

He
who
plants
a tree
plants
a hope

- Lucy Larcom

Frankfort,
Michigan



THIRD
Edition



DECEMBER
2013

TREE
BOARD

Bonnie Warren
President

Sally Cook
Vice President

Judy Macey
Secretary

Josh Mills
City Superintendent



Tree Board Review: 2013

Bonnie, Sally, and Judy

Thanks to the foresight and hard work of Peggy Hawley, Mary Armstrong and Nancy Marshall in 2004, the City of Frankfort has a Tree Board dedicated to protecting and maintaining the health and beauty of our City trees. Along the way, the Board has been assisted by a solid group of volunteers, City Council members and a host of donors. Collectively, volunteers have annually contributed over 400 hours of time and effort to our various projects:

Arbor Day: An Arbor Day celebration is required by the National Arbor Day Foundation to meet the requirements for retaining Tree City status. Work begins in early spring for the ceremony, which is held throughout the nation on the last Friday in April. Locally, our celebrations have been held at the FEAS Elementary School. We order seedlings from the Benzie Conservation District office, prepare them for delivery to the students, contribute a tree that is planted by the children on school property and organize a program for all the students that is delivered outdoors by the Mayor, the City Superintendent, and special speakers. Drawings created by the students are hung in local business windows.

Weeding and Mulching: In May, we gather volunteers from the Periwinkle Garden Club, FEAS student body and honors students, City Council, other City residents and mere passersby to begin the labor-intensive chore of weeding and mulching all newly planted or young trees that line our streets and beautify our parks. This numbers well over 100 trees, and usually takes at least 3 days to complete.

Tree Nursery: Because of the efforts and support of Bob Johnson, Dan Walenta, Jim Grabowski, Benzonia Boy Scout Troop #10, and the Frankfort Chamber Foundation, the City has a successful tree nursery. Again, it has been tended and nurtured by a determined group of very hard-working volunteers, who mow, weed-whack, trim and transplant – rain or shine.

Tank Hill: Our most ambitious project is progressing nicely – see Paul Gerhart's article – and we are proud of the progress we have made, but know there is much more to be done. Garlic mustard and other invasive species will demand our continued diligence to remove – see Katie Grzesiak's report. Mr. Gerhart was instrumental in developing the overall plan for transforming this City Park into a model for environmental stewardship; Jim Grabowski – see Jim's report - followed and enhanced the plan, and the volunteers were there again and again to make it happen. Jayson Spaulding developed a trail system and trained all of us in how to build and maintain trail.

Lakeside Shakespeare Theatre Group: Our partnership with LST has been outstanding and very rewarding. The LST members have participated in every phase of the development of Tank Hill and will continue.

Pavers: Permeable pavers are being placed around street trees on Main Street. This work is being done by Jim Grabowski and six installations have been completed so far. Funds for the project have been donated by the Tree Board, the

Tree board review

Continued from First Page

Frankfort Rotary Club and Main Street merchants. This work will continue until the two downtown blocks of trees are completed.

Tree City Poster: The poster program was initiated in 2005 by Peggy Hawley. It is our only formal fundraiser. Each year a different local artist is asked to create a poster that, in the artist's eye, illustrates some facet of Frankfort's urban forest. The 2013 creation by Chris Patterson titled "Arboretum" has been one of our most popular and is for sale at City Hall, the Chamber of Commerce and Bayview Grille.

Memorial and Honor Trees: Since this program's inception in 2004, over 50 trees have been planted to honor or memorialize individuals. They grace our City parks and streetscapes and each is planted with an identifying plaque.

OF THOSE WHO HAVE TIRELESSLY CONTRIBUTED TOWARD OUR GROWTH, WE ESPECIALLY WANT TO MENTION THE FOLLOWING:

Kevin Sayers: The DNR Urban Forestry Program Director who directs and advises us in maintaining Tree City and Growth Award status. He also has trained us in correct pruning techniques and makes regular visits to Frankfort to help with this activity.

Josh Mills: Our City Superintendent, whose sunny, "can-do" attitude and constant availability has helped us achieve many of our goals.

Bob Johnson: Our City Mayor, who is always willing to hear us out and offer advice. He was instrumental in creating the Tree Nursery.

Jim Grabowski: The local Contractor/Landscaper/Environmentalist who plants all our new and donated trees, directs the development of the Nursery and Tank Hill, and contributes untold volunteer hours toward these projects.

Paul Gerhart: Paul's commitment to the Tank Hill project is responsible for its very existence. He remains an active consultant.

Dick Haan: Dick was our former City Council liaison whose enthusiasm and wise counsel helped keep us on course. He will be sorely missed but has promised to stay connected as a volunteer.

Jayson Spaulding: Jayson is our trail-building guru who gave freely of his time to help us learn the mysteries of his craft. If you see him, ask him about the "circle of death".

Our Founders (of course): Peggy, Mary and Nancy.

We look forward to another productive year in 2014. If you have a few spare hours to give or wish to contribute in some other way, please let us know and we will find a way to help you do it!!

Tree Board Meetings
are held on
the 2nd tuesday
of every month
at 1pm in city hall



Shakespeare on Tank Hill



The meaning of life is to plant trees,
under whose shade you do not expect to sit.

- Nelson Henderson

Trees...and thinking about the future

Sally Cook

I joined the Tree Board in the spring and have spent one summer with Bonnie, Judy, and the other volunteers (and the trees). However, I am still very much a student when it comes to the responsibilities that go along with working with and protecting the trees of Frankfort. At the same time, as I finish my two-year term as president of the Periwinkle Garden Club, I have been thinking about ways the gardeners and arborists can come together to enhance each other's work.

Last week, Jim Grabowski gave me a lesson in trimming the small trees in the tree nursery. This is a serious business, as these are the trees that will be used to replace those that have been damaged along the city's streets and parks or that are dying because of invasive insects and disease. It is a lesson transferrable to my own yard and to Frankfort's gardens, where trees also need to be replaced and shaped. Also, I still have a lot to learn from Jayson, who has been teaching volunteers how to build trails at Tank Hill. There is definitely a right way and a wrong way to do this, as I found out to my sorrow. I also am beginning to understand that I need to study the art of building partnerships so that we can fulfill the visions of both the Periwinkle Garden Club and the Tree Board – of a sustainably blooming city with peaceful gardens and shaded sidewalks.

This last lesson does not come naturally. I am, by nature, a solitary worker and am happiest when mulching, watering thirsty plants, or pulling weeds. At the same time, I do understand that if the Tree Board is to establish a healthy urban forest and a system of trails on Tank Hill, and if the Garden Club is to maintain a level of membership capable of maintaining our many gardens, it is going to take teamwork.

At the Periwinkle Garden Club's first meeting this spring, Bonnie Warren, Judy Macey, and Peggy Hawley presented a program about the work of the Tree Board and invited the Garden Club members to write about trees. The results sounded like poetry. We all care deeply about trees we remember and have lost; threatened trees we are watching in our own neighborhoods; and the uncertain future of our trees as the world changes slowly (or far too quickly) because of invasives and global climate change. Protecting the trees and gardens of this city into the future is going to take cooperation between Tree Board members and volunteers, the Periwinkle Garden Club, the City of Frankfort, school children, teachers, and others we

have not met and who have not yet realized that this is their work too.

Is this your work? There are plenty of good causes, and it is easy to feel overwhelmed by the needs of this world. Choose an angle and begin chipping away in whatever way seems to make sense to you. The trees that line our streets are sentinels attesting to the health of Frankfort's Environment. Protecting them seems a logical place to start.



Keep a green tree
in your heart and
perhaps a songbird
will come
- Chinese proverb



Tree city annual poster

Local artist Chris Patterson displays the 2013 Tree City Poster. This collectible series features a different artist each year. Posters are available for \$15 at Bayview Grille, Frankfort City Hall, Frankfort/Elberta Chamber of Commerce and State of the Art Framing in Beulah. Proceeds fund Tree City programs.



Tank Hill I - An overview

Paul Gerhart



Another year has passed since the last update and we once again have reason to be proud of our Tree City. With the help of the City Tree Board, volunteers, and professional tree servicers we will see a better urban forest for our children and children's children.

Many great developments have been underway on Tank Hill. In the spring garlic mustard was battled by the Benzie Conservation District and the Northwest Michigan Invasive Species Network under the command of Mike Jones, Katie Grzesiak, & Jillian Frejszes. Much thanks must also be given to the volunteers who committed their time to serve in the campaign. We all know that much continued work will need to be done to control this plant. With the continued support and commitment of our wonderful volunteers, we expect to see success.

Many people have been hard at work planting seedlings. It can be said that the future of this forest is in the hands of these planters. It has long been evident from looking at the forest floor that trees would not naturally establish or survive from seed under the current conditions. In April of this year about 20 volunteers showed up to plant and protect seedlings that might have a chance. In about four hours 250 seedlings were planted. Volunteers also successfully installed deer protection tubes around black cherry, red oak, white oak, mountain ash, and black walnut. The joy and enthusiasm of these volunteers has shown itself to be one of the most valuable assets available in the project.

In the future the help of volunteers will be needed. New deer protection tubes will need to be installed to protect seedlings up to 6 feet. The current tubes around these seedlings, which reach 3 feet, can be

reused to protect more seedlings. Also as beech bark disease develops there will be a need to bring down hazardous trees. Trail building will also be underway in the future in continuation of the great work accomplished this year. To keep trails and the amphitheater safe for the public there will also be a need to bring down trees which could be cleaned up by the public when the area is reopened for firewood cutting.

To satisfy any land, forest or tree management goals there will always be continuous work required. Within this city we can be very grateful to have people who understand this fact and are willing to commit themselves towards meeting challenges. Whether it be seeking professional advice on tree trimming, organizing volunteers to manage a the city nursery, planting trees to sustain the health of Tank Hill and the greater surrounding urban forest, these people are ready to commit.



Ready to Build Trail



Clearing Brush



Seedling Planting



Invasive Species Control Efforts at Tank Hill I

Katie Grzesiak

Throughout this year, the Frankfort Tree Board has been working with the Northwest Michigan Invasive Species Network (ISN) to control invasive plants on Tank Hill. This spring, ISN surveyed Tank Hill and the adjacent Hospital property for invasives, especially top-priority invasive plants like garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*), Oriental bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*) and Japanese knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*). In addition to outlining current garlic mustard populations, ISN discovered a small population of Japanese knotweed on the east side of the property. In May, Benzie Conservation District—a partner in ISN—was contracted to spray larger garlic mustard populations with herbicide. Two public workbees were also organized to pull garlic mustard outside of these core populations. This fall, \$2000 of ISN's treatment funding through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) grant was allotted to chemically treat garlic mustard and Japanese knotweed at Tank Hill. Since garlic mustard rosettes stay green in winter, treating it in the fall after the native plants have gone dormant has been found a very effective method of control. Re-surveying and more focused garlic mustard pulls are planned to continue in the spring.

In addition to the composting spot on Tank Hill and the Garlic Mustard Dumpster funded by the City of Frankfort and Crystal Township, ISN is looking into other options for garlic mustard disposal. A partnership is in the works with Goodwill Paperworks Studio in Traverse City to turn our pulled garlic mustard into

greeting cards. Paper takes a LOT of garlic mustard, so ISN hopes to source garlic mustard from all four counties it covers, especially future pulling workbees such as those at Tank Hill.

Japanese knotweed is currently transporting sugars down to its massive root system for the winter, making autumn the ideal time to treat the plant. Part of the \$2000 from the GLRI grant funded the treatment of knotweed as well. However, since Japanese knotweed is difficult to manage, it will likely take at least 3 years of herbicide control efforts to eliminate this population. Re-surveying and follow-up treatments are planned for next year.

The Northwest Michigan Invasive Species Network is a collaboration of over 20 highly motivated and respected organizations in the region. It was established in 2005 as a cooperative weed management area through the U.S. Forest Service. ISN's mission is to protect, enhance, and promote northwest Michigan's natural communities through terrestrial invasive plant management and outreach. Its service area includes Benzie, Leelanau, Grand Traverse, and Manistee counties.

For more information on garlic mustard, Japanese knotweed, or other invasive plant control efforts in northwest Michigan, visit www.HabitatMatters.org or contact Katie Grzesiak at kgrzesiak@gtcd.org or (231) 941-0960 x29.

When we try to pick out anything by itself,
we find it hitched to everything
else in the Universe.

- John Muir



Efforts on the trail

Judy Macey



On November 8th, sixteen National Honor Society students from Frankfort High School spent the afternoon clearing 300 feet of trail at Tank Hill. The Frankfort Tree Board has undertaken a project of trail building on the Hill that will eventually link several trails for exploring the beauty of this city park. The trail plan is being supervised and laid-out by Jayson Spaulding, a landscaper and trail builder who has worked with the Grand Traverse Nature Conservancy on the Arcadia Dunes project. The students involved were: Olivia Buzzell, Alyssa Kuhr-Mills, Mads Farmer, Kennedy MacGirr, Maggie MacGirr, Jessica Kramer, Ryan Plumstead, Shayla Soto, Avery May, Zac Paris, Jacob Chappell, Zoe Bone, R.J. Kerris, Casey McKinley, Tristen Gleason, and Allison Evans.



Tree report

Jim Grabowski



This past summer has been punctuated by more and more dying and diseased trees. The decline and possible near extinction of some tree genus in our climax forests forces us to make some decisions. The ash and beech are fading fast. In "tree years" it will be a short and swift demise of these species. The devastation will leave big gaps in our once shady groves. With openings, a host of invasives could adversely alter our sylvan ecosystem. This process is observable on Tank Hill, in City parks and within Frankfort's urban forests.

How are we able to help the forests rebound? Should we weed out the destructive regeneration and favor our favorites? The most obvious solution is to protect the unaffected and low risk trees. We need good stewardship to preserve the remaining trees. The best overstory maples, basswood, oak and cherries should be left to re-seed and hold the memory of the forest. There has been a well-placed emphasis on introducing other native trees to our woodlands and towns. We can bring "up" southern and central mid-western trees

such as white oaks, tulip poplars, and hickories. We could borrow native species from other forests like butternuts, catalpas and sweet gum. With our soil and climate the list is actually huge. We should replant with these so called natives and hope to add to the overall diversity in order to offset the next wave of destructive pathogens. We should learn from past mistakes and move more cautiously when introducing new plant species. With good intentions we have upset the natural balance with widespread planting and promoting of noxious invasives.

We have before us the decision to let nature take its course with or without our help. We have the great opportunity to plant and nurture the new forest with the next generation of diversity. The chaotic present with the great die off of trees will also be the foundation of the new forest of the next millennium. The glaciers, we are told, took ages to form this land. We can be like baby glaciers and transform this land with our efforts and navigate with Nature the next course.

Even if I knew that tomorrow the world
would go to pieces,
I would still plant my apple tree
- Martin Luther

What You Can Do

Consider a donation to the City of Frankfort Tree Fund for the City Nursery, for Main Street tree pavers, for the Tank Hill project or to fund a gift or memorial tree.
Become a volunteer and help with trimming, mulching, watering and special projects.
We can't do it without YOU!!

_____ My contribution is \$_____ to help with _____

_____ I want to become a volunteer

Name _____

Address _____

Phone / Email _____

Please return this form to the Frankfort City Hall. Your contribution is tax deductible.