

Front Range Urban Forestry Council
May 15, 2008

Introductions – Dave Flaig, City of Littleton

Committee Reports

Insect and Disease – Dave Flaig for Ralph Zentz, City of Fort Collins

The first pest talk meeting for the year was May 14, 2008. Ralph's meeting summary: spruce Ips beetle seems to be on an upward swing in northern Colorado communities. Fort Collins has had 14 confirmed spruce with Ips this year. Other front range communities have confirmed Ips as well. Spruce are also showing various symptoms of dieback along roadways that are plowed and treated with deicing material. It seems very likely that the chloride salts are linked to the plant damage seen. CSU will take some tissue and possibly soil samples to see if the chloride levels are higher in damaged trees as compared to those showing no symptoms. The big news out of Boulder is that Ned Tisserat has determined that a *Geosmithia* fungus is associated with the death complex in black walnut. The twig beetle (*Pityophthorus juglandis*) carries the fungi into the tree on twigs and branches. The fungi create cankers that are relatively small, but there are large numbers of them. Once the tree is weakened by the *Geosmithia* and beetles attack, another fungus (*Fusarium solani*) forms large trunk cankers. Walnuts die relatively quickly. Ned has named this the Thousand Cankers Disease of Black Walnut. This complex has the potential to be very severe in areas where black walnut and English walnut occur, not to mention that other related species may be susceptible as well. It is pretty much a consensus that pests are well behind their normal schedule this year, maybe by as much as 3-4 weeks. Dry weather beginning last fall and continuing into spring has probably affected trees and shrubs in many ways that we may not see yet. There are reports of many winter killed perennials in established landscapes that are probably linked to climatic events.

A PHC workshop hosted by Rocky Mountain ISA will be held on July 7, 2008 at Lory Student Center on the CSU campus.

Lisa Peraino sent the following message regarding EAB traps: I hope to receive all Emerald Ash Borer trapping supplies by the week of May 19. I will be contacting those cities which have indicated an interest in helping once I receive all our supplies. I hope to begin placing traps that same week if the weather and people's schedules cooperate. If anyone has questions, please feel free to contact me at (303) 371-3355 or lisa.j.peraino@aphis.usda.gov.

Select Tree –Tim Buchanan, City of Fort Collins

Nothing to report.

Hazard Tree – Bill Cassel, City of Edgewater Independent Consultant

The hazard tree program is back on, after some time away. The Pacific Northwest chapter of ISA has a hazard tree evaluator certification program and Bill is curious if anybody is interested. They could possibly do something in conjunction with the Rocky Mountain chapter. Also, the CTC Tree Hazards Training Team was asked to return to the NRPA Park Planning and Maintenance School at Colorado Springs in August to provide hazard tree evaluation training for the western U.S. Is anybody else seeing a rise of *Thyronectria* canker on honeylocusts? Bill is seeing a lot down in the Ken-Caryl area. The tree appraisal committee increased tree costs 4% as nursery costs have increased this year. Also, the tree appraisal committee will be sending out a questionnaire to determine interest for a tree appraisal workshop.

Program/Membership, Keith Wood – CSFS, Broomfield

Thanks to the City of Aurora for hosting FRUFC today at such a nice facility. The next meeting is scheduled for July 24, 2008 at the Boulder County Parks & Open Space facility near Longmont. Possible topics include biomass/wood utilization programs and a quick trip to the national champion cottonwood in Hygiene.

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

CTC is currently in the process of changing internet providers and so far everything is progressing smoothly. The next CTC meeting is scheduled for October. Gertie Grant will send out a survey within the next month or so to get participants' responses on how things went with Trees Across Colorado (TAC) this year. She delivered trees for 18 participating communities/organizations, with about \$13,000 in revenue to CTC!

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

The Rocky Mountain Chapter Conference and Tree Climbing Championship will be held October 3-4, 2008 in Colorado Springs. Dr. Jim Clark will conduct seminar topics and organizers are also planning a tour of interesting tree species on the Colorado College campus. So far there has been a lot of interest from members in New Mexico and Scott expects that the conference will fill up fast. New this year, they are hoping to combine the Deb Ashe Cottonwood Classic bike ride with the conference events. The ISA education committee is still looking for volunteer members. They have a DVD on proper planting and proper pruning coming out soon. They expect this DVD to be a great marketing tool to show to homeowner groups, etc. to encourage hiring ISA certified arborists. The Municipal Specialist study guide is now available and you can purchase it online at the ISA website, www.isa-arbor.com. The website also lists test dates, upcoming public events in your area that are eligible for CEU's, and your current CEU status if you are certified. ISA's website with tree care information for the general public is www.treesaregood.org.

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

Thanks to everybody who participated in 2008 Trees For All. Sara Davis has a new partner to help with the program, Sara Barber. They are about to go live with an online donation service via TreeBank and the city is working on a master plan for an arboretum.

Community Reports/Other Business

Town of Parker

Parker just finished up Arbor Day 2008. They have been fighting Ips beetles the last few years and despite preventive treatments they continue to struggle to keep up with this pest's pressure.

Town of Edgewater

Edgewater has a very active tree board that just finished a tree management plan. One of their new tasks is to care for trees in the public right of way and they will contract this work out. They are also jumping on board with the reciprocal licensing program and plan to get involved with CTC's Trees Across Colorado program in the near future.

City and County of Broomfield

A horticulture position is opening up soon.

Break

Municipal Forester Institute

Tom Wells, City and County of Broomfield

Tom Wells, City Forester for the City and County of Broomfield, attended the Municipal Forester Institute (MFI) in New Braunfels, Texas February 24-29, 2008. The MFI was six days of intensive training conducted by instructors and guest speakers who were a well-qualified, passionate and diverse group of people. There were also plenty of opportunities for networking and discussion with fellow participants, who represented the entire country and Canada. The total cost, which included all meals and lodging, was \$1800 plus airfare. This was not a conference about trees; it was training to give you the tools to manage the urban forests and become a better municipal forester. Tom said spending a week at MFI gave him the focus to move his programs forward and insight into the value of tree boards and non-profits in urban forestry programs. He had a change in perspective of trees and how they fit in to the bigger picture: trees are secondary; it's about the people and how they relate to the environment around them. We as foresters need to move from being managers of trees and forests to being managers of the natural resources that make up the urban and community forests. Population demographics are changing and will have a definite effect on urban forestry, so how will you

manage the relationship between people and trees? How will you promote the urban forest in your community? In an age of ever-dwindling budgets and funding, considering the answers to these questions is more important than ever. The next MFI will be held February 22-27, 2009 in Palm Key, SC. For more information, visit the SMA website at <http://www.urban-forestry.com/mc/page.do?sitePageld=50685&orgld=sma>.

Environmental Solutions for Foresters – The IES Tree Project **Desirée Thorp & Ryan Moore, Institute for Environmental Solutions**

The Institute for Environmental Solutions is a Denver-based nonprofit independent organization. Their mission is to deliver proactive, technically sound solutions to complex environmental and natural resource problems without unwanted side effects.

IES completed Phase 2 of The Tree Project early in 2008. Phase 2 outcomes include a final report that gives Golden quantifiable value for its urban forest, based on extensive research and field measurements conducted in 2007, along with Model Municipal Environmental Tree Guidelines and a Strategic Plan of tree planting for city officials to use in future urban planning projects.

IES projects in 2008 include developing Treescapes for Home Energy Conservation, an on-line interactive tool for homeowners and property managers to help them select trees for environmental benefits and model various factors and strategies to optimize their environment. IES staff will also be looking into carbon offset opportunities for Front Range urban forest inventories this year. For more information on IES, visit their website at <http://instituteforenvironmentalsolutions.org/>.

Tour of the Aurora Arboretum

The City of Aurora Forestry provided a tour of their city arboretum located at Bicentennial Park along with a discussion of the pros and cons of developing and maintaining an arboretum.

Attendance

John Wesolowski	City of Aurora
Darrel Pearson	City of Colorado Springs
Chuck Gehringer	City and County of Broomfield
Tom Wells	City and County of Broomfield
Michael Allen	Mile High Youth Corps
Andy Schlosberg	CSFS
Gertie Grant	CTC/TAC
Kelly Henry	City of Arvada
Patrick Plummer	City of Arvada
Matt Szumilas	Town of Parker
Betsy Mercer	Town of Parker
Erik Stadvold	Town of Parker
Bill Cassel	City of Edgewater
Jacque Chomiak	City of Aurora
David S. High	City of Golden
Keith Wood	CSFS
Cathy Thiltgen	Boulder County Parks & Open Space
Rob MacDonald	City of Loveland
Sara Davis	City & County of Denver
Sara Barber	City & County of Denver
Brian Green	City of Aurora
Scott Grimes	South Suburban Parks & Recreation
Jennifer Hrobar	South Suburban Parks & Recreation
Dave Flaig	City of Littleton
Mike McGill	Town of Erie

Kyle Sylvester
Carol Lyons
Kristen Bertuglia
Ryan Moore
Desiree Thorp
Ken Wicklund
Karen Day-Rule

City of Brighton
Institute for Environmental Solutions
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Institute for Environmental Solutions
City of Longmont
City of Aurora

See you in July!