



Richmond Tree Stewards *Tree-Mail*

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VOLUME 1, NUMBER 1

***Volunteers for
the Urban
Forest***

Community Service Award

On March 13, Richmond City Council presented its Official Community Service Award to the Richmond Tree Stewards. The award summary is below:

"To recognize, honor and celebrate Richmond Tree Stewards for their service on behalf of Richmond residents, and thank the certified individuals and the organization for their work in helping to make Richmond an even better, healthier, and more beautiful place to live, work, learn, love, visit and raise a family".

Parker Agelasto, Councilman from 5th District and Tree Stewards at City Council



Photo Credit: Steve Skinner

Thank you volunteers!!

Recent Projects

During the past few months we have worked in Jackson Ward, along the median of Monument Avenue, in Libby Hill park and in Bryan Park. Plantings from community roots projects have taken place in the Fonticello Food Forest (Carter Jones Park), Scotts Addition, William Fox Elementary and in Libby Hill Park. We've touched 579 trees and put in 375 volunteer pruning hours since January 1.



2017 Class Update

Our 2017 Class sessions have just ended. We have an enthusiastic group of students that have already put in 113 volunteer hours. To become Certified Tree Stewards, class members each have to complete 20 volunteer hours, of which 10 need to be pruning hours, complete a pruning test, and propose and complete a simple tree care project. As students, these volunteers have been contributing to the health of our urban forest right away during their training. As Certified Tree Stewards they will be able to propose tree care projects for the community. We look forward to the new class members becoming Certified Tree Stewards.

Tree Stewards, remember to report your volunteer hours!!

Belle Isle Update

This beautiful and historic island hosts nearly three quarters of a million visitors each year. Unfortunately, there are large numbers of invasive shrubs, vines and trees that cover portions of the island. The Richmond Tree Stewards are continuing to assist in invasive species removal and to plant native species to restore the island to its natural habitat. The non-natives species include, among other things, English ivy, privet, Japanese honeysuckle, winter creeper and ailanthus.

Catherine Farmer coordinates this effort for the Tree Stewards. She and dedicated volunteers, including Tree Stewards and other members of the community, continue to remove invasive species and open up new and beautiful views of the river. Work days take place on most Thursday mornings.

For this project, we welcome community volunteers who can sign up through Hands on Richmond. If you haven't visited Belle Isle in a while, you'll notice the difference!

Check our website for further information on how you can help.

Coming Up...

Check Sign Up Genius for details on these and other upcoming events.

4/15 Tree Stewards at South of the James Farmer's Market, Forest Hill Park

4/22 Earth Day

4/23 Tree Stewards at WCVU Explore the Outdoors, Huguenot Park (fun kid event!)

5/6 Tree Stewards at St. Stephens Farmer's Market, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

Tree Trivia

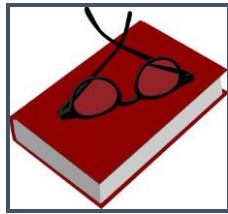
***Osage Orange
"trees growing in
Philadelphia and at
the University of
Virginia are said to
be direct
descendants of the
cuttings sent back
by Meriwether
Lewis".***

***Osage orange was
probably the Lewis
and Clark
expedition's most
significant botanical
discovery...***

***Read more at
[Smithsonian
Magazine](#)***

Next time you're in Forest Hill Park, check out the Osage Orange trees growing near the Stone House. It's included in the Richmond Tree Steward Tree Walk.

[Forest Hill Park Tree Walk](#)



Our Reading List

Below are a few tree related books we've come across recently that may be of interest to you. If you have a title you'd like to share let us know.

Urban Forests: A Natural History of Trees and People in the American Cityscape by Jill Jonnes

Jill Jonnes is the author of *Urban Forests*, *Eiffel's Tower*, *Conquering Gotham*, *Empires of Light*, and *South Bronx Rising*. She was named a National Endowment for the Humanities scholar and has received several grants from the Ford Foundation.

American Canopy by Eric Rutkow

This book's full title is *American Canopy: Trees, Forests, And the Making of a Nation*. This author's first book, it tells the story of the relationship between Americans and trees over the course of the country's history.

About Us



Contact information

Tree Stewards are here to assist with the care of the urban forest, assist other groups with planning and planting and to provide community education.

- Can we provide a presentation for your neighborhood organization?
- Would you like to join us?
- Have other questions or tree related needs?

Contact us at contact@richmondtreestewards.org

Richmond Tree Stewards, PO. Box 27222, Richmond Va.23261-7222

Web links:

We're on the Web! richmondtreestewards.org



Tree Steward Mission Statement

The mission of Richmond's trained volunteer Tree Stewards is to promote and improve the health of city trees to assure the city's forest will survive and thrive. This is accomplished by increasing public awareness through community education, planning and planting for the future, and providing maintenance and care for young trees on streets and in parks. Tree Stewards work closely with Urban Forestry and with other organizations interested in the health of our community forest.