

Charles E. (*Charlie*) Knight

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State, District One, Tree Crew (*30 day job*)
skills.

Around the time I was applying for various things in 1969-1972 I also found out about something called a 30 day job. It was a program of the governor's office in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and you were granted 30 days of employment (and I truthfully can not remember if you got a check or a stipend or how or even if you were compensated) and since I wanted to help folks and such I jumped at this opportunity to maybe “get my foot in the door” with a position with my state.

This 30 day job meant we worked for 30 days to sort of “try out” the job like being an intern, but for a shorter period of time. I am not certain now if we worked a 4 day or a 5 day week. We might have worked less than a full 5 day week to give the men at least one day to not have us around and actually get some really difficult jobs done. I think the men looked at this as a babysitting service, and in some ways it was as often the person was a friend of a politician and had no desire to follow up in this field. But my Uncle knew a lot about nature and wildlife and I wanted to learn and I wanted to help. Much of what we did was cleaning up roadside rest areas and I viewed this as service to my country as well.

Each day we checked the truck to make certain the tools were on it and were safe to use that day. Back then I thought that was a silly waste of time as we also did it the night before. But after the OSHA training I now see the importance of first making certain you have brought all tools back, and to check to make certain they are in good working order for the next day. When the next day comes along, you get your assignment of what you will be doing that day, and now you need to check the truck again to make certain the tools you need in the quantity necessary for the people working on the job to have the right tools that area safe and able to be used on that job, all on the truck so we don't have to come back for something or not finish a task this day. If someone missed that a shovel was weak or a saw blade not able to cut well, this was caught now and the tool tagged for repair and another on used in it's place.

Out at the work site we learned of the proper placement of ropes and people pulling in various ways and directions so that a limb of the tree and eventually the whole tree is taken down in a safe manner and the wood being taken down is under control at all times. As I look back on it this was a very valuable time of instruction and I learned a lot, much of which I probably do not even remember as being taught at this point, but this was the basis for my knowledge of the 3 cut method of taking a limb off of a tree so when I am taught this later in Landscape Design and Maintenance classes it seemed so natural to me. We were taught about weeding, putting down mulch for various jobs and various depths of that mulch for what we wanted to do. At that time we still staked up new trees & that was explained and also the proper balled and burlap method of planting a tree.

So when I learned about planting in the Landscape Design & Maintenance or the Green Skills training it seemed so “natural” to me, probably because I had been introduced to me on this 30 day job.

We were taught proper park and rest area maintenance and how to reseed as well. There was even some pruning instruction. This training for 30 days, and if it was a 4 day week (and it might have only been a 3 day week, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays) that would have been about seven and a half weeks. I think I remember it lasting over two months so it was probably only 3 days a week. If so that would have made the program 10 weeks long.

Safety was emphasized much and I learned much in this program and so thankful I was able to “do” it.