

Tree of the Season

Snowdrift Crabapple

The crabapple family is a mostly deciduous genus consisting of many beautiful and valuable ornamental trees. The crabapple is a member of the Malus family of which the apple tree is also a member. If the fruit the tree bears is 2 inches or less in diameter it is considered a crabapple tree. Fruit colors can include purple, orange, red and yellow and make these trees particularly showy in the winter. The foliage of the crabapples can be light green, dark green or various tints of purple. All of the crabapples bloom in early spring and flowers range in color from white to pink to red to rose. Crabapples do best in well drained soil that is moist and acidic. They should be planted in full sun for best flowers and fruit development. There are hundreds of known types of crabapples and few other trees approach the beauty of a crabapple in full bloom.

One of the heaviest blooming crabs is the Snowdrift Crabapple with its white profuse blossoms. Its fruit is red-orange and persists on the branches throughout the winter. The Snowdrift Crabapple has a very uniform, symmetrical crown and grows to approximately 20 feet in height.

LEAF is establishing a Crabapple Ridge along the hillside below the tennis courts. Currently we have over 15 different crabapple trees planted in this location. The Snowdrift Crabapple is planted along the pathway behind the tennis courts and has been sponsored in memory of Gary Cermak. This tree was sponsored by the Act 89 staff who had worked with Gary. You can see this crabapple variety as well as numerous others on LEAF's Crabapple Ridge. This area will develop into one of the truly stunning areas of the park each spring as all of the crabapples are in bloom. They will also add much to the winter landscape with their colorful fruit as well as provide a food source for winter birds.

G.E. More Gifts ... More Givers Program

We are very grateful to The GE Foundation for the gift of \$595 from their More Gifts ... More Givers matching gift program. We are also grateful to the GE employees and retirees whose contributions to LEAF made the matching gift possible. These funds help us continue our mission by providing money for construction, tree planting and educational programming.

If you are an employee or retiree of GE, please remember that LEAF is eligible for this program. We are still looking for a few more GE givers this year to meet our requirement for the program. Would you consider a gift of \$25 or more in 2003 to ensure our continued participation? If you have any questions about this program, please contact Kathy at 825-1700.

Trees in Celebration

At this time of gift giving, many of us are often stumped (tree humor!) as to what to get those special people in our lives. Planting a tree is a wonderful way to celebrate the season, a gift of generosity, kindness and one that will last for many years. Please consider sponsoring a tree at LEAF in honor of the special people in your life. When you help us plant a tree at LEAF, you contribute to a healthier environment and a brighter future for all. Certificates are available for you to wrap and give on the holiday (the tree is a little too big). Please contact Kathy at 825-1700 for more information.

*

Birth
Birthdays
Memorials
Graduations
Confirmations
Wedding Anniversary
New Jobs and Retirements
Bar Mitzvahs and Bat Mitzvahs
Baptism
Holidays

We also have pavers, benches and bridges that can be sponsored in honor of your family and friends. For a complete list of available sponsorships at LEAF, please call us.

Charitable Gift Annuity Program with ECF

LEAF has established a charitable gift annuity (CGA) partnership with The Erie Community Foundation. This partnership allows LEAF to offer another means of supporting our organization in a way that provides the donor with some use of the gift funds for the remainder of their life. A CGA is a binding contract between the donor and The Erie Community Foundation. The contract states The Foundation will annually pay the donor an annuity of a fixed dollar amount in return for a fixed one-time payment by the donor. When the donor dies, the amount remaining in the account will be transferred to LEAF 's endowment account held through The Erie Community Foundation, benefiting LEAF in perpetuity. If you would like more information on the charitable gift annuity program, please contact Kathy Dahlkemper, 825-1700 or Mike Batchelor at The Erie Community Foundation, 454-0843.

LEAF and City of Erie Awarded Grants for Pathways

There will be lots of construction activity at LEAF in spring as we continue to add to our pathway system. LEAF has received a grant through the Pennsylvania Recreational Trails program run through the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR). This grant for \$76,000 will allow us to construct some vital links in the pathway system. Four sections of pathway will be built with this funding. The first section is a path from the south side of the new east bridge to the corner of West Eighth Street and the Bayfront Highway. This path will parallel the Bayfront Highway. The second section will create a diagonal path at the corner of West Eighth Street and Seminole Drive, connecting the sidewalks that run along those two streets. The third section involves construction of the missing section of walkway between the sidewalk along Seminole Drive and the bike/ walking path that ends at the top of Shawnee Drive along West Sixth Street. The final section will construct a path to the back of the Patricia McCain Outdoor Classroom. This will allow access to this facility for all with special physical needs, as well as provide a means for entertainers to bring equipment into the area.

The second pathway grant awarded is a result of a cooperative effort between the City of Erie and LEAF. The grant has been awarded to the City of Erie from Coastal Zone Management (CZM). This grant will be administered by LEAF and will provide for pavement of a path that will connect the Sixth Street bikeway (also known as the Seaway Trail) to the Bayfront Bikeway. LEAF has been working with the Erie-Western PA Port Authority to find a viable solution to safely connecting the Bayfront Bikeway to the Seaway Trail without crossing the Bayfront Parkway. The Port Authority will be constructing their portion of the pathway, extending the current path south of Cranberry Street along the Parkway into Frontier Park. LEAF and the City of Erie will construct the connection through the park which will travel up behind the tennis courts and connect to the pathway along West Sixth Street. A connection will also be made to the new bridge at the east end of the park.

The construction of these two projects will result in greater access at the park and a vital link to the bayfront area through the park. Walkers will have a complete loop to travel around the perimeter of the park with the option of enjoying the pathways along the bayfront. These pathways have been a dream of the LEAF Board for years and it is exciting to know they will be a reality for all to enjoy next summer.

We are very grateful to the DCNR, CZM, City of Erie and Erie-Western PA Port Authority for helping to make this happen. We believe this pathway construction will be a wonderful asset to the community and improve safety for bikers, hikers and all who enjoy the bayfront and the park.

Salt Damage and Our Landscape Plants

The piles of salt can be seen at the state and local road maintenance garages. Soon those piles will be spread across our roads to help keep us safe while driving in the snow and

ice. But if you have sensitive trees and plant material near one of those roads, you know the damage that salt can do to your landscape plants. What many of us do not realize is that the damage can be seen as far as 1240 feet from the roadway with significant salt impact seen on trees within 400 feet.

Salt damages tender plant buds by replacing water in the plant tissues. As the salt concentration increases, less water is available to keep thirsty cells alive. This drying effect of salt can eventually kill the tender bud tissues. Some owners try to defend against salt damage by wrapping tender plants in burlap for the winter. The danger with this is that the burlap will often hold the salt in the soaked fiber, resulting in dead foliage anyway. A lean-to between the salt source and the plant will likely create better results but this requires some effort in constructing these barriers. The advantage is that air circulation around the plant is maintained while keeping the brine off the foliage.

To avoid landscape maintenance nightmares in a salty situation, consider planting salt tolerant plants in these areas. Choose plants that are hardy to the cold, moisture, light, space and salt conditions unique to your property. Two web sites that can help you in your selection of salt tolerant plants are www.communitytrees.org and www.arboday.org.

LEAF Festival joins Coastal Connections in Celebration

The annual LEAF Festival took place on September 13 this fall. The weather cooperated this year after our rain-out in 2002. This year the festival was held in conjunction with Coastal Connections watershed festival sponsored by PA Sea Grant. The two combined festivals offered participants a great day of learning, fun and adventure. From lectures on how to properly plant a tree to creek hikes, festival goers had a wide range of activities to choose from. The LEAF Festival is slowly becoming an event to put on your fall calendar. Those who came were amazed at the variety of activities in which to participate and went home with some useful knowledge and good memories. This event keeps growing and improving. If you would like to help plan the 2004 LEAF Festival, please contact Kathy at 825-1700.

A special thank you to Usborne Book consultants Selina Mezzacapo and Colleen Zematis. They set up a book display at the Festival and donated the proceeds from the sale to LEAF. It was a nice partnership that benefited LEAF and exposed festival participants to these educational books.

New e-mail Address (put on back!)

LEAF has a new address – leaf@velocity.net. Please make note of our new address. Drop us a note anytime! We look forward to hearing from you.

Summer Concerts Fill Park with Melodies

Two concert series were sponsored at the Patricia McCain Outdoor Classroom at LEAF this summer. The McCain Jazz Series ran for four Wednesdays in July and August. The wonderful music of some of Erie's best Jazz musicians was enjoyed by many. Performers included Mary Alice Brown, Marty O'Connor, Jim Madden and Mambo. LEAF is grateful to the McCain Foundation for sponsoring these performances.

For the second year, LEAF brought the Arts at the Arboretum program to Frontier Park. Two performances brought more music to the park. MoRebo drew a big crowd with their world music sound. Local fiddlers teamed up with caller Kathy Fox to provide a night of Contra Dancing in the park. People of all ages came to learn and enjoy this traditional form of dance. The Arts at the Arboretum series finished us with a night of poetry reading with Sean Dougherty from Behrend College.

The setting of the Patricia McCain Outdoor Classroom is a beautiful spot for a summer evening concert. LEAF plans to continue the concerts series in 2004, expanding the offerings to include something for everyone. We hope you can join us at the concerts next summer.

A special thanks to our event sponsors !!

McCain Foundation
Allburn Florist
Erie Endemnity Co.
Erie Plating (Janet & Lewis Briggs)
Geiger & Sons
Romolo Chocolate
Sanner Office Supply

Membership:

\$1000 or greater (Lifetime)

Dr. & Mrs. Richard Rahner
John & Peggy Allin

\$150 or greater (Oak)

Paul & Janet Demjanenko
Fairview Evergreen Nursery
Colleen McCarthy
Pat & Judith Mastrian
Mr. & Mrs. James Martin
Lou & Ellen Richards
Steve Wasiesky
Paul Newell

\$75 or greater (Hemlock)

Garth & Peggy Hetz

Jack & Janice Watson
Allen & Charlotte Richards
Santa Merrifield
Robert & Rhonda Maxa
Chet & Patti Vendetti
Jeff & Carol Buetikoffer
Mrs. Russell Roth
Tim & Jeannie Steenberge
Priscilla & Frank Nullet
Cathie & Jeff McMillin
Tim & Nancy Sennett

\$50 or greater (Dogwood)

Bob & Susan Schau
Liz Allen & Tom Diefenbach
Jay Jenkins
Mr. & Mrs. Hugh Pompeani
Marge Spear
Richard Korytowski
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Miller
Mary Alice Kern
Jean Dunn
The De Mers Family
Dennis & Mary Ranalli
David & Dina Scribner
Christine & Tom Rohan
Patty & Dave Holland
George & Joann Kish
Pioneer Garden Club
Martin & Kathryn Eisert
Ray & Kathy Schreckengost
Kathleen Steele
Dave & Kathy Wagner

\$30 or greater (Seedling)

Mrs. R. G. Hawn
Will & Mary Schaaf
Mr. & Mrs. C.F. Hennessy
Cindy & George Willis
Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Dockstader
Sally Kohler
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Quadri
Mr. & Mrs. Carl Finke
Mary Jane Mansfield
Waterford Garden Club

Margaret Dwyer
John & Diana Brautigan
Laurel Swartz
Neils Teufel
The Bretz Family
Sally Buseck
Louise Loesel
Sam Hasley
Chuck & Wendy Weber
Phil & Stephanie Pompeani
Richard & Diane Yeager
Mark & Karen Horstman
Frank & Mary Therese Riley
Mr. & Mrs. P. Claxton
Chuck & Nancy Donnelly
Jean McKean
Kent & Andrea Jacoby
John & Cindy Tabolt
Doug & Nancy Brower
Sally Schuster
Renee Boccio
Cynthia Weibel
Mr. & Mrs. Leon Wallerstein, Jr.
Larry & Carole Bush
DeSanctis Family

Memorialization/ Donations

Cash memorials

In memory of Jean Gilford DeFrehn
Catherine & David Merrill

New Tree:

Snowdrift Crabapple

In memory of Gary Cermak
Donated by: Act 89 Staff

Existing Tree

In memory of Mona Kingston
Donated by: Carl & Janet Steenberge and family