

# Let's Talk Trees



Ethics Loyalty Integrity Quality of Life



## From Joe...what's new

### July marked our 20th year in business!

It is with gratitude that I say to you, our loyal customers and employees...YOU GUYS ARE AWESOME! My son, Nicki, would refer to you all as "awesome sauce." Twenty years ago, I saw a need for more informed, professional and comprehensive tree care in the Inland Empire. You, our clients who wanted a higher level of care, combined with motivated Arborists wanting to make a difference have collaborated to really improve the urban landscape and we are humbled to be a part of that.

**TO RECOGNIZE THIS ANNIVERSARY**, we helped landscape Quinn Campbell's brand new Habitat for Humanity home in Post Falls (pictured) by filling her beds with trees, shrubs and perennials. She was so excited to see her yard come to life! We also provided pro bono tree pruning services to other Habitat for Humanity contacts as well as the Handyman for Disabled Veterans Charity.



### A legacy in Riverfront Park

We feel fortunate to be a part of the Riverfront Park Redevelopment Project and have been awarded the contract to do the Pruning, Removals and Tree Protection work associated with the new structures and facilities. We see this as a wonderful opportunity to leave behind a legacy embedded into the heart of the urban forest in Spokane, Washington, the city we have come to know and love.

### Dormant Season Pruning and Removals

It was evident that the trees which had been properly pruned weathered last November's wind storm the best. Pruning removes deadwood, proper cuts on live wood promotes healing and structural pruning keeps your tree thriving. If a tree is of concern, we can evaluate the risk and make recommendations on the best way to mitigate that risk. Call to have an Arborist to visit your property! 🍃



Joe with Quinn Campbell's family at their BRAND NEW Habitat for Humanity house!

In Care of Trees, *Joe Zobel*

## Spokane Conservation District



A conservation district provides technical assistance and tools to help landowners manage and protect natural resources. The Spokane Conservation District (SCD) teaches and facilitates sustainable land use and conservation practices to meet current needs while also planning resource use for the future. **SCD is offering a Tree School this fall as part of the Farm & Food Expo on November 5** at Spokane Community College.

LEARN THE BASICS OF FRUIT TREE PRUNING!



**Our own Ben Kappen will be teaching** a class on the basics of fruit tree pruning for production and health. For a course guide and registration, please visit: <http://sccd.org/departments/forestry/tree-school>



# Fall injections provide control all season *by Randy Cenell*

We all value a healthy landscape. When insect pressures threaten the overall health and vigor of our trees and shrubs, steps must be taken for protection. To control damage-causing insects that attack our plants, we have several tools at our disposal. Soil applied insecticides are systemic in nature and offer a wide variety of insect protection. Generally applied in the fall or early spring, these products are injected into the soil, absorbed by the roots, and distributed throughout the entire plant through the vascular system. Once in place these products offer long lasting protection to our valuable landscape plants for the upcoming season.

**THERE ARE MANY POSITIVE BENEFITS** of using soil applied insecticides. Most important, they allow us to be better environmental stewards.

### These products:

- protect against targeted pests and will not harm beneficial insects
- eliminate the problem of off-target applications and runoff
- are safer for professional applicators to mix and apply than foliar spray applications
- protect larger trees that are difficult to achieve complete spray coverage
- can be applied in unfavorable weather conditions

### Customer benefits include:

- an extended window of protection due to the persistence of product activity in the plant
- a wider timeframe of protection ensuring proper timing is met
- most are applied once per season which eliminates the need for multiple foliar applications thus saving money
- many are fast-acting and offer immediate protection

Although soil applied insecticides are not a cure-all for all insect problems, they do offer an environmentally favorable alternative to control many damaging pests. They are a great choice to manage aphids, scale insects, leafhoppers, leaf miners, and many others. They also deter many wood boring insects such as bronze birch borer and pine beetles. When applied in the fall, these products are in place and ready to work when insect pressures arise the following spring.

### Will your landscape be ready for spring?

**CONTACT OUR PROFESSIONAL ARBORISTS** to learn how we can help your landscape thrive. 🌿



Most soil applied insecticides are applied once per season, eliminating the need for multiple applications, thus saving you money.

## RECIPE

### Pear Gorgonzola Onion Appetizer



Photo credit: Nicki Zubaly

- 2 T grapeseed oil
- 2 T butter
- 2 lg Walla Walla sweet onions, thinly sliced rings
- 2-3 Anjou pears, thinly sliced
- 2 cloves garlic, minced

- 2 T brown sugar
- 2 T balsamic vinegar
- 1 cup crumbled Gorgonzola
- 1.5 tsp fresh rosemary, minced
- 2 medium naan or pita

In a large skillet heat oil and butter over medium-high heat. Add onions and cook over medium-high heat 8 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add garlic, brown sugar and vinegar and continue cooking for about 5 minutes or until onions are soft and caramelized, set aside.

Spread onions evenly over Naan (or Pita) and place on baking sheet. Sprinkle the fresh rosemary over the onion. Lay out pears over onion and crumble Gorgonzola across the top. Place in 400 degree oven for 5 minutes and then under broiler for only 1-2 minutes until warm and cheese is melted. Top with fresh ground pepper.

Slice into triangle wedges to serve. These are nice with a Pinot Grigio! 🌿

### Cool News!



Joe and Kate and staff are enjoying this gorgeous stained glass gifted to us by Alan and created by Catherine Flake.

# ASK THE TREE CARE EXPERTS

## Who's Hot?

### Matt Voss



Matt joined NPHC in February 2016 and brings a wealth of knowledge to our team. In addition to being a Certified ISA Arborist and Tree Risk Assessor, Matt holds a Bachelor of Science in Forest Ecology and an Associate Degree in Horticulture/Arboriculture.

Matt began as a climbing arborist in 1997 working for Trees for Life and spent several years working in Malaysia under a grant from the National Geographic Society. He has also been a Utility Forester and Supervisor and once owned a Nursery and Arboriculture Company!

Matt was thrilled to relocate near family in Spokane. In his free time he enjoys his dogs, rock climbing and surfing. Matt and his wife also have a band in which he plays guitar and sings. When asked what he likes most about working at NPHC, Matt replied, "It's all about the people! It's rare to find others with the same passion for Arboriculture as I have." 🌿

Call Wendy at 509-892-0110 if you are interested in firewood or want clean wood chips delivered in town.\*

## What's Hot? Firewood!

Well, it's about time: NPHC is now offering high quality firewood for sale! Initially we have a limited supply of dry seasoned wood, but we have lots of partly seasoned hardwood that won't last long including Oak, Locust, Maple and Sycamore. We also have Red Fir and Pine. Get it while it's HOT! **AS ALWAYS, WE WANT TO "DO FIREWOOD" BETTER THAN OTHERS**, so we

are using jumbo firewood bags to package the wood. The bags are reusable and each bag holds a 1/3 of a cord. We can load your wood here in our yard or deliver to your door. Placing the jumbo bags on pallets allows for precise placement on your property and no mess or fuss with the moving, stacking and clean up associated with dumping wood in your driveway. Call or e-mail us to place an order today. \* **Wood chip delivery area is limited. Please call for details.** 🌿

## THANKS TO YOUR CREW'S selective pruning,

we did not lose a single branch off any of our six Maples or two aging Box Elders during the big storm.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO OUR CONTINUED RELATIONSHIP WITH **trust and admiration.**

~ Howard and Joan Wood, Spokane

### To Do List for Fall

- ✓ Water drought-stressed plants
- ✓ Perform last lawn fertilization
- ✓ Fertilize trees with nutrient deficiencies or summer drought stress
- ✓ Systemic insect control for next year's aphids/borers
- ✓ Winterize irrigation system
- ✓ Assess pruning needs of trees

I've seen the tops of Douglas firs dying when I hike in the woods, should I be concerned about the fir in my yard?

There are many types of insects and diseases that kill trees and the tops of trees in the forest. In the case of Douglas fir, it is possible that Douglas fir pole beetle or Douglas fir engraver beetle may be the culprit. These bark beetles attack younger trees and the tops of older trees but are regarded as secondary pests associated with trees under stress. In our case regionally, cumulative drought and wide spread storm damage have made conditions more favorable for higher beetle populations. Dead tops, whole tree death, trees exuding pitch and pouch fungus are common signals of their presence. These pests tend to be most problematic in forests or in the margins of natural and urban areas, but we do see them in the landscape from time to time.

The best management approach is to maintain individual tree health and to promptly remove wind thrown trees, storm damaged or surrounding trees in a weakened state. Knowing the health of your trees and monitoring them regularly is the best way to be proactive in management. 🌿



If you see this in your landscape, Douglas fir pole beetle or Douglas fir engraver beetle may be the culprit!

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## THE INSIDE DIRT

Need Firewood?

Fall injections for  
long-term health

Meet Matt Voss

# Protecting Trees in Riverfront Park with TPZs

by Matt Voss



Tree protection zones (TPZs) are designated areas to preserve the integrity of trees either during construction or in the daily activities of your urban landscape. Everyday traffic, upkeep and construction can injure various portions of a tree by breaking branches, tearing the bark, wounding the trunk and roots including soil compression. These injuries are permanent and, if extensive, can be fatal to the tree.

TPZ's are comprised of a multi-step approach for prevention. Mulch is spread around the root zone 4-6" in depth and 12" off away from the trunk. These usually extend to the drip line of the canopy over the soil surface to reduce soil compaction, improve aeration, enhance moisture retention and reduce temperature extremes. During construction a fence barrier is erected around this zone to prevent mechanical damage.

Construction activities can cause irreparable damage to our trees and their protection is important. Architects, city officials and NPHC have collectively determined how to minimize adverse impact to existing park and street trees and a healthy and consistent plan is in place. NPHC is up to the task of caring for our city park's trees, ensuring they have reduced plant stress throughout construction, and is pleased to implement their extensive knowledge of industry standards for TPZs to preserve the Riverfront Park arboricultural legacy.

*NPHC is proud to be a part of the Riverfront Park Redevelopment Project.*

*A partial rendering of the 2016 Master Plan is shown at right.*

It is possible to build a new house, install a sidewalk/driveway with no damage to surrounding trees. One of the challenging issues with construction projects is protecting and preserving existing trees on the site. Have an NPHC ISA Certified Arborist perform any pruning in advance as well as develop a proper TPZ plan for your high traffic areas. 🍂

