



Elm Leaves

2005 Summer Issue

From the Founder . . .

"Princeton Elm" Lamented

The tree believed to be the parent of the line of elms known as Princeton Elms has been cut down.

Having shown the effects of Dutch elm disease (DED) for some time, it was removed in April, 2005 from Princeton (NJ) Cemetery. A year ago, it had lost 60 percent of its branches. Because of the disease it harbored, bark beetles could carry the disease fungus from it to other elms.

The tree's age was estimated to be at least 150 years and perhaps well over 200. It was over 100 feet tall.

Princeton Elms have been propagated and sold for many years, but they've been represented as disease-resistant only recently. The thousands planted over the years were not registered, and there was no record of losses. It is our understanding that while many elms have survived, many have been lost to DED.

A number of Princeton Elms on Washington Road at Princeton University have succumbed, and most of these have been replaced by American Liberty Elms.

All American Liberty Elms are registered and carry a lifetime warranty against DED. We monitor their survival rate, which is at present 98.5 percent.

We regret the loss of any venerable elm. At the same time, we continue to encourage the setting of standards for cultivars claiming resistance, including prohibition of propagation by pollination, registration of individual clones, and the keeping of records to document losses.

John P. Hansel
Founder

American Liberty Elms make their home next to the Liberty Bell

How perfect is this? American Liberty Elms are now growing at the Liberty Bell Center in Independence National Historical Park, Philadelphia, Penn.

The three elms, 20 to 30 feet tall, were planted in May as part of a landscaping project adjacent to the Liberty Bell Center and in front of Independence Hall.

Bryan Hanes, an associate at Olin Partnership, a Philadelphia landscape architecture firm, says this landscaping project is about one-third of the first phase of a three-part master plan for Independence Mall. The mall extends for three city blocks, north of Independence Hall.

The design of this part reflects Colonial Philadelphia and William Penn's idea that the city should be a "green country town," says Bryan, "the idea that everyone should be able to grow fruit trees in their front yards, have a vegetable patch, and grow flowers."

Accordingly, the project includes a grove of fruit trees to convey the idea of a community orchard, one that has evolved. "The orchard is kind of a remnant orchard that has been overtaken by the surrounding landscape," Bryan says, "so that the elm trees, along with some other larger shade trees, are intermixed among the orchard trees as kind of a large organic canopy over the top of the space."

Elms were chosen because of "the desire to use plants that are native to this particular region," Bryan says. "Philadelphia is one of the first cities that began planting street trees, and all over New England and the East Coast, the American elm eventually became the most prominent street tree."

In the 1780s, Independence Square had a double alley of American elms, now gone. The yoke that supports the Liberty Bell is made of elm.

Olin Partnership researched information on disease-resistant elms, and Bryan liked the track record of the Liberty, which has been growing in cities since 1984.

Also, the fact that the Liberty Elm is actually a group of six genetically different clones influenced his decision. "It's genetically diverse, not just one tree," he says, "so it would have a

better chance of survival."

Each year, over four million visitors from all over the world come to the park, which is called America's most historic square mile and birthplace of the nation.

The three elms were planted by Tony DiPietro, Hidden Springs Landscape, Philadelphia.



Liberty Elms with Independence Hall in background - July 2005

Photo courtesy of National Park Service

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Liberty Elm planting highlight of Beal Family Reunion

In June, 2004, Susan Beal bought five American Liberty Elms for a special event.

They were planted as memorials to family members and the many huge old elms that graced "Shadowbrook Farm". This homestead, located in Bennington, Vermont, has been in the family for the past 100 years.

"One tree represents my grandparents, George and Alice Van Santvoord, and the remaining four represent their four children (my uncles, father and aunt) with one tree each for the Ted Beal family, John Beal family, Alger Beal family and Alice Louis (Allelu) Beal family, and all their children and grandchildren," says Susan Beal, organizer of the Beal family reunion and current occupant of Shadowbrook Farm.



Beal family members move Liberty Elms to their new homes

Susan concludes "The reunion was the first this family has had in probably 50 years, and everyone agreed that planting the trees was the highlight." Family members have requested information on the Liberty Elms to pass on to their friends.

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This Liberty Elm recovered from Dutch elm disease!

In 1994, Martin Marietta Laboratories, south of Baltimore ordered 120 American Liberty Elms, 58 for the grounds, and the rest for enthusiastic employees who wanted to plant elms at home. Dr. Joseph R. Pickens, Chief Scientist and Director of Science and Technology, initiated the project.

In 2004, one of the elms at the lab showed signs of Dutch elm disease. But happily, Joe Pickens reported later that the tree was recovering. He sent photos showing "remarkable vigor" and said that three weeks after the photos, the tree had doubled the number of its leaves.

In a recent email, Joe wrote, "The DED Liberty continues to display excellent bounce back and seems quite healthy."

As you may know, Liberty Elms are resistant to DED, not immune. Nevertheless, losses to DED are rare. It's heartening to know, if a tree is diagnosed with the disease, it may not mean a loss will follow.



"The Survivor"



Dr. Pickens beautiful allee of Liberty Elms



Another view of Dr. Pickens allee of Liberty Elms... 60 trees in all!

Are you ready to be a Conscientious Injector?

That's what we call the many dedicated volunteers across the country who preserve older American elms by injecting our Elm Fungicide each year.

If you know of an American elm you'd like to help, you'd do well to notice what's going on in Birmingham, Mich., where American elms line three streets in an older neighborhood. Residents there are protecting American elms from Dutch elm disease.

Eleven years ago, the homeowners' association bought our injection equipment, funding the purchase with a garage sale. Each spring, these neighborhood volunteers would treat over 75 American elms with Elm Fungicide. In 2004, they hired a college student to do the injecting, to speed up the process.

The association sends out a circular, asking residents to donate money to buy the fungicide.

"Many homes don't contribute," Joe Pallischek says, "but we inject all the elms." The elms grow close together, so it looks almost like a walled street. "They're huge monoliths. If we lose any, it would detract from the neighborhood."

The city arborist estimates the trees are between 85 and 90 years old, Joe says. Many are equivalent to four or five stories tall. Taking care of the neighborhood elms "reinforces a sense of community," he says.

WHO CAN DO THIS?

Anyone can—individuals, neighborhoods, towns, colleges and universities, golf courses, cemeteries. You don't have to buy the equipment. Many volunteers rent it from us each spring. Timing is critical; injection must be done in the spring (although it can be done through August) before the emergence of the elm bark beetles that carry the disease fungus.

If your town loves its elms (and what town doesn't?), you could be the one to rally the residents and get a group together to talk with those who are responsible for tree health. Elms beautify a town, and a beautiful town raises community spirit, enriches quality of life, and attracts businesses that improve the economy.

Contact us, and we'll help you in every way to get started with the protective injection of one elm or many.

Now meet more Conscientious Injectors who have this in common: They know how to preserve American elms, and are there for the trees at the right time, injecting Elm Fungicide.

CANTERBURY, NH

"It really looks beautiful," says Kay Cushman of the American elm she and her husband, Ray, call the Canterbury Elm. It grows across from the green, and over 13 years ago the Cushmans began injecting this elm with Elm Fungicide.

They had lost an American elm at their home to Dutch elm disease, so when they noticed the Canterbury Elm looked sickly, they were motivated to find a way to help it. "Everyone—even an arborist—said forget it, you can't save it," Kay recalls. She began a search for information and learned about ERI's injection process.



Volunteer injects mature American elm with ERI's Elm Fungicide

The Cushmans started injections, the elm made a comeback, and they've continued injecting each spring. Now they're hearing, "You've done a great job with that tree."

While they're attaching the equipment, people stop to ask what they're doing. "I wrote on the tag what it is and the ERI phone number," Kay says.

Their annual caretaking has allowed the elm to continue its life and growth. "It's big enough now to be eligible for historic status," Kay says.

TOWNSEND, MA

The six American elms on the town common are 80 to 100 years old, says Tree Warden Don Massucco. He's continuing a program of injections started by his predecessor, so the elms have now been protected for about 24 years. How are they doing?

"Good," says Don. "You can't knock success. The trees are alive. I keep an eye on them, take deadwood out. I'm doing as much as I can for them."

When installation of new curbing threatened to cause removal of one of the elms on the edge of the street, Don managed to have it spared. The new curb stopped on one side of the tree and started again on the other side.

Don waits for the right time to inject the elms. When the leaves are full, he chooses a dry day with a steady breeze. That allows transpiration, when moisture is evaporating from the leaves and the tree is pulling moisture from the roots. With this happening, the pressurized injection takes less time.

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Liberty Elms compliment the Liberty Bell

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A LARGE-SCALE DIG

The three American Liberty Elms had been growing in a nursery tended by Boy Scouts and sponsored by Pfizer, Inc., in Stonington, Conn. The nursery was started under ERI's Johnny Elmseed Nursery program.



Liberty Elms at Independence National Historic Park Philadelphia, PA

Photo courtesy of National Park Service

ERI asked the Harry Johnson Tree Farm, Barnstable, MA to dig the large trees. The farm specializes in selling and handling large trees. Barry Johnson, in charge of the digging, said the trees had 60-inch root balls and were drum-laced for shipping.

"We're pleased to see Liberty Elms used in this project," he said. "I grew up in Centerville, Mass., and Main Street was known as The Green Tunnel because of the large American Elms that lined the street. They were removed in the late 70s because they came down with Dutch elm disease."

Matching Tree Grant program with free Liberty Elms welcomed by cities and universities

Your city, local university, or alma mater could soon be planting free American Liberty Elms, thanks to our Matching Tree Grant Program.

That's what's been happening recently in the cities of Grosse Pointe, MI; Grosse Point Woods, MI.; Springfield, MO; and the Town of Marblehead, MA.

And on these campuses: Yale University, Penn State University, and Southwest Missouri State University.

And at our national historic parks: Independence National Historic Park, Philadelphia, PA.

HERE'S HOW OUR MATCHING TREE GRANT PROGRAM WORKS

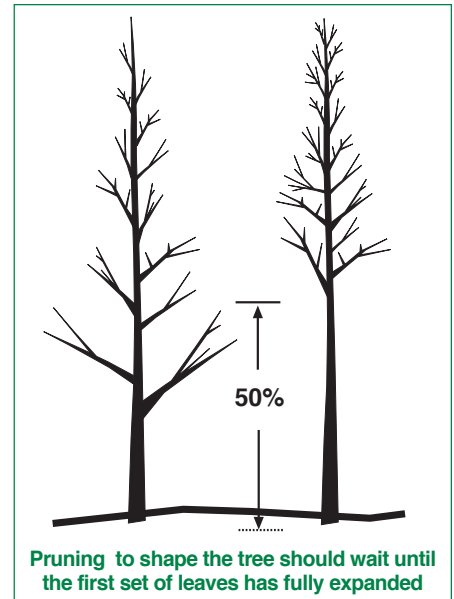
- Elm purchases may be made by anyone
- For every inch of caliper purchased (in trees 2-inch caliper and larger), we donate a one-inch caliper tree, approximately six feet in height, valued at \$150
- The purchaser will present the free trees as a gift to a city, university, or college, for planting on public property
- The recipients of these gifts pay only for their shipping

Isn't this a great idea? If you're ready to buy trees, free elms could soon be on their way to special places of your choice. Pass this idea along to anyone planning to buy trees, and just contact us for ordering forms.

Essential care of elms

A little work done in the growing season will greatly benefit the health of your Liberty Elm.

Fertilize young trees (up to 15 ft. tall.) Use 1-2 lbs. Of 10-10-10 per 100 sq. foot area (as measured by the drip-line of the tree.) Older trees can be fertilized every 2-4 years, depending on soil fertility.



Pruning to shape the tree can be done as soon as the first set of leaves has fully expanded. This reduces excess sap bleeding which can invite insect and fungal problems. However, any dead branches or winter-kill should be removed as soon as possible.

Insect problems can be reduced with insecticides. Most sucking insect pests on young trees can be eliminated with an insecticidal spray applied as the leaves are expanding, and again in two weeks. Use Sevin, Marlate or Orthene. Adding a fungicide (such as Zyban, Ditahne or Captan) at this time will greatly reduce leaf spot later in the season.

Do not over mulch your trees. Too much mulch smothers the trees feeder roots. Against the bark, it harbors moisture and insects that can rot the base of the tree. Two inches of wood chips or bark mulch is more than adequate to eliminate weeds, hold soil moisture in and keep the weed trimmer away from the tree.

Proprietors preserve New Haven Green and its elms

In terms of preserving the heart of a community, the New Haven Green in New Haven, CT, has a unique group of protectors whose tradition goes back over 200 years.

Known as The Proprietors of the Common and Undivided Lands, these five people serve as proprietors for life.

Proprietor Anne Tyler Calabresi says, "Technically, we own the green. It

injects all the elms, old and new, for protection against disease and recommends pruning when needed. "This year, we didn't lose any trees," says Calabresi, "which is wonderful. It's the first year ever that we haven't lost a tree. We are concentrating on making sure the trees survive."

The green is the center of a busy area. On the southwest side along Chapel St. are stores, bars and other commercial

properties. On the other sides are Yale's Old Campus, the New Haven Free Public Library, the city hall and courthouse.

The green hosts public events, jazz and classical music concerts in the summer and other activities.

Many streets used to be lined with

elms, giving New Haven the name Elm City. "The elms grow quickly," says Calabresi, "so they were very big at the end of the 19th century. The city was very beautiful. The old pictures were just gorgeous."

With the proprietors' attention to the green, the beauty of its elms will be perpetuated.

As the first planned town in America, New Haven was laid out in a grid of nine squares around a huge central square, which was the town common. It belonged to everyone, and people turned their cows out on it at night.

NOTE: *Since Liberty Elms are disease-resistant it is not necessary to inject them with Elm Fungicide.*



Windows overlooking the New Haven Green

Photo courtesy of The Hartford Courant

isn't owned by the city of New Haven, although we act as a municipal park in some ways, and the parks department helps to maintain it. It was set up so that, inadvertently, we've been sort of a preservation society for the green all these years."

One of the features they're preserving is a double row of American elms surrounding the upper green, which has been supplemented by new elms. "The Liberty Elm is the elm we've used on the green," says Calabresi.

Those trees came from a nursery started years ago by a garden club. Now the proprietors are discussing the possibility of starting a new elm nursery.

Several times a year, the proprietors meet with Peter Tyrell from Care of Trees in Hamden, Conn. Tyrell

Comments and feedback from ERI members

"The Liberty Elms are looking beautiful. Their growth is fantastic. They fill out fast and really do the job, you'll see a line of trees and all of the sudden you see the Liberty Elm and it's beautiful."

*Mark Ketchum, Tree Warden
Shelter Island, NY (1/05)*

"The Libertys have the only true elm form. From what I have seen they are doing great." (Liberty Elms are planted along Elm Camino.)

*Bob Disco, Forestry Dept.
City of Burlingame, CA (1/05)*

"Our Liberty Elms are excellent. They are about 15 ft. tall. Liberty Elms are perfect for our main thoroughfares. We have planted them in our 4 ft. lawn strip where there is heavy soil compaction and only 2 ft. between lawn strip and the sidewalk. We want to plant 88 more."

*Wayne Doolittle, Director
South Bend Historic Preservation
South Bend, IN (1/05)*

"The (Liberty) elm trees that we planted have grown beautifully. (Over the top of our three story house.) I wanted to thank you and let you know about their progress."

Dorothy Serpe

"The Liberty Elm I planted ten years ago is 20 ft tall after ten years. It is beautiful and is the talk of the neighborhood."

*Albert Olshenske
Pittsburgh, PA*

A Living Legacy

What better legacy than a long-lived (200-300 years) American Liberty Elm? Your gift to future generations will become a part of your family's heritage... imagine your great-great-grandchildren playing in the shade of the elms which *you* planted!

**Just call us at 800-367-3567
to assure your place in the future.**

Conscientious Injector

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MILLIS, MA

"It's been extremely successful," John Alexander says.

The Alexanders are treating seven American elms that are growing around their home. Their property originally had two elms, and they added more non-resistant elms, "because we wanted elm trees and we had a daughter who was doing landscape work. We got the elms from her."



Majestic elms shade an avenue in Birmingham, MI

They knew right from the start they'd inject all the elms they acquired. "This part of the country has suffered severe elm disease," John says.

John estimates their oldest elm is now 20 to 25 years old, and they've treated it for 17 springs. "A beautiful American elm," he says, "an 80-foot tree." The rest are 6 to 15 years old and 35 to 40 feet tall.

On the spring day when we talked with John he said, "We're injecting right now. As soon as the trees come to full leaf, we inject."

FAR HILLS, NJ

The house at Elm Hill Farm is the oldest in the township, built in 1734.

"We currently have in our yard area eight Liberty Elms of various ages and two beautiful large elms from the early 1800s or before," says Robert L. Matthews.

The two older elms are registered with ERI's Honor Roll of Historic Elms. Robert estimates their height at 60 feet. He started injecting them about 20 years ago because, he explains, "They are magnificent!"

He says of the injection, "It clearly has preserved them."

The trees are inspected and pruned for deadwood in January or February each year, and a tree service sprays them. The elms have been cabled to prevent storm damage and to protect the house.

The two old elms have been infected with Dutch elm disease twice. "Quick response with pruning infected areas and added injection of fungicide has saved them," he says, "and no after-effects are visible. Both specimens continue to show healthy leafing and new growth each year of 10 to 14 inches."

Robert says, "As you probably surmise at this point, I love these beautiful trees. My heartfelt thanks to Elm Research Institute for their professional advice and development of the Liberty Elm for the enjoyment of future generations."

INJECTOR & FUNGICIDE

Rental per working day: \$30 with no charge for time in transit. Customer pays UPS both ways. (\$60.00 deposit required - \$50 refundable upon return. Non refundable portion pays for outbound shipment.) *Rental injectors not returned within 60 days are considered "sold" and billed outstanding balance.*

Fungicide is \$45 per gallon also available in a 5 gallon pail at \$190 per pail... prices include shipping & handling. **NOTE:** Therapeutic Rate of Application is 1 gal. per 8 ft. tree circumference (use 1/2 gal. for Preventive Rate).

Elm Fungicide is used as a preventative and therapeutic treatment for Dutch elm disease in non-resistant elms.

Beal Family Reunion

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Planting Family Trees is just one way you can leave a living legacy. The event doesn't have to be a family reunion, it can be a wedding anniversary or a town anniversary. We encourage you to consider planting many trees in your lifetime.

Please use the sample "letter to the Editor" (below) to encourage others to do the same.

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Dear Editor,

Subject: What can I do to make a difference?

Recently, I have been thinking of some direct and substantive way to show my support for conservation projects. Even though I make regular contributions to several worthwhile groups, it seemed as though I could be doing more, something tangible, visible and of lasting value.

Writing a check once a year isn't really enough to break a sweat. I knew that I needed to get my hands dirty and somehow help future generations, fulfilling my legacy, you might say. So, what could the world want from me? After sorting through several options, I decided that planting a tree is a benefit to everybody for a long time to come.

Actually, I am determined to plant several one to honor our wedding anniversary, trees to mark the birth of our grandchildren and another tree marking the 250th year of our town's founding. Perhaps my alma mater would appreciate a commemorative tree or two. Seems like I won't have any problem finding meaningful occasions to plant trees throughout the years.

Order the trees and man the shovel is my battle cry now! I would encourage every reader to get involved. Plant a tree (or two or three) for the enjoyment and appreciation of future generations. It is a living legacy which will leave the world a better and more beautiful place.

Signed