Tim Parsons, Landscape Horticulturist, Leads Tree Tour

If the Princeton Review had a category for “Best Landscape Horticulturist” in its yearly rankings, then Middlebury College certainly would have received top honors for that, in addition to having the best professors. As Tim Parsons, the College’s Landscape Horticulturist, led what he called a “twilight tree tour” late last month, all participating could tell that Tim loves his job, and he really knows his stuff.

As president of the Vermont Nursery and Landscape Association (VNLA), Tim invited association members to campus to view many of the beautiful, some state award-winning trees dotting the main campus. They are “specimen trees,” which Tim describes as, “It’s the one fanatics on the walk were taking pictures of. It’s the one on the side of the road I almost slug Nancy (Tim’s wife) in the jaw pointing to as we speed past at 50 mph in our van.” He also provides the Arbor Day foundation’s definition of “A tree placed so people can gain the greatest enjoyment for the color, texture, scent, or other pleasures it provides.” Tim’s enthusiasm for these trees really comes out when he describes a specimen tree as “a tree in the landscape that won the competition, that is out on its own in the landscape, showing off its true form, lacking competition from its neighbors… a focal point.”

Tim estimates that he has been in the profession for 22 years, and he’s been a Vermont Certified Horticulturist for the last 15. His bachelor’s degree is in Plant and Soil Science with a co-major in Environmental Studies at the University of Vermont. Before coming to the College two years ago, Tim was the garden center manager at Greenhaven for almost a decade. His various jobs before that included caretaking/landscaping in Charlotte, running his own landscaping business, and working as a landscape designer for a firm now closed.

For the College, Tim’s job includes designing and overseeing the installation “with lots of help from our crew,” says Tim, of all new plantings around campus. Just this spring they planted over 20 trees in addition to the

(Article continues on page 3)
Learning Opportunity for All Staff

Middlebury College partners with Vermont Adult Learning each year to provide our staff with a great learning opportunity. From September through May, staff members may receive free confidential sessions to help strengthen their skills in one or more of the following areas:

- Reading
- Writing
- Grammar
- Math
- English as a second language
- Working toward a GED

Classes are held once per week for one hour between 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. and are paid time. Approval and coordination of schedules is necessary through your supervisor. Class size is tailored to individual needs and can range in size from one-on-one instruction to groups of three to six. The instructors will contact each student prior to scheduling the sessions to determine the student’s goals, then will set up the classes in the best way to accomplish them.

Since availability is limited, employees will be accepted into the program on a first come–first served basis. If you are interested in participating, please contact your supervisor and Sheila Andrus, Training Manager, at x5190 or sandrus@middlebury.edu.

Milestones are determined by years of uninterrupted employment at Middlebury College. The following milestones were attained in August 2008:

5 YEARS

- Steven Bertolino
  Library and Information Services
- Robert Cameron
  Facilities Services
- Jason Chance
  Ski School
- Laurie Corey
  College Advancement
- Franklin Dean-Farrar
  Athletics
- Derek Doucet
  Campus Activities and Leadership
- Brian Dunlop
  Athletics
- Peter Kim
  Athletics

10 YEARS

- Scott Barnicle
  Commons Office - Atwater
- Chae-Hui Blair
  Dining Services
- Claudette Latreille
  Dining Services
- Noreen Pecskok
  Athletics
- Ian Pounds
  Bread Loaf Writers’ Conference
- Eugene Roy
  Facilities Services

where on CAMPUS?

Has your eye found this Ohio Buckeye on campus? This just might be the most difficult Where on Campus yet.

You may remember seeing it bloom – a pale yellow flower with a red center – according to Landscape Horticulturist Tim Parsons.

If you know where this tree lives, e-mail the editor at middpoints@middlebury.edu.
annual flower plantings at Old Chapel Road, Johnson, the Service Building, Mahaney CFA, Proctor, Golf Course Road, as well as new landscape plantings at more than six buildings. In the winter Tim and his crew focus on the pruning of trees and their removal, if necessary. Winter is the time for Tim to plan where new trees will be planted, and he also works on the Campus Tree Map, to be posted on the web this winter. Tim was sure to study the 50-year master plan so that he can avoid planting a tree in a place where it will eventually have to be moved for future construction.

Perhaps the best way to understand Tim’s passion for trees and his absolute love of his job is to “listen” to some of his description and comments as he led the tree tour, quizzing fellow horticulturists about identification of some of the rarer trees on campus and showing off the beauty we all get to see every time we come to work:

• “The buildings are kind of boring, but have we got some trees!”
• “This is one of Tim’s Top 5 Trees.” – a large pecan on the hill in back of McCullough.
• “They use the wood from this one as fencepost in the west – it doesn’t rot.” – an Osage orange tree in back of the Service Building, a tree that holds the state record for size.
• “This one smells like cotton candy in the fall when it’s changing color and there has been a frost, or when the leaves have been damaged in some way.” – a katsura next to Forest.
• “In bloom this one is amazing – these chains of white flowers…” – a yellowwood near Smog.
• “Spectacular bloom!” – a flowering dogwood in front of Allen Hall, the only one on campus that Tim knows about.

• “It’s beautiful, the poor thing… a large chunk falls off about once a year.” – the black willow next to Battell that someone else described as resembling the “Womping Willow” on Hogwarts campus.
• “It took me two books to figure out what this one was. It’s got a really wicked cool flower, pale yellow, red center…” – Ohio buckeye (location undisclosed as it’s part of this issue’s Where on Campus?)
• “I can’t wait to see this little one grow up.” – a lace bark pine near the College sign on Rte. 30.
• “You go, buddy!” – looking at a lone bud high up in a Sophora Japonica, or Chinese star tree in front of Emma Willard House. Tim hasn’t seen the tree bloom yet; apparently they don’t bloom every year, so Tim is excited that this summer the tree might produce its white flowers late in the summer.

“Spectacular bloom . . .
This is the world’s most beautiful parking lot.”

“I love my job so much I don’t even like to talk about it for fear they will take it from me,” Tim muses at the end of the tour. If that doesn’t indicate that Tim is exactly where he should be, doing what he’s meant to do, then surely nothing does.

~ Liz Hammel
Introduction to Supervising Student Employees
Wednesday, August 27
9:00–10:30 a.m.
Axinn Center, Room 219

Will you be supervising student employees this academic year? Are you wondering how to post a job? What forms to fill out? Are you wondering how/when to evaluate student job performance? Or... have you been a supervisor for a while but are interested in learning some new management strategies?

The Student Employment Office and Human Resources will be conducting a training that will answer all your questions!

Topics include:
• Posting a student job
• Interviewing and hiring students
• Performance expectations
• Coaching, mentoring, and managing

Please call or e-mail the Student Employment Office by August 20 to reserve your spot.
seo@middlebury.edu or x5377

More extensive training will be offered this fall that includes conflict management, cultural differences, harassment, and communication skills. We would like to hear from you about your needs. Bring your topic suggestions to the introductory session or send them to SEO: 138 McCullough or seo@middlebury.edu.

Friends of International Students (FIS) host program holds information sessions

The FIS host program is a hospitality/friendship program where contacts between student and family are arranged on your own terms. It provides an opportunity to meet people from around the world and to connect with a student in an individual way. The Class of 2012 includes almost 80 international students from 35+ countries, including a number of U.S. students who live abroad. In September, we also will welcome 15 international exchange students who will enroll for one year. Since we expect most of the students to participate in our program, we will need many new hosts.

We will offer information sessions in August and September. If you are interested in exploring the possibility of serving as a host to an international student, please register to attend a meeting. If you cannot attend a session and are interested in learning more, please let us know.

• Wednesday, August 20, 5:15–6:00 p.m., in Carr Hall Lounge
• Wednesday, September 10, 12:15–1:00 p.m., in Carr Hall Lounge

TO REGISTER: Please contact Kaye-Lani Laughna, Program Coordinator, or Mary Cairns by e-mail at iss@middlebury.edu or by telephone at x5858. (Your e-mail reply will go directly to the ISSS mailbox; for phone messages, please state your name, e-mail address, phone number & the meeting date.)

We invite all who are interested in learning more about the program to attend a meeting.

STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Daniel J. Celik – In May, Dan, a Custodial Supervisor in Facilities Services, graduated magna cum laude from Johnson State College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in history. Dan earned the degree after much diligence—11 years of part-time study.

FACULTY GRANTS

William Pyle (Economics) has received grants from the National Council for Eurasian and East European Research (NCEEER) and International Research & Exchanges Board (IREX) for support of research during his 2008–2009 leave. His project, Rights to Land in Urban Russia, is an exploration of the causes and consequences of different patterns of land rights for firms across Russian cities. NCEEER funding will support a survey of several hundred enterprises and IREX monies will allow Will to travel to a handful of Russian cities to interview local officials and policy experts.

David West (Geology) has received a grant from the National Science Foundation that supports a three year collaboration with colleagues at the University of Maine to study an ancient major strike-slip fault system in Maine through a combination of field and laboratory investigations. The results will be used to help better understand seismic activity along active fault systems such as San Andreas in California. The grant provides funding for three Middlebury students over the course of the next three summers. Grant title: Dynamics at the base of a pseudotachylyte-bearing fault system.
As you may be aware, the United Way of Addison County is planning its annual “Days of Caring” as the kick-off to the 40th Community Campaign. Thursday, September 11 and Saturday, September 27, 2008 are the two days set aside for volunteering. Over the years, the United Way has had well over 1,000 volunteers completing special work projects for local agencies, saving the non-profit agencies many thousands of dollars.

Middlebury College is proud to help sponsor this event again this year by providing paid time off (meaning you don’t have to use CTO) if you choose to participate on a day you were normally scheduled to work. In order to ensure proper operational coverage, please obtain your supervisor’s approval before signing up.

A list of volunteer job opportunities and registration forms are available on the United Way website www.unitedwayaddisoncounty.org along with more information on Days of Caring. If you are interested in participating, please contact the United Way or fax the forms to 388.8996. You can also e-mail Helen Freismuth, Co-Director of the United Way of Addison County, at helen@unitedwayaddisoncounty.org.

2008 Summary Plan Description
In order to reduce paper waste, Human Resources did not automatically send out paper copies of the 2008 Summary Plan Description (SPD) for the Middlebury College Health & Welfare Benefits Plan. Please note, however, that this information is available on-line. From the Middlebury College Home page, click Administration, then Human Resources, then Benefits, and lastly Summary Plan Description 2008. (Check out the Benefits page for other helpful information like the 2008 Benefits Summary (only 2 pages long), claim forms, and links to our providers’ websites.)

Human Resources does have hardcopies available for those who prefer a paper version of the document. The SPD contains very important information about your current benefit programs – medical, dental, life, disability, EFAP, and the flexible spending accounts – and participants are strongly encouraged to familiarize themselves with the document in either electronic or paper form.

If you have questions about our benefit plans or would like to pick up a paper copy of the SPD, please contact Lisa Hoff at lnhoff@middlebury.edu or at x3372. Lisa has recently joined the Human Resources team as a Benefits Specialist and is looking forward to meeting more of our plan participants.

Reminder about College E-mail Accounts
Although some jobs require more frequent and regular computer use than other jobs, Middlebury College utilizes e-mail as one of the primary venues through which important information about the College and its operations is communicated. This information ranges from updates on the strategic direction of the College and matters of interest to the community, to notification of road closings and building maintenance, to information about employee benefits.

As part of the Middlebury College community, employees are responsible to be aware of this information. All employees are issued a standardized college e-mail account through their employment at Middlebury College, and public access computers have been installed at many locations across campus to allow access and a desired level of privacy for those employees whose work does not require regular use of a computer. Training is available through LIS for those unfamiliar with e-mail use. Of course, anyone using College e-mail resources is responsible for abiding by the guidelines for appropriate e-mail use as outlined in the College Handbook.

Weight Watchers At-Work
The 12th session of the Weight Watchers At-Work program at Middlebury College is slated to begin on Thursday, August 21. Meetings will be on Thursdays at noon in Mitchell Green Lounge. The cost is $144 for 12 weeks, which can be paid in two $72 payments. Cash, check, or credit card payments accepted. People may join at any time during the series. For more information or to register, call Danica Stein, meeting leader, at 802.287.5704 or e-mail danicaWW@comcast.net.

United Way’s Annual “Days of Caring” Set for Next Month
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Classified ads are free for members of the staff, faculty, student body and alumni of Middlebury College. Ads must be submitted seven days prior to the publication date. Guidelines for ads can be found on the MiddPoints section of the HR Website. Please send ads to Classifieds, MiddPoints, HR, Service Building, or e-mail to middpoints@middlebury.edu (electronic submissions preferred).

Auto

**For Sale:** Snow tires from Chevy Aveo, used 2 winters. One winter left in them. Size 185 60R14. $15 for all. eastman@middlebury.edu or 802.759.2764.

**Other**

**For Sale:** Hearthstone Heritage Wood Stove, excellent condition, $700. 758.5095 or 349.5467.

**For Sale:** Area Rugs. Hooked wool, good quality in 2 sage green patterns. Dimensions approx. 3.5 ft. x 5.5 ft. $100 & $130. x5064 or 462.2191.

**Yard Sales:** Bridport Town-Wide Yard Sales August 16 and 17 from 9:00–4:00. Maps available at all sales and Pratt’s Store.

Real Estate

**For Sale:** Two-apartment house at 43 Washington St., Middlebury. Walk to everything – save gas. 1 car garage. 2 cars off-street parking. Steam heat. Large apartment has 4 rooms on 1st floor, ½ BA, fireplace, large porch. Upstairs are 2 BR and full BA. Small apartment has 3 rooms on the 2nd floor. BR, kitchen, LR, full BA. Separate entrance. $175,000. Contact 847.722.8454.

**For Sale:** Lake Dunmore, Salisbury, 2 BR, fully furnished Chalets available. Each chalet has 2 BR, sleeps 6 on water. Walking distance to store, snack bar, laundromat. No pets/smoking. $950 monthly includes electricity and cable. Monthly rentals Sept. 1 to June 1. Call Dolly at 989.3693 after 4 p.m. or 352.4378.

**For Rent:** Bridport Village, large ground-floor apartment. 1 or 2 BR, large yard, space for garden, $650/month includes electricity and water. Quiet tenants w/ good references and deposit. x5051.

**For Rent:** Cozy, 1 room private cottage in New Haven, 8 mi. from Middlebury. Partially furnished, no smoking/pets. $500/month + utilities. References and deposit required. 802.453.6032.

**For Rent:** Classic Vermont Farmhouse on 5 acres and w/in 3 miles of campus. Furnished. 4 BR, 2 BA, screened in porch & beautiful westerly view. House avail. for 9 months – beginning of rental is flexible - through the end of May. $1,400/mo. + utilities. Call David x5255.

**Wanted to Rent:** Room, 2-3 nights/week, weekly, fall and spring semesters. Call 802.439.3139 or e-mail kkramer@middlebury.edu.

Book Store Rewards Program Coming Soon

To show appreciation to all our loyal customers who are keeping their money on campus, later this month the Book Store will implement a rewards program where you can earn one point for every dollar you spend in-store or on-line through the Middlebury College Book Store. These points can be redeemed for a Panther Points Rewards Gift Card which can be used toward purchasing Middlebury clothing and gift items, or anything in the Book Store. Details will be included in the September 5 issue of MiddPoints.

**College Book Store**

**Store Hours:**

**Monday – Friday**

8:30 A.M.–5:00 P.M.