

Front Range Urban Forestry Council
March 11, 2010

Introductions – David Flaig, City of Littleton

Colorado Noxious Weed Program

Ailanthus (Tree of Heaven) Inclusion on Noxious Weed List

Karen Scopel, City of Greeley

Kelly Uhing, State Weed Coordinator – Colorado Department of Agriculture

Kelly Uhing gave a presentation on the history of state weed laws and evolution of state weed management plans. The Colorado legislature created the Colorado Noxious Weed Act in 1990. It was revised in 1996 to create the state weed coordinator position and establish a state weed fund to assist public/private landowners with noxious weed management. More revisions in 2003 included restructuring the state noxious weed list into tiers (A, B, C), addition of aquatic species, improved enforcement processes, and creation of the Colorado Noxious Weed Advisory Committee (CNWAC). Currently, 18 of the 39 species on list B have completed state weed management plans. More will be added in 2010, including scentless chamomile, bull thistle, musk thistle, Scotch thistle and Eurasian watermilfoil. They are also conducting a major review of the state weed lists, so expect some possible revisions this year. The Noxious Weed Management Fund provides money for List A and eradicable list B species management projects. They were able to offer \$100,000 in assistance for weed management projects in 2009. Project proposals for 2010 funds are due by March 26! More info at www.colorado.gov/ag/weeds.

Karen Scopel came to discuss reasons for/against inclusion of Ailanthus (Tree of Heaven) on the noxious weed list. She was approached a year ago by a frustrated Boulder resident who had significant property damage and repair costs from a neighbor's Ailanthus, and he wants this species on the list. This got her thinking and she wants input from industry professionals. Proponents for adding species to the list cite potential damage to property, structures, urban infrastructure, and escape to native areas. Karen wanted to know how widespread is this species, what types of damage is this species causing, is there potential for the species to move out of urban areas? Comments from audience: (1) Eradicating this species would eliminate shade coverage for large portions of specific neighborhoods, primarily lower income areas; (2) This isn't the way to deal with the issue, the Boulder resident should consult an attorney to pursue recourse through civil laws instead of going this route; (3) Nobody has really seen this species seeding into natural or riparian areas, seen more in developed urban areas, and it's been around Colorado a long time; (4) Why target this species specifically, other species like Siberian elm, silver maples, etc. are just as bad if not worse; (5) Removal costs would be extensive and significantly impact budgets; (6) The main purpose of the noxious weed list is to protect agriculture and natural areas and resources, not urban areas; (7) Pursue education route instead, need a Fact Sheet for this species and focus on educating the public to plant better species, right tree right place, etc.

Break

Weld County Russian-olive/Tamarisk Project

Tina Booton, Weld County Weed Supervisor

Tina Booton spoke about her work on the Platte Invasives Endeavor (PIE) Plan in Weld County. It was developed in 2008 to lay out how to control noxious weed species along the South Platte waterway and its tributaries. At the same time, they created a separate plan to work on purple

loosestrife eradication along the same waterways. At first they accessed plants by walking along the banks on foot, but this proved to be an inefficient method. They received a grant to purchase several canoes and kayaks to access the plants from water, breaking off/bagging tops then treating remaining plant with aquatic glyphosate. Various efforts continue in 2010, including a project to eliminate Tamarisk and Russian-olive along the Cache La Poudre River with \$30,000 in grant assistance from the CWCB and a project to control Russian-olive along the St. Vrain River. They do cut-stump treatments with a Garlon product, which gives 2-3 years of control before suckering back, so monitoring removals for retreatment needs is critical to ensure control.

Committee Reports

Insect and Disease – Ralph Zentz, City of Fort Collins

Planning is underway for this year's PHC workshop, tentatively scheduled for June.

Emerging Pests in Colorado (EPIC) subcommittee had a good meeting last Friday and Sky has put out a draft of a brochure for homeowners regarding Thousand Cankers Disease (TCD). Counties are going to be contacted by the group, probably with the help of CSU Extension and CSFS, to see which are willing to set up pest districts in their areas. They continue to work on code language for municipalities, but there are some legal issues to address on proper searches and criminal vs. civil penalties. CSU is working to get a website domain dedicated to just TCD.

Select Tree – Tim Buchanan, City of Fort Collins

Nothing to report.

Hazard Tree – Bill Cassel, City & County of Denver

Tree Care Industry magazine's March issue (free PDF available at

http://www.treecareindustry.org/Public/pubs_tci_magazine.htm) features information on a brand new ANSI standard: A300 Tree Risk Assessment and Tree Structure Assessment. Take a look, the draft is out for public review from February 5 until March 22, 2010. Bill wants to know if there is enough interest (need at least 15 people) to bring Julian Dunster back this fall to teach a Certified Tree Risk Assessor class? Cost is \$600/person. Contact Bill Cassel if you're interested!

Program/Membership – Keith Wood, CSFS

Thank you to Cathy Thiltgen and Boulder County POS for hosting the March meeting! The next meeting is May 20, 2010 in Denver somewhere. Stay tuned for more information.

C.T.C – Jennifer Hrobar for Scott Grimes, SSPR

CTC needs volunteers to represent the organization at the Outdoor Colorado Expo in Castle Rock 3/27-28 and Live Green & Recycle Expo in Commerce City 4/17-18. If you would like to volunteer, contact Scott Grimes at scottg@sspr.org. This year's 11th Annual Champion Tree Classic Bike Ride will be returning to New Belgium Brewery in Fort Collins on June 13. The ride will start at the brewery and go to Greeley or Windsor then back with lunch and good beer to follow afterwards!

I.S.A – Rob Davis, City of Westminster

For those who have good Arbor Day celebrations planned for this year, consider submitting your project for a Gold Leaf Award. Applications are online. Climbing and Aerial Rescue Workshop is coming up on May 15 somewhere in Denver, Tree Appraisal workshop on June 14th for under \$250, more details coming soon. The updated 3rd edition Arborists' Certification Study Guide is now available. Want your online purchases to benefit ISA – Rocky Mountain Chapter? Follow the 'Shop Amazon.com & Donate' link from their website and 10% of your total purchase from Amazon.com will go back to the Rocky Mountain Chapter. Recruit new members and get credits for merchandise purchases. Steve Geist is riding Tour-de-Trees this year, please consider supporting his ride. This

year's chapter conference will be held September 30-October 1, 2010 at the Crown Plaza near I-70 and Chambers. Kim Coder will be the keynote speaker with others presenting pest updates, elm trials, and oaks for Colorado. The Tree Climbing Championship will follow on October 2 at City Park. See website (www.isarmc.org) for more information on upcoming events.

Community Reports

Gertie Grant – Trees Across Colorado

Tree delivery is scheduled for April 13 at sites in Windsor, Arvada and Littleton. There will also be a delivery going down to Colorado Springs on April 14. If you are coming to unload, please plan to bring 2 scoop shovels to move trees down length of trailer before offloading. This was a very helpful trick last year, easier on the trees AND your back! Overall, the number of communities ordering trees is down from last year with total number of trees down by nearly half. Can anybody say 'budget cuts'?

Pete Zoschg –City & County of Denver

Denver is starting over fresh on a GIS street tree inventory. If anybody has suggestions on how to design GIS data collection forms or tips for easing the process of using volunteers for data collection, PLEASE contact Pete.

Lisa Peraino – USDA APHIS

EAB monitoring will happen again this year. If you are interested in participating, please let Lisa know so she can get things moving. A total of 200 traps have been run in the state over the last 2 years with no positive hits for EAB. Let's hope it stays that way. A new firewood task force committee is forming to address MPB, Thousand Cankers and other potential I&D issues moving from the eastern US. Lisa is looking for venues to get this information out to the public.

Kelly Uhing – Colorado Department of Agriculture

The Colorado Noxious Weed Management Funds Request for Proposals 2010 is due March 26. She strongly encourages municipalities to submit applications for weed management projects. Even if they don't get funded this year, the demand for funds helps increase funding for next year. Applications are available at <http://www.colorado.gov/ag/weeds>.

National Arbor Day Foundation Poster Contest Judging

This year's theme was 'Trees are Terrific – And Energy Wise!' Donna Davis brought 45 posters to judge. It was another hard decision between so many talented entries. After judging, lunch and a group photo concluded the day. The winning poster will go on to compete at the national level.

Attendance

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| Jennifer Hrobar | South Suburban Parks & Recreation |
| Joe Prante | South Suburban Parks & Recreation |
| Kyle Sylvester | Brighton Parks |
| Ben Zomer | City of Evans |
| Jeff Russell | Lawn Doctor of Fort Collins |
| Mike McGill | Town of Erie |
| Karen Scopel | City of Greeley |
| Tina Booton | Weld County |
| Dave High | City of Golden |
| Donna Davis | CSFS |

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| Margaret Paget | City of Wheat Ridge |
| Dan Wolford | City of Longmont |
| Andy Schlosberg | CSFS |
| Cathy Thiltgen | Boulder County Parks & Open Space |
| Kathleen Alexander | City of Boulder |
| Renita Baskin | Independent |
| Lisa Peraino | USDA APHIS |
| Rob MacDonald | City of Loveland |
| Bill Cassel | City & County of Denver |
| Pete Zoschg | City & County of Denver |
| Ted Tompkins | City & County of Denver |
| Devon Bowers | City of Westminster |
| Rob Davis | City of Westminster |
| Dan Odell | TC Woods |
| Joel Szymanski | City of Northglenn |
| Allan Duckworth | City of Northglenn |
| Michelle Cadena | Fort Collins Wholesale Nursery |
| Scot Sanders | Davey Tree |
| Justin Kennymore | Precision Felling |
| Jacque Chomiak | City of Aurora |
| Norm Gill | City & County of Broomfield |
| Deb Pfaff | City & County of Broomfield |
| Tom Wells | City & County of Broomfield |
| Chuck Gehringer | City & County of Broomfield |
| Pat McLaughlin | CSFS – Golden |
| Collin Wassink | CSFS – Golden |
| Keith Wood | CSFS – Broomfield |
| Dave Flaig | City of Littleton |

See you in May!