



SPRING 2004

Green Works

Newsletter of Tree Preservation, Forestry and Land Enhancement

Welcome to Chippers' first newsletter! With the addition of Treescapes to our team, we have been looking forward to producing a publication that would offer input, direction and general news regarding arboriculture in northern New England. Most importantly, we would like your feedback on the services we provide and of course, your comments on the newsletter itself.

Early spring can be a frustrating time in our area as we anxiously await the warmer, greener days ahead. We still have mud season to get through (hopefully it will be a very short season) and late frosts to endure, but the greater amount of daylight makes us hopeful.

March is a great time for planning those warmer season projects and a fabulous place to start is at the Hanover Home Show, March 26 to 28 (see page 3 inside). Come visit our booth and enter our free drawing for \$1,000 worth of tree work at your property—a great start to the green season!

—Will Russell



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Forcing Flowering Branches

Stump Grinding

Meet a Chipper

Hanover HomeLife Show

Drawing Coupon

Spring Checklist

Pruning 101

Cal Felicetti, ASCA Member Consulting Arborist, ISA Certified Arborist

Your spouse surprised you last Christmas with a new Felco hand pruner, a scabbard and a small tri-edge folding handsaw. You've been waiting for a warm day in March so you can head outside and prune something, anything! You choose the crabapple on the front lawn. Now what...

Pruning trees is not as easy as you might think. But with some basic rules and time to work slowly and thoughtfully you can learn the basics in no time.

"Trees, except in the tiniest of gardens, are the prime ingredient of a beautiful view."

—GRAHAM STUART THOMAS

First, you'll need sharp tools. A well made bypass pruner like a Felco #2, a handsaw for larger cuts, a scabbard to keep the saw or pruners in, and a pruner on a pole for the high cuts you can't easily reach.

Next, you'll need to understand what a branch collar is. You'll see it at the attachment point where a branch

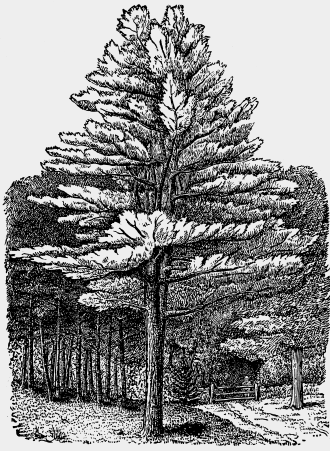
attaches to another branch or at the attachment on the main stem. It is important to make your pruning cuts leaving the collar intact, but not leaving a stub either. Some practice on less desirable trees will help.

Now look for dead limbs, suckers (fast growing upright sprouts), broken or cracked limbs and diseased looking limbs. These all need to come out. If the limb is larger than a half inch you will need the saw. In the event the branch is long and a bit heavy, remove it in parts so you end up with a small stub to cut at the attachment area with no chance of damaging the main stem with a bark rip.

Next you'll need to identify crossing and crowded branches. Decide which branches are best left and remove the others. Keep in mind the shape of the whole tree and what it should look like pruned. Are you leaving branches to achieve that goal?

A check of the basal area of the stem (near the ground) may reveal water sprouts. These usually grown from the rootstock at the graft. They need to be removed also.

—continues page 2



Everything I Need to Know I Learned from Trees

It's important to have roots.

In today's complex world,
it pays to branch out.

Don't pine away over old flames.

If you really believe in something,
don't be afraid to go out on a limb.

Be flexible so you don't break
when a harsh wind blows.

If you want to maintain accurate
records, keep a log.

To be politically correct,
don't wear firs.

Grow where you're planted.

It's perfectly okay
to be a late bloomer.

Avoid people who like to cut
you down.

Get all spruced up when you have
a hot date.

If the party gets boring,
just get up and leaf.

Be sure to cover your bare ash
in the winter.

As you approach the autumn of life,
you can't hide your true colors.

It's more important to be honest
than poplar.

—Sally Deems-Mogyordy

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—Pruning 101, continued from page 1

You're almost done. Now it's time to shape the tree. Spend some time studying the natural form and habit of the tree. This is best done from a distance and not up too close to the tree. The outer edge of the crown will reveal its natural shape. Carefully select branches for removal that interfere with that shape. Make sure the cut is down into the crown at an attachment point—don't leave stubs! Check the shape from the most important angles, such as the view from certain windows in the house.

It's time to clean up your mess and head for the next tree.



Don't Compost those Leftover Trimmings...yet! Forcing Flowering Branches

Cherries, apples, star magnolias, forsythias, shadbush, and lilacs are among the trees and shrubs that bloom in the early spring and can be forced into pre-season bloom indoors. Here's how:

- ✂ Place branches 12 to 36 inches long, cut ends down, in a bucket filled with enough tepid water to cover the bottom third.
- ✂ Bring the bucket in to the house. Recut each branch at a 45-degree angle about half an inch above the original cut.
- ✂ Put each branch back in the water immediately after recutting and place in a bright—but not full sun—location.
- ✂ Check the water every few days, and change as needed.
- ✂ Within several weeks, the buds will swell and open.
- ✂ Forced branches make charming table arrangements. If the stems are long, place the vase on the floor.

[Source: Dec/Jan 2003 Homemag.com]

Service Profile:

Stump Grinding

You've probably seen this as a potential add-on to every tree removal estimate you ever received.

What is a stump grinder? It is a machine that has a cutter wheel specifically manufactured to grind a stump and its root flares into a mulch-like fiber. Typically they penetrate about 8" below grade.

What are the benefits to stump grinding? The most obvious benefits are:

- 1] Aesthetics – stumps are unattractive
- 2] Utilization – get that usable space back
- 3] Safety – get rid of that tripping hazard
- 4] Maintenance – talk about an obstacle for your lawn mower

What are the alternatives to stump grinding?

- 1] You can have stumps dug out. *Drawbacks:* requires heavy equipment, is cost prohibitive, leaves a large hole and a large excavated stump to deal with.
- 2] There are also chemical products available that break down the cellulose layers of the stump. *Drawbacks:* stumps have to age for several years before you can use them, still have to burn the stump at the end, takes a long time, are labor-intensive, especially for larger stumps.

How much does it cost to have a stump ground? Price is dependent on size, species, and access. The price can be reduced if you are willing to take on the clean-up phase of the project. This usually entails removing the debris, which is terrific mulch for other trees or flower beds. The hole can be filled with topsoil and then reseeded or planted. Sometimes people prefer to start the process all over again and plant a replacement tree.

MEET A CHIPPER



Bill Murphy of Sharon is one of our very talented lead arborists who has been with us for more than five years. He graduated from the New York State Ranger School near his hometown of Waddington in the St Lawrence River Valley.

In addition to enjoying downhill and back country skiing, Bill is also an avid gem and mineral collector and does his own rock hunting and attends regional shows to expand his extensive collection.

When he's not taking care of your trees he can't seem to stay out of them—he and several others at Chippers make an annual "Big Pine" trek to recreationally climb the 140 foot pine tree (it's the 3rd largest in the state of New York)... just for fun!

Bill has recently become engaged to his long time girlfriend Lisa and they are planning a mid October wedding this year. Congratulations Bill and Lisa!

Ready for Spring?

Come visit our booth at the HomeLife Show at the Leverone Fieldhouse in Hanover on March 26-28 and enter our Drawing to win \$1,000 worth of tree work at your property!

Show Hours: Friday 5-9pm,
Sat 10am-8pm, Sun 10am-4pm

Name	Address	City	Phone	Email

Chippers HomeLife Show Drawing

1st Prize \$1,000 Worth of Tree Work at Your Property

2nd Prize 100 Gallons of Our New England Blend Tree Fertilizer

3rd Prize Two-Hour Arborist Consultation at Your Property

Cut out this drawing coupon and bring it with you to the HomeLife Show on March 26-28

Spring Check List

- ☐ Prune fruit trees
- ☐ Test soil
- ☐ Remove protective mulch
- ☐ Transplanting
- ☐ Rototill gardens
- ☐ Fertilize trees
- ☐ Have trees professionally inspected
- ☐ Sharpen mower blade
- ☐ Add decorative mulch
- ☐ Thatch & aerate lawn... overseeding
- ☐ Check for winter kill in shrubs... prune
- ☐ Fertilize lawns
- ☐ Divide summer & fall blooming perennials
- ☐ Buy next year's firewood
- ☐ Visit local home and garden shows
- ☐ Be on the watch for tent caterpillar webs
- ☐ Sign up for Chippers Plant Health Care program

“The memory of the first lying on the grass under the trees and the first looking through the branches at the flying clouds will stay by me if I live to be as old as ten Methuselahs.”

—AUGUSTUS SAINT-GAUDENS



chippers

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