MINNESOTA
Shade Tree Advocate
Speaking Out For Community Forests

VOL. 3, NO. 1 • WINTER 2000

Also In This Issue

Winter 2000

◆

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

MnSTAC: 25 Years of Speaking for Trees

COURTESY TREE TRUST

It was last issue's mystery question: ***Where was Dave DeVoto on October 2, 1974 and who was with him?***

No, it wasn't the first meeting of the group that would later become MnSTAC. As early as April 16, 1974, a group of about 20 began meeting as the Dutch Elm and Oak Wilt Disease Advisory Committee. Dave DeVoto, Glen Shirley, Ken Simons and Dr. Dave French were members of this founding group. The initial meeting was in Room 415 of the State Office Building. The Department of Agriculture provided coordination for the group. Participants reviewed proposed rules and regulations tied with the shade tree disease control legislation passed by the 1974 legislature. They debated at length the definition of a shade tree (with no consensus!), reviewed disease control practices, examined wood disposal/utilization options and discussed ways to identify and train tree inspectors. Many of these topics would go on to be central to MnSTAC throughout the next 25 years.

COURTESY TREE TRUST

MnSTAC's 25th Anniversary Dinner, on September 30, 1999, was a time for reminiscing and celebration. Above: Don Willeke, Walter Carpenter and Al Ek. Left: Peggy Sand and Lisa Burban.

◆◆◆

But October 2, 1974 was a turning point, a groundbreaking, high-energy rally for trees. The 32 participants included a mix much like the group has today: representatives of state and county agencies, municipal staff, University personnel, private business and private citizens. Three members of the Metropolitan Council were there, along with House Sub Committee member Jerry Belisle.

The name "Shade Tree Advisory Committee" was born. But Dave, Ken and Glen (yes, they were there!) all say the big difference at this meeting was the arrival of Don Willeke, private citizen, attorney, tree advocate and orator extraordinaire. As a new appointee to the committee, Don spoke for the trees in an assertive, blunt new way. He urged the group to get public participation and cooperation in the disease con-

25 Years, to p. 2

1999 Legislative Report

Inside this issue you'll find MnSTAC's Report to the Legislature—a look at the past 25 years, as well as opportunities for the future.

25 Years, from p. 1

trol programs. "The public must understand that it is a citizen's duty to take down diseased trees . Citizens must be encouraged to plant trees . . . We need to solicit the aid of neighborhood groups." Don insisted, "the key is public education and strong and effective public leadership. Public officials must promote tree planting and renew the spirit of Arbor Day. The Shade Tree Advisory Committee needs to know what an adequate disease control and replanting program is and what it will cost. Then people working through their legislators will decide how much money to spend."

PHOTOS COURTESY TREE TRUST

Mr. Willeke's assertive stance on advocacy and commitment to public and legislative participation set the stage for his time as the founding chair of MnSTAC (1974-1990). His insistence that community trees need continuous legislative support and funding built new awareness for many. Throughout the years, he continues to be an outstanding advocate for trees at local, state and national levels.

Above, Ken Simons (L) and Rolf Svendsen, MnSTAC chair, 1990-96. Left, Dave DeVoto. Right, Glen Shirley.

◆ ◆ ◆

Don's way with words is well known to MnSTAC veterans. He is eloquent, but always to the point. Dave DeVoto remembers the time it was said to Don: "You're going to turn this into a political issue, and I hate politics." Without missing a beat, Don replied: "That, sir, is *exactly* what I am going to do!"

Then and Now: Learning Together

At the October, 1974 meeting and still active with MnSTAC today are: **Dave DeVoto,** retired Director of Forestry, Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board; **Glen Shirley,** Maintenance Coordinator/ Forester, City of Bloomington; **Ken Simons,** Landscape Architect, Ramsey County.

Why have they stayed involved and active all these years?

Dave: "My life has been dealing with trees, planting them, watching them, maintaining them. They are both my business and my life. MnSTAC gives me the chance to get together with others with the same commitment to trees and work on things that we believe are important for trees. There is always something new to learn."

Glen: "I've been continuously involved mostly because the city of Bloomington has allowed me to represent them all these years. I went to the first meeting by chance. My boss had a conflict: he wanted Bloomington to be represented and I was the city forester. After that, I just kept going . . . although sometimes I had to write letters to get permission to stay involved! But over the years it has been important to me to be in touch with others who work with and support trees. I wanted to further the profession of arboriculture, and MnSTAC started before the Minnesota Society of Arboriculture (MSA). With urban and community forestry being a relatively new specialization, there is much we learn from each other."

Ken: "My role at the county is not a tree person, but instead a park planner. MnSTAC is a way for me to keep up with the urban forestry side of parks and the community. I also do some work with tree values and tree appraisals, which connects somewhat to urban forestry. There is a lot of knowledge in the group and we all learn from each other."

• • •

Unfortunately, founding member **Dr. David French** passed away on January 11, 2000. Though inactive in recent years, veteran STACers still call him the "Mr. Science" of the group. During his career as a plant pathologist at the U of M, Dr. French's exceptional plant expertise and cutting-edge knowledge of diseases informed MnSTAC practices and policies for many years. His legacy lives on in mature oak and elm trees that grace urban and community landscapes across Minnesota.

Great River Greening Celebrates Five Years!

Great River Greening, an ecological restoration project along the Mississippi River banks near downtown St. Paul, has just completed its fifth year. Working with volunteer planters, the group has added over 31,000 native trees and shrubs to the riverbank ecology.

Specific projects have been identified for additional focus and diverse collaboration.Through the Big Rivers Partnership, further restoration is being done along the Mississippi and Minnesota Rivers in the Twin City area. The Mississippi Bluff Restoration Project is a collaborative partnership that concentrates on the bluff areas between Emerald Street and Highway 5 in St. Paul. Volunteer projects will again get underway in Spring, 2000.

??? What's Wrong with my Oak ???

Rusty bronze leaves stand out like a flag in the summer canopy of green foliage. Dead-gray trunks make stark contrast to the healthy forest around them as they signal that oak wilt has taken hold . . . or has it? Do you know for sure if you're looking at oak wilt or another condition that causes similar symptoms?

Oak wilt is a major disease of forest and shade trees in the United States, and the number one killer of oak trees in Minnesota. In some portions of the state, mortality from oak wilt is at epidemic levels. Millions of dollars have been dedicated to both direct control of the disease and to research and education. While oak wilt may never be completely eliminated from Minnesota's landscape, the disease can be managed if effective control tactics are implemented as soon as possible.

Unfortunately, diagnosing oak wilt in the field isn't always clear cut. Other factors can also cause oak leaves to wilt and fall. Some lead to the death of the tree, while others may be only temporary. Observers who have limited field experience with the disease may confuse anthracnose, two-lined chestnut borer, construction damage and other disorders with oak wilt. And often multiple insect, disease and environmental factors may combine to cause a decline with symptoms that mimic oak wilt.

Oak wilt

Oak wilt is caused by a fungus (*Ceratocystis fagacearum*) that spreads from diseased trees to healthy trees in two ways. First, the fungus takes advantage of a natural tendency for oaks to form root grafts—most frequently (but not necessarily) between trees of the same species. Through grafting, adjacent trees as much as 50 feet apart may form a common root system that allows the fungus to pass easily from one tree to the other. Second, it is spread overland by insects, primarily Nitidulid beetles (picnic or sap beetles), as they shuttle between spore mats on diseased oaks and fresh wounds on otherwise healthy oaks.

In Minnesota, the range of oak wilt includes east central and southeastern areas of the state. The predominant species that make up the cover type of those areas include red oak (*Quercus rubra*), northern pin oak (*Q. ellipsoidalis*), bur oak (*Q. macrocarpa*) and white oak (*Q. alba*). As of 1998, MN/DNR estimates showed 3,223 active oak wilt infection centers.

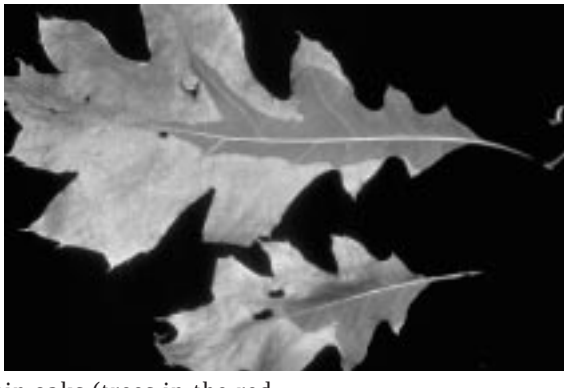
Intensification of oak wilt in the upper Midwest and especially in Minnesota has been a result of human development pushing into hardwood forests adjacent to urban centers. Upland forests, where oaks may be the dominant tree species, have been the most popular building sites. As new homes, businesses and industrial parks are built, construction activities open fresh wounds, setting the stage for overland spread of the pathogen. After development is completed, people want to have the remaining mature trees trimmed, which leads to more wounding. Much of this activity happens in the spring when oaks are most susceptible to an infection started by a Nitidulid beetle on the surface of a fresh wound.

GARY JOHNSON

The oak wilt affecting this tree is easily confused with several other conditions.

◆ ◆ ◆

Once an oak has become infected through a wound, the pathogen may spread to all of the oaks that have grafted with it. As the fungus spreads, it causes a pocket of dead and dying trees, termed an *infection center*. A new infection center can start anywhere there is a concentration of oaks, but the most intense threat is in areas where there is disturbance (high frequency of wounding through human activities) with an active oak wilt center nearby.



GARY JOHNSON

Oak leaves showing the symptoms of oak wilt.

◆ ◆ ◆

Red and northern pin oaks (trees in the red oak group) are highly susceptible to oak wilt infections and readily form root grafts within their species. The majority of oak mortality from oak wilt in Minnesota and other midwestern states is in the red oak group. Usually, the first symptom is in the crown when leaves wilt and change color to brown, bronze or dull green. Foliar discoloration starts at the leaf margin and moves inward. Wilting leaves may drop from the tree beginning with the top, outer branches, then moving down and inward. The disease moves rapidly in the red oak group and the time from onset of symptoms in a healthy tree to complete crown wilt is often only 6-8 weeks. Once a red oak begins to express disease symptoms, there is no treatment available to

Oak continued on p. 4

Oak, from p. 3

save it. Control measures concentrate on limiting the disease spread to other oaks in the stand.

Sometimes, leaves will be seen hanging down (drooping petioles) and exhibit the characteristic marginal discoloration. This is a good indication of oak wilt and with some practice can be quickly distinguished from drought stress or other problems. The characteristic red oak infection center will have wilting trees at the edge of the pocket with completely dead trees in the middle as the fungus radiates outward from the initial infection.

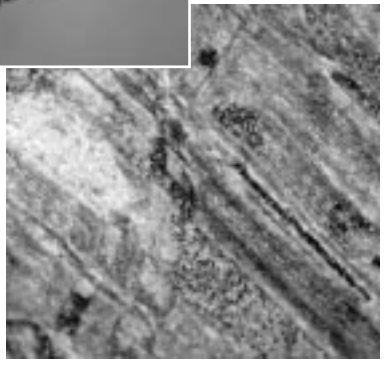
Bur oaks and white oaks (members of the white oak group) are intermediate in their susceptibility to oak wilt, with white oak reputed to be somewhat more resistant than bur oak. There also appears to be less of a tendency towards root grafting by oak species in the white oak group. Although a few white and bur oaks may die in the first year that symptoms appear, most infected white oaks will decline and die over 3-5 years. In some instances white oaks may wall off the oak wilt fungus and recover. In high value white oaks (bur and white oaks), systemic injection with propiconazole (Alamo®) by qualified arborists may prevent infection of trees adjacent to oak wilt affected ones. Propiconazole treatment of white oaks exhibiting early symptoms of oak wilt (less than 30% of crown affected) can also prevent further disease development for at least two years.

Oak leaf blister

Oak leaf blister, although not a common problem in Minnesota, occurs on many oaks and can be confused with oak wilt when viewed from a distance. This is especially true when this leaf spot fungus infects red or pin oaks, which are most susceptible to oak wilt. Individual leaves often appear distorted and crinkled with blisters caused by the fungus. Oak leaf blister infects leaves in the spring and the symptoms develop in the spring or early summer. By mid-summer, trees can be 50-85% defoliated, but usually there is not much disease development after mid-summer. Like most other leaf spot diseases, oak leaf blister is not fatal to the tree, but heavy defoliation year after year can contribute to stress and decline.

In the field it can be difficult to get a good look at symptoms occurring high in the canopy, so timing is one way to differentiate this disease from oak wilt. Oak leaf blister symptoms will be noticeable earlier than oak wilt symptoms, which begin in early to mid-summer. An oak wilt infection, especially in a red oak, will not leave the tree partially defoliated. The tree will completely defoliate as it dies.

GARY JOHNSON



Two-lined chestnut borer, and the galleries it produces in oaks.

◆ ◆ ◆

Two-lined chestnut borer

Two-lined chestnut borer is a major pest and is the damage condition most commonly confused with oak wilt. All oaks in the red and white oak groups (red, northern pin, black, bur, bicolor and white) are highly susceptible to this pest, especially when droughts, floods or construction damage stresses them. Two-lined chestnut borer can cause high levels of mortality in oak stands (75% or more), but it is generally considered a secondary pest, taking advantage of trees weakened by some form of stress.

Early symptoms of borer damage look almost exactly like oak wilt. However, upon close inspection of the pattern of symptoms, there are some distinct differences. Initially, the wilted foliage is scattered throughout the canopy, seemingly at random. Leaves on infested branches turn uniformly brown, giving a "splotchy" appearance. Leaves will remain on the tree, even after normal leaf drop in the fall - different from oak wilt. Usually the uppermost portion of the crown is affected first and it works its way inward. The spread is slow to rapid, depending on environmental conditions around the tree. It may take several years of progressive dieback before the tree is completely dead, resulting in a "layering" effect from top to bottom. You may see sprouting around stumps (not seen with oak wilt). Direct signs of the insect include D-shaped exit holes from the adults and larval galleries under the bark.

Oak anthracnose

Oak anthracnose is a leaf spot disease most common on white oaks. Anthracnose may cause browning and shriveling of leaf tissues in a blotchy pattern. Symptoms may first appear early in the growing season as leaves are still expanding. By mid-June in most years, new leaves appear as the weather warms and dries, and disease symptoms become less noticeable. Most of the damage occurs in the lower and interior parts of the canopy where cool and damp conditions are most common. In cool, wet years when the disease is heaviest, the entire crown may be infected.

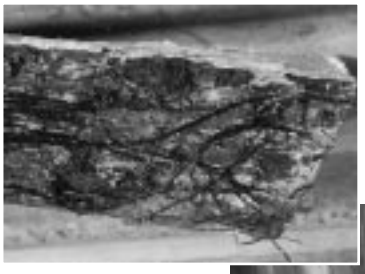
Anthracnose symptoms develop quickly. Preventive fungicide treatments may prevent anthracnose from causing defoliation. This disease is rarely a threat to tree health on its own, but extreme cases can contribute to stress and decline.

GARY JOHNSON

Oak leaves showing symptoms of oak anthracnose.

◆ ◆ ◆

Armillaria root rot



GARY JOHNSON

"Shoestrings" of Armillaria rot (left), and subcortical rhizonodules of Armillaria mellea (below).

◆ ◆ ◆

Armillaria root rot is another opportunistic organism that attacks older and/or weakened trees, including oaks, in the Midwest. It often contributes to the overall decline of oaks in forests and suburban woodlots, and the symptoms may resemble some of the stages of oak wilt, dieback for instance. This soil fungus is not uncommon in Minnesota, but healthy trees usually do not fall victim to it. Honey-colored mushrooms may form near the base of trees infected with Armillaria, and the characteristic black "shoestrings" (fungal structures termed rhizomorphs) may be found by peeling back the loosened bark of the tree trunk.

There is no practical control for Armillaria. Since it is often widely distributed and is soil borne, efforts at sanitation are often fruitless. The best "control" is prevention: take steps to lessen the stresses that are weakening the trees. Irrigating during droughty periods and preventing construction activities near the root system of trees, especially larger and older oaks, will greatly reduce their vulnerability to Armillaria.

Oak decline

Oak decline is a complex of biotic (living) and abiotic (non-living) factors that affect all red and white oaks, although the red oak group seems to be somewhat more susceptible. Biotic factors include repeated defoliation from leaf-feeding insects or leaf spot diseases. Abiotic factors may include climatic conditions like drought, flooding or fluctuating water table and human activities like soil compaction and utility trenching. Healthy trees have a natural resilience that enables them to recover from moderate stress-causing events like defoliation or drought. Decline occurs when stress is severe or multiple stress factors impact the tree year after year.

Symptoms of decline include slow growth, small or sparse foliage, early fall coloration or early leaf drop and branch dieback. If soil conditions are a factor in the decline, chlorosis may be noticeable. As branches die back, leaves may droop and persist on the tree in a pattern that is uncharacteristic for oak wilt. As the decline progresses, the tree becomes more susceptible to attack from secondary insects and diseases. Two-lined chestnut borer is very common in declining oaks that can no longer defend themselves.

Summing up

There is no substitute for experience and careful observation when diagnosing oak problems. In the field, you must understand how oak wilt is spread and how it affects oaks in the different oak groups—red and white. Become aware of what else causes problems with oaks. Understand which problems mimic oak wilt, and which have their own, unique symptoms. Take notes on what you observe from year to year. Ask questions of other plant health specialists and the landscape managers, and keep an open mind when you diagnose problems. If there's even a hint of doubt in your mind, take a sample for laboratory confirmation before you initiate drastic and expensive control measures for a situation that might not be oak wilt.

This article was written by Don Mueller, MN DNR, and Gary Johnson, University of Minnesota. It is based on the session of the same title by Jennifer Juzwik and Dwight Scarbrough, USDA Forest Service, at the 1999 Minnesota Shade Tree Short Course.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

2K is Here!

As a child of "the Depression" plus living through three wars and responding to the Military Draft, my thoughts for the new century tend to be centered on peace with prudent prosperity. MnSTAC too has lived through the wars of DED and OW (although we continue to "mop up" the invaders) and now finds itself celebrating accomplishments and searching for a role for the future.

Through our Planning Committee and the forum of monthly meetings we seek to set down a Vision, Mission and Strategic Plan to guide us. Input from you, the membership/readership, is important. Jot down your thoughts or call us (Planning Committee Chair Dave DeVoto, 612/462-334, or Board of Directors; see page 6) to let us know your thoughts.

MnSTAC "speaks for the trees" of Minnesota's urban and community forests – their planning, planting, protection and management. Our mission is continual education and continual advocacy/lobbying. This is carried out by a group of concerned individuals focused on coordinating and facilitating the actions of all entities in the Urban and Community Forest field.

The future will bring threats "again and again":

- Insects and diseases
- Natural disasters of wind, hail, flood, ice and snow
- Spending cuts

MnSTAC needs to educate, educate, educate, advocate and lobby . . . so others are AWARE, and know that we do indeed "speak for the trees."

—Glen Shirley

MnSTAC President Shirley lives in a "rurban" area (southern Dakota County). He is Bloomington's City Forester and an ISA Certified Arborist.

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 provides a forum where people forge a collective vision for the future of Minnesota's community forests and:

- advocates for public and private community forestry interests
- unites for the exchange and dissemination of ideas and information
- serves as the State Urban Forest Council to advise the State Forester on the implementation of state and federally-funded programs.

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.

The MnSTAC resources listed here encourage your calls, questions and sharing of ideas.

MnSTAC Board of Directors

President: Glen Shirley, City of Bloomington
—612/948-8760 (Fax: 612/948-8770)

Vice President: Kirk Brown, Tree Trust
—612/920-9326

Ken Holman, DNR Forestry
—651/772-7565

(Board, continued)
Gary Johnson, U of M Forest Resources
—612/625-3765

Janet Larson, consulting arborist
—612/941-6876

Mike Max, EnvironMentor Systems, Inc.
—612/753-5505

Dwight Robinson, MN Dept. of Agriculture
—651/296-8578

Bob Slater, MN Dept. of Transportation
—651/779-5104

Mark Stennes, Top Notch Treecare
—612/922-3239

MnSTAC Committees and Task Forces

Arbor Month Partnership
Chair: Don Mueller, DNR Forestry
—651/772-6148

Constitution and Election
Chair: Ken Simons, Ramsey County Parks
—651/748-2500

Education and Research
Chair: Gary Johnson, U of M Forest Resources—612/625-3765

Forest Health
Chair: Steve Kunde, Kunde Company
—651/484-0114

Legislative
Advisor: Mark Schnobrich, City of Hutchinson
—320/234-4459

Outreach
Co-Chairs:
Peter Bedker, Treescapes
—612/682-9562
Mike Max, EnvironMentor Systems, Inc.
—612/753-5505

Planning
Chair: Dave DeVoto, Stacy, MN
—612/462-3347

Publicity and Awards
Chair: Gail Steinman, Tree Trust
—612/920-9326

Scholarship
Chair: Ralph Sievert, Mpls. Park and Rec. Board—612/370-4900

Tree Emergency Response
Chair: Katie Himanga, Heartwood Forestry
—651/345-4976

Tree Preservation Task Force
Chair: Paul Buck, City of Plymouth
—612/509-5944

Wood Utilization Task Force
Co-Chairs:
Mike Zins, U of M Arboretum
—612/443-2460 Ext. 247
Jim Hermann, Mpls. Park and Rec. Board
—612/370-4900

Regional MnSTAC Committees

These regional MnSTAC committees are in place to add more voices to the forum and encourage networking more easily at the local level.

Southeast STAC

Southeast STAC represents communities in the eleven counties of the Hiawatha Valley Resource Conservation and Development Area.

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, the Headwaters-Agassiz Shade Tree Advisory Committee, is northwestern Minnesota's branch of MnSTAC. The NW Regional Development Commission is the fiscal agent.

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

West Central STAC started in 1997 to help communities in the northwest region share ideas, information and local success stories in managing community trees.

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

The newest of the regional STACs, Northeast Minnesota STAC began in May 1999. They've launched an enthusiastic agenda for reaching the citizens of the Arrowhead region on issues regarding community trees. The group meets monthly at the Coleraine Public Library.

Chair: Kelly Morris
City Forester, City of Grand Rapids 218/326-7600
Secretary/Treasurer/Technical Advisor: Dan Jordan
IRRR–Mineland Reclamation 218/254-3369
Coordinator: Kathleen Preece
Minnesota BetterFORESTS magazine 218/326-0403
e-mail kathleen@uslink.net.

Tree Potpourri

URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY CALENDAR

Events/Conferences

Feb 1-3—**Trees and Utilities National Conference,** Nebraska City, NE. Contact NADF 402/474-5655.

Feb. 26—**Minnesota Greening Conference,** Hennepin Technical College, Eden Prairie. Contact MN Horticulture Society 651/643-3601.

Mar. 13-15—**Building with Trees National Conference,** Nebraska City, NE. Contact NADF 402/474-5655.

Mar. 26-29—**GIS-T 2000 Conference: Forging Partnerships for the new Millennium,** Radisson South, Mpls. Info at http://www.gis-t.org/.

Mar. 28-29—**Minnesota Shade Tree Short Course,** Bethel College, Arden Hills. Contact Tracey Benson 612/624-3708.

Mar. 30—**Metro Tree City USA Awards Luncheon**, Location TBA. Contact Don Mueller 651/772-6158.

May 4-5—**Wood Waste Utilization National Conference**, Lied Conference Center, Nebraska City, NE. Contact NADF 402/474-5655.

June 11- 13—**Ecology of Urban Soils: Designing and managing Soils for the Living Landscape,** Radisson Hotel, St. Paul. Contact Cindy Ash 651/454-7250 or cash@scisoc.org.

July 12-14—**Small Community Forestry Conference,** Dickinson, ND. Contact Jackson Bird, NDFS, 701/328-9944.

Workshops

Conserving Woodlands in Developing Communities.
Jean Mouelle 651/772-6148
Feb. 24—Camp Ripley Education Center, Little Falls
Feb. 29—Cabela's, Owatonna
Mar. 2—Bunker Hills Regional Park, Andover

Opportunities

Global ReLeaf Forest Ecosystem Restoration Program—American Forests is accepting proposals for three planting projects that may qualify for Global ReLeaf forest funding. For information, contact American Forests at

Millennium Green is a national project of the White House Millennium Council led by USDA in partnership with other federal agencies, The project will encourage, promote and recognize the creation of healthier community environments for the new millennium. Call 800/522-3557 for more information.

New Publications

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

Building Cities of Green, video by American Forests for the National Urban Forestry Conference. Copies $7 from American Forests, 800/368-5748.

Caring for Your Native Woodland. Meredith Cornett. Homeowner Fact Sheet Series. Contact MN DNR–Forestry Division 651/772-7925.

Oak Wilt in Minnesota. David French and Jennifer Juzwik, College of Natural Resources, U of MN. Contact U of MN Extension Service Distribution Center 800/876-8636.

Patterns of Tree Failure. Ed Hayes. Published in *Tree Care Industry*, April 1999. Contact MN DNR-Forestry Division 651/772-7925.

Protecting Trees from Construction Damage: A Homeowner's Guide. Gary R. Johnson. 1999. Major revision of the original by Miller, Rathke and Johnson. FO-6135 1999 revision. Contact U of MN Extension Service Distribution Center 800/876-8636.

Storm Damage to Landscape Trees: Prediction, Prevention, Treatment.. Gary R. Johnson and Ben Johnson, 1999. FO-7415. Contact U of MN Extension Service Distribution Center 800/876-8636.

Things to Consider to Repair or Replace Storm-Damaged Yard Trees. 1998. MN Recovery Forestry Task Force. Contact MN DNR–Forestry Division 651/772-7925.

Tree City USA (Video, 7 min., 45 sec.) Contact National Arbor Day Foundation 402/474-5655.

Internet

- International Society of Arboriculture: www.ag.uiuc.edu/~isa
- Livable Communities: www.livablecommunities.gov
- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources: www.dnr.state.mn.us
- MnSTAC: www.cnr.umn.edu/FR/extension/MNSTAC/MNSTACindex.htm
- National Arbor Day Foundation: www.arborday.org
- National Tree Trust: www.nationaltreetrust.org
- National Urban and Community Forest Advisory Council: www.treelink.org/connect/orgs/nucfac/index.htm
- The Simple Act of Planting a Tree: www.treelink.org/simpleact/index.htm
- Tree Climbers Discussion Group: spectre.ag.uiuc.edu/archives/isa/treeclimbers
- Tree Climbing: www.treeclimbing.com
- Tree Link: www.treelink.org
- Tree Trust: willow.ncfes.umn.edu/treetrust/ttrust2.htm
- University of Minnesota Forest Resources Extension: http://www.cnr.umn.edu/FR/extension/pages

Something Wild

(Coming Soon to a Neighborhood Near You!)

Feeling close to nature is a big part of what many Minnesotans look for in a community. Our lakes and streams, forests and meadows, the sights and sounds of wildlife around us all make our communities healthy and attractive places to live.

In the seven-county Twin Cities metro region, however, much of the habitat that forms the basis for outdoor heritage has been lost to urban growth. Today's neatly clipped lawns are a far cry from the diverse natural communities that existed prior to development. Fragmented habitats, supporting only a few species, are all that remain of many former natural areas. The wide variety of native plants that once flourished has been narrowed to a handful

Wild continued on p. 8

Minnesota Shade Tree Advocate

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

Managing Editorial Group: MnSTAC Education Committee; Gary R. Johnson, Chair

Editor-in-Chief: Jan Hoppe

Design: Jim Kiehne

Material in this newsletter is not copyrighted. Reproduction for educational purposes is encouraged. Subscriptions are free. Articles, news items, photos and videos are welcome.

This publication was produced with the support of the U.S.D.A. Forest Service, Northeastern Area; State and Private Forestry.

Address inquiries to:

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

Printed on recycled paper using soy-based inks.

Wild, from p. 7

COURTESY UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA EXTENSION SERVICE

of species in most neighborhoods. Also, many typical landscaping plants are non-native and fail to provide wildlife with the food, cover and other resources they need for survival.

If we want to continue enjoying nature's many benefits and enhancing the environment, we need a fresh approach.

Neighborhood Wilds, a new program offered by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is a grassroots partnership between the DNR, neighborhoods, local governments and other organizations. Neighborhood Wilds provides information and technical assistance for restoring and enhancing local natural areas. Participants work to forge stronger communities and a healthier environment for plants, animals and humans.

The program focuses on neighborhoods in or near important natural areas. Nearby and adjoining yards are part of a neighborhood habitat or ecosystem whose health depends on the actions of all residents. Neighbors plan and work together over a large number of yards to buffer and connect local natural areas in ways homeowners could never achieve individually. Through planting low-maintenance native grasses, wildflowers, trees and shrubs, participants gain a habitat-friendly environment . . . and they usually have less yard work!

Neighborhood Wilds provides assistance at a variety of levels. Site visits, neighborhood meetings, homeowner informational packets and land management information are some of the offerings.

Along with local partners, Neighborhood Wilds staff helps residents plan, implement and identify cost-share grant programs to help the neighborhood achieve its goals. Examples of past and current projects include:

- Enhancing native plant diversity around a neighborhood pond in Lake Elmo
- Developing a sound management plan for a neighborhood forest in Shakopee
- Restoration of native oak savanna habitat in a Woodbury neighborhood

Think about the special natural areas you know. Could they benefit from more neighborly relations between natural areas and nearby neighborhoods?

For more information about Neighborhood Wilds, call Meredith Cornett, Community Forest Ecologist at (651) 772-7574.

(At this time, Neighborhood Wilds is available to neighborhoods in Anoka, Ramsey, Washington, Dakota, Scott, Carver and Hennepin Counties.)

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 171
St. Paul, MN