

# THE SHADE TREE

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

Volume 93 — March - April 2020 – Issue 3 & 4

## *This Issue Presents...*

Director's Discourse  
Managing Winter Injury to Trees & Shrubs Part II  
NJSTF Board of Directors Voting Results  
Facing Endangerment  
CAA Announces 2020 Courses



## DIRECTOR'S DISCOURSE

By Donna Massa

Thank you to all who attended our 94th Annual Conference this past October. We hope that you enjoyed great hospitality, more than satisfying food and accommodations and found the conference to be most informative. Each year we strive to make the NJ Shade Tree Federation Conference the best ever. Thank you for your patience as we continue to make changes so that our attendees have the best, most enjoyable experience possible.

For those that sit on Shade Tree Commissions and your municipality participates in the Community Forestry Program run by the State of New Jersey, the Shade Tree Federation conference offers Community Forestry credits and Community Forestry Core Training needed to attain "Approved Status" under the New Jersey Shade Tree and Community Forestry Assistance Act. Membership in the Federation and attendance at our Annual Conference helps satisfy two of the four requirements needed to achieve "Approved Status" within the NJ Community Forestry Program and thereby demonstrates an effort on the part of the municipality to protect the community by caring for the shade trees in their towns. Having "Approved Status" under the New Jersey Shade Tree and Community Forestry Assistance Act provides a solid foundation for an active management of the tree resource and lays the framework by which a municipality has the ability to stand on strong legal ground regarding tree related decisions.

For the professionals in the industry, the NJ Shade Tree Federation Conference offers you LTE/LTCO credits needed to maintain your LTE/LTCO licenses in New Jersey as well as Maryland.

We also offer Pesticide Re-certification Credits in the states of New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and New York as well as ISA credits, New Jersey DPW credits and credits from the Society of American Foresters.

## **DIRECTOR'S DISCOURSE**

*Continued from page 17*

We work hard to design a two-day program for the conference that will meet the needs of the municipal employees and volunteers as well as professionals in the tree industry. Stay tuned for more detailed information about this year's conference as the year progresses. The best is yet to come.....

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## **MANAGING WINTER INJURY TO TREES AND SHRUBS- Part II**

Virginia Cooperative Extension  
Virginia Tech – Virginia State University, Publication 426-500  
By Diane Relf and Bonnie Appleton, Reviewed by David Close

*Continued from the previous issue of The Shade Tree*

### **Treating Winter Injury**

Many plants have protective mechanisms that should not be confused with winter damage. Some will shed leaves (nandina, privet); some will position their leaves flat against their stems (fatsia); some will roll their leaves downward or the margins inward (rhododendron); while others will have wilted-looking leaves all winter (viburnum). In addition, the red, purple, bronze and brown winter color of some evergreens (juniper, arborvitae, cryptomeria, boxwood) should not be confused as winter injury.

After a particular severe winter, many plants may show substantial injury. Damage symptoms include discolored, burned evergreen needles or leaves, dead branch tips and branches, heaved root systems and broken branches. At winter's end, remove only those branches that are broken or so brown that they are obviously dead. Do not remove branches when scraping the outer bark reveals a green layer underneath. The extent of winter damage can best be determined after new growth starts in the spring. At that time, prune all dead twigs or branches back to within on quarter of an inch above a live bud or to the branch collar of the nearest live branch.

If discoloration on narrow-leaved evergreen needles is not too severe, they may regain their green color or new foliage may be produced on the undamaged stem. Broad-leaved evergreens showing leaf damage will usually

produce new leaves if branches and vegetative leaf buds have not been too severely injured. Damaged leaves may drop or be removed. Prune to remove badly damaged or broken branches, to shape the plant and to stimulate new growth.

An application of fertilizer to the soil around winter-damaged plants, accompanied by adequate watering, will usually induce new growth to compensate for winter injuries.

Special care should be given to plants injured by winter's cold. The dry months of June, July and August can be particularly damaging, as the plants are weak and often unable to survive the stress of drought. Be sure to water adequately.

### **Rodent Damage**

Mice may cause serious damage to trees or shrubs. They chew off the bark at ground level or below and can be completely girdle a tree, causing it to die. Most of this damage takes place during winter. Keep mulch pulled away from the base of the tree and examine it frequently for the presence of mice.

In many home and commercial plantings, placing poison bait in the runways controls mice. These poisons and complete directions on how to use them may be obtained from many spray material dealers.

Mice may also be controlled by trapping. This can be successful where only a few trees are involved.

Rabbits can also be responsible for the loss of young trees each year. Where rabbits are a common problem, a satisfactory method of preventing damage is the use of a mechanical guard.

Cut a 36" wide roll of galvanized screen or "hardware cloth" with a ¼" mesh lengthwise, forming two 18" strips. By cutting these strips into pieces 14" long, guards 14 or 18" are obtained.

Roll or bend the strip around the trunk of the tree so that the long side is up and down the trunk and the edges overlap. Twist a small wire loosely about the center to prevent the strip from unrolling. Push the lower edges well into the ground. This metal guard will last indefinitely and can be left in place all year.

Tree wraps can also be used in a similar manner but must be removed in the early spring to prevent damage to the tree.

Other methods of rabbit control have been successful. Ordinary whitewash has given good results in some instances. Some commercial fruit






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tree growers use a repellent wash recommended by the USDA, containing equal parts of fish oil, concentrated lime sulfur and water. Also, rabbit repellents under various trade names are available. All these materials may be applied with a paintbrush to the trunk of the tree from the ground up into the scaffold limbs.

### **Road Salt Damage to Garden and Landscape Plants**

Road salt damage to garden and landscape plants is a problem for many gardeners. Runoff from the road contains dissolved salts that not only directly injure the plants but also can change the structure of the soil, causing it to become compacted, thereby restricting the nutrients, water and oxygen available to the plants. Although the salt is applied throughout the winter, most salt damage occurs in late winter and early spring when plants are beginning active growth. Growing portions of the plant, such as shoot tips and young leaves are affected the most. One of the symptoms of salt damage is marginal scorch, a dried burnt effect on leaf edges. If you have plants near a possible source of excessive salt, bring a soil sample to your county extension office and request a soluble salts test to determine if you have a problem. In sandy soil, soluble salt levels of >1000 PPM indicate potential trouble; clay-loam soils can handle levels up to 2000 PPM as they have much higher water-holding capacities which dilute the salt.

The battle against salt damage continues year-round. During the winter, the goal is to prevent salt from reaching the plants and to wash it off the plants that it does reach. Do not pile snow containing salt around plants or trees or put it where runoff will flow over plant root zones. Ask the road maintenance people if there is anything they can do to direct salty runoff away from your property. Where runoff is unavoidable, flush the area around the plants in early spring by applying 2" of water over a 2-3 hour period and repeating this 3 days later. This will leach much of the salt from the soil. If salt spray from the road surface is a problem, use copious amounts of water to rinse the foliage and branches of any affected plants when salt spray is heavy and again in early spring.

During the summer, work to improve planting conditions. Incorporate large quantities of organic materials into salt damaged soil to enhance its texture and to increase its water and nutrient holding capacity. Plants that are already stressed by salt will do much better if no other stresses are added to them, so be sure that you properly fertilize water and otherwise care for them.

When selecting species for a new roadside planting, minimize the potential for salt damage by planting salt tolerant species such as white oak, honey locust, Scotch pine, red oak, junipers, roses or asparagus. Avoid salt sensitive plants such as red pine, white pine, black walnut, red maple and sugar

## **MANAGING WINTER INJURY**

*Continued from page 21*

maple. A low wall or a hedge of salt tolerant evergreens can deflect salt spray from sensitive plants nearby.

Remember the damage that salt can cause when removing ice from home walks and driveways. Instead of tossing a handful of rock salt on slick surfaces, stick with sand or sawdust to improve traction on slippery sidewalks.

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## **NJ FEDERATION OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR 2019-2020**

The New Jersey Shade Tree Federation held its 94th Annual Business Meeting on November 8, 2019 at Rutgers University, in Blake Hall on the Cook Campus in New Brunswick, New Jersey. During that meeting the election of officers and directors took place. The new Board Members are listed below. Please note that an extra Director was voted in subsequent to the meeting due to the unexpected resignation of a Board Director.

### **Officers:**

Liz Stewart – President, River Edge Shade Tree Commission  
Pam Zipse – Vice-President, Rutgers University  
Donna Massa, Executive Director

### **Directors:**

**2020:** Wayne Dubin – Bartlett Tree Experts  
Vacancy filled by \*Steven Chisholm – Aspen Tree Expert Co  
Barbara Ronca – Raritan Township  
Richard Wolowicz – RichView Consulting

**2021:** Joshua Faas, Plant Detectives  
John Linson, The Shade Tree Department  
Brittany Carino – Atlantic City Electric  
\*Neil Hendrickson retired, Readington Township

**2022:** \*Michael Zichelli – Borough of Glen Ridge  
\*Frank Gallagher, PhD – Rutgers University  
\*Paul Cowie – Paul Cowie & Associates  
\*Jason Grabosky, PhD – President; Rutgers University

*\*Voted on during Annual Business Meeting and subsequent Board vote.*

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## **FACING ENDANGERMENT**

The Uncertain Future of the Monarchs  
The Asplundh Tree Fall 2019

Over the last two decades, the monarch butterfly species has declined by more than 80%. A steady loss of milkweed and drastic changes to their migration patterns have greatly impacted the butterfly's population. Researchers estimate that within the next 20 years the butterfly could face extinction, reaching population numbers too low for the chance of a recovery.

In June, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service extended the decision of whether to include the monarch butterfly on the endangered species list until December 2020 since data from the most recent census determined populations were increasing. Five factors will determine whether the monarchs are endangered: a present or threatened change to habitats; overutilization of habitats; disease or predation; inadequate regulatory mechanisms; and other natural or man-made factors that affect survival. An inclusion onto the endangered species list means the monarchs will be protected with new regulations, including the prevention of the species being killed or harmed; protecting habitats essential to survival; and creating plans to restore the populations.

### **About the Monarchs**

Monarch butterflies migrate approximately 3,000 miles between their summer breeding grounds to a safe, warm home for the winter. Their summer destinations are divided east and west of the Rocky Mountains in the United States and Canada. It is common for monarchs living west of the Rockies to migrate to California, while those to the east migrate to Mexico. During the winter season, monarchs are typically found in parts of Southern California and along mountains in central Mexico seeking oyamel fir trees. The oyamel fir tree canopy acts as a protective blanket and the temperature stay relatively neutral, making it an ideal spot for the monarchs.

After waiting out the winter, the monarchs travel to warmer climates in Texas to mate and lay eggs on milkweed plants. The new caterpillars consume the majority of the milkweed plant before metamorphosis, becoming the next generation to take flight to the summer habitat. This generation of adult monarchs will then fly another few hundred miles toward Canada before finding another milkweed patch and continuing the cycle with their own offspring. It may take the monarch about four to five generations to before completing their migration to Canada. Then, when fall approaches again, the last generation on monarchs will travel back to Mexico. Interestingly, most



adult monarch butterflies live only for a few weeks to search for food, mates and milkweed on which to lay their eggs. After mating and egg-laying, the adult butterflies die and the next generation continues the migration northward. The last generation hatches around September/October before migration back to the south and lives up to eight months. This is mainly because the last generation has a delayed sexual maturity to enable the migration process to begin again.

However, the 2018 Western Monarch Thanksgiving Count noted that the numbers of butterflies traveling to the West Coast dropping significantly to less than 21,000 butterflies—a roughly 86% decrease from the year before. Similarly, the National Wildlife Federation recorded for the 2018 Mexican migration that the monarchs dropped another 15% from the prior year, which added up to a nearly 80% decrease during the last two decades. Milkweed is the sole source of food for the monarch caterpillars. However, increasing carbon dioxide levels in the air from higher temperatures are being absorbed into the milkweed, making it too toxic for the caterpillars to consume. Drought caused by increasingly hotter climates in eliminating milkweed altogether in some areas. These higher temperatures are forcing the monarchs to migrate even farther north to find more suitable food sources, which, in turn, is increasing the distance traveled to return to their summer destinations. Without their only food source in reasonably located habitats, the monarchs, the monarch caterpillars will die, resulting in fewer populations of strong adult monarchs in the ecosystem.

### **Saving the Monarch butterflies**

In addition to their majestic appearance, the adult monarch butterflies that are able to prosper have the important job of being pollinators, just like bees and other insects. The butterflies drink nectar from flower blossoms and acquire pollen in the process. Then they travel to another plant with this pollen, which assists the plant species' reproduction. According to scientists, the work of pollinators plays a critical role in producing our food supply.

Finding a way to preserve milkweed plants is of the utmost importance to wildlife conservationists so future monarchs have a place to lay their eggs and caterpillars have a suitable food source. Some activist groups are restoring milkweed by planting it in their personal gardens and in public or private land as allowed, notifying state highway departments, local parks, and recreation departments to limit the mowing or cutting of milkweed, especially during the breeding season.

There are collaborative efforts between researchers, industry and government agencies to develop vegetation management practices to help pollinators. These types of initiatives illustrate how the millions of areas of utility, pipeline and roadside rights-of-way across the United States and Canada can provide valuable habitat to support the monarch.

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**THE COMMITTEE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT  
OF ARBORICULTURE ANNOUNCES 2020  
COURSE SCHEDULE**

**Purpose**

Seeing the need for education, demonstrable safety training and the importance for the associated professionalism in the tree care industry, the CAA (Committee for the Advancement of Arboriculture) was established in 1990.

The objective is to promote excellence in the field of arboriculture through continued educational seminars and skills training programs. The benefits include higher quality personnel to the tree care industry, the environment and the public in general. For further information call 732-833-0325 or email [caanj4u@gmail.com](mailto:caanj4u@gmail.com).

Paid Basic Registration by Friday March 20, 2020 Paid Advanced Registration by Friday August 21, 2020 (Subject to Change). The brochure and registration form is available for download at [www.caanj.org](http://www.caanj.org).

**Courses and Fees**

Arboriculture I BASIC - Wed. & Th., April 8 - May 7, 2020.....	\$1500
Arboriculture II ADVANCED - Wed. & Th., Sept. 9 - Oct. 8, 2020.....	\$1500
Chain Saw Safety - Wed., April 15, 2020.....	\$150
E.H.A.P. / Aerial Rescue - Wed., April 22, 2020.....	\$150
E.H.A.P. AM Only - Wed., April 22, 2020.....	\$90
Aerial Rescue PM Only - Wed., April 22, 2020.....	\$90
CPR Re-Certification (Morning) - Wed., April 29, 2020.....	\$90
First Aid and CPR (Whole day) - Wed., April 29, 2020.....	\$150
Mobile Equipment - Wed., May 6, 2020.....	\$185
TCIA Chipper Operator Specialist Training (Morning).....	\$125
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