



Friends of the Central Experimental Farm

Fall 2019 Newsletter

Volume 31 No. 4

Testing New Trees in the Arboretum

By Robert Glendinning

James Fletcher supervised the planting of the first trees in the Arboretum 130 years ago this fall. Robert Glendinning highlights here some of his favourite new plants, Eric Jones meets up with some old Arboretum friends on page 8, and Diane McClymont Peace describes on page 12 some special trees at the Farm that might work for you at home.

The Dominion Arboretum has a tradition of testing the hardiness of woody plants. By exchanging with other institutions, we continue to seek new ones to try out. This is the way the Arboretum has worked since its beginning—we just plant it and see if it is still with us in the spring. We grow many plants from seed or cuttings and place them in the nursery, but I find the true test is when they are planted in the landscape. Do they survive and, more importantly, will they thrive?

Contorted, colourful, custardy

A lack of hardiness is not always the reason we do not have a plant in the collection. There are hardy varieties that simply haven't yet been tried. The Japanese Larch cultivar 'Diana', which has been around a long time, is a good example. There are many mature specimens of the Japanese Larch species on the grounds. What makes 'Diana' different from the plain species is its contorted branches. We now have three specimens, which should be quite attractive as they mature. This spring we planted two in the Arboretum which are 'top grafted,' meaning they are grafted on to a straight tree off the ground. We also planted one by the Ornamental Gardens that is grafted at the base.

There is also the Black Gum or *Nyssa sylvatica*, native to the eastern United States. Although not native to the Ottawa area, it is hardy here and records show it had been grown in the Arboretum before. We planted two some years back. Both are alive but not growing quickly, which is normal for the species. Last year we obtained the cultivar



F. Hinchcliff

A Black Gum 'Afterburner', planted last year, is near the pyramid cedars. A Black Walnut planted in 1896 (see page 8) is in the background. A young European Beech cultivar is in the left foreground.

'Afterburner' and you will find it near the north lookout. It is a hardy and vigorous plant with wonderful fall colour. It goes from yellow to orange and finishes a brilliant scarlet with a hint of purple.

Another North American native that was planted a few years back is the Paw Paw (*Asimina triloba*), which is a member of the generally tropical *Annonaceae* family. Although our plants have not fruited yet, I have tried the fruit in an upstate New York farmer's market and I get a hint of banana

with a custardy texture. Everything about this plant says tropical, yet it is growing in Ottawa.

Dogwoods and Buttonbush

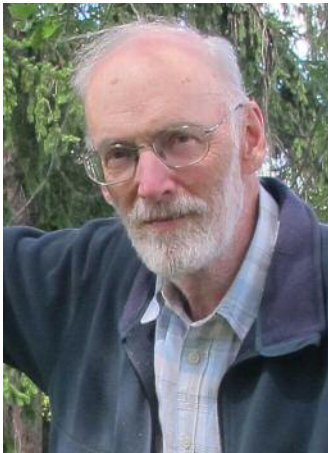
Two new dogwoods have been recently planted in the Arboretum. One is the Flowering Dogwood (*Cornus florida*) which again is native to regions further south. We do have plants in the nursery from a hardy mother plant. Unfortunately, the fruit tastes

Continued on Page 3

Improvements at the Farm

The Friends continue to add to the Farm in small ways, with the placement of new, sponsored benches, the restoration of a special Rock Garden feature, and some judicious removal.

We launched our Celebration Bench program in July, adding attractive and comfortable seating in the Arboretum and the Shelterbelt area. The bench program provides the public with a wonderful way to recognize the people or occasions of importance to them. Donors have now sponsored the three available benches in the Arboretum, and we're making plans for more benches to be installed in the near future. Kudos to Matthew LaCompte and Kate Harrigan for leading and spurring on this initiative.



A much-appreciated donation from the estate of passionate gardener John Connor has given us the opportunity of reviving a water feature in the Rock Garden. This has further enhanced an area that had fallen into disrepair over the past years, and it complements the plants that are nestled in the surrounding rocks. Under the supervision of AAFC staff and Rock Garden Team Leader Annie Creighton, we are gradually rejuvenating and bringing that space back to being more of a true rock garden.

Meanwhile, there has been some subtracting as well as adding. The deteriorating wood walls in the Arboretum's hosta garden have been demolished. Several years ago, the Friends added the stone entrance steps and walls at the top of the hosta garden. Now a contractor for

AAFC has removed the old walls at the bottom of the garden, making way for new plantings in the woodland area. Besides making the area safer and more attractive, the changes provide an opportunity to replace some invasive plants like buckthorn with native understory plants, i.e., trees and shrubs that would thrive in the area between the forest canopy and the forest floor.

The Board is thinking ahead to other possible projects in the future, so if you have any suggestions please let us know. You can send your ideas to president@friendsofthefarm.ca.

Eric Jones

President, Friends of the Farm.



Arboretum bench

Améliorations à la Ferme

Les Amis continuent d'apporter de petites améliorations à la Ferme. L'installation de bancs nouvellement parrainés, la restauration d'un aspect particulier du jardin de rocaille et l'élimination judicieuse de certains éléments n'en sont que des exemples.

En juillet, nous avons procédé à la célébration du programme de bancs. Dans les secteurs où se trouvent l'arboretum et le brise-vent, nous avons ajouté des zones pour s'asseoir qui sont attrayantes et procurent du confort. Le programme de bancs fournit au public une excellente façon de reconnaître les personnes ou les occasions qui sont importantes pour ces dernières. Les donateurs ont parrainé trois bancs qui ont été mis à la disposition du public dans l'arboretum, et nous nous proposons d'ajouter encore plus de bancs dans un avenir rapproché. Merci à Matthew LaCompte et à Kate Harrigan qui ont entrepris cette initiative et l'ont menée à bonne fin!

Un don dont nous sommes fort

reconnaisants nous est venu de la succession de John Connor, jardinier passionné de son vivant, et nous permet de remettre en état un aspect hydrographique dans le jardin de rocaille. Ce cadeau vient accentuer de beaucoup ce coin qui était resté dans un état de délabrement dans les dernières années et s'agence très bien aux plantes qui poussent dans la rocaille. Sous la supervision du personnel d'Agriculture et Agroalimentaire Canada (AAC) et la chef d'équipe du jardin de rocaille, Annie Creighton, nous en venons petit à petit à donner un élan de fraîcheur et de vie à cet espace qui prend de plus en plus l'allure d'un jardin de rocaille authentique.

Entre-temps, si nous avons ajouté des éléments, nous avons dû en enlever d'autres. Les murs de bois délabrés du jardin d'hostas dans l'arboretum ont été démolis. Il y a déjà plusieurs années, les Amis avaient placé des marches de pierre à l'entrée et en haut du jardin d'hostas. Dernièrement, un entrepreneur,

embauché par AAC, a enlevé les vieux murs en bas du jardin, créant de l'espace pour y intégrer de nouvelles plantes dans cette partie boisée.

En plus de rendre le secteur plus sécuritaire et attrayant, ces changements permettent d'enlever des plantes envahissantes telles les rhamnacées et de les remplacer avec des espèces de sous-bois (ou sous-étage) indigènes, des arbres et des arbustes qui pourront s'épanouir dans la partie s'étendant entre le couvert forestier et la couverture morte.

Le conseil d'administration, qui se veut proactif, élabore déjà quelques projets potentiels pour l'avenir. Vos suggestions sont les bienvenues, et n'hésitez pas à nous en faire part. Veuillez les transmettre à : president@friendsofthefarm.ca.

Eric Jones

Président, Les Amis de la Ferme.

Testing New Trees in the Arboretum ... *(continued from Page 1)*

good and we struggle to keep the animals away. Until those trees become large enough to be planted out, we thought we should try a couple of mature specimens from one of our suppliers. Both are planted in the Arboretum's Circle, where we often plant the more tender material as the conifers provide shelter. Both have survived, but they did seem to struggle a bit. I hope they survive and bloom, as their flowers are beautiful.

The other dogwood is from Asia—Kousa Dogwood (*Cornus kousa*), which is also known for its flowers and is on the edge of hardiness. We chose the cultivar 'Venus' and again it is in the Circle. It gave us a couple of beautiful flowers, but is going into its first winter. Let's hope it makes it. It is worth looking at pictures of these two dogwoods as the flowers are not at all like the ones we have in our gardens or in the wild around here.

The Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*) is one plant that you may not be familiar with. We have an old plant near Prince of Wales in the Maples area. The great thing about it is that it flowers in the middle of summer when not much else is blooming in the Arboretum. A newly released cultivar 'Sugar Shack' solves the main limiting factor for its garden use—size. 'Sugar Shack' is 3-4 feet in height and width at maturity whereas the species plant can be over 10 feet.



Robert Glendinning

Midsummer flowers of the Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*).

The best for last

I feel that I am saving the best for last—*Stewartia pseudocamellia*. The common name is Japanese Stewartia, also known as Korean Stewartia. It is the only member of the tea family (*Theaceae*) that will survive in our climate. I have seen a full-grown specimen and it is beautiful with

interesting multi-coloured bark, brilliant fall colour, fantastic form, and beautiful large white flowers. It will take its time maturing, and these traits will develop over the years. This is a plant to keep your eye on over the next few years. We have planted three—two in the Circle and one on the Main Lawn. All made it through the winter, but unfortunately one in the Circle has since died.

Robert Glendinning is Groundskeeper/ Propagator at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.



R. Hinchcliff

The contorted Japanese Larch 'Diana' (*Larix kaempferi* 'Diana'), grafted at the base.



R. Hinchcliff



www.gardenia.net

Flowers of the Japanese Stewartia (*Stewartia pseudocamellia*). To the left is a young tree in the Arboretum..

Upcoming Events, 2019

For more information, visit www.friendsofthefarm.ca or call 613-230-3276.

Annual Non-dinner

- Please join the Friends for our popular annual fundraiser.
- Not a single person will show up and we will be delighted. You can help the Friends of the Farm just by staying at home!
- By purchasing tickets to this fundraising event that will never take place, you can help sponsor numerous activities in support of the Ornamental Gardens and Arboretum on the Farm.
- Individual seats \$25. Couples \$50. Family \$100. Table of Six \$150. Community \$500.
- Your support is greatly appreciated and your donation is tax deductible.
- You can contribute by using our online fillable form for cheques or PayPal at <https://friendsofthefarm.ca/donations/>

Used Book Drop Off

- Saturday, October 19, 10 am to 3 pm.
- Donate your books for a great cause.
- Please note that we do not accept magazines, textbooks or encyclopaedias.
- Location: Building 72, Arboretum, east of the Prince of Wales roundabout.
- Please respect Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada property and do not drop off books at any other time, thanks!



Dedicate an Arboretum Bench in 2020!

The Friends are very pleased to report that all three benches available in the Arboretum for dedication in 2019 were quickly matched with donors. The wording chosen by the donors and engraved on elegant bench plaques serves as a lasting recognition of their loved ones.

In early 2019, the Friends of the Farm had purchased the three high-quality benches and placed them in select areas around the Arboretum. In July, the public was invited to purchase dedication plaques to be attached to the benches. With a payment of \$7,000, a person or group of persons could choose a bench upon which a plaque would be placed, to remain for a ten-year period with an option to renew.

As reported in an earlier newsletter, the Celebration Bench initiative follows in the wake of the Friends' very successful Donor Tree program (1991 to 2005) in the Arboretum as well as the Merivale Shelterbelt program (2005 to 2018), which added a lovely and protective swath of trees and shrubs along Merivale Avenue. The Shelterbelt features a dedication wall that also provided the public with an opportunity to sponsor celebration plaques.



One of the celebration benches in the Arboretum.

R. Hinchcliff

More benches available

The Friends plan to continue with the Celebration Bench program and install additional benches in 2020. The Friends have already received payment for one more dedication plaque, which will be mounted on a bench to be placed in the Arboretum in late Spring 2020. If you are interested, the subscription period for full payment for dedication plaques for benches to be installed in 2020 extends until December 15, 2019.

A Canada Revenue Agency tax receipt will be issued for the \$7,000 donation minus the cost of the plaque. Conditions will be laid out in a legal contract between the Friends of the Farm and the donor. Further information may be found on the Friends' website at <https://friendsofthefarm.ca/bench-program/> or obtained from the Friends' office.

New Signs

You may have noticed the signs for our events around the Farm blowing over and becoming useless. We are happy to report that a replacement—like the one in the photo—has been purchased and tested, is sturdier and more effective, without being too heavy to move. As a result, the Friends will purchase more of the same with funds raised through donations, memberships and events. Your generosity is appreciated!



Deborah Higdon-LeBlond

Ben Pascolo-Neveu – Thirteen Years and Counting for Millennial Volunteer

By Joan Butcher

Ben Pascolo-Neveu started helping out at the Farm in 2006 in order to obtain the mandatory 40 volunteer hours that students in Ottawa are required to put in. He responded to a summer recruitment initiative aimed at getting youth more involved with the Friends of the Farm and in his case, the initiative certainly was successful. He has kept on volunteering with the Friends of the Farm for 13 years now, participating in a wide array of efforts.

His interest in the Farm can be traced back to fond childhood memories he has of walks taken and picnics enjoyed during trips to the Farm and Arboretum with his parents. He was always fascinated by the trees and impressed with the tidiness of the beds in the Ornamental Gardens.

When he signed up with the Friends, he was assigned to help out with pruning the bushes in the Explorer Rose Garden and planting trees at the Shelter Belt once a week. The Shelter Belt Team had just been formed and they badly needed to recruit volunteers. Ben was to discover that his main task in the team would be weeding. Anyone who has ever volunteered for any garden team has experienced that realization! Ben now has a true appreciation for just how much effort is involved in tending a garden.

After completing high school, Ben studied at Carleton University, where he pursued a degree in Civil Engineering. He graduated in February 2014 with a B.Eng. In July, 2018 he attained his Professional Engineer designation, becoming Ben Pascolo-Neveu, P.Eng. In his professional life, he is most interested in transportation planning, municipal engineering, and construction/project management. He works as a Transportation Engineer at

IBI Group's Ottawa Office.

IBI does not permit him to take the summer off to volunteer at the Farm, alas. So now his volunteering time is restricted to weekends. Ben makes himself available to volunteer for almost all of the special events that occur during the spring and summer months. He has enthusiastically worked at:

- ‘bussing’ tables at the Victorian Tea;
- directing traffic for special events;
- organizing books for the Book Sale;
- helping with the set up and tear down for a variety of events;
- handing out water to the runners during the 10-Mile Run; and,
- putting up easels for the Art on the Farm event.

Among all these tasks, his favourite is sorting through books for the June Book Sale. Ben is always impressed by the huge variety of interesting volumes that are donated each year and has a particular interest in the subject of Ottawa's local history. The fast-paced nature of the work appeals to him, since there are usually large drop-offs of books that occur during a shift. He has to sort through the books and re-box them so that they can be stacked easily. “The difficult part is to resist digging into some of the interesting titles that appear,” admitted Ben.

He treats the activity of boxing like a challenging logic puzzle, trying to fit each book in exactly, so that there is no wasted space. He has learned a few tricks in this respect from the seasoned book sale volunteers over the years. Ben finds the sale particularly rewarding to volunteer at since it is always popular with the public, and “everybody is always very appreciative of the efforts you put in to help make this sale a success.”



R. Hinchcliff

Spring is Ben's favourite season to be on the Farm. He enjoys the magnificence of the magnolia trees in bloom just east of Prince of Wales Drive. During the first two summers at the Farm he was able to learn some basic gardening techniques, beyond that crucial and never-ending job of weeding.

Gaining gardening skills is just one of the ways that volunteering has given back to Ben. During his first year at the Farm, he was impressed with the endurance of the runners in the 10-Mile Run. He was so inspired that he signed up for the race five years later. After that, he kept pushing himself to run farther, until he was able to run the Marathon as part of the Ottawa Race Weekend in 2014 and 2015.

He also appreciates having an opportunity to give back to the community and be in contact with others who have a similar drive to help in the much-needed effort to maintain the Farm.

It is our sincere hope he will continue to show up to make the Farm's fundraising events a success for many years to come.

After taking degrees from St. Mary's University in Halifax and Trinity College, Dublin, Joan Butcher was lured from her home in the Maritimes by a headline that read: "Ottawa - Recession Proof." After over 25 years as a Government of Canada communications professional, she decided she far preferred digging weeds in the perennial beds of the Ornamental Gardens.

Friends of the Farm Office Manager

We are looking for someone to fill this part-time (15 hours per week) position.

The Office Manager deals with operations of the Friends under the direction of the Board: providing technical support, communicating with the public, acting as a point-of-contact for volunteers and members, managing the office records and resources including office support volunteers, and other tasks as needed.

The successful candidate will have good interpersonal and organizational skills in verbal and written English (some verbal French is desirable), and will work well with a team. Competency with a variety of applications is essential, such as Google G Suite, MS Office and social media platforms, and an ability to learn new applications is ideal.

Interested individuals are asked to apply with resume to Friends of the Central Experimental Farm by email to: president@friendsofthefarm.ca or by mail to Building 72, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0C6.

Beautiful Places to Volunteer

Thirty years ago, volunteers began helping to maintain the Ornamental Gardens and Arboretum, and they continue to enjoy their beautiful workplaces. Direction and guidance are provided by Jeremy DiZazzo and his team from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

Eric Jones



Arboretum team.



Kitty Langill

Explorer rose team members from left: Gretel Harmston, Josephine Stanic, Kitty Langill (kneeling), Penny Bailey, Bev Krogan-Donnelly (kneeling), Airi Trant, Bob Barron, and Linda McLaren.

Thanet Hardwick



Macoun Memorial Garden team.

Jocelyn Charron



Jean-Charles Charron, Peony team.



Annie Creighton

Kate Hadden and Rob Stuart, Rock Garden team.



R. Hinchcliff

Perennials team.

Maura Giuliani



"These guys work hard - the only decent photos I get are during breaks!" writes Maura Giuliani, who took this photo of her lilac team members: Eileen Reardon, Bev Brooks, Willy Langill, Jo-Anne Hicks, Babs Humenny, Mike the Dog, Jean Currie

From Sweetgums to Wingnuts - and Bats

Tours in the Arboretum

Trees of the Southeastern United States

On June 2, 2019, a tour was held with the aim of showcasing the Arboretum's many successful plantings of trees and shrubs native to the southeastern United States. We visited plants such as Sweetgum, Sweetshrub, Carolina Silverbell, Fringetree, Persimmon, several Magnolias, Baldcypress, and more.

These plants would not exist in Ottawa, so far from their native ground, if it was not for the Arboretum's original experimental mandate, i.e., to investigate which kinds of trees and shrubs can be imported and survive the challenging climate of our nation's capital.

Ecologically, it may be desirable to continue investigating the planting of southeastern USA trees and shrubs in our region instead of those typically chosen from Eurasia. The US imports merely hail from a different section of North America's eastern forest, and may turn out to pose less of an invasive threat than plants brought from across the ocean.

Owen Clarkin

Rare Trees and Shrubs

On August 11, 2019, rare trees and shrubs were highlighted on a tour that introduced participants to trees and shrubs which are not commonly encountered in either Ottawa, or eastern North America generally.

Beginning near Building 72, our group examined a Willow-leaved Pear which at first glance resembles a Russian Olive more than it does a pear tree. We then viewed and discussed Sea-Buckthorn, which is of increasing interest due to its medicinal uses. Next, we noted a healthy-looking Black Maple notable for its apparent hardiness in spite of summer heatwaves and drought. In the Maples section, we looked at a Hedge Maple

and its interesting corky twig bark, reminiscent of locally native Bur Oak or Rock Elm. Nearby, several species of Ginseng-Shrubs (*Eleutherococcus*, formerly *Acanthopanax*) were examined. Despite their general rarity as introductions to eastern North America, these were naturalizing nearby, e.g., under the Hedge Maple.

Briefly stopping at fine representatives of False-Indigo Bush, Turkish Hazel, Yellow Buckeye, Fragrant Epaulette (*Pterostyrax*), Three-flowered Maple, and Sycamore Maple, we crossed the path toward the open field area to the east. Here, we discussed citrus family representatives Hop-Tree and the lately naturalizing but still uncommon species Amur Corktree. Nearby, the rare Securinine shrub (*Flueggea suffruticosa*, formerly *Securinega suffruticosa*) was featured. Heading down the hill to the south, we visited thorny Aralia Trees (*Kalopanax septemlobus*), before stopping at a young example of the native but locally uncommon, sometimes-scattered species, the White Oak. We then proceeded north, entering the circle/loop area before finishing the tour with stops at Wingnut (*Pterocarya*), Greek Fir, Paperbark Maple, Bigleaf Magnolia, and Pitch Pine.

Owen Clarkin



Tour of rare trees and shrubs, August 2019.



Learning from Bettina Henkelman and Nicole Nolan about bats on the Got Bats? tour, Arboretum, July 2019.

Ad-hoc Tree Tours

The Friends were contacted and helped arrange several tree tours this summer for interested and appreciative groups.

A tour was given to the Association for Biology Laboratory Education, a group of biological science professionals, by Diane McClymont Peace (in the Arboretum) and Polly McColl (in the Ornamental Gardens).

Ken Farr led two tours, one for a group of Carleton University Art Gallery students; another for attendees at an International Sustainability Transitions Conference.

Eric Jones

Old Friends of the Farm

By Eric Jones

Among the many trees and shrubs in the Arboretum, there are a few notable ones that have lived longer and experienced more change than the others. The first trees were placed in the Arboretum in 1889 with a planting of 200 species of trees, two of each species. By the turn of the century, over 3,000 species and varieties were represented. Many of those have died and been replaced, but a few remain.

Older trees are steadfast presences that have changed to adapt to their environment and to their own genetic path. They give the Arboretum its shape and spirit.

Standing on Guard for Trees

The sentries of the Arboretum include two large White Pines planted in 1889 and 1890—among the tallest trees in the City—challenging you as you drive into the Arboretum. Nearby, other large conifers stand on watch, some of them planted about the same time.

Greeting us at the north end of the Arboretum is another impressive line of pines and spruces forming the old windbreak between the Farm and the train tracks (now the O-train). Among them are some very tall Ponderosa Pines planted in the 1890s. A few of these pines are finally starting to fail due to a fungal disease.

Going Around the Loop

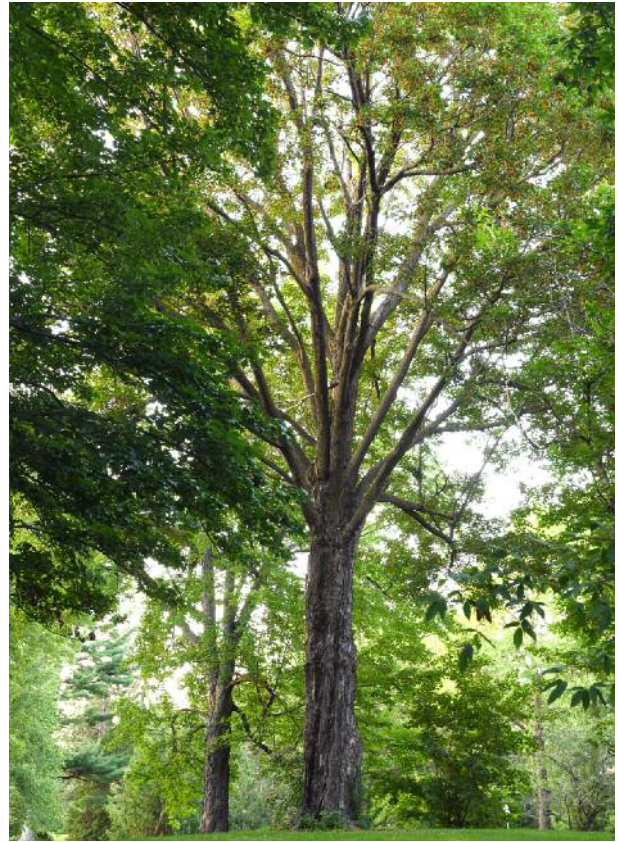
As you follow the circle road around the Arboretum, you pass some species that were rare when planted over 100 years ago. Three ramrod-straight Ginkgos, an ancient species re-discovered in a secluded area of China and now common around the world, stand on the left with their branches thrust out in salute. Past these trees are some round-shouldered Threadleaf Sawara Cypress (*Chamaecyparis*) trees, bowing over the road. Further along, there's a giant teepee-shaped Greek fir rising out of the beds of yew on the left. If you look down the hill at the lookout, you will see a wide-spreading Bur Oak that may have seeded itself. It now

monopolizes the open field with only a single smaller tree as its companion.

Although the woodland you pass on the right wasn't planted by the Farm, it also includes some notable older trees of Ottawa. Beyond the cluster of Spruce on your left, you come to an opening that reveals some domineering Black Walnut trees that were planted in 1889. As you finish up the loop, you



These two trees—White Pine (right) and Douglas-fir—were among the first to be planted in the Arboretum in 1889.



The 1896 Sugar Maple.

pass some more Spruce that are over 100 years old.

Made in the Shade

In the Maples area just south of the main entrance to the Arboretum stand many venerable and wrinkled trees. As Maples grow older the bark splits and buckles, folding into big ridges and curls, and pieces drop off. Native examples include a big Silver Maple planted in 1890, followed by a large Red Maple planted in 1913, leading on to a superb 1896 Sugar Maple that peers down at you from a slight rise.

Further in from these Canadian maples are many exotic old specimens, including a hollowed-out Miyabei Maple from Japan planted in 1895, and a skulking wreck of a Mono Maple planted in 1901.

The entire area is calm and tranquil, despite being close to busy Prince of Wales Drive. The shade cast by the maples provides a very noticeable cooling effect. It is a lovely place to rest on a hot summer day.

The Odd Fellows

Not all of the older trees are especially tall. But they do have character. Standing behind the tall White Pines in the circle, a striking Scots Pine planted in 1907 sports a large branch at its base that curves upward like an elephant's trunk.

And in the middle of the circle, there is an older tree that is scarcely as tall as an average person: A Pendulous White Mulberry, planted in 1895, crouches over, seeming to peer out with evil intent from beneath its scattered dreadlocks.

Old Friends of the Farm ... *(continued from Page 8)*



The 1895 Pendulous White Mulberry “crouches over, seeming to peer out with evil intent.”



A branch of the 1907 Scots Pine “curves upward like an elephant’s trunk.”

Respecting our Senior Citizens

Trees can live for a very long time if they are kept free from injury and disease.

But it’s not easy to grow old in the urban forest of today, when introduced pests and diseases show up on a regular basis. Other threats to a long life are the ice storms and micro-bursts that seem to be happening like clockwork. On top of all that, the city environment includes air pollution, salt spray, root compaction, excavation, pruning, weed-whacker damage, and vandalism. It takes a lot of guts (or roots) for a tree to stand up to the challenges that nature and city dwellers throw at them!

Show your appreciation for these elder members of our community while they’re still around and take some time to go visit them. Enjoy the fact that:

- they’re still there;
- they stand facing all the elements without protection;
- they change with the seasons;
- they house many creatures;
- they make the area healthy and liveable; and
- they’re still there.



The Bur Oak (at right) near the southern lookout.

Photos by R. Hinchcliff



The Friends of the Central Experimental Farm is a volunteer organization committed to the maintenance and protection of the Ornamental Gardens and the Arboretum of the Central Experimental Farm in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

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In Memory – Eric Moore

Eric Moore, former President of the Friends of the Central Experimental Farm, died on August 3, 2019 in Ottawa at the age of 90. He led the organization for six and a half years from 1997 to 2004, years which marked changing times for the CEF and the Friends.

Eric was born in the English Lake District and following university graduation and military service, emigrated to Canada in 1950. He spent most of his career marketing agriculture and food products throughout Canada, the USA, and other countries. Following six years as General Manager and Marketing Director of B.C. Tree Fruits Limited, he joined Agriculture Canada in 1972.

Among his accomplishments at Agriculture Canada, Eric set up the Saskatchewan Hog Marketing Commission, managed the Potato Action Committee, and led the Department's international marketing activities. In the seven years before his retirement in 1997, Eric managed the Department's Federal/Provincial Secretariat, which was involved in domestic and international marketing, agriculture and food inspection, and agricultural trade policy.

Eric was a long-time Friend of the Farm. After his retirement, he was named a Director and then elected President of the Friends on November 17, 1997. According to his wife Louise, he retired on Friday and the following Monday began his term as President.

The Farm's designation as a National Historic Site and Cultural Heritage Landscape in 1998 was a key aspect of Eric's work as President. He was a founding member of the CEF Advisory Council in 1999 and represented the Friends in consultations with AAFC on the

Management Plan for the Farm. Recognizing his role in the Plan's development, AAFC invited Eric to introduce the then Minister of Agriculture, Lyle Vanclief, at the unveiling of the Management Plan in November 2003.

Previously, Minister Vanclief had officially opened the restored rose garden and on both these occasions he lauded the work of volunteers at the Friends. Eric encouraged a similar awareness of the valuable work of the Friends among senior managers in the Department. With energy and dedication, he promoted the Friends of the Farm as an effective and credible organization, and was always an excellent ambassador for the Farm.

In his farewell newsletter message, he mentioned contributing more than 2,000 presidential hours each year. Among other achievements, he initiated the Friends' Millennium Plan and negotiated a much-improved Collaborative Agreement with AAFC.

In 2010, Eric was honoured with an Ontario Heritage Award for his significant contribution to heritage conservation. The award recognized Eric's many years of volunteer work in support of the promotion, preservation, and protection of Ontario's rich heritage. Besides his volunteer work with the Friends of the Farm, he was a member of the Management Board of the Fletcher Wildlife Garden, a member of the Central Experimental Farm Advisory Council, and President of the Council of Heritage Organizations in Ottawa.

We send our sincere condolences to Louise, and to their family and friends.



Eric Moore (right) with then Minister of Agriculture, Lyle Vanclief, at the announcement of the Management Plan for the Farm, 2003.

Photos from Friends of the Farm Archives



Former Minister of Agriculture, Eugene Whalen, with Eric Moore, President of the Friends of the Farm

Consider joining the Friends of the Farm!

Find our membership form on the website and pay by PayPal or send in a cheque:

www.friendsofthefarm.ca/become-a-member/.

Benefits include discounts on Master Gardener lectures hosted by the Friends, one free adult admission per visit to the Canada Agriculture and Food Museum, quarterly printed newsletters by post, and monthly Farm Notes e-newsletters.

We also accept donations to support our activities and events, which also support the garden teams that maintain the cherished Ornamental Gardens. A variety of donations can be made through our webpage:

www.friendsofthefarm.ca/donations/.



Selecting and Caring for Trees ... *(continued from Page 12)*

- The Ginkgo (*Ginkgo biloba*), native to eastern China, tolerates many soil conditions as well as salt and pollution. The fan-shaped leaves turn a brilliant yellow in the fall and drop quickly, once we have freezing temperatures. The rotting fruit of female trees can smell unpleasant so most growers produce only male trees. There are mature ones in the circle area of the Arboretum, and young ones in the Shelter Belt.
- The Littleleaf Linden (*Tilia cordata*), a native of Europe, has heart-shaped leaves that turn yellow-green in fall and sweet-scented summer flowers that attract bees. The lowest branches are the longest and give the tree a strong pyramidal shape. Unfortunately, it is a favourite of Japanese beetles, although it tolerates many urban conditions. There is a beautiful mid-aged specimen in the Arboretum.
- Yellow Bird Magnolia (*Magnolia acuminata*), native to Canada and the USA, has yellow flowers that come out after the leaves have emerged. The mature fruit resembles a cucumber, hence the common name - Cucumber Tree. There is a lovely young specimen in the magnolia section of the Arboretum.
- The Red Pine (*Pinus resinosa*), a hardy native of Canada, is a good windbreak and tolerates poor soil. The long needles are arranged in pairs. One of the oldest trees (>120 years) is found in the circle area and younger ones have been planted as a windbreak along the Rideau Canal.
- The Downy Serviceberry (*Amelanchier arborea*) is a native of Canada. It tolerates many types of soil, rarely needs pruning, has white spring flowers, beautiful fall colour and edible berries, and is preferred by cedar waxwings and other birds. There are numerous cultivars to choose from and examples of Serviceberries abound in the Shelter Belt.
- The Spindle Tree (*Euonymus europaeus*), native to Europe and western Asia, tolerates most soils and has attractive pink and orange fruit in the fall visible after leaf drop. There are specimens along the path from Building 72 to Prince of Wales Drive.
- The Amur Maple (*Acer ginnala*), is a very hardy, medium-growth tree native to China and Japan, which is often multi-stemmed. The seeds turn red in the summer and the leaves turn brilliant red in fall. It withstands heavy pruning and can be grown in containers. There are numerous stands in the Shelter Belt.
- The Swiss Stone Pine (*Pinus cembra*) is a mid-sized evergreen,



Photos by Diane McClymont-Peace

Purple Beech (*Fagus sylvatica* 'Atropunicea'), Arboretum.

native to the mountains of Europe and southern Asia. The needles are slightly curved and arranged in groups of five. There are examples in the circle area of the Arboretum as well as a lovely specimen between the greenhouses and the Canada Agriculture and Food Museum.

Once a tree has been selected, it is important to give it proper care. After it is planted, it should be watered once a day for two weeks, and then once a week if there is inadequate rainfall. Keep this up until the ground freezes so the tree has sufficient moisture going into the winter. Adding bone meal during planting will help with root development. Add mulch around the tree but do not place it too close to the trunk. Any broken, diseased, or crossed branches should be pruned at this time.



Amur Maple (*Acer ginnala*), Merivale Shelterbelt.

Fall tasks

In the fall, trees can be fertilized from mid-September to mid-October with half the recommended yearly amount. But don't fertilize if the soil is dry. Fallen leaves should be raked and saved for other uses. Sensitive trees can be wrapped with burlap or insulated cloth or covered with cones. Young trunks can be wrapped with tree guard. Evergreens can be tied up to secure branches. Young trunks and branches can be treated with the fungicide thiram to reduce rodent damage.

In early spring, before leaf-out, branches can be trimmed. Once the ground has thawed, trees can receive the second half of their fertilizer. Prune any damaged or diseased branches as they occur. Check for insect infestation and manage as it occurs from spring to fall.

Lastly, get out and enjoy your trees in any season.

Diane McClymont Peace is a master gardener with the Ottawa-Carleton Master Gardeners and works part-time at a local garden nursery. She also tries to maintain a two-acre rural property with perennial beds, rock garden, pond, vegetable garden, fruit trees, and forest area.

Selecting and Caring for Trees

By Diane McClymont Peace

Trees provide structure and height and are the backbones of our gardens and properties. Trees provide shade, slow down wind, reduce noise and erosion, capture carbon dioxide, and give off oxygen. They add privacy, beauty, colour, and scents to the landscape.

Garden centres and growers offer a huge selection of trees and sometimes it is hard to decide what to choose for a specific location or site condition. Luckily, at the Central Experimental Farm's Arboretum, Shelter Belt and Ornamental Gardens, we have many examples of trees, both mature and young, which are hardy for the Ottawa area. Come visit our trees and you can try them on for size. Mature size really does matter when selecting a tree for a certain location. Some of my favourites, listed from large to small, are:

- The Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*), native to Canada, is a good tree for large lawns and streets and of course, squirrels enjoy the acorns. The leaves turn russet-red in fall colour and drop slowly, with some lingering until the following spring. There is a huge Red Oak, over 100 years old, in front of the William Saunders Building and others of similar age at the southern edge of the Arboretum.
- The Katsura Tree (*Cercidiphyllum japonicum*), a native of Japan, is a beautiful tree with heart-shaped leaves. These turn apricot coloured in the fall and smell like cinnamon or brown sugar. You can find one growing in the Arboretum Circle.
- The Purple Beech (*Fagus sylvatica* 'Atropunicea'), a native of Europe, has smooth bark and its leaves emerge black-red, fade to purple-green and end up brown-red in the fall. There are two of these trees beside the Arboretum circle road between the two parking areas.



Katsura Tree (*Cercidiphyllum japonicum*), Arboretum.

Diane McClymont-Peace



Spindle Tree (left) in the Arboretum.

[Looking for Christmas cards? This is one of six images of winter at the Farm on a series of cards available from the Friends of the Farm.]

R. Hinchcliff

Continued on Page 11