

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

Issue 22 - December 2004

Will urban sprawl spread so far that most people lose all touch with nature? Will the day come when the only bird a typical American child ever sees is a canary in a pet shop window? When the only wild animal he knows is a rat - glimpsed on a night drive through some city slum? When the only tree he touches is the cleverly fabricated plastic evergreen that shades his gifts on Christmas morning?

Frank N. Ikard, North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference, Houston, 1968

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TRYING TO FIND FULFILLMENT FOR A NEED TO BE GREEN: THE RISE OF COMMUNITY TREE AND CONSERVATION GROUPS

By Willem Morsink, Ontario Urban Forest Council

Why are so many of us so hyped-up about the environment today?

Richard Gwyn posed this question in the Toronto Star back in 1990. He thought “(t)he most interesting aspect of today’s environmental message is about ethics and the emphasis on spiritual development. We are using environmentalism as a rational, sophisticated and non-religious means to do our bit to protect the earth; we try to find fulfillment of this need to be green, through planting of trees and environmental conservation”.

Today, we continue to ask ‘Why are there so many tree and conservation groups and how do these groups get organized?’ While this need to be green may be the underlying motive, most community urban forestry groups form in response to a tree epidemic; a natural disaster such as an ice storm; a desire to combat heat, dust, noise and air pollution; the threat of some sort of urban development; or a need to revitalize the community as a good place to live and work.

For example, in 1962 a group of professionals and concerned citizens formed the Dutch Elm Disease Control Committee to address this crisis. In 1963, the Ontario Shade Tree Council (OSTC) was formed as an extension of this committee. As time went on, the urban forest faced more and more challenges, resulting from a general lack of awareness, worsening impacts of urbanization, and newly introduced pests and diseases. In response, the OSTC expanded its scope of activities. Finally in the year 2000, the OSTC became the Ontario Urban Forest Council (OUFC). The name was changed in order to better represent a comprehensive approach to urban forestry management rather than a piecemeal approach to single tree issues. For more information on the OUFC, check www.oufc.org

Trees Thunder Bay is a more recent example of a group of citizens getting involved. Tree planting levels had declined and Thunder Bay was losing more trees than were being replaced. On Memorial Avenue, once a tree-lined tribute to local soldiers killed in WW I, the trees deteriorated beyond repair

and had to be removed. In response, a few citizens formed Trees Thunder Bay in 2000. Its current membership has grown to 950.

The Chesapeake Arboretum in Virginia is a volunteer-run arboretum consisting of two acres of gardens and a famous farmhouse. It also contains 48 acres of woodlands, boasting such species as tulip trees, oaks and Pawpaw trees. Citizens felt a need for a place where trees could be grown and managed in an arboretum/park-like setting due to a shortage of such public places in the immediate area. For more information visit www.chesapeakearboretum.com

There are many more volunteer groups involved with tree planting and environmental conservation. Why don't you write a paragraph or two on how your group came about for the Urban Forest Network newsletter? Submissions can be sent to info@leaftoronto.org

U.S. FOREST SERVICE DEBUTS STRATEGY TO FIGHT INVASIVE SPECIES

The U.S. Forest Service has introduced a national strategy to prevent and control the threat of invasive species and non-native plants in the United States. "Millions of acres of public and private lands are at risk from non-native species. Each year the United States loses 1.7 million acres to the spread of these invasives, in addition to spending billions of dollars on control measures," said Mark Rey, Agriculture Undersecretary for Natural Resources and Environment. Rey was speaking at the site of the Forest Service's new threat assessment center in Prineville, Oregon, which will develop user-friendly technology and research on invasive species when it opens early in the New Year.

An invasive species is defined as a species that is non-native to the ecosystem under consideration and whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health. These species take advantage of their new surroundings to crowd out or kill off native species, destroying habitat for native wildlife.

The National Strategy and Implementation Plan for Invasive Species Management to fight exotics focuses on four key elements: preventing invasive species before they arrive; finding new infestations before they spread and become established; containing and reducing existing infestations; and rehabilitating and restoring native habitats and ecosystems.

To learn more about the U.S. Forest Service's National Strategy and Implementation Plan for Invasive Species Management, read the new strategy at:

http://www.fs.fed.us/foresthealth/publications/Invasive_Species.pdf.

For more general information on U.S. federal efforts to combat invasive species visit:

www.invasivespecies.gov

URBAN FOREST-FRIENDLY HOLIDAY GIFT IDEAS

In this season of holiday giving, perhaps your loved ones would appreciate a gift that supports our urban forest! Here are some urban forest-friendly gift ideas:

Toronto Tree Portraits 2005 Calendar

Internationally renowned photographer Geoffrey James has collaborated with writer Pleasance Crawford, to produce *Toronto Tree Portraits*, a 2005 calendar that celebrates the importance and

uniqueness of our tree heritage with a selection of tree portraits of some of Toronto's most remarkable trees. The proceeds from sale of the calendars will go directly to the Toronto Parks and Trees Foundation, a charitable organization that works in partnership with Toronto Parks and Recreation to enhance, create and restore Toronto's parks and trees. The *Toronto Tree Portraits* Calendar costs \$15.00 and is available by calling the Toronto Parks and Trees Foundation at 416-397-5178. For more information on the Foundation, visit <http://www.torontoparksandtrees.org>

LEAF Membership

Members of LEAF contribute to a healthy and green environment by supporting our efforts to protect and enhance Toronto's urban forests. A one-year membership entitles members to a 10% discount on all plant purchases for the year (up to a maximum of \$15 total discount). Members receive our seasonal newsletter, as well as discounts on seminars and workshops. Yearly membership fees are \$20 for individuals or families and \$10 for students. For information visit <http://www.leafontario.org/main2.asp?ID=69> or call 416-413-9244.

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. You can also include a personalized message. Recipients will receive their plants in the spring. 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.

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

Match the Canadian Forest Region with the characteristic species.

- 1) Boreal
 - 2) Sub-Alpine
 - 3) Montane
 - 4) Coast
 - 5) Columbia
 - 6) Deciduous
 - 7) Great Lakes-St. Lawrence
 - 8) Acadian
-
- a) Alpine Fir
 - b) Western White Pine
 - c) Red Spruce
 - d) Tulip Tree
 - e) Sitka Spruce
 - f) Yellow Birch
 - g) Rocky Mountain Douglas Fir
 - h) Jack Pine

Answers at the end of the newsletter.

FEATURED WEBSITE – THE FOREST GENE CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

The Forest Gene Conservation Association promotes the importance of the genetic resources of the forests in southcentral Ontario, with emphasis on conservation of genetic diversity of native forest tree species.

Visit this site for lots of valuable information, and be sure to check out “Ontario’s Natural Selections: Because Seed Source Matters” (look for the link on the home page)

www.fgca.net

EVENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

ECOLOGICAL MONITORING COMMUNITY YOUTH FORUM

December 4, 2004, Innis Town Hall, Innis College, University of Toronto, 9:30am – 2pm

Over the fall term, high school students in the Greater Toronto Area have taken part in community-based ecological monitoring projects run jointly by the students' schools, Citizens' Environment Watch and local community groups. At the Community Forum, the final component of the program, the students will present their projects to their peers, faculty, community members, and scientists. You will hear all about how the students will move forward with their action plans as young environmental leaders making a difference in their community. RSVP by December 2, 2004 at 416-978-4114. Visit www.citizensenvironmentwatch.org for more information.

NOMINATIONS FOR THE CANADIAN ENVIRONMENT AWARDS

Deadline December 10, 2004

Canadian Geographic’s Canadian Environment Awards Community Awards is a celebration of individuals and grassroots community groups who have made a commitment to Canada’s environment. Canadians across the country are asked to submit nominations for any one of six categories – Climate Change, Conservation, Environmental Health, Environmental Learning, Restoration and Rehabilitation, and Sustainable Living. Please check www.canadiangeographic.ca/cea2005/en/ for more information, including eligibility requirements, judging criteria and nomination packages. Completed nomination packages must be sent by mail or courier no later than December 10, 2004.

GROWING THE ORGANIC LANDSCAPING INDUSTRY

January 21, 2005, Arboretum, University of Guelph, 8:30am – 5pm

Seventh annual conference of the Organic Landscape Alliance for professionals, municipal public health and parks personnel and anyone interested in the field of organic lawn and garden care. Workshop topics include organic golf courses, marketing your organic service, lawn care 101, new organic products, and edible landscaping. For more information visit www.organiclandscape.org or call 1-866-824-7685.

For more events, visit or subscribe to PEOPLE- & PLANET-FRIENDLY Events, Resources, Jobs & Fun visit www.planetfriendly.net

Answers to Dendro Devotion:

1)h 2)a 3)g 4)e 5)b 6)d 7)f 8)c

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

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