

Specialty tree trimmers use their conscience

By Edy Cassell

The sound of chainsaws and the smell of two-stroke engines fill the air, but what is most striking about visiting the Leaf it to Me crew is the vision of men in trees, moving around with an ease that defies the terrestrial reality that grounds most of us mere mortals. Originally established in 1998 by Kara Acton and joined shortly thereafter by husband Aero Acton, Leaf it to Me has grown into one of the most versatile tree care businesses around.

With a strong background from UC Davis in horticulture, arboriculture and urban forestry, Kara and Aero have grown Leaf it to Me into a thriving business with a consciousness that goes beyond just cutting trees.

"We don't mow grass and we don't do logging, but we do everything in the middle," Aero Acton said.

All one needs to do is peruse their brochure to see that the "middle" includes everything from tree care (maintenance pruning, crown reduc-



Leaf It To Me certified arborists from left, Zeno Acton, Alex Samans, Aero Acton and office manager Kara Acton.

tion, etc.), fire safe vegetation management and root-care services (root-zone restorations, root-safe trenching, etc.) to consulting and garden design. Leaf it to Me will also do all of your specialty pruning, be it fruit trees, hedges or roses, they will design and install your irrigation systems, and on-site evaluations and consultations. They will even rescue your cat from a tree.

The folks at Leaf it to Me operate from a holistic philosophy of integrated tree and plant health care. What impacts will their work have on other

trees around? What can be done to improve the long-term health of the tree and the entire ecosystem? They try to work with the seasons. For instance, pruning oak and other broad-leaved trees in the summer minimizes bleeding and maximizes healing, and allows them to see and assess the vigor of the branches as opposed to whether it is just living or dead. Pruning pines in the winter helps decrease the potential for bark beetle infestation and other avenues for disease.

Leaf it to Me has a permanent crew

of three certified arborists, including owner Aero Acton, his brother Zeno Acton, and Alex Samans. Owner Kara Acton manages the office and does consultations. They strictly adhere to national and international safety standards and work with the latest technology and state of the art equipment. Their remote control track chipper can get into places where most chipper shredder rigs can't go, and by running on tracks instead of tires the compaction on the ground is significantly less. They are also the only arborists in the county to provide air-spade service, a tool which excavates by blowing air at high pressures, allowing them to work around delicate root systems without cutting and harming roots. This is especially useful for installing irrigation, aerating compacted root systems, or excavating around old foundations in need of repair.

The folks at Leaf It To Me can be reached at (530) 477-9822 or you can check them out on the web at www.leafittome.com.

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