

Front Range Urban Forestry Council  
Longmont  
January 29, 2009

## Introductions – Dave Flaig, City of Littleton

### Committee Reports

#### Insect and Disease – Ralph Zentz, City of Fort Collins

Usually this time of year isn't too active, but Fort Collins is battling a mountain pine beetle outbreak. Close to 345 trees were hit by MPB in 2008, with 25-30 removals so far. Scotch pine seems to be the "candy" for these beetles. Every single tree that sustained severe hits, without fail, had substantial woodpecker damage and this has been an excellent diagnostic tool. They are continuing to monitor the situation. Ralph would like to know if other communities across the front range are seeing MPB hits, what are the affected species and how many; contact him at (970) 221-6302. A fact sheet on MPB in Fort Collins can be found at <http://www.waterwiselandscapes.com/assets/File/mpbfactsheetdecember2008compressed.pdf>.

Boulder walnuts continue to be hard hit by thousand cankers disease complex. Kathleen Alexander said in 2008 they lost 400 additional walnuts, with 320 on private property. They don't have many walnuts left to lose. Ned Tisserat has discussed the potential impacts of this disease complex with foresters on native walnut stands in the Eastern U.S. and California walnuts. Both species of walnuts prevalent in California seem to be susceptible to this disease complex. Look for more information on an upcoming walnut dissection in the north Denver area, a great training opportunity to teach everyone what to look for. Date is TBD, direct any questions you have in the meantime to Kathleen at 303-441-4406.

#### Select Tree – Tim Buchanan, City of Fort Collins

Tim attended the Plant Select meeting in December to discuss their woody plants program. The good news is that several woody species are on the radar to include in the Plant Select program. Here are a few he mentioned:

*Acer grandidentum* 'Monzanto' – from Monzanta Mtns. east of Albuquerque, nice shade tree.

Kentucky Coffeetree 'Espresso' – male seedless form, improved branch structure at young age; Tim doubts the seeds would make good espresso.

Texas Red Oak – great shade tree that can take the high pH soils of Colorado! Tim has planted a lot in Ft. Collins and they are doing very well so far. Ft. Collins Wholesale has brought a few in and are working to grow more, but it takes time!

Chinkapin Oak – 2009 SMA urban tree of the year. They don't get quite as big as bur oak and have great fall color. Can be somewhat tricky to transplant. State champion on Johnson & Wales University campus is ~80 years old!

English oak 'Skymaster' – pyramidal form, works great as a street tree due to narrow columnar crown.

David Elm – Tim really likes these, they have 15-20 in Ft. Collins that have been growing about 10 years.

They look really good so far, foliage and form very similar to American Elm, DED resistant, no scale.

Tim will be discussing these species at the upcoming Greely Tree Care workshop, including photos.

#### Hazard Tree – Bill Cassel, City & County of Denver

They are in the process of reinventing the Hazard Tree Committee. Presentations at the NRPA conference will continue to be an annual event. **The committee is also looking for additional people, if you're interested contact Bill at 720-913-0666.** Tree Appraisal workshop coming up this summer in Denver, date and location TBD.

#### Program/Membership – Keith Wood, CSFS-Broomfield

Sign up for a CTC membership and you get a free calendar. It's \$15 a year. Thanks to Ernie & Ken for setting up the meeting today. The next FRUFC meeting is March 19, location TBD. Possible topic is water conservation, in partnership with CO Waterwise Council.

### **C.T.C. – Tom Wells, City and County of Broomfield**

The notable tree calendar committee is meeting soon to finalize the 2010 calendars and they are looking for sponsors. Cost is \$1000 to sponsor a month. CTC held a board meeting last Friday to adopt the new budget. Trees Across Colorado continues to grow and is a profitable program for the CTC. CTC also has a scholarship program to provide up to \$300 for conferences, with only one scholarship requested last year. Click on the Meetings tab at [www.coloradotrees.org](http://www.coloradotrees.org) for information on upcoming conferences in Erie & Greeley. Tom received a flyer from the CSFS La Junta district to publicize a replanting program for the Town of Ordway, which lost many of its urban trees to a fire last year. The city needs volunteers to help with planting trees on two separate weekends, March 21 and April 18.

### **Trees Across Colorado – Gertie Grant, CTC/TAC**

TAC is really growing, with an almost 50% increase in tree orders from last year! Gertie is ordering approximately 2800 trees this year and the biggest community participant is Windsor (due to tree losses from last year's tornado). Many new communities have joined this year. Tree unloading is April 14 in the Denver area. TAC will take almost 600 trees to Colorado Springs for a delivery to all the southern Colorado orders. This program is a great tool to build community support for your programs and educate the community on proper tree selection and maintenance.

### **I.S.A. – Dave Flaig for Scott Grimes, South Suburban Parks & Recreation**

Certified Arborist, Municipal Specialist & Utility Arborists exams are now available in computerized testing format. For the standard exam fee +\$100, you can choose the date, testing location (from a list), and find out your score before you leave! There will be 6 locations within the Rocky Mountain chapter area. ISA has officially launched a new certification for Aerial Lift Specialist. The written test is the same as the Certified Tree Worker, but the practical exam will require students to provide their own bucket truck. The Rocky Mountain Chapter is in the process of training evaluators for the practical exam. See [www.isarmc.org](http://www.isarmc.org) for testing information, upcoming workshops and CEU opportunities, including the Aerial Rescue & Rigging workshop on February 21, 2009 at Goodson Recreation Center in Centennial, CO.

## **Community Reports/Other Business**

### **Erie – Mike McGill, Town of Erie**

Erie is hosting the Eastern Colorado Community Forestry Conference on March 7, 2009; the theme is Tree Boards helping Tree Boards. Agenda & registration available at CTC's website.

### **IES – Ryan Moore**

Update on Colorado Urban Forestry Climate Coalition: IES is developing economic projections to demonstrate potential monetary returns from participating in this program. If you are interested and would like to find out how to get your community involved, see the IES website at <http://www.i4es.org> or call them at 303.388.5211. They need your participation and input.

## **Break**

## **Urban Tree Canopy Mapping**

**Ernie Wintergerst, Longmont Forestry Division**

**Ian Hanou, Manager, NCDC (Native Communities Development Corporation)**

**Ron Shaw, Environmental Sustainability Coordinator, Longmont Public Works & Water Utilities**

In May 2007, Ken Wicklund, City of Longmont's Forestry Supervisor, heard about Denver's urban canopy mapping program and thought it was a valuable tool and a good window of opportunity to aid the city's direction of enhancing environmental sustainability. Therefore, Longmont recently performed an Urban Tree Canopy (UTC) study. NCDC, a geospatial private company providing data for a variety of projects, conducted a monetary and environmental analysis of Longmont's urban forest using CITYgreen software. This software allows creation of reports on existing conditions (trees, impervious services, stormwater volumes, etc.) vs modeled conditions. Benefits of the urban canopy include carbon sequestration, mitigating the urban heat island effect, stormwater runoff, and numerous monetary benefits. Canopy mapping gives concrete numbers to assign actual values for planning, management, etc. Several city departments helped fund the process.

Ron Shaw brings together all programs in the city under one umbrella of sustainability to develop them in partnership and take them to the next step in planning and development. This was one of the first projects put on his desk. Benefits of this project include increased values of urban trees. The data already has applications in another department: they can use UTC mapping data to determine water use by parcel vs % turf cover to determine areas to best direct water conservation education and funding.

Ian Hanou reported the next generation of UTC modeling involves the Texas Trees Foundation Pilot, which will prioritize tree planting sites using GIS, remote sensing and environmental factors. Planting sites can be queried by the mature tree size a site can accommodate (large, medium, small), location type, cardinal directions relative to buildings (N, S, E, W), planting sites over impervious areas (for stormwater reduction), and planting sites in heat islands.

See [www.ncdcimaging.com](http://www.ncdcimaging.com) for more information.

## Other Business

**Keith Wood – CSFS**

**Susan Ford – USFS**

A new administration is in place and economic stimulus package is in the works: sounds like money is coming to the states. Keith wants proposals on how to create green jobs and get needed work done in urban & community forestry. Project proposal ideas include urban tree inventories, planting, pruning and maintenance proposals, riparian restoration along the Front Range corridor, urban wood utilization programs. What work do you need done? What ideas do you have for creating green jobs? Get your ideas to Keith ASAP.

According to Susan, significant money is coming to state programs. What “shovel-ready” projects do you have on the books but don’t have the financial resources to accomplish, and how fast can you get them done if you do get funding? Most likely this will be a granting type process.

## Attendance

Kathleen Alexander	City of Boulder
Ben Zomer	City of Evans
Louis Linn	Fort Collins Wholesale Nursery
Michelle Cadena	Fort Collins Wholesale Nursery
Jennifer Hrobar	SSPR
Dan Wolford	City of Longmont
Ron Shaw	City of Longmont
Jared Dickey	City of Longmont
Ian Hanou	NCDC Imaging
Ernie Wintergerst	City of Longmont
Graham Hill	Institute for Environmental Solutions
Ryan Moore	Institute for Environmental Solutions
Keith Wood	CSFS – Broomfield
Cathy Thiltgen	Boulder County Parks and Open Space
Del Bernhardt	City of Fort Collins
Devon Bowers	City of Westminster
John Vanko	City of Westminster
Susan Ford	USFS
David High	City of Golden
Patrick Plummer	City of Arvada
Tim Buchanan	City of Fort Collins
Tom Wells	City and County of Broomfield
Scott Rehfeld	Town of Erie
Mike McGill	Town of Erie

Michael Allen  
Pete Zoschg  
Sara Davis  
DeNae Cameron  
Ralph Zentz  
Bill Cassel  
Kyle Sylvester  
Gertie Grant  
Neal Bamesberger

Mile High Youth Corps  
City and County of Denver  
City and County of Denver  
City of Fort Collins  
City of Fort Collins  
City and County of Denver  
City of Brighton  
CTC/TAC  
Independent

**See you in March!**