

Let's Talk Trees

Ethics Loyalty Integrity Quality of Life



From Joe...what's new

Positive changes

While change is not always a welcome visitor, this year's transition to fall arrives with some really exciting (and positive!) change for NPHC. Effective September 1, 2013 we have joined forces with Inland Tree Service Inc.!

For 15 years, John Jessep (President of Inland Tree Service Inc.) has been a confidant, commiserator, landlord, loaner of equipment, and great friend in the industry. So, when he suggested that we team up to serve our clients it was really an easy decision.

John is a man of true integrity who genuinely cares about his employees and clients, and it was important that whomever he partnered with have the same value system. When we added in the fact that he is also a dynamite arborist, we knew it was a perfect fit! See more about the merger inside.

Patience is a virtue

With more work comes more equipment, and our fleet is being updated and expanded for the purposes of taking care of John's clients. The good part is it just so happens getting new equipment is one of my favorite parts of the job. After all, who doesn't like buying big trucks? The not-so-good part is that with the increase in business, our pruning and landscape crews are scheduled out a bit farther than usual. While this is a wonderful situation to be in, it does require patience and understanding on your part. Because I have no interest in having unskilled people care for your property, we are practicing our own form of patience while we search for the right arborists to start another crew. Know of someone who would make a great employee?

In Care of Trees, *Joe Zobel*

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

FINDER'S FEE & SIGNING BONUS*

PRUNER/ARBORIST

2-5 yrs experience / Certified Arborist or CDL preferred
Finder's fee- \$250
Signing bonus - \$1000

CLIMBER/FOREMAN

3-5 yrs experience / Certified Arborist and CDL preferred
Finder's fee - \$500
Signing Bonus - \$2000

*Call Joe for details.

THE COOL CROWD

Boy Scouts of America: Eagle Scout Service Projects

At the culmination of a Boy Scout's leadership training is what is known as the Eagle Scout Service Project. In addition to earning 21 merit badges, the scout must also demonstrate leadership while performing a project for the benefit of his community. This includes planning and raising funds for the project, as well as leading others in the construction phase.

Many of our parks and public outdoor spaces have benefited from one of these projects. Featured in this issue is Eagle Scout Dominic Breitenbach's Service Project: A pergola at the Shank Shade House located west of the Gaiser Conservatory at Manito Park. Completed in April 2012, this shady spot is one of many you may have seen and enjoyed.

"It makes me feel great that people like the pergola because there was a lot of time and effort put into the finished product." said Dominic. "I had help from friends, family, my scout troop, and the community, everyone contributing to make it a fantastic project." What a great way to teach our young men the importance of community involvement and how one person (with the help of a few friends) really can make a difference! ☺

The inviting entrance to the pergola at Shank Shade House.



NPHC and Inland Tree Service join forces

By Heather Berndt

Joe Zubaly (l) and John Jessep
are longtime friends and allies in the
professional tree care business.

As any small businessperson can attest, most strategies for successful growth require careful thought and planning. Tasks like market research, testing and evaluation take time, financial resources and patience. But every once in awhile there comes along an opportunity that seems to just fall into one's lap. I say "seem," because many times what looks like serendipity is often the result of a long-term commitment to a trusting relationship.

Such is the case for industry allies Joe Zubaly and John Jessep and the recent merger of their respective companies, Northwest Plant Health Care, Inc. and Inland Tree Service, Inc.

"After 18 years as sole owner and operator of Inland Tree Service, the growth and service needs of my business forced me to look at ways to meet the demands," said John. "Not wanting my clients or employees to suffer, I contacted Joe, who has been a good friend for many years. We started our businesses at the same time and with the same principles in mind." After a lot of discussions, John and Joe agreed that joining forces was a win-win solution.

Never one to let a good thing pass him by, Joe is enthusiastic about the decision. "I saw this as a great opportunity to grow my business with the help of someone I have respected and trusted for years," he says. "John is a man of integrity, and the idea of partnering was kind of a "no-brainer" because of how closely our philosophies in business (and life) match-up."

Those philosophies include a firm commitment to professional conduct based on safety, ethics, and honesty, as well as personal values like family, faith and fun. "Being honest and up front with people is always the best business practice," says John. "And the referrals and repeat customers have always encouraged Joe and I to continue down this path."



Over the years Joe and John have enjoyed friendly competition complemented by an attitude of teamwork focused on elevating the reputation of the tree care industry; a vision that will have more impact now that they are on the same team. "We share a goal of making Northwest Plant Health Care the leader and industry standard for tree care in the Spokane area," says John.

And while customer satisfaction is always a primary focus, the merger will also benefit employees in a time when the cost of doing business is outpacing rates of growth. "Taking care of our employees and their families is really important to us," says Joe. "Having additional work means we can continue to reward our employees for their efforts." ↪

John, your crew was terrific –

polite & courteous.

They obviously know their job!

~ Bob & Sylvia Scarfo, Spokane | Former Inland Tree Service Clients

what to do...what to do

Rake up/discard leaves and fruit to reduce pests and fungus

Apply systemic insecticide to control tree pests and spiders

Apply fall pre-emergent in shrub beds for cool season weeds

▶ Fertilize lawn for winter

▶ Spray repellants and/or install trunk wraps and netting to prevent deer damage

▶ Winterize Roses

▶ Winterize irrigation

RECIPE

Simple Salsa

- 1 15oz can of Rotel tomatoes w/chilies, hot or mild
- 1 clove of garlic
- 1/3 of a sweet onion
- 1 28oz can of diced tomatoes
- 1/4 of a small bunch of cilantro, chopped fine
- Juice of 1 lime
- 1/2 tsp. ground cumin
- 1 tsp. sugar
- salt and pepper to taste

Using a food processor, blend the Rotel tomatoes and garlic. Put in a medium sized bowl. Chop the onion in the food processor and add to bowl with tomatoes and garlic. Drain some of the water out of the large can of tomatoes and pulse them in the food processor 3-4 times. Add to bowl along with lime juice, cumin and sugar. Salt and pepper to taste. ↪

Courtesy of
Jeannie Jessep

Proudly celebrating 17 years of excellence in plant health care. Thanks for choosing NPHC!

ASK

the Tree Care Experts

By Becky Phillips

Is fall a good time for weed control?

Absolutely! In fact, fall is when winter annual weeds are best controlled.

These weeds can germinate from fall to early spring. They flower and set seeds in early to mid spring, then die when summer heat takes over. Once cooler temperatures arrive, they germinate and sprout. Many winter annuals tolerate and even grow during the winter.

During the fall, plants store energy in their roots, and herbicide applications at this time can be very effective because the chemical will move into the roots along with the stored energy, providing better control.

Late summer and early fall is also a great time to treat lawn weeds like dandelion, violet, and bindweed. Weed management in turf isn't just about chemical applications: a healthy lawn is the best defense. Adequate water and regular applications of fertilizer encourage healthy grass roots and shoots, which compete with the weeds for soil space and sunlight.

We are scheduling fall weed control visits right now. Give us a call and rest easy this winter! ☞

*NPHC also offers fall clean up!
Call Joe or Ben to schedule your
service @ 509.892.0110*

Why won't my hydrangeas bloom?

Mophead and Lacecap Hydrangeas bloom on second year growth and set flower buds for next year from August to October. Most Hydrangeas are in this group.

If these species are pruned after July, some or even all of the flower buds will be removed. Either prune before August, or leave it alone until the following May, when you see new growth emerge. When the new growth forms, is it coming from the base of the plant, or from the stems? The growth from the stem is the second year growth and will produce flowers. If all the growth is coming from the base, it will not have flowers.

There are other species of Hydrangea that bloom on new wood and can be pruned back anytime after they bloom. If you are unsure what type of hydrangea you have, there is a great website: hydrangeashydrangeas.com that can help you with identification. ☞

Who's Hot

Gabe Langberg

Gabe Langberg joined NPHC this year as the Foreman of our Landscape Division and we are thrilled to have him!

Gabe brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to our team, including a Certificate in Environmental Sciences from Butte College in California and 8 years experience as an owner/operator of his own Landscape Construction business. In addition, Gabe has several green industry certifications including Preferred Contractor's Paver Installation from Pavestone; Irrigation from Rainbird and Hunter; and Construction in Nightscaping. Currently, he is studying to become a Certified Arborist. Go Gabe!

Gabe's specialties are irrigation, hardscapes and water features, but he assures us he enjoys every aspect of landscape installation, including the customers. When asked what his favorite thing about working at NPHC was, he smiled and with a twinkle in his eye said, "The people that work here." When not buried in the dirt or his books, Gabe enjoys spending time with family and hunting. ☞



Gabe has multiple green industry certifications.

What's Not

Aphids and Mites and Scale, Oh My!

by Becky Phillips

Although we always see these insects throughout the growing season, this year they are especially prevalent! Trees are dripping honeydew on cars and patio furniture, ants and wasps are 'farming' the insects, and sections of our favorite evergreens are turning brown. Calls are coming in from clients asking what is going on this year; why is it worse than other years?

Climate and temperature have an impact on insect populations. Warmer than usual winter weather combined with minimum snow cover creates an opportunity for a greater percentage of insects to survive or 'overwinter' and get a head start on spring. These little critters typically overwinter as eggs, hatch in the spring, become active, and create offspring. Some aphids go from immature nymph to a reproducing adult in 7-8 days. And each adult can have as many as 80 babies in just one week!

This spring was also quite warm, which allowed the population to increase rapidly. Fortunately, there are ways to control them. If you are tired of dealing with them and the problems they create, give us a call and reclaim your yard! ☞

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THE INSIDE DIRT

NPHC joins with Inland Tree Service

Aphids, Mites & Scales



Get to know Gabe Langberg

Bark Beetles *by Ben Kappen*

Pine bark beetles are a relatively common pest in our area due to their natural relationship with our native pines. Understanding the basics about these insects and their relationship with trees is the first step in determining management strategies.

In most cases, stress is the underlying factor that determines which trees make favorable hosts for bark beetles. Although many pines are relatively drought resistant, drought stress or lack of water is the most common predisposing factor. This includes trees with root disease and or root damage which result in limited uptake of water regardless of soil moisture.

Root and water issues can develop rapidly, with trenching or major changes in drainage or irrigation, or over a longer period of time, as when trees are buried or when soils become compacted in the root zone.

Stress can also be caused by the presence of other diseases and by physical injury to the trunk, i.e. a car or lawn mower wounding the base of a tree, excessive live wood pruning, porcupine feeding, house and wildfires and lightning strikes.

Beetle control is best done preventatively or very early on. Determining which trees are of value and most likely to be at risk before infestation occurs, followed by monitoring,

maintaining or improving the health status of those trees is the most effective means of management.

If you know trees are likely to become stressed due to root damage or if you are questioning the health of a tree, an experienced Arborist from NPHC can help you assess the best course of action. ↩

Common signs and symptoms of bark beetle activity and related tree stress include:

- Resin flows or "pitch tubes" along the trunk and/or a crumbly sawdust/resin mixture on the ground or trapped in bark crevices
- Wood peckers or large amounts of bark near the base of the tree
- Changes in needle color from dark green to off green/yellow or reddish brown (Useful when viewing stands of trees from a considerable distance.)
- Overly thin canopies and very short needles

In most cases, stress is the underlying factor.

Close up of pitch tube

