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Lately
By Patrick M. Gibbons

May 1993. I screamed, “It is done!” In a moment I was actually hoping to purge my mind of all knowledge and experience. That “moment” passed quickly. I did not “do” the past four years for nothing.

After graduation it was my intention to relocate to the twin cities. I needed a job. Urban forestry was one of my interests and since I would be living in a metropolitan area, it made sense. I dillydallied around until I found myself signing a lease to rent a house. I still had no job and had to act fast, as my checking account was drowning in emptiness. Looking up “tree”, in the Minneapolis yellow pages, I called the first company that popped up, Arborists, under “A”. I talked to a paging service and left my Waterloo phone number. The next morning I received a call from the manager of the Arborists, saying he was looking for someone with a forestry degree. We set up an interview and shortly afterwards, I was hired. Thank God!

The Arborists is a tree care business. Our services include: tree and shrub pruning, Dutch elm disease prevention, fertilization, and cabling.

Trees and shrubs often need pruning to:

- ameliorate construction damage
- remove deadwood
- remove crossovers and other “problem” branches
- prune away from other trees, wires, buildings, and other urban features
- alleviate construction damage (we can also aerate these trees)
- help trees cope with stresses related to pollution, disease, and insect problems

There are several large elm (American and Red or Slippery) trees left in the cities. By injecting them every two to three years with Arbortect 20-S, systemic fungicide, we can prevent the disease.

Cabling is done to highly valued trees in order to prevent the tree or a major branch system from splitting apart at a weakened crotch.

These services can be reported on with much greater detail, but I wanted to give an overview of what we do. There are a few other services, but these are the major ones.

I have seen the business from the bottom up. Dragging and chipping brush to consultation and sales. And though the dragging and chipping of brush has typically been my least favorite, it has rendered me fully aware of how the business works.

In order to do a job with any amount of heart, one must adopt a personal philosophy to be abided by within one’s own moral code. I have been developing a philosophy and have even been trying to incorporate it into my dealings with customers. This philosophy helps justify the manipulation of trees by man in the urban setting (sure to be a best seller). This is a lead in to the manipulation of trees by man in the natural setting: justified of criminal (later). Urban settings are set up around existing trees, or trees are planted around urban
settings. These are the only possibilities. Even when trees and buildings are planned and constructed simultaneously, the trees are always considered secondly. Either way, the tree is not in its natural setting. Because of this, we must study the interactions between trees and other natural landscape features within the urban setting. It is our responsibility, then, to intervene and care for trees and other plants to the best of our ability. I am an Arborist or a forester, or maybe just a knowledgeable intervener.

Lonely and pretty
a tall oak stands alone with
disgusting buildings
There does not have to be just one oak
and the buildings need not be disgusting.
I do not know where my current career path shall lead me, but wherever it does, I'll be there.

Forester - From Dream to Reality
By Sharon Abrahamson Kyhl

In 6th grade I gave a speech that I wanted to be a forester. Ten years later I received my B.S. in Forest Resource Management in college. I worked seasonally in fire with the BLM, on a TSI/Stand Exam crew in Idaho on the Clearwater National Forest, and as the Environmental Ed/Work Project coordinator for a 40 person YCC camp on the Arapaho/Roosevelt National Forest in Colorado.

In June, following graduation, I landed my first job at the headquarters of the Frank Paxton Company in Kansas City, purchasing exotic hardwoods from around the world. I was fortunate to have a job, but was not cut out to sit behind the desk. Much to several professors' chagrin, I resigned six months later and was off to Colorado.

I investigated starting my own business with several classmates doing Stage 2 Inventory for the U.S. Forest Service. However, I needed money, and decided to take another seasonal job in timber sale layout and cruising on the Routt National Forest. It proved to be a good move. I gained some great seasonal experience. I was hired that fall as a permanent employee - not as a forester, but as a receptionist in Steamboat Springs at the Supervisor's Office. The Forest hired at least five of us through the backdoor and we were all able to gain Forester conversions within the year.

I then transferred to Kremmling, CO as a Pre-sale Forester and Timber Sale Administrator. I completed several environmental analyses for timber sales, laid them out, cruised them, and then even got to administer the sales. You learn a lot when these old loggers are showing you where you "screwed" up and what looked good.

I became a Sivilculturist after the FS sent me back to school at Arizona State, Utah State, and Colorado State. Before I was actually able to put it all into practice, I had and opportunity to go into range conservation and recreation on the same District. It was a challenge that I thoroughly enjoyed. Not being much of a horsewoman, I had a lot of ranchers put me to the test in a lot of rough country. I must have passed the test, as I'm still alive!

Meanwhile, I fell in love with a fellow Forester Clint Kyhl, from Iowa State and we got married. He got in the door as a clerk on the District and then got a Forester offer on the White River National Forest. They had a Sivilculturist position on the adjacent