



October 20, 2009

Granby Land Trust
ATTN: Rick Orluk

Dear Granby Land Trust,

The venerable White oak that is the symbolic soul of the town of Granby has seen another year pass by. This missive is a brief recap and informal assessment of the past year. I would like to reiterate to the members of the land trust my conviction that a light hand is best when caring for an organism as old as this tree.

Even with an extended monsoon season, the Dewey oak remained free of most of the moisture associated ailments that have plagued it's recent past. Thanks to two fungicide sprays, there was no anthracnose to speak of, just a touch of leaf fungi here and there. I did not see symptoms of nutrient stress, so did not apply any fertilizer in '09. No other chemicals were applied this season.

There is a small amount of small diameter deadwood present in the canopy. This is normal for a tree of this size and does not, in my opinion, represent a threat to overall health and vigor. I would prefer not to prune the canopy too often, as this can have a negative effect on the plant's ability to maintain proper turgor. Every few years, I will ascend into the canopy to maintain the health of the tree and ensure public safety by judiciously pruning deadwood.

It's an honor and privilege to serve the town that I grew up in by caring for my favorite tree. I look forward to the 2010 growing season and the opportunity to continue my relationship with the Granby Land Trust and it's many dedicated members. Thanks for your continued faith and confidence.

Sincerely,

R. Brian Watkins