

# THE EMERALD ASH BORER HAS ARRIVED IN BALTIMORE. TAKE ACTION. CONSULT THE EXPERTS:







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L.T.E. #184

#### **DEDICATE YOURSELF TO AN URBAN FOREST PATCH**

By Miriam Avins



The trees over Baltimore offer shade to less than a third of the city. This makes us a hot city that climate change hits hard. Since 2012. Baltimore Green Space, Baltimore's land trust for communitymanaged open space, has been working with residents who want to save their nearby tangled patches of green. Through research by Prof. Matthew Baker at UMBC, Baltimore Green Space has learned that forest patches with at least 10,000 square feet of foliage account for a surprisingly large 20% of Baltimore's 27% tree canopy. Which means our urban forest patches, typically zoned for development, need protecting and expanding.

People sometimes assume that "wild" trees inside the city would be fast-growing exotics, such as tree of heaven and paulownia. In fact, Baltimore Green Space's surveys have identified 50 species of native trees and shrubs, including many oaks, native holly, and tulip poplar, which provide valuable habitat for resident and migratory birds. Birder Mike Hudson has identified more than 60 species, including bald eagles, bay-breasted warbler, least flycatcher, red-eyed vireo, and three federally protected species – red-shouldered hawk, red-tailed hawk, and black vulture.

Mr. Hudson explains that "forest patches differ from canopy cover in the average neighborhood in one big way—they offer habitat below the treetops. Forest patches provide undergrowth and groundcover needed for feeding and nesting." Mike has identified 11 "forest specialist" birds frequenting Baltimore's forest patches: among them the great-crested flycatcher that forages in high canopy to avoid competition; the yellow-billed cuckoo, a bird unfortunately in steep decline that hides well in woodlands and hunts for large caterpillars; and the wood thrush that breeds in forests with large trees, moderate understory, and abundant leaf litter.

Photo: In Govans Urban Forest, neighborhood stewards like Charles Brown tackle invasive vines, remove litter and construct paths.



Baltimore Green Space coordinates the Forest Stewardship Network, which brings together residents and forest experts, including foresters from the U.S. Forest Service. Residents learn how to care for neighborhood forest patches – and the results have been remarkable. At the Govans Urban Forest, for example, many mature trees have been rescued from ivy, and seedlings are getting breathing space from invasive groundcover. Neighbors have created paths to guide visitors and demonstrate that this forest patch is a beloved place.

To learn more, visit baltimoregreenspace.org

### MISSING IN ACTION: URBAN CHAMPIONS OF ROOTS AND CANOPY

By Tom Horton

Dr. Michael Beer was a world-class scientist, an eminent Johns Hopkins bio-physicist who built microscopes that could see atoms and envisioned half a century ago that we would someday (soon now) sequence genes by looking directly at the DNA.

He was also devoted to the part of the vast Chesapeake system that was his backyard—Stony Run and the Jones Falls, long-neglected, urban streams that run through Baltimore to the harbor and the Bay. He lived there, between the Falls and the Hopkins campus for more than 50 years, planting native trees, leading schoolchildren on trash cleanups and nature walks and mobilizing students to stop development in the floodplains.

To raise awareness, he sponsored memorable kayak trips — persuading the city to open the dam at Lake Roland to flood the Jones Falls enough for a rollicking paddle through the urban heart of the city. In retirement, he worked virtually full time to help restore Stony Run as

a first-class park, an urban amenity for the dense city neighborhoods through which it flows. Two years ago, having moved to a retirement complex near his old home on the run, Michael set about getting a green roof of living vegetation planted there.

He was a man of high accomplishment and humility with a selfless devotion to place, an inspiration to us all.



Founder of Lanscapes By Design and longtime Forestry Board member Ann Lundy, who died last fall, also leaves us a considerable legacy in green. The handsome Zelkovas marching down Roland Avenue's median, indigenous trees planted along the Jones Falls Trail in Woodberry, the palette of trees and plants that continues to blossom in native teaching gardens throughout Friends School's campus — all these and much more were made possible through Ann's tireless efforts.

#### JOIN WEED WARRIORS

A new program from the city's Park and Recreation department, teaches volunteers how to remove English ivy, porcelain berry, bittersweet and other vines smothering and strangling park trees and street trees to death. Join this new citywide effort by visiting treebaltimore.org or Stephanie.Helms@baltimorecity.gov

#### BECOME A BALTIMORE TREEKEEPER



Free tree pruning classes are taught in the winter and tree I.D. classes in summer, by a consortium of Baltimore's green organizations under the TreeBaltimore umbrella. In spring and fall Baltimoreans can learn proper urban tree care and planting techniques. These classes lead to certification, permitting you to lead tree planting and pruning in your own neighborhood.

To sign up for scheduled classes or bring TreeKeepers classes to your community, contact Amanda Cunningham at amanda@baltimoretreetrust.org

#### **NEIGHBORHOOD TREEVISION**

The next step after becoming a TreeKeeper could be tackling the canopy needs of your neighborhood. Parks & People's Neighborhood TreeVision provides free technical assistance for neighborhood associations and friends of parks groups as they conceptualize and implement tree canopy expansion and care projects. Does your group want help with landscape and maintenance plans and leadership tips for managing volunteer plantings? TreeVision builds capacity at the neighborhood level by helping groups develop outreach and fundraising strategies. Contact John Tracy at john.tracy@parksandpeople.org



Cylburn Arboritum's Glenda Webber teaching Tree I.D. to a Tree-Keepers class

### THE NEW PRESIDENT OF PARKS & PEOPLE, INC. IS ELISABETH MILLSPAUGH SCHROEDER



Lisa grew up here in a family with a long history of helping to develop the Inner Harbor and surrounding communities; her mother served on the Baltimore City Forestry Board. For the previous fifteen years Lisa Schroeder effectively led Riverlife, a nonprofit dedicated to reclaiming, restoring and making lively the riverfronts of

Pittsburgh. As CEO of Parks & People she will coordinate initiatives with Baltimore's department of Parks and Recreation, and oversee fundraising for public/private greening partnerships, enabling after-school environmental education, SuperKids Camp for summer literacy, Urban Resources Initiative internships, tree planting in underserved communities, neighborhood greening grants and a host of activities bringing sustainable change throughout Baltimore.

### MARYLAND NATIVE DANIEL MILLENDER IS NOW EXEC-UTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE BALTIMORE TREE TRUST



With a private-sector background that included managing a multi-million dollar wholesale tree and shrub business. Dan brings entrepreneurial know-how and a collaborative temperament to BTT's Trees for Public Health programs, which plant trees in neighborhoods in need of transformation. The Baltimore Tree Trust, Banner Neighborhoods, and Blue Water Baltimore are targeting the 17 southeast neighborhoods of the Harris Creek Watershed, where pollution particularly troubles the Bay and a dearth of trees contributes to citizens' health problems. On Arbor Day 2015, Friday April 24, come celebrate with BTT and its partners. Two last celebratory trees will be planted in the com-

munity of McElderry Park. Stark in its 13% tree canopy four years ago, this "heat island" neighborhood has doubled its shade trees by working with the Baltimore Tree Trust. The change is palpable. Pastor Gary Dittman and his Amazing Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church were early partners, along with Banner Neighborhoods, the Forestry Board, and TreeBaltimore. The Abel Foundation, the Chesapeake Bay Trust and the Peck Foundation are some of the funders who've brought the gift of trees—and permeable surface—to this southeast Baltimore neighborhood.

BLUE WATER BALTIMORE'S MISSION is to restore the quality of our city's rivers, streams and harbor—making them fishable and swimmable. This savvy non-profit makes effective use of volunteers who want to help in the cause of healthy neighborhoods and waterways. Now is the time to visit Blue Water Baltimore's Herring Run Nursery, located at 6131 Hillen Road, where you can chose from nearly 150 species of native trees and shrubs and 100 species of native flowers and grasses. Thanks to new funding from Maryland Department of Natural Resources Chesapeake & Atlantic Coastal Bay Trust Fund, Blue Water Baltimore is expanding its stormwater restoration at faith-based institutions. A recent initiative: greening your place of worship for a helthier city and Bay. Become a Blue Water Congregation by exploring the dynamic Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake at interfaithchesapeake.org.

# WYMAN PARK PLANTING PROJECTS: SCHOOL KIDS AND SCOUT MUSCLE

By Ray Iturralde

Volunteer help from schools and scouts continues as we tackle erosion abatement and tree planting in Wyman Park, thanks to a Partnership for Parks Grant awarded by Parks & People and funded by Baltimore City Recreation and Parks.

Boy Scout Troop 35, active since 1933, has carried the load on five projects along Stony Run. Todd Iodice re-graded muddy stretches of the walking path, hauling recycled concrete in wheelbarrows. Johnny Sadler reduced severe run-off by lugging a ton of rip-rap, also by wheelbarrow. Andrew Blomquist planted 30 trees along the park periphery over 7 blocks. Each earned Eagle rank by leading 20 to 30 scouts on various tasks, and all accomplished what was planned to be two days of work—in one day. To achieve Life rank, younger scouts also led projects. Grant lodice took charge of a hillside planting of native species to control erosion, and Eric Scheihing led tree maintenance and planting. Caps off to Scoutmaster Bob Carroll and his enthusiastic young men who put their heads, hearts and muscles to work making a difference.

#### ARBOR DAY IS APRIL 24TH, 2015



Greenmount School students walked from Remington to plant in Wyman Park on Arbor Day last year. For Arbor Day 2015, the 4 pm planting celebration will be at 600 N. Linwood Avenue in Southeast Baltimore.

### A TREE GROWS IN HAMPDEN (DWARFING EVERYTHING AROUND IT)

By Amanda Cunningham



Allen Hicks is an artist who delights in combining the softness of green with artwork made of steel, plastic, and rubber—rising defiantly from his backyard herbaceous gardens. The true amazement is this tree of his in the middle of it all, standing so tall and spreading so wide that it seems to shout 'Top this sucka!' to all the trees across the street in Roosevelt Park. I've been invited to measure his tree; I find him in a makeshift hut near its base, reading poetry.

Mr. Hicks' gardens hold edible and medicinal species in numerous pots; a jumble of plants and flowers grow next to items repurposed, painted, and imaginatively paired. An outsized wooden chair is perched on his huge tree's buttress roots, which we hop

around. The ground is padded in fallen leaves like the skeletons of feathers; above us these leaves are flat soft needles, opposite on the twig and bright green in color.

Mr. Hicks' specimen is a deciduous conifer native to China, a Dawn Redwood, a Metasequoia glyptostroboides in excellent shape, clearly quite taken with the hot humid summers of Baltimore. 1948 is when this cultivar first arrived in America, so his fast-growing specimen could be 65 years old. We measure its circumference: 122.4 inches—10 ft. 2 inches—the size of a trampoline. It sports a crown spread of 49.1 ft. and it rises a towering 102 ft.

After further calculations we update Allen Hicks' Dawn Redwood to 237 points. At John Bennett's website, mdbigtrees.com for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, the biggest native cousins of Allen's tree are documented: a Bald Cypress in Evesham Park has earned a whopping 312 points and an Eastern Hemlock growing in the Prettyboy Reservoir forest scores 277. However, Allen's tree, non-native though it is, has shouldered its way onto the list, since our meaurements show it to be a state champion!

This giant already appears in TreeBaltimore's Notable Tree Program http://cityview.baltimorecity.gov/notabletrees/#/-76.5537/39.3034/12 which maps the city's champion native species, and which often includes interesting non-natives. It's a delightful sight: Allen's tree's majesty rising up among his artistic whimsy – truly a notable Charm City habitat.

#### BALTIMORE'S NOTABLE TREES GO DIGITAL

By Gary Letteron



Trees are our oldest and largest friends. In 1990 the city's arborists at Rec & Parks and the Forestry Board began to search out and document the city's most remarkable trees. To celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Notable Tree Program, TreeBaltimore has launched the online Notable Tree Map created by Victor Miranda:

http://cityview.baltimorecity.gov/notabletrees/#/-76.5537/39.3034/12 If you like treasure hunts, find these trees on the web and visit them in person. Please do so respectfully: many of them are owned and cared for by private property owners, who are valuably helping to green the city.

The Baltimore Notable Tree Program lists trees in these categories:

- City Champions: the largest of a species in the City. This sometimes includes runners up.
- State Champions: the largest of a species in the State (a City Champion on steroids that the entire state is proud of).
- Unique Species: rare and unusual trees—do you know a Monkey Puzzle Tree when you see one?
- Trees of Historical Significance: for instance the English Elm in South Baltimore that Fredrick Douglass gave a speech under.
- Exemplary Specimens of their species. This bodacious category is new, intended to be useful for people deciding what trees to plant.

Measuring Baltimore's notable trees is accomplished by professionals who volunteer their time. Thanks to Elizabeth Fortson, a URI intern with the Forestry Division, we've located the live trees and eliminated the dead ones on our lists. Keeping measurements updated is ongoing; anyone can help. Tell us where the big trees are! And send us your photos.

TreeBaltimore's next Notable Tree Tour by Van (with driver and guides) will be Saturday May 16 at 10:00 AM. Arrive by 9:45 Leave from 3001

East Drive in Druid Hill Park. About 2 hours; BYO snacks and drinks.

Don't forget to heck the TreeBatimore website for fun spontaneous bike tours of Baltimore's Notable Trees.

#### THE LARGEST WHITE OAK IN THE UNITED STATES

By Russ Moss

Not long after Columbus' discovery of America, a Quercus alba acorn took root close by an Indian trail near the Wye River. The tree grew—through the Revolutionary War, Slavery, the Civil War, World Wars I and II—until it stood 96 ft. tall, measured 31 ft. 8 inches in circumference, and boasted a crownspread of 119 ft., covering a third of an acre. In 1939 Maryland purchased this champion, making the largest White Oak in the nation our smallest state park and our designated state deciduous tree.

White Oaks are not usually the tallest trees; instead they grow massively outward. The scaly shallow-fissured bark is often ash-gray; halfway up the trunk look for overlapping scales. The leaves are alternate, nine- or seven-lobed, with rounded lobes and rounded sinuses. The acorns are a half-inch to one-inch long, with a low germination rate since they deteriorate quickly and are a preferred food for wildlife.

Maryland's enormous oak drew admirers from near and far. As it aged and weakened, experts cabled it and tried to cater to its every need. When the old oak had "a mast year," meaning it produced a startling number of acorns, tree lovers collected them and tried nurturing sapling Wye Oaks. On June 6, 2002 a fierce thunderstorm blew through Talbot County: the once mighty champ was felled.



But nonetheless its dynasty endures. Those baby Wye Oaks are growing just fine. Some are 30 ft. high and seem to be taking after their daddy. One Wye Oak Jr. is planted at the southwest intersection of Mt Royal and North Avenues, purchased by Fred Lazarus in the 1990s from the Baltimore City Forestry Board. Look for another offspring where Greenway, St. Paul, and 33rd Streets merge. Imagine how grand these might look in another 450 years!

For information about purchasing a Wye Oak descendent, call the John S. Ayton State Forest Nursery at 1-800-873-3763 or visit dnr.md.gov/forests/nursery.

#### TREE PLANTING TIPS

By Sarah Lord

Spring and fall both are excellent seasons for setting down roots. Trees' gifts are enormous: they improve our health and cool streams supporting fish, they slow climate change. "Good" neighborhoods are rich in trees. It is good city policy to help everyone plant trees in all neighborhoods. Want a tree? Visit treebaltimore.com.

If we nurture them knowledgeably we need not lose trees in unnecessarily high percentages to disease, drought and storms. Before you plant, locate the root flair. Keep it above the soil—forever. (If you don't, the tree will begin rotting at its base, and once big become susceptible to toppling over in storms.) The root flair is the swelling at the base of the trunk above the roots; it's also called the trunk flair because it is the widest part of the trunk. Whether your tree comes potted from the nursery or with its roots balled in burlap, its trunk flare is all too often buried in dirt. Uncover it before you plant, plant it above the soil level, and keep it uncovered for the life of the tree. Never cover the trunk flair in dirt—or mulch. Too many city trees are stuck in the ground too deep, looking like flagpoles, which means their trunks are damp at the bottom. Insects and diseases flourish there under the bark, weakening the base of the tree.

Spreading tree roots provide a growing tree with its sustenance and stability. So a sidewalk tree pit should be cut 4x8 ft. or bigger. The soil level should remain below the surface of the pavement (so water runs in not out). Light mulch in a tree pit helps retard weeds, but not for long. Flowers look nicer than weeds. Plant liriope or clover in the pits if you wish to quit weeding. No matter what, do not fence your little tree pit garden with timbers or brick or anything that impedes the flow of water off sidewalks into the pit. In terrific storms it is very satisfying to see stormwater dashing into those pits—where tree roots gratefully suck up water by the hundreds of gallons—helping to lower the volume of polluted runoff burdening the Bay.

Our simmering summers will likely kill your newly planted sidewalk tree, unless—May through October for two years following planting—you make sure your youngster drinks ten gallons of water twice a week. Big

trees (if they have generous tree pits) become more durable. But since we want our leafy benefactors to have a long fruitful life at their most productive stage, notice how thirsty they get as well: help them too during drought. Hosing trees' roots keeps the soil receptive and ready to soak up rain when the storm finally comes.

Should you stake? Yes, for the first couple of years only. Stakes give a young tree needed support against the wind. Tie with rope, not wire. And after two years even cloth ties must be removed, or the tree will grow around the ties, creating weak points.

#### FROM NEXTCITIES THE SCIENCE OF CITIES:

Researchers collected data on two variables: the density of street trees and the number of antidepressant prescriptions in London's 33 boroughs. What they found was that, even after adjusting for factors like unemployment and affluence, the areas that have the most trees along the streets also had fewer prescriptions for antidepressants.

## FROM "NINE CITIES THAT LOVE THEIR TREES" AT NATIONALGEOGRAPHIC.COM:

Baltimore 27% tree cover

Canopy assessments have helped Baltimore's foresters identify the neighborhoods most in need of green, with some surprising benefits. A recent study in the journal Landscape and Urban Planning reported that a 10 percent increase in the city's tree cover corresponded with an estimated 12 percent decrease in crime over four years. The theory is that green urban space invites pedestrian traffic and fosters community pride, which means more eyes on the street.

# IN "NWF HONORS TOP TEN CITIES FOR WILDLIFE" THE NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION LISTS US FOURTH:

Baltimore, Maryland – Charm City's commitment to conservation education shines through with the second-most Eco-Schools in America (73), and a #3 ranking in Schoolyard Habitats per capita. Baltimore's 5,700 acres of parkland include the Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park, the second-largest urban wilderness in the U.S.

#### FROM ATLANTIC.COM

The Best Technology for Fighting Climate Change? Trees Between now and 2050, forests are one of our "most promising" geo-engineering tools.

#### MARYLAND STATE LAWS CONSERVING TREES

By Matt Rescott

Where development occurs, there are Maryland state regulations aimed at protecting valuable forests and mitigating for their losses.

Primary is the Forest Conservation Act, which became law in 1991. Its regulations protect forest resources during the planning of new developments. While this does not prevent forests from being cleared, it requires study and prioritization of the resources on a development site so that measures are taken to minimize impacts. A significant component: remaining on-site forests and reforestation are to be protected in perpetuity, usually through easements or deed restrictions.

The Sustainable Forestry Act of 2009 encourages local governments to promote forestry from a tax incentive and renewable energy standpoint through planning and zoning practices. This is policy—not law—hoping to slow forestland loss in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed (estimated at 100 acres per day).

The first of its kind in the nation—adding "no-net-loss" requirements—is Maryland's Forest Preservation Act of 2013, which calls for the sustainability of state forests and the extension of tax benefits to more Marylanders working to increase tree cover on their property. Its purpose is to maintain the current statewide canopy of 40%. This is important because 75% of our forestland is on private lands—and needs to be expanded. Areas of maintained turf, for example, could be reforested.

The Reforestation Law, enacted in 1989, necessitates mitigation for forest clearing of one acre or more for state-funded road and highway construction and widening. It requires reforestation on an acre-for-acre basis, with replanting to occur within the road right-of-way or on nearby publicly owned lands.

The Roadside Tree Law of 1914 is the first state law (following a Baltimore City ordinance enacted two years prior) that we created to protect roadside trees—in an era when the timber industry had decimated Maryland's forests. Under its provisions, local and state agencies maintain, remove or plant roadside trees. Where trees are removed, they are to be replanted on a one-to-one basis.

For more information on Maryland's forest laws, visit the Department of Natural Resources website: http://www.dnr.state.md.us/forests/

The Baltimore Community ToolBank, which rents at discount, is wonderfully helpful if you are organizing neighborhood greening projects.

#### SPOTLIGHT ON NRCC ALUMNI MEL FREEMAN

For well over 40 years, students interested in conservation and ecology have joined like-minded teenagers from across Maryland at a week-long camp in leafy Garrett County to explore professions in natural resources.

A partnership with Allegany College of Maryland and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources-Forest Service, the camp offers high school students a co-educational opportunity to learn from industry professionals and develop contacts that could lead to college scholarships and future employment.

Mel Freeman, former Executive Director of the Citizens Planning and Housing Association, grins broadly remembering NRCC which he attended back in 1978 or '79: "The camp is still going strong? That is great news."

The camp remains one of Maryland's best kept secrets – and fun times. Students use professional tools of the trade like GPS, GIS and computer simulation, test water quality, learn about fisheries and animal habitat, hoist themselves in harnesses into tree canopies, calculate board feet of lumber in a patch of forest, and consider the importance of urban tree cover to a healthy city.

"I had no idea what I was getting into. I was a Boy Scout and it seemed like it would be fun," Freeman smiles.

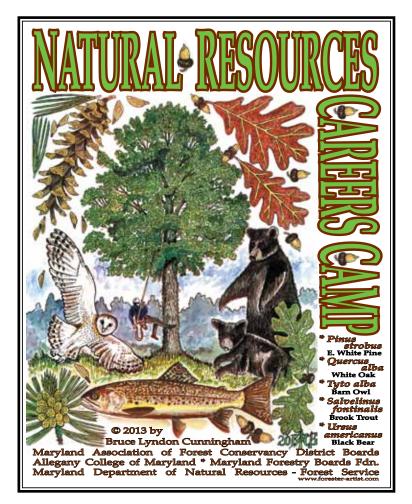
"I certainly felt that it was an opportunity to share some experiences with strangers, some of who became friends. I would be curious as to what any of my fellow campers are doing but I really don't know where most are."

Yes, he has touched on a problem which Maryland's Forestry Boards intend to correct: activating an alumni association so people can stay in touch and spread the word to teens eager to explore green careers. If you attended NRCC, please get in touch with us. Meantime, tell all the "green" high-schoolers you know to check out **www.marylandforestry-boards.org/nrcc.cfm** where the camp application is on line. Financial assistance is available from the Baltimore City Forestry Board.

#### NATURAL RESOURCES CAREERS CAMP

Spend a fun week away from heat-island Baltimore, in the leafy cool of Garrett County, July 19-25. Learn in the field, from professionals in green careers, and meet kids from all over.





#### THE BALTIMORE CITY FOREST CONSERVANCY DISTRICT BOARD

forestryboard@baltimoreforestry.org

Forest Conservancy District Boards, usually referred to as Forestry Boards, function in all 23 Maryland counties and Baltimore City as local agents of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. The Baltimore City Forest Conservancy District Board held its first meeting in June 1987. Its goals are:

- · Promote and protect Baltimore's current urban forest
  - Expand the tree cover on city streets and parks
- Facilitate plantings and help residents nurture young trees
  - Work closely with the Baltimore City Forestry Division

Current board members, are: Kristin Baja, Jared L. Barnhart, Robert Black, Amanda H. Cunningham, Erik Dihle (City Arborist BCRP), Tod Ericson (MDNR), Rebecca Feldberg, Tom Green, Ray Iturralde, Jill Jonnes, Sarah Lord (Chair), Kelly MacBride-Gill, Ben Middleman, Russ Moss, Charles R. Murphy (Greening Coordinator, TreeBaltimore BCRP), Gary Novak, Gerrie Okwesa, Matt Rescott, Joel S. Spano and Sandy Sparks.

The Board meets monthly to discuss urban forest issues and plan its efforts.

Meetings are open to the public.