






Treemendous News

Winter 2010 Publication of Kerns Brothers



ACCREDITED BUSINESS

KERNS BROTHERS HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

-  Kerns Brothers will be closed for the holidays December 24, 2010 thru January 2, 2011.
-  All EMERGENCY calls will be returned ASAP!
-  We will return to the office January 3, 2011 at 7:00 a.m. to take your calls and return any messages.

THIRD ANNUAL KERNS BROTHERS 'MAKE A WISH'

Do you know an individual, group or organization needing tree or landscaping work done, but for whatever reason cannot afford the project at this time?

Give Kerns Brothers the opportunity to possibly make this wish come true.

A certified arborist or landscape designer will contact you to assess your wish.

One project will then be chosen, valued at up to \$1500.00. The lucky winner will be notified by January 20th. Help Kerns Brothers Tree Service and Landscape make your Holiday wish come true!

To submit your request:

- Write a letter to Kerns Brothers explaining the project that needs to be done.
- Include why you, your group or organization should be chosen.
- Send your letter in to us via post or email by **January 15, 2011.**

FALL NEEDLE LOSS AND CONIFERS

This season we received many calls from worried clients who were afraid that they were going to lose their evergreens. Most of the callers described needles turning color and falling off. The color varied by species. For example:



- White Pine needles will yellow before browning and falling off.
- Leyland cypress and Arborvitae will appear orange to orange-brown before shedding.

The good news is that this is normal shedding of older needles. We all look forward to seeing our deciduous trees turn color in the fall before leaf drop. Conifers are doing the same thing; shedding older needles after new growth is in place.

Here are some things you should know about fall needle loss.

- Needles on the tips of the branches remain intact. Only the older needles (further in on the limb) will shed.
- Evergreen foliage will stay on the tree for 2 – 5 growing seasons (or more) prior to shedding.
- Fall needle loss can last from late summer, and throughout the winter.
- All Evergreens experience fall needle loss, not just the species listed above.
- Although there are other conditions that can lead to needle loss, if the needles on the upper and outer parts of the limbs are green, your Conifer should be fine.

If you are not sure whether your tree is experiencing normal needle loss or something more serious, our arborists are ready to assist. Estimates or diagnosis are free of charge!

WIN A 2011 DELAWARE STATE PARK PASS!

Call our office before **January 15th** with the correct answer to the following question to enter to win:

What is the maximum amount of foliage (%) that can be pruned from a tree in an annual growing season?

One winner will be drawn from the correct responses.



YOUR PLANT HEALTH CARE RENEWAL PROPOSAL

It is the middle of January, and you just received your Plant Health Care Renewal (PHC) from Kerns Brothers. The renewal is for a spring Fungicide application to your Crabapple to help reduce Apple Rust Infection. You set it aside. After all, Spring is over 2 months away, right?

Soon, Spring arrives with its warmer temperatures and normal rainfall. Before long your plants have flowered and are almost in full leaf.

That's when it hits you. "I forgot to return my plant health care renewal! Is it too late for my Crabapple?"

Returning your PHC Renewal to Kerns Brothers in a timely fashion will assure proper PHC applications to your plants, and increase their ability to overcome daily stress. Fungicides and certain Insecticides need to be applied to plants within a certain time period to be most effective, therefore, early renewal is important.

Not only is returning your renewal early beneficial to your plants. It can also save you, the "caretaker" of the plants, 10% of the cost by simply pre-paying by the date listed on the renewal. Return your PHC Renewal upon receipt and you will:

- Have healthier and happier plants
- Save 10% with pre-payment
- Create free time for yourself to eat and sleep better since less time is needed to worry about your plants' health.

As always, please give us a call with any questions or concerns you may have regarding your PHC Renewal.

RETURN TO WORK FALL 2010 PROGRAM (RTW)

The third Return To Work group has completed their 13 week training program. Delaware Center for Horticulture held a luncheon and awarded certificates to the group.

The program ran from August 23, 2010 through November 18, 2010. DCH does a great deal of the training, while Kerns Brothers' Brian Pritt (tree climber and groundperson) supervised and taught the four individuals the additional skills needed to do landscape work. The crew planted 200+ trees throughout the city and improved many Wilmington landscapes! In addition, they beautified the landscape of a Habitat for Humanity house in New Castle.



BARE ROOT TREES AT DELAWARE CENTER FOR HORTICULTURE

Checkout www.theDCH.org to find out more about acquiring a Bare Root Tree for your yard.

The deadline for orders is February 15, 2011 and trees will be available for pick up on March 16 & 17.

RECYCLE YOUR CHRISTMAS TREES, SAVE MONEY, AND LEARN TOO!

Kerns Brothers will be at *Always the Garden*, (1215 Philadelphia Pike), Saturday, **January 8th** starting at **9:00 a.m.** to re-cycle your Christmas tree!

Certified Arborists will be available to answer your tree care questions, and you can sign up for a FREE Tree and Shrub assessment of your property! Let a certified arborist share some of the benefits of assessing your landscape in the winter months with you.

In addition, Always the Garden will be holding their Final Christmas Clearance on January 8th & 9th from 9:00 a.m. -5:00 p.m.!

The savings are spectacular!!!

Get a 10% OFF Coupon for a future purchase when you return your tree at Always the Garden.

Kerns Brothers is offering the same 10% OFF discount for ALL of their Winter Services!



WHAT'S NEWS

NEW EMPLOYEES

Rob Polen – (Tree climber)

Rob has 27 years experience in the tree industry. He currently resides in the Avondale area with family Dina, daughter Shianne and two dogs. Rob enjoys hunting, fishing, and decoy carving. He is also a proud, recent retiree of the Longwood Fire Company after 26 years of service!

Bruce Vesey – (Tree climber, Crewleader)

Bruce has been involved with trees for 6 years and really enjoys doing tree removals with a crane! He is very proud of his beautiful wife and two children. Bruce is a very laid back quiet person, who loves to spend time with his family. When he is not playing with his family, he is watching his favorite football team. "Go Eagles!"

Ken Smith – (Tree climber)

Ken recently moved to Newport, DE from Somerset County, MD. He and his wife, Jessica, have (6) children. Ken has been working in the tree care industry since 1996. Ken had the opportunity to work on the cleanup efforts after several major storms, including Ike and Katrina. He really enjoyed meeting many fellow tree workers from around the country. Ken loves the feeling of giving back. In his spare time Ken enjoys spending time with his children, and in the rare event, quiet time with his wife. Ken and his wife are involved in their church and have a heart for Addictions Recovery. He strongly believes that everyone could use a second chance!

CONGRATULATIONS!

Barry J. Whitehead, ISA Certified Arborist, has completed the Tree Care Industry Association's Certified Treecare Safety Professional (CTSP) program. The CTSP program allows key employees in the company to become certified tree care safety experts, thereby empowering and encouraging a culture of safety within the company, and across the industry as a whole.

The purpose of the CTSP program is to reduce work-related injuries and illnesses overall, and completion of the program demonstrates a true commitment to improving the safety and well-being of tree care workers across the industry. Consumers can rest assured that retaining the services of a tree care company with a CTSP on staff ensures a safe, professional jobsite operated by highly skilled experts in the arboriculture field.

Presently, there are approximately (650) CTSPs in the United States, with Delaware having five CTSPs. Kerns Brothers now employs two! Congratulations Barry!

Ken Smith and his wife, Jessica, celebrated the birth of their son, Robert William Smith, on November 27, 2010 at 1:44 a.m. in Peninsula Regional Medical Center in Salisbury, MD. Robert was 7 lbs. 1 oz. and 20 1/4 in. long at birth! He is home from the hospital and doing great!



WINNERS!

FALL HOME SHOW (\$ 300.00 Gift Certificate for tree care)
– Alex Sawyer

2010 FALL NEWSLETTER (DE State Park Pass)
– Mrs. Carol Wahlig

WOMEN IN BUSINESS – (\$ 300.00 Gift Certificate for tree care) - Nora Lober



Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for a Happy New Year!

WINTER LANDSCAPE AND TREE CARE TIPS

- Finish your 2010 yard Clean-up! Clean & weed your beds now.
- Have your trees and shrubs inspected for broken branches, decayed areas, and dead wood by an ISA Certified Arborist.
- Get branches trimmed that are too close to your home or building.
- Evaluate large trees without their leaves for decayed areas and dead wood.
- Prune ornamental & shade trees while dormant.
- Do not use rock salt near your shrubs and trees!
- Shake the snow from branches on evergreen shrubs and trees to prevent damage.
- Plan for your Spring planting needs!
- **Return your PHC Renewal Proposal by February 28th !** If you did not receive one, call for your free estimate!



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Major Credit
Cards Accepted

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www.kernsbros.com

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Happy New Year!

**10% Off Winter Tree Care & Landscaping
for work done in January & February!**

THIS DISCOUNT APPLIES TO NEW CONTRACTS AND LABOR ONLY! EXP. 2-15-11

ERNS BROTHERS TREE SERVICE

Certified Arborists on Staff • Radio Dispatched Trucks • Free Storm Damage Evaluation
Pruning • Removal • Cabling • Stump Removal • Fertilization • Insect & Disease Control
• LANDSCAPE DESIGN AND INSTALLATION •



Delaware's **First** Nationally Accredited Tree Care Company

