

PRAIRIE TREE COMPANION

Vol.9 No.3 Illinois Department of Natural Resources Urban Forestry Program November, 2000

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FALL IS A TIME OF CHANGE

Change is in the air. With fall comes the changing of the colors. Trees present with us their awesome color splendor each Fall. Tree lined scenic roads become lined with cars transporting tourist through this grandeur. Eco-tourism gets a boost from these temporary visitors.

There have been a lot of changes going on in the natural resources and urban forestry arena. First, with respect to the Department of Natural Resources, the Office of Resource Conservation has been reorganized. For those of you who don't really thrive on following bureaucracy and its frequent changes, the Division of Forest Resources is within the Office of Resource Conservation. These changes mean that the Springfield office has flattened. There is now one Acting Division Chief, Mike Mason and four program staff. Urban forestry is one of the program areas. The other three program areas are: forest health and fire management, wood utilization and marketing, and forest stewardship.

Changes that have occurred this year with the urban forestry program include: moving the application date from January with a due date of April 30 to a June application mailing with an August due date; Prairie Tree Companion was reviewed internally from December to present and will be put on the web and possibly not mailed in the future; there is new leadership for the Council on Forestry Development - Co-leaders are Bill Mitchell and Debbie Jones. Mike Brunk has moved into leadership position where he will represent urban forestry within the Council on Forestry Development. Karol Jacobs has resigned her position to focus on the new program she is developing at Morton Arboretum.

In urban forestry, we bid farewell to Bill Kruidenier, the Executive Director for the International Society of Arboriculture. Bill's name had, for some, become synonymous with the International Society of Arboriculture. He did a great job promoting arboriculture throughout the nation and the world and will be missed as the ISA Executive Director.

Written by: Reinee Hildebrandt, Urban Conservation Program Administrator, IDNR, Division of Forest Resources.

MONEY MATTERS

CARA FUNDING

Urban and Community Forestry was included in the bi-partisan Conservation and Reinvestment Act (CARA, H.R. 701). This landmark legislation would provide the largest infusion of federal conservation funds in history, \$40 billion over 15 years to various state and local conservation programs. CARA dedicates revenue from offshore oil and gas leases to a broad range of conservation activities, including urban forestry. Thus far, the Senate asked for \$50 million and the House recommended \$0. The next step is for the President to provide his recommendations.

NUCFAC Cost-Share Grants

Pre-proposals for the approx. \$1 million are due December 12, 2000. Possible project types include: assessments of current urban and community forestry programs, guidebooks for assisting communities, and creative and innovative projects. For more information on the program contact: Suzanne M. del Villar at 209-536-9201

ILLINOIS Urban and Community Forestry Grants

State Forester, Stewart Pequignot has reauthorized the Urban and Community Forestry Grant for State fiscal year 2001. The Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forest Resources in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service, is again providing funds for urban and community forestry assistance grants to local units of government under the authority of the Illinois Urban and Community

Forestry Assistance Act.

The purpose of the Urban and Community Forestry Assistance Grant is to provide financial assistance to local units of government for the development of local urban and community forestry programs. Activities must help to establish, manage, conserve and preserve the urban and community forest.

Approximately \$100,000 has been allocated for this 50/50 cost-share reimbursement program and is available to units of government for the establishment of new or expansion of existing urban and community forestry programs. The maximum grant award to one unit of government this year was **\$5,000.00**. The grant announcement will be made by the first of the year.

ILLINOIS Urban and Community Forestry Grants PROGRAM SUMMARY

Including the pending CY2000 grants, the following has been accomplished:

- C IDNR has provided **\$1.45 million**
- C **236** grants have been awarded to local units of government.
- C The local match has been approx. **\$1.65** million in local match.

Projects include:

- C **90** street tree inventories;
- C **38** management plans;
- C **49** public education projects;
- C **48** tree planting projects;
- C **37** tree care ordinances;
- C **19** tree boards; and
- C **9** tree risk management program,
- C **8** wood utilization programs,
- C **2** insect and disease management strategies,
- C **18** communities have training employees.
- C Over **55** communities subcontracted with consultant foresters while others provided student internships or summer employment

For more information or to provide your comments on

the grant program contact: Reinee Hildebrandt, 217-782-2361.

TECHNICAL UPDATE

IDNR - TREE INVENTORY SERVICE TO SMALL COMMUNITIES UPDATE

Sign up for the FY'01 Illinois Department of Natural Resources on-line tree inventory and management plan development service.

DNR Division of Forest Resources District Foresters will help community volunteer groups conduct tree inventories and train them to enter data. The result of participation will be a database file of your communities trees and a management plan. Please contact either your District Forester or the Springfield office for more information. Enroll by calling 217-782-2361 and providing your name, communities name, address, phone, county and community population.

IDNR - EDUCATIONAL SERVICES HAS RESOURCES AVAILABLE

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), Educational Services Section produces and distributes educational materials for use by formal (classroom) educators and non-formal (site staff, nature centers, museums, park districts, youth groups, etc.) educators in the State of Illinois. Some of the most popular items requested include:

The *Kids for Conservation*TM newsletter, a free, at-home club for Illinois children between 5 and 13. Register on-line under the "Kids and Educators"

category at <http://dnr.state.il.us> or call 217/524-4126

The IDNR has an extensive educational web page at <http://dnr.state.il.us>. Under the "Kids and Educators" category one will find lesson plans, past editions of the *Kids for Conservation*TM magazines, natural resource career information, on-line posters on Illinois frogs and toads, moths and butterflies and mussels and much more! For a more detailed description assess the IDNR Division of Education web site under classroom materials section.

RECOGNITION, AWARDS AND CONTESTS

Public Service Excellence Awards

The Public Employees Roundtable sponsors the Public Service Excellence Award to honor the services that public employees provide to society and to encourage ongoing excellence in public service. The categories include federal, state, city, county intergovernmental, international and community service. Nominations are due January 12, 2001. For more information contact Ms. Grace Williams, Program Manager, at 202-927-4926 or visit the web at:

WWW.THEROUNDTABLE.ORG

George Ware-National Recognition

The American Association of Botanical gardens and Arborea (AABGA) has chosen Dr. George Ware, Retired Director of Research at the Morton Arboretum, to receive its highest honor, the Award of Merit. In Illinois, we all know of Dr. Ware's extraordinary contributions to the fields of ornamental horticulture and public gardens. It is a pleasure to see one of our residents getting national recognition for the

character and contributions of someone we have all come to know and appreciate.

Dr. Ware is Illinois' very own Expert Elm Researcher and is sometimes fondly called, "The ELM Man" because of his knowledge and experience selecting and propagating new cultivars of elms for urban sites. He also has been involved in the Morton Arboretum work concerning the importance of a trees underground systems (roots). He received the award in June at the World Botanic Gardens Congress in Asheville, North Carolina.

Dr. Andresen Honored

Many of you know Dr. Andresen, emeritus professor of urban forestry, from his academic accomplishments. Our colleague was recently recognized for another dimension of his life-his military service. Lieutenant Colonel John Andresen (alias Dr. Andresen) on June 1, 2000 was presented with a Certificate of Recognition for his Cold War Services from September 2, 1945 to December 26, 1991. He service in the World War II, Korean War, and volunteered as a pilot in the Vietnam War. For the past 58 years, his Air Force career has involved military active, reserve and consulting capabilities all concerning armed forces urban forestry.

Dr. Andresen has assisted several military bases with tree planting projects and has encouraged them to participate in the Tree City USA program. His efforts are greatly appreciated by our nation's military families and those that visit the bases.

TREE CITY USA THE BASIS OF A GOOD PROGRAM

With all due respect to country song writer and truck drivers that have created their own jingles, _____ BUT... If your communities name begins or ends with the name of a tree, (PAUSE) ... then you should be a

TREE CITY USA community.

If your communities name ends in dale (meaning valley) or vale (meaning valley with stream), (PAUSE) ... then you should be a Tree City USA community.

If your communities name has the word forest, grove or woods in it, (PAUSE) ... then you should be a TREE CITY USA community.

Last year, 158 Illinois Communities were honored with the TREE CITY USA DESIGNATION for their promotion of urban forestry. They received their awards at a day long conferences held in Springfield or Morton Arboretum, Lisle, IL. First year TCU participants include Berkeley, Elburn, Normal and Ottawa. Because of the tremendous response to this program from Illinois communities, Illinois is ranked number two in the nation for the number of Tree City USA communities.

The Tree City USA program promotes tree planting and care programs in urban areas and calls public attention to the economic, health and aesthetic benefits trees offer. Through Arbor Day tree planting events citizens across Illinois participate in community reforestation and beautification projects.

To be eligible to participate, a community must legally designate someone responsible for the Urban Forest Program, have a community tree ordinance, expend \$2 per resident for its urban forestry program, and conduct an annual Arbor Day tree planting ceremony with an official Arbor Day proclamation announcing the day of the celebration.

Last year, 39 Tree City USA communities will receive an additional award called the "GROWTH" award to recognize additional efforts that are being accomplished to improve basic urban forestry programs. By their participation, Illinois is ranked number one in the nation for the number of GROWTH communities. To qualify for a growth award, a community previously must have been designated a

Tree City USA participant, conduct a variety of urban forestry activities, and spent at least the same amount of money on its program this year as last year.

The Tree City USA program is annually sponsored by the National Arbor Day Foundation, in cooperation with the Department of Natural Resources, the National Association of State Foresters and the USDA Forest Service.

To become involved in the Tree City USA program contact your District Forester or Regional Administrator for an application and some technical assistance or call 217-782-2361 for a Tree City USA packet.

IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO RECERTIFYING TREE CITY USA COMMUNITIES

Due to reductions of staffing in Springfield, several changes need to be made with the Tree City USA program.

1) Please enter the following information on in the yellow Box:

a)Community: (Please type in the name of your community)

b) Fill in the blank with 2000 for the calendar year

c)Leave the signed and date line blank.

d) For the "Person in State Forester's Office who should receive recognition materials" type:

Name: Reinee Hildebrandt

Title: Urban Conservation Program Admin.

Agency: Illinois Department of Natural Resources

UPS: 600 North Grand Ave., West

City, State, Zip: Springfield, IL 62706

Phone: 217-782-2361

2) Please send two copies (one original and one copy)

3) Fill in the year 2000.

Also, please send your paragraphs to Attn: Dave Close, Southern Illinois University, Department of

Forestry, Mail code 4111, Carbondale, IL 62901.
THANKS FOR YOUR COOPERATION!

ARBOR DAY POSTER CONTEST

The State of Illinois 5th grade Arbor Day Poster Contest theme was "Trees are Terrific ... And Forests are Too!" To view last year's the winning poster please visit Illinois Department of Natural Resources web page.

<http://dnr.state.il.us/lands/education>

All teachers participating in the contest receive a packet containing posters and other natural resources related material, and the students receive an activity packet and a certificate of participation.

The Arbor Day Poster Contest is open to all public, private and home-schooled fifth graders. Individual schools are responsible for local poster contest judging, with winners of the school contests sent to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources for state judging.

In addition to the National Arbor Day Foundation and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Divisions of Education and Forest Resources, the Illinois contest is sponsored by the Illinois Chapter of the Society of American Foresters and the Illinois Arborist Association. Soil and Water Conservation Districts and Illinois Department of Natural Resources, District Foresters serve as local contest information resources for the schools. In addition, staff of Morton Arboretum, Peoria Park District and Southern Illinois University Urban Forestry Volunteer Coordinator Program helped distribute information packets.

INSECT AND DISEASE

Did you know that even diseases change their names? Spruce trees have two major diseases (pathogens) - Rhizospaera needle cast and Leucostoma canker. Those of you who have been around a while may be

saying, "You forgot Cytospora canker." That's where the name change comes into play. Cytospora canker is now called Leucostoma canker. Apparently scientists have further researched this canker and observed that it fits better into another group of pathogens, thus the name change. In the future, you may hear of this canker as Cytospora, *Leucostoma kunzei* or to confuse matters even more *Valsa kunzei* because that is the perfect stage of this fungi.

Both pathogens *Rhizosphaera* and *Leucostoma* (alias Cytospora or *Valsa kunzei*) appear as dead and dying branches on spruce tree. Both diseases start at the base of the tree. One major difference is that the *Rhizosphaera*'s dead branch and needle pattern is from the bottom up and the inside (trunk side) outward, where as the *Leucostoma*'s dead branch and needle pattern is from the bottom up and the outside in. In other words, if the tips of the branches look unaffected chances are it is *Rhizosphaera* needle cast.

Leucostoma is the most common and damaging infectious disease of spruce in Illinois. It has other very prominent diagnostic tools. Look for conspicuous patches of white resin areas at the base of the dead branches. Then look closer for black pinhead-sized fruiting bodies. These form under the inner bark and are often embedded in the resin.

If diagnosed for *Leucostoma*, it is best to remove dead branches as they occur, but if possible wait for dry weather to the rain does not splash the spores and move the pathogen through the tree. Try to reduce stress on the tree by watering during dry periods and mulching to help retain moisture and even temperature.

For more information contact your local Extension office or visit the VISTA Web site and find (RPD No. 604).

PARTNERSHIP CORNER

NATIONAL ARBOR DAY FOUNDATION (NADF)

NADF will be hosting Trees People and the Law in Peoria, Illinois on February 28, 2001. For more information, please contact June Parsons, Director of Conference Program Development at 402-474-5655x205 or fax 402-474-0820 or e-mail her at jparsons@arborday.org

For an on-line tree identification guide, courtesy of the National Arbor Day Foundation check out www.treelink.org

ILLINOIS ARBORIST ASSOC.

The Illinois Arborist Association gets a new Executive Director. Her name is: April Toney. Her address is P.O. Box 860, Antioch, IL 60002. Phone: 877-617-8887. Fax 262-857-6677. Email: ctoney1@earthlink.net June 1st was her first day on the job. Call her if you need anything!

IAA is currently looking for an editor for the "Illinois Arboriculture" newsletter. If interested call Peggy Drescher at 630-469-6756.

U. S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE FOREST SERVICE

In cooperation with the USDA FS, Illinois will host a tree risk management workshop in East St. Louis as a part of the Urban Resources Partnership program.

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIV.

If you wish to contact the Community Forestry Volunteer Coordinator about receiving technical assistance within the southern 36 counties, please contact Dave Close at 618-453-3341 or dclose@siu.edu.

REGIONAL URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY COUNCILS (RUCFC) UPDATE

Southern Illinois RUCFC

The next Southern Illinois Regional Council Meeting will be October 26th at the City Library in Carbondale, IL . Anyone interested in participating should contact: Dave Close at 618-453-3341 or dclose@siu.edu.

NORTHEAST ILLINOIS MUNICIPAL ARBORIST'S MEETINGS & LUNCHEONS - The Municipal Committee of the Illinois Arborist Association

The Northeast Illinois Municipal Arborist Meeting/Luncheons have convened for the year. The meetings are held from October to April each year and are generally, @ 11:00 a.m. on the second Thursday's of the month. These times and dates may change to accommodate speaker or topic availability. The event consists of a presentation of a relevant arboricultural topic accompanied by lunch or at minimum donuts or cookies. The topics include urban forestry research, commercial, and utility forestry, as well as purchasing of nursery stock and landscape supplies. Anyone interested can attend. Membership to the IAA is not required. Members usually have an interest in the care or have the responsibility to care for trees. Municipal, Commercial, Utility and Research Arborists are common members. Locations

of the meetings vary and the cost of the meal is usually between \$5 and \$10, depending on location and menu.

For more information contact: Heather Green @ the City of Park Ridge to be added to the mailing list:
@ Phone (847)-318-5231 @ Fax (847)318-5562

DID YOU KNOW....

88% of Americans consider having access to parks and outdoor spaces extremely important or vary important (ASLA). <http://www.asla.org/>

DATES TO REMEMBER

CONFERENCES, EVENTS AND MEETINGS

Northeastern Municipal Arborist Meetings - 2nd Thursday of the month from October to April contact Heather Green @ Phone (847)-318-5231 for more information.

October 30, 31st Illinois Arborist Meeting at Pheasant Run in St. Charles, IL.

December, 31 - Tree City USA applications are due. Send your completed application to: Reinee Hildebrandt, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forest Resources, 524 South 2nd Street, Springfield, IL 62702-1787.

February 6-8, 2001 - Trees and Utilities Conf., Lied Conference Center, Nebraska City, NE. Call: 402-474-5655 for more information.

March 20, 2001 - Tree City USA Conference and Awards Ceremony, Springfield, IL

March 22, 2001 - Tree City USA Conference and Award Ceremony, Lisle, IL

April 27, 2001 - ARBOR DAY in ILLINOIS

Prairie Tree Companion Newsletter is published periodically by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Urban Forestry Program. Submit potential copy by the first of January, April, July and October for publishing consideration in the next issue of the publication. Address any inquiries to Reinee Hildebrandt, Urban Conservation Program Administrator and Prairie Tree Companion Newsletter Editor, at P.O. Box 19225, Springfield, IL 62794-9225, or phone 217/782-2361.

GEORGE RYAN, GOVERNOR
BRENT MANNING, DIRECTOR

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