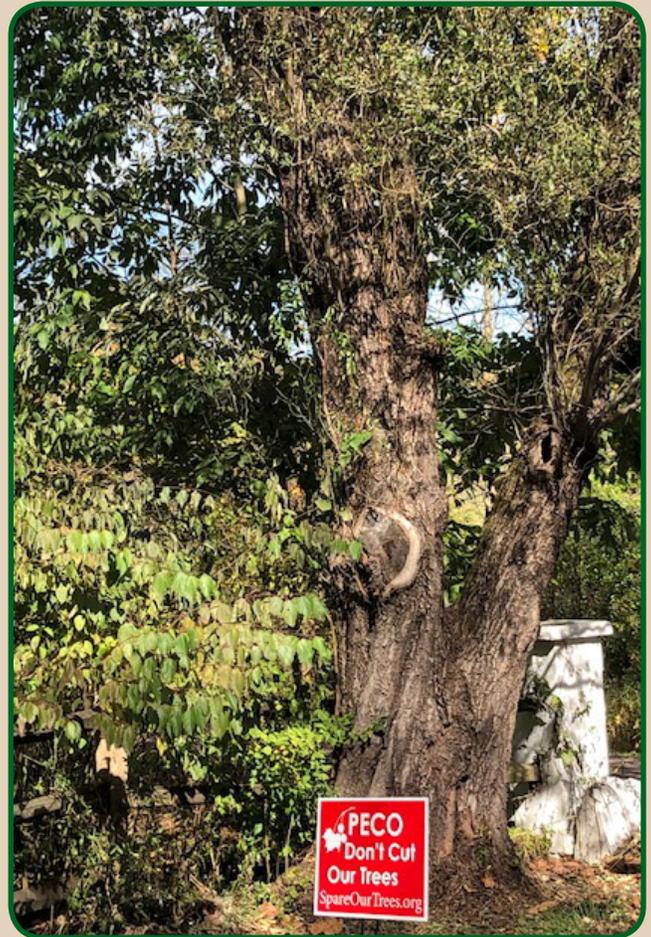


Tree Maintenance Around Powerlines: *Who's Responsible?*

Many trees in our community, particularly the ones we see every day along our driveways and on the roads near our homes, have the potential to cause conflict with the surrounding utility wires. As you may know, our public electrical utility, PECO, is owned by Exelon Energy Corporation. PECO has a contract with an international vegetation company (orange trucks) to maintain the trees along PECO's utility lines.

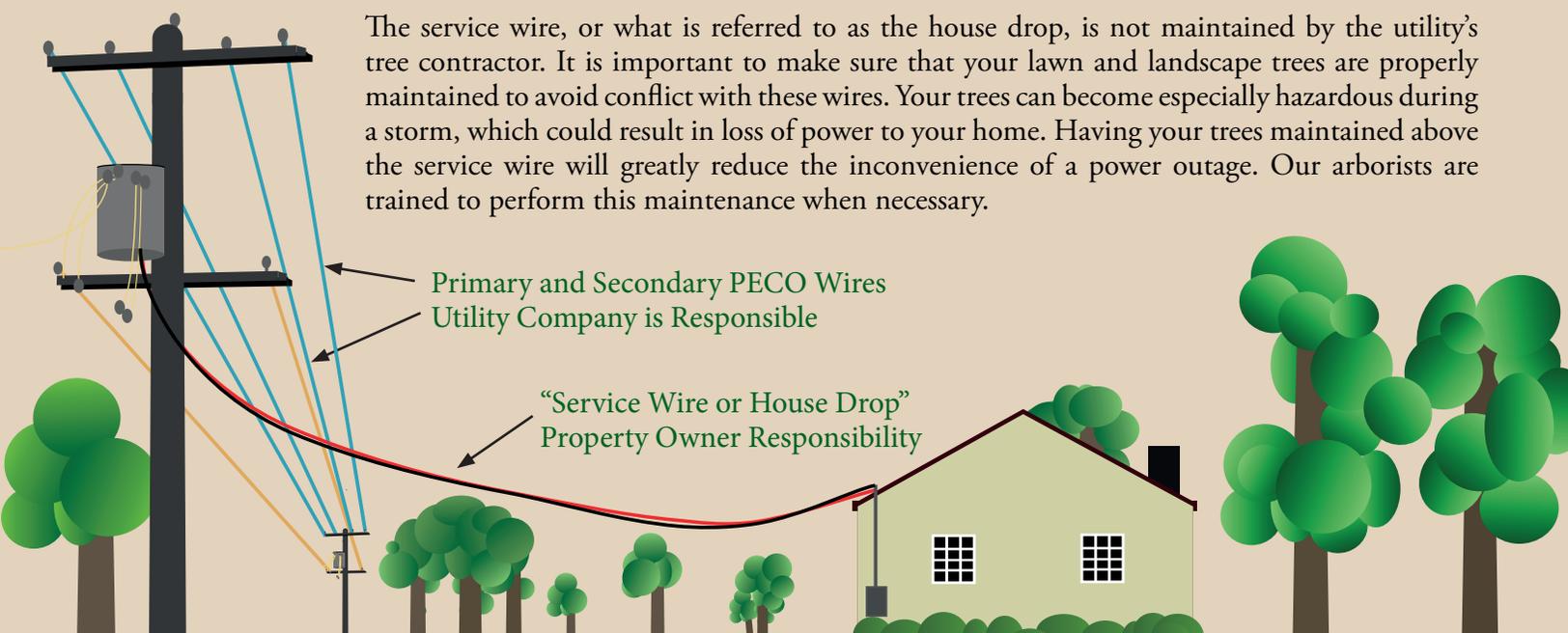
PECO and their contractor have one obligation—to keep the electricity flowing. These parties have little to no concern about the preservation of trees growing in wires. Unfortunately, their actions at times leave homeowners with damaged trees and landscape plantings. Despite the dissatisfaction of homeowners, the utility has the authority and legal protection to maintain the trees in their right-of-way.

This being said, in our experience, the utility company has been willing to work with residences in many circumstances where flexibility is possible. If you have received a notice and have concerns about the utility trimming or removing your trees, please give us a call. Our arborists will meet with the PECO representative to get an accurate understanding of the utility's objectives. At times, we have been able to incorporate recommendations for a more aesthetic cut back.



One Final Note

The service wire, or what is referred to as the house drop, is not maintained by the utility's tree contractor. It is important to make sure that your lawn and landscape trees are properly maintained to avoid conflict with these wires. Your trees can become especially hazardous during a storm, which could result in loss of power to your home. Having your trees maintained above the service wire will greatly reduce the inconvenience of a power outage. Our arborists are trained to perform this maintenance when necessary.





Tyler Beatty



The Latest with EAB Emerald Ash Borer

For several years now, EAB has been a point of discussion on the Mainline. Do we treat, do we remove proactively, or do we just wait? Now that EAB has killed thousands of ash trees across the region, the time has come for us to answer these questions.

If you have ash trees that are still healthy, it is not too late to treat them. However, that window is certainly closing. We have been actively removing ash trees killed by EAB along the Mainline for the past two years. EAB will continue to work its way through our area attacking each ash it encounters.

As arborists tasked with removing dead ash trees, timeliness is very important when removing ash trees as they become brittle and dangerous to climb as they decline.

The longer your ash tree goes unprotected, the risk to your property and personal safety increases. Safety is our first priority. Fortunately, we have specialized equipment to make our work less dangerous.

If you have questions about your trees, please reach out to a Shreiner arborist today.



Left: Dead ash tree trunk showing tracks of emerald ash borer larvae



Preserving Your Evergreen Trees

Ryan Day



Helping Them Survive and Thrive All Year Round

With winter just around the corner, now is the time to get your trees ready for harsh weather. A few simple measures can be taken to protect your evergreen trees from damaging wind, snow and ice over the winter months.

- **Assessment:** Each fall it is a good idea to have a Shreiner certified arborist visit your property to visually inspect your trees for any pre-existing conditions or structural damage that may effect the tree's potential for long term success.
- **Fertilization:** Fall fertilization ensures that soil nutrients are at optimum levels when spring arrives. Slow-release fertilizers remain available in the soil until spring, when trees and shrubs begin pulling nutrients out of the soil for their first flush of growth.
- **Pruning:** Conducting routine maintenance pruning and deadwood removal on your evergreen trees will improve their structure, allowing them to perform at their best in your landscape. External limb reduction reduces the chance for limb failure during storms and ensures the lasting beauty and form of your evergreen trees.
- **Cabling and Bracing:** In some cases, installing steel cables, guy wires, stakes or bolts can assist in supporting a tree's structure.

Here are common species of evergreens that benefit from periodic shaping:

- **Trees:** Norway Spruce, White Pine, American Holly, Cryptomeria, White Spruce, and Arborvitae
- **Shrubs/Hedges:** Skip Laurel, Yew, and Arborvitae shrubs

When pruning evergreen trees, you first want to remove all the potentially hazardous and aesthetically displeasing deadwood. This will maximize the safety and overall visual performance of the tree. Additionally, it is very important to manage the tree's lateral growth and overall size through pruning and shaping. When this is done correctly, the tree's structure can better manage and distribute the heavy external loads from natural elements. This pruning also encourages a stronger and denser canopy when spring arrives.

Well maintained evergreen trees can persist longer in a landscape than if they were not cared for. By conducting this pruning on a regular basis, you are able to manage the size and function of these trees, making them suitable for a location that otherwise would not accommodate a full-size tree.

Evergreen trees can be a beautiful spectacle with winter's snow blanketed over them and when properly cared for, they can become a majestic focal point in your landscape year-round!



Think ^{SMALL} ^ Trees!

Understanding the Understory Canopy

We often forget about the importance of the smaller understory trees with the overshadowing concern of bigger shade trees.

Understory trees can thrive in many different growing conditions. These smaller species of trees provide seasonal benefits, from colorful blooms to brilliant fall color to exfoliating bark which comes into full view when their leaves drop. Native species will also provide a variety of environmental benefits for birds and other wildlife in the suburban landscape.

Here are several recommendations that work well on the Mainline:

- Paperbark Maple
- Sorrell Tree
- Persian Parrotia
- Magnolia Species
- Eastern Red Bud
- Cherry Species

Always remember to plant the right tree in the proper location of your landscape. Plant properly—the correct depth, soil type, and mulch levels are all important factors in the health and sustainability of your tree. Most importantly, remember the aftercare. Water to ensure proper establishment.

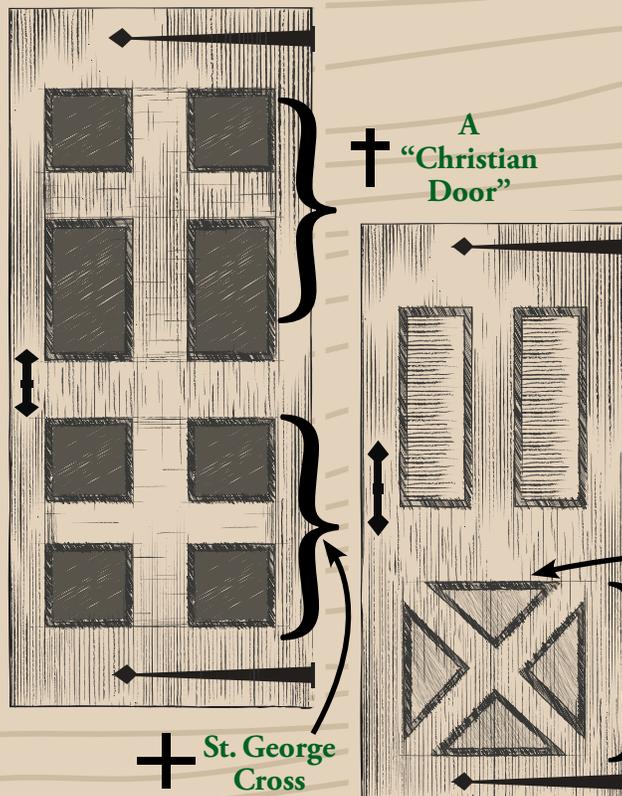


Dean Diehl



Redbud Tree

A Fun Fact:



Knock Knock...

A front door serves as both a shield of protection from the elements and the barrier to unwanted entry. But did you know the historical construction of doors has also had a spiritual significance?



“Witch Door” design to “Keep out evil spirits”

If It's Wood, It's Good!

Mike Kachurak



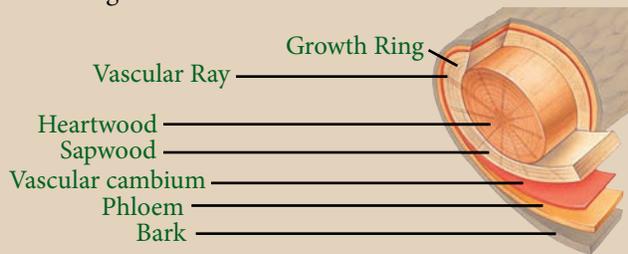
What is wood? Simply put, wood is the fibrous material beneath the bark – and so much more! Wood is a complex system of tissues, each with different functions. It provides structural support to keep trees upright, a transport network for water and nutrients, and storage capabilities.

The heartwood of a tree, whose main function is structural support, is formed by old xylem. Xylem is essentially a bundle of straws held together by a “wood glue” known as lignin. Lignin is the chemical that gives wood its strength. Xylem transports water and nutrients up from the root system and disperses it to the leaves and stems.

The second component of wood is the cambium. This vascular layer, only one cell thick, builds out the girth of the stem. The cambium creates new xylem inward, and phloem outward. This process creates the growth rings found inside trees which can be used to measure the approximate age of the tree.

Phloem is the outer layer of tissue, just underneath the bark. This region of the wood moves sugars and nutrients from the leaves to storage areas in the trunk and root system. The older sapwood cells move toward the center creating the heartwood. Certain species develop unique figure and grain patterns. These variations in heartwood make them prized for woodworking; basswood for duck decoys, black walnut for furniture, and cherry for fine woodwork.

Now the next time you pause to look at a tree, you'll understand a little more of what's living on the inside.



Shreiner Arborist Wins Climbing Competition

Congratulations to Rachel Brudzinski for winning the ISA Tree Climbing Competition Master's Challenge. Rachel will represent the Penn-Del Chapter at the 2020 International Championship in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Thank you to all the volunteers, competitors, and sponsors that made the event such a success.

Congratulations Rachel on a job well done!

We are Mother Nature's First Responders™

24/7 Emergency Storm Damage Cleanup and Tree Removal

To better serve you during a storm event, indicate the level of service you need by sending a text, email, or telling our receptionist the number that corresponds to your situation. We will dispatch a crew with the right resources to quickly handle the clean up. With this rating system, you can let us know if a tree is on your house, blocking your driveway, or if it is a non-emergency. This allows us to prioritize damage based on severity and handle the damage in a quick and efficient manner.



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