

**HAZARDOUS TREES***continued from page 2*

equipment used around trees often severs or injures a large portion of the roots. Without the support of the entire root system, the tree is structurally weakened and the probability of failure increases as the amount of injured roots increases. Trees that have lost 50 percent or more of their root systems during construction should be removed.

**Poor Branch Attachment**

To have a strong attachment, a branch must be smaller (40 to 50 percent smaller) than the trunk or limb from which it arises. If the branch and trunk are close to the same size, their attachment may be weak and breakage may occur. Competing leaders and upright-growing branches with acute angles of attachment also are areas of potential weakness. Some tree species such as horsechestnut, silver maple, linden, tuliptree and willow are more likely to break because of their inherent poor branching habits. These species should be examined carefully when they are young so that structural flaws can be corrected.

**Reducing the Risk**

Early detection of tree defects can prevent tree failures and potential damage to property and injury to people and pets. Reducing the risk associated with hazardous trees might take one of the following forms:

- **Remove the target** —

While homes or power lines cannot be moved, sometimes picnic tables, cars, landscape features, play areas, etc. can be relocated to prevent them from being crushed by a falling tree.

- **Remove the tree** — Some hazardous trees are best removed from the landscape. Remember, "when in doubt, take it out!"

- **Prune the tree** — Removing defective branches might alleviate a hazardous situation.

Trees that are suspected of being hazardous should be examined by a certified arborist. If the tree is located near a power line, contact your local utility. (MJF)

**GOOD SPORT***continued from page 7*

positive aspects of their performance. Parents should never make fun of or yell at a child for something done when participating in a sporting event. Parents should applaud the efforts of all players—no matter who wins.

Respect authority. When talking to a child's coach, parents should be respectful and non-critical and should support the decisions and calls the umpire or referee makes. Becoming irate and saying irrational things, sets a bad example that children observe and often emulate.

Encourage fair competition. It is through competition children learn to do their very best and achieve goals they have set for themselves. However, competition should always be fair for all involved. (LJ)

**CONIFER DISEASES***continued from page 2*

Sphaeropsis tip blight is most common on Austrian and ponderosa pines but also occurs on Scots, mugo and red pine. The most obvious symptom of tip blight is stunted, brown shoots with short needles. In the fall, small black fruiting structures of the fungus usually can be seen on needle bases. Small black fruiting structures also appear on scales of infected cones. The annual destruction of buds and shoots gradually causes tree decline. There are a number of measures that can be taken to prevent and control needle diseases:

- Promote good air circulation by adequate spacing and weed control.

- Improve tree vigor through good cultural practices such as mulching and watering as needed.

- Do not shear trees when foliage is wet.

- Do not plant Austrian pine.

- Do not plant susceptible species next to infected trees.

- If symptoms appear, fungicides applied in the spring will protect the newly emerging growth.

For Dothistroma needle blight, apply Bordeaux mixture or other copper-containing fungicides in mid-May and four to six weeks later.

For Sphaeropsis tip blight, spray thiophanate-methyl, benomyl, Bordeaux mixture or copper fungicides when buds start to swell, one week later, then two to three weeks later. (DJ)

**NON-GAME FUNDS***continued from page 10*

strongholds in Nebraska's grasslands.

- the publishing of Nebraska's Breeding Bird Atlas, an effort to map, in detail for the first time, all of Nebraska's breeding birds.

Non-game funds have also been used to build conservation partnerships and heighten environmental awareness among Nebraskans. The Non-game Bird Conservation and Education Program, a partnership between NGPC and the University of Nebraska, is dedicated to increasing the awareness, appreciation and stewardship of Nebraska's birds through education, outreach and conservation.

The Tern and Plover Conservation Partnership brings private industry together with wildlife managers and educators to address the challenges of endangered species management in a non-confrontational manner. This partnership has also brought together volunteers from the Nebraska Ornithologist Union, Wachiska Audubon, Omaha Audubon and the Girl Scouts to help protect least tern and piping plover nest sites at sand and gravel mining operations.

The Nebraska Bluebird Directory, containing results of Bluebirds Across Nebraska's statewide breeding survey, is printed and distributed annually with non-game funding.

**SEPTIC TANK CARE***continued from page 5*

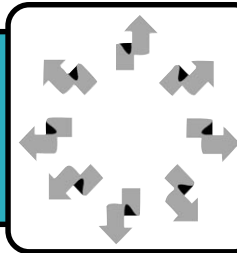
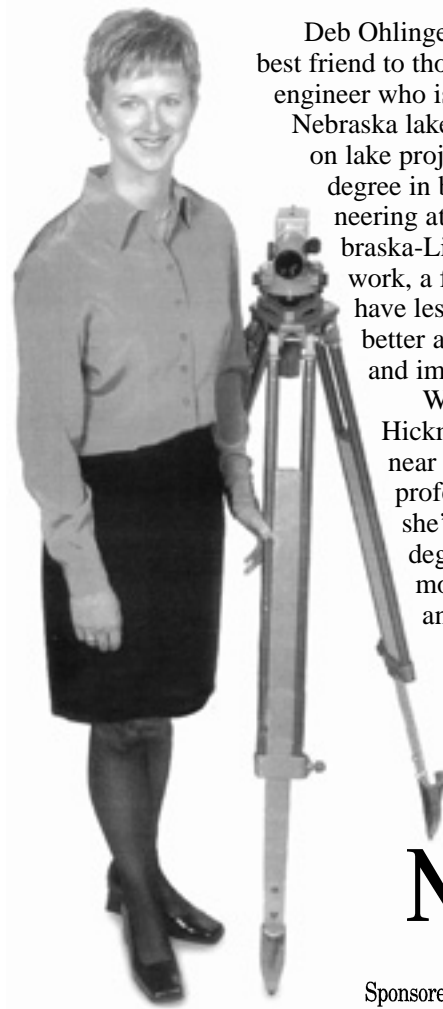
treatment system is reaching its maximum capacity, try to spread the washing out during the week to avoid overloading the sewage system on a single day.

- Baths and showers can use lots of water. "Setting up camp" in the shower with a shower head flow of five gallons per minute will require 100 gallons in 20 minutes. Shower heads that limit the flow to 1.5 or two gallons per minute are available and should be used. Filling the tub not quite so full and limiting the length of showers, will result in appreciable water savings.

- Is the water from the faucet cold enough to drink? How long do you let it run to cool down? Keep a container of drinking water in the refrigerator. Then it won't be necessary to run water from your faucets in order to get a cool drink.

- There may be other ways to conserve water that you can think of in your home. The main idea is to consider water as a valuable resource and not to waste it.

Following a few simple rules like not using too much water and not depositing materials in the septic tank that bacteria can't decompose, should help to make a septic system trouble-free for many years. But don't forget the septic tank does need to be cleaned out when too many solids build up. Septic tanks need tender, loving care, too! (DJ)

**Miscellaneous****There's Nothing Fishy About This Nebraska Grad's Work.**

Deb Ohlinger doesn't fish, but she is a best friend to those who do. She is a civil engineer who is helping to restore Nebraska lakes—she got her feet wet on lake projects while completing her degree in biological systems engineering at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Thanks to Deb's work, a few of Nebraska's lakes have less sediment in the water, better access to deeper waters and improved fish habitat.

Wagon Train Lake near Hickman and Summit Lake near Tekamah are two on her professional projects list, plus she's finishing a master's degree at NU to become even more of an expert on water and civil engineering.

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**Safely Moving Snow**

In tight spaces and for meticulous results, the shovel is still the best tool for moving snow. The only disadvantage of this method is that it is hard work in a harsh environment. The most common serious health threat related to shoveling is heart failure due to overexertion. Men are more likely to suffer heart attacks than women. A less serious, but more common problem, is strained muscles and soreness.

When shoveling snow, safety experts recommend these commonsense guidelines regardless of your physical condition:

- Dress for the task. Wear clothing in layers to allow better evaporation of perspiration. Wear shoes, boots or overshoes with rubber soles (not leather or hard compositions).

- Use a lightweight shovel made of plastic or aluminum that has a Teflon coating. If the aluminum shovel doesn't have a Teflon coating, rub the surface with paraffin (wax) or coat it with a silicon spray.
- Use a shovel of modest size. Don't try to heap snow on the shovel. Lightening the load will reduce the strain on your muscles, including your heart.

- When lifting the shovel, use your entire body. Let your back and legs share the work.
- Don't work to the point

of exhaustion. Take frequent rests and go inside to warm up. Cold and overexertion are hard on your heart.

If you need to remove stubborn layers of ice or packed snow, a narrow steel scraper blade works well to loosen the ice before you move it away with a shovel. Ice melting compounds will ease ice removal as well.

Powered snowblowers can greatly reduce the time and effort expended to move snow. While they are great labor savers, snowblowers are, by design, aggressive and dangerous machines. They all operate on the theory of passing the snow through a high-speed impeller to throw it a considerable distance and out of the way. These impellers and the augers that sometimes draw snow into the impeller will cut and even remove fingers when moving. The most common and severe injuries associated with snowblowers are finger cuts and amputations.

Experts list these precautions for snowblower operation:

- Never allow children to operate a snowblower. Make sure all operators have had proper instruction and have read the operator's manual.
- Stop the engine before attempting to clean foreign objects or snow from the machine. Coming in contact with the turning blades inside the discharge chute is the most

common cause of injuries associated with snowblowers.

- Wear proper clothing and footwear. In a study of snowblower accidents, about one-fifth of injury victims lost their footing and stuck their hands into the discharge chute while trying to steady themselves.

- Maintain and use safety controls that stop the snowblower if the operator slips and falls or releases the controls for any reason.

- Clear the area of any debris before you begin snow removal. Some machines can throw rocks up to 75 feet.

- When clearing a gravel area, don't try to remove all the snow. Set the blades about an inch above the gravel.

- Shut off equipment before making repairs or mechanical adjustments. Clean off excess slush prior to storage.

- Remove the key as a safeguard against unauthorized use. If the system doesn't have a key ignition, remove the spark plug wire from the plug.

About half the accidents involving snow removal equipment happen to first-time users or those using the equipment for the first time each winter. Take time to review the safety precautions and you can reduce your risk of personal injury. (DJ)