

Mulch Plus Tree & Crane Service offers everything from bush trimming to large tree removal

By Jackie Giroux
Reporter

Looking back over his career in the tree business, **Mulch Plus Tree & Crane Service** owner Todd Wesley said this is what he has been doing since he was a child.

"I was 10 years old, when I started helping my dad," he said. "We went into the woods and chopped down trees for firewood and then my dad got the idea to go into town and cut down trees and that's kind of how he got started in the business," Todd explained. His dad was the owner of Bedford Tree Service.

Todd also worked with his brother for a number of years while they operated T & T Tree Service. Fifteen years ago he purchased **Mulch Plus Tree & Crane Service** from Chad Hotchkiss.

A lot of Todd's expertise in the tree trimming and removal business has been acquired from on-the-job training. "My dad taught me a lot of stuff," he said. "I read a lot of great articles in *Tree Care Magazine*. I've been in the business a long time – I'm still learning."

"I provide tree service and crane service," Todd said. "I do anything from trimming a bush to taking down a large cottonwood tree."

Although his business name indicates that mulching is one of the services that are offered, Todd said he doesn't do anything with mulch. "The previous owner did mulching and some lawn mowing and other services but since I bought the business, I don't sell mulch, I just have a tree service." Todd said that he plans on changing the business name at the beginning of next year to Todd's Tree Service.

With the availability of a crane to aid in tree removal, Todd said, "Close to a house, over houses – there's abso-

lutely no tree that we can't remove. Cottonwoods are usually the biggest."

Mulch Plus Tree & Crane Service can remove trees for a variety of reasons such as to make room for a home addition, the building of a garage or putting in a swimming pool. They can remove or trim dangerous or hazardous trees that may pose a threat to your house during a storm.

Always respectful of the customer's yard and property, Todd said he has equipment, designed to prevent or minimize yard damage, such as a remote control stump grinder so a truck doesn't have to be used to back the stump grinder over the grass and up to the work site.

"With the crane, a lot of times we don't have to even go into the people's yards. A lot of times we can grab the tree from the street or the people's driveway.

"We've always tried to go the extra mile. I like it when people say, 'We came home and couldn't even tell you were here,' and that's good," Todd said.

Mulch Plus Tree & Crane Service operates year round. Todd said spring and fall are the busiest times of the year for him as people are cleaning up their yards getting ready for the summer during the spring months and in turn getting their yards ready for winter in the fall months. He added that the middle of the summer is a little slower and also the winter months.

They are on hand to aid the homeowner in the event there is an emergency due to a tree or limbs that have come down over a structure or vehicle as a result of a storm. "If anyone has a tree that needs immediate attention, we try to cater to that," he said.

The homeowner is not left with a yard full of wood and

brush to clean up; **Mulch Plus Tree & Crane Service** hauls everything away. If the homeowner has a use for the wood and requests that they leave it, it is left for them. "If the homeowner wants the wood, the cost is cheaper if we don't have to haul it away."

Todd said a lot of his business comes from satisfied customers. "Word of mouth is very strong advertising for us. We get a lot of work from Bedford schools." He said he tries to bid jobs every day and that once the bid is accepted he usually can get to the job within a week to two weeks. He employs two people to help him keep pace with the scheduled jobs.

Crane service is not limited to tree work. "We set poles and trusses for buildings. Any kind of crane work, we try to help them with that," Todd said.

He said **Mulch Plus Tree & Crane Service** mostly operates in the Bedford area. "We've tried to cater to just Bedford," he said. Non-emergency work is usually limited to weekdays, Monday through Friday. "I try to take weekends off to enjoy with my family," he said.

Mulch Plus Tree & Crane Service is fully insured. They are members of the Bedford Business Association. "We do the Trade Fair every year," Todd said.

Todd grew up in Bedford and attended Bedford High School except for the last six months of his senior year when he went to Burlington, Iowa to stay with his mother. He graduated from Burlington Community High School in 1989. "As soon as I graduated, I came back here," he said.

Todd and his wife Mariann live in the house that Todd's parents bought in Temperance in 1973. He and Mariann have been married for 6-1/2 years.



Mulch Plus Tree & Crane Service owner Todd Wesley started out in the tree business when he was just 10 years old helping his dad. He has been in business for himself for the past 15 years after working with his father and then operating a tree service business with his brother.

"She grew up in LaSalle. They had JC Quality Wood stoves. They were looking for firewood and they got a son-in-law," he joked. The couple has a daughter, Josie, and are expecting another child.

Todd says he has very little free time after working and most importantly spending time with his family but does like to fish when

he gets the chance.

He said this type of work is what he thoroughly enjoys. "I've always enjoyed cutting down trees. People are happy when their trees are all trimmed up."

Meeting people is another aspect of his business that is a favorite. "I've met many people over the years that have been a blessing," he said.

"It's a good trade if you like the outdoors and hard work."

For questions or to schedule an appointment for a bid, call **Mulch Plus Tree & Crane Service** at (734) 854-1033. You can also visit their website at mulchplustree.com for information or to contact them through the website.