

Let's Talk Trees



Ethics Loyalty Integrity Quality of Life

From Joe...what's new

Time to toot our own horn

I just can't express enough how proud I am of our employees and their performance at the PNW ISA annual Training Conference and Climbing Competition held in October. NPHC sent 12 employees, 10 of which are already Certified Arborists, and we sort of stole the show. To read more about this amazing event (and learn what Becky won!) be sure to read Ben Kappen's article on page 2.

Still waiting for La Niña

The stable weather this winter allowed us to extend our landscape construction season into December. We are pleased to be working for a long-time client and awesome real estate agent, Olivette Orme. The landscape job was designed to be sustainable and complementary to the house, which was built using straw-bale construction techniques along with other sustainable practices. Once completed, we will be sure to feature this project in an upcoming newsletter. Thank you Olivette! What a cool name, huh?

There's no place like home

And now, after several years of searching high and low, NPHC is excited to announce that we have finally found a place to call our very own. And if all goes well (knock on wood), by the time you get this newsletter we will already be moved in. Once we get settled we'll be sure to get you some pictures. In the meantime, stay warm and safe and we'll see you on your properties soon. ☺



The professionals at NPHC wish you a prosperous 2012!

Outsmart summer...

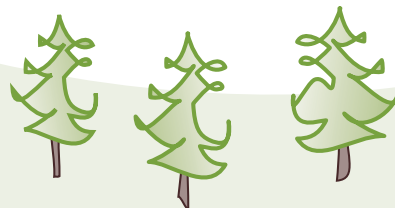
take advantage of winter pruning rates!

(See page 3 for details.)

In care of trees, *Joe Zabely*

The Cool Crowd

The Lands Council



We tip our hard hats to The Lands Council, a local non-profit that recently swept 2nd place in the Tom's of Maine 50 States for Good Challenge, winning funds to plant **10,000 Ponderosa Pines**. The Council's project goal was to expand our urban forest, and on October 22nd approximately 900 volunteers united together to plant the trees at 12 different locations in and around Spokane. It was a huge success, and due to the large amount of volunteers the day long project was completed in less than 3 hours!

We extend our gratitude to all the people who voted for The Lands Council to receive this amazing award, to the Council for their hard work in facilitating the project, to the volunteers who did the digging, and to Tom's of Maine for sponsoring and funding the challenge. ☺

Fulfilling our promise at the ISA conference by Ben Kappen



Source: Alecia Warren/CDA Press

At NPHC we are serious about Arboriculture. Over the last 10 years we have consistently employed the most ISA Certified Arborists (currently 10) of any regional company and we are passionate about fulfilling our promise of providing customers with **Knowledgeable Experts, Professional Service and Safe & Ethical Conduct.**

One of the greatest opportunities to share and increase our professional knowledge and skill is at the annual Pacific Northwest Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture Annual Training Conference. The 2011 conference, held in Coeur d'Alene in October, drew 300 attendees from British Columbia, Washington, Idaho, Oregon and Montana, with educational speakers attending from as far away as Wisconsin, New York and Hungary.

Beginning in February 2011, we served on the planning committee, charged with developing the conference theme and selecting educational speakers. In addition, NPHC was asked to plan and host the Field Day exhibitions in City Park. Events included demonstrations of electrical hazards and safety, Acoustic Tomography used to identify tree decay, and an insect and disease identification tour with the Idaho Department of Lands. Competing with top professionals, our own **Becky Phillips** (Manager of our Plant Health Care Division) won first place on a quiz identifying insects and diseases common to the area! The educational sessions were held indoors at the Resort and included presentations from the commercial, utility and municipal sectors of the tree care industry. One of our favorite presentations was given by John Ball PhD, South Dakota State University, who discussed the global origins of tree species diversity.

Preceding Field Day, the chapter held its tree climbing championship in City Park. Some of the most talented field arborists in the region competed in the areas of Aerial Rescue, Work Climb, and Speed Climb, among others. Our own longtime Foreman, **Ben Larson**, competed in the day's events and was featured in the October 3rd, 2011 CDA Press article detailing the conference (see above). Ben is an expert level field arborist, an incredible worker and is dedicated to his craft.

NPHC is proud to have been a part of this year's conference and will continue to work hard fulfilling our promise of being the best tree care and landscaping company in the region. ☺

★ Ben Larson, showing proper rescue techniques. Can you say awesome? ★

Ask the Tree Care Experts

What are your two favorite trees or shrubs for winter color?

Craig Forbes, Landscape Manager

Acer Palmatum 'Sangu Kaku' (Coral bark Maple) & Centennial Exbury Azalea

The Coral bark Maple is an all time favorite! This particular variety is a vigorous, upright ornamental with striking coral red color throughout the year and is a valuable accent tree that will improve aesthetics wherever it is planted. The Centennial Exbury Azalea is a deciduous shrub that provides a glossy, deep green leaf throughout the growing season, followed by attractive deep reddish/purple foliage throughout most of the winter months.

Becky Phillips, PFT Manager

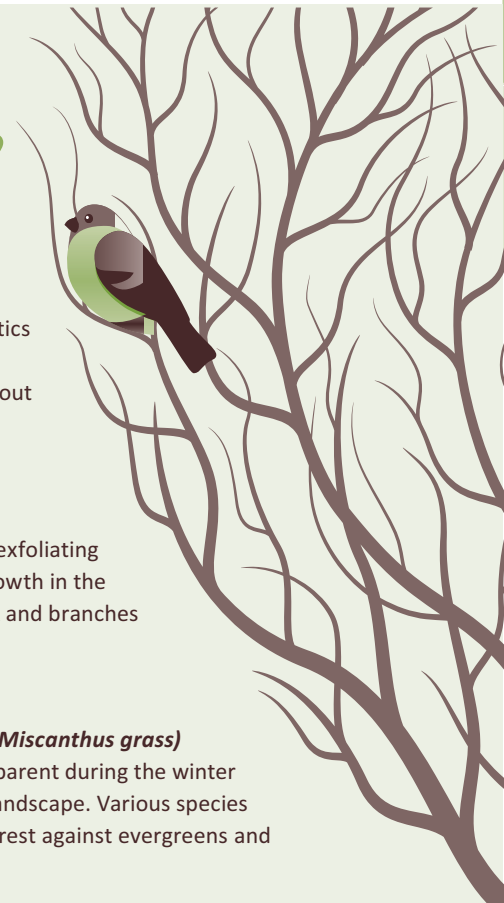
Betula Nigra 'River Birch' & Acer Palmatum 'Shishigashiro' (Jap. Maple)

The River Birch is very diverse and tolerant of most climates. The interest and appeal of this tree is its exfoliating cinnamon-colored bark that occurs during the fall and winter months. The rapid production of new growth in the early years of development is another quality making this Birch highly favorable. The deep green trunk and branches of the Japanese Maple, along with its ornamental form, makes it stand out in a snowy background.

Ben Kappen, GTW Manager

Chamaecyparis nootkatensis 'Pendula' (Weeping Alaskan Cedar) & Miscanthus sinensis spp. (Var. sp. of Miscanthus grass)

The weeping Alaskan Cedar has a great weeping form and year-round blue green color that is most apparent during the winter months. When capped with snow it has an excellent look and is a valuable evergreen addition to any landscape. Various species of Miscanthus grasses turn to russet color in fall and seed heads ripen, lending texture and winter interest against evergreens and boulders when capped with snow. ☺



Proudly celebrating 15 years of plant health care. Thanks for choosing NPHC!

This is the time of year when I love to arrive home and smell the aroma of dinner already made. Happy winter from Kate!

Moroccan Lamb Stew

- 2 lb boneless lamb, 1 inch cubes
- 2 medium sweet onions, 1 inch cubes
- 2 cups carrots, 1 inch cubes
- 3/4 cup granny smith apple, 1/2 inch cubes
- 1/2 cup raisins
- 1 tsp ground cumin
- 1 tsp turmeric
- 1/2 tsp red pepper flakes
- 1/2 tsp garlic powder
- 1/2 tsp allspice
- 1 can (14.5 oz) diced tomato, undrained
- 2 cans (29 oz) chicken broth
- Fresh mint, chopped fine for garnish

Using a large crock pot, add all ingredients (except mint) in the order listed. Cook on low for 8 hours or high for 4 hours. Garnish with mint and serve over couscous with crunchy bread. ♪

Who's hot!

Ben Larson, Foreman

Ben is a highly valued team member whose path towards a career as a Certified Arborist started with a degree in biology. In 2001 Ben graduated from George Fox University and spent the following year interning at local farms and orchards where his interest in plants grew.

He joined the NPHC team in 2003 and became a Certified Arborist in 2004. Ben quickly developed a love of climbing that he says keeps his work exciting and fun. "I really enjoy working with trees especially when it involves slow and intentional training. It's really amazing to prune the same tree year after year, because you observe how it responds."

Ben and his wife Shaura have two girls who keep them plenty busy. The girls especially enjoy gardening, hiking and camping with their dad. Not surprisingly, Ben has a large organic garden and really enjoys the outdoors. If you're looking for Ben, look up—he's probably in a tree! ♪



What's not! The challenge of fruit trees

After careful consideration, the team at NPHC has decided to discontinue our Fruit Tree Program effective immediately. These chemical applications are done to control pests that infest fruit trees that are growing in residential backyards; typically Codling Moth in Apples and Pears, and Cherry Fruit Fly in Cherries and some Plum species.

Due to the nature of the pests and the diversity of backyard microclimates, it is time consuming to monitor the various traps and challenging to effectively maintain a level of insect control that is acceptable to us and our customers. In addition, the chemicals labeled for these applications are becoming increasingly harder to obtain and are, by formulation, of a higher toxicity than other chemicals.

We apologize for any difficulty this will cause our customers, and are investigating other ways that we can help you manage your backyard crops. Feel free to give us a call and we can discuss other options that may be available to you. ♪

Call Now!



Rates effective Dec.-Feb.

Thanks for the excellent service.

The guys did a beautiful job and the trees really look great!

Tony Bledsoe
Spokane Valley



Seasonal To Do

- Plan your spring landscape project!
- Knock snow off plants
- Water evergreens under overhangs
- Protect plants under metal roofs or valleys
- Mark landscape for plowing
- Sign up for spring irrigation turn ons
- Take a winter hike



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THE INSIDE DIRT

The Pacific NW ISA Conference

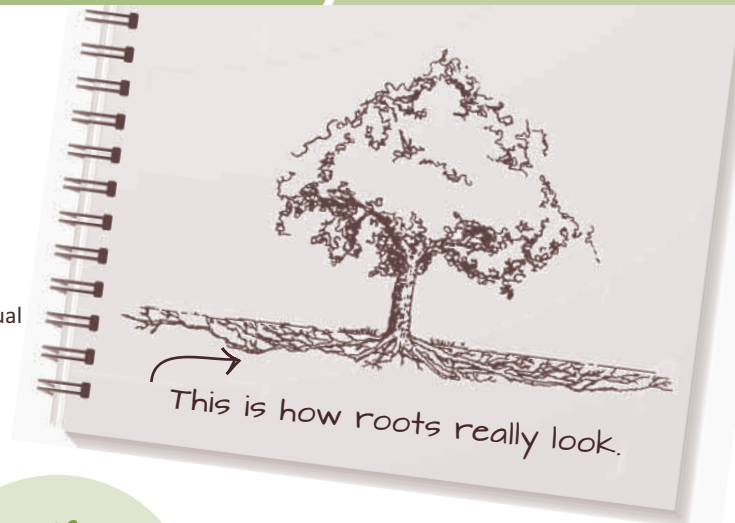
Plants for lovely winter color

The Lands Council

Dispelling tree myths

by Joe Zubaly

Arboriculture is a young science, and much of our knowledge is still based on anecdotal knowledge not having been exposed to the scientific method. A lot of what we know as "true" will eventually be corroborated with science, but there are many commonly held beliefs that will not. Here we share a couple of perpetual myths about trees, followed by the real story.



Myth: Trees generally have a taproot that extends downward 6-10 feet or more, normally in search of water.

1 Reality: The root system of a large deciduous tree or conifer is best described as a platter extending out further than the drip line, measuring 12-24" thick, consisting of absorbing roots, and being supported by several (3-7) anchor roots extending from the base of the tree that reach a depth of roughly 3 feet. There are exceptions to this model, but the idea that trees go deep for water is contrary to the fact that the water comes from the sky. In reality, the top 18 +/- inches of soil contain the finer fibrous absorbing roots that are responsible for capturing that water.

2 Myth: The root ball should be left undisturbed at planting.
Reality: NPHC always tries to remove as much of the original planting preparation (i.e. twine, burlap and metal cage) as possible while maintaining a tree that is tight in its root ball. Teasing or exposing the root hairs that are closest to the outside of the root ball allows for better root-to-native-soil contact. This can be done by hand with gardening tools, with water or high pressure air.

Arboricultural practices are always changing, but you can rest assured knowing that NPHC employees are informed of the latest science. We have higher conference attendance rates than any other local or regional company and have by far the largest arboricultural knowledge base in the area.

And by far the best customers!