I. Insect and Disease - Wood Chipper Safety Seminar Offered

Unfortunately, trees are not always healthy. Insects and diseases affect many of them. Some of these pests are not serious and require no treatment. Some can cause serious injury, death or failure of a tree. Knowing the difference and what should or should not be done is important. Providing a good diagnosis which can lead to a profitable service requires knowledge. The annual Insect and Disease Seminar is for you to beef up your I&D knowledge and help your clients with their trees.

Wood chippers are valuable tools to reduce tree debris into easily transported chips. By doing so, they also allow faster work site cleanup. Properly operating a wood chipper affects your efficiency, but you or your staff's safety is at risk every time that machine is turned on. Chippers by nature will chop up anything softer than the knives, or throw out the harder object or broken knives and other parts if damaged. These are dangerous pieces of equipment that require respect and care.

Only a few weeks ago, near October 22, 2008, a man died in a wood chipper accident in Carlton County, Minnesota after being accidentally caught in the moving parts. See the story at: www.startribune.com/local/33229469.html.

In the December 10, 2004 issue of the Center for Disease Control’s Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, they summarized a study of mobile wood chipper accidents between 1992 and 2002. They analyzed the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) for those years and found 31 people died in mobile wood chipper accidents. Twenty-one of these deaths were the result of being caught or compressed by the chipper. The CDC also found there were 2,042 non-fatal injuries associated with mobile wood chippers. During 1992–1996 alone, an estimated 155 amputations were caused by injuries from chippers. See the full report at: www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/wk/mm5348.pdf.

Both of these very different topics will be covered on January 8, 2009 at an all day seminar. Insects and Diseases will be covered in the morning session by Missouri Department of Conservation staff and Wood Chipper Safety and demonstration will be covered in the afternoon by an OSHA representative and the local Vermeer dealer. Registration is required and limited to 35! All participants must register by calling 417-629-3423 or emailing jon.skinner@mdc.mo.gov. The seminar will be held at the Walter Woods Conservation Area. Lunch will be provided. The two sessions qualify for a total of six ISA CEU’s and six SAF CFE’s.

II. Missouri Community Forestry Council Annual Conference

The annual MCFC conference will be March 17 – 19, 2009 in Columbia, MO. There will be three tours of various tree projects and issues in Columbia parks and on the MU campus. Primary speakers include nationally known Dr. Ed Gilman, Univ. Of Florida; Univ. Of Missouri’s Dr. Chris Starbuck; Noel Boyer, A&A Tree Service and Current Midwestern Chapter Tree Climbing Champion; and Jim Rocca, 2007 ISA International Award of Merit and the Midwestern Chapters first “James P. Rocca Lifetime Achievement Award” awardee after 24 years of service as the chapters’ Executive Director/Secretary/Treasurer.

Topics of note include urban wood utilization, a climber’s corner for arborists, EAB, STRATUM, priority watersheds, plants of merit, and caring for mature trees.

Registration information will come out soon. If you do not have an invitation by the end of January, let me know and I’ll get you one.

III. ISA Certified Arborist Examination Training

The Community Tree Council of St. Charles is sponsoring a series of instructional classes as a preparation tool for the ISA Certified Arborist exam. The classes will be instructed by ISA Certified Arborists covering all 10 domains of the ISA Certified Arborist exam (and 15 chapters of the Certification Study Guide) in a series of 12 weekly lectures. An ISA Certification Study Guide is highly recommended to use with the lecture series. The Study Guide costs $95.95 and must be purchased through ISA. Contact ISA at 217-355-9411 or http://www.isa-arbor.com. There is a $40 fee for the training series to cover materials and snacks. For details about the training series go to http://extension.missouri.edu/stcharles/arbordinstraining/.
Web Site Review

Emerald Ash Borer was found in Missouri in July. Since then, federal and state quarantines have been put in place for Wayne County. The MDC EAB site provides EAB and tree identification information, links to the quarantine orders, other EAB sites at MU, and national sites, and a way to report possible EAB sightings. See it at: http://mdc.mo.gov/forest/health/ashborer/

How to Kill a Tree!

Use as much salt and other de-icing chemicals as needed to melt snow and ice as fast as possible. Also use weed killers liberally to keep sidewalks and lawns weed free.

Of course, the above is incorrect. Most de-icing chemicals are salts. When these chemicals are washed into the adjacent soil, they bind to nutrients and moisture needed by the trees. Use sand, cinders, and non-chloride based products for icy conditions. Many weed control chemicals can damage tree leaves, sapwood, and roots. Carefully read and follow all directions on the label to minimize impact on nearby trees.

December 1
Tree Pruning Workshop, Community Center, Corner of County Rd. and Maple St., Monett, MO 6:30 PM. Contact Jon Skinner (Jon.Skinner@mdc.mo.gov), 417-629-3423.

December 9
Firewise Seminar, MDC Regional Office, 2630 N. Mayfair, Springfield, MO 8:30 AM. Registration required. Contact Cindy Garner (Cindy.Garner@mdc.mo.gov), 417-895-6880. ISA CEU’s pending.

December 11

December 11
MDC State Meeting, MDC Runge Nature Center, Jefferson City, MO, 10 AM. Contact Justine Gartner (Justine.Gartner@mdc.mo.gov), 573-751-4115 Extn 3116.

December 18

January 4 - 6
The Western Trade Show, Overland Park Convention Center, Overland Park, KS, Registration and information at www.wnla.org/.

January 5

January 8
Insect and Disease - Wood Chipper Safety Seminar, Walter Woods Conservation Area, Joplin, MO 8:30 AM. Registration required. Contact Jon Skinner (Jon.Skinner@mdc.mo.gov), 417-629-3423. 6 ISA CEU and 6 SAF CFE available.

January 14 - 16
Kansas Arborist Association Shade Tree Conference, Ramada Inn, Topeka, KS, $75 Advanced Training Workshop registration (14th), and $80 Conference registration (15th-16th), Get a registration form and information from Charlie Long at charlesandlindalong@fhrd.net. ISA CEU’s will be available.

February 4

February 20
Tree Board Training, Powder Valley Conservation Area, Kirkwood, MO, 9 AM - 3:30 PM. Contact Justine Gartner (Justine.Gartner@mdc.mo.gov), 573-751-4115 Extn 3116.

February 22 - 27
Municipal Forestry Institute, Palm Key Center, Ridgeland, SC, Registration and information at http://www.urban-forestry.com/mp/page.do?sitePageId=50685&orgId=sma.

March 17 - 19
MCFD Annual Conference, Marriott Hotel, Columbia, MO, For more information visit: www.mocommunitytrees.com/whatsgoingon.html.

Never take to sawin’ the limb yer on unless yer being hung from it.

- Cowboy Ediquette by Colton’s Steakhouse

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