

ETF News

www.eugenetreefoundation.org

NEWSLETTER OF THE EUGENE TREE FOUNDATION

The Anne Frank Tree in Amsterdam

by Louise C. Wade

Among the many who lost their lives at the hands of the Nazis during World War II was a Jewish teenager who aspired to be a writer. Anne Frank was born in Frankfurt on June 12, 1929. Four years later Otto Frank, his wife, and two daughters moved to Amsterdam. There he managed a spice importing business, the Dutch Opekta Company. In 1940, the year the Germans occupied Holland, the company purchased a four-story office building and warehouse at 263 Prinsengracht. The front of the building looked out on a canal; the back had a small yard with a garden and a European horsechestnut tree (*Aesculus hippocastanum*).

Anne received her diary as a birthday present in June, 1942. Early entries noted the onerous restrictions the Germans imposed on the Jews in Amsterdam. But she was surprised when the following month her family, the Van Daans and their son, and one other man went into hiding in cramped quarters at the rear end of the two top floors of 263 Prinsengracht. A loyal Opekta secretary brought them food. They had access to the attic to store things, stretch their legs, and cautiously peek out through the edges of the heavy curtains at the window, but it was cold in

winter, hot in summer and not very appealing to the adults.

September 28, 1942, when she would normally be returning to the Jewish Lyceum, Anne wrote, "Not being able to go outside upsets me more than I can say." On rare occasions she was allowed to peek around the curtains in the second floor office at the bustling traffic on Prinsengracht. More often, she and Peter Van Daan settled for the attic window. February 23, 1944, for example, the two of them "looked out at the blue sky, the bare chestnut tree glistening with dew, the seagulls and other birds glinting with silver as they swooped through the air." Three weeks later, "Our chestnut tree is in leaf and here and there you can already see a few small blossoms." On May 13, 1944 she wrote, "Our chestnut tree is in full bloom. It's covered with leaves and is even more beautiful than last year."

The Allied invasion in June, 1944, filled all of them with hope. Anne had "the feeling that friends are on the way...Maybe I can even go back to school in September or October." But on August 4th the Dutch Security Police broke in, ransacked their living quarters, and hauled them

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Mission Statement:

**To enhance
community
livability for
present and future
generations through
the collaborative
stewardship of
Eugene's diverse
and vibrant natural
landscape**



Views of the Anne Frank tree in Amsterdam. Photo from <http://www.nytimes.com/2007/10/02/world/europe/02tree.html>



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President's Column



Roughly 150 years ago, this part of the Willamette Valley changed forever when settlers moved in and created a town, bringing along their possessions,

hopes, and ideas of what their new home should look like.

Thanks to the efforts of early tree enthusiasts, a lot of the oldest streets in town are still shaded by the trees planted more than a century ago. Our

beloved bigleaf maple was the tree of choice then: easy to transplant from nearby forests along the river, a fast grower, and perfectly suited to the deep river loam that underlies our downtown. As the city changed, more streets were built and more trees were planted, making Eugene a very attractive place to live.

But as we have noticed in the past few years, many of the old bigleaf maples are being removed due to extensive decay, unstable root systems, and canopy decline. If we consider the lifespan of *Acer macrophyllum* (bigleaf maple), we really can't expect it to live more than 150-180 years under the best of circumstances. Alas, many of the older maples have suffered root damage when streets were redesigned, and they grow in an urban environment where pavement often restricts their roots'

access to both oxygen and water.

One could view this situation as a very dark one for our urban forest if one looks only at the removal part of the equation. But we need to look more at the bigger picture and realize that we can't hold on forever to what is dear to us.

Nothing can be done to revive an ailing tree when it reaches the end of its life, and it is only normal to honor it as it goes by planting a new tree in its stead, thus keeping the vision our ancestors had. Now, more than ever, we need to be thinking about, planning for, and planting the next generation of bigleaf maples!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Alby Thoumsin".

Alby Thoumsin, President

Trees "Plan" Ahead

by Whitey Lueck

Wintertime is the dormant season for trees here in the Willamette Valley. But as daylength and average daily temperature increase over the next few weeks, alarm clocks will begin ringing in the arboreal world and the trees will commence another season of growth.

One intriguing aspect of tree physiology is how far ahead trees "plan" for the following year's growth. Most broadleaf trees (e.g., maples, oaks, ashes) and conifers began to develop their 2007-2008 winter buds already

last spring, and completed bud formation by the end of June or early July 2007.

Inside those buds is a miniaturized version of every organ—twig, leaf, flower—that will develop in spring 2008 after bud "break" occurs and the bud scales that protected the bud all winter fall away and the new shoot starts to elongate. In trees with exceptionally large buds such as horsechestnuts (*Aesculus* species), it's easy to dissect the bud and see what is waiting-in-the-wings inside. Simply slice

the bud lengthwise and take a peek. For an even better look, dissect the halved bud with a needle or tweezers and you'll be able to unfold and examine the individual organs. Amazing!



From right, a horsechestnut bud; a dissected bud showing all the immature organs inside; the characteristic finger-like palmate leaf of the horsechestnut.

Continued from page 1 **Anne Frank Tree in Amsterdam**

off to jail. In September they were transported to Auschwitz; Anne and her sister were later sent to Bergen-Belsen. All of them died except Otto Frank. He came back to Amsterdam in June, 1945. The loyal office staff had salvaged Anne's diary and he decided to publish it. He attended the dedication of the Anne Frank Museum—263 Prinsengracht and an adjacent building—in 1960 and died twenty years later in Basel, Switzerland.

For additional information, see one of the many editions of *Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl*.

Note: This beloved tree that once gave Anne much comfort while in hiding is now seriously diseased and 75 percent of its trunk is affected by a fungus. It is in danger of falling under its own weight. A graft of the tree and seedlings germinated from the chestnuts are being cared for at a nursery. The graft of the old tree which is

now already six feet high will be planted in its place after the tree is eventually cut down.

Visit www.annefrank.org, or www.annefranktree.com for more information.

Louise C. Wade, professor emerita at the University of Oregon, is a historian specializing in American urban and labor history. She is a long-time ETF supporter.

The Winter Lovers

Just as Nature is slowing down for the winter, one group of organisms is getting into high gear. Permit me to introduce you to the lichens and mosses. Although present all year long, these plants are a lot more obvious in winter, clinging to branches and trunks and sometimes giving especially ghostly silhouettes to leafless trees. After being mostly dormant during the summer, they “wake up” with the winter rains almost as if they were sponges waiting to be filled with water.

Lichens are in fact a symbiotic association of a fungus with a microscopic alga. The alga is surrounded by the fungus and the latter absorbs water, minerals, and organic substances found in the tree bark, rock, or soil it grows on. In return, the alga provides the fungus with carbohydrates created through photosynthesis.

Mosses belong to the “spore plants” which include ferns and horsetails; they are some of the first land plants to have evolved. They do not produce flowers or seeds, but rather depend on a reproductive cell called a spore that divides and develops the plant parts that will produce sperm and egg and later form the new plant. Since mosses

lack a vascular system, they absorb their water and nutrients directly from their environment.

Contrary to popular belief, lichens and mosses are not parasites. That is, a tree covered with them is not getting tapped for its sap or nutrients; they just piggy-back on the trees, finding on them a great place to live. Lichens are also a good indicator of air quality and will quickly disappear if the air pollution level gets too high.

Lichens are a source of food and nesting material for many birds and mammals. They have also been used by humans for fiber, medicine, dye, and even for food. Because mosses and lichens provide a home for hundreds of different insects, they attract plenty of insectivorous birds like chickadees, kinglets, bushtits, and warblers that count on that source of protein during the cold season.

The common lichens found in Oregon are the witch’s hair found mainly on conifers in old-growth forests and the oakmoss lichen—a quick look at an Oregon white oak and I promise you’ll see it! The lettuce lichen lives up to its name and is seen in old-growth forests as well. And if you hike by a creek, chances are you’ll find the

old man’s beard lichen hanging in long strands from tree branches.

Mosses thrive in damp environments, making western Oregon one of the best places on Earth to study them. Our most common mosses are the icicle moss found especially on bigleaf maples and sometimes forming deep mats on branches and rocks. Fern moss, Oregon beaked moss, big shaggy moss, and wavy-leaved cotton moss are other common mosses found west of the Cascades, including Eugene.

Lichens and mosses are an important part of the ecosystem and should not be removed from trees. However, if one is growing fruit trees, the lichens and mosses can sometimes shade fruiting spurs (buds that produce flowers and then form fruits). In this case alone, I would suggest removing the lichens and the mosses by hand—but do not use a pesticide!

My tip for today: I have used icicle moss in summer to wrap a freshly caught (hatchery) trout—all I had to do was dunk the moss in water and it kept the rainbow from getting dry.

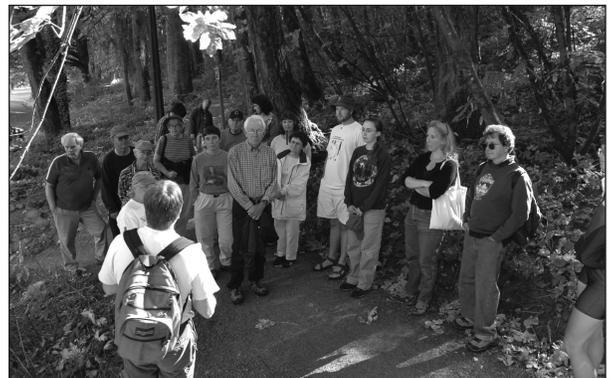
Until next time!

ETF Photo Album

Clockwise from left: In this project initiated by local neighbors, ETF and the City’s NeighborWoods project joined forces again and planted 20 new street trees on Dec. 15, 2007 on **Abbie Lane in north Eugene**. Trees planted include black tupelo, sugar maple, and pear trees. Seen here are Jackie Hallet and her two children. Photo by Mark Snyder.

ETF Treasurer, Erik Burke, is seen here on a Tree Walk at **Skinner Butte**. Photo by Alby Thoumsin.

Spencer Butte Tree Walk led by Alby Thoumsin, Oct. 27, 2007. Photo by Dennis Galloway.





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ETF's annual

Celebration of
TREES

is **Friday, February 8, 2008**,
7pm to 9pm at the EWEB Training
Room at 500 East 4th Avenue.



Greet old friends and meet new ones! Enjoy delicious refreshments. Listen to **Bruce Newhouse**, local Field Ecologist speak on "The Foundation of Trees: Going Underground to Find Community," and discover what this intriguing title is all about. The **Big Leaf Award** for outstanding stewardship of our urban forest will be presented. And you can pick up a copy of ETF's *Report to the Community* and learn about ETF's progress in 2007 and its plans for the future.

Call Jane at 686-6193 for more information.

2008 ETF Tree Planting Schedule

All planting projects are in partnership with the City of Eugene's NeighborWoods program. Projects begin at 9:00am on the designated Saturday mornings, rain or shine. Look for the ETF/NeighborWoods canopy shelter at the designated project locations listed below.

January 19 (completed)
Willakenzie Park

Meet at the Willakenzie Grange (3055 Willakenzie Rd., east from Coburg Rd.) Partnered project with several local Boy Scout troops. (30 new park trees)

January 26
Replacement Tree Planting

Meet at City of Eugene Public Works, 1820 Roosevelt Blvd. Transportation provided for a limited number of volunteers. Will depart at 9:00am. (10-20 replacement street trees, locations to be determined)

February 9
Harlow Road – Phase IV

Meet near Walnut Ln. & Harlow Rd. Final Phase of new streetside trees on Harlow Rd. between I-5 and Coburg Rd. (15-20 new street trees)

February 23
A3 Channel & Roosevelt Blvd.
—Phase II

Meet at A3 Channel alongside Roosevelt Blvd. near Danebo Ave.

Located in far West Eugene.

Partnered project with City of Eugene StreamTeam. (50-100 new streamside and street trees)

March 8
Campus Re-Leaf

Meet near East 17th Ave. & Alder St. Third year of replanting efforts near the University of Oregon. (20-30 new street trees)

March 15
Replacement Tree Planting

Meet at City of Eugene Public Works, 1820 Roosevelt Blvd. Transportation provided for a limited number of volunteers. Will depart at 9:00am. (10-20 replacement street trees, locations to be determined)

April 12
Arbor Day

Trees-for-Concrete Project

Meet near East 23rd Ave. & Harris St. at First Congregational Church (15-20 new street trees)

For up-to-date information, contact Rick Olkowski, City of Eugene NeighborWoods Coordinator at 682-4831, or Jeff Lanza, ETF Planting Coordinator at 484-7367.

Volunteers

Thank you to Michael McCarthy, Bill Snyder, and Joy Gipson, as well as our board members, JoAn Henry, Jane Renfro Smith, and Alby Thoumsin, who helped staff the ETF table at the Mushroom Festival at Mt. Pisgah Arboretum on October 28, 2007.