

[HOME](#) / COLLECTIONS

Ads by Google

Try BostonGlobe.com today and [get two weeks FREE](#) (already subscribe? [log in](#)).

ON THE JOB

Arborist has had a lifetime of experience

May 27, 2012

THIS STORY APPEARED IN

The Boston Globe

Arborists do much more than just take down trees, as John Murphy of NatureWorks Landscape Services in Walpole can tell you. Ask him about strategies to deal with carpenter ants or indicators of stem decay in trees, or his opinion on soil conditioners, and he'll tell you about the best treatments and approaches for tree health care.



John Murphy says, Not every tree is a keeper, so removal is also part of the... (Suzanne Kreiter/Globe...)

"Whether it's an ornamental tree or a large shade tree, we try to preserve trees as long as possible," said Murphy, 28, who is a Massachusetts certified arborist. "Not every tree is a keeper, so removal is also part of the workload."

What are your suggestions for the typical homeowner?

Ads by Google

[Mayer Tree Service MA NH](#)

Fallen Tree Removal Storm Clean 1 (888) 88-MAYER Call Us Today!

[Mayertreeservice.com](#)

[Tree Service / Tree Care](#)

Arborway Tree Care, Inc. Certified & Insured, Since 1979

[www.ArborwayTree.com](#)

Maintain your trees as best as possible if you want your yard looking nice and neat. Don't let it get to the point where a plant is too big for the area, and don't allow branches to get too long, as heavy wind, ice, and snow can then cause damage. To properly prune, follow the natural growth habit.

Arborists are often required to climb trees with ropes, harnesses, and other equipment, or use lifts or cranes. What's the tallest tree that you've climbed?

I've scaled some pretty tall trees, like a 100-foot pine tree in Concord that was being choked by a bittersweet vine, which can take over the tree and eventually kill it. We used a rigging system to scale the tree and remove the vine.

What has changed in the landscaping business since you first started?

I've been doing this since I was 14, when I was mowing boy for a landscape company. I went back every summer while in high school, and when I was 17, got to use heavy equipment like the bucket truck, which was great fun and sparked my interest. Back then, I didn't know the

Advertisement

MORE LIKE THIS »

[Irene's lashing thins Hub canopy](#)

August 30, 2011

[Conn. relaxes law barring some tree trimmers](#)

November 13, 2011

[Got spring fever? Garden show plants new ideas](#)

March 8, 2012

Advertisement

scientific stuff I know now. As we get more scientific evidence, some things become obsolete. For example, a decade ago, concrete was put in cankers to fill holes in the tree, but now it's left to scab over.

What's your favorite kind of tree?

I like the beautiful bark on the Japanese Stewartia and also enjoy a dogwood, when pruned properly.

Have you ever fallen off a tree?

Knock on wood, no, I haven't. In this job you have to stay focused. You can't let your guard down and get too cocky when you're up there.

Do you prune the trees in your own yard?

I live in a condo, but my girlfriend and I are looking to buy. I'm looking forward to having my own yard and maintaining it.

Cindy Atoji Keene can be reached at cindy@cindyatoji.com.

Ads by Google

[MA Tree Service, Trimming](#)

Tree Cutting, Tree Removal, Stump Grinding, Free Estimates, Lic, Ins.

www.MottasTreeService.com

[Don't Buy An Annuity...](#)

Until You Watch This Video Report! Top Annuity Flaws* - Warning

www.SeniorAnnuityAlert.com