



Environmental Stewardship Matters

SPRING NEWS AND TREE TIPS

Race Track Nature Preserve (RTNP) progress

In March, the DPW mowed the entire flat basin. This annual operation controls the residual invasive plants, encourages native growths and prepares the ground for seeding and planting in June at the southern end where *Miscanthus*, a highly invasive mono-cultural silvery grass had proliferated. Seeding and planting of other areas will follow this autumn and in 2019. Visit www.tptreeboard.org for more details.

Battle training for the 5th and 6th grade students from Tuxedo Park School

Early on Wednesday morning **April 18 at the RTNP**, 50 students will be briefed on the environmental importance of the native-meadow restoration project and its multi-year establishment plan along with our strategy for fighting invasive plants. They will learn how to identify the invasives and to remove them. ***At 11:30 AM, we will plant several native trees to celebrate both Earth Week and Arbor Day 2018. Please join us at this ceremony!***

The season for tree pruning is over

Pruning out of the dormant season (October—March) increases the risk of pathogen and bacterial infections both airborne and carried by beetles (e.g. the deadly Oak Wilt disease which could decimate Tuxedo Park's Oak forest) and disturbs nesting birds.

Don't move firewood long distances

It facilitates the spreading of invasive species such as Emerald Ash Borer that kills Ash trees. Instead, buy it where you'll burn it, buy certified heat-treated firewood, or gather on site where permitted.

Volunteers needed

To continue the momentum of suppressing invasives and encouraging native plants. No experience is necessary as training will be provided. All that is required is a willingness to help benefit the community of Tuxedo Park as well as the environment. Please contact us tptreeboard@gmail.com or speak to any of the Tree Advisory Board members, Chui Yin Hempel, Dena Steele, Christopher Gow, Jill Swirbul and Alan McHugh (Trustee Liaison).

www.tptreeboard.org

Mark your calendar: event in July

The North Entrance to the RTNP (opposite the parking area at the junction of East Lake Stable and Fox Hill Road) already operational will be officially opened with a community ceremony and drinks reception which will also honor the Meadow Stewards. These generous individuals and families, in addition to the Founding Stewards, have made possible the restoration and transformation of the old Race Track into a Nature Preserve and native meadow. Check www.tptreeboard.org for the date and updates.

Thomas Cole at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, NYC through May 13, 2018

The exhibition of the painter and founder of the Hudson River School is an inspiring delight and is highly recommended. The artist not only beautifully conveys the importance of trees in the natural landscapes but also shows how they are threatened, such as in this 1836 masterpiece "Oxbow", that depicts the natural forest on one side and clear-cut land on the other, divided by the river in the shape of a large ominous question mark.



"View From Mount Holyoke, Northampton, Massachusetts, After a Thunderstorm - The Oxbow" (1836)
Copyright The Metropolitan Museum of Art: Gift of Mrs. Russell Sage, 1908

The conflict between short-term economic gains versus long-term environmental damage continues in the 21st century. In a changing climate, we need an ecologically healthier relationship (or compromise) between nature, the environment and our economic needs. **We can all do our part in our own gardens by replacing each tree lost with three new ones, thus allowing us to continue to enjoy all the essential benefits they bestow:** replacing the carbon dioxide with the oxygen we breathe, reducing soil erosion, flooding and airborne pollution, providing shading for our houses, and providing food and shelter to birds and animals. **The economic incentive is strong too:** Tuxedo Park is sought after for its wooded aesthetics, and trees increase the value of our real estate. **And our own health matters:** trees and shrubs planted especially by our lake's edge are instrumental in maintaining the quality of our drinking water. By absorbing the fertilizer-rich water run-off, they help to mitigate the invasive algal blooms and milfoil which require expensive treatment that could negatively impact our property taxes.