



The Trunkline



Kramer Tree Specialists, Inc.

701 Church Street West Chicago, IL 60185 (630) 293-5444

Spring 2005

A PERCEPTION OF VALUE

Some of you may know our son Todd from previous newsletters or possibly he has worked in or with your trees.

Over the years, as an active member of the KTS Team, Todd has taken on many diverse responsibilities (some of which he was not too fond of!) but his passion remains focused on teaching and mentoring. He keeps our Arborists at KTS abreast of new techniques and safety procedures, as well as other Arborists within our industry, such as those associated with city and county forestry departments. Todd also trains fellow Arborists at



the Illinois Arborist Association conferences as well as trade show demonstrations.

I am proud of Todd's accomplishments, particularly of his instructional training for the Illinois Arborist Association. He instructs classes needed to obtain the qualification of Certified Arborist, Certified Treeworker, and Advanced Certified Training.

Todd Kramer is in his element as he works in the treetops.

Many aspects of tree care are covered in the scope of the training sessions, which provide essential knowledge for a successful Arborist. Some of these sessions include training in the following:

- **Tree Health & Science** – basic biology, structure, and function of trees
- **Pruning** – relationship between people and trees; proper pruning techniques and review of A.N.S.I.-A300 pruning standards

Returned-Survey Gift Card Drawing Recipients:

October 2004: Mr. & Mrs. Donald St. Clair – Glen Ellyn
 November 2004: Mr. & Mrs. John Lundy – Naperville
 December 2004: Mr. & Mrs. Carl Szalkowski – Glendale Heights
 January 2005: Mr. & Mrs. Dan Evans – St. Charles

- **Hazard Tree & Risk Assessment** – identification and management of hazardous trees by proper assessment of the tree and site
- **Safety** – work zones, communications, electrical hazards, chain saw operations, and chipper use
- **Chain Saw Safety & Maintenance** – proper cutting and felling techniques and all A.N.S.I.-Z133 Standards that apply
- **Rigging** – review of forces put on equipment and trees during rigging operations and how they can be managed and reduced
- **Aerial Lift Operations** – proper aerial lift operations, maintenance, and inspection, along with discussion of hazards associated with aerial work
- **Cabling, Bracing, & Lightning Protection** – proper installation of static cabling systems along with bracing and lightning protection installation
- **Introduction to Climbing** – safe climbing techniques and the A.N.S.I.-Z133 Standards (designed for entry-level climbers)
- **Advanced Climbing** – rope installation, rope climbing, and re-directs, as well as both static and dynamic forces on climbers' systems and that of the trees (designed for the experienced climber looking to further his or her skills)

I realize this is a lot of technical information that may not be of interest to all our readers. However, I feel it is important because this is in part the value KTS not only brings to you and your property, but to the arboricultural industry as well!

Sincerely,
Jan Kramer

THINK LIKE A TREE

by Karen Shragg



Soak up the sun
 Affirm life's magic
 Be graceful in the wind
 Stand tall after a storm
 Feel refreshed after it rains
 Grow strong without notice
 Be prepared for each season
 Provide shelter to strangers
 Hang tough through a cold spell
 Emerge renewed at the first signs of spring
 Stay deeply rooted while reaching for the sky
 Be still long enough to hear your own leaves rustling

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More News Inside!!



KTS VOLUNTEERS A DAY OF SERVICE TO HELP SAVE A SAVANNA

For the second year in a row the Morton Arboretum was the recipient of the Illinois Arborist Association's Day of Service, which is an all-volunteer workday.

We are all very proud of our involvement in the Day of Service as well as the contribution each company made by donating field arborists, equipment, and their expertise:

Nels Johnson, Bartlett Tree Experts, American Gardens, Kinnucan Tree Experts, The Care of Trees, and Pizzo & Associates

The focus of this year's Service Day was to assist in the restoration of the oak savannas at the Arboretum. According to Kurt Dreisilker, Manager of Natural Resources, "historically, oak savannas have been a dominant feature within the landscape of northern Illinois, but with altered land-use practices within the last 150 years, our savannas have almost disappeared."

The task of the tree care companies and landscape contractors with this section of the project was to remove invasive and undesirable species of trees to allow more light to desirable species of understory plants. This allows desirable plants to multiply, which in turn will lessen erosion of soil from tree roots and the savanna landscape in general.



Crews work to remove invasive species at the Morton Arboretum.

Once again, we encourage you to visit the Morton Arboretum and to enjoy the various natural elements along with some great ideas for your own landscapes!

Sincerely,
Jan Kramer

MULCH - A TREE'S BEST FRIEND

It's that time of year again to start thinking about getting the wheelbarrow and yard tools out of storage!

To help you get a jump start on the season, we are offering a 10% discount on your first order of mulch placed before May 15th, 2005!

The proper application of mulch is the single most important step in providing for the health and continued vitality of your trees.

At Kramer Tree Specialists our goal is to provide a high quality product that is affordable and aesthetically desirable. We accomplish this by recycling the branches and chips from our tree care operations. We benefit the environment in two ways; not adding to the landfill problem and helping our customers affordably care for their trees. We are pleased that both you and future generations will enjoy your trees that benefited from your mulch application.



Dashed lines indicate dripline of tree.

Your trees will THANK YOU for your care by being healthier and therefore more resistant to disease pathogens and insect pests. As an added bonus, mulch cuts back on frequency of watering as it helps retain soil moisture. *Please see our website for info on proper application of mulch.*

10% Discount Pricing on Your First Order of Mulch Placed Before May 15th, 2005

Special Blend Mulch (Brown Color, Finer Grade)		\$17.50/Yd
Double Ground Mulch (Brown Color)		\$14.50/Yd
Delivery Charges (may vary depending on location):	1-5 Yds	\$40.00
	6-25 Yds	\$50.00
	26-50 Yds	\$60.00

10% Discount Applies to Mulch Product Only - Not Delivery Charge

HUNTING FOR EMERALDS



There is a new emerald on the market, but this is one item that is desired by no one. Despite its name, the emerald ash borer is not regarded as a precious commodity by anyone who encounters it. In recent newsletters we have reported on this bright metallic green beetle that has been devastating Michigan's ash tree population. This pest kills trees as a result of tunneling by the larvae beneath the bark, which severely injures the tree's conductive tissue that transports water and nutrients. The damage is so extensive that trees can be killed within 1-3 seasons of infestation. This borer has already infested 15 million trees in Michigan alone, and has been identified in Ohio, Indiana, Virginia, Maryland, and Canada. The beetle threatens to eradicate North America's 7.5 billion ash trees. Ash is an important landscape tree and is also widely used in products such as baseball bats, tool handles, firewood, lumber, flooring, and much more. It is estimated that ash trees comprise approximately 20% of the total tree population in Illinois. The threat the emerald ash borer poses to ash trees in American could put the beetle on par with Dutch elm disease and the devastation it wreaked upon the elm population. Many specialists agree that it is only a matter of time before the pest reaches Illinois. The arboriculture industry is diligently working to prepare for its arrival. Now one of the most critical steps in protecting the ash trees of Illinois lies in identifying the borer's appearance in the state as early as possible, meaning we all must keep a sharp eye as we hunt for this unwanted emerald.



TV GIVE AWAY

Congratulations to landscape architect Amy Olson of Moore Landscapes, Inc. who won a TV in our drawing at the 2005 Mid-Am Show, the largest business expo in the "green industry". Attendants registered for the drawing at the KTS exhibitor booth at the trade show in January.



Certified Arborist Mike Kurkjian presents Amy Olson with the LCD television she won in our drawing.

ON THE RESEARCH HORIZON ...

In recent editions, this section of our newsletter has been dominated with discussions about a product called Cambistat and how it helps trees adjust to urban challenges by reducing canopy growth and redirecting this energy to other parts of their systems such as root production, defense, and storage. We have found the benefits of the application to be numerous.

Recent research from Rainbow Treecare Scientific Advancements has brought yet another product that can be used in conjunction with Cambistat specifically for treating chlorosis in trees. This new product is called "Verdur" and is a form of iron that is immediately available to a tree. It is applied through a mini-infusion process.

Chlorotic trees display a yellow color of the leaves called interveinal chlorosis. The jury is still out regarding the definitive, absolute cause of chlorosis, however the effects of chlorosis on a tree are well defined. Iron is required for the formation of chlorophyll, the green pigments that capture light to produce food for the plant. The yellowing of the leaves indicates that the tree is not manufacturing chlorophyll. A tree that is unable to produce food will eventually die.



Severe interveinal chlorosis on a pin oak. Tissue along leaf veins is typically last to lose green pigments.

The long-term goal of interveinal chlorosis treatment is to establish a healthy root system. This process will take several years. We know from university studies that an application of Cambistat will increase the size and surface area of root systems. However, this too takes time. A chlorotic tree may not survive long enough for that to happen. An application of Verdur gives a highly available form of iron directly to the tree's vascular system to supply the tree with what it needs to immediately manufacture chlorophyll and regain its ability to produce food. Research indicates that the results from one Verdur application last approximately three years.

As Arborists, we are very grateful to Rainbow Treecare Scientific Advancements for their research and development efforts. The chlorosis of Pin Oaks, Red Maples, and Birch trees in Illinois is an all too common sight for us and we look forward to being able to help these trees overcome this condition.



NEWS FROM THE PHC DEPARTMENT



As director of the plant health care department for KTS, quite often I am asked by people, "So, what do you do during the winter?" I think they are making the assumption that since trees are dormant, so is the PHC Dept. Not so though; the department was very busy this past winter. We feel very lucky to have been allocated more valuable office space in the limited space KTS has for the running of everyday business! Between the reorganization of our space and evaluating our customers' tree needs for the up and coming season, not a moment was wasted. Our gratitude for the added space is coupled with the reason behind the need: More people are taking good care of their trees, and for a lover of trees that is the ultimate gratification!

Last season the flea weevil appeared on the scene and for a very small, 1/8th inch long pest, it devastated the Siberian elms. Will it be back? – Probably. Keep an eye on your elms early on. Spray applications can eliminate existing weevils before damage escalates. Another pest to be on the watch for this season is bagworm. This is not a new pest, just new to our area. In past years bagworms have been prevalent south of I-80. For the last two years, the Arborists of KTS have told me about periodic sightings of this pest. Those sightings are increasing in numbers now and I expect our landscapes will become their feeding ground. Spray applications of Bt, a bacterial insecticide, made in late June while the worms are small can minimize the populations while preserving beneficial insects. It wouldn't hurt to take a look at your trees now before leaf emergence for signs of the telltale bags hanging from your trees like dried Christmas ornaments.

I would like to introduce you to Shari Moses, the newest addition to the PHC Staff. Shari has been with us since the end of January. Although the tree industry is new territory for Shari, her experience in small business with a landscape company and her attention to detail are a great asset. I know she is going to "fit right in" as I noticed she wore a shirt with a leaf print the other day. Trees really do grow on you!

We are getting our trucks ready to roll and are anxious for bud break. I know it is going to be a great growing season and we look forward to helping you care for your trees. The phones are starting to ring in response to our reminder letters. It is always a pleasure to talk to clients on the phone - don't be surprised should I ask what you did during the winter!

Lorelei Kepler, Dir. PHC Dept.
Certified Arborist, #IL4236A

IDENTITY CRISIS STRIKES AGAIN!

A few newsletters ago we informed everyone that the fungal disease called "Diplodia" had experienced an identity crisis and for scientific reasons was being renamed "Sphaeropsis". The naming of a disease has to do with the source of the disease. I could go into a lot of explanation here, however I don't think that would be of interest to you. What may be of interest is the fact that some of your proposals state that a spruce or pine has the problem of Sphaeropsis. **The scientific community has changed the name back to Diplodia.** So if you opted to treat for the disease identified on your proposal as Sphaeropsis, the applicator will leave a ticket this year that says we were there to treat your tree for Diplodia. Perhaps that is lucky for us, as Diplodia is a lot easier to pronounce than Sphaeropsis. It will take some time for all of us to be on the same page wherein proposals, informational sheets, and applicator tickets all coincide with the same name for this fungal disease of spruce and pines. I know this because when they changed from Diplodia to Sphaeropsis it was about 1 1/2 years before the name was consistent throughout. At least this identity crisis isn't costing anyone thousands of dollars! It will only cause some minor confusion for those that pay close attention.

Lorelei Kepler, Dir. PHC Dept., Certified Arborist, #IL4236A



WOODY SAYS...

Both Radar and Buddy enjoyed the winter wonderland this year. They both love to play and roll in the snow!



With spring in the air, I would like to take this opportunity to encourage you to adopt a friend for life, as we did, from an animal shelter! My information regarding animal shelters is firsthand, as I have been involved with shelters as a volunteer at all levels - though my most gratifying time was spent maintaining cages, walking dogs, and playing with the cats!

Unfortunately, an enormous amount of misconceptions still exist regarding adopting from an animal shelter. One of the first misconceptions is that animal shelters have only sick, ill-mannered, or unmanageable "mutts." The reality of the situation is that a reputable shelter gives complete physical exams by a veterinarian, administers vaccinations, and spays or neuters their charges. Temperament testing is performed on dogs, including puppies. Interviews are conducted to best match the potential owner's needs with that of the animal's needs to ensure a long and happy relationship. I can attest to the fact that there are times when shelters have more "pure breeds" than "mutts". Although I must say I am partial to "mutts"!

When adopting a pet, you should be sent home from the shelter with a packet of reference information regarding feeding, training, and what to expect from your new friend on arrival home. This packet should also contain health records and the animal's previous history. To insure the transition has been successful for both parties, a reputable shelter will follow up after the adoption to answer any questions or concerns that may have surfaced. If a shelter is doing all of this, has a clean facility, and is operated by knowledgeable, trained staff or volunteers, you have found a reputable shelter.

The term "animal shelter" covers many options as to where you may find the perfect pet for you. These include county facilities, city shelters (in some locations), Humane Societies, and "grass root" organizations that foster animals in their homes until they can be adopted. Last but not least, if you are partial to a particular breed, there are numerous "breed rescue" groups operating in our area. Again, look for a reputable group!

I cannot imagine the emptiness of our lives without Radar, Buddy, and our 18 year-old cat "Moe". ("Moe" lost his brother "Mittens" last fall to cancer; it was a very sad time for all of us.)

This spring, please resist the temptation to purchase that "cute, little doggie in the window," - you know, "the one with the waggly tail." Finding a pet requires thought and time, and should not be taken lightly.

Sincerely,
Jan Kramer

A dog is the only thing on Earth that loves you more than you love yourself. -Josh Billings

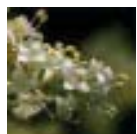
Crabapple buds will be breaking soon - Have you sent in your Apple Scab Registration yet?

FEATURED TREE OF THE SEASON

Japanese Tree Lilac *Syringa reticulata*

Printed on Recycled Paper

As the temperature gauge slowly rises, I look forward to the surge of blooms bursting forth on flowering trees announcing the change of the seasons. I always enjoy the variety of flowers that appear at different times throughout the spring and summer. Trees that flower later in the season delight us with their display of colors and scents after spring's first blossoms have vanished. One such late bloomer is the Japanese tree lilac. Native to Japan, this plant grows upright with an attractive, smooth trunk with spreading branches that form a rounded to oval crown. It can be pruned to take the shape of a shrub or small tree. In tree form it reaches heights and widths of about 25 feet. In late spring to early summer, weeks after other lilac blooms have faded, the Japanese tree lilac produces masses of small, showy flowers in thick, conical clusters at the ends of its stems. These white clusters contrast stunningly with the dark, lance-shaped leaves. The profuse blossoms have a powerful scent similar to that of privet. This tree can withstand cold winters and is widely adaptable



to a variety of soils. The Japanese tree lilac does best in moist but well-drained soils in an open sunny position, but will tolerate very light shade.

Late Spring Blossom on Japanese Tree Lilac

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