

# PRAIRIE TREE COMPANION

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## ILLINOIS URBAN FORESTRY

Welcome to the new millennium. First a brief look back at the 1900's. Early references defined the community forest as wooded area located near a population center where local residents could cut timber for firewood and other necessary wood products. By the 1970's, urban forestry programs focused on trees in communities, Arbor Day Celebrations, and tree planting, tree care and tree removal assistance. In some circles, urban forestry was considered a public relations tool for the forestry profession.

Today, urban forestry efforts exist at the local, state and federal levels of government and have their own autonomy. Local community forestry programs are viewed as an important part of community services. Beautifying a community can bring an element of pride in a community.

Arbor Day is celebrated as a part of a Tree City USA Program. The National Arbor Day Foundation's Growth Award, initiated in the mid 1990's, encourages creativity and public outreach to be rewarded as a part of the program. This program has helped communities do go beyond the nuts and bolts of planting, trimming and removing trees.

Local units of government are interested in managing their communities forest resources by identify the location and condition of publically owned trees. GIS and GPS systems are used to inventory and maintain records of our trees and their conditions. Complex gadgets can be used to help us visualize the amount and location of decay in a tree so we can make more prudent decisions about tree removal for public safety. The Illinois Arborist Association continues to be a solid foundation for the profession by providing arborist certification, technical references, and an annual conference to name a few.

At the state level, this decade saw the birth of state-wide urban and community grant; Regional Councils and a state council to address urban forestry issues in Illinois. This newsletter and the State Arbor Day Poster contest were created.

This issue of the Prairie Tree Companion is dedicated to updating you on the various aspects of urban and community forestry in Illinois.

*Reinee Hildebrandt is the Urban Conservation Program Administrator for the Department of Natural Resources*

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## **MONEY MATTERS**

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### **Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Program(UPARR)**

The public notice announcing a \$2,000,000 grant round for the Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Program was published in the Federal Register on December 28, 1999 (page 72675). A copy of the notice can be found under "National Park Service" at the following web site:

[http://www.gpo.gov/su\\_docs/aces/fr-cont.html](http://www.gpo.gov/su_docs/aces/fr-cont.html).

The notice provides information on the application process including eligibility-limiting requests to Rehabilitation projects, project limits (\$300,000), Recovery Action Program (RAP) eligibility (certification), and schedule for submission of pre-applications (March 31, 2000 to National Park Service Regional offices). The pre-application and RAP handbook (edited) are available on the UPARR website, <http://www.ncrc.nps.gov/uparr>

The availability of these and LWCF State assistance funds (\$40 million) suggest increased political awareness of the impact and values of public recreation and parks to the American people and to Congress.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:  
Tom Ross, Assistant Director, Recreation and Conservation, NPS, Department of the Interior, 1849 "C" Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20240; (202) 565-1200.

### **ILLINOIS Urban and Community Forestry Grants**

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forest Resources Urban and Community Forestry grant program has been put on hold by State Forester, Stewart Pequignot.

In lieu of a grant program to local units of

government, a request for proposal is being developed to address community forestry training needs around the State of Illinois. Through this RFP, the Department hopes to provide the following types of training: advanced tree risk management, basic grant writing, developing tree ordinances, basic tree selection and care, training on conducting street tree inventories, and tree trimming around utility wires. For further details contact: Stewart Pequignot, State Forester or Dick Little, Program Section Manager at 217-782-2361.

We apologize for any inconveniences this delay or change in services may provide. Hopefully the grant program will be funded within the next two year and you will continue with your interest in this worthwhile grant program.

### **ILLINOIS Urban and Community Forestry Grants PROGRAM SUMMARY**

To date the following has been accomplished with the grant program since:

- C IDNR has provided **\$1.35 million**
- C **209** grants have been awarded to local units of government.
- C The local match has been approx. **\$1.47** million in local match.

Projects include:

- C **79** street tree inventories;
- C **35** management plans;
- C **41** public education projects;
- C **41** tree planting projects;
- C **32** tree care ordinances;
- C **15** tree boards; and
- C **4** tree risk management program,
- C **8** wood utilization programs,
- C **1** insect and disease management strategies,
- C **15** communities have training employees.
- C Over **45** 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.

## ILLINOIS Urban and Community Forestry Grants Review

In compliance with SB 770, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forest Resources Urban and Community Forestry Grant program was reviewed at the January meeting of the Illinois Council on Forestry Development's Urban and Community Forestry Task Group.

Comments received include:

- C It's (the application is) pretty clear and straight forward.
- C Focus more on start-up projects and try to get non-participants to participate through the urban forestry grant program.
- C The grant application is concise and straight forward in its requirements. The three sections of the grant : program development, program enhancement, and tree planting/tree care, allow flexibility in utilizing the grant, whether in initiating an urban forestry program, or by improving an existing program.
- C Furthermore, the grading criteria for each section are relevant to the goals of the respective grant category, keeping proposals well within the constraints of the grant.
- C Quite good with application sections and priorities.
- C Overall pretty good.
- C There is a lot of paperwork, but you have to be detailed. Possibly, reduce the amount of paperwork required.
- C Urban Forestry Coordinator does such a good job.
- C Everything is ok.
- C He did not see any need for changes. It was fine as it is.
- C One member commented that the Urban and Community Forestry grant was one of the easiest to administer of all state and federal grants they had received.
- C It works pretty good.
- C It is not a bad form or procedure.
- C Other grant programs are a lot more complex.

This one is pretty straight forward and easy to do.

- C He did not see a lot of need to modify the application.
  - C Could we change the utility line standard for tree planting distance closer, maybe 30-50 ft from utility for large trees vs. 50 feet.
  - C Equipment can be rented, not purchased.
  - C Prevailing wage is a local decision.
  - C He said it was ok as is.
  - C Separate out the tree planting grants from the tree care grants be separated I.e. tree planting as a separate application by itself.
  - C More emphasis needs to be put on after care of tree plantings
  - C He would like to see projects such as elm injection be a higher priority
  - C Many communities are having a harder time to create new ideas that would appeal to grant committees and get funding.
  - C Applications for tree planting take too much time to complete with the required detailed information such as mapping each tree on city maps, if doing maintenance or planting program and documentation of all work, contractors, etc. can be time consuming.
  - C Funding amount of grants had decreased which has caused some communities not to consider completing the application.
  - C Some communities grant projects needed additional future grants to complete their projects and never received further funding which caused budgetary problems.
- The areas of priority included:
- C Long term planning
  - Development of management plans
  - C Computerized inventories that encourage regional standardization of databases/output
  - C Partnerships with non-profits
  - C Suggested preference be given to local units of government that submit joint applications.

## **HELP FOR GRANT WRITERS**

The EPA has developed software for grant writers. The program focuses on federal grants in general, but more specifically on three EPA grant programs: environmental education, environmental justice, and environmental justice through pollution prevention. The program also provides examples of good, complete grant packages and a mock grant-writing activity in which the user is able to compare their proposal to a successful grant application. Check out the program at

<http://www.epa.gov/seahome/grants/src/grant.htm>.

### **Captain Planet Foundation GRANTS**

Captain Planet Foundation

Deadline: Reviewed the last day of March 31st, June 30<sup>th</sup>, and September 30th

These grants (\$250 -\$2,500) are given to promote understanding of environmental issues, focus on hands-on involvement and involve children and young adults 6-18 (elementary through high school). For more information call Sona Chambers at (404) 827-4130,

Rachel MacNabb at (404) 827-2083, or 1-800-KIDPOWER. visit [www.turner.com/cpf](http://www.turner.com/cpf) which contains an on-line application.

### **EPA Environmental Justice (EJ) Small Grants**

EPA Environmental Justice (EJ) Small Grants

Deadline: March 3rd

EPA is awarding grants up to \$20,000 to community groups for EJ projects. Past EJ projects include: community gardens, neighborhood health assessments,

mapping environmental risks, job training for environmental service jobs, water monitoring, lead hazard awareness, info/education on brownfields issues, youth environmental clubs, adopt a park program. For information contact Reginald Harris at (215) 814-2988 or your regional EPA ej coordinator.

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## ***TECHNICAL UPDATE***

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### **TREE CHEERS for Community Forestry Video**

The Small Town Community Regional Forestry Council has completed the "Tree Cheers for Community Forestry" video. This video encourages all to appreciate our great inheritance of trees and to replenish the forest for the future. Copies of the video can be borrowed from IDNR Division of Forest Resources Springfield office or District Forester offices. Prairie Rivers RC&D also has copies for loan. If you are interested in having someone from the regional council present the video contact: Kim St. John, Prairie Rivers RC&D, 309-364-3979.

### **IDNR - DISTRICT FORESTERS TO PROVIDE TREE INVENTORY SERVICE TO SMALL COMMUNITIES**

Illinois Department of Natural Resources has entered into a contract with Davey Resources for an on-line tree inventory and management plan development service. The staff will assist community volunteer groups in conduct tree inventories and data entry. The result of participation will be a database file of your communities trees and a management plan. There is a limited number (20) of openings available. Please contact either your District Forester or the Springfield office for more information. 217-782-2361.

### **COMMUNITY FUTURE FORUM**

The Community Future Forum is in its final step of the model which is to brainstorm on the likelihood and time dimension of each outcome scenario (the combination of issue, possible outcomes, and key factors), while identifying actions that will prevent the scenario from occurring. All activity is taking place in

the Community Future Forum's Virtual Conference Center. The direct link to the conference center is <http://12.4.79.42/scripts/Fac.dll/AccessMain?forum+forum>. Share with us your thoughts on the outcome scenarios and urban growth issues. To keep up-to-date with forum activities, check out our website at <http://willow.ncfes.umn.edu/forum>. We hope to have a final product, which will include an agenda for urban natural resources and a toolkit to help implement the agenda, available by May 2000. Please contact Kasey at 304-345-8576/[kaseyrussell@citynet.net](mailto:kaseyrussell@citynet.net).

## 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*<sup>TM</sup> 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 with the youngest qualifying household member's name, address and age.

A series of five educational kits, containing lesson plans, posters, a videotape and an audiotape, have been distributed one per school serving any or all of the targeted grades. Sites throughout the state serve as check-out locations, providing opportunities for scout leaders, 4-H leaders, civic groups and others to teach youth about our natural resources. Kit titles include *Wild Mammals of Illinois* (grades K-8), *Illinois Birds* (grades 3-6), *Kids for Trees* (grades K-3), *Resource Conservation* (grades 7-10) and *Aquatic Illinois* (grades 5-9). All activities are correlated to the Illinois State Learning Standards simplifying use of the material in the classroom.

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*<sup>TM</sup> magazines, natural resource career information, on-line posters on Illinois frogs and toads, moths and butterflies and mussels and much more!

The IDNR is an active participant/cooperating partner with the Conservation Education Advisory Board (CEAB). This entity coordinates the production of environmental education materials among numerous state agencies. CEAB produces a catalog of materials available from various state agencies. Catalog entries indicate the intended age group and availability (quantity allowed) per item, cost and supplying agency. The catalog is available in a downloadable format from the IDNR World Wide Web page.

Each year an activity book is developed for children visiting Conservation World at the Illinois State Fair. These books are designed to be fun and interactive for children, but also valuable for application as learning tools in the classroom. Publications created include the *Summer Prairie Coloring* poster, *Conservation Quest*, *Slime, Scales and Mudpuppy Tails* (Illinois reptiles and amphibians), *Wings, Stings and Leggy Things* (Illinois insects) and *Vanishing Illinois Plants and Animals* (endangered habitats, plants and animals). Contact the IDNR for current availability of single or classroom quantities.

The Division of Education is dedicated to helping Illinois' formal and non-formal educators in their mission to teach youth about our state's natural resources. Questions about these and other education tools may be directed to the IDNR, Educational Services Section, 524 S. Second Street, Room 530, Springfield, IL 62701-1787, 217/524-4126 or email [teachkids@dnrmail.state.il.us](mailto:teachkids@dnrmail.state.il.us).

Provided by: Kathleen M. Andrews, Head of the Educational Services Section Division of Education, Illinois Department of Natural Resources

7-lifting for cities"

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## ***AWARDS/CONTESTS***

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### **MARCH 20th DEADLINE for the State of Illinois ARBOR DAY POSTER CONTEST**

The State of Illinois 5<sup>th</sup> grade Arbor Day Poster Contest theme is "Trees are Terrific ... in All Shapes and Sizes." Local school contest winning posters should be sent to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forest Resources, 524 South Second, Springfield, IL 62702. Attn: Reinee Hildebrandt or Cathy Gibson. **POSTERS ARE DUE IN OUR OFFICE BY MARCH 20, 1999.** For more information contact: Cathy Gibson at 217-785-5822.

### **WINNERS OF THE 2000 BUILDING WITH TREES AWARD OF EXCELLENCE**

National Arbor Day Foundation's "Building with Trees Award of Excellence" awards were established in 1998 and are provided in cooperation with the National Association of Home Builders. The program was created to recognize conservation-minded builders and developers around the country who save trees during construction and land development. Illinois had a winner in the category of non - residential commercial.

**Congratulations** are in order for: Developer Van Vlissingen and Company from Lincolnshire, IL for the conservation minded development of 101 Corporate Woods Parkway (Tetra-Pak), in Vernon Hills, Illinois. This business is one out of the five selected for the "**Award of Excellence**" **Chuck Stewart** of Fox River Grove, Illinois was selected as one of the ten Pledge Participants for this program.

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## ***GET SMART***

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### **TREE CITY CEREMONIES DATE MARCH 21 and MARCH 23**

The annual Tree City USA conference will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on March 21 at the Northfield Center, 3210 Northfield Dr. in northeast Springfield, and March 23 at the Morton Arboretum in Lisle. The theme this year is "Moving into the New Millennium - People and Politics". Conference registration materials were mailed the week of February 1, 2000. The cost of pre-registration is \$35 per person, which includes lunch and the afternoon awards ceremonies. For more information contact: Reinee Hildebrandt at 217-782-2361.

### **National Tree City USA Conference - COMMUNITY FORESTRY AT ITS BEST**

"Community Forestry at its Best", is a conference for TREE CITY USA communities and other communities that care about their trees. It will be held September 28-30, 2000 at the Arbor Day Farm/Lied Conference Center, Nebraska City NE. National Arbor Day Foundation staff have called for presentations. Contact: Tina Schweitzer for more information at 402-474-5655.

**One generation plants the trees; another gets the shade. --Chinese proverb**

## **PUBLICATIONS**

"PROTECTING OPEN SPACE: A REVIEW OF SUCCESSFUL PROGRAMS AND LANDOWNER PERSPECTIVES": The Metro Regional Parks and Greenspaces Department, The Portland, OR metropolitan area is in the process of reevaluating its natural area inventory and developing regulatory and non-regulatory measures to protect natural areas. They have created a publication, which reviews successful protection measures throughout the U.S. Cost of the publication is \$10.00, including postage. A check payable to Metro should be sent to: Protecting Open Space Report, c/o Parks and Greenspaces Department, Metro Regional Center, 600 NE Grand Ave., Portland, OR 97232 (Phone: 503-797-1850; Website: [www.metro-region.org](http://www.metro-region.org)).

### **AUDIO CONFERENCE TRAINING SERIES:**

The American Planning Association and the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy are offering audio conferencing that is delivered live over a speaker phone. All you do is assemble your group and dial the 800 number provided to you when you register. Each program fee ranges from \$100 to \$130 per group and there is no limit to the number of attendees. All programs are one hour in length and are held Wednesdays at 4:00 EST. The program is interactive with the speakers. Reading materials are included in the fee. For more information, visit the APA website at <http://www.planning.org/educ/audiocon.htm> or call 1-800-800-1589 and request documents #3005 and #3006. The series includes:  
Urban Parks and Green Space, May 25, 2000

### **CHECK OUT THESE WEBSITES!**

Community News and Views newsletter:  
<http://www.msu.edu/user/cua>

The Urban Institute: [www.urban.org](http://www.urban.org)  
EPA Web Resources: [www.epa.gov/region5/enved](http://www.epa.gov/region5/enved)  
or [www.epa.gov/enviroed](http://www.epa.gov/enviroed).  
<http://plants.usda.gov/plants> for a scientific source and listing of trees, shrubs, forbes and grasses.

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## ***INSECT AND DISEASE***

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Due to the long dry season this year, pay special attention to your plants this spring. They may show added signs of stress.

A set of nine activities covering a range of topics about the Gypsy moth, including life cycle, impact on trees, control mechanisms, public attitudes, predators, and impacts of a quarantine, have been developed for high school teachers. The materials may be downloaded from the web site at:  
<http://www.uwrf.edu/ag-education/resource/>

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## ***PARTNERSHIP CORNER***

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### **NADF REVAMPS GROWTH AWARDS**

In an effort to better recognize Tree City communities that receive a Growth Award, we have developed a new Growth Award plaque. It will be sent to communities instead of the framed certificate. It is a snazzy looking white Lucite plaque with the Growth Award Banner and Tree City logo and has pre-assigned places to put little brass emblems with each year that a community receives the award. Every community who receives a Growth Award this year will receive the new plaque. We will put all of the past years emblems on the plaques sent out to communities that have earned the Growth Award in the past. Additional plaques may be purchased for \$34.95 plus \$3.95 Shipping and Handling.

It's heads up for when you start receiving your recognition materials. If you have any questions, call Tina Schweitzer at NADF at 402/474-5655.

The TREE CITY USA award are sponsored by the National Arbor Day Foundation, in cooperation with the Department of Conservation and the National

Association of State Foresters. Tree City USA promotes tree planting and care in urban areas. It also calls public attention to the aesthetic, health and economic benefits trees offer, and encourages citizen participation in reforestation and community beautification projects.

To be certified as a Tree City USA, a community must fulfill the following four criteria: 1) Designate a local tree authority. This can be an individual, city official, or volunteer group to care for its urban forest, 2) enact a community tree care ordinance that specifies who has tree authority as well as tree care standards and practices within community, 3) expend a minimum of \$2 per resident per year on tree care, and 4) have an Arbor Day proclamation and a public tree-planting ceremony.

**STATE OF ILLINOIS  
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT  
PROCLAMATION**

WHEREAS, the new millennium brings with it an increasing commitment to the management of our community forest resources, and

WHEREAS, the public forests in our communities are important to the citizens; and

WHEREAS, trees provide citizens the service of energy conservation, cooler summer temperatures, protection from winter winds, wildlife habitat, water runoff reduction, oxygen; and

WHEREAS, recent northern Illinois court cases provide a strong mandate for the management of our communities urban forests for citizen safety and welfare;

WHEREAS, the management of our urban and community forest resources contribute to a healthy environment, cost savings in community maintenance programs, enhanced tourism and local economy sustainable cities and safe communities; and

WHEREAS, a well managed urban and community forest requires sound technical input and guidance; and

WHEREAS all aspects of urban forestry require adequate funding at both the state and local levels; and

WHEREAS, the state urban and community forestry program has been successful in building local capacities to manage the forest resources within our populated areas; and

WHEREAS, over 150 communities have qualified as Tree City USA Communities and over 25 of these communities have achieved the "GROWTH AWARD"; and

WHEREAS, Tree City USA communities have made significant contributions toward enhancing the quality of life by improving the forest resources of Illinois; and

THEREFORE, I George Ryan, Governor of the State of Illinois, proclaim April, 2000 as TREE CITY USA MONTH in Illinois, and I ask all citizens to work together to preserve through proper management the natural beauty of our state this month and throughout the year.

**NATIONAL ARBOR DAY  
FOUNDATION (NADF)**

NADF is planning a future national conference to examine the "social implications of green spaces" in all types of communities. If you would like to have input on the development of this event, please contact June Parsons, Director of Conference Program Development at 402-474-5655x205 or e-mail her at [jparsons@arborday.org](mailto:jparsons@arborday.org)

For an on-line tree identification guide, courtesy of the National Arbor Day Foundation check out [www.treelink.org](http://www.treelink.org)

# UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE - FOREST SERVICE

## STRENGTHENING FOREST SERVICE LEADERSHIP

A proposal presented to the leadership team of the Forest Service received a thumbs up last week. The intent of the proposal was "to strengthen agency leadership and unify its efforts to ensure the long term health and sustainability of America's urban natural resources." Below are the components that will be implemented immediately and over the coming years. The next step is to form a working group, including agency partners, who will draft a detailed implementation strategy. No one will be left behind in the process. Further information is available through your regional urban forestry contact.

### Strategy Components:

1. Increase Agency Capacity
  - Elevate the stature of urban forestry within the agency.
  - Expand authorities to facilitate the exchange of resources across the agency.
2. Expand Partnerships and Services
  - Broaden urban National Forests interactions with urban constituencies.
  - Improve services to under-served and nontraditional groups.
  - Enhance partnerships with key organizations and community leaders.
3. Expand Resources and Funding
  - Increase resources for states and regions to deliver technical and financial assistance.
  - Advance opportunities for grassroots organizations and volunteers in urban forestry.
  - Focus the use of funds to maximize desired outcomes.
4. Advance Research and Technology Transfer
  - Strengthen and expand research, technology

transfer, and resource analyses and monitoring.

## FEDERAL UPDATE

The President's proposed budget for FY 2001 marks Urban and Community Forestry for an \$8.575 million increase over FY 2000. The total \$39.471 million is the highest proposed in the history of the program. The Forest Service request to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), however, was \$50 million. This is the figure supported by the National Association of State Foresters.

Agency partners will most likely continue to advocate for the higher number. Those interested in offering testimony to the House Appropriation's Subcommittee on Interior and Related Agencies should send notice immediately to the Committee Chair Congressman Ralph Regula of Ohio. For further information, view the NASF website at [www.stateforesters.org](http://www.stateforesters.org)

## WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY PEACE CORP INTERN

Mary Honer facilitated and presented at a Tree Ordinance Workshop held January 11<sup>th</sup>. This workshop was held to help accommodate the growing interest and demands of the newly forming regional council. This meeting included information on urban forestry grants, becoming a Tree City, tree preservation and tree care ordinances. The Guest speaker was Theresa to enlighten the group on the Suburban Tree Consortium. There was a great deal of interest in this concept and the concept of creating "Tree Banks". For more information, contact: Mary at 630-553-5284.

ELBURN and OTTAWA were recognized by the group as a new TREE CITY USA community. Congratulations!

## **ILLINOIS ARBORIST ASSOCIATION**

Peggy Young Drescher of Glen Ellyn takes over the chair position of the Illinois Arborist Association. Don't forget about the Arborist Certification, Advanced Arborist Training and the technical references provided by IAA. Contact: Julie Ruffalo, Illinois Arborist at 630-960-5922 for more information.

## **SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY Winter Update from Southern Illinois**

Slow steady progress continues to be made in the area of community forestry below the I-70 corridor. Assistance is being provided to communities for grant writing, Tree City USA recruitment, public-owned tree inventories, and other forms of technical assistance. Free training workshops continue to be provided to individuals interested in increasing their knowledge about proper tree care.

The village of Crossville successfully acquired a National Tree Trust grant and planted several Bur Oak seedlings in their village park. After the village of Steeleville removed some trees from their park, they replaced them with some Nuttall's and cherrybark oak saplings. The village of Mill Shoals requested a street tree inventory which was completed during the summer. The village of Golconda is making great progress toward developing a new city park and enhancing a highly frequented boat ramp with ornamental and non-ornamental trees and shrubs. Lastly, the city of Mt. Vernon received a management plan written by Southern Illinois University Department of Forestry senior Jeremy Webber. The management plan recommended the city to place their trees on a four year pruning cycle. The city is also making use of a tree management software package called TreeKeeper designed by the Davey Resource Group.

Two workshops were held in the months of October and November. Fort Massac State Park hosted the first workshop in Metropolis, Illinois. Those in attendance included state park employees, city administrators, community volunteers, private tree

trimmers, and a utility forester. The second workshop, hosted by the city of Benton, included students from Southeastern Illinois College, IDNR employees, and city employees. Both workshops were a combination of topics ranging from proper tree pruning; the detriments of tree topping, to hazard tree evaluation. Both workshops were well attended and well received. Similar workshops will continue to be offered throughout the southern region of the state over the next several months. The next set of workshops will likely be held in early spring.

The community forestry needs of southern Illinois communities are as diverse as the communities themselves. Each community has identified or is in the process of identifying its need and is progressing toward meeting that need. For instance, the city of Benton is preparing to have a street tree inventory completed by a group of volunteers from the Department of Forestry at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale. As communities continue to identify their community forestry needs, assistance will be provided compliments of the Division of Forest Resources of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and SIUC's Department of Forestry through the Community Forestry Volunteer Coordinator.

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 for additional information. You may also send him an e-mail message at [dclose@siu.edu](mailto:dclose@siu.edu).

## **INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY of ARBORICULTURE**

The International Society of Arboriculture is supporting the Millennium Green effort by asking communities from all over the United States to provide them with information on their Millennium Arbor Day Celebration. They will also participate in the National Millennium Tree Planting in Florida.

## **COUNCIL ON FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT**

Tim Howe was a guest presenter at the January meeting of the Illinois Forestry Development Council (formerly the Illinois Council on Forestry Development). He presented the results of a Western Illinois University and USDA FS joint study on "Illinois Small Community Forestry Programs." The survey results include:

- Municipal officials from Illinois have very strong support for trees.
- Over 90% agreed that trees are important for maintaining a healthy community environment and enhancing the quality of life in a community.
- 77% agreed that trees can help attract customers to business areas.
- 85% agreed that municipalities should fund the removal of high risk trees from the community forest.
- 72% agreed or strongly agreed that the state should provide personnel and technical assistance to help communities develop and maintain community tree programs.
- Over 3/4 of the non-Tree City USA communities stated they would like to receive information and assistance with the program.
- 2/3rds of the respondents indicated they would like assistance to initiate or further develop their local tree program.
- Over half of the communities that responded stated that trees are of value to annual community festivals or events.

Tim concluded that IDNR should provide technical assistance to communities through Community Forestry Specialist; conduct training on proper tree selection, planting and care; Coordinate community tree

inventories and hazard tree assessments.

## **Illinois Urban and Community Forestry Task Group of the Forestry Development Council**

The Urban and Community Forestry Task Group a committee of the Illinois Forestry Development Council has shifted leadership. Bill Mitchell, Debbie Jones, and Keith Jones have been elected as the leadership team. Mike Brunk and Karol Jacobs continue to serve as the urban representatives on the voting Forestry Development Council. The Task Group has outlined the following important issues and developed committees to address these issues.

## **REGIONAL URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY COUNCILS (RUCFC) UPDATE**

This week we focus on the **SUBURBAN TREE CONSORTIUM** located in Northeastern Illinois.

The Suburban Tree Consortium was created in 1985 by a group of municipalities wishing to improve the quality and selection of parkway trees in the Chicago area. Low bid selection year after year had brought about high mortality rates, which in turn had an effect on the municipality's credibility. Additionally, low bid requirements provided for little continuity and consistency with area nurseries, resulting in poor quality and selection. Today, Illinois State Law allows municipalities to enter into long term contractual relationships for the purpose of procuring parkway trees up to ten years.

The purpose of the Consortium is to help serve urban forestry needs of a diverse group of municipalities, three programs have been developed. Participation is strictly voluntary.

1) The Five Year Contractual Program allows towns with long term tree plans to project their needs ahead for five years. The municipality orders trees annually and actual expenditures are made when the

plants are delivered. 2) The Seasonal Bid Program allows municipalities to bid as a group each Spring and Fall. This program provides the benefit of savings through a joint purchase. 3) The Nursery "B" Program was developed to introduce different species to the region and features uncommon plants.

For more information contact: Theresa Dobersztyn, Purchasing Coordinator, West Central Municipal Conference, Westchester, IL at 708-450-0100

The Regional Urban and Community Forestry Council System includes: Central Illinois RUFC; East Central Illinois Community Tree Care RUFC; Southwestern Illinois RUFC; ILLOWA Tree and Landscape RUFC; Small Town Regional Urban Forestry Council; ESL Ecosystem Council; NE IL Municipal Foresters, and West Central Municipal Conference - Tree Consortium. There is a total of eight councils around Illinois.

SPECIAL THANKS TO SANDY CLARK of the Northeastern Illinois Municipal Foresters and BILL MITCHELL of the Southwestern Regional Urban Forestry Council for serving as co-editor for this issue of this issue of the Prairie Tree Companion Newsletter. The Regional Councils have stepped forward and offered to provide assistance in editing and sustaining the Prairie Tree Companion Newsletter.

## **American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)**

A recent poll by the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) shows that 77% of Americans consider having access to parks and outdoor spaces extremely important. Eleven percent said having access was very important. Eighty-five percent would like to have more parks and outdoor recreation areas and community spaces in their neighborhood. For more information, contact the ASLA at (202) 898-2444 or visit their website at <http://www.asla.org/>

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# **DATES TO REMEMBER**

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## **CONFERENCES, EVENTS AND MEETINGS**

### **MARCH 2000**

- 13-15 Building With Trees National Conference, Lied Conference Center, Nebraska City, NE.  
For more information, contact the National Arbor Day Foundation at (402) 474-5655.
- 20 Arbor Day Poster Contest school winner's poster are due in Springfield
- 21 Tree City USA Conference and Awards Ceremony, Springfield, IL
- 23 Tree City USA Conference and Awards Ceremony, Lisle, IL

### **APRIL 2000**

- 17-19 National Watershed Outreach conference; Catamaran Hotel in San Diego, CA. For more information contact Stacie Craddock at craddock.stacie@epa.gov.
- 25-27 Monitoring for the Millennium, National Water Quality Monitoring Council National Monitoring Conference; Austin, Texas. For more information, call (405) 516-4972.
- 28 **ARBOR/BIRD DAY**

### **MAY 2000**

- May 4-5, 2000 Wood Waste Utilization National Conference, Nebraska City, NE

### **JUNE 2000**

- June 11-13, 2000 The Ecology of Urban Soils: Designing and Managing Soils for the Living Landscape. Held in St. Paul, MN website: [www.scisoc.org/opae/shortcourse](http://www.scisoc.org/opae/shortcourse) or call Cindy Ash @651-454-7250.

### **OTHER 2000 DATES**

- Aug. ISA National Conference, Baltimore, MD
- Sept. 28-30, 2000 Tree City USA National Conference, Nebraska City, NE
- Oct 1-4 Society of Municipal Arborist Year 2000 Conference

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**GEORGE RYAN, GOVERNOR**  
**BRENT MANNING, DIRECTOR**

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