

Arbor Notes



Almstead Around Town Spring/Summer 2014

Arbor Day

The countdown begins! This year, we're donating 50 trees in honor of Almstead's 50th anniversary. What better time to begin than Arbor Day?

Our CEO, Ken Almstead, planted a Katsura at Wave Hill Public Garden in Riverdale. Also at Wave Hill, arborist Chris Busak and two of our energetic crew ran a "Junior Arborist Station" where kids had a chance to be hoisted into the canopy in a climbing harness!

In New Jersey, arborist Ryan Duff planted one of our 50th anniversary trees in North Haledon. We also participated in Ridgewood's Earth Day events and helped plant at the Thielke Arboretum in Glen Rock.



Arborist Michael Marks shows Girl Scouts the correct way to plant seedlings.

In Connecticut, Vice President Michael Almstead and Stamford Branch Manager Gary Norman participated in Norwalk's Arbor Day events at the Wolfpit Elementary School. They planted a tree there with some help from the Mayor of Norwalk and some students. Arborist Brian Carolan also planted a tree, donated by Almstead, in Norwalk at the Kendall Elementary School.

Every year, New Rochelle arborist Michael Marks joins the "Treetures" at the Magical Treeture Nursery in Eastchester along with the Eastchester Girl Scouts. We donated 200 seedlings, which were enthusiastically planted by Scouts and Brownies. When the trees grow big enough, they'll find new homes in parks around the town.

In another annual event, our Hawthorne Branch Manager Tim Katenkamp and his crew pruned the flowering trees in the center of Chappaqua as part of New Castle's Beautification Day.

We'll be continuing our "50 Tree" planting throughout the year.



Junior Arborist at Wave Hill

Ticks and Mosquitoes: From Pests to Pathogens



Many of us can remember when mosquitoes were just annoyances and ticks were just -- icky. Today, we have a laundry list of serious illnesses that can be transmitted by these common pests. Keeping yourself and your children safe requires vigilance. Making your yard tick-unfriendly will help.

Ticks

Each year, thousands of people in the New York region contract Lyme Disease from being bitten by an infected tick. Infection rates in our area are among the highest in the country. Ehrlichiosis, anaplasmosis and babesiosis, which have similar symptoms to Lyme, are also common, with hundreds of cases in our area every year. Though rare, the Powassan virus has also been diagnosed in the New York Metro area; Powassan can lead to encephalitis and respiratory disease.

The US Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommends applying pesticides in your yard to control tick populations. When applied properly, tick pesticides (known as acaricides) are extremely effective for tick control. As an alternative to traditional acaricides, Almstead also offers organic tick control using cedar oil. Cedar oil kills ticks on contact and also serves residually as an effective control and barrier that ticks will avoid. Almstead technicians understand where ticks hide; we use powerful sprays to penetrate leaf litter for effective coverage.

Almstead arborists are experts at tick control. In addition to treating your property, your arborist can make recommendations on how to make your yard a less tick-friendly environment.

Mosquitoes

Mosquito-borne illness has become a reality in our area. Over 100 cases of West Nile Virus are reported to the Center for Disease Control from the

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A Letter from the CEO



This year we celebrate our **50th year anniversary!** Founded in 1964 by my father, who is still active in providing guidance to us all, our industry and company has progressed in many ways over this half century milestone. And although much has changed, I believe the core values on which the company was founded -- honesty, integrity, providing more than what was expected, staying cutting edge and ahead of the curve in all aspects of our business, and giving back to the communities which have supported us throughout these years -- are still among the key principles we strive to achieve each day as a team.

As part of giving back, we are planting "50 Trees for 50 Years!" We've been donating and planting trees this spring in many of the communities that have helped us succeed, and will continue in the fall. We'll even be "raffling" a tree through a Facebook contest, so people can nominate their favorite town, school district or non-profit to receive a tree from us.

We planted several of our 50th Anniversary trees as part of our Arbor Day activities. As you can see from the pictures, Arbor Day and Earth Day are wonderful, fun, community-building holidays, and we're always glad to help local groups celebrate trees and the environment.

On a more serious issue -- and one you may be hearing in the media -- our lead article describes the dangers posed by ticks and mosquitoes. Here at Almstead, we are constantly reminding our crews of the necessity of protecting themselves against ticks. All of us know people in our industry who have suffered tremendously from tick-borne diseases. Fortunately, mosquito-borne diseases are more rare -- though extremely dangerous. I continue to organically treat my own property, primarily to control ticks, in order to provide an effective level of protection for myself and my family. However, preparation and inspection when entering environments where ticks reside are always key components in prevention.

On behalf of the Almstead Team, thank you for your continued support and I hope you all enjoy a mild summer and a chance to safely relax in your back yards.

Sincerely,

Ken Almstead, CEO

International Society of Arboriculture Certified Arborist NY0335

Have You Considered...

Katsura is one of the biggest hardwood trees in Asia. It is becoming popular in our area due to its beauty, disease-resistance and generous shade. In fall, the attractive heart-shaped leaves turn colors of pink and yellow, and the tree also gives off an intriguing burnt-sugar smell then.

Latin Name: *Cercidiphyllum japonicum*

Common Name(s): Katsura

Tree Type: Tall and shady, Katsura begins with a pyramidal shape but eventually requires room to spread out.

Sun and Water Requirements: Full sun and generous water. Katsura does not tolerate drought well and prefers moist soil.



50 Trees for 50 Years!

In 1964, Richard Almstead began a tree company. "Someone told me that all you need to start a tree care company is a chain saw, some rope and a truck," recalls Almstead. So a chain saw, some rope and a station wagon, he founded the Almstead Tree Company. 50 years later, Richard's sons Ken and Michael run the company which has grown into a service tree and lawn care company with four branch offices, 5 full service divisions and mulch operations. Of course we still use chain saws and rope to prune and remove trees -- but our list of what we need for tree care today includes air spades, compost tea facilities, organic pest controls and soil amendments and an extensive list of certifications and professional degrees!

This year we celebrate the 50th anniversary of our company's founding. Of course, we intend to celebrate with trees! So instead of 50 candles on a cake, our tribute to Richard Almstead this year will be 50 trees planted throughout the communities which have supported our business throughout the decades. We have begun already: at Wave Hill in Riverdale, in Norwalk CT and N. Haledon NJ. Many more will be planted. We also plan to "raffle" some trees to our Facebook supporters, so watch our Facebook page for details.

Although Almstead Tree & Shrub Care Co. is now run by the 2nd generation of Almsteads, Richard Almstead remains involved and busy. A few years ago, he began the Almstead Nursery and Mulch Co. specializing in green recycling. The company now supplies high quality mulch, road salt, and compost throughout the Tri-State area and Columbia County.

Here are some of our "50 Trees:" (from left to right) Katsura at Wave Hill Public Garden; Red Oak at Kendall Elementary School in Norwalk (with Mayor Rilling); Norway Spruce "Holiday Tree" being planted in the center of N. Haledon, NJ; Red Maple at Wolfpit School in Norwalk.



How Does Your Lawn Look? Call us for a free consultation.
It's not too late to have a beautiful lawn this year!



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Ticks & Mosquitoes

[continued from front]

NY Metro region each year, with many more going unreported. West Nile is a dangerous virus and has caused several deaths in the New York area.

Spraying for mosquitoes will help keep you and your family safe in your own yard. Recently the Asian Tiger mosquito has become a problem in our area. Although not known to carry West Nile, the Asian Tiger feeds during the day, which means mosquitoes are now a nuisance 24/7!

Cedar oil is an organic alternative for mosquito control as well as for ticks. Your Almstead arborist can create a program to help you enjoy your yard this summer, while enjoying peace of mind as well.

Did You Know?

-  It usually takes over a day for a tick to transmit Lyme Disease BUT Powassan can be transmitted immediately.
-  A single tick nymph can transmit several diseases simultaneously.
-  In 2012, there were 1,653 confirmed cases of Lyme Disease in Connecticut; New Jersey had 1,002; New York had 2,044.
-  Ticks thrive in leaf litter but dry out in mulch. A mulch border around your yard helps to create a tick-free zone.
-  Deer Ticks (actually black-legged ticks) usually reach your yard on mice or squirrels; you don't need deer to have ticks.
-  In addition to Deer Ticks, other ticks such as Dog Ticks can carry disease. Several cases of Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever have occurred in our area from this source.
-  The Asian Tiger Mosquito first reached this country in 1985. Since then it has invaded 26 states including New York and New Jersey, driving out native species in many areas. It has been recently found in Connecticut as well.
-  Many mosquitoes prefer human environments to wetlands. The Asian Tiger came to the US in wet tires.

Expected Growth: Trees grow rapidly, and typically reach 40' – 60', although they have been known to reach over 100'.

Foliage: The heart-shaped leaves emerge reddish-purple in spring, then turn blue-green in summer, eventually turning to many shades of pink, orange and yellow.

Flower and Fruit: Not significant.

Landscape Value: This beautiful specimen tree grows rapidly and offers shade. Aside from sufficient water and moist soil, Katsura requires little attention. It has attractive foliage throughout three seasons, and can be spectacular in fall. There is also a weeping cultivar which has an elegant form.



Richard Almstead circa 1964.



Get an Annual Check-Up

We all know the value of an annual check-up. Trees need them too. Just like ourselves, early identification of problems promotes better health, and lowers costs when treatment is necessary. There's no charge for an arborist inspection of your landscape. Just contact Almstead to set up an appointment.

To schedule an inspection, simply return the attached card. We'll make sure it gets to your arborist!

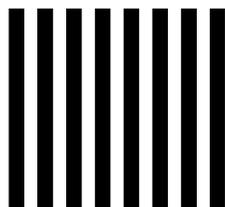
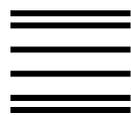


We have more information on ticks and mosquitoes at almstead.com

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www.pinterest.com/almsteadtree

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Inside This Issue: Ticks & Mosquitoes: From Pests to Pathogens
 Almstead Turns 50!
 Katsura Tree
 Bartow-Pell Mansion
and more ..



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Request a Consultation

Please contact me to schedule a **complimentary Seasonal Inspection** with a professionally certified Arborist.

I'm also interested in:

- Arbor Care** Customized pruning, mature tree preservation, tree and stump removal...
- Plant Health Care** Fertilization, disease and pest control, monitoring programs...
- Organic Care** Compost teas, organic pest controls, natural soil and root care...
- Consulting** Tree risk assessment, mature tree preservation, construction protection...
- Lawn Care** Fertilization, weed control, seeding, core aeration, organic options...

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Notes _____

Bartow-Pell Mansion/Pelham Bay Park

Tucked away in a corner of Pelham Bay Park, the Bartow-Pell Mansion transports us to the Gilded Age when magnificent homes lined Pelham Bay in the rural Bronx.

This year Bartow-Pell marks its Centennial -- not of the mansion, which dates to 1842 -- but of the group of horticulturists who envisioned the restoration of the house and gardens. Almstead is proud to help care for the grounds of this iconic landmark -- the last of the Pelham Bay mansions to survive.

The Bronx is still rural, at least in Pelham Bay Park, which is larger than Central Park and contains many beautiful paths to walk. The grounds of Bartow-Pell have undergone a major restoration recently, including the lovely sunken garden. You can also tour the Mansion itself, which hosts a calendar of events and exhibitions open to the public.

Bartow-Pell is a NYC and National Landmark, owned by the City of New York and operated by the International Garden Club, the group who initially envisioned and brought about the restoration.

Visit Bartow-Pell Mansion
Where: 4895 Shore Road, Pelham Bay Park, Bronx, NY
Hours. Grounds: dawn to dusk.
Mansion Tours: Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday, 12 - 4; Adults - \$5; Seniors & Students - \$3; Children under 6 - free
Parking: Free.
For more information:
bartowpellmansionmuseum.org



The Sunken Garden at Bartow-Pell. Photo courtesy of Bartow-Pell Mansion.

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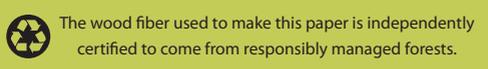


Image Credits. Katsura: Jean-Pol Grandmont