

# Arborists Offer Knowledge of Best Ways to Address Trees

by Linda Zukauskas

WOOBURY — Business partners Gerry Keiffer and Brian Fitch of Tree-scape and Fitch LLC enjoy offering their services as licensed arborists for several reasons.

Mr. Keiffer began the company 30 years ago, after graduating with an engineering degree and taking a summer job working with trees.

He told Voices, "I really enjoyed the physicality of the work, the rush of climbing. I got into rock climbing because I like climbing trees so much. Tree work is a kind of sport and there is the satisfaction of a job well done at the end of the day."

He started his own business, hiring Mr. Fitch, who later went out on his own, spurred on by a strong desire to improve the health of trees.

Through the years, the two shared references and work, they decided to formalize the collaboration and share the business.

As accomplished a climber as he is, Mr. Keiffer admires the skills of Mr. Fitch during technical take downs.

The licensed arborists describe their work as more than improving the esthetic or financial value of a property. They see their role as educators who can diagnose any disease or problem with

trees and provide homeowners with viable options.

They've refused jobs to cut down healthy trees when there is a way to save a strong and viable, mature specimen.

Mr. Keiffer explained, "Some homeowners are afraid of a tree falling but we can limb the tree so that air passes more easily through the canopy, reducing the chances that a storm could knock it over."

They performed this type of work at a restaurant in an historic district, educating the owner on alternate solutions and saving a healthy spruce tree as old as the structure it shaded.

"We're not paid to take trees down, we're paid to advise you on the best way to address your trees," Mr. Fitch clarified.

Tree-scape and Fitch offers all cabling and pruning services.

When it is necessary to remove a hazardous or unhealthy tree, or when a root system is threatening a septic system or foundation, the company also chips wood and grinds stumps to finish the job properly and leave a yard looking good.

Over the years, they've mixed formal education with experience to advise homeowners on how to select trees so that the preferred plants thrive.

They are acutely aware of wet-

lands restrictions and will avoid clear cutting in those areas because of the illegal nature of that work and because they have a deep respect for nature as environmentalists.

"We have integrity," Mr. Fitch pointed out.

Both men are happy to help customers work with local agencies to obtain the proper permits and learn what can and what shouldn't be done on their property.

"We've walked away from some jobs because the homeowner didn't want to follow procedure."

This caution extends to their network of qualified professionals, whom they call on to apply the right mixtures to help a tree survive a disease.

They also advise homeowners to check more than just the bottom line in an estimate, noting the importance of carrying the right insurance coverage for this kind of dangerous work.

"We've been outbid and returned to those jobs because the work wasn't finished or done right. You have to look at qualifications, too, say if you're pruning a tree so it looks right and doesn't harm the tree."

Mr. Fitch said it is a good idea to find a talented arborist and stay with that person over the lifetime of a tree or trees.

"We take pride in doing things the right way. If it takes a bit more effort to do the job well, we'll take on that physical labor. We don't do the work for the check, we do this for the trees and for the homeowners."

Mr. Keiffer smiled, "A little for the excitement of the work, too, and the satisfaction of leaving a property better than we found it."

Working in lower Litchfield and upper Fairfield counties, Mr. Keiffer and Mr. Fitch have the confidence of repeat customers and the Better Business Bureau.

"One customer told us, 'You made my yard look like a park,'" Mr. Keiffer said.

They can be reached at 203-515-3051 or 203-994-0136 and more information is available at [www.tree-scapeandfitch.com](http://www.tree-scapeandfitch.com).



Business partners and licensed arborists Gerry Keiffer and Brian Fitch, of Tree-scape and Fitch, are celebrating 30 years of helping homeowners enjoy healthier trees. (Zukauskas photo)

## Decluttering Subject of Library Program

WASHINGTON — A presentation titled Got Stuff? Tips for Decluttering Your Home will take place at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, July 13 at the Gunn Memorial Library led by local decluttering professional and move manager Deidre Dolam Nesline.

Ms. Nesline will deliver a lively discussion about decluttering, organizing and right-sizing one's home. She will offer tips on the most efficient approaches to space organization, getting rid of stuff and how to keep things when moving out of your home.

This program will put a positive focus on what can be an overwhelming and sometimes emotional task. The session may serve as an informational how-to for participants or their family members who are in the process of decluttering.

Ms. Nesline is the owner of DeClutter by Deidre, a company she started after telling a friend how much she loved helping others with financing, sorting

items, decluttering and organizing their homes and project managing moves.

This program is free and open to the public but registration is required.

Those seeking more information or who wish to register may call 860-868-7586 or visit [www.gunnlibrary.org](http://www.gunnlibrary.org).

The library is located at 5 Wykeham Rd. Route 47 on the green.

Those seeking more information about DeClutter may visit [declutterbydeidre.com](http://declutterbydeidre.com).

### Networking Slated

SOUTHBURY — The Watermark at East Hill will host an afternoon of professional networking with representatives from the Alzheimer's Association and A Place for Mom from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Thursday, July 27.

The representatives will give a presentation on Alzheimer's and how to support loved ones living with the disease.

The event is free of charge but reservations are required.

Those interested may call 203-745-2295 to reserve a seat.

Those seeking more information about The Watermark at East Hill may visit [easthill.watermarkcommunities.com](http://easthill.watermarkcommunities.com) or visit their Facebook page.

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