

Front Range Urban Forestry Council

September 16, 2010

Introductions – David Flaig, City of Littleton

Committee Reports

Insect and Disease – Ralph Zentz, City of Fort Collins

It has been a pretty active summer and Wednesday, September 22 is the last meeting for northern Colorado pest group. The Denver metro pest group will meet 1 week later. EAB infested ash wood was picked up at the California border, originating from Michigan: how many states are between Michigan and California? Thousand Cankers disease has been confirmed in Tennessee, in middle of geographic distribution of English walnut. Investigation suggests it has been established in the area for some time. EAB was also confirmed in same area the same week! Another interesting thing is how MPB has been acting around town (versus in the mountains), with new surprises every year. In Fort Collins, MPB hits have about 10% mortality. Some trees are now in their 3rd or 4th year of being hit. Beetles are surviving sprays in some instances. Some beetles have effectively reproduced in trees, smaller #'s than in mountains. A pattern is starting to develop: August is peak flight period, slowing down by mid September and then peaking again in October, very strange. Later-maturing adults might not survive winter. Most common species hit are Scotch and Ponderosa. Less common hits seen in Pinyon, Bristlecone, Austrian (minimal, all pitched out) and Mugo pines. A few MPB hits positively identified on spruce, which look very similar to spruce bark beetle hits and took an expert to determine difference. Ralph thinks wind and strong flights from nearby ponderosas in foothills are sustaining the urban populations.

Select Tree – Tim Buchanan, City of Fort Collins

Tim is looking into possible options for next year's Select Tree Evaluation: Pacific Sunset maple and State Street maple (*Acer miyabei*). Anybody have experience with the State Street maple? Interested in trying it as a possible option for street plantings. Originated at Morton Arboretum, leaf looks similar to hedge maple, upright pyramidal form, narrow branch angles, yellow fall color, grafted to hedge maple rootstock, quite a vigorous grower and establishes quickly. Some nurseries are starting to carry it. They are still working on Front Range Recommended Trees list, great progress so far! The finished list will be available online and plan is to update list every year or so based on feedback. They will use this list in Fort Collins to spec recommended species for future developments.

Tree Risk – Bill Cassel, City & County of Denver

ISA is working on BMP's and ANSI standards (A300 part 9: tree risk draft). Google it and take a look. It lays out how we should do inspections, proper terminology, etc. Denver is working on a tree risk policy that encompasses a lot of things: one issue to address is which formula to use? Bill likes 1:6 formula for holding wood. The committee is considering putting on a tree risk workshop for ISA, maybe sometime after ProGreen next year, somewhere in Metro area? Stay tuned for more info.

Program/Membership – Keith Wood, CSFS

Thanks to Randy for hosting us today! The next meeting will be in November, date TBD. Program topic will be an overview of CTC to get everyone aware of what the organization does,

where it's going and recruit new blood. January may be an extended meeting on Tree Inventory in Golden, Dave High to host.

C.T.C – David Flaig & Keith Wood for Scott Grimes, SSPR

CTC was accepted to submit full application for Xcel grants for community tree plantings, Keith has been in contact with those communities. This is separate from the CTC Xcel grants. 2011 calendars are on sale to support CTC programs, and they make great Christmas gifts!

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

Lots coming up! Annual conference is end of this month. Kim Coder is keynote speaker. October 2 is the tree climbing championship at City Park. Pesticide workshop in Castle Rock also coming up soon. See www.isarmc.org for event info and CEU opportunities.

Community Reports

TAC/CTC – Gertie Grant

This year's tree list is finalized, tree orders must be in to Gertie by Dec 10, 2010 and 50% deposit is due by January 5, 2011. PLEASE look at the columns that state #'s available and additional #'s available from nursery. There is a short supply on some species this year that normally would have better availability due to competition with New York City, as they are using the same vendor for their tree program.

City of Littleton – Dave Flaig

Budgets are tight, tough cuts, hang in there.

Town of Erie – Mike McGill

Still have a tree board, despite attempts by some.

General discussion around the room

It's dry, dry, dry, everywhere.

Break

Colorado State Forest Service Nursery Tour Randy Moench, CSFS Nursery Manager

In 1957, the Federal Soil Bank Act provided money and land, and state nurseries were created to produce conifers for windbreaks. Tree planting programs were developed to "temper" the plains climate. The CSFS Nursery started in 1957 and has operated continuously since then. It is cash funded and operates on the sale of seedlings. They now grow approximately 40-50 species of bare root and containerized trees and shrubs for private landowners to purchase for windbreaks, conservation plantings, wildlife habitat, and reforestation of areas impacted by losses from MPB or fires. Their top sale year was 2002, selling 2.2 million seedlings. A new cold storage facility is enhancing their operations with the capacity to store about 2 million bare root seedlings. Workers harvest as many seedlings as possible in the fall, typically November, and store over winter as it is never predictable how much harvesting spring weather will allow. A fascinating tour of nursery facilities and operations ended the day.

Attendance

Keith Wood	CSFS
David Flaig	City of Littleton
Jennifer Hrobar	South Suburban Parks & Recreation
John Vanko	City of Westminster
John Kasza	City of Westminster
Devon Bowers	City of Westminster
Rob Burdine	City of Westminster
Rob Davis	City & County of Denver
Louis Linn	Fort Collins Wholesale Nursery
Tim Buchanan	City of Fort Collins
Scott Rehfeld	Town of Erie
Mike McGill	Town of Erie
Diana Selby	CSFS
Randy Smith	City of Arvada
Ben Zomer	For Hire
Matt Moritz	City of Arvada
Greg Zausen	CSFS
Laurel Brabec	Student
DeNae Cameron	City of Fort Collins
Ralph Zentz	City of Fort Collins
Bill Cassel	City & County of Denver
Vince Aquino	CU Boulder
Randy Moench	CSFS
Gertie Grant	TAC/CTC
Norland Hall	CSFS
Dan Odell	TC Woods

See you in November!