

City Forest and Trees

Baltimore City Forest Conservancy District Board

Vol. 12, No. 2

Baltimore Maryland

Fall 2003

FAREWELL TO CHRIS

Chris Stuhlinger, who came to Maryland as a Bay specialist, concentrating on forestry affecting water quality in the Bay, has left Maryland. After more than 15 years of service as a forester for Baltimore City and Baltimore County Forestry Division of the Department of Natural Resources, he has now become Forest Manager for the University of Arkansas. In this capacity, Chris will be responsible for forest totaling 15,000 acres.

The Baltimore City Forestry Conservancy Board will miss him particularly since he acted as Secretary to the Board and was active in all the projects the board was involved with, whether tree planting, festivals or any other activity. He took a personal interest in helping others recognize and benefit from their interest in supporting the arboreal horticulture of Maryland. His skills and abilities helped strengthen the board's vision.

An extremely modest man, Chris never said much about himself. Fluent in German, he has visited seven foreign countries and traveled to 47 US States. In 1978, he lived in Germany to attend lectures and training at the University of Munich. He loves flying and has a burning affinity for air shows. He goes all over the county to see them.

While attending LSU, Chris, won numerous awards and commendations for service and leadership. He was a member of the honor society of agriculture, Gamma Sigma Delta and a recipient of a Rockefeller Scholarship.

In his new position, Chris not only handles the management of the forests and generates revenue; he brings together landowners, extension personnel and others who have an interest for training and demonstrations.

He plans and carries out Field Days, and works with the Forestry Commission-"enough work for three people," he says. His office is a division of the University School of Forestry Resources, the only Forestry School in Arkansas offering a degree in Forestry.

Since moving to Monticello, Arkansas, he has bought a big roomy house, with a garage where he parks his Corvette, and has an aging cat that survived the move and approves of the new quarters. To quote Rob, a good friend of Chris, whom he met in Forestry School, "Chris intrigues his neighbors with his quiet, dry wit, and his collection of abilities in an array of fields."

While this new job in Arkansas is a wonderful thing for Chris, his leaving is a great loss for Maryland.

DEDICATION OF NORTH AVENUE BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT SET FOR SPRING

By Russ Moss

Phase one of Baltimore City Forestry Board's



beautification of a mile of North Avenue between Mt. Royal and Madison Avenues is completed. Over sixty trees, several perennial beds and new sod have transformed these formerly barren median strips into an attractive stretch of landscaping.

A spring dedication ceremony will provide an opportunity to thank the neighborhood organizations, numerous volunteers, and city agencies for their hard work. A huge boulder has been placed on the median between Park and Mt. Royal Avenues. A plaque will be attached to the boulder and unveiled at a spring ceremony. The exact date will be announced later.

This event will serve as a kickoff for phase two of this project, a sculpture/fountain. If you are interested in volunteering to assist with the many chores involved in this effort call 410- 728-1893.

TREE PLANTING AT BALTIMORE CITY SCHOOLS

According to Jeffery Barrett, Grounds Maintenance supervisor for Baltimore City



Schools, 316 trees have been planted during the past two and a half years at 16 schools. The tree planted includes: cherry, oak, red maple, holly, cedar, honey locust, and pine.

The trees were provided by the Forestry Division of the Department of Recreation and Parks, as well as Parks and People and by the Baltimore City Forestry Board.

The Forestry Board, of which Marion Bedingfield, chief of the Forestry Division of Recreation and Parks, is a technical advisor, is comprised of volunteers. The board is one of many boards throughout Maryland and acts as an advocacy panel to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Forest Service. The chairman of the Baltimore City Board is Richard Edson.

Funds for the Forestry Board are raised through the sale of small trees and shrubs at various festivals during the year in Baltimore, Much as the Flower Mart, Market Day at Cylburn and the Herb Festival. Contributions also help the work of the Forestry Board, making possible the planting of trees s se city schools.

New plantings are taking place now. On October 22, at School 10, James McHenry Elementary School, 17 trees were planted. The students and principal were all involved. The day before the planting, a tape entitled "More Trees, Please" was shown to the students. This pointed out the benefits of trees and served as an opening for the next day's activities, as Marion Bedingfield talked to the students and asked question, based on their understanding of the tape's information.

The use of this tape and a follow up session the day of the planting by Marion Bedingfield set the pattern for all the future tree plantings. On October 28, ten trees were planted at School 84, Thomas Johnson Elementary, and on October 28, ten trees were planted at School 45, Federal Hill Elementary. Ten more trees were planted at School 73, Sarah Roach Elementary, on November 13.

All these trees were donated and therefore cost the schools nothing. Recreation and Parks; the Department of Natural Resources; Parks and People; the Forestry Board and a grant supplied through Gary Letteron all have contributed to this project.

Marion Bedingfield and Jeffery Barrett has directed and supervised all the school tree plantings. Jeffery Barrett checks on the trees after they have been planted and keeps in touch with the teachers to

make sure the trees are properly maintained. As a result, the survival rate for the trees has been high.

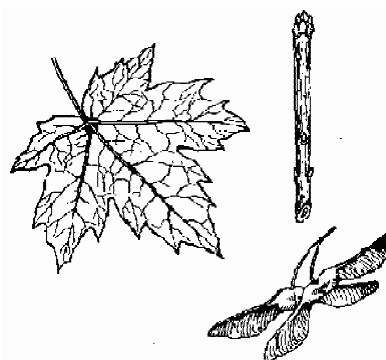
NORWAY MAPLE: THE GOOD AND THE BAD

By Adelaide Rackemann

For years, Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*) has been planted along city streets first introduced as an ornamental landscape plant; it provided both shade and beauty. Moreover, Norway maple is extremely hardy, resists pollution and disease.

The tree came originally from Norway and is found in much of Europe and Western Asia. Today it is found in much of the eastern United States, as far north as Maine and as far south as Virginia and as far west as Wisconsin. It can be commonly seen around Baltimore.

This maple can reach a height of 100 feet, has rounded head and is densely branched. The leaves have five lobes, are 4 to 7 inches across. When the petiole is broken, it shows a milky sap a good way to distinguish it from the sugar maple. (The huge, beautiful maple at Cylburn Arboretum is a sugar maple). While superficially it resembles the



sugar maple, the Norway maple has leaves that are thicker and darker. Unlike the scaly bark of the sugar maple, the Norway maple has bark, which is ridged. In spring, the greenish

yellow flowers are quite conspicuous and are fully developed before the leaves begin to unfold. The most distinctive feature is the fruit, with pairs of winged seeds opposite each other and meeting in an almost straight line. Adding to its beauty is its fall color bright yellow late in the season.

Attractive as the Norway maple is, however, it has a serious downside; it is invasive. The trouble is that the Norway maple has escaped cultivation and has crowded out native species of trees, shrubs and wildflowers. It spreads by seed and by vegetative re production and is widely seen in forests and fields where it was not deliberately, planted. The home gardener is well advised to pull up small seedlings when they are first seen. Anyone

wishing to plant a maple tree should consider the red maple, or sugar maple.

There is more to learn about the Norway maple in an excellent pamphlet of the National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service called "Plant Invaders of the Mid Atlantic Natural Area." This is also useful for a home gardener in identifying other undesirable plants.

T HE MOST VULNERABLE TREES IN STORMS

By Ann Lundy

We normally don't think about trees and storm damage but Isabel certainly has made us more aware of what can happen when Mother Nature goes on a rampage. Knowing which trees are the most likely to have problems when weather conditions turn violent may help us prevent future damage beforehand.

During Hurricane Isabel the highest percentage of trees falling in Baltimore were Lindens, Pear and Black Locusts. Shallow rooted



Pines of various kinds were close behind. Bradford Pears are notorious for splitting apart during storms and Silver Maples and Siberian Elms are often referred to as "self-pruning" because they are likely to lose limbs during bad weather. Tulip Poplars are beautiful, large trees but not the kind that should be too near houses because they can be blown over in high winds and they tend to drop dead branches in windy weather. Weeping Willows also can lose large limbs but should not be near houses anyway as they like moisture and their roots will find their way into water and sewer lines very rapidly! The same holds true for most Poplars and Cottonwoods.

Other factors that cause trees to fall in storms are disease, root rot, wounds from poor pruning, weed whips, mowers or vehicles and heavy vines climbing up them. Keeping Wisteria, English Ivy and Winter Creeper vines off trees will keep excess weight off of their branches and allow your local tree expert to regularly assess the condition of your large trees. Our native deciduous vines are less of a problem for trees but any tree with vines should be checked for health on a regular basis.

So what should you do if you have some of these vulnerable trees in your yard? Figure out where they would fall if a storm came through and, if necessary, have an arborist prune to lighten or remove them if they are too close to your house. Pines can be pruned to keep them less vulnerable to breakage from high winds and snow and Silver Maples can be pruned and cabled to help prevent splitting but parking under any of these trees is not a good idea in stormy weather.

SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY

Richard Edson

The new approach to forestry reverses the 'hands off' approach with more focus on conservation rather than simply preservation.

Common forestlands will be maintained but in a more proactive management style which include, select cutting, wildlife studies, and recreation. No longer the museum approach, which left forests, underutilized, over restricted, and open to wildfire and wildlife overpopulation.



Hopefully this will set the stage for healthier forests where private landowners can benefit from income and less taxation. Currently, Maryland is fortunate to retain 40% or more of its forests, and with new initiatives we hope to grow more forests-not houses.

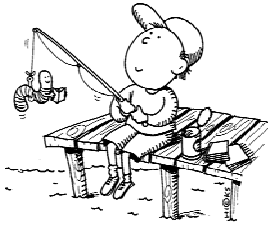
One needs to frown upon and restrict subdivisions forcing real estate firms to come up with a less dense and intrusive housing. Also, the Department of Transportation should dispense and begin to fund large aprons of land and tracks along highways to prevent sectioning off existing pockets of forests. A new attitude is needed not just with sustainable forestry but maintaining the quality of life with which we Marylanders are blessed.

Forestry Workshop Scholarships

Two scholarships are available for this year's Awareness Week for Forestry and Natural Resource Careers Workshop. The Maryland Association of Forest Conservancy District Boards and the Maryland DNR sponsor the workshop. The

Baltimore City Forestry Board will pay the student's expenses.

The workshop, located at Camp Hickory in Garrett County, will be held the last week of July 2004. Two students will be selected from each county and Baltimore City to represent that area's Forest Conservancy District Board. Approximately fifteen professional foresters and environmental



specialists will lead the 48 students, working in small groups. The students will have an opportunity to handle technical equipment and participate in tree climbing, water testing,

animal tracking, map and compass use and fire control. Call Robert Prenger (410) 665-5820 (rprenger@dnr.state.md.us) for more information

The Baltimore City Forest Conservancy District Board is an advocacy panel to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources-Forest Service. The Board:

Richard Edson, Chairman
Russ Moss, Vice Chairman
Tom Green, Treasurer
Meredith P. Millsbaugh
Adelaide Rackemann
Elsa Lankford

Associate members:

Gary Letteron
Ann Lundy
Ken Williams
Robert Black
Elspeth Wheeler

Technical Advisors:

Marion Bedingfield, Forestry Division
Department of Recreation and Parks
Pam Kelly, Secretary, Executive Director,
State Association MD DNR-Forest Service
Joe Burch, Forestry Division
Department of Recreation and Parks
Amanda Cunningham, Community Forestry
Parks & People Foundation
Jeffery Barrett - Baltimore City Public School Grounds
Gerard Moudry - Member Emeritus
For more board information, contact Richard Edson: phone (410) 867 1171 (redson@toad.net)

The Baltimore City Forestry Board web page is located at:
<http://www.baltocfb.sailorsite.net/BCFB.html>

**BALTIMORE CITY
FOREST CONSERVANCY DISTRICT BOARD**



**790 W. North Ave
Baltimore, Maryland 21217**