The Morris Arboretum is proud to print on FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) certified paper, which supports the growth of responsible forest management worldwide through its international standards.

Fall 2013 Classes

Increase your tree and landscape knowledge! Our courses, which offer CEUs for arborists and landscape architects, keep you at the forefront of your profession.

Landscape Design Symposium
January 16 and 17, 2014 at Temple University-Ambler Campus
Provides an in-depth examination of the state of the art of naturalistic landscape design.

Brochures and registration are available in November. Call 215-247-5777, ext. 125 or sign up online at online.morrisarboretum.org/LDS
Emerald Ash Borer:
Planning for 2014

Jean A. Scott  
ISA Certified Arborist and Territory Manager, Rainbow Treecare Scientific Advancements

Jeff Picher  
Technical Arboriculture Consultant, New Jersey Certified Tree Expert

Paul Bolan  
Vice President, BioForest Technologies, Inc.

Learn the latest information on the battle with emerald ash borer (EAB). New tools, techniques, and materials are becoming available to aid those who need to protect ash trees in 2014 and beyond. The program will cover research from those at the front lines of the EAB invasion and provide a review of what works and how to add these tools to your program. The impact of EAB on communities and budgets will be covered and we will discuss how municipalities are dealing with the challenge. This session is geared to municipal tree managers, urban foresters, and private arborists.

Fee: $50 (includes lunch)

Introductory Tree Climbing for Women

Rachel Brudzinski  
ISA Michigan Tree Climbing Female State Champion, 2012 and Arborist Intern, Morris Arboretum

Women can be talented, successful climbers even in a field traditionally dominated by men. This course, taught by ISA state champion tree climber, Rachel Brudzinski, will demonstrate climbing techniques especially geared to female climbers. It will also provide a basic understanding of tree biology that is so critical for practicing arborists. The class will focus on teaching women with a passion for arboriculture how to create and maintain a safe working environment, develop fundamental arboricultural skills, and learn the professional techniques necessary to develop an approach for climbing a tree. You will learn some of the latest professional tree climbing advancements and you will have the opportunity to participate in supervised in-tree climbing. This class will give you the chance to experience trees in a whole new light. Novice to advanced women climbers are welcome. Wear long pants and comfortable, hard soled shoes. If you have regulation climbing gear including a rope, harness, hardhat with chin strap, and eye protection, please bring it. You may also want to bring gloves. This course meets at the Horticulture Center at Bloomfield Farm. Enter the Arboretum on the road opposite from the public garden entrance, Park in the lot and follow the signs to the Horticulture Center. This course carries 5.75 CEUs for ISA certified arborists.

Fee: $125 (includes lunch)
New Field Techniques for Tree Evaluation

Jerry Bond
Consulting Urban Forester, Urban Forestry LLC

Jerry will explain new field protocols for obtaining quick and reliable estimates of tree condition and tree load potential. The morning session will examine an estimating method that uses six defined parameters to determine tree condition. This method will then be practiced in an outdoor exercise. After lunch, we will consider tree load, a topic important for risk assessment. Participants will learn an easy technique to determine the load potential for trees and their parts. An outdoor exercise will put this knowledge into practice and will be followed by a discussion of actual case studies. This course carries 5.75 CEUs for ISA certified arborists. We will meet at Bloomfield Farm. Look for the paved road across Northwestern Avenue from the public garden entrance. Park in the lot and follow the signs to the Horticulture Center.

Thursday, October 17
9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Fee: $135 (includes lunch)

Introductory Tree Climbing

Zac Shechtman
Owner, Shechtman Tree Care

Rob Thigpen
Foreman, Shechtman Tree Care and ISA Penn-Del Chapter Climbing Champion

This course provides an introduction to tree climbing and features the opportunity to have supervised climbing instruction in trees. It is ideal for tree companies looking to advance promising groundsmen, or gardeners and landscapers looking to get off the ground. Effective methods for climbing trees will be demonstrated by instructors and practiced by students. Safety rules will be reviewed and stressed. Students will learn how to tie critical knots regularly used by arborists. Included in the fee, each student will receive a copy of The Tree Climbers Companion, by Jeff Jepson, a great resource for climbers.

Wednesday, October 23
9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Raindate: Friday, October 25
9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Fee: $120 (includes lunch)

Pruning Deciduous Trees

Iana Turner
Horticulturist, Morris Arboretum

Pruning young trees for healthy structural development is cost-effective care. This class will explain how recent research on pruning has changed both practice and understanding. Pruning strategies for trees of different ages will be stressed to maximize tree longevity and structural health. In addition, techniques will be discussed to help tree managers evaluate the arboricultural work of others under their supervision. The morning will consist of a lecture and demonstration. The afternoon will feature supervised, hands-on pruning. Please bring a hand pruner and a small pruning saw. This course carries 4.75 CEUs for ISA certified arborists.

Fee: $125 (includes lunch)

Climate Change and Sea Level Rise: Predicting the Effects

Dr. Benjamin Horton
Professor, Rutgers University School of Environmental and Biological Sciences

Dr. Anton Nelessen
Chair, Department of Urban Planning, Rutgers University

Climate change and sea level rise on the East Coast are the focus of this day-long symposium. One of the primary challenges in studying climate change is reconstructing its history. Scientists must understand the past to have a better sense of the causes and effects of future changes. One of these effects, which can have serious societal consequences, is sea-level rise. Hotter climate temperatures mean higher seas. This could spell disaster for coastal communities the world over. Predicting the rate and magnitude of global sea-level rise, as well as its local effects, is a high priority. This is an issue that will have a profound effect upon urban planning and design in some of these threatened communities. Dr. Ben Horton, will present research findings from his work with the Sea Level Research Lab at the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Anton Nelessen will discuss how the threat of rising sea has impacted his design work in communities such as Hoboken, N.J. and will show a film on the effects of climate change and sea level rise in Belize and Alaska. This course carries 5.75 CEUs for ISA certified arborists and 6 CEUs for PA landscape architects.

Wednesday, October 30
9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Fee: $125 (includes lunch)
Tools and Techniques of Modern Arboriculture

Steven Chisholm, Jr.
President, Aspen Tree Expert Company, Inc.

Diagnosis of tree disorders and identification of potential threats and hazards is one of the most challenging aspects of arboriculture. Alex Shigo’s admonition “prescription without diagnosis is malpractice” compels us to always do the very best job that we can to make a proper assessment and diagnosis of the conditions that we are presented with. In the last 10 to 20 years there have been a wide variety of new tools and techniques that have been developed. These include resistographs and sonic tomography techniques, as well as the use of air spades for root crown excavation. Steve Chisholm, Jr. is a third generation New Jersey arborist with a strong background as a working arborist. He is the immediate past president of the Society of Commercial Arboriculture, Past President of the NJAISA (New Jersey Arborists of the International Society of Arboriculture) as well as chapter liaison for The Tree Fund. Steve will help us to approach plant disorder problems in a systematic fashion and introduce us to a variety of new tools that may be of assistance in our work. This course carries 5.75 CEUs for ISA certified arborists.

Thursday, October 31
9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Fee: $125 (includes lunch)

Understanding Trees as Complex Biological Systems

David Tukey
Neighborhood Coordinator, West Mt. Airy Street Tree Planting

Trees are dynamic systems of complex, interrelated biological processes. The better we understand these processes, the better we as arborists can promote tree health, beauty, and longevity. After covering the basics of tree anatomy and biology, this workshop will consider a series of questions about how a tree accomplishes various tasks such as growth, nutrient transport, and defense against decay, as well as impacts of tree care such as pruning and fertilizing. Along the way, we will explore findings from recent research and areas where science is less clear about how a tree functions. The information will have practical implications for arborists, both new and seasoned, while also enabling them to better explain their recommendations to clients.

We will meet at the Horticulture Center at Bloomfield Farm. Look for the paved road across Northwestern Avenue from the public garden entrance. Park in the lot and follow the signs to the Horticulture Center. This course carries 5.75 CEUs for ISA certified arborists.

Saturday, November 2
9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Fee: $135 (includes lunch)

Mobile Crane Operator Training and Certification

Larry DeMark, Sr.
President, Equipment Training Solutions

In recent years OSHA has recommended a series of new regulations regarding the operation of cranes that will require all crane owners and operators to become certified by the National Commission for the Certification of Crane Operators (NCCCO). This will have a profound effect on arborists in the Philadelphia region who offer tree removal with a crane as part of their service. Compliance will involve completion of a certification process that is administered by the NCCCO and the International Assessment Institute. The certification process includes the successful passing of a 90 question written core exam, a 26 question written fixed cab telescopic exam, and a practical examination. Larry DeMark, Sr., co-owner of Equipment Training Services, LLC (ETS), which is an NCCCO recognized training provider, will administer this three-day course that will lead to certification upon passing the two written examinations on the final day and the practical examination. Students are expected to arrive having studied the training material that will be provided in advance. This course carries 17.25 CEUs for ISA certified arborists.

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday
November 4, 5, 6
9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Fee: $1,650 (includes lunch)

Advancing Your Climbing Skills: Pruning, Rigging, and Removal with a Crane

Zac Shechtman
Owner, Shechtman Tree Care

Rob Thippen
Foreman, Shechtman Tree Care and ISA Penn-Del Chapter Climbing Champion

This class, taught by experienced professionals, consists of three days of advanced arboricultural techniques.

November 11: Practical Pruning
The first day will focus on the theory and practice of large tree pruning, including a component on tree physiology, structural pruning, and the latest ANSI standard. Each student will receive a copy of the ANSI Z133.1 standards and will have the opportunity to climb a tree for supervised instruction.

November 12: Rigging for Removal – The Old Fashioned Way
This class will focus on the techniques and gear involved in the process of safely lowering wood as part of the removal process. Each student will have an opportunity for hands-on experience using proper rigging techniques to safely lower wood from a standing trunk. Proper use of the latest equipment as well as the critical knots involved will be demonstrated. Safe felling techniques will also be demonstrated.

November 13: Crane Use and Safety
The last day of this course will consist of instruction and demonstration of the safe use of a truck mounted crane for tree removal. Emphasis will be given to site selection, weight calculation, load distribution, and safe curitng techniques.

Each student will receive a copy of How to Fell a Tree by Jeff Jepson, a book with step-by-step methods for taking down a tree. This course carries 17.25 CEUs for ISA certified arborists. We will meet at the Horticulture Center at Bloomfield Farm. Look for the paved road across Northwestern Avenue from the public garden entrance. Park in the lot and follow the signs to the Horticulture Center.

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday
November 11, 12, 13
9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Fee: $525 (includes lunch)

Physical and Cultural Geography of the Pinelands National Reserve

Mark Demitroff
Pinelands Geographer, Department of Geography, University of Delaware

In the midst of megalopolis lies nearly a million-and-a-half acres of treasured urban wilderness known as the New Jersey Pine Barrens. This session provides a natural science-based overview of how to read both the environmental and human landscapes of this land, long lauded for its uniqueness by the scientific community. Climate-driven movement of frozen and thawing ground, along with strong winds from the nearby Laurentide Ice Sheet, helped to fashion the local terrain into the place that we value today. Unusual landforms provide critical habitat for rare, threatened, and endangered plants and animals. People have exploited its forest resources for over 14,000 years. Their story will be woven together in a geographic tapestry of interactions between nature and society, with emphasis on the region’s
unusual flora. This great wilderness provided the raw materials needed for America’s rapid industrialization, and since 1850 offered sanctuary to ethnic settlers who sought security by taming an impoverished land while overcoming social intolerance. This class carries 5.75 CEUs for ISA certified arborists.

Tuesday, November 12
9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Fee: $135 (includes lunch)

Field Identification of Landscape Trees
Kenneth LeRoy
Certified Arborist Representative, John B. Ward Tree Experts
Join us for a two-day class on the identification of woody landscape plants for urban and suburban landscapes. The class will cover both deciduous trees and conifers. Arborist and horticulturist, Ken LeRoy, will show us how to use a dichotomous key to identify plants and will explain the terminology used in keys to describe plant characteristics. He will also discuss the physical characteristics used to group plants into families. We will go on a tour of the Morris Arboretum to see specimens of the plants we discuss. You may want to purchase the Sibley Guide to Trees, available in the Arboretum bookstore, and a good reference for tree identification. Please dress for the weather. This course carries 11.5 CEUs for ISA certified arborists and 6 CEUs for Pennsylvania landscape architects. We will meet at the Horticulture Center at Bloomfield Farm. Look for the paved road across Northwestern Avenue from the public garden entrance. Park in the lot and follow the signs to the Horticulture Center.

Thursday, Friday
November 14, 15
9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Fee: $270 (includes lunch)

Restoration Ecology
William Young
President, Young Environmental Services
Kevin Smarz
Graduate student, School of Design, University of Pennsylvania.

During the last 25 years, restoration ecology has emerged as a separate field of ecology. It can be thought of as the practice of renewing and restoring degraded, damaged, or destroyed ecosystems by active human intervention, design, and action. This symposium will bring together two noted experts in this field to discuss some of the background and techniques involved in approaching restoration projects. We will look at the process of site evaluation, natural resource inventory and assessment, soils and contaminants, as well as various restoration techniques. This course will be of particular interest to land managers, designers, landscape contractors, and anyone who is charged with the renewal of a degraded site.

Mr. Young is past President of the New Jersey Native Plant Society as well as a lecturer at the University of Pennsylvania. He has an extensive contracting background with a wide variety of wetland restoration projects throughout the United States. Mr. Smarz has a background in biogeochemistry and ecology and works as a restoration specialist for USA Environmental. This course carries 5.75 CEUs for ISA certified arborists and 6 CEUs for PA landscape architects.

Thursday, November 21
9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Fee: $125 (includes lunch)

Diagnosis and Identification of Plant Disorders
Richard Buckley
Manager, Plant Diagnostics Laboratory, Rutgers University

Join us as New Jersey’s premier plant diagnostician leads us on a day of discovery. This session will present an overview of the major causes of abiotic and biotic plant disorders in North American woody stemmed plants. Biotic plant problems are caused by living organisms, such as fungi, bacteria, viruses, nematodes, insects, mites, and animals. Abiotic disorders are caused by non-living factors, such as drought stress, sunscald, freeze injury, wind injury, chemical drift, nutrient deficiency, or improper cultural practices, such as overwatering or planting too deep. Unfortunately, the damage caused by these various living and non-living agents can appear very similar. A systematic approach to the identification of environmental, fungal, and bacterial causes of plant disorders and diseases will be considered along with common sense approaches to their control. This course carries 5.75 CEUs for ISA certified arborists.

Friday, November 22
9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Fee: $125 (includes lunch)

Redesigning Landscapes in the New Urban Environment
Dr. Anton Nelessen
Department Chair, Urban Planning, Policy and Public Health, Rutgers University

As cities today work to become more energy and resource efficient, urban planners project an upswing in their growth and renewal. An important part of the planned urban environment is its designed public gardens and plantings. Thoughtful use of valuable space in the city environment is an important skill for any architect, designer, contractor, or planner. Join us as world famous urban planner, Anton Nelesson, guides us through the planning and design process. Dr. Nelesson will familiarize us with the Visual Preference Survey process that he developed. There will also be a hands-on design segment of this seminar in the afternoon. This course carries 5.75 CEUs for ISA certified arborists and 6 CEUs for PA landscape architects.

Thursday, December 5
9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Fee: $125 (includes lunch)
general class information

The Morris Arboretum is located in the Chestnut Hill section of Philadelphia. For further information or directions, call (215) 247-5777 or check the Arboretum website at www.morrisarboretum.org. Go to “Plan your Visit.”

The Green Choice
We need your input. In the interest of sustainability, if you would like to opt out of receiving our course brochure, please e-mail us at education@morrisarboretum.org with the subject line, “Opt out.” We always offer the fall course brochure on our website under Education tab.

Location of Classes
All classes will be held at the George D. Widener Visitor Center unless otherwise noted. Parking areas may be reached by entering the Arboretum off of East Northwestern Avenue. Students should arrive at least ten minutes before the start of the class to allow time to check in.

Refund and Cancellation Policy
In order to receive a refund for a class you must call (215) 247-5777, ext. 125 at least two business days before the class start date. The Arboretum reserves the right to cancel any program if necessary. Refunds take approximately 3 to 4 weeks to process. There will be no refunds after a class begins.

Weather Information
In case of inclement weather conditions on the day of your class, please call the Education Department, (215) 247-5777, ext. 156, for information on possible cancellation or rescheduling of the class.

registration form

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To register online, visit https://online.morrisarboretum.org/arboriculture.

To register by mail, send this form along with check payable to the “Morris Arboretum” to:
Education Department
Morris Arboretum
100 East Northwestern Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19118-2697

To register by phone, have your credit card ready.
Call the Education Dept. (215) 247-5777, ext. 125.

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