

Front Range Urban Forestry Council
July 24, 2008

Introductions – Dave Flaig, City of Littleton

Committee Reports

Insect and Disease – Ralph Zentz, City of Fort Collins

See attached minutes (below) from last Pest Talk meeting.

Comments from the room: City of Boulder is currently inventorying remaining healthy walnuts, approximately 300 total.

Select Tree – Tim Buchanan, City of Fort Collins

New cultivars and varieties to report on:

English oak as a species is kind of variable; trees can be somewhat unpredictable with chlorosis, freeze damage, etc. Skymaster® is a newer cultivar that is proving to be more reliable for street tree use, no real fall color though. Availability is a little bit of an issue. They are now specifying this cultivar for all English oaks planted in Fort Collins. Reports from Westminster say 'Eisenhower' is another good cultivar they have had some success with.

Hazard Tree – Bill Cassel, City of Edgewater Independent Consultant

The committee has been asked to teach a class in CO Springs at NRPA school in two weeks and they are excited to be back. Two recent large tree failures in Lakewood & Denver involved standing dead trees and both failed due to root rot. Bill thinks looking down at roots is just as important as looking up; root crown inspections are critical. For those who want to learn more, there is an upcoming class on root inspections at the ISA conference in CO Springs this fall.

Program/Membership – Keith Wood, CSFS-Broomfield

Many thanks to Cathy & Boulder County P&OS for providing a nice facility for our July meeting! The next FRUFC meeting is September 18 in Fort Collins. They are hoping to have the notable tree tour set up in Fort Collins with a presentation by Kathleen Alexander on notable trees.

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

Just a couple reminders: the next board meeting is tentatively scheduled for September 27 in Salida and everybody is welcome to come. CTC is partnering with ISA-RMC to hold the annual Champion Tree Classic bike ride at this year's ISA conference in CO Springs. Submissions for CommuniTree awards are due by August 6.

I.S.A. – Scott Grimes, South Suburban Parks & Recreation

Colorado Green magazine is letting ISA take over their fall issue to focus on urban forestry topics. They are still looking for a few volunteer authors to write articles on proper pruning, the international tree failure database, new toys, cabling equipment, etc. Other featured topics include ReForest Colorado, latest BMP on wire baskets, latest in beetle kill, and Dave Flaig on "Why is this tree fenced in?" Articles are due in 3 weeks; please contact Scott Grimes if you are interested in contributing an article.

ISA-RMC is hosting a table at the GreenCO foundation Casino night in Aurora at the Summit Event Center on September 24 from 6-9pm. This year's annual conference is fast approaching: "Healthy Trees, a Team Effort". Jim Clark will be the special guest speaker. The RMC Tree Climbing Championship will be held directly after the conference on the campus of Colorado College. CTC's annual fundraiser, the Chamipon Tree Classic bike ride, will be held this year in conjunction with the conference. Ride lengths are approx. 25-30 miles and 50+ miles. See www.isarmc.org for more information and to sign up for upcoming events. Board elections are coming up soon, and ISA-RMC committees are always in need of volunteers as well. The next certification test will be held October 1 at the conference. The website's certification page provides a listing of public events that have CEU's available for arborists. The Municipal Arborist study guide is now out and highly recommended for anybody seeking that certification. SMA is offering grants to qualified candidates for the Municipal Arborist certification; see <http://www.isa-arbor.com/resources/ScholarshipApplication.pdf> for more information.

Community Reports/Other Business

IES – Ryan Moore

Ryan provided an update on what is going on with the developing carbon sequestration program. So far, logistical barriers have prevented this idea from moving forward, but progress is being made to turn this into a workable and profitable program for municipalities and businesses in the urban forest. Logistical barriers such as liability issues, problems with getting communities and municipalities to work together to aggregate credits, etc. mean that IES needs your help getting communities involved in case studies. They also need a new name to replace the current Colorado Carbon Coalition. For the most update information, contact Ryan at 303.388.5211 or ryan@i4es.org.

USDA APHIS PPQ – Lisa Peraino

EAB traps update: about half of the traps have been checked and the remainder will be checked in the next couple of weeks, and so far no EAB! Not catching a whole lot of other insects, mostly flies and a few wasps.

Mile High Million – Sara Barber, City and County of Denver

200+ delegates from the Democratic National Convention will convene at Mestizo-Curtis Park to help plant trees on August 27, 2008. They need volunteer arborists to help lead planting efforts! Contact Sara Davis at Sara.Davis@denvergov.org for more information.

Break

Biomass, Wood Utilization and Energy

Susan Ford, USFS

Craig Jones, Colorado State Forest Service

Susan Ford discussed the issues at a federal level. Logging historically provided funding for managing the forests, but now that is no longer accepted and funds have dried up. In 1991, the Farm Bill was funded at \$20-30 million nationally, but now is at \$0. There is a new national strategy and new legislation to provide funding and

programs for biomass, wood utilization and energy production, including a \$4.2 million grant to fund research projects in biomass/wood utilization.

Craig Jones wrote a USFS working partnerships grant for Colorado State Parks to help “put the pieces together” to get wood products out of the forest and into the market, working with private and public landowners, contractors, haulers, and local & state governments. A subsidy is currently required to get low to no value products to processors. A biomass subsidy from the Healthy Forests Restoration Act and another subsidy are yet to be funded. A Working Partnerships Grant was funded in October 2007 for 5 northern Front Range counties, and has been very successful to date. The target for 2008 is 9,000 acres, with 80% chipped in place and 20% being removed to Colorado’s Front Range markets, and they want to see this number increase. The long term goal is to set up a 5-county biomass utilization network that is self-sustaining and lives on long after the 2 year grant is used up: Peak to Peak Wood (peaktopeakwood.org). Agencies involved are Colorado State Parks, CSFS, Colorado Forest Products (coloradoforestproducts.org), and USFS. 12 businesses currently have signed up to receive raw materials from these collection facilities. They are also focusing on long term education to get landowners to participate and provide usable material.

Boulder County Parks & Open Space Biomass Heating Facility Tour Scott Golden, Boulder County Parks & Open Space

Boulder County Parks & Open Space presented what they have been up to with their forest management programs, and provided a tour of their facility that is heated with wood chips from these projects.

Biomass heating is much more efficient than electrical generation, approximately 85-90% effective. It is an excellent way to utilize small diameter material and slash, contributes to sustainable forestry, displaces fossil fuels, provides financial savings, is carbon neutral and a true renewable resource. Possible issues are proximity to supply, infrastructure, stability & quality of supply, upfront costs & system retrofitting, wood fuel’s reputation, EPA non-attainment areas, and ease of operation (you can’t just flip a switch.)

Visit the National Champion Plains Cottonwood Tree near Hygiene

Attendance

| | |
|----------------|-----------------------------|
| Kyle Sylvester | Brighton Forestry |
| Rob Crabb | Brighton Forestry |
| Tom Wells | City & County of Broomfield |
| John Vanko | City of Westminster |
| Devon Bowers | City of Westminster |
| Rick App | Olinger Crown Hill Cemetery |
| Ryan Moore | IES |
| Tim Buchanan | City of Fort Collins |
| Del Bernhardt | City of Fort Collins |
| David Wallace | City of Fort Collins |
| Zac Hall | City of Fort Collins |
| Brian Sereduke | City of Fort Collins |

| | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| Kendra Nash | Colorado State University |
| Philip Hoefler | Hoefler Associates |
| Pete Zoschg | Denver Forestry |
| Rob Davis | City of Westminster |
| Ted Tompkins | Denver Forestry |
| Susan Ford | USFS |
| Keith Wood | CSFS |
| Cathy Thiltgen | Boulder County POS |
| Paul Smith | Colorado Springs |
| Bill Cassel | Edgewater |
| Renita Baskin | Independent |
| Ken Fisher | Boulder |
| Sara Barber | City of Denver |
| Michael Allen | Mile High Youth Corps |
| Diana Selby | CSFS-Fort Collins |
| Mary Anne Longrigg | Pleasant View MD Tree Board |
| Paul Longrigg | CU and DU |
| Patrick Plummer | City of Arvada |
| David High | City of Golden |
| Jacque Chomiak | City of Aurora |
| Karen Day-Rule | City of Aurora |
| John Wesolowski | City of Aurora |
| David Flaig | City of Littleton |
| Gertie Grant | Trees Across Colorado |
| Scott Grimes | South Suburban Parks & Rec |
| Jennifer Hrobar | South Suburban Parks & Rec |
| Lisa Peraino | USDA APHIS PPQ |

See you in September!

Pest Meeting Minutes: 7-16-08

Several communities continue reporting issues with spruce. The trees may show a spiral pattern of needles turning reddish to brown, but many of this year's buds opened. The spiral pattern indicates root problems, but we are not sure what it is. These trees are often associated with streets and walkways that have de-icing salts used on them in the winter. There very well could be a link between the symptoms and components of the salts used. Betsy Goodrich, one of Dr. Jacobi's graduate students, has shown that chloride concentrations are higher in symptomatic foliage on trees in the mountains, so we might be right in assuming the chloride affects spruce in our cities as well.

Other spruce are declining in slightly different ways, but none of these have an insect or disease we can associate with the decline. Heavy male cone production can make the tree appear like it is browning out even more. Many of these are also close to streets so salts are still suspect.

Spruce ips is still active in many communities, but does not seem to be getting worse in most. Fort Collins has about 15 for this year.

A common theme for this month's meeting was that many people are seeing a lot of eriophyid mites on many tree and shrub species. Some of the trees have symptoms that look like herbicide, but property owners claim they have not used any or very little this year. Ash seem to be one of the species that show the herbicide like symptoms. Some towns have reported similar symptoms on ornamental cranberry.

Spider mite populations have been slow to develop on honeylocust in the downtown area of Fort Collins this year. This is the first time we have not needed to treat in early to mid-July that I can remember. I suspect that by the end of July we will probably need to treat.

Grape Mealybug continue to be a problem on green ash in the downtown area of Fort Collins. The population does not look as robust as it has in the past few years, so I think control measures are slowly working. I have come to the conclusion that this is one tough pest!

Dutch Elm Disease remains at low numbers in most communities that I have talked to. Fort Collins is up to 5 DED trees for 2008. Arborists are telling me that the banded elm bark beetle (BEBB) is still in great abundance as soon as they start cutting into elm wood. One arborist has been looking for the European elm bark beetle, but has only seen the BEBB. Dr. Jacobi and associates continue to do research to determine if the BEBB is a viable vector of DED. To date, the banded beetles have not successfully inoculated an elm with DED in the laboratory setting.

Boulder continues to struggle with the quick death of many, many black walnut in their community. This insect/disease complex is being called "The Thousand Cankers Disease" by researchers at CSU. It appears that two insects and two fungi are involved. The walnut twig beetle carries a canker causing fungi (*Geosmithia*) into the stems and twigs while it may be that an ambrosia beetle carries another canker causing fungi (*Fusarium*) into the trunk. The effect of the many small branch cankers and the girdling

effect of the trunk cankers quickly kill the trees. Symptoms are somewhat similar to DED.

Dave Leatherman talked about 3 different leaf miners on Siberian elm that he saw. My notes were incomplete, but he discussed the more common sawfly larvae with blotch mining signs, the flea weevil that is more on the leaf margins, and another fly larvae that has a more serpentine mine.

Other insect pests that were discussed were: 1) possible golden oak scale on a Mongolian oak; 2) Zimmerman pine moth on Scots and Austrian pine; 3) pine tortoise scale on Douglas fir in Colorado Springs; and 4) mountain pine beetle in urban pine.