

B.E.C.O.N  
March 1, 2024

Breakfast was amazing – biscuits and gravy, eggs, hashbrowns, etc.

Thanks to Dave Statton for the prayer.

Guests: Just the speaker – Zach Unruh owner of Make Like A Tree.

Announcements:

Craig – nominations are coming up soon for the various board positions. Please step up and help lead the club.

Still need sponsors for the district convention, May 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4th. Erin will be a speaker, present Erin's Law. We will invite school administrators around the area to attend. Advocating for required programs in the schools for sexual abuse prevention. The night of the 3<sup>rd</sup> will start things off with a fun social. Please show your support of the Billings clubs by attending this convention.

Shawnee thanks everyone for the support for Amber, who just started her 3<sup>rd</sup> round of chemo this week and she's adjusting. Shawnee will be sending an email out with more information about how to donate, for the fundraiser for Amber on March 14<sup>th</sup>. If you have anything that you want to donate, please let Shawnee know. Sunday 3/10 they will be gathering donations at the Billings Association of Realtors, on Overland Ave.

Third vote to the club for Veterans Navigational Network donation is today. They work to advocate for Veterans and facilitate connecting the Veteran with whatever resources they need. They were huge help with setting up the Veterans section at the Food Truck Battle. The majority of the members in attendance today voted yes to allow \$10,000 to be donated to VNN.

Speaker:

Zach owns Make Like A Tree. Al Jones had a difficult tree that needed work and through the search process he met Zach. In that process he learned more about trees, then ever realized he didn't already know. Zach has been in Billings 20+ years. When picking a tree for your yard, be sure to look at the area and know the growth of the tree. Some trees will outgrow the area. The nurseries push Quaking Aspens, which he says really aren't the best trees. They have a lot of issues (i.e. aphids) and they only live about 15 years. Zach says if the tree grows fast, it generally dies fast. Canada Red Cherries grow well and so do Honey Locust, which give you good shade.

The tree's gas exchange is just above the root base. If a tree is planted too deep the tree won't thrive. If you have a tree that has an orangish color, it could be a canker issue. Pests are the biggest issue for trees. Emerald Ashbore will kill 99% of ash trees that are not treated, but that pest is not here in Billings yet. Locust trees are a good substitute for Aspens. The Locust plant bug can be annoying but can be treated. Basal Bark Herbicide treatment is a local preventative treatment.

When is the best time to prune? Fruit type trees should only be pruned when temperatures are less than 45 degrees and dormant. Others, later in the season is better, after they have spent their energy leafing and greening. For all trees, it's best to wait until they are dormant. He spoke about the best way to trim branches. Google branch collar and it will show you the best way to trim a branch and don't cut into the

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Branch Bark Ridge. FOR THE LOVE OF GOD, DON'T WORK OFF OF A LADDER. For good tools to work on your tree, purchase tools from a reputable tree supply company.

If we get a deep freeze in the spring after the tree starts growing, it can damage the internal cells of the tree. Bark banding in the spring will help reduce the damage by beetle generations.

Questions to ask when hiring someone. Ask them to top your tree (which is the worst thing you can do to your tree). If they say yes they can do that, kick them off your property. LOL!!! If they say they can do a "crown reduction" it's a way to prune down the top of the tree. Require proof of insurance and DON'T PAY IN ADVANCE. If they ask for a deposit, don't hire. No reputable tree worker requires a deposit. Don't give any money until the job is over.

If NW Energy comes in says they have to top your tree – your SOL – LOL!!! If they do that, you may want them to just cut it completely down. If the tree is in the transmission lines of power, a tree trimming company can't get within 10' of the powerline. That has to be done by the power company.

Lion's tailing is harmful and strips the branches from the tree and leaves a puff of foliage at the end.

Maples are pretty but can break a lot. If turning yellow, it probably has an iron deficiency.

Craig's reminder - March 13 – Journey & Toto. Only thing in March!