



Treemendous News

Spring 2010 Publication of Kerns Brothers



ACCREDITED BUSINESS

STORM DAMAGE

Four major snow storms left Delaware and Pennsylvania with precipitation that was measured in feet, not inches.

Many storm damage calls to our office centered on the following: White Pine trees and limbs, American Arborvitae, and uprooted trees. The likelihood of saving the trees noted above will depend on several factors.

Let's take a closer look at each scenario, possible solutions, and what to expect in the future.

- Broken and hanging limbs can be removed from the canopy and/or ground and chipped up. The stubs need to be cut back to the branch bark collar so that wound wood can grow over the area to keep insects and decay from getting in. Your tree is likely salvageable provided it hasn't lost more than one-fourth of its canopy.

Leaves and needles are the food factories of the tree (think photosynthesis). Losing more than one-fourth can stress



Row of storm damaged arborvitae.



The above row of arborvitae after corrective pruning and cabling.

your tree, and also create an unbalanced canopy as well. Depending on which way the tree is weighted, removal may be necessary.

- Arborvitae (and other multi stem plants) with bent over stems may be saved by tying opposing stems together. Reducing the tips by/through pruning also may help them spring back upright. A combination of both pruning and cabling is likely the best approach. Severely bent sections without opposing stems to tie into or stems bent past the breaking point may not be salvageable, and thus need to be removed.
- In some cases the uprooted tree can be up-righted into place and secured. Stakes may suffice if the tree is leaning slightly. Ground anchors are recommended for trees that are severely leaning or downed. The tree's chances of survival are higher if the tree is only leaning slightly, yet decrease depending on the severity of the lean.

EVERGREEN CHOICES

Many long-standing privacy screens and specimen Evergreens were lost or damaged as a result of this year's winter storms. Fortunately, nurserymen and plant developers are constantly introducing new cultivars and variations of existing ones, to better improve these plants. If you are considering removal and replacement, here are several plants worthy of mention that are better able to handle adverse conditions.

Thuja Plicata (Western Red Cedar)

- Excellent for screening and privacy hedge/specimen planting
- Rapid growth rate (up to 3 ft. per year)
- Maintains its lower limbs to the ground
- Resistant to deer browse

Cultivars Available

- Thuja Standisii x. plicata 'Green Giant' – 60 ft. height, 20 ft. width (mature)
- Thuja Plicata 'Virescens' – 40 ft. height, 12 ft. width (mature)



Cryptomeria Japonica (Japanese Cedar)

- Uses: Screening or hedge/Specimen planting
- Maintains its lower limbs to the ground
- Rapid growth rate (up to 2 1/2 - 3 ft. per year)
- Hardy in winter

These ‘better’ evergreens are so because they have many of the same attributes of traditional screen plantings and specimens used in the past, they typically have a central leader, and are not multi-trunked (making them less susceptible to damage from snow loads). Their ability to remain full to the ground in maturity, and their vigorous growth rate make them superb replacement choices.

Keep in mind that each situation provides unique circumstances. Having a Certified Arborist evaluate your storm damage is the first step. This is the best way to learn if and how your trees can be saved!

WHAT IS A CERTIFIED ARBORIST?

What is a Certified Arborist? Is it, “A tree guy?”, “A tree doctor?”, “A branch manager?” Many people are unsure of exactly what a Certified Arborist is.

Certified arborists are tree care professionals who have achieved International Society of Arboriculture (I.S.A.) certification through a combination of education and experience. An arborist must pass an extensive examination of tree maintenance, plant health care, and tree identification questions to achieve certification. There are always new & emerging technologies in the tree care industry. In order to keep up with these trends, arborists must attain (30) Continuing Education Units (C.E.U.s) every (3) years.

Certified Arborists are responsible for multiple aspects of a tree’s maintenance and health care needs. Some certified arborists work in the production end of tree care. This involves pruning, cabling and inspecting trees for a healthier future. Other arborists are in the consulting and identification end of the tree care industry, and inspect for hazards, future health concerns and potential conflicts.

Every day is different for certified arborists, whether it involves a newly introduced tree species that is difficult to identify, removing a limb directly over a glass greenhouse, or an encounter with a tree insect that sparks fear and curiosity at the same time.

While most work takes place outdoors, a fair amount of time is spent in an office doing research and paper work. This creates a break from the hot sun and the cold 10 degree wind chills.

Certified arborists take pride in protecting you and your trees for generations of enjoyment, and increased property values. Only entrust a Certified Arborist to care for your trees. **Kerns Brothers currently has seven ISA Certified Arborists on staff!**

WHAT’S NEWS

DELAWARE NURSERY AND LANDSCAPE AWARD

Larry Joyce and Kerns Brothers Landscape were the recipients of the Small Residential DNLA Landscape Award on January 13, 2010 at the Delaware Horticulture Industry Expo in Dover. Judging was based on overall design and installation. Congratulations to all involved in the project!



(L to R Back Row: Ben Richards, John Potter, Patrick Gallagher

(L to R Front Row: Lorenzo Olvera, Larry Waterfield, Larry Joyce, Dave Bennett, John Kerns

MAKE A WISH WINNERS

Congratulations to:

**The Music School of Delaware
Sparrow Run Community
New Castle Library**

If time permits a few other wishes may be granted!



FREE BLUE ROCKS TICKETS!

Two winners will be drawn from those persons who correctly name the tree in the picture below. This tree has red flowers in March (Hint: it is NOT a Cherry or Crabapple).



Call in your response by May 10th!

The winners will be notified and receive (4) Box Seat tickets and a parking pass to a 2010 Blue Rocks game.



Chris Kyle doing a crane removal on Arbor Day in Riverview Cemetery.



Barry Whitehead, Certified Arborist, pruning a storm damaged White Pine in Riverview Cemetery.

EVENTS

April 9 – Arbor Day at Riverview Cemetery

April 24 – Rare Plant Auction – Longwood Gardens

April 24 – U of D Botanic Garden Spring Sale

April 27 – Arbor Day Event (DCH) at Haynes Park

May 8 – **WDEL Garden Clinic at the Wilmington Flower Market.** John Kerns will be at the **WDEL booth from 9:00 a.m.– 10:00 a.m.** to co-host the **Garden Clinic** with Nancy Bell.

May 22 – Kerns Brothers’ annual company family dinner, game, and fireworks night at the Blue Rocks Café.

NEWLY MARRIED

John Potter (Landscape Tech) was married on April 12 2010, to Angel.

Mr. and Mrs. Potter reside in Wilmington. Congratulations!

NEW EMPLOYEES

Chris Kyle joined Kerns Brothers Tree division in January. Chris is a very talented tree climber, crew leader and CDL driver. He is a 2004 graduate of Thomas McKean High School; and the eldest of four. Chris has been in landscaping since he was little, as his dad was a landscaper. Chris began working in the tree care industry in 2005. He enjoys kayaking, camping and the outdoors.

Wayne Pease is a new part-time employee in the office and shop as a Facilities Manager. Wayne recently retired from Graybar Electric after 40+ years. Wayne lives in North Wilmington with his wife Bonnie. Their spare time is spent enjoying their 6 grandchildren.

April Nugen has returned to Kerns Brothers as a Plant Health Care technician. In addition, April is an ISA Certified Arborist, CDL driver, and a certified commercial pesticide applicator. She is very knowledgeable in PHC, and has spent 11 years in the tree care industry.

MOST CLIENT COMPLIMENTED EMPLOYEES

Congratulations to the following employees:

Carl Weber
Carlos Juarez
Barry Whitehead
Dave Bennett

Chris Kyle
Vinnie Ritchie
Ron Peterson
Patrick Gallagher

Thanks for complimenting the great job they do!

BABY GIRLS

Sadie Jane awake...



Susan & John Kerns are the proud grandparents of **Sadie Jane Wohl** - 7lbs 5.2 oz. - who was born in St. Louis, MO on January 18, 2010. Sadie joins her big brother Owen (4 years) and parents, Heather & Matthew!

Jon & Michelle Auer are the proud parents of **Kloey Jean** – 10 lbs. 5.8 oz. 20 1/2 in – born on March 12, 2010. Kloey joins her big brother Logan (3 years) at home in Chesapeake City.



Kloey Jean asleep...



**HAVE A TREE
OR
LANDSCAPE
QUESTION?
CALL 475-0466**

SPRING LANDSCAPE AND TREE CARE TIPS

- When watering your grass and plantings, water in the early-morning hours before sunrise to lessen water lost to evaporation and daytime winds.
- DO NOT overwater. Overwatering is just as bad as drought.
- Encourage new growth and continued flowering on annuals and perennials by dead-heading (removing the spent flowers from the plant).
- Top dress your planting beds with fresh mulch. Mulch helps retain soil moisture, and it moderates the soil temperature. The optimum depth for shredded mulch is 2-3 inches.
- Wait for your flowering shrubs such as Lilacs, Forsythia, Magnolias and Azaleas to finish blooming (usually in late spring or early summer) before pruning them.



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