



QUARTERLY

Fostering appreciation and support for Community Forestry for the benefit of Cedarburg residents and visitors; Beautifying our public streets, boulevards, and parks; Promoting sustainable environmental stewardship and landscape management; and Raising and Distributing private funds for the care and maintenance of public trees.

Issue No. 1

Fall, 2013

**Trees & Associates:
"The Fearsome
Foursome"**

Test your knowledge: what are the four invasive species in Wisconsin that most affect our wooded areas? Which one is allelopathic? Which one's antifungal properties harm soil?
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Give the Gift of Trees

Looking for that extra special holiday gift? Consider a donation to Cedarburg Green.
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Taking Care of Your Urban and NeighborWoods Trees

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Its Open Season on Buckthorn



NeighborWoods Event coming up October 19!
Please join us!
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Facts About Cedarburg's Community Forest

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Butterflies and Woods

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President's Letter

A RECENT DEVELOPMENT in my ongoing interest in plants has been the gathering and germination of seeds. From diminutive wildflowers to towering trees, all plants begin their life in this humble way. In a tiny, almost unnoticeable package, a seed contains everything necessary for new life to begin. But I've also learned that this process is more complicated than simply scattering seeds on the ground.

Some seeds will grow this way, but they are often of plants that we think of as "weeds," prolific seed producers adapted to covering bare ground quickly, or invasive plants with no predators that will eventually dominate an area. Other seeds have adapted over millennia



"Perhaps seeds have something to teach us as this new organization, Cedarburg Green, begins its life....This seed requires your connection with others, a spirit of partnership, and the combined resources of many."

to specific conditions and will wait until those conditions are right to germinate. These are of plants that we may think of more fondly than weeds.

Perhaps seeds have something to teach us as this new organization, Cedarburg Green, begins its life. You are someone who shares a love of trees, of plants, of

the life that surrounds and benefits us. The conditions have been right for similarly-minded people to gather and organize around celebrating and protecting these wonderful gifts! Like the rare and precious plants that we love, the growth of this effort takes time. While some strategies promise quick results, they may not produce what is best for the long-term health of our community. This seed requires your connection with others, a spirit of partnership, and the combined resources of many.

How might you support this effort and help this seed to grow? This newsletter offers many ideas, and you probably have more of your own.

Thank you for your interest, the support you provide, and the possibilities you represent for a healthy and vibrant community!

John Norquist

Please join us for our second...

CEDARBURG GREEN: NEIGHBORWOODS EVENT

Buckthorn

OPEN SEASON



Saturday, October 19 • 1-4 pm

Meet at Beechwood Park

W53N225 Pierce Avenue, Cedarburg

Help our **Neighborwoods** stay healthy. Grab your gloves, pruning lopper or saw, and a friend to help **Cedarburg Green** declare **OPEN SEASON** on **Buckthorn**. We'll spend the afternoon cutting and uprooting this invasive species that's choking our forests. No experience needed.

RSVP to 262-375-7611 • www.cedarburggreen.org

Facebook: Cedarburg Green



Look for more NeighborWoods Events in 2014! Next up: Hoffman Glen off Highland Drive. *Do you have NeighborWoods near your home, that you'd like to help clean up?* Invite your friends and join with Cedarburg Green to coordinate a cleanup event in your NeighborWoods in 2014!

RSVP on
Facebook!



Like Us!



Taking Care of Your Urban and NeighborWoods Trees

by Glenn Herold

ANYONE who has purchased a tree lately knows that it is a major investment. The trees that the city of Cedarburg plants along the streets don't come cheap either. Each tree represents a \$250 investment in purchase and planting costs. If it fails to survive, that's money out of the pocket of you, the taxpayer. While the city tries its best to nourish it through initial watering, mulching, and pruning, you can help when city manpower is insufficient.

During prolonged dry periods, water a recently planted tree thoroughly each week. About 10 gallons per week is required to keep the root system hydrated and growing. If you mulch the tree, the depth of mulching should be about 2 to 3 inches. DO NOT pile the mulch up along the trunk of the tree. Start your mulch layer several inches from the trunk, not right up against it. Moist mulch along the trunk can cause decay and decline of the tree.

“DO NOT pile mulch up along the trunk of the tree. Start your mulch layer several inches from the trunk, not right up against it....[as this] can cause decay and decline of the tree.”

Unless you have been properly trained in the art of pruning, it is better to leave that task up to the professionals. Improper pruning can cause more damage to the tree than doing nothing at all. Suckers or basal sprouts that emerge from ground level or along the lower trunk can be removed at any time with a sharp pruners.

Cedarburg is blessed to have an abundance of neighborhood wooded areas called "NeighborWoods." These are for the benefit of all citizens and visitors and are not meant to be dumping grounds for landscape waste or lawn clippings, which can smother desirable woodland plants and introduce weed seeds or herbicides from the lawn. If you would like to help maintain these areas through removal of undesirable species such as garlic mustard, honeysuckle, and buckthorn, contact a board member of

Cedarburg Green or City Forester Kevin Westphal for identification and guidance.

Not enough hours in the day or

city personnel are available to maintain all of the trees in Cedarburg. Your help would be greatly appreciated. Together we can work to keep Cedarburg Green.

“Trees & Associates” The Fearsome Foursome

by Glenn Herold

WHAT ARE THE FOUR non-native plants that are most invasive to wooded areas? Without question the two most invasive woody plants are Honeysuckle (*Lonicera sp.*) and Buckthorn (*Rhamnus sp.*) and the two most invasive herbaceous plants are Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) and Dame's Rocket (*Hesperis matronalis*). All four are on the Wisconsin invasive species list. Sale and distribution of these plants is prohibited. You don't have to travel too far in Ozaukee County to find all four though; in fact, most homeowners have one or more of them in their own yard. If you live on or next to a wooded site, eradication may be next to impossible, but through proper identification and persistence, you can help suppress the population.

Unfortunately, Honeysuckle has a name that implies sweet smelling flowers and irresistible ornamental features. While the flowers do smell good and are somewhat showy, the ensuing fruit is spread far and wide by birds. Thriving in sunny areas, it can persist in the shade as well, due to its early to leaf out and long lasting foliage. This persistence out-competes native

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species and creates a monoculture thicket in the woods. With a little effort, though, you can eradicate the plant with a shovel and an axe, for the roots are shallow and easily pulled up.

Buckthorn is a shrub that can attain small tree height and trunk caliper if left to mature. Like honeysuckle, it leafs out very early and retains its leaves late, giving it a longer growing season than native plants. Though the flowers are not showy, they are produced throughout the summer and are followed by black fruit that birds love. Because of its broad environmental tolerance, seeds dropped by the birds will establish on a wide range of sites. In addition to the dense canopy it produces, which shades out more desirable plants, buckthorn is allelopathic, meaning that it produces chemical compounds that inhibit the growth of other vegetation. Small plants can be hand pulled but larger plants need to be cut close to the ground and the stumps treated with a herbicide such as Roundup (glyphosate.)

Garlic mustard is a fairly recent pest to invade Wisconsin. Normally found in shaded areas, it is now spreading its range to more sunny sites. It is classified as an herbaceous biennial. First-year plants form a basal rosette that remains green through the winter. Only in the second year does it expand to its mature height of 2 to 4 feet and produce flowering stems. In addition to smothering native vegetation through its dense growth habit, garlic mustard exudes antifungal chemicals into the soil that disrupt associations between mycorrhizal fungi and native plants, suppressing native plant growth. Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison show that the longer the garlic mustard is left to colonize the site, the more it disrupts this association between native

plants and soil fungi. Garlic mustard can be easily pulled from the ground, but should be carefully disposed of to prevent seed dispersal. Seeds are tiny and are often carried off in clothing, shoes and mud.

Dame's Rocket is considered an ornamental by many and even planted by

“Buckthorn is allelopathic, meaning it produces chemical compounds that inhibit the growth of other vegetation...[and] garlic mustard... suppress(es) native plant growth.”

some. A prolific seed setter, it will rapidly invade wooded edges, roadsides, and open areas. The plant reaches 3 to 4 feet tall and has showy white to pink to purple flowers that last for several weeks from mid-May to late-June. Like garlic mustard, it will quickly shade out native wildflowers.

You can help prevent the spread of this invasive perennial by pulling plants from the ground, being sure to get the roots to prevent re-sprouting. As seeds remain in the soil for many years, the control work should be repeated each year.

For those gardeners who are reluctant to remove the plants from their yards, spread can be reduced by removing the flower stalk when the flowers begin fading. Remove and destroy all seed pods each year to prevent spreading into adjacent areas. Note that composting the plants or flower stalks of this plant and garlic mustard may not kill the seeds.

Though eradication of these four pests may be impossible, we all need to do our part to keep their spread under control. For more information about the identification and control of Wisconsin invasive species, go to the Department of Natural Resources:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/invasives/>



Dame's Rocket in a Cedarburg neighborhood.

DO YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS about trees or plants, or have an idea for a future column? Please email our board member and horticulture professor emeritus, Glenn Herold, at PlantmanGlenn@gmail.com

Cedarburg Tree Facts

- The City of Cedarburg was named by *Forbes* magazine as “One of the Prettiest Towns in America” in 2011. Unfortunately, several City beautification projects have been on hold and some public gardens are not receiving the level of maintenance they should because of budget constraints.
- The City Parks & Forestry Dept. maintains approximately 3 miles of boulevard medians, but due to staff/budget limitations, can do little more than cut the grass on a weekly basis.
- The City of Cedarburg has over 7,000 street trees. It costs \$250 to plant a new tree.
- Each year an average of 120 street trees die and are removed. A recently completed street survey identified over 400 vacant tree planting sites along City streets. The Cedarburg Common Council intends to fund replacement trees. However, the cost to plant the additional 400 sites, and reach our goal of 100% stocking, is over \$100,000.

On the Agenda: Butterflies & Trees

Come and see the documentary “A Chemical Reaction” in early January, exact date TBA . ● Enjoy our upcoming “Trees of Distinction” Walking Tour. ● Plan on buying your tree saplings next year from Cedarburg Green. ● Help feed those in need with our Edible Forest/Cedarburg Gleaning project. ● Join us for more NeighborWoods events—and suggest one of your own in *your* neighborhood! We need you!



Glenn Herold teaches 4th graders at Westlawn Elementary how to identify different kinds of conifers, during the school’s launch of its Green & Healthy Schools Initiative in fall 2012. Other projects in our first year included tree plantings and a tree sale, showing of *The Lorax* at the Rivoli, the inaugural NeighborWoods Event: Garlic Mustard Pull, a series of highly informative educational lectures by Glenn Herold, and more.

Please join us and help keep Cedarburg Green!



Give the gift that everyone needs!

This holiday season, honor a loved one, friend, or business associate by making a donation to **Cedarburg Green**. Your gift provides funds to help keep Cedarburg’s Urban Forest healthy and growing...and make the birds, animals, and people smile!

Please accept my donation of:

\$25 \$50 \$100 Other \$ _____

Make checks payable to:

Cedarburg Green

PO Box 101, Cedarburg, WI 53012

Send my receipt and a gift card to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/ZIP: _____

e-Mail: _____

Yes, I’d like updates on Cedarburg Green

Cedarburg Green, Inc. is a non-profit, membership organization dedicated to improving the health and livability of Cedarburg by planting and caring for the urban forest.

Cedarburg Green is a member of:
Alliance for Community Trees
Treasures of Oz Network



Membership brochure available from

<http://CedarburgGreen.org>

In Appreciation

With the support of caring people like you, Cedarburg Green can fulfill its mission. Show your love for trees by supporting this fledgling organization. We need your help! Help us grow with your financial support, your volunteer support, and by spreading the word about the benefits of trees and Cedarburg Green. We've planted the seeds to a beautiful green future. Now, nurture and help us grow! Thank you!

\$100,000 and above

Help us catch up on the backlog of plantings!

\$25,000 - \$99,000

Help us replace the trees we lose annually!

\$10,000 - \$24,999

Help us cover the cost of taking care of the precious trees we have, with pruning each tree once every 7 years!

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Help us help the Forestry Department upgrade their equipment.

\$2,500 - \$4,999

Help us cover the cost of unfunded beautification projects that have been on hold for a long time.

\$1,000 - \$2,499

Anonymous Gift - \$2000

\$500 - \$999

Help us educate children and the public to promote proper tree care throughout the City of Cedarburg.

\$25 - \$499

Gollnick & Sons Tree Service
Energenece, Inc.
Stage Coach Inn

Volunteer Support

CORPORATE SPONSORSHIPS WELCOME!

Please download our Membership Brochure from <http://CedarburgGreen.org> and join with your donation today!

As of press time, our application for 501c3 non-profit status, 5 months into review at the IRS, has been pushed out from imminent approval by year-end, to an estimated 12 months. Non-profit status pending, sometime in 2014. Thank you!

In Kind Donations Special thanks to



Forestry Department Report

AS OF LATE SEPTEMBER, the annual dead tree count for 2013 is 158. The crew will soon move into stump grinding and get a final count of replacement sites to plant, in addition to the 400-500 backlog of vacant sites. With 7,000 trees in Cedarburg and a staff of 3, Kevin's goal is a 7-year maintenance cycle, pruning 1,000 trees per year. A recent analysis of the past 9 years showed only one year, with a mild winter with little snow, were they able to hit that target. On average city crews were able to prune only 660 trees during "pruning season," Thanksgiving to April 1. On any given year, they're coming up approximately 400 trees short of the goal. This year, Kevin got a quote from a contractor on pruning a stand of trees typical for a city area in need of pruning. The cost is \$85 per tree x 400 = \$34,000 annually to keep up with pruning. Kevin is requesting from City Council that money be set aside in a trust fund for this purpose, only to be drawn upon as needed. He is also looking into grant money.



CAN YOU HELP? Please join Cedarburg Green today!

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- Mike O'Keefe**
- Kevin Westphal — Superintendent of Parks & Forestry**
- Mikko Hilvo — Director of Parks, Recreation & Forestry**

Membership

Please visit our website to obtain a membership form <http://CedarburgGreen.org> or email Jeanne Mueller at Jeanne@CedarburgGreen.org or mail us at

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Cedarburg, WI 53012-0101