



# TREE SPECIALIST “101” TRAINING

**May 5th, 2016**

**Kaitlin Richardson, Project Manager  
ReForest London**

# AGENDA



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- Introductions
- The MTC
- Tree specialists
- What is a tree & what is a forest?
- The Forest City
- How to plant & care for a tree
- Park plantings
- Tree depots
- Other programs
- Feedback



THE GOAL OF THE  
MILLION TREE  
CHALLENGE IS TO  
PLANT 1,000,000  
TREES IN 10 YEARS

ANY SPECIES, PLANTED BY ANYONE,  
ANYWHERE WITHIN THE CITY OF LONDON

# A SENSE OF SCALE...



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- **Total size of London:**
  - ~ 42,000 ha
- **At 1,080 trees (saplings) per ha**
  - Need 926 ha (2% of land)
- **Equivalent to:**
  - 154 Victoria Parks
  - 50 White Oaks Malls; or
  - 6 UWOs (main campus)

THAT WOULD LOOK...



SOMETHING LIKE THIS

# About the Tree Specialist Volunteers



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- Extra experience, knowledge and love of trees!
- Higher level of **engagement** at events + **special opportunities**
- Training:
  - Park naturalizations
  - Tree depots and blitzes
  - Aftercare

**PEOPLE WE CAN COUNT ON.**

# About the Training



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## Four Steps:

- 1) In-class session (you're here!)
- 2) Tree ID hike
- 3) Complete online quiz
- 4) Attend a planting event



## Welcome to VolunteerSpot and your sign up for: Tree Guru Training 101!

Thanks for participating! We'll get you signed up right away. Please enter and confirm your email address so the organizer knows who you are.

email address:

re-enter email address:

Submit

Enter now.  
It's easy!

**Questions?** Please contact your organizer, Jessica Danard, Volunteer Coordinator, at [volunteer@reforestlondon.ca](mailto:volunteer@reforestlondon.ca)

**Note:** VolunteerSpot respects your [privacy](#). All your information is for internal use and will be kept confidential. We will not provide your informat

# About Tree Specialists



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- At all events:
  - **Sign in (please wear RFL t-shirt, or we will provide vest)**
  - **1<sup>st</sup> Event:** Snazzy t-shirt!
  - **10 Events:** 3 gal tree in the Celebration Forest or to take home
  - **15 Events:** \$50 gift card to MEC

# What is a tree?



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- Height?
- Woody?
- Girth?
- Number of stems?
- Actually:  
A somewhat arbitrary classification of a woody plant!



# What is a tree?



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- For the purposes of the MTC:  
*All individuals of the species must be **perennial** and have **woody stems**, and individuals of the species typically reach a **height of 4.5 m (15 feet) or more if left untrimmed***

*(Compare to shrubs, vines)*

# What is a native tree?



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- For the purposes of the MTC:  
*A **native tree** is defined as a tree species which naturally occurred in Ontario prior to European settlement.*
- Note: not all trees which are native to Ontario naturally occur in the London area.

# What is a forest?



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- A type of terrestrial ecosystem dominated by trees
- Many different organisms
- Many different vertical layers
  - (Canopy, understorey, shrub/sapling layer, ground layer)
- May also include:
  - Swamps
  - Savannas

# Trees & the Forest City



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- **Today in the urban area:**
  - 4.4 million trees
  - 12 trees per person
  - 25% canopy cover
- **Ontario:** Forest cover has been reduced from **80% to 11%**

# Trees of Carolinian Canada



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PAWPAW



# Trees of Carolinian Canada



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SASSAFRAS



# Trees of Carolinian Canada



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REDBUD



# Trees of Carolinian Canada



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## HONEY LOCUST



Image source: Richard Old, XID Services, Inc., Bugwood.org

# Trees of Carolinian Canada



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## KENTUCKY COFFEE



Paul Wray, Iowa State  
University,  
[Bugwood.org](http://Bugwood.org)

# Tree ID Hike



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- Tues. May 19
- 6 – 8 pm
- Meet at ReForest London office
- Bring **Trees in Canada** by Farrar if you have a copy
- ID + Plant

# Major Challenges



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- **Today in London:**
  - 8% woodland cover
  - Most common species:
    - By stem count: **European Buckthorn**
    - By leaf cover: **Norway Maple**
  - Massive loss of **ash** trees; possibility of **ALB**

# Asian Longhorn Beetle



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# How to Plant a Tree



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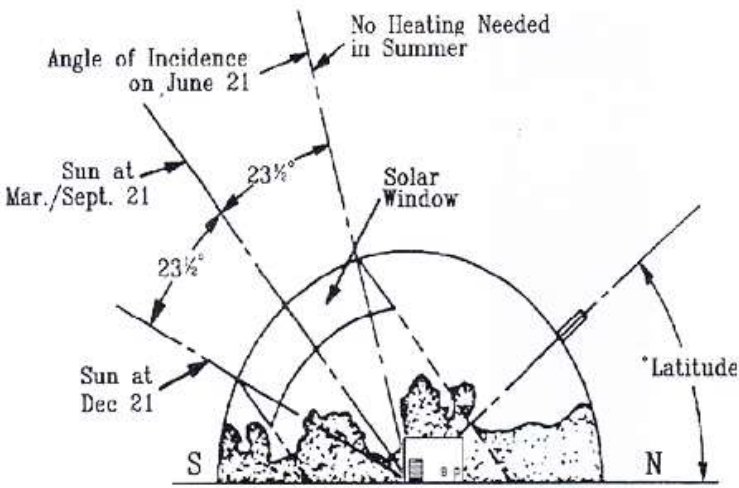
- Plant the **right time** of year
- Pick the **right tree** for the location
  - Sun / Soil / Water
  - Height/shape
  - Spacing (1/3 max crown)

*In your kit: “Choosing the Right Tree”*

# Right Species in Right Spot: SUN



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- Sun is from the south!
- Shade from:
  - Buildings
  - Fences
  - Other plants
- Plant deciduous trees to the south and evergreens to the north of your home. (Why?)

# Right Species in Right Spot: SOIL & WATER



- Soil – affects drainage and nutrients
- Texture:
  - Sand
  - Silt
  - Clay
- Gardener's test for soil
- Slope affects water

# Right Species in Right Spot: UTILITIES



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- **on1call.com** to submit **FREE** public utilities locate request
  - Keep overhead utilities in mind as well
- Avoid planting directly over any **dangerous** utility (such as gas or buried electric)
- But plants are okay to grow over them

# How to Plant a Tree



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- Dig a hole
  - 2x width, 1x height
  - Messy is better
  - Test hole by placing pot inside
- Remove plant
  - Note: this is the wrong way to remove a plant from its pot!



# How to Plant a Tree



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- Loosen roots (esp. if pot bound)
- Place plant in hole
- Make sure plant is straight
- Backfill
- Tamp (firmly)
- Remove all twine and tags
- Add tree collar or o-tube
- Mulch donut
- Water

# Things to avoid



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## VOLCANO MULCHING



# Things to avoid



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**FORGETTING TO  
REMOVE STUFF**



# How to Tell if a Tree is Alive



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UGA5022037

# How to Buy a Tree



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- Bare root (~\$2-\$10)
- Potted (~\$10 - \$30)
- Balled & Burlap  
("B&B")  
(~\$200 - \$400)  
–Also: "Caliper"
- Spaded (\$1000s)

# How to Care for a Tree: The 4 Ws



- **WATERING**
  - Once a week in warm weather if it hasn't rained
  - Esp. first 2-3 years to help get established



- **WEEDING**
  - Reduces competition
  - Top up mulch

*In your kit: Mulch & Site Prep*

# How to Care for a Tree: The 4 Ws



*Mouse Damage*

- **WEED-WHACKING**
  - A fast way to kill trees!
- **WILDLIFE**
  - Tree collars (white or O-tube)
  - Wildlife repellants

*In your kit: Tree Guards Fact Sheet*

# Outside!



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- Soil tests
- Emerald Ash Borer
- European Buckthorn
- Quality control:
  - Tree collars
  - Mulching
  - Leaning towers
- Norway vs. Sugar Maples

A photograph of four young women standing in a grassy field with bare trees in the background. They are all smiling and wearing jackets and gloves. The woman on the far left is wearing a dark jacket and yellow gloves, holding a shovel. The woman next to her is wearing a dark jacket and yellow gloves, also holding a shovel. The woman in the center is wearing a blue hooded jacket and is being held up by the other two. The woman on the far right is wearing a dark jacket with red and white stripes on the sleeves and yellow gloves, holding a shovel. The text 'PARK NATURALIZATIONS' is overlaid in white, serif, all-caps font across the middle of the image.

# PARK NATURALIZATIONS

# Park Naturalizations



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- **Check in** with RFL staff at start
  - T-shirt or yellow vest
  - Positive attitude 😊
- **Set-up** phase:
  - Help sort or mix trees at start
  - Unload equipment
  - Fill mulch buckets/wheelbarrows
  - Possibly: place trees or dig holes

# Park Naturalizations



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- **During Event:**
  - Quality control
- **Special assignments:**
  - Photos & stories
  - Volunteer count
  - Planting demo
  - Skoot
  - Bareroot or infill teams
- Demo for new arrivals

# Park Naturalizations



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- **First 30 Minutes:**  
**quality control**
  - Are trees straight?
  - Is collar right height?
  - Are tags removed?
  - Mulch donuts

# Park Naturalizations



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*“We can only love  
what we know.”*

*- Aldous Huxley*

- Teach volunteers about their tree
- Help ensure safety
- Direct Qs to staff if needed
- At end of event, check for abandoned equipment and tags
- Rain dates

# TREE SALES

**\$5 Trees**

**Today  
Only**

# Tree Depot or Sales



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- Project Leader: Skylar Franke
- Arrival time very important
- **Set-up: General**
  - Meet staff ~1.5 hours before event
  - Check the game plan
  - Unload trailer
  - Set up event signage

# Tree Sales



- **Set-up: Plants**

- Sort by species
- Leave space between rows
- Small pots at front, larger pots at back
- Add species signs
- Add tags (tie-on to large, stakes onto small)
- Remove popsicle sticks
- Keep customers from moving plants until inventory is done



# Tree Sales



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DURING EVENT

- **“Floor” Team:**
  - Wanders & answers questions
  - Provide species suggestions (see pre-order list for species)
- **Table Team:**
  - Makes sure people get the take home info they need
  - Explains Million Tree Challenge
  - Encourages them to register

# All Events



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- Make sure other volunteers are **learning** and **having fun**
- Encourage participation in Million Tree Challenge (**[milliontrees.ca](http://milliontrees.ca)**)
- Talking to someone with a potential project?
  - Direct them to Amber

# Common Questions



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***“What are the black spots on my maple?”***

- Tar spot disease
  - Fungal infection
- Affects all types of maples
  - Norway Maple the worst
- Little effect on tree health (just ugly)
- Fungus spores from fallen leaves in spring
- Raking

# Common Questions



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***“Do I need to cut down my ash tree?”***

- Only affects true ash (*Fraxinus*), not mountain-ash (*Sorbus*)
- Hope is for resistant trees
- 90%+ expected to die
- Brittle/falling branches
- Injection with TreeAzin an option

# Common Questions



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***“Why are the 3 gallon plants the same height as the 1 gallon plants?”***

- Species grow at different rates
- Some require larger pots while still small (hickories, tap roots)
- Sometimes plants will grow more in girth than height

# Other RFL Programs For Specialists

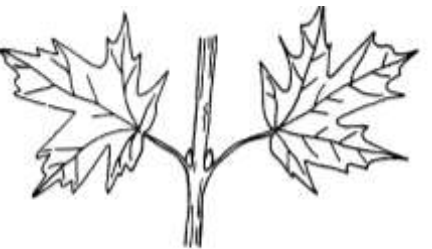


- **TreeCycle**
- **Aftercare Program**
  - June – September
- **Celebration Forest**
  - Late May/Early June
- **Tree Teachers + Hikes**

# Other Learning Opportunities



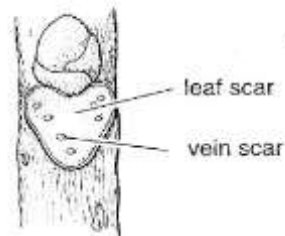
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Opposite



Alternate



lateral bud with  
leaf scar

- **Ontario Certified Seed Collector Workshops:**
  - [www.treesontario.ca/news/index.php/certified\\_seed\\_collector](http://www.treesontario.ca/news/index.php/certified_seed_collector)
- **Ecological Land Classification Workshops:**
  - [www.conservationontario.ca/events\\_workshops/ELC\\_portal/](http://www.conservationontario.ca/events_workshops/ELC_portal/)
- **Field Botanists of Ontario:**
  - <http://www.trentu.ca/org/fbo/>
- **Guelph Arboretum:**
  - [www.uoguelph.ca/arboretum/educationandevents/workshops.shtml](http://www.uoguelph.ca/arboretum/educationandevents/workshops.shtml)
- **Nature London:**
  - <http://naturelondon.com/>

# Where to Go From Here?



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- Tree ID hike
- Quiz!
- E-mail with events
- Feedback survey
- 201 Sessions



# Thanks for listening!



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## ANY QUESTIONS?