

ETF News

www.eugenetreefoundation.org

NEWSLETTER OF THE EUGENE TREE FOUNDATION

Stream Team and Native Plant Nurseries

by Lorna Baldwin

Oregon white oak, California black oak, black cottonwood, ponderosa pine, incense-cedar, bigleaf maple, Oregon ash, red and white alder. You can find all of these species and more at the two Native Plant Nurseries run by Eugene Stream Team volunteers.

The nurseries, located in Alton Baker Park and at the wastewater treatment plant, are the hub of volunteer restoration efforts all over the city. Volunteers produce — through seed collection and grow-out, salvage, and taking cuttings for propagation—and then plant thousands of native trees, shrubs, and herbaceous perennials in Eugene's parks and open spaces each year. Coordination of this educational volunteer program is funded by the City of Eugene using your storm water fees, but volunteers do the work—volunteers who come from all walks of life.

Stream Team is supported by many “adoption groups” formed by neighborhoods, community service organizations, churches, schools, public agencies, and businesses. These groups undertake

at least two projects a year. Bringing even more energy to the effort, many unaffiliated individuals participate in the large planting projects that take place each winter along Amazon Creek, the Willamette River, and Delta Ponds.



Volunteers prepare garden beds at the Native Plant Nursery.

Individuals are also welcome to join the regular volunteers—who are seriously committed, knowledgeable and fun—at our Native Plant Nurseries, to learn about native plant communities and to lend a hand in tending them.

Stream Team also participates in collaborative efforts with many other organizations that have similar missions. You can find examples of Stream Team trees at many locations in Eugene. Have you spotted the ponderosa pines planted by the adoption group Miracle on 33rd Street? Or the ones put in by the Eugene Metro Rotary near Oakpatch?

And a special thanks to all the ETF volunteers who do so much to make Eugene a beautiful place to live! If you would like more information about Stream Team, contact me at 682-4850 or email me at lorna.j.baldwin@ci.eugene.or.us. ❁

ETF Annual Meeting: Celebration of Trees

Our annual Celebration of Trees, which took place in November, was good fun and informative. Our guest presenter, Mayor Charlotte Lehan of Wilsonville, Oregon, gave a humorous and insightful look at what her city is doing to improve the urban forest through land use and planning techniques.

Our annual Bigleaf Maple Awards—for exemplary stewardship of Eugene's urban forest—went to John Moriarty and to the Moss Street Children's Center.

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ETF President, Phil Carroll, presents Mayor Lehan with a gift of appreciation after her informative talk.

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Mission Statement:
**Working to protect
and enhance
the long-term
health of Eugene's
urban forest.**



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President's Column

The Register-Guard reports almost daily on events related to Eugene's downtown riverfront. Not only do we all wish for a sensible resolution to several years of gyrations around hospital siting, but the eastward extension of the downtown and its impact on the river itself and Eugene's urban vitality are issues crucial to future livability. The opportunity for excellent stewardship of this most central asset is now upon us. ETF has been actively corresponding with officials and concerned citizens about three areas of concern in our downtown riverfront area:

- In this column in the Fall of 2003, I wrote of the proposed federal courthouse landscape and of worries generated by its initial presentation. We have just recently been able to view the landscape drawing and in response have encouraged consideration of some changes. We believe the original design, while calling for generous numbers of trees on the western side of the building, lacks sufficient diversity of species, especially locally native ones, and misses opportunities for plantings on the south side of the courthouse along Eighth Avenue.

- Along the streets adjacent to the courthouse, the City of Eugene is finalizing its street tree plan. Among the City's goals for this plan is to communicate a sense of place and to connect downtown to the river. The proposed plan that includes native trees and shrubs planted in informal groups would accomplish this. The idea of using Oregon white oaks as street trees along Eighth Avenue has arisen in discussions, and we are very excited by this possibility. Now that

larger white oaks are available in nurseries, we have the opportunity to create spaces in our urban forest that truly identify us—as residents of the upper Willamette Valley—and that will provide character and inspiration for many years.

- Lastly, we are taking part in discussions about potential future development along the river and what direction it may take. With the push for increased housing and a broader range of commercial activities in and near downtown, lands that are now vacant and in *de facto* open space could become part of the urban core. To what extent should we protect these lands? Is it possible to connect them to downtown without irrevocably damaging the river and its soils and vegetation? I will keep you updated on what we learn.

* * * * *

ETF Board elections are scheduled for March 23rd. I feel our Board would greatly benefit from the addition of a few more members. There are several areas where new energy would effectively further our mission. I especially encourage those of you who might believe that a prerequisite for Board service is some level of tree expertise. In fact, we welcome and are strengthened by a wide range of views and experience. Anyone who has participated in a planting, joined us at the annual Celebration of Trees, or walked a neighborhood with us knows that even more important than botanical knowledge is pride of place, and an interest in doing a bit of good for the surroundings we all share.

Phillip Carroll, *President*

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John has worked tirelessly for many years and with different groups in an effort to improve Eugene's natural surroundings. He was also instrumental in the development and implementation of the Hendricks Park Forest Management Plan.

The Children's Center—run by the University of Oregon's Child Care and Development Center—was designed *around* Eugene's oldest water oak (*Quercus nigra*) and next to one of Eugene's largest ponderosa pines located on an adjacent property. Special care was taken during site grading and building construction to protect the trees' root systems, and the new landscaping consists primarily of plants native to this part of the valley.

We also heard reports about our successes this past year, including the unveiling of ETF's Legacy Tree Program and the planting of our 1,000th tree



Greg Lobbiser, of Erb Memorial Union which oversees the The Children's Center, accepting the Bigleaf Maple Award from ETF President Phil Carroll.

in partnership with Eugene's Neighbor-Woods program.

Among our goals for the future are establishing a Tree Steward training

program—in which volunteers are trained to prune and maintain trees, especially during the critical first years—and advocating for an improved Land Use Code to more effectively protect Eugene's natural assets. Learn more about our priorities at www.eugenetreefoundation.org.

Alby's Timely Tree Tips

This year's freezing rain storm on January 15th caused few problems for local trees, compared to the New Year's 2004 storm which brought both wet snow and a thicker layer of ice. For many people, New Year's Day 2004 was not a restful holiday; instead, they spent the day watching their favorite tree split in half or get uprooted! The trees of some fortunate homeowners suffered only broken branches—and of course they weren't the ones the homeowners were planning to prune!

Snow and freezing rain occur so rarely anymore in the Willamette Valley that trees do not naturally develop a set of branches strong enough for all the weight. To make matters worse, the snow we usually have is wet, sticky and very heavy.

In most winter storms here, there is a pattern of tree failures:

- Trees that are uprooted are often growing in poorly drained soil, thus increasing soil saturation and/or root rot.
- Trees with weak and tight forks are more likely to split.
- Branches or trunks with "poor taper" fail more frequently.
- Hedges pay a heavy price.
- Species of smaller pines such as shore pine (*Pinus contorta*), Scots pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) and mugho pine (*Pinus mugho*) are more prone to limb and trunk breakage due to their wider canopies that offer a "platform" for the accumulation of snow and ice. Also, these species are more susceptible to pitch moth infestations (the larvae dig tunnels in the branches and trunk) so storms damage them even more.

• Exotic species with brittle wood, such as southern magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*), are often hit pretty hard. Native tree species tend to fare relatively well, thank you...(hint-hint!).

• Last, but not least, even "perfect" trees will sometimes have problems during winter storms.

During a *wind* storm, small trees usually sway or are sheltered from the elements, while large trees suffer worst of the damage. But snow and ice storms do not play favorites; trees of all sizes seem to suffer equally. Not as dramatic as the wind but still damaging, snow and ice create thousands of big and little problems in our community.

What lessons have we learned from past storms? Those of you who went out and shook

the snow off your trees and shrubs were right—a lot of them can be saved with that simple procedure. Unfortunately, ice from freezing rain cannot be shaken off.

Look at the crotch angles of your trees and, if they are narrow, chances are you have an "inclusion" of bark that increases the risk of a failure of the branches or the entire trunk. Early training will prevent this or, if the size of the inclusion is too large to fix with just pruning, bracing and/or cabling can be a big help.

In the case of hedges, they should be pruned so they are narrower at the top than the bottom. That way, the snow will not have as wide a platform to settle on and is also likely to fall off more easily. If you have arborvitae (*Thuja occidentalis*), the best thing to do is to determine a certain height for the hedge and then keep it there; most problems with arborvitae hedges occur when they are neglected and gain a few feet in height...those extra feet are the part of the hedge that collapses.

In the event of a split crotch, if it is still attached and the tree is not too big, it is sometimes possible to prop the tree back up and install a permanent support system, thus saving the tree.

In short, I'd rather have it snow in the mountains than in town. And if you like to ski, as I do, you know what I am talking about: Valley snow is seldom skiable!

Since we do have this kind of severe winter weather around here once in a while, I hope you'll take the time to look at your trees and use my tips to help them weather future storms more successfully.

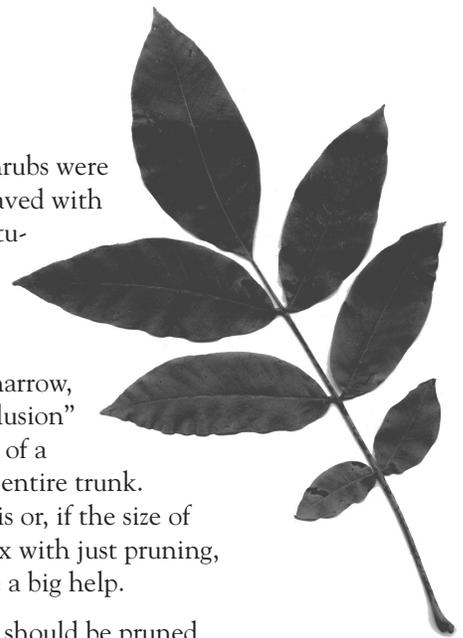
Until next time!



Alby Thomsin is a certified arborist and chair of ETF's education committee.

BECOME A CITIZEN PRUNER!

This spring, ETF and the City of Eugene's NeighborWoods program will sponsor clinics on the care of young trees—including basic pruning, botany, and common disease diagnosis. The training is free. As a Citizen Pruner, you will be able to help City staff accomplish the important task of pruning young trees for good structure and future safety. Interested? Look for more details in our May Newsletter, or visit our website.



Check Us Out!

If this is your first issue of the Eugene Tree Foundation Newsletter, you are receiving it because we believe you value trees as much as we do. Please consider joining ETF as a member.



ETF monthly meetings are held at the McNail-Riley House at 13th and Jefferson. Please call 284-9854 for time and date.



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2005 ETF Tree Planting Schedule

E-newsletter

ETF is in the process of collecting e-mail addresses for the eventual conversion of our newsletter to an e-newsletter. If you are interested in receiving an electronic version of this newsletter, please go to our website and provide us with your e-mail address.



All tree plantings start at 9 am on Saturdays, rain or shine. Dress appropriately with work shoes or boots. Tools and safety equipment provided. Look for the ETF/NeighborWoods canopy shelter at projects sites. For more information, please call Jeff Lanza at 342-2183.

January 29: Harlow Road—Phase I.
Meet at Bertha Holt Elem. School, 3515 Harlow Rd. (40 new street trees) **Completed.**

February 12: East 19th Avenue—Part A.
Meet at East 19th Ave. & Moss St (30-35 new street trees) **Completed.**

February 19: East 19th Avenue—Part B.
Meet at East 19th Ave. & Hilyard St. (20-25 new street trees) **Completed.**

March 19: Hayes Street—Phase II.
Meet at 1900 Block of Hayes St. (15 new street trees)

April 9 (Arbor Day): Franklin Blvd and Orchard Street. Trees-for-Concrete Project.
Meet at parking lot of the prior Romania auto dealership, across Orchard from PC Market of Choice. (10-15 new street trees)

April 23. NW Expressway.

Meet at Public Works, 1820 Roosevelt Blvd. We'll walk to project site, at corner of Chambers Connector & Northwest Expressway. (Maintenance work: mulching and weeding of 2004 project)

ETF tree planting projects are in partnership with the City of Eugene's NeighborWoods program.

TREE WALKS

Four tree walks are scheduled for 2005—two in the summer (June 11th and July 16th), and two in fall (October 8th and 22nd). They will be led by Erik Burke and Alby Thoumsin.

Erik is an Oregon native who is very familiar with the Willamette Valley's natural history and is ETF's current volunteer coordinator. Alby is a certified arborist and chair of ETF's education committee.

More information to come in our next newsletter and on our website.