

THE URBAN FOREST NETWORK NEWSLETTER

Issue 32 – February 2006

Oak trees come out of acorns, no matter how unlikely that seems. An acorn is just a tree's way back into the ground. For another try. Another trip through. One life for another.

- Shirley Ann Grau

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UPCOMING LEAF EVENTS – ASK THE ARBORIST

Learn how trees function, what they need and how you can help them thrive, with Todd Irvine, Certified Arborist, Tree Climber and Tree-Lover!

Wednesday, April 5th, 7:00 to 9:00 pm.

Scarborough Civic Centre, Committee Room 2, 150 Borough Drive.

Hosted by Councillor Glen DeBaeremaeker

Tuesday, May 2nd, 7:00 to 9:00 pm.

Stan Wadlow Clubhouse Auditorium, 373 Cedarvale Ave, East York.

Hosted by Councillor Janet Davis

More dates and locations to come . . . check our website for all upcoming events

www.leafontario.org/events

DO URBAN TREES REALLY HELP REDUCE POLLUTION AND CLEAN THE AIR? John Alderman, Washington, D.C. reprinted from emagazine.com

Back in 1872 Frederick Law Olmsted, the granddaddy of American landscape architecture and the designer of New York's Central Park, proclaimed that trees were the "lungs of the city."

While Olmsted's statement may have been more philosophical than scientific, researchers have since found that city trees do indeed perform important environmental functions like soaking up ground-level pollutants and storing carbon dioxide, which helps offset global warming.

Each year in Chicago, for example, the windy city's urban tree canopy removes 15 metric tons of carbon monoxide, 84 metric tons of sulfur dioxide, 89 metric tons of nitrogen dioxide, 191 metric tons of ozone and 212 metric tons of particulates, according to David Nowak, project leader of the U.S.

Forest Service's Urban Forest Ecosystem Research Unit.

Trees absorb these gaseous pollutants via the tiny pores in their leaves and break them down into less harmful molecules during photosynthesis.

In Sacramento, California, a public-private partnership called Sacramento Shade spearheaded the planting of more than 200,000 trees around the city in the mid-1990s. In a study assessing Sacramento's bolstered tree cover, Greg McPherson of the Western Center for Urban Forest Research found that the region's urban forest removes more than 200,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere each year, saving taxpayers as much as \$3 million annually in pollution cleanup costs.

Meanwhile, the tree cover in New York City helps remove enough airborne toxins to save taxpayers as much as \$10 million a year in pollution mitigation costs, according to Nowak. The Big Apple's five boroughs are home to more than 5 million trees, covering nearly 17 percent of its public and private land, he added.

Gary Moll, a vice president at the nonprofit group American Forests, asserts that trees are the "ultimate urban multi-taskers," absorbing carbon dioxide and acting as filters, sponges, humidifiers, heat shields, and wind blockers. Under Moll's supervision, American Forests is assessing the costs and benefits of city tree cover across the country. The group uses a combination of satellite data, field surveys, and computer modeling technology to measure regional tree canopy and calculate its dollar value.

All told, Olmsted was right in his assessment of the importance of city trees. Indeed, planting trees in urban environments may be one of the best medicines available to help restore our ailing cities.

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

Match the pair of trees with the characteristic often used to distinguish between them:

- 1)Slippery Elm vs. American Elm
 - 2)Black Walnut vs. Butternut
 - 3)Red Maple vs. Silver Maple
 - 4)Kentucky Coffetree vs. Honeylocust
 - 5)Yellow Birch vs. Paper Birch
 - 6)Red Oak vs. Bur Oak
 - 7)Red Pine vs. White Pine
 - 8)White Ash vs. Red Ash
 - 9)Largetooth Aspen vs. Trembling Aspen
 - 10)American Chestnut vs. Chinquapin Oak
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- a)needles in clusters of 2 vs. needles in clusters of 5
 - b)bark bronze-toned vs. bark white and exfoliating
 - c)leaves bluntly toothed vs. leaves finely serrated
 - d)terminal leaflet small or absent vs. terminal leaflet present
 - e)cross section of bark is solid colour vs. cross section of bark has alternating light and dark layers
 - f)twigs smooth vs. twigs hairy
 - g)centre leaf lobe tapered to tip vs. centre leaf lobe deeply incised towards base
 - h)nut encased in sharp-spined burr vs. nut encased in acorn

- i) smooth twigs vs. burlled twigs
- j) seed pods short and wide vs. seed pods long and thin

FRIENDS OF THE COVE: BACKYARD HABITAT PROGRAM IN LONDON, ONTARIO by Mary-Pat Mathers

The Coves are a series of oxbow ponds. Oxbow ponds are known to be places of high species diversity. Through their backyard habitat program, the Friends of the Coves is helping to conserve this ecological refuge in the heart of London, Ontario. They are offering natural landscape consultation, backyard habitat workshops, and native trees, shrubs and wildflowers, all free of charge, to residents of the Coves Environmentally Significant Area.

The Friends of the Coves also offers volunteer labour to assist with identification and management of non-native, invasive plants that contribute to significant habitat loss in the ponds. These areas are then replanted with native vegetation.

Through the Backyard Habitat Program, the Friends of the Coves is helping residents make choices that protect the special nature of the Coves, provide food for wildlife, conserve water, and lessen the need for harmful pesticides and fertilizers.

For more information, visit <http://www.thecoves.ca/backyard.php> or contact Vanessa Kinsley at 519-640-5397 or contact@thecoves.ca

FEATURED RESOURCE – THE OVERSTORY BOOK: CULTIVATING CONNECTIONS WITH TREES, 2ND EDITION

Whether in a small backyard or a larger farm or forest, trees are vital to the web of life. Protecting and planting trees can restore wildlife habitat, heal degraded land, conserve soil, protect watersheds, diversify farm or garden products, beautify landscapes, and enhance the economic and ecological viability of land use systems. Careful planning and sound information is needed to reach these goals. The Overstory Book distills essential information about working with trees into 134 short, easy-to-read, single-subject chapters. Each chapter shares key concepts and useful information, so readers can get back to planting and protecting more trees, gardens, and forests, more effectively.

<http://www.agroforestry.net/overstory/ovbook.html>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TORONTO CITY COUNCIL COMMITTED TO GREENING ROOFS

Toronto City Council approved a Green Roofs Strategy promoting the use of city rooftops to grow gardens and other vegetation. The strategy includes a commitment to install green roofs on new and existing buildings owned by the City whenever practical. Council also endorsed initiatives to provide financial incentives for the creation of green roofs. Visit www.toronto.ca/greenroofs for details.

ISA UNDERGRADUATE ARBORICULTURE FELLOWSHIP

The International Society of Arboriculture is offering an undergraduate fellowship in arboriculture and seeks applicants. Candidates must be undergraduate students from anywhere in the world currently attending a four-year program with a minimum of two years completed, majoring in arboriculture, urban forestry, horticulture, or a related discipline. Students nearing completion of a qualifying program will also be considered. The deadline for receipt of 2006 fellowship applications is March 15, 2006. Contact Sharon Lilly for information at slilly@isa-arbor.com or call 1-217-355-9411

TORONTO PARKS AND TREES FOUNDATION

March 31st is the deadline for application for the 2006 Community Grants Program. Visit <http://www.torontoparksandtrees.org/grants.htm> for information on the Foundation and how to apply.

OTHER EVENTS

FOREST LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

March 1st and 2nd, 2006, Wyndham Bristol Place Hotel, Toronto

North American forest and paper sustainability leaders will meet in Toronto on March 1-2 to participate in the Sustainability Challenge Conference organized by ForestLeadership. The event is anticipated to be one of the year's most forward thinking and dynamic conferences for the North American forest sector. Some thirty outstanding speakers from prominent organizations will address the event including Monte Hummel, President of World Wildlife Fund. Visit <http://forestleadership.com/> for details.

HOOT AND HOWL, TORONTO AND REGION CONSERVATION

March 4, 2006, 7:00 to 9:00pm, Uxbridge

Enjoy a night of fun and adventure at this annual event. A short slide presentation on owls and coyotes is followed by a trip into the woods. Together you will call out to these wild creatures in the hope that they will hoot or howl back. Visit <http://www.trca.on.ca/events/calendar/> for details.

HIGH PARK WALKING TOURS

Every-other Sunday afternoon, Toronto

These walks are organized by the High Park Community Advisory Council, the City of Toronto Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division and Colborne Lodge, City of Toronto Culture Division. Meet at 1:30 p.m. at the benches across the road from the south side of the Grenadier Café and Teahouse in High Park. Tours last 1 ½ to 2 hours and usually end up at Colborne Lodge for a hot drink and a quick look at the premises. Your \$2 donation supports this and other volunteer programs in High Park. Tours may go on wet or snow-covered trails so wear appropriate footwear and dress for the weather.

Sunday, March 5 The Birds of Winter (especially recommended for families)

Sunday, March 19 Looking for Signs of Spring

Sunday, April 2 Stormwater Management in High Park and Area

Sunday, April 23 Restoration Efforts in High Park

SUGARBUSH MAPLE SYRUP FESTIVAL, TORONTO AND REGION CONSERVATION

Kortright Centre for Conservation, 9550 Pine Valley Drive, Woodbridge

Come out and 'tap into nature.' Demonstrations, wagon rides, activities and, of course, pancakes and maple syrup! The cost is \$7 for adults and \$5 for students and seniors. Members are free. For details on this and other TRCA events, visit <http://www.trca.on.ca/events/calendar/>

ONTARIO WOODLOT ASSOCIATION: OUR FORESTS, OUR LEGACY

Saturday, March 18, 2006, 8:30 am. to 4:00 pm, Ervinrude Centre, 911 Monaghan Road, Peterborough, Ontario

This year's annual general meeting and conference will feature topics that are relevant to woodlot owners and managers from all walks of life. Presenters will capture your imagination and provide you with a range of information about managing your woodlot. OWA members \$20.00 and non-members \$25.00 (includes lunch). To register or to get more information, please call Rhonda at the Ontario Woodlot Association at 1-888-791-1103 ext. #221 or info@ont.woodlot.assoc.org before March 1, 2006.

EARTH DAY AND TREE PLANTING FESTIVAL

Saturday, April 22nd, Downsview Park, Toronto

Earth Day Canada, Parc Downsview Park and Toronto and Region Conservation invite you to come with family and friends to plant a tree, browse through dozens of environmental displays, hear eco-seminars, and participate in free interactive children's shows, activities, and make and take crafts. For more information visit <http://www.earthday.ca>, or <http://www.pdp.ca>, or call the park hotline at 416-952-2227.

GUELPH ARBORETUM WORKSHOPS

A Woodland and Wildflower Garden: Thursday, May 11, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

This indoor/outdoor session will first have a look at how to identify wildflowers using Lawrence Newcomb's Wildflower Guide. Then we will walk through Victoria Woods examining wildflowers, ferns and sedges that can be part of your own evolving backyard woodland. Emphasis will be placed on interpreting the organization of woodlands and the establishment and care of wildflowers. Participants are strongly advised to bring a copy of Newcomb's Wildflower Guide to this session. Guest Botanist: Allan Anderson. Fee: \$35.00. Registration and payment required by Thursday, April 27. Maximum 16 adults.

About Trees: Thursday, June 22, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Do you want to learn more about trees, including the ones in your own backyard? Join Horticulturist Sean Fox on a walk through the World of Trees collection as he discusses pollination, fall colour, aging, and disease resistance, as well as some interesting facts about some very unique trees and shrubs! Take home an informative booklet on how to care for trees. Horticulturist: Sean Fox. Fee: \$15.00. Registration and payment required by Thursday, June 8. Maximum 20 adults.

To register for Guelph Arboretum workshops, call 519-824-4120 ext. 52358

For a full list visit <http://www.uoguelph.ca/arboretum/ProgsWrkshps/PrWrkshpPlants.htm>

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

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.

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