



The LEAFlet

SUCCESSFUL FALL TREE TENDERS WORKSHOP FILLED TO CAPACITY



LEAF knows that when a community gains knowledge and skills in urban forestry, amazing things can happen. That's why LEAF's goal is to actively involve citizens in local urban forest stewardship.

LEAF's *Tree Tenders* Training Program (ten hours of outdoor and indoor training) provides in-depth arboriculture instruction and hands-on training from certified arborists. The most recent workshop, held at the Riverdale Library, was filled to capacity with about 35 participants.

Todd Irvine , LEAF's Education and Outreach Coordinator, led an introductory walk, followed by a classroom session covering tree physiology as well as how climatic and soil conditions affect tree growth. Wendy Strickland (Assistant Planner at the city's Urban Forestry Department) conducted the second session, which was a combination of lecture and hands-on activities on tree and shrub identification.

On the last day of the workshop Janet McKay , LEAF's Executive Director, outlined the importance of selecting the right tree for the right place, site preparation, planting techniques, care of young trees and other important criteria to ensure successful planting.

Todd discussed tree stress and management issues, focusing on diagnosing signs and symptoms of health problems, key tree stresses like soil and site problems, pest management, diseases and physiological disorders. Wendy reviewed the City of Toronto's tree policies and bylaws. Finally, Todd wrapped up the session with an outdoor walk to pull together the ideas covered by the workshop.

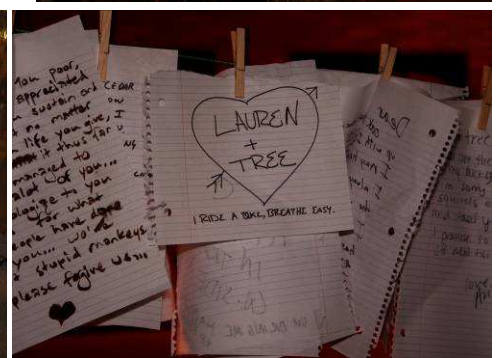
All participants were encouraged to evaluate the Tree Tenders Training Program as LEAF takes feedback very seriously with respect to strengthening and building educational materials for future workshops.

Interested? Look for the next Tree Tenders Training Program in early 2008.



NUIT BLANCHE HIGHLIGHTS

Over 3000 people visited LEAF's installation at this year's Nuit Blanche Festival with more than 250 people writing fan mail to their favourite tree. By early November you can check out the majority of these fan letters at the treetours.to site!



VOLUNTEERISM FINDS GREEN SOLUTIONS

Although Mayor David Miller wants to double the city's tree canopy by 2020 from its current 17.5%, many have wondered whether this is a realistic goal. In the past, Richard Ubbens (Director of the city's Urban Forestry Department) has said that it might take a century to achieve Miller's goal. But, since the city is now planting 40,000 new trees a year, he has taken the more optimistic view that the 2050 target may be achievable after all. Until we have the science that confirms the present condition of our urban forest however, we just don't know. A University of Toronto study done 17 years ago suggested there were 7 million trees in the city, but this study is sadly outdated. This summer the city was considering spending \$350,000 on the first ever comprehensive study of the city tree stock, which would help answer such questions.

What we do know is that of the Toronto trees that have been examined, 25% of them are showing structural defects. In addition, Todd Irvine (Consulting Arborist, Education and Outreach Coordinator for LEAF) says that if Toronto is really serious about doubling the tree canopy, the city needs a plan that addresses drought. Considering this summer's record-breaking drought, (see page 3 *Water Sustains All*), we need to give more thought to our current trees, instead of focusing solely on planting.

This summer volunteers from The Harbord Village Residents' Association (HRVA), considered one of the most active residents' association in Toronto, undertook a *Treeing the Village* project. Led by Tim Grant and working with University of Toronto forestry experts they counted, measured and analyzed the trees in their neighbourhood. (The Toronto District School Board has undertaken a similar study for the past 4 years involving the 27,000 trees that dot the yards of the city's 542 public schools.)

Residents raised funds for resources such as training and equipment, and in early June over 40 people attended the *Neighbourwoods* workshop to learn about tree identification, tree health and data collection techniques. The Neighbourwoods program (developed by U of T Faculty of Forestry Professor Dr. Andy Kenney and colleague Danijela Puric-Mladenovic) enables volunteers to collect meaningful tree data which can be used to develop relevant plans to preserve and enhance the urban forest. The resulting report will map the distribution of trees in the HRVA neighbourhood's 24 blocks, locate the leafy giants that have shaded streets for up to a century, identify danger spots where trees need attention, and specify gaps where more trees could be planted.

The newly trained HRVA volunteers were able to address common misconceptions about trees as well as educate their neighbours about the many benefits of a healthy canopy: shade reduces air conditioning needs and saves energy; trees cool the air, absorb air pollutants, produce oxygen and protect us from the sun's harmful UV rays; canopies block noise and create privacy; trees increase property values, just to mention a few. Although the project had its challenges (such as demanding concentration, accuracy and adherence to stringent data collection techniques for the volunteers) the project was a success. The neighbourhood has been mobilized to protect its urban canopy and is now anxiously awaiting the pending report, all thanks to a core group of knowledgeable tree stewards.

In light of the current budget crisis, communities have to take more responsibility for their own urban forests. The HRVA has provided a solid example of how, with a little training, a community group can effectively contribute to assessing the health of our urban canopy while also engaging in community education and advocacy. Its win-win!

Fifteen years ago, Amanda McConnell and friends, disturbed by their Albany Street neighbourhood's loss of trees, started a campaign called *Grassroots Albany* to encourage their neighbours to plant native trees and shrubs, wildflowers and plants in both front and back yards. In May of this year, an arborist's follow-up study found that "the overall health and diversity of trees has improved" including an estimated 15% increase in the number of trees which "contrasts markedly with the forest decline experienced in other Toronto neighbourhoods." What *Grassroots Albany* has accomplished is a textbook example of how local communities can band together to reverse the deforestation threatening many older Toronto neighbourhoods. The *Grassroots Albany* Project was coordinated and documented by the *Ecological Resource Group*, a not-for-profit group of landscape architects, artists and planners. The project, named *Over the Fence* was part of the Group's *Living Links Program*, and was financially assisted by an Action 21 grant and *Canada Trust's Friends of the Environment Foundation*.



Albany Street Scenes, May 2007

SPECIES OF THE MONTH

Serviceberry (*Amelanchier Alnifolia* / *Canadensis*)



There are several species of the genus *Amelanchier* (meaning blood-red referring to the bark of the newly emerging branches), that offer year-round beauty to yards. The Serviceberry is a flower and berry producer that is prized by wildlife as a source of food and protection. At least 40 bird species eat its fruit which tastes similar to blueberries. *Alnifolia* and *Canadensis* are smaller western species. The tree has the appearance of a large shrub as it often grows with multiple thin trunks emerging from the same root set. It can grow from 20 to 40 feet high. The 5-petal white



flowers make a spectacular display while the leaves are not fully unfurled. Summer leaves, oval to oblong with finely toothed margins, are green with autumn foliage ranging from golden to red. Serviceberries grow in partial shade to full sun preferring moist, well-drained soil although some species will tolerate a drier site.



DENDRO DEVOTION

By Marc Willoughby, M.L.Arch., O.A.L.A. ISA Certified Arborist

Match the tree with its characteristic bark (answers on page 4):

1. paper birch
 2. black cherry
 3. shagbark hickory
 4. bitternut hickory
 5. eastern hop-hornbeam
 6. blue beech
 7. yellow birch
 8. American beech
 9. honey locust
 10. American sycamore
-
- a) thin, narrow scales
 - b) dark, long thick curling plates
 - c) smooth, shiny yellow curling strings
 - d) smooth, slate grey muscle-like
 - e) firm, flat ridges, yellow between
 - f) smooth, reddish-brown, lenticels
 - g) white, papery
 - h) dark, coarsely ridged with large thorns
 - i) thin, mottled white, cream greenish yellow-grey
 - j) smooth, light steel-grey, often vandalized

ALLAN GARDENS - IN DESPERATE NEED OF WATER

Managing an urban forest means considering all living things it sustains, not just the trees.

Named in 1901 after George William Allen, whose philanthropy made the park possible, Allan Gardens has been a city property since 1888 and is best known for its botanical conservatory. This 11 acre urban oasis has more than 250 trees. The park has been the site of some data collection and research, headed up by Dr. Andrew Millward of Ryerson University's Geography Department. His data shows that June and July received only one quarter of the rainfall normally expected for downtown Toronto. Even more distressing are the August figures which show that Allan Gardens has only received one tenth of its average rainfall.

With no irrigation, three months of drought, and the City's watering program which only applies to newly planted trees, the mature trees here are struggling to stay alive. The sugar maples may be in the most danger, as the resident squirrel population has started stripping the bark to get at the watery sap that flows underneath. This hinders the trees' nutrient transport systems. But we can't be too hard on them; unable to leave a park bound by 4 busy downtown streets, the parched beasts are simply trying to slake their thirst. Not only has the past summer made life difficult for wildlife in Allan Gardens, many of the park's medium sized trees (about 40 years old) such as the sugar maples, could be dead by next spring, as bark-stripped branches become vulnerable to disease and insects. "It's similar to a person walking around with open wounds," according to Dr. Millward.

A recent study completed by the City Of New York concludes that every dollar spent to maintain trees produces \$5.60 in benefits, thus reinforcing the idea that it is worthwhile for a city to invest resources in maintaining its *existing* urban forest. A key part of this maintenance is adequate watering, without which, both trees and wildlife are adversely affected.

EVENTS

Voices of the Boreal Forest

Friday, Oct 26, 2007 7:30 pm
90 Rose Glen Rd. North, Port Hope ON

Join Ontario Nature and the Willow Beach Field Naturalists for a fun multimedia experience about songbirds in the boreal forest. To attend and for more info, contact Jen Baker 416 444 8419 x 224 or email jenniferb@ontarionature.org

Fall into the Moraine

Saturday, Oct 27, 2007 10 am - 2 pm

Oak Ridges Trail in King Township & Pine Farms Orchard/Winery, King ON

Come out and learn what makes the Oak Ridges Moraine special. Free. Register: Sherry Shen 647 258 3280 x 2010 or sherry@citizensenvironmentwatch.org. Get more info: www.monitoringthemoraine.ca

Women in Forestry

Monday, October 29th (5:30-7:30pm)

U of T Art Centre, 15 King's College Circle,
Tickets \$20 (\$10 students)

Are you a woman interested in forestry? Join the Ontario Forestry Association to celebrate Women in Forestry as part of the 100th anniversary of the Faculty of Forestry at the University of Toronto. The Tickets: 1-800-387-0790, 416-493-4565, info@oforest.on.ca. More info: carlag@oforest.on.ca

COME to LEAFy Drinks - Thursday Nov 1st from 7:00pm onwards. See details at www.leafToronto.org/events

Adapting to Change: Managing Tree Seed in an Uncertain Climate

November 14-15, 2007

Holiday Inn, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario

Goals of this conference include building awareness about climate change and its potential impacts on the deployment of forest genetic resources, and developing a roadmap for future actions promoting adaptation of forests. Register: www.fgo.ca. More info: Barb Boysen, (705) 755-3284 or barb.boysen@ontario.ca

LEAF Volunteer Orientation Session

Thursday November 15, 2007

6 pm -8:30 pm

Metro Hall Room 310

Come out and learn how you can help Toronto's urban forest by volunteering with LEAF! Register at www.leafToronto.org/volunteer_orientation

Looking for gifts which celebrate the importance and beauty of trees in Southern Ontario? Order the stunningly photographed **Toronto Tree Portrait 2008 Calendar** (\$15) www.torontoparksandtrees.org

Also check out the beautifully illustrated book **For the Love of Trees** (\$24.95) which focuses on the Central Experimental Farm Arboretum in Ottawa. Order here: www.gsph.com

DENDRO DEVOTION **Answers:**

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

SUPPORT TORONTO'S URBAN FOREST

We rely on 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.leafToronto.org/donate



73 Bathurst St
Suite 305
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Tel: 416-413-9244
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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: _____

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VISA _____ Expiry _____

Phone: _____ Email _____

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