

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

Issue 34 – June 2006

*“Give me a land of boughs in leaf,
A land of trees that stand;
Where trees are fallen there is grief;
I love no leafless land.”*
- A.E. Housman

In this issue . . .

- Backyard Tree Planting
- Upcoming LEAF Event
- Weed Starves Maple Forests
- 2006 Clean and Beautiful City Appreciation Awards
- Gypsy Moth Outbreak in Mississauga
- Featured Resources:
 - Guide to Buying Ancient Forest Friendly Tissue Products
 - Forest Stewardship Council
- Events and Announcements

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PLANT A TREE IN YOUR OWN BACKYARD

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Improve our urban forests by starting in your own backyard. Through LEAF's Backyard Tree Planting program, residents can plant a 6 foot tall native tree on their property at a low cost.

To date more than 8000 trees and shrubs have been planted across Toronto through this program. The benefit most homeowners see is the professional advice combined with the low cost. From now until early September, LEAF's certified arborists will conduct 30 minute backyard consultations to ensure an appropriate tree and planting location is chosen. A LEAF planting crew returns to plant the trees in fall.

Find out how you can get a tree for your backyard by calling 416-413-9244 or visiting www.leaftoronto.org

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UPCOMING LEAF EVENT

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URBAN FOREST ORIENTATION SESSION

Join us for an introduction to LEAF's programs and services and learn about ways you can get involved in Toronto's urban forest scene. In partnership with the Toronto Public Library.

Saturday June 24, 2006

2-4pm

Toronto Public Library, Danforth and Coxwell Branch

For more information or to register for this free event contact LEAF at 416-413-9244 or info@leaftoronto.org

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WEED STARVES MAPLES FORESTS, STUDY FINDS

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From CBC News, April 25, 2006

Maples, ashes and other hardwood trees are being harmed by an invasive weed that indirectly slows their growth to about one-tenth the normal speed, scientists say. The researchers, who report in Tuesday's issue of the journal Public Library of Science Biology, studied how a tree-stifling weed called garlic mustard impacts native hardwoods in Ontario. The lead scientist warned that the weed's ultimate effect could be to stifle dominant trees in the forest and even change the type of trees that can grow in the habitat.

Weed harms fungus that aids tree growth

The weed harms hardwood trees such as sugar maples by releasing chemicals that harm a soil fungus that the trees need to grow and survive. The fungi have long filaments that penetrate the roots of plants, forming a network to extend the reach of a tree's roots. In exchange for providing seedlings with nutrients, the fungi receive energy from the plants. Sugar maple, red maple and white ash showed less fungal colonization and grew only about one-tenth as fast in soil infested with the weeds.

Only hardwoods affected

Studies on 16 other species of seedlings showed only hardwoods were harmed by garlic mustards. "This suggests garlic mustard invades the understorey of mature forests by poisoning the allies of its main competitors," Stinson said in a release.

The experiments were done by researchers at Harvard University, the University of Guelph, the University of Montana, Purdue University, and the UFZ Centre for Environmental Research in Germany.

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2006 CLEAN AND BEAUTIFUL CITY APPRECIATION AWARDS

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From Councillor Sylvia Watson's E-Newsletter, June 9, 2006

The City of Toronto invites residents, community groups and businesses alike to celebrate their successes in cleaning up and beautifying our city by applying for a Clean and Beautiful City Appreciation Award.

Now in its second year, the awards recognize outstanding contributions to the Clean and Beautiful City initiative. The Awards are a way of saying 'thank you' to Toronto residents for their efforts in making Toronto a more attractive and inviting city to live in.

To be eligible, projects must have been in progress from September 1, 2005 to September 1, 2006 and located within the City of Toronto, on either public or private property. Whether it is cleaning up litter and graffiti, painting a mural, or planting a garden, no project is too big or too small to be considered.

Applications must be submitted to by Friday, August 25. For more information, visit http://www.toronto.ca/cleanandbeautiful/2006_awards.htm

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GYPSY MOTH OUTBREAK IN MISSISSAUGA

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Excerpts from Forestry, City of Mississauga

The City of Mississauga is experiencing a Gypsy Moth outbreak infestation in specific areas of the City with egg masses in excess of 800 per tree.

An Integrated Pest Management (IPM) control program has been initiated including the aerial application of *Bacillus thuringiensis* subspecies *kurstaki* (Btk) over approximately 500 ha of both publicly and privately owned woodlands. Other IPM programs including egg mass scraping, tree skirting and banding, and the use of pheromones have also been implemented in various affected areas.

Detailed communication, traffic control and emergency plans have been developed with input from a variety of technical stakeholders including the Region of Peel Police, Ontario Provincial Police, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Ontario Ministry of Transportation, Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Mississauga Fire and Emergency Services, Region of Peel Public Health as well as other agencies and authorities to assist with the implementation of the aerial spray program.

Further details including media releases, Corporate Reports, public information and maps are available on the City's web site at: www.mississauga.ca/pestmanagement.

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FEATURED RESOURCES

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GREENPEACE SHOPPER'S GUIDE TO ANCIENT FOREST FRIENDLY TISSUE PRODUCTS

The production of some types of disposable tissue products is a threat to Canada's ancient forests. Consult the Greenpeace Shoppers's Guide to Ancient Forest Friendly Tissue Products for a list of tissue products you can buy that are ancient forest friendly as well as products to avoid because of their ancient forest fiber content.

http://www.greenpeace.ca/tissue/download/guide_en.pdf

FOREST STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) is a non-profit organization that supports environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial, and economically viable management of the world's forests. Visit the FSC website to learn more about the FSC, including where you can buy FSC-certified products.

<http://www.fsccanada.org/>

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EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Weed Trees Guided Walk, Part of the Vacant Lots exhibit
Saturday June 17, 2pm
Toronto Free Gallery - 660 Queen Street East
Led by Todd Irvine and Michael Pereira

“Weed” is a word often reflexively uttered with derision, like “outsider” or “hoodlum”. But what makes a tree a weed: its appearance, growing habit, location, species? There is no single answer, other than to say that a weed is a plant that for some reason has been deemed undesirable.

This project inventories, maps and photographs a representative sample of trees commonly referred to as weeds growing in the surrounding urban environment. Participants are encouraged to view each on their individual merits setting aside generalizations that a stigmatizing label such as “weed” infers.

TREE SEED CONSERVATION WORKSHOP- presented by the Ontario Urban Forest Council

Saturday June 17th, 9:00am to 3:30pm

Banbury Community Centre, 120 Banbury Road, North York (near Leslie and York Mills)

Come out and learn about native tree seeds, including tree and seed identification, where and how to collect seeds, and how to ensure you are collecting from appropriate seed sources. Cost is \$40 for OUFC members, \$50 for non-members. Visit the OUFC website at www.oufc.org for details on how to register.

TORONTO PARKS RENAISSANCE STRATEGY PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS

Thursday, June 22, North York Civic Centre, 5100 Yonge St, Committee Room 3, 7-9 pm

Tuesday June 20, Jenner Jean-Marie Community Centre, 48 Thorncliffe Park Drive, Park Property and Markborough Room, 7-9 pm

You are invited to provide your views on the priorities for improving Toronto's system of parks and trails. The Parks Renaissance Strategy will be a roadmap for future decision-making and investments and will ensure parks and trails meet the social, economic and cultural needs of all residents. Hosted by the Maytree Foundation in partnership with Urban Strategies and the City of Toronto. For more information, visit www.toronto.ca/parks/renaissance.htm

TREE SEED CROP FORECASTING WORKSHOPS

Fanshawe Conservation Area, London June 20, '06

Somerville Nurseries, Everett June 22, '06

Ganaraska Forest Center June 24, '06

Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority June 27, '06

Ferguson Forest Center, Kemptville June 29, '06

Trees Ontario Foundation is conducting tree seed crop forecasting workshops to help improve seed collection efficiencies and restore seed inventories. The workshop will improve your ability to identify cone and seed development and estimate quantities for our major reforestation species. Participants will receive in-class and in-field. Please register by contacting the Ontario Forestry Association at 1-800-387-0790 or info@oforest.on.ca.

HUMBER ARBORETUM AND WEST HUMBER VALLEY DISCOVERY WALK

Saturday June 24, 2006, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m

Meet at the entrance of the Humber Arboretum behind the

North Campus of Humber College Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning,
205 Humber College Blvd, Toronto

Take a walk on the wild side. Enjoy a 1 ½ to 2 hour guided walk through gardens, woodlands, and meadows and along the West Humber River. Learn about the history and ecology of this beautiful urban area. Free Admission. For more information or to register, contact Carol Ray, Humber Arboretum at 416 675 6622 Ext. 5127 or visit www.humberarboretum.on.ca/inform.htm.

Wildculturing Workshop
Sun Jul 9 to Fri Jul 14
Golden Lake, ON

Learn the art of Wildculturing and practice ecologically integrated forms of agriculture, including Permaculture, Forest Gardening, Native polycultural, Shift-agriculture, Intensive, and No-till methods. As well, visits to the best organic growers in the Upper Ottawa Valley and a day on organic greenhouse growing methods. Cost is \$280 for the week, food included. For more information visit <http://algonquintea.com> or call Steven Martyn at 613-625-1106.

SPADINA QUAY WETLAND 2
Wednesday July 12, 6:00 pm – 8:30 pm
Meet at the foot of Spadina Avenue, by the water's edge.

Join the Toronto Bay Initiative and the City of Toronto at Spadina Quay Wetland, Toronto's newest lakefront wetland, to help remove Queen Anne's lace, Canada thistle and other invaders from far-off lands. Learn about native plants, and why exotic invasive species are so successful in out-competing native species. Free. Child friendly event. Contact Toronto Bay Initiative at 416-598-2277 to register.

HIGHLAND CREEK RESTORATION HIKE AND TOUR

Saturday, July 15, 1 – 3 pm
Morningside Park, Scarborough
Enter park at main entrance off Morningside Ave., south of Ellesmere Rd. Follow the signs to third parking lot at end of park access road.

Get a first hand look at erosion control and fish habitat restoration work taking place in the Highland Creek. Discover the beauty and diversity of plants and animals that make Morningside Park their home. For more information and to register, contact Andee Pelan at 416-698-7322 or email

THE FUNDAMENTALS OF PERMACULTURE

Sun Jul 16 to Sat Jul 22, 2006
Orangeville, ON

The Fundamentals of Permaculture is an intensive course that offers practical training in permaculture design principles & techniques enabling you to use the principles in your life to

design sustainable and ecological environments. This program offers a balance between classroom time, hands-on experiential learning and personal empowerment work. Contact the Kootenay Permaculture Institute for more information on how to register.
<http://www3.telus.net/permaculture/>.

For more events visit www.planetfriendly.net

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GET INVOLVED WITH UFN

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

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