

THE SHADE TREE

A BI-MONTHLY BULLETIN DEVOTED TO NEW JERSEY'S SHADE TREES

Volume 98 — May — June 2025 — Issue 5 & 6

This Issue Presents...

NJ Shade Tree Federation 100th Annual Conference October 16- 17, 2025

Looking Forward to our Centennial Celebration

Reminder: Community Tree Project Award & Scholarship Applications

Due by June 30th, 2025

Happy Arbor Day from NJ Shade Tree Federation

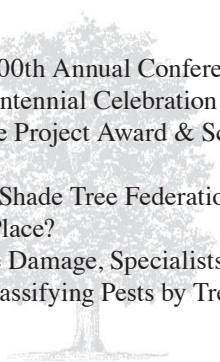
What Makes a Successful Place?

Generalist Pest Cause More Damage, Specialists Kill More Trees:

Foundational Insights for Classifying Pests by Tree Damage and Mortality

To See a Tree

Calendar of Events 2025



NJ SHADE TREE FEDERATION 100TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OCTOBER 16-17, 2025

Location: Harrah's Resort Atlantic City
777 Harrah's Blvd, Atlantic City, NJ 08401

Date: Thursday, October 16 & Friday, October 17, 2025

Planning to stay overnight? Our event hotel room block is open for reservations. Secure a significant discount on your Wednesday, Oct 15, and/or Thursday, Oct 16, night accommodations by booking within our NJ Shade Tree Federation event group. Make room reservations with Harrah's online using our group's unique booking "passkey" weblink anytime or by calling the Harrah's reservations call-center (8am-2am EST, 7 days a week) and providing our group code.

Book Online: <https://book.passkey.com/go/SH10SH5>

By Phone: 888-516-2215

Group Name: NJ Shade Tree Federation

Group Code: SH10SH5

All callers will be asked for this code but can also book by saying *** **Shade Tree Federation**

Conference Registration will open online soon, stayed tuned into our website: <https://njstf.org/annual-conference> We look forward to distributing conference registration and preliminary program information!

BULLETIN OF THE NEW JERSEY SHADE TREE FEDERATION

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LOOKING FORWARD TO OUR CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

In planning our centennial celebration we're announcing an exciting way to participate and support this year's 100th Annual Conference. Put your name in the program book! - We are now accepting patron messages and booster page listings for inclusion in this year's commemorative conference program book. In addition to standard ad space offerings, this year's book will include messages written by you. Shout out your organizations, memorialize the individuals who've contributed to your town's tree resources, congratulate or thank your community, etc. Please help us make this once-in-a-lifetime conference even more special by adding your words to the keepsake program booklet!

DUE: JUNE 30th, 2025

APPLICATION FORM: available for download on our website: <https://njstf.org/annual-conference>

Questions? Contact our office: TREES@NJSTF.ORG or (732)-246-3210

REMINDER: COMMUNITY TREE PROJECT AWARD & SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS DUE BY JUNE 30TH, 2025

The New Jersey Shade Tree Federation is pleased to open the annual application period for the William J. Porter Community Tree Project Award and Arboriculture Scholarship. Visit www.njstf.org to download the award and scholarship information and application forms. The application deadline is June 30th, 2025. Submissions may be emailed to us at TREES@NJSTF.ORG

The William J. Porter Community Tree Project Award is intended to provide up-front funding for a small project to benefit the tree resource in your community. Award details as follows:

- Up to \$2,500.00 per award depending on availability of funds.
- Project funds provided upfront upon receipt of the award (this is not a reimbursement grant!).
- Project funds can be awarded to a municipality or tree organization working within their municipality (organization must have capability to accept fund – no checks to individuals).
- Awardee must be a current member of the NJ Shade Tree Federation

REMINDER: COMMUNITY TREE PROJECT AWARD & SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS DUE BY JUNE 30TH, 2025

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(forgot to renew? There's still time! Download a Renewal/Application Form from our website: www.njstf.org/membership)

- Five year moratorium for past award recipients.
- Award Recipient(s) will be notified in September and the award will be presented at the NJ Shade Tree Federation 100th Annual Conference, Oct 16 & 17, 2025
- Applications may be emailed to TREES@NJSTF.ORG

The William J. Porter Arboriculture Scholarship is intended to encourage studies and careers in Arboriculture and Urban Forestry. The award goes to a Rutgers student meeting the following criteria:

- Recipient: A Rutgers Student – Application submission deadline is June 30th. The Recipient must be a full-time student enrolled in a program of studies representing a demonstrated interest in Arboriculture or Urban Forestry. The student must be at least sophomore standing with a minimum GPA of 2.5. The ideal candidates would include those majoring in Ecology and Natural Resources, Plant Biology and Pathology, Environmental Planning and Design, or Landscape Architecture, but others may apply.
- Awards: Awards will be up to \$2,500. Amount may be adjusted annually depending on available funds. Award Recipient(s) will be notified in September and the award will be presented at the NJ Shade Tree Federation 100th Annual Conference, Oct 16 & 17, 2025
- Applications may be emailed to TREES@NJSTF.ORG

Visit www.njstf.org to download the award and scholarship information and application forms. The application deadline is June 30th, 2025. Submissions may be emailed to us at TREES@NJSTF.ORG

HAPPY ARBOR DAY FROM THE NJ SHADE TREE FEDERATION

By Richard Wolowicz, at the NJ State & City of Orange Arbor Day
Ceremony, April 25, 2025

Good morning, Happy Arbor Day,

I thought that I would take a few minutes and share some of my thoughts with you. Today, we celebrate a holiday which is unlike any other holiday. Holidays are celebrations, memorials, remembrances of things and events that occurred in the past. Like the Fourth of July, Memorial Day, etc. Arbor Day is a day that we celebrate the future. The future of continued tree coverage, the future



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HAPPY ARBOR DAY FROM THE NJ SHADE TREE FEDERATION

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of doing our part to help this poor earth trying to rebalance itself with one of its most fundamental tools, a living organism, a tree.

Today, I see volunteers, school children, concerned adults, industry professionals – all of whom share the same passion... doing our part to improve our environment. I don't see only people. What I see in your eyes is a dedicated demonstrations of 5 key attributes.

I see:

- **Commitment:** A commitment to help this park thrive and grow one tree at a time which will hopefully spread to other neighborhoods.
- **Concern:** I see a concern that everybody demonstrates by supporting the improvements to this park, this city, this county.
- **Dedication:** I see a dedication demonstrated by those who gave up your normal day activities to plant, to teach others and to enjoy the fruits and future fruits of your labor – that's dedication.
- **Desire:** I see your desire in knowing that can make a difference. Lastly,
- **Hope:** I see it in your eyes, the hope that the trees that you have helped to plant will last and be a stronghold for future generations and remembrances.

We can name all of the many products that we get from trees, but I want to remind all of us that there are many benefits that we cannot see and sometimes forget. It's the faster recovery time from illness if a person can look at a 'treescape' out their window. It's the relaxing aesthetics of walking down a park path or a city sidewalk being met by a shady cooling breeze. It's healthier and calmer. And we can't forget it's the air that we can breathe.

Having had the honor of being involved in the tree industry, I regularly get asked what the best time is to plant a tree. I answer by stating that the best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. What is the second-best time to plant a tree? It's today, it's now. This will provide for a healthier future.

Thank you,

Richard Wolowicz, Executive Director NJ Shade Tree Federation



WHAT MAKES A SUCCESSFUL PLACE?

Project for Public Spaces, www.pps.org, Dec 31, 2008

Great public spaces are those places where celebrations are held, social and economic exchanges occur, friends run into each other, and cultures mix.

They are the “front porches” of our public institutions – libraries, field houses, schools – where we interact with each other and government. When these spaces work well, they serve as the stage for our public lives.

What makes some places succeed while others fail?

In evaluating thousands of public spaces around the world, PPS has found Great public spaces are those places where celebrations are held, social and economic exchanges occur, friends run into each other, and cultures mix. They are the “front porches” of our public institutions – libraries, field houses, schools – where we interact with each other and government. When these spaces work well, they serve as the stage for our public lives.

What makes some places succeed while others fail?

In evaluating thousands of public spaces around the world, PPS has found that to be successful, they generally share the following four qualities: they are accessible; people are engaged in activities there; the space is comfortable and has a good image; and finally, it is a sociable place: one where people meet each other and take people when they come to visit.

Access & Linkages

You can judge the accessibility of a place by its connections to its surroundings, both visual and physical. A successful public space is easy to get to and get through; it is visible both from a distance and up close. The edges of a space are important as well: For instance, a row of shops along a street is more interesting and generally safer to walk by than a blank wall or empty lot. Accessible spaces have a high parking turnover and, ideally, are convenient to public transit.

Questions to consider on Access & Linkages:

- Can you see the space from a distance? Is its interior visible from the outside?
- Is there a good connection between the space and the adjacent buildings, or is it surrounded by blank walls? Do occupants of adjacent buildings use the space?
- Can people easily walk to the place? For example, do they have to dart between moving cars to get to the place?
- Do sidewalks lead to and from the adjacent areas?
- Does the space function for people with special needs?
- Do the roads and paths through the space take people where they actually want to go?
- Can people use a variety of transportation options - bus train, car, bicycle, etc. - to reach the place?
- Are transit stops conveniently located next to destinations such as libraries, post offices, park entrances, etc.?

Comfort & Image

Whether a space is comfortable and presents itself well - has a good image



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WHAT MAKES A SUCCESSFUL PLACE?

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- is key to its success. Comfort includes perceptions about safety, cleanliness, and the availability of places to sit - the importance of giving people the choice to sit where they want is generally underestimated.

Questions to consider on Comfort & Image:

- Does the place make a good first impression?
- Are there more women than men?
- Are there enough places to sit? Are seats conveniently located? Do people have a choice of places to sit, either in the sun or shade?
- Are spaces clean and free of litter? Who is responsible for maintenance? What do they do? When?
- Does the area feel safe? Is there a security presence? If so, what do these people do? When are they on duty?
- Are people taking pictures? Are there many photo opportunities available?
- Do vehicles dominate pedestrian use of the space, or prevent them from easily getting to the space?

Uses & Activities

Activities are the basic building blocks of great places: They are the reasons why people visit in the first place, and why they continue to return. They are also what makes a place special or unique. When there is nothing to do in a place, it will sit empty and unused—a sure sign something needs to change. Read more.

Principles to keep in mind in evaluating the uses and activities of a place:

- The more activities that are going on and that people have an opportunity to participate in, the better.
- There is a good balance between men and women.
- People of different ages are using the space (retired people and people with young children can use a space during the day when others are working).
- The space is used throughout the day.
- A space that is used by both singles and people in groups is better than one that is just used by people alone because it means that there are places for people to sit with friends, there is more socializing, and it is more fun.
- The ultimate determinant of a place's success is how well it is managed.

Questions to consider on Uses & Activities:

- Are people using the space or is it empty?
- Is it used by people of different ages?
- Are people in groups?
- How many different types of activities are occurring - people walking, eating, playing baseball, chess, relaxing, reading?
- Which parts of the space are used and which are not?
- Are there choices of things to do?
- Is there a management presence, or can you identify anyone in charge of the space?

WHAT MAKES A SUCCESSFUL PLACE?

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Sociability

This is a difficult quality for a place to achieve, but once attained it becomes an unmistakable feature. When people see friends, meet and greet their neighbors, and feel comfortable interacting with strangers, they tend to feel a stronger sense of place or attachment to their community - and to the place that fosters these types of social activities. Read more.

Questions to consider on Sociability:

- Is this a place where you would choose to meet your friends? Are others meeting friends here or running into them?
- Are people in groups? Are they talking with one another?
- Do people seem to know each other by face or by name?
- Do people bring their friends and relatives to see the place or do they point to one of its features with pride?
- Are people smiling? Do people make eye contact with each other?
- Do people use the place regularly and by choice?
- Does a mix of ages and ethnic groups that generally reflect the community at large?
- Do people tend to pick up litter when they see it?

Note: www.pps.org has a variety of publications, reports, diagrams, and case studies featuring the key principles listed in this introductory article. As community forest stewards and tree planters, we frequently embody the role of “Placemaker”. For decades we’ve used trees to help soften harsh visual lines, shade hot pavement, encourage people to linger in shopping plazas, provide health benefits to our residents and improve the environment of our communities. Our work is literally defined as: Community (People) + Forestry (Trees). Do you have “Places” that are character-defined by trees in your town? Can you find ways to use the ‘Placemaker’s’ terminology in your work?

GENERALIST PEST CAUSE MORE DAMAGE, SPECIALISTS KILL MORE TREES: FOUNDATIONAL INSIGHTS FOR CLASSIFYING PESTS BY TREE DAMAGE AND MORTALITY

By Sam Friot, Southern Research Station, USDA Forest Service, May 8,
2025

**A recent study highlights the critical need for understanding and managing
nonnative forest specialist and generalist pests.**

“We classify pests for easier management; it’s just a matter of which we should focus on first, given limited labor and funding,” says Qinfeng Guo, a research ecologist with the USDA Forest Service and lead author of the study.

The hemlock woolly adelgid, introduced accidentally in the 1950s, remains

GENERALIST PEST CAUSE MORE DAMAGE, SPECIALISTS KILL MORE TREES: FOUNDATIONAL INSIGHTS FOR CLASSIFYING PESTS BY TREE DAMAGE AND MORTALITY

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a major tree-killer in the U.S. In Japan, its population is controlled by natural predators and host tree resistance, but in the eastern U.S., where it's invasive, these controls are absent, causing significant damage. The National Park Service reported a loss of 80-90% of eastern hemlocks at some sites. The hemlock woolly adelgid is one of 66 nonnative species analyzed by researchers in this study.

“Invasive insects are the biggest threat to forests. This study aims to shed light on the best methods for defining and confronting this vulnerability,” says Kevin Potter, second author of the study.

Specialist and generalist classifications are used frequently in the field of forest management. Specialist pests are those that consume one or very few host species, believed to take more of a toll on their hosts, while generalists usually infest more species and sometimes across multiple genera or even families.

The key finding of this study was that specialists caused more tree deaths than generalists. However, contrary to expectations, generalists inflicted more nonlethal damage due to their broader impact across multiple species. The study also found that newer nonnative pests caused more tree mortality than older ones, possibly because older pests have already killed the most vulnerable trees, spread to larger areas, and allowed host trees to adapt over time.

Guo and Potter stress the importance of better classification. As it is now, there is no standard approach to differentiating specialists from generalists, especially when it comes to assessing which is more damaging. Depending on the way the damage is measured, different conclusions can be drawn, leading to conflicting findings.

In their study, Guo and Potter analyze damage from 66 nonnative pest species, looking for differences between nonnative generalist and nonnative specialist pests. They do this using two approaches: the binary approach (each pest is either a generalist or a specialist) and the specialist-generalist continuum. Of the two approaches explored, the specialist-generalist continuum approach made for clearer findings given the limited data available.

“If you have enough species to form a gradient or continuum from specialists to generalists, you can examine host responses along the gradient in terms of infestation and impacts,” Guo comments, reiterating the importance of clear classifications and a need to fill the current gaps in data.

In order to understand current infestations and predict and prepare for future challenges, it's important that we further efforts to understand the dynamics



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GENERALIST PEST CAUSE MORE DAMAGE, SPECIALISTS KILL MORE TREES: FOUNDATIONAL INSIGHTS FOR CLASSIFYING PESTS BY TREE DAMAGE AND MORTALITY

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of invasive pest infestations and how to best manage them.

“Unfortunately, invasive pests are here to stay, and we need to understand how to manage them,” says Potter.

Note: Read the full research paper “Generalist Pests Cause High Tree Infestation, but Specialist Pests Cause High Mortality” online here: <https://research.fs.usda.gov/treesearch/68905>

100 YEARS OF HISTORY: PART II

Our time warp series continues with a 50 year jump back to 1975, the year that the Federation marked its 50th, Golden Year, Anniversary. Stanley A. McIntosh, a Landscape Architect of Little Silver, NJ wrote the Federation office the following letter.

DESIGN STREETS TO INCLUDE SHADE TREES

By Stanley A. McIntosh, The Shade Tree Vol. 48. No. 5, May 1975

The normal 2' to 3' panel between walk and curb is not enough space for the placement of street trees. A better situation would develop should 6' or more be available. Certainly the placing of trees 1' or 2' away from the sidewalk is again quite inconvenient.

Street trees must grow under conditions prevailing in a city street. Paving reduces water and food – overhead wires make unsightly pruning necessary – large vehicle bodies break branches – gas, dirt and heat are not natural – roots are often damaged by repairs. Should the street be widened, trees planted in this 2' to 3' strip are the first casualties. Thus, it would seem trees placed some 6' to 8' within the property area would seem more logical and have a better location. A more natural area for root growth is provided, a wider-looking street is developed and storm damage is less of a hazard.

The author of “Municipal Street Tree Planting” in the November SHADE TREE asks whose trees are they and who is responsible for them. I would not care. Let the responsibility remain with the property owner with Municipal ordinance to control hazardous or unsightly trees or plantings. A lot of public expense could then be saved.

Why Not Design Streets?

One thought has evidently been overlooked. Houses are designed, gardens are designed – why not streets? In new developments the builder should

100 YEARS OF HISTORY: PART II

Continued from page 44

be required to establish shade trees. These could be planned to create a picture. The combination of evergreens, flowering trees, and shade trees could readily be developed into a pleasing composition. Thus, an environment is formed and the planting becomes a part of the neighborhood. Each property owner should be supplied with a plan depicting the design intention. Thus, garage doors are screened, areas are formed and the whole basic design becomes a garden. Property owners will generally follow the planned recommendation after the initial planting by the developer has been accepted. In this way I believe our streets could be much more picturesque and not just a ribbon of uniformly set "street trees."

Note: At the time of Stanley's letter, in the 1970s, community green spaces were a hot topic around the nation. Stanley's letter provides a great look into the ideas and motivations of the professionals who are working to get organized street-scaping back into the focus of community developers. At this same time, big city guerrilla gardeners are planting up vacant lots and seeking legal protection to help preserve their green spaces from developers. Green streets was certainly a 1970s idea, but the term itself won't take off until the 1990s when a 1989 documentary of NYC grassroots community gardening "Green Streets" broadcasts the struggles of urban greenspace advocates out to the nation. Together, over the next 25 years the efforts of advocates and professionals will gain traction in drawing attention to the importance of community green space. Green streets will become a buzz word in the twenty-first century and be adopted back into academia with thousands of research articles featuring the term and providing the branch point for the green infrastructure terminology we see adopted into policy and ordinances today.

TO SEE A TREE

The Morton Arboretum, Science and Conservation Blog,
www.mortonarb.org

To you, a tree is a thing of beauty: the spring green high in its branches, its flowers, the emerald green summer shade, the red and yellow leaves that light up the autumn landscape.

A tree is a joy to a scientist too. But it's also data. Scientific training is a special lens. When Andrew Hipp, PhD, who studies tree evolution, looks at a tree, he sees deep into time and far across space. "I see it not just as an individual, but as a slice of the history of the species," he says. "The genes found in a single leaf can be a clue to the story of how many oak species have evolved and diverged across continents over millions of years."

Every Arboretum scientist who looks at a tree sees big questions. "The habit of science entails thinking about a big question by breaking it down into smaller questions you can test," Hipp says. Every leaf, twig, or seed may have an answer. When Sean Hoban, PhD, tree conservation biologist, looks at a tree, he notices its seeds, "like little space capsules, each stocked with a food supply, whose shape and form are adapted to help the seed move to a new location to grow into future trees." He studies how seed dispersal helps species and communities thrive.

TO SEE A TREE

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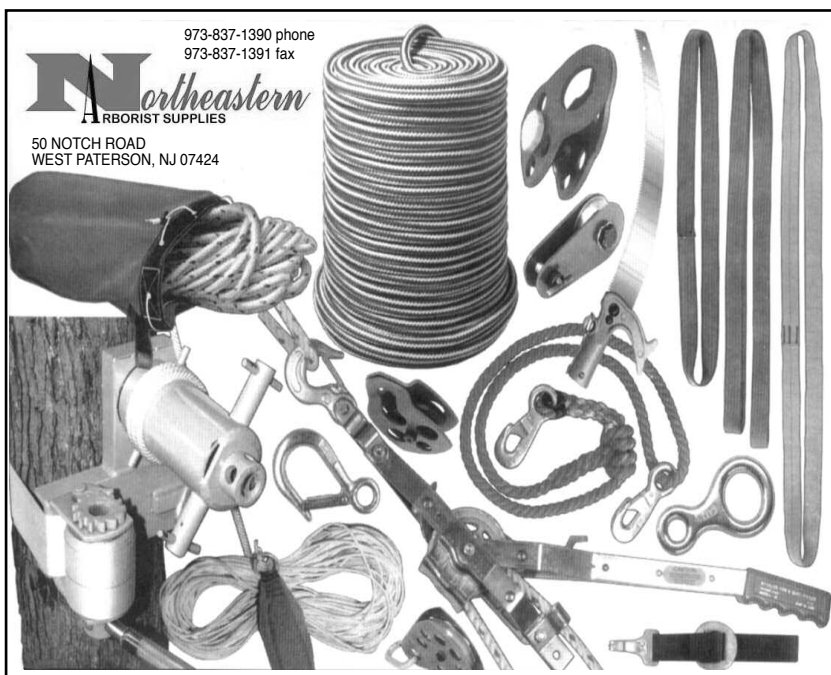
A root biologist like Luke McCormack, PhD, is visualizing what we can't see—the vast, complicated structure of roots that grow in the soil under feet. His challenge in studying how roots grow is to watch and measure something that happens in the dark, beneath the ground.

Christy Rollinson, PhD, forest ecologist, looks to tiny buds to answer urgent questions. When they open this spring to let the leaves inside unfurl, will it be earlier or later than in years past? By comparing bud data from thousands of trees of different species, Rollinson is trying to understand how the changing climate is affecting trees and forests, now and in the future.

Arboretum scientists love trees. “I still have the excitement and delight of anyone seeing a beautiful tree,” Hipp says. “The other layer, the layer that comes from being a scientist, is the awareness of what’s unseen.”

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2025

June 11th	Tree Talk Zoom, 7:00-8:30 PM
June 30th	Applications Deadline: 2025 Porter Community Tree Project Award & Scholarship
September 10th	Tree Talk Zoom, 7:00-8:30 PM
October 16-17	NJ Shade Tree Federation 100th Annual Conference, Harrah's Atlantic City, NJ
December 10th	Tree Talk Zoom, 7:00-8:30 PM





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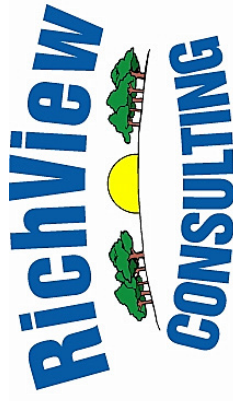


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