

City Forest and Trees

Baltimore City Forest Conservancy District Board

Vol. 13, No.1

Baltimore Maryland

Spring 2004

CICADAS ARE COMING

Cicadas, often miscalled Seventeen Year Locusts, will be coming to Baltimore. Expect them during the second or third week in May. They will leave in early July. They will lay eggs in young, tender branches in neat rows. In about six weeks, the eggs will hatch; the larvae will go underground and feed on roots. Damage from cicadas is slight. The shrill sounds of the male cicada come from vibrating membranes in special sound organs on the underside of the abdomen. Enjoy this experience, because you will not --unless you live to be over one hundred years old --hear or see them more than five times during your life.

To learn more, call Maryland Home and Garden Information, 1-800 -342- 2507, or www.hgic.umd.edu.

DEDICATION OF NORTH AVENUE BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT

April 24, 2004

The beautification project, the planting of trees, shrubs, sod perennials, in median strips along North Avenue, will be dedicated on, Saturday, April 24. The ceremony will begin at 10 a.m. at the corner of North Avenue and Park Avenue.

The beautification project, first suggested and started by Russ Moss, was supported and financed by many neighborhood organizations and volunteers. The Baltimore Forestry Board was among the contributors. The North Avenue project covers a mile, from Mt. Royal to Madison Avenues. A plaque attached to a boulder will be unveiled at the dedication, which Mayor O' Malley will attend.

The event will serve as a kickoff for the second phase of the project, which involves installing a sculpture/fountain. Anyone interested in volunteering to help with some of the many chores still to be done may call 410-728-1893.

NEW TREE PLANTINGS FOR CITY SCHOOLS

Jeffery Barrett, Grounds Maintenance Supervisor for Baltimore City schools, has planned to plant trees at three schools: The schools involved are: school #67, Edgewood Elementary; school #249, Medfield Elementary and 278, Sinclair Lane Elementary.

With Marion Bedingfield, head of the Baltimore City Forestry Division, Jeffery Barrett will supervise the planting, which will be done by children in the 3rd and 4th grades. Ten to twelve trees will be planted at each school. This is a continuing program, as over 350 trees have been planted within the past 3 years at various schools. The trees have cost the schools nothing, since the trees have been donated, thanks to the Forestry Board, Parks and People, the Department of Natural Resources". Recreation and Parks, and a grant supplied through Gary Letteron.



Jeffery Barrett is planning to form a union with other groups concerned about trees for the City of Baltimore. Any organization interested in joining this union may telephone Jeffery at: 443- 858- 6226.

AN OVERLOOKED TREE, CHIONANTHUS VIRGINICUS

by Adelaide C. Rackemann

A native of the southeastern part of the United States, which deserves to be planted more often, is *Chionanthus virginicus*, more commonly named Fringe Tree. Its most unusual feature is its flowers, which really do resemble fringe and appear in *early to mid May*. Slow growing, it may reach a height of 15 to 20 feet and can be planted in part shade and sun.

This is an undemanding tree otherwise. Any kind of soil seems to suit it. A member of the Olive family, Oleaceae, which includes such diverse plants as lilac, forsythia and ash, among many others, and hardy to Zone 4, it needs little or no pruning. Extreme cold may lead to die back of the previous season's growth. Moreover, it is sometimes susceptible to scale --as are lilacs. But otherwise, there is no reason not to plant it.

Chionanthus is very fragrant which adds interest to the white, narrow petals as the flowers appear in *May*. The flowers are produced on *the previous year's growth*. The leaves are *obovate-oblong*, 3 to 8 inches long and *medium to dark green*. In fall they turn *golden yellow*. The fruit appears as clusters of grape- like blue berries and are eagerly eaten by birds. The fringe tree, sometimes called Old Man's Beard, reaches maturity in twenty years and has a dome-like

shape. It makes an outstanding specimen tree. Another variety of Chionanthus is C. retusus, which is native to China, Korea and Japan. It grows to 25 feet high and its flowers and leaves are smaller than those of C. virginicus. Also the Chinese Fringe Tree, as it is called, is hardy only to Zone 5. However, this tree, introduced more than a century ago, does have a finer texture. A beautiful Chinese Fringe Tree may be seen at Cylburn Arboretum.

87th Flower Mart May 12

Wednesday, May 12, the 87th Flower Mart will be held in Mt. Vernon Square. It will Open at 11 a.m. and conclude after a concert at 8 p.m. The theme for this year's Flower Mart is "Baltimore Ablaze --With Blossoms --2004". "Musical entertainment is under the direction of Russ Margo.

There will be several new contests this year, in addition to the booth decorating and the grand hat contests of past years. One such contest will involve naming an official flower for Baltimore. There will also be an ugly tie contest and an art contest and many others. A Maypole dance and a "lord and lady bug puppet show" are among the new features of this ever-popular event. Traditional lemon with peppermint sticks and crab cakes will be offered for sale among other foods. Plants of every kind will be available, including small trees from the booth of the Baltimore City Forestry Board.

Comptroller William Donald Schaefer is honorary chairman of the Flower Mart and will award prizes to the winners of the various contests. Carol Purcall is executive director of the Flower Mart. Fred Bierer is President of Flower Mart at Mt. Vernon, Ltd. It is possible to learn more from the web site: www.FlowerMart.org. The rain date for the Flower Mart is May 13.

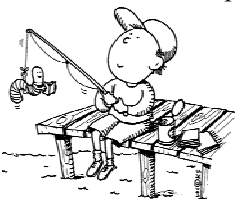
Other coming events;

Cylburn Market Day, Saturday, May 8. For information, call; 410 367 2217

Jones Falls Celebration, Sunday, September 18. Call 410- 261- 351, use web site: www.jonesfalls.com, to find details.

Forestry Workshop Scholarships Available

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. Millspaugh
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, MD 21217