

**Program from the Community Forestry at its Best Conference**

**June 28-30, 2004**

**Lied Conference Center, Arbor Day Lodge  
Nebraska City, Nebraska**

**GREENING OUR COMMUNITIES - THE IMPORTANCE OF PUBLIC EDUCATION**

Sarah Griffith, Urban and Community Forestry Program Manager

*Washington State Department of Natural Resources, Olympia, Washington*

Over the past few years, the Washington Urban and Community Forestry Program (U&CF) staff has developed a public education and outreach strategy. The primary focus was on creating a presentation that could be utilized by a speaker's bureau to give presentations on the value of urban trees to service groups (such as Lions, Kiwanis, Rotary's, etc.) in communities around the state. Service groups were selected as the main audience as the members are often well connected in the community, and the groups are often in search of presentations. The need for public education regarding the importance of planting and maintaining urban trees will only continue to increase in the coming years, as development and urbanization continue. This presentation is a basic introduction to Urban and Community Forestry and will be the impetus for discussions in many communities.

The presentation, *Greening Our Communities: Urban and Community Forestry in Washington*, is available by contacting the Washington U&CF program at 1-800-523-TREE or [urbanforestry@wadnr.gov](mailto:urbanforestry@wadnr.gov). Other information about Washington's U&CF program and the Washington Community Forestry Council can be found at [www.dnr.wa.gov/wcfc](http://www.dnr.wa.gov/wcfc).

**COMMUNITY TREE RISK MANAGEMENT: A TACTICAL APPROACH TO PROGRAM DESIGN & IMPLEMENTATION**

Jill D. Pokorny, Plant Pathologist

*USDA Forest Service, St. Paul, Minnesota*

Investing in a community tree risk management program can save lives, reduce the catastrophic impact of future storms on community budgets, and promote the health of urban forests. Although most community urban forestry management plans state the need to remove high-risk trees, most plans do not state how to specifically accomplish this goal. A tree risk management program fills this critical information gap, and provides the community with a systematic approach to detect, assess, and correct hazardous defects in urban trees.

This presentation summarized an approach to designing and implementing a community tree risk management program that improves public safety and promotes urban forest health. Attendees learned methods to design a risk management program that defines policy, divides and maps a community into tree risk zones, implements cyclic risk inspections, and prioritizes corrective actions. It is a system that allows communities to target the use of limited resources to the areas of highest risk, on a priority basis. This new approach was developed by a team of experienced tree risk management trainers and has received extensive review by city foresters, program managers, and consulting arborists to ensure the information applies to communities of varying population sizes and budgets.

This presentation is based on the new publication, *Urban Tree Risk Management: A Community*

Guide to Program Design and Implementation. This publication fills a critical information gap, and marks the first time community planning and program design information has been included in a tree risk management-training guide. This new publication can be viewed and printed from the web at: [www.na.fs.fed.us/mfo/pubs/uf/utrm](http://www.na.fs.fed.us/mfo/pubs/uf/utrm).

## **OUTDOOR FIELD ACTIVITIES**

Dave Mooter, Community Forester  
*Nebraska Forest Service, Omaha, Nebraska*  
Rachel Allison, Community Forester Assistance  
*Nebraska Forest Service, North Platte, Nebraska*  
Justin Evertson, Assistant Director for Community Programs  
*Nebraska Statewide Arboretum, Lincoln, Nebraska*  
Chip Murrow, Community Forestry Assistant  
*Nebraska Forest Service, Lincoln, Nebraska*

One of the great advantages of conferencing at the Lied Conference Center is the atmosphere both inside and outside. We wanted to take advantage of the outside on a beautiful summer day. This tour got us to STAND UP and go out into the landscape that surrounds the conference center. Two separate tours were offered:

### **Tour 1**

Tree Selection, Planting, and Initial Care with Rachel Allison and Justin Evertson

This tour worked its way around the conference center focusing on tree selection and planting. Tour leaders used the landscape to discuss plant selection and the advantages and disadvantages of a number of tree species. Nebraska's experience with natives, non-natives, and cultivars was presented. There were also discussions about planting issues and proper care in those first critical years.

### **Tour 2**

Tree Risk, Mature Pruning, and Pests with Chip Murrow and Dave Mooter

This tour moved us across the road to the city park. Here we looked at an ongoing oak problem as well as discussed pruning options for larger trees in parks and critical areas. In addition, the group discussed tree risk assessment and how to make a safety determination. The group also received an air spade demonstration from Eric Berg of the Kansas Forest Service.

## **TREES IN OUR TOWN - WHAT PUBLIC OFFICIALS HAD TO SAY**

Justine Gartner, Forestry Field Program Supervisor  
*Missouri Department of Conservation, Jefferson City, Missouri*  
Tom Treiman, Natural Resource Economist  
*Missouri Department of Conservation, Columbia, Missouri*

Are trees important to public officials? What are the most pressing community forestry issues in a community? Who takes care of the trees on a day to day basis?

To better understand local forestry officials' knowledge, motivation and behavior a self-administered survey questionnaire was mailed to local forestry officials in 602 Missouri communities that are members of the Missouri Municipal League. Our goal was to characterize the local agencies charged with managing urban trees, their budgets and personnel levels, and to determine which urban forestry issues local forestry officials

found to be most pressing. The overall response rate for the mailing list was 60% with 364 communities responding from the 602 total that were surveyed.

This presentation highlighted the results from this survey with the goal of helping others (arborists, landscapers, state agencies, etc) better serve municipalities. Here's a sample of our findings:


- Most communities are reactive in caring for their community forest with the majority budgeting zero dollars for tree care activities.
- Tree activities, which do get budgeted, are funded primarily from general revenue, making information on creative funding strategies vital to creating sustainable community forestry programs.
- Seventy-five percent of the communities surveyed indicated that they do not have a single full-time person employed who spends the majority of their time performing tree related activities. This makes a focused and methodical approach to tree care and the elimination of hazardous trees difficult. It also reinforces the need to provide training on basic topics.
- Responsibility for tree care rests in a variety of departments depending on the community. Consequently, requests for assistance could potentially come from multiple departments within a community making it difficult to deliver targeted and coordinated assistance.
- Most communities do not have a public tree ordinance, a written community forest management plan, or a comprehensive tree ordinance that addresses tree preservation during development. This highlights the need for greater publicity of the value of trees, the value of planning for proper care, and the necessity to educate communities to acknowledge trees as a part of a community's infrastructure.
- Communities with a population less than 5,000 are less likely to utilize cost-share programs available through the state forestry agency. Communities that are willing to budget for tree care activities or have a public tree ordinance are more likely to participate in state cost-share programs.
- Communities feel the basic tree maintenance activities, like removal of hazardous trees and tree pruning, are important. Tree planting, watering, development of a public tree ordinance, and inventory varied more widely the importance assigned to them by the respondents.
- Municipalities have a profound impact on the health of our community forests. The results from the survey will help commercial business, organizations, and state agencies to deliver better service in a targeted manner.
  - 2.45 % of respondents (public officials) think that citizens would increase taxes for UCF activities in communities
  - Follow-up survey in 44 communities with tree management data
  - 6,500 responses received
  - 54% would vote for tax increase for tree programs

## **TREE ORDINANCES: THE INS AND OUTS OF SUCCESSFUL DRAFTING, ADOPTION AND IMPLEMENTATION**

Jessica S. Roth, Acting Director of Planning and Development  
City of Snellville, Georgia                      [www.snellville.org](http://www.snellville.org)

- 1) General information on Tree Ordinances
  - a) History
  - b) Benefits of Trees and Ordinances to the Community
- 2) Ordinance Drafting
  - a) General information

➤ *Identify "hot buttons" in communities  
Certified arborist language*

- b) Breaking Out of the Box - New Ideas & Techniques
- 3) Ordinance Adoption
  - a) Working with the Public
    - i) Steering Committees
    - ii) Education
  - b) Meeting Preparation
    - i) Reports
    - ii) Presentations
  - c) Working with Elected Officials
- 4) Implementation
  - a) Promotion of the New Ordinance  *Brochures, website, press releases, etc.*
  - b) The Challenges of Implementation/Enforcement

*An ordinance should include:*

*Purpose/Intent*

*Definitions*

*Applicability – what properties are included?*

*Procedures/Requirements*

*-Certified Arborist?*

*-Landscape Regs?*

*Enforcement Duty*

*Admin Relief/Appeals*

*-Realize outcomes from details in ordinance*

*Violations/Penalties*

*Effective Date*

*Validity*

*-If one section is determined invalid, don't eliminate entire ordinance*

## **GETTING YOUR SHARE OF THE PUBLIC PIE**

Dale Carlon, Urban Forester

*City of Sparks, Nevada*

The City of Sparks has recently seen a decrease in tax revenues as two major local casinos had their tax rates decreased. A hiring freeze was instituted, several department heads that were close to retirement were bought out, and their positions eliminated. The Urban Forestry Division survived the cuts but had to find a way to gain public support and recognition to enable us to grow with the demands our expanding community placed upon us.

We have been a Tree City for 11 years and have been doing what we call "Arbor Week" for 12 years. During Arbor Week we go to elementary schools and see second graders. We give a 12 hour lecture on the importance of trees in the city and then plant a tree on school grounds. We normally go to 11 schools and see about 1200 kids a year. Although this has been a great program we needed to do more.

We began by conducting workshops for the public at parks throughout the city. Our staff attends job fairs at high schools and middle schools, lecturing about the importance of trees in the city and the career opportunities available. Also I partnered with a local nursery and conducted workshops at

their shop on Saturday mornings talking about tree care, irrigation, and landscape design. Then we did articles on tree care in the local newspaper. The paper also did a biography on me, and how our division came to be. Every summer on Thursday evenings, the city sponsors a farmers' market. This year, I was invited to have a booth and to conduct workshops along with local nurseries in our amphitheater. I have always felt that a tree costume would be a big hit; two ladies on staff this year built my costume. It really has been a big hit with the public and the press loves to give "Barkley Shades" lots of coverage.

## **THE USDA FOREST SERVICE URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROGRAM: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE**

Mark Buscaino, Director, Urban and Community Forestry  
*USDA Forest Service, Washington, D.c.*

*Investigation, audit, revise funding formula – activities with UCF Program in 2004*

*2.5 million cut – proposed for FY '05*

*Federal Funding allocation*

- *\$0.11 per person - west NASF area*
- *\$0.10 per person - south NASF area*
- *\$0.08 per person – north NASF area*

*States must focus on building capacity for their program*

- *State Funding*
- *Partnerships*

## **HOW TO CREATE A SUCCESSFUL TREE PLANTING PROGRAM**

Jean Negley, Committee Chairman  
Piper Hobbs, Committee Member  
*Clarinda Trees Forever Committee, Clarinda, Iowa*

The Clarinda Trees Forever Committee is a volunteer committee dedicated to establishing and maintaining tree plantings and landscaping plans in Clarinda, Iowa, a community of approximately 5,000 residents. Since its inception in 1992, Clarinda Trees Forever has implemented many successful tree planting projects including large scale plantings at all of our community schools, the community hospital, the county courthouse grounds, all the city parks, and two of the entry ways into the community. Future projects include tree plantings and landscaping plans for a new industrial park and new library.

The committee has been involved in helping Clarinda to be designated as a Tree City USA community for eight consecutive years, sponsoring annual Arbor Day celebrations, teaming with Iowa State University to create a long term community landscape plan, developing a community tree inventory with the assistance of the state urban forester, helping to establish a city tree board, sponsoring popular "plant-a-tree and share-the-cost" street tree programs and providing educational tree planting and maintenance workshops. Additionally, the committee has had successful experiences writing grants and working with the utility companies, state and federal agencies that provide the grant programs. ON Arbor Day in 2001, the committee proudly celebrated the planting of its 1,000th tree.

The Clarinda Trees Forever committee has succeeded by utilizing the individual talents and *efforts of* its members and other community volunteers. The committee has worked together growing dreams for a diverse and healthy community forest. Their hands on experience can be invaluable to others interested in starting community tree planting programs.

### **PUTTING THE GREEN IN GREENVILLE - THE STORY OF GREENVILLE'S FAST START USING AN ALL-VOLUNTEER APPROACH**

Steven Nagy, Founding Chair and Publicist

Bob Schroeder, Chair

*Greenville, Urban Forestry Board, Appleton, Wisconsin*

Greenville's urban forestry program is a case-study in what can be accomplished, even without the benefit of a paid forestry department.

This dynamic start-up effort has advanced in four years to include:

- \* A nine-member urban forestry board
- \* A quarterly newsletter direct-mailed to all residents
- \* A color promotional brochure
- \* A speakers' bureau
- \* A professional-quality marketing video
- \* Three school nurseries
- \* A corporate sponsorship program
- \* A complement of municipal ordinances that support trees Tree planting investments that exceed \$100,000

Greenville is a small, unincorporated township community of 7,800 residents.

The program explained and demonstrated that enthusiasm for trees can best be actualized by applying the skills of business management to the urban forestry initiative. Planning, marketing, and project management-not just tree expertise and enthusiasm-are key in generating the resources necessary for an effective urban forestry program.

### **RIGHT TREE RIGHT PLACE COALITION: A KANSAS CITY AREA PARTNERSHIP EFFORT TO PROMOTE SOUND TREE PLANTING DECISIONS**

Helene Miller, Urban Forester

*Missouri Department of Conservation, Kansas City, Missouri*

A coalition of 10 corporate, non-profit, and government organizations in the Kansas City metropolitan area was formed in 2002 in response to the devastating January 2002 ice storm. Due to significant losses of trees in the storm in addition to gradual tree losses through other causes as well as extensive utility line storm damage due to poorly located trees, a need to replant trees in proper

locations was identified. By getting citizens and cities to replant with species less susceptible to ice damage as well as to plant away from power lines and then to properly maintain those trees, much of the damage seen in the 2002 storm could be avoided in future storms.

This coalition has created and maintains a web site, created a PSA that has aired over 1,500 times, has had three 8-12 page special inserts in *The Kansas City Star* dedicated to tree planting, printed bookmarks and brochures, created and distributed a tree policy guide to city officials, and provided programs and displays at various events - all with no budget and less than \$50 cash outlay.

The tree policy guide and 12 articles on benefits of trees, planting, maintenance, and etc. that were sent to city officials are available at: <http://www.marc.org/watershed/trees.htm>.

The Right Tree Right Place web site is: [www.RightTreeRightPlace.com](http://www.RightTreeRightPlace.com).

## **USING YOUTH INVOLVEMENT TO BUILD COMMUNITY SUPPORT & RAISE YOUR PUBLIC PROFILE**

Angelica Roque, President

*Tree Musketeers, El Segundo, California*

With many challenges facing the urban forestry community, reaching out to youth isn't always at the top of the agenda. It should be. Young people are a key audience for everyone who cares about our urban forests. Although we are conditioned to think of adults as holding power economically and politically - we at Tree Musketeers believe that youth can play a vital role in building widespread community support and raising public awareness for any community's urban forestry programs. Our current tree-planting campaign, Count on Kids, empowers even child challenged urban foresters to bring young people into the movement, solicit their help with projects, and create a mutually-enriching experience.

Tree Musketeers is living proof that youthful energy can bear fruit. In 1987, thirteen third graders decided to change the world by planting a tree - a simple action, but one that blossomed into an international environmental organization that is youth-led and youth-driven. Our campaigns have inspired more than 1 million kids to plant over 1 million trees worldwide.

If these numbers are surprising, consider that a 2003 American Zoo and Aquarium Association poll of 60,000 kids revealed that nine out of ten girls and eight out of ten boys are "most interested" in learning how they can help the environment. At Tree Musketeers' offices, the anecdotal evidence agrees: Letters pour in weekly from kids who want to know how they can help the planet by planting trees.

The problem: These eager kids have trouble finding equally eager adults to help them make their tree-planting ideas a reality. Oddly enough, adults in the urban forestry community often express a similar frustration. They want to connect with young people, but don't. How strange that two like-minded groups, both motivated to expand our urban forests, should have such a difficult time finding each other - or finding ready ways to put their common motivation to work.

Our strategy for urban foresters is to plug into existing programs, such as Count on Kids. In order to maximize the value of youth involvement, tree-planting activities should be educational, age-appropriate, and meaningful. The youth leaders at Tree Musketeers created Count on Kids to meet

these goals - and to make the job easier for urban forestry professionals. Here is a ready-to go package of information, instruction, and campaign materials that can turn any tree planting into a kid-friendly, community-spirited event.

Although involving youth in community tree programs does take some effort, the payoff is great. Whether the gains are measured in terms of increased media coverage, new community contacts, added manpower, or general goodwill, these benefits are immediate. Long-term benefits are equally worthy, and accrue globally as well as locally. Young people who are challenged to get involved will. Kids who find a way to engage in their communities do - and in the process, both kids and their communities grow by the experience.

## **GROWING RESPONSIBLE YOUNG PEOPLE, AND TREES**

Julia Bays, President

*Alva Tree Board, Alva, Oklahoma*

This wonderful Tree planting, beautification project began in 1990 when the Alva 4-H Club voted unanimously to "Save the Earth". A few years later the FF A also committed to this project. From these acts of commitment by 80 young people, the City of Alva, Population 5354, has received over \$170,000.00 in grant money, become a Tree City USA and a Growth Award City and has planted over 891 grant trees and 500 seedlings. This presentation showed the highlights of parade floats, themes and projects of these young people as they mature from 3rd graders to seniors and their projects mature from seedlings to beautiful trees.

## **GETTING KIDS EXCITED ABOUT TREES: THE 4-H TREE JEOPARDY PROGRAM**

James Nichnadowicz, 4-H Agent

*Rutgers Coop. Extension of Union County, Westfield, New Jersey*

Getting the next generation excited about trees is challenging, but critical. Tomorrow's adults live in a world full of instant gratification, where the spectacular but unhurried creatures called "trees" are often forgotten in the rush of computer games and videos. Fortunately, through hands-on activities, youth can be reached. The presenter of this session, James Nichnadowicz has been doing so for the past ten years with his school program called "Tree Jeopardy".

Tree Jeopardy is very similar to the popular television show, but with a few twists. Instead of questions for adults, the questions are on the fourth grade level. While the television show only allows three players and one to answer, Tree Jeopardy allows each student to play and get a chance to answer. Also, while the network version doesn't provide hints to the players, this Tree version does. Students receive hints that involve using math skills they already know.

The questions for Tree Jeopardy were developed by the volunteers and staff of the Rutgers Cooperative Extension Program. They focus on tree facts that amaze students, such as "How much does the heaviest tree weigh?", "What is the tallest tree?", and "What is the oldest tree?" Using pictures and props such as string and actual Sequoia seeds, the children leave the program amazed at the wonder of trees.

Each year, Mr. Nichnadowicz and a group of volunteer "Master Tree Stewards" bring the wonder of trees to approximately 2,000 fourth-grade students in Union County, New Jersey. Master Tree Stewards are 4-H volunteers who are trained in the biology and care of trees. After they

complete 40 hours of training, they volunteer at least an equal amount of time teaching children about trees.

## **EMERALD ASH BORER AND WOOD UTILIZATION**

Katie Armstrong, EAB Liaison

*USDA Forest Service, Brighton, Michigan*

*([www.emeraldashborer.info](http://www.emeraldashborer.info))*

In the fight against Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) there has been very little good news. The insect was discovered in 2002 and it is suspected EAB has been in Southeast Michigan for up to 10 years. Since its introduction, in the neighborhood of six million trees have been killed or are dying in Michigan. Spot infestations have appeared across the state, in Canada, Indiana, Ohio, even Maryland. As of yet, no practical pesticide application has been proven effective. An impressive effort that involved federal, state, university, nonprofit, and community members is working hard to contain EAB, with the ultimate, and by all accounts difficult, goal of eradication.

But all is not doom and gloom. There are those of us who see EAB as an opportunity to launch urban and community forestry to new heights -- in particular, the increased opportunities for urban wood utilization created by EAB. Within this devastation there exists an opportunity to revolutionize the standard movement of urban wood into the waste stream.

Creative partnerships are being formed to reuse ash lost to EAB as tool handles, baseball bats, railroad ties, flooring, and even high quality cabinetry. Federal, state, and local partners are getting the word out: this wood has value. We see utilizing trees lost to EAB as making the best out of a bad situation. But the partnerships and markets created we hope will expand faster and last far longer than EAB. The success stories (and lessons learned!) will be presented with the goal of inspiring other communities to utilize their wood waste creatively.

## **THE CITY OF CHICAGO VS. THE ASIA LONGHORNED BEETLE**

Thomas Dilley, Chicago Metropolitan Initiative Coordinator

*USDA Forest Service, Evanston, Illinois*

Judy Antipin, Communications Affairs Specialist

*USDA Forest Service, Newtown Square, Pennsylvania*

An examination of the history of invasive tree pest species in the United States over the last several decades makes it clear that urban and well-populated suburban areas are at the highest risk for invasive tree pest emergencies, and that all communities that meet this profile should be prepared to deal with such an event.

The Asian longhorned beetle is a non-native insect that is believed to have entered the United States in solid wood packing materials shipped from China some time in the early 1990's. Infestations of this insect have currently been found in and around New York City, NY (1996), Chicago, IL (1998) and Jersey City, NJ (2002). This insect attacks and kills a variety of tree species, including Maple, Box Elder, Horsechestnut, Willow, Birch, Poplar, Elm and Willow.

This study examines the response of relevant groups to an invasive pest emergency in the city of Chicago in 1998. The interview format was utilized through a short series of open ended questions. The target population included interviews with federal, state, and city governments, elected officials, the press, and the general public. The study reached several conclusions:

1. The likelihood of other communities facing such an emergency is very high.
2. The potential environmental and fiscal cost of damage from invasive pests is substantial.
3. It is in the best interests of state and local governments to plan for such an emergency.
4. The response factors that seem to have the biggest positive effect on the outcome of such an emergency are:
  - a) Statements from high elected officials that acknowledge the seriousness of the problem, and their unqualified support for the appropriate agencies and officials in addressing the emergency.
  - b) Advance planning that designates clearly which agencies would hold responsibility for addressing the problem and what individuals within those agencies would be initial responders.
  - c) Established positive working relationships (interagency cooperation) between the relevant individuals and agencies at the federal, state and local level.
  - d) Community education and outreach techniques are critically important strategies that should be used by city, state, and federal agencies towards community understanding and resolution of an invasive pest issue.
  - e) Response agencies must be aware of and sensitive to value positions held by community members related to critical variables such as emotional and economic concerns. These are very important and should be addressed during the crisis as important elements of issue resolution.

## **PARTNERSHIPS WITH NATURE - AN URBAN TREE FARM**

Peter Rausch, Forester

*Little Rock Parks and Recreation, Little Rock, Arkansas*

In the fall of 2002, the Urban Forestry division of Little Rock Parks and Recreation began work on a new urban tree farm. The mission of the tree farm is "to provide a source of low cost, locally grown trees for planting and replacement of trees lost to mortality, infrastructure development and natural disasters."

An expensive and labor-intensive undertaking, it was determined that a partnership between the city and area utilities was needed to make the urban tree farm a true success. In exchange for their financial and technical support, the three major area utilities will receive trees at cost to replace those lost to infrastructure development, maintenance, and repair.

The first 10,000 seedlings planted came from a grant from the National Tree Trust. These tall growing, native species include sycamore, red oak, white oak, willow oak, blackgum, cypress, and sawtooth oak. These trees, available for planting in two to five years as containerized or 1 1/2 inch B&B, will be used for plantings in city parks and along street easements where utilities aren't a concern.

Entergy, the local electric company provided financial support through an environment stewardship grant. This money has been used to purchase liner stock for the tree farm to grow trees with a mature height of less than 30 feet. These "utility friendly" trees will be used in Entergy's tree replacement program and for community plantings where overhead utilities are present.

Center Point Energy provided surplus, unused gas-line pipe in various diameters, installation equipment, and technical assistance for the installation of the drip irrigation system. Little Rock Waste Water Utilities, our principal partner helped greatly by providing land for the tree farm, plumbing of the drip system and most importantly - water. All trees are on a drip irrigation system utilizing effluent from the two wastewater plants, approximately 6,000 gallons per day, which otherwise would be sent downstream.

The urban tree farm has also provided schools and community groups an excellent opportunity to learn about caring for young trees and their importance to the environmental health of the city. In the fall of 2004, the first containerized trees will be provided to neighborhood associations and community groups through the city's E.N.A.C.T. (Enhancing Neighborhood and Community Trees) grant program. As a Tree City USA, Little Rock hopes that the E.N.A.C.T. program, the urban tree farm, and an expanded community education program will reverse the trend in tree loss due to development and infrastructure activities.

## **PLANTING PROBLEMS - PLANTING SOLUTIONS**

Jim Flott, Urban Forester  
*City of Spokane, Washington*

There are correlations between the depth of soil over the root collar of trees and predispositions to problems that shorten the lifespan of trees. Planting trees too deep acts as a primary stress factor and may lead to stem girdling root development, decline in the root, stem and crown conditions, infestations by secondary pests and potential tree damage or failure during loading events (primarily storms). Tree selection for quality, particularly root quality should be emphasized, as well as best planting practices to prevent planting depth problems before they occur.

Each year communities are transformed by planting tens of thousands of trees in parks, green spaces and along city streets. Many children, adults, government officials, civic groups and professionals participate in tree planting events. These events are rewarding and provide participants with a sense of community pride and accomplishment. To most people, the tree planting is the brief process of digging the hole and backfilling around the roots or root ball with soil. Across the country we are striving to restore our community forests, but is the installation process providing an environment in which trees will thrive? The answer may be "no" in many cases. Recent university research and field observations by arborists have led to the discovery that planting the root collar of trees too deeply contributes to the decline and failure of new trees and trees that have been established in the landscape for many years. The root collar is the lowest few inches of the trunk just above its juncture with the roots. The root collar is typified by a flaring out of the trunk at or just above ground level.

Planting trees may be the simplest, most immediate and most effective way to improve our urban infrastructure. It is the most common activity promoted by cities, local and national trade, professional, and civic organizations. It is recommended frequently to plant the tree at the correct depth. There are clear correlations between depths of soil over root systems of trees and future problems that shorten the life span of these trees. This session showed how current planting

recommendations predispose trees to problems that shorten their life span. The focus of the session was preventing planting depth problems before they occur and recognition and treatment of the problems. Information presented will enable practitioners and volunteers to increase transplant success and long-term tree health and decrease predisposition to future problems.