

**Front Range Urban Forestry Council
Meeting Minutes, 9/20/07
University of Denver, Chester M. Alter Arboretum**

Introductions – David Flaig (City of Littleton)

Reciprocal Licensing Update – David Flaig

Metro Denver Reciprocal Tree Licensing program

The cities of Aurora, Denver, Lakewood, Wheat Ridge, Littleton & Englewood require private tree companies be licensed in order to operate within their city limits. To obtain licensing, companies must meet requirements established by these cities, including a written test, a field test, and insurance requirements. Though Englewood and Littleton do not have their own testing programs, they will honor licenses from Aurora, Denver, Lakewood, and Wheatridge. They will also send companies without licenses to those cities to obtain testing before they can operate within their city limits. All six cities will accept the written tests given by Aurora, Denver, Lakewood and Wheat Ridge or an ISA Certified Arborist credential in lieu of a written test. All six cities will accept the field (climbing) tests given by Aurora, Denver, Lakewood and Wheat Ridge or an ISA Certified Tree Worker credential in lieu of a field test. It is important to note that individuals get certified by passing these tests and licenses are issued to companies. Companies must employ at least one individual who has passed these tests when originating or renewing a license. Each city may also require a test on their specific code requirements. Aurora, Denver, Lakewood and Wheat Ridge have also pooled their test questions.

The reciprocal licensing program is aimed to benefit contractors and participating cities as well as jurisdictions that do not yet have their own licensing ordinances. Other jurisdictions are welcome to “piggyback” onto the system that the larger cities already have in place by accepting the written and climbing skills certifications in the reciprocal agreement. The goal is to prevent inexperienced and/or less knowledgeable “entrepreneurs” from providing services to residents without having basic qualifications, insurance, knowledge of laws, etc. By creating standards that all tree workers operate under, unfortunate occurrences such as tree topping, illegal dumping, and other activities will occur less, increasing professionalism of the green industry.

David will get a letter out to surrounding jurisdictions to try and get them involved in this reciprocal licensing program. Discussion from those present involved several issues, including lack of support from upper management and lack of staffing and budget restrictions to implement and/or enforce such a program. The City of Aurora tree worker licensing program involves 4 license categories that cover various tree worker operations. The City of Louisville has a new ordinance regarding arborist certification, and is a good example for those cities/areas looking to develop their own licensing programs.

Committee/Community Reports

Insect and Disease - Keith Wood and David Flaig for Ralph Zentz

Next Wednesday is the pest group’s final meeting for the year. Ralph will send out a final report after the meeting, so please contact him before then with any interesting pest information you have. In addition to pests and disease, they will be discussing abiotic issues and would like to hear of any interesting problems you may have dealt with this season.

The big things right now are that spider mites are making an unusual increase for this late in the season on some honeylocust. Black walnut decline continues to hit Boulder hard and Whitney

and Ned T. continue to look into this complex of environmental stress, bark beetles and canker causing fungi. Spruce Ips was down this year and DED has been very low in Ft. Collins. Also, there have been many reports of aspen with black leaf spots. Instead of leaves turning yellow, they just dry up and defoliate. Thornton has been doing some media coverage on the issue. Keith Wood asked for other reports from the group of this issue. Seems to be an increasing problem for aspen across the Front Range. A number of possible causes were discussed, perhaps results of accumulated stresses from enduring drought.

Hazard Tree – Bill Cassel, Independent Consultant

Bill and committee co-chair Ralph Zentz are looking for people interested in learning how to access and utilize the International Tree Failure Database (ITFD) online. They will provide a short training session to anyone who is interested in learning about this valuable tool. Please contact Bill or Ralph for more information.

FRUFC Program/Membership – Keith Wood, CSFS-Broomfield

Thanks to DU for providing meeting spot and refreshments at Olin Hall for September!! The next meeting is set for November 8, 2007. Anybody have good ideas for future meeting spots? Let Keith know.

Reciprocal Licensing/Test Update – David Flaig, City of Littleton

See discussion above.

CTC – David Flaig for Mike Swanson

Election results are in!

Elected to CTC Board of Directors, 2 year terms: Tom Wells, Mike Swanson, Rob Davis
Officers for FRUFC, 1 year term: David Flaig, president; Tom Wells, VP; Jennifer Hrobar,
secretary

Also, 2008 calendars are now available.

Trees Across Colorado – Gertie Grant, TAC

The new tree list is available! TAC orders trees wholesale from nurseries and brings them in during April. Groups order 20+ trees for their organization and there are no restrictions on where trees can be planted. The most expensive trees are \$43 for 1-1.5" caliper. Barerooters are ordered in bundles of 5 and the cheapest of these are available for \$23. These trees present excellent outreach opportunities for city forestry departments to their communities. If you would like the list emailed, sign up on her list. She will also send it out to those already on her list.

ISA - Jennifer Hrobar for Scott Grimes

The 2007 ISA-RMC Annual Conference & Tree Climbing Competition is almost here! There is still time to register, but please do so ASAP. The conference will be held September 27-28 in Denver and the climbing competition will follow in Boulder September 28-29.

Susan Ford, USFS-Golden

Susan spoke about a few of the projects she has been busy working on.

Alternative fuels--Ethanol: Range Fuels, a Lakewood based company, is looking at the Front Range for an ethanol facility. Range Fuels has invented a two-step thermo-chemical process to produce cellulosic ethanol. The process is self-sustaining, produces virtually no waste products, emits very low levels of greenhouse gases, and produces high yields of clean ethanol. More can

be read at <http://www.rangefuels.com/home>. Another Colorado based ethanol group, Power Energy, is looking to develop ethanol from wood. They have a gasification company teamed up and can make clean syngas. There is some interest in large scale Front Range forestry stewardship projects. However, they are unable to pay much more than \$10 to \$15 per ton and that won't pay for harvest and transportation. This may be a terrific opportunity for urban waste wood. Additionally, Nature's Accent is proposing a 10,200 megawatt power system that stretches from Colorado to Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona and the power is to be sold in California. This is a very interesting proposal, but one that is very tentative to date.

Forest Products Lab competitive projects: Pre-proposal requests are out with a due date of November 2, 2007. The pre-proposals require a link to NFS/BLM projects and a letter of support from the District Ranger or Manager. We have had several calls in Colorado and at least one in South Dakota and Wyoming. Funding has been awarded for \$100,000 to Colorado State Parks/Colorado State Forest Service to work on establishing three woody biomass sort yards in the northern Colorado and Front Range areas. Funding will also provide site management and transportation subsidies. Jefferson County may be one of the first locations.

Ozone SIP: The Regional Air Quality Council (RAQC) mission is to reduce contributions to ozone pollution. Elevated concentrations of ground-level ozone during this past summer appear to have put the nine-county Denver region in violation of the federal health-based standard. To ensure future compliance with the standard, the RAQC invites you to participate in the Ozone Stakeholder Involvement Process and the first Ozone Stakeholder Committee Meeting. Part of the strategy that is being considered is the planting of low-VOC emitting trees. To participate in the strategic planning session, please go to their website at <http://www.ozoneaware.org/>.

Emerald Ash Borer and Invasive Species project for Great Plains: Initial meeting on the pilot project was held with the states of Nebraska, Kansas, South and North Dakota. The first step is to conduct a resource assessment that includes composition, function and structure components to allow for estimation of removal and biomass potential if the Emerald Ash Borer makes it into our region. They are using the FIA models and expanding them to include urban and agroforestry areas. Each state is currently in the midst of response planning with their various Departments of Agriculture and APHIS. Marketing and utilization strategies and GIS mapping of critical landscapes are components of this project but may not occur for several years.

Chris Reinhardt, Projects Coordinator, Mile High Youth Corps

Chris gave a presentation at the May FRUFC meeting on the new Mile High Youth Corps Sawyer Crews. Just an update, sawyer crews have spent the summer in Jefferson County performing hazardous fuels mitigation projects. In addition to hazardous fuels mitigation, crews are available to perform Russian olive removal projects. Chris is looking for more projects for next summer's crews. Reminder, cost is \$6000/week with a Monday-Thursday schedule and crews provide their own saws and PPE. Contact Chris at chris@mhyc.net or by phone at 303.433.1206 x43 for more information.

Sara Davis, Greenprint Denver

The current count on trees planted since July 2006 is just over 67,000! Make sure and send your new tree planting info to the website so they can keep the count going! If you need any publicity for fall plantings, email Sara and she'll get it posted to the website.

BREAK

Chester M. Alter Arboretum Presentation & Arboretum Tour

Professor David Christophel, Arboretum Director

David is a paleobotanist and Professor of Botany at the University of Denver and also holds a position as Director of the Chester M. Alter Arboretum. His background in rainforest research and studies in the origin of the redwood family helped determine his vision for the arboretum. In 1999 the University Park campus was named an arboretum in honor of Chancellor Emeritus Chester Alter. It now includes a "living fossil forest" that features the nearest living relatives of fossilized plants found in the Rocky Mountains. Unfortunately, David will soon be leaving his positions at the University to return to Australia.

Sonia John, Arboretum Volunteer

Sonia began her involvement with the arboretum as a landscape artist, creating a beautiful map of the arboretum. Her artistic involvement soon evolved into a more hands on position as arboretum volunteer. Sonia is very active in all aspects of maintaining the arboretum, from finding and planting interesting species to weeding and mulching them. She will continue her duties in David's absence.

Sonia gave a brief history of the university and evolution of its surrounding landscape, followed by a fascinating tour through the arboretum and its diverse showcase. Interesting species such as snakebark maple, Chinese tupelo, wingnut, hardy rubber tree and others are being trialed by the arboretum to see how well they can survive Colorado's extreme climate. Larger specimens of already proven trees also abound, including an impressive horsechestnut measuring over 39" diameter! If you have not yet visited, the Chester M. Alter Arboretum is a must for your list.

Meeting Attendance

Devon Bowers	City of Westminster
John Vanico	City of Westminster
Richard A. Lozano, Jr.	City and County of Broomfield
Matthew D. Martella	City and County of Broomfield
Jerimiah Deerr	Johnson & Wales University
Craig Hillegass	City of Arvada
Bill Cassel	City of Edgewater
Mark Kottwitz	City of Englewood
John Kohring	City of Englewood
Chuck Gehringer	City and County of Broomfield
Rob Davis	City of Westminster
Ken Edmundson	City and County of Broomfield
Susan Ford	USFS
Erik Stadvold	Town of Parker
Gertie Grant	Trees Across Colorado
Sonia John	University of Denver Arboretum
David Christophel	University of Denver Arboretum
Adam Pena	Xcel Energy
Mike McGill	Erie
Timber Toste	Erie
Andy Perri	CSFS-Golden
David High	City of Golden
Chris Reinhardt	Mile High Youth Corps
Tom Wells	City and County of Broomfield
Jennifer Hrobar	South Suburban Parks & Recreation
Sara Davis	Denver Parks and Recreation

See you in November!