THE SHADE TREE

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

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BULLETIN OF THE NEW JERSEY SHADE TREE FEDERATION

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DIRECTOR'S DISCOURSE

By Richard Wolowicz

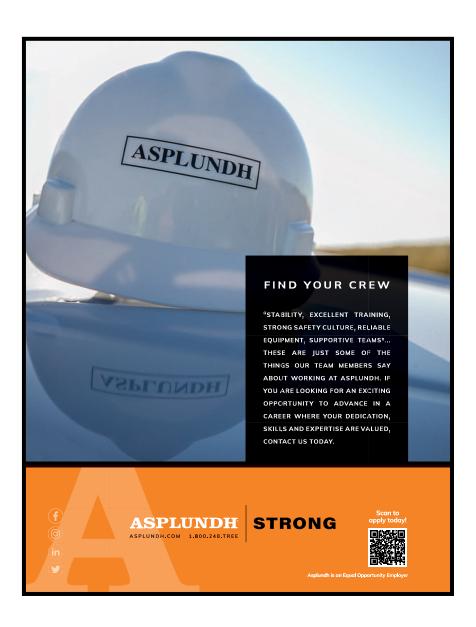
As 2024 comes to a close, I can't help but wonder about the things that changed during the year. Some good, some bad. We went through floods, storms and drought. In extremes, these conditions are not great for the continued well being of our tree population. However, I see glimmers of hope. A group of people dedicated to the tree industry, all working together to promote tree health and make our world a bit better.

We are rebounding off of the 99th Annual Conference. Here are some interesting facts about those working to make the tree world a bit better:

- 410 people registered for the conference,
- 572 people were in attendance,
- 12 different speakers,
- 2 panel discussions,
- 2,080 hours of NJUCF CEUs were awarded,
- 1,273 hours of NJLTE and LTCOs CEUs were awarded,
- 540 hours of ISA CEUs were awarded,
- 19 exhibitors filled the exhibit hall,
- The Meet & Greet provided an opportunity for attendees, speakers and exhibitors to mingle,
- The Borough of Merchantville was awarded the Tree Project Award, Rutgers Student, Grace Tempel was awarded the Bill Porter Arboricultural Scholarship,
- The NJSTF Award of Achievement was awarded to Richard Liester,
- The J. Sterling Morton Award was awarded to Matt Simons.

Of course, putting on this conference is no small task. It can only be done with the help of dozens of dedicated volunteers who assist the staff in making it happen. Countless hours of planning, discussions, decisions and implementation were made possible with the help of Board members, volunteers and Officers. One name stands out for her great organizational skills and patience, Emily Farschon. We owe her our thanks for her tireless efforts.





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Thank you to our 99th Annual Conference Partners & Sponsors for making this event possible!



















CONGRATULATIONS MERCHANTVILLE!

The City of Merchantville was selected as the 2024 William J. Porter Community Tree Project Award Winner. NJ Shade Tree Federation Education Committee Chair Liz Stewart presented the award to Lynn Geddes of Merchantville Shade Tree Commission on October 17, 2024, at the NJ Shade Tree Federation's 99th Annual Conference.

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. The Federation review committee noted that this year's applications feature an exceptionally diverse range of project scopes and priorities. Thank you to all the NJ towns & organizations who applied.

The Federation recognized Merchantville Shade Tree Commission as the 2024 winner and is pleased to share the following details of the application written by Lynn Geddes and Kerry Mentzer on behalf of the Merchantville Community:

Following the Miyazaki Method, the environmental groups in our town, led by the Shade Tree Commission, plan to plant a tiny forest. Because of the size of our town (0.6 sq. miles), coupled with limited funds and the limitations of the streetscape's narrow curb strips and overhead lines, planting a tiny forest along our bike path would fulfill the goals of increasing the tree canopy, creating habitat, increasing native plants, and adding nature to a perimeter edge of our borough. The bike path is a well-used area of the Borough and awareness will be raised on a large scale. We plan to monitor and log the forest's progress with updates on our Facebook pages. The site is within walking distance of our school and will open the door to multiple opportunities for projects and learning.

The review committee noted that Merchantville's project transforms an underutilized, mowed public green space into a pocket of biodiversity. Their chosen location, a highly trafficked public recreation space (bike path) in proximity to the school, allows community members of all ages to access, learn, and enjoy their new tiny forest as it grows. NJ Shade Tree Federation is proud to support Merchantville's efforts.

CONGRATULATIONS GRACE TEMPLE!

Grace Temple was selected as recipient of the 2024 William J. Porter Arboriculture Scholarship. NJ Shade Tree Federation Education Committee Chair Liz Stewart presented the award to Grace, a Rutgers undergraduate student majoring in Ecology, Evolution, and Natural Resources, on October 17, 2024, at the NJ Shade Tree Federation's 99th Annual Conference.

The William J. Porter Arboriculture Scholarship is awarded to encourage studies and careers in Arboriculture and Urban Forestry.

The review committee noted that Grace's application was exceptional. Grace's essay demonstrated a curiosity about the urban trees and spaces observed and voiced the kinds of critical questions that generate positive change. Grace's intentions to continue learning, advocate for the under-represented, and educate others are recognized with great appreciation. The NJ Shade Tree Federation is proud to help support Grace Temple's Urban Forestry studies.



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WILLIAM J PORTER AWARD OF ACHIEVEMENT HONOREE - BRIAN McDONALD

Every year, the NJ Shade Tree Federation has the privilege of acknowledging someone who has made great contributions to tree management, arboriculture, ecology, tree care, and/or urban forestry. This distinctive honor is made by the presentation of the William J. Porter Award of Appreciation. It is fitting to acknowledge our new honoree with the namesake of another person who has made countless achievements in the environment which specifically supports the tree industry.

During the NJ Shade Tree Federation's 99th Annual Conference, The William J Porter Award of Achievement was presented to Brian McDonald. Brian is distinguished in his field. He is a proven leader. He strives to educate, promote the tree industry and adds professionalism to all that he does. He takes the time to answer questions with integrity and patience.

He has served in the Peace Corp, on station in Mexico where he assisted rural communities in sustainability. He has served as a Horticulturalist for Burlington County and as a forester for the State of Delaware.

Brian currently serves as an Assistant Regional Forester for the State of New Jersey. On behalf of the NJ Shade Tree Federation, it is an honor to award him with this honor.

Congratulations Brian!

EDUCATING THE PUBLIC ABOUT TREES & STORM EVENTS

With recent storms many people are noticing a real lack of understanding by the public on how to prepare trees in communities for a storm event. Many times residents who had a tree fail in a storm don't understand the reason why, or how they could have mitigated the problem and may not know what to do next. Noticing this void, groups like the Arbor Day Foundation have made "Storm Recover Kits" for communities to educate the public.

There are 6 main topics to educate about trees & storm events to residents:

- 1. Pre-Storm Prevention This is educating the public about proper tree care and having their trees checked for defects. Removing defects or a tree that runs a high risk of failing in the storm is important, because trees that fail in storms usually have some type of noticeable defect.
- 2. Post-Storm After a storm residents need to assess their property. It will be important that residents understand the risks of damaged trees for immediate safety. In many cases fallen tree branches may take down power-lines and leave hanging branches that may fall. They also need a plan of who to contact for post-storm work.

EDUCATING THE PUBLIC ABOUT TREES & STORM EVENTS Continued from page 88

- 3. Tree First Aid After a storm it may take several days before a proper tree care service may be able to get to a resident. Residents may need to care for a tree or remove a branch still attached to the tree before an arborist can be on the site. Tree first aid will help residents make the right choices to reduce tree damage.
- 4. Avoiding Scam Artists After a storm there is a great potential for scam artists to make money. Residents need to know how to protect their property, the trees and themselves from these scam artists. The person that comes to a door post-storm may not have insurance or trained in proper tree care.
- 5. Reducing Future Storm Damage Sometime after a storm it is important to remind residents to have the trees checked for damage that may cause a tree to become a hazard in the next storm. This might include removing dead or cracked branches potentially reducing future tree hazards.
- 6. Importance of Community Forestry This is also a very good time to show the importance of Community Forestry. Woody debris after a storm can be the largest impediment of cleaning up after a major storm. A long-term properly managed community forest will have far less problems, and should be able to recover more quickly after a storm event.

This information is brought to you by the Tree Care Industry Association.

MIXED FORESTS REDUCE THE RISK OF FOREST DAMAGE IN A WARMER CLIMATE

Science Daily, November 20, 2024

Forests with few tree species pose considerably higher risk of being damaged and especially vulnerable is the introduced lodgepole pine. This is shown in a new study by researchers from Umeå University and the Swedish University of Agricultural Science in Uppsala. The results can be useful for preventing forest damages and financial losses related to the forest industry.

Fungi, insects, fires and cervids, such as moose, are examples of natural factors behind tree damages in Swedish forests. Sometimes, the damages become so extensive that they impact the function of forest ecosystems, not least the ability of forests to provide wood and other tree products.

"In a warmer climate with more extreme weather and new pest organisms, and with a more intense forestry, forest damages are expected to become more common and more severe. It is therefore important to understand causes of forest damages and whether it can be prevented," says researcher Micael Jonsson at Umeå University, who led the study.

The Swedish national forest inventory has collected extensive data from

MIXED FORESTS REDUCE THE RISK OF FOREST DAMAGE IN A WARMER CLIMATE

Continued from page 89

Swedish forests. Since 2003, data on forest damages have also been collected. In the current study, the research group has analyzed 15 years of these data from all over Sweden, to investigate which damages are most common and which factors determine the risk of a tree becoming damaged. The study is more extensive both in time and geographically than previous studies.

The results show that wind and snow are the most common causes of tree damage, followed by forestry and then fungi. Damages from cervids -- mostly moose -- are on fifth place. 94 percent of all trees showed some kind of damage. Coniferous trees and young stands showed the highest risk of damage, and in warmer parts of Sweden, stands with few tree species showed a considerably higher risk of being damaged compared to stands with a higher number of tree species.

"Our results show that there is a potential to reduce the risk of forest damages via a changed forest management. Especially, a higher proportion of broadleaf trees in the otherwise so coniferous-dominated production forest would result in fewer damages. We can for example see that the lodgepole pine, introduced by the forestry industry, has the highest risk of damage. Its introduction therefore counteracts a profitable forestry," says Micael Jonsson.

The results also indicate that a higher number of tree species in a stand act as an insurance against extensive forest damages in a warmer climate.

"We must adapt Swedish forests and forest management methods to a future warmer climate. Including more tree species in production forests seems to be an adaptation that could work!" says co-author Jan Bengtsson at the Swedish University of Agricultural Science.

However, the study also shows that the data material has some weaknesses. For example, it has not been possible to establish the cause behind a large proportion of the damages.

"The national forest inventory collects important data for our understanding of the forest, but when it comes to the damage inventory, the data quality needs to improve to be fully usable in forestry practices," says Jon Moen, co-author at Umeå University.





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BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW INVESTS IN THE MANAGEMENT OF INVASIVE SPECIES

The USDA Forest Service, The Society of American Foresters, The Forestry Source, November 2024, Vol. 29, No. 11

The USDA Forest Service (Forest Service) is awarding \$16 million in strategic investment in more than 100 projects in 37 states and two territories to combat the spread of invasive species threatening ecosystems. Thanks to the forest heath provision of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the Forest Service has invested \$56 million to combat invasive species since 2022.

These investments are part of a broader series of investments made by the Biden-Harris Administration aimed at mitigating the effects of climate change, improving forest and grassland resilience, and aiding in post-fire recovery .

"Invasive species pose a major threat to our national forests," said Forest Service Chief Randy Moore. "Destructive invasive species can increase wildfire risk to communities, destroy habitat, degrade water quality, and displace native species. These Bipartisan Infrastructure Law investments are critical to efforts to stem the spread across public and private lands and address the harm invasive species are causing to landscapes across the county."

Economic impacts from non-native forest pests are estimated to cost between \$4.2 billion and \$14.4 billion annually. Over the past 50 years, the global economic cost of invasive species is estimated at \$1.28 trillion.

Invasive species can quickly transform and negatively impact entire landscapes, threatening the way ecosystems function. The impact extends beyond forested landscapes, degrading rangelands, wetlands, rivers, and marine environments. They threaten the economy, agricultural productivity, food security, biodiversity, climate resilience, quality of life, and human health and livelihoods.

The investments were awarded to tribes, states, public and private organizations, and local landowners, as well as Forest Service research stations. Funded projects include a wide range of activities to combat invasive species, including species detection, prevention, eradication, and research.



HOW TO RECYCLE: REAL CHRISTMAS TREES HAVE A SECOND LIFE

The National Christmas Tree Association, www.realchristmastrees.org

After the holidays, don't throw your Real Christmas Tree in the trash. Real Christmas Trees are biodegradable, which means they can be easily reused or recycled for mulch and other purposes. Here are some recycling options and tips on what to do with your tree after the holidays. Every community is different, but in general, you have these options:

- Curbside pick-up for recycling: Many providers will collect trees during regular pickup schedules on the two weeks following Christmas. There are often requirements for size, removing ornaments, flocking, etc.
- Take your tree to a drop-off recycling center: Most counties have free drop-off locations. Usually, you may take up to two trees to a drop-off location at no charge.
- Tree recycling/mulching programs: Tree recycling and mulching programs are a fast-growing trend in communities throughout the nation. Check with your local department of public works for information. They chip and shred the trees, then make the mulch available for use in your garden. Your hauler will notify you of pick-up dates in your area. Be sure to check with your local hauler.
- Nonprofit pickup: Call for an appointment to have a nonprofit organization in your area pickup your tree. Some Boy Scout troops offer a pickup service for a small donation (often \$5).
- Yard waste: Cut the tree to fit loosely into your yard waste container.
- *Important: Never burn your Christmas tree in a fireplace or wood stove.

Other Recycling Options

- Soil erosion barriers: Some communities use Christmas trees to make effective sand and soil erosion barriers, especially for lake and river shoreline stabilization and river delta sedimentation management. Here's an example of just such a project, called "Balsams for Brookies."
- Fish feeders: Sunk into private fish ponds, trees make an excellent refuge and feeding area for fish.
- Bird feeders: Place the Christmas tree in the garden or backyard and use it as a bird feeder and sanctuary. Fresh orange slices or strung popcorn will attract the birds and they can sit in the branches for shelter. (Make sure all decorations, hooks, garland and tinsel strands are removed). Eventually (within a year) the branches will become brittle and you can break the tree apart by hand or chip it in a chipper.
- Mulch: A Christmas tree is biodegradable; its branches may be removed, chipped, and used as mulch in the garden.
- Paths for hiking trails: Some counties use shredded trees as a free, renewable and natural path material that fits both the environment and the needs of hikers.
- Living, rooted trees: Get a rooted (ball and burlap or containerized) tree 93

HOW TO RECYCLE: REAL CHRISTMAS TREES HAVE A SECOND LIFE Continued from page 93

and plant it in your yard. (It's a good idea to dig the hole in the late fall while the soil is still soft, then plant the tree into that hole immediately after Christmas.) Living trees have a better survival rate in mild climates.

Note: Christmas tree recycling is a great public outreach opportunity to help residents learn about sustainable urban wood, yard clipping, and leaf recycling and composting programs. Encourage people to avoid tossing these biodegradable materials into the trash bin by teaching them how to utilize local composting and chipping programs year-round. If your community is looking to start or bolster a local Christmas tree recycling program, download The NCTA's Community Recycling Manual online here: https://realchristmastrees.org/?mdocs-file=977

The Balsams for Brookies article is online here: https://realchristmastrees.

Looking to move from seasonal Christmas tree programs to yearround urban wood utilization? Check out the Urban Wood Network: https://

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SEASON'S GREETINGS!

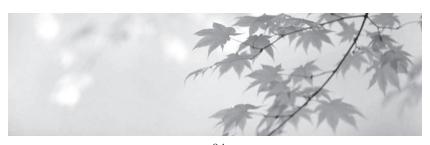
The Executive Board and Directors of *'
Tree Federation wish to thank everyone "
year. Best Wishes are being
May the New Year be '
one of you!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2023

December 11, 2024: NJSTF Tree Talk – 7:00-8:30 pm, Zoom link to be sent

to member email list in December.

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



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