

(Food for Thought continued)

beds. Though these leaves don't add the nutrient value that other manufactured amendments do, it does help break up the soil and reduce erosion.

Belong to Different Natural Organizations

Become members of local or national organizations like the Audubon Society of New York State, Chicago Botanical Garden, Morton Arboretum, Nature Conservancy, or many others. To be a member of most of these organizations, all you have to do is fill out a form and send in your dues. It shows to the community that you care. If you so choose to do more with these organizations that is even better.

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I cannot tell you the feelings I have had since joining and becoming certified through the Audubon Sanctuary Program. I appreciate our course a little more now knowing that we are providing a habitat for wildlife and sending a positive message to our members and neighbors. I feel privileged that we can witness wildlife that many others cannot in their urban surroundings.

Communications

Don't be afraid to communicate with your neighbors. I know from experience that certain things you do on your course don't always go over well with the neighbors. We try to answer their questions about what we do and not avoid their concerns. That is to a point of course. Some of our natural areas we have tried to develop have been met with fierce opposition. We have tried to educate our neighbors as much as possible and have compromised when necessary to calm their fears. Though we may have lost some of our natural areas, we feel that we have kept open communication lines and future projects may not be met with such opposition.

Hopefully in our neighbors eyes we have broken their illusions that golf courses are large toxic waste dumps that are a menace to society. With steady work and patience you can achieve many things with a good program. The important aspect is to make a plan, start out small and with something, anything, and then stick with it. These ideas I just described are just that, ideas. They might not be good for your course or situation. However, try to do something and I am sure that you will find out that the benefits will outweigh the negatives.

"February"

Now — for that short Month that seems so long,

Before We can hear Spring's Sweet Song.

Wishful thinking, helped by Winter Vacations,

Smooths the Pathway to Spring Invitations.

If the Groundhog and March Hare do Their part,

We'll soon Welcome Spring with Happy Heart.

Kenneth R. Zanzig

Leaves, Limbs, Needles & Boughs



by Fred D. Opperman

Tree trivia question: What is the largest deciduous timber tree in eastern North America? Answer at end of article.

Are you looking for a tree that has few if any insect or disease problems, one that has beautiful cinnamon or red-brown bark that exfoliates to show these colors?

If so, you need to find some *Acer griseums* — Paperbark Maples. But you will have to look long and hard for they are hard to find in our local nurseries. This is one of those trees that the common nursery usually doesn't grow for the demand is not there and it takes so long to grow them. Paperbark Maples are a very slow growing tree. Also the difficulty for the nurseryman is the poor seed quality. Most seeds are void, being only 1 to 8% viable.

Stem: Fine branches, pubescent at first, rich brown, stems develop exfoliating during the second to third year. Young stems are usually a rich brown to reddish brown.



Bark: On older wood the beautiful cinnamon or reddish brown coloring takes place as the bark defoliates to expose these colors. As the tree ages the bark loses some of the exfoliating character, but retains the rich brown color.



Bud: Imbricate, brownish black, 1/16 to 1/8 inch long, sharply pointed, similar to the Sugar Maple except for the size. The bud is pubescent at the base with almost a collar of hairs around the terminals and laterals.

Size: This is a small tree with the height of about 25-30 feet and a spread to 1/2 or equal to the height. It is an upright to oval shape. As mentioned before this is a slow grower with only 6 to 12 inches per year.

Leaf: Color is flat dark to bluish green in summer changing to bronze, or russet red in the fall. This is a spectacular tree when in full color.



Culture: It can be transplanted B & B in the spring and is very adaptable to various soils and pH. Prefers full sun and well drained soils and does okay in clay.

Trivia answer: *Liriodendron tulipifera* — Tulip tree. This deciduous tree will attain a height of 198 feet and a diameter of 12 feet. Not that anyone of us will ever see one grow that large in our lifetime.

Credit: "Manual of Woody Landscape Plants" by Dirr & Stipes