

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

Issue 30 – October 2005

Few are altogether deaf to the preaching of pine trees. Their sermons on the mountains go to our hearts; and if people in general could be got into the woods, even for once, to hear the trees speak for themselves, all difficulties in the way of forest preservation would vanish.

John Muir, naturalist, explorer and writer (1838-1914)

In this issue . . .

Upcoming LEAF Events

Why High Park's Children's Garden Works

Why Do Leaves Change Colour?

Dendro Devotion

Featured Resources

Announcements & Events

UPCOMING LEAF EVENTS

TREE CARE WALK AT BAIN CO-OP

Saturday, October 15, Bain Co-op, Logan & Bain Ave, Toronto, 1:30 – 4 pm

Walk the beautiful grounds of the Bain Co-op with its majestic old trees and many interesting native species of plants. The walk will be led by Todd Irvine, LEAF staff member, arborist, and community activist. Starting out from the Bain Co-op Community Centre, Todd will lead a walk through the Bain property and discuss tree issues, such as planting the right tree in the right place, identifying trees (including 'weed' trees) and proper tree care. Donations welcome. For more information, contact Todd Irvine at todd@leaftoronto.org

Directions: By Subway, get off at Broadview station and take either the 504 or 505 streetcar to Withrow. Walk back north a block to Bain and go east to the bottom of the valley. There's a brick laneway close to Logan. Go north to the entrance of the community centre right by the laundromat.

EVERGREEN FALL COLOURS WALK AT THE BRICK WORKS

Sunday, October 16, Don Valley Brick Works, 550 Bayview Avenue (Bayview Extension just south of Pottery Road), 2-4 pm

Join celebrated gardening author of *A Gardener's Manifesto: Changing the World and Creating Beauty One Garden at a Time* Lorraine Johnson for a fall colours walk and talk. Joining Lorraine will be Todd Irvine of LEAF to explore the magnificent quarry garden and adjacent ravines. Learn about native plants and trees, and experience all the beautiful colours of the autumn. Meet in the Brick Works parking lot. RSVP with Mandy Pereira of Evergreen at 416-596-1495, extension 249 or mandy@evergreen.ca

WHY DO LEAVES CHANGE COLOUR?

By Charles Drouin,

Reprinted from National Capital Commission Factsheet "Fall Rhapsody 2002"

Myth

The change in leaf colour is caused by the first autumn frosts.

Fact

It is not the frosts that trigger the change of colour, but the shortening days. As autumn nears, there is less light available to the trees. The leaves begin losing the chlorophyll that is usually present, and yellow pigments begin to show through. Many factors, such as drought, soil quality and the general health of trees can accelerate the colour change.

What Causes The Different Colours?

Throughout the fall, the intensity of colour is influenced by both temperature and sunlight. Rainy autumns with below-freezing temperatures tend to produce dull brown or yellow leaves that fall quickly from the trees. Sunny autumns, with warm daytime temperatures and cool nights, create ideal conditions for a prolonged season of superb colour.

The Yellows

As the strength of the sun's rays weakens and the hours of daylight lessen, the chlorophyll (green pigment) disappears, revealing the yellow pigments beneath. The white birch is an excellent example of this phenomenon.

The Reds

Huge maple forests cover more than 50 percent of Gatineau Park, creating an array of flamboyant fall colours ranging from bright red to deep crimson. These flaming reds are derived from a particular series of events. The maple, like most deciduous trees, prepares to drop its leaves by forming a corky layer where the leaf is attached to the branch. This layer prevents sugars formed in the leaf from traveling through the leaf stalk into the tree. Instead, these sugars accumulate in the leaf's tissues, where they break down and are transformed into anthocyanin, a red pigment. The colour intensity varies, depending on conditions of sunlight and temperature.

Although red, orange and purple are colours usually attributed to maples, they can be found in other species, such as cherry. Anthocyanin is also present in red fruits such as apples and cherries.

For more information about Fall Rhapsody, contact the Gatineau Park Visitor Centre at (819) 827-2020 or 1-800-465-1867, or visit the NCC's website at www.canadacapital.gc.ca/gatineau

WHY HIGH PARK'S CHILDREN'S GARDEN WORKS

Reprinted from Toronto Councillor Sylvia Watson's E-Newsletter, Friday, September 23, 2005

Project for Public Spaces, a non-profit organization dedicated to creating and sustaining public spaces that help build communities, recently voted the High Park Children's Garden as one of the top 60 public places in the world. What makes High Park's Children's Garden a great place to be?

Hands-on creative programming educates children and youth on Toronto's heritage & natural history. The Garden is organic and alive with fruits, vegetables, culinary and medicinal herbs, birds, insects, wildlife, program participants, volunteers and park visitors. The garden is a model for revitalization of park spaces and linking parks with communities. It is open, bright and easy to see from the roadside.

Surrounded by wooded areas and a ravine, the garden can be seen as another habitat or ecosystem within the park. Species like the monarch, swallowtail and red admiral butterflies can be regularly spotted along the native wildflowers planted in the beds and the adjacent hillside. Other wildlife, like foxes, coyotes, owls, chipmunks, northern flickers, scarlet tanagers, baltimore orioles and blue jays are regular visitors of the High Park Children's Garden.

Seating is available under the picnic shelter on long benches and at picnic tables. There is a bench in front of the sandbox and visitors regularly use the edge of the garden beds to sit down. Picnic tables in the large grassy area are shaded by trees and offer an ideal and sought-after space for weekend picnics.

Toronto Parks and Recreation program staff, parks staff, program participants, volunteers and community members work together to maintain the garden. There is generally little or no litter in the space, and all those involved make certain to keep it clean, tidy and inviting. It is wheelchair accessible and can be easily reached on foot, wheelchair, bike or vehicle, and public transit is within a 5 minute walk of the garden.

Take the time to visit High Park's Children's Garden and see for yourself why it works.

For more information on the High Park Children's Garden, visit www.toronto.ca/parks or www.pps.org/info/gps/60places, or call 416-392-1329.

DENDRO DEVOTION

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

Match the tree with the landscape planting application:

- 1) Trembling Aspen
- 2) Tree of Heaven
- 3) Black Locust
- 4) Red Pine
- 5) Silver maple
- 6) Serviceberry (tree form)
- 7) Bur Oak
- 8) Honeylocust
- 9) Norway Spruce
- 10) Redbud

- a)permaculture
- b)forestry plantation
- c)clay soil
- d)windscreen row
- e)urban patio
- f)showy residential yard
- g)junkyard
- h)ecological restoration nurse tree
- j) stormwater pond
- k)street tree-restricted space

FEATURED RESOURCES

NEW WEBSITE: CANADIAN URBAN FORESTRY NETWORK

It's an exciting time for Urban Forestry in Canada – the new Canadian Urban Forest Network website was launched on September 18, 2005. The website is one of many steps forward for urban forestry in Canada to inform Canadians about available resources and the state of our urban forests. The website is still under construction, but for the moment, you can view the Canadian Urban Forest Strategy as well as connect to CANUFNET (Canadian Urban Forest Network). Visit www.cufn-rcfu.ca

GUIDEBOOK TO FOREST INSECTS

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency guidebook for exotic temperate forest insects is now available. It includes information and colour photographs for 41 insects that either have a limited distribution or are not yet known to occur in Canada. The book is designed for public and private sector Canadians who work in the areas of tree/forest health and arboriculture. This book is intended to serve as a tool in the early detection of exotic forest insects and is free-of-charge (including shipping). If you would like more information about the book or would like to make a request, please contact Troy Kimoto, Survey Biologist, Canadian Food Inspection Agency at (604) 666-7503 or visit www.inspection.gc.ca

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

CITY OF TORONTO TREE PLANTING EVENTS

Get your hands dirty this fall helping to reforest Toronto's parks. Dates and locations for fall planting events hosted by the City of Toronto now posted at www.toronto.ca/greentoronto

“HEALTH IMPACTS OF SPRAWL AND HOW SMART GROWTH CAN SOLVE THEM”

Wednesday, October 5, 215 Spadina Avenue, 1st Floor, Toronto, 12:45 pm - 6:30 pm

Obesity, heart attacks, colon cancer, osteoporosis, respiratory and mental health ailments are all on the rise. Mounting evidence in Canada and the US indicates that a large part of this dilemma can be attributed to urban sprawl and poor community design. To understand the links between these issues and offer solutions, experts will be discussing how smart growth research, policy, planning and community outreach can help to reduce negative health effects in Ontario. For more information, visit www.greenontario.org/osgn/fall05.html

SHRUB IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOP

Tuesday, October 11, Guelph Arboretum, Guelph, 9 am – 4 pm

The often overlooked but ecologically important shrubs and vines in our landscape will be the focus of this workshop. Fresh specimens and an easy to use key for shrubs will be used to familiarize you with some major groups. Participants will receive a shrub identification booklet and checklist. Bring a magnifying glass. \$40. Pre-registration required. To register, contact 519-824-4120, ext. 52358 or email arbor@uoguelph.ca

2005 FOREST HEALTH WRAP-UP SESSION

Wednesday, October 12, Agro-Forestry Centre, Bedell Road, Kemptville, 9:30 am – noon

Wayne Ingram, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resource's Forest Health Technician for Eastern Ontario, will give an update on forest pests, diseases and forest health in general. To RSVP by October 5th, contact linda.touzin@mnr.gov.on.ca or call 613-258-8268.

SOILS AND SITE EVALUATION WORKSHOP

Wednesday, October 12 to Friday, October 14, Woodland Trails Camp, 14919 Kennedy Road, Aurora

Trees Ontario in partnership with the Canadian Forest Service, the Eastern Ontario Model Forest, Conservation Ontario and Ontario Stewardship host this 3-day workshop on forest soils and planting the right tree. Instruction will be both in-class and in-field. \$200-\$350. For more information, visit www.eomf.on.ca

TREE IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOP

Thursday, October 20, Guelph Arboretum, Guelph, 9 am – 4 pm

Refine your skills at identifying trees in Ontario and learn important identification characteristics. Difficult groups such as the cherry, oak and walnut families as well as the easier groups such as ash and maple will be explored. Native forest trees, young cultivated trees and their Eurasian counterparts will be covered. Participants will receive an Ontario tree identification booklet and checklist. Bring your field guide and binoculars. \$40. Pre-registration required. To register, contact 519-824-4120, ext. 52358 or email arbor@uoguelph.ca

“WORKING TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE URBAN COMMUNITIES: REAL PEOPLE, REAL ISSUES, REAL SOLUTIONS...THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIPS” PARTNERING FOR SUSTAINABILITY CONFERENCE

Thursday, October 27 – Friday, October 28, King Edward Hotel, 37 King Street East, Toronto

CIELAP (Canadian Institute for Environmental Law & Policy) is hosting the 3rd Partnering for Sustainability conference on October 27 and 28, 2005. This year's conference will focus on how issues of Urban Sustainability are being addressed through partnerships. It will feature panels on energy, water, waste, and the role of media. The conference will also benchmark Canada's progress towards urban sustainability through a much anticipated government panel. For more information, visit www.cielap.org/savethedate

NATURALIST CLUBS FOR KIDS

Saturdays and Tuesdays, October to December, High Park Nature Centre, Toronto, various times

Celebrate autumn in High Park! The weekly club meetings are full of activities that will teach kids about nature in the park. Pre-registration required. For more information, visit www.hpicharity.org

For more events visit www.planetfriendly.net

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

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