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Tree Preservation Workshop Held at UNH Oct. 23

Part of Effort to Restore Ginkgo, One of Oldest Tree Species to Health

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October 10, 2002

DURHAM, N.H. -- As part of its biodiversity education initiative, the University of New Hampshire's Office of Sustainability is sponsoring a demonstration/workshop on methods to improve soil conditions and tree health in established landscapes. The workshop takes place Wednesday, Oct. 23, from 3 to 4:45 p.m. It is free and open to the public.

The tree being treated is a mature specimen Ginkgo located between James and Morrill halls on the Durham campus. It was selected for preservation based on concern for its declining health due to stress factors including soil compaction, recent construction, salt application and competition from turf grass.

One of the oldest tree species, the Ginkgo has existed for 150 million years and at one time was native to North America. The UNH Ginkgo plays a part in many university courses, from dendrology -- the botanical study of trees -- to drawing. A distinguishing feature of this particular species is that all of the leaves fall within 24 hours. UNH forestry students conduct an annual fall pool to guess the day that all the leaves will drop.

Classes from UNH's Thompson School of Applied Sciences will prepare the workshop site. At 3:30 p.m. Jeff Ott, arborist and principal of Northeast Shade Tree of Portsmouth, will speak about tree care and demonstrate preservation techniques.

Visitor parking arrangements and temporary passes are available through the visitor's center. For additional

information, contact the Office of Sustainability Programs at 862-2542, or e-mail Heidi Tyson at heidis@cisunix.unh.edu.

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