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What a fascinating year we have encountered so far! From considerable snow to record flooding, the Middle Tennessee area has had its fair share of bad weather. Unfortunately, the recent flooding has affected much of our community and even members of our local CAI chapter. My thoughts and prayers are with all those people who have been affected. I am proud to live in the Nashville area and to be associated with CAI, because both responded courageously and generously to the flood victims.

Again, the members of CAI-TN know how to step up to the plate when the need presents itself! As I have stated in the past, one of our goals this year is to do more with charitable giving and services. CAI is well on its way to raising our goal of $10,000 for our adopted charity, Thistle Farms. Tom Tinnel has done an outstanding job this year coordinating and organizing the Charity Committee. I appreciate his dedication and efforts associated with this worthy cause. Tom has announced the first ever CAI-TN Bowling Tournament which he has planned for July 24, in an effort to raise needed funds for Thistle Farms. You can learn more about Thistle Farms at www.ThistleFarms.org.

CAI had its first ever joint mixer along with the IREM organization in mid-May. We had over 80 people attend the fun event at Cabana, which proved to be a tremendous success! A special thanks to Paul Thornton for coordinating the event. Get ready for the next mixer in September.

Our Education Committee has been working diligently at creating educational opportunities for our members. Dick Krebs and Kathy Holbrook have coordinated an intriguing class set for June 18, in which Carol Berz will instruct on the topic of mediation and its benefits to our industry. This is sure to be an informative class, and you can earn 6 points of continuing education credits. You can obtain all the details and register for the class via the CAI website.

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Bradford pear trees are colorful, grow fast, and are beautifully shaped. One good thing about these trees is that their mature size is limited. These trees are as hard as oak and make excellent firewood. Often people say that the Bradford pear is structurally deficient because so many branches originate from such a small central area. This in turn creates a tree with a lot of limbs that cause excessive weight in the canopy, which makes it prone to breakage. With minimum knowledge, Bradford pears can be an awesome addition to the scenery and be enjoyed rather than disliked.

Bradford pear trees become fully mature at about 25 years of age. When Bradford pears are 7-12 years old they require a one-time preservation technique that Community Tree calls “stove-piping.” In this method the centers are drastically reduced while the outside of the tree retains its natural shape and size. Topping a Bradford is a needless, reoccurring expense that is rarely recommended because it aggravates sucker growth that in a few years makes the original problem much worse.

After “stove-piping,” the Bradford pear’s remaining limbs act as shock absorbers rather than transferring forces to the trunk crotches, which are known to be the breaking point. The weight and leverage that is removed from the tree also re-engineers the Bradford to withstand much more wind, rain, snow and ice. Sunlight now can penetrate the canopy allowing grass under the tree to grow better. This in turn creates healthy topsoil that acts as a natural fertilizer for the tree.

The Bradford’s bad reputation is well deserved but can be avoided by using proper preservation techniques to help maintain a healthy, vibrant and break-resistant tree.

Bradford pears can be an awesome addition to the scenery and be enjoyed rather than disliked.
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Spring rains, temperatures rising, and summer is practically here. Along with these welcome seasonal changes comes the annual unwelcome invasion of mosquitoes. In most parts of the country and especially in the South where the temperatures are temperate and there is moisture, they will breed. Because they are a flying insect it is not practical to claim that they can be totally eliminated, but there are ways of reducing their numbers and controlling them. They are actually poor flyers and stay within a small area, but they can be carried by strong winds. They are drawn to humans as they are sensitive to and drawn towards the carbon dioxide that we expel.

A number of issues contribute to a mosquito problem, including landscaping with heavy vegetation (especially ivy), containers left out in the open that can collect rain, and any nearby water sources such as bird baths, water features, ponds and retention ponds are all potential mosquito breeding sites and are attractive habitats for them. Our most persistent and annoying mosquito species are container breeders with our most common and annoying example being the Asian Tiger mosquito. Any item left out that can collect water can become a breeding site.

In addition to the more obvious breeding sites, homeowners need to be aware of items where water collects through rain and irrigation. Toys, bird baths, tarps, plant containers, clogged gutters, and even bottle caps can hold enough water long enough for mosquitoes to breed. Gutters should be kept clear, and other items should be emptied and allowed to dry out. Bird baths, plant saucers and pet water bowls should be changed at least once a week.

Retention ponds are typically a major area that should be considered because they typically have standing water as well as overgrown vegetation. Where practical, drainage of the standing water needs to be complete and vegetation in some instances be maintained to a certain level. Instead of being allowed to be overgrown eyesores, there are many that are planted with trees (such as weeping willows) that tolerate high moisture content in the soil and the areas around them cut from time to time.

A comprehensive mosquito control program should take into account the life cycle of mosquitoes and target vulnerable life stages to control the population. Breeding sites should be eliminated where possible, and other areas such as shallow pond areas and drains should be treated with a larvicide.
Mosquitoes, cont. from p. 7

to prevent the larvae from developing into adults. Adult mosquitoes prefer to rest under heavy vegetative cover during daylight hours. These areas can be treated with residual or contact insecticides to eliminate adult mosquitoes.

Mosquito control is evolving as our tools and techniques improve. You can still see government trucks out at dusk in some communities, fogging the streets. Usually these trucks are traveling too fast to properly apply the fog, and this application typically misses many areas and fails to treat the breeding sites that are the source of the mosquito problems. Mist dispensers have become popular in recent years, but these products are expensive and require large containers of pesticide on the property, and likewise fail to address the breeding sites that generate the mosquitoes. There has also been some discussion and concern about liabilities that may arise concerning automatic systems inadvertently spraying a child or pet.

The most targeted and integrated method of mosquito reduction is a three step process. Number one is to eliminate the breeding sites where practical. Number two is to apply larvacides where needed. They typically come in a pellet form but some products may come in the form of a “doughnut.” Larvacides when used properly will not harm fish or wildlife.

Lastly, shrubs, ivy, and other ground cover are treated with insecticides. This is done most effectively with backpack blowers that can target the needed areas. This should be performed by a knowledgeable technician who will apply the product properly and with care, as these products can be harmful to fish. Pets and children should be kept out of the area while the application is taking place. Typically, the product dries within an hour. At this point in time it is generally safe for normal activity including pets and children. Once it is dry the product generally lasts approximately 30 days, even through normal rainfall. In some instances during the month there may be re-applications that are needed to be performed. This method is most effective in our area if started in April before the problem grows and then is performed through October, when the season typically ends with the colder weather.
On April 15 members and friends of CAI took relief from filing their taxes to participate in the 13th Annual CAI Golf Tournament. Over 80 players took to the links course with sunny skies and temperatures hovering around 80 degrees at Gaylord Springs. At a 1:30 tee time, the golfers headed out with waiting sponsors to greet them at each tee box. With mulligans in hand and a two putt max on the greens, most teams finished with the sun setting at their back and headed to the pavilion for the awards ceremony and barbecue-themed dinner.

Davey Tree and Sunrise both shot a 60 for the day, but Davey Tree took first after a tie breaker. Reliable Roofing came in third after another three-way tie breaker. Rodger Crowe playing with Case Cleaning won the putting contest. Throughout the tournament there were other games for the players to participate in: Closest to the pin was won by Andy Kahars with ServPro of Madison; longest drive was taken by Kris Flowers with Cook’s Pest Control; and finally straightest drive went to Brandon Bean with Sweetwater Pools. The day concluded with a charity drawing of a variety of prizes. All the proceeds went to Thistle House.

Thank you to all of our players and sponsors, and we look forward to seeing you in 2011! ●
13TH ANNUAL CAI GOLF TOURNAMENT
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