MINNESOTA
Shade Tree Advocate
Speaking Out For Community Forests

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Inside This Issue

Autumn 2000

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

COMMUNITY FOREST PROFILE

Replanting in Comfrey

by Jeff Borst

COURTESY TREE TRUST

A Comfrey volunteer fireman and student help water new trees planted after the tornado.

After the deafening, black, storm clouds had passed over, Walt Evers slowly made his way out of his daughter's basement to assess the damage. The kitchen looked to be in tatters; yet, the cupboards and oven were closed tight. Curiously, Walt opened the cupboards to find the dishes neatly stacked—with a perfect, thin coating of mud between each plate. Insulation from the walls tightly packed the interior of the closed oven. Two-by-fours from other Comfrey properties had easily penetrated the walls, as if his daughter's home was a giant dartboard. Outside, Walt's truck was parked just where he left it, but now the truck's tires were pinning down a neighbor's garage door.

Two years after the terrible tornado of 1998, the residents of Comfrey can still share many, many stories of devastation and wonder, as if the storm pushed through the town yesterday. The storm forever changed the small, agricultural community and its residents. In a matter of minutes, one half of the town was nearly leveled; the other had no siding or shingles. Downtown Comfrey—the heart of the community—was completely destroyed. The tornado mercilessly took their city offices and facilities, fire department, community center, library, public school and post office.

Please turn to p. 2.

Congratulations, Tree Trust!

MnSTAC and tree advocates everywhere heartily congratulate Tree Trust on being selected for a USDA Forest Service Conservation Education Outstanding Achievement Award. The award was granted for Tree Trust's work on the School Environment Program. Gail Steinman Nozal and Janette Monear were specifically commended for their work.

*MnSTAC has a **NEW WEB ADDRESS!** Visit us there at http://www.mnstac.org*

Comfrey, from p. 1.

Of the many difficult psychological and emotional impacts left by the storm, the loss of the town's great mature trees was particularly hard. For many decades the Brown County trees had weathered hundreds of storms. The tornado of 1998 was too much to bear.

The loss of the town's dependable green ancestors contributed significantly to residents' immediate feelings of devastation and despair. But hope survived within the seeds of kindness of strangers to help in time of need, and in the incredible will of the Comfrey residents to rebuild and live on. Those seeds gave new life to a town that, two years after the devastation, is young in appearance but wise from experience.

Re-establishing Comfrey's green infrastructure—their community forest— is an important piece in the on-going reconstruction. In the fall of 1999, the City of Comfrey embarked on a MN ReLeaf project in partnership with the Department of Natural Resources, Trees Forever and Tree Trust. The project began in the halls of the state capitol, with the Legislature earmarking $50,000 for Comfrey through the DNR MN ReLeaf grant program. To receive this funding, Comfrey must submit a grant proposal.

Comfrey's population is less than 500 people. There is one city clerk and one public works person—Linda Friesen and Steve Berberich, respectively. When the MN ReLeaf funding opportunity was brought to the community, the mayor, council and city staff concurred that unless outside help was provided, the ReLeaf funds could not be utilized. The community needed a project coordinator as well as administrative, organizational and technical support. Hence, a synergistic, public-private partnership was created between the DNR and Tree Trust, a Minnesota non-profit organization, to address the community's needs for the duration of the MN ReLeaf biennium

Greg Johnson, a Minnesota DNR New Ulm Area Forester, committed to oversee the grant application procedures, assess the available planting space in the city, develop a list of desirable tree species, design the tree plantings and windbreaks and lend assistance at educational and tree planting functions. Jeff Borst, Community Forestry Coordinator, committed Tree Trust as lead coordinator in the "Comfrey Community Reforestation" project. Tree Trust's goal as coordinator was to fill the "gap" that existed between Comfrey's community forestry needs and the services and resources available through the DNR and others.

Over the course of the project many organizations, individuals and businesses lent a hand. Alliant Energy of Iowa, for example, the major utility company serving Comfrey, brought in Iowa Trees Forever, a sister organization to Tree Trust. Michele Grinnell, Trees Forever Field Forester, coordinated Alliant in-kind services and the support of Trees Forever staff at educational workshops and community plantings. Other support came from such different groups as a hair styling salon, a tree care advisor, a student environmental group and the local fire department.

The first task for Tree Trust was to write the grant proposal on behalf of the City. Greg Johnson, Linda Friesen and Jeff Borst worked together to plan a two-year community planting schedule. For Spring, 2000, two major planting projects were identified: city-wide homeowner tree plantings; and tree and windbreak plantings at the Comfrey Public School.

"Trees for Comfrey" Community Forestry Homeowner Workshop

A winter educational workshop for the residents of Comfrey was created to provide education and technical support, and to encourage homeowners to select and order trees for Spring, 2000. Residents received a diverse list of tree species from which to order their trees. To receive a tree or trees in the spring, a homeowner had to meet three requirements: pay a cash match of $10/tree; sign a pledge to water and care for their tree(s); and receive approval on the location of the tree(s) from one of the foresters at the workshop. Based on the workshop responses, Tree Trust ordered 96 containerized trees for city homeowners.

Environmental Education in Your Outdoor Learning Area: Teacher Training Workshop

To help prepare the Comfrey Public School for Arbor Month plantings, Tree Trust worked closely with school staff to develop a teacher training workshop for the late winter/early spring of 2000. Primary contacts at the Comfrey Public School included Bob Meyer, superintendent; Karen Poortvliet, biology teacher and environmental contact; and Walt Evers, school maintenance supervisor. The workshop was designed to review planting plans and activities, offer technical assistance and assemble a "Green Team" of teachers, students and parents who would plan ahead for Arbor Month plantings as well as long-term care.

Comfrey Public School Arbor Month Celebration: May 1-2, 2000

Teachers, parents and students planted, mulched and watered 265 bare root shrubs the first day of their Arbor Month celebration. Students worked in teams of two; older students were paired younger students. The strategy was tremendously efficient. A windbreak was planted within hours and the students had fun. (They were not in class!)

The second day of the celebration found students planting, mulching and watering 73 containerized trees. In preparation for the planting, Alliant Energy had augered 73 holes the previous day as an in-kind service for the community. With holes already prepared, students were able to spend more time properly planting the trees. The day's work created one large shade tree grove and two large ornamental groves.

Both school planting days required a great deal of cooperative effort from every corner of the community. Walt Evers oversaw the site preparation activities, woodchip distribution and watering activities. The Comfrey Fire Department provided additional watering assistance. As mentioned, Alliant Energy provided augering service. Parents provided direction for the students and contributed miscellaneous equipment such as pickup trucks. Gordon Herbst, an Extension Tree Care Advisor from Mankato, provided guidance to the students. When all was said and done, the community and their helpmates had planted, mulched and watered 338 trees and shrubs in less than two days!

Arbor Month Planting: May 13, 2000

The morning light brought with it bitter cold, strong winds and misting rain. Despite the surprising spring weather, approximately twenty-five volunteers from the Twin Cities and St. Peter worked their chills away for the sake of the Comfrey homeowners.

Comfrey residents had been asked during the winter workshop if they would need help to plant their trees. Out of the 96 trees ordered, at least 60 trees needed help from volunteers if they were to make it into the ground. The first group of volunteers (recruited by Tree Trust) came from a Twin Cities business called "Quiet Waters Salon," an Aveda Concepts Salon. Because Aveda companies support environmental projects, families and friends of the salon were eager to make the 5-hour round trip road trek to help Comfrey residents. The second group of volunteers was from "Gustavus Greens," a student environmental organization based in St. Peter at Gustavus Adolphus College. Responding to the unexpected bitter cold, Linda Friesen, Steve Berberich and Mayor Linda Wallin quickly organized efforts to find the volunteers hats, gloves, sweatshirts and jackets. Comfrey residents dug into their own closets to collect more than enough warm clothing for the strangers who had come to help. Tree Trust provided tools, planting demonstrations and technical assistance. Steve Berberich delivered chips to the homeowners' properties. By late afternoon, every Comfrey resident who had requested help was visited by the volunteers!

Community Reforestation: Year One

The Comfrey Community Reforestation project was tremendously successful in 2000, and will enjoy continued success in 2001. The project is a wonderful illustration of the strength and synergism that partnerships bring to a community forestry endeavor. Over 400 trees and shrubs were planted by volunteers in less than three days because the partners—City of Comfrey, Comfrey Public School, Department of Natural Resources, Trees Forever and Tree Trust—communicated, understood and respected their roles and responsibilities. Early on, the partners recognized each other's strengths and limitations and planned accordingly. The result is truly greater than any individual partner could have achieved on their own.

Special Mention: Gordon Herbst

Community volunteer plantings, like those achieved in Comfrey, are not possible without sound, arboricultural technical assistance. Without proper guidance present at the time of planting, the future of trees and shrubs is seriously in question due to roots drying out, uncut encircling roots, air pockets, excess soil over roots, etc. Gordon Herbst is a special Tree Care Advisor who is very active in his home community of Mankato and in the Twin Cities. Gordon assisted Tree Trust at every planting in Comfrey on May 1, 2 and 13. He provided exceptional leadership to the volunteers, and in particular, the students. The University of Minnesota Extension Service's Tree Care Advisor program is a wonderful resource for community foresters because of the kind and generous efforts of individuals like Gordon Herbst. Thank you, Gordon!

Jeff Borst is a Community Forestry Coordinator with Tree Trust, based in St. Louis Park, MN.

Using Downed Wood for Public Good

This is the second in a series of articles featuring MnSTAC members and their organizations' utilization of wood left from from tree trimming, tree removal and storm throw.

Stroll the many trails of the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum today and you'll see extensive use of wood shreds as mulch and trail bedding. In this popular planting center, use of wood debris is somewhat related to "supply and demand." Since decomposed wood chips/shreds can become nice loamy soil amendment material, they are sometimes hard to come by for walking trails. But in the past few years, and especially after the summer winds of 1998, storm throw, road projects and tree trimming created an abundant supply of downed wood in the area.

COURTESY MPRB

Frost tooth breaking apart stumps and wood containing tramp metal.

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"While grinding up the excess wood is time consuming, getting rid of wood debris has been a big challenge," comments Mike Zins, University Extension Horticulturist. After amassing a gigantic wood chip pile 20 feet deep brought in by tree trimmers following the Big Storms, the Arboretum used as much as it could and then let the public take wood chips from selected sites. As has been true in Minneapolis and many other communities, Arboretum staff finds the public to be enthusiastic and thankful.

Zins observes, "Recently, we are seeing less chips and more shreds. Shreds break down more easily and are better for stabilizing." Some citizens use shreds for landscaping, although it is not as finished looking as other materials. John Ecklund, in the Watertown area of Carver County, has created a unique look for chip/shred landscaping. He separates logs and pieces that can be used for firewood from the debris, then grinds everything else for mulch. Ecklund adds a splash of color . . . and sells colored mulch to customers looking for a special image.

Zins expresses frustration about the incredible amounts of wood wasted in the US. "It's something people generally don't think about. We're getting better at some practices. Years ago, a lot of wood was wasted because brush was piled up and burned. Today, more people see it as a resource, but we still have a long way to go."

"Recycling works if it is convenient. As the cost of energy goes up, more demand for wood is created. Generally, we need more secure, accessible sites off the beaten paths. Some communities and individual citizens consider wood give-away stations unsightly, or they are fearful of the heat generated by decomposing wood. In some cases, wood and chip piles attract other types of dumping," says Zins.

Zins would like to see easier, efficient ways of making downed wood available for sale to small scale markets such as carvers, artists and craftspeople. Cost effective access could also encourage wood-related small personal businesses such as custom sawing, firewood lots and specialized manufacturing. Current niche uses of wood debris include sawdust and shavings for livestock bedding, pulp for paper making and fuel for biomass burners.

Thanks to Mike Zins for the information in this article. As Extension Horticulturist at the University of Minnesota, Mike is based at the Minnesota Arboretum and facilitates tree-related activities there. He is an instructor at the St. Paul Campus and in the Shade Tree Short Course program. Mike also owns a small circle sawmill in rural Waconia. He is co-chair of the MnSTAC Wood Utilization Task Force.

COURTESY MPRB

Processed wood mulch at a Minneapolis site; approximately 100,000 cubic yards.

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"We guarantee our trees for a year." Is that enough?

By Gary R. Johnson and Andy Sobert

GARY JOHNSON

Bur oaks can live over 250 years in Minnesota.

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Our "disposable, costs-too-much-to-repair, junk it" way of living has permeated our lifestyle and has influenced our way of thinking regarding tree selection, planting and care in our urban landscaping. We tend to have the attitude that says, "Plant it now; if it doesn't survive, we'll replace it." This attitude is fostered by warranties of garden centers, nurseries and other firms supplying trees to the homeowner.

"Guaranteed for One Year" is a common warranty offered by tree and shrub suppliers. Most forestry professionals will agree that, even under very adverse conditions and with minimal care, most trees will "survive" for twelve months. As urban forestry professionals and advocates, we need to expand the thinking and the expectations of tree buyers who are offered a warranty of 365 days. Trees should be viewed as permanent structures, especially when put in the perspective of their potential lifetimes. An exercise in humility for all of us might include the estimated longevity or years to maturity for these selected trees*:

Sequoia	◆ 4000-5000 years
Bur oak	◆ 600 years
Red pine	◆ 350 years (MN State Tree)
White spruce	◆ 250-300 years
Eastern larch	◆ 100-200 years

(Richard J. Preston, Jr.; North American Trees, Fourth Edition)

Purchasing quality plants vs. purchasing guarantees

At the heart of the issue is the assumption of risk, and the risk in this issue is whether or not the purchased trees are healthy enough to potentially live long, useful lives in our landscapes. Dick Cross of Cross Wholesale Nurseries, Inc., in Lakeville, MN, offered this grower's perspective of one-year guarantees:

If the tree has the potential to survive (adequate roots, leaves, stored energy), then the guarantee is adequate. In other words, if the tree hasn't been grown well and harvested correctly, it is likely to fail within that first year and the guarantee is a worthy

GARY JOHNSON

This hackberry's root system was covered by over 12" in the root ball.

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Please turn to page 6.

Guarantees, from p. 5

investment. The retailer assumes that risk for the first year of the tree's life.

According to Cross, the consumer should examine the trees before purchasing them and look for evidence that the tree has been grown and cared for properly. This includes good foliage, intact and healthy bark, good over-all vitality if the tree is containerized, a moist, full, and intact (minimum of broken roots) root system if the tree is bare-rooted, and in general, a 50/50 canopy/stem ratio. For instance, a 10-foot tall tree should have the branches starting at about 4.5-5 feet above ground.

GARY JOHNSON

Based on the research conducted at the University of Minnesota, Forest Resources Department since 1994, the depth to the first main order roots (first true branch roots) is equally if not more important to long-term health. Diagnostic root collar excavations and randomized sampling of three tree species (ash, linden, maple) have revealed that buried root systems often result in shorter lives for trees. This is a concern when purchasing containerized and balled-and-burlapped trees, situations where you can't see the roots. When purchasing these plants, ask the retailer for permission to probe down through the soil ball with a wire (coat hanger gauge) to find the depth to the first branch roots. If the roots are close to the surface, that's good. If they are deeper than four inches from the surface of the soil/root ball, you will be purchasing an inferior root system, especially after you remove that excess soil at planting time.

GARY JOHNSON

Top: A well-dug balled-and-burlapped tree.

Bottom: This amur maple with a pot-bound root system died three years after planting . . . long after the guarantee period.

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Guarantees connected to installations

Although many guarantees are tied to cash-and-carry purchases, many are also connected to installed landscapes. In these cases, the consumer purchases not only the tree but the contract to have it installed. Now the risk is not just whether or not the tree is healthy, but also whether it is handled and planted correctly. From his experience, Dick Cross believes the way trees are handled prior to planting, the way the planting sites and holes are prepared and the way trees are finally planted on the site are all at least as important as the quality of the plant. Therefore, poor handling and planting techniques can lessen the chances of survival for a healthy tree in that first year.

GARY JOHNSON

In addition to having its roots too deep in the soil ball, this tree's roots were buried with 10″ of soil.

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The error of placing the root (trunk) collar area several inches below the landscape grade often results in a condition known as stem girdling root syndrome, or a general slow decline in health. Unfortunately, based on the research conducted by the Forest Resources Department, these problems and subsequent decline often take 12-20 years to become obvious … long after the one-year guarantee. The trees were healthy, but the handling and planting techniques placed the trees at risk for several years.

Marc Shippee, City Forester for Blaine, MN, has encountered problems with some retail nurseries installing trees on new residential sites, in situations where the installed trees are mandated by the city's

Please turn to page 8.

Top: Above-ground stem girdling roots.

Right: Dysfunctional root system of an ash with 4″ of soil over the main root stem.

Below: Poor stem condition related to stem girdling roots and excess soil over root system.

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PHOTOS BY GARY JOHNSON

Buried Root Systems and Tree Health

By Gary R. Johnson

Stem girdling roots (SGRs) are those roots that grow either partially or completely against and compress (girdle) stem tissues of trees. Xylem and phloem (conducting) tissues in the stems become much smaller in diameter at the point/s of compression, compromising the transport of water, nutrients and photosynthates ("food"). Trees become stressed and more vulnerable to secondary problems (drought, insect attacks). Often, the compressed areas of the stems are weak points and far too often are the points of failure during windstorms. For instance, in the catastrophic windstorms of 1998 in Minnesota, 73.3%* of the lindens that were lost actually broke at compression points from SGRs, and most broke below ground.

SGRs can and do form above ground, especially with maples and poplars. However, they can develop on most species below ground and out of sight. How can this happen? If a tree's root system has been buried too deep, the stem is subsequently buried. When root systems are buried too deep—with some trees, that's one inch of soil over the first, main order (first branch) roots— secondary woody roots grow upward, closer to the soil surface. Often, some of these roots end up growing against the stem tissues, either partially or completely encircling the stems.

Since 1997, the University of Minnesota Forest Resources Department has randomly sampled 303 trees (ash, maple, linden). Depths of soil over the first roots ranged from 0 to 13 inches. Analysis of the data later revealed a statistically significant relationship between depth of soil over the roots, condition of the trees and the frequency of stem girdling roots.

As more soil was added over the root systems of those trees—for whatever reason—stem conditions declined and the frequency of stem girdling roots increased. So, deeper (planting) is ***not*** better. In the long run, it's worse for the long-term health and stability of the trees.

*Based on the storm damage research conducted by the Department of Forest Resources, University of Minnesota, 1995-present.

Gary Johnson is Associate Professor, Urban and Community Forestry, University of Minnesota

Guarantees, from p. 6

reforestation plans. One retail nursery in particular not only refused to pay careful attention to planting depth; they claimed that they've never had any problems with planting depth causing tree decline in the 10-year history of their business. Still, they threatened to void the guarantee on the trees if the homeowners or city forester insisted that the top half of the burlap, strings and wire baskets be removed. Shippee has taken the position of ensuring long-term health by insisting that these best planting practices be implemented (proper depth, removal of burlap, strings and wire), and has advocated that homeowners insist the one-year guarantee be honored.

Even under very adverse conditions and with minimal care, most trees will "survive" for twelve months.

Will replacement trees fare better than the original guaranteed trees?

Possibly not, unless some of the serious conditions that caused the failure of the original trees are remedied. If the cause of failure was a poor tree, then the replacement tree may do much better (if it's a good one). If the cause was chronically poor handling practices or site conditions, the new tree probably won't live long either.

To fortify the plant guarantee when the plants are also being installed by a retail company, a consumer may want to develop a detailed contract between himself or herself and the company. Barb Kirkpatrick of North Oaks, MN protected her landscape investment by adding some details to the original contract offered to her. She specified that all trees and shrubs must have their first, main order roots within one inch of the soil surface. As the work progressed on the project, she had to ask the installation contractor on two occasions to add the planting depth requirement before she would sign the contracts. Whether this oversight was an accident or purposeful, the example stresses the need for monitoring and double-checking on the part of the consumer.

This linden lived less than five years, not due to poor plant quality, but due to poor site preparation.

GARY JOHNSON

Did Kirkpatrick's contract clause protect her trees? After they were installed, she randomly checked a few plants to make sure they were planted correctly. They weren't. In the end, the original contractor took care of a few of the problems, extended the guarantee to two years, and just gave up on others. Kirkpatrick had the remaining trees correctly planted and has since used a different contractor for her expanding landscape. The new contractor told her "I want to plant legacies instead of just planting trees," and has abided by the clauses she has inserted in their contracts.

In summary, Kirkpatrick recommends the following steps when contracting out tree planting on your own property . You'll better ensure not only the health of the trees, but the handling and planting practices:

1) Communicate your expectations with the contractor.
2) Be specific when drawing up the contract and double check that all of your conditions are included before signing it.
3) Withhold 50% of the contract balance until you are satisfied that the contract has been honored.
4) Perform a random inspection of the installed trees and shrubs before the final payment.
5) Hire reputable, qualified and ethical people who care about their reputation.

As Dick Cross also recommended: If you notice a tree is not performing well, don't wait until the end of the guarantee period and expect a free replacement. Call the retailer or contractor as soon as you notice problems because they may be able to intervene and save the tree.

Buyers must be educated to look past the "One Year Guarantee." They can expect much better results if they learn and adopt proven tree selection and installation practices, and assume some of the risks involved in creating arboreal legacies.

Gary Johnson is Associate Professor of Urban and Community Forestry, University of Minnesota, Department of Forest Resources. Andy Sobert is a Minnesota Tree Care Advisor and Member of the MnSTAC Research and Education Committee.

Neighborhood Greening In St. Paul

By Lisa Myaya

Looking at a 1997 aerial photo of Saint Paul, it's easy to pick out the neighborhoods in need of "ReLeaf." The West Seventh/Fort Road neighborhood is one of those areas. Dominated by asphalt and concrete, some blocks are almost devoid of trees. But it wasn't always so.

"Our neighborhood used to have a magnificent canopy of trees," says Betty Moran, community organizer for the West Seventh/Fort Road Federation, "but much of it was lost in the 70's and 80's to Dutch elm disease."

Also, consider that those aerial photos were taken before the spring of 1998, when heavy storms ripped through the city, toppling and damaging over 6,500 trees. The West Seventh neighborhood was among the hardest hit, with some blocks losing over half of the existing tree canopy.

Losing so many trees, literally overnight, gave West Seventh residents a greater appreciation for the value of the urban forest. Besides missing the beauty that the trees provided, some people noticed their homes were warmer and cooling costs higher. Others mentioned the noise from Interstate 35E, which defines the western border of the neighborhood, seemed louder.

Fortunately, the future is beginning to look a little greener for the West Seventh neighborhood. While city crews work to replant trees on public property, residents wanting to replant trees in their yards are getting help from the Saint Paul Neighborhood Energy Consortium (NEC). With funding from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources ReLeaf Program, the NEC is helping remove some of the barriers homeowners encounter as they begin to replant.

For some West Seventh residents, the cost of cleanup and stump removal of storm-damaged trees as well as property damage caused by the fallen trees has made replanting unaffordable. Others are physically unable to transport and plant a tree themselves. And recognizing that homeowner education is a key component to healthy, viable trees, the NEC began offering free classes on proper planting and maintenance techniques. Studies of the '98 storms showed that many damaged or destroyed trees were weakened because they had been planted improperly (based on current forestry practices), and that nearly all showed evidence of improper pruning or a lack of timely maintenance.

Dave Sundmark, an arborist with the city of Saint Paul, leads the NEC tree information sessions, teaching homeowners how to plant and care for newly planted trees, and the best way to maintain and prune mature trees. To help ensure homeowners get the right tree and put it in the right place, they are also taught how to analyze their sites— to check soil and light conditions, utilities and other physical restrictions—and how to select a site and tree to conserve energy, to frame or screen views and to provide sound and dust barriers.

Please turn to page 10.

COURTESY ST. PAUL NEC

Participants planting trees to shade west-facing windows.

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.

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.

St. Paul Greening, from p. 9

After attending one of the tree information sessions, residents and businesses are eligible to get a Minnesota native tree for about 75% off the retail price. Participants are asked to contribute $20-$40 towards the cost of the tree, and funds from the ReLeaf grant pay for the rest. A variety of tree species is offered to accommodate different growing conditions and preferences, and all are container grown and come with a one-year guarantee.


COURTESY ST. PAUL NEC

The NEC's green-up initiative has received strong community support. Cash donations and in-kind services such as printing, advertising, meeting space and planting volunteers have been donated by West Seventh businesses and community associations. Highland Nursery, the local neighborhood retailer and supplier of the program's trees, is providing discounts on trees and delivery for the program. The nursery is a helpful resource for residents who have further questions about what types of Minnesota native trees will thrive in their site.

"Trees have immense value to this community," says Moran. "Between Dutch elm disease and the 1998 storms, we've lost a lot. But with the help of the Saint Paul Neighborhood Energy Consortium and the West Seventh community, we're putting down roots for a greener future."

Lisa Myaya is Natural Resources Program Coordinator with the St. Paul Neighborhood Energy Consortium.

Tree Potpourri

URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY CALENDAR

Events

Nov. 28—**Student Society of Arboriculture Professional Seminar on Dutch Elm Disease,** University of MN, St. Paul. Contact www.isamsa.org/UFC/UFC.htm

Dec. 7–8—**Minnesota Turf and Grounds Conference,** Minneapolis Convention Center. Contact 612/625-9234.

Dec. 15—**Certified Arborist Exam,** Maplewood. Contact Gary Johnson, 612/625-3765 or gjohnson@forestry.umn.edu

2001

Jan. 3–5—**MNLA Convention and Trade Show,** Minneapolis Convention Center.

March 20–21—**Shade Tree Short Course,** Bethel College, St. Paul. Contact Tracey Benson, U of MN, 612/624-3708 or 800/367-5363.

April 27—**Arbor Day**

May 5–11—**Minnesota Arbor Month Trail of Trees Bicycle Tour.** Kick-off at State Capitol followed by sites around the state. Contact Don Mueller, 651/772-6148.

May 6–8—**Tree Structure and Mechanics: How Trees Hold Together and Fall Apart,** Savannah, GA. Contact Dr. Kim Coder, 4-432 School of Forest Resources, U of GA, Athens, GA, 30602.

Sept. 5–8—**National Urban Forestry Conference: Investing Natural Capital in Urban Spaces,** Washington DC. Contact Cheryl Kollin, American Forests, www.americanforests.org

New Publications

ANSI A300 Tree Fertilization Standards. Contact ISA at 888/472-8733.

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

The Big Woods Heritage Forest pamphlet. Contact Minnesota DNR- Forestry at 651/772-7925.

Tools and Training for Tomorrow. Tree Trust Annual Report, 1999. Contact Tree Trust, 952/920-9326.

For Extension publications, contact the University of Minnesota Extension Service Distribution Center, 20 Coffey Hall, 1420 Eckles Ave., St. Paul, MN 55108-6069; 800/876-8636. Refer to publication number when ordering.

A Practitioner's Guide to Stem Girdling Roots of Trees. Gary R. Johnson and Richard J. Hauer, 2000. BU-7501. $6. University of Minnesota Extension Service.

Protecting Trees from Construction Damage: A Homeowner's Guide. Gary R. Johnson. Major revision of the original by Miller, Rathke and Johnson. FO-6135 1999 revision. University of Minnesota Extension Service.

Storm Damage to Landscape Trees: Prediction, Prevention, Treatment. Gary R. Johnson and Ben Johnson, 1999. FO-7415. University of Minnesota Extension Service.

Tough Trees and Shrubs for Tough Sites. G. R. Johnson, M. Zins and M. Shippee, 2000. FO-7502. $1. University of Minnesota Extension Service.

Internet

- Center for Urban Horticulture, University of Washington (research of human dimensions of urban forestry): www.cfr.washington.edu/enviro-mind
- Hazard Tree Web Page, USDA Forest Service, State and Private Forestry St. Paul Field Office: willow.ncfes.umn.edu/Hazard/hazard.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
- ***NEW!*** MnSTAC: www.mnstac.org
- ***NEW!*** Minnesota Society of Arboriculture: www.isa.msa.org
- National Arbor Day Foundation: www.arborday.org
- National Tree Trust: www. nationaltreetrust.org
- National Urban and Community Forest Advisory Council: www.treelink.org/connect/orgs/nufac/index.htm
- 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
- University of Minnesota Forest Resources Extension: www.cnr.umn.edu/FR/extension/pages

Dutch Elm Disease Symposium

The U of MN's Urban Forestry Club is holding its 4th Annual Symposium in November. This year's topic is Dutch Elm Disease and will be presented by Professor Mark Gleason from Iowa State. He will speculate on why Dutch Elm Disease has been so bad this year in the metro area, discuss diseases that mimic Dutch Elm Disease for better field diagnosis, and share thoughts about how well the resistant elm varieties are working in the field.

The symposium will be held Tuesday November 28th from 6:30-8:30 pm in 495 Hodson Hall on the U of MN's St. Paul Campus. The cost is $15 in advance and $20 at the door, with refreshments provided. If you have questions please call 612/624-3020 or email extfor@forestry.umn.edu. RSVP to:

Urban Forestry Club
115 Green Hall
1530 Cleveland Ave. North
St. Paul, MN 55108

Minnesota Shade Tree Advocate

A quarterly newsletter published by the Minnesota Shade Tree Advisory Committee.

Managing Editorial Group: MnSTAC Education Committee (Cindy Ash, Rich Hauer, Gary Johnson, Janet Larson, Don Mueller, Jeff Rick, Gail Steinman)

Editor-in-Chief: Jan Hoppe

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Address inquiries to:

Jan Hoppe
Minnesota Shade Tree Advocate
115 Green Hall
1530 Cleveland Ave. N.
St. Paul, MN 55108

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Recognize Outstanding Projects with MnSTAC Awards!

A tremendous amount of work goes into organizing and implementing the hundreds of community tree-related projects that take place in Minnesota each year. MnSTAC wants to recognize those efforts, projects and partnerships but we need your help! Please nominate worthy candidates! MnSTAC Award Categories include:

Outstanding Volunteer Project Award—Awarded to an individual volunteer or group who has organized and implemented the most innovative and successful project involving volunteers.

Outstanding Youth Project Award—Awarded to an individual youth, school or youth group that has organized and implemented the most notable youth project.

Outstanding Partnership Award—Outstanding Partnership Award-Awarded to organizations and/or individuals who have jointly implemented a project that demonstrates a high level of cooperative spirit and effort.

Outstanding Arbor Day Award/Arbor Month Celebration—Awarded to the community and/or school that has organized the celebration that best commemorates and furthers the Arbor Day ideal.

Outstanding Community Forestry Maintenance Award—Awarded to the individual or organization that has implemented the most exemplary ongoing comprehensive maintenance program for the trees under their jurisdiction.

Distinguished Service Award—Awarded to the MnSTAC member who has contributed most significantly to urban and community forestry on behalf of MnSTAC.

Tree Care Advisor of the Year Award—Awarded to an individual Tree Care Advisor who has contributed most significantly to urban and community forestry through community service work.

Special Merit Award—Awarded to an individual or organization for unique exemplary achievements in community forestry serving as an innovative model for other programs.

Achievement Certificates—Achievement, Sponsorship, Stewardship and Media Certificates are awarded to those groups that have contributed significantly to community forestry in line with the categories list above.

Application forms and additional information are available from Lara Newberger at 612/509-5945. Applications are due February 23, 2001.

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St. Paul, MN 55108

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