



# THE LEAFLET

Newsletter of the Morgan Arboretum Association

"All is leaf"  
- Goethe

Our Donors

Garden Planning & Tree Care

Norway Maple Spread

Spring 2008

## THE ANNUAL PLANT SALE

We offer a selection of  
trees and shrubs  
from the Arboretum nursery  
as well as from reputable nurseries

From Monday April 21  
until Saturday May 3  
from 9:00 to 16:00

Our nursery is located  
at the corner of Chemin des Pins  
and Chemin Sainte-Marie

The Plant Auction  
will take place on  
Sunday May 4 at noon.  
The sale will continue afterwards  
until 16:00

All are welcome

## SEASONAL GIFTS

As I am writing these lines on the last day of March, the towering snow banks have started to melt and sap has begun seeping from the sugar maple trunks. Although we are experiencing an exceptionally late season this year, boiling has resumed at the sugar shack and we are still hoping to process an adequate crop to satisfy all of our maple syrup fancying members.

2008 will be remembered as a particularly white winter. While city officials were facing logistical ordeals and depleted budgets, many of us were out at the Arbo enjoying the pristine powder. This was of course a blessing for our administration. Abundant snowfalls translated to a 51% increase in revenue from the visitors' daily entrance fees for January as well as a 16% increase in revenue from membership for the winter trimester, in comparison with corresponding periods last year. Overall, an additional 41 families joined this year with a pronounced peak in January. This shows how weather dependant our operations are and we can only rejoice when the wind is blowing our way.

If you receive this newsletter in the mail, you will find enclosed a form to renew your annual contribution to the upkeep of the Arboretum. Should you decide to contribute above the membership fee, we will, as in previous years, issue an official receipt for tax deduction (for a minimum amount of \$10). Be assured that every donation counts and, as a whole, makes a difference. In 2007-2008, donations amounted to \$33,900, 27% of which were invested in our endowment funds. The remaining portion was used to fund our operations as well as a number of designated 'priority' projects.

For instance, Arboretum users will be pleased to know that contributions to the Road Improvement Fund will be matched by the University in order to resurface the access road. The University will also fund the restoration of Centre Road. Repairs are to take place this spring after the thaw. We will keep you informed of the work schedule.

A \$12,000 donation came from philanthropist member Erich Krayer-Krauss who decided to help resolve the issue of ski tracking. The gift will provide for the replacement of our antique snowmobile and primitive track-setting sled with up to date equipment, as well as the upgrade of the bridges on the blue ski trail. The new tracking trailer is designed to reshuffle snow and will allow us to reset tracks on a regular basis between snowfalls. Weather permitting, Arboretum skiers will experience a significant improvement in trail conditions next winter.

Another laudable initiative came from the Lindsay family who proposed the creation of a garden in memory of the late Daphne Joan Lindsay. Because Mrs. Lindsay had enjoyed visiting the Arboretum for nearly 50 years, her husband, Douglas Lindsay, approached us to establish a living memorial in her favorite spot, Blossom Corner. The recently approved landscape plan, designed by daughter Heather Lindsay, provides for establishment next to the rhododendron garden. The new bed will contain several varieties of Daphne, among other flowering shrubs.

Please drop by this spring to enjoy the awakening of the forest and its generous yet fleeting charms.

Anne Godbout

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The MAA gratefully acknowledges these individuals and organizations who supported its mission in 2007-2008 through their generous contributions of money, plants, equipment and services.

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# Garden Planning & Tree Care

by John Watson

Arboretum Manager of Forest Operations

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Spring is here and homeowners will soon be in full gear making their homestead even more spectacular than the year before. From plant selection to reorganizing a cozy nook, to taking care of those monster trees after years of neglect ... all these items and more demand careful attention prior to reaping the benefits. Below are some helpful hints on how to tackle the springtime "What to do on the Property" list.

### Plant Selection

The first step is the plan or design. The homeowner must consider:

1. Hardiness of plant material: Look at garden catalogues, publi-

cations; visit arboreta, botanical gardens and garden centers. Talk only to managers or full time staff.

2. Disease resistance: Prior to investing in plant material ask expert advice at arboreta or botanical gardens on high-risk / low-risk plant types.

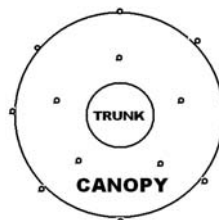
3. Annual care: Is time available to properly upkeep your garden?

4. Plant location: Extremely important is the need to consider exposure, drought, light, shade and wind; proximity to structures like homes and pools; size of material at maturity. Seek professional aid.

5. Maintenance costs: These would include, for example, pruning, watering, and hiring gardeners.

### Fertilization

The homeowner can ensure the health and welfare of plants on the home front. Fertilizing trees and shrubs is not complicated, is inexpensive, and is very necessary. This is a task we can all undertake with very little time and effort. Do not purchase the fancy, expensive fertilizers such as Jobe Sticks etc. Go to a garden centre and get a bag of all-purpose granular slow-release fertilizer (for example 7-7-7 or 20-20-20.) A light sprinkling around the shrub root area will suffice. With trees the process is very easy. See diagram.



Punch a hole (crowbar) 6" deep and 1 1/2" diameter at the drip line of the tree. Fill it with the slow-release fertilizer. Move over 6-8' and repeat. Continue around the circumference of the tree's leaf span. Move inwards half the distance to the base of the tree and repeat the procedure. Fertilize once per year from April 25th to May 15th.

### Watering

Early morning is the best time. During the day the plant will scorch or scald. Evening watering can create fungus and mildew problems. Rainwater is preferred (install rain water storage bins.)

### Mulching

Be careful using city mulches and compost due to fungal and disease transmission. If unsure, don't use anything. Believe it or not shredded newspapers mixed with soil hold water nicely and break down, opening pores in the soil.

### Pruning

- Shrubs: prune in the autumn or directly after blooming.

- Deciduous trees: prune in the autumn or summer months.

- Evergreen trees: prune only after all risk of frost is gone.

Sterilize pruning equipment with rubbing alcohol or Javex.

### Selecting Labour

Every year I hear of labour difficulties on the home front. Many people have busy schedules and can't spend hours caring for their properties. When hiring mature gardeners, the risks of losing valuable plant material due to improper weeding activity are reduced. Hiring young, high school whippersnappers may require patience, much supervision, and a high-powered cattle prod to induce activity. In both cases a formal contract should be signed by both partners.

We would like to express our appreciation to the additional 124 people who generously contributed donations of less than \$50 to the Arbo 50 Fund and the Road & Trails Funds for a total of \$3174. As you know, every dollar invested has an impact on the perpetuity of the Arboretum.

Thank you  
for your support

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Remember, the property belongs to the home owner, not the gardener. It is the home owner's desires and wishes that are to be met.

Be very careful when selecting tree services. If unsure, seek advice first from a professional, neutral source. Many times I have looked at trees selected for demolition when careful pruning and repairs could easily have added many years to a tree's life. By the way, not all city engineers are professional neutral people. Many seem to recommend friends who end up on your property, anxious to turn your back yard into the Sahara Desert.

Once you have selected your tree service ask for a copy of:

- Proof of incorporation, registration, etc.
- Proof of insurance
- Contract of all work to be done.

We hope you have a great gardening season. If you are having difficulties and are seeking guidance, I will be in the Nursery where you can visit, ask questions, and support your Arboretum by purchasing a plant - see the announcement of our plant sale on the front page.

## TRIBUTE PROGRAM

Dedicate one of our trees to a loved one or plant a new tree to commemorate a birth, death or other important event.

Information: Anne Godbout 514-398-8697

## Good Quality Hardwood

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Cord dimensions are 4' x 8' x 15"-18".

To participate in the lottery, please fill in the form below and mail, deliver or e-mail the complete information before  
**Friday July 4**

We will phone the winners of the draw before Friday July 11 to let them know that they can count on Arboretum wood.

## FIREWOOD LOTTERY

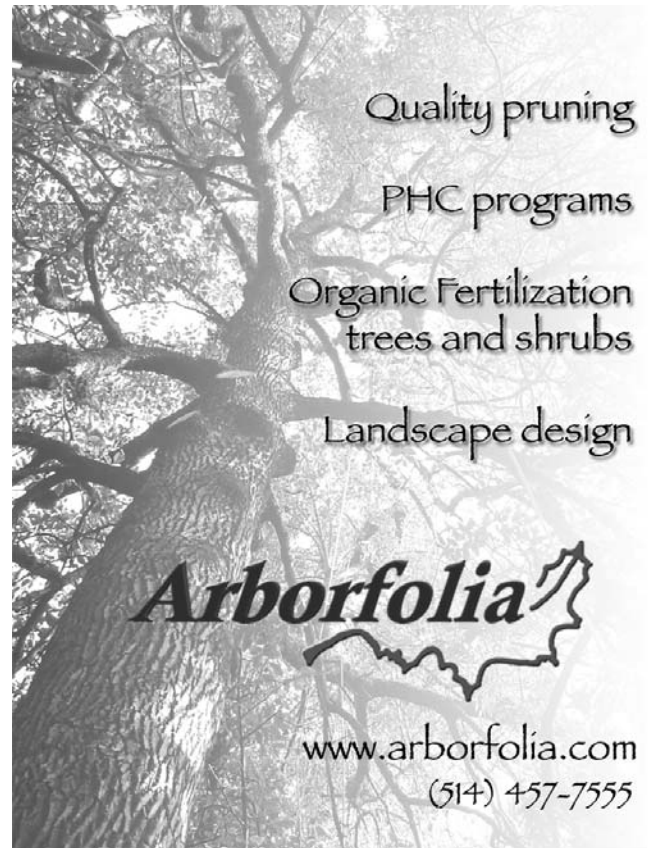
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## IMPORTANT NOTICE TO DOG OWNERS

Please renew your dog registration before **August 1**  
This will allow us to consider new dog registrations

## Spring Spruce Up Day

Saturday May 3  
from 9:00 to 15:00 at the CC

The MAA Directors invite you to join them to help with spring clean-up and light maintenance jobs. This is also an opportunity to meet and share ideas with Directors and fellow members.

We welcome your suggestions of projects to be undertaken.

Lunch will be served.  
Rain date: Saturday May 10

RSVP 514-398-7811



Christian Hemming

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# Rustic Garden Furniture Building

Garden Arch

Friday May 9

Living Fence

Saturday May 10

Bird Bath  
or Side Table

Weekend of May 24 & 25

Advanced Project

M - Th June 2, 3, 4, 5

Traditional Chair

2 wkends: Sept 13-14 & 20-21

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Mon marché de tous les jours.

## Norway Maple Spread in the Arboretum

by Frieda Beauregard

Arboretum Research Assistant

This summer I had a very pleasant job: I spent all my days in the woods of the Arboretum (provided it wasn't raining too hard for my so-called water-proof paper!).

I was hired through the Ecological Monitoring and Assessment Network (a branch of Environment Canada) to study the ecology of the invasive tree -*Acer platanoides*- the Norway maple, and to document its spread in the Arboretum.

Back in the early days (1950's) of the Arboretum, it was planted as part of the collection of maples in Maple Corner. This was long before it had been identified as a serious threat to native forests. Indeed, it became a very popular choice for landscapers after the Dutch elm disease wiped out the majority of American elms, which were widely planted for their beautiful vase-like form. The popularity of Norway maple was partly due to the many varieties that were bred, such as the Crimson King. This variety has permanently dark red foliage and still remains the most commonly planted shade tree in North America.

Unfortunately, the Norway maple is also an invasive plant, a weed of large proportions.

It takes several years before it reaches reproductive maturity, but when it does, it produces many seeds, which can easily spread over long distances. Its seedlings are able to grow in very dense shade; denser than native tree seedlings, such as sugar maple can grow in. Because of this, it has been able to establish itself in many forests, often close to urban and suburban areas where there is a bountiful seed source from planted Norway maples. Once these seedlings reach the canopy, they themselves cast a very dense shade, under which only they can grow. Over time, the forests they invade become near mono-cultures of

Norway maple.

What's worse, Norway maples also leaf out earlier in the spring than do our native hardwoods, thus shading, and eventually killing, spring flowers that would otherwise grow and flower in the sun. Indeed, there's nothing sweet about these trees, even their sap can't be made into maple syrup.

Luckily, there is still time to control them.

The work I did in the Arboretum was geared towards gaining a better understanding of their ecology in southern Quebec, and producing guidelines for their management.

I mapped out all of the 'children' of the original population of planted Norway maples, and was able to relate this to some general patterns. I found that the main spread was within less than 400 metres of the parent trees in Maple Corner, and mostly in the direction of the wind, which makes sense, because like other maples, they have seeds that are easily lifted in a breeze. Also, they were denser close to roads, likely as a result of seeds being carried by vehicles, people and dogs, and also because the wind can blow along roads unimpeded by the forest.

None of the second generation had started to produce seed yet. I cut several to find how old they were. The oldest were about 30 years old, and from this I deduced that their parents in Maple Corner took about 20 years to reach reproductive maturity. Because they were planted in full sun, they grew faster than their offspring in the woods, and reached reproductive maturity faster.

In addition, the growth and survival rates were different depending on the type of forest stand they were growing in, but, one thing was always consistent - Norway maples did better than sugar maples wherever they



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were growing.

Negative effects on native trees and flowers have not yet been experienced in the Arboretum, because the new Norway maples were still too small to have much effect on other plants. Both the parent trees and their offspring are scheduled to be removed this year as a measure to conserve our native forest at the Arboretum.

A summary of the guidelines that were developed as a result of this project, and which will now be implemented in the Arboretum are as follows:

Limit the planting of Norway maple completely, or failing this, to a minimum distance of 1 kilometre from sensitive areas (the Norway maples in Maple Corner are all scheduled to be removed).

Remove Norway maple from areas where they have invaded (all the second generation of Norway maples in the Arboretum have been marked and will be removed).

A maximum return interval of 18 years is recommended to catch any new Norway maple invasions before they become reproductively mature.

## Bird Banding

A one-hour lecture followed by a field trip  
with ornithologists from the McGill Bird Observatory

Cost: members \$10, others \$15

On a Saturday morning in early May

Date to be announced

The birds  
overwintering  
at the Arboretum  
are fed by:



Bird Protection  
Protection des oiseaux  
Quebec du Québec

[www.birdprotectionquebec.org](http://www.birdprotectionquebec.org)

## Morgan Arboretum Association

Established in 1952



*Dedicated to forest conservation  
and environmental education.*

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## THE LEAFLET

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English revision:  
Carole Taylor & Richard Gregson

French Translation: Christian Hemming

# Calendar of Events

Until Saturday May 3

7 days/week from 9:00 to 16:00

**Tree and Shrub Sale**  
at the Arboretum Nursery

Saturday May 3

from 9:00 until 15:00

**Spruce Up Day**  
RSVP -See ad on page 4

Sunday May 4 at 12:00

**Plant Auction**

Followed by plant sale until 16:00

Sunday May 11

in French at 13:00, in English at 14:30

**Mother's Day Tour**

Members: free; others: regular entrance fees  
RSVP

Friday July 4

**Firewood Lottery Deadline**  
See ad on page 4

Friday August 1

**Dog Registration Deadline**  
See ad on page 4

The Royal Astronomical Society  
Lecture and Stargazing Events

**Seasonal Night Skies**

On the last Saturday of every month

May 31 at 20:00

June 28 at 20:00

July 26 at 20:00

August 30 at 20:00

September 27 at 19:00

October 25 at 19:00

At the Conservation Centre  
Free Entrance



à la hauteur  
de vos attentes

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