



The LEAFlet

Fall 2008

LEAF - busier than ever!

TREE TOURS

This summer has shown that Torontonians love LEAF's Tree Tours! We conducted over twenty tours and received coverage in the National Post, Toronto Star, CBC radio and the cover of 24 Hrs. The Tree Tours are supported by the Ontario Trillium Foundation and the Community Program for Stormwater Management.

The Edible Tree Tour, co-hosted by Not Far From the Tree (www.nofarfromthetree.org), was particularly popular,



breaking previous attendance records with close to 100 attendees. Delicious fruit eaten right off the trees was a definite highlight of this scrumptious tour.

The last tree tour of the season, the Human River Urban Water Cycle, will be held October 19. An initiative of the Toronto Public Space Committee, the event brings hundreds together on a bike parade that retraces the route of the long-buried Garrison Creek, with Todd Irvine providing tree-related commentary along the way.

Many thanks to LEAF's volunteer Tree Tour photographers who took awesome photos for us throughout the summer: www.flickr.com/photos/torontotreetours

The tours don't stop when the leaves fall! Visit the Tree Tours website for virtual tours, complete with beautiful, printable hand-drawn maps of local neighbourhoods and stunning tree photographs.

www.treetours.to

TREE TENDERS I

LEAF has seen time and again the incredible things citizens do when given the tools to care for the urban forest, and we are excited to see that the desire to learn is growing steadily.

This fall, LEAF's Tree Tenders Training was held September 9th, 16th and 20th at Toronto's Riverdale Library. A full house of 40 actively engaged citizens learned about tree biology, tree and shrub identification, preventing tree stresses and recognizing tree health concerns. Instructors included two of LEAF's certified arborists, Matt Smith and Todd Irvine, as well as several of our friends from Toronto Parks, Forestry and Recreation; Wendy Strickland and Mark Ventresca, certified arborists, and Cheryl Post, Coordinator of the Community Stewardship Program.

TREE TENDERS II

Running to October 22, this brand new follow-up session allows participants to take their learning a step further by learning how to run their own community-based urban forestry initiatives or get their hands in the ground and become a Natural Areas Steward with the City of Toronto's Community Stewardship Program (www.toronto.ca/don/summer_volunteers.htm).

Our Tree Tenders program is supported by the Toronto Atmospheric Fund and the Canadian TREE Fund. If you are interested in Tree Tenders I or II, find more information at <http://www.leafforontario.org/tree-tenders-volunteer-training>

BACKYARD TREE PLANTING

LEAF's resident arborists have been happily busy this year, with hundreds of people welcoming them into their backyards to plant trees or shrubs. Over 2000 trees and shrubs have been planted this year alone. LEAF is grateful to our funding partners, the Toronto Parks and Trees Foundation, Ontario Power Generation and Toronto Hydro Corporation for helping us achieve our planting goals this year. This year we also conducted a pilot planting project in Markham with the support of York Region and the Town of Markham. Response from residents was overwhelming and we look forward to further expansion into York Region in the coming years.

Volunteers...and why we love them

For LEAF, volunteers mean the world. Each and every volunteer adds to the work we can do in our communities, and their passion is infectious! Here is just a little snapshot of how our volunteers have helped out over the summer.

Twenty-two Volunteer Community Outreach Assistants made it possible to attend 15 events this summer, including Toronto Hydro's Energy Conservation Day, CNE Green Day, GreenHere Tree Festival, and many more. Our last event of the year, the YIMBY (Yes In My Backyard) Festival at

the Gladstone Hotel is on October 25th - stop our booth by to say hi!

Over the summer our Volunteer Office Assistants have provided us with invaluable help - thank you to Pamela, Jocelyn and Nicholette! We also had a number of volunteers

help us out with our ever popular Tree Tours this summer. We had 11 people as Volunteer Tree Tour Assistants, 14 as Volunteer Photographers, eight as Volunteer Transcribers and seven that helped with research, writing, design and promotion. Thanks so much to you all!

Species of the Month

The white oak (*Quercus alba*)

"Imagine that two hundred years ago you would have seen nothing other than trees from here to the water, and now they're all gone - it's a real testament to this one's survival, that it's still here." - Todd Irvine, Tree Tour leader



The huge white oak that towers over the grounds of the Spadina House was one of the first Tree Stops on the Edible Tree Tour on September 20. It was a definite crowd pleaser, with a trunk measuring approximately four feet in diameter. As Irvine explained to the tour participants, the tree's age could range from 200-300 years old. This means it was standing before Casa Loma or the Spadina House were built in the late 1800's to early 1900's, when the area was still covered in a mixed hardwood forest. This

*LEAF's Todd Irvine speaks about the white oak (*Quercus Alba*) on the grounds of the Spadina Museum*

oak would have grown beside beeches, oaks, sugar maples, birches - and even the towering white pine. Ten thousand years prior to that, the area was covered with the long-vanished Iroquois Lake. The remnants of that ancient lake left behind sand, silt and minerals that allow the present day white oak to flourish.

The white oak is one of the pre-eminent hardwoods of North America. It has a pale gray, scaly bark and produces acorns as fruit. It grows well in a variety of soils and is moderately shade-tolerant. White oak have been known to live up to 800 years.

Dendro Devotion

By Marc Willoughby, M.L. Arch, O.A.L.A., ISA certified arborist

Match the publication with its author.

Answers at end of Newsletter.

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Trees of the Carolinian Forest | a) David Suzuki and Wayne Grady |
| 2. An Eclectic Guide to Trees | b) Stewart Hilts and Peter Marshall |
| 3. A New Tree Biology | c) Michael Dirr |
| 4. Manual of Woody Plants | d) Gerry Waldron |
| 5. Trees in Canada | e) R.C.Hosie |
| 6. The Dying of the Trees | f) Glen Blouin |
| 7. The Woodlot Management Handbook | g) Alex Shigo |
| 8. Native Trees of Canada | h) Linda Kershaw |
| 9. Tree...A Life Story | i) Charles E. Little |
| 10. Trees of Ontario | j) John Laird Farrar |

We're Moving!

We're excited to announce that in November LEAF will be moving to our new home in the Artscape Wychwood Barns, located at Bathurst and St. Clair (torontoartscape.on.ca)



Birds-eye view of the Artscape Wychwood Barns

The newly rejuvenated Wychwood Barns is "a 60,000 sq. ft. multi-tenant arts and environmental centre run by and for the community", housed in the former TTC streetcar repair barns.

The re-designed buildings incorporate many green features including geothermal heating, ground source heat pumps and storm water harvesting.

Ask the Arborist

Q: My tree is beginning to turn colour and will soon be dropping its leaves. Is there any benefit to keeping these leaves around, or should I just rake them up and compost them?

A: As your tree's leaves begin to drop to the ground, don't run for your rake! Now's a good time to think about settling your plants in for the winter, which means adding a layer of mulch around your trees and shrubs. Adding a two to four inch layer of mulch (woodchips, rotting leaves, compost, or other organic material) on top of the soil under your tree's canopy helps in a number of other ways. First, it protects roots from extreme fluctuations in temperature. Extremes in temperature are especially common in fall and spring as the ground freezes over night and thaws during the day. These temperature extremes can cause serious root damage.

Mulch also helps protect trees from desiccation - when trees lose more water than they are able to absorb. This is one of the biggest threats to trees over the winter, especially for evergreens. It occurs once the ground freezes and water in the soil is unavailable. Mulch helps prevent trees from drying out and it helps retain heat in the soil; warmer soil temperatures allow tree roots to continue to grow and absorb water longer.

Finally, come spring, if the mulch has not completely broken down into the soil (adding nutrients to your soil in the process), it will continue to absorb moisture from rain and snow, gradually releasing it to plant roots. It will also help reduce the number of weeds growing around your tree, competing for nutrients and water.

A quick note of caution with mulching this season: This has been one of the rainiest summers on record in Toronto, not only helping your plants grow, but also providing a wonderful environment for fungi. Trees and shrubs have been particularly hard hit by powdery mildew, anthracnose, and tar spot this year. If the plants in your garden have been suffering from fungal diseases this season, your best bet to prevent infection next year is to make sure to rake up all the leaves of infected plants, and dispose of them through the City's yard waste pick up. Don't add them to your compost pile, as there may not be enough heat to kill the fungi, and don't use them to mulch the rest of your plants, as this will help spread the fungal spores. For information on how to mulch properly, visit <http://www.treesaregood.com/treecare/mulching.aspx>



SUPPORT TORONTO'S URBAN FOREST

We need your support to continue our work. Donations of \$50 or more are recognized with a special set of five buttons featuring five native tree leaves drawn by a local artist. Send us the form below or donate on-line at www.leafontario.org/donate



73 Bathurst St
Suite 305
Toronto, ON

Tel: 416-413-9244
info@leafontario.org
www.leafontario.org

Yes! I would like to support LEAF with the following donation:

\$25__ \$50__ \$100__ Other \$_____

I do NOT require a tax receipt (make cheque payable to "LEAF")

I DO require a tax receipt (make cheque payable to our charitable partner "Phoenix Community Works Foundation")

OR I would like to pay by VISA (please supply information below and indicate above whether tax receipt is required)

Name: _____

Address: _____

VISA _____ Expiry _____

Phone: _____ Email _____

Please return to LEAF, 73 Bathurst St, Suite 305, Toronto, ON, M5V 2P6

Meet the Staff - Backyard Tree Planting



Matt Smith

Matt Smith is an ISA certified arborist with LEAF. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and Economics from York University and a diploma in Environmental Protection Technology from Centennial College. His involvement with LEAF started with a summer job in 2000 after reading an article about LEAF in the Toronto Star. Matt has always had an interest in trees, which was peaked while traveling through remote parts of the Amazon rainforest. In summary: smart, good-looking and you're a better person for knowing him (and humble). Matt is currently planting trees for LEAF in backyards throughout Toronto



Michelle Bourdeau

Michelle is LEAF's first official Office Coordinator and greatly enjoys hearing the phrase "Michelle, I'm just going to put you in charge of this now..." The best part of Michelle's job is getting to talk trees with our BYTP program participants and reforesting the LEAF office. Michelle has a science degree in Forest Conservation from the University of Toronto and by night is working towards her Landscape Design certificate from Ryerson. Her favourite native trees (at present) are Eastern White Pine, Tamarack, Pin Oak, Tulip Tree, Eastern Redbud, River Birch and Blue Beech.



Sarah Lamon

Sarah's interest in trees harks all the way back to her days of building forts in her parents' Toronto back yard. She holds a bachelor's degree in and a Masters in Forest Conservation from the University of Toronto, and has worked in the field doing research, monitoring and restoration of natural areas. Sarah's been working as an arborist at LEAF since February 2007, and gets a kick out of all the people who name the trees in their yards and who really get to know them as individuals. Although she's visited many forests throughout the world, Sarah's found herself drawn back to the one she knows best - Toronto's urban forest.

Feature Interview

Paul Prior, Fauna Field Biologist for the Toronto and Region Conservation, shares some insights with LEAF to make backyards more hospitable to urban wild animals throughout the winter.



Since most urban mammals are not at a loss for food, the most important element that will attract them to a backyard is shelter. First and foremost, the presence of a large mature

native deciduous tree will potentially provide natural hollows as the tree ages (I have a wonderful old pollarded Silver Maple in my backyard which contains a large hollow section that hosts a large family of raccoons).

Other shelter options can be mounted on a tree, house or shed. Ordinary nest-boxes provide roosting opportunities for smaller passerine species that overwinter (chickadees). For more terrestrial mammals (skunks and cottontails) shelter can be provided in the form of brush piles.

Planting a native garden with plenty of good tall grasses and sedges, ferns, and herbs will go a long way to providing shelter for smaller fauna species. A water feature (pond or bird bath) adds attractiveness and provides water for birds and mammals.

It should be noted that any mammal that is attracted to the backyard and encouraged to stay will in due course attempt to enter the warm shelter of the house or other buildings on the property, especially during winter, so buildings should be proofed against such visits.

Website of the Month

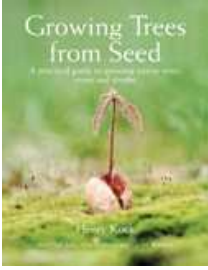
www.projectchirp.com

Project CHIRP! (Creating Habitat In Residential areas and Parkland) is a songbird conservation initiative in which the survival needs of songbirds are met through the creation of Canadian Wildlife Federation-certified songbird habitats on residential properties.

With 80% of the land in the Greater Toronto Area being privately owned, the potential exists to enrich these properties for the benefit of individuals and songbirds alike.



New Urban Forestry Resources



Growing Trees from Seed A Practical Guide to Growing Native Trees, Vines and Shrubs

Henry Kock, long time FGCA Director and Horticulturist at The Arboretum, University of Guelph worked on this book for many years, and was very close to finishing it when he was waylaid by brain cancer. We lost Henry almost 3 years ago, but John Ambrose, Paul Aird and Gerry Waldron worked with Firefly Publications to bring it to print. Visit the [Firefly website](#) for more details.

The Faithful Witness Online multi-media presentation

The Faithful Witness is a presentation that revolves around the White Pine (Provincial Tree of Ontario and Matriarch of Eastern North America), created by Paul O'Hara, botanist, landscape designer and founder of Blue Oak Native Landscapes. The last presentation at Royal Botanical Gardens was filmed in February 2008 and is now available online at www.blueoak.ca.

Upcoming Events

LEAF Events

LEAFY DRINKS

1st Thursday of the month 7 pm onwards

Victory Café

November 6, December 4

Are you passionate about Toronto's urban forest?

Join LEAF staff and volunteers at the Victory Cafe for **LEAFY drinks** on the first Thursday of every month to have a pint and meet other Toronto tree lovers.

Tree Tours

If you would like to attend, please register online

<http://treetours.to/webform/tree-tour-registration>

Suggested donation per tour: \$5

THE HUMAN RIVER'S "URBAN WATER CYCLE"

Sunday October 19, 2008, 1:00 - 4:00 pm

MEET AT: St. Clair W & Humewood Dr, Northwest corner

Toronto Tree Tours is partnering with the Human River to bring you the Urban Water Cycle, a storytelling bike parade following the path of the buried Garrison Creek. Starting north of St. Clair at the creek's source, we will bike its full length, creating music, sharing performances and celebrating the creek's history. With everyone wearing blue, we will become a human river bringing the Garrison Creek back to life.

LEAF and Toronto Tree Tours are now on **Flickr** and **Facebook**.

Check out our photos at the links below and search for "Local Enhancement and Appreciation of Forests" to join our **Facebook Group**.

LEAF Flickr Site: www.flickr.com/photos/leaftoronto/

Tree tours Flickr Site: www.flickr.com/photos/torontotreetours/

Community Events

FRIEND OF THE DON EAST TREE PLANTING EVENT

Saturday, October 18th 10 am

Taylor Creek Park parking lot, just east off Don Mills Road, just north of the DVP

FODE needs you as they work to help restore riparian areas along Taylor Creek near the Forks (Don Mills & the Don Valley Parkway). Bring friends! More info: www.fode.ca

NORTH AMERICAN NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND NATIVE PLANT SALE

Saturday, October 18th 12:00pm - 4:00pm

Toronto Botanical Gardens

More info: www.nanps.org

FENCE REPAIR / TRAILWORK / SEED COLLECTION

Sunday, October 19, 10:30 am

Bain Co-op Community Centre in Riverdale

It's time to repair fences of all types that protect our restoration areas and collect seeds for use in our planting next year. Join upcoming sessions:

Nov. 02: Buckthorn cutting along Howard Park Blvd.

Nov. 16: Seed collection/Buckthorn cutting/end of season Pot Luck lunch

RIVERSIDES 5 THINGS YOU CAN DO WORKSHOPS

Wednesday, October 22, 5-8 pm

Bain Co-op Community Centre in Riverdale

Special Guest Speakers: Kevin Mercer, founder of RiverSides - Road salts, ice, and environmentally-friendly alternatives. Helen Mills, Lost Rivers - Discover the Lost Rivers running underneath your home.

Thursday, October 23, 5-8 pm

Elizabeth Simcoe Junior P.S. (166 Sylvan Avenue)

Special Guest Speaker: Toronto Master Gardeners - Green methods in lawn and garden care.

More info: www.riversides.org

Upcoming Events (continued)

YIMBY (YES, IN MY BACKYARD) FESTIVAL

Saturday October 25, 11:00am - 5:00pm

The Gladstone Hotel

LEAF will be taking part in YIMBY, a non-partisan political festival bringing together a community of neighbourhood groups, citizens, businesses, and politicians for positive discourse in Toronto. Admission is free.

More info:

<http://www.gladstonehotel.com/yimbyfestival.html>

MYSTERY & GEOLOGY OF GRENADIER POND

Saturday, October 25

2:00-4:00pm

Start Windermere & Queensway NW corner.

This Lost River walk will be led by Ian Wheel, assisted by Ed Freeman. More info: <http://lostrivers.ca>

ONTARIO'S LARGEST (AND OLDEST) LOST RIVER

Sunday October 26, 1:00-3:00pm

Western parking lot of Bluffers Park

This Lost River walk, led by Nick Eyles, will take you along the shoreline of Scarborough Bluffs and will primarily focus on the geological record of lost rivers during the last 100,000 years. More info: <http://lostrivers.ca>

PROJECT CHIRP (CREATING HABITAT IN RESIDENTIAL AREAS AND PARKLAND)

Monday November 17, 6:30-8:00pm - Girl Guides, Etobicoke (St. Wilfrid's, Kipling Avenue). \$10 non-members

Wednesday October 29 7:00-9:30 pm—Toronto Botanical Gardens, \$30 members, \$35 non-members

An informative and inspirational talk on planting with native species to feed and shelter songbirds. Learn how to certify your garden as a songbird habitat with the Canadian Wildlife Federation. Advance payment required.

More info: www.projectchirp.com

GREENHERE 2ND ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Friday November 14, 12:00pm

The Davenport-Perth Neighbourhood Centre

This event will encourage neighbours to get involved in community urban forestry, increase local communication and neighbourhood pride, while educating the event participants on GreenHere's work in the community.

More info: www.greenhere.ca

NORTH AMERICAN NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY SPEAKERS' SERIES

INVASIVE SPECIES OF THE TORONTO AREA

Tuesday November 25, 7:30pm

Toronto Botanical Garden, 777 Lawrence Ave. E

What they are and where; and how we can prevent their spread. Paul Heydon is a biologist and owner of Grow Wild! native plant nursery. Gavin Miller has been head botanist for the TRCA for the past 10 years.

More info: www.nanps.org

High Park Nature Walks

All walks last 1.5 hours and may go on wooded trails, so please remember to wear appropriate clothing and footwear. Walks are FREE, but donations are always welcome! Meet at the benches across the road from the south side of the Grenadier Restaurant in High Park.

More info: <http://www.highpark.org/walking.htm>

AUTUMN SPLENDOUR PHOTO BUFF TOUR

Sunday, October 26, 10:30am - 12:00pm

With David Allen

MYTHS AND LEGENDS OF HIGH PARK

Sunday, November 9, 10:30am - 12:00pm

With Colborne Lodge Staff

ART IN THE PARK - MONUMENTS AND SCULPTURES

Sunday, November 9, 10:30am - 12:00pm

With Grace Petrucci

Dendro Devotion Answers

Answers: 1)d 2)f 3)g 4)c 5)j 6)i 7)b 8)e 9)a 10)h

