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Ticks and Mosquitoes Alert!

Ticks and mosquitoes are much more than a mere annoyance. They can also transmit several serious illnesses. **Almstead provides safe and effective tick and mosquito control for your property.** We offer a range of treatment options, including organic programs. Our arborists and technicians are licensed experts in tick and mosquito control and understand how to make your property less hospitable to these dangerous insects.



Who is an Arborist?

An arborist is someone who is trained in the art and science of planting, maintaining and caring for trees. Certified arborists have to pass a comprehensive exam and abide by a code of ethics. At Almstead, all our arborists are certified. In addition, they are members of various professional organizations. Their in-depth knowledge and experience allows them to advise clients about property management, vendor coordination and other issues that relate to and impact your landscape.



Places to Visit: Pelham Bay Park

Currently holding the title of the largest park in New York City, Pelham Bay Park sits on 2,772 acres of land in the Bronx and even extends a little into Westchester County. The park includes Orchard Beach and Promenade, Pelham Golf Course, Hunter Island, the Bartow-Pell Mansion, and the Pell Wildlife Sanctuary. There are also ample trees (several are over 200 years old) and many monuments including the famous American Boy sculpture.

Explore the shoreline or enjoy the other amenities at the Park, including playgrounds, picnic areas, sports fields and running paths. Grab a bite from one of the many snack stands around or enjoy a sit-down Cuban meal at the Havana Café on the Promenade.

Visit Pelham Bay Park

Where: Bronx County Line and Middletown Rd., Watt Ave., Bronx, NY 10464

Hours: Sunrise to 1am. Playgrounds are open 8am to Dusk. Buildings and beaches are open 10am–6pm

Admission: While admission to the park is free, some places such as the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum and Orchard Beach may have a fee.

Parking: On-site — \$7 weekdays/\$9 on weekends

Website: nycgovparks.org/parks/pelham-bay-park



Above:
Pelham Bay
Park

Left:
15 ft high
American
Boy sculpture
by Louis
St. Lannes
(1932)



Tree Risk Assessment

Summer storms can wreak havoc on trees with pre-existing structural problems. Have your landscape assessed by one of our arborists before the storm season kicks in.

Custom Shrub Pruning

Properly pruned shrubs look more attractive, grow healthier and more vigorously, and improve the overall value of your landscape. Ask your arborist about our customized hand-pruning program and schedule.



Arbor Notes

Spring/Summer 2015

Almstead Celebrates Arbor Day With Events Across Region

Almstead celebrated Arbor Day this year with many significant events all across the region. “We are always pleased to join our local communities in making Arbor Day celebrations meaningful and inspiring,” said Ken Almstead, CEO. “Once again, arborists from each of our branch offices, along with Almstead support team and staff, were able to participate in exciting events in their regions.”

North Haledon, New Jersey

Almstead was at Memorial Park at Van Neste Square in Ridgewood to celebrate Earth Day. Arborist Ryan Duff, VP Michael Almstead and other Almstead staff handed out Colorado Spruce saplings, wild flower seeds, coloring sheets and other giveaways while Almstead climbers managed the Children's Tree Climbing Station. Duff and his crew also planted a tree at the Park as part of Almstead's “50th Anniversary 50 Trees” donation.

Hawthorne, New York

Arborist Patrick McVey made a show-and-tell presentation on how trees benefit our environment to a class of very interested 1st Graders at Transfiguration School in Tarrytown. Arborist Tim Katenkamp, and his crew planted two trees for the Parks and Recreation Department of the Town of New Castle and donated their time and expertise by doing select removals and pruning of street trees. Arborist Russell Wagner, and Vice

President, Michael Almstead planted an American Elm tree in Depew Park in Peekskill.

New Rochelle, New York

Arborist Michael Marks celebrated Arbor Day by planting trees and doing compost applications, along with local Girl Scouts, at the Magic Treetures Forest Nursery in Eastchester. Michael, and his crew, also planted a tree at the Village of Bronxville train station. Ken Almstead, CEO, Michael Almstead, VP, and Bill VanCura, New Rochelle Branch Manager were at Wave Hill Public Garden in the Bronx to celebrate Arbor Day. Once again, Almstead sponsored the Junior Arborist Station and handed out wild flower seeds and Norway Spruce seedlings.

Stamford, Connecticut:

Gary Norman, our Stamford Branch Manager and Michael Almstead, VP, joined students, teachers and elected officials from the community at Kendall School in Norwalk. Almstead also had a Tree Climbing Station and exhibitor tent at the Connecticut Tree Festival and at the “Down On The Farm Barnyard Bash” at the Darien Nature Center.

For more information as well as videos and photographs of these events, please visit our [Arbor Day Events Page](http://www.almstead.com/arborday) at www.almstead.com/arborday.



(Above) At Ridgewood, NJ Earth Day Fair: (Left to Right) Jon Olsz (Arborist), Ryan Duff (Arborist), Sprig (“The Freedom Fighter”), Patti Ballet (Office Manager), Michael Almstead (VP).



CEO Ken Almstead (left) at Wave Hill Public Garden where Almstead sponsored the Junior Arborist Station.

Treat Your Ash Trees to Prevent Emerald Ash Borer Infestations

EAB is considered Trees' Public Enemy #1 in our region. It is here and very active in our area.



It is estimated that New York State will lose about 900 million Ash trees in the next 15 years to the Emerald Ash Borer. The Department of Agriculture is taking steps to slow the spread of this invasive beetle in public forests and urban area by creating quarantine boundaries. Restricted zones have been set up in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut where infected trees and wood can be removed, treated or destroyed. Movement of firewood and ash in the region is also under federal and state quarantine.

For homeowners and commercial entities, it is important to remember that **we can inject Ash trees to successfully resist Emerald Ash Borer infestations.** However, treatment must begin BEFORE the first attack. Your Almstead arborist can visit to your property and suggest the best possible course of action.

*Read about the threat of another invasive pest in our region, the **Southern Pine Beetle**, inside!*

A Letter from the CEO



As I write this article, summer is finally approaching after a long and cold winter and equally dry, late and hot spring. The record-breaking winter temperatures, which never allowed a thawing, along with the 2nd warmest May on record for our region, truly have tested our landscapes. The abundance of salt applied this winter didn't help this situation and you can clearly see where this impact was greatest. Plant material planted later in the fall, or material that may have been under some stress or decline to begin with, took the blunt of these extremes. We've seen more damage than usual in our landscapes along with opportunistic pests that thrive on stressed trees and shrubs.

What can you do? Schedule a walk-through of your property with your Almstead arborist. Although much can be communicated through photos and emails nowadays, I still encourage this face-to-face interaction and partnership where expectations and goals of the landscape can be discussed and reviewed with long-term plans developed.

Other topics I wanted to highlight in this issue are two invasive pests, the Emerald Ash Borer and the Southern Pine Beetle, which are threatening the trees and forests in our region. Both these destructive species are relatively new to this area and should be on your radar for monitoring and treatment especially for any prized Ash tree which you would like to preserve.

Arbor Day activities are always important to us, and this year we participated in several all across our service region (see our lead article on the front page). Our arborists always look forward to sharing their knowledge and getting their communities, especially children, interested in tree care and being responsible caretakers of our natural resources.

Thank you for your continued support! If you have any issues or questions, please don't hesitate to contact me personally by email at kalmstead@almstead.com. I hope you have a wonderful summer with your family, friends and green surroundings.

Sincerely,

Ken Almstead, CEO
International Society of Arboriculture Certified Arborist NY0335

Invasive Pests: Southern Pine Beetle

Since its arrival in Long Island last fall, the **Southern Pine Beetle** has destroyed thousands of trees. Last month, scientists discovered new mass infestations, away from the mainland, on Fire Island. This has worried them greatly because it implies that the reach of this destructive pest is far greater than previously imagined.



The Southern Pine Beetle, *Dendroctonus Frontalis*, is a species of bark beetle that is between 2-4mm in length and infests Pine trees as well as marginal hosts such as Hemlock and Spruce. Native to the Southeastern United States, Mexico and Central America, the Southern Pine Beetle has made its way North only recently. In addition to Long Island, it has also been spotted in New Haven, Litchfield and Hartford counties of Connecticut in the past few months.

The adult beetle enters a tree through crevices in the bark and burrows itself in tunnels under the bark. It then begins feeding on the tree's nutrients and killing it quickly in 2-3 months. Although Pine trees secrete a resin to ward off the intruders, it is of no match for the thousands of attacking beetles.

Signs of the Southern Pine Beetle in Pine trees:

1. Pitch Tubes or Popcorn shaped resin on the exterior of the bark
2. Shotgun patterned holes in the exterior of the bark
3. S-shaped tunnels under the Bark
4. Pine trees that have recently died have reddish-brown needles

Homeowners who notice any signs of the Southern Pine Beetle on their property should call Almstead immediately so an arborist can inspect the trees on the property. If an infestation is confirmed, we will suggest the best course of treatment as well as how to prevent it from spreading.

Mature Tree Preservation: Benefits Are Worth The Effort

Well-preserved mature trees add irreplaceable value to any property. In addition to their aesthetic appeal, mature trees also absorb carbon dioxide, odors and pollutant gases, provide oxygen, prevent erosion of soil, and cool the landscape. Many trees are capable of long outliving us, yet trees that live outside of forests often don't get the chance. Ecological conditions for trees in urban, suburban, and even rural environments are difficult, and a tree's ability to cope with stresses grows lower as it ages.

While young trees are composed of mostly vibrant living tissue, mature trees are mostly established wood, which cannot regenerate and needs relative stability to ensure survival. As a tree grows older, its immune system also weakens, becoming increasingly less tolerant of disturbances to its environment. The two greatest assets to any mature tree are a healthy, low-impact ecological environment and the constant watchful eye of an expert. Catching and correcting any stresses facing a mature tree: from poor soil conditions and soil compaction, to the presence of various insects or diseases, will help to extend its lifespan.

Healthy mature trees are often the most stunning elements of our landscapes and are usually worth the extra attention they require. Your arborist will help you develop a program that creates healthy, sustainable environments for your mature trees and allows them to thrive for many years to come.



Well-maintained mature trees can increase the property value by almost 15% and reduce air-conditioning needs by 30%.

Our Unique Approach To Lawn Care Benefits Your Entire Landscape

At Almstead, our approach to lawn care takes into account the health of your entire landscape by drawing on wisdom from both traditional and organic care methods. Our goal is to maintain a healthy balance between your turf and other landscaping. With this in mind, we offer three separate comprehensive lawn care programs: **Organic Based**, **Pure Organic**, and **Traditional**.

Organic Based Care

By utilizing natural soil supplements and organic fertilizers, the organic base program builds up the strength and health of your lawn naturally. This program also makes use of integrated treatments to keep pests and weeds in check. As your lawn becomes organically richer, these non-organic treatments can often be reduced over time. Organic Based care works both as a stand-alone program and as a gateway to Pure Organic lawn care.

Pure Organic Care

A healthy, thick lawn with a diversity of turf species protects itself naturally. The 100% organic fertilizers and treatments in this program help create biologically sound, hearty turf. This program also focuses on improving soil conditions with compost and other natural soil supplements.

Traditional Care

Our Traditional Care program enhances the lushness and beauty of your lawn by utilizing the highest quality conventional treatments available in the industry safely and effectively. A combination of fertilizers, soil supplements and weed controls make this a highly effective regimen to achieve a flawless looking lawn.

Freshly Brewed Compost Teas

Our freshly brewed compost teas are made with the finest quality local leaf and twig compost available. Infuse your soil with the beneficial microorganisms that help soil produce the nutrients plants need naturally.



New Rochelle, NY: 914-576-0193
Hawthorne, NY: 914-741-1510
North Haledon, NJ: 973-636-6711
Stamford, CT: 203-348-4111



Mulching: Functional and Attractive

If applied correctly, mulch can be very beneficial to your landscape. Mulch is material that is laid over the surface of the soil to help retain moisture in the soil, provide nutrients, suppress weeds, protect against extreme temperatures, and make the landscape look more attractive. At Almstead, we produce premium quality mulch and certified playground mulch. Our mulch is aged and treated to eliminate pathogens and double-hammered for texture. It is available in natural brown or in a variety of vibrant, dyed colors.

Proper mulching helps manage soil moisture stress and increases soil fertility. By using high quality Almstead Mulch, the benefits of mulching can be extended even further. This includes soil temperature control, weed suppression and enhancing natural nutrients already present in your soil. **Your Almstead arborist can supply and apply mulch to your landscape at the correct depth and placement.**



Almstead produces mulch that is aged, and pathogen-free in several colors (below)

Have You Considered...

Recently hybridized to grow in the Northeast, the **Crape Myrtle** can be an eye-catching and stately addition to any landscape. Their beautiful, long lasting blooms start at the end of the summer and last well into Fall.

Latin Name: *Lagerstroemia Indica*

Common Name(s): Common Crepe Myrtle, Crape Myrtle

Tree Type: With wide spreading branches that makes for a beautiful crown and multiple trunks, the Crape Myrtle is especially beautiful when the flowers bloom.

Sun and Water Requirements: Full sun and occasional watering once the plant is established.

Expected Growth: Variable, but a range of 15' to 25' in height is common in our region.

Foliage: Leaves are simple and privet-like, 1" to 3" long and 1.5" wide. New emerging leaves are yellowish green, bronze and reddish purple, turning to lustrous medium and dark green at maturity. Fall coloration ranges from yellow, orange, and red.

Flowers: Perfect 6-petaled, each flower is 1" to 1.5" wide. Colors vary from white, pink, purple and deep red.

Landscape Value: The Crape Myrtle will definitely act as the main attraction in your landscape not only during the summer with its beautiful blooms but also in the winter with its smooth, mottled cinnamon brown bark.

Trivia: The Crape Myrtle is native to China and Korea although it is now a dominant landscape plant throughout the United States.



Join the Conversation!



www.facebook.com/Almsteadtree