MINNESOTA
Shade Tree Advocate
Speaking Out For Community Forests
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Crossing the City in Green


DAN TAYLOR

In the 1880s, Minneapolis civic leaders wanted to connect the Chain of Lakes and the Mississippi River via a grand boulevard parallel to Lake Street. The Midtown Greenway Coalition's goal is to transform this century-old vision into reality.

When complete, the Greenway will be a linear park 5.5 miles long crossing Minneapolis along the 29th Street railroad corridor that runs parallel to and one block north of Lake Street. It extends from France Avenue to Hiawatha Avenue now; future links could potentially connect the Greenway to the river. Through the efforts of the Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority, the City of Minneapolis and coalition support from Hennepin County itself, Midtown Community Works, Midtown Greenway Coalition, Tree Trust and others, the Greenway offers an alternative to motor transportation as well as urban green space. The transformed space provides a tree and vegetation-lined trail that includes safe, barrier-free bike and skating lanes and a separate walking path. Because the elevation of the route is below street level, hikers and bikers pass beneath 32 street bridges and experience a unique "canyon" type of perspective in moving through the city.

The Greenway is being developed in phases, and Arbor Day 2001 brought public leaders, business and commu-

Greenway, to p. 2


DAN TAYLOR

Many community volunteers pitched in to accomplish the extensive plantings along the Midtown Greenway.

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Inside This Issue

Visit MnSTAC on the Web at www.mnstac.org

The Minnesota Shade Tree Advisory Committee's mission is to advance Minnesota's commitment to the health, care and future of all community forests.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Extend the Reach in Your Public Outreach Programs

In this day when government agencies and private industry are trying to do more work with less money, trained volunteers help to fill the gap. Community forestry programs in Minnesota are fortunate to have a network of over 200 educated volunteers at their disposal: Tree Care Advisors (TCAs). I am proud to be one of them.

You may have encountered TCAs at Arbor Day events, supervising volunteers and cautioning the planting crews, "Not too deep." What you may not realize is that TCAs have so much more to offer MnSTAC and you – not just on Arbor Day, but all year round.

Here are just some of the things TCAs can do:

- Be your agency's link to the community
- Help write grants for urban and community forestry (U&CF) projects
- Coordinate public/private U&CF partnerships
- Help conduct tree inventories and identify hazard trees
- Conduct "tree autopsies" of storm-damaged trees
- Assist with research projects
- Review community planting plans
- Give educational presentations to schools and neighborhood groups
- Help answer the public's tree-related questions.

TCAs undergo extensive training at the University of Minnesota, instructed by Gary Johnson, Patrick Weicherding and several of their colleagues. In exchange for the reference materials and training they receive from respected faculty, TCAs agree to provide 25 volunteer hours each year (50 hours the first year!) promoting urban and community forestry in their communities. Since the program began in 1992, TCAs have logged over 24,000 volunteer hours on community forestry projects.

I like win-win situations, and this one of them. You win, because TCAs extend your budget and make your jobs easier. TCAs win, because you help them fulfill their volunteer-hours commitment and enhance the urban forests in their communities.

Interested in saving time and money in your U&CF programs? Check out www.mntca.org for more information about the TCA program, or contact Marie Jones at the Forestry Extension office, extfor@forestry.umn.edu, to connect up with the TCAs in your area.

–Lorrie Stromme

A Northeast Minneapolis resident, MnSTAC President Lorrie Stromme is a planner for Hennepin County's Public Works Department.

Greenway, from p. 1

DAN TAYLOR

The Greenway will be a corridor for alternative transportation—by foot, by bicycle and eventually by light rail transit.

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nity partners and citizen volunteers together to plant five designated planting areas between France Ave. and 5th Ave. Professionals assisted and guided volunteers to ensure the proper planting of 250 trees, 120 shrubs and 150 perennials in pre-dug holes. Carefully planned for hardiness, site appropriateness and diversity, tree species included ash, black cherry, crabapple, eastern red cedar, dogwood, hackberry, hawthorn, ironwood, linden, maple, nannyberry, red and bur oak, pine, serviceberry and wild plum.

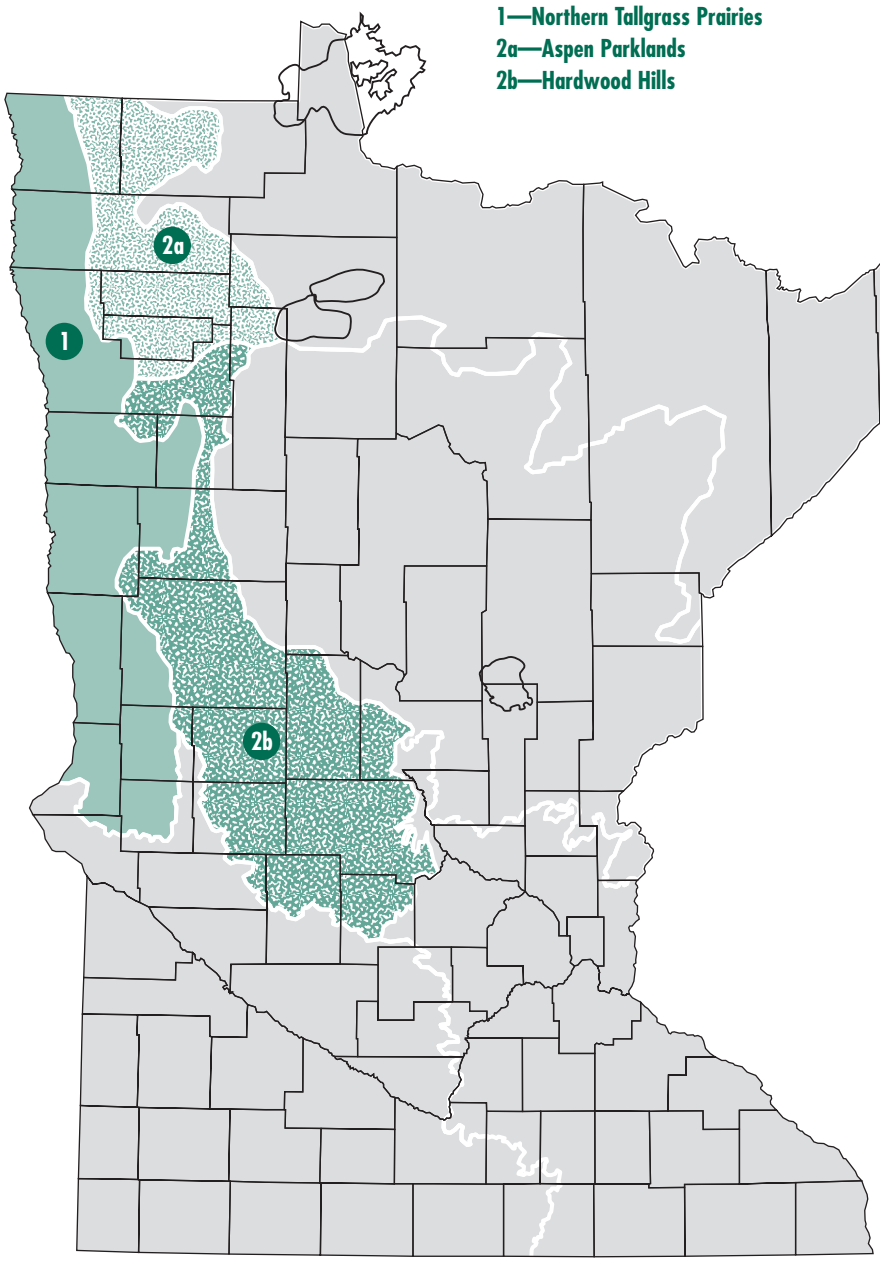
Easily accessible, appealing and user-friendly for all ages, the emerging Greenway holds high public interest. The planting event itself, an example of a "Community Works" project, provided a wonderful opportunity for all elements of the community to work together in an effort that benefits everyone.

Thank you to John Tripp, Property Management Specialist with Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority, for providing information in this article.

Minnesota's Ecoregions:

The Northwestern Area

By Rich Hauer and Gary Johnson



What do the towns of Moorhead, Breckenridge, Crookston and Hallock have in common with each other? In some ways, the same arboreal bonding that exists among the towns of Thief River Falls, Red Lake Falls and Strandquist. Or, Maple Bay, Detroit Lakes, Wadena, Alexandria and Sauk Centre. They are all communities located in the northwestern part of Minnesota, but more specifically, they belong to unique ecoregions: the Northern Tallgrass Prairies, the Aspen Parklands and the Hardwood Hills, respectively.

This bit of information could be summarily dispatched as something that might help you win a game of Trivial, Trivial Pursuit someday (but not likely). Or, it could help you understand why the character of the landscape changes so dramatically as you drive around Minnesota, help you select plants for the urban forest that do well in these various communities, help you diagnose problems, or maybe simply stimulate you to visit these areas. There just may be more to Minnesota than the Twin Cities and the Mall of America!

Several years ago, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources cooperatively developed an Ecological Classification System (ECS) that generally divided Minnesota into a few "provinces" and specifically into several "ecological subsections."

Northwestern Area, to p. 4

Northwestern Area, from p. 3

These divisions were not political or arbitrary delineations, but were based on existing and historical features: geology, soils, climate and native plant communities. County and city names may be unique within an ecological subsection, but at a landscape level (many square miles) they are kindred spirits.

Unique but Connected

What can you expect when you visit the western-most landscape of Minnesota, other than communities like Moorhead, Breckenridge, Crookston and Hallock? Wind? Certainly. Spring flooding? Likely. Anything else? Lots!

JIM GUBBELS

Here, the landscape reflects a transition from prairie wetland (Aspen Parklands) to forest (Hardwood Hills).

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These communities are located in the ***Northern Tallgrass Prairie*** ecological subsection, also commonly referred to as the Red River Valley. As the title implies, this area was once dominated and influenced by tallgrass prairies and wet prairies. And in spite of the agricultural nature of the landscape now, there are many, many remnants of these prairies. Forests, where they did occur, were primarily riparian (along rivers and streams), and many of these remain as landscape features.

The wind and seasonal flooding are part of the character of this area due in a large part to the relative lack of significant topography and the extent of the Red River basin. Most soils are clays, silts and sands, or combinations; drainage varies from fairly well-drained to poorly drained. Many of the soils are quite alkaline, too.

Temperatures can be extreme: winters can be very cold and summers can be very hot. Less than half of the annual precipitation occurs during the growing season, which ranges from 111-136 days per year. So, how well do plants survive in this climate? Very well, thank you, as long as you "listen" to the land and select the right plants. A visit to this region in the summer and autumn reveals its lushness and color, especially in areas with remnant or recreated prairies. And surprisingly, a respectful list of trees and shrubs perform well in this ecological subsection, providing shade and comfort to the communities punctuating the landscape.

SAM CHRISTENSON

Stands of aspen such as this are well able to withstand the harsh winds and lack of snow cover typical of the Aspen Parklands.

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In less time than it takes to roast a Sunday chicken, you can move from this ecoregion to the ***Aspen Parklands,*** spreading out east from the northern third of the Tallgrass Prairie. We find similar topography to the Tallgrass Prairie (although it does begin rolling to the east) and about the same length of growing days. There is similar annual precipitation too, but with one significant difference: little of it falls during the winter. The lack of snow cover and protection creates an open landscape that is difficult for all but the toughest trees to survive in, but there are lots of prairies (tallgrass, wet and dry gravel).

As the name implies, aspen savannas (woodlands where trees grow more as individuals with little to no overlapping of their canopies) were and are common. There's a color that no other trees have when aspens leaf out in the spring: the cool, smooth, only-found-in-aspens green. The wide variety of soil types–gravels to loams–create pockets of unique prairies. The winding streams and rivers provide numerous opportunities for riparian forests of silver maples, elms, cottonwoods and ash to establish.

If you think communities like Thief River Falls and Red Lake Falls are tree-less, however, you're wrong. As in the Tallgrass Prairie, these communities punctuate the open landscape with their canopies of green, shelterbelts and parks with a much wider selection of landscape plants than the native riparian forest types. And the self-protective

nature of a community cluster of buildings and trees provides micro-climates that support trees and shrubs that normally may not survive.

Back in the car or on the motorcycle, head south a bit (another Sunday chicken in the oven) and you'll discover the contrasting beauty of the ***Hardwood Hills*** . . . beautiful in a different way. Although this ecoregion lies immediately to the east of the southern section of the Tallgrass Prairie, it has rolling to very rolling topography, loamy soils in general and a slightly longer growing season. Presettlement vegetation was more diverse due to the soils and topography, with mixes of tallgrass prairies, woodlands, forests and savannas.

JIM GUBBELS

Soils, topography and length of growing season make deciduous forests the rule in the Hardwood Hills ecozone.

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Another notable difference in the Hardwood Hills contributes to the popularity of the area for recreation: lakes. Largely absent in the two previous subsections, lakes abound in the Hills. And with the lakes, diverse vegetation logically appears. With the addition of lakes and more topography, microclimates within the Hardwood Hills abound, and so does the corresponding wildlife and vegetation. It is not unusual to pass through prairie areas, maple/basswood forests, oak forests and groves of aspen within a relatively short drive. And although agriculture has displaced much of the natural, presettlement character of the Hardwood Hills, especially near the larger communities like Alexandria, Wadena and Detroit Lakes, it is still relatively simple to imagine what the area looked like a century ago.

Implications for Urban Forestry

Traveling through, recreating or living in this region and these subsections is more enjoyable when you understand a little more about the land, climate and vegetation. But there is a very practical reason for learning more about the Ecological Classification System. Plant selection, no matter where one lives, is often a guessing game or a game of mimic. What will you try? What is likely to not only survive, but thrive, and actually contribute something to a community? Can you believe everything written in the books, or is that information way too general? Or wrong?

Most plant selection is based on the cold hardiness rating of plants. That in itself is confusing, since there are at least two rating systems, and it seems that books and nursery catalogs are often not on the same page. According to the books and nursery catalogs, Japanese tree lilac and catalpa have no business even thinking about growing in any of the communities within these subsections. And yet you will find them growing there; not in every community or every yard, not always picture-perfect, but they are there.

Several years ago, the Minnesota Society of Arboriculture acknowledged the fallibility of the cold hardiness rating system, and turned to the Ecological Classification System for a more (bio)logical approach to diagnosing, recommending and rating trees for various communities within Minnesota. Most of Minnesota has followed suit, and now considers this system as more inclusive and superior to only focussing on average, minimum winter temperatures.

Winds, precipitation, summer temperatures, soil texture and soil reaction (pH) all influence a tree or shrub's hardiness, as well as average minimum winter temperatures. Sometimes one factor will override all others. Plants that are perfectly cold-hardy in the northern sections of Minnesota often perform poorly in the hotter, windier exposures of southern Minnesota. In addition, microclimates created by communities allow more

Ecoregions, to p. 6

Plants will survive very well, thank you, as long as you "listen to the land."

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Lakes abound in the Hardwood Hills, and help foster a diversity of microclimates with corresponding wildlife and vegetation.

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JIM GUBBELS

Ecoregions, from p. 5

"sensitive" species to do well, or at least perform acceptably. If winds, not cold temperatures, are most limiting, the protection of buildings or created topography can reduce or eliminate that factor.

If, however, the areas are relatively unchanged and the character of the soils and topography is typical of the ecological subsection, native plants often are the most logical choices for landscapes. To that end, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources/Division of Forestry produced a guideline for selecting trees and shrubs in the many ecoregions and subsections within Minnesota. Published in 1995, *"Trees and Large Shrubs: Species Native to Minnesota's Ecological Regions"* has become a valued resource for Minnesota ReLeaf projects, as well as any planting project that concentrated on native plant materials for planting purposes. This publication is very detailed, listing native plants within the subsections and categorizing them as deciduous or evergreen, trees or shrubs.

The Minnesota Society of Arboriculture used the Ecological Classification System to develop its tree rating system for the Minnesota supplement to the *Guide for Plant Appraisal*. Now, tree values vary within the state, not only due to species differences, but to the ecological subsections and the trees' abilities to perform in those areas.

In addition to the DNR's publication on species native to Minnesota, the University of Minnesota, College of Natural Resources/Department of Forest Resources has produced several publications that focus on recommending trees for the various ecoregions within Minnesota. All are entitled *"Recommended Trees for:* (the ecoregion), *An Ecosystem Approach,"* and include much more information on tree performance and characteristics within the specific region. Not all regions have been completed, but four of the six major regions of Minnesota have been published and are available through the University of Minnesota Extension Service, either on-line or through the Distribution Service.

So, the next time you throw those chickens in the oven and wonder what you're going to do for awhile, or if you're planning a local vacation, or if you're trying to choose the best trees and shrubs for your community, think about the ecological character of Minnesota. Take a drive, pitch a tent, enjoy the seasons of different interest around the state. Appreciate the autumn colors of a prairie as complimentary to the colors of a maple forest. And qualify what the books recommend for plant materials with what the landscape's soil, wind, summer and winter temperatures, topography, precipitation and existing, natural vegetation are telling you. It's a message worth hearing.

Rich Hauer is a plant health specialist and editor of the Overstory *publication at the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. Gary Johnson is an associate professor of Urban and Community Forestry at the University of Minnesota.*

JAN HOPPE

Bruce Bacon checks container-grown nursery stock. The pots are submerged in wood chips.

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Wood chips? Of course. But so much more. Trekking through the nooks and crannies of Country Farme with Bruce is a journey of discovery.

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Country Farme Extraordinaire

By Jan Hoppe, Advocate editor

Any time the subject of wood chips is discussed at *Advocate* planning meetings, someone is sure to say, "You need to talk to Bruce Bacon. He uses woodchips for everything!"

So with woodchips on my mind, one sunny afternoon this spring I headed out to Bruce's domain, a 90-acre farm outside of Ramsey, near Anoka. I planned to stay a little while, check out the chips and be home by dusk.

I stayed for hours, completely intrigued by what I found. Wood chips? Of course. But so much more. Just minutes from the metropolitan area, Bruce's farm nestles in gently rolling terrain on the Anoka Sand Plain. Complete with wetlands, open fields of hay and prairie grass, a lush grove of evergreens, acres of hardwood forest, several shrub and tree nurseries and a park-like home site, the setting is a ecological dream. But this land is also a working farm. Bruce describes his resource use as "managed by permaculture principles of designing and maintaining agricultural productive ecosystems that have the diversity, stability and resilience of natural ecosystems."

Permaculture

"Permaculture" is a word coined in the mid-seventies by Australians David Holmgren and Bill Mollison to describe the design system pioneered as a response to what they, and many others globally, saw as a serious challenge to the survival of all of us. Originally derived from the words PERMAnent and agriCULTURE, it has grown beyond its roots of looking at predominately sustainable food growing methods. It's now recognized as a worldwide effort encompassing all aspects of how we, as humans, can meet our needs while living in harmony with earth's finite resources.

Today, the term represents an expanded concept: PERMAnent CULTURE. Broadly speaking, permaculture is creating sustainable human habits by following nature's patterns. (Check out the great websites following this article for more information.)

On Bruce's farm, permaculture has meant integrating the diverse natural resources with a host of sustainable practices that include a tree nursery and organically nurtured raised bed gardens. The tree nursery, physically situated in several different smaller plots, includes a variety of deciduous and coniferous species suited to the

Country Farme, to p. 8

JAN HOPPE

Right: Bruce points out woodchips yet to be utilized at Country Farme.

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Country Farme, from p. 7

soils and climate of the area. Certified organic since 1977, the farm provides fresh garden produce for sale to restaurants and coops. Through a Community Supported Agriculture program (CSA) managed by gardener Peter Seim, Garden Farme also produces vegetables, fruits and herbs for members who subscribe for the season. Share options include pesto, trees, garlic braids, firewood and honey, all produced on the farm.

JAN HOPPE

Cherries and berries, such as Bruce holds, are among the many species that thrive at Country Farme with the assistance of wood chips.

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And where are the wood chips?

Everywhere. Bruce estimates 50,000 cubic yards of them arrived by semi from private wood disposals after the storms of 1998 and 1999. Wood chips are roadbeds through wetland and woodland, and pathways through gardens. They become mulch around young trees and are strategically placed in many places for weed control. They fill in a gully to level the landscape. They surround pots containing young nursery stock, giving the pot "in ground" benefits of wind protection, temperature and moisture moderation. They amend the soil, are the feedstock of many fungal varieties and become the planting medium for experiments. Bruce's lightning-quick mind is always seeing and seeking possibilities. "What will happen next?" he wonders as he spreads acorns and seeds such as sweet clover, white clover and vetch into layers of wood chips, or mixtures of wood chips and soil. Sometimes the chips are host material for volunteer seedlings. Acorns seem to sprout particularly well in wood chips. So do thistles.

Trekking through the nooks and crannies of Country Farme with Bruce is a journey of discovery. City forester for the City of Ramsey and an avid tree advocate, Bruce is growing, nurturing and maintaining trees everywhere, including fruit and nut species. Working "up close and personal" with the natural resources and capabilities of his farm brings continuous fascination to Bruce. "I'm always learning more," he muses.

It's easy to understand why friends and colleagues call Bruce a visionary. He is totally committed to managing his farm and woodlands in sound and sustainable ways, but faces the reality of also needing the farm to earn money to sustain itself. In carrying these dual roles, Bruce works hard to educate others about the critical importance of green economic development. More people are needed in business enterprises that encourage production, preservation and restoration of natural resources. They also need to be able to make a living at it. Programs to support small growers, alternative and/or organic producers and the like are inadequate. Both technical support and financial incentives are needed. Bruce stresses the vital link between grower and consumer, who are largely disconnected in our modern world. Reestablishing this relationship, strengthening growers and using foods and fiber produced closer to home have numerous benefits to both grower and consumer. Bruce and like-minded colleagues are doing their share to spread the word. They encourage MnSTAC folks everywhere to find ways to work together with and support green business development in their local communities. While we support them, they support us: Many of the green businesses are a valuable resource for technical support to the community in urban and community forestry endeavors.

For more information:

Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy
www.iatp.org/forestry/

InterGarden
www.metalab.unc.edu/london

Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture
www.misa.umn

Click on **"Forum"** to access Green Sprawl Working Group document *"Sustaining Green Space in the Rural-Urban Fringe: A Landowner's Guide"* by Kyla Zaro-Moore

Permaculture and Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rural Areas
www.attra.org/attra.pub/perma.html

Bruce Bacon
Bbacon@ci.ramsey.mn.us

John McMahon– One Outstanding Youth

by Lara Newberger

BRIAN LOEFFELHOLZ

John McMahon at the MnSTAC Awards ceremony, with interim MnSTAC president Mike Max (right), John's mother (left) and Jim Clayton (far left).

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John McMahon of Glenwood, MN is the recipient of this year's MnSTAC Outstanding Youth Project Award. John won the award for his Eagle Scout Leadership Project, which was beautifying Mount Lookout, a local park overlooking Lake Minnewaska. The park is also a heavily used wayside rest along Highway 55 and a point of interest on the Glacial Ridge Trail.

John's project rejuvenated the landscaping around a rock wall built in the 50s. John decided on the Mount Lookout project after seeking the guidance of Jim Clayton, a friend on the Glenwood Chamber of Commerce. The idea had special appeal because the park is close to his home. His friends and family spend a lot of time there.

The awards committee selected John McMahon because he did the project planning, fundraising, implementing and even the follow-up watering. When I asked John about the hardest part of his project, he quickly said the fundraising, because it took so much time. John created detailed plans for his project, including phase work and drawings, which he took to about ten organizations, the Park Board, a District Board and the City Council to drum up support for the project. Glenwood has the state's 13th largest lake, as John pointed out, so his scout troop put in docks to raise funds.

John didn't do his project alone by any means. He got guidance form Jim Clayton and plant selection help from Mike Holland of the local greenhouse. Master Gardener Toby Stein was there to show him the ins and outs of planting, and 33 volunteers pitched in to help on planting day.

This impressive young man is a ninth grader at Minnewaska High School. He celebrated his 15th birthday in May. That means he was 13 when he did most of the work on this project!

John likes math, golf, water sports and volunteering, which he does because he wants to "give back to the community." John helped on Glenwood's award-winning tree planting volunteer project in 1996. He is a member of Youth and Adults Achieving Community, a group that has worked to build a skate park he doesn't even use. The group painted and fixed up a rec center in Starbuck; John volunteers there as an attendant on a regular basis.

I asked John what kind of feedback he has received from the landscape project. He said people say they really didn't notice how neglected Mount Lookout was until he brought it up. Now they really notice and think it is a big improvement. The City Council recognized him, and of course he got his Eagle Scout Award. I asked him what he did with his picture of the Spirit Tree and he said that it is hanging in the living room.

John had no idea what Community Forestry is, but when I asked him what he thought MnSTAC is he said, "a bunch of people like me; people who like to better how communities look." Jim Clayton nominated John for the award.

John McMahon is truly a refreshing and inspiring young person. When I think of what I was doing at his age . . .

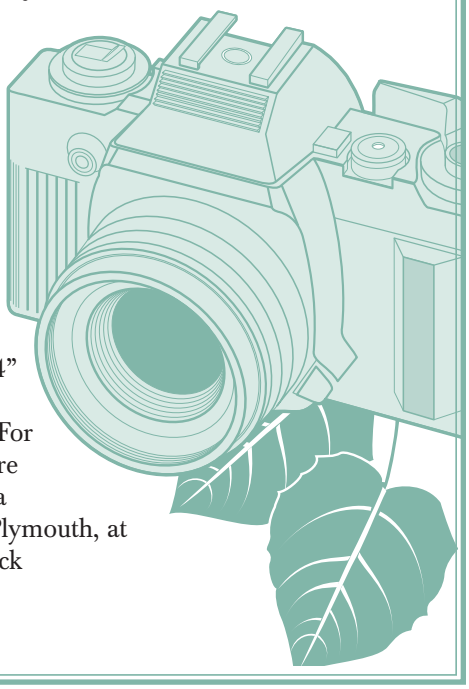
Lara Newberger is MNStac Awards Chair.

Send In Your MnSTAC Award Nominations!

Nominations for MnSTAC awards are due by January. To get particulars and forms, go to **www.mnstac.org** on the web, or contact Lara Newberger at 763/509-5945.

Photo Contest

The Minnesota Shade Tree Advisory Committee Awards Program is searching for a photo that represents MN Community Forestry. The winning photograph will be used to produce framed, matted and signed prints that will become awards for 2001 Community Forestry Achievements. The subject must relate to Minnesota Community Forestry, and the winner will receive $150.00.



You're invited to take great shots of your favorite tree, a childhood treehouse, a troll tree in the park . . . your choice! Glossy 4" x 6" photos are due November 15, 2001. For contest rules and more information, call Lara Newberger, City of Plymouth, at 763/509-5945 or check www.mnstac.org.

COURTESY MARK SCHNOBRICH

Shown above is the Hutchinson project's mixing vessel, where source separated organics are mixed with woodchips.

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MnSTAC on the Move

In recent months, MnSTAC meetings have been held in a variety of locations. In addition to offering a change in driving distances for members, we get a chance to see first hand our colleagues in their own community settings. In June, MnSTAC met in Hutchinson. Following the meeting, we toured the new community composting center . . . a cutting-edge project nationally!

STAC INFO & NEWS

About MnSTAC

The Minnesota Shade Tree Advisory Committee (MnSTAC) was established in 1974 by a group of concerned citizens to address the health and well being of community forests. MnSTAC is recognized throughout Minnesota and the country for its expertise, advice, coordination and support for community trees. It is an organization of diverse individuals who represent a broad spectrum of tree-related interests. It fosters and supports local community tree programs across the state so healthy community forests are fully integrated into community development, infrastructure, education and management.

MnSTAC Board of Directors
President: Lorrie Stromme, Hennepin Co. Public Works —612/348-2152
Vice President: Mike Max, EnvironMentor Systems, Inc. —763/753-5505
Kirk Brown, Tree Trust—952/920-9326
Ken Holman, DNR Forestry—651/772-7565
Gary Johnson, U of M Forest Resources—612/625-3765
Janet Larson, Consulting Arborist—952/941-6876
Rich Hauer, MN Dept. of Agriculture—651/296-0592
Bob Slater, MN Dept. of Transportation —651/779-5104
Mark Stennes, Top Notch Treecare—952/922-3239

Regional MnSTAC Committees

Southeast STAC

Chair: Henry Sorensen
651/388-3625 or 651/385-3674
Sec./Treas.: Katie Himanga, Heartwood Forestry, Lake City
651/345-4976

Headwaters-Agassiz STAC (HASTAC)

Chair: John Johnson
City Forester, City of Thief River Falls 218/681-1835
Sec./Treas.: Jeff Edmonds
DNR Forestry, Bemidji 218/755-2891

West Central STAC

Chair: Bob Fogel
Director of Parks, City of Moorhead 218/299-5340
Sec./Treas.: Dave Johnson
DNR Forestry, Detroit Lakes 218/847-1596

Northeast STAC

Chair: Kelly Morris
City Forester, City of Grand Rapids 218/326-7600
Secretary/Treasurer/Technical Advisor: Dan Jordan
IRRR–Mineland Reclamation 218/254-3369
Coordinator: Kathleen Preece
Minnesota BetterFORESTS magazine 218/326-0403
e-mail kathleen@uslink.net.

Tree Potpourri

URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY CALENDAR

Events

Oct. 21-24–**Society of Municipal Arborists Annual Conference: *Urban Forestry on the Prairie–A Part of the City Infrastructure.*** Holiday Inn, Fargo, ND.Contact Scott Liudahl 701/241-1465.

Oct. 26–**Arborist Certification Examination.** Blue Earth County Extension, Mankato. Contact www.isa-msa.org

Nov. 5-8–**The Wildland Urban Interface: Sustaining Forests in a Changing Landscape.** Gainsville, FL. Contact conference.ifas.ufl.edu/urban/

Dec. 14–**Arborist Certification Examination.** Anoka County Extension, Andover. Contact www.isa-msa.org

MnSTAC Meetings

Upcoming meetings will be held at the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, 90 West Plato Blvd., St. Paul 55107 at 9:30 AM. Dates are:

November 15 and December 20.

New Publications

Conserving Wooded Areas in Developing Communities: Best Management Practices in Minnesota. Contact MN DNR Forestry at 651/772-7925.

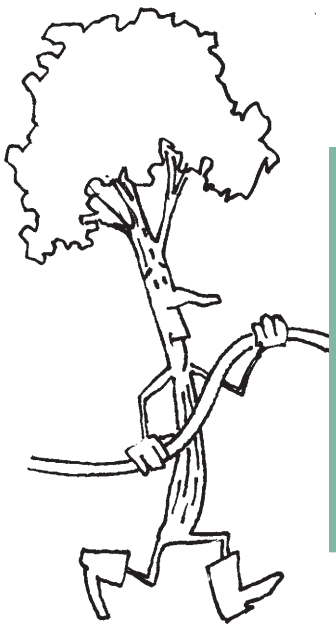
Tree and Shrub Handbook: Selection, Care, Pests, Diseases. This handbook from the Morton Arboretum provides a wide range of information on tree selection, planting and care in a three-ring notebook format. Purchase by calling 630/719-2465. (Caution: Some plants recommended in the manual are not considered hardy in Zone 4, and some of the insect and disease problems listed are not found at significant levels, if at all, in Minnesota.)

Tree Pests of the Midwest poster. Produced by Morton Arboretum and Ohio State University Extension. Contact DNR Urban and Community Forest Office at 651/772-6148.

Woody Plants in North America. The two-CD set contains information on 470 native and introduced woody species commonly found in North America. There are leaf and twig keys to help identify plants and printable fact sheets for each species. The CDs include nearly 10,000 color photos and interactive quizzes to test how much you've learned. Get nfo at www.treeguide.com/NAsearch.asp.

Internet

- Center for Urban Horticulture, University of Washington (research of human dimensions of urban forestry): www.cfr.washington.edu/enviro-mind
- ***NEW!*** Federal Grants "One Stop Shopping": www.cfda.gov/federalcommons
- Hazard Tree Web Page, USDA Forest Service, State and Private Forestry St. Paul Field Office: www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/hazard/index.htm
- International Society of Arboriculture: www.ag.uiuc.edu/~isa
- Livable Communities: www.livablecommunities.gov
- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources: www.dnr.state.mn.us
- MnSTAC: www.mnstac.org
- Minnesota Society of Arboriculture: www.isa.msa.org
- National Arbor Day Foundation: www.arborday.org
- ***NEW!*** National Arborist Association: www.natlarb.com/
- National Urban and Community Forest Advisory Council: www.treelink.org/connect/orgs/nufac/index.htm
- ***NEW!*** Sudden Oak Death Syndrome: www.suddenoakdeath.org
- The Simple Act of Planting a Tree: www.treelink.org/simpleact/index.htm
- Traffic Calming: www.grounds-mag.com/planting.htm
- Tree Climbing: www.treeclimbing.com
- Tree Climbers Discussion Group: spectre.ag.uiuc.edu/archives/isa/treeclimbers
- Tree Link: www.treelink.org
- Tree Trust: www. nationaltreetrust.org
- ***NEW!*** Trust for Public Land: www.tpl.org
- University of Minnesota Forest Resources Extension: www.cnr.umn.edu/FR/extension/pages



Don't Forget to Water!

Proper watering of trees will be featured in a soon–to-be-published issue of the Advocate, but for now, don't forget your trees' fall needs. They need plenty of moisture to get through the winter. If the rains don't cooperate, you can help them out with good soakings right up until the time the ground freezes.

Minnesota Shade Tree Advocate

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You Can Help to Keep Conservation a Focus in the National Farm Bill!

Attempts by conservation advocates to increase provisions for conservation in the new National Farm Bill have so far had only modest success. Of the numerous amendments presented, only a few minor ones agreed to by the Committee Chairman and Ranking Minority Member have been adopted in the House. The outstanding efforts by individuals and the conservation and environmental organizations did result in the committee making significant improvements to the original bill, however.

Now the debate moves to the Senate where the outlook for emphasis on conservation is quite good. With the administration not supporting the House bill (and not offering a specific proposal of their own), and all the other work scheduled for completion by this congress, a final Farm Bill may not be completed before next spring.

Take this opportunity to contact your legislators and urge them to keep conservation a principal focus in the next Farm Bill.

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