

MINNESOTA

Shade Tree Advocate

Speaking Out For  Community Forests

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The Minnesota Shade Tree Advisory Committee's mission is to advance Minnesotans' commitment to the health, care and future of all community forests.

Meet the Advocate!

Welcome to your first issue of the *Minnesota Shade Tree Advocate!* Brought to you by the Minnesota Shade Tree Advisory Committee, this new communication tool offers tree advocates throughout the state the opportunity to share a broad range of tree-related information and ideas. Whatever your interest in trees . . . as a forester, arborist, tree inspector, county extension employee, community planner, elected official, student, volunteer, tree care advisor or citizen interested in the urban forest . . . the *Advocate* is for you.

You can expect to receive four issues this year corresponding to the seasons: Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall. Each issue will be brimming with practical information, new ideas and inspiring articles by guest as well as regular columnists. Regular features you won't want to miss include:

- **Community Forest Profile.** You'll get a glimpse of community and urban forests throughout the state and learn how they are developed and managed.
- **Forest Health.** Forest experts share tips and techniques that tree advocates across the state can use to help keep Minnesota's shade trees healthy and viable.
- **Dispel a Myth.** Our communities abound with all sorts of myths about trees. Here's a chance to separate fact from fiction and help trees in the process.



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- **Tree Potpourri.** Get up-to-the-minute information about tree-related events and happenings across the state.
- **Speaking Out.** Guest authors share their expertise, ideas, hopes and passions about what many consider the most important part of the environment . . . our neighborhood trees.
- **The Directory.** Check out this handy listing of resources and MnSTAC (Minnesota Shade Tree Advisory Committee) people. It's a great resource for all your shade tree questions and concerns.
- **Clip and Save Pages.** Each issue features practical "how-to" pages that you'll want to keep in your reference files. In this issue, you'll find a step-by-step guide for winter pruning.

Being a tree advocate isn't always easy. It usually takes many people working together, speaking out in support of trees and then acting on their beliefs before trees are treated with respect and appropriate care. The *Minnesota Shade Tree Advocate* links people from all walks of life who come together with the common cause of promoting the health and well-being of community forests.

The *Advocate* offers all of us a vehicle for dialoguing about trees, sharing ideas and speaking out on important community forest issues. Comments, questions, suggestions for articles and letters to the editor are welcome and very much encouraged. You can reach us at the MnSTAC Homepage (<http://willow.ncfes.umn.edu/mnstac/mnstac.htm>) or write to Editor Jan Hoppe at the address given on Page 12. 🌿

Advocating Urban Forests

by Donald C. Willeke, Guest Columnist
Founding Chair (1974-90), Minnesota Shade Tree Advisory Committee

Several years ago I gave a speech to a national audience in which I stated that our urban forests suffered less from the deprivations of their enemies than from the timidity of their friends. In many communities, in the old phrase, “with friends like they presently have, those urban forests do not need any enemies.” I do not want to be unfair to many of the people who truly love community trees, and who have worked hard for the forests covering their towns and cities. But—as I must constantly keep reminding myself in my work in my own profession—there can be a big difference between working hard and working smart.

The year 1998 is the 25th year that there has been an organized urban forestry effort in Minnesota (the Minnesota Shade Tree Advisory Committee was organized in 1974). Having worked at it through 25 years, our crusade should really have a higher profile by now. There should be more public understanding of the value of urban forests if we (first and foremost myself, but also I include most of you who will read this in my critique) had done a better job of selling the rightness of our cause, and its need for a prime place in the thinking of our political decision makers.

What have we done wrong? In a nutshell, we have not advocated clearly and cleverly enough. Too often we have assumed that since most people love (or at least like) trees, our cause would sell itself. We have failed to realize that what succeeds in our society is clever marketing. Wheaties may not be the greatest cereal on Earth, but General Mills is one of the best marketing organizations. In my professional life I see many organiza-

tions with great ideas and great products fail because they do not have great marketing.

What are we selling?

What should we be selling? I think three basic ideas must be advocated with vigor and sold with clever marketing:

■ *We are selling our community environment:* the environment most Minnesotans see most of the time. We’re not selling trees or tree preservation or tree planting. We are selling the thing that makes the difference between a great community and a group of houses and businesses in an urban desert. We are selling the “relevant environment.” Other environmental organizations have done a fantastic job of selling some far-off pieces of the environment that most people rarely see. For example, I am glad the BWCA is there, but I’ve been there twice in my life, for a total of maybe 10 days. I hope to double that score before I die. But during most of the 365 days of the last 27 years, I have seen the community trees and associated plants of the community where I now live.

Furthermore, those with less advantages than I have (the elderly, the socially and economically disadvantaged and others who are in the many categories that today we call “challenged”) hardly ever see any of the “environment” except that which is outside their doors. Other environmentalists sell the environmental caviar. We community forestry environmentalists sell the rice, beans, corn and wheat of the environment. Obviously, caviar is easier and more



fun to market than rice and beans but most of the world’s people do not get their protein and carbohydrates from caviar.

■ *We are not selling beauty.* Beauty is only a byproduct of what we sell, in the same way that a well-set and provisioned table is a beautiful thing. But beauty only nourishes the soul. What we are selling is simple survival of the body of our communities. Without decent urban and community forests, our communities would be ugly, unattractive, far more polluting, and far less viable economically. But if we try to sell trees as “beautification” we will lose every time the budgets get tight. Since budgets are tight most of the time, we lose most of the time.

■ *We are selling solutions to today’s community problems.* We need to get the message across that if we did not have community forests, we would need to invent them just to help solve a whole range of community problems. A number of recent studies conclusively prove that urban heat islands, storm water runoff, noise pollution, particulate emissions, piercing winter winds and even

urban violence are all abated in major ways where there are good urban forests. And that delight of city councils everywhere, the municipal tax base, is always given a big boost by thoughtfully planted and well-maintained trees, especially if the planting was done decades ago. I am particularly proud that after I left the Chair of MnSTAC I was instrumental in getting the Federal Government to fund a number of studies that began the process of proving with hard data that urban and community forests do all these things in addition to looking nice.

How do we sell?

How should we sell these ideas, and the good community forests that we will gain if policy makers buy our ideas?

■ *We have to stop being bashful.* We have to start demanding that our policy makers listen to us. That is what we did in Minneapolis 25 years ago when Dutch elm disease threatened. A famous cartoon from that time showed a former Minneapolis Park Board Superintendent having a big “X” spray painted on him by one citizen while another citizen was pulling the cord on a chain saw. Clearly, the policy makers found out in a hurry that Minneapolis people cared about their trees. Less dramatic but equally effective political action took place in many smaller communities throughout the state. “Minnesota Nice” is not helping our trees, nor is the normal reticence of forestry professionals who (thank the Creator!) decided to pursue their very honorable calling, and did not all become advertising people or lawyers.

■ *We have to speak in sound bites.* General Mills does not spend its expensive television commercial time talking about the manufacturing process for converting wheat that sells for dollars a bushel into cereal that sells for dollars for a few ounces. They give you sound bites about their cereal bites. We have to



COURTESY UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA EXTENSION SERVICE

start hitting hard on the things trees can do for our communities other than to beautify them. We should enlist the aid of advertising specialists and need to think hard about what we can best sell to community policy makers.

■ *We have to do a better job of lobbying.* Every community should have a tree “committee” that does on a local level what MnSTAC tries to do on the state level. It need not be large, and it need not be formally organized. But some community go-getter should gather together just a few influential people who care about trees. That group (and not some big town meeting with a lot of talkers and few do-ers) should contact key decision makers. They should present a few basic points about why every community needs to put some public money into its urban forests. Communities don’t need big cruise-ship sized tree organizations that take a lot of energy to run and are difficult to maneuver. Instead, they need a lean, mean local “S.W.A.T.” team for urban forestry that should include:

- a prominent community citizen (preferably one with some bucks in her or his bank account and one who has made political contributions)
- a lawyer (because they know how the governmental machinery operates and usually get their calls returned) or two of

them, if you can get them for free

- a public relations person (for the reasons set out above—tree people need to be reminded about how to create and use sound bites and to present messages that get remembered)
- a member of the press or the electronics media (so that you have at least one well-informed media person)
- an elected official (who can carry your message to her or his colleagues in the innermost councils of government)
- a person with knowledge of and experience in urban tree matters (so they can educate people who are enthusiastic but ignorant about trees, as I was 25 years ago), and
- one or two local citizen activists who know how to pull things together and get things done in a community.

A core group larger than this can get unruly and ineffective. And there is no need to wait for someone to authorize such a group. Nobody authorized the people who in 1775 and 1776 met and created what is now the greatest nation on earth. They just did it.

The first thing an urban forestry S.W.A.T. team should do is prepare a short “State of Our Community’s Trees” piece on the problems and opportunities of a community’s urban forest. It need not be massive or comprehensive, but it should highlight the greatest problems and sell the most attractive solutions in a clever way. It should promote the dollars and sense of urban forestry, and downplay or even dismiss the “beautification” aspect. Plenty of prototypes of such reports exist. They are effective sales documents in the communities where they have been used.

I am very pleased that MnSTAC has (under the able leadership of Rolf Svendsen and now of Glen Shirley)

... Urban Forests continued on Page 8

The University of St. Thomas, St. Paul Campus

by Gary R. Johnson

You only get one chance to make a first impression. That time-honored adage seems to define the University of St. Thomas' philosophy toward their "community" forest, as well as every building, sidewalk and parking lot on their St. Paul campus. Tom Rudberg, superintendent of grounds at St. Thomas, summarized his maintenance goals as "creating a campus landscape that has curb appeal for potential students and their parents, is aesthetically interesting during every season and is safe for everyone using and enjoying the campus."

Those aren't particularly lofty goals for an 83-acre campus: a neat, pretty and usable landscape. But, insert those acres in a metropolitan area, surround them with residential and commercial areas, intersect them with arterial streets and add the public recreation pressures from the bordering Mississippi river, toss in almost 10,000 students, disturb those green acres on a regular basis with new buildings and renovations to old ones...and you have a challenge!

For the last eleven years, Rudberg has supervised the entire maintenance of the grounds on this 100+ year old private university with the assistance of five full-time and six to ten seasonal employees. He not only cares for the woody plants on campus, but is responsible for all of the maintained turf (40 acres), snow removal and litter control on the campus and various parking lots. Despite the fact that turf maintenance and snow removal account for approximately 60% of his annual maintenance budget, the trees on his campus receive programmed attention every three to five years, and are monitored for health on an annual basis.

The attention that the 1800-1900 trees representing over 70 different species and varieties receive is primarily for safety. Trees are pruned to maintain high canopies with no branches lower than six feet off the ground, and the removal of hazardous or potentially hazardous branches. Most tree work is subcontracted to professional tree care companies, with Rudberg's employees maintaining the smaller trees and shrubbery. And although the pruning care cycle is an enviable three to five years, any



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dead or otherwise hazardous branches spotted on a monitoring visit are removed immediately.

The issue of safety is paramount, considering both the perception of safety and the prevention of injury to campus visitors and employees. Due to its position in an established residential area, it is often perceived and used as a neighborhood "park." Elevated canopies allow users a clear view of the campus landscape, creating the feeling of safety even on a metropolitan campus. Removal of dangerous branches and hazardous trees prevents physical injury to property and users. And the raised branches allow easier maintenance on the turf, shrub and flower beds below.

Make no mistake about it, this is considered a neighborhood university. And despite the potential for daily conflicts with the city of St. Paul, neighboring residents and business owners, Tom Rudberg maintains that it is not an issue. He has found the city of St. Paul and the Forestry Department to be a very cooperative partner, regularly consulting with him when shared boulevards are landscaped. He has also remained very accessible and responsive to the various residential neighborhoods. The campus neighborhood is represented by a liaison that communicates with Rudberg directly on issues regarding the landscape.

One of the benefits of a century-old university campus is a mature urban forest. But occasionally these old giants get in the way of new construction or finally die and must be removed. St. Thomas has added several new

The St. Thomas campus is a neighborhood university with a mixture of old and new buildings, and young and mature trees.

... Profile continued on Page 9

Winter Pruning

by Katie Himanga

Winter is a great time of year to prune most trees. It has many advantages over summer pruning:

- Defective tree parts such as dead, cracked or broken branches, weak forks and branch unions and other structural defects are easy to see when trees are without leaves.
- Trees can adapt to the loss of branches by adjusting the size or number of leaves the following season.
- Trees rapidly develop callus tissue around pruning cuts during the following summer, especially on cuts made in late winter.
- Tree pathogens are dormant so there is little risk of spreading infectious diseases.
- Frozen soil supports heavy equipment such as bucket trucks with little or no lawn damage.
- High-quality mulch can be processed from leafless debris.
- Qualified arborists and tree workers are more readily available.

Why Prune?

Most of the economic and risk management benefits of winter pruning come from removing defective tree branches and dealing with defective forks on tree trunks: dead, cracked or broken branches; branch unions with included bark and other structural problems. Too often, tree owners delay pruning until a tree looks unsightly. Then they prune for appearance. The result may be a tree that looks okay, but is full of defects that set the stage for storm damage and premature death. Even worse is the old technique of topping trees, which leads to trees full of defects and decay. Prune trees for safety and tree health first. Consider appearance after that.

Pruning Priorities

For Safety

- Remove dead, damaged or broken branches, or branches that are weakly attached.
- Train a young tree to have one main trunk by pruning off branches (double leaders) that turn up and compete with it.
- Train a young tree to have well-spaced, well-attached side branches.
- Remove branches that interfere with the sidewalk, the street or other human needs.
- Let a professional with special training and special equipment remove branches that grow toward electrical power lines.

For Health

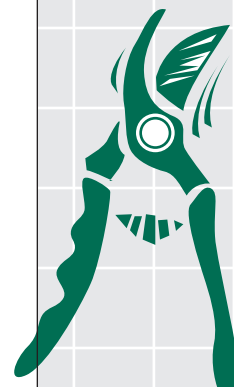
- If two branches cross or rub, remove the least desirable branch.
- Remove diseased and low-vigor branches, suckers and water sprouts.
- Prune low, temporary branches so they stay smaller than half the diameter of the trunk.
- If a branch rubs on a sign, wire or other object that might damage the bark, remove it or prune it back to a side branch that is growing in a different direction.
- Thin branches for good structure, air movement, light penetration and/or weight reduction.
- Look for girdling roots and cut them before they strangle the tree.

For Appearance

Before you prune for appearance, consider:

- *What is the natural shape and character of this tree?* If a tree has the natural pyramidal form of a littleleaf linden, do not try to change it into the rounded form of an Ohio buckeye. If wide, gnarled limbs are part of the character of an old oak, don't try to transform it to the tidy, rounded form of a young maple.

Clip and Save

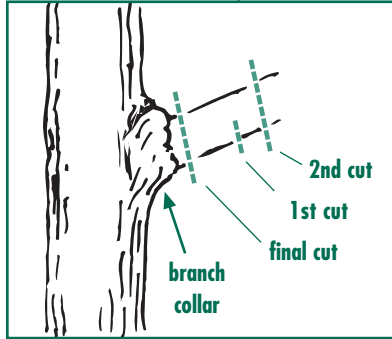


Winter Pruning



► *What is the function of this tree?* If a tree is supposed to slow the winter winds or block an unsightly view, don't remove the lower branches that do that job. If a tree is supposed to frame a view, not hide it, remove branches that are in the way. (A word of caution: Be patient and let your young tree get tall enough before you remove lower branches.) You can remove

selected branches from the crown of the tree to allow a view of something as long as you do not remove more than one-fourth of the foliage of the tree.



Use a 3-step cut when a branch is bigger than you can hold in your hand.

Selected branches from the crown of the tree to allow a view of something as long as you do not remove more than one-fourth of the foliage of the tree.

How to Prune

Before you prune, inspect your tree from the top down and plan the work. Remember tree safety and health come before appearance.

Make pruning cuts with respect for the natural defense system of the tree. Make cuts at branch unions. Leave branch collars. Use sharp tools and make smooth cuts. There should not be any loose bark around the cut. If a branch is too big to hold in your hand, use three cuts to remove it. When you must cut the main part of a branch back to a side branch, the side branch should be large enough to become the new leader. Select a side

branch that is one third or more of the diameter of the branch that you must cut off.

Learn to tell the difference between a strong branch union and one that is weak. A strong union is U-shaped and has a ridge of branch bark running through it. A weak branch attachment has a narrow, V-shaped union. Bark turns into the crotch and is trapped between the branches. Never

damage a branch collar with a pruning cut. Plan which branches to remove so your tree develops well-spaced side branches. For a strong tree, the side branches should be less than one half the width of the main trunk.

When to Prune

Start winter pruning in November and finish by April 15. Avoid pruning live wood from trees when leaves are forming or falling. During these times, the tree is busy either putting on spring wood and new leaves or storing starch and putting on new roots. Less energy is available to respond to pruning wounds than at

other times of year. There is no need to cover tree wounds with wound dressing during winter pruning operations. In the spring, sap will flow from late-winter pruning wounds on a maple or a birch. It is not harmful to the tree.

Begin pruning a young tree the first winter after planting. Prune sparingly if last season's twig growth was less than 4" in length. The tree needs more time to recover from the shock of transplanting. Once the tree recovers vigor, focus on removing defective tree parts so little problems don't grow into big problems. Removing one limb of a defective fork on the tree trunk may mean the difference between a tree that splits in two the first time the wind gusts more than 60 m.p.h. and a tree that stands up to the elements for decades.

Removing dead and damaged branches are all that is usually needed for a mature tree that has had regular care throughout its life.



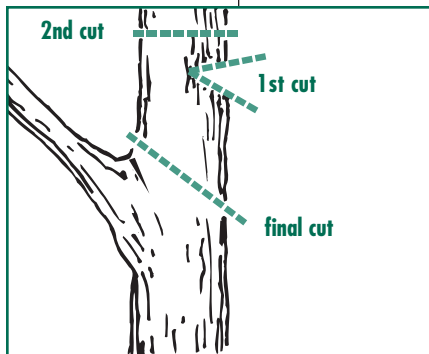
Strong (left) and weak (right) branch unions.

Pruning a Young Tree

- Prune every one to two years
- Limit pruning to one fourth of the live branches per year
- Look specifically for branches that turn up and compete with the leader (trunk) and remove them completely or head them back to slow down their growth
- Leave lower branches on the tree for several years, but keep them small relative to the trunk until it's time for removal
- Select the main side (scaffold) branches that are well spaced along the tree trunk: about 18 inches apart on large species trees; 6-8 inches apart on small species trees
- Remove broken, split or rubbing branches and those that interfere with the tree trunk or the main branches.

Pruning a Middle-aged Tree

- Prune every two to four years
- If you need a ladder or a chainsaw, hire a professional arborist



Removing the main part of a branch at a side branch.

- Remove fewer live branches than you would on a young tree
- Continue to prune as for a young tree to develop a strong trunk and well-spaced, well-attached branches
- Remove problem branches such as those blocking site lines or rubbing on buildings
- As the height of the tree increases, remove temporary lower branches in the bottom one-third of the tree.

Pruning a Mature Tree

- Hire a professional arborist to prune the tree every five years
- Remove dead, cracked and broken branches and only a few live ones if necessary
- Never remove more than one-fourth of the live foliage in a single season
- When old, dead branches have collars grown out along the branch, remove the branch and leave the collar uninjured.

Pruning a Storm-Damaged Tree

- A seriously damaged tree may need replacement
- Hire a professional arborist to prune the tree if there are broken or cracked branches higher than you can reach from the ground or if you need a chainsaw
- Properly prune dead, dying, broken or cracked branches
- If you must leave a branch whose end is broken, remove only the broken part without cutting into the undamaged part
- Remove loose bark, but don't disturb live bark that is still attached to wood
- Wait one growing season to prune for appearance
- Never top a storm-damaged tree!

Pruning Management

To estimate the number of trees you need to prune each year, take the total number of trees under your jurisdiction that are more than five years old and divide by five. Add to that the number of trees that are up to five years old. If well-maintained trees is your goal, plan to prune at least that many trees each year.

As is true in other professions, the field of arboriculture has industry standards or standards

of practice. Standards help clients and arborists communicate on what work is to be accomplished during a tree-care operation. Anyone who writes tree maintenance specifications should be familiar with *Standard Practices for Trees, Shrubs and Other Woody Plant Maintenance*, ANSI A300. It is available from the American National Standards

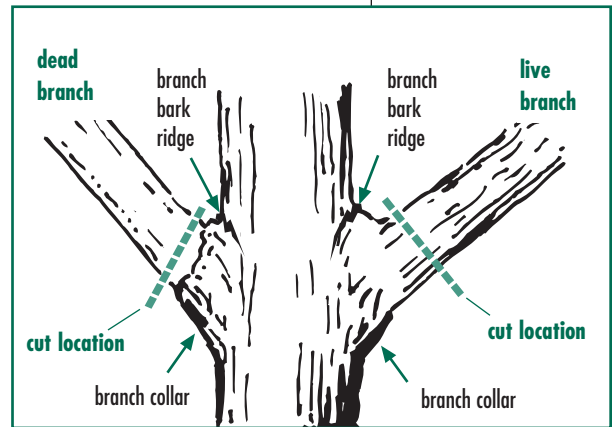
Institute or from the National Arborist Association. ANSI A300 defines general categories, or types, of pruning. If you hire a tree service company, you can specify which type of pruning best

fits your budget and your needs. In addition to the type of pruning, you must specify the minimum and maximum size branches to remove. The ISA booklet *Tree Pruning Guidelines* complements ANSI A300. The standards tell what to do; the guidelines explain how to do it. For people who don't work with trees every day, the guidelines are easier to understand.

Ask any arborist you plan to hire if he or she is "ISA Certified." Certified Arborists carry an International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Certification Identification Card. To become certified, an individual with at least three years of tree-care experience must pass an examination. To stay certified, the arborist completes 30 hours of continuing education every three years. ISA certification is a good indication of knowledge about tree care, but it is not a guarantee of quality work. 🌿

Parts of this article are extracted from Tree Trust Community Outreach Manual, copyright 1996 Tree Trust. 135 pages. Used with permission. For information on how to purchase the manual, contact Tree Trust at 612/920-9326 or treetrust@willow.ncfes.umn.edu

Katie Himanga is a consulting forester and the owner of Heartwood Forestry in Lake City, Minnesota. She does community forest management planning, tree care training and special projects for cities, organizations and utilities. She teaches tree pruning and utility line-clearance trimming throughout Minnesota, Wisconsin and North Dakota, and is an I.S.A. Certified Arborist.



Where to prune a branch.

Mature Tree Crown Thinning

by Jeff Rick

As a commercial Arborist, I am frequently “told” by clients that their mature tree needs thinning. When questioned on their reasoning, a common reply is “To reduce wind resistance.” It’s tough to argue with that logic! They usually follow this with “Doesn’t it need it?” Fortunately this creates an opening for me to follow up with my favorite pastime . . . education.

The more we learn about trees, the more we realize some traditional practices are harmful. Such is the case with excessive crown thinning. Long-term effects will vary with tree condition and species.

A tree is an energy system. Often, for mature trees, crown thinning is more destructive than beneficial. Tree wood is made of living cells that transport, metabolize, store energy and react to intrusions. Generally, the more energy stored, the healthier the tree. All tree care practices must be designed to increase stored energy.

Live tissue needs a continuous food supply. A tree manufactures this carbohydrate energy in the chlorophyll regions of the tree, principally the leaves and small diameter branches. Pruning live wood removes these important food-manufacturing sources. This damage immediately results in a substantial net loss of energy, and can lead

to serious consequences for a tree low in stored energy. A tree in this condition is weak and susceptible to pathogens. Unfortunately, if a tree cannot replace its energy producers, it will decline . . . it uses more stored energy than it can make. This becomes visible as dieback and often takes 3-15 years to recognize.

Trees do not form “sails” in high winds – their leaves fold and lay down along their twigs (I’ve seen the pictures from a wind tunnel). Branches break because they have weak branch unions, decay pockets, or are brittle from poor health. Improper pruning cuts are access points for decay organisms. Inappropriate thinning actually makes a tree more prone to wind damage by exposing the remaining branches to more of the winds’ force (the old “United we stand, divided we fall”). The loss of strong, healthy, live tissue in the crown will mean a loss of stored energy in the tree and a proportional increase in dead non-responsive tissue. Dead tissue is more susceptible to decay organisms.

So go ahead and prune your mature trees . . . and have a purpose for every proper collar cut you make. Remove that branch rubbing on the house or getting mutilated by the trucks. It is also important to remove those dead, crossing or structurally weak branches. But do not thin mature trees because your client thinks it is needed . . . you’re the professional! 🌿

Jeff Rick is a Consulting Arborist and ISA Certified Arborist with Rainbow Treecare in St. Louis Park, and is on MnSTAC’s Education and Research committee.

The more we learn about trees, the more we realize some traditional practices are harmful. Such is the case with excessive crown thinning.

Urban Forests, cont’d.

made the organizing of community urban forestry leadership groups a high priority. I regret that when I chaired MnSTAC I did not see it as a matter for top billing. I was wrong. But even more has to be done. We will never win the battle for better urban forests until, in every community in Minnesota, we become better advocates for trees. 🌿

In addition to his work with MnSTAC, Mr. Willeke was Chair, National Urban Forest Council, 1990-95; President, American Forests, 1993-94; Founding Director and Vice Chair, Twin Cities Tree Trust; and a member of the National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council. He is an attorney and lives in Minneapolis.

Profile, con't.

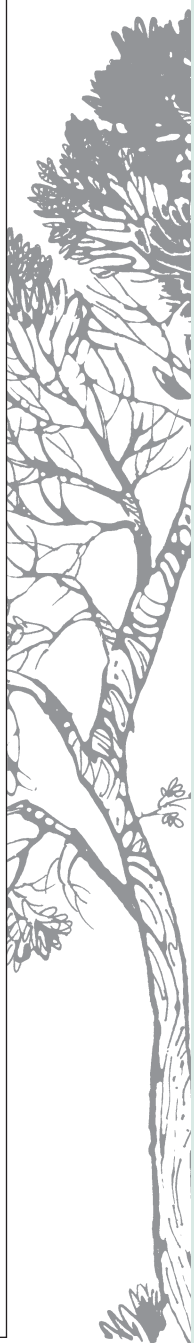
campus buildings recently, and many of them have been built in areas that contained trees. Rudberg and St. Thomas have taken the preservation of their trees during construction seriously, and have taken equally serious steps to save valuable trees and replace those that are lost.

Prior to construction, photographs of the threatened trees are taken to document their condition and health. Then, smaller trees that can survive transplanting are tree-spaded out to a temporary holding nursery. Finally, valuable trees are fenced off well-beyond their dripline, restricting any construction activities over their root systems. When construction is completed, compacted soils are loosened, transplanted trees are spaded back in and new trees replace those that were lost. Protected trees are monitored for several years. If their condition begins to decline based on those documented photographs, therapeutic measure are immediately taken to improve vitality and the trees are monitored even closer.

For each tree lost on the campus, 15-20 new ones replace it. This is one of St. Thomas' techniques for expanding the varieties on their campus. Tom likes to introduce new and interesting varieties during replacement plantings. He also takes advantage of dedicated or memorial trees planted by alumni to introduce new varieties. So don't be surprised to see just about every tree imaginable growing on the campus, from native basswoods to magnolias.

In a survey conducted a few years ago, approximately 45% of incoming university students ranked the appearance of an institution's buildings and grounds as the most important reason for selecting a school. It's no wonder the University of St. Thomas' student population continues to grow each year. 🌿

Gary R. Johnson is an associate professor of Urban and Community Forestry at the University of Minnesota, Department of Forest Resources.



About MnSTAC

The Minnesota Shade Tree Advisory Committee (MnSTAC) was established in 1974 by a group of concerned citizens to address the health and well being of community forests. MnSTAC provides a forum where people forge a collective vision for the future of Minnesota's community forests and:

- advocates for public and private community forestry interests
- unites for the exchange and dissemination of ideas and information
- serves as the State Urban Forest Council to advise the State Forester on the implementation of state and federally-funded programs.

MnSTAC is recognized throughout Minnesota and the country for its expertise, advice, coordination and support for community trees. It is an organization of diverse individuals who represent a broad spectrum of tree-related interests. It fosters and supports local community tree programs across the state so healthy community forests are fully integrated into community development, infrastructure, education and management.

The MnSTAC resources listed here encourage your calls, questions and sharing of ideas.

MnSTAC Board of Directors

President: Glen Shirley, City of Bloomington
Phone: 612/948-88761
Fax: 612/948-8770

Ken Holman, DNR Forestry
Phone: 612/772-7565

Dwight Robinson, MN Dept. of Agriculture
Phone: 612/296-8578

Gary Johnson, U of M Forest Resources
Phone: 612/625-3765

Dorothy Johnson, MN Horticulture Society
Phone: 612/643-3601

Ralph Sievert, Mpls. Parks and Rec. Board
Phone: 612/370-4900

Mike Max, EnvironMentor Systems, Inc.
Phone: 612/753-5505

MnSTAC Committees and Task Forces

Arbor Month Partnership

Chair: Ken Holman, DNR Forestry
Phone: 612/772-7565

Forest Health Committee

Chair: Steve Kunde, Kunde Company
Phone: 612/484-0114

Outreach Committee

Co-Chairs:
Peter Bedker, Treescapes
Phone: 612/682-9562
Mike Max, EnvironMentor Systems, Inc.
Phone: 612/753-5505

Legislative Committee

Chair: Mark Schnobrich, City of Hutchinson
Phone: 320/234-4459

Education and Research Committee

Chair: Gary Johnson, U of M Forest Resources
Phone: 612/625-3765

Tree Emergency Response Task Force

Chair: Katie Himanga, Heartwood Forestry
Phone: 612/345-4976

Tree Preservation Task Force

Chair: Paul Buck, City of Plymouth
Phone: 612/509-5944

Wood Utilization Task Force

Co-Chairs:
Mike Zins, U of M Arboretum
Phone: 612/443-2460 Ext. 247
Jim Hermann, Mpls. Park and Rec. Board
Phone: 612/370-4900

Constitution Ad Hoc Committee

Chair: Ken Simons, Ramsey County Parks
Phone: 612/777-0393

Scholarship Ad Hoc Committee

Chair: Ralph Sievert, Mpls. Park and Rec.
Board

Phone: 612/370-4900

MnSTAC Awards Ad Hoc Committee

Chair: Terri Goodfellow-Heyer, MN State
Horticultural Society

Phone: 612/643-3601

Regional Shade Tree Advisory Committees

To add more voices to the forum and encourage networking more easily at the local level, three regional MnSTAC units are in place.

Southeast STAC

Southeast STAC exists to:

- facilitate the flow of community forest information between MnSTAC or other statewide organizations and communities in southeast Minnesota
- foster cooperation between communities in southeast Minnesota through the exchange of community forest information
- identify and prioritize regional community forest needs and problems and communicate with decision makers, and
- represent the community forest interests of southeast Minnesota communities.

This regional committee represents eleven counties. The Hiawatha Valley

Resource Conservation and Development District (RC & D) provides clerical and administrative support.

Meetings in 1998 are set for March 19 and on the day of the fall Tree Inspector Workshop. The March meeting may include a tour of a wholesale nursery operation. For more information, contact:

Southeast STAC

Chair: Henry Sorenson

Asst. Pub. Service Director

City of Red Wing

Phone: 612/385-3674

Sec./Treas.: Katie Himanga, Heartwood

Forestry

Lake City

Phone: 612/345-4976

Headwaters-Agassiz STAC

HASTAC, the Headwaters-Agassiz Shade Tree Advisory Committee, was formed about a year ago as a regional branch of MnSTAC. The NW Regional Development Commission is the fiscal agent.

The group has had several organizational meetings to discuss mission, potential projects and outreach to communities. Individual members plan to visit select communities to discuss forestry issues, help create an awareness of city trees, talk about the importance of a good forestry program, try to build enthusiasm and interest and get communities to consider trees in their growth and development plans. HASTAC will bring good reference materials to the communities as they visit.

HASTAC sponsored a Shade for Your City workshop in August at Sand Hill River Golf Course in Fertile.

The workshop included tree selection and care, grafting and propagation, hands-on pruning, site selection and sources of funding. The day ended with planting of a tree at the golf course.

Participants, including city personnel, master gardeners and extension agents, toured Lee Nursery and Berguson Gardens.

HASTAC recently sponsored Risk Assessment: Hazard Trees training in Thief River Falls and will co-sponsor a Tree City USA awards luncheon at the annual Crookston NW Urban Forestry Workshop in March. There will be another workshop next summer, with the topic yet to be selected. Possibilities include creative forestry and how to organize a sustainable community tree program. The program would include developing partnerships, generating citizen interest and more. For more information contact:

HASTAC

Chair: John Johnson, City Forester

City of Thief River Falls

Phone: 218/681-1835

Sec./Treas.: Jeff Edmonds, DNR Forestry
Bemidji

Phone: 218/755-2891

West Central STAC

West Central STAC started in 1997 to help communities in the northwest region share ideas and information about their local success stories in managing community trees. The group has met a few times over the past year to discuss the committee's purpose and to promote it to communities.

WESTAC has co-sponsored three workshops: The Living Snowfence symposium,

Hazard Tree Management training and the regional Tree Inspector Workshop, all held in the fall in Alexandria. The group also teamed up with HASTAC (northwestern Minnesota) to sponsor the Shade for Your City workshop in Fertile during the summer. This provided members with a great opportunity to compare the "growing pains" of the respective STAC committees and share a real on-the-ground learning experience at Lee Nursery and Berguson Gardens.

This winter WESTAC will again work with HASTAC and the University of Minnesota, Crookston to recognize Tree City USA at the annual NW Minnesota Community Forest Workshop at Crookston on March 9 and 10. The group hopes to further encourage communities to conduct inventories leading to management plans. Currently, 15 communities have expressed an interest in using the ArcView GIS system to conduct and automate their inventories. For more information, contact:

WESTAC

Chair: Bob Fogel, Director of Parks

City of Moorhead

218/299-5497

Sec./Treas.: Dave Johnson, DNR Forestry
Detroit Lakes

218/847-1596

Events and Conferences

Feb 28—**Minnesota Green: Using Plants to Build Community**, Hennepin Tech. College, Brooklyn Park, MN. Contact MSHS 612/643-3601

Mar 1-3—**Tree City USA National Conference**, Lied Conf. Center, Nebraska City, NE. Contact NADF 402/474-5655

Mar 3-5—**Trees & Utilities Conference**, Lied Conference Center, Nebraska City, NE. Contact NADF 402/474-5655

Mar 10—**Northwest MN Community Forestry Workshop**, Crookston, MN. Contact Phil Baird 218/281-8130

Mar 12—**"Shigo on Trees" Workshop**, Sheraton Inn-Midway, St. Paul, MN. Contact Steve Pearson 402/474-5655

Mar 14—**Elementary Science Education Conference: Growing...To Learn**, MN Landscape Arboretum, Chanhassen, MN. Contact 612/443-2460

Mar 24-25—**Shade Tree Short Course**, Bethel College, St. Paul, MN. More info on Page 12. Contact Tracey Benson 612/624-3708

Mar 26—**Tree City USA Awards Luncheon** (following MnSTAC meeting); details TBA.

Mar 26-27—**Midwest Regional Conference on Energy & the Urban Forest**. Contact 219/325-4383

March 26-27—**Pest Management for Evergreen Trees: A Practical Short Course**, U of M, St. Paul, MN. Contact Short Course Coordinator 612/454-7250

Mar 29-31—**Building with Trees National Conference**, Lied Conference Center, Nebraska City, NE. Contact NADF 402/474-5655

May 17-20—**1st National Extension Natural Resources Conference**, Deerwood, MN. Contact Mel Baughman 612/624-0734

Forest Health Discussion Schedule

Feb. 26—**Exotic Weeds in Forest Ecosystems**; John Moriarity

Mar 12—**Update of Forest Health in the US**; Manfred Mielke

April 9—**Running a Plant Health Care Consulting Business**; Kathy Widin

— *U of M, St. Paul, MN. Contact Linda Haugen 612/649-5029*

MSA Certified Arborist Workshops

Feb. 27—**Tree Biology**; Kathy Widin

Mar 6—**Cabling/Bracing/Lightning Protection**; Tom Dunlap

Mar 13—**Safety and Climbing**; John Sirbasku

Mar 20—**Plant ID and Selection**; Mike Zins

— *Locations vary. Contact Gary R. Johnson 612/625-3765.*

Opportunities

Programs seeking participation and providing funding

Mar 31—**UCETF 1999 Municipal Energy Management Program** proposals due; 612/649-5238

May 1—**1998 Conservation Partners** grant appl. due; Joe Hiller 612/296-4891

Through June 1999—**Mn ReLeaf** Forest Health grants available; DNR Region office or 612/772-7925

New Publications

- *Metro Greenprint*. 1997. Greenways and Natural Areas Collaborative. MN Dept. of Natural Resources. 41pp. Contact MN DNR 612/296-5484
- *Recommended Trees for: Northwest and Central Minnesota*. 1997. University of Minnesota Extension Service. 14pp. Contact UMN Ext. Service 800/876-8636

... Potpourri continued on Page 12



Dear Tree Advocate,

We want to hear from you! What are your thoughts about the new *Advocate* newsletter?

What would you like to see articles on?

Please check if appropriate:

- I want more information about joining the Minnesota Shade Tree Advisory Committee (MnSTAC).
- I do not wish to receive the *Minnesota Shade Tree Advocate*. Please remove me from your mailing list.

Mail to: Jan Hoppe
Minnesota Shade Tree Advocate
115 Green Hall, 1530 Cleveland Ave. N.
St. Paul, MN 55108

Name/Organization

Address

Phone Number

Minnesota Shade Tree Advocate

A quarterly newsletter published by the Minnesota Shade Tree Advisory Committee.

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Address inquiries to:

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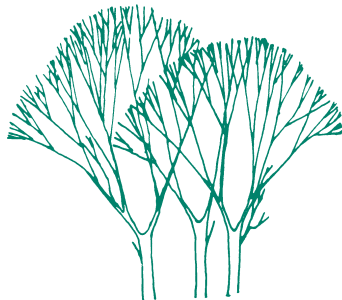


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Internet

—*Homepages etc.*

- MnSTAC Homepage
<http://willow.ncfes.umn.edu/mnstac/mnstac.htm>
- QuantiTree 2.0 computer software information
<http://www.quantitree.com>
- U of MN Environmental Events Calendar
<http://www.umn.edu/cura/env496.htm>
- Urban Forestry: A Bibliography, 1996 version
<http://minerva.forestry.umn.edu/urb/>
- National Arbor Day Foundation
<http://www.arborday.org>



Special Notes: Shade Tree Short Course

The 1998 Minnesota Shade Tree Short Course listed for March 24 and 25 has much to offer. This year's theme, *Building a Healthy Environment*, features a broad-based look at the urban environment: trees and their health, employees and their health and weather's effect on urban forest health. Twenty-two general and concurrent sessions will be offered, with most repeated once. Topics range from restoring woodlands and controlling noxious, exotic plants to effective communications techniques to more comprehensive sessions on utilizing urban wood waste, plant care tactics and diagnosing problems.

New for 1998 is the organization of sessions into four interest tracks to appeal to the various areas of interest and educational backgrounds of the participants: the Introductory Track (for relative newcomers), the Technical Track (advanced and specific sessions), the Management Track (for

designers, planners, supervisors, managers) and the Plant Health Care Track (specific sessions on keeping forests healthy and strong).

Keynote sessions feature some of the finest speakers in their respective professions. Don Wohlenhaus will address the challenge of motivating employees. Leo Holm from MnDOT will offer his insight on plant pest/problem management techniques, and Tom Eiber will conclude the Short Course with his perceptive presentation, "Trees Know the Weather."

ISA Certified Arborists may earn up to 10 CEUs for recertification by attending. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture will once again offer classes for new Tree Inspector Certification and accept attendance at the Short Course as meeting the requirements for recertification.

For more information and a detailed brochure, contact Tracey Benson at 612/624-3708 or 800/367-5363.

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