

ACT Meeting, January 25, 2011

Present: Charles Jackman (chair), Ethel Dutky, Robert Trumbule and Lesley Riddle (city staff liaison - via telephone). We met at the New Deal Café.

The minutes for December 14, 2010 were reviewed and approved with several small corrections.

Election of Committee Chair

Charles Jackman was nominated and elected as the Chairman for ACT.

Report from Lesley Riddle

Earth Day/Arbor Day will be on April 16, 2011. Event will be held at Schrom Hills Park. Lesley requested that we discuss the declining Callery Pears ('Bradford' Pear and maybe other cultivars) located along Crescent Road opposite the Roosevelt center, and make suggestions for replacement trees. We support removal of these declining trees. We suggest that Crab Apples (consider only those with good resistance to the diseases apple scab and fireblight) would be a good replacement. Cultivars are available in a variety of growth habits, flower color, fruit color, etc. Cultivars with resistance to Apple Scab and Fire Blight would be low maintenance and durable additions to the landscape.

Discussion of a revised list of Preferred Trees for use in Greenbelt.

In 2002 ACT put together a list of preferred trees. We discussed the following trees on the 2002 list:

1 - Winter King Hawthorn, *Crataegus viridis* 'Winter King'

Many are in place. In some years the fruit display is ruined by the fungal disease Quince Rust (*Gymnosporangium clavipes*) infecting twigs and fruit. Hawthorns are also susceptible to several leaf blight diseases. In 2010 most of these Hawthorns set a lot of fruit and looked very good. We don't advise removal of them but have reservations about recommending planting many more.

2 - Japanese Pagodatree, *Sophora japonica* 'Regent'

This tree is attractive and durable. However, some concern has been expressed about its susceptibility to canker diseases and its weed potential due to prolific seeds. We don't advise removal, but hesitate to continue to recommend it as highly desirable.

3 - Amur Maple, *Acer ginnala*

This small maple is very tough and durable. Cultivars are available. We foresee possible problems with seedlings and the fact that it is a host for the Asian Longhorn Beetle (not yet found in Greenbelt).

4 - Red Maple, *Acer rubrum*, cultivars 'Red Sunset'

A durable tree, we should investigate newer cultivars. Cultivars should be used rather than seedling stock. Downside, another host for the Asian Longhorn Beetle.

5 – American Elm, *Ulmus Americana* ‘Princeton’

We stress that only disease and pest resistant cultivars should be considered. Both Dutch Elm Disease and Elm Yellows are threats to the species. We need to review and consider more recent introductions including ‘Liberty’.

6 – Chinese Elm, *Ulmus parvifolia*, Lacebark Elm

A beautiful tree, naturally resistant to Dutch Elm Disease, Elm Leaf Beetle and Japanese Beetle. An expensive tree, but worth the expense. Very important to provide a spacious good site for this tree.

7 – Crapemyrtle, *Lagerstroemia indica* and cultivars; ‘Fantasy’

Many have been planted in Greenbelt and are performing well as small street trees. Very tough, thrives in hot, dry summers. Consider adding other National Arboretum cultivars, especially other tree forms suitable as small to medium sized street trees.

8 – Willow Oak, *Quercus phellos*

We love this large tree. Native tree with fine texture, and good durability. We advise to provide it with a spacious good site because it will get large.

9 – More Magnolias!!

We should investigate other native and cultivated magnolias, both evergreen and deciduous.

10 – Bald Cypress, *Taxodium distichum*

This very attractive deciduous conifer is hardy in poor sites, tolerating wet, poorly drained sites and salt. We should inquire about obtaining plants from the Cypress Swamp Park in Calvert County to have the advantage of specimens from a locally adapted population.

11- Other suggestions, Bob likes the Ghent deciduous azaleas. Are there good selections of the Easter Red Cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*) we should consider? What specific species and cultivars of *Amelanchier* are best? Ethel likes the Sweetbay Magnolia (*Magnolia virginiana*), a beautiful native deciduous magnolia. We should look into other dogwoods, especially smaller tree forms. Ethel likes crab apples, provided they are resistant to the diseases apple scab and fire blight.

In further discussion, we would like to see greater diversity in plantings, and move away from extensive planting of a single species or cultivar. Although these homogenous plantings are very pretty, they can lead to pest outbreaks and other problems as the plantings age.

We should organize our list into several sections regarding best use, for example: Small street/specimen trees; Large specimen/street trees/ Flowering trees; trees and shrubs for screens; trees and shrubs to restore wildlife habitat. We need to provide advice on cultural conditions (soil pH, texture, drainage; exposure needs such as sun or shade,

sensitivity to wind, and salt injury) for each listed tree so that the site can be matched to the requirements of the tree.

Expert Help needed

Bob will ask Richard Olsen, a tree geneticist at the USDA National Arboretum to attend an ACT meeting or to review our lists and give advice and suggestions to assist us in development of our tree list.

We agreed to table the discussion of our tree list project until the next meeting.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, February 15 at 7:30 PM at the New Deal Café.

Adjourn at 9PM