

SOUL Tree Steward Project Showcase

SOUL Tree Steward Organizes Manchester Arbor Day Event Wins Gold Leaf Award from International Society of Arboriculture

On April 26, 2008 Manchester celebrated its third annual Arbor Day. With a gracious grant from the New England chapter of ISA, Manchester was able to provide a tree planting celebration in honor of the Manchester students graduating class of 2008. Our local nursery, Equinox Valley Nursery, donated the *Acer rubrum* (red maple). This is the third year that owner Roger Preuss has donated a tree for our celebration. The newly planted red maple will replace the 40-year-old red maple on School Street. The older tree is in rapid decline due to improper planting, improper pruning and subsequent attack of insects and disease.

The Arbor Day celebration staff educated 8 students, 3 teachers, a newspaper reporter, and two Manchester Parks and Recreation employees how to properly plant a tree.

After root washing the ball and burlap off the trunk for approximately two hours, the tree was planted in a shallow, wide whole. The students asked many great questions about trees. At the end of the planting, three students and a teacher from Manchester Elementary Middle School volunteered to be the red maple's Tree Stewards.

Taking the short trail walk over to Dana L Thompson Park; the day continued with a ground arborist relay competition. After one run through, the kids were exhausted and ready for lunch. The BBQ served 60 people. During the meal baby *Plantanoides occidentalis* (sycamores) were dispersed to everyone. The second highlight of the day was teaching 8 children and 2 adults how to climb trees like arborists. All the children made it to the top. The two adults both made it successfully off the ground and both indicated they would like to try again.



Williston SOUL Tree Stewards Assist in Development of Community Forestry Plan and Establish Citizen Pruner Program

In 2006 the town of Williston received a *Trees for Local Communities* grant to develop a strategic urban forestry management plan. Armed with a more complete picture of the towns tree resource, 2007 SOUL Tree Steward and Town Environmental Planner, Carrie Deegan began drafting a Williston Community Forestry Plan with the assistance of fellow

SOUL Stewards Ruth Painter , Mary Jo Childs, and Susan Stanne. The Community Forestry Plan was informed in part by a community survey that the team developed to increase input from residents. One of the goals of the Williston Forestry Plan is to create a Citizen Pruning training for local neighborhoods. This summer, the group set up a test neighborhood to pilot the program. This winter, after the trees are dormant, the group will tackle another neighborhood.



Caption: Williston SOUL Tree Stewards: Mary Jo Childs, Ruth Painter, Carrie Deegan, Susan Stanne