

Arts

Man's experience on OSU's fairways leads to book on trees

** 'Desirable Trees for the Midwest' features profiles of 50 trees that grow well in the Midwest.*

By DONAVON CAMPBELL

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Persian parrotia, white fringetree, serviceberry and river birch -- these are a few of Upper Arlington resident Scott Zanon's favorite things.

Zanon recently walked around his sunny back yard on Pickwick Drive, rattling off each tree as he passed, along with a few of their virtues.

A longtime member of the green committee for the Ohio State University Golf Course, Zanon was chairman of the committee that restored the Scarlet Course in 2003. Newly appointed to Upper Arlington's Tree Commission, Zanon has created an easy-to-use guide for those trying to figure out just what kind of tree would best fit their needs.

The book, *Desirable Trees for the Midwest*, features a selection of 50 trees -- 42 deciduous and eight conifers -- that do well in a climate such as that of the Midwestern United States. The book was released Friday, Aug. 14.

Desirable Trees for the Midwest features five color pictures of each tree showing a variety of aspects, from how the tree looks in winter to what kind of flower or fruit the tree bears, what the tree will look like when full-grown and a close-up of the leaves.

The book also includes a plant use guide with information on subjects such as which trees make better shade trees or have unique or interesting bark, and in which season a given tree will bloom.

"If people want to make an educated decision on what kind of tree they want, they should be able to see the tree up close and in color," Zanon said. "I picked out the best attributes of (each tree in the book) so people can make the best decision."

Zanon, who moved to Upper Arlington in 2001 with his wife, Susan, graduated from Ohio State University in 1983 with a bachelor's degree in agronomy and horticulture.

"I always had an interest growing up in growing things," Zanon said.

He said he got the idea for the book after working on the golf course restoration committee, when he realized he had never seen a resource for people who were looking to replace their old, overgrown or diseased trees with new ones.

"If you own a piece of property, you're eventually going to be taking trees down," Zanon said. "When you take a tree out, what do you plant in its place?"

Zanon explained the book's straightforward layout is meant to make it an easy reference for everyone from the home gardener to golf course architects to horticulturists and arborists.

"I didn't want to make it over-complicated," Zanon said. "It's just factual and to the point."

"I tried to make it simple," he said. "It should help a lot of different people."

Some of the trees included in the book are the Cornelian cherry dogwood, sugar maple, ginkgo and sawtooth oak, along with trees such as the cucumber magnolia, Japanese tree lilac and the frontier elm among.

For more information or to purchase a copy of the book, visit the Web site desirabletrees.com.

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SNP photo by Donavon Campbell
Upper Arlington resident Scott Zanon's book *Desirable Trees for the Midwest* offers a guide to best tree options for this climate.

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