All Phases of Tree and Shrub Care

Leaf Notes

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THE DERECHO

As final preparations were being made for our 4th of July gatherings, Mother Nature was putting final touches on an event of her own.. On June 29 our area was hit by a fast moving storm called a derecho. It quickly grew in size and strength catching most of us off guard as it moved eastward leaving behind a path of destruction. According to the weather center's website, a derecho is defined as thunderstorm-induced straight-line storm that has minimum wind gusts of 58 mph and leaves a swath of damage over a minimum of 240 miles. A University of Iowa science professor came up with the name in a paper published in a meteorological journal in 1888. The word was chosen to be an analog to the word tornado which is believed to have been derived from the Spanish word tonar which means to turn.

When these unusual weather patterns strike, damage occurs. A well maintained landscape is the best defense. Fertilization and proper pruning go a long way to prevent unnecessary damage. Wood Acres' tree crew and

Arborists were out the next day assessing and prioritizing the damage our clients sustained. Past storms damaged unhealthy, weak-wooded trees with structural defects, but the deracho was not that selective. This storm permanently changed the landscape of many of Wood Acres' clients.

For those of you who are first timers to Wood Acres Tree specialists, this newsletter is provided to share information about the care and maintenance of our trees, bushes and shrubs that provide so many benefits to our lives: oxygen, shade, beauty, balance, and habitat. Like our bodies, as they grow and mature they need more of the resources that were taken for granted in their youth. If grown in the wild they would have to accept the consequences of nature. However, when we plant them in our yards we have the ability to control, adjust and extend those resources so that a plant can live a long and healthy life. One of Wood Acres' certified Arborists can customize a plan that will best protect and improve your property.

JOHNNY APPLESEED

John Chapman, also known as Johnny Appleseed was a pioneer nurseryman and a leader in conservation. The popular image we all have of Johnny Appleseed is of a happy-go-lucky man randomly spreading apple seeds. But in actuality he began his quest of planting nurseries in the mid 1700's. He built fences around them, and left a neighbor in charge of caring for the trees. He would eventually return to the nurseries for a proper inspection. During some periods people were required by law to plant apple and pear orchards in order to uphold their right to the land. This made for popular real estate on the frontier of which Johnny Appleseed left 1200 acres of valuable nurseries to his sister, including a nursery with 15,000 trees. Johnny Appleseed believed that devotion to his property would secure him snug quarters in his next life. He is buried next to the Horticultural society of Indiana. Supposedly, the only surviving tree planted by Johnny Appleseed is on a farm in Ohio.

Wood Acres Tree Specialists carries on this tradition as a leader in conservation. We sincerely care for the trees that define our communities. Some things never change. We believe that inspections followed by regular maintenance save money and the environment.

TICKS

The summer of 2012 has brought with it a bumper crop of ticks. Even though the prediction was that 2012 will be one of the worst seasons in recent history for the tick population, there are steps you can take to protect yourself and make sure ticks don't ruin your summer. Reduce tick exposure by clearing out areas where lawn, leaf litter, and tree debris is stacked. Locate compost piles away from play areas and high traffic areas. Separate them with wood chips, or gravel. Don't position playground equipment, decks, and patios near treed areas. Mow tall grasses and keep the lawn cut short. Ticks are sensitive to dry conditions and do not thrive in short vegetation. Spilled birdseed attracts rodents which will carry ticks. Select plants and shrubs that are not attractive to deer or install physical barriers to keep deer out of your yard. Check with your local nursery or ask your Arborist for advice. Familiarize yourself with tick-hiding places and check them frequently. Fences, brick walls, and patio retaining walls are popular hiding places. The family pet can suffer from tick-borne disease and can carry ticks into your home. Be sure to be diligent about using the pest control products. Next, call in the pros. Professionals can use barrier sprays that can kill adult ticks on the spot. The best way to protect yourself against tick-borne illness is to avoid tick bites. Ask your Arborist about applying an insecticide in areas of high weeds that cannot be mowed. Often, one or two applications per season will be adequate to control the ticks in these areas.

EMERALD ASH BORER

The **Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)** is an invasive pest that attacks ash trees. This metallic wood-boring beetle is native to Asia and made their way to the U.S. as hitchhikers in wooden crates that are used as packing material. The first ones were found in Michigan in 2002 and by 2003 were identified in Ash trees purchased from a nursery in Michigan and sold to a nursery in Southern Maryland. In an effort to eradicate the pest, trees in that nursery as well as all Ash trees within a ½ mile radius of the nursery were destroyed. However the beetle prevailed and has been identified in 9 counties in Maryland, i.e., St. Mary's, Prince Georges, Charles, Anne Arundel, Howard, Allegany, Washington, Montgomery, and Garrett counties. The EAB is responsible for killing millions of Ash trees in the central and northeastern United States. It is expected to continue to spread and destroy our valuable Ash trees in both our forests and private landscapes.

Treat your Ash trees if EAB is reported in your area. Because there is a significant delay between disruption to the vascular tissues and expression of symptoms in the canopy, we advise that you do not wait for visible dieback in the canopy to treat. After the onset of the symptoms, it may take only two years for a tree to die. Applications should be made in the spring, about 30 days prior to expected adult emergence. Treatment may be applied during the growing season (May through July). Your Arborist can identify the vulnerable trees and treat them with an injection that is delivered directly into the vascular tissue. The injection is made as close to the root flare as possible so it can be transported to the living portion of the tree. Uptake of the formulation is fastest when trees are actively transpiring and after they have developed a full canopy. Emerald Ash Borer treatment injected in the spring will prevent the adult beetles from feeding and laying eggs in the tree, whereas summer treatment will kill the larval stage of EAB feeding under the bark. Make summer treatment applications in the morning when temperatures are moderate. If soil is dry, water trees prior to treatment. Injection in the fall (after leaves color) can protect the tree for the following season. Trees need to be closely monitored for symptoms of EAB as infestation builds in your area. Wood Acres has acquired the equipment and the chemical that has been proven to treat this destructive pest. Trees will recover from infestation and will be protected from Emerald Ash Borer. Ask your Arborist for advice.

Wood Acres Tree Specialists

Phone: (301) 949-4100

WWW.WOODACRESTREE.COM

To reach your arborist by email:

James W. Harris, jim@woodacrestree.com , **Forest H. Bowen**, forest@woodacrestree.com,
Riley W. Smith, riley@woodacrestree.com

Sam Fisher, *Arborist Plant Health Care Specialist*

The staff, Arborists, and crew at Wood Acres thank our loyal customers for your continued confidence in Wood Acres as your tree and shrub care specialists. We all suffered through another difficult year. Our weather patterns continue to be unusual, but your Arborist keeps current on changes to the environment and to your landscape. We will continue to try hard to meet and exceed your needs and expectations.

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