

February 2020 Program Recap



'Change That Old Landscape - Prune'

Avery Howell, *Landscape Architect* and owner of Proclaim Landscape Associates, talked of pruning for results . . . with timing to be aggressive early so there is need to do less later. Pruning principles are:

- Why: Corrective, for Shape (end effect), to Encourage flowers or fruit, for Damage removal
- When: Generally, while shrub or tree is dormant and you can see its structure - Corrective pruning done in late winter, Cosmetic pruning (trimming, which is repetitive) done in summer (June-July), Clean up pruning done in late fall (November)
- How: Right equipment (hand pruners, saws, loppers), Right cut – angled, above bud, Right amount – rule of taking off about one-third

Avery cautioned not to just shear everything – this needs constant repeating.

He said to evaluate existing shrubs and shrub groupings . . . some plants simply need to be removed.

Also, we were urged to live in the 21st Century and buy from the numerous arrays of hybrids grown for smaller size.

Generally, they don't need any pruning.