

Treeways

November 2013

The trouble with trees ... Neighbors

Trees cross our man made property boundaries as if they do not exist. For trees the boundaries do not exist and in fact trees are part of the biosphere which is a continuous layer of living, breathing organisms in constant communication with each other across space and time.

Trees and meadows do not recognize property boundaries so in Sunfish Lake what one family does with their property does have an effect other properties. Communicating with our neighbors regarding our plans and dreams for our acreages is a good way to get to know each other and potentially coordinate activities for the benefit both neighbors. Some neighbors in the city have created walking trails that cross their common boundaries so that they all effectively have access to larger wild spaces. No extra cost yet substantial neighborhood benefits.

Do you have new neighbors? Have you met them? Have you seen and talked to your old neighbors recently? Have you talked in the last two months?

During most of spring, summer and fall we cannot see our nearby neighbors due to the thick woodlands that separate us and provide our much-loved privacy. We may hear sounds from neighboring properties but rarely see what is going on. Maybe something is happening that you would want to about or should know about. Let me suggest that getting to know our neighbors is some of the best insurance toward home security and our joy of living in Sunfish Lake. Everywhere I have lived one of the joys of being part of a neighborhood is the sharing and communicating with my neighbors. Neighbors nearly always became friends because of backyard discussions.

If you have a concern about your trees or woodland please give me a call. If a tree disease or insect problem is discovered, please allow me to help you sort through possible scientifically based treatment options. If a tree disease such as oak wilt or Dutch elm disease or an insect such as emerald ash borer is occurring, a neighborhood-wide control program may be more effective over the long term than an individual effort. The City Forester is available to help you and your neighbors consider available treatment options and potential tree care providers.

Most tree diseases and insect problems develop over a period of time, more often measured in years rather than in weeks. Likewise treatment programs are likely to take time to be most effective. Communication is key to success and when communication flows freely problems get solved.

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