



RITree Sentinel

TREE ACTION: Walking With Trees -By John Campanini

POINTS OF INTEREST

Two Exciting New Events For Spring 2008

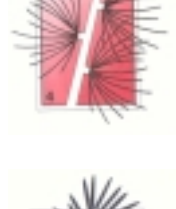
**Arbor Day Fair
April 26**
(see page 2)

**RITree Stewards
Symposium March 29**
(see page 2)

**RITree Has A New
Phone Number**
(see page 3)

Technical Information
(see pages 4 & 5)

**Tree Steward Educa-
tion Course** (see page 7)



I get bored very easily. It's the reason why I created my own Tree ID Game, which I will share with you shortly. But first I must explain how this all came about. It started when my doctor told me to quit running – something I had done faithfully for 8 years – or risk the pain and agony of replacing a cartilage-challenged right knee. So I began walking in earnest last October. Initially, I couldn't stand it one bit. The streets, the cars, the houses – yes, even the noise along my self-made urban walking course – suddenly became too monotonous. Running never made me feel this way. Maybe it was a speed thing, I thought. However, I kept on chugging along until, finally, I couldn't take it anymore and went to the bookstore instead of walking one day in mid-December. At the bookstore, I found a great tree guide book written by the Canadian naturalist, John Laird Farrar, called "Trees of the Northern United States and Canada" (you don't want to hear my second book choice, now do you?)

Thumbing through it, I became fascinated with the way Farrar had organized all conifers and deciduous trees into only 6 groups each! His approach was so simple and easy to understand that I felt it helped make tree identification almost effortless. I bought the book and, once home, read it cover to cover. Then, I went to work devising the "Tree Game." My goal was to make walking fun by incorporating tree identification into my daily jaunts. The id game is actually a take-off of the car 'tag' game we use to play with our siblings when we were kids going on family drives with our parents. Instead of making the model or color of another vehicle, this game requires one to identify as many genera and, then, kinds of trees as possible in each of Farrar's groups while walking.

Since evergreens are easier to identify than shade trees during the winter –spring season, the "Conifer-ID Game" will debut in this edition of the newsletter. The "Shade Tree ID Game" will appear in the summer issue. Here's how the game is played. Try to find at least one genus (Spruce, Pine, Juniper, etc.,) in each of the six conifer groups presented in the Table below. Next, locate as many genera as you can from among all the groups (i.e. there are 15 in all). Finally, for the serious gamer, there are a total of 32 species represented by the six groups. See how many of them you can identify. (Graph cont'd on page 4&5)

Some conifers will be much harder to find than others. I've awarded points for each genus and species with this level of difficulty in mind (see the table). Make copies of the species table and bring it with you whenever you go walking. Play the game and tally the points later. You'll be amazed at how your skill level improves as your point total rises. I've played hundreds of games over a 2 to 3 mile walk each time since January and can't believe how much fun I've had. I've uncovered species I never knew existed in my neck of the urban woods. My tree identification skills have become well-honed and I enjoy walking. Only I still haven't registered a perfect score (i.e. 45 points) in the full species test. But I keep on walking and searching in the hope that maybe just beyond that next block I will find my Holy Grail tree.

Con'd on page 4

RITree In The News

RITree Arbor Day Celebration 2008: Creating a New Forest in Rhode Island By Margie Flanders

RITree invites everyone to join us in celebrating Arbor Day in a new way: by witnessing the beginning of a forest, and by honoring the important work of arborists in Rhode Island. The Arbor Day Fair will be held at Goddard Memorial State Park in Warwick, on **Saturday, April 26** (the day after the **State Arbor Day Celebration** at the same site; see below for details).

The event will showcase demonstrations by arborists, displays by tree-related organizations and information about proper planting and mulching methods. We will also be holding a raffle, every hour, to give away a **free tree**. Come and learn what it is that arborists do, and meet the people who do it. This is a Fair for all ages, so pack a picnic lunch and a blanket, bring the whole family, and enjoy this beautiful park on a spring day.

Of course, the heart of any Arbor Day celebration is tree planting, this year, we are taking tree planting to the next level. Working with the staff at Goddard Memorial State Park and a team of RI arborists, with help from a small army of Tree Stewards, we plan to plant up to 100 trees, reforesting an area that has been cleared for decades.

RITree has planted over 500 individual trees in cities and towns across the State since 1999.

Acres and acres of Rhode Island woodlands are destroyed every day, through construction and development. Here is an opportunity to create an Urban Forest, and see it grow in the years ahead. Whether you come to work or to watch, it will be an inspiring day. We will be literally reshaping the landscape, and creating a model for future reforestation projects across the State.

Mark your calendars now, for **Saturday, April 26, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm**, and join us in celebrating **Arbor Day** and the **Trees of Rhode Island**. Check for more details in the months to come at www.ritree.org

To learn how you can participate by sponsoring a tree, and have your name listed in our Arbor Day booklet as a Forest Booster, e-mail for details or call 401-764-5885
RobinEnos@ritree.org

2008 RITree Stewards Symposium By Robin Enos

Attention Tree Stewards!
We are pleased to announce our 1st annual Tree Steward Symposium on March 29, 2008 at The Weaver Auditorium, URI Kingston Campus. This Symposium is designed to keep everyone in the loop.

Our professional speakers will be giving the latest updated information about tree technology, identification, and maintenance. Our own Tree Stewards Education Coordinator, Margaret Brookner, will be holding an open forum to let you know about future projects and to give you an opportunity to network and exchange ideas with your fellow Tree Stewards.

Sharing tips for spring:
John T. Campanini Jr., RITree's Technical Advisor will address the many concerns of Tree Stewards not having enough time to commit to their spring time needs. John will explain the "real time" status of your trees and plants. Save your time and plants by attending this Symposium.

Find out more about these programs and how you can be "in the loop" with RITree Councils' mission.

The 2008 RITree Steward Symposium is an exclusive workshop for RITree Stewards. For more information or to register call RITree Council at (401) 764-5885 or email: RobinEnos@ritree.org (There is a nominal \$10.00 registration fee which includes lunch and optional guided tour of URI Botanical Gardens). Call and register today!

Check out this great site,
www.ForestryImages.com

RITree News Cont'd

Rhode Island Tree Council Has A New Home



RITree has moved into a new rented office space at 2953 Hartford Avenue, Johnston. Although our phone numbers have changed, all mailing still should be sent to PO Box 6144, Providence, RI 02940. So please update your address books. If you forget the new phone number, the phone company has message with the former phone number. Our new office hours are from 9:00am to 3:00pm Monday—Thursday and closed on Fridays and very bad weather days.

Phone: (401) 764-5885
Fax: (401) 764-5886

Special thanks to Jeanne Current, Vern Current, Robin Enos and John Campanini for hours of work moving equipment, settling in the new furniture, dealing with the new phone system, all the wires and generally creating a cozy, comfortable office, where the behind the scenes work of RITree can go on.
THANKS!

Mottos For RITree

We are looking for punchy new statements of who we are or what we stand for. We'll be brainstorming over the next few months, and will consider any of your ideas. No idea is too wacky! (See Trees? We Protect Trees? We Speak For Trees? Trees Rule? You get the idea.) Please tell us what comes to mind.
Send to: ritree@ritree.org
subject:Motto

Congratulations To RITree Members

RITree congratulates Paul Dolan, one of our board members, who was recently appointed the Deputy Chief, Division of Forest Environment. Paul who will celebrate 30 years in State service in March, was in charge of the divisions' urban forestry program for the past 9 years. Before that he was employed as Supervising Forester. We all wish him well in his new position.

RITree Stewards Honored

Ten dedicated RITree volunteers were honored with the 2007 Gold Leaf Award, for Outstanding Tree Steward Activities, at RITree's 15th Annual Conference, October 12, at the Aldrich Mansion. The following Tree Stewards have each recorded more than 300 volunteer hours, received a wooden plaque and RITree Steward pin. Congratulations to:
Margaret Brookner
Vernon & Jeanne Current
Paul Dolan
David & Margie Flanders
Sanne Kure-Jensen
Roland Mergener
Steven Pilz
Joseph Zito

RITree Welcomes Robin Enos



RITree is proud to have Robin Enos working with us. Robin as a child was always fascinated with trees. She would marvel at the way they would touch the sky and out stretch their arms to bring her near. As she grew and saw the weathering of time and the affect time had on these same trees that she loved so much; she knew she had to get involved in their care and maintenance. She is looking forward to rooting herself with RITree and bringing her strengths of fundraising and event coordinating to the council.



Helen Walker Raleigh Champion Tree Program

Champion Tree Update

A new nomination form for the Helen Walker Raleigh Champion Tree Program is now available by either calling RITree at 401-764-5885 or by downloading it at our web-site at:

www.RITree.org. The new form shows how tree measurements should be taken and points tallied by the nominators.

All nominations received are screened in the field by our team of tree examiners. They are tasked with authenticating the species, location, condition and measurements of the nominated tree. Their results are then sent to the RITree Council. Here each specimen is ranked against like species found in our database by its total point score (ie. a formula is used to convert size measurements to total points).

The top five scoring trees by species is entered into our computerized database known officially as The RI

Register of Big Trees; the others are placed on file where they are up for review should something happen to their higher scoring peers.

The Register is a very special list of champion, co-champion and potential champion trees. The list changes periodically as additions and deletions arise through the nomination vetting process. As of the end of January 2008, there were a total of 264 trees in the Big Tree Register. Of this total, 73 have been crowned as their species champion. The complete list of all current Rhode Island Champion Trees will be available for viewing on the RITree web-site starting April 1, 2008. Below is one of these champions, a Pignut hickory (*Carya glabra*), located in Roger Williams Park in Providence, RI. It has a total point score of 171 points.



Pignut hickory
Carya glabra

Conifer ID Game

Cont'd from page 1

Group 1: Evergreens with needles and scales overlapping the stem.
3 Genera (1 pt each) 8 Species (1pt each)

- | | |
|---------------|------------------------------------|
| Juniperus | J. virginiana-Red Cedar |
| Thuja | T. plicatum-Giant Arborvitae |
| " | T. occidentalis-Eastern Arborvitae |
| " | T. orientalis-Oriental Arborvitae |
| Chamaecyparis | C. nootkatensis-Alaskan Cypress |
| " | C. lawsoniana-Lawson's Cypress |
| " | C. pisifera-Sawara Cypress |
| " | C. obtusa-Hinoki Cypress |

Group2: Non-native evergreens with seeds in cones.
4 Genera (1 pt each) 4 Species (3 pts each)

- | | |
|-------------|----------------------------------|
| Metasequoia | M. glyptostroboides-Dawn Redwood |
| Cryptomeria | C. japonica-Japanese Cryptomeria |
| Taxodium | T. distichum-Bald Cypress |
| Sciadopitys | S. verticillata-Umbrella-Pine |

Group 3: Needles evergreen, in bundles of 2,3 or 5.

- | | |
|---------|---------------------------|
| 1 Genus | 4 Species (1 pt each) |
| Pinus | P. strobus-White Pine |
| " | P. resinosa-Red Pine |
| " | P. sylvestris-Scotch Pine |
| " | P. nigra-Austrian Pine |

Group 4: Needles deciduous or evergreen, in tufts of 10 or more on dwarf shoots, or single on long shoots.

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| 2 Genera (1 pt each) | 5 Species (2 pts each) |
| Larix | L. laricina-Eastern Larch |
| " | L. decidua-European Larch |
| Cedrus | C. deodar-Deodar Cedar |
| " | C. atlantica Atlas Cedar |
| " | C. libani Cedar of Lebanon |

Group5: Needles evergreen, single, flat, or 4-sided.

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| 3 Genera (1pt each) | 8 Species (1 pt each) |
| Abies | A. balsamea-Balsam Fir |
| " | A. concolor-White Fir |
| " | A. fraseri-Fraser's Fir |
| Picea | P. glauca-White Spruce |
| " | P. abies-Norway Spruce |
| " | P. pungens-Colorado Spruce |
| Pseudotsuga | P. menziesii-Douglas-fir |
| Tsuga | T. canadensis-Eastern Hemlock |

Group 6: Needles evergreen, single, flat; twigs and buds green.

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 Genus (1 pt each) | 3 Species (1 pt each) |
| Taxus | T. baccata-English Yew |
| " | T. cuspidata-Japanese Yew |
| " | T. canadensis- Canadian Yew |

Half the species (16) and all but 2 genera can be found in the "What Tree Is That" tree id pocketbook found in the Tree Stewards Manual. This booklet can be obtained through the National Arbor Day Foundation www.arborday.org. The Peterson Field Guide, "Eastern Trees" by Petrides & Wehr has all species and genera and can be obtained at any decent bookstore.

Glossary Corner by John Campanini, Jr.

Protecting the local ecology from invasive species is a major concern these days. But what makes a species invasive, and how does a native differ from an introduced species. Also, what's a naturalized specie; and is it risky to plant? These are all good questions. Let's answer them with a simple definition followed by a brief discussion of each term below.

Native: refers to any wild growing plant found in the United States prior to the arrival of European settlers (before 1500 AD). Native species can be further classified as native to the United States or native to Rhode Island. Red maple (*Acer rubrum*), Balsam fir (*Abies balsamea*) and the Black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*) are all native species. However, only the Red maple is a Rhode Island native.

Introduced: defines any species that has been brought into the United States from other countries and continents. Plant expeditions undertaken by American horticulturalists in the 18th and 19th centuries were chiefly responsible for bringing introduced species to American shores. Examples include the Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*), Maidenhair tree (*Ginkgo biloba*) and the Japanese Zelkova (*Zelkova serrata*).

Naturalized: a species that has become common and established itself as though wild, reproducing naturally and spreading. Naturalized species can be either harmful or harmless depending on how they colonize and spread in local environments. Stable species (non-aggressive) such as the Balsam fir (North American native, naturalized in RI) is not a problem. However, another N.A. native, the Black locust, is extremely unstable (very aggressive) and a naturalized species to be avoided in Rhode Island

Invasive: any species with the ability to out-compete native plants. Both native and introduced species can be classified as invasive plants under this definition. The former category, however, applies to only North American natives and not to plants native to Rhode Island (see Black locust above). For the record the vast majority of invasive plants hail from foreign continents. Examples include the Norway maple -Europe, and Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) – Asia.

Understanding species origin is but one of the plant selection criteria taught at the Council's Tree Stewards Education Course. Call the RITree Council for more information on the next time this course is offered.

Finally, other sources to consult for information on this subject are the vascular Flora of Rhode Island published by the Rhode Island Natural History Survey, Kingston, Rhode Island and the Rhode Island Big Tree Eligible Species List found at www.RITree.org.



I couldn't really tell you when I first became interested in trees, never mind the environment. My mother provided a clue, however, when she presented me with this picture—one that I had never seen before this past Christmas. It shows me at 6 years of age with my wheelbarrow. My mom said I would never let it out of my sight.

Unfortunately, she also explained that I would use it to take plants and soil from the backyard garden—a misdeed surely, to get me in hot water with my grandfather. Find out who this is in this photo in the next issue of the Sentinel or by visiting our website at www.ritree.org

Around The State

Tiverton

Tiverton Tree Commission latest project

Submitted by: Peter M. Moniz

Tiverton Tree Commission, Chairperson



The Ranger School (new) Landscape and Enhancement Project is a community-wide effort being undertaken to complete the tree planting plan for the school grounds and to enhance the facility with an additional tree grove. The enhancement aspect would encompass a site for a public display of art, which will involve the Ranger school's student body.

The community's involvement and cooperation is an essential element for the success of the project. The Tree Commission and the Arts Council are working together to provide the leadership to see that the goals of this project are fulfilled. The participation of other community partners has taken place also. The Tiverton School Committee, the Ranger School administration and staff, and other town officials are supportive of this project. The Ranger School Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) and other private citizens and business entities will be taking an active role in this public venture. The students' connection with the intended art works will be a key ingredient of the project.

The planting of the trees, the establishment of the tree grove with the placement of student ceramic tiles art work, which would depict nature themes and the outdoor sculpture, will create a sense of place within the school grounds. The grove will be center piece of this project, intended to serve as a functional *outdoor learning space*.

The grove will provide the link to nature that will impart an opportunity to relate to the enjoyment and inspiration derive from nature, while serving as resource for student learning and artistic creativity.

Woonsocket

Sent in by Teacher /Tree Steward Michael Boday

One of my students recently composed this poem "TREES". It seems to express and emphasize our concern as tree stewards of the need for vigilance on protecting our beloved trees from over-development.

Trees

By: Aimee Barone

The trees fray to and fro
They whistle with the wind
They form a howling sound
They are like a dancer swaying round n' round

They are constantly changing
From color to color
From season to season
For a specific reason

From spring to summer
They stay nice and bright
Providing a home
For creatures at night

At the beginning of Autumn
They decide for a change
For they drop all their leaves
And stay out of range

But will these trees be here long,
With all the cutting going on?
They protect our environment and keep it strong
But all I can question is when they will be gone.

Warwick

State Arbor Day Celebration

The RI State Arbor Day will celebrate their tree planting at Goddard Memorial State Park on RI's official Arbor Day, Friday, April 25, 2008 at 10:00 AM. For more info call RI Dept. of Forestry at 401-647-3367. (Remember RITree Arbor Day Fair is on Saturday, April 26, 2008 10:00 am- 3:00pm)

Spring 2008 Tree Stewards Education Course

BECOME A RHODE ISLAND TREE STEWARD!!!

Would you like to learn more about:

Tree biology
Tree identification
Tree planting & pruning
Tree health
Urban forestry
Soils

And the untold benefits of trees???

Tree Stewardship combines learning about and caring for trees,
as well as understanding how people and trees can best grow together!

SIX THURSDAY EVENING CLASSES:

May 1, 8, 15, 29, June 5, 12,
6:30 TO 9:00 PM

**Johnston Senior Center
1291 Hartford Avenue
Johnston, RI**

TWO SATURDAY OUTDOOR WORKSHOPS
To Be Announced

**ISA Continuing Education Credits Available for Certified Arborists.
For More Info Call RITree @ 401-764-5885**

RHODE ISLAND TREE COUNCIL Spring 2008 TREE STEWARDS COURSE REGISTRATION

Please register me for the upcoming **Spring 2008** course.
(please print)

Name _____ DOB _____

Address _____

City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

E-Mail _____

Credit Card# VC or MC _____ Exp. Date _____

*Please return with **\$55.00**
Check or credit card # and
exp. date to*

**RITREE COUNCIL
P O BOX 6144
PROVIDENCE, RI 02940**

*For immediate and secure
registration by credit card or
for more information,
call or e-mail:*

**Tel: 401-764-5885
Fax 401-764-5886
RITree@RITree.org**

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Please Take Time To Renew Your 2008 RITree Council Membership!

If you have not already contributed this year, please take time now to renew your 2008 membership by filling out the membership box provided below. Many of our members are unable to do hands on projects, but your financial support is also very important. Think Greener! Please give a little more this year to help, support the council — it's an ongoing work all year long!

(please print)

Name _____

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Contribution Amount:

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