



Friends of the Central Experimental Farm

Summer 2015 Newsletter

Volume 27 No. 3

Discovering Blooms in the Arboretum

By Roman Popadiouk



Wild Goose Plum (*Prunus munsoniana*) blossom near Building 72, two weeks after the tour in April

Friends of the Central Experimental Farm revived their tours of the Arboretum this year. The first one was scheduled on the last weekend in April. Numerous pre-registered participants expected to see spectacular blooms on magnolias and other showy early spring trees and shrubs. This was a reasonable expectation due to the long history of the blooms on the Arboretum's magnolia, forsythia, azalea collections, which are incredibly large considering Ottawa's cold winters.

Most spring flowers a no-show

Every spring over several decades about 20 magnolia species and cultivars in the Arboretum have opened white, pink and yellow flowers. Most of these bloom-

ing trees are well exposed to visitors and motorists driving on Prince of Wales.

Unfortunately, spring was late this year and these attractive flowers did not show up on Sunday afternoon when over 60 tour participants gathered near the Friends' office building. Although there were no showy flowers to see, nobody wanted to go home without seeing some beautiful trees and learn about them. And everybody's wish quickly became reality.

Some blooms were beginning to emerge

Millions of tiny elm flowers were right there above the visitors' heads. As usual, groups of large European, American, and Siberian Elm trees were the first to open in the Arboretum's flowering season. A big

poplar tree was not far behind in opening catkins, as was the Yellow Birch seen on our way down to the magnolia collection. And shrubby pussy willows, growing next to the still dormant crabapple collection, already had bright yellow anthers with protruding furry grayish catkins on display.

Nobody was disappointed

Yes, the magnolias had not flowered, but nobody was disappointed to see the trees without their blooms and to learn from the Arboretum's tree propagator Robert Glendinning about the distinctive features of these species and cultivars that have survived our harsh winters for years. Despite the lack of flowers the new collection of magnolia hybrids, located beyond the old windbreak, provoked numerous questions from tour participants about growing magnolia trees.

Close to Dow's Lake on the Arboretum's lowlands several cultivars of European Hazels had just started to bloom showing almost invisible reddish stigmas on swollen peripheral buds that were ready to accept the pollen grains. Male hazel catkins are usually seen by, and unmistakable to, most



Flowers of the American Elm (*Ulmus americana*)

Continued on Page 3

President's message - Note du président

Urban Forestry at the Farm

“Urban forestry” seems a bit like an oxymoron, kind of like “industrial park.” But it’s actually a useful concept. The urban forest is a world where many people learn to live with nature (and where there’s still much to be learned).

The Dominion Arboretum, overseen by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, is a gateway into this world. The Arboretum was established in 1889 to look into the long-term growth of many species and varieties of trees in our environment, which was mostly rural at that time. Now both the Arboretum and the vast majority of Canadians are located in cities.

City trees are a necessary utility like electricity and water. The benefits of trees in cities are no secret: cooling and sheltering neighbourhoods, curbing storm-water runoff, capturing air pollutants, buffering noise, improving health and recovery, supporting birds and other wildlife, and increasing property values.

Tree Canada notes these and other benefits of urban forests on their website (www.treecanada.ca) and points out that since over 80% of Canadians live in cities, the urban forest is their main interaction with nature. The best way to find out why cities need trees is to live in a “tree desert”—an area without trees.

But there are lots of challenges for city trees. Many street trees suffer from not having enough soil or from soil compaction, weed-whacker abuse, road salt, pollution, weather events, invasive plants and the Emerald ash borer.

It costs money to deal with these problems. Some cities have tried to calculate the dollar value of trees to help decide how much to invest in planting and protecting them. It is generally more cost-effective to address problems at the planning stage rather than to wait for them to arise, e.g. the City of Ottawa is now exploring the use of “structural cells”—a technique to expand the space for

roots to grow below pavement—and other tools to help support trees in the complex urban environment.

On the bigger scale, the world’s forests are facing big problems. About 1.5 million square kilometers of forestland were lost between 2000 and 2012, due largely to tropical deforestation but also because of northern issues like insects, fire and drought. Yet trees are essential to our survival.

The Dominion Arboretum will need long-term support if it is to survive challenges brought by its environment, both natural and unnatural. At lower staff levels than in the past, AAFC manages the collection and retains data on specimens for study of a wide variety of trees in relation to past, present and future conditions.

The Arboretum is a unique experiment in one of the harshest climates for arboreta worldwide. This is an important part of the heritage of Canada’s Farm.

Eric Jones



Foresterie urbaine à la Ferme

Le terme « Foresterie urbaine » offre une quelconque ressemblance avec un oxymoron, tout comme celui de « parc industriel ». Par contre, c’est en fait un concept pratique. La forêt urbaine est un univers dans lequel un grand nombre de personnes apprennent à vivre dans la nature.

L’Arboretum du Dominion, sous la surveillance du ministère d’Agriculture et d’Agroalimentaire, est une porte d’entrée vers cet univers. L’Arboretum a été fondé en 1889 pour observer la croissance à long terme d’un grand nombre d’espèces et de variétés d’arbres dans notre environnement. De nos jours, l’Arboretum est situé en pleine ville, et la majorité de la population canadienne habite dans les centres urbains.

Dans les villes, les arbres sont d’une nécessité absolue comme le sont l’électricité et l’eau. Les bienfaits qui découlent de leur présence sont bien connus : refroidissement et abri pour les voisinages, prévention de l’écoulement des eaux d’orage, contrôle des polluants de l’air, amortissement du bruit, amélioration de la santé et récupération, abris pour les oiseaux et autres espèces sauvages et, enfin, augmentation de la valeur d’une propriété.

Arbres Canada fait état de ces bienfaits et d’autres encore relativement aux forêts

urbaines sur son site Web (www.treecanada.ca/fr). On y note également le fait suivant : depuis que 80 pour cent des Canadiens et Canadiennes vivent dans les villes, la forêt urbaine est leur seule interaction avec la nature.

Cependant, bien des défis se posent aux arbres en milieu urbain. Pour ceux qui bordent les rues, une insuffisance ou un compactage de sols nuisent aux racines ou bien ils subissent les effets que produisent les tondeuses à fouet, le sel de voirie, la pollution, les événements météorologiques, les plantes envahissantes ou l’agrile du frêne.

Le fait de composer avec ces problèmes occasionne des coûts importants. Certaines municipalités ont tenté de calculer la valeur en dollars des arbres pour être en mesure de décider du montant à investir dans la plantation et la protection des arbres. De façon générale, il est plus rentable d’aborder les problèmes au moment de la plantation des arbres au lieu d’attendre qu’ils se dressent. À cet égard, par exemple, la Ville d’Ottawa fait l’étude d’une technique qui consiste à réserver plus d’espace aux racines, leur permettant de pousser sous le corps de la chaussée ou le pavage.

Dans une plus grande perspective, les forêts à l’échelle mondiale sont confrontées à de graves problèmes. Près d’un million et demi de kilomètres carrés de terrains forestiers ont été perdus entre 2000 et 2012, la cause venant en grande partie de la déforestation tropicale ainsi que des problèmes communs que l’on trouve dans le nord, tels des insectes, des incendies et des périodes de sécheresse. Pourtant, les arbres sont indispensables à notre survie.

L’Arboretum requiert un appui à long terme s’il doit survivre à ces défis que lui pose son environnement ou milieu, tant naturel que non naturel. Compte tenu d’un effectif plus réduit que par le passé, Agriculture et Agroalimentaire Canada assume la gestion de la collection et de la rétention des données des espèces devant faire l’objet d’une étude d’une grande variété d’arbres en ce qui a trait aux conditions passées, présentes et futures.

L’Arboretum demeure une expérimentation unique, soit que des arbres qui poussent dans un des climats les plus sévères à l’échelle mondiale. C’est une importante partie du patrimoine de la Ferme du Canada.

Eric Jones

Discovering Blooms in the Arboretum *(continued from Page 1)*

Photos by R. Hinchcliff



Grey Willow (*Salix cinerea*)



Guided tour in Arboretum, April 26, 2015



Norway Maple 'Goldsworth'
(*Acer platanoides* 'Goldsworth')



Sugar Maple
(*Acer saccharum*) in flower

that nut clusters will develop from the petalless female flowers. The buds' scales hide the clusters from our eyes all winter long.

Below the Southern Lookout along the access roads and on the small creek's banks the colourful twigs of many species of willows showed everyone that great blooms were coming here. However, just two or three of the almost 50 species of willows growing in the Arboretum had discharged pollen at the moment. This is not unusual for these kinds of trees because the diversity of the botanical genus *Salix* (willow) can be traced by: time of flowering, appearance of catkins, shape and colour of leaves, branching patterns, and size of trees. So it is not a surprise to see some willow flowers either when the branches are bare or the crown is full of leaves.

On our way from the lowlands to the hilltop, an old collection of hawthorns showed various examples of true "slow growers." These trees have not grown to a substantial size even after 100 years. And as for flowering, they wait until true spring comes and it is safe to open their eye-catching blooms.

A rewarding tour

The reward for our efforts in climbing the hill was the last stop underneath the huge maple trees. Here there is quite a memorable view towards the Rideau Canal. A close look at the variety of shapes and hues of maple flowers inspired most of the

participants to wander further on their own to explore and learn more about the Arboretum's exposed and hidden treasures.

Roman Popadiouk, co-leader of two of the 2015 guided tree tours, is a long-time volunteer with the Friends of the Farm and has led many tours of the Arboretum.

Best Flower in Show

Congratulations to the Friends' peony team and Farm staff for winning "Best in Show" at this year's Canadian Peony Society show with their Grand Champion peony 'Haleigh's Hallelujah'.



of us after the leaves fall off the trees in autumn, but very few people comprehend

Upcoming Events

For more information, visit www.friendsofthefarm.ca or call 613-230-3276.

Victorian Tea

- Sunday, July 26, 2 to 4 pm.
[Rain date: Sunday, August 2.]
- Classic tea served under the trees of the Arboretum.
- Bring a patio chair and listen to live music.
- Enter the best hat and best costume contests, period clothing optional.



- Location: Building 72, CEF Arboretum.
- Plenty of free parking; formal tea \$10.

Art on the Farm

- Saturday, August 15, 10 am to 4 pm. [Rain date: August 16.]
- Artists will display and sell their original works under the trees of the Arboretum.
- Location: near Building 72, CEF Arboretum.
- Free admission and parking.



Annual General Meeting

- Wednesday, September 16, 7 pm.
- Location: TBA, please check the website.
- All are welcome. You do not have to be a member to attend.

Used Book Drop-off

- Saturday, October 24, 10 am to 3 pm.
- Save your books and re-gift them for a great cause.
- Note that we do not accept magazines, textbooks or encyclopaedias.
- Location: Building 72, Arboretum, C.E.F.

Edible Ornamental Plants by Telsing Andrews

Explore the world of “edimental” perennial plants with Telsing Andrews of Aster Lane Edibles. Though it is not a surprise to many that vegetables are attractive and at home in the flowerbed, the extraordinary number of delicious ornamental edibles (edimentals) that have been used traditionally have often been forgotten or under-explored.

Telsing will introduce you to some of her favourites and give you ideas on how to incorporate them into a beautiful garden.

Tuesday, July 7, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in Building 72, Arboretum, Central Experimental Farm. Cost: \$12 FCEF members, \$15 others.

In Memory

Bert Titcomb passed away on May 2. The profile of him in the winter issue of this newsletter described his life and love of the Farm, trains, travel, tennis and, in recent years, painting.

Bert was an active volunteer, serving on the Board of the Friends of the Farm for six years. His warmth, positive attitude and sense of humour was a delight for his colleagues.

We send our sincere condolences to Bert's family and friends.

Guided Tree Tours in the Arboretum

The following are the remaining 2015 guided tree tours in the Arboretum (see Page 12). Although the tours are free and open to the public, please register in advance at info@friendsofthefarm.ca or call 613-230-3276. Donations to the Friends of the Farm will be kindly accepted during the tour. See www.friendsofthefarm.ca for more information.

July 19 – The Urban Forest and Tree Identification, by Owen Clarkin and Roman Popadiouk

What's that tree? Come find out as we explore the Arboretum and examine many of the kinds of trees that can be found growing in Ottawa. Techniques for identifying trees at the genus level (e.g. oak vs. maple) and species level (e.g. Bur Oak vs. Swamp White Oak) will be explained using the trees we encounter.

August 15 – Wood and Other Products From Trees, by Eric Jones and Jacob Sheppard

If wood were just discovered, it would be considered a miracle material. This tour will identify uses and characteristics of the products of a variety of trees, including those used in arts, crafts and construction. [Same date as the Friends' Art on the Farm event.]

September 20 – Maples: Trees Close to our Hearts, by Robert Glendinning and Michael Rosen

Besides the prominent place the maple holds on our national flag and emblems, it is loved for its syrup, shade and splendour in the fall. The Arboretum hosts a great collection of maple species and cultivars. We will point out their features as well as those of nearby trees. [This tour is co-sponsored by the Friends of the Farm and Tree Canada.]

October 18 – Tree Seeds and Fruits, by Bettina Henkelman and Katrina Siks

Trees produce seeds, nuts and other fruit as part of their normal reproductive cycles. Many trees rely on other organisms to help spread their seed and ensure survival and evolution of the species. A by-product is the great appeal of tree seeds and fruits to humans. This tour will show some interesting specimens in the Arboretum and help explain what trees have to offer and what we need to protect.

November 15 – Tree Forms and Shapes, by Owen Clarkin and Bettina Henkelman

Tree identification and winter preparation. More information to follow.

Kevin O'Connor: Unlocking the Gardener Within

By Mary Ann Smythe

Listening to Kevin O'Connor talk about the joys of gardening, and recount his own adventures toiling in the soil, it is surprising to learn that he wasn't raised in a gardening family. But all that changed when he married Marilyn Upshall. His wife of 41 years comes from impressive horticultural stock. Marilyn's dad, Dr. Harry Upshall, had a PhD in horticulture and was Director at the Vineland Research Station in the Niagara Peninsula. Her sister, Joyce Fleming, was a respected rose hybridist. Marrying into such a horticulturally accomplished family might have proven intimidating for some, but not for Kevin. Guided by the Upshalls, he discovered his own green thumb and took to gardening as the proverbial fish to water.

When Kevin and Marilyn, both teaching full time, married and moved into a house in Manotick, gardening became a way of life. They continued caring for an established rock garden and established a vegetable garden that fed the family, which included sons Paul and David. Kevin immediately found gardening "very satisfying. Generally, teachers take up hobbies that deliver concrete results. Students come and go and we don't often see the results of our efforts. It was very satisfying to see something [the gardens] taking shape before my eyes."

Resurrecting an abandoned apple orchard

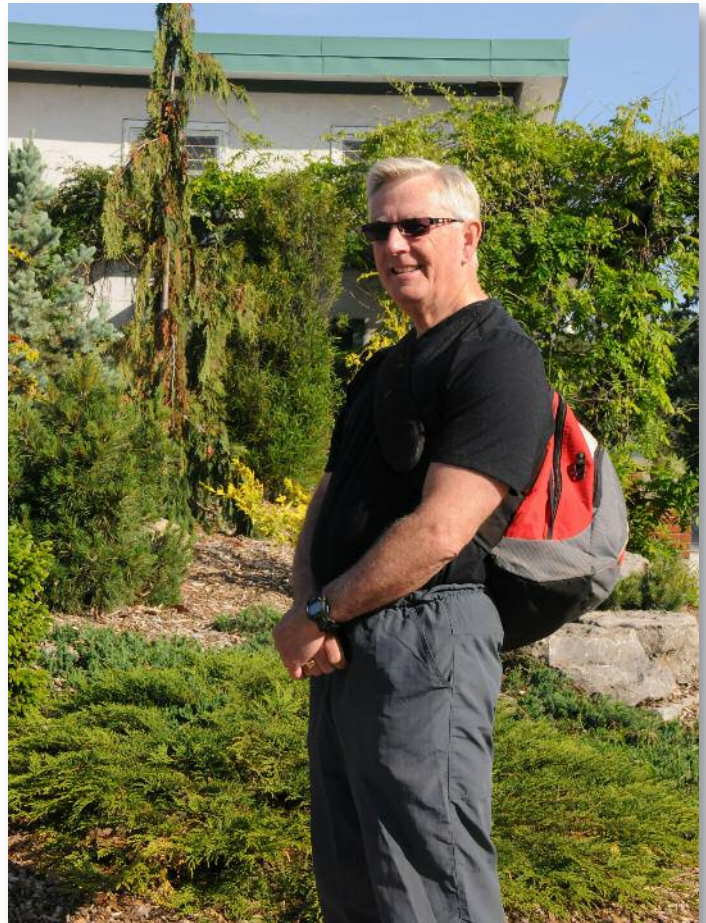
The frustration teachers sometimes experience in their jobs led Kevin and Marilyn to consider starting a project away from teaching. "I felt that there had to be something else in life," Kevin explains. That something proved to be a major undertaking involving the entire family. In the 1980s, the O'Connors bought an abandoned 50-acre farm near Osgoode, Ontario, and turned it into a U-pick apple orchard. In each of the next four years, they planted 500 apple trees, which included Paula Red, Jersey McIntosh, Empire, Lobo, Cortland, and Spartan varieties. As if planting, cultivating and maintaining a 2,000-tree apple orchard while working full time wasn't enough, they also tore down the old farm house and in the process were delighted to discover a log cabin fashioned of long oak or elm beams. The cabin was refurbished and the enterprise aptly named Log Cabin Orchard.

Five years into the project, the O'Connors realized that as much as they loved the orchard, it demanded more time, effort and expertise than they had at their disposal. "As teachers we had two months off in the summer, but they were the wrong two months. Our busiest times were spring and fall. Also, you need mechanical aptitude to run a farm and I didn't have any, so repairs and maintenance became very costly. It also became apparent at year four that if we wanted a successful commercial venture, we'd have to spend as much time on marketing as we did on growing apples."

As it turned out, both Kevin and Marilyn had been thinking about selling the orchard so when the subject was finally broached they were of the same mind. The orchard was sold, but not before they severed 25 acres, had a house built in the woods, and created a 125-foot long perennial bed.

Gardening in the community and at the Farm

In 1998, Kevin retired, and with both David and Paul living away from home, the O'Connors made the move from country to



R. Hinchcliff

city life, settling into a condominium on Carling Avenue across from Dows Lake. "We were spending so much time running in and out of the city that we decided it would be easier to move into Ottawa." Although his life in the country was behind him, Kevin's love of the outdoors and gardening remained strong.

"I had to do something to keep my hand in gardening," Kevin explains, "so I took over the gardens at our condo." He also spied an ad in his community newspaper looking for gardening volunteers for the Friends of the Farm. "I thought it would be good for me and help satisfy my yearning for gardening."

Fifteen years later, the relationship has proven mutually beneficial. Kevin has found his niche with the Arboretum Team but also turns up regularly to help set up and take down at special events. "It's wonderful being out in such a beautiful greenspace, working in the dirt with the sun shining through. There is a real sense of accomplishment—sometimes turning up to face a horrible mess and a few hours later seeing it all tidied up. "Another benefit," Kevin adds, is that "many of my colleagues on the team still maintain gardens and it keeps me in the loop of what's new and what's happening in the gardening world."

In addition to her profiles for the newsletter, Mary Ann Smythe writes profiles of "spotlight" volunteers for the Friends of the Farm website at www.friendsofthefarm.ca.

Doors Open Ottawa at the Farm

As part of this year's Doors Open Ottawa, the Central Experimental Farm held a "Research Open House" at various sites around the grounds. Staff offered guided tours of the herbarium in the Saunders building, explained how crops are grown indoors at the state-of-the-art greenhouse near

the Neatby Building, and provided displays and demonstrations outdoors of research on crops, soil and the environment.

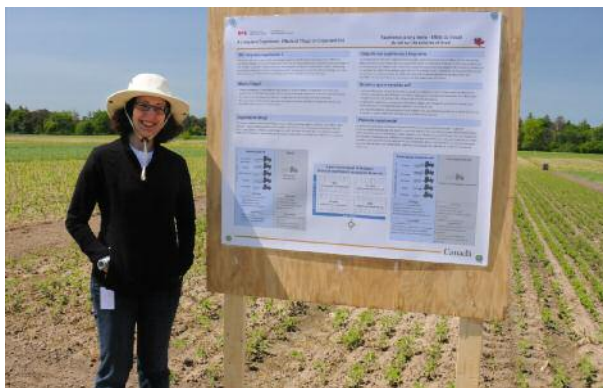
Of particular interest in this International Year of the Soil, demonstrations included the measurement of CO₂ emissions from the soil, remote sensing of soil temperature and moisture, and two excavations

that showed soil profiles at Field 1, where experiments have been conducted since the 1880s.

Friends of the Farm volunteers provided maps and information at a general welcome centre, greeted visitors at a Friends of the Farm display, and helped to look after visitors to the Saunders building.



Farm machinery display



Researcher Sandra Yanni at the site of one of the oldest experiments in North America to measure the effects of tillage on soil and crop yield



Poster prepared for the Friends of the Farm display at Doors Open

Doors Open *(continued)*



Pilot Rai Gohalwar and electronics technician Marc Lefebvre demonstrate a drone for aerial reconnaissance of crops



The drone coming in for a landing. Images from the flight were transmitted for visitors to see on a monitor at the tent

Photos by R. Hinchcliff

Craft and Bake Sale

Our Spring craft and bake sale was held in a new venue this year, and it came with major headaches for our organizers Kate Harrigan and Donna Pape. The beautiful old cereal barn (Building 76) at the Canada Agriculture and Food Museum was the location, but it was touch and go whether adjacent road and sewer works were going to be finished in time for the vendors to set up. The sale went ahead, artisans liked the venue and almost \$2,000 was raised for the Friends of the Farm. Our thanks to all those who came to the event and, of course, to the many volunteers who made it possible, either with their help or their baking.



Craft and Bake Sale, former cereal barn (Building 76), April 18, 2015

Rare and Unusual Plant Sale



Polly McColl, Eva Rolfe and Lynne Zeitouni helping customers at the Friends of the Farm members' plant stand

Another successful Mother's Day plant sale was held this year with new features including garden accents/accessory vendors and a "plant checking" service, where buyers could stash their new plants with Friends of the Farm volunteers and continue their shopping.

The rain that was forecast did not happen and crowds of enthusiastic

gardeners found interesting offerings from the 26 plant vendors and 5 garden accent/accessory vendors. Several merchants commented that there seemed to be many younger plant buyers this year. Denise Kennedy, the sale coordinator, gives credit to the Friends' new presence on social media orchestrated by Kate Harrigan and Kelsey Cuddihy.

Almost \$4,000 was raised for the Friends, including over \$830 from the sale of plants donated by members and volunteers. "It was a very exciting day," said Denise. "Thanks to all the volunteers and plant donors who helped make it happen. And thanks to the merchants who answered the call to participate in our fundraiser."

McCooley Lane: Behind the Name

By Richard Hinchcliff

If you've run, walked, biked or driven around the Central Experimental Farm fields, you have probably been on McCooley Lane. This Farm road runs parallel to Baseline from Ash Lane across Fisher to Merivale Road. Who was this McCooley?

McCooley ran the Farm

At its inception, the Farm covered 465 acres. It expanded in 1929 with the purchase of the 361-acre Booth farm, which stretched south of the Farm from Fisher Road to the Canal. The lumber baron J. R. Booth had died four years earlier. In the early 1940s the Caldwell farm was added and in 1949 the Scott farm was acquired. The Caldwell and Scott farms were located west of Fisher, with the larger Caldwell farm to the north.

Although the Caldwell and Scott farms had previously been leased and used by the Farm, their purchase allowed the research fields to be better organized. A farm road across the former Caldwell property from Merivale Road to Fisher was extended east to Ash Lane. This is the road we now know as McCooley Lane, named in honour of a long-serving Farm foreman.

Ernest (Ernie) McCooley "was an important man on the Farm," said Joe Arcand, who began work in the Animal Husbandry Division in 1951. Another former employee said he had to be vetted by McCooley before being hired, even though he was assigned to a different area, because "McCooley ran the Farm."

He was very dedicated to his job, said Helen Lister (nee Cunningham), who grew up on the Farm. "Others around him would say, 'ask Ernie, he'll do it.'"

Ernest McCooley

In 1922, at age 16 Ernie McCooley took a job in the Field Husbandry Division at the Farm and by 1940 he was the Farm foreman. In that role, he supervised all manual labourers, who

totaled about 200 during the summer, and about 60 in the winter. A researcher would "want seven guys next Monday," says Dale McCooley, "and contact my father, who had a list of 500 names. He would keep everybody happy. Occasionally

the Minister of Agriculture would suggest a name be selected, but my father was able to keep patronage to a minimum."

Ernie was responsible not only for Farm labour but also for the use of machinery, fertilizers, sweeping of the barns, cutting the grass, snow ploughing, and so on, work now done by the grounds maintenance team at AAFC. In his spare time he was a judge in many local ploughing matches.

Later in his career he was in charge of the Farm's mechanical branch. In a photo taken shortly before his retirement, Ernie is shown receiving a shipment of 50 tractors from the Soviet Union.



Farm foreman's house

The position of Farm foreman came with a house at the Farm. It was one of three homes on the west side of the Prescott Highway (now Prince of Wales Driveway). Ernie's son Dale remembers that Mr. Gibson of the Dairy and Cheese Division occupied the first house on the right coming south and Charlie Martin of the Horticulture Division lived in the next one. The McCooleys' home, the third one, was across from the present-day entrance to the Fletcher Wildlife Garden.

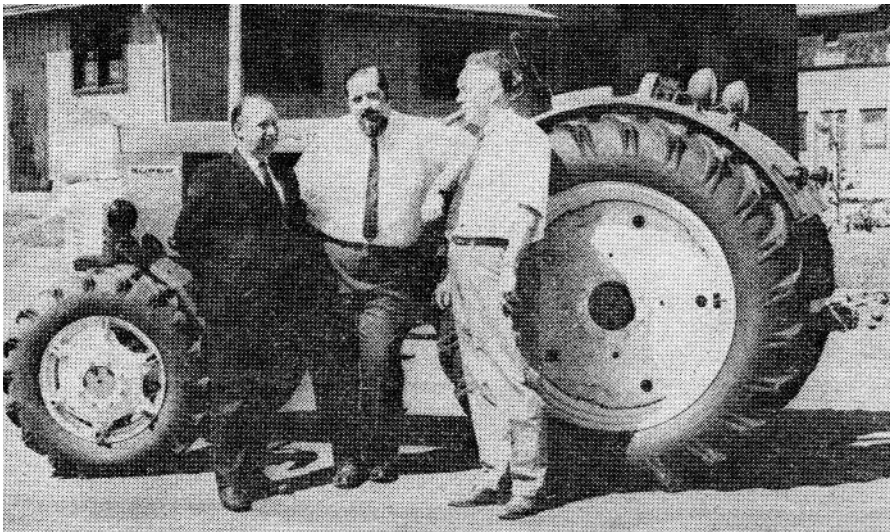
A vivid memory for Dale was one morning as a child he "looked out my window at about eight in the morning. My father



McCooley Lane



Ernie McCooley, his wife Joy and son Dale, 1940s



Ernie McCooey (right) receiving a tractor from V. Myshkov (left), U.S.S.R. trade representative to Canada. It was from a first shipment of 50 tractors presented to the Central Experimental Farm on a one-year trial basis. (*Country Guide*, October 1970)

had gone to work a couple of hours earlier. I could see the water tower up by the main barn. It started to tilt to one side and then collapsed." A fire had swept through the wooden auditorium below the 140,000-gallon water tank. This was on January 12, 1944.

When the blaze was reported at 7:30 am, Ernie McCooey summoned the volunteer firemen, who were employees at the Farm, but they had no chance to fight the flames that engulfed the Ottawa landmark. The 70,000 gallons of water in the tower at the time unfortunately didn't land on the fire below

but swept down the slope to the south of the structure.

The McCooey family lived at the house on the Farm until 1960, shortly before it was demolished. Ernie retired about 10 years later and died on May 16, 1973.



Ernie and Joy McCooey in 1959

Photos courtesy of Dale McCooey

Fletcher Wildlife Garden Volunteers

The Fletcher Wildlife Garden is looking for volunteers who enjoy working outside in the summer. We need people for a wide variety of jobs ranging from weeding in our backyard garden, to planting trees and shrubs where we lost all of our ash trees, to helping out with our invasive plant problems. Enthusiasm is the only skill required. All levels of physical ability accommodated. For more information contact Ted Farnworth (tedfarnworth@yahoo.com) or visit the Fletcher Wildlife Garden website.



Diane Lepage



The Friends of the Central Experimental Farm is a volunteer organization committed to the maintenance and protection of the Ornamental Gardens and the Arboretum of the Central Experimental Farm in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. Membership in the Friends of the Farm costs \$25 per year for an individual and \$45 per year for a family, \$20 Seniors/Students. Membership fees support the many projects of the Friends of the Farm. The Newsletter (ISSN 1702-2762) is published four times a year (Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall) by Friends of the Central Experimental Farm. All members receive the newsletter and it is sent either by regular mail or e-mail. Editor: Richard Hinchcliff. Assistant Editor: Barbara Woodward. Design & Printing: Nancy Poirier Printing. Contributors: Peter Anderson, Eric Jones, Roman Popadiouk, Mary Ann Smythe. Translator: Lise Anne James.

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Jane's Walks at the Farm

By Peter Anderson

On a sunny weekend in early May, local author and historian Katharine Fletcher and Pete Anderson (yours truly) led successful tours through the Central Experimental Farm as part of this year's Jane's Walk festival. Both tours proved popular and provided windows into the past and present life at the Farm. Upwards of 45 people of all ages joined Katharine and me on our explorations of the Farm's history.

On Saturday morning, Katharine's walk, based on a tour described in the second edition of her book *Capital Walks* (Page 282), explored the Farm's built heritage starting at the Dominion Observatory and winding through the core area down to the Ornamental Gardens. Linking architecture to various moments in the Farm's history, Katharine brought the buildings to life with anecdotes of the

individuals who lived and worked in them.

We paused in a number of places to reflect on the loss of buildings, such as a number of residences in the 1930s, as well as more recent demolitions—though it wasn't all a tale of loss. Indeed, we were heartened to see foundation work underway at Building 54 (Heritage House) and the creative reuse of Building 26 (Apiary) as the headquarters of 4-H Canada.

My walk, on Sunday afternoon, took a different but complementary approach. Focused on the scientific landscapes of the Farm, my tour began at the Fletcher Wildlife Garden and passed through the Dominion



Heritage House, Building 54

Arboretum to the Ornamental Gardens and experimental fields. From contemporary conservation biology to early twentieth-century plant breeding and naturalization, we looked for evidence of different scientific methods in the landscape.

At the Ornamental Gardens, I turned to the politics of memory at the Farm. Looking first to the modest monuments for scientists such as James Fletcher (of no relation to Katharine!) and William Macoun, as well as the Isabella Preston Lilac Collection, we continued into the Eastern Cereal and Oilseed Research Centre's fields to discuss the issue of protecting heritage sites under Canadian law.

The high turnout for our walks shows a keen interest to know more about the Farm. I feel that we were able to meet the goals of the Jane's Walk festival of promoting civic engagement and interest in our city and its diverse landscapes.

Peter Anderson is a PhD candidate in geography at Queen's University.



Monument for James Fletcher, first Dominion Botanist and Entomologist



Apiary at the Farm, 1936. Building 26 is at right

NEW MEMBER REGISTRATION FORM

NAME: _____
 ADDRESS: _____
 CITY: _____ POSTAL CODE: _____
 PROVINCE: _____
 TELEPHONE #: _____
 FAX #: _____
 E-MAIL: _____

INTEREST IN VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

YES ☐

NO ☐

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP

FAMILY \$45/year
 ADULT \$25/year
 SENIOR/STUDENT \$20/year
 BASIC CORPORATE \$250/year
 NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION \$25/year
 INDIVIDUAL LIFE \$200
 SENIOR COUPLE LIFE \$250
 DONATION \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Please make cheque or money order payable to: "Friends of the Farm." A receipt for income tax purposes will be issued for all donations of \$10 or more.

We are located at Building 72 in the Arboretum. You can visit us or mail this part of the form with your payment to:

FRIENDS OF THE CENTRAL EXPERIMENTAL FARM
Building 72, Central Experimental Farm
Ottawa, ON K1A 0C6

Telephone: 613-230-3276

Fax: 613-230-1238

Email: info@friendsofthefarm.ca

Website: www.friendsofthefarm.ca

The Dominion Arboretum: Walking in the Green Experiment ... *(continued from Page 12)*

Photos by R. Hinchcliff



Observing birds with tour guide Rachelle Lapensee, May 17, 2015



Owen Clarkin, tour guide



Pileated woodpecker



Hairy woodpecker

she rehabilitates songbirds, waterfowl and birds of prey at the Wild Bird Care Center.

Roman Popadiouk has a Ph.D. in Forest Ecology from Moscow University and a Master's Degree in Forestry. His research and writing on trees in the Arboretum led to the book *For the Love of Trees* for the Friends of the Farm. He has led many guided tours of the Arboretum.

Michael Rosen is the president of Tree Canada. Michael led Tree Canada's transition to private sector support in 2007 and successfully advocated for a National Tree Day for Canada in 2011. Previously he was a stewardship coordinator and forester with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, and as a summer student he worked for the NCC treating trees for Dutch elm disease. He is currently active on topics related to urban forests, carbon and trees, and forest history.

Jacob Sheppard is a professional arborist working in the City of Ottawa's Forestry Services Branch. Jacob has extensive training in the arboriculture field and has worked on invasive species, including the

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). Aside from his keen interest in everything tree-related, Jacob enjoys canoeing, hiking, gardening and beekeeping.

Tour #1 was held in late April and focused on the Flowering Trees of the Arboretum. This year's late spring meant that many of the showy-flowering trees weren't yet out but were anticipated, and within a week of the tour they were nearly all in full bloom. Robert Glendinning gave a brief introduction to species and varieties that were carefully selected for the Arboretum, including the impressive magnolia collection, and talked about their propagation and growth. Roman Popadiouk pointed out many other tree species that were flowering inconspicuously, and highlighted characteristics that made each species unique. See Roman's article on Page 1 of this newsletter for more details.

Tour #2 was held at the height of the busy spring birding season in mid-May and combined two themes: Birds and the Urban Forest. Rachelle Lapensee drew attention to birds and explained how they dealt with the environment: the trees providing food

and shelter to the birds, the birds providing services to the trees by eating insects, dispersing seeds and even pollinating tree flowers. She noted that the Emerald ash borer epidemic has resulted in record high counts of downy and hairy woodpeckers in the area, as they feed on the abundant ash borer beetles. Owen Clarkin spoke about the relationship of different species of trees to their location here in Ottawa, and how two successive hard winters had affected the collection. He identified a few "show-stoppers" (e.g. Pecan, Shagbark Hickory) as well as native species that are currently underutilized in Ottawa (e.g. Red Spruce, Swamp White Oak, Bitternut Hickory).

In June, two special tours were held: one for the Ontario Horticultural Association and the other for the Canadian Bar Association: these tours focused on suitable trees and shrubs for planting in the city.

All the other tours coming up are for general attendance. There will be one each month from July to November. They are listed on Page 4 of this newsletter and, until completed, on the Friends' website (www.friendsofthefarm.ca).

The Friends' Tree Tours are a great companion to the tours and workshops at the Ornamental Gardens and lectures put on by the Friends in cooperation with Master Gardeners and AAFC. The last of these events this year, a lecture on edible ornamental plants by Telsing Andrews, will be held on July 7.

Take a walk with our tour leaders in the big Green Experiment of the Dominion Arboretum. After all, we are all part of the experiment, too.

The Dominion Arboretum: Walking in the Green Experiment

By Eric Jones

You may have seen groups of people making their way through the Green Experiment filled with trees, shrubs, birds, mammals and insects. But most do not know much about the Dominion Arboretum. The Friends of the Farm have started a series of tree tours to help people understand the value of the collection and the site.

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada has been growing trees here for a long time as part of the Central Experimental Farm. Little was known about the hardiness of trees and shrubs in 1889 and so the Arboretum was started to help Canadians understand how trees would fare in our climate. Now the Arboretum provides valuable information about the form, characteristics, relationships and usefulness of native and imported tree species for growing along Canadian streets, and in parks and backyards.

It also provides a basis for comparison with species and varieties grown in other arboreta throughout the world, and will make it possible to assess changing conditions at different sites. And how things are changing! The loss of ash trees to the Emerald Ash Borer is only one example of change. Change in climate, changes in flora and fauna, introduction of new and invasive species—are all growing at a swift pace.

The primary goal of initiating the tree tours this year was to enhance the Arboretum experience for the public. The tours are put together by the Friends of the Farm, in cooperation with AAFC and a strong group of enthusiastic tour leaders.

At a meeting this winter the tour leaders suggested that each tour should have a distinct theme, to fit with the seasons and conditions at the Farm.



R. Hinchcliff

Themes were matched to appropriate leaders and the tours were scheduled throughout the year, including one in the winter. As the tour dates grow near, they are promoted through Friends' media releases and member outreach (Farm Notes, Facebook page).

We are very fortunate that Ottawa has a great selection of people to lead the tours, including the following:

Owen Clarkin has been studying the trees of Eastern Ontario as a dedicated amateur since the age of four. He is currently exploring topics in tree identification and ecology from an Eastern Ontario perspective, together with a core group of colleagues, and regularly contributes to local and worldwide plant identification forums on social media.

Robert Glendinning has worked with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada in the Arboretum for the past 12 years. The result of his propagation work is evident in the nursery and in growing new plants, essential to renew the ever-changing tree inventory, and is made possible through connections with other arboreta, botanical gardens and committed individuals.

Bettina Henkelman is a certified arborist and tree risk hazard assessor. She grew her life-long experience and interest while providing hands-on care for trees as a landscaper/horticulturist for places like the Experimental Farm and the Governor General's Residence, and is currently using this experience to prepare urban forestry plans, and tree protection and compensation plans for major projects.

Eric Jones is the president of Friends of the Farm and is also involved with the Friends' Arboretum Team and related activities. He worked for the Canadian Wood Council as the vice-president of Codes and Engineering. He has a degree in forestry and currently heads up the Friends' shrub team in the Arboretum.

Rachelle Lapensee has been a bird lover since she was old enough to walk. Her interest was sparked by her grandmother, who would take her through the conservation trails. During her spare time,



Eric Jones

Tour guides Roman Popadiouk and Robert Glendinning on the first tree tour for 2015

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