



## Wilson's Nursery

We will be exhibiting at these coming  
tradeshows. Please swing by and pay  
us a visit!

Northern Green - St. Paul, MN, January 23-25, 2024

NDNGLA Tradeshow - Fargo, ND, January 29-31, 2024

SDNLA Tradeshow - Sioux Falls, SD, February 4-6, 2024

MN Shade Tree Short Course - Arden Hills, MN, March 12-  
13, 2024

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**Northern Green is next week already! Swing by Booth  
#1608/#1610 and say hello! We will have a big crew  
there this year awaiting your visit!**

**MONDAY** Pre-Conference Sessions:

PLT Relicensure and Pesticide Recertification will be available on Monday, January 22 at the Saint Paul RiverCentre.

**TUESDAY, JAN. 23**  
Community day for these Villages with a full day of focused education:

- Landscape/Hardscape Contractor
- Landscape Design/Landscape Architecture
- Water/Irrigation
- Golf

**Management Path**  
Management level courses will be available on this path to pop into and out of throughout the day.

**WEDNESDAY, JAN. 24**  
Dedicated trade show day!

**TRADE SHOW**  
9:00am-5:30pm

**BLOCK PARTY**  
5:30pm-7:30pm

**THURSDAY, JAN. 25**  
Community day for these Villages with a full day of focused education:

- Turf, Grounds, & Snow Management
- Garden Center/Grower
- Professional Gardening Services
- Tree Care/Arborist

**Management Path**  
Management level courses will be available on this path to pop into and out of throughout the day.



## Connie's Corner

### *Trees: Their Future and Ours*

by *Connie Kratzke*

*There has been a steady buzz about trees for the future over the last few years. Climate change is driving the movement, which makes a lot of sense. Long-term investments should be made with sustainability in mind. Adaptability, tolerance and hardiness are always desirable characteristics. What makes a good tree doesn't*

change. Still, "too good to be true" varieties are still more popular than we'd like them to be. Common Hackberries can't outsell Autumn Blaze Maples. We set ourselves up, building monocultures and wondering why we fail. Fostering multigenerational relationships between trees and people is not as easy as it was back in the day when they were firewood, food and shelter. We're not as connected. We don't experience the legacy of the centenarian Black Walnut the same way our ancestors did. That's why we must promote the practicality of futuristic trees and hit people where things make sense!

The floral world and the human race share many keys to success. Adaptability and tolerance are mandatory. Natives used to be the way to go. Now we're experiencing some changes. We can debate how long they will last and what is causing them, but their existence is evident. The conditions we are observing are not limited to temperature. Droughts are becoming more of a factor. Winds are having an impact. Higher yielding rain and snow events are resulting in periodic flooding. Trees that can't handle these conditions may be on borrowed time.

The Coffeetree is an excellent option for our area. Come what may. While not a true Minnesotan, it's a neighbor. *Gymnocladus* origins include Iowa, Kansas, Michigan and Ohio. 'True North™' (*Gymnocladus dioica* UMNSynergy) is a good cultivar. This tree won't sell itself, especially in spring. Presenting what it won't do is a good strategy. Iron chlorosis will not discolor its leaves and stunt its growth. After establishment, dry conditions won't discourage it. Extreme cold and oppressive heat won't diminish it. Strong branches will weather formidable gusts with ease. No, this genus does not contribute flaming red fall color; but no worries! There are countless Maples in every surrounding yard and natural space so you won't miss it!

While lacking the allure of blooms, Blue Beech is a classic, adaptable beauty. Frilly and delicate though it may seem, Honeylocust is a hardy plains dweller. Hackberry is a rugged representative of ecological sportsmanship. Ancient Ginkgo grows at Tortoise pace, sharing similar longevity. Really great varieties like 'Heritage' Oak (*Quercus macdanielii* 'Clemons' PP11,431) and 'Jefferson' Elm (*Ulmus americana* 'Jefferson') are selections with redeeming qualities that matter over the long term. These trees are tough. They have the will to be. They endure that which they do not prefer.

COVID is a situation endured. It came, it wreaked havoc, it attempted to conquer. We were forced to adapt and tolerate. Many perished despite best efforts. Nature throws things at us. We don't have thicker armor. However, N95 masks and hand sanitizer didn't hinder the motion of our spherical foe. Chestnut Blight, Dutch Elm Disease and Emerald Ash Borer have all been devastating. Current best choices could be impacted by pests and pathogens we haven't met yet. Trees we plant today will not see the future if they aren't armed with the best defenses. Stress compromises immunity in all living things. That's why adaptability, tolerance and strength matter.

Translating this to clients who are asking for rapid, short-term gratification is no easy task. I cannot tell you how many times I've heard, "that's the next guy's problem" or, "I won't live long enough for it to matter." How depressing! No one is saying these things with ill intent, but they are still indicative of malignant short-sightedness. We are all familiar with this phrase or a version of it:

**"A society grows great when old men plant trees in whose shade they shall**

**never sit.”- Greek Proverb**

*Environmental stewardship enhances the immunity of our ecosystem. We are conduits of this knowledge. While it is our job to give customers what they want, referencing the big picture never hurts. To promote trees for the future, we must share common sense. Don't be afraid to tell the guy with the golf course lawn that the 'Royal Red Maple' he craves will not flourish with regular 2,4-D treatments. Then it's his decision whether he increases his tolerance for weeds or his openness to substitution. He may decide that he wants what he wants and that's that. No biggy. Tough, tolerant, adaptable folks like us can accept that. The difference we make is providing the option to delay desires and plant futures. We don't know how critical our efforts could be to unknown generations who might sit beneath our trees.*



*Trees I enjoy, planted by folks I never knew. Left: There are some amazing Norway Spruces at the church across from our house. I enjoy them every day. Right: A Butternut and two Hackberries on the hill above our lakeshore. These trees have tolerated extremes for decades.*

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**Winter Hours of Operation**  
Monday-Friday 7:30am-4:00pm

**\*Please email all quote requests and orders to us at:**  
[orders@wilsonsnurseryinc.com](mailto:orders@wilsonsnurseryinc.com)

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