



Summer 2004



COMMUNITY FOREST PROFILE

## Chandler and Lake Wilson, Minnesota: A Tale of Two Towns *By Gary R. Johnson*

### Before and After

The first thing that you notice is the sky. There's a lot of blue sky in this part of Minnesota. Here in the southwestern corner of our state, the land has been shaped and softened by long-gone glaciers, leaving fertile plains, lakes, ponds, sheltered ravines and...wind.

The wind farms that have sprouted up, replete with the surrealistic outlines of the propellered prairie dragons, were not located here to take advantage of an occasional breeze. The winds are strong and reliable, and are part of the region's character.

Farms are large and spread out, towns are small and occasional. The summers are hot and windy, and the winters are cold and (seemingly) windier. Woodlots and "forests" are few, but treasured. The green of new alfalfa cloaks the hills and it's easy to imagine thousands of bison grazing there, long before the arrival of highways and cell phones.

On the afternoon of June 16, 1992, the winds died down, the sky turned olive-green, and the livestock grazing the hills around Chandler became frantic. Within a few minutes of the first visual sighting, an F-5 tornado moving northward struck the community with a vengeance, flattening almost the entire town. It destroyed or severely damaged all but a handful of homes, ripped the top off the grain elevator and the water tower, and damaged most of the community's trees beyond repair. Then it continued moving north toward Lake Wilson, which fared no better. The tornado roared through the town, destroying everything in its path, including almost every tree.

A few minutes earlier that late spring day, these two towns, with a combined population of just over 600, had been sheltered and canopied by many old and large trees. Now, they looked like new subdivisions. Not much was green anymore except the grass and crops, and lumber was strewn everywhere.

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



# A Call to Arms ...

By Ken Simons

When I decided that I would submit my name for consideration as a candidate for MnSTAC President, I believed that by being semi-retired, I would have the time necessary to “make a difference” and lead MnSTAC to a higher level of involvement as Minnesota’s champion for urban and community forests.

After six months in office, it’s obvious that if I’m going to “make a difference” as President, and MnSTAC is going to make a difference as the proverbial voice for trees, the membership also needs to raise their level of individual involvement.

As its name indicates, MnSTAC is an assembly of activists who share a common interest and cause. By definition, activists are active, vigorous advocates. Unfortunately, a definition is just words. What MnSTAC needs is action by active activists. MnSTAC was formed in 1974 as a committee of 16 people to advise the governor on Dutch elm disease and oak wilt issues. Today, thirty years later, MnSTAC’s mission has been expanded to address all issues and challenges associated with urban and community forestry, but its active core continues to involve only a relatively small number of people.

Over the years, MnSTAC, with the support of its state agency, local unit and nonprofit partners, has created a unique niche for itself. As the “keystone”, MnSTAC’s role as an initiator, instigator, implementer, investigator, auditor, advisor, and advocator has become time demanding. Such time can only be provided through the collective efforts of the membership.

To do all that needs to be done to sustain the momentum of MnSTAC’s mission, the Board of Directors has established a revised menu of standing committees, ad-hoc committees and task forces to accomplish MnSTAC’s prescribed and assumed goals and related tasks. The collective effort of these committees and task forces will forge the comprehensive strategy needed to advance urban and community forestry in Minnesota.

I invite all MnSTAC members and readers of the Advocate to “step forward” and join one or more working groups. By doing so, you will “make a difference”. *As active members of MnSTAC, not only are we part of the collective voice that “speaks for the trees”, but we also speak for our jobs and our quality of life.*

You can “sign up” for a committee or task force by contacting me. Groups can form and meet out-state and/or out-state members can participate via conference call.

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## Chandler and Lake Wilson from p. 1

### Recovering

I was introduced to Chandler and Lake Wilson in late 1992, when I served as part of the Minnesota Design Team. We had been invited to help the two communities during their recovery period by “living” with them for two and one-half days. We assessed their resources. They told us what they wanted their communities to look like in the future, and we made recommendations for getting there, including their urban forests.

I had not been back to the two towns since 1993, and here it was, the spring of 2004. Writing a community forestry profile on the two towns was an opportunity to revisit the area, check on the progress of the trees, and see if anything or anyone looked familiar.

Ten full years of tree growth and what do the two towns have to show for it? Green, healthy, thriving urban forests! Townspeople that for the most part love their trees and are very proud of what they accomplished...deservedly proud. Each community has very successfully rebuilt their urban forests, but in different ways. Here are their stories and lessons for us.

### Different Beginnings

Due to its more exposed surroundings, Lake Wilson’s most valued trees were those in the community’s shelterbelt. In the winters following the tornado summer, the winds roared through unchecked, leaving some pretty hefty heating bills. Therefore, as much as the community valued its street, school, park and yard trees, priority number one was re-establishing the multi-rowed, community shelterbelt.

Chandler enjoyed the wind protection of the valley and except for the northwestern corner of the town, was not left quite as exposed as Lake Wilson. A shelterbelt planting was called for on that windy corner, but the majority of the trees were designated for those empty spots that had once shaded the streets, homes, park and school.

Both communities applied for Minnesota ReLeaf grant funds, an immensely successful and popular, cost-sharing urban forestry program administered by the Department of Natural Resources. Both communities worked with Katie Himanga, of Heartwood Forestry, a private consultant who helped them write the grant applications, select and order the plant materials, design the shelterbelts, train the planting volunteers, and develop a maintenance program. And both communities planted a lot of trees and shrubs in their recovery efforts. Beyond these commonalities, though, the efforts and details of getting their “green feet” back on the ground were a bit different.

## Chandler

Al Vis is the city clerk for Chandler, which means he does a little bit of everything to help keep the town running smoothly, including planting and caring for trees. Al credits the success of Chandler's new urban forest to a variety of things, foremost were the dedicated volunteers. By October of 1992, volunteers in Chandler had already planted 52 new trees. Big trees. They didn't wait for government help, they just started planting. By the spring of 1993, the town had received its ReLeaf funding for purchasing more new trees, and the work continued in earnest.

Volunteers planted 1200 calipered trees that spring. They were planted in the park, the schoolyard, the churches, the boulevards, the residential areas, in the small, community shelterbelt and at the entrance to the community. A local farmer dedicated his tractor for the planting efforts. Another loaned out a large auger that attached to the tractor's p.t.o. As fast as the holes were augered, the trees were planted, fertilized and watered.

Volunteers came from as far away as Sioux Falls, SD, where a group of college horticulture students helped with the planting. But most trees were planted by community volunteers, those that had the most to gain from the work. They planted green ash, hackberry, littleleaf linden and crabapples. And they also put a few red pines, sugar



A multiple row shelterbelt was planted in the northwest corner of the town.

thrill of getting some big trees in the ground. First, Al Vis credits the quality of plant materials that Chandler purchased from Bailey Nurseries, Inc., in St. Paul. It takes just as much effort to plant a lousy tree as it does to plant a high quality tree. The difference is, that high quality tree will thrive with good care, and that's the story of Chandler.

Second, the community took the maintenance agreement seriously. They've faithfully kept the majority of the trees watered, pruned and fertilized. The growth rate of those trees is nothing short of spectacular, and they are healthy!

Third, the community received funding through the DNR to purchase those original trees, and cost-shared their planting labor, equipment use and mulch to meet the minimum requirements for the grant. However, they knew to expect some mortality and not to expect more government

money. So, instead of just giving the trees to the residents, each tree came with a \$5 price tag. According to Al Vis, this instilled a sense of ownership for those receiving trees, and provided the town with a reserve of money to purchase replacement trees during those first couple years of establishment.

Finally, Chandler had one, exceptional volunteer. Not to take away from all of the other volunteers, but Brant Kreun was exceptional. Each day, he would volunteer his time to do whatever was needed. And this occurred long after the 1993 planting days. He nurtured, repaired, pruned and planted many of Chandler's

trees, and set a good example for all community volunteers. Brant turns 90 this year, and is still involved in Chandler's recovery.

## Lake Wilson

Mayor Neal Gilbertson was also the mayor back in 1992, and vividly recalls the destruction of the tornado. Like Chandler, Lake Wilson had



Looking down on the town of Chandler from the water tower, the majority of the trees in this view were planted 10 years ago.

maples, Black Hills spruce and one Kentucky coffee tree in their new urban forest.

**More than one day.** The success of the new urban forest was much more than that energetic spring, though. We've all seen good intentions and high expectations go awry after the thrill of planting day passes. Chandler's success was due to a couple of other factors that went on long after the

some remarkable, individuals that led the green recovery of Lake Wilson. In particular, Cindy Meling and Darlene Bose worked many long hours with Katie Himanga to garner the ReLeaf funds, organize the volunteer days and get the trees and shrubs in the ground and keep the community together. However, Mayor Gilbertson is quick to point out that “Lake Wilson is a town where everyone pitches in for recovery,” which they’ve had to do more than once in recent years.

Lake Wilson had a lot of volunteer help for its replanting efforts, including the “Yes” group (youth volunteers from three different churches),



The five-row shelterbelt runs through private and public property. In 10 years, the trees have grown to the point where the shelterbelt is significantly blocking the northwest winter winds.

local 4-H members, and just about every resident, according to Charlotte Vander Schaaf. Charlotte is the city clerk, and retains the records for the purchase, design and planting of the trees and shrubs in Lake Wilson. During the spring of 1993, most of the approximately 1000 trees that now line the streets, the school building and the parks, were planted by those volunteers...most on one weekend. Imagine the coordination that it took for a community of approximately 300 people to plant one thousand trees in a weekend!

In addition to those 1000 street and lawn trees, the community’s shelterbelt needed to be replaced as soon as possible. The Murray County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) joined Lake Wilson in their application for Minnesota ReLeaf funds to plant trees and shrubs for energy conservation. The SWCD received the grant for planting and establishing 2976 trees and shrubs in a five-row, 2200 foot long community shelterbelt that crossed both public and private lands.

Private landowners gave written permission for the planting and maintenance of the shelterbelt as it crossed their properties, and the SWCD

helped maintain the trees and shrubs for two years after the volunteers planted them. As luck would have it, 1993 was a very wet, cloudy and cool growing season. The heavy soils of Lake Wilson couldn’t dry out fast enough for woody plants, and many of the planted trees and shrubs had to be replaced (again, by volunteers) during the spring of 1996.

**The Aftermath.** Today, Lake Wilson’s shelterbelt is full, functional and healthy. Although the flowering crabapples and the other shade trees planted along the streets and park properties are impressive, it’s the shelterbelt that catches an urban forester’s eye. The Siouxland poplars are tall and full, 20-30 feet in height. The interior rows of Austrian pine, Black Hills and Colorado spruce, and redosier dogwood are filling the spaces and diverting the winter winds. There is no question that the shelterbelt is making the community a more hospitable place to live in the winter, is reducing the winter heating bills and is a source of pride for the community.

If there are scruffy trees in Lake Wilson (other than a few survivors of the tornado), they weren’t obvious. The health of the new landscape is a testimonial to the dedication of this community and the volunteers that planted and care for the trees and shrubs. As in Chandler, the trees in Lake Wilson have grown amazingly fast and the landscape doesn’t look like a 10 year old. In the town square, a gazebo was built and landscaped as part of the recovery process. The new trees are already creating a shady and peaceful spot for people to sit and relax, and soon the remnant trees that have served to give some shade until the new “forest” grew up will be removed. They shaded the community for many years, survived the tornado, and gave some protection to the new plantings.

### Anyone can plant a tree, but how long will it live?

The recovery of these two towns is inspiring, and community forestry played an important role. Quite honestly, however, anyone can plant a tree or two or more. And government agencies will always be providing money for tree planting projects. It’s the test of time that reveals the individual or town that truly cares about the trees and what they add to their lives. The trees of Chandler and Lake Wilson are nurtured and appreciated, and some are even loved. In the open prairies of western Minnesota, trees are a punctuation of civilization and human comfort.

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# Gypsy Moth Slow-the-Spread in Minnesota

By Susan Burks

This last year, the Slow-the-Spread (STS) program action zone boundaries were expanded westward to include Winona and Houston counties in southeast Minnesota. This signals a number of changes for the Minnesota program. One is that Minnesota is now a full voting member in the STS foundation so that the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) will have an increased level of input into regional STS management decisions. Another involves changes in population monitoring protocols to allow Minnesota data to be integrated into the national program. Changes in management strategies, while coming, won't occur until much later. More than anything else, the inclusion in the STS program indicates just how much closer the moth is to moving into Minnesota.

## STS – What does it mean?

So what is the STS program anyway? It is a state and federal cooperatively funded national program that provides management guidance during the transition stage of gypsy moth population establishment. The transition stage is the stage in which an area goes from being uninfested with no permanent infestations to being generally infested with well-established populations through out the area. The STS program was designed to address survey and treatment issues within this stage of establishment. Minnesota is currently in an uninfested area. Michigan is considered generally infested, while Wisconsin has all three stages of infestation within its borders (see Figure 1.)

Each stage of population establishment is associated with different characteristics as well as differing monitoring and treatment strategies. During the uninfested stage, an area may see frequent gypsy moth introductions via the movement of goods, vehicles and household belongings. But most introductions fail to become established. Detection and monitoring of these introductions is done through the use of pheromone traps, cardboard structures baited with the female moth sex attractant. Occasionally, these introductions begin to reproduce, creating small isolated populations. Within the uninfested area, the management strategy is to eradicate these populations, which is fairly easy to do because of their small size.

As the front of gypsy moth spread gets closer (picture a nebulous curtain moving across the landscape), small, established populations become more and more common, and more and more difficult to eradicate.

As their number increases, eradication becomes no longer feasible and management strategies shift, signaling the transition stage. Rather than attempting eradication, it becomes important to manage hot spots of infestation to slow the rate at which they build and coalesce. At the western edge of the transition area, management strategies may still resemble eradication. But at the eastern edge, infestations have often coalesced into large areas of contiguous infestation. When the number of moth catches and the presence of alternative life stages, such as eggmasses, suggest widespread permanent infestation the United States Department of Agriculture-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) declares the area generally infested. At that point, survey methods shift from male moth detection to counting the number of eggmasses present and the management goal becomes protection, through chemical treatment, of high value forestland, commonly urban and recreational areas.

## STS – How does it work?

One of the greatest difficulties within the STS action zone is monitoring low-density gypsy moth populations. To address the issue, a mathematical model was developed and tested by the United States Forest Service (USFS) during the mid 1990's. The model is based on a regular grid of

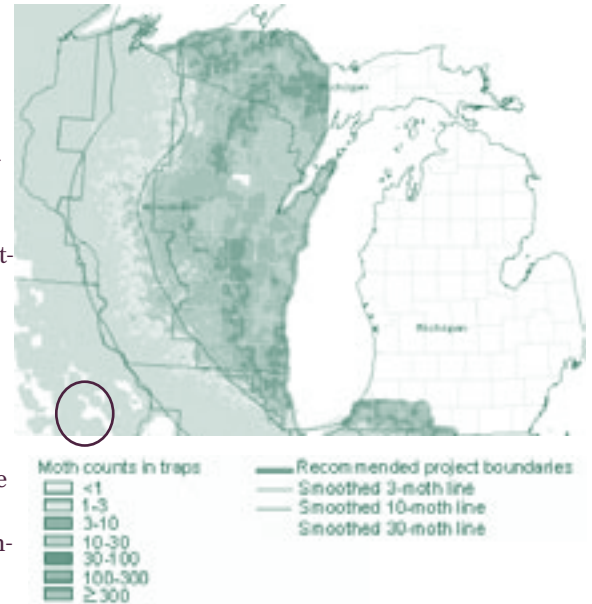


Figure 1. Map of STS action boundaries across the Lake States. Note the one-moth line across Houston and Winona counties (circled), indicating the edge of the transition area.

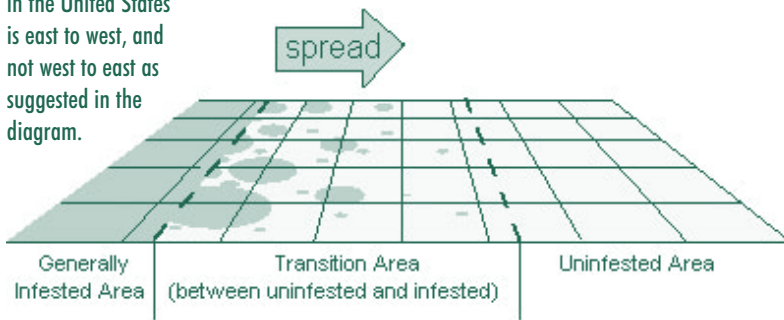
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Figure 2. Diagram of the three stages of gypsy moth establishment. Note, gypsy moth spread in the United States is east to west, and not west to east as suggested in the diagram.



detection traps that monitor population densities over time. The model uses annual trap catches to create a 3-dimensional map of catches with hot spots represented by peaks in the virtual landscape. The peaks are defined not only by the number of moths caught in a particular set of traps, but the relative distance between these “positive” trap catches and the distance from the advancing front of infestation (see Figure 2). The model identifies

which of these hot spots or peaks of infestation are likely to persist, grow and eventually coalesce and then recommends action.

Which hot spots are treated is determined by a number of factors, chief among them being the available funds (in addition to site specific environmental and social factors). Funding is determined in part by the STS Foundation, a non-profit corporation whose Board includes the State Plant Regulatory Officials from each participating state. Now that Minnesota is within the STS action zone, we become a voting member of the Foundation. That means we help decide how much federal funding each participating state will receive. While each state matches the grants they receive from the Foundation, the amount varies and depends on local need. The concept is a “share-the-wealth-for-the-greater-good” approach that leaves state funds in the state and distributes federal funds where it is most needed. To date, the Foundation has functioned very well. However, overall programs goals are not being met in all states involved in the STS program. In Wisconsin in particular, the mathematical model on which STS decisions are based does not seem to be adequately describing established populations, so treatments are not slowing the rate of gypsy moth spread as much as intended.

**STS in Wisconsin – what’s different?**

Like Minnesota, the uninfested stage of gypsy moth management began in Wisconsin in 1970 with the capture of their first moth. They implemented a detection survey and over the next

20 years, treated a total of 4,693 acres. In 1990, population numbers began to climb and so did the number of acres treated. By 1992, Wisconsin had treated 47,130 acres. Prior to the establishment of the STS program in 1999, Wisconsin had treated a total of 355,000 acres. Last year, Wisconsin treated 319,700 acres within the STS program and another 28,000 acres within their new gypsy moth pest suppression program, for a total of 347,700 acres treated in one year. While treatment costs vary widely across the landscape and vary year by year, the average cost last year was \$27.00 per acre.

The calculated rate of spread in Wisconsin over the last three years has been comparable to pre-STs program rates, unlike that seen in the other STS states where the program has dramatically reduced the rate of spread. So what could explain the high rates of spread in Wisconsin? Scientists don’t really know. But there are a number of theories beginning to take shape, some of which have prompted new research.

Because the STS model was designed to identify peaks of infestation across a landscape of relatively few trap catches, the higher the “background noise”, i.e. the baseline number of trap catches across the entire landscape, the more difficult it becomes for the model to identify population peaks. If the peaks are not identified and thus not treated, they increase in size and become more difficult to manage. There have been several instances where the virtual landscape of trap catches in parts of Wisconsin was relatively flat one year and then mushroomed the following year to an unmanageable size, creating a “bulge” in the front of gypsy moth spread. What factors are allowing these bulges to build are yet unknown.

One factor may be the distribution of habitat types. Gypsy moths have been established in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan since the late 1980s. Although they successfully reproduce there, gypsy moth population numbers rarely reach defoliating levels, likely because of winter mortality. However, Sharov et al, 1999, found that the rate of spread in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan was faster than that found in the southern peninsula, even though winter temperatures were lower. Winter temperatures were not correlated to the rate of spread, while susceptible forest types were. In Wisconsin, where habitat ideal for gypsy moth survival exists in more or less contiguous forests, these findings suggest that the rate of spread could be much faster in Wisconsin than elsewhere.

One factor may be the movement of male moths in and out of the area. Some managers have theorized that “moth blow” or moth dispersal from adjacent areas is confounding the trap data by raising the level of background catches, thus masking established populations. If true, the background noise could mean the model fails to detect some

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A. Diss (WI DNR Gypsy Moth Program Coordinator), 2003, personal communication.

infestations, allowing them to spread unchecked.

Another theory relates to the level of predation. Tcheslavskaja et al, 2002, found that predation rates were much lower in Wisconsin than in Virginia where similar work had been done. As a result, adult females seemed to survive longer and were successfully mated more often in Wisconsin than in Virginia. They also found that male moths dispersed over a greater distance as measured by recapture of male moths released at regular intervals.

Another Wisconsin study, not yet published, found that predation rates are strongly influenced by forest type and negatively correlated to gypsy moth population growth. Small mammals contributed to more gypsy moth mortality than invertebrates and where their populations were low, gypsy moth populations were building more rapidly.

Temperature may be affecting moth behavior and/or pheromone dispersal. Past studies conducted by the APHIS indicate that male moths fly less frequently when summer temperatures drop below 70°F. Although studies in southern Wisconsin produced results similar to Virginia, a recent study in northern Wisconsin found that on a few of the plots, a sizable proportion of the females were successfully mated even though there were no male moths caught on those study plots. That suggests that in colder climates, detecting reproducing populations may be more difficult and that male moth captures may be more rare. If that is true, a positive trap capture in a cold climate might indicate a much larger population than it would in a warm climate. As a result, trap catches in colder climates may be underestimating low-density populations numbers.

A pilot study in northern Minnesota looking at the effect of temperature on moth dispersal and recapture rates, found that male moths appeared to live longer and dispersed further than typically seen in warmer climates. If true, flight distances might contribute to higher mating success due to the better chance of finding a mate. That plus the difficulty of finding populations in cold climates might contribute to an increased rate of population build up and spread across the landscape.

### STS – Where is it going?

So how is the program addressing these issues? The STS program is guided by a technical steering committee made up of scientists from across the country. They regularly review the trap data against actions the model has recommended and discuss the implications. They have already modified the model to some extent based on the situation in Wisconsin. The STS program statistician is beginning to analyze Wisconsin weather patterns and forest structures within the area of

those bulges mentioned earlier in the hopes of describing those factors that seem to have the greatest influence on gypsy moth population dynamics. Others are looking more deeply at the effect of temperature on survey results. The discussions are ongoing, so other areas of needed research will be identified and implemented as resources allow. In the meantime, the statistician has revised the predicted rate of spread into Minnesota (see Figures 3 and 4). Figure 3. is based on the average rate of spread across Wisconsin over the last ten years. Figure 4. is based on the fastest rate of spread seen over the last few years. Based on these predictions, the moth will become a permanent resident of a small portion of Southeast Minnesota sometime between the years 2007-2009.

### STS – How do we prepare?

The efforts of the MDA to keep the gypsy moth from becoming permanently established for as long as possible can delay the inevitable and thus give us more time to prepare. That delay can save the state millions of dollars in lost business and treatment costs. So it's important that state residents do what they can to support that effort. Cooperate with MDA trappers when asked. Inspect your vehicles and belongings when traveling in and out of infested areas. And assess forestland under your care for the risk of future damage when the moth does become established. Forest management practices take time and forest stands need even longer to respond once management practices are implemented. If you are a landowner, talk to your local forester about management activities appropriate for your site.

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Figures 3. and 4. Predicted spread rates into Minnesota based on the 10-moth line, i.e. where the average number of moths caught in the area per trap is ten moths.



The Minnesota DNR Silvicultural Tipsheet #11 Minimizing Gypsy Moth Damage is available online at [www.dnr.state.mn.us/treecare/forest\\_health/gypsymoth/minimizedamage.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/treecare/forest_health/gypsymoth/minimizedamage.html)



# Can Risky Trees Be Managed?

By Gary R. Johnson

A forestry department head of a prominent Midwestern university once said “If you want to eliminate hazardous trees, don’t plant them near buildings or people. It’s as simple as that.” Actually, it’s not as simple as that. People gravitate to trees and forests if they have the opportunity. As a society, we prefer to recreate near trees. We value the shade and comfort of urban forests, and well-landscaped houses are usually equated with more desirable home environments. Unfortunately, our actions and proximity to trees and forests put both the trees and us at risk.

People seemingly expect a “risk-free” society and it may be more of an expectation of urban forests than any other part of the urban infrastructure. After all, if we can put people on the moon, store libraries’ worth of information in little computer chips and build SUVs that can ford streams, surely we can plant and grow trees that stay safe and sound and risk-free? It’s not rocket science, so all of you urban foresters need to get to it!

It isn’t rocket science...it’s much more complex, more than a matter of tree integ-

rity and longevity. It’s tree hardiness (a.k.a., plant selection), tree placement (a.k.a., landscape design and architecture), tree maintenance (a.k.a., arboriculture and landscape management), and the relative value and respect that residents place on their street and park trees (a.k.a., urban and community forestry). It’s predictive management based on research and history, and proactive intervention.

## Lucky Seven Principles

Urban tree risk management is based on a few management and biological principles, and as with many things, they are easy to list but less easy to attain.

- Risks (let’s not use the hazard word any more) occur at different levels. Some are acceptable, some are unacceptable, and most are somewhere in between. Not every pothole in a road is repaired as soon as it appears. Those on high use, high-speed roads are attended to much sooner than those on low use, low speed side streets. Experts evaluate the levels of risk associated with the gray infrastructure (e.g., roads, bridges, and sidewalks), and experts should likewise evaluate the levels of risk associated with trees.

- Most risks are predictable and preventable. Inventories and regular monitoring of the urban forest will ferret out the trees that are most likely to cause damage to the infrastructure or to people. Timely intervention, pruning a broken branch for example, can eliminate the risk before any damage occurs.

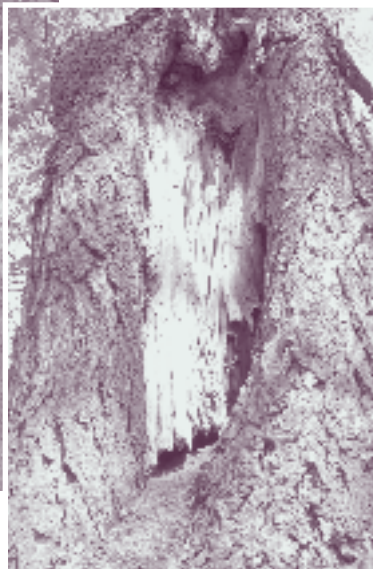
- Careful planning and design will eliminate most of the risks associated with the urban forest. For instance, sight lines at dangerous intersections won’t be blocked if dense conifers or shrubs are not planted in those areas. Trees that only mature to 25 feet in height will not interfere with utility wires that are 35 feet above ground.

Risky trees continued on p. 10

Double leaded trees become more risky as they get older and larger. This could have been prevented years ago by removing one of the two leaders. Now, the tree must be removed.



GARY R.



Decay is the most common reason trees fail. Extensive decay in a tree’s stem indicates a high risk tree that should be removed immediately.



# Allergy-Friendly Trees and Shrubs

By Paul Ogren

**S**pringtime pollens that make people sick come from a variety of common trees and shrubs. Oak, maple, ash, birch, poplar, willow, and junipers are the worst offenders in Minnesota. Ironically, pollen-free cultivars of these trees and shrubs are readily available and hardy enough to withstand Minnesota winters.

Pollen – the allergen that triggers allergy and asthma attacks – is produced only by the “male” parts of a plant. Many plants (characterized by botanists as “perfectly-flowered”) contain the “male” parts of the plant within the “female” flower. Perfectly-flowered plants often generate heavy, sticky pollen, which is not normally carried by the wind. Such plants are generally pollinated by insects or birds.

A significant number of plants, however, including many grasses, trees and shrubs, are “monoecious” or “dioecious.” A dioecious plant has either male or female flowers, while a monoecious plant has both male flowers and separate female flowers. These plants are significant in pollen allergies, because they create far more pollen than do “perfectly-flowered” species, and because their pollen is almost always windborne. From a plant-allergy perspective, the worst plants are dioecious males, which will bear only pollen and no fruit or seed. The best plants are dioecious females, since they bear no pollen.

Other factors that contribute to a plant’s capacity to exacerbate allergies and asthma are:

- **The duration of blooming.** Certain trees, shrubs and grasses may produce allergenic pollen for as little as 2-3 days per year, while others bloom intermittently throughout the year and may release pollen for six to seven months. In areas with particularly long growing seasons, some plants will come into flower multiple times during the year.
- **The weight of the pollen.** Some pollen grains are heavy and will not fall far from the tree, while others are quite light and float easily in the wind. Light, wind-blown pollen is more likely to cause allergy or asthma problems.
- **The moisture level of the pollen.** Sticky, moist pollen often clings to an element close to its source, while dry pollen floats and then lands and sticks on any available moist surface, such as mucus membranes.

The types of plants selected by homeowners, landscapers and government agencies have changed significantly over time – and the changes have made the plant allergy problem substantially worse. For reasons of convenience, more and more shrubs, trees and other plants are selected for their “litter-free” characteristics – that is, they are male plant types that generate little or no seed or fruit.

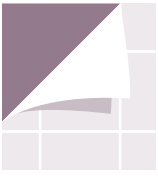
In 1949, the United States Department of Agriculture recommended that cities plant male tree and shrub cultivars along streets and in public parks. Over the past fifty years, this advice has become firmly rooted in the psyche of American ornamental horticulture. American horticulture has become strongly oriented to such “clean” plants and has developed thousands of seedless varieties. Additionally, many American cities have plant ordinances that ban the planting of seed, fruit or nut producing cultivars in public spaces. As a

Trees and shrubs continued on p. 10

Clip and Save



Allergy Friendly Trees and Shrubs



result, modern urban landscapes have evolved to consist predominantly of trees, shrubs, grasses and ground-covers that are:

- Dioecious male cultivars selected because they produce no fruit or seed (e.g. seedless ash); or
- Monoecious cultivars selected, at least in substantial part, because they minimize female sexual characteristics, fruit and seed (e.g. Liquidamber).

These plant choices, of course, incidentally maximize the most significant male sexual characteristic: pollen production. Thus, in order to avoid the problem of cleaning up fruit and seeds from female trees we have – unthinkingly – altered the natural mix of male and female plants in such a way that pollen loads have increased. Pollen is the invisible “litter” in urban America.

What can we do? We can plant allergy-friendly trees and shrubs. Many fine varieties are available. We can ask plant breeders and nurseries to develop, propagate, and stock female and other allergy-friendly cultivars. We can change municipal tree planting ordinances to accept female cultivars and to discourage pollen-intensive, allergenic male cultivars. We can invite public health professionals to join the discussion regarding our urban forests. Less pollen and beautiful landscapes can coexist in our communities.

*Paul Ogren is putting together an encyclopedia of allergy-friendly plants. His brother, Thomas Ogren, is the author of Allergy-Free Gardening and Safe Sex in the Garden. Their website is [www.allergyfreegardening.com](http://www.allergyfreegardening.com)*

Information about pollen, asthma, and allergies is available from the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology at [www.aaaai.org](http://www.aaaai.org)

Risky trees continued from p. 8

For more detailed and comprehensive information on urban tree risk management, refer to the USDA Forest Service publication NA-TP-03-03 entitled “Urban Tree Risk Management: A Community Guide to Program Design and Implementation.”

- Healthy trees are more likely to be sound trees. Trees that have had root damage, or trees that are stressed due to the landscape situation in which they are growing, are more likely to have dead branches that pose risks to people and structures under them. Trees that have had their root system damaged due to construction activities (e.g., street widening) are more likely to blow over in windstorms.
- Sometimes, the risk can be eliminated or reduced by moving the “target,” that is, the thing that could be damaged if the tree fails. Whenever possible, move benches or picnic tables if that effectively reduces the risk.
- Some risks are simply worth it. Utilities are not risk-free, but I prefer to flip a light switch than burn a kerosene lamp. Large trees pose a more significant risk to personal safety than petunias do, but I prefer the shade of an elm on a hot, summer day.
- Some trees are not worth the risk. If an expert (a tree expert, that is) deems a tree to be an unacceptable risk, don’t fight it. Get rid of it and don’t make the same mistake twice.

Unacceptable tree risks are not a fait accompli. Most problems are predictable and preventable at some point, and many risks are acceptable. Through thoughtful design and planning, regular resource monitoring and timely intervention, the green infrastructure can become even less risky and easier to management than the gray infrastructure.

*Gary R. Johnson is a Professor of Urban and Community Forestry at the University of Minnesota, College of Natural Resources.*

# Boundary Trees and the Law

By Lorrie Stromme

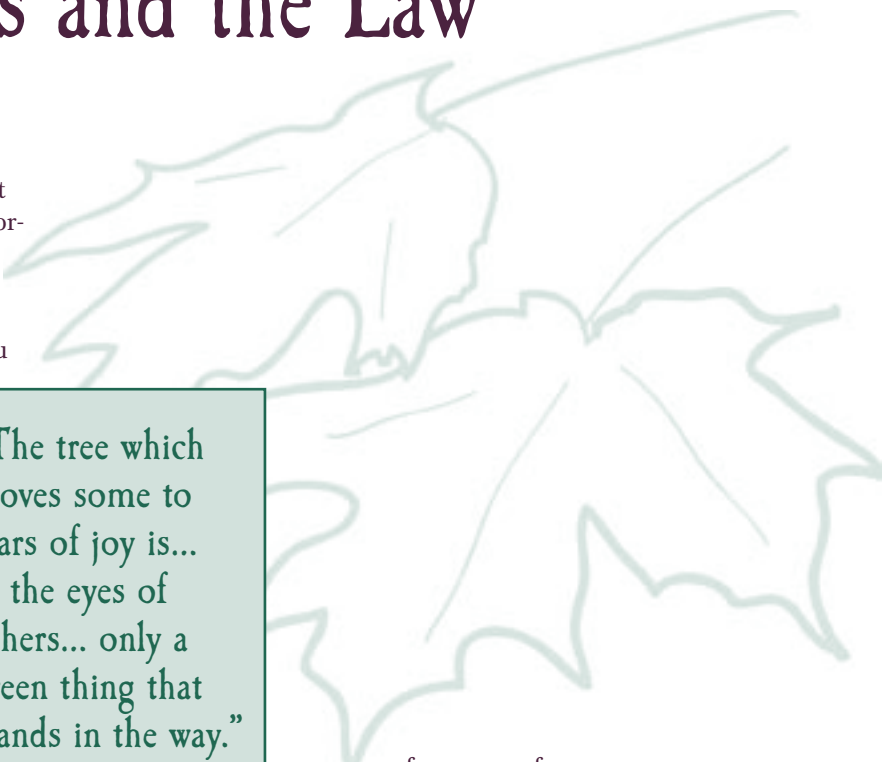
**A**t the 2004 Minnesota Shade Tree Short Course, I had lots of questions from arborists and city foresters about boundary trees and the laws in Minnesota that govern them. This article will attempt to answer your questions, including what a boundary tree is and what you can ... and can't ... do to stay on the right side of the law. Even if you choose to read no further, remember this: sharpen up your people skills, because as Bob Slater (MnDOT forester) wryly observes, "There aren't many tree problems ...they're really people problems." Bob has correctly discerned that people often differ about the same tree: one person considers it a source of shade and beauty, while another regards it as just a messy thing that drops sticks and leaves in his gutters or blocks his view.

Before getting to the nitty-gritty of the law on boundary trees, let's clarify:

**What is a boundary tree?** Courts sometimes use a more complex definition, but for most purposes, a boundary tree is one that is either planted on the boundary line between two lots, or a tree whose branches, trunk, or roots have crossed a boundary.

**Who owns the boundary tree?** Generally, the location of the trunk determines who owns the tree. A tree trunk that stands solely in your yard is your tree. As the tree owner, you can decide to coddle your tree or cut it down, even if your neighbor protests that removing your tree will expose his once-shaded patio to the blazing sun. Tensions mount when a boundary tree becomes a nuisance on one side of the boundary and not the other.

**What is a nuisance tree?** A Minnesota statute defines a nuisance as follows: "Anything which is ...an obstruction to the free use of property, so as to interfere with the comfortable enjoyment of life or property, is a nuisance." Branches that rub against the neighbor's roof or tree roots that push up a sidewalk are considered a nuisance. What about a tree whose trunk is on your neighbor's property but leans far into your yard and prevents



"The tree which moves some to tears of joy is... in the eyes of others... only a green thing that stands in the way."

– William Blake, 1799

your use of a corner of your lot? Well, if that tree interferes with the free use of your own property, it has become a nuisance.

## What can you do when a boundary tree has become a nuisance?

Here are the do's and don't's of legally "abating" the nuisance:

- Prune overhanging branches up to the boundary line—at your own expense (see "Self-help" below);
- Prune, but don't harm or destroy the tree. Don't take off too much of the canopy, so as to jeopardize the tree's capacity to photosynthesize. Don't cut so many of the roots that the tree may become unstable. Don't prune an oak during the high-risk period of April to July (or to September, to be on the safe side). It doesn't matter if the tree looks funny after the pruning. The courts look at whether or not the pruning will harm the tree. If you don't know what may harm a tree, consult a tree expert before cutting.
- Don't trespass onto your neighbor's property to trim a tree or shrub. And technically, that means don't even lean over the property line to make the pruning cut, unless you have your neighbor's consent.



- Don't cut down a tree whose trunk is on the boundary line, unless you have the express consent of the owner on the other side of the boundary line. (See "Treble damages" below.)

### Using "self-help"

Property owners in every state have the right to use self-help to prune branches or roots of a neighbor's tree that encroach onto their property. The rationale is that self-help prevents the wasteful use of the judicial system to resolve comparatively minor disputes. It's a trade-off: you have the right to prune and remove the invading branches from your neighbor's tree, right away, at your own expense (i.e., use self help), instead of having to hire a lawyer, start a lawsuit, and wait for the courts to sort it out. It saves you time and money, and keeps the courts from having to settle disputes between neighbors. In Minnesota, you have the option of using self-help OR going to court, when self-help is not practical or reasonable. In most other states, self-help is the exclusive remedy.

### Is tree debris considered a nuisance?

No. The courts have basically said, "Leaves happen." Healthy trees drop debris, like acorns, sap, leaves, and twigs. While there is no Minnesota court case directly on point, courts in other states have recognized that the natural growth of trees includes shade, roots, leaves, and overhanging boughs, and that liability is imposed when there is "sensible" damage," not mere debris. Going to court to have a neighbor ordered to pick up fallen debris is not practical or economical.

### Treble damages for wrongful tree cutting.

Cutting down a tree on another's property without permission is trespass and carries a stiff penalty. A Minnesota statute provides that whoever intentionally cuts down a tree without the owner's permission can be assessed three times ("treble") the amount of damages awarded in court.

### How do you determine the boundary line?

In light of the possibility of having to pay treble damages for tree trespass, an arborist should make sure that s/he knows where the boundary line is before cutting down a tree. A survey is the sure way to know where a boundary line is, assuming that you can locate the survey markers. If you

are adept at reading legal descriptions in deeds and plats, you have an advantage, assuming that you have access to the deeds and time to search public property records for the information you need. So, what is an arborist to do when a client wants a tree removed that is on or near a boundary line? Here's where your people skills come in. Ask the neighbors on both sides of the line where they regard the property line to be before you start cutting. And you most certainly should do that if the tree trunk is partly on the land of two or more people, because the consent of all property owners is needed before a true boundary-line tree can be cut down. And don't feel that you can hide behind your contract with your client to escape the treble damages. A lawyer is likely to sue both your client AND you in a treble damages suit for trespass.

### What about trees that fail and cause damage or injury?

The trend across the country is to hold tree owners legally responsible for damage caused by their unsound trees. The test is whether the tree owner knew or should have known that damage was likely. A tree owner is not expected to be a tree expert, but s/he is expected to recognize obvious symptoms of a problem, such as visible decay, stem cracks, a dead limb, a trunk with a dangerous lean. These types of defects put the tree owner on notice that it is foreseeable that the tree will fail. If the tree owner fails to take corrective action, the courts will likely hold the owner legally responsible for damage caused to people or property. On the other hand, if the defect was not obvious or readily discernible, then the tree owner will likely not be held responsible for damage when the tree fails.

Arborists: take heed. If you recognize a defect while servicing your client's trees, tell her about it. Make a written note in your files of the defect



NONA PATROW CUMMINGS

and your recommendation for corrective action, especially if your client chooses not to follow your advice. You are making a paper trail. If the tree later fails, you will have documentation to protect your good name.

### What about the “act of God” defense?

A frequently heard excuse is the damage caused by a fallen tree was an act of God. Cross that defense off your list! Not every tree that falls in a strong wind is the result of an act of God. To qualify as an act of God, all of the following elements are needed: 1) the accident must have happened from a force of nature that was both unexpected and unforeseeable; 2) the force must have been the sole cause of the accident; and 3) the accident could not have been prevented by using reasonable care. For example, a visibly decayed tree that is hit by lightning and falls on the neighbor’s garage did not fail because of an act of God, because lightning was not the sole cause of the accident. The tree had visible decay, and if the tree owner had taken corrective action, the tree might not have fallen when hit by lightning.

### What if the owner of a defective tree won’t address the problem?

Talk to the tree owner! Tell him about the problem and ask him to fix it, because failing to do so could result in damage to yourself or your property. You are putting the tree owner on notice, so that he can’t claim ignorance when the tree fails. Consult an arborist for an independent assessment of the problem. Try mediation, where a neutral third party listens to both sides of a problem and encourages the opposing parties to find a mutually acceptable solution. Mediation is successful over 85% of the time, and it saves time, money, and neighborly relations. As a last resort, go to court, but bear in mind Ambrose Bierce’s description of a lawsuit: “You go in as a pig, and you come out a sausage.”

### Okay, so does this mean that I should go to charm school?

No. An ounce of prevention and open lines of communication can go a long way toward both preventing and resolving disputes about boundary trees. Use your people skills, whether you’re a neighbor or an arborist dealing with a client.

*Lorrie Stromme is a lawyer, who practiced law for 16 years before leaving to work in the public sector. She is a University of Minnesota Extension Service Hennepin County Master Gardener. She is also a past president of MnSTAC.*

## MnSTAC 2004 Award



## Winners

### Outstanding Partnership Award

Midtown Community Works Partnership  
For greening the 29th street corridor with  
hundreds of trees.

### Innovation Award

Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board and Tree Trust  
For creating the video “You’ve Got a New Neighbor” to accompany newly  
planted boulevard trees.

### Outstanding Volunteer Award

Bryn Mawr Neighborhood Association  
For making the Bryn Mawr Landscape Partnership project  
a phenomenal success.

### Media Award

Great River Energy Minnesota Power  
For The Right Tree brochure

### Outstanding Youth Award

Pa Cha Yang  
For ongoing primary research relating to the allelopathic  
effects of common buckthorn

### Outstanding Arbor Day

Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board  
with Tree Trust,  
Committee on Urban Environment, “Friends of the Cemetery,” Corcoran  
Neighborhood,  
The Phillips Community,  
Green Space Partners,  
Riverside Park Area Residents,  
Eagle Scout Troop 123, and  
Folwell Neighborhood Association  
For yet another year of unbeatable Arbor Day Celebrations  
at Pioneer & Soldiers Memorial Cemetery, Folwell Park  
and Riverside Park

# Tree Care Advisors *By Dave Hanson*

Since 1993, Minnesota's Tree Care Advisors (TCA's) have stepped up to meet the needs of their communities. These trained volunteers know that the public is eager for information about trees and shrubs. TCA's participate in Community Education programs, State, County and Community Fair booths, Yard and Garden phone lines, and planting projects for communities and schools.

In order to become a Tree Care Advisor, candidates must apply to the program. The application is straightforward and

contains questions in several categories. One of the more important series of questions explores the applicants intended commitment to the program. A target goal is for each TCA to commit 50 volunteer hours to the program in the first year and 25 volunteer hours in subsequent years. This requirement is taken directly from the Minnesota



Master Gardener program. Since Master Gardeners have already made this commitment, they are considered priority candidates to the Tree Care Advisor Program.

The application process also attempts to gauge the candidates current tree and shrub knowledge and in some cases "Green Industry" knowledge. One focus of the program is public outreach through many venues. So, there is an added bonus if people come to the program as good plant stewards, prepared to carry the TCA message forward through community education forums.

TCA candidates must attend 30 hours of classroom and field instruction (the Tree Care Advisor Core Course). Typically, this course is spread over five (8:30 am to 3:30 pm) Saturday sessions; however, other arrangements can be made depending on the target audience. Topics covered in the core course include: working as a volunteer, introduction to soils, tree and shrub selection, preventing construction damage, formative care, and a basic introduction to pests and diseases. The predominant focus of the course is urban and community forestry.

If you would like more information about Minnesota's Tree Care Advisors, check our web site at [www.mntca.org](http://www.mntca.org)

*Dave Hanson is a Research Specialist in Urban and Community Forestry at the University of Minnesota.*

## PAULA DENMAN – Tree Care Advisor

### ***How long have you been a Tree Care Advisor?***

This is my 11th year as a Tree Care Advisor.

### ***Why did you become a Tree Care Advisor?***

During my first year as a Hennepin County Master Gardener, I noticed that many of other people in the program were interested in annuals, perennials, fruits and vegetables. I wanted to learn more about less common topics. Gardeners get the chance to experiment with lots of plants, but, in general, we have little experience with trees. I'm from Tennessee and I needed reputable information about planting trees in Minnesota. TCA training seemed like the smart thing to do!

### ***How did you hear about the program?***

The training was advertised in the Master Gardener monthly newsletter. I immediately signed up.

### ***Does a person need to be a Master Gardener to become a Tree Care Advisor?***

No, it's not necessary to be a Master Gardener to become a TCA. The Tree Care Advisor training, however, is set up for people who do have a background in biology and horticulture. If someone doesn't have the necessary background, they may still take the course as a Professional Development (PD) participant. Both receive the same training. The difference is that the TCA's are expected to volunteer in their communities and the PD people are not required to do volunteer work.

### ***Tell us about your work as a Tree Care Advisor.***

In 2001, the Prospect Park East River Road neighborhood in Minneapolis began a ten-year buckthorn removal project. I served as a coordinator for the project and I also wrote grants for funding. Each fall, the residents pile their buckthorn at the curb and neighborhood volunteers load the buckthorn into a compactor for the recycling facility. Before the collection day, flyers are distributed to households. The flyers educate people about buckthorn's invasiveness and its effect on our natural resources. We offer home visits to help residents identify buckthorn and we advise on suitable replacement plants. The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board and the Hennepin County Master Gardener Program were instrumental in helping to get this project off the ground.

### ***What would you say to convince people to become Tree Care Advisors?***

Being a Tree Care Advisor is a whole new world for gardeners that can add immeasurably to their gardening experience. The program is run by Gary Johnson and David Hanson and they are dedicated and outstanding people. The TCA's are great people to work with and I've learned so much from them. It's great to have a support group with specialized knowledge and experience to call for advice and for help with projects.

The Tree Care Advisor program is the greatest gardening gift I've given to myself. It is the best program for gardeners who want to improve the urban and community forests. It's for people who have ideas and visions about how to improve our neighborhoods. If you want to see things change—join us.

*Paula Denman is a Minnesota Tree Care Advisor and University of Minnesota Extension Service Hennepin County Master Gardener.*

## 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: Ken Simons—763/717-9366

Vice President: Michael Max, EnvironMentor Systems, Inc.—763/753-5505

Kimberly Thielen-Cremers, Minnesota Department of Agriculture—651/296-6692

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Gary R. Johnson, U of M/Forest Resources—612/625-3765

Robert Slater, MN Dept. of Transportation—507/529-6145

Kirk Brown, Tree Trust—651/644-5800

## 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, IRRRA Mineland Reclamation—218/254-7967

# Calendar

## Events

July 31-August 4, 2004 **American Phytopathological Society Annual Meeting**, Anaheim, California, [www.apsnet.org](http://www.apsnet.org)

August 7-11, 2004 **ISA Annual Conference & Trade Show**, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, [www.isa-arbor.com](http://www.isa-arbor.com)

September 30, 2004 **Minnesota Society of Arboriculture, Annual Autumn Conference**, Landscape Arboretum. Contact James Burks at 763-531-1162 or [james.burks@ci.crystal.mn.us](mailto:james.burks@ci.crystal.mn.us)

October 2-6, 2004 **One Forest Under Two Flags, SAF and the Canadian Institute of Forestry, Joint Annual Meeting and Convention**, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, [www.safnet.org](http://www.safnet.org)

October 3-6, 2004 **40th Annual Society of Municipal Arborists Conference & Trade Show**, Denver, Colorado [www.urban-forestry.com](http://www.urban-forestry.com)

October 4-6, 2004 **Building for Greener Communities**, Nebraska City, Nebraska, [www.arborday.org](http://www.arborday.org)

## New Publications

*Encyclopedia of Applied Plant Sciences*. Brian Thomas, Chief Editor. 2004. Elsevier Academic Press.

*Encyclopedia of Forest Sciences*. Jeffery Burley, Chief Editor. 2004. Elsevier Academic Press.

*Encyclopedia of Soils in the Environment*. Daniel Hillel, Chief Editor. 2004. Elsevier Academic Press.

*Forest Conservation Policy: A Reference Handbook*. V. Alaric Sample and Antony S. Cheng. 2003. ABC-CLIO.

*Forest Fires: A Reference Handbook*. Philip N. Omi. 2004. ABC-CLIO.

*Forest Futures: Science, Politics, and Policy for the Next Century*. Karen Arabas and Joe Bowersox. 2004. Rowman & Littlefield.

*Pines of Silvicultural Importance*. Forestry Compendium. 2002. CABI Publishing.

*Soil Degradation in the United States: Extent, Severity, and Trends*. Rattan Lal, Terry M. Sobecki, Thomas Iivari, and John M. Kimble. 2003. Lewis Publishers.

## Web Sites

Backyard Tree Care  
[www.dnr.state.mn.us/treecare/index.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/treecare/index.html)

Guide to Urban Trees and Shrubs  
[www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/uf/uts/index.htm](http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/uf/uts/index.htm)

Minnesota Pesticide Resource Center  
[www.mnpesticide.org](http://www.mnpesticide.org)

Society of Municipal Arborists—Municipal Arborists Exchange Program  
[www.urban-forestry.com](http://www.urban-forestry.com)

The Right Tree Handbook: Tree Selections for Planting Under and Near Power Lines  
[www.mnpower.com/treebook](http://www.mnpower.com/treebook)

The Top Ten Environmental Benefits of Forestry  
[www.safnet.org/aboutforestry/envrbene.cfm](http://www.safnet.org/aboutforestry/envrbene.cfm)

The Trust for Public Land  
[www.tpl.org](http://www.tpl.org)

For handy up-to-date links to web sites of interest, be sure to visit [www.mnstac.org](http://www.mnstac.org)

## Minnesota Shade Tree Advocate

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

Managing Editorial Group:  
MnSTAC Education Committee (Gary R. Johnson, Mark Stennes, Jeff Rick, Ken Holman, Patrick Weicherding and James Burks)

Editor-in-Chief:  
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Design:  
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MNDNR

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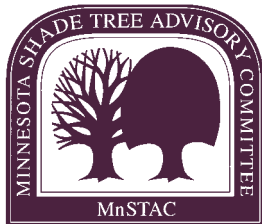
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St. Paul, MN 55108



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# Getting the Word Out

This edition of the Minnesota Shade Tree Advocate newsletter is reaching 500 new readers—WELCOME!! They bring the total readership to over 3,000 “tree huggers” from across Minnesota, our neighboring states and across the country.

This increased audience is the result of a new database that integrates mailing lists from several partner organizations. They include Certified Tree Inspectors, Tree Care Advisors, MN ReLeaf grant recipients, Tree City USA contacts and local Tree Board members, MnDOT Roadside Landscape Partnership project leaders, members of the Minnesota Society of Arboriculture and, of course, the nearly 400 members of MnSTAC. All 201 state Senators and Representatives are also “getting the word” about community tree care four times a year.

The MnSTAC web site, [www.mnstac.org](http://www.mnstac.org), is the other primary means for keeping you linked to the latest research-based information, and grants and educational opportunities. Over 85% of Minnesotans now have high-speed internet access, so this technology has the potential to reach a vast audience. Our partners will continue to coordinate the content of our various web sites, keep the information up-to-date and refine the layout so they are attractive and “user-friendly.” We are also considering changing MnSTAC’s web address. “minnesotatrees.org”? Suggestions?

But we also need your help, to make sure that the people who want to improve the health of their community’s trees have the right information to help them succeed. Share your Advocate newsletter with someone you think can make a difference, and refer them to the MnSTAC web site. Elected officials, Tree or Park Board members, service club leaders, the outdoor or environment reporter for your local newspaper to suggest a few. As the side bar on this page says, reproduction of articles for educational purposes is encouraged. Subscriptions are free.

We want to hear from you. What do you find most useful in the Advocate, or on the web site? Do you have a success story or innovative approach to funding that you’d like to share? What are the “tree issues” in your town? To subscribe or submit your stories or suggestions, write to the address listed on this page, or contact one of the MnSTAC Board members listed on the previous page. And thank you for speaking out for Minnesota’s community forests.

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