



## A Tree Talk by Adam deBoor in 1986

**Self-Reliance:** Self-reliance is one of those qualities without which a community cannot survive. While it is possible to limp along with only a few people providing leadership, it isn't nearly as effective or pleasant ... A lack of self-reliance is caused by two things: low self-esteem and laziness. The problem of low self-esteem requires a tree talk all by itself, but there is no excuse for laziness.

It is physical laziness which causes a person to pass by a piece of paper on a trail without picking it up. It is mental laziness which causes him to ask questions when he could easily with a little observation and thought answer the question himself. It is moral laziness which allows him to 'borrow' someone's tennis balls. As with all laziness, this form can only be combated by exercise. When you see a piece of paper on the trail, pick it up and put it in your pocket. Instead of asking "Where should I put the garbage bag?" start with "Should I put this garbage bag over with the pile of other garbage bags?" and work up to putting the bag there of your own initiative. A self-reliant person is a joy to have around. He is confident, he is helpful, and you don't have to keep ordering him around until you are hoarse. Self-reliance, like self-esteem, willpower, and muscles is one of those things which gets stronger with use. The main purpose of Pasquaney is to produce men who are "able to do and think for others as well as themselves." The heart of self-reliance lies in your ability to think. Your brain is one of the most marvelous things in existence. In it lie the seeds of self-reliance. May they grow and bear much fruit.