

VILLAGE OF PITTSFORD

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**Village of Pittsford Board of Trustees Special
Meeting July 28, 2023, Noon
Tentative Agenda
Board Member - Conflict of Interest Disclosure &
Open Meeting Compliance Certification**

Public Comment

Meeting Items

1. Personnel Matter
2. Movement of Records to the Lomb Building
3. Friends of the Arboretum – Mission Statement and Consideration of Future Invasive Removal Activities.
4. Bill Pay

Member Items

*The next Scheduled Regular Meeting is August 15, 2023, and is Subject to Change Without Notice**

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Friends of Robert C. Corby Arboretum & Wildlife Sanctuary Mission Statement

June Reeves & Robert Corby
November 3, 2022

In February 2021 the Pittsford Village Board designated 10 acres of land as a public arboretum of native trees and pollinator plants, stating that this arboretum was designated as an educational tool demonstrating how a disturbed landscape may be restored, how invasive plants can be managed, and how native plants can be cultivated. Located next to the Erie Canal Nature Preserve, together the two properties provide symbiotic wetland and upland wildlife habitats. The two properties constitute 30 acres of permanent wild open space located only a short walk from the center of Pittsford Village.

Friends of the Arboretum (FOA) is a grassroots organization established in May, 2021 and made up primarily of Pittsford community residents. The goal of the FOA is to assist the Pittsford Village Board of Trustees in the development and maintenance of the village arboretum, officially named the Robert C. Corby Arboretum & Wildlife Sanctuary, as the treasured resource described above. To that end, the FOA has established an organizational structure and focus groups to perform activities as appropriate in achieving this goal.

7.26.23

**FRIENDS OF THE ROBERT C. CORBY ARBORETUM (FOA) & WILDLIFE SANCTUARY
VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES**

Frank Caccamise, FOA Coordinator of Volunteer Services

July 26 2023

A. 2022 VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

1. On May 12, July 19, Sept 20, Oct 27, and Dec 12, FOA goals, progress & project funding requests were presented at Pittsford Village Board of Trustees (PVB) Meetings,
2. On June 8, July 26, Aug 5 & 19, Oct 27, Nov 5, & 12, volunteers weeded invasives (swallowort, mugwort & garlic mustard), removed small ailanthus trees, & cut dead trees & branches. A focus of these volunteer efforts was on the central meadow & surrounding area, thus preparing a larger space for the planting of keystone pollinators in the spring of 2023.
3. In July signs with the wording "The Robert C. Corby Arboretum & Wildlife Sanctuary" were posted at five Board approved Arboretum locations. These signs are temporary & plans are to replace these temporary signs with permanent signs when the FOA has the Arboretum survey results.
4. In July an FOA Environmental Education Outreach Committee (EEOC) was established with the following members: Rob Corby, Chair, Jennifer Insulin-McCarthy, Sean McBride, Margot Fass, & Jim Weick. The EEOC charge is to establish relationships between FOA & schools (Pittsford schools, Nazareth College, St. John Fisher University), Girl Scout Troops, & Boy Scout Troops in order to assist in providing arboretum educational projects & activities. Potential projects discussed include bat boxes, blue bird boxes, trail signage, benches, & trail extension. This has been followed up with discussions of EEOC possible Eagle Scout projects with Saint Paul Boy Scout Troop 167 representatives & a proposed boy scout project to install blue bird houses in the meadow area.
5. In Aug & Nov approximately 200 recently planted trees were labeled.
6. On Aug 14 & Aug 29 arboretum walking tours were conducted. The purpose of these walking tours is to share with attendees FOA progress to date, current actions, & future plans. FOA members are encouraged to bring people to these tours that may be interested in joining Friends.
7. In Oct 2022 a lantern fly trap was installed in the Pittsford Town Park adjacent to the Arboretum.

B. 2023 VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

1. On July 11 FOA project funding requests were presented at the PVB Meeting.
2. On July 9 planted trees were relabeled as needed.
3. On July 11, 2023 volunteers weeded around planted trees, weeded mugwort, & cut down small Ailanthus trees.
4. On July 13 & 20 efforts to mark & add two additional arboretum trails were initiated. The 1st trail would provide a direct link to the canal towpath trail. It would allow walkers on the towpath access to the Arboretum, thus reducing pedestrian traffic near the DPW yard & garage. The 2nd trail would redirect the south trail which currently terminates at the DPW gate. This 2nd trail would bypass the gate area & extend the trail up through the spruce plantation where it would terminate opposite where the hillside trail meets the main meadow trail. By extending the south trail, the potential safety hazard that has previously been discussed will be completely eliminated & a new area of the property opened for the public's enjoyment.
5. On July 28 a volunteer activity that includes weeding around trees & shrubs adjacent to the Frog Pond Trail, checking plant labels & cages, gathering trash, & continuing scouting for a possible new trail link to the canal towpath trail will be conducted.

***Ailanthus altissima* aka “Tree of Heaven”**

Description

A rapidly growing deciduous tree native to China, tree of heaven can grow up to 80 feet in height. The species' branches are very brittle and easily broken, and its bark is light grey, and smooth. (4) The compound leaves are composed of 10-40 leaflets. Each leaflet has one or a few rounded teeth near its base, and a thickened, round gland on the underside of each tooth. (3) Leaves and stems have a strong, unpleasant odor (likened to rancid peanut butter) when crushed. Yellow-greenish flowers bloom in June and can be seen in dense clusters near the end of the upper stem. In summer and fall, large drooping clusters of winged seeds, called samaras, are visible.

Introduction History

Introduced via the horticultural trade in the mid-1700s, tree of heaven was prized for its exotic foliage. Planted heavily throughout cities, it was renowned as a near indestructible street tree and touted for its tolerance of soil compaction and pollution. (2)

Ecology and Habitat

Tree of heaven is tolerant of a variety of soil types in full sun to shade. The species is strongly associated with anthropogenic disturbance and is commonly found in waste places such as roadsides, parking lots, and old fields. The species also favors naturally occurring early successional habitats. (2)

Reproduction and Phenology

Tree of heaven is a prolific reproducer, capable of producing over a million seeds per mature tree in optimum conditions. (7) Although most of these seeds fall within 20 feet of the parent tree, tree of heaven rivals Ash (*Fraxinus*) as one of the furthest wind-dispersing trees in the New York canopy. Although seed rain from this invasive species is heavy, tree of heaven is short lived, and its productive years shorter still: most trees live less than 100 years, with their most fecund years taking place early in their lifespan. Additionally, the species does not appear to build up a persistent seed bank, and most seeds live only one year in the soil. (8) Tree of heaven does reproduce vegetatively, however, and these ramets can increase the lifespan of a single individual by hundreds of years. (4) Vectors include wind and water (4)

Impacts of this species

Established stands of this invasive tree can outcompete native species and change the composition and density of the surrounding vegetation, particularly in early successional

habitats. (1) The species has been shown to exhibit allelopathic properties and can inhibit the germination and growth of other vegetation. (6)

Management Methods

Biological Control

There is currently no single optimal biological control agent in use against this species.

Manual or Mechanical Control

Pulling / Digging Up: Pulling by hand is an effective method of control *for seedlings and small plants if the entire root is extracted from the soil*. For larger plants this technique is not advisable as it will encourage root sprouting (4)

Mowing: Not advisable

Girdling: Girdling will top-kill larger trees, however, cut and stump treatment is safer and more effective. Tree of heaven is a very brittle tree: dead standing wood is incredibly hazardous due to its tendency to break apart and fall. (10)

Prescribed Fire: Not applicable. Tree of heaven has a long taproot, rendering it resistant to fire (4)

Prescribed Grazing: White tailed deer and goats will graze trees of heaven foliage, but it is not a preferred species. (4)

Soil Tilling: Not advisable. Tilling may fragment roots and encourage re-sprouting.

Mulching: Not applicable

Solarization: Not applicable

Hot Foam Spray: Not applicable

Chemical Control

The pesticide application rates and usage herein are recommendations based on research and interviews with land managers. When considering the use of pesticides, it is your responsibility to fully understand the laws, regulations and best practices required to apply pesticides in a responsible manner. At times, the pest you seek to treat may not be on a pesticide label, requiring a 2ee exemption from NYSDEC. Always thoroughly read the label of any pesticide and consult the NYSDEC or a licensed pesticide applicator with questions.

Foliar Spray: A 2-3% solution of glyphosate or triclopyr is effective at managing small tree of heaven plants, although a repeat application may be necessary. Infestations managed in this way should be revisited in 2-3 weeks to monitor for regrowth. Always read and follow all instructions on the herbicide label. (10)

Cut Stump: Apply a 50% solution of glyphosate or triclopyr to the cut stump of larger tree of heaven plants towards the end of the growing season, but before leaf senescence. (12)

Basal Bark: A 25% solution of triclopyr applied to the bark of dormant tree of heaven is somewhat effective in controlling infestations, although this technique is best applied with other strategies, such as a follow-up cut stump (12)

Hack-And-Squirt

Stem Injection: Picloram, Imazapyr and Triclopyr are all effective for stem injection use. Midsummer and late winter injections are most effective. Follow information on the product label for appropriate rates and instructions. (12)

Pre-Emergent Spray: Not applicable

Summary of Best Management Practices

General management overview and recommendation

As with any other invasive infestation complex, large stands of tree of heaven are best managed via a combination of mechanical and chemical means. All managed infestations should be monitored for at least one year to ensure exhaustion of the seed bank. (4) Any new seedlings can be hand pulled. Even when using the most effective methods of chemical control, managed populations must be monitored due to the species' strong tendency to form root sprouts.

Post treatment monitoring

Any infestations managed by chemical means must be revisited in 2-3 weeks to check for treatment efficacy. Any infestations managed solely by mechanical means will need follow up treatment as soon as re-sprouts appear. Populations should be revisited the following year to ensure exhaustion of the short-lived seed bank. (10)

Disposal Methods

Waste material can be crushed, chipped, burned or composted so long as management was completed prior to seed set. **Any fruit must be bagged and properly disposed of, and any roots thoroughly crushed or dried.**

Additional Information

REFERENCES

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TREASURER'S REPORT

Submitted by

Brooklyn Thomas

07/28/2023

- Vouchers for approval – Abstract #05
 - General Fund (64-88) \$26,703.11
 - Sewer Fund (71,81) \$2,430.37
 - **Total Vouchers for Approval: \$29,133.48**