



SPRING 2005

Green Works

Newsletter of Tree Preservation, Forestry and Land Enhancement

Spring is in the air in northern New England! And mud is covering the roads.... But as the snow starts to recede, we can begin to see all the projects Mother Nature has created for us over the winter (see our *Spring Checklist*). I, for one, can't wait to get out into the yard to begin the seasonal clean up, and my wife Mundy can't wait to get her hands into garden projects.

This edition's featured article by our consulting arborist Cal Felicetti addresses an often overlooked aspect of undertaking a home construction or remodeling project: how to protect your valuable landscape trees from damage or even death. After chasing contractors out from under the canopy of our own trees last summer, we know it can be a frustrating experience! But thanks to the great care and persistence of our arborists, our landscape trees are thriving with little harmful impact.

Have a happy spring and visit us in early May at www.chippersinc.com! Our new website will be filled with valuable information on every aspect of tree care in northern New England. —Will Russell



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Trees and Construction

Cal Felicetti, ASCA Member Consulting Arborist, ISA Certified Arborist

Building or remodeling near mature trees is not as easy as it seems. Just because we can't see what goes on below the surface (grade) doesn't mean it's not important. The life of a tree below grade is as important as the life of the tree we enjoy—above grade.

Who doesn't enjoy the shade of a large tree on a hot sunny day or the beauty of a flowering tree at its peak? It is easy to list the benefits of trees and hard to convince people of the need to respect a tree's root zone. Communicating clearly with contractors will preserve healthy mature trees from irreversible and unnecessary damage. Please take a

few moments to read some simple steps you can take to protect your trees during construction.

*"He who plants
a tree plants a
hope."*

—LUCY LARCOM,
19TH-CENTURY WRITER

NUMBER ONE: PLANNING

Whether you are doing construction work near trees yourself or you have a contractor, it is very important to have a plan that includes the trees you value.

Any soil disturbance, grade change or compaction within the root zone is damaging to the tree. The amount of roots you preserve during construction will have a corresponding affect on the tree and its health.

A good place to start is by preserving the roots from the stem or trunk of the tree out to the drip line (the outside edge of the canopy). Consider the area under the canopy of any trees to be sacred! Plan early so that your contractor can account for the extra care required when the job begins. It is not uncommon to have to pump concrete because of trees or tunneling for utilities instead of trenching through the root zone. These accommodations cost more money—how important are your trees to you?

Construction contract limitations with regard to trees may be necessary. Fines and penalties can be tied to the specifications and should be proportional to the potential tree damage.

If you have the luxury of planning a year or more in advance, you can root prune the tree and chemically enhance the root system closer to the trunk. This can give you more room for construction and increase the survivability of the tree. A consulting arborist is qualified to create a tree preservation plan for your property.

—continues page 2



The Enkindled Spring

THIS spring as it comes
bursts up in bonfires green,

Wild puffing of emerald trees,
and flame-filled bushes,

Thorn-blossom lifting in wreaths
of smoke between

Where the wood fumes up
and the watery, flickering rushes.

I am amazed at this spring,
this conflagration

Of green fires lit on the soil of the
earth, this blaze

Of growing, and sparks that puff
in wild gyration,

Faces of people streaming across
my gaze.

And I, what fountain of fire
am I among

This leaping combustion of spring?
My spirit is tossed

About like a shadow buffeted in
the throng

Of flames, a shadow that's gone
astray, and is lost.

—D.H. Lawrence

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—Trees & Construction, continued from page 1

NUMBER TWO: FENCING

Did I say fence? YES! Fence trees to include at least the area within the drip line or allow one foot of space from the trunk for each inch of trunk diameter. Erect a sturdy fence that is not easily removed. Monitor fences to be sure they haven't been moved to make room for a storage area, a path for trucks or a place to rinse off equipment.

Designate with your contractor specific site access and parking for all vehicles. Try to use one route onto the construction site and specify areas for storage of equipment and materials.

As the end of the job approaches do not become complacent. Shade-seeking carpenters and trades people will try to park their pickups and vans under your prize trees—don't let them!

NUMBER THREE: OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Keep trees watered during hot dry weather and add a thin layer of mulch to hold moisture and to moderate soil temperature.

If you have no choice but to allow workers in the root zone area of trees, provide as much protection as possible. Trucks and equipment compact soil and push air out of the upper layers. Minimize compaction by laying plywood down for vehicles to drive over. Replace barrier fences after the plywood is no longer needed.

If there is a landscape phase of the project the same rules apply. Planting grass up to the stem of trees is never a good idea. Irrigation lines installed within the root zone and grade changes, even as little as two inches, can have a negative effect on the health of your mature trees.

NUMBER FOUR: AFTER CONSTRUCTION

After all the finish crews are completely done, remove construction fences and re-mulch trees. Stressed trees are more prone to insect and disease infestation and will require more frequent evaluation. A soil injected root promoter and mycorrhizal fungi inoculant should speed recovery and begin to loosen compacted soils.

Consider hiring one of our certified tree experts for a post-construction evaluation: consulting@chippersinc.com.



Welcome to the World Aiden Allen Kingsbury!

The 6lb.15oz. baby boy was born
on January 29th to Stacey and Josh.

Do we have a future chipper
in our midst?

Save a tree: Help us cut down on paper usage and sign up for our new electronic invoice service. If you would prefer this method of billing please email Pamela Rose, our Accounts Receivable Administrator, at: admin@chippersinc.com.

MEET A CHIPPER

Mark Liebert is one of our managers and our lead Plant Health Care Specialist.

Born in the Netherlands, he moved to New Jersey in his early years, and then to the Midwest where he attended high school. Mark graduated from the University of Missouri-Columbia in 1998 with a BS in Forestry with an emphasis on urban forestry.

He moved to New England after graduation and soon thereafter began working as a climber in our Woodstock office, becoming a certified Arborist and being promoted to Operations Manager of our Lebanon office in 2003.

Mark and his wife Renee live in Enfield with their “girls,” canines Maggie and Molly. In his spare time he enjoys fishing, home improvement projects, hiking with Renee and the dogs and, of course, watching the New England Patriots.

Please email your tree related questions to: askthearborist@chippersinc.com.



The Chippers Crew, February 2005

Come visit our booth at the HomeLife Show at the Leverone Fieldhouse in Hanover on March 25-27 and enter our Drawing to win \$1,000 worth of tree work at your property!

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| Name |
| Address |
| City |
| Phone |
| Email |

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 (winners to be notified by phone at a later date).

Spring Check List

- ☐ Visit local home and garden shows
- ☐ Order next year's firewood
- ☐ Sign up for **chippers** Plant Health Care program
- ☐ Plan for any pending construction
- ☐ Prune shrubs
- ☐ Have trees professionally inspected
- ☐ Test soil
- ☐ Remove protective mulch
- ☐ Rototill gardens
- ☐ Sharpen mower blades
- ☐ Add decorative mulch
- ☐ Fertilize trees & lawns
- ☐ Divide summer & fall blooming perennials
- ☐ Be on the watch for tent caterpillar webs
- ☐ Visit our new website in May:
www.chippersinc.com

“Character is like a tree and reputation like its shadow. The shadow is what we think of it: the tree is the real thing.”

— ABRAHAM
LINCOLN



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