Official NJ State Flower, *Viola sororia*

Community Forestry Program

The Community Forestry Program ensures more livable communities through the care and management of trees.

Spring 2010 Newsletter

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- *Spotlight: New Jersey Tree Foundation*
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www.communityforestry.nj.gov

New Jersey Celebrates Arbor Day

Spring has arrived in New Jersey, welcoming warmly the annual New Jersey State Arbor Day Celebration. The City of Newark in Essex County has been chosen to host this year's event at the Thirteenth Avenue School. Awards will be presented based on the theme of "Trees, Stewardship, and Neighborhood Engagement," recognizing those cities and towns who have achieved the honor of earning Tree City USA awards for the first, 20th and 30th year. Newark is included among the award recipients, with 2010 being their first year as a Tree City USA member.

Beginning at 8:00 am, hundreds of volunteers will plant nearly 200 trees within the surrounding residential area. Among the groups attending to volunteer their services are the New Jersey Youth Corps, the Fairmount Super-Neighborhood Group of Newark, local residents and students from the Thirteenth Avenue School. Both professionals and amateur enthusiasts alike will join together to celebrate their mutual love for the trees of New Jersey.

Sponsoring and supporting partners of this year's Arbor Day celebration include the New Jersey Tree Foundation, the New Jersey Community Forestry Council, the City of Newark, the Newark Public Schools Thirteenth Avenue School, Fairmount Super-Neighborhood, Greater Newark Conservancy and Welcome Baptist Church.

The first Arbor Day was celebrated on April 10, 1872. It was instituted by Julius Sterling Morton, a resident of Nebraska and future Secretary of Agriculture to President Grover Cleveland. Morton felt strongly convicted that trees were essential to the Nebraska landscape not only as objects of beauty but as a means through which to mitigate strong western winds, storms and soil erosion. More than one million trees were planted on the first Arbor Day. As the annual celebration took root in America, a second event was held in 1884 and then in 1885. By 1970 President Nixon declared at the federal level the last Friday of April as National Arbor Day.

Spotlight: New Jersey Tree Foundation

The New Jersey Tree Foundation is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit, state-wide tree planting organization. The Foundation is dedicated to the development of urban and community forestry activities in New Jersey's most underserved neighborhoods. As of 2010, the Tree Foundation has planted 137,683 trees with thousands of volunteers. Through education and planting programs, the Foundation offers residents a renewed sense of ownership for their neighborhoods and a sense of optimism for the future.

Over the years the Foundation has partnered with the New Jersey Forest Service and the New Jersey Community Forestry Council. Through the unification of these three entities they form collaborative efforts to nurture stewardship of New Jersey's arboreal resources. The Foundation also partners with local corporations to increase their altruistic strength. Most recently, the Foundation partnered with Naturity® LLC, a maker of sustainably-resourced, organic and cruelty-free personal care and beauty products. For every customer who places an order with the company, a tree will be purchased by Naturity, which will in turn be properly planted by the New Jersey Tree Foundation. This is an excellent example of how the free-market and non-profit organizations may join together for a shared cause that is beneficial to all involved parties.

Promote the significance of community forestry activities to a comprehensive range of participants;

Expand urban, suburban and rural forestry activities;

Encourage volunteerism;

Strengthen relationships between the private and public sectors of forestry experts through innovative programs and projects.

The mission of the New Jersey Tree Foundation is executed through five primary programs: The **Green Streets Program** educates residents and students in the importance of urban forestry while creating lush, green corridors and school grounds in communities located in the Passaic and Arthur Kill Watersheds. The Foundation partners with the New Jersey State Parole Board to hire a seasonal tree planting crew, creating transitional jobs for individuals under parole supervision. In four years, this program has planted 7,379 trees and employed 32 parolees. The **Newark Renaissance Trees Program** emphasizes community-based tree plantings, serving a population of more than 280,000 people. Residents work side-by-side with volunteers and the Foundation to plant hope in their communities through trees. With the help of 2,680 volunteers, the Newark Renaissance Trees Program has planted **898** large shade trees throughout Newark neighborhoods. The **Urban Airshed Reforestation Program** in Camden City is a community-based tree planting program that serves to mitigate air and water pollution in this industrially impacted city while empowering the city's residents to make positive changes in their own neighborhoods. Since October 2002, this program has worked with 122 community-based groups to plant 3,735 trees with over 7,055 volunteers. In 2008, this program was awarded the Home Depot Foundation's ***Award for Excellence in Community Trees*** bringing with it a short film about the New Jersey Tree Foundation's work in Camden and a $75,000 award to support future tree planting efforts. **Celebrate Arbor Day**, the Foundation's oldest program, offers free trees to volunteer groups who promise to plant and maintain the trees for two years. Since 1999, this program has planted more than 123,000 tree whips across New Jersey. Finally, the Tree Foundation's **Living Memorial – A Grove of Remembrance,** is a 10-acre former brownfield, where 750 trees have been planted in memory of the New Jersey victims of September 11, 2001. Thousands of volunteers and Jersey City students have planted, weeded

Tree Foundation, Cont.

and watered this living memorial.

The Foundation promotes planting the right tree in the right place the right way. As such, the Foundation is expanding tree planting and maintenance services to include fee-for-service opportunities. The Green Streets tree planting crew is available to bid on and complete contracts for any city, town or organization in need of tree planting and maintenance. The Foundation is also available to conduct hands-on educational programs for those in need of Continuing Education Credits.

The positive effects of planting trees in urban areas are too numerous to list. Gloria, a resident of Camden said it best: "These trees have brought a new life to my block - a life that was lost on this street a long time ago. The trees were an incentive to get things moving back to the way they used to be. I can't easily express the difference these trees made in my neighborhood." Such rewards are priceless and serve as a powerful incentive to continue planting trees and educating New Jersey's residents who will make our cities better, greener places, one neighborhood at a time.

To learn more about the New Jersey Tree Foundation or to volunteer, visit their website at www.newjerseytreefoundation.org.

Above left: An urban street before planting. Above right: After NJTF's arrival. Left: Volunteers pose during a planting. Below: Volunteer planters and area school children enjoy their learning and planting experience.

NJ Department of

Environmental Protection

Division of

Parks & Forestry

Forest Service

Community Forestry Program

PO Box 404

Trenton, NJ 08625-0404

PHONE (609) 292-2532

FAX (609) 984-0378

Blackwells Mills Field Office

PHONE (732) 873-3051

FAX (732) 873-1574

WEB SITES

www.communityforestry.nj.gov

www.TreasureOurTrees.com

Buy the plates that plant trees across New Jersey!

New Jersey Conservation Partnership

Heavy inspiration for this article drawn from: "Shade Trees in the NJ Conservation Partnership Exhibit." We thank the Conservation Partnership for their permission to utilize their research.

The New Jersey Conservation Partnership has identified four species of the most commonly under-utilized shade trees for New Jersey's streets. Shade trees provide scientifically proven benefits that far exceed their natural charm and beauty. Trees function as a type of natural "humidifier" by intercepting the sun's rays and releasing cool moisture through their leaves that travel from the roots to the branches when the tree absorbs groundwater. Shade trees strategically planted in the proximity of a home or office also can reduce energy consumption costs that would otherwise be spent in the utilization of air conditioners and heating systems.

Trees increase property values and provide homes for songbirds and other wildlife while filtering pollutants from the air. Trees known as "shade" trees or "street" trees are ideal for street planting and tend to tolerate the higher air pollution percentages of urban surroundings if properly maintained.

The following are the four species considered to be under-utilized by the Conservation Partnership: (*See next page...*)

Hazardous Trees: Thirteen Questions to Ask

Dr. Alex Shigo of the U.S. Forest Service, provides us with the thirteen questions one should ask while surveying one's property for hazardous tree situations. According to Dr. Shigo, "Most tree hazards do not just happen. They are usually started by mistreatments by people. When a hazardous tree breaks, it may hurt not only people, but the tree hurts too, in the sense of wounds or mortality. Most tree hazards can be prevented by regular checkups and proper treatments by tree professionals."

1. ***Target:*** If the tree falls, will it hit cars, houses, power lines or people?
2. ***Architecture:*** Has the tree grown beyond its normal form into a dangerous form?
3. ***History:*** Has the tree lost large branches recently?
4. ***Edge Tree:*** Were neighboring trees cut away recently leaving tall trees at the edge?
5. ***Dead Branches:*** Are there dead tops or branches? Is the tree dead?
6. ***Cracks:*** Are there deep, open cracks in the trunk and branches?
7. ***Crotch Cracks:*** Are there deep, open cracks below the joining stems?
8. ***Living Branches:*** Do living branches bend abruptly upward or downward where tips of large branches were cut off — tipping?
9. ***Topping:*** Are large branches growing rapidly from topping cuts on large trees?
10. ***Storm Injury:*** Are there broken branches, split trunks, or injured roots? Are branches close to power lines?
11. ***Root Rot:*** Are there fungus fruit bodies — mushrooms — on the roots? Were the roots injured by construction?
12. ***Rots and Cankers:*** Are there hollows or cankers — dead spots — some with fungus fruit bodies? Is the tree leaning?
13. ***Construction Injury:*** Have roots, trunk, or branches been injured? Is there a new lawn or garden over injured roots?

Under-Utilized Street Trees, Cont.

The American Elm (*Ulmus americana)* was the first tree chosen exclusively for its use specifically as a shade tree due to the fact that the logging and firewood industries found the elm undesirable for both uses, leaving it standing when deforestation was taking place. Americans liked the pleasing shape of the tree's crown and began planting it along their local streets. Elms are also available as the following disease-resistant cultivars: "Princeton," "Jefferson" and "Valley Forge."

Ulmus americana

The Upright European Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus "Fastigiata")* is a small-to-mid-size shade tree that is compact enough to be planted in restricted spaces. The crown maintains its shape without pruning and is aesthetically pleasing for those who desire an orderly landscape. The hornbeam is a disease-resistant and hardy species that is well-suited to New Jersey's climate.

Carpinus betulus

The Japanese Tree Lilac (*Syringa reticulata)* is a small flowering shade tree. It is especially suited to areas with height restrictions, such as below power and utility lines. Japanese Tree Lilacs prefer full sun and drained soil and are an excellent choice for a street tree because they are relatively free of perpetual pest issues.

Syringa reticulata

The Southern Magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora, "D.D. Blancher")* is a broad-leafed evergreen with a wide-spreading crown. This tree hosts large, white blossoms capable of reaching up to ten inches wide. "*D.D. Blancher"* has been cultivated specifically for increased hardiness to colder climates and as such is now available in New Jersey. The Conservation Partnership calls this tree, "A real show-stopper."

Magnolia Blossom

Magnolia grandiflora

For further information on the above featured trees, please visit the following web sites:

www.ag.ndsu.edu/trees/handbook/th-3-83.pdf

http://www.magnoliasociety.org

http://www.cirrusimage.com/tree_european_hornbeam.htm

http://www.extension.umn.edu/yardandgarden/ygbriefs/p425dutchelm-resistant.html

Tree Expert and Tree Care Operators Licensing Act

The following was authored by Michael V. D'Errico, Supervising Forester, and David Johnson, Regional Forester, both of the New Jersey Forest Service, Community Forestry. We thank Mr. D'Errico and Mr. Johnson for their kind contribution.

Statistics show the tree care industry has fatal accidents at 10 times the average for all industries. In New Jersey, this has led to 41 fatalities in the last 10 years (2000-2009) and countless serious injuries. The lack of proper employee training and companies performing tree care work as a secondary part of their business are major reasons for the accidents.

The Tree Expert and Tree Care Operators Licensing Act requires businesses performing tree care work to register with the Department of Environmental Protection, Board of Tree Experts (Board), and to train their employees in the safe operation of equipment and the maintenance of a safe work area. This law will allow the Board to identify and communicate directly to all companies doing tree care work and provide opportunities for worker safety information and materials to be disseminated. The training requirement will ensure that employees have regular safety instruction and bring about the reduction of injuries and fatalities to tree care workers.

The public has been cheated by unscrupulous companies performing tree care work, many of which are not classified as tree care companies. The Better Business Bureau's 2002 report card showed that tree care ranked in the top 8% in the complaint category and that disputes were resolved at a D-minus rating. The law requires that businesses be registered and allows for the Board to suspend or revoke business registrations, individual licenses or to initiate proceedings for civil penalties.

This law gives consumers an effective method to resolve complaints by requiring tree care company registration and empowering the Board to take action. Registration will allow the Board to communicate directly to registered firms to resolve complaints or problems. They will be able to remedy complaints against both registered and unregistered tree care companies that are uncooperative or seek to defraud the public by revoking business registrations or instituting civil penalties.

"The licensing provision will help create a better-trained and more knowledgeable work force, and continuing education will keep tree experts abreast of new techniques, equipment and research findings."

This law also requires companies to have at least one person properly licensed, allows the Board to adopt industry standards, requires licensed individuals to obtain continuing education units and creates remedies to address companies or individuals that do substandard work. The licensing provision will help create a better trained and more knowledgeable work force and continuing education will keep tree experts abreast of new techniques, equipment and research findings. The adoption and enforcement of standards will improve tree health and longevity and decrease the creation of hazardous trees in the long run.

Other highlights of the Tree Experts and Tree Care Operators Licensing Act include the following:

- **The Act repeals the "Tree Expert Act" (1940) and provides a new licensing scheme for tree care providers. It establishes the titles "Licensed Tree Expert" and "Licensed Tree Care Operator"**
- **The Act re-establishes a "Board of Tree Experts" in the DEP with increased membership from three to nine members.**
- **The Act establishes minimum qualifications to take the examinations and identifies specific tree services that each title can perform.**
- **The Act requires that at least one person in each company hiring himself out to perform tree care services be licensed.**
- **The Act requires minimum continuing education units be earned prior to re-issuance of the license.**
- **The Act stipulates that tree care companies register with the board and provide instruction and training on safe use of equipment and safe working procedures at the work site.**
- **The Act requires proof of liability insurance and workers compensation insurance.**
- **The Act permits the Board, after notice and hearing, to suspend or revoke a license, and/or revoke or suspend a registration of a tree care business due to cause.**
- **The Act permits the Board to levy fines for violations.**

For more information, please visit the following web sites:

http://actrees.org/files/Newsroom/nj_treecare_bill.pdf

http://actrees.org/files/Newsroom/nj_treecare_faq.pdf

Council Corner

This edition features Steve Chisholm, Sr.,

Chairman of the Community Forestry Council

My years as a Community Forestry advocate and Council member have been very rewarding. I am happy that I have been able to play a role in helping communities develop plans to manage their tree resources and to offer grants to assist them with implementing these plans. It has been a pleasure working with the staff in the Department of Forestry; they operate like a business and are extremely effective and efficient. I also take great pride in the fact that I have been witness to some of our industry's great accomplishments that have been made through legislation, such as the Shade Tree and Community Forestry Act, the Treasure Our Trees dedicated license plates, the Forest Health Advisory Council and most recently, the Tree Experts and Tree Care Operators Licensing Act. We are truly moving forward, together, for the greater benefit of New Jersey and its arboreal resources.

—Steve Chisholm, Sr.

Spring 2010 "By the Numbers"

- **1,839 CORE-Trained Individuals**
- **227 Approved 1st 5-Year Management Plans**
- **4,767 CEU Credits Issued in 2009**
- **155 Tree City USA Towns**
- **286 Municipalities have or are working on a Management Plan. This equates to more than half the 566 municipalities in NJ!**
- **91% of Municipalities with a Management Plan held Approved Status in 2009.**
- **The 2009 Business Stimulus Fund (Non-Competitive) Federal Grant had 128 Award Recipients for a total of $882,653.**
- **The 2009 Green Communities Grant had 34 award recipients for a total of $102,000.**

NJ DEP Forest Service
Community Forestry Program
501 East State Street—PO Box 404
Trenton, New Jersey 08625—0404

Chris Christie, Governor
Bob Martin, Commissioner, DEP

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