

Reflective Essay: Artist or Arborist?

by Jordan Baylor



An arborist is a tree specialist; arboriculture involves studying and caring for individual trees, so that each tree can be safe and healthy. Before Mr. Minerva's Tree Health Assessment lecture, I knew what arboriculture was, but I never really knew exactly what an arborist did.

I have many memories of trees; when we were kids, my brothers and I climbed trees, we cut down trees (much to our parents' dismay), and we made trees into secret headquarters and rendezvous points. Despite my many memories of trees, there is one specific time where I remember being completely enthralled by trees. When I was a kid, my family went to Edisto Island every summer for vacation. One year, we went to a bluegrass festival that was hosted at a big ole' plantation – the kind that's been there since Civil War times, and has been well taken care of ever since. The house was beautiful, the food was magnificent, and the decorations were amazing. But I don't remember any of that (I only know that because of the pictures). The only thing I really remember about that plantation were the trees. Big, huge, old oak trees, covered in Spanish moss. They were beautiful, and I was in awe.

After hearing Mr. Minerva's Tree lecture, I now know exactly how much work and care is put into those old oak trees in order to keep them so beautiful. Trees in public areas are subject to soil compaction, disease, environmental damage, and other problems. An arborist's job is to maintain the health of the trees under his or her care, and they must inspect each tree on a regular basis to ensure that each tree is as healthy as it can be. Mr. Minerva's lecture truly gave me an appreciation for arborists and the work that they do in order to maintain a beautiful environment for the rest of us to enjoy. When I called my mom to ask her for details about that plantation, I explained to her why I was writing about the trees, and I told her everything I could remember of Mr. Minerva's lecture. I am confident that the next time I find myself surrounded by beautiful trees, I will explain arboriculture to the person I am with, so that they too can appreciate the hard work that arborists do to maintain such a beautiful environment.

Jordan Baylor is a Horticulture major at Clemson University in Dr. Vincent's HORT 101 class. Jordan is from Belton, South Carolina.

Scholarly Paragraph: Proper Tree Planting

by Katie Cumbia



A recent topic in Horticulture 101 at Clemson University was how to correctly plant trees. There seems to be a lot of misinformation when it comes to this topic because it is such a frequent problem. A common result of incorrectly planting trees is bark rot (E. Vincent, Power point January 27, 2015). This happens when trees are planted too deep in the soil, which is a very common issue. To solve this problem one must learn that the root flare should be planted at the soil surface. If the root flare is deep planted, then the part of the trunk that is also covered in soil will begin to decompose. This decomposition is extremely dangerous to the tree because it restricts nutrient movement up and down the tree.

It is also important to make sure the tree is properly watered when it is first planted (New Encyclopedia of Gardening Techniques, 2009). Even drought tolerant trees need to be watered regularly until the root system is established, which can take up to three years. In order to make sure newly planted trees receive enough water mulch can be used to lock in moisture in the soil. It is important to remember that mulch should not be placed around the base of the tree where bark rot is prevalent (E. Vincent, Power point January 27, 2015).

Literature Cited: *New encyclopedia of gardening techniques.* (2009). New York: American Horticultural Society and Octopus Books.

Katie Cumbia is a horticulture major in Dr. Vincent's HORT 101 class. Her hometown is Greenville, South Carolina.