



# Tree-Planting and Recycling:

## Cornerstones of Scouting Programs

by Marg Routledge

**T**hink about what it means to plant a tree. It's an act of hope and optimism for the future. It's also a valuable addition to the environment.

Scouting members have planted millions of seedlings in parks and conservation areas across the country since the 1920s. Scouting uses the outdoors as a means of building character and citizenship. We recognize our own obligation to develop a personal outdoor code of ethics and practices, and we encourage members to adopt standards that are environmentally sound and sensitive.

That's why Scouts Canada formalized tree planting in our program in 1974, and went into it in a big way. First we called our tree-planting efforts, "Trees for Canada", then we changed it in the 1990s to "Scoutrees for Canada".

We did all the organizing, and designed special materials because our members saw the vital importance of planting more trees in our nation.

### The Facts

Scouts Canada members have planted over 70 million seedlings since 1974. That's production! The "take rate" (seedlings that live after planting) is an amazing 70 percent. Foresters tell us that if they get 40 percent they think that is good. That's performance.

Thousands of acres of waste and eroded land have been reclaimed due to our efforts. That's concern.

Recreation and wildlife sanctuaries have been enhanced, and animal and bird life have been given shelter, food and protection. That's good stewardship.

Scouts Canada's image and visibility have improved and expanded because of the wide coverage given to us by media. That's coverage.

Thousands of youth members have gained countless badges through their participation in Scoutrees. That's exciting.

Our membership has gained a greater appreciation for the environment, a deeper realization of the need for conservation and an understanding of the need for wise use of our resources. That's training.

If all seedlings planted throughout the years were set one metre apart, they would not only make the longest

**"T**his little tree will help scrub the atmosphere clean."



Photo: Mary Stevens

windbreak in the world, but would stretch from St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador to Victoria, British Columbia and back again several times. That's amazing, but it's a fact.

Scouts in developing and third world countries such as Senegal, Kenya, Honduras, Chad, Guatemala, Korea, Bangladesh, Peru, Columbia, Ecuador, Rwanda, Bolivia, Sri Lanka, Venezuela, and many more have been helped directly through your efforts by participating in Scouttrees. That's caring.

Fifteen percent of the total monies raised across the country go into the Canadian Scout Brotherhood Fund, which is designed to help less fortunate Scouts throughout the world. Scouts and other young people in the countries already mentioned learn basic skills and trades, attend schools and courses – all designed to improve their quality of life. That's sharing.

### Environmental Stewardship and Recycling

In addition to planting trees, Scouts Canada members practise, and are involved in, many environmental activities. Let's consider several.

#### Land Stewardship Practices

Promoting the wise use of our natural resources is critical to maintaining a well-balanced environment for the future. Scouting seeks to be good stewards of any lands under our con-

## CONNECT THE PROVINCE TO THE TREE

Every province and territory, except Yukon and Nunavut, has a provincial tree. Draw a line from the province/territory on the left to the tree species on the right, and discuss your answers afterwards.

Provinces/Territories	Tree Types
Ontario	White Birch
Quebec	White Spruce
Nova Scotia	Yellow Birch
New Brunswick	Jack Pine
Manitoba	Western Red Cedar
British Columbia	Balsam Fir
Prince Edward Island	Red Spruce
Saskatchewan	Black Spruce
Alberta	Lodgepole Pine
Newfoundland and Labrador	Red Oak
Northwest Territories	Eastern White Pine

Tree Quiz Answers:

Ontario: Eastern White Pine. Quebec: Yellow Birch. Nova Scotia: Red Spruce. New Brunswick: Balsam Fir. Manitoba: White Spruce. British Columbia: Western Red Cedar. Prince Edward Island: Red Oak. Saskatchewan: White Birch. Alberta: Lodgepole Pine. Newfoundland and Labrador: Black Spruce. Northwest Territories: Jack Pine.

trol, whether it involves protecting fragile habitats, practising conservation management, or enhancing areas for future use by wildlife and people.

#### Waste Management Practices

Scouting is actively working to initiate, incorporate and find innovative

ways to educate and involve its members in reducing, reusing and recycling waste programs.

#### International Community Development

When it supports Scouting community projects in the developing world,



Photo: Scouts Canada archives

Scouts Canada assists individuals and groups within a community to improve the quality of life for themselves and the community at large. For example, fish farming, safe drinking water projects, soil management and reforestation plans improve the quality of life and reduce stress on the environment. We accomplish these programs as a direct result of the Scoutrees program.

#### Endangered Species

Scouting works to educate our members on endangered species and provide every opportunity and guidance for our members to assist in helping endangered species recover from the brink of extinction.

#### Energy Conservation

The wise use of energy can ultimately lessen demand and stress put on our environment. Scouting strives to educate and involve its members in programs, which demonstrate the benefits of reducing non-essential or wasteful energy consumption in any form.



Photo: Steven Thompson

If your group members need a break while planting trees, try some of these activities.

#### Make a Tree Placemat

Go for a hike and collect various sizes of leaves. Back at your meeting place, dry them off and arrange them on a piece of white paper (11" x 14"). When you're happy with the arrangement on the page, put a tiny bit of glue under each leaf in the center. (See diagram)

Write across the top of the placemat, "Save Our Forests", as well as the child's name.

With markers, stickers and glitter, finish decorating the placemats with a forest scene. When everyone is finished, cut two pieces of mac-tac (clear, plastic adhesive sheets sold in hardware and craft stores) slightly larger than the placemat and press it onto the top and bottom, sealing in the leaves. Make sure you don't get any trapped air pockets under the mac-tac.

#### Recycling's in Our Blood

As a Movement, Scouting has been in the recycling business long before it became popular. Throughout the 1920s and 1930s, Scouts cleaned up the environment and their campsites, recycling items when possible.

**"He who plants a tree is a servant of God. He provides a kindness for many generations. Faces that he has not seen will bless him or her."**

— Henry van Dyke

During World War II, Scouts collected tin, steel and metal scraps to help the war effort. These were recycled into helmets and airplanes. Then in the 1950s and 1960s, Scouts

collected newspaper so they could be shredded and used as packing for boxes. This saved huge stands of trees – living plants that scrubbed the atmosphere clean of pollutants.

In the 1970s and 1980s, Scouts add glass to their long list of products to collect and recycle. This effort taught environmental responsibility, and got our members in the forefront of environmental awareness campaigns. Recently, Scouting members have started recycling Christmas trees. Recycled Christmas trees are now used as mulch in public parks.

Over the decades, wherever people were trying to improve the environment, that's where you always found Scouting members. What a terrific tradition we're building in youth members. Go on... let's continue. This spring, plant some trees. Not only will it make Canada more beautiful, but it will help clean the environment.

— Marg Routledge, an avid tree-planter and recycler, Scouts in Greater Toronto Region.

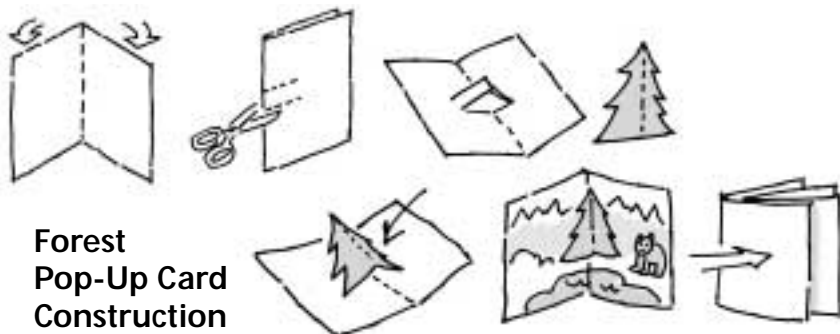
## Activities for Dig Day

from Leader files

#### Frozen Tree Tag

Beavers will find this game fun; play it as you would frozen tag. When IT touches someone, that person freezes in place. The person tagged, however, must hold his or her arms

out like the branches of a tree, and stand on only one leg. A person gets unfrozen when someone who has not been tagged touches him or her. Assign several players as IT; this will keep the game going at a lively pace.



Forest Pop-Up Card Construction

If a tagged person falls or touches a second leg to the ground, that person also becomes IT.

### Hunt the Acorn

Play this game at the meeting before your tree-planting expedition. Ask all Beavers to leave the room. Now hide a nut somewhere in the room where it is visible to everyone. (*Allergy alert! Don't use a nut if anyone in your group is allergic to nuts. Substitute a leaf or a paper cut-out of a tree.*)

When your Beavers come back into the room, they must look for the nut. When they see it, they are not to race over and yell out its location, but instead, walk to the middle of the room and quietly sit down until all members have located the nut.

### Forest Pop-Up Card

This pop-up card craft is advanced enough for White Tail Beavers and Cubs. Start with a piece of stiff card stock or construction paper. Fold the paper in half. Make two parallel cuts of equal length from the folded side. (See diagram) Push these through into the card, then cut out a tree figure to glue on the pop-up.

Make more parallel cuts, once again starting from the folded side. Glue on more trees, then colour in the background and foreground so you have a beautiful three-dimensional forest scene. In the foreground you might want to colour a beaver pond.

Glue a backing on your card, but be careful not to anchor the pop-up figures to the paper.

### Make a Herbarium Card Collection

This activity will make older Beavers and Cubs more familiar with various types of trees in your neighbourhood. You will need index cards, glue sticks, markers, mac-tac, and scissors.

Give each youth ten index cards. Ask everyone in your group to collect and identify 10 different tree leaves that they collect on a hike. Record where the leaf was found, the date, the youth's name and the tree species on the *lined* side of the index card.

On the *blank* side of the card, touch a bit of glue from a glue stick to the leaf, and press the leaf onto the card. Cut two pieces of clear mac-tac (2 cm wider than the card), then peel off the mac-tac backing. Sandwich the card between the two mac-tac pieces, making sure to press all the air out of the card as you seal the ends. Trim the edges with scissors.

### Tree Fridge Magnet

Let your Beavers or young Cubs cut a maple leaf shape out of colourful construction paper. Artists should write their name on their leaf before decorating the leaf. When complete, let Keo help glue a small magnet strip to the back of the leaf.

It's easy to adapt almost any game or craft to a tree theme. Before Dig Day, plan a full evening's program around a tree theme. It will help your Scoutree planting event have more significance. X

## DID YOU KNOW...?

- F One large tree can provide a day's oxygen for up to four people.
- F Each day, a full-sized tree can absorb nearly 75 percent of the carbon produced by the average car.
- F One hectare of Christmas trees produce enough oxygen to support 45 people.
- F A view of trees help hospital patients recover more quickly.

## Things You Can Find on Trees

by Ruth Dubeau

**D**uring a hike, look closely at tree bark. Can you see any lichens? These are tiny plants that sometimes grow on bare rock. All they need is sunlight, water and a very little bit of nourishment. If you see lots of lichens growing on a tree or rock, it probably indicates a fairly pollution-free environment.

Spiders hide in cracks in the bark. Can you find any? Perhaps you can locate some cob web. Many other insects lay their eggs in tree bark cracks, which offer protection. That's why you sometimes see birds climbing around bark; they're looking for insect eggs, live bugs and larvae to eat.

Knots in wood indicate where a branch used to grow.

Before ending your examination of tree bark, rub a pencil over a piece of white paper on the bark. Are the bark patterns different from bark rubbings of other trees? How do they differ (e.g. vertical lines, wide cracks, soft or rough feel to the bark)?

— Ruth Dubeau hikes around North Bay, ON, with her Beavers.

## FOREST BOWLING

by Hazel Hallgren

**U**sing stiff, green bristol board, cut out five ever-green tree shapes about 45 cm tall. Glue each tree silhouette to an empty, small soup can which will support the tree in an upright position. (See diagram)

Place the trees in a bowling-like pattern on the ground, and see how many tennis balls it takes for youth members to knock over all the trees.

— Hazel Hallgren bowls with Beavers in Red Deer, AB.

