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Spring
 2001

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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.

Minnesota Initiative Wins National Arbor Day Award

A community forestry initiative in operation since 1998 by the City of Bloomington and Tree Trust, and sponsored by Xcel Energy, received the National Arbor Day Foundation's 2001 Project Award.

The **Corridor Habitat Initiative** has transformed power line corridors in Bloomington into parkland, trailways and wildlife habitats through the planting of low-growth trees and vegetation as well as other beautifying efforts. The project was one of five such initiatives receiving the national award the weekend of Arbor Day, April 27.

"We're excited about the award and proud of our contribution to the initiative," said Brad Williams of Xcel Energy's vegetation management staff. "Not only did we sponsor the project during the past three years, but our employees participated in the planting and beautification efforts along the power line corridor."

The National Arbor Day Foundation also named Xcel Energy as a Tree Line USA. It's the fifth consecutive year the company, formerly known as Northern States Power Co., has received the award. The Tree Line USA award recognizes utilities that meet three requirements: offering a program of quality tree care, annual worker training in quality tree care practices and a tree planting and public education program.

Williams pointed to the efforts of the Tree Trust in helping Xcel Energy maintain its standards in this area over the years.



Boy Scouts, their families and volunteers plant, mulch and water trees in the Corridor Habitat Initiative Project. Over 200 small-stature trees and hundreds of shrubs, prairie grasses and wildflowers are now flourishing along the corridor.



Initiative, to p. 2

Imagine What You Can Do . . .

Now that "Survivor" is on break, you have an extra hour a week in your schedule. That's four hours a month! With that time, you could write an article about oak wilt for your local paper, offer to give a tree-pruning seminar to your church's grounds maintenance crew, advise a townhouse board about tree selection or help your neighbor plant a tree—the right way. The point I'm so clumsily trying to make is that you have knowledge that not many other people have, and the opportunities to share it are probably within walking distance of your home.

As a MnSTAC member, you can choose how furthering MnSTAC's mission works into your schedule and suits your lifestyle. I recognize that not everyone can attend MnSTAC meetings, which are held during workday hours. Not everyone wants to work with a committee or serve on a board of directors. Not everyone is comfortable speaking in front of a group. But every one of you has a commitment to community forestry. MnSTAC has a long history of creating partnerships that unite expertise and resources to develop community forestry programs.

In the tradition of MnSTAC volunteerism, the Legislative and Forest Health committees deserve special recognition. A small group of MnSTAC members met on a January afternoon and drafted a funding bill. Then, they found sponsors in the legislature and testified at several hearings in April at the State Capitol to advocate for the bill. As of this writing, the bill is still alive and working its way through the legislative process. These MnSTACers are a stirring example of the impact a few dedicated volunteers can have.

Your opportunities to promote community forestry initiatives are limited only by your drive and imagination.

—Lorrie Stromme

Initiative, from p. 1

"Our partnership with Tree Trust over the years has been extremely fruitful, and the Arbor Day award is an excellent validation of all the work we have done with them," he said. "They've been excellent partners in our vegetation management efforts."

The Corridor Habitat Initiative consisted of two major plantings in the 3.5-mile transmission line corridor that runs north and south through Bloomington. More than 150 volunteers planted more than 2,000 prairie forbs (herbs) and grasses, 350 shrubs and 187 small-stature trees. The low-growth plantings have helped not only to beautify the area and contribute to the natural wildlife habitat, but also to ensure safe and reliable operation of the overhead line.

"Our goal was to introduce a new, innovative vegetation management program that promotes environmental enhancement and responsible land stewardship and ensures that the 'right tree' is always planted near power lines," Williams said. "That way, trees and other vegetation can grow naturally, beautifying the area without interfering with electricity service to our customers. It also reduces our maintenance costs along the corridor."

Glen Shirley, Forester for the City of Bloomington, called the project a win-win situation. "The vegetation added by the project provides a happier home for butterflies and birds, and of course it's more aesthetically pleasing," Shirley said. "The plants now thriving along the corridor more resemble the original prairie of east Bloomington."

The National Arbor Day Foundation's Project Award is one of several awards given by the foundation each year to recognize "outstanding projects and educational efforts that foster attainment of [Arbor Day Founder] J. Sterling Morton's goal of responsible stewardship to benefit mankind now and in generations to come." The awards recognize leadership in the cause of tree planting, conservation and environmental stewardship. 🌿

Meet MnSTAC's New President

Lorrie Stromme is MnSTAC's new president! She brings a wealth of diverse interests and skills to her new position, along with a long history of neighborhood and community organizational activities.

Lorrie was an attorney in private practice in Minneapolis for 16 years, specializing in real estate, non-profit corporation work, estate planning and elder law. She moved to a position as a planner in Hennepin County's Public Works Department in 1997. She maintains her attorney's license, and is involved in the County's real estate and environmental activities.

Lorrie lives in Northeast Minneapolis. An avid interest in trees and environmental issues carries through her life. A trained Tree Care Advisor and Master Gardener, Lorrie is working toward a Master of Agriculture Degree in Horticulture at the University of Minnesota. She serves on the Shade Tree Committee for the City of Minneapolis and is a member of the Citizen's Environmental Advisory Committee, which advises the Minneapolis City Council on a range of environmental issues. Many Saturdays, you'll find her having fun at something she especially enjoys: driving a tram and leading tours of the trees and vegetation at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum.

Lorrie is excited about her new role at MnSTAC, and is looking forward to working with everyone. The members of MnSTAC warmly welcome Lorrie as President!



Planting is fun and easy when you're part of a team.



Animals in the Urban Forest

By Skip Rither



Living alongside wildlife in urban neighborhoods can be a pleasure, or it can be a pesky problem. Tree professionals are called upon for help when the challenge becomes protecting urban trees and vegetation from animal destruction. Approaches to dealing with these situations vary; public officials and private citizens need to assess their own situations to decide what works best for them.

General Guidelines

Strategies for minimizing damage from wildlife browsing include habitat modification, exclusion, repellents, scare tactics, increased tolerance, and trapping and re-location or shooting of the problem animal(s).

Habitat Modification

Habitat modification can be an effective means of discouraging wildlife from coming onto the property. Non-migratory animals in the temperate zone have three basic habitat needs in order to survive: food, cover and water. Modification of one or more of the three will make a given site less attractive to wildlife. Remember the emphasis is on modification, not elimination of habitat.

Elimination of habitat is not possible, nor is it desirable. Still, you can modify the

habitat in relatively easy ways. For example, clean up piles of brush and wood that provide cover for rabbits and woodchucks. Remove garden litter and cut down weeds and tall grass that provide a good environment for voles. Plant trees, shrubs and perennial flowers that deer tend not to eat.

Exclusionary Tactics

Exclusionary tactics include fencing of gardens, installing metal or wood barriers around open decks and placing 3/8- to 1/2-inch hardware cloth around main stems of trees. Especially valuable shrubs that are subject to browsing by deer or rabbits can be enclosed with chicken wire fencing.

Repellents

Repellents, both contact and odor types, can also discourage browsing. The repellents should be applied four to six weeks before the damage is anticipated and must be re-applied occasionally, especially after a rain or wet snowfall. Repellents are not fences, however, and some damage will occur in spite of them.

Scare Tactics

Scare tactics such as noise makers, radios, gas cannons, ultrasonic devices, owl decoys, reflective tape and scare eye bal-

It is nearly impossible to get nature to do what we want it to do!



Animal Damage, to p. 4

The best way to manage critter damage . . .

Animal Damage, from p. 3

loons may be somewhat effective in the short term, but are not effective in the long term. Once animals discover there is no danger posed by these devices, they ignore them.

It is nearly impossible to get nature to do what we want it to do. Consequently, increased tolerance and the establishment of a threshold of damage may be an acceptable compromise to absolute control. Once the threshold has been reached, the trapping and relocation or destruction of the problem animal(s) could be considered. In the case of trapping and relocation, you must have the permission of the property owner (governmental subdivision or private owner) onto whose land the animal is to be relocated.

entrance. Rodenticides approved for use on pocket gophers may be placed in the burrow system. If the gopher population is extremely high, a mechanical false burrow builder may be needed to distribute the rodenticides over a wide area. If a rodenticide containing strychnine is used in a home vegetable garden, the vegetables are all rendered inedible.

Voles

Also known as meadow mice, voles are semifossorial (active on the surface or slightly beneath the surface of the soil) herbivores that eat the bark on young trees and shrubs. They are active beneath the snowline during the winter months. Browsing damage is first noticed in the spring after the snow has melted. In severe cases, the main stem of a young smooth-barked tree may be entirely girdled. Tiny teeth marks on the main stem is evidence of vole damage. A combination of habitat modification, trapping and exclusion will provide adequate control. Keep grass mowed to three inches or less and remove all garden litter. Trap voles by placing mouse snap traps baited with peanut butter perpendicular to the vole runway. Placement of 3/8- to 1/2-inch hardware cloth around the main stems of trees will prevent vole damage. Dig the hardware cloth four to six inches into the soil and take care not to damage the root flare.

Rabbits

Rabbit damage is observable throughout the year although browsing on shrubs and small trees is more apt to occur during the winter when native food plants are unavailable. Evidence of rabbit browse is characterized by a clean, 45 degree angle cut. Damage occurs from 18 to 24 inches above ground or snow level. Contact repellents are available but they may not always be effective. Enclosing valuable shrubs with one-inch mesh chicken wire, dug four to six inches into the soil, is an effective exclusionary barrier for rabbits. Installing 3/8- to 1/2-inch hardware cloth or plastic tree wrap on the main stem of small trees is also effective. Always allow for the anticipated winter snow depth plus an additional 24 inches for a rabbit standing on its hind legs. Although the rabbit is classified as a small game animal, rabbits causing damage on your property may be legally taken without a license.

At last count
there were
over 500
plants on the
[white-tailed
deer's]
preferred
list!

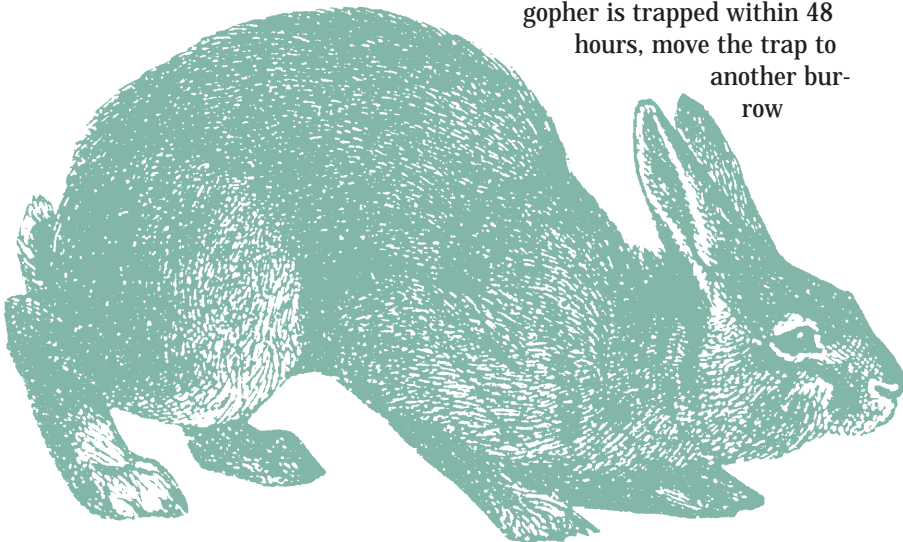


Specific Animals

Pocket Gophers

Pocket gophers are strict herbivores that eat the roots of flowers, vegetables, shrubs and small trees. Damage is more apt to be noticed from early spring to late fall. Recently, a homeowner reported observing several six-foot conifers in a windbreak tipped over due to gopher feeding on the root systems. Several other conifers were leaning to one side as though their root systems were attached to an underground hinge.

The best time to trap pocket gophers is in the spring and fall when they throw up fresh mounds of soil while extending their underground burrow system. If no gopher is trapped within 48 hours, move the trap to another burrow



. goes back to anticipation and prevention.

White-Tailed Deer

In 1900, there were an estimated 500,000 white-tailed deer in the United States. In 2001, the population has grown to about 20,000,000. Today, Minnesota is home to about 900,000 white-tailed deer. It is estimated that a deer needs to consume three percent of its body weight each day to stay in good breeding condition. For a 125-pound doe, that's over three pounds of browse per day while a 250-pound buck requires between seven and eight pounds of browse per day.

Deer browse on a wide variety of plants including arborvitae, yew, dogwood, apples, daylilies, hosta and roses. At last count there were over 500 plants on their preferred list! Exclusion is the most effective means of preventing deer damage to landscape plants. Electric fencing may not be practical for the average homeowner, but certainly is justified where economic loss would be substantial such as in a commercial orchard. An invisible fence and freely roaming dogs have also been used effectively in nurseries and orchards. For the urban homeowner, a small four-foot high fence is adequate for an average urban garden. Four-inch re-enforcing wire mesh as a row cover is also an effective barrier. A variety of ready-to-use contact and odor repellents are commercially available. In order to be most effective, they must be applied four to six weeks prior to when damage is anticipated and they must be reapplied at frequent intervals. The repellents must be used according to the restrictions listed on the product label. Some of them are not approved for use on edible plants.

Can Animal-Damaged Trees Be Saved?

The fate of a tree damaged by critters depends on the extent of the damage, and where on the tree it occurs. If the damage is a result of deer browsing on buds and tips of established trees, the tree will probably survive. If the basic shape and form of the tree or most of the new growth on a younger tree is destroyed, the damage may be fatal.

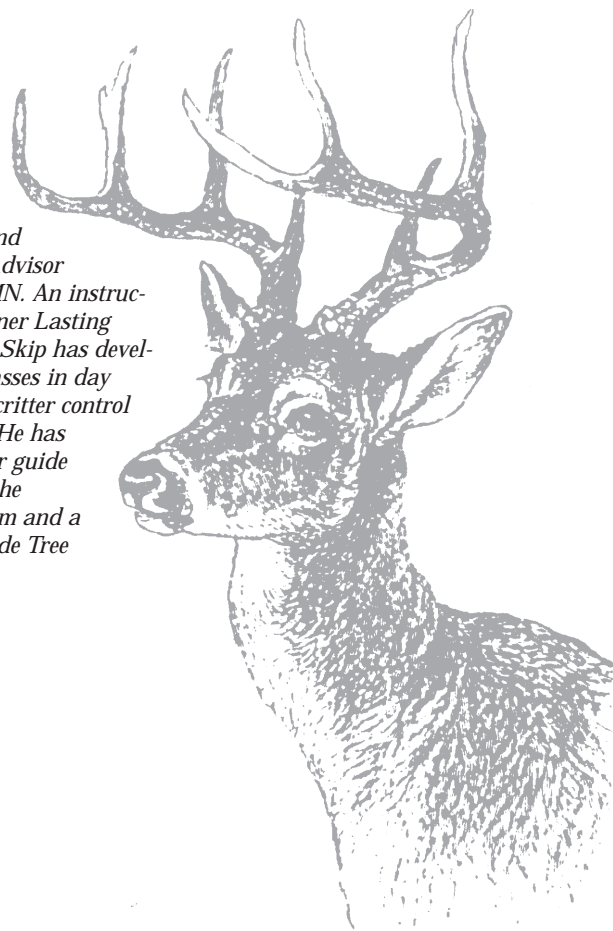
The tree's ability to survive bark girdling by rabbits and voles also depends on the severity of the damage. If the girdling reaches 30% to 50%, the tree will probably be unable to sustain growth.

Homeowners usually want to do whatever they can to help their trees. For critter damaged trees, the best thing to do is minimize stress on the tree. This means regular watering of one inch of water a week throughout the growing season and preventing any further damage to the tree. There are different opinions on how helpful fertilizer might be; if it is used, it should be a low nitrogen, balanced fertilizer such as 10-10-10.

The best way to manage critter damage always goes back to anticipation and prevention rather than trying to nurse an injured tree back to health after the damage has occurred.



Skip Rither, retired after a career at U.S. West, is a Master Gardener, Tree Care Advisor and Plant Health Care Advisor living in Andover, MN. An instructor in Master Gardener Lasting Landscape Courses, Skip has developed and teaches classes in day lilies, spring bulbs, critter control and basic tree care. He has been a volunteer tour guide and tram driver at the Landscape Arboretum and a presenter at the Shade Tree Short Course.





And the Winners Are...

On behalf of MnSTAC and tree advocates everywhere, congratulations to the recipients of the **MnSTAC 2000 Community Forestry Achievement Awards**. The awards were presented at the Golden Valley Country Club on March 22, 2001.

Outstanding Volunteer Project

Highway 10 Landscape Committee, City of Anoka

In recognition of a sustained and successful volunteer effort to enhance Highway 10 in Anoka through their MNDOT Landscape partnership.

Outstanding Youth Project

John McMahon, Glenwood

In recognition of his Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project improving Mount Lookout, Glenwood, MN.

Look for a special feature on John McMahon in the next issue of the *Advocate*.

Outstanding Community Forestry Maintenance

City of Fergus Falls, MN

In recognition of implementing the most exemplary comprehensive community forestry maintenance program.

Tree Care Advisor of the Year

Gordon Herbst, Mankato

In recognition of contributing most significantly to urban and community forestry through community service work.

Outstanding Arbor Day Celebration

"Planting 117 Trees for 117 Years of Enjoyment"

Loring Park, Minneapolis

In recognition of planting more than 140 mostly native trees, so Loring Park may begin the new century with a solid foundation for a revitalized forest.

Outstanding Partnership Award

Nicollet Island UNITREE Community Tree Planting Project

**Foster Wheeler Twin Cities, Inc. Tree Trust
Xcel Energy
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board**

In recognition of community and environmental enhancement and scientific research for the advancement of urban and community forestry.

Distinguished Service Award

Bekky Hargrave Marie Jones

In recognition of innovative work in technology transfer through the creation and ongoing maintenance of the MnSTAC website.

Media Award

KARE 11

In recognition of the EXTRA feature "Living Snow Fences," which increased public awareness and promoted the public's support of community forestry throughout Minnesota.

Special Merit Award

Spruce-Up Austin, Inc.

In recognition of unique, exemplary achievements in community forestry, serving as an innovative model for other programs.

Stewardship Award

Saint Anthony Park Neighborhood Buckthorn Roundup

In recognition of a model community forestry stewardship program.

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: Lorrie Stromme, Hennepin Co. Public Works
—612/348-2152

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

Kirk Brown, Tree Trust—952/920-9326

Ken Holman, DNR Forestry—651/772-7565

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

Janet Larson, consulting arborist—952/941-6876

Rich Hauer, MN Dept. of Agriculture—651/296-0592

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

Mark Stennes, Top Notch Treecare—952/922-3239

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
IRRR—Mineland Reclamation 218/254-3369

Coordinator: Kathleen Preece
Minnesota BetterFORESTS magazine 218/326-0403
e-mail kathleen@uslink.net.



Events

- July 14—**Arborist Certification Examination**, Dakota County Extension, Farmington. Contact www.isa-msa.org
- July 26-27—**Vegetation Management Association of Minnesota 5th Annual Conference**, Breezy Point Resort, Brainerd. Contact Jennifer Hildebrand 612/760-4186 or Brad Williams 651/458-4473.
- Aug. 5—**Tour des Trees Kick-off**, Minneapolis to Milwaukee. Contact Don Mueller 651/772-6148 or www.tourdestrees.org
- Aug. 12-15—**International Society of Arboriculture National Conference**, Milwaukee, WI. Contact www.isa-arbor.com
- Aug. 13-17—**Seventh Conference on Agroforestry in North America**, Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada. Contact www.missouri.edu/~afta/7thconf.htm
- Sept. 5-8—**National Urban Forestry Conference: Investing Natural Capital in Urban Spaces**, Washington DC. Contact Cheryl Kollin, American Forests; www.american-forests.org
- Oct. 3—**Buckthorn Conference**, Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, Chanhassen
- Oct. 21-24—**Society of Municipal Arborists Annual Conference: Urban Forestry on the Prairie—A Part of the City Infrastructure**, Holiday Inn, Fargo, ND. Contact Scott Liudahl 701/241-1465.

- Oct. 26—**Arborist Certification Examination**, Blue Earth County Extension, Mankato. Contact www.isa-msa.org
- Nov. 5-8—**The Wildland Urban Interface: Sustaining Forests in a Changing Landscape**, Gainesville, FL. Contact conference.ifas.ufl.edu/urban/
- Dec. 14—**Arborist Certification Examination**, Anoka County Extension, Andover. Contact www.isa-msa.org

MnSTAC Meetings

Monthly meetings are held at the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, 90 West Plato Blvd., St. Paul 55107 at 9:30 AM. Upcoming dates, all Thursdays, are:

July 19, September 20, October 18, November 15 and December 20.

New Publications

Conserving Wooded Areas in Developing Communities: Best Management Practices in Minnesota. Contact MN DNR Forestry at 651/772-7925.

Tree and Shrub Handbook: Selection, Care, Pests, Diseases. This handbook from the Morton Arboretum provides a wide range of information on tree selection, planting and care in a three-ring notebook format. Purchase by calling 630/719-2465. (Caution: Some plants recommended in the manual are not considered hardy in Zone 4, and some of the insect and disease problems listed are not found at significant levels, if at all, in Minnesota.)

Tree Pests of the Midwest poster. Produced by Morton Arboretum and Ohio State University Extension. Contact DNR Urban and Community Forest Office at 651/772-6148.

Woody Plants in North America. The two-CD set contains information on 470 native and introduced woody species commonly found in North America. There are leaf and twig keys to help identify plants and printable fact sheets for each species. The CDs include nearly 10,000 color photos and interactive quizzes to test how much you've learned. Contact DNR Urban and Community Forestry Office at 651/772-6148.

Internet

- ◆ Center for Urban Horticulture, University of Washington (research of human dimensions of urban forestry): www.cfr.washington.edu/enviro-mind
- ◆ **NEW!** Federal Grants "One Stop Shopping": www.cfda.gov/federalcommons
- ◆ Hazard Tree Web Page, USDA Forest Service, State and Private Forestry St. Paul Field Office: willow.ncfes.umn.edu/Hazard/hazard.htm
- ◆ 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.mnstac.org
- ◆ Minnesota Society of Arboriculture: www.isa.msa.org
- ◆ National Arbor Day Foundation: www.arborday.org
- ◆ **NEW!** National Arborist Association: www.natlarb.com/
- ◆ National Urban and Community Forest Advisory Council: www.treelink.org/connect/orgs/nufac/index.htm
- ◆ **NEW!** Sudden Oak Death Syndrome: www.suddenoakdeath.org
- ◆ The Simple Act of Planting a Tree: www.treelink.org/simpleact/index.htm
- ◆ Traffic Calming: www.grounds-mag.com/planting.htm
- ◆ Tree Climbing: www.treeclimbing.com
- ◆ Tree Climbers Discussion Group: spectre.ag.uiuc.edu/archives/isa/treeclimbers
- ◆ Tree Link: www.treelink.org
- ◆ Tree Trust: www.national-tree-trust.org
- ◆ **NEW!** Trust for Public Land: www.tpl.org
- ◆ University of Minnesota Forest Resources Extension: www.cnr.umn.edu/FR/extension/pages



Minnesota Shade Tree Advocate

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

Managing Editorial Group: MnSTAC Education Committee (Cindy Ash, Rich Hauer, Gary Johnson, Janet Larson, Don Mueller, Jeff Rick, Gail Steinman)

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Jan Hoppe


Design:
Jim Kiehne

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

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 Printed on recycled paper using soy-based inks.



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TREEORD: Software for Tree Ordinance Development

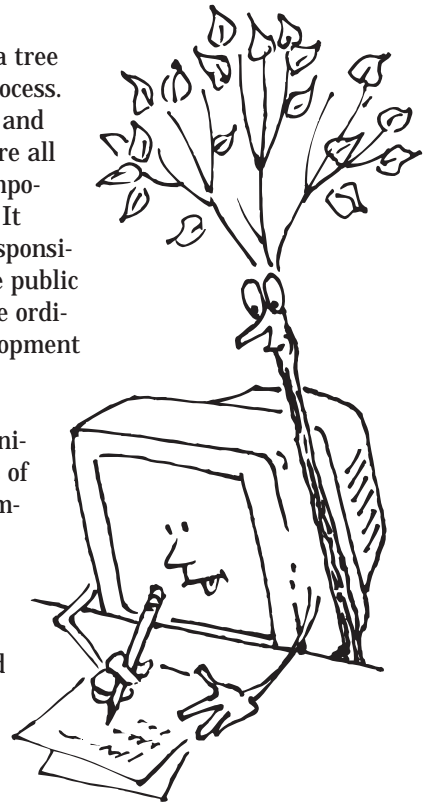
If you have ever been involved in developing a tree ordinance, you know it is a critical, but tedious process. But tree and agency professionals, public officials and concerned citizens are becoming more keenly aware all the time that a quality ordinance is an integral component of a successful community forestry program. It provides the program legal standing, identifies responsibilities, provides a framework for dealing with the public and often regulates arboricultural practices. A tree ordinance may also establish procedures for the development and adoption of specific policies.

TREEORD is a new interactive software program that allows you to draft or rewrite a community tree ordinance that will meet the specific needs of your community. It contains more than 1,800 examples of text used in ordinances from communities throughout the U.S.A. You are able to select, write or edit text as you costume design your ordinance. Developed by MnSTAC's own Katie Himanga and Peter Bedker, the program is loaded with practical "how to" information along with its extensive database of clauses.

System requirements:

- Windows 95, Windows 98, Windows ME or Windows 2000 operating system
- 10 megabytes of disk space (for systems that do not have Access 2000)
- 6 megabytes of disk space (for systems that have Access 2000 installed)
- Screen resolution of 800x600 pixels using small fonts

Cost is \$60 plus shipping and handling. TREEORD is available through TREE TRUST. For more information: 952/920-9326 or treetrust@treetrust.com



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