

PRAIRIE TREE COMPANION

Vol.9 No.2 Illinois Department of Natural Resources Urban Forestry Program July, 2000

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VOLUNTEERS ARE THE BACKBONE OF LOCAL ACTION

It takes the time and dedication of many to keep our nation beautiful and operating smoothly. It takes people behind the scenes to provide programs and services to community members.

The State of Illinois Poster Contest is one program that relies on the dedication of local volunteers. Lisa Libberton is one such volunteer. As an active member of the Lanark City Tree Board, she helps promote the awareness of trees by getting local 5th graders to participate in the State of Illinois Arbor Day poster contest. Lisa executed this program throughout Lanark's school system. Spending ten hours teaching lessons about trees, securing local prizes and judges and selecting the winning poster. She then sends the winning poster to the state level in hopes of their local shining star becoming one of the state winners or better yet even the national winner. In cooperation with the local art teacher, Lisa shared her time and talent and got the local youth excited about trees and art.

Another dedicated volunteer is the Jefferson Soil and Water Conservation District Administrative Coordinator, Kathy Oliver who is also a member of Mount Vernon's Tree City USA Tree Board. She sets out on a solo adventure to assisted all schools within Mount Vernon by distributing the poster packets, providing educational session and organizing the actual poster contest. In addition to the Poster contest, Kathy administers the Ag in the Classroom program, Arbor Day seedling distribution and tree planting demonstrations.

In other parts of the state, it is the Science and Art Teachers, Park Districts, the Public Works employees, Recreation Department employees, local PTO's, or the local City forester, or an Illinois Department of Natural Resources staff member. Many programs could not exist without those people willing to act locally and assist with these statewide programs and those interested in participating. We take out hats off to you and **THANK YOU FOR ALL THE GREAT THINGS YOUR DO FOR YOUR COMMUNITY!**

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

VISIT THE WEBSITE: <http://dnr.state.il.us/conservation/forestry/ptc.htm>

MONEY MATTERS

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. These 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 is **\$5,000.00** per unit of government per year.

Applicants must be a local unit of government or a co-applicant with a local unit of government that is a not-for-profit corporation as defined by the General Not-For-Profit Corporation Act of 1986.

Applications have been mailed to all units of government, Park Districts and interested parties.

The grant application packet contains three grant opportunities.

Application A - TREE ORDINANCE/TREE AUTHORITY is used to develop a tree care/urban forestry ordinance or establish tree authority. Application A is designed for first time applicants who currently do not have local urban forestry programs. This grant application helps new program participants

comply with the legal requirement of having a tree ordinances in place before the community can be reimbursed. This category also helps communities become eligible for Tree City USA recognition.

Application B - PROGRAM ENHANCEMENT is for local units of government with established programs that want to do a special project above and beyond their normal tree care maintenance. To qualify for these project dollars the unit of government must have an approved tree care/urban forestry ordinance. These funds can be used for inventory of community forests, developing management plans, training municipal employees on tree care and urban forestry, providing public information/education, residual wood utilization, disaster recovery plans, and insect/disease management plans.

Application C - TREE PLANTING/TREE CARE is used for tree planting, tree care and tree removal projects. To be eligible for these funds, the community must provide a specific list of where the project trees are located, an urban forestry management document, a tree ordinance, a tree inventory identifying need, planting spaces, utility locations and soil types. Project objectives must be identified in required documents. State funds can only be used for the purchase, planting or removal of trees. Shrubs, annuals and perennial flower purchases and planting costs cannot be covered with these State funds, but can be the in-kind contribution. Communities with severe tornado damage within the past two years will receive greater consideration.

GRANT APPLICATIONS ARE DUE BY CLOSE OF BUSINESS August 15, 2000.

If you have any questions or would like a copy of the grant application packet: contact the Division of Forest Resources at 524 South Second Street, Springfield, IL 62701-1787, or phone us at 217/782-2361 and ask for Reinee Hildebrandt, Urban Conservation Program Administrator.

TECHNICAL UPDATE

TREE CHEERS for Community Forestry Video

The Small Town Community Regional Forestry Council presents the "Tree Cheers for Community Forestry" video. If you want to encourage others to appreciate our great inheritance of trees and to replenish the forest for the future, have someone from the regional council present the video at one of your community meetings. Contact: Kim St. John, Prairie Rivers RC&D, 309-364-3979.

IDNR - TREE INVENTORY SERVICE TO SMALL COMMUNITIES UPDATE

Nineteen communities are currently signed up for the Illinois Department of Natural Resources on-line tree inventory and management plan development service. Communities include: Benton, Carrollton, Chillicothe, Elburn, El Paso, Forreston, Forsyth, Galva, Gridley, Griggsville, Green Valley, Mackanaw, Marquette Heights, Mowequa, Petersburg, Plainfield, Princeton, Towanda, and Winchester. DNR staff can help community volunteer groups collect tree data and enter the data into the computer or they can provide the technical expertise and conduct the tree inventory for the community. The result of participation will be a database file of your communities trees and a management plan. There is only one opening available for this year. Please contact Reinee Hildebrandt at 217-782-2361 for more information.

AWARDS/CONTESTS

TREE CITY USA AWARDS

For their promotion of urban forestry and tree care,

158 Illinois communities were honored with the TREE CITY USA DESIGNATION. They received their awards by attending one of the conferences held in either Springfield or Morton Arboretum, Lisle, IL. **First year Tree City USA participants are Berkeley, Elburn, Normal and Ottawa.** Illinois is ranked second in the nation for the number of Tree City USA communities.

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.

With 39 Tree City USA GROWTH award communities, Illinois is ranked number one in the nation for the most participants. The "GROWTH" award recognizes additional efforts that are being accomplished to improve basic urban forestry programs. 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 and GROWTH award programs are sponsored annually 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.

Listed below are the communities approved by the National Arbor Day Foundation for Tree City USA Designation. The number of years of participation are in parentheses and an asterisk designates Growth Award recipients.

ADDISON (12), ALGONQUIN (4),
ALTAMONT (14), ALTON (6), ANTIOCH (8),
ARLINGTON HEIGHT (15), AURORA (7),
BANNOCKBURN (9), BARRINGTON (14),
BARRY (2), BATAVIA (3), BEECHER (11),
BELLEVILLE*(7), BENSENVILLE (12),
BERKELEY (1), BERWYN (13),

BLOOMINGDALE (5), BLOOMINGTON (13),
 BOLINGBROOK* (10), BROOKFIELD* (19),
 BROOKLYN* (4), BUFFALO (14),
 BUFFALO GROVE (12), BURR RIDGE (6),
 CAMP LINCOLN* (2), CARBONDALE (19),
 CARROLLTON (10), CENTRALIA (12),
 CHAMPAIGN (15), CHANNAHON* (3),
 CHICAGO* (18), CHILLICOTHE (10),
 CLARENDON HILLS (10),
 COLLINSVILLE (17), COUNTRY CLUB HILLS
 (10), DAKOTA (2), DECATUR (19)
 DE KALB (2), DES PLAINES (13),
 DOWNERS GROVE (16), EAST PEORIA (8),
 ELBURN (New) (1), ELGIN* (10),
 ELK GROVE VILLAGE (15),
 ELMHURST* (20), EVANSTON* (16),
 FORSYTH (4), FRANKFORT (4), GALVA(15)
 GENEVA (2), GENOA* (6), GIBSON CITY(5),
 GLEN ELLYN*(16), GLENCOE (16),
 GLENDALE HEIGHTS*(3), GLENVIEW (15)
 GRAYSLAKE (6), GREEN VALLEY (4),
 GREENVILLE (5), GRIDLEY (2),
 GURNEE (3), HANOVER PARK (15),
 HAZEL CREST*(15), HENRY* (4),
 HICKORY HILLS (4), HIGHLAND* (11),
 HIGHLAND PARK (20), HINSDALE (8),
 HOFFMAN ESTATES (10),
 HOMEWOOD* (2),
 INDIAN HEAD PARK (10), INVERNESS (9),
 IRVING (6), ITASCA (15),
 JACKSONVILLE (2), JOLIET (9),
 KANKAKEE (4), LA GRANGE (17),
 LA GRANGE PARK (13), LAKE BLUFF (4),
 LAKE FOREST (20), LAKE ZURICH* (5),
 LANARK (7), LIBERTYVILLE (7),
 LINCOLNSHIRE* (11), LINCOLNWOOD (2)
 LINDENHURST (3), LISLE (8),
 LOMBARD* (10), LYONS (17),
 MACHESNEY PARK (14), MACOMB (8),
 MARQUETTE HEIGHTS* (9),
 MARSHALL (8), MARTINSVILLE* (6),
 MATTESON (9), MCHENRY (6*),
 MIDDLETOWN* (10), MOLINE* (9),

MOUNT CARROLL (12),
 MOUNT PROSPECT* (15), MOUNT VERNON*
 (6), MOWEQUA (12),
 NAPERVILLE* (10), NORMAL (1)
 NORTHBROOK* (6), NORTHFIELD* (15),
 O'FALLON (2), OAK LAWN (4),
 OAK PARK* (16), ORLAND PARK* (14),
 OTTAWA (1), PALATINE (15),
 PALOS HEIGHTS (10), PALOS HILLS (12),
 PALOS PARK*(7), PARK RIDGE*(16),
 PAXTON (11), PEKIN (10), PEORIA (15),
 PETERSBURG*(7), PLAINFIELD (9),
 PLEASANT PLAINS (6), PRINCETON (11),
 PROSPECT HEIGHTS (2), QUINCY (14),
 RANTOUL (14), RIVER FOREST* (2),
 RIVER GROVE*(5), ROCK ISLAND (10),
 ROLLING MEADOWS (11), ROSELLE (14),
 SALEM (10), SCHAUMBURG (11),
 SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE (7), SIDELL (13)
 SKOKIE* (14), SPRINGFIELD (12),
 ST. CHARLES* (2), ST. ELMO (8),
 STELLE (15), STREAMWOOD (8),
 SUGAR GROVE (7), TAYLORVILLE (12),
 TOWER LAKES (7), URBANA* (24),
 VERNON HILLS (8), VILLA PARK (15),
 WARRENVILLE (14), WAYNE (3),
 WESTERN SPRINGS (16), WESTMONT (4),
 WHEATON (14), WHEELING (10), WILMETTE
 (16), WINNETKA (7),
 WOODRIDGE (9), ZION (5).

ARBOR DAY POSTER CONTEST

The State of Illinois 5th grade Arbor Day Poster Contest theme was "Trees are Terrific ... in All Shapes and Sizes." Sheri George, a fifth grade student at Raccoon School in Centralia, is the winner of the 2000 Arbor Day Poster Contest sponsored by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and the National Arbor Day Foundation. Announcing the winners of the annual contest, IDNR Director Brent Manning said: "This year we had more than 1,200 students from 42 schools submit entries. While they were all wonderful, Sheri managed to perfectly

illustrate the theme, 'TREES ARE TERRIFIC...in all Shapes and Sizes!' We offer her our heartiest congratulations. "

To view the winning poster please visit Illinois Department of Natural Resources web page .
dnr.state.il.us/lands/education/classrm/poster.htm

George, a student of Juanita Fischer, will compete against winners from other states in the national contest in April. The national winner will be announced by the National Arbor Day Foundation at the Arbor Day celebration in Nebraska City, Nebraska, on April 30. In addition to the chance to compete at the national level, George's Illinois victory earned her a \$100 U.S. savings bond, copies of the Eyewitness Book on Trees-The Living Earth Book of North American Trees, a Smokey Bear T-shirt and a Division of Forest Resources' frisbee. Her teacher receives a copy of the book, The Hillier Gardner's Guide to Trees & Shrubs and a packet of tree-related materials. The National Arbor Day Foundation provides a "Trees Are Terrific" curriculum kit to the winning school.

The other Illinois contest finalists and the prizes they will receive are:

*2nd Place -- Matthew Rongey, an art student of Marcia Leebens' Studio and home-schooled in Carterville, wins a \$50 savings bond, a copy of Taylor's Guide to Trees, a Smokey Bear T-shirt and a Division of Forest Resources' frisbee. His teacher receives the book, The Living Earth Book of North American Trees.

*3rd Place -- Signe Knutson, a student of Mrs. Miller at Westlake Christian Academy in Gurnee, wins a \$50 savings bond, a copy of the Eyewitness Handbook on Trees, a Smokey Bear T-shirt and a Division of Forest Resources' frisbee. The teacher receives the book, The Living Earth Book of North American Trees.

*4th Place -- Myiesha Causey, a student of Michaelene Kelly at Park Manor School in Chicago, wins Golden Guide to Trees, a Smokey Bear T-shirt and a Division of Forest Resources' frisbee.

*5th Place -- Heston Hase, a student of Jean

Lingle at Dongola Unit School #66 in Dongola, wins a copy of the Golden Guide to Trees, a Smokey Bear T-shirt and a Division of Forest Resources' frisbee.

*6th Place -- Hannah Schneider, a student of Darlene Dryer at St. Joseph School in Downers Grove, wins a copy of the Golden Guide to Trees, a Smokey Bear T-shirt and a Division of Forest Resources' frisbee.

*7th Place -- Cindie Daniels, a student of Susan Rogers at Benjamin Franklin Elementary in Mount Vernon, wins a copy of the Golden Guide to Trees, a Smokey Bear T-shirt and a Division of Forest Resources' frisbee.

*8th Place -- Carla Contreras , a student of Joy Stengel at Lakeview School in Hoffman Estates, wins a copy of the Golden Guide to Trees, a Smokey Bear T-shirt and a Division of Forest Resources' frisbee.

*9th Place -- Shayne Calzavara, a student of Rachel Todd at Eastland School in Shannon, wins a copy of the Golden Guide to Trees, a Smokey Bear T-shirt and a Division of Forest Resources' frisbee.

*10th Place -- Jenna Scinto, a student of Kathleen Frost at Our Lady of the Ridge in Chicago Ridge, wins a copy of the Golden Guide to Trees, a Smokey Bear T-shirt and a Division of Forest Resources' frisbee.

*Honorable Mentions -- Kelsey Gibson, a student of Kristie Palomo at McKinnley Elementary in South Holland, wins a copy of the Golden Guide to Trees, a coloring stick made from wood and a Division of Forest Resources' frisbee. Matthew Jones, a home-schooled student of Deborah Jones in Hazel Crest, wins a copy of the Golden Guide to Trees, a coloring stick made from wood and a Division of Forest Resources' frisbee. Hannah Grant, a student of Robert Phillips of Plainfield School in Des Plaines wins a copy of the Golden Guide to Trees, a coloring stick made from wood and a Division of Forest Resources' frisbee. Megan Hagie, a student of Mrs. Brown at Lewistown Central School in Lewistown wins a copy of the Golden Guide to Trees, a coloring stick made from wood a Division of Forest Resources' frisbee. Brian Bailey, a student of Denise Miglin at Rock Cut

Elementary School in Loves Park wins a copy of the Golden Guide to Trees, a coloring stick made from wood and a Division of Forest Resources' frisbee.

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 IDNR for state judging.

Forty posters qualified for the state judging. Judges included Tom Clay, IDNR Division of Education Chief; Kathy Andrews, Division of Education Head; and Olin Harris, IDNR artist in the Publications Section.

In addition to the National Arbor Day Foundation and the IDNR 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 IDNR 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.

U of I PROFESSIONAL STAFF AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE

Stephanie Brown, Director of the Illinois Forest Resources Center received the "Professional Staff Award For Excellence - Innovation and Creativity from the University of Illinois College of Agriculture. Stephanie works closely with the Illinois Forestry Development Council - Urban and Community Forestry Task Group.

INSECT AND DISEASE

OAK LEAF TATTERS

If you have been noticing oak trees with leaves that are skinny and veiny, it may be leaf tatters. Leaves will have very little leaf surface and will consist mostly of the main vascular system. Usually a few weeks after the oak tatters appears, new leaves will appear and be normal. Since this is a recently reported phenomenon, it is not known whether or not the condition has long lasting effects.

The reason for this growth pattern is unknown. Some people have thought the it was simply a case of caterpillars feeding on the leaves. Yet no caterpillars were captured or reported to be on the leaves. One could speculate that extremely cold weather had damaged the buds (growth meristems) and caused the distorted leaves. If this were the case, why then has it just recently been reported. Others think it might be herbicide drift, since several reports are coming from rural areas or urban areas next to rural fields. If you observe leaf tatters contact: Jim Appleby, Entomologist, Dept. of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences at University of Illinois. Phone: 217-244-3431. Email: jappleby@uiuc.edu
Together we can unravel this mystery.

DOGWOOD ANTHRACNOSE

Dogwood anthracnose is a pathogen that tends to impact trees that are above 3,000 feet in elevation and in cool, shady areas. Yet according to the U of I CES Home, Yard and Garden Pest Newsletter the disease was reported in Central Kentucky. Based on past experiences experts expect to see the disease in Illinois in the future.

PARTNERSHIP CORNER

NATIONAL ARBOR DAY FOUNDATION (NADF)

Nationally there are 2,619 TREE CITY USA communities plus 417 communities receiving the GROWTH award. The number of TCU communities has nearly doubled since 1990.

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

CONGRATULATIONS TO BATIVIA, IL for their third year as a TREE LINE USA participant. They are one of twelve such municipalities with municipal utilities that received this designation.

ILLINOIS ARBORIST ASSOCIATION

The Illinois Arborist Association has 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!

The Certified Arborist Workshop is being held every Thursday night at Schaumburg Town Hall during Sept. 7 - Nov. 9th. The sessions are from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. The last night is the exam. For more information contact: Peter Gordon, Lake Forest, IL 847-604-5891. IAA is currently looking for an editor for the "Illinois Arboriculture" newsletter. If interested call Peggy Drescher at 630-469-6756.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE - FOREST SERVICE

In cooperation with the USDA FS, Illinois hosted a 20 state Urban Forestry Coordinators and Partners meeting in Chicago on May 16-18, 2000.

The event included: a tour of the Chicago River ecosystem, speakers on urban sprawl, volunteer partnerships, and enhancing state program service to constituents.

WIU PEACE CORP INTERN

Mary Honer's one year position as an Urban Forester with the IDNR has come to an end. During that time she helped create a regional council, conducted a workshop on tree ordinances, conducted rural urban interface meetings, assisted with youth environmental events, successfully encouraged communities to achieve the Tree City USA designation, and provided Urban and Community information and technical assistance to several communities.

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Available for dissemination are free copies of the new 193 page manual titled, "Forestry Principles for Small Communities in Illinois." This step-by-step guide covers topics of tree planting, tree pruning, conducting tree inventories and controlling damage to trees through tree preservation at building sites. SIU will mail 1,200 to 1,300 printed copies throughout the state to communities with populations of less than 15,000.

For urban forestry technical assistance within the southern 36 counties, please contact the Community Forestry Volunteer Coordinator, Dave Close at 618-453-3341 or dclose@siu.edu.

REGIONAL URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY COUNCILS (RUCFC) UPDATE

Southern Illinois held its first Regional Council Meeting June 8th. The "Tree Cheers for Community Forestry" video was shown. A discussion on local community forestry needs identified the following regional issues: a) leaving a living legacy by re-planting trees in your community, b) providing education and dissemination of tree care information including: tree line conflict resolution, planting the right tree in the right place, c) getting citizens involved, and d)

encouraging advanced planning and working with developments to make sure trees are included.

The next meeting is scheduled for September or October of 2000. The agenda will include a field trip to see historic trees and showcase the Southern Illinois Regional Urban Forestry Council Tree Seedling Dissemination program. Communities can sign up to participate in the dissemination program at this meeting. A copy of the new SIU notebook, "Forestry Principles for Small Communities in Illinois" will be available for viewing. If interested, contact: Dave Close at 618-453-3341 or dclose@siu.edu.

DATES TO REMEMBER

CONFERENCES, EVENTS AND MEETINGS

YR2000 DATES

Aug. 6-9 ISA National Conference, Baltimore, MD
(217-355-9411)

Sept. 9-12 Grassroots Summit*

Sept. 28-30 Community Forestry At Its Best
National Conference*

Oct 1-4 Society of Municipal Arborist Year
2000 Conference (517-483-4206)

Oct. 18 Building with Trees*, Chicago, IL

YR2001 DATES:

Mar. 20,22 Illinois TCU Conferences, Spfld, Lisle

Mar. 26-28 Building with Trees Natl. Conf.*

* Sponsored by National Arbor Day Foundation,
Nebraska City, NE 402-474-5655 & held at the Lied
Conference Center or as otherwise specified.

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GEORGE RYAN, GOVERNOR

BRENT MANNING, DIRECTOR

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