



DELAWARE  
**CENTER FOR  
 HORTICULTURE**  
*Cultivating a greener community*  
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*The mission of the Delaware Center for Horticulture is to improve the quality of life in Delaware by promoting knowledge and appreciation of gardening, horticulture, and conservation.*

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## TREEminders

- **January**—Trees for Wilmington working group will meet (please contact Vikram Krishnamurthy at [vkkrishna@udel.edu](mailto:vkkrishna@udel.edu) if you would like to be added to the e-mail list.)
- **February**—It is not too early to be planning to apply for an Urban and Community Forestry Grant.

### January 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

### February 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28			

*The materials of city planning are: sky, space, trees, steel, and cement; in that order and that hierarchy.*

—Le Corbusier (Swiss Architect)

# Wilmington Tree Press

January/February 2007

Volume 1, Issue 2



## Wilmington's Neighborhood Tree Stewards—A Vital Contingent

If not for its wide spreading network of roots, a tree would not stand. The health of the entire tree depends most heavily on the critical functions provided by the trees roots. The same is true for the vitality of the community's tree management program. Without a solid network of Wilmington Neighborhood Tree Stewards, the survival of truly effective management of the City's trees would be impossible, and in turn, the survival of trees in the city would also be doomed.

Fortunately, Wilmington has Tree Stewards interspersed in neighborhoods across the city. Tree management in the city is built on this reality; tree stewards are educating their neighbors on tree care and maintenance, they are working to secure funding for tree projects in their neighborhoods, they are coordinating neighborhood projects, all as a volunteer service to the community!

The meeting of Neighborhood Tree Stewards held at DCH in early October is reflective of the involvement and dedication of these people. We asked the Tree Stewards to help us come up with

ideas to strengthen the Tree Program and not only did nearly every tree steward show up, but they came with ideas, energy, and inspiration! And those who couldn't make it submitted their ideas and inquired about what they missed. Thank you all! (See summary of ideas and issues on page 3.)

It is important to acknowledge, however, that as the tree grows, it can remain sturdy only by developing more roots. As the city ages and expands, more community members are needed to help join the network and support the health of our trees.

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## Introducing the WILMINGTON TREE PRESS!

This inaugural issue of the provisionally named *Wilmington Tree Press* was created to serve as a form of communication for Wilmington's Tree Stewards. The idea of a newsletter was suggested by many of you specifically as a way to facilitate communication with the rest of the Wilmington community regarding trees—through civic association newsletters, e-mails, and meetings. This first issue has been printed to be distributed at the Trees for Wilmington Open House and Public Forum taking place October 30, 2006. Subsequent issues will be distributed via e-mail. Please let us know if you would like to receive this issue and/or other issues electronically.

This newsletter will not only be a way for the DCH tree program to disperse information and education to Neighborhood Tree Stewards, but also an avenue of communication between Tree Stewards. Accordingly, articles, events, projects, ideas, concerns, etc. that are relevant to the goal of improving our urban forest will be accepted and printed in subsequent issues. We hope that the newsletter will assist you in your role as a Tree Steward and we appreciate your input as we develop the publication.

Please e-mail your creative ideas for a newsletter title, or your support for the current title to [amosher@dehort.org](mailto:amosher@dehort.org)



## Highlights from the October 10th Tree Steward Meeting:

- A Tree Steward position description would help legitimate the position and give stewards more credibility.
- Criteria should be established and training needs to be a prerequisite for the Tree Steward position to be recognized as a role of authority. Training should include hands-on learning available once in the spring and once in the fall.
- The Neighborhood Tree Program should be promoted at neighborhood festivals and civic events, at which Tree Stewards could assist in promoting the program.
- The Neighborhood Tree Program should also increase involvement of children—to instill community responsibility, educate them on the critical importance of trees, and spread

Ask just about anyone what horticultural symbol they think represents the month of October and you can bet that it will be the pumpkin. But ask the Alliance for Community Trees (ACT) or one of its 90 non-profit member organizations from around the country and the response will have an arboreal spin.

As part of ACT's effort to "promote grassroots community based action to plant, conserve, and protect trees in cities," they established their National NeighborWoods Program with October 2006 being the second year of recognizing the month as National NeighborWoods Month.

"Having local organizations like Delaware Center for Horticulture participate in National NeighborWoods Month helps us show the cumulative effect of a burgeoning urban and community forestry movement," said ACT Executive Director Alice Ewen Walker. The October 30th Open House and Public Forum on managing the city's trees provides the opportunity for the city of Wilmington to join the celebration and promotion of community trees.

Although October has come to an end and the ghosts are disappearing, the candy is being consumed, and the pumpkins are beginning to decay, trees and the effort to increase canopy in cities remain year-round. The DCH Tree Program staff are already busy organizing the next NeighborWoods event—a volunteer driven bare root tree planting in the 11th Street Bridge Neighborhood of Wilmington—which will happen in mid-March. The event is being funded by a generous grant from the Home Depot Foundation and ACT. Contact us to get involved in this event as we continue growing our own local network of NeighborWoods!

## Trees for Wilmington

Thankfully, Neighborhood Tree Stewards are not the self-promoting type—I can only imagine Tree Stewards tucking in their tree with mulch and a good watering and then following up with a sharp object to brand their work. Although, I kind of like the thought of A.M. 'Tree Princess' inscribed on trees all over the city.

Although the Delaware Center for Horticulture's Tree Program will never be promoting any type of carving in live trees, we do want to recognize dedication and selflessness that is so abundant within the group of Tree Stewards. For that reason, we decided to establish the William Marriot Canby Tree Steward Award—an award that

'...we do want to recognize dedication and selflessness that is so abundant within the group of Tree Stewards.'

Tree Steward has significantly contributed toward the collective goal of improving the health of Wilmington's urban forest.

will be given annually to a Tree Steward who's multi-year, outstanding service in the role as

The 2006 Award Winner:

**HARVEY CLARK GREISMAN**

•By Gary Schwetz•

I like to think that William Marriot Canby might have had a similar attitude of charitable humility as that of our first annual tree steward honoree, Clark Greisman.

A little more than 100 years ago, the Board of Park Commissioners of the City of Wilmington honored the life and death of William Marriot Canby by inscribing his name on a seven-foot granite bench. But that bench isn't downtown near the offices of the WSFS for which he served as president for over 25 years or near any of the other countless organizations he served as a trustee or director. The bench sits on a lonely bluff behind Rockford Tower overlooking an even now pristine view of the Brandywine Valley.

This man, who ranked among the most prestigious of business leaders and philanthropists of Wilmington, also brushed elbows with premier horticulturists of the day including Charles Sprague, Frederick Law Olmstead and John Muir. Canby was an accomplished botanist whose widespread North American plant collecting gained him significant recognition in botanical circles. Botanists thought highly enough of Canby to even name dozens of plants after him.

So it is only too appropriate that we name our annual outstanding tree steward award the William Marriot Canby Tree Steward and that our inaugural presentation of that award go to a quiet and dedicated tree steward, with an attitude of charitable giving not only to his neighborhood, but to the entire City of Wilmington. We would like to honor Clark Greisman as the First Annual William Marriot Canby Tree Steward Award winner.