

**Front Range Urban Forestry Council
Meeting Minutes, 11/8/07
Majestic View Nature Center, Arvada, CO**

Introductions – Tom Wells for Dave Flaig, City of Littleton

The Cottonwood Tree - An American Champion – Kathleen Cain, Author

Kathleen is a retired Front Range Community College professor and local author who is passionate about cottonwood trees and their history. She comes from a long line of tree people. Her great uncle, who planted over 10,000 trees on Frank Lloyd Wright's estate, passed his passion for trees onto her grandfather who became a county extension agent in Nebraska. One of his responsibilities was to write a speech for Arbor Day every year. Kathleen grew up celebrating Arbor Day each year by planting trees, and her dad inspired her passion for trees by taking her to visit places in Nebraska with trees of significance to their family's history. He was the first to show her the star at the center of cottonwood twigs, and she still believes that if you carry one with you, it will bring you good luck. Her book, The Cottonwood Tree—An American Champion, is a mix of both personal stories and scientific information. She wrote it for all those who are curious and interested in knowing more about the cottonwood and its cultural place in America. She had a lot of help from local forestry experts in getting her science right, and expresses special thanks to those who assisted her in the research for this book.

CommuniTree Award – Mike Swanson, CTC President

Mike presented the CommuniTree Award to Jim and Jean Scharfenberg, who have distributed over 900 trees in 3 years through the Trees Across Arvada Program. They have handled ordering the trees, unloading them, recruiting volunteers to assist and ensuring the volunteers stay happy by providing an impressive spread of food! This year they provided over 460 trees to Arvada residents. This award was given in recognition for their sustained efforts in this program. The Scharfenbergs gave a big thanks to Gertie Grant for making TAC possible, Craig and his crew for all their work, and Majestic View Nature Center for providing a place to unload and deliver trees to Arvada residents!

Break

Trees Across Colorado – Gertie Grant, Colorado Tree Coalition

Trees Across Colorado is a program of the Colorado Tree Coalition (CTC). The mission of CTC is to lead statewide efforts to preserve, renew and enhance community forests. The CTC has given out many dollars in statewide grants, provides educational events, hosts the National Arbor Day Foundation 5th grade poster contest, the Champion Tree program, produces Notable Trees of Colorado calendars, notable Tree Tour booklets of Boulder, Colorado Springs, and Fort Collins (coming soon), promotes CommuniTree awards, the Deb Ashe Cottonwood Classic, and the TAC program.

TAC provides trees at low cost to communities and organizations who organize their own tree planting programs. TAC strives to teach communities about the many benefits of trees. This year there are 25 species of trees to choose from. Most are low to moderately low water demand trees and there is a mix of both common and lesser known varieties which will promote diversity in the urban forest. Depending on the species, they are available as either bareroot or B&B. Most are 6-12 feet tall and 1-1.5" caliper. The B&B's are somewhat heavier, but not more than 150 lbs, so still manageable in size. Gertie's reasoning in ordering smaller trees is that volunteers can handle them without a problem, they are easier to plant and less expensive than larger caliper trees, and they also establish faster than larger trees. Additionally, the trees are low cost because TAC orders in bulk at wholesale prices through local brokers and volunteers do all the work. Gertie, TAC coordinator, volunteers all of her time. The deadline for ordering trees is December 15. A 50% deposit is due by January 15 and the remainder is due on delivery in April the week before Arbor Day.

TAC provides an excellent opportunity for Master Gardeners, Tree Boards, HOA Boards, and other volunteers within the community, as well as town or city forestry & parks staff to organize tree distribution and education programs for their communities. For those who want to start a tree distribution program, how do you get started? Gertie has the following suggestions: 1. start small, 2. consult with others doing this in their communities (Dave Flaig with City of Littleton and the Scharfenbergs with Trees Across Arvada), 3. utilize volunteers. You can also get more information at www.coloradotrees.org. Once you have a program in place, door to door leaflets, city and town web pages and mailings, HOA newsletters, and local media are all great avenues to get the word out to the community. On delivery day, arrive ready to load, mulch & water barerooters to keep them moist, and leave space for B&B's too. Once trees are safely and carefully transported, having a good storage spot is equally as important. Heel them in with plenty of mulch and lots of water! Distribute the trees on Arbor Day and plant leftover trees (if any) at a school, park, golf course, or other public location in your community. This program is a great way to involve community leaders (funders, city council, mayor, etc.) in a fun and educational event. Most importantly, it is an excellent educational opportunity to teach citizens the benefits of trees, proper selection and diversity, good tree planting and care techniques, where to plant trees for maximum environmental benefits, etc.

Who benefits from TAC? CTC gets the profits and the next generation benefits from the trees that are planted! Thanks to Gertie Grant for her many contributions to this program and making it possible!

Committee Reports

Insect and Disease – Tom Wells for Ralph Zentz, City of Fort Collins

There is not much new to report since the last meeting, so read that meeting's distribution. One thing interesting is the spruce Ips populations were up in some communities, average in others, and less in others. EAB has now been confirmed in West Virginia.

Select Tree – Tim Buchanan, City of Fort Collins

Tim provided an update on elm varieties being trialed in Fort Collins. 'Prospector', 'Frontier', and 'Accolade' are three varieties they are evaluating. He noted that 'Prospector' elm is gangly and horizontal in form, colors late in the fall (could be caught in early snowstorm), not great fall color, is a little hard to contain as a street tree without vigorous pruning. They have lost 3-4 so far to freeze damage. 'Prospector' does have a larger leaf, similar to *U. americana*. He rates it 5 of 10, not the best choice. 'Frontier' is a hybrid between European and Chinese elm. It gives a little bit of brick red fall color, leaves are small, twiggy in growth. Ten year old trees have nice upright form for street tree use, but about 30% fall to freeze damage, so not fully cold hardy. It does suffer some damage from elm leaf beetle. He rates it 6 of 10. 'Accolade' is starting to become well recognized in the market. It is a cross between *U. wilsoniana* and *U. japonica*. It does throw on a lot of really long growth, has okay yellow color, no European elm scale (nor on other two), somewhat out of control as a younger tree which requires vigorous pruning when young. Leaf size is intermediate. He likes it best of the three and rates it 7 of 10. Tim is still looking for "THE ELM", which he thinks is the David Elm, but it isn't yet available in the trade. They currently have about 15 in cultivation. He gives them a 9+ rating. You can root these by cuttings, so if anyone has the capability and is interested, he can get you some cuttings. He is trying to work with nurseries to get these in cultivation. Any comments from others who have experience with these or other cultivars, talk to Tim!

Hazard Tree – Bill Cassel, Independent Consultant

Nothing to report.

FRUFC Program/Membership – Keith Wood, CSFS-Broomfield

Many thanks to the City of Arvada and Majestic View Nature Center for providing this wonderful site and getting the meeting set up! Thanks also to Kathleen and Gertie for their presentations! The next meeting is January 17, 2008 in Wheatridge, location to be announced. Keith will not be in attendance as it is his birthday and he plans to continue the tradition of skiing with his twin brother to celebrate. ☺

CTC – Mike Swanson, City and County of Denver

Elections were held at the last meeting:

Tom Wells – president

Neal Bamesberger – vice president

Karen Scopel – secretary

Mike McGill (Erie) – at large member

Brian Green (City of Aurora) – at large member

Also of note, the website is in transition. Kamie Long from CSFS in Grand Junction will be taking over these duties, so direct anything regarding website issues to her. The e-commerce site is down and will take some time to restore. The bylaws are being revised. There will now be only two meetings per year. CTC is also eliminating its chapters, except for FRUFC since it is a strong stand alone entity. They are still trying to get strong statewide representation and encourage participation and new membership! Mike McGill is running strategic development programs. Anybody want to get involved, call Mike!

Keith was contacted by Plant-It 2020. They are a funder of Front Range urban forestry programs and want to do something next August 2008 as an environmental good will message to support the Democratic National Convention coming to Denver. They will provide \$5-10,000 to anyone interested in putting together a tree planting project. Contact Keith Wood for more details.

ISA - Scott Grimes, South Suburban Parks & Recreation

ISA-RMC and CTC work together on a lot of projects. If you are a member of one, you should be a member of the other! If you're not a member of either, join!! Rocky Mountain Arborist News magazine has a new editor, Mike Swanson! Next week is the annual ISA pesticide workshop in Castlerock. Register online at www.isa-rmc.org. It is a great place to get your continuing education credits, including public health and industrial right of way. Space is still available! ISA Arborist exam preparatory presentations will again be a part of the upcoming ProGreen expo. You can purchase an ISA study guide through the RMC website or national website. Reminder, you must get the exam application in at least 12 business days BEFORE the exam. Start studying now! ISA has just topped 20,000 certified arborists worldwide, with chapters in Mexico, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, and most European countries. Rocky Mountain ISA is a very active and large chapter, and there is a lot going on! Next year's conference is in Colorado Springs. If anyone is interested in participating in planning, let Scott know. There's a lot to be done before then! There are also a number of opportunities with ISA committees: Education committee (workshops, etc) and Marketing committee (new DVD available in January on proper tree care, a basic primer for the public!) Phil Hoefer suggested those who already hold an Arborist certification look into obtaining the Municipal Arborist certification, as there are only a few who are certified in the RMC.

Community Reports

Lisa Peraino, USDA APHIS

Lisa needs help from communities to get approximately 25 experimental EAB traps into canopies of ash trees across the Front Range and western slope next spring. This is a new lure available fresh from the lab and they want to try it out as an addition to the current monitoring program. They will be checking the traps once a month. If interested, contact Lisa at Lisa.J.Peraino@aphis.usda.gov.

Mike Swanson, City and County of Denver

Mike is interested in trying Turkey Oak and Emory Oak in Denver. If anybody has experience with these in Colorado, let Mike know. He is not sure yet where he'll purchase them from as he has bids out to several places.

Meeting Attendance

Mark Kottwitz	City of Englewood
Josh Theobald	Highlands Ranch Metro District
Mike McCann	Highlands Ranch Metro District
Mike Swanson	City and County of Denver
Patrick Plummer	City of Arvada
Craig Hillegass	City of Arvada
Jim Scharfenberg	Trees Across Arvada
Jean Scharfenberg	Trees Across Arvada
Dennis Donovan	Highlands Ranch Metro District
Pete Zoschg	City and County of Denver
Keith Wood	Colorado State Forest Service
Philip Hoefler	Retired Colorado State Forest Service
Sara Davis	City and County of Denver
Gertie Grant	Trees Across Colorado
Rob Davis	City of Westminster
Devon Bowers	City of Westminster
Dave Kinser	City of Wheat Ridge
Heather Rasmussen	Cherry Hills Village
Paul Burkholder	Cherry Hills Village
Chris Reinhardt	Mile High Youth Corps
John Wesolowski	City of Aurora
Tim Buchanan	City of Fort Collins
Randi Smith	City of Arvada
Joe Trujillo	City of Brighton
Kyle Sylvester	City of Brighton
Molly McLoughlin	Town of Superior
Jennifer Hrobar	South Suburban PRD
Rick App	Independent
Jerimiah Deerr	Johnson and Wales University
Mike McGill	Town of Erie
Lisa Peraino	USDA APHIS
Chuck Gehringer	City and County of Broomfield
Joel Szymanski	City of Northglenn
Allan Duckworth	City of Northglenn
John Vanko	City of Westminster
Andy Scholsberg	Colorado State Forest Service
Scott Grimes	South Suburban PRD
Tom Wells	City and County of Broomfield