

=====THE URBAN FOREST NETWORK NEWSLETTER=====

Issue 31 – December 2005

Acts of creation are ordinarily reserved for gods and poets. To plant a pine, one need only own a shovel.

Aldo Leopold

In this issue . . .

Upcoming LEAF Event – Urban Forest Orientation Session

Urban Forest-Friendly Holiday Gift Ideas

Ontario Protects Species at Risk

Heritage Trees Protection Toolkit

Urban Forestry Recognized in Environmental Commissioner of Ontario 2004-2005 Annual Report

Featured Website – TreeLink

Events and Announcements

UPCOMING LEAF EVENT – URBAN FOREST ORIENTATION SESSION

January 28, 2006

Come out for an afternoon of tree talk - find out what programs and services exist and what you can do to help trees in your own neighbourhood.

January 28, 2006

2-4pm

Toronto Reference Library, Beeton West Room

789 Yonge St. (Yonge & Bloor)

For more information or to register for this free event contact LEAF at 416-413-9244 or info@leafontario.org

URBAN FOREST-FRIENDLY HOLIDAY GIFT IDEAS

Have someone on your Christmas list who loves gardening? In this season of holiday giving, perhaps your loved ones would appreciate a gift that supports our urban forest!

LEAF Gift Certificates – Consider giving the gift that keeps growing – native trees, shrubs or perennials from LEAF. We'll provide a tasteful gift certificate on heavy bond paper. Please keep in mind that we plant only within the City of Toronto. Visit www.leafontario.org/main2.asp?ID=67 or call 416-413-9244.

Or make a donation to LEAF on their behalf and we'll send them a thank-you card acknowledging your gift. Donors receive our seasonal newsletter full of information on LEAF projects, tree care tips, news items and upcoming events. Plus the satisfaction of knowing you're contributing to making Toronto a greener, more liveable city. Contact us at 416-413-9244 or visit www.leafontario.org/donate.

ONTARIO PROTECTS SPECIES AT RISK

Excerpts from Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources Backgrounder, December 2, 2005

The province has regulated three more plant species under the Endangered Species Act: Bird's-foot Violet, Spoon-leaved Moss and Red Mulberry. Regulating these plants enables enforceable protection of the plants and their habitats, increases public awareness and supports recovery actions. The regulation will apply at known sites and any new sites identified in the future.

The tree species now protected, Red Mulberry, is a small tree found in deciduous forests on sand ridges or valley slopes. In Ontario this species can be found in eight areas: Essex County, the Municipality of Chatham-Kent, the Regional Municipality of Halton, the City of Hamilton and the Regional Municipality of Niagara. It is threatened by hybridization with the introduced White Mulberry and by loss of habitat.

The province has also expanded the area of protection for the Cucumber Tree which grows in deciduous forests and prefers rich well-drained soils. In Ontario, it is found in Norfolk County and the Regional Municipality of Niagara. Potential loss of woodlands due to development pressures is the main threat to this species.

The Cucumber Tree was listed under the Endangered Species Act in 1987 at specific locations in Norfolk County and the Regional Municipality of Niagara. Since then, several more locations have been discovered. The new regulation extends protection to all locations of Cucumber Tree in Ontario.

History of species protection

The Ontario government was the first in Canada to provide legal protection for endangered species with the passage of the Endangered Species Act in 1971. The act prohibits the willful destruction of or interference with a regulated endangered species or its habitat. Substantial fines of up to \$50,000 and jail time are possible for violations.

For detailed species information, visit www.rom.on.ca/ontario/risk.php . For more information about Ontario's Species at Risk Program and general information about species at risk, visit www.OntarioParks.com/english/sar.html .

HERITAGE TREES PROTECTION TOOLKIT

The Ontario Heritage Tree Alliance (OHTA) is a province-wide alliance that supports communities in their efforts to identify and protect heritage trees. Facilitated by the Ontario Urban Forest Council, and building on the work of many individuals and groups across the province, OHTA is developing a toolkit for use by local communities to identify trees they deem to be worthy of heritage designation. Among the items that will be in the toolkit are nomination and evaluation forms; model tree protection bylaw templates; examples of tree hunts; examples of heritage trees that have been designated and the means of doing so without official protection; resource materials and personnel; and tree profiles.

Information on the kit and its components can be found at www.oufc.org/OHTA-Toolkitupdate.asp You are invited to review the items and send your comments and input by January 6th 2006. Your ideas are important for the refinement of these instruments to ensure their integrity while being user-friendly.

URBAN FORESTRY RECOGNIZED IN ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSIONER OF ONTARIO'S 2004-2005 ANNUAL REPORT

The ECO's Report this year contains a section entitled "Sustaining the Urban Forest" which recognizes not only the importance of Ontario's urban forests, but also trends affecting our trees. The ECO recommends that the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing develop a coordinated urban forest strategy to protect urban and heritage trees, working together with municipalities, environmental groups, and local agencies.

Please see pages 201-205 in the report found at <http://www.eco.on.ca/english/publicat/ar2004.pdf>.

FEATURED RESOURCE – TREELINK WEBSITE

www.treelink.org

TreeLink is an American nonprofit organization started in 1996. Their goal is to improve urban and community forests by providing Internet-based information, tools and inspiration to nonprofit organizations, green industry, academic institutions and the public. Their website provides great resources in three key areas: information resources, networking and communication resources, and E-commerce and marketing resources.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

HELP PRESERVE SCARCE MISSISSAUGA WOODLANDS by signing a petition to preserve nearly 10 acres of woodland and to stop the widening of the 401 from six to 12 lanes from the 410 to the Credit River. The woodlands contain two threatened species, rare shagbark hickory trees, pileated woodpecker and white-tailed deer. Tell the province to preserve these environmentally sensitive areas and to invest the \$200M in public transportation and incentives to work close to home.

To sign the on-line petition, visit <http://www.sustainmississauga.com/hwy401.htm>

"HIGH PARK IN WINTER" WALKING TOUR

Sunday, January 8, High Park, Toronto, 1:30 – 3:30 pm

Join the High Park Community Advisory Council on the first of a series of walking tours through High Park in Toronto. Tours may go on wet or snow-covered trails so wear appropriate footwear and dress for the weather. Meet at the benches across the road from the south side of the Grenadier Café and Teahouse in High Park. A \$2 donation supports volunteer programs in High Park. For more information, call 416-392-1748 or visit www.highpark.org.

CONIFER WORKSHOP

Tuesday, January 17, The Arboretum, University of Guelph, 9 am - 4 pm

The world's tallest, widest, oldest, and most primitive trees belong to this diverse group of plants. Expand your knowledge of the Christmas trees in living rooms, the ornamental, dwarf evergreen in your backyard, and the stately giants towering in the forest. This indoor/outdoor workshop will discuss the evolution, identification, characteristics, and uses of conifers from both Ontario and around the world. A tour of the Conifer collection and the Dwarf Conifer collection will be included in your day, so please dress appropriately. \$50. Registration and payment required by Tuesday, January 3. For more information, visit www.uoguelph.ca/arboretum/ProgsWrkshps/PrWrkshpPlants.htm .

“MAKING THE TRANSITION TO ORGANIC IN THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT” ORGANIC LANDSCAPE ALLIANCE 8TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Thursday, January 26, University of Guelph, Guelph, 9 am - 5 pm

Join the Organic Landscape Alliance at their 8th annual conference aimed at landscape professionals, suppliers, municipal public health and parks personnel, and anyone interested in organic horticulture, lawn and garden care. The conference will feature practical workshops on topics such as soil management, marketing, advocacy, as well as stimulating speakers, tips, and great networking opportunities. For registration and more information, visit www.organiclandscape.org or call 1-866-824-7685.

URBAN FOREST ORIENTATION SESSION

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For more events visit www.planetfriendly.net

The opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of LEAF.

Please send us your submissions for future newsletters – articles, announcements, news, courses and events welcome! info@leaftoronto.org