



# Wisconsin Urban & Community Forests

A Quarterly Newsletter of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Forestry Division

## Urban Forests: Important Stopover Sites for Migratory Birds

by Owen Boyle, Ecologist  
DNR Southeast Region

It's a clear fall morning in late September. Southeast Region Urban Forestry Coordinator Kim Sebastian and I are looking out of the second-story windows of our office on the corner of North and 3<sup>rd</sup> in Milwaukee. We aren't looking at the Walgreens, Payless Shoes or Subway that hold down the other three corners of this urban intersection. What has captured our attention is the flurry of activity in the canopy of four lindens growing on a small island of soil in the sea of brick leading to the building's front door. There are at least a half dozen small, greenish gray and yellow birds—American redstarts, Tennessee warblers and red-eyed vireos—flitting through the branches. We watch as one swoops from a perch, snatches an insect out of mid-air, and returns to perch and make quick work of its prey. These are not the resident sparrows we see every day, but weary, long-distance travelers making a pit stop.

It's the peak of the fall migration where so many millions of songbirds pass overhead each night that they light up the local Doppler radar with a rainbow of color. These birds have begun their annual fall migration that, for some, will encompass 7000 miles from their summer breeding grounds in Canada to their wintering grounds in Latin America and the



Caribbean. At first light, great numbers of tired migrants get their first look at the unfamiliar land below and head for a nearby stand of trees to spend the daylight hours resting and refueling for the next leg of their journey. These stopover sites can be especially hard to locate for a bird that finds itself in the gray dawn over an urban or suburban landscape.

Wisconsin's human population has changed dramatically since it achieved statehood in 1848, not only growing in leaps and bounds, but becoming increasingly urban. In 1850, Wisconsin was home to 305,391 people, only 9 percent of which lived in urban areas. Today 80 percent of the 5.4 million people that reside in the state live in urban areas. As our cities and suburbs expand and displace the habitat on which migratory birds depend, urban trees and woodlots are green oases that assume greater importance as stopover sites.

Tree height is likely the first characteristic that migrants use to choose stopover sites. Bird watchers who have spent time observing migrating songbirds

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Devastating winds and tornadoes left a barren landscape in south central Wisconsin during the summer of 2005.



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### Newsletter Issues Missed

No you weren't dropped from our mailing list, nor did the post office lose your mailing. Due primarily to staff changes, we weren't able to produce the previous fall and winter issues. We are back on schedule and appreciate your patience.

## Community Profile:

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# Village of Mt. Horeb

by Jeff Gorman  
Director of Parks and Forestry

Drive on Highway 18–151 along the south side of Mt. Horeb and you will see the issues facing this village of 6400 in western Dane County. Residential growth, storm water management and encroachment on natural resources are a few items that village departments, committees and residents are working on.

Mt. Horeb is located 20 miles west of Madison and is uniquely situated at the divide of two major river basins—the Lower Wisconsin River basin and the Grant–Platte–Sugar–Pecatonica River basin. Since Mt. Horeb sits higher than its surrounding area and the area is dominated by steep to rolling hills, there are several drainage corridors radiating away from the village. Mt. Horeb is at or near the headwaters of

several high-quality streams, highlighting the importance of storm water management, erosion control and other development constraints.

So, what does this have to do with urban forestry? Well, a lot. These steep hills and drainage areas are important environmental corridors and can provide extremely important environmental, ecological and recreational value while limiting development and incompatible land uses. These areas provide the residents of Mt. Horeb with places to walk, bike and enjoy nature, and can also provide linkages between parks and bike trails.

The Village of Mt. Horeb is experiencing significant residential growth. From 1990 to 2000, the village grew by just over 40 percent. It was in the mid-1990s, with several subdivisions being planned, that the village passed

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### Community Profile:

Tree City USA: 9 yrs.  
Growth Awards: 3 yrs.  
Population: 6400  
Street Tree  
Population: 2900  
Miles of Streets: 39  
Number of Parks: 16

### Program Profile:

#### Staff:

Director of Parks and Forestry Jeff Gorman  
Crewman II Brian Haag  
1 summer seasonal  
1 spring and fall seasonal  
public works employees as needed

#### Equipment:

pickup truck  
1-ton dump truck  
brush chipper  
2 bucket trucks from village utilities  
watering tank  
dump trucks, loader, backhoe, skid steer as needed.

### 2005 Department Budgets:

Forestry: \$64,980  
Parks: \$161,800  
Aquatic Center: \$144,180

### 2004 Program Statistics:

Trees Planted: 190  
Trees Removed: 16  
Trees Pruned: 400



Photo by Jeff Roe, WDNR

John Nielson, DNR Dodgeville Forestry Team Leader, presents the Tree City flag to Jeff Gorman, Director of Parks and Forestry, and members of the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Commission, Mary McDonough Sutter and Don Schultze.



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**Contributors:** Michael Bates, Ian Brown, Cindy Casey, Don Kissinger, Michael LaBissoniere, Jeff Roe, Tracy Salisbury, Kim Sebastian, Tracey Teodecki and Olivia Witthun.

Articles, news items, photos and ideas are welcome.

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For breaking UF news, anecdotes, announcements and networking opportunities, sign up for The Urban Forestry Insider, DNR's twice-monthly e-newsletter. Archives are at <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/forestry/UF/resources/InsiderArchive.html>

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## Project Profile:

# Special Trees Get Special Recognition: Menomonie's Heritage Trees

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by Cindy Casey  
DNR West Central Region

There's something about very large, old or unusual trees that brings out the tree lover in all of us. With its Heritage Tree program, the Menomonie Urban Forestry Board has tapped into people's natural affinity for special trees. Interested folks can participate in the program by nominating trees with historic or personal significance, with outstanding or unusual traits, or with other unique qualities. Significant nesting or rookery trees may also be nominated.

Long active in forestry causes and an ongoing partner with the tree board, the Menomonie Chapter of the Greater Federation of Woman's Clubs took the lead in searching out, nominating and promoting the city's first group of Heritage Trees. Seven trees were officially accepted into the registry and were recognized during the city's 2005 Arbor Day observance. The tree board hopes to expand the registry by five to ten trees each year, but program standards will remain high to keep Heritage Tree designation meaningful.

Trees on either public or private property within the city are eligible for the program. Interested individuals can nominate a specimen by submitting an application to the tree board. Nominations are initially screened by a member of the board after which the board accepts or rejects prospective candidates based on program guidelines and selection criteria. The property owner is notified of the board's decision and, if accepted, the nomination is forwarded to the city council. Upon approval, the tree is catalogued in the Heritage Tree registry. The nominator is notified of the tree's official designation and receives a certificate at the city's next Arbor Day observance.

The Heritage Tree registry and photos are kept on display at city hall. A virtual tour of Heritage Trees is also under construction and will soon be available on the Menomonie Urban Forestry Board Web site. The Heritage Tree program is completely voluntary and trees can be removed from the registry at any time by their owner.

What motivates someone to participate in the program? For some, it's simply the enjoyment of discovering huge or uncommon trees. Others relish digging up interesting history. For others it's the pride of ownership or the satisfaction that comes with

giving something back to the community. Whatever the reason, the tree board is convinced that officially designating trees with unique character will stimulate awareness and appreciation of the city's urban forest, and hopefully will reduce indiscriminate removal and damage to these noteworthy specimens. Though no legal protection is afforded through Heritage Tree designation, the city building inspector keeps records on Heritage Trees to reduce the likelihood of inadvertent destruction or removal during site development and construction.

Urban Forestry Board Chair Alta Vasey Morgan is beginning to see results from the Heritage Tree program. "The program has been well publicized," she said. "It's rewarding to hear people make comments like 'We didn't realize we had so many old trees.' People are even coming to the urban forestry board asking whether they should cut certain trees." Info: 715-232-2187. 🌿



Photo by R. Eide, City of Menomonie

Only the best need apply! Alta Vasey Morgan and Sally Schendel, Menomonie Urban Forestry Board members, measure one of Menomonie's Heritage Trees.

## Village of Mt. Horeb

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ordinances requiring developers to pay for street trees in new subdivisions. It was also during this time that the village adopted other tree-related ordinances and changed the Parks and Recreation Commission to the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Commission and gave them jurisdiction over urban forest management.

In 1998, the village received an Urban Forestry Grant to perform a tree inventory and management plan. That plan was completed in September of 1998 by the Davey Resource Group. Highlights of the plan included priority tree removals, maintenance pruning schedules, budgeting recommendations, public relations and the hiring of a forestry and parks superintendent. The plan helped guide the village board and lead to the program that exists today.

As Mt. Horeb grew, new parks were built, more trees were planted and more demands were put on recreational programming. The public works department was performing street tree and park tree maintenance. Although they did the best job they could, maintenance was reactionary and not being performed by people with skills in that area. In 1998, Mt. Horeb's parks and recreation director left to accept another job offer. The village board decided, with the additional demands on parks maintenance, recreation and forestry, that it would add a position and create a parks and forestry director along with the recreation director, relieving the public works department of its tree management duties. In April of 1999, Mt. Horeb's first parks and urban forestry director was hired.

Although most communities of its size may not feel it is possible or even desirable to have a professional forester on staff, it has worked well for Mt. Horeb. What has made it successful is a good crew, departments working well together, sharing equipment and staff, and the support of village leaders and decision

makers. Mt. Horeb has been a Tree City USA for nine years and has received Growth Awards in 1998, 1999 and 2004. Mt. Horeb's parks and forestry department performs all of its own tree planting, removals and pruning. The only item that is contracted out is stump grinding. The village has its own electric and water utility, which has two bucket trucks that are available for forestry use.

In addition to its normal duties, the Parks and Forestry Department has been involved in special village projects as well. In 2004, State Highway 78, which runs through the downtown area and bisects the village, was reconstructed. As part of the project, 30 trees were removed or transplanted from the downtown and replaced with tree grates and new trees. There were concerns about removing the larger trees in the downtown area, but these trees were growing in small, concrete cut-outs and were steadily declining. The 30 downtown trees were part of a Department of Transportation Enhancement Grant, which included other items such as brick pavers, ornamental streetlights and poles, benches, banners and bicycle racks. The project has really helped beautify the downtown area, which is a popular tourist destination.

In 2004 the village purchased 21 acres of open grasslands and oak woodlands for its first conservation park. The Parks and Forestry Department has been working with volunteers to control the buckthorn on the property and to help reestablish the prairie area. The village has also applied for a 2006 Urban Forestry Grant to develop a management plan for this property.

Currently, the department is working with village committees, architects and engineers on the County Highway ID reconstruction. The highway is the main entrance into the east side of the village from Highway 18-151. This two-lane highway will become four lanes with a 16-foot median. The project will also include four roundabouts, each landscaped with a different theme. While the village desires to make this a beautiful entrance into the community using trees, prairie plantings and perennials, future maintenance will be one of the main design concerns.

While the first seven years of Mt. Horeb's forestry program have been viewed as a success, many challenges lie ahead. As the village continues to grow, the Parks and Forestry Department will compete with other departments for funds and will need to find ways to increase staff. They will need to keep raising awareness of the benefits of the urban forest and review and update ordinances to protect and enhance the tree resources. A comprehensive and proactive forestry program is just one of the things that make Mt. Horeb a great place to live. ♣



Photo by Diane Farnsworth, Mount Horeb Intermediate Center

*Jeff Gorman, Director of Parks and Forestry, instructs students at Mt. Horeb Intermediate Center on proper planting techniques. The 3rd grade class of Diane Farnsworth planted three callery pears in celebration of Arbor Day 2006.*

# Urban Forests: Important Stopover Sites for Migratory Birds

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forage through the tops of tall trees can attest to the painful “warbler neck” that results. Not all tall trees are the same to a migratory songbird, however. Insects are the primary food source for most long-distance migrants including warblers, vireos, flycatchers and swallows. In fact, it’s the annual die-off of insects that forces these birds south for the winter. Trees that attract insects, therefore, are of higher value for migratory songbirds. In a study conducted in Pewaukee, researchers from the Zoological Society of Milwaukee’s Birds without Borders project found that native species like red oak, bitternut hickory, quaking aspen, black cherry and pussy willow harbored three to ten times more insects than exotic buckthorns and barberry (Piaskowsky and Albanese 2001).

As insect abundance declines later in fall migration, tree species that provide alternative food sources like seed and fruit become more important to migratory songbirds. For example, flocks of cedar waxwings

congregate in native crabapples, dogwoods, mountainash and other species that bear persistent small fruits. In general, tree species that flower or set fruit during the spring (March through May) and fall (mid-August through November) migration periods are most heavily used by migrants.

Awareness of the important role that urban trees play in the conservation of migratory songbird populations is growing in the urban forestry community. The US Fish and Wildlife Service—the agency charged with protecting migratory birds—has developed the Urban Conservation Treaty for Migratory Birds, a partnership agreement with US cities to conserve migratory birds through education and improvement of urban habitat. Chicago, New Orleans, Philadelphia, Houston and Portland have signed treaties and are receiving challenge grants and technical assistance from the USFWS. As part of their treaty, the city of Chicago received money to fund a study to determine which species of city trees provide the best foraging opportunities for migratory songbirds. The results of this study will help the city decide what species of trees will give them the best bird habitat for their buck—not a bad public relations goal at a time when bird watching is the nation’s most popular nature activity.

## For more information about migratory birds and urban habitats:

Urban Conservation Treaty for Migratory Birds  
<http://birds.fws.gov/urbantreaty.html>

Birds without Borders  
[www.zoosociety.org/Conservation/BWB-ASF/](http://www.zoosociety.org/Conservation/BWB-ASF/)

Smithsonian National Zoological Park Migratory Bird Center  
<http://nationalzoo.si.edu/ConservationAndScience/MigratoryBirds/>

International Migratory Bird Day  
[www.birdday.org/](http://www.birdday.org/)

Clemson University Radar Ornithology Laboratory  
<http://virtual.clemson.edu/groups/birdrad/COMMENT.HTM>

Cornell Lab of Ornithology Urban Bird Studies  
[www.birds.cornell.edu/programs/urbanbirds/](http://www.birds.cornell.edu/programs/urbanbirds/)

## References

Piaskowsky, V. and G. Albanese. 2001. *Resource sampling of arthropods in all vegetation strata and correlation with arthropods identified in fecal samples of insectivorous warblers at a spring migration stopover site.* Abstract. American Ornithologists’ Union Meeting, Seattle, WA. ❁

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### Species that provide good food sources for spring and fall migratory songbirds:



#### Evergreen:

redcedar (*Juniperus virginiana*)  
white pine (*Pinus strobus*)  
eastern white-cedar (*Thuja occidentalis*)

#### Deciduous:

horsechestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*)  
paper birch (*Betula papyrifera*)  
bitternut hickory (*Carya cordiformis*)  
shagbark hickory (*Carya ovata*)  
hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*)  
hawthorn (*Crataegus* spp.)  
witch-hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*)  
black walnut (*Juglans nigra*)  
butternut (*Juglans cinerea*)  
crabapple (*Malus* spp.)  
red mulberry (*Morus rubra*)  
wild black cherry (*Prunus serotina*)  
white oak (*Quercus alba*)  
swamp white oak (*Quercus bicolor*)  
bur oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*)  
red oak (*Quercus rubra*)  
black oak (*Quercus velutina*)  
American elm (*Ulmus americana*)  
slippery elm (*Ulmus rubra*)

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## Community Tree Profile:

# Japanese Larch (*Larix kaempferi*)

by Laura G. Jull  
Dept. of Horticulture  
University of Wisconsin-Madison

**Native To:** Japan, in mountainous locations

**Mature Height:** 70-90'

**Spread:** 30-35'

**Form:** Pyramidal, with tall, straight, central leader and widely spaced, horizontal branches; branches produce slender, pendulous branchlets. Tree opens with age.

**Growth Rate:** Moderate to fast

**Foliage:** Deciduous gymnosperm; needle-like leaves, soft, linear, flexible, keeled below, 1 1/2" long; blue-green with two whitish stomatal bands underneath needles; borne on spurs with 40 or more needles per spur. Tree has fine texture when in leaf, coarse texture in winter.

**Buds and Stems:** Glaucons stems, slightly pubescent when young, with distinct, reddish-brown to orangish-red coloring on younger twigs; older twigs are furrowed and grayish in color. Buds are small, oblong to conical, resinous, with light brown, fringed scales that curve outwards.

**Fall Color:** Golden yellow

**Cones:** Stalked, purplish-brown cones turning brown to grayish in late summer to fall and persisting. Cone is 1 1/2" long, oval to rounded, with distinct, reflexed, overlapping, fringed scales that bend or curl backwards. Cones are

borne upright on stems and resemble small rosettes. Numerous cones are produced on a single tree.

**Bark:** Thin and smooth on younger trees becoming thick, peeling, grayish-brown with reddish-brown inner bark and furrowed at the base.

**Site Requirements:** Prefers a deep, moist, well-drained, rich soil with slightly acidic to neutral pH, and full sun. Intolerant to shade, drought and heavy clay soil.

**Hardiness Zone:** 4a to 7a

**Insect & Disease Problems:** Can get canker if drought stressed or planted in shade, but is less



Japanese Larch Cones

susceptible to canker than other larches. Can also get larch casebearer, woolly aphids, tussock and gypsy moth, needle cast, and needle rust. Not tolerant to road salt.

**Suggested Applications:** More heat tolerant and less susceptible to cankers than other larches. Good tree for lawns, parks, as a specimen in large areas or planted in groves. Good tree for golf courses as it casts light shade and needles do not need raking in fall.

**Limitations:** Difficult to transplant, hence plant in spring. Not tolerant to heavy clay soils, drought or shade. Will need pruning for clearance if planted near sidewalks or roads. Cones and branchlets may become a litter mess.

**Comments:** Japanese larch is a non-invasive, showy, deciduous conifer with soft, linear, blue-green needles that turn golden yellow in fall. Form is more graceful than European larch (*Larix decidua*) and cones are more ornamental than other larch cones. Tolerates slightly higher pH and heat better than American larch (*Larix laricina*).

### Common Cultivars or Selections:

'Blue Rabbit': narrow, pyramidal to columnar form, glaucous, blue needles

'Diana': contorted, twisted branches on a small, 10- to 15'-tall tree

'Nana': dwarf, dense, globular form, result of a witches' broom

'Pendula': irregular, drooping branches, mounding form, 6- to 12'-tall, mop-head looking, often confused in trade and is often mislabeled as *L. decidua* 'Pendula'. Height of small tree is dependent on what height it was grafted onto a standard.

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Japanese Larch Tree

# ***Origin of Oak Wilt— Is the Oak Wilt Fungus Native or Exotic?***

*by Kyoko Scanlon, Forest Pathologist  
DNR Division of Forestry*

Oak wilt is a serious disease of oak. Every year, thousands of oak trees in forests, woodlots and urban settings are killed by this disease. Oak wilt is caused by the fungus *Ceratocystis fagacearum*. The fungus attacks water and nutrient conducting channels in the trees and induces the plugging of these channels. Leaves of infected trees will wilt and fall prematurely, and trees will die. Trees in the red oak group, such as northern red and northern pin oak, are especially vulnerable to the disease. Once wilting becomes visible, trees in the red oak group lose most of their leaves and die very quickly, often within a few weeks. Oak wilt is most common in the southern two-thirds of Wisconsin and has been spreading northward, as the disease was recently found in Florence County (1999) and Barron County (2002). Oak wilt is a serious concern not only in Wisconsin, but in other states, such as Minnesota and Michigan, and as far south as Texas.



*Oak Wilt Woodlot*

The causal agent of oak wilt was identified in 1942. However, mysterious mortality of black oak was reported in Madison as early as in the late 1800s, and by the early 1900s, a large number of dying oaks was recorded in Wisconsin and Minnesota. Since the discovery of the fungus in the 1940s, many research studies have been conducted and our understanding of the disease improved dramatically. However, when it comes to the origin of the fungus, it is still a mystery. Is this fungus native to Wisconsin, or was the fungus introduced from somewhere else in the world? Some researchers believe the fungus is exotic and was introduced to North America. However, oak wilt is not found in any other continent. Others believe the fungus is native to North America. If it is native, why is this fungus so powerful and capable of killing many trees every year? Isn't there a natural mechanism to keep the fungus in check? Did a recent change in land management, such as priority retention of oak and urbanization, create conditions that make the pathogen flourish? Is the oak wilt fungus a new species mutated or crossed from its related species that are native to North America and are weakly or non-pathogenic to oak trees?

At the 2005 annual meeting of the American Phytopathological Society that was held in Austin, Texas, a special session was devoted to discussions regarding the speculations on the origin and spread of the oak

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## ***What Damaged This Tree?***



*Photo by Cindy Casey, WDNR*

*Turn to page 15 to find out...*

## Organization Profile:

# Friends of Troy Gardens

by Sundee Wislow  
Executive Director

The Friends of Troy Gardens is a nonprofit organization responsible for the development, management and stewardship of Troy Gardens, 26 acres of open space on the north side of Madison, Wisconsin. The land is being developed for multi-purpose use including a large community garden, youth gardens, handicapped accessible gardens, a community farm, woodland and prairie restoration, nature trails, and edible landscaping. On five additional acres adjacent

to the open-space area, the Madison Area Community Land Trust is building 30 units of affordable co-housing at Troy Gardens.

The mission of FTG is to promote a community-wide sense of belonging and caring for the land. We are committed to a locally based, sustainable food system. We inspire hope by working

together peaceably to realize shared values. As an organization created by the community, we are committed to community-based decision making and participation by a wide diversity of people in our leadership and programs.

The goals of FTG are:

- to develop and steward the land in a sustainable manner
- to increase food security for low-income residents of Madison's north side by providing opportunity for people to grow their own food in community gardens and by increasing access to fresh, nutritious produce through our community farm
- to develop educational programs on gardening, natural areas restoration, food preparation, nutrition and environmental education
- to engage numerous community organizations and educational institutions in creating a "learning community" around the land
- to create an aesthetically pleasing, accessible natural areas resource that will be available in perpetuity for widespread community use
- to be an economically stable and financially sustainable organization with a diverse income stream, continuity in leadership and effective board and staff

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Photo courtesy of Friends of Troy Gardens

Youth program participants cultivating vegetables.

## Coming Events

**June 19–21, 2006 – Community Forestry at Its Best National Conference**, Lied Lodge & Conference Center, Nebraska City, NE. Contact National Arbor Day Foundation, 402-474-5655, [conferences@arborday.org](mailto:conferences@arborday.org) or [www.arborday.org/programs/conferences/communityforestry/](http://www.arborday.org/programs/conferences/communityforestry/).

**June 26–28, 2006 – Metropolitan Tree Improvement Alliance (METRIA) Conference**, University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, Chanhassen, MN. Contact Teri Line, 952-443-1505 or <http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/fletcher/programs/nursery/metria/>.

**June 27–30, 2006 – US EPA 2006 Community Involvement Conference and Training**, Hyatt Regency, Milwaukee, WI. Contact [www.epa.gov/ciconference/2006/index.htm](http://www.epa.gov/ciconference/2006/index.htm) or Lisa Gebler at 301-589-5318 or [lisa.gebler@emsus.com](mailto:lisa.gebler@emsus.com).

**July 6, 2006 – Wisconsin Arborist Association Summer Workshop and Climbing Championship**, West Bend, WI. Contact Josh DePouw at 920-562-0282.

**July 29–August 2, 2006 – International Society of Arboriculture Annual Conference and Trade Show**, Minneapolis Convention Center, Minneapolis, MN. Contact Jessica Marx at 888-472-8733 or [jmarx@isa-arbor.com](mailto:jmarx@isa-arbor.com) or visit [www.isa-arbor.com](http://www.isa-arbor.com).



# Whitemarked Tussock Moth

by Linda Williams, Forest Health Specialist  
DNR Northeast Region

The whitemarked tussock moth, *Orgyia leucostigma*, is native to Wisconsin. The caterpillar feeds on the leaves of deciduous trees and will sometimes feed on conifers. The wildly colored, 1- to 1½-inch-long caterpillar is very pretty. It is a hairy caterpillar, with a bright neon-red head, black spikes of hairs on either side of the head and one on the hind end, white tufts of hairs down the back, and stripes of yellow, black and grey on the body. These caterpillars eat the soft tissues of the leaves, leaving the veins. I have found them defoliating oak, maple, ash and honeylocust, and they feed on many other species including aspen, birch, linden, fir, larch and spruces.

Beyond the wonderful coloration of the caterpillars there are several other interesting facts about this species. The long hairs on the body of the caterpillar can cause irritation and allergies in some people. These caterpillars also have two special glands on their back that appear as red dots and secrete an irritating fluid that the caterpillars groom over themselves. This fluid can also cause irritation and allergies in some people. The caterpillars turn into moths as their adult stage. The male moth looks like your standard “little brown moth” but the female moth lacks wings. Having no wings means that the adult female doesn’t move very far from the time she emerges from the cocoon to the time she lays her eggs, often laying her eggmass directly on the cocoon



Photo by Linda Williams, WDNR

Whitemarked tussock moth caterpillar feeding on leaf.

that she emerged from. The insect spends the winter as an egg and hatches the following spring to begin its life cycle again.

Large populations of whitemarked tussock moth can cause significant defoliation of trees, but I usually see just a few trees defoliated each year by this insect. When the population of these caterpillars becomes high, they are often attacked by natural enemies and disease, causing the population to decline naturally. Homeowners wishing to control this insect can use Bt insecticides when the caterpillars are young, or general, non-specific insecticides when the caterpillars are older. Scraping and removing the eggmasses can also offer a measure of control. Whether you choose to control this insect or not, be sure that you take the time to check out their wonderful coloration and unique tufts of hairs and enjoy this brightly colored native caterpillar. ❁

**August 10, 2006 – Wisconsin Nursery Association Summer Field Day**, Breezy Hill Nursery, Salem, WI. Contact 414-529-4705.

**October 1–5, 2006 – Society of Municipal Arborists Annual Conference**, Asheville, NC. Contact Jerri LaHaie at [urbanforestry@prodigy.net](mailto:urbanforestry@prodigy.net).

**November 9–11, 2006 – TCI EXPO**, Baltimore Convention Center, Baltimore, MD. Contact Tree Care Industry Association, 800-733-2622, ext. 106, [info@treecareindustry.org](mailto:info@treecareindustry.org) or [www.tcia.org](http://www.tcia.org).

**December 3–6, 2006 – 2006 American Society of Consulting Arborists Annual Conference**, Silverado Country Club & Resort, Napa, CA. Contact ASCA, 301-947-0483, [asca@mgmtsol.com](mailto:asca@mgmtsol.com) or [www.asca-consultants.org/conferences.html](http://www.asca-consultants.org/conferences.html).

**January 17–19, 2007 – Mid-Am Trade Show**, McCormick Place, Chicago, IL. Contact [www.midam.org](http://www.midam.org).

**February 20–23, 2007 – 2007 American Society of Consulting Arborists Consulting Academy**, Hyatt Regency Hotel, Sacramento, CA. Contact ASCA 301-947-0483, [asca@mgmtsol.com](mailto:asca@mgmtsol.com) or [www.asca-consultants.org/conferences.html](http://www.asca-consultants.org/conferences.html). ❁

If there is a meeting, conference, workshop or other event you would like listed here, please contact Dick Rideout at 608-267-0843 with the information.

“Why Did the Critter Eat My Begonias?” and Assorted Other Urban Wildlife Questions –

## *Ricky Confesses His Source for Answers*

by Ricky Lien, Urban Wildlife Specialist  
DNR Bureau of Wildlife Management



As the saying goes, give a man a fish and you feed him for a day; teach a man to fish and he can eat for a lifetime. Go around the DNR office with that saying and you get a variety of responses:

- from the fisheries biologist – “Teach a man to fish and he’ll wonder which lake is stocked.”
- from the conservation warden – “When did you catch that fish you just gave away? Mind if I see your license?”
- from the wildlife biologist – “Fishing? Come on, it’s almost hunting season and my dog needs some work.”
- from the DNR Service Center frontline staff – “Teach a man to fish and he’ll come in the day before fishing season and tell us his opinion on the cost of licenses and stamps.”
- from the spouse of the new fisherman – “Why does fishing require so much equipment? Why can we never just drive by a Gander Mountain without stopping to look at some new lures?”

Going back to the original saying, the meaning is clear: teaching someone an activity enables them to take on the task in the future. Let me enable you.

Many of the phone calls that come to me can be categorized as either, “What animal did this?” or “How do I stop this animal’s activity?” Little do the callers know that, as I buy time by asking what they hopefully view as probing questions from the insightful urban wildlife specialist, I’m usually frantically typing at my keyboard to call up one of the most helpful Web sites I’ve found when dealing with nuisance wildlife issues, [www.icwdm.com](http://www.icwdm.com), the Web site for the Internet Center for Wildlife Damage Management.

Maintained by the University of Nebraska–Lincoln, this Web site is a tremendous resource for, as the Web site puts it, “homeowners, agricultural producers, professionals and policy makers, such as government agencies.” A few moments of browsing the site map reveals many links to a variety of information, all related to

human–wildlife interactions, but let me highlight two of the more useful links.

Click on “Solutions” and you’ll find “Identifying the Problem.” Whether you’ve got something digging a hole under your garage’s foundation, eating your prize-winning hostas, or knocking over your sweet corn, the first thing you need to do is figure out what animal is the culprit. Did you know that mounds of dirt left above ground by moles are circular, while pocket gophers leave oblong mounds? When deer eat a stem or twig, they rip a jagged edge, but a rabbit or rodent would leave a nice smooth cut. The information found in “Identifying the Problem” provides a variety of clues to figure out what animal is responsible for a situation you’re dealing with.

Once you know what animal you’re up against, there are many places on the Web site to go to, but one I find especially useful is “Guides.” Click on it and enter the link, “Wildlife Damage Management,” and you go to the appropriate section for your animal and gain access to extensive write-ups by some of the top wildlife professionals in the country. Looking at the information shown for a species I commonly refer to, the link for coyotes (found within the Carnivore section) you’ll find information on identification, range, habitat, food habits, general biology, damage and damage management, legal status, damage prevention and control, and economics of damage management and control. And you can find similar write-ups for many of the other animals commonly associated with human–wildlife conflicts.

So, now that I’ve let everyone in on my secret information source, you can still call and ask me questions about these animals, what they’re doing, and how to stop them, but now you’ll know why you hear the sound of fingers typing at the keyboard while I make small talk with you. If you want to eliminate the middleman, visit the Web site yourself and look around! ✿



## Friends of Troy Gardens

*continued from page 8*

### **Size and Characteristics of Participating Population**

Community gardeners are primarily low-income families from the north and east sides of Madison. There are over 120 gardening families. Food grown in the gardens serve upwards of 400 family members. Of gardening households, 60 percent are Southeast Asian (Hmong, Cambodian and Laotian). An additional 5 percent of gardening households are African American and 3.5 percent are Hispanic. Over 70 percent of gardening households have incomes below 60 percent of Dane County median income. At least half of these households have incomes below 50 percent of county median income.

Troy Gardens is located near four low-income housing developments: Vera Court, Kennedy Heights, Northport apartments and Packers apartments. Residents of these developments do not have yard space in which to garden or enjoy the natural environment. Each of the developments has a community center and youth programs. During 2005, over 400 children were involved in Troy Gardens Kids' gardening program.

### **Programs**

**Community Gardening** – The community gardens are at the heart of Troy Gardens. The gardens provide an entry point for individuals and households to get involved in the whole project. Community gardeners use the land to grow their own food, which can have a significant positive impact on household food security. Community gardens also provide recre-

ational outdoor activity for people of all ages, and a space where low-income and minority residents work the land and interact with others in a non-threatening, egalitarian environment. Community gardeners sign up for a plot each spring, paying a minimal fee to help defray the costs of site maintenance and management (tilling; mowing; plot layout; provision of water, tools, compost). Gardeners also assist in site maintenance and management through volunteer commitments. The community gardens include a special plot with four raised-bed gardens, which are used by gardeners who have difficulty gardening on the ground. There is also an heirloom tomato demonstration plot.

**Community Farm** – The Troy Community Farm was established in 2001 as Madison's first urban farm. The farm occupies five acres of the entire Troy Gardens site. The core of the farm is the CSA (community supported agriculture). Farm members receive fresh, locally-grown, organic produce each week for 21 weeks, beginning in June and ending in October. Through CSA, members learn to enjoy—and appreciate the quirks of—Wisconsin seasonal food production. In 2003, the Troy Community Farm provided 45 shares to members throughout Madison. Five of these shares were to low-income households. The farm also markets produce at the Eastside Farmers Market (Tuesday afternoons) and the Troy Drive farmstand (Thursday afternoons). A coupon program lowers the cost of produce for low-income residents. Coupons have been distributed to select households through the community centers. Low-income residents can join the CSA through the Partner Shares program, which subsidizes the cost of a CSA share so that anyone, regardless of income, can enjoy the quality and benefits of fresh, locally grown produce.

### **Natural Areas Restoration and Community Access**

Five acres of the Troy Gardens site are being developed to include a native prairie with tallgrass, shortgrass and flowering forbs. A maple woodland has been cleared of invasive, weedy species, and its edges planted to native trees, shrubs and wildflowers. An edible landscape garden, which features herbs, native plants and berries, was developed by college interns and Shabazz High School students in 2003, and is now flourishing. Additional components of the site include edible landscapes, orchards

*continued on page 12*



*Photo courtesy of Friends of Troy Gardens*

*Kids celebrate a bountiful harvest.*

## Friends of Troy Gardens

*continued from page 11*

and a sunken prairie council ring. The entire open space site is traversed with a trail system for public walking and recreation. Educational signage throughout the site and within gardens provides information about site development, landscape features and plant species.

### **Educational Programs**

*The Friends of Troy Gardens involves community residents of all ages in educational programs geared toward improving stewardship of the land.*

**Troy Gardens Children's Gardening Program** – The K–8 Children's Gardening Program provides gardening, arts, nutrition/health, cultural and environmental education to low-income youth from Madison's north side at Troy Gardens. Children from Vera Court, Northport and Kennedy Heights community centers visit the garden weekly to plant, tend, harvest and enjoy. The summer and fall gardening program provides hands-on educational opportunities that tie together lessons learned in school (including science, ecology, math and English) through creative and enjoyable experience at the gardens and natural areas. The program also aims to improve children's health and nutrition by developing an interest in food production and healthful eating habits and building life-long skills in gardening and food preparation.

**Troy Gardens "Farm and Field" Youth Training Program in Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Areas Restoration** – Youth involved in the Farm and Field program spend about 12 weeks during the summer working at the Troy Community Farm and natural areas. Through their work responsibilities and an educational curriculum, youth learn about food systems, organic growing, restoration management principles and techniques, marketing, cooking, and food preservation. In 2003, eight youth ages 14–17 participated in the program.

**Troy Gardens Sustainable Urban Agriculture Learning Community** – The learning community is a collaborative project of the Friends of Troy Gardens and the University of Wisconsin–Madison. Researchers from the university are conducting long-term research projects on the agronomic and economic aspects of the farm, and on community participation in the entire project. Internships in organic farming, natural areas restoration, edible landscaping and horticultural therapy are offered for university students, with training provided from the FTG farmer and natural areas restoration manager. During the 2003 season, four interns were involved with FTG programs (at the farm, edible landscape and kids' garden). Additionally, university classes and clubs are invited out to the land for tours or work activities.



*Photo courtesy of Friends of Troy Gardens*

*Troy Gardens serve a diverse group of gardeners.*

**Troy Natural Areas Restoration Stewards Program** – Restoration stewards are community volunteers interested in learning more about and participating in land management and restoration. Stewards participate in educational programs and work activities at Troy Gardens. Volunteers have eliminated weedy invasive species, and have planted the woodland to native shrubs and wildflowers. As they work, volunteer are developing a community of knowledgeable stewards of the land who will train other volunteers and thus keep the land in good management in perpetuity. For more information on the Volunteer Stewards program refer to the Troy Gardens Volunteer Stewards article on page 15. ♻️

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## Japanese Larch

*continued from page 6*

### **References:**

*Manual of Cultivated Conifers*, 1985, by Gerd Krüssmann, Timber Press, Portland, OR.

*Manual of Woody Landscape Plants: Their Identification, Ornamental Characteristics, Culture, Propagation and Uses*, 5th ed., 1998, by Michael A. Dirr, Stipes Publishing, Champaign, IL.

*North American Landscape Trees*, 1996, by Arthur Lee Jacobson, Ten Speed Press, Berkeley, CA.

*Plants That Merit Attention, Vol. 1: Trees*, 1984, The Garden Club of America, J.M. Poor, (ed.), Timber Press, Portland, OR.

*Trees of the Northern United States and Canada*, 1995, by John Laird Farrar, Iowa State University Press, Ames, IA.

*Trees for Urban and Suburban Landscapes*, 1997, by Edward F. Gilman, Delmar Publishers, Albany, NY. ♻️

# The Idea Exchange...

compiled by Olivia Witthun  
DNR Northeast Region

## Menomonie Revises Oak Wilt Ordinance

A new provision in Menomonie, Wisconsin's, oak wilt ordinance gives the city's urban forestry board authority to modify the period during which oak trees in the city may not be pruned or cut. Normally restricted between April 15 and September 1 in Menomonie, the new ordinance specifies the board may alter the dates based on receipt of oak wilt advisories from Wisconsin DNR, which are based on advisories issued by the St. Paul Field Office of USDA Forest Service. *Info: 715-232-2187.*

## American Elm Restoration Project

The US Army Corps of Engineers is planting American elm trees on Eagle Island near Stoddard, Wisconsin, as part of the USDA Forest Service Elm Restoration Project. The goal is to introduce more disease-tolerant elms to Midwest forests. A total of 21 saplings were planted on Eagle Island, representing five disease-tolerant varieties. Elms once were a dominant species on Mississippi River bottomlands until they were nearly wiped out by Dutch elm disease. *Info: [www.rivervalleynewspapers.com/articles/2005/06/19/outdoors/01second.txt](http://www.rivervalleynewspapers.com/articles/2005/06/19/outdoors/01second.txt).*

## Students Plant Trees for Community Nursery

Students from Southern Kings Consolidated School planted trees in the recently established tree nursery for the Community Park and Memorial Gardens of Murray River, Prince Edward Island, Canada. The tree nursery is part of a larger project for the development of a community park and memorial gardens. In preparation for the planting, students were given a classroom lesson on proper planting and tree care by an industry professional. Seedlings were provided by the forestry department. They will be grown in the nursery until they are large enough to plant into the main park area. *Info: [www.murrayrivercomm.pe.ca/planttrees.html](http://www.murrayrivercomm.pe.ca/planttrees.html).*

## Artists Photograph Rare Tree

A unique photography exhibit is on display at the University of California Riverside Museum of Photography. Four professional photographers and 20 community members spent a 24-hour period taking pictures of Joshua trees and other landscapes at Joshua Tree National Park. The exhibition, titled *Site Lines*, explores Joshua Tree's desert landscape through personal expression as well as environmental commentary. "I strive to reveal the unique beauty in Nature so that we will stop destroying it," Trish Tuley writes in her artist statement. *Site Lines* runs through October 2<sup>nd</sup>. *Info: [www2.sbsun.com/entertainment/ci\\_2989681](http://www2.sbsun.com/entertainment/ci_2989681).* 🌻

# 13



*Does your community or organization have an idea, project or information that may be beneficial to others? Please let your regional urban forestry coordinator know. We will print as many of these as we can. If you see ideas you like here, give the contact person a call. They may be able to help you in your urban forestry efforts.*

## Research Notes:

# The Potential of Mulch Transmitting Three Tree Pathogens

by Karel A. Jacobs, Plant Pathologist  
The Morton Arboretum, Lisle, IL

Everyone knows the benefits that mulch provides for trees: retaining moisture, providing organic material, regulating soil temperatures and keeping lawnmowers and weed eaters away from the trunk. But there have been concerns regarding whether pathogens in fresh mulch can be transmitted to trees.

In this field study three diseases were examined: Sphaeropsis tip blight, Botryosphaeria canker and Armillaria root rot. Austrian pine, eastern redbud and red oak saplings were mulched with diseased needles, bark chips and wood chips collected from mature

trees. Half of the saplings were mulched with fresh mulch material and the other half were mulched with material that was first heated to 140 degrees F.

Sphaeropsis tip blight was the only disease that developed during this study, and pines mulched with heat-treated materials developed significantly fewer blighted tips than those mulched with fresh materials. Botryosphaeria canker and Armillaria root rot diseases appear unlikely to be transmitted through mulch material. 🌻

**Reference:** *Journal of Arboriculture*, Vol. 31, No. 5. September, 2005.

## **Urban Forestry Advocacy**

by Dave Liska, Chair  
Wisconsin Urban Forestry Council

Hello! While pondering my *Council* message for this edition, I decided to review my previous messages first. Upon that perusal, I've decided to continue with the "awareness and active participation" theme that began in previous messages.

To reiterate, as stewards and ambassadors for urban forestry we need to avoid the preaching to the choir syndrome. Rather, we need to foster and develop new partnerships utilizing the linkages provided by shared common interest. Given the power generated by a unified urban forestry front, we can then progress to the level where we can focus our collective energy on specific target audiences. You will notice I said, *audiences*, as in more than one, plural. Many potential audience possibilities come to mind, however, there are two that immediately jump out! I would categorize the first group as the elected or appointed decision makers consisting of mayors, administrators, boards, councils, committees, aldermen and county/state legislators. All of these folks determine budgets and influence policy. I've previously referred to the second audience as Mr. and Mrs. John Q. Public. These citizens are the grass roots constituency that needs to be convinced that community trees (green infrastructure) are essential to maintain the quality of life that they have come to enjoy and expect. In essence, they need to be provided with straightfor-

ward factual information that makes them care about the trees in their city, town or village. A daunting task indeed!

Recently I have begun using two newer pieces of urban forestry support material. How many times have you been asked by a city council member or client to provide a monetary quantification that categorizes the benefits and value of urban trees? They are seeking this data so that they can make informed decisions—decisions that impact budgets, policies and expenditures.

The first item appeared in the *2005 Annual Report of the Tree City USA Bulletin*. It is a concise summary of urban tree benefits. It is a useful resource in expanding citizen perception beyond the belief that urban trees are strictly aesthetic. The second helpful item is a color brochure from the USDA Forest Service Center for Urban Forestry Research and available at [www.na.fs.fed.us/urban/treespayusback/](http://www.na.fs.fed.us/urban/treespayusback/). It focuses on the Midwest and documents how trees pay us back in terms of dollars and cents. Additionally, it specifically references the research agencies that performed the studies that generated the data. This can prove invaluable when queried by doubters to "cite your literature."

We are all part of the urban forestry "awareness team." This material can be helpful. Use it!

Have a marvelous spring season. 🌸

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## **Origin of Oak Wilt**

*continued from page 7*

wilt fungus. Recently, researchers examined the genetic diversity of *C. fagacearum* and found that there was a very low level of genetic variation in the nuclear and mitochondrial genomes of isolates across its geographical range. This result indicates that the organism appears to be relatively new to the area. They also found that *C. fagacearum* is genetically quite distant from its closest relatives that are native to North America. This implies that a new speciation theory appears highly unlikely. If the fungus is an introduced pathogen, where did it originate from? Although oak wilt has not been found outside North America, it is possible the fungus may exist in other parts of the world, but causes too little damage to be detected there. Currently Europe has been excluded from a possible origin of *C. fagacearum*, as European white oaks are highly susceptible to the fungus in contrast to the somewhat resistant North American white oaks.

The origin of oak wilt is still speculative. What we know is that the disease is here to stay and possibly will spread further. If you don't have oak wilt in your property, it is important to take preventive measures to minimize the chance of oak wilt introduction to your area. Avoid harvesting, pruning or wounding oak trees from bud swell up to two or three weeks past full leaf development (generally from April 15 to July 1), or from April 1 to October 1 to take a cautious approach. Some municipalities may have their own oak pruning guidelines. It is important not to bring infected trees with the bark attached, such as firewood or logs into your property to avoid creating a new infection center. For more information about oak wilt biology and management, please visit the Wisconsin DNR Web site at <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/Forestry/Fh/oakWilt/index.htm>. 🌸

## Urban Forestry Resources:

# Trees and Watershed Management

compiled by Cindy Casey  
DNR West Central Region

☞ *Manual on Urban Watershed Forestry*, The Center for Watershed Protection (CWP), in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service, Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry, has produced a three-part manual on using trees to protect and restore urban watersheds. The contents of the manual are the result of extensive research as well as two design workshops held in early 2004 that focused on using trees for stormwater treatment and planting trees in the urban landscape.



Part One – “Methods for Increasing Forest Cover in a Watershed,” Part Two – “Conserving and Planting Trees at Development Sites” and Part Three – “Urban Tree Planting Guide” are available in PDF format and can be downloaded at [www.cwp.org/forestry/index.htm](http://www.cwp.org/forestry/index.htm). Hard copies of the complete manual are scheduled to be released and distributed by USDA Forest Service later in 2006. ✻

# 15



## Troy Gardens Volunteer Stewards

by Amy Martin, Troy Gardens Natural Areas Coordinator  
and  
Michael LaBissoniere, Urban Forestry Assistant  
DNR South Central Region

As featured in the *Organization Profile*, there are many projects occurring at Troy Gardens. Fortunately Troy Gardens has a dedicated group of volunteers that are key to completing the projects at hand. Troy Gardens recruits Volunteer Stewards from throughout the Madison community. Stewards commit to a time investment in the conservation of the land at Troy Gardens in return for free training in natural areas management techniques, plant identification, and native and herbal plant use.

In 2006, Troy Gardens will add a monthly opportunity for community members to volunteer on the land. Following their work, the volunteers can participate in classes on native and herbal plant use and join fellow volunteers in a potluck. Management activities and classes take place in the maple woodland, prairie, edible forest, and prairie and herb educational gardens. Through these volunteer opportunities, the Friends of Troy Gardens intends to create a group of community members committed to and trained in the management of urban natural areas and to further the sense of community among residents on the north side of Madison.

Troy Gardens' current 2006 schedule, which began in February, includes workshops on orchard management, prescribed burning, tree and shrub pruning, woodland and prairie plant identification, management plan creation, bird identification, creating habitat for wildlife, invasive species management, insect identification, creating rain gardens, edible landscape design, identifying night sounds and stars, winter tree and plant identification, and tree health

assessment. The monthly gatherings also include classes on creating natural dyes, tinctures, herbal vinegars, wild salads, berry wines, and cooking with invasive species. For more information on these programs and how to get involved, interested parties should contact Amy Martin at 608-240-0409 or [naturalareas@troygardens.org](mailto:naturalareas@troygardens.org). ✻

## What Damaged This Tree?

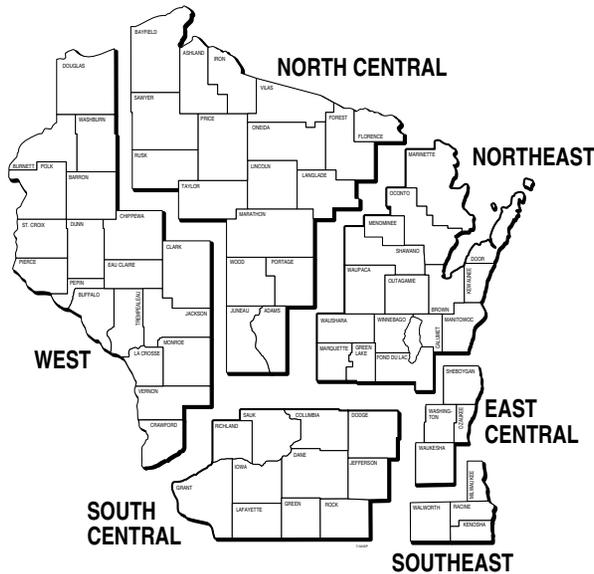


Photo by Cindy Casey, WDNR

**Answer:** The individual who planted this tree must have missed the tree planting workshop section on pulling back the burlap and twine and locating the root collar. Unfortunately most of the trees in this subdivision were similarly planted and are still struggling.

Do you have pictures of tree damage others ought to know about? Send them to Kim Sebastian (address on page 16) and we'll print them here!

## Wisconsin DNR Urban and Community Forestry Contacts



World Wide Web Site: [www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/forestry/uf/](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/forestry/uf/)

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