

Greetings!

Thank you for taking the time to view our newsletter. We hope you will be inspired to act on some of our bright ideas.



Bright idea #1 - Nature awaits

Take a walk in the forest this fall. There is a spectacular new trail in the Jefferson Forest between Stouffville Road and Bethesda, east of Bayview in Richmond Hill that is great for hiking and cycling. Bring a camera and guidebook on any forest walk and discover the many beautiful plants and wee creatures that contribute to a woodland ecosystem.



Bright idea #2 - Lighten up on the lawn antics

If your lawn has any bare spots you can patch it by top dressing with 1/2" of screened [duck compost](#) then overseeding with a fescue grass seed mix. Leave some of the leaves. If you chop them up with your mower, they will compost and add much needed organic matter to your lawn. Just make sure to rake off whatever hasn't filtered into your soil in the spring. We humans go to great lengths to maintain grass. Have a good chuckle from this [conversation](#) between God and St. Francis, to see just how silly we are.



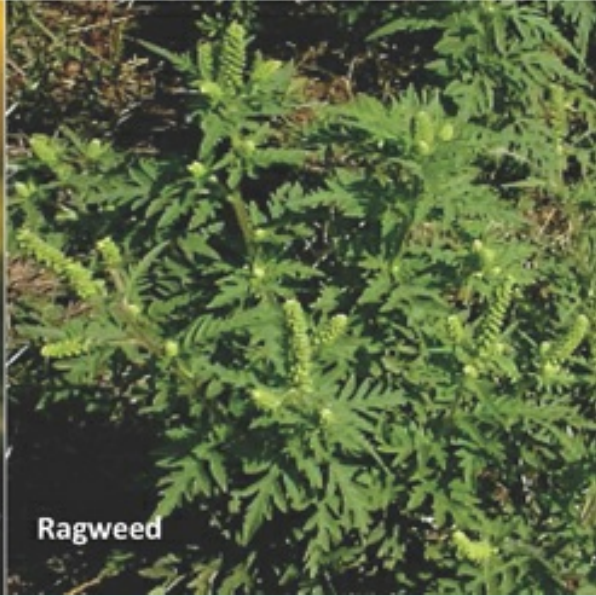


Bright idea #3 - Convert to green energy

If you don't want to go the solar route yourself, let [Bullfrog Power](#) provide green gas and electricity for your home. Our ED, Gloria Marsh was the 24th person to sign up for Bullfrog Power back in December of 2005. Through this small action, she has reduced her carbon emission footprint by 17.5 tonnes.



Goldenrod



Ragweed

Bright idea #4 - Know your allergens

Fall allergies are often attributed to Goldenrod, but the real culprit is Ragweed, which proliferates at the same time. The pollen of Goldenrod is sticky and mostly spread by insects, whereas Ragweed is airborne. It is found along trails, in disturbed areas and even at mailboxes, so we have to live with it. However, people have had relief from pollen sensitivity by consuming wildflower honey during the winter only, thus building up a tolerance over time and minimizing the need for drugs. Give it a try!

YREA is working on our own Bright idea - Biochar for sustainable environmental management



Our esteemed Chair, Susan Sigrist is seen here taking 2nd year soil samples of urban trees in our Vaughan biochar study area. We will soon be doing the same in Markham. Lab analysis will help us understand how biochar amended soil properties can enhance and support tree growth in an often hostile environment.

Third year results of agricultural field trials at Simcoe and Kettleby research stations will be available for us to evaluate at the beginning of 2016. We are assessing biochar findings from around the world to give us a broad understanding of the potential of this product and the many ways YREA can utilize and offer it to support carbon emission reduction, sustainable agriculture and improved soil management right here in our local communities.

YREA is also reviewing pyrolysis technology needed to produce biochar as well as all the regulation and certification requirements necessary to get a biochar enterprise up and running.

WE BELIEVE THAT SUPPORT OF OUR BIOCHAR RESEARCH WORK THROUGH A TAX RECEIPTED CHARITABLE DONATION IS A **VERY** BRIGHT IDEA. IF EVERY ONE OF OUR 1000+ SUBSCRIBERS DONATED ONLY \$35 EACH, IT WOULD COVER OUR 2015 RESEARCH EXPENSES.



HOW ABOUT GIVING US A LITTLE HELP WITH OUR BRIGHT IDEA?

