

HISTORY OF THE FIGHT TO SAVE THE AMERICAN ELM



*This picture is worth a thousand ...Elms? Gillet Ave., Waukegan, Illinois
as it appeared in the Summer of 1962*



The same street as it is now.

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KEY DATES IN ERI HISTORY

1964 In response to a survey of thousands of elm owners Elms Unlimited was founded. At this time there was no national organization, federal or state agency sponsoring or coordinating research on Dutch elm disease even though American elms were being killed at a rate of over 10,000,000 a year. It became evident that if this species was to be saved a crusade of research was mandatory.

1967 ERI Board of Directors formed

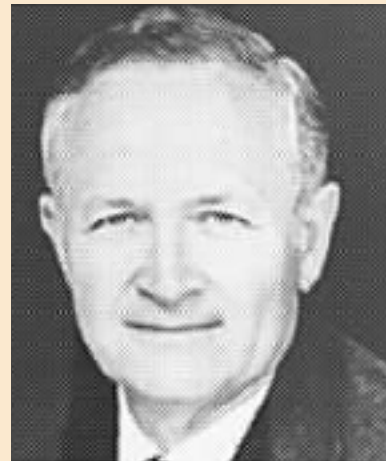
1967 Gov. Hughes of Iowa named Honorary National Chairman for ERI.



Gov. Harold Hughes of Iowa

1969 – 1971 DED fungus injections research project- ERI funded \$30,000 research project for Elm Bark Beetle repellent.

1969 TIME Magazine - ERI : “The fight against Dutch elm disease will be won in the laboratory.”



National Arboretum Chairman, J.M. Hester of New York

1968 James M. Hester, President of NYU and National Arboretum Chairman named 2nd Honorary National Chairman for ERI.

1970 New York Times – “*Hope for a Vanishing American*”

1971 First symposium - ERI hosts first National Symposium of researchers from (6) universities to formulate plans to fight DED.

Research at SUNY- Syracuse indicates size of cells of elm wood may be secret to finding a resistant elm.

USDA applies to ERI for grant!

1975 ERI receives grant Andrew Mellon Foundation.

1975 ERI introduces first practical Fungicide injection system for treating trees systemically.

1976 Dartmouth College cooperates with ERI in public education program by long term exhibit at the college museum.

1976 Research grants to (10) universities reach \$500,000.

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1978 Conscientious Injectors treat American elms from coast-to-coast.

1978 ERI begins testing of pheromone beetle traps.

1979 ERI hosts another National Research Symposium.

ERI educational film wins international award.

1979 Library of Congress asks ERI for data.

1980 Cloning of *Ulmus americana* - ERI develops first propagation from leaves.

1982 Grid System – introduced to provide national inventory of elms.

1983 ERI begins distribution of American Liberty Elm.

1983 DuPont Co. appoints Elm Research Institute sole distributor for Elm Fungicide.

1984 Johnny Elmseed Nurseries program begins.

1986 Bringing Liberty to Life Program.

1993 Liberty Elm planted on the grounds of the U.S. Capital.



Senator Ted Kennedy plants Liberty Elm at U.S. Capitol Bldg, Washington, D. C. 1983

1994 Allee of Elms stands the test of time.

1994 700 Johnny Elmseed Nurseries established.

1995 First Liberty Tree Memorial - dedicated by Eagle Scout Ian Burns.

1996 Regional Nursery Program introduced.

1996 Re-elmimg US Route 1 Project Launched at Fort Kent, Maine.



First Johnny Elmseed Nursery established by Troop 23, Bolton, VT

1986 ERI and Boy Scouts of America receive Arbor Day award.

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1977 Progress Report – Over 150,000 American elms injected with Elm Fungicide to date.

1999 Another Liberty Elm planted on U.S. Capitol grounds.



Liberty Elm planted by No Greater Love in honor of Senator John Kerrey (Neb.) U.S. Capitol Bldg, Washington, D. C. 1983

2000 Over 250,000 Liberty Elms planted to date.

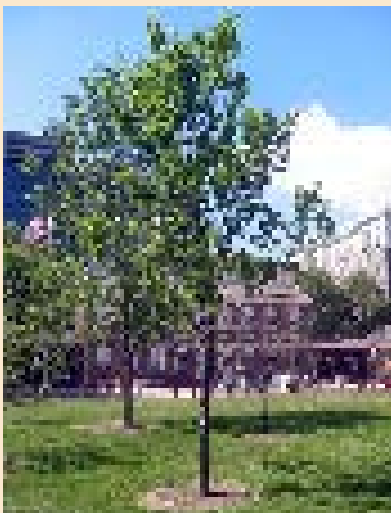
2001 ERI releases Video “Re-Elming America to motivate local volunteer groups.

2001 ERI establishes National Test Plot using latitude and longitude for exact location, with date of planting, registration number of every tree and backs it with Lifetime Warranty against Dutch elm disease on American Liberty Elms.

2001 ERI introduces Liberty Tree Memorial.

2003 Liberty Elms recover from DED.

2005 Liberty Elms planted at Independence Hall, Philadelphia, PA.



2007 350,000 Liberty Elms planted at 5% confirmed losses to DED.



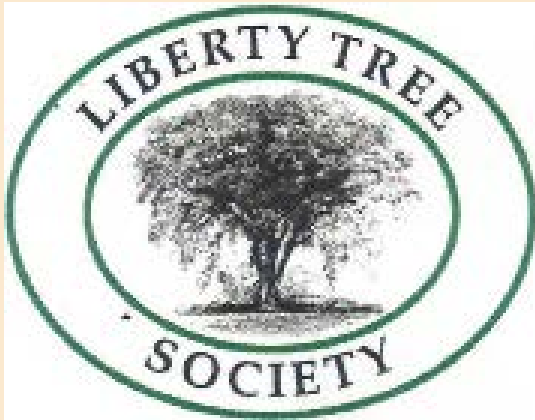
9 year old Liberty Elm - 35 ft. feet tall

2009 ERI succeeds in cloning “Herbie” of Yarmouth, Maine.



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2009 ERI establishes “Liberty Tree” Society.



*“The world should never forget the spot where once stood the Liberty Tree, so famous in your annals.”-
General Lafayette*

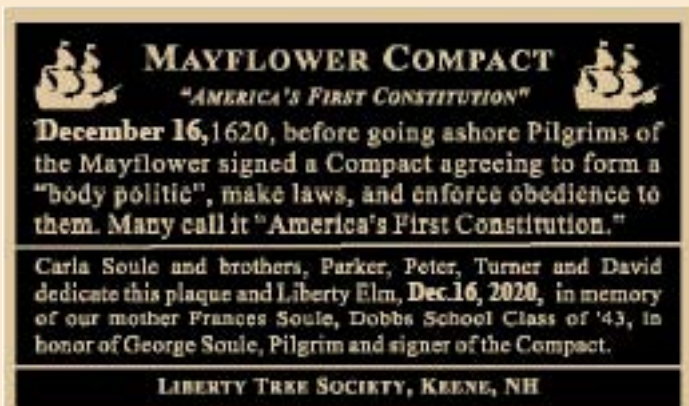
2009 Liberty Tree Society introduces Classroom project.

2010 Recovery - Liberty Elms pruned severely at first sign of DED.

2011 Liberty Tree Day Proclamation.

2015 ERI establishes first above ground nursery consisting of blocks of trees-in-bags-in-pots to maintain original root system, insulate against temp, wind and drought and eliminate damage to root system which occurs when in-ground trees are dug up and shipped from conventional nurseries.

2018 Liberty Tree Society offers Mayflower Compact Memorial.



2020 Liberty Tree Society announces availability of “Herbie” Memorials.

2020 Survivors -Allee of (60) Liberty Elms (planted in 1994) over 50 feet tall.



Picken's Allee , Glenelg, Maryland - 2019

2020 Production of “Herbie” clones moves forward.

2021 ERI moves to new headquarters in Walpole, NH.

2021 Future “Herbie” graft project begins.

2021 Liberty Tree Society offers “Footprints to Freedom” pamphlet.