



Tales From The Wood

Winter Update

Trees in winter, Naked Grace & Beauty.

The transformation of the trees in Charlotte from falls frenzy of color and mass of movement toward winters naked grace is one of the most humbling of times of the year to be a tree lover. As the foliage deserts its place in the sun, it seductively reveals the strong well muscled trunks and limbs that grasp at the edges of the horizon. Yup, shore is purty Ma.

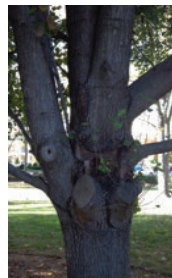
It's also the best time of the year to decipher the patterns of growth and find the structural needs of a tree to help it withstand the inevitable bouts of wind and ice. Here are two of the most common symptoms that are visible to the astute observer and some possible remedies.



Ears on Tree

Co-dominant stems.

These are the most common cause of limb or trunk failure that we see in what would otherwise be considered healthy trees. In older trees, these can be recognized by the “ears” that develop in a trunk or a seam running between the two stems. These can grow for years without a hint of trouble but become progressively weaker as the tree gets older. They will ultimately fail ruining the beauty and viability of an otherwise healthy tree. Short term, this concern can be addressed by pruning out weight or length of the participating trunks. Long term, these are the number one reason that we install cables and braces in a tree. Bradford Pears are infamous for having this problem because most of their limbs originate from the same area of the trunk and is the reason their lives are so often cut short. Bradford's are the one tree species that we regularly recommend Pollarding to extend their life.



Unchecked growth:

Trees are forest organisms and expect a dogfight from other trees to get their share of sunlight. Left unleashed from competition, they will often grow limbs longer than the strength of their wood will support. Horizontal limbs in particular are susceptible to failure because they're breaking the law of gravity 24 hours a day. When you see upward growing limbs starting to curve downwards toward the ends or lots of vertical growth coming up off the length, this is the trees desperate cry for some arboreal attention or as we say in the industry, reduction pruning. Winter after solstice, when trees are dormant is the very best time to prune what is the most active area of the tree in the growing season.



Newsletter Bonus! - We'll offer 10% off set or hourly prices given before the end of 2011 and performed before March 1st, 2012. Call today!

~I prefer winter and fall, when you feel the bone structure of the landscape - the loneliness of it, the dead feeling of winter. Something waits beneath it, the whole story doesn't show ~ Andrew Wyeth

Creek Releaf 2011:

The annual *Creek Releaf* tree planting occurred (or may be occurring as you read this) November 19, 2011 from 9am till noon. *Creek Releaf* is sponsored by the Charlotte Public Tree Fund.

The Charlotte Public Tree Fund was formed in 1991 by Charlotteans concerned about the massive tree loss caused by hurricane Hugo in 1989. The Fund focuses on fundraising, education and collaborative projects that result in tree planting and preservation throughout Mecklenburg County communities.





This year *Creek Releaf* planted trees along Briar Creek where it intersects Park Road, just north of Tyvola. This area needed trees badly due to recent work by CharMeck Utilities installation of a new sewer line. Trees were also planted along the creek on the Myers Park High school campus. Over 500 volunteers came out to help with the event.

Just as last year, Heartwood provided the trucks to move the trees, and certified arborists to instruct volunteers on proper tree planting.

~The trees are God's great alphabet: With them He writes in shining green across the world His thoughts serene. ~ Leonora Speyer

Winter Plant Health Care:

Although bugs are not crawling, winter is an ideal time to treat many insect pests. Applying 'dormant' horticultural oil sprays has been a tried and true method of plant health care for decades. Horticultural oil forms a film over dormant insects and eggs that blocks respiration, essentially suffocating the insect. Many sucking insects like; scales, aphids, and lacebugs are susceptible to this treatment



Caspers Wilderness Park, San Juan Capistrano, Orange County, CA. 10/15/06
© Peter J. Bost

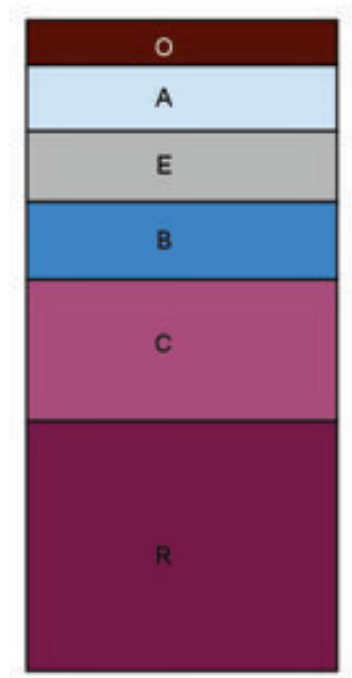
Our horticultural oil *Pure Spray* is something special. *Pure Spray* is certified organic through the Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI). OMRI is a national nonprofit organization that determines which input products are allowed for use in organic production and processing. OMRI approved products may be used on operations that are certified organic under the USDA National Organic Program. Give us a call if would like to learn more.

~ I never saw a discontented tree. They grip the ground as though they liked it, and though fast rooted they travel about as far as we do. They go wandering forth in all directions with every wind, going and coming like ourselves, traveling with us around the sun two million miles a day, and through space heaven knows how fast and far! ~ John Muir

The Many Layers of Soil

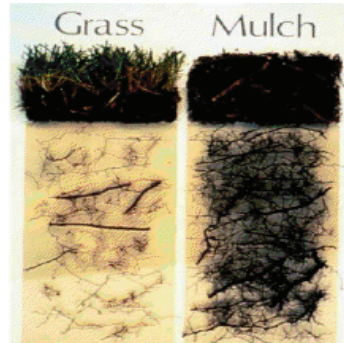
Soil is made of several layers or horizons; O, A, E, B, C, & R.

- O horizon, or organic horizon, consists of decaying matter like leaves, fallen limbs, etc. The O horizon works to regulate soil moisture and temperature while the break down of the organic matter adds essential nutrients to the soil.
- A horizon is most often referred to as topsoil, and is where the bulk of tree and plant roots grow.
- E horizon is the zone of soil that has leached organic material and other elements to the soil below.
- B horizon is the area where leached organic matter and minerals accumulate. Tree roots may be in this area if water drainage is adequate.
- C horizon is the parent material of the soil,
- R horizon is bedrock nearest the soil horizons.



Chances are when your home was built the two most important horizons, O and A, were removed. While the exact number of years it takes to make a new A horizon of soil is unknown, soil scientists agree it is in the hundreds.

To add insult to injury turf is usually maintained on these damaged soils. You may say to yourself “well my grass looks great, so the soil in my yard must be okay.” Grass is a great competitor for soil resources. It creates dense mats of roots which intercept water and nutrients, while exuding allelopathic chemicals that inhibit tree roots. In many cases grass is being managed without a thought of neighboring trees. Frequent shallow watering combined with biannual nitrogen fertilization are great for grass, but serve almost no benefit to trees.



To maintain our tree canopy we need to focus on treatments that rejuvenate the soil. Creating a watering schedule, proper mulching, rehabilitation of soil structure, organic amendments, and the correct application of essential elements are some things we can do as arborists to improve soil health.

~God has cared for these trees, saved them from drought, disease, avalanches, and a thousand tempests and floods. But he cannot save them from fools. ~John Muir



Roots in compacted soil.

Blowout Deep Root Inoculation Sale

So you've been sitting on the fence about helping your trees health. Get down now! Take the above knowledge and put it to action. We believe in the value of this treatment so strongly we're knocking down the price by almost 20% from our normal price of \$230 per 100 gallons applied down to \$190. But you must order by January 1st and applied by April 1st. This offer is only being made to newsletter recipients, so call now to take advantage of this limited time offer.



~The oaks and the pines, and their brethren of the wood, have seen so many suns rise and set, so many seasons come and go, and so many generations pass into silence, that we may well wonder what "the story of the trees" would be to us if they had tongues to tell it, or we had ears fine enough to understand. ~Author Unknown, quoted in Quotations for Special Occasions by Maud van Buren, 1938

Mistletoe Delivery

Mistletoe is the common name for obligate hemi-parasitic plants in several families in the order Santalales. The plants grow attached to and within the branches of a tree or shrub, and for some reason if two people stand under it they are obliged to kiss. We at Heartwood fully subscribe to the philosophy of 'love the one you're with,' so look for our annual mistletoe delivery coming in December.



*~Who leaves the pine-tree, leaves his friend, Unnerves his strength, invites his end.
~ Ralph Waldo Emerson*

We Plant Trees

The best time to plant a tree is 20 years ago. The second best time is now! Fall and winter are great times to get trees started. Dormant trees have an easy time acclimating to new planting sites. One thing we love to see is a properly planted tree, which is the reason we like to plant trees for our clients. We don't want to get into landscaping, but if you want a few trees planted around



*Christmas Tree of 2008 Planted at
Heartwood World Head Quarters*

your home, and if you wanted them planted correctly by Certified Arborists, give us a call. Consider using a live tree for your families Christmas tree this year. It's a little more trouble, but planted after Christmas it will serve as a reminder of the holiday and create a life long family memory. Planting trees with his Mom is how Patrick ended up understanding the value of trees and started his life long passion for them.

Links we like

Heartwood Tree Service, LLC, *Helpful information about trees in our region.*

HeartwoodTree.com

Trees are Good, *A site dedicated to educating the general public on trees and proper tree care.*

TreesAreGood.org

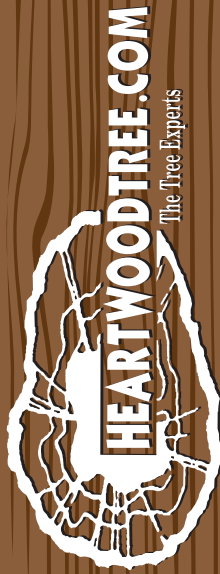
The Tree Care Industry Association, *The Tree Care Industry Association is a 73-year-old public and professional resource on trees arboriculture representing approximately 2,100 tree service and affiliated member companies.*

TCIA.org

Ancient Tree Forum, *Advocacy for greater protection and best conservation practice, specialist research and increasing people's enjoyment of ancient trees.*

FrontPage.Woodland-Trust.org.uk/ancient-treeforum/

2011



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704-525-3066

“Tree pruning, removal and care”



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