

Wisconsin's Champion Trees Need Your Help!

by Dick Rideout
State Urban Forestry Coordinator
DNR Forestry Division

For over 60 years, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has been keeping records on Wisconsin's Champion Trees. Now, many of these records are seriously out-of-date and we need your help. But let's start at the beginning.

What is a Champion Tree? According to American Forests, which started the National Register of Big Trees in 1940, a Champion Tree is the largest tree of its species. The "largest" is determined using a formula that considers a tree's trunk circumference, height and branch spread. The number of inches in circumference, plus the number of height in feet, plus one-quarter of the spread in feet gives the total points. This allows for comparison among and between apple trees and orange trees.

Why keep records of Champion Trees? The original rationale of American Forests in 1940 was simple and still holds true today: "Such a conservation activity will have incalculable benefits, not only in stimulating greater tree appreciation, but in establishing a nationwide laboratory for tree and forestry studies by future generations." To me as an urban forester, Champion Trees provide a link between the deep woods and the city. At first, one might think that champions are a north woods phenomenon, but in fact many, if not most, of them are in our communities. Wisconsin's largest tree, the national champion peachleaf willow, *Salix amygdaloides*, testifies to this. It is in Greenfield Park in West Allis.

And speaking of national champions, Wisconsin has four—the peachleaf willow, the gray birch (*Betula populafolia*), the black spruce (*Picea mariana*) and the silver maple (*Acer saccharinum*).

How many Wisconsin champions are there? According to our 1998 edition of *Wisconsin's Champion Trees*, we have over 2100 records on 271 different species. This brings us



Photo by Jay Fernholz

Champion Tree hunter Cindy Casey poses with the national champion gray birch in Trempealeau County, WI.

back to needing your help. We'd like to publish a new edition of our register. However, many of the trees in our records haven't been re-measured for 15 years or more. Have they grown? Have they lost limbs or tops so they are no longer number one? Are they still even there?

Where are all these trees? *Wisconsin's Champion Trees 1998*, publication #PUB-FR-115-98, lists the location of the top ten trees of each species along with a host of other information about measuring, nominating and



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Community Profile:

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City of Richland Center

By David Stephenson
DNR South Central Region

Nestled in a valley of the Ocooch Mountains along the Pine River, Richland Center commands a prime location. Tall pines and sturdy maples fill the “mountain-like” hills surrounding the city. A hike up to the bluff top from Minor Hills Trail Park affords spectacular views of the city and surrounding valley.

Platted in 1851, Richland Center became the Richland County seat the following year. Although the exact location is unknown, Frank Lloyd Wright, one of the most famous and influential architects of the 20th century, was born here in 1867. The Wright-designed AD German Warehouse stands in Richland Center. It is an impressive red brick building topped with a Mayan-styled concrete frieze. It rests on a cork pad for cushioning, the same as his Imperial Hotel—one of the few buildings to withstand one of the most severe earthquakes in Tokyo’s history. Other historic buildings—nearly 30 in all—grace the streets of this city. One of the finest is the county courthouse. Built in 1889, it features a marble-pillared portico and multi-gabled clock tower.

Also born here was Ada James, a suffrage leader instrumental in making Wisconsin the first state in the nation to ratify the 19th amendment giving women the right to vote. Richland Center was the birthplace of General Telephone and Electronics (GTE) in 1918, and



Photo by David Stephenson, WI DNR

the first high school marching band in the country began parading here.

Each June, Richland Center is home to the Wisconsin State High School Rodeo and, the following week, the much-anticipated Star Spangled Celebration. This three-day musical festival draws more than 15,000 people from throughout the Midwest. Scheduled this year for June 27–29 at Krouskop Park, this year’s headliners include Travis Tritt, Paul Revere and the Raiders, Alabama, Charlie Daniels and dozens of others.

Further reflecting its patriotic spirit, Richland Center has been designated Wisconsin’s Purple Heart Memorial City and is the eastern terminus of the Wisconsin Purple Heart Memorial Highway (Hwy 14). In honor of this designation, citizens of the county raised \$8,000 to place a beautiful pink marble marker in American Legion Park commemorating veterans wounded in the line of duty. Appropriately, a Dwight D. Eisenhower green ash is planted next to the marker as a living memorial to WWII veterans. Also of note is the system of levees that snake along the Pine River through Richland Center. The largest such project in the US, this series of five levees not only protects citizens against floods, but also serves as a recreational corridor and bicycle trail through the community.

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Community Profile:

Tree City USA:
since 1999
Growth Award - 2001
Population: 5,153
Street Tree
Population: 2718
Number of Parks: 10
Developed Park
Acres: 60.3
Total Park Acres:
190.3
Miles of Street: 36.5

Primary Industries

Dean Foods Dairies
Allen Bradley –
Electrical Control
Boards
UW–Richland
Richland Hospital

Program Profile:

Staff: Fred Koenecke,
Volunteer City
Forester

Tree Board:

Carson Culver – Chair
Fred Koenecke – City
Forester
Shane Stibbe – Park
and Recreation Dir.
Karen Scott –
Horticulturist
Thaddeus Stanley –
Councilperson

Equipment:

stump grinder
2 bucket trucks

2001 Forestry
Budget: \$11,710



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Articles, news items, photos and ideas are welcome.

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If Only Trees Could Talk: **A Wisconsin's Millennium Grove of Famous and Historic Trees**



By Mark Guthmiller,
DNR South Central Region

If only trees could talk, imagine the stories they could tell! Think of all the historical events that took place in their presence and all the interesting people they would have met over the years.

For instance, a sycamore tree that stands in front of a church in Selma, Alabama would talk about the powerful speeches of a young minister promoting civil rights. This man would become known as the leader of the civil rights movement and be remembered for his famous "I have a dream" speech. Or how about a swamp white oak that would tell of a horrific battle led by battery captain John Bigelow, where dozens of his men died? The tree would tell how Captain Bigelow was shot twice and then rescued by his bugler Charles Reed. This would be a pivotal battle of the Civil War. A red maple tree in Little Falls, Minnesota would tell of a boy growing up with a dream to one day fly. The tree would tell how



Photo by Mark Guthmiller, WDNR

A volunteer assistant checks the trees at the temporary tree nursery at the planting site.

this boy grew up and completed a solo flight across the Atlantic Ocean in 1927. A white ash tree near the Hudson River in Hyde Park, New York would talk of a woman crusading for human rights and equality for women. This woman would become the first politically active First Lady and wife to the 32nd president of the

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Richland Center *continued from previous page*

Managing the community's trees

The Richland Center urban forestry program began with the Richland Center Rotary Club. In 1997, Rotarian Fred Koenecke, recognizing that many of the city's trees were suffering from neglect, garnered a commitment from the club to help him develop a tree management program.

Koenecke then approached the city council for their support. Then-Mayor Tom McCarthy and the city council provided this, and the Richland Center Tree Board was formed.

In 1998, the tree board applied for and received a DNR urban forestry grant and hired a consultant to complete a public tree inventory and management plan. The results were not surprising. Overall, the maple genus accounted for a third of the public tree population, with species of ash coming up a strong second. More than 500 vacant planting sites were recorded, leaving a lot of room for planting. The overall condition was average, but much needed to be done.



The Richland County Courthouse in Richland Center. Photo by David Stephenson, WDNR

"The inventory and plan provided us the information we needed and we now have a good start toward managing our trees," says Koenecke, who also serves as the volunteer city forester. "But beyond the typical management duties of trimming, removals and planting, we have been and are continuing to implement a number of special projects."

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Millenium Grove *continued from page 3*

United States. The offspring of a white oak tree in Connecticut would tell of the legend regarding the colonial charter granted by Charles II of England, allowing self-rule of the colony. And how on October 31, 1687, after King James II revoked the charter, a meeting between the colonial governor and the governor of the Dominion of New England was disrupted. The oak tree would tell how mysteriously the candles suddenly went out and during the confusion the charter was grabbed by a Captain Joseph Wadsworth and hid in a hollow oak tree. The charter would later serve as Connecticut's constitution during the Revolutionary War.

A project is currently underway where, in a way, the trees *will* talk. Welcome to Wisconsin's Millennium Grove of famous and historic trees! Located at the west end of Lake Farm County Park in Dane County, a rare grove of famous and historic trees will be planted over the next few years. The USDA Forest service, in cooperation with American Forests, offered each state in the United States one hundred trees from American Forests' "Famous and Historic Trees" nursery to help promote the benefits of trees in an educational way. These trees are direct offspring of trees that witnessed events and lives of national historic significance. The Wisconsin Millennium Grove is a long-term project that includes developing landscape plans, maintaining the trees in a temporary nursery bed, establishing a fundraising program for site development and transplanting trees to a final grove site.

The Dane County Parks Department was selected to develop and maintain the Millennium Grove at the

Lake Farm County Park site. This is a cooperative project with assistance from a number of partners, including the University of Wisconsin's Department of Landscape Architecture, American Society of Landscape Architects, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Wisconsin Urban Forestry Council and other volunteers. On Saturday, August 11, 2001, as part of the "Tour des Trees" State Capitol event, the 100 famous and historic trees were dedicated from the State of Wisconsin to Dane County. DNR Executive Assistant Barb Zellmer officially presented a plaque to Dane County Parks Director Ken LePine honoring the county's offer to host Wisconsin's Millennium Grove.



Photo by Mark Guthmiller, WDNR

Dane County Parks Director Ken LePine (*middle*) accepts the Millennium Grove plaque from Wisconsin DNR Executive Assistant Barb Zellmer (*right*).

Lake Farm County Park will be a wonderful site for showcasing the Millennium Grove. The Capital City Bike Trail passes adjacent to the planned grove site

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Richland Center *continued from page 3*

"For example," continues Koenecke, "a couple years ago the Richland Hospital built large additions which necessitated the reconstruction of streets for a couple blocks in two directions. The hospital included tree planting in their building budget and worked with the city to landscape these streets. This is a great example of private business and government working together to make the community better."

"Another project we are proud of is the 1½-acre city tree nursery. Each year, school kids help plant seedlings here," Koenecke explained. "As part of last year's Arbor Day, 7th-graders from St. Mary's School planted 200 seedlings including ash, oak, spruce, white pine and lilac bushes. These are being grown for outplanting in our community parks. The first of these will be ready for transplanting in four years."

"Education is also very important to the program" notes Koenecke. "Last year we made a video on the

problem of girdling roots and how to properly plant a tree, which will be shown on our local cable channel. We are also developing a series of informational articles for our local paper this year."

"Education and beautification can go hand in hand" observes mayoral assistant Luella Edwards as she describes one such project. "We received a Transportation Equity Act (TEA-21) grant to develop an arboretum along the levee bicycle trail. Not only will this beautify the river way, but it will provide education on trees, their attributes and uses in our home landscapes."

"In fact, Mayor Edwin Lee has stipulated that no project or grant request be developed without including trees," Edwards explains. "Making trees a part of the planning process and budgeting for them is just a smart way to incorporate this valuable resource. It makes our community a better place to live." 🌿

Millenium Grove *continued from previous page*

offering a unique break for area bikers. Visitors to the new county campground and Lussier Family Heritage Center will be able to view the grove along with the many other park amenities. In addition, the park is adjacent to the newly designated Capital Springs Centennial State Park. There will also be many wonderful opportunities to promote the value and benefit of trees with educational exhibits and events at this location. Using trees with famous and historical significance is a unique way to deliver this message.

Fifty of the 100 seedlings have been planted in a temporary nursery bed at the grove site with assistance from students and teachers of Madison's Walbridge Academy. And with additional assistance from Jeff Edgar of Silver Creek Nurseries, the other 50 seedlings are being grown in pots for a couple of years prior to planting to spread out the risk of potential mortality or damage.

Students of UW landscape architecture professor Dr. John Harrington have been busy creating their versions of the Millennium Grove. This year 21 students created landscape plans. There were many wonderful designs and a selection process is still needed which may include choosing one plan or incorporating various parts of a number of plans. Since this is a long-term project and final planting is a couple years off, Dr. Harrington will have future students develop additional landscape plans as a class project for the Wisconsin Millennium Grove.

The "Famous and Historic" trees planned for Wisconsin's Millennium Grove include the George Washington Carver green ash, Eleanor Roosevelt white ash, Harriet Beecher Stowe white ash, Frank Lloyd Wright ginkgo, Gettysburg Address honeylocust, Independence Hall Japanese tree lilac, Minuteman red maple, Walden Woods red maple, Mt. Vernon red maple, Charles Lindbergh red maple, Truman silver maple, Mark Twain bur oak, Elvis pin

oak, Nathan Hale red oak, Vicksburg red oak, Minuteman red oak, Amelia Earhart sugar maple, Bigelow's Battery swamp white oak, Lincoln white oak, Charter white oak, Frederick Douglass white oak, Elvis sycamore, Henry Ford sycamore, John James Audubon sycamore, Martin Luther King Jr. sycamore, Elvis weeping willow, Napoleon weeping willow, and Walden Woods weeping willow.

So get on your bike, hop in your car, or take a hike and check out what is sprouting at Lake Farm County Park...and if you are really quiet you might even hear the whispering of the trees.

For more information on the Millennium Grove Project contact Louise Goldstein at 608-246-5366, or Mark Guthmiller at 608-275-3223.

Lake Farm County Park web site: <http://www.co.dane.wi.us/parks/parkhome.htm>.

American Forests "Famous and Historic Trees" web site: <http://www.historictrees.org>. 🌳

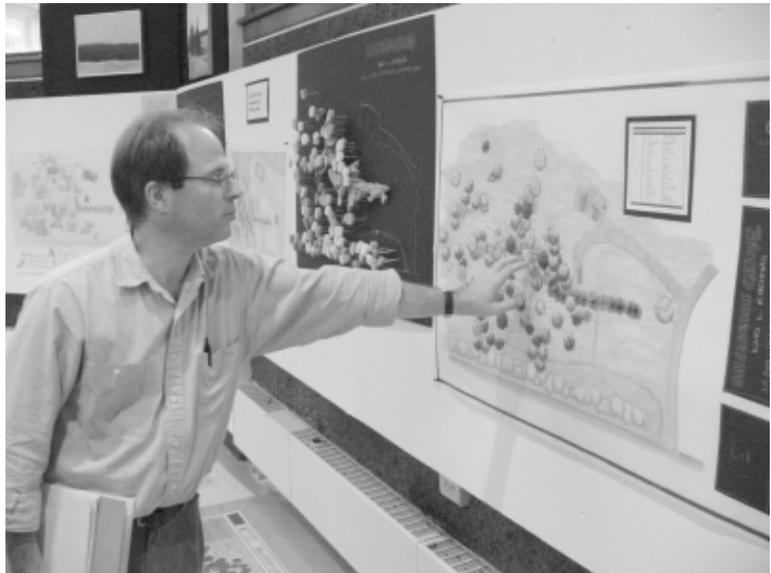


Photo by Mark Guthmiller, WDNR

Dr. John Harrington reviews one of his students' landscape designs for potential use in developing the Millennium Grove.

Champion Trees *continued from page 1*

studying champions. Individual copies are available free of charge from the DNR by contacting your local DNR service center or writing the Bureau of Forestry, PO Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707. The registry is also on the web at <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/forestry/uf/champion/index.htm>. The great thing about the web version is that the entire Champion Tree data base is available to download. This allows you to electronically search and sort the data. The electronic data base is also more up-to-date, reflecting changes that have occurred since 1998.

How can I help? The Champion Tree register is a volunteer effort and we need volunteers. I challenge you all to go out, find the Champion Trees in your area and report back with new measurements, obituaries or new contenders! Use the data base to plan a vacation or perhaps a side trip or two on your way somewhere else. Challenge your schools to a contest. That's a great way to check old records and find new champions in your area. However you do it, let us know what you find out. We'd like to revise and republish *Wisconsin's Champion Trees* in the fall of 2002 and we'd love to have current information about all 271 champions.

Happy tree hunting! 🌳

Community Tree Profile:

Katsuratree

(*Cercidiphyllum japonicum*)

By Laura G. Jull
Dept. of Horticulture
University of Wisconsin–Madison

Native To: China and Japan
Mature Height: 40' to 60'
Spread: 30' to 40', or more
Form: Pyramidal when young, becoming oval to rounded with age. Tends to produce branches low to the ground. It can have multiple trunks, but can be trained to have a central leader.

Growth Rate: Moderate

Foliage: Leaves are opposite to subopposite, simple, 2" to 4" long, broadly ovate to rounded with a distinct heart-shaped leaf base. Leaves have either rounded or toothed leaf margins and 3 to 5 main veins radiating from the petiole. Leaves are purplish-bronze when unfolding, changing to blue-green in spring with a somewhat whitish underside and red petioles. Terminal buds are lacking but there are two terminal, reddish buds that are pressed close to the stem. Terminal and lateral buds are either opposite or subopposite each other. Stems are swollen at the nodes and may produce spur-type growth that later bear the male or female flowers.

Fall Color: Showy, yellow to apricot-orange; leaves smell like burnt cinnamon, brown sugar or cotton candy when falling from the tree.

Flowers: Dioecious (separate male and female flowers located on two different trees); inconspicuous in early spring, before the leaves.

Fruit: On female plants in summer to fall, fruit is small, ½"– to ¾"–long capsules, borne in cluster of 2 to 4 on spur-type growth on stems. Fruit clusters resemble tiny bananas that split open at maturity. Fruit does not create a litter problem.

Bark: Grayish-brown; slightly shaggy on older trunks with the ends loose; somewhat showy.

Site Requirements: Prefers a moist, well-drained, rich soil; pH adaptable; full sun.

Hardiness Zone: 4 to 8

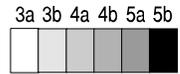
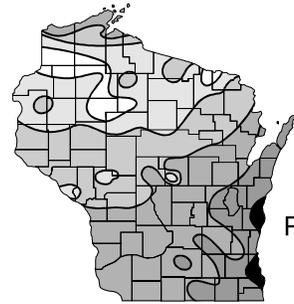
Insect & Disease Problems: None serious but can sunscald on trunk, hence leave shortened, lower branches on trunk to prevent sunscald.

Suggested Applications: Katsuratree is a beautiful, specimen shade tree with great form, leaf texture, bark and fall



Photo by Dr. Laura Jull, UW–Madison

Katsuratree



Plant Hardiness Zones for Wisconsin

* Urban tree size and growth rate vary considerably and are strongly controlled by site conditions.

color. It can be used as a lawn or yard tree where it is away from

road salt, drought and compaction. It can also be used as a specimen in larger areas such as golf courses and parks. The tree casts light shade, hence growth of turf grass under trees is usually not inhibited severely.

Limitations: Katsuratree is sensitive to drought and compacted soil and will need supplemental watering during dry periods or else the leaves wilt. Tends to be hard to transplant and is best planted in spring. It is not very heat tolerant. Katsuratree requires early pruning to develop a strong central leader, then little pruning is required. Can be susceptible to breakage in ice storms, especially if trees have included bark.

Comments: Katsuratree is an excellent tree for home landscapes and commercial areas. It has no pest problems and has a wonderful form and texture. Katsuratree is often confused with eastern redbud (*Cercis canadensis*), however Katsuratree has opposite to subopposite leaves that are smaller, and it does not produce the magenta flowers or

continued on next page



Foliage and bark of katsuratree

Prevent Oak Decline by Protecting against Insect Defoliation

by Glen R. Stanosz, Ph.D.

Departments of Plant Pathology and Forest Ecology and Management,
University of Wisconsin–Madison

Noticeable deterioration of tree condition results from interactions among trees, unfavorable environmental conditions and pests. Oaks in Wisconsin, suffering from the effects of poor sites, inadequate growing space, drought, defoliation, improper management and a large number of opportunistic pathogens and insects are no exception. Thus, when a homeowner or landscape manager asks, “What’s bothering the oaks?” the answer might not be a single agent or pest, but rather “oak decline.”

Visible symptoms of oak decline include slow growth and sparse foliage. Leaves may be distorted, chlorotic, “scorched” along their margins or prematurely fall-colored. Twigs, and then branches, die. Crown dieback may be followed by growth of adventitious sprouts along the trunk and limbs. Symptoms of oak



UW–Madison Department of Plant Pathology file photo

Symptoms of oak decline include slow growth, thin foliage and progressive dieback of twigs and branches.

decline progress and intensify over several to many years, ending in eventual death of trees.

Oak decline in Wisconsin can be incited by the activity of defoliating insects. Recent outbreaks of the forest tent caterpillar in the north and continued invasion of the gypsy moth from the east will likely increase the frequency of oak decline in the state. Late defoliation that results in a second flush of leaves or severe, repeated defoliation can deplete carbohydrate reserves (stored “food”) in trees. Oaks affected in this way are particularly susceptible to damage by insect borers (e.g., *Agrilus bilineatus*, the

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Katsuratree *continued from previous page*

orange inner bark like a redbud tree.

Common Cultivars or Selections:

f. pendulum: pendulous, arching branches; weeping form; grafted; typically growing to 15' to 25' tall

References:

Landscape Plants for Eastern North America, 2nd ed., 1997, by Harrison L. Flint, John Wiley and Sons, Inc., New York

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Trees of the Northern United States and Canada, 1995, by John L. Farrar, Iowa State Univ. Press, Ames, IA.

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What Damaged This Tree?

by Kim Sebastian

DNR Southeast Region



Photo by Cindy Casey, WTDNR

Turn to page 15 to find out...

Top Ten List for Thrifty Tree Planters

The following article was adapted from "The Uniontown Shade Tree Commission Top Ten List for Thrifty Tree Planters" with permission from *Pennsylvania Urban Forestry News* (Vol. 8, Issue 2).

10. **Involve your community.** This is the most crucial element to stretching your resources. People really do get enthusiastic about tree planting in their neighborhoods and are very willing to help with planting, watering and even monetary donations. And of course, those who help with the project make an emotional investment that will influence them to protect and care for trees in the future.
9. **Make the tree planting an event.** Distribute flyers in the neighborhood two weeks before your "Planting Day," and have announcements on the local radio and television stations. Invite community leaders and officials to help out. Invite your local public-access station to film the planting and show it intermittently for the next week or so. Encourage the local paper to publish photos of the event.
8. **Call the Scouts and other youth groups.** You might not think that eight-year-old Cubs and Brownies would be capable of the arduous work involved in planting two-inch-caliper trees, but these young people can do a significant portion of the planting. Many Scout troops are looking for service projects such as this, so don't hesitate to ask them. This is also a great opportunity to recruit and educate the next generation of tree protectors in our communities.
7. **Be creative in soliciting donations.** In most communities, financial outlays are hard to come by, but in-kind donations are given willingly. Approach a tree service to see if they are willing to donate wood chips. Maybe a city official could line up a city truck and a couple of workers to help mulch trees, and the fire department might be able to assist in watering the trees. You might also consider approaching local stores or restaurants for snacks to feed the volunteers, an essential element for a successful day. Make a sign acknowledging the donors and display it prominently during the event.
6. **Pick a well-traveled, highly visible area for your plantings. Only plant one street or neighborhood at a time.** A line of trees stretching out along a street has much more of an impact than individual saplings plopped down here and there. Planting a whole area promotes community pride and involvement.
5. **Only plant trees that are wanted.** Although most communities control what happens in city tree lawns, homeowners view this as their property and are responsible for cutting the grass and otherwise maintaining these areas. Have property owners sign written permission slips before planting in front of their homes and do not plant any trees where owners refuse permission.
4. **Unless you are aiming for a monoculture of flowering crabs or Norway maple, don't give people a choice of trees.** This may sound harsh, but unfortunately the public in general has limited knowledge of trees and is usually not considering the overall tree management plan for your community.
3. **Plant big trees!** Not so big that they can't be handled by volunteers, but probably in the range of 1- to 2-inch caliper at least. Anything smaller than that is, sadly, a target for vandals and careless drivers.
2. **Don't forget your trees after they're planted.** A pledge to water should be part of the permission slip that property owners are required to sign, and they should be given an information sheet with explicit watering instructions and the "do's and don'ts" of tree care. To aid in water retention, mulch the trees.
1. **Go with a pro: contact an urban forestry professional.** If your community does not have a forester, contact your UW-Extension agent or your DNR urban forestry coordinator. They can be a valuable resource for information on all aspects of tree planting projects and can help you avoid costly mistakes. 🌿

Coming Events

March 26–27, 2002—Minnesota Shade Tree Short Course, Bethel College, Arden Hills, MN. Contact Mary Kay Ferguson, 800-318-8636 or extconf@umn.edu or <http://www.conferences.umn.edu/mn/hort/shadtree>.

July 28–31, 2002—International Society of Arboriculture Annual Conference, Seattle, WA. Contact ISA, 217-355-9411 or isa@isa-arbor.com.

September 26–28, 2002—Community Forestry at Its Best, Arbor Day Farm/Lied Conference Center, Nebraska City, NE. Contact the National Arbor Day Foundation, 402/474-5655 or conferences@arborday.org.



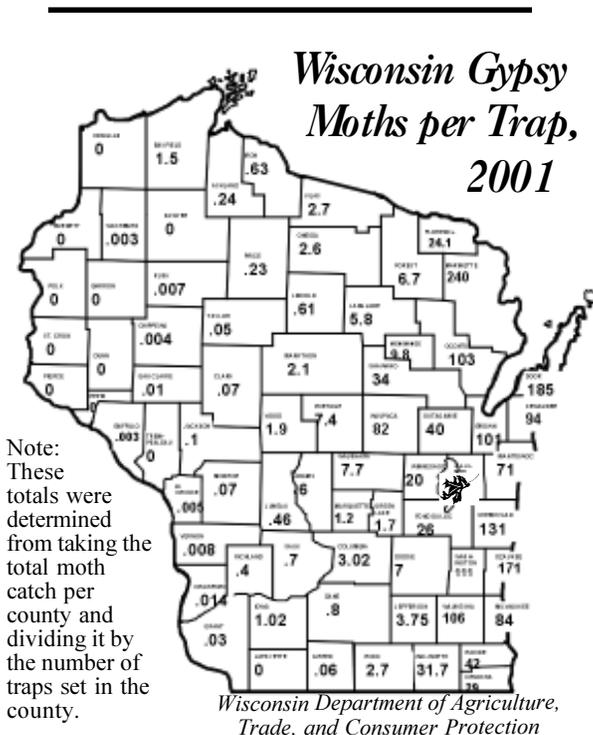
Gypsy Moth in 2001 and 2002

by Steve Millett, WDATCP and
Dr. Andrea Diss, WDNR

The final gypsy moth trapping results are in and here are some of the highlights from the 2001 Cooperative Gypsy Moth Program.

The map shows the number of moths per trap. The higher the number, the more likely the gypsy moth is increasing to damaging levels. It doesn't, however, indicate what areas within a county are likely to have problems.

The most useful map is the gradient map found at <http://www.ento.vt.edu/~sharov/stsdec/d20013/krig.gif>. This map is in color and doesn't reproduce well in black and white, so it's best to go to the web to view it. The map shows areas in coral pink likely to suffer defoliation in 2002. Areas in bright pink or purple may have populations high enough to be noticed by the public. Based on this map, defoliation



is likely in central Marinette and the Peshtigo area, Legend Lake area of Menominee County, Shawano Lake area of Shawano County, southern Door County, northwest Brown County, Northern Unit-Kettle Moraine area of Sheboygan County, southern Ozaukee County, Southern Unit-Kettle Moraine and northeast Waukesha County, northwest Milwaukee County, and western Waupaca County

Similar maps for previous years are also available. Just substitute the year you want for that of 2001 in the section /d20013/. Maps are available back to 1994.

2001 Highlights

- Aerial spraying efforts were completed from May 10 to June 28.
- A total of 174,458 acres were treated, including two Btk applications and one pheromone flake application.
- The Btk applications started on May 10, 2001 and ended on June 2.
- Btk was applied to 110,179 acres in 17 counties (57 sites).
- Pheromone flake application started on June 25 and ended on June 28.
- Pheromone flakes were applied to 64,279 acres in 6 counties (14 sites).
- Btk was applied to 1655 acres in 2 counties (5 sites) for the suppression program.
- *Entomophaga maimaiga* was found the last week of June and into July at various locations throughout the state.
- Approximately 30,000 traps were placed throughout the state.
- A record number of male gypsy moths were caught in 2001, totaling 374,550 moths.
- Trapping grids were set at 1 per square mile, 1 per 2 square miles, 1 per 4 square miles, 4 per square mile, and 9 per square mile.
- Fifty-two trappers and 10 lead workers were hired to set, check and take down traps.
- Fall egg mass surveys are currently being done. Sites are selected based on this year's high moth counts. Twelve surveyors will work for 4 weeks doing surveys mainly in the central third of the state.
- Alternate life stages have been reported at 25 sites in 11 non-regulated counties in 2001. Eighty-eight sites have been reported in 17 regulated counties.
- Twenty-three counties are currently quarantined for gypsy moth, all in the eastern third of the state.

Events, cont.

October 7–8, 2002—Building with Trees National Conference, Arbor Day Farm/Lied Conference Center, Nebraska City, NE. Contact the National Arbor Day Foundation, 402/474-5655 or conferences@arborday.org.

October 13–16, 2002—Society of Municipal Arborists Annual Conference, Ithaca, NY. Contact Norma Bonham, 314-862-3325 or nbonham@mindspring.com or <http://www.urban-forestry.com/index.html>.

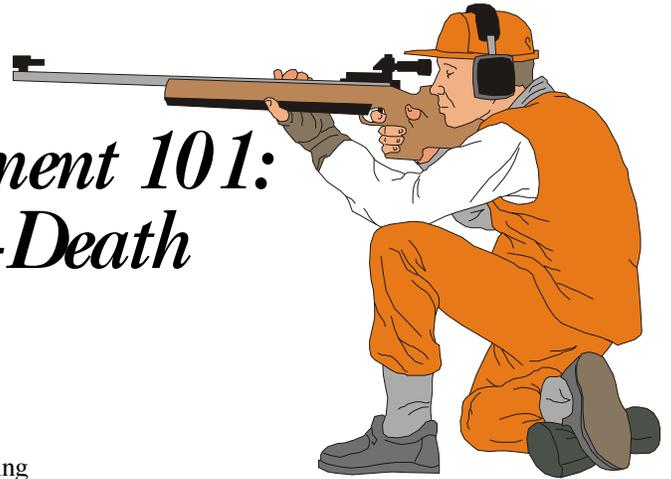
November 7–9, 2002—National Arborist Association Tree Care Industry Expo, Milwaukee, WI. Contact Carol Crossland, 603-314-5380 or <http://www.natlarb.com/>.

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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.

Wildlife Management 101: Today's Lesson—Death

by Ricky Lien
DNR Urban Wildlife Specialist



As I sit here writing this article (and as usual I've waited until the last minute to get it done), I'm sitting in my wife's office and the window is open. Even though the temperature today will climb into the upper 70s, the day has a feel to it that tells you that even though summer might yet have a couple really hot days to throw at you, the shift to fall has begun. And to Wisconsin hunters fall is what it's about. It's the time they spend in marshes at the crack of dawn waiting for a flight of mallards to come into their spread. It's hours spent in a tree with a bow, waiting for a whitetail to come by, but also content to eavesdrop on the woods around them. It's tromping through a grassy field hoping that the dog you put up with for nine months of the year will prove her worth in the other three. And many animals will die. That's my topic for the day—killing animals.

Hunters kill animals. We come up with lots of euphemisms to avoid saying kill: harvest, reduce the population, cull, take, bag, and my favorite, reduce the fall survival rate. But the bottom line is that hunters kill animals. Wildlife managers take advantage of this by using hunting as a key tool to manage populations. Taking this into the urban wildlife field, the management of urban populations of geese or deer that are overabundant often involves the killing of some of the animals, either by hunters or professionals. As a wildlife biologist charged with managing some of the state's wildlife populations and their habitats, I have no problem with animals being killed if it is done legally, humanely, safely and respectfully. And with the two biggest urban wildlife management issues—deer and Canada geese—management of overpopulated urban areas often comes down to killing some of the animals to manage the population. But when I'm in front of a group of people and bring up killing animals, I often see reactions that range from discomfort all the way to outright hostility.

Why, especially in Wisconsin which has a strong hunting tradition, do an increasing number of people oppose killing animals? Most people live in urban areas. In fact, it's not hard to find fourth- or fifth-generation urbanites. With that move to the city has obviously come a move away from the country. I was

blessed to grow up on a small dairy farm in the driftless area of northeast Iowa. Many of the dairy cows, pigs, or beef cattle on our farm were close to pet status. But we never had any illusion as to their fate. From an early age we accepted the fact that the animals would die and that their death would serve a purpose—money for the family and food for consumers. Contrast this with the viewpoint of an increasing number of urbanites. To many of them, animals don't die, meat just appears in the store. It's easy to avoid thinking about an animal being killed and butchered when you can go into a clean, pleasant grocery store and pick up a nice container of shrink-wrapped meat. How many people think about where the leather for their shoes comes from?

Another facet of my rural upbringing was the proximity of undeveloped areas to explore. Literally out the backdoor and down the hill was "the woods." The woods wasn't just trees. It wasn't the deer or other animals that lived there. It wasn't the stream that wound its way through it every spring. It was all of those things, plus many others, which interacted in an amazing way. Today, after many years of school and over a decade working in wildlife management, it's still an amazing place of which I have only a slightly better understanding. Unfortunately, I have run into a lot of people who aren't exposed much, if at all, to the natural world. Consider a recent city council meeting I attended at which they were discussing the findings and recommendations of an appointed deer task force. One of the recommendations was to kill deer this winter via a sharpshooting program. A family in attendance was very vocal in opposing any killing. After the meeting I had the chance to talk with this family in the hallway. It was clear that they were troubled by the fact that people were suggesting that deer would die. One of the mother's questions to me was, "I don't even want to be in town when they shoot the deer. What would I tell my children?" I suggested that she discuss with them wise stewardship of our natural resources, which includes maintaining populations of

continued on next page

Wildlife 101 *continued from previous page*

animals at acceptable levels. Her daughter, probably twelve or so, said, "But I don't want the deer to be shot!" So I asked her how deer should die. Her response, which I expected, "I don't know, but it should be some nice way." I spent some time talking with her about animals in the wild and how they die. I suspect that I didn't hit many ways for animals to die in the wild that this family thought were all that pleasant. I do have to give the young girl credit. I asked her to come up with a way for deer to die that would be acceptable to her. She came up with two—getting hit by lightning and having a tree fall on them! I'm just not convinced we can count on those things to deal with our urban deer situations.

I don't know the background of this family. Perhaps they have a bird or squirrel feeder. The few animals that come to the feeder may be their contact with wildlife. Consider that some communities have enacted ordinances prohibiting the feeding of deer or waterfowl in an attempt to curb nuisance problems. Some attempts to enact such ordinances have run into political buzz saws in the form of people who are devoted to feeding those animals. It's their means of having contact with nature and they don't want anyone to interfere with it. Or maybe their strongest association with animals comes from owning a pet. They know their dog or cat intimately. It has a personality and they have strong attachment to it. In their minds, if their dog is a wonderful animal and they couldn't think of someone killing it, well wouldn't the same be true for that deer out there? So how far do you think we get when such people show up at a meeting in which we're discussing populations of animals that are out of balance and need to be controlled? They value the individual animals and aren't necessarily concerned with a population that might be too big and having a negative impact on the surrounding native vegetation.

People who value individual animals are often the ones who most oppose the killing of animals. Some point to the release of the movie *Bambi* as the point in history in which the value of individual animals began to grow. Think about the movie. All the animals lived happily together and had pleasant, carefree personalities. The evil forces in the movie were hunters and wildfire. How dare they kill the cute animals! Even the nature documentaries that can be found almost twenty-four hours a day on cable television often avoid the harsh realities that are part of an animal in the wild. How often do they show the animal that might be eaten before it's dead? Or the one that escapes, only to die a lingering death a few days later due to its wounds. Many people don't want to know that this is how life in the wild works. If you shield yourself from this, how are you likely to feel if someone proposes killing deer or geese in your neighborhood?

As I said at the beginning, I, like many wildlife managers, don't have a problem with killing animals if it's done legally, humanely, safely and respectfully. At a minimum it's a valid and accepted management tool. So how do we counter those who would oppose its use? Education is a big part of it. As people continue to live in cities and remain isolated from nature, we need to explain to them how things really are out there. We don't put down the value someone holds for an individual animal, which we often in fact share, but we do point out that the individual animal is part of a bigger, more complicated picture. Those who still understand how nature operates have to get that message to those who haven't been exposed to it, or are hiding from it.

One of those people still in touch with nature is Kenny Salwey. Kenny is a self-described "river rat"

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CPSC, Easy Gardener Inc. Announces Recall of Ross Root Feeders

WASHINGTON, DC—In cooperation with the US Consumer Product Safety Commission, Easy Gardener, Inc. of Waco, Texas, is voluntarily recalling about 345,000 Ross Root Feeders to replace their mixing chamber caps. The root feeder is a device used to distribute fertilizer, water and insecticide to the roots of trees and shrubs. The mixing chamber caps on these feeders can detach during use and strike nearby consumers, resulting in injuries.

Easy Gardener has received one report of a woman who received dental and other mouth injuries when struck by a cap from one of these root feeders.

The root feeders are about 30-inches tall, have a green hose connection and plastic yellow handles. "ROSS" and "MODEL

1200C" are imprinted on the side of the root feeder. The recall includes model 1200C Ross Root Feeders with "24207" or "24208" imprinted on the top of the clear, plastic chamber caps. Ross Root Feeders with the number "24208-A" caps are not part of the recall.

Home and garden centers and hardware stores sold these feeders from October 1994 through January 2002 for about \$33.

Consumers should stop using the recalled feeders immediately, dispose of the mixing chamber cap, and contact Easy Gardener to receive a free replacement cap. For more information, contact Easy Gardener at 800-621-4769 between 7 AM and 7 PM Central Time, Monday through Friday, or visit their recall web site at www.rosscap.com. 

Organization Profile:

Making Things Happen

by Megan Matthews
DNR Bureau of Community Financial Assistance



“We help make things happen in your community.” That, in a nutshell, is what the Bureau of Community Financial Assistance (CF) in the Department of Natural Resources does on a daily basis.

Managing projects that annually distribute more than \$200 million in grants and loans, the Community Financial Assistance program works with nonprofit organizations, municipalities and other state agencies to fund work that contributes to the DNR’s mission. That mission is to protect Wisconsin’s natural resources, sustain the environment and work with partner organizations to plan for future generations.

“How does this affect me?” you might ask. The answer: CF staff manages grant and loan programs that help municipalities in any number of ways, from building wastewater treatment plants to protecting water resources to purchasing land for parks, trails and recreation activities.

When it comes to water resources, Community Financial Assistance programs help communities and nonprofit organizations assess water quality in their rivers and lakes, as well as create management plans based on the assessment. Communities can receive grant awards to clean up contaminated land that threatens to pollute groundwater, as well as money to

help educate the public about resource protection, and purchase land or easements to protect water quality. In addition, low-interest loans are available to municipalities for projects like sewer systems and new or updated treatment plants that protect water resources.

Programs that help with recreational facilities assist communities and nonprofit organizations build snowmobile and hiking trails as well as recreational boating facilities. For example, through the ATV trail program one community acquired over 400 acres and developed the site into a trail, along with parking facilities, electric campsites and an event building that housed toilets and showers for trail visitors.

Conservation funds are available to help communities restore wildlife habitat and purchase land to protect natural resources. Other programs award grants to operate recycling and yard waste management programs, as well as solid-waste reduction projects.

So how do you find out if there are any programs that could help your community’s environmental projects? You can visit the web at <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/caer/cfa/cfindex.html>, or call the Community Financial Assistance program at 608-266-7555. Many municipalities have, and have made things happen in their community! 🌿



Deadlines and Datelines

Local Transportation Enhancements Program

Wisconsin DOT provides grants to enhance communities and the environment. (See article on page _). Projects costing \$25,000 and above for non-construction and \$100,000 and above for construction-related activities are eligible for the program. **Deadline for application is April 12, 2002.** For information and applications contact your local WisDOT office listed on page _.

2002 Hyland R. Johns Grant Program

The TREE Fund, formerly the International Society of Arboriculture Research Trust, has announced the 2002 competition for the Hyland R. Johns grants. These are small grants to aid, stimulate and encourage scientific studies of trees. Grant awards range from \$7,000 to \$25,000. **Application receipt (not postmark) deadline is May 1, 2002.** For information visit <http://www.isa-arbor.com/ISAResearchTrust/hrjohns.html>.

2003 Community Tree Planting Grants

The National Tree Trust has announced its 2003 Community Tree

Planting Grant program. This 50–50 matching program provides seedlings for planting on public property. Match can be provided by volunteer time, donated materials and services, or out-of-pocket-expenses. Minimum order is 300 trees. Volunteers must be used to implement the planting project. Two applications are required: **The Seedling Request Form is due May 31, 2002 and the Project Information form is due October 1, 2002.** For more information contact the National Tree Trust, 800-846-8733 or <http://www.nationaltreetrust.org>.

Inner City Forestry Grant Program

The USDA Forest Service is offering grants for community forestry projects in the inner city. Project proposals may be submitted by state and local governments, academic institutions, and 501(c)3 nonprofit groups. Projects must be located in a center city of 100,000 population or greater. The recommended range for grant funding is between \$25,000 and \$100,000. The Forest Service is requesting proposals for two categories: (1) innovative demonstration projects, and (2) technology transfer projects for proven programs that have been in existence for at least three years. **Deadline for application is April 2, 2002.** For information and an application packet visit <http://www.na.fs.fed.us/urban/urban.htm>. 🌿

The Idea Exchange...

Compiled by John Van Ells
DNR Southeast Region

Memphis Re-greens Its Beloved Parkways

Established in 1902 as a system of boulevards surrounding midtown and downtown Memphis, shaded parkways provided the city with streetscapes that were both practical and aesthetically appealing. Today, the parkways are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Originally created for horse and buggy, the parkways have endured heavy traffic from automobiles. Harsh urban conditions like air pollution, heat, drought and lack of maintenance have taken a heavy toll on the trees lining the parkways. Years of deferred maintenance have left many trees dead or dying, with gaps where trees have been removed and not replaced.

Restoration of the parkways was identified as a key item in the city's 1999 *Park Services Master Plan*. Restoration included development and implementation of a comprehensive tree maintenance plan and tree planting for the 7.5-mile central median.

Trees in the parkway medians were evaluated by a licensed arborist to determine species and condition. A whopping 20 percent of the trees were removed because they were not maintained. The remaining trees were pruned to improve condition, and more than 300 trees were planted to fill in gaps. The project was financed through a \$324,000 Enhancement grant from the state Department of Transportation and \$81,000 in matching funds from the city. The project received the Anona Stoner Award from Memphis Heritage for preservation of an historic landscape and the Historic Restoration Award from the Memphis City Beautiful Commission. *Info: American City & County, Dec 1, 2001.*

Millennium Tree City USA

The National Arbor Day Foundation joined with the White House Millennium Council and other partners last spring to help introduce the council's new program, Millennium Green. Administered by the USDA Forest Service, the goal of this program is to promote the role of trees and green open spaces in countering rapid and often poorly planned development.

The goals of this program coincide nicely with the goals of Tree City USA. Therefore, to commemorate the year 2000, The National Arbor Day Foundation selected one city in each state as a Millennium Tree City USA for special millennium Arbor Day recognition. *Sheboygan* was designated a Millennium Tree City USA, because it has the most years of certification as a Tree City USA in Wisconsin. *Info: The National Arbor Day Foundation, 211 North 12th Street, Lincoln, NE 69508.*

New 'Sterling Tree City USA' Designation

The Tree City USA Growth Award is given to communities that go beyond the four standards of Tree City USA and accumulate points from a list of projects that demonstrate improvement and growth of local tree care.

As Tree City USA begins its second quarter-century of serving America, The National Arbor Day Foundation is pleased to announce the 'Sterling Tree City USA' award. A community will automatically win this special recognition after having participated in the Growth Award program for 10 years.

This is the tenth year of the Growth Awards program and 27 communities have the honor of being among the first to become *Sterling Tree City USA's*. *Info: The National Arbor Day Foundation, 211 North 12th Street, Lincoln, NE 69508.* 🌿

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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.

Wildlife 101 *continued from page 11*

who has spent his life living off and learning from the backwaters of the Mississippi River. His stories and thoughts are the topic of a book he recently co-authored with J. Scott Bestul, *The Last River Rat*. I highly recommend it as both an enjoyable and thoughtful book about an extremely interesting person with a lot of insight regarding the natural world. Kenny reflects on death and its relationship to life when he says,

"Death and life are one and the same, for without death there would be no new life. There would be no room for new life, nothing would be returned to the Earth. In order to have life we must have death. We cannot have one without the other."

That pretty much sums it up. 🌿

2002 Council Award Winners Honored

The Wisconsin Urban Forestry Council presented its 2002 awards at the annual urban forestry conference award luncheon on Tuesday, January 29, 2002 in Green Bay.

Photo by David Stephenson, WDNR



Geoffrey Drews, Brian Buntrock and Eric Muecke from the City of Green Bay accept the Project Partnership Award.

Project Partnership Award

There were two Project Partnership awards presented this year. The city of Green Bay was honored for the assistance it provided the city of Appleton after the devastating June 11th wind storm that destroyed hundreds of trees. Green Bay sent a six-person crew and equipment to assist in the cleanup of Alicia Park and the banks of the Fox River where 55 mature trees had been uprooted or snapped off.



Photo by Kim Sebastian, WDNR

David Stephenson, Dale Konieczka and Scott Nelson accept the Project Partnership Award on behalf of the WAA, Wisc Energy Corp. and Madison Gas & Electric respectively. Not pictured is Dwight Eng representing Alliant Energy Corp.

Madison Gas & Electric, Wisconsin Energy Corporation Foundations, Wisconsin Arborist Association and Alliant Energy were awarded a project partnership award for their work in making the 2001 Tour des Trees a record-setting success. Through their efforts of time, equipment and money, this bicycle tour raised \$425,000 for tree research, eclipsing the previous record of \$320,000. As noted in the nomination, "Wisconsin is extremely privileged to have such an energetic and willing group of citizens who come together to support tree research."

Long-term Partnership Award

The Spring City Garden Club began in 1943. During its 58-year history it has been a strong civic partner with the city of Waukesha. In 1965, the SCGC was instrumental in the acquisition of an 88-acre parcel which has become the Fox River Sanctuary. For the last 24 years SCGC has sponsored annual tree plantings and Arbor Day celebrations. They have established public gardens, underwritten landscaping and worked with the Waukesha Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry on a variety of other projects. For these activities the council awarded Waukesha and the SCGC the Long-term Partnership Award.



Photo by David Stephenson, WDNR

Nancy Abrahamson (left) and Janet Maier (right) of the Spring City Garden Club and City of Waukesha's Ron Grall (center) accept the Long-Term Partnership Award.

Distinguished Service Award

This year the Distinguished Service Award went to Mr. Richard Welch of Superior, Wisconsin. Mr. Welch is a charter member of the Superior tree board and has served as chair for the past three years. During his tenure he has shepherded the development of Superior's first strategic plan for their urban forest and was instrumental in establishing the Tribute Tree Program. This program encourages citizens to honor a person, place, event, occasion or idea with the planting of a tree on city property. In its first year the program increased the city's planting by six percent and is continuing to grow, assuring Superior citizen involvement and a brighter future for its urban forest.



Photo by David Stephenson, WDNR

Distinguished Service Award recipient Richard Welch of Superior.

Urban Forestry Resources:

compiled by Cindy Casey
DNR West Central Region

Minnesota Trees

If you've been looking for a tree identification guide, this may be the one for you! More than 100 native and introduced tree species are profiled in this 94-page Minnesota Extension Service publication. Most tree species found in the Badger State are the same as those in Minnesota, making this guide equally applicable to both states. Technically accurate illustrations help the user identify trees in summer or winter, and its small size and durable construction make it handy to bring to the field. Cost is \$9.50, plus \$3.50 shipping and handling. Order from Minnesota Extension Service, 800-876-8636 or via e-mail, order@extension.umn.edu.

Oak Decline *continued from page 7*

two-lined chestnut borer), canker fungi (e.g., *Hypoxylon atropunctatum*) and root decay fungi (e.g., *Armillaria* and *Ganoderma* species). Drought, whether related to a site condition or a regional lack of precipitation, and old age also are associated with acceleration of decline and eventual demise of oaks.

There is no simple prescription for tree management *after* oak decline becomes apparent. The best recommendation for management of oak decline is its *PREVENTION*. Efforts first should be made to keep trees growing well and in vigorous condition, with periodic planting to ensure that all ages of oaks are represented in the landscape. Manipulation of age composition and maintaining high oak tree vigor can reduce vulnerability to the effects of defoliation and avoid the onset of decline should defoliation occur.

Particularly important or valuable oak trees should be identified and plans for maintaining their health should include protection from defoliating insects. Such protection can begin long before spraying is necessary to suppress a defoliating insect outbreak. It should include careful monitoring of defoliator populations in the locality, removal of less valuable trees or other physical features that might attract or harbor defoliators or their eggs, and preemptive use of microbial agents that can help maintain defoliator populations at low levels. When high defoliator populations justify spraying with biological or chemical materials, the advice of your university or state insect pest specialist should be sought to ensure that the correct amount of the proper material is applied at the appropriate time for greatest effectiveness. 

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Introducing the Grassroots Listserve and Newsletter

A mailing list for the Grassroots Summit (GRS) has been developed with assistance from the USDA Forest Service, the National Tree Trust, the Virginia Urban Forest Council and TreeLink. The Grassroots Listserve is designed to simplify and enhance communications among state councils and related nonprofit organizations nationwide. The listserv includes, but is not limited to, state urban forest council representatives, tree-planting organizations, Alliance for Community Trees chapters and other nonprofit organizations. Members of the listserv simply send an e-mail to GRS@treelink.org and it will automatically be sent to all list members. The listserv is intended to:

- simplify and streamline the process of contacting this diverse group
- share practical resources and information on common issues like board development, volunteer recruitment, public relations and fundraising
- engage more individuals and organizations in meetings and events that meet their needs
- identify more individuals and organizations with common goals

To subscribe to the list, send an e-mail message to: majordomo@treelink.org with the following in the body of the message: *subscribe grs*.

In addition, the Grassroots Summit News will be sent electronically (via e-mail or fax) the first week of each month. Please note the deadline for submissions. This newsletter also will be posted and archived on TreeLink at www.treelink.org. 

From page 7 -

What Damaged This Tree?

Answer: Forest tent caterpillar is a native species found throughout our hardwood forests. It feeds on the leaves of many trees, including aspen, birch, basswood and oak. Regional outbreaks occur at 5- to 15-year intervals, with each outbreak lasting two to five years. At the peak of the outbreak, trees can be stripped of their leaves by midsummer. Most deciduous trees can survive several years of onslaught by these caterpillars. At maturity, the caterpillars are 2-inches long, with bluish lines and footprint-shaped white spots. Unlike its close cousin the eastern tent caterpillar, FTC does not make a tent. It makes a pad of silk to rest on and molt. Gypsy moth caterpillars are sometimes confused with the FTC. Both feed in early spring on many of the same trees, but GM looks different and has pairs of blue and red bumps on its back. 

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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**

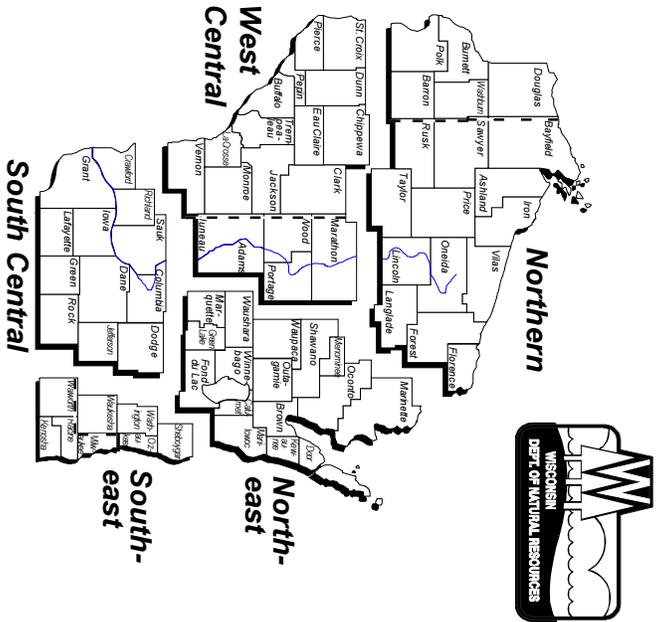


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Visit our World Wide Web site at: <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/for/land/forestry/uf/>



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