

CONGRATS TO GEORGE! AFTER 25 YEARS HE IS PARTNERING WITH RBI CO. TO A MAKE A GREATER IMPACT ON THE ARBORIST INDUSTRY.



## Exciting News from SHELTER Tree

To Our Valued Customers,

Over the last 25 years of business it has been very exciting for Shelter Tree, Inc. to see the uptick in innovation and development in the tree care industry. It has reached levels that no one would have suspected 25 years ago. From climbing gear to automated equipment the choices for the typical company practicing arboriculture are endless. Short of a laser pruner there are not many stones unturned to find the tool you need for the work you do for, and in trees.

To keep up with the pace of this innovation we knew we needed to build our customer service to the next level to support the industry with these tools and that was going to be our challenge. We knew we couldn't do it alone. And now, it is with that plan that Shelter Tree is proud to announce that RBI Corporation of Richmond, Va., a 100 year old, 3<sup>rd</sup> generation family owned business, founded in 1919, dedicated to the wholesale green industry, has acquired Shelter Tree, Inc. to bring a new level of customer service, product fulfillment, proper training, and education to and for you the arborists.

The staff at RBI corp. is very excited to become a part of this industry and after many hours of meeting and working with these folks it was clear their energy is boundless and infectious. They know logistics, and they are awesome. The best part is you will remain to see and talk to the store and staff you've grown to love. Shelter Tree will still be Shelter Tree but with new ownership.

Personally, it was time for me to allow change and thankfully I found the right partner to create and enhance that change. I will be forever grateful to you all for the support and respect offered to myself and staff over the years. I am proud to represent our industry in different facets and am humbled to know that if ever I could have or would have stumbled someone had my back. You are all very important to me and thankfully I will still be around to support this effort we are making.

We will want to hear from you often and gather your ideas. We want to make Shelter Tree the best choice for you for your arborist supplies and we recognize we cannot do it without you.

With gratitude,

George P. Mellick

