

Front Range Urban Forestry Council
March 10, 2011

Introductions – David Flaig, City of Littleton

Committee Reports

Insect and Disease – Ralph Zentz, City of Fort Collins

Emerging Pests in Colorado (EPIC) subcommittee meeting coming up on March 16, stay tuned for updates from that meeting at the next FRUFC. Local updates: ongoing issues with bur oak leaves, suspicions that this might be oak leaf blight as symptoms are very similar? Asking everyone to really pay attention to bur oaks this year and submit symptomatic leaves to Ned Tisserat for diagnosis. Montana is reporting unexplained Austrian pine dieback, maybe related to a cold weather event as samples have not yielded much, but something to watch out for. Thousand Cankers Disease is ongoing but no new communities have confirmed since last year. MPB issues also ongoing along the Front Range: last year Ralph found beetles in a tree that were able to complete an entire life cycle between August and Halloween, very short and late. Continue vigilant scouting and monitoring.

Select Tree – Tim Buchanan, City of Fort Collins

Last meeting we discussed the select tree evaluation program: Sensation Boxelder. They will plant a dozen or so across the four participating communities this year. Tim is very interested to see how this tree does as Fort Collins is considering putting this on their street tree list but want to make sure it will do well before going that far. Several nurseries around the Front Range are growing it and they have done well in nursery production in 4-5 year cycle so far, some freezing/frost cracks. Very few lost any in fall '09 freeze. Has orange/red fall color. Cluster of 4-5 shoots at terminals, so require some pruning to develop good structure. Also planting 5 Peking Tree Lilac 'China Snow'—really nice gold exfoliating bark to rival *Prunus mackii* and spring flowers similar to Japanese Tree Lilac.

Program/Membership – Keith Wood, CSFS

Thanks to Kyle Sylvester and City of Brighton for hosting FRUFC at The Armory today, a very nice site! The old armory building was completely renovated for \$4.1 million, opening on October 3, 2009 as a cultural arts center and now used extensively by the local community. Many features including the floor, stage, most of the ceiling and woodwork are original to its 1921 construction. The next meeting is May 12 in Parker. A question was raised about having a future FRUFC meeting/trip to Cheyenne Research Station. Keith said they could possibly tie this into another conference at same time in third week of July, he will look into it.

Tree Risk – Bill Cassel, City & County of Denver

See program notes below.

C.T.C – Dave Flaig, City of Littleton for Scott Grimes, SSPR

Deadline to get submissions in for poster contest is April 5 with judging on April 8. If you are interested in judging, please contact Keith Wood, he needs people with artistic eyes. The 2011 Champion Tree List is available, get a copy at http://www.coloradotrees.org/champions/2011%20Champ%20Tree_Species.pdf. A big thanks to Neal Bamesberg for getting that together! If you would like to become a CTC member, it's cheap: \$15 for 1 year! Gertie Grant: Trees Across Colorado tree delivery is scheduled for

Tuesday, April 12 in Denver and Wednesday, April 13 in Colorado Springs. She will email info out to all those participating. The folks down in Colorado Springs have greatly expanded participating, a big congrats from Gertie! This year's 12th Annual Champion Tree Classic bike ride is scheduled for June 26, stay tuned for more details.

I.S.A – Bill Cassel, Denver, for Rob Davis, Denver

The chapter's annual conference is currently in planning process, location will be Marriott-Park Meadows on September 30. This year's keynote speaker is John Ball, a very entertaining speaker bringing some new information. Chad Delzell is heading up the climbing competition, scheduled for October 1. Chad needs help in any capacity, so contact him to get involved. If you are interested in having some input on species ratings in new appraisal guide, see Bill. Also, a big congrats to local participants in this year's North American Tree Climbing Championship in Savannah!

Community Reports

USDA APHIS PPQ, Lisa Peraino – Another year of EAB monitoring will be here soon. They would like new locations of declining ash trees to reach different parts of your area. Traps and all supplies are in so they expect to get traps out a little earlier this year. If you have participated in past, please contact Lisa (Lisa.J.Peraino@aphis.usda.gov) to participate again this year.

Break

Why Tree Risk Management

Kyle Sylvester, Brighton City Forester

Kyle has lots of experience with climbing/rigging/pruning but not much tree risk assessment. And Brighton has a lot of "bad trees" because years ago many of the street trees planted were Siberian elm. He has worked a solid 8 months on a forestry management plan with a heavy focus on older parts of Brighton that has many of these older, larger problematic trees. Municipal code in Brighton puts responsibility of tree care on the residents, but Kyle also realizes that many residents don't have the money to do this. He has come up with a compromise: a cost share program to help citizens mitigate tree hazards without breaking the citizens' or the city's budgets. They contract a lot of the work with Wright Tree Service. If a tree is so bad that removal is the only option, city promotes tree replacement with an acceptable species. Kyle also spends a lot of time trying to educate the citizens to take notice of their trees, particularly with respect to tree hazards (ex: flyers in water bills).

The Future of Tree Risk Management

Bill Cassel, City & County of Denver

A new ANSI standard, ANSI A300 part 9, will be finalized sometime this fall (currently in 2nd draft.)— a new tree risk assessment document. It discusses visual tree assessment, which is the identification of symptoms the tree produces in reaction to mechanical defects. It is very important to visually assess a tree from multiple points (cardinal points are good). Look at the leaves: size, color, live crown ratio; branches: structure, twig growth, dieback, wound closure/decay/cavities; fungi. This document will not give you a method to quantify risk, so you have to use other resources. ISA will follow with BMP's on same topic. Bill says one of the best

tools currently is the USFS Urban Tree Risk Management book. The CTC also has a good assessment form. Where do you start in the urban forest if you don't have a plan? Important factors to consider include species, size, defect, failure history, visitor use, development and politics. Liability considerations include visitor use (active vs. passive), user age, maintained or natural.

A Successful Program

Patrick Bohin, Boulder Forestry

Patrick has managed Boulder's tree safety inspection program for ~15 years now. Their program is based on good recordkeeping (GIS inventory & inspection database), good follow-up maintenance, good funding, good compliance with enforcement and good relations with development review/planning department to minimize construction damage. They are currently in process of surveying natural areas including bike paths, streams and ditches. Averaging about 200 trees inspected each year, with 30 removals and an additional 30 with hazard mitigation pruning. Inventory program includes approx 27,000 street trees with 12,000 park trees all grouped into 13 neighborhoods or management units. Can select trees based on size, species, etc. to identify those most likely to have issues. Surveys for all areas are repeated on a 7 year cycle. Earlier paper forms are now electronic (MS Access) collected on a portable notebook. Safety inspections include tree ID# with potential to marry these records with GIS inventory.

A Systematic Inspection Approach

Chad Delzell, Mountain High Tree Service

A systematic approach is important because it helps ensure a thorough inspection. Know the reason you are doing the inspection. Learn the history of the site: maintenance/cultural practices, weather events, etc. Read the clues the tree provides. Most of the clues we want to know are under the bark; intuition, education and your experience are critical tools. Use the knowledge you obtain from your assessment to mitigate the risks to yourself.

Lunch

Outside Field Inspection and Tools

Group took a walk to several trees around the Old Armory site to discuss and apply topics covered in the earlier talks. Visual inspections were conducted on each tree and several diagnostic tools including a rubber mallet and Resistograph were used to gather further information as needed.

Attendance

Kim Yuan-Farrell
Rob Davis
Michelle Cadena
Gertie Grant
Devon Bowers
Lisa Peraino
Shiloh Hatcher

The Park People
City & County of Denver
Fort Collins Wholesale Nursery
CTC/Trees Across Colorado
City of Westminster
USDA APHIS
City of Greeley

Zachary Hall	City of Fort Collins
DeNae Cameron	City of Fort Collins
Del Bernhardt	City of Fort Collins
Tim Abbott	City of Fort Collins
Tim Buchanan	City of Fort Collins
Ralph Zentz	City of Fort Collins
Brad Hoy	City of Fort Collins
Brian Sereduke	City of Fort Collins
Paul Smith	City of Colorado Springs
Jeff Cooper	City of Colorado Springs
Robert Bond	Independent
Dan Odell	TC Woods
Andy Schlosberg	CSFS
Ernie Wintergerst	City of Longmont
Rudy Medakouc	City of Colorado Springs
Jennifer Hrobar	South Suburban Parks & Recreation
Joe Prante	South Suburban Parks & Recreation
Bob Hewey	Tree Analysis
Chad Delzell	Mountain High Tree Care
Joel Szymanski	City of Northglenn
Allan Duckworth	City of Northglenn
Justin Brooks	Boulder County Parks & Open Space
Joel Serafin	CU Boulder
Vince Aquino	CU Boulder
Cathy Thiltgen	Boulder County Parks & Open Space
Keith Williamson	Little Valley Wholesale Nursery
Tom Wells	City & County of Broomfield
Matt Schulz	Colorado State Parks
Jerimiah Deerr	Johnson & Wales University
Randi Smith	City of Arvada
Craig Hillegass	City of Arvada
John Vanko	City of Westminster
Pat Bohin	City of Boulder
Vit Kohoutek	Urban Woods LLC
Kyle Sylvester	City of Brighton
Marion Jones	NoCo Tree Growers
David High	City of Golden
Heidi Zeltinger	City & County of Broomfield
John Kasza	City of Westminster
Chuck Gehringer	City & County of Broomfield
Richard Lozano	City & County of Broomfield
Diana Selby	CSFS Fort Collins
Eric Beutz	City of Thornton
Keith Wood	CSFS Broomfield
David Flaig	City of Littleton
Bill Cassel	City & County of Denver

See you in May!