



# Wisconsin Urban & Community Forests

A Quarterly Newsletter of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Forestry Division

## Reflections on the 2011 Society of Municipal Arborists Conference

As a member of the Society of Municipal Arborists, I was fortunate enough to attend the 47<sup>th</sup> annual SMA Conference and Trade Show in Milwaukee. This was my first-ever SMA conference and I thoroughly enjoyed it. The people I met were all very friendly and the speakers and presentations were outstanding.

From the pre-conference workshop on branch sampling techniques for early detection of EAB in the urban environment, to the City of Milwaukee's urban forestry operations tour, to the educational sessions and speakers, this conference had it all and was very organized.

Coming from the smaller community of Oconomowoc (population just over 15,000), I didn't know what to expect. I thought the attendees would only be from larger communities, but that wasn't the case. The facilities were top notch and it was great to hear how supportive Mayor Tom Barrett of Milwaukee is towards urban forestry. The conference was truly a great experience!

**-Bryan Spencer**  
Superintendent of Parks and Forestry, City of Oconomowoc



*Jim Kringer, Milwaukee's forestry construction supervisor, discusses how the city protects trees during road construction.*

*Photo: Jeff Roe, WDNR*



*Photo: Michelle Sutton, City Trees*

*The SMA International Urban Forestry Conference held last September in Milwaukee was close to home for Wisconsin arborists and urban foresters.*

Attending the annual SMA conference has been a goal of mine for several years. I have heard good things from past attendees, but as with all first-time conferences, I wasn't entirely sure what to expect. I was not disappointed and left with a very favorable impression of the organization and the conference.

Learning about subject matter from a municipal perspective was more useful than I imagined it would be. Several presentations ("Leveraging Storm Water Funds," "Making the 50+ Year Decision," "Here Today, Gone Today," "Getting Value from Urban Wood") covered subjects that I am currently addressing or planning for in the near future.

As applicable as the presentations were, the best part of the conference for me was having the opportunity to network with others in our specialized field. I have been in my position for less than a year and am in the process of tailoring an established urban forestry program to meet my vision for the future. Meeting new people and re-connecting with old acquaintances at the conference gave me the opportunity to learn from their success and the ability to potentially avoid replicating failure as I move forward.

**-Matt Koepnick**  
Forester, City of Racine

*Continued on page 12*



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### Inside this issue:

<i>Community Profile:</i>	
<i>City of Sparta.....</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Emerald Ash Borer Update .....</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>UF Council Awards.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Tree City USA Deadline.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Tree Profile: London Planetree .....</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>What Damaged This Tree? .....</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Urban Forestry Council.....</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Urban Tree Health Matters.....</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Coming Events .....</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Urban Forest Insect Pests.....</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>SMA.....</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>International Guidelines for UF.....</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>Prentice's Cooperative Nursery Effort .....</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>Idea Exchange.....</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>Meet New Editor .....</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>UF Resources.....</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>DNR UF Contacts.....</i>	<i>20</i>

# 2



### Community Profile:

Population: 9274  
 Street Trees: ~3800  
 Miles of Streets: ~45  
 Number of Parks: 9  
 Park Acreage:  
 80 developed  
 100 undeveloped  
 Golf Course Acreage:  
 ~100  
 Tree City USA:  
 9 years

### Program Profile:

Equipment:  
 42' bucket truck  
 2 loaders w/bucket clamps  
 dump trucks

Staff:  
 Public Works Director  
 Street crew (8 fulltime)  
 Parks Director  
 Golf Course Superintendent

Parks crew (1 fulltime, 2 seasonal)

Budget:  
 2010 Forestry Budget ~\$140,000

## Community Profile: City of Sparta

by Cindy Casey, Urban Forestry Coordinator  
 DNR West Central Region

Founded in 1851, the city of Sparta lies tucked away in southwest Wisconsin's scenic driftless area, just over 20 miles east of La Crosse. Once known for the healing powers of local artesian springs, the city's current renown as the Bicycling Capital of America comes from its location at the junction of the La Crosse River Trail and the historic, nationally acclaimed Elroy-Sparta State Trail. The 32-mile Elroy-Sparta path is a tunnel-studded stretch of former Chicago-Northwestern rail line with the distinction of being the nation's first rails-to-trails conversion.

A recent and more troublesome distinction for Sparta is its unofficial rank as the Wisconsin community with the highest known percentage of ash trees—approximately 50–55% of its public tree population, according to a 2008 inventory. With emerald ash borer's appearance 35 miles away in Victory in 2009, and now just 20 miles away in the La Crosse area, the city's forestry program has ramped up significantly from its previous active but modest efforts.

Like several other communities of its size, forestry duties in Sparta are divided between parks and public works departments. Though



Ben Bikin' welcomes visitors to Sparta, the Bicycling Capital of America.

Photo: Valerie Brommann, Silly America

training pruning of young trees and routine, cyclical pruning of other trees are among the city's future forestry goals, current tree trimming is generally limited to crown lifting and hazard abatement. Approximately \$2000–3000 per year is spent on park planting. Street tree planting is done largely at the request of adjacent homeowners. An increased emphasis on species diversity since 2008 allows homeowners to choose from a list of eight species when requesting a terrace tree, up from the previous four. Disease-resistant elms are among the choices. Except

in emergencies, street tree removal is done in winter, mostly by city personnel. In contrast, park tree work is scheduled mainly in summer months when seasonal staff are available. The city does not have a brush chipper and contracts for brush grinding generally twice a year.

Sparta's forestry program history includes four DNR Urban Forestry grants. The city was one of several in Northern States Power Company's (now Xcel Energy) service area that participated in the company's Community Tree Renewal program. Under this program, NSP donated the subcontracting cost of cutting trees interfering with power lines and the city used that donation to match a UF grant for replacement trees. In Sparta, nearly 400 Commu-

Continued on page 9



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Send your inquiries, address changes, or story ideas to Dana Dentice, [Dana.Dentice@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Dana.Dentice@wisconsin.gov) (608-264-8944), or Dick Rideout, [Richard.Rideout@Wisconsin.gov](mailto:Richard.Rideout@Wisconsin.gov) (608-267-0843).

**Editors:** Dana Dentice and Dick Rideout  
**Contributors:** Cindy Casey, Elizabeth Dierickx, Don Kissinger, Kimberly Miller, Jeff Roe, Tracy Salisbury, Kim Sebastian and Olivia Witthun

Articles, news items, photos and ideas are welcome.

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This newsletter is available in alternative format upon request and can also be downloaded in PDF format from our Web site: <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/UF/>

For breaking UF news, anecdotes, announcements and networking opportunities, sign up for The Urban Forestry Insider, DNR's bi-weekly e-bulletin. Archives are at <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/UF/resources/InsiderArchive.html>

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# Emerald Ash Borer Update—November 2011

by Bill McNee, Gypsy Moth Suppression Coordinator  
DNR Northeast Region

## Recent Wisconsin EAB Detections

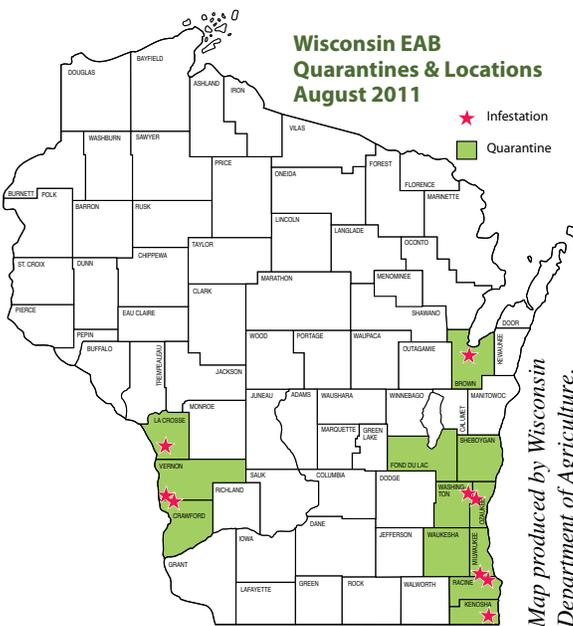
The summer of 2011 had two new county detections of EAB in Wisconsin—Racine and La Crosse counties. While adult beetles were caught on traps in both counties, infested trees have not yet been found in either county. Racine County was previously quarantined for EAB and La Crosse County was quarantined shortly after the detection.

Infested trees were located in Kenosha, close to where traps had caught adult beetles the previous two years. Further survey work identified other infested trees in the area.



Photo: Bill McNee, WDNR

Asian stingless wasps released near Newburg in June 2011. Actual wasp size is about a 1/4" in length.



Map produced by Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

## Three Species of Stingless Wasps Released in Newburg

In 2011, researchers from UW–Madison released three species of small, stingless wasps at the River-edge Nature Center near Newburg to help reduce EAB populations. These wasps are parasitoids, insects that feed on other insects and ultimately kill their host. The selected parasitoids are host specific to EAB and are natural enemies of EAB in its native range in China. They will not eliminate EAB, but will help to reduce its population levels and slow tree mortality.

The two species released in June, *Tetrastichus planipennis* and *Spathius agrili*, attack EAB larvae beneath the bark. Approximately 2700 *Tetrastichus planipennis* and 1600 *Spathius agrili* were released. A third wasp species, *Oobius agrili*, attacks EAB eggs and was released in July once the EAB adults were laying eggs. About 1600 *Oobius agrili* were released. Wasp releases may occur at additional sites in 2012.

A YouTube presentation by Michigan State University describes the three parasitic wasps being released in the Midwest to fight EAB. Watch the video at [www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_embedded&v=Jc668JTxYs](http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=Jc668JTxYs). (The section specifically related to wasps starts at a time of 3:50.)

Continued on page 4

The map below shows all counties where there was a first EAB detection in 2011 (in red) as of November. The number of counties with an EAB detection has grown by 54, which is an approximate 25 percent increase. A majority of these new detections resulted from high-risk trapping.



Map produced by USDA APHIS PPO

New EAB county detections in 2011 (in red).



## Save the Date! — 50th Annual WAA/DNR Annual Urban Forestry Conference & Trade Show



January 29 thru 31, 2012 (Not Super Bowl weekend!)

### Featuring:

#### Tree Planting Initiatives

*Jeremy Barrick,  
New York City  
Deputy Chief Forester*

#### Development of a Tree Preservation Program in NYC

*Jeremy Barrick*

#### Tree Care Standards and ANSI A300

*Guy Meilleur*

#### Tree Safety and Climbing Systems

*Dr. John Ball*

#### Talking Trees to Engineers

*Peter Macdonough,  
Kestrel Design Group*

#### Biochar, Compost and Mulch as Soil Management Approaches

*Dr. Bryant Scharenbroch*

#### Missouri Gravel Bed System

*Dr. Chris Starbuck*

#### Abiotic and Soil Diagnostics Workshop

*Chris Carlson*

#### Detective Dendro

*Guy Meilleur*

#### Introductory and Business Tracks Networking

AND MORE!

**Hyatt on Main (formerly Hotel Sierra) & KI Convention Center, Green Bay, WI**  
Conference program will be distributed in late December and be available online at

[www.waa-isa.org](http://www.waa-isa.org)

Emerald Ash Borer, *continued from page 3*

### Branch Sampling Method

A new EAB survey technique has been demonstrated several times in Wisconsin by Dr. Krista Ryall of the Canadian Forest Service in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. The technique involves peeling mid-crown ash branches to look for EAB larvae and galleries and has been shown to be an effective method of finding EAB before trees show symptoms of infestation. It is hoped that this survey method can be used by arborists and municipal forestry crews as part of their regular tree pruning and removal work. The methodology is available at [www.oakville.ca/Media\\_Files/forestry/EAB-branchsamplingRyall2010.pdf](http://www.oakville.ca/Media_Files/forestry/EAB-branchsamplingRyall2010.pdf). For more information, contact DNR Forest Health or Urban Forestry staff.

At the present time, the size of the federally funded EAB trapping program remains uncertain. The branch peeling method should be considered by communities interested in surveying for EAB. Communities will also be able to purchase their own EAB traps and lures from manufacturers. More information will be available at a later date.

### Timber Harvests near Newburg and Victory

Over the past two years, grant funds obtained from the USDA Forest Service supported the hiring of staff for Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) to implement salvage and preemptive removal of ash in the vicinity of Wisconsin's two first known EAB infestations at Newburg and Victory. Timber harvesting in these areas has started and will continue this winter. Harvesting will occur on approximately 400 acres. The volume of timber marked for harvesting is approximately 450,000 board feet in the Victory area and 150,000 board feet in the Newburg area.

### Wisconsin Emerald Ash Borer Strategic Plan

Wisconsin's strategic plan for dealing with EAB was created in September 2011. Developed by the Wisconsin Cooperative EAB Program with input from a wide variety of affected groups, the strategic plan helps guide prioritization, development and implementation of actions related to the threats and harm caused by EAB in Wisconsin. The plan's appendices may be especially useful to urban foresters and municipal tree managers. Read the plan at [http://datcpservices.wisconsin.gov/eab/articleassets/WI\\_EAB\\_Strategic\\_Plan.pdf](http://datcpservices.wisconsin.gov/eab/articleassets/WI_EAB_Strategic_Plan.pdf). 🌿

# Urban Forestry Council Award Nominations Due: December 30

by Dana Dentice, Urban Forestry Communication Specialist  
DNR Division of Forestry

The [Wisconsin Urban Forestry Council](#) is looking to recognize outstanding individuals, organizations, communities and tribes whose efforts have supported and furthered urban forestry in the state. Award winners are announced in February.

Wisconsin Urban Forestry Council Awards are presented in five categories:

- 🌿 **Lifetime Achievement**, for outstanding contributions to Wisconsin urban forestry made throughout a lifetime career
- 🌿 **Distinguished Service**, recognizing an individual for significant urban forestry contributions
- 🌿 **Project Partnership**, for projects that utilize partnerships as a means of providing service or benefits to the urban forest
- 🌿 **Elected Official**, recognizing an elected state, county or local official who has made a recent contribution to urban forestry in Wisconsin
- 🌿 **Innovations in Urban Forestry**, recognizing a community, individual, association or organization that has exhibited innovation (creativity, commitment and success) in the development or enhancement of an urban forestry project or program

Nominations should include the following information: award category or categories; complete contact information (including names, addresses and telephone numbers) for the individual(s), organization, group and/or project being nominated, along with contact information for the person(s) who can provide information about the nomination; and a description of the merits of the nominee and/or the achievements

## Tree City USA Applications Due: December 31

The Tree City application deadline is right around the corner. Since 1976, Tree City USA has been a catalyst for community tree care and a powerful force for promoting urban forestry. This program, sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation (ADF) and administered in Wisconsin by the Department of Natural Resources, provides communities with a tangible goal and national recognition for their community forestry efforts. There are more than 3400 Tree Cities across the country. Wisconsin boasts 182 Tree Cities, ranking us third in the nation!

To be recognized as a Tree City USA, a community must meet four requirements. It must have: 1) a designated tree board or forestry department; 2) a tree care ordinance; 3) an annual forestry program expenditure



Shown left to right: Al Murray, Tribal Forester, and Harold "Gus" Frank, Tribal Chairman of the Forest County Potawatomi Community, receive the 2011 Innovations in Urban Forestry Award presented by Wisconsin Urban Forestry Council Member Mark Freberg.

Photo: Don Kissinger, WDNR

of the project or partnership, including any supporting documents (news clippings, photographs, letters, etc.) that show why the nominee is deserving of the award.

If you know of an individual or project of merit but don't have the support materials, submit the name and contact information and the Urban Forestry Council will follow up and request additional support materials.

Information can be sent to the Wisconsin Urban Forestry Council, PO Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707, or e-mailed to Laura Wyatt at [Laura.Wyatt@Wisconsin.gov](mailto:Laura.Wyatt@Wisconsin.gov). Laura is the Forestry Division's liaison to the council and can be reached at 608-267-0568. Additional information about the awards is available at [www.dnr.wi.gov/forestry/UF/council/](http://www.dnr.wi.gov/forestry/UF/council/). 🌿

of at least \$2 per capita; 4) observe and proclaim Arbor Day.

Communities that have already achieved Tree City USA certification can strive for a Growth Award that recognizes efforts over and above the four standards. Twenty-six of the recertifying Wisconsin Tree Cities also received a Growth Award in 2010.

If you are interested in the Tree City USA program visit <http://portal.arborday.org/> to complete an application or contact your Regional Urban Forestry Coordinator (contact information on Page 20). They can provide you with more information and answer questions about the application process. Applications are due December 31 of each year. 🌿

5



## Community Tree Profile:

# London planetree (*Platanus x acerifolia*)

by Laura G. Jull, Associate Professor & Extension Specialist  
Dept. of Horticulture, University of Wisconsin–Madison



Photo: Kris Bachtel, Morton Arboretum

Exclamation!<sup>TM</sup> London planetree

**Native To:** Not native; a hybrid with *Platanus orientalis* (Oriental planetree) and *P. occidentalis* (American sycamore) parentage

**Mature Height:** 75–85' tall; some cultivars are smaller

**Spread:** 60–80'; some cultivars are smaller

**Form:** Pyramidal when young, becoming rounded with age with very large, massive branches

**Growth Rate:** Moderate to fast

**Foliage:** Alternate, simple, coarse-textured, broad, triangular-shaped leaves; 6–7" long and 5–9" wide, with three to five lobes; truncate leaf base (goes straight across) and serrated margins. The tips of the lobes are acuminate (long and drawn outwards) and the palmate veins on the backside of the leaves are tomentose (has fine hairs). New leaves in spring are also tomentose, becoming smooth as they age. These leaf hairs can be allergenic to some people if breathed in. Leaves have distinct odor when crushed. Compared to American

sycamore, the leaves on London planetree have a more truncate leaf base. The bases of the petioles are swollen and hollow, fitting over the bud (subpetiolar).

**Buds and Stems:** The buds appear to be missing, but are subpetiolar, hidden by the end of the leaf petiole that sits on top of the bud like a cap. The twigs zigzag back and forth, with the buds at an angle (divergent). Buds are alternate, large, 1/4–3/8" long, conical, smooth, dark reddish brown and shiny. Small, leaf-like stipules are borne at the base of the leaves that shortly fall off, leaving a distinct, circular scar on the twig at the base of the leaves.

**Fall Color:** Yellow to brown, not showy

**Flowers:** Not showy, monoecious, produced in spring. Male and female flowers are similar looking, globular, but borne on separate peduncles (stalks).

**Fruit:** Multiple fruit consisting of a syncarp of elongated achenes that are bristly. The fruit is globular, 1" across, light brown, produced in pairs or occasionally borne singly or in clusters of three on a long, pendulous stalk (peduncle). The fruit is produced in late summer to fall and persists into winter. The fruit gradually softens and disintegrates as it reaches the ground. The achenes float in water, which aids in seed dispersal.

**Bark:** Very showy, exfoliating in large, olive-green to tan plates with creamy inner bark. The bark is particularly showy in winter when no leaves are present.

**Site Requirements:** Performs best in deep, rich, moist, well-drained soils high in organic matter, but is adaptable. It tolerates compacted clay soils and high pH. London planetree is easy to transplant and requires full sun for best growth. It can tolerate drought and extended flooding and some cultivars are quite tolerant to heat and air pollution.

**Hardiness Zone:** 5b to 8b (cold hardiness varies with cultivars)

**Insect & Disease Problems:** Susceptible to fungal canker stain, bacterial leaf scorch, cankers, eastern and western US strains of anthracnose, powdery mildew, sycamore lacebug, Japanese beetles and frost crack, particularly if pruned or planted improperly. At the present time, bacterial leaf scorch is more of a problem in mid-Atlantic and southern states, Texas and California.

**Suggested Applications:** Widely used in Europe and California where it is often pollarded (special type of pruning), as well as in the Midwest as a street tree. London planetree provides dense shade and performs well in parks and large lawn areas. The bark is particularly showy in winter. Cultivars 'Morton Circle' and 'Morton Euclid' perform well in large parking lot islands and road medians. This is a good ash and Norway maple replacement tree for urban and suburban environments in zone 5 areas.

**Limitations:** London planetree, as well as American sycamore, are messy trees with large plates of exfoliating bark, twigs, and leaves littering the ground. However, new cultivars of London planetree have significant, improved anthracnose resistance, reducing the amount of twig and leaf litter during summer. The root system is shallow and may encroach on sidewalks. Fungal canker stain and bacterial leaf scorch are significant problems of London planetree with the latter more of an issue in warmer climates. The pubescence on the backsides of the leaves on the veins can trigger allergies, irritating the lungs. London planetree is marginally hardy to Wisconsin, but newer cultivars have increased cold hardiness and superior disease resistance.

**Comments:** London planetree, particularly Exclamation!™, is a good choice for street tree use in zone 5 and provides winter interest due to its showy, exfoliating bark. Exclamation!™ is slightly more cold hardy than the other cultivars of London planetree due to halting of growth and onset of dormancy earlier in autumn compared to other cultivars.

**Common Cultivars or Selections:**

‘Bloodgood’: fast growing; supposed to have better resistance to anthracnose than the species, but has shown susceptibility to anthracnose, powdery mildew and ozone injury. The leaves are dark green and the tree has a broad, pyramidal form, growing 50’ tall and 40’ wide. It is hardy to zone 5b.

‘Columbia’: moderate resistance to eastern strain of anthracnose (not western strain), but susceptible to powdery mildew. The leaves are deeply lobed with five lobes. The form is pyramidal, growing 50’ tall and 40’ wide, but is not as hardy (only to zone 6). This is a release from the US National Arboretum.

‘Liberty’: some resistance to eastern strain of anthracnose (not western strain) and powdery mildew, but is not as hardy (only to zone 6). This is a release from the US National Arboretum.

‘Morton Circle’: Exclamation!™ is a new selection from Dr. George Ware’s breeding program at Morton Arboretum. It is slightly more cold hardy to zone 5a as it stops growing earlier in autumn compared to other cultivars. The tree is highly resistant to anthracnose, with good resistance to powdery mildew and frost cracking. It develops a strong central leader with a dense, uniform, narrower, upright pyramidal form, reaching 60’ tall and 40’ wide. The tree produces less fruit than other cultivars and develops the exfoliating bark at an earlier age. This cultivar was formerly referred to as Encore™ and Admiration™ London planetree, but these trademarks do not exist.

‘Morton Euclid’: Ovation™ is a new selection from Dr. George Ware’s breeding program at Morton Arboretum. It is also highly resistant to anthracnose, has good resistance to powdery mildew, but is not as cold hardy as Exclamation!™, only to zone 5b. It has a strong central leader with a uniform, broad pyramidal

to rounded form, growing 60’ tall and 50’ wide with spreading branches. It is also fast growing and develops the exfoliating bark at an earlier age.

‘Yarwood’: pyramidal form; 50’ tall and 40’ wide; very large, green leaves; resistant to powdery mildew, but susceptible to anthracnose; not as cold hardy, only to zone 6. This release is from the University of California–Berkeley.

**References:**

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**Manual of Woody Landscape Plants: Their Identification, Ornamental Characteristics, Culture, Propagation and Uses**, 5th ed. 1998, by Michael A. Dirr, Stipes Publishing, Champaign, IL.

**North American Landscape Trees**, 1996, by Arthur Lee Jacobson, Ten Speed Press, Berkeley, CA.

**Street Tree Factsheets**, 1993, by Henry D. Gerhold, Norman L. Lacasse, and Willet N. Wandell (Eds.), Penn State University, University Park, PA.

**Trees for Urban and Suburban Landscapes**, 1997, by Edward F. Gilman, Delmar Publishers, Albany, NY. 🌿



London planetree bark

Photo: Kris Bachell, Morton Arboretum

**What Damaged This Tree?**



Photo: R. Wilhelm, Village of Saukville

Turn to page 19 to find out. . .

<http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/UF/>

# Wisconsin Urban Forestry Council

by Laura Wyatt, Urban Forestry Council Liaison  
DNR Division of Forestry

Two new members have been appointed by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Secretary Cathy Stepp to serve on the Wisconsin Urban Forestry Council.

The new Urban Forestry Council members are:

- 🌿 **Gregory Kessler**, Director of Community Development, City of New Berlin
- 🌿 **Jordan Skiff**, Director of Public Works, City of Fond du Lac

Individuals reappointed to the Urban Forestry Council are: **Thomas Dunbar**, Executive Director of Center for Resilient Cities; **Leif Hubbard**, representing the Wisconsin Department of Transportation; **Shirley Brabender Mattox**, former elected official from the City of Oshkosh; **Bryan Spencer**, representing Wisconsin Parks and Recreation Association; and **Joe Wilson**, Director of Greening Milwaukee. **Kelli Tuttle**, with Bluestem Forestry Consulting in Drummond, serves as chair of the Urban Forestry Council, and **Tom Dunbar** serves as vice chair.

Retiring Urban Forestry Council member Deena Murphy, city planner and zoning inspector with the City of Onalaska, was thanked for her service.

The Wisconsin Urban Forestry Council advises the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources on the best ways to preserve, protect, expand and improve the state's urban and community forest resources.

"The Department of Natural Resources greatly appreciates the time these and other members of the Urban Forestry Council spend participating on this important advisory group," said Paul DeLong, Wisconsin State Forester. "Members engage in conversations with stakeholders throughout the state regarding critical issues facing Wisconsin's community and urban forest resources. This input is the foundation from which the Urban Forestry Council provides advisory guidance to help direct and formulate urban forestry policy for managing this unique urban natural resource which is home to 80% of Wisconsin residents."

Additional information about the council and the work they do can be found on the Wisconsin Urban Forestry Council pages of the DNR website, <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/UF/council/>. 🌿

## Wisconsin Urban Forestry Council

### Officers

**Ms. Kelli Tuttle, Chair**  
*Bluestem Forestry Consulting, Drummond*

**Mr. Thomas Dunbar, FASLA, Vice-Chair**  
*Executive Director, Center for Resilient Cities*

**Dr. Les Werner, Past Chair**  
*UW-Stevens Point  
representing UW system*

### Members

**Dr. Robert Brush**  
*Landscape Architect, Plover  
Professor Emeritus, UW-Stevens Point*

**Ms. Shirley Brabender Mattox**  
*tree advocate, Oshkosh*

**Mr. Kevin Westphal**  
*Superintendent of Parks & Forestry, Village of Cedarburg, representing municipal arborists from communities under 50,000*

**Ms. Patty Dreier**  
*Executive, Portage County*

**Mayor Donald Merkes**  
*City of Menasha*

**Mr. Joseph Wilson**  
*Executive Director, Greening Milwaukee*

**Ms. Marla Eddy**  
*City Forester, Madison  
representing municipal arborists  
from communities greater than 50,000*

**Dr. Arthur Ode**  
*volunteer forester, City of Bayfield*

**Mr. Ken Ottman**  
*First Choice Tree Care, Junction City  
representing commercial arborists*

**Mr. Jeff Wolters**  
*Johnson's Nursery, Menomonee Falls  
representing Wisconsin Green Industry Federation*

**Mr. Mark Freberg**  
*City Forester, Green Bay  
representing municipal arborists from communities greater than 50,000*

**Mr. Vijai Pandian**  
*Horticulture Educator, Brown County Extension*

### Ex-Officio Members

**Ms. Jill Johnson**  
*Urban Forestry Coordinator, USDA Forest Service*

**Mr. John Gall**  
*Wachtel Tree Science, Merton  
representing Wisconsin Arborist Association*

**Mr. Jordan Skiff**  
*Director of Public Works, City of Fond du Lac*

**Mr. Richard Rideout**  
*State Urban Forestry Coordinator, DNR*

**Mr. Leif Hubbard**  
*Landscape Architect, Wisconsin Department of Transportation*

**Mr. Bryan Spencer**  
*Superintendent of Parks & Forestry, City of Oconomowoc  
representing Wisconsin Parks & Recreation Assoc.*

**Mr. Jeffrey Roe**  
*Urban Forestry Coordinator, DNR Southern Region*

**Mr. Gregory Kessler**  
*Director of Community Development, New Berlin*

**Mr. Dan Traas**  
*Ranger Services, Inc., Appleton*

**Ms. Laura Wyatt**  
*Urban Forestry Council Liaison, DNR*

**Thomas Landgraf**  
*Dimension Development, LLC  
UW School of Business, Madison*

**Mr. Jeff Treu**  
*Regional Forester, We Energies, Milwaukee  
representing utilities*

nity Tree Renewal trees were planted in 2001. A subsequent Urban Forestry grant in 2003 helped the city plant additional street and park trees.

As the threat of emerald ash borer became increasingly clear, Sparta was one of many Wisconsin communities using Urban Forestry grants to prepare. It was the city's third UF grant, in 2008, for an ash tree inventory and EAB readiness plan that brought to light Sparta's exceptionally high ash liability. Public Works Director Jordan Skiff credits the inventory and plan, produced by Bluestem Forestry Consulting, Inc., with making a significant difference in the city's level of forest management and EAB readiness.

Recognizing the potentially crippling effects of over 1900 public ash trees dying essentially all at once, Skiff immediately began implementing the consultant's recommendations, starting with removal of ash in poor condition and working with Xcel Energy to remove, rather than trim, most ash trees in the utility corridor. Sparta's public works board and elected officials were quick to grasp the EAB threat. With their support Skiff, together with Parks & Recreation Director Brad Gilbertson, has reduced the proportion of public ash trees to about 30–35%, including removal of 240 small-diameter trees. With a DNR permit, several ash were dropped into the lake at Memorial Park for fish habitat. Foresighted city officials also increased the planting budget fourfold in 2010 to counteract the pending loss of so much tree canopy. By spreading nearly 600 ash removals over three years, the city has been able to do the work in house rather than contracting, and it has allowed local residential firewood use to keep pace with supply, eliminating potentially costly disposal. The city continues to investigate alternative disposal and utilization options, however, knowing that the remaining 1300+ ash trees could flood the city's market for residential firewood should EAB appear locally.



Photo: League of Wisconsin Municipalities

*John Williams of Foth Engineering Company (left) presents Mayor John J. Sund, Jr. (middle) with the League of Wisconsin Municipalities Good Government Award for saving over \$1 million through preemptive ash tree removal, eliminating future contract costs when emerald ash borer arrives. Public Works Director Jordan Skiff (right) has led the city's proactive EAB efforts.*

Sparta's EAB response is not limited to preemptive removal. Plans include insecticide treatment of about 300 ash trees in the foreseeable future, including park tree treatment to be paid for by the local Kiwanis organization. Additionally, homeowners requesting that adjacent ROW ash remain will be allowed to have the tree treated at their own expense. Sparta's highly proactive, cost-conscious EAB response earned it the League of Wisconsin Municipalities 2010 Good Government Award as well as a write-up in UW–Madison's *Crossroads* publication.

The city's 2011 Urban Forestry Grant project consisted of an expanded tree inventory and an exciting tree-planting partnership with Polar Bears Interna-

tional. Look for this project to be featured in a future edition of this newsletter.

A recent graduate of Wisconsin's Community Tree Management Institute, Skiff produced a strategic urban forestry management plan as his required student project for the course. Among other uses, the plan helped Sparta work proactively with WisDOT on a recent state highway reconstruction project, resulting in replacement planting behind sidewalks for better tree health and easier maintenance. It also meant the city could tap into WisDOT's Community Sensitive Design fund, a percentage of project costs set aside for aesthetic improvements. Citing the value of his management plan in this instance, Skiff noted, "Planning and visioning help you see opportunities and put you in position to take advantage of them when they occur."

Challenges of a smaller community forestry program notwithstanding, Sparta has a number of ambitious plans for program growth. Goals include better tree protection on construction sites; investigating wood residue utilization options; ongoing forestry training for the program manager and crews; expanded program partnerships; implementing systematic structural and training pruning; and returning to the Tree City USA fold after a six-year absence. 🌿

## Urban Tree Health Matters:

# Thousand Cankers Disease of Black Walnut

by Kyoko Scanlon, Plant Pest & Disease Specialist  
DNR Division of Forestry

Thousand cankers disease (TCD) is a serious disease of black walnut (*Juglans nigra*). It was so named because the dieback and mortality that occur are due to numerous cankers beneath the bark. This ominous name is as bad as it sounds since it is lethal to black walnut.

Although black walnut is not native to western states, TCD has been found in Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah and Washington. TCD was found within the natural range of black walnut for the first time in July 2010 when it was

confirmed in Tennessee. In July 2011, the disease was found in Virginia and it was confirmed in Pennsylvania the following August. The disease has not been found in Wisconsin yet.

Black walnut was brought to the west by pioneers and was planted in urban and rural areas. It adapted to the new environment and grew well until the late 1980s and early 1990s when dieback and mortality became noticeable. In 2008, walnut mortality was attributed to numerous cankers in association with insect galleries and was described as a new insect-disease complex, called thousand cankers disease. Although other species of *Juglans* (walnut and butternut) can be infected with the disease, black walnut is considered

highly susceptible compared to other walnut species in the west such as Arizona walnut (*J. major*) and Texas walnut (*J. microcarpa*).

TCD is caused by spores of a canker-causing fungus, *Geosmithia morbida*, carried by the walnut twig beetle (*Pityophthorus juglandis*). When the beetle attacks a walnut tree and creates galleries beneath the bark, it brings in the fungus. The fungus creates numerous small circular-to-oblong cankers around the beetle galleries in the phloem beneath the bark. The cankers will eventually coalesce and girdle the tree, which leads to mortality. Symptoms include yellowing/wilting in the crown in late June to late August, and branch mortality/crown dieback. An infected tree often dies within three years once symptoms develop. However, if the original beetle population is low, it may take a long time before enough cankers are developed and external symptoms become visible.

The adult walnut twig beetle is very small, 1.5–2mm long, or about 1/16<sup>th</sup> inch. The body is reddish brown to dark brown. The beetle is native to the southwestern United States (Arizona, California and New Mexico) and northern Mexico. Its original distribution was roughly within the range of Arizona walnut; however the beetle has invaded neighboring western states and the three eastern states where TCD was confirmed. Although they are very small, bark beetle entrance and exit holes on dead and dying branches and stems are visible to the naked eye. Despite its common name, the “twig beetle” prefers to attack branches larger than 1” diameter. Thus TCD experts recommend branches that are “the size of a bratwurst or larger” be examined.

*Continued on page 16*

Black walnut in end stage of thousand cankers.



Photo: Whitney Cranshaw, Colorado State University, Bugwood.org

## Coming Events:

**January 3, 2012 – Super Tuesday: Weeds, Trees & Turf Diseases**, Minnesota Turf & Grounds Foundation, Minneapolis Convention Center, Minneapolis, MN. Visit [www.mtgf.org/](http://www.mtgf.org/).

**January 4–6, 2012 – Northern Green Expo**, Minneapolis Convention Center, Minneapolis, MN. Visit <http://northerngreenexpo.org/>.

**January 18–20, 2012 – Mid-Am Horticultural Trade Show**, Navy Pier, Chicago, IL. Visit [www.midam.org/](http://www.midam.org/).

**January 23, 2012 – Pesticide Applicator Training—Turf & Landscape**, Wisconsin Dells, WI. Contact [PATprogram@mailplus.wisc.edu](mailto:PATprogram@mailplus.wisc.edu) or call 608-262-7588.

**January 29–31, 2012 – DNR Annual Urban Forestry Conference and WAA Annual Conference & Trade Show**, Hotel Sierra & KI Convention Center, Green Bay, WI. Visit [www.waa-isa.org/](http://www.waa-isa.org/).

**February 12–16, 2012 – TCIA Winter Management Conference**, Hyatt Regency Curaçao Golf Resort, Curaçao. Visit [www.tcia.org](http://www.tcia.org) or call 800-262-7333.

**February 16, 2012 – Wisconsin Nursery Association Winter Workshop**, Country Springs Hotel, Waukesha, WI. Call 414-529-4705.

**February 16, 2012 – Rochester Arborist Workshop**, International Events Center, Rochester, MN. Visit [www.rochesterarboristworkshop.com](http://www.rochesterarboristworkshop.com).

**February 19–24, 2012 – SMA Municipal Forester Institute**, Arbor Day Farm, Nebraska City, NE. Visit <http://www.urban-forestry.com/mfi-2012>.



## Urban Forest Insect Pests:

# Dogwood Sawfly

by Linda Williams, Forest Health Specialist  
DNR Northeast Region

Dogwood sawfly (*Macremphytus tarsatus*) can be a significant pest of dogwood, capable of defoliating entire plants. However, the significant damage occurs late in the summer so the effects on the plant's health are minimal.

Dogwood sawfly larvae, which resemble caterpillars, change color as the larvae grow. Newly hatched larvae are transparent yellow, while slightly older larvae will have a dusty or fuzzy white coating and older larvae will be black on top with yellow undersides. Newly hatched dogwood sawfly larvae can skeletonize leaves and you may find a cluster of the larvae feeding on the undersides of leaves. Older larvae, which grow to about one inch in length, can consume entire leaves, leaving only the midribs behind. Dogwood sawflies overwinter as mature larvae in a pre-pupal state on the ground or in rotting wood and logs. In the spring they complete pupation, and from May thru July adults will emerge. The adult is a sawfly, resembling a large fly or wasp, which mates and lays eggs on the leaves of dogwood to complete the life cycle.

There are several control options that can be employed if defoliation is unacceptable. There are some parasitic wasps that utilize dogwood sawfly, but if control is desired, hand picking or chemical control is best. The caterpillar-specific insecticide Bt is not effective since these are not caterpillars; a general insecticide is needed instead and should be sprayed in July when the larvae are still small. 🌿



Above: Dogwood sawfly larvae with dusty white coating.

Right: Older dogwood sawfly larvae.

Below: Dogwood sawfly larvae defoliate dogwood plants.



Photos: Linda Williams, WDNR

Photo: Brian Kunkel, University of Delaware, Bugwood.org

# 11

**February 21–24, 2012 – ASCA Consulting Academy**, Crowne Plaza, Philadelphia, PA. Visit [www.asca-consultants.org/edprograms/consultingacademy.cfm](http://www.asca-consultants.org/edprograms/consultingacademy.cfm).

**February 23, 2012 – Pesticide Applicator Training—Turf & Landscape**, Waukesha, WI. Contact [PATprogram@mailplus.wisc.edu](mailto:PATprogram@mailplus.wisc.edu) or call 608-262-7588.

**March 7, 2012 – Pesticide Applicator Training—Turf & Landscape**, Eau Claire, WI. Contact [PATprogram@mailplus.wisc.edu](mailto:PATprogram@mailplus.wisc.edu) or call 608-262-7588.

**March 8, 2012 – Pesticide Applicator Training—Turf & Landscape**, Green Bay, WI. Contact [PATprogram@mailplus.wisc.edu](mailto:PATprogram@mailplus.wisc.edu) or call 608-262-7588.

**March 20–21, 2012 – 50th Annual Minnesota Shade Tree Short Course**, Bethel University, Arden Hills, MN. Visit [www.cce.umn.edu/shadetree](http://www.cce.umn.edu/shadetree).

**March 22, 2012 – Pesticide Applicator Training—Turf & Landscape**, Madison, WI. Contact [PATprogram@mailplus.wisc.edu](mailto:PATprogram@mailplus.wisc.edu) or call 608-262-7588.

**March 29, 2012 – Pesticide Applicator Training—Turf & Landscape**, Waukesha, WI. Contact [PATprogram@mailplus.wisc.edu](mailto:PATprogram@mailplus.wisc.edu) or call 608-262-7588.

**April 2, 2012 – Pesticide Applicator Training—Turf & Landscape**, Waukesha, WI. Contact [PATprogram@mailplus.wisc.edu](mailto:PATprogram@mailplus.wisc.edu) or call 608-262-7588.

**June 25–27, 2012 – APWA Sustainability in Public Works Conference**, Omni William Penn Hotel, Pittsburgh, PA. Visit [www.apwa.net/sustainability](http://www.apwa.net/sustainability).

**August 11–15, 2012 – ISA International Conference & Trade Show**, Portland, OR. Visit [www.isa-arbor.com/events/conference/index.aspx](http://www.isa-arbor.com/events/conference/index.aspx). 🌿

If there is a meeting, conference, workshop or other event you would like listed here, please contact Cindy Casey. Please see back cover for contact information.

Photo: Michelle Sutton, City Trees



A baldcypress is observed on a tour of Milwaukee's 160-acre nursery.

Although it was my intention to join SMA before now, constraints were finally released and I was able to join this year. I was happy to find the SMA conference attendees warm, knowledgeable and very professional in demeanor. Collectively, that group of individuals no doubt has a great deal of knowledge and wisdom regarding all aspects of municipal forestry and they openly shared information.

While hosting the Sunday pre-conference workshop on EAB branch sampling techniques for Jeffrey Fidgen of the Canadian Forest Service, I learned a lot more about EAB—which surprised me. The outside perspectives were interesting, useful and applicable.

Although I did not attend the conference other than co-speaking, my opinion of the conference agenda was that all topics were useful and timely. I am definitely looking forward to more interaction with the SMA, including becoming an active member.

—Rebecca Lane  
Forester, City of Oak Creek

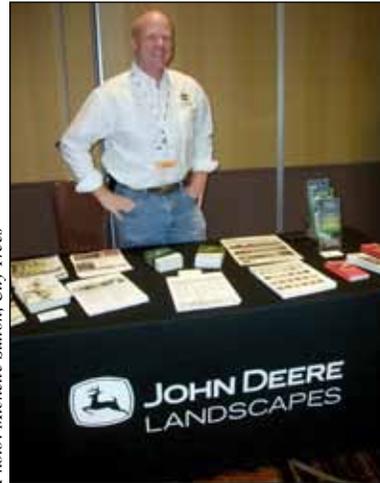


Photo: Michelle Sutton, City Trees

SMA Conference exhibitor, Curtis Andrews of John Deere Landscapes



Photo: Jeff Roe, WDNR

Graduates of the Milwaukee Arborist Training Program demonstrate tree climbing skills.

Having the Society of Municipal Arborists conference in Milwaukee this year provided me an opportunity to see what this group was all about. In my view SMA plays a smaller role here in Wisconsin compared to the Wisconsin Arborist Association in terms of urban forestry educational opportunities because, while WAA is geared towards private and public practitioners as well as municipal forestry program managers, SMA is primarily just for the managers. It was very beneficial to me as a municipal forester to attend a conference focused on managerial, funding, and program development topics.

It was also extremely beneficial to have the opportunity to converse with other municipal foresters, not only to ask questions on how their programs are run or how they are dealing with EAB in their communities, but to see how their careers developed and how they got to where they are now. Understanding how one works their way from smaller to larger communities and all of the issues that go along with that was very informative and eye opening.

This conference has helped me professionally and personally. I now have more ideas to take back to my community and for how I want to grow as a municipal forester. Now I have to get myself to SMA's Municipal Forestry Institute (MFI)!

—Mark Wegner  
Forester/Horticulturist, City of Middleton

*Continued on page 13*

### Featured Presentations from the 2011 SMA Conference

[Role of Trees as Stormwater BMPs](#) – Kelsey

[Leveraging Stormwater Grant Funds](#) – Thomas

[Green Shade Tree Rebate for Energy Savings](#) – Johnson

[50+ Year Decision of How to Pick the Right Tree](#) – Mize

[Tech Talk: Get Prepared for 2015 Now](#) – Hanou

[Here Today, Gone Today Mechanized Urban Tree Removal](#)  
– Peterson

[Getting Value from Urban Wood](#) – Simons

[Sampling Urban Trees for Early Detection of EAB](#) –  
Ryall, Fidgen, Turgeon

[SMA Municipal Forestry Internship Program](#)

Visit the SMA website at [www.urban-forestry.com](http://www.urban-forestry.com) to view these presentations and more. 🌿

# SMA: Your Professional Society Awaits!



by Michelle Sutton, editor  
*City Trees*

Founded in 1964, the Society of Municipal Arborists (SMA) is a professional organization for municipal arborists, urban foresters, consultants, park superintendents and affiliates. Its mission is “to lead the world in building the confidence, competence and camaraderie of the family of professionals who create and sustain community forests.”

Currently the SMA has 1350 members, with 40 mem-

bers coming from Wisconsin. Benefits of membership include *City Trees*, the magazine of the society; access to online forums and to the popular SMA listserve, where real-life scenarios are addressed; reduced registration cost at the annual conference; and participation in the society’s many programs such as the international arborist exchange, municipal accreditation and the annual Municipal Forestry Institute.

It’s crucial in this time of shrinking budgets that all city foresters join SMA and become part of an international peer network. Having many and varied voices will help us carry more weight in our own communities and be able to lobby for our urban forest programs. And with advances in science and technology occurring daily, municipal arborists need a network they can rely upon for the latest and most reliable information. Every city forester has a wealth of information that he/she can share and SMA is the conduit for doing just that. SMAers also ask each other for advice and help when things like EAB or hurricanes come along and action is needed quickly.

There are various categories of membership. Individuals pay \$75/year, but municipalities can join for \$140 and have up to five members under that umbrella for an additional \$25/person. Local volunteers and allied professionals can become members for \$40/year.

Glencoe, Illinois, known for its many mature bur oak groves, is SMA accredited. Every city should strive to achieve SMA accreditation, which is the next step beyond Tree City USA certification. SMA accreditation shows the citizens of your community why they should be proud of their forestry program, proves that

*Continued on page 17*

# 13

*“City Trees articles and writing style are uniquely focused on municipal tree management.”*

–Ian Brown,  
Technical Services  
Manager, City of  
Milwaukee



Photo: Michelle Sutton, *City Trees*

*Tourgoers visit Milwaukee’s 160-acre nursery and greenhouse at the 2011 SMA conference.*

Reflections on SMA Conference, *continued from page 12*

**B**lue dot, blue dot, blue dot! As a first-time SMA conference attendee I was identified with a small blue dot on my nametag for all to see. Initially assuming they were trying to point out who has been around the SMA block and who has not, after a short while I began to wear my blue dot with courage and honor. The dot was to ensure that I would be rightfully welcomed to the conference and greeted by all members old and new. It was a great welcome!

As the conference began, I became immersed in the passion and dedication behind the work being shared. One of my favorite presentations was by Paul Johnson, Regional Urban Forester from the Texas Forest Service, who gave pros and cons of selecting a community based tree-planting program, then expounded on their Green Shade Tree Rebate program for energy savings. I also enjoyed learning about the great strides Jessica Simons, Southeast Michigan Resource Conservation & Development Council, has made identifying markets for urban ash wood. I could go on and on about all the wonderful new technology, partnerships and wealth of experience-based education shared at SMA...

A key lesson I learned is that SMA is a wonderful platform to learn and interact with urban forestry professionals that have passion for the industry. I walked away with a sense of camaraderie. 🍃

–Elizabeth Dierickx

Urban Forestry Assistant, DNR South Central Region



Photo: Marla Eddy, City of Madison

*Jeffrey Fidgen of the Canadian Forest Service led a workshop on branch sampling for early EAB detection.*

# A Global View on the Urban Forest: International Guidelines for Urban Forestry

by Les Werner, Associate Professor of Urban Forestry  
UW–Stevens Point

In May 2011, I was fortunate enough to be one of five delegates from the US to participate in a Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)-sponsored urban forestry workshop in Glasgow, Scotland. The purpose of the workshop was to create a framework for the development of **International Guidelines for Urban and Peri-Urban Forestry**. These guidelines will provide policy and decision makers with information and direction on how to effectively establish and manage urban forests.

Approximately 30 people—representing cities, educational institutions, and various levels of government—from 14 countries participated in developing this framework for guidelines to address ecosystem services, governance, land use, climate change and poverty. On the first day, each country was afforded the opportunity to paint a picture of the state of urban forestry in their region of the world. The US presentation was a collaborative effort by all of the US delegates, Dr. James Kielbaso, Dr. Charles Wade, Ms. Sarah Low, Phillip Rodbell and myself. Wisconsin urban forestry efforts were highlighted, particularly the Oshkosh Taking Root initiative. The take-home message from the slate of morning presentations was that sustainable urban forestry efforts result from planning that is multi-disciplinary, science based, scale sensitive and flexible. For our part, the framework for the guidelines had to recognize and be receptive not only to ecological/geographical differences, but varying social and economic conditions.

During the afternoon, I was fortunate to be the facilitator for the Asian Region breakout session (the UN divides the world into six regions). Without a doubt, the delegates from India had the most compelling urban forestry case study. Currently, there are over 40 cities in India with populations exceeding 1 million people. Of these, about 15 did not exist 10 years ago. Furthermore, this number is projected to reach 60 or more by 2050. Unfortunately, urban forestry efforts are almost non-existent in many of these cities. The Indian delegates, however, were optimistic that the guidelines could be the vehicle to address a number of social and environmental issues in these rapidly developing metropolitan areas. I could not help but recognize the similarities between their approach and those of the Wisconsin Urban Forestry Council, Wisconsin Arborist Association and others in getting urban forestry initiatives into the report of the Governor's Taskforce on Global Warming.

The second day of the workshop was largely devoted to breakout sessions to flesh out the main topical areas

to be covered by the guidelines. The guidelines are slated to be completed by July 2012 and will be available on the Web. I will continue to work with FAO and the consultant on their development.

Perhaps the most intriguing discussion of the workshop centered on the appropriateness of using the term urban forestry in the title for the guidelines. A number of the delegates argued that the term conveys an inappropriate message (i.e., forestry = timber harvesting), one that may be counter-productive to their efforts and the ability to secure funding. For example, the Indian delegation stated the Center for Urban Trees in Delhi was subsequently changed to the Center for Urban Greenspace because the original name did not resonate with the city's planning and development departments. I could not help but think back on the collective conversations we have had with city officials and state legislators here in Wisconsin. Perhaps the words we use to describe our efforts are limiting our effectiveness or unintentionally understating the magnitude of impact.

My last full day in Glasgow was spent attending the European Forum on Urban Forestry. Unlike conferences here in the US, attendees were predominantly planners and/or landscape architects. As a result, the forum had a decidedly planning flavor. Most interesting to me was a presentation that outlined a strategy for effective management of the urban forest. The speaker presented a model typical of many cities in northern Europe—planners and architects have authority but little responsibility, while arborists/urban foresters have responsibility but little authority. The speaker contended the balance of authority and responsibility must be more equitably distributed. To be effective, planners must assume more responsibility and urban foresters must be given greater authority.

The most striking take-home message from the presentations underscored the scale and continuity of urban forestry planning. The speakers suggested that for urban forestry planning to be effective at a regional or national level, plans must be consistent across departments within a city (intra-municipal planning) and between adjacent cities (inter-municipal planning). This approach requires that urban forestry planning occur at a scale that extends well beyond the political limits of an individual city.

I would like to thank the University of Wisconsin–Stevens Point and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for providing me with funding to attend this workshop. Far too often we think our problems are unique; this workshop reinforced my belief that this rarely is the case. We can and should take full advantage of what others are doing to achieve similar goals. 🌿

## Project Profile:

# Second Time is the Charm: Cooperative Nursery Effort

by Quan Banh, teacher  
Prentice High School

Every year Prentice High School students and teachers participate in a half day of community service in the fall and a full day in the spring. Teachers and their ten to eleven homeroom students do everything from raking leaves or stacking wood for the elderly to painting community buildings. My class has done tree planting and mulching over the years.

Through this service-day effort, my homeroom attempted a nursery as a cost effective way to re-green the community. With Community Tree Planting Grant assistance from National Tree Trust, we tried to propagate 1000 trees from saplings on school grounds in 2002 and again in 2003. This effort proved a challenge due to lack of resources, time, competing weeds and grass, and school mowers. After a couple years of trial, the nursery was abandoned. In 2005 remaining nursery trees were planted in the village boulevards and the nursery project went into a two-year hiatus.

Prompted by the threat of emerald ash borer (EAB) decimating community ash trees, the village planted 20 trees of different varieties in 2008 and 2009. My concern with some of these boulevard trees was that they were not native or otherwise suited to our growing conditions and would die as a result. The cost of planting and the slow pace of replacing trees, many of which are ash, could leave our boulevards devoid of large trees if EAB hits within the next ten years.

I explored the nursery idea again in 2009. This time I was confident it would be successful due to lessons learned from our previous experience and the knowledge I had gained from nursery tours. I proposed the idea of the village and school working together on this project to Prentice Public Works Director Dale Andrae. The school and students would provide 1000 trees, half of the needed containers, and the labor and knowledge of growing trees; the village would pay for the other half of the containers. Trees would be planted on village property. One benefit of this cooperative effort was that the trees could be better protected and maintained over the summer by the village's seasonal staff.

In 2010, it took a full spring day and more than 20 students to pot the 1000 seedlings in containers. Native species were planted, including northern red oak, bur oak, white oak, silver maple, sugar maple, black cherry, white birch and white pine. Slow-release Osmocote was added to the container soil and pots were capped with mulch from our local Biewer Lumber. That fall, students culled out any dead trees, weeded remaining trees and added another layer of mulch.

In spring 2011, students installed a set of large containers at ground level into holes prepared by the village with a Bobcat and auger. Our job was to place the larger pots in the holes and fill around them with soil. We then set the containerized trees in the buried pots (a pot-within-pot system). The village subsequently erected a deer fence around the nursery and monitors and weeds the trees as needed. In fall 2011, students spent half a day weeding and adding mulch over the pots and surrounding soil for added frost protection.

Seedling survival rate over the winter of 2010–11 was 80% (~800 trees) and I expect survival to increase even more because the trees now have an established root system and have additional protection with the pot-in-pot system.

In the end, the Village of Prentice provided \$2200 for fencing, pots and fertilizer. The school's greenhouse fund that I administer has contributed another \$500 for trees, soil and fertilizer. We were able to reuse the pots from my first nursery attempt. There may be additional costs in the future for the proposed installation of a drip irrigation system to reduce water use and mower damage. I calculated that even if only half of the 1000 seedlings survive to be transplanted, we would still save the village much money and labor, as well as having homegrown trees through a sustainable, cooperative effort.

I think any community can do this with the help of a school, church or Scout group. These groups can provide the extensive initial labor and help transplant the trees when they are ready to harvest from the nursery. I also find it helpful to have a relationship with nearby nurseries because their staff provide valuable insight into growing trees and help us obtain supplies at discount rates.

For more information about this project, contact Quan at [banhqua@prentice.k12.wi.us](mailto:banhqua@prentice.k12.wi.us) or Dale Andrae at 715-428-2125, [dpw@vil.prentice.wi.gov](mailto:dpw@vil.prentice.wi.gov).

15



Photo: Quan Banh

Prentice High School students volunteer to create a tree nursery on village property.

Pot-within-pot system



Photo: Quan Banh

Black walnut grows mainly in southern Wisconsin as a component of hardwood cover types, in plantations and in urban landscapes. It is highly valued for the quality of wood as well as an important food source for wildlife and people. There are an estimated 19 million black walnut trees in Wisconsin and state businesses export approximately \$4 million in black walnut veneer logs and lumber annually. The potential damage of this disease to Wisconsin's forest resource could be great due to the value of the species, suscep-

tibility of the species to the disease and the ability of the beetle and the pathogen to survive Wisconsin's climate. In the urban setting, based on the pilot urban forest health monitoring studies in 2002 and 2003, it is estimated that walnut comprises 0.3% of street trees and 1.5% of all trees in communities. These numbers indicate that walnut is a minor component in urban communities, however there is considerable local variation. In some areas of southern Wisconsin, a row of beautiful, mature walnut trees can be found as street trees as well as yard trees.

While natural spread of TCD is one mile per year, human assisted spread along established transportation corridors is estimated to be 54 miles per year. To minimize the risk of long-distance introduction of the disease, Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection (DATCP) placed a quarantine into effect August 1, 2011. The regulation prohibits transporting potentially infested items into Wisconsin from states confirmed with TCD. Regulated articles are all hardwood firewood and living or dead plants or plant parts of the genus *Juglans*. This includes nursery stock, unprocessed lumber, logs, branches and wood-chips, unless certified.

DNR and DATCP have initiated surveys to detect TCD in Wisconsin. During summer 2011, walnut stands and plantations exhibiting dieback and mortality were visited by Forest Health staff to investigate the possibility of TCD. Visual surveys were also conducted by DNR Forest Health staff in selected high-risk state parks. DATCP surveyed the mills that import logs from out-of-state. Researchers are working to develop a trap using aggregation pheromone produced by the walnut twig beetle. Once available, it will be a useful tool for detection surveys.

For more information about TCD and survey information in Wisconsin, please visit the DNR Forestry website at <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/FH/tcd.htm>. General information about TCD is available at <http://thousand-cankerdisease.com/>. 🌿



Photo: Curtis Utley, CSUE, Bugwood.org

Canker produced approximately five weeks following introduction of *Geosmithia fungus* into black walnut seedling.



Photo: Ned Tisserat, Colorado State University, Bugwood.org

Black walnut branch cankers around twig beetle galleries associated with TCD.

### *Have You Missed an Issue?*

The Wisconsin Urban & Community Forests newsletter has gone electronic! We continue to produce four newsletters per year in electronic format and publish them on our website, <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/uf/>. Two of these editions are also printed and mailed. All new issues are announced through the Wisconsin Urban Forestry Insider, an electronic news bulletin available at the website above. The Summer 2011 issue (electronic format only) featured:

- 🌿 Tree Planting Partners
- 🌿 Utilizing Trees to Offset the Village of Howard's Carbon Footprint
- 🌿 City of Plymouth Community Profile
- 🌿 Peking Lilac Tree Profile
- 🌿 . . .and more!

their tax dollars are yielding results, and gives your community managers and elected officials something to boast about.



Over and over again, Municipal Forestry Institute (MFI) participants speak of how transformative this weeklong training is. Teaching-team member Walt Warriner says, “This program is like no other

in our industry because it doesn’t focus on the technicalities of tree care. Rather, MFI teaches leadership skills, like how to work with varied personalities and how to adapt an urban forestry program to a fast-changing world.” One of the skills participants practice is how to be effective during media interviews.

Every state should send at least one person every year to MFI to build a statewide network of urban forestry professionals. It is the premiere forestry leadership-training program, designed to help grow leaders in urban forestry at the local, state and national levels. In 2012, MFI meets February 24–29 at the beautiful Arbor Day Farm in Nebraska City, Nebraska. MFI graduate C. David Grant of Monroe, North Carolina, says “Find a way to be a part of this educational experience! It is the most practical (and fun) training I have had as an urban forester.”

For 47 years, SMA hosted its own annual conference. Beginning in 2012, we will be integrated with the Partners in Community Forestry Conference (dates and location to be announced). We are excited about getting our message out to allied organizations while still enjoying the benefits of meeting with one another and sharing camaraderie, advice and technical innovations. SMAers have a longstanding reputation as a warm, welcoming and convivial bunch. We feel that our joint conference will be a win for all parties.

Please see [www.urban-forestry.com](http://www.urban-forestry.com) to learn more about—and join—the SMA, your professional society! It is the single most important investment you can make in your professional development, and your colleagues are eager to meet you! 🌿



Photo: Walt Warriner, City of Santa Monica

A participant practices media interview skills at the Municipal Forestry Institute.



Photo: Michelle Sutton, City Trees

SMA members assembled for a baldcypress tree planting in Asheville, North Carolina.



Photo: John Houde, Village of Glencoe

Bur oak grove in SMA accredited Glencoe, IL.

## The Idea Exchange...

compiled by Olivia Witthun, Urban Forestry Coordinator  
DNR East Central Region

### Tree Project is a Platform for Environmental Efforts

The city of Tacoma, Washington, is the latest community to take part in the Urban Forest Project. This project is a platform to engage the public in environmental efforts and it has taken root in nine communities across the US. Local artists, designers and students are asked to create banners using the form of—or metaphor for—a tree, to make a powerful visual statement about the environment. The banners are judged and the winning designs are displayed throughout the community. The city of Tacoma selected 85 banners to display in their downtown area. Tacoma's Urban Forest Project kick-off event celebrated Arbor Day and included informational sessions, an "ask the arborist" booth, wood art, entertainment and kids activities.

After the banners had been on display for two months, they were repurposed into messenger and tote bags and sold online. T-shirts and posters featuring banner designs are also available. The proceeds go toward the planting and maintenance of trees in Tacoma. The Urban Forest Project serves the dual purpose of raising awareness of the importance of trees while celebrating a city's vibrant creative community. *More info:*

<http://ufp-tacoma.com/>.

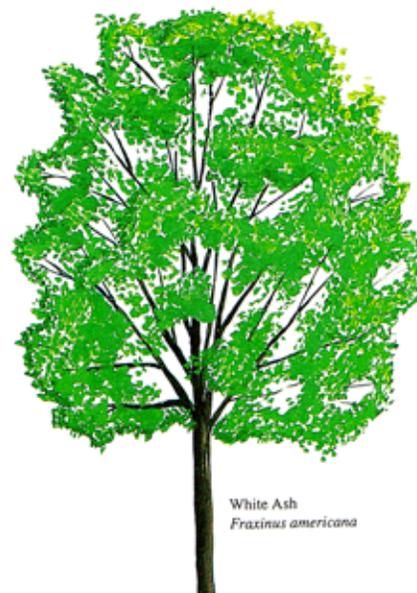
### Residents Join Forces for Ash Treatments

Arlington Heights is an EAB infested village in Illinois stocked with 13,000 ash trees, about one-third of their entire tree inventory. Their current management plan focuses on removing and possibly replacing the infested trees. With no funds for treatment, residents decided to take matters into their own hands. One of the neighborhood homeowner associations began distributing flyers to persuade neighbors to pay for treatment. The campaign was a huge success in the ash-lined neighborhood. In the end, 97% of the residents contributed to the program, which reduced the cost of emamectin benzoate treatments to under \$100 per tree. The neighborhood association's success in enlisting the neighborhood's help has led Arlington Heights to consider a treatment cost-sharing option with residents who want to save their trees. This story is a great example of the value people place on their trees and how they can work together to protect them. It also shows how management plans need to be flexible to adjust to new situations, community values and available resources. *More info:* [www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/ct-met-ash-borer-treatment-20111030,0,4557699.story](http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/ct-met-ash-borer-treatment-20111030,0,4557699.story).



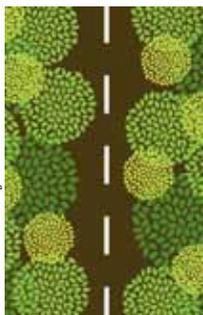
### Young Urban Forester Interns

A nonprofit group in Sunnyside, New York, began a 7-week, paid internship called the Young Urban Forester (YUF) summer internship program. Its main purpose is to introduce students to a variety of career opportunities in environmental fields. The internship includes classroom studies, hands-on fieldwork and interaction with community members and professionals. Students in the YUF program acquire skills in urban forest conservation, restoration and planning. For example, they have developed GIS mapping skills as they inventoried street trees. Also, surveying community residents helped influence their design of a neighborhood garden. The nonprofit group also helps interns cultivate their job readiness skills, such as resumé writing, interviewing and job etiquette. The community benefits by gaining members for their urban forestry workforce and by knowing they are helping develop environmental literacy and stewardship skills among students in their community. Your local high school, university or technical college may have students looking for a similar experience. *More info:* Nelson Villarrubia, 212- 227-1887, [nelson@treesny.org](mailto:nelson@treesny.org).



White Ash  
*Fraxinus americana*

Photo: David Day, Tacoma  
Urban Forest Project



Street banner showcased in the Tacoma Urban Forest Project.



Does your community or organization have an idea, project or information that may be beneficial to others? Please let your regional urban forestry coordinator know. We will print as many of these as we can.



Photo: City of Fitchburg

Dana Dentice

## Meet the New Newsletter Editor and Partnership Specialist

On September 12th, 2011, the DNR Division of Forestry welcomed Dana Dentice as the new Urban Forestry Communication Specialist in the Madison office. Dana is the new editor of the *Wisconsin Urban and Community Forests* quarterly newsletter and the *Wisconsin Urban Forestry Insider* electronic news bulletin. Contact Dana at [Dana.Dentice@wi.gov](mailto:Dana.Dentice@wi.gov).

Dana has a BS in Natural Resources, with a major in Landscape Architecture, and an MS in Urban and Regional Planning, both from UW–Madison. Dana was a leader and active member of the American Society of Civil Engineers and the Society of Women Engineers while at UW–Madison. She has worked for the cities of Madison and Fitchburg on their public tree and woodlot inventories and has volunteered at Fitchburg Arbor Day events. Dana was also a key member of the team that created Fitchburg’s Comprehensive Park, Open Space and Recreation Plan and led the public involvement and outreach efforts for that plan, as well as other park plans and events. Originally from Grafton, WI, Dana enjoys Wisconsin sporting events, bowling, and the outdoors through fishing, hiking, Ultimate Frisbee, disc golf and downhill skiing.

Laura Wyatt, who served as the UF Communications Specialist since 2006, has moved into a new position as Urban Forestry Partnership Specialist. In this new role, Laura is working with other urban forestry staff to develop statewide partnerships and protocols for private funding as well as implementation of public and private urban tree planting and management. Laura also maintains her position as liaison for the Urban Forestry Council. Before coming to the DNR, Laura achieved national recognition for developing University of Illinois Extension programming, which she reports was built on a foundation of partnerships. Contact Laura at [Laura.Wyatt@wi.gov](mailto:Laura.Wyatt@wi.gov).

## Urban & Community Forestry Program Resources:

### Urban Forestry BMPs for Public Works Managers

compiled by Cindy Casey, Urban Forestry Coordinator  
DNR West Central Region

This set of four best management practices “booklets” (.pdf format) covers the fundamentals of municipal forestry programs. Topic areas are:

- 1) Budgeting & Funding
- 2) Staffing
- 3) Ordinances, Regulations & Public Policies
- 4) Urban Forest Management Plan.

See the booklets at <http://www2.apwa.net/about/coopagreements/urbanforestry/>.

A related Click, Listen & Learn presentation, *Developing and Managing an Urban Forestry Program for Public Works*, is available for download at the same website.



Photo: American Public Works Association

## What Damaged This Tree?

**Answer:** This street tree is located next to a vacant, overgrown lot with a sinkhole, making it excellent habitat for chewing critters right next door. Most likely, this tree was damaged by rodents or possibly rabbits. With the deep snow, they likely were able to chew higher on the tree. If you look closely at the bark you should see small, parallel teeth marks. There isn’t really anything you can do at this point.



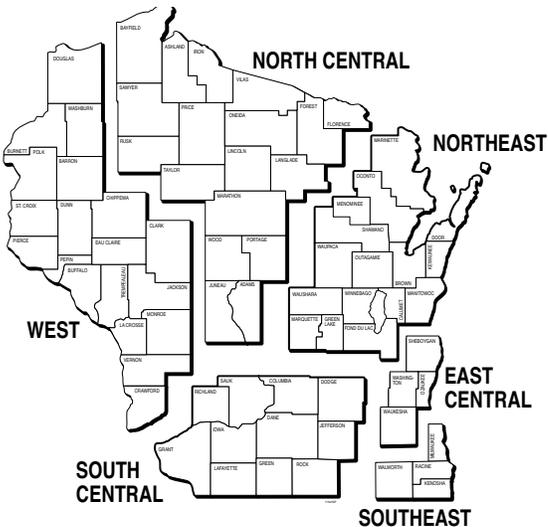
Photo: R. Wilhelm, Village of Saultville



## For Breaking Urban Forestry News and Announcements...

Sign up for the *Wisconsin Urban Forestry Insider*, an electronic news bulletin, at [www.dnr.wi.gov/forestry/UF](http://www.dnr.wi.gov/forestry/UF)

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