

26 April /95

ZOOWOODS

A great deal has been happening since our last entry in Zoonews. Many of them were reported at the last staff meeting. For those of you that missed the news, we have decided on a name for our project, ZOOWOODS, a logo, and landscape design.

You may have noticed that there has been some work done on the site on the southeast corner of the building. However, we cannot begin with the level of enthusiasm we would like because we are still waiting for final word from Simcoe Hall to provide funding to finance the labour and supplies necessary to put the design in place. If the response from Simcoe Hall is positive, and we are very optimistic that it will be, then you can expect to see significant changes in the very near future. We will keep you posted.

As you can see from the report below, the plants in ZOOWOODS are not waiting to hear if we have approval to continue. They are starting without us. We hope you will go to the site, if you have not already done so, and see what is emerging. We also ask that if you do see anything in the garden that you feel would be of interest to others in the Department, please let us know.

Biological Report

On 20 April 1995, the first native wildflower bloomed in ZOOWOODS. After possibly 1.5 centuries of no native wildflowers on this site, five robust specimens of blue cohosh came into bloom.

For the first few weeks all the above ground parts of the blue cohosh, including its flowers, are a vivid bluish purple colour. Later the leaves and stem turn green, but the flowers retain their original colour. Blue cohosh, *Caulophyllum thalictroides*, is a woodland perennial in the Berberidaceae (Barberry) Family. There are only two species in this genus, one in eastern North America and the other in eastern Asia. Watch for the naked seeds in mid-summer.

These plants were among approximately 300 assorted wild plants rescued from the bulldozer at a subdivision project in the Altona Forest in September 1994. About 90% of those rescued plants have survived the winter and are now pioneering the ground in our experimental maple/beech site.

Jim Hodgins (Chair)
Rufus Churcher

Janet Mannone
Steve Smith

Patricia Williams
Ann Zimmerman

10 May /95

ZOOWOODS

WE'RE UNDER WAY!

As you may have noticed, construction has begun on ZOOWOODS. A number of you asked us about the piles of concrete that were put on our site. These came from other construction areas on campus. Rather than having all of that material dumped at a landfill site, we are recycling it into our garden. At first it may seem contrary to our natural approach to this project. However, attempts to reuse material certainly fits with being environmentally responsible. The concrete is primarily being used to act as substrate to a berm being created along the south wall. The concrete allows us to do a lot of building at virtually no cost. Soil will eventually be put over the concrete so that the majority of it is hidden. The wall is being constructed with a number of spaces between the slabs to allow for root growth and places for animals to inhabit.

In spite of our efforts to keep the costs of the garden to a minimum, there are items that will require real money. We were very happy to hear this week that the labour costs are being provided by Facilities and Services and we will be receiving some funding from Simcoe Hall. However, a proportion of the cost has to come from other sources. Dr. Desser has made a donation on behalf of the Department and we were successful in getting funds from the Evergreen Foundation. We will continue to apply to outside agencies for funds, but we hope that members of the Department will also be willing to support this project. We have already had personal donations made by a few members of the Department. In the near future, we will be approaching everyone and hope that you will want to help make this project a great success.

We are also inviting all of you to donate additional native plants from the maple/beech habitat. We would especially appreciate spring beauty, wood anemone, bloodroot, leaks, mayapple, hepatica early meadow rue, foamflower and ferns.

Below we have noted more information on what is currently happening in ZOOWOODS from a botanical point of view. We would like everyone to go out and see what is growing and blooming. Unfortunately, that is not always possible right now because of the fence that has gone up due to construction. With that in mind, Jim Hodgins has agreed to give a weekly tour of the garden starting the week of 22 May. We will give details later of the exact day and time.

Biological Report

More native flowers have bloomed in ZOOWOODS. They include broad-leaved sedge (*Carex plantaginoides*) on 30 April, Pennsylvania sedge (*Carex pensylvanica*) on 4 May, bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*) on 3 May and bellwort (*Uvularia grandiflora*) on 5 May. Currently in bud but not in bloom are white trillium, eastern columbine and mayapple. The mature specimens of witchhazel and flowering dogwood survived the winter and are quite healthy.

23 May 195

ZOOWOODS

Another Plant Rescue

There will be another plant rescue for the garden on **Wednesday, 24 May**. It will be at Bloomington and Bayview. Meeting time is 9:30 a.m. If you wish to help, Jim Hodgins will be there to meet you. Please keep in mind that this rescue is on your own time. If you have some holiday time coming and you would like to get some wildflowers for your own garden while helping get what we need for ZOOWOODS, please come out, get some sun and fresh air. Help develop our landscape and yours!

For more information, please contact Jim Hodgins at 5246.

24 May / 95

ZOOWOODS

Our First Tour

We are happy to say that the first tour of the garden will be this Friday, 26 May at noon. Please meet Jim Hodgins on the site and he will walk you around it and point out all that is alive and well in ZOOWOODS.

Biological Report

The soil amelioration program for ZOOWOODS is having some success. There is now a large and healthy population of sowbugs and earthworms residing primarily in the upper, very moist, duff layer of deciduous leaves. We plan to do a microfungi soil survey in the near future as the quantity and variety of microfungi present are bioindicators of soil health.

And the flowers just keep coming. We have foamflower (15 May), eastern columbine (rare albino form) (16 May), baneberry or doll's eyes (18 May), and flowering dogwood (rarely blooms in Toronto; is this an indicator of global warming?) (18 May). Also on 18 May, the shagbark hickory, which was planted by Roberta Bondar last fall, had leaves and scarlet bracts unfurl. The presence of carrion vine became apparent on 20 May.

2 Aug/95

ZOOWOODS

We Need Your Help!

Hopefully everyone has noticed that construction for the garden is well under way. The flagstone path is in, the pond has been dug and the liner put in place. We are anticipating the arrival of approximately 300 wildflowers and ferns to be transplanted some time this week (perhaps this will have already happened by the time you read this).

The native plants that will be arriving are able to withstand a fairly broad range of environmental conditions when they are established. However, in the early stages they need some assistance. Therefore, we are looking for volunteers within the department that will help with watering and weeding. If you would like to get involved, please contact Steve Smith (Rm 336, -5303), Jim Rising (Rm 418, - 3482) or Janet Mannone (Rm 422, -8879) for more information.

Thank you in advance for coming out on behalf of ZOOWOODS. Also, thank you to everyone who has made positive comments to us about the work that has already been done on the garden. Your support is greatly appreciated.

16 Aug. /95

ZOOWOODS

Money Doesn't Grow On Trees (We Wish It Did!)

In the near future, we will begin advertising for our fund raising event for the garden. Before we do this, however, we feel it is important to explain the full financial picture for ZOOWOODS.

Our first budgetary concern was paying for the landscape design of the garden which cost us \$450.00. We were able to this through the generous personal donations of members of the department along with a \$150.00 contribution from the Women in Zoology. After this, we had to arrange the monies for the construction of the garden.

The budgeted cost for this project is \$15,000.00. This includes everything you have seen so far, plants, pond liner, flagstone, soil and labour, as well as things to come, lighting, benches and garbage containers. The breakdown of the budget is as follows:

Simcoe Hall (Planning and Budget)	\$8400.00
Facilities and Services	\$4000.00
Department of Zoology	\$1500.00
Duthie Memorial	\$1100.00

Simcoe Hall is providing the largest portion of the funding while Facilities and Services is paying for the labour. The Duthie Memorial is a private donation by a gentleman whose mother was a student in our department many years ago. She recently passed away and he gave the money to Simcoe Hall to have a tree planted in her name. When asked if the money could go into ZOOWOODS instead, Mr. Duthie enthusiastically agreed for that to happen. As you can see, Zoology is responsible for \$1500.00 - only one-tenth of the total cost. We were able to raise \$300.00 of this from an outside agency and \$500.00 has been donated by the department. This means we are left to raise \$700.00. If everyone were to contribute, it would only be \$2.50 per person!

We hope that you will support this project to make it a success and allow us all to enjoy ZOOWOODS for years to come!

Janet Mannone (Chairman)
Jacquie Bede

Jim Rising
Steve Smith

Patricia Williams
Ann Zimmerman

20 Sept. /95

ZOOWOODS

Fund Raising Success

We are happy to inform everyone that our fund raiser for ZOOWOODS was very successful. We do not have an absolute final number, but we estimate that we made approximately \$650 on the lunch, booksale, bakesale and donation table. Special thanks must go to all of the people that helped in all of these areas. We wish we could mention each of you by name, but there are too many to do so.

Prior to 15 September, we had a number of members of the department (as well as a few from outside of the department) donate money towards the garden. We raised \$300 this way! This gives us a grand total of approximately \$950. Although we had previously told you that we needed to raise \$700, that was increased to \$1200 because we had to buy a stock of merchandise to sell. With \$250 more to go, we're not out of the woods yet (:-)), but very pleased with the progress we have made to date. We still have plenty of plastic mugs left and we are still taking orders for the ceramic mugs, computer mouse pads and hats. If you wish to see the products and/or place an order, please see Janet Mannone in Rm 422 or call her at 978-8879.

We would like to thank everyone who helped make Friday a financially successful day, as well as a fun, social day.

Needles and Leaves - A Landscaping Request

We have just received the results of a soil analysis on samples taken from the SE corner of the building where the Departmental landscaping project has begun. The upper 4 cm soil horizon is pH 8.0, the lower 6 cm horizon is 8.2. These are rather hostile soil conditions for the optimal health of a maple/beech forest which normally would be in the 6.5 to 7.0 range. Your Landscape Committee has been ameliorating the soil with massive additions of fall leaves. To lower the soil pH even faster we are asking members of the Zoology Department to bring in bags of evergreen needles (any species) and oak leaves. About 8 large bags are needed this season. Just bring them in and leave the bags inside the orange construction fence. We will spread the material around.

On another note, if you are aware of any natural areas slated for destruction (development) within a 60 km radius of Toronto, please inform Jim Hodgins at 5246. We still need 100-200 herbaceous natives of woodland origin and would like to take advantage of all opportunities to obtain more plants.

Zoology Landscape Committee