

Let's Talk Trees

Ethics Loyalty Integrity Quality of Life



From Joe...what's new

Marking a milestone

Believe it or not, it's been 20 years. Yep, we started our business in 1996 and it truly

doesn't seem that long ago! Thanks to all of you, we can celebrate this milestone knowing that the next 20 years will be just as good as the first. We are so grateful for your continued patronage and I am speaking for everyone that works here; 20 of us in all...how fitting!



An attitude of gratitude

Everyone is still buzzing from what was the largest tree failure event in Spokane's history. The storm was devastating. Some people's lives, homes and landscapes are forever changed. Our hearts go out to those who lost life, property and trees in the storm. As you may have guessed, we are still cleaning up from this and probably will be for some time. Thank you all for your patience as we dealt with the scores of residential tree failures along with the catastrophic tree loss at Whitworth University, Fairmount Greenwood Memorial Cemeteries and the City of Spokane Parks.

Assisting with assessment

Although the tree failures were largely limited to Ponderosa Pine and Spruce, I want to be clear that this is not a good reason to remove all of the Pine and Spruce on your property. If you are concerned about any trees in your landscape, we will come take a look and evaluate each one individually. Ben and our new sales consultant, Matt, are both Certified Tree Risk Assessors. Please get expert advice before making these decisions. Remember, what may take 100 years to grow only takes 5 minutes to destroy. 🍃

In Care of Trees,

Joe Zabolny



Thank goodness nobody was injured!

When Bob & Lenore Romney had a tree fall on their home (and into their bedroom!) during the November storm, they knew just who to call for help: NPHC! The Romneys were so thankful for the assistance they sent a catered breakfast to the crew! Of course, the guys loved it! Thank you Bob and Lenore.

COMPANION GARDENING



Habitat for Humanity's "A Brush with Kindness" (ABWK) is a home repair and preservation service that partners with homeowners to complete minor home repairs. Projects may include exterior painting, landscaping, weather stripping, door/window replacement, or handicap accessibility. ABWK helps low-income homeowners impacted by age, disability and family circumstances who struggle to maintain or reclaim their homes with pride and dignity. ABWK assists families to allow them to live in safe and well-maintained homes. It also revitalizes the appearance of neighborhoods, encourages connections within the community and helps preserve affordable housing. ABWK uses volunteer labor and donated materials, when possible, to minimize repair costs. 🍃

ABWK of North Idaho is accepting applicants for both homeowners and volunteers. Contact them at 208-762-4663 or northidahohabitat.org

NPHC IS HAPPY TO DONATE 20 HOURS OF TREE CARE TO CELEBRATE OUR 20TH YEAR!

20 Reasons why we've loved owning our business...for 20 years!

by Joe and Kate Zubaly



1-5: Family-friendly workplace

- Being able to attend our son's basketball games
- Holding the babies of our employees and watching them grow up
- Giving staff health and life insurance
- Camaraderie with coworkers
- Company picnics

6-10: Focus on relationships

- Friendships with trusting clients
- Responding to customer needs
- Getting notes from happy clients
- Hangin' out and collaborating with fellow Arborists
- Being able to care for people and trees

11-15: Promoting an industry

- Watching people improve at caring for trees
- Improving arboriculture in the Inland Northwest
- Preserving trees
- Educating and learning Contributing to the beauty of the region

16-20: Entrepreneurial spirit

- Solving complex business problems
- Steering something bigger than us
- Offering a livelihood for 20 people
- Promoting employees to the next level
- Doing more work than the year before



Now and then. Joe and Kate, above, and hosting one of their first home show booths in 2001.



RECIPE

Cape Malay Chicken

- 2 tbsp grape seed oil
- 1 medium yellow onion, diced
- 1 green chile, seeded & finely diced
- 1/2 inch piece fresh ginger, peeled and shredded
- 2 garlic clove minced
- 1.5 lb. boneless & skinless chicken thighs, cut into 1-inch pieces
- Salt and Pepper
- 1 tsp ground coriander

- 1 tsp ground cumin
- 1/2 tsp turmeric
- 1/2 tsp cinnamon
- 2 tbsp garam masala
- 1 cup tomato sauce
- 2 tbsp tomato paste
- 2 cups chicken stock
- 1/4 tsp cayenne pepper
- 3 tbsp chopped cilantro for garnish
- 2 cups long grain white rice, cooked

In a medium stock pot, cook onions, green chile, ginger and garlic in the grape seed oil for 3-5 minutes, stirring occasionally, until onions are just translucent. Set veggies aside.

Season the chicken lightly with salt and pepper and cook on medium-high until brown on all sides. After the chicken has browned, add the coriander, cumin, cinnamon, turmeric, and garam masala. Turn the heat down to medium-low. Sauté for 3 minutes until spices are fragrant.

Add the tomato sauce, tomato paste, chicken stock, onion garlic mixture and chicken stock to the stock pot. Bring to a simmer cover and cook on low for 15 minutes. Taste the curry. If you'd like it to be spicier, add more cayenne pepper and let cook for another 5 minutes. Adjust salt and pepper if necessary. Serve over rice and topped with chopped cilantro. 🌿



NOW HIRING FOR
TREE CREW POSITIONS

**Best Pay &
Benefit Package
in Spokane!**

APPRENTICES, CLIMBERS,
FOREMAN

Words of Wisdom

The strong have survived

by Alan Flake

Here it is, several months after one of the worst windstorms to ever blow through this region and the question I am most often asked is, "Are my trees okay?"

My reply is always the same: Those with strong root systems and no structural defects withstood the forces that brought others crashing down. I have driven around the area and the majority of the trees I have seen are in good shape. But I have also observed a few that are in definite need of removal.

If you are concerned about a tree in your landscape (or your neighbor's!), please contact us right away. The certified arborists at NPHC can help you determine the integrity of your tree's health and provide quality solutions.

The old adage about Mother Nature says "the weak shall fail, the strong prevail." This is as true for trees as with anything else. The wind has blown and the strong survived! 🌿



● To Do List for Spring

Inspect plants for storm and snow damage

Have fruit trees pruned

Water all trees or shrubs under the eaves

Turn on and check irrigation system

Apply pre-emergent herbicide to lawn and shrub beds

Fertilize evergreens

We're very glad to have good friends, neighbors, and NPHC to assist us in our time of need.

We want to thank each and every one of you at NPHC

for taking such good care of us and our trees.

~ Bob & Lenore Romney, Spokane

Who's Hot

Tony Muse

Tony joined the NPHC family in June 2015 and met many of you while assisting our Spray Technicians. A field ecologist by trade, Tony has worked for the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority as a Regional Supervisor where he had the opportunity to sharpen his botany skills. He prides himself on being able to identify just about any plant and insect in the area and applies that talent to keeping our customers' landscapes looking beautiful!

A typical dude who enjoys the outdoors, fishing, and other "guy stuff", Tony jokes he is also pretty good at building bookshelves. Known for having an "unhealthy book collecting addiction", at one time he estimated his library contained seven to eight thousand titles!

When asked what he likes most about working at NPHC, Tony replied, "Everyone that works here is happy to be here and believes we are the best company in the world." We couldn't agree more! 🌿



A hedge of splayed Arborvitae in need of some TLC!

What's Not!

Splayed Arborvitae by Randy Cenell

While this winter's snow coverage was not particularly hard or long lasting, what snow did fall came all at once in hefty amounts. For sure the blanket of white provided for an attractive holiday season, but at the cost of breakouts in trees and splayed Arborvitae hedges.

Around town I notice many Arborvitae hedges in need of TLC. Typical damage includes limbs separated from the mother plant. Proper care dictates interior branch tying in conjunction with pruning limbs that are out of place. After achieving the basic shape, the final step includes moderate shearing for aesthetics.

Of course, prevention is the preferred method for controlling damage. I tie my Arborvitae together in the late fall, finishing with holiday lights for added restraint and appeal. Alternatively, knocking snow off plants following a storm helps reduce damage. While this preventive route will help you next winter, current damage will require restorative action this season. **NPHC has a team of certified arborists and plant health care experts who are happy to help, so please give us a call!** 🌿



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THE INSIDE DIRT

Stronger Trees

Celebrating 20 years in business!

Meet Tony Muse



What can we do for trees to make them less susceptible to windstorm damage or failure?

by Ben Kappen

For arborists, foresters and other professionals involved in the management and care of trees, the wind storm that hit the Spokane area in November 2015 reinforces the importance of many old and developing tree care practices. The event also promotes reflection and speculation as to where to go from here in managing trees.

The most obvious and predictable take-away is that trees with glaring defects represented a significantly higher percentage of stem and branch failures than trees without. This means that there is definite value in having a qualified expert review trees at least every 3-5 years. Often, these issues are identifiable and potentially correctable through proper pruning. Proper selective pruning to develop sound structure, especially in young trees is critical.

Informed arborists know what to look for in terms of what constitutes strong structure and consider this when selecting the limbs allowed to grow and develop versus those that need pruned. In older trees, identifying and mitigating or removing critical defects is key.

Look out for pests and disease in trees that lost a significant portion of the live canopy or that may have weakened root systems. This would be a good year to keep a close eye on such trees or have an arborist do so. A review of a damaged tree prior to early spring can help you identify any current or potentially ensuing pest issues that could exacerbate the stress of any storm damage. Call a professional early on if you notice changes or the presence of insects or disease. As with all things, early intervention provides the greatest efficacy of treatment.

Finally, consider what is below ground and the natural cultural preferences of your tree. Surrounding infrastructure that limits available root space and the environment that available root zone has to occupy influences anchorage. Educate yourself as to the optimal cultural practices such as watering and fertilizing to keep trees healthy above ground and below.



The Whitworth campus suffered a huge loss of "life" when the storm toppled dozens of trees in a single day.