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Robert Siebert

Thanks to our fine host, Robert Siebert, for making our October meeting enjoyable. 45 golfers played Naperville Country Club's magnificent golf course. 95 enjoyed the hors d'oeuvres and fine dinner put out by the club.

In Memory

Harry V. Adams: Formerly with Macgregor Sportings Goods, has passed away on August 12, 1974. Harry was a great contributor to our Annual Golf Outing.

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COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE Trees Can Save On Utilities

Properly spaced shade trees can help prevent home air conditioners from working overtime in scorching weather.

"We need to take a second look at plants as temperature control devices," says James A. Fizzell, horticulturist for the Cook County Extension Service. "Trees planted near a house not only help the homeowner save on utility bills but also contribute to the solution of the energy crisis."

Air conditioners don't need to run as often if the sun doesn't beat down on the house all day, Fizzell explains. Shade trees partly shield the roof and keep the sun's rays off the walls in the morning and afternoon because twigs, branches, leaves and the trunk partly absorb and reflect the radiation. The amount of radiation that gets through depends on density of the tree's canopy.

For example, the canopy of a honey locust will transmit more radiation and thus give less shade than that of a burr oak of equal size. But the honey locust is a faster growing tree and is usually more popular with homeowners.

Large shade trees also provide refuge for people who want to sit outdoors on a hot day. An actively growing tree transpires large quantities of moisture into the atmosphere. If the wind isn't blowing too strongly or if the trees are protected from winds by a shelter belt, this transpiration can result in increased humidity within the tree canopy. Since moist air doesn't heat as rapidly as dry air, this helps to keep temperatures under a tree moderate.

"This is a good time to think about where you will plant trees this fall," Fizzell says. "While it would be nice if someone had planted trees 20 years ago, you can still increase the comfort of your home with tree plantings now."