



TAKING ROOT

A Newsletter for the New York State Urban and Community Forestry Council

Annual Conference

The Social Tree: How Trees Grow Communities

The Eighteenth Annual New York ReLeaf State Conference 2010

DATE: July 22-24, 2010

LOCATION: Hobart and William Smith Colleges of the Senecas
Geneva, New York

New York ReLeaf is a state program promoting management and care of our state's community trees. It is a cooperative effort coordinated by the NYS DEC and the NYS Urban and Community Forestry Council with major funding supplied through the USDA Forest Service. The goal of New York ReLeaf is to create partnerships among tree professionals, citizen activists and volunteers, educators, government, and the private sector. The annual State Conference brings together these interested parties from all of the state's nine regions to share experiences, ideas, and new information.

The Social Tree: How Trees Grow Communities

We have an exciting program for this year's conference! Responding to feedback from last year, we reduced the number of workshops and added time for audience feedback and speaker interaction. The keynote address will be

Coxe Hall, HWS College Campus



Continued on page 5

In this issue...

- Annual Conference 1
- Municipal Survey 1
- Message From the President 2
- Municipal Forester Institute 3
- DiNapoli report supports open
space 4
- Membership Form..... 5
- 2010 Poster Contest Winner..... 6
- National Champion Trees 6

Word on the Street:

2009 Municipal Survey Snapshot

In 2004, the Council commissioned a survey of NYS municipalities to assess the need for additional State support for tree related programs or projects that benefit communities and their urban environments. 239 communities (cities, towns and villages) responded, and as a result of information gathered and needs identified, the NYS Legislature increased community Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) funding from \$100,000 to \$500,000.

As times, conditions and needs have changed, the Council felt a re-assessment was necessary. An updated survey was sent in the Summer/Fall of 2009 to communities throughout NYS, with 207 responding.

A sample of the results will be shared in this and forthcoming issues of Taking Root.

Question 2: Type of Municipality
Responders included
16 Cities (7.8%)

Continued on page 4

New York State's Urban and Community Forestry Program is a partnership of public, private and volunteer organizations and individuals that fosters comprehensive planning, management and education throughout New York to create a healthy urban and community forest and enhance quality of life.

Council Officers and Board

Officers:

Christian Mercurio, President
 Patricia Tobin, Past President
 Brian Skinner, Vice-President/Treasurer
 Brenda Cagle, Secretary
 Dr. Nina Bassuk, Member-at Large
 Stephanie Mallozzi, Member-at-Large

Board of Directors:

Sharon Austin	Alix V. Krueger
Jerry Bond	Fran Lawlor
Paul Bray	Brian Liberti
Jeffrey Brett	John Mancini
Lori Brockelbank	David Moore
Tim Chick	Dr. Douglas Morrison
Margi Delafield	Nancy Needham
Sharon DiLorenzo	Greg Owens
Susan Goberman	Joe Pasquini
J. Rebecca Hargrave	Gary Raffel
Steve Harris	Glen Roberts
Phil Healey	Chuck Schmitt
Dr. Betsy Henry	David Short
Andrew Hillman	Shawn Spencer
Adriana Jacykewycz	Peggy Stephenson
Eli Joseph-Hunter	Art Traver
Paul Kerzner	Fiona Watt

Ex Officio:

Mary Kramarchyk
 Martin Mullarkey
 John Parry
 Jack Stevens
 Bruce Williamson

Staff: Betty Shimo, Executive Secretary

Taking Root is published three times each year for supporters of the New York State Urban and Community Forestry Program by the New York State Urban and Community Forestry Council. For newsletter and submission information, contact Gloria Van Duyne, Editor, at globug111@hotmail.com. Taking Root is made possible by a generous grant from the USDA Forest Service through the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation.

Message from the President

The American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA) has inspired no shortage of spirited conversation and evoked some heightened emotion on both sides of the issue. Regardless of what side you represent, it is an irrefutable fact that the ARRA has afforded urban forestry, planning, and horticulture professionals in New York the resources to implement some of the most innovative stormwater infrastructure and canopy restoration projects in the country.

Working with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, Environmental Facilities Corporation, and even the NYS Energy Research and Development Authority, communities are participating in a veritable green infrastructure revolution; on a scale that we'll not again witness for perhaps another few decades. What's more, these initiatives were largely conceived, inspired, and executed by members of this very Council. Far out!

Think about it for a moment. The sheer innovation, scale and scope of the Greenstreets projects compared to just a few short years ago; the Million Trees and New York Restoration Project installations in New York City happening right now; the massive canopy restoration efforts in Buffalo and Syracuse; and the advances in greenspace planning along



the Hudson River corridor. Even small cities like Utica and Rome are turning heads with green infrastructure projects in 2010 that, just a year ago, were limited to late-night conversations somewhere in downtown Brooklyn.

I hope you are all looking forward to the Geneva conference. Think of that weekend as a "mini-holiday" to unplug and chill out in the Finger Lakes. Mark Gooding and the Region 8 planning committee have worked very hard to put together what looks to be another amazing weekend. When you get to Geneva, be sure to thank them for their efforts.

Other than that, come check out some of the excellent programs we have lined up and have a groovy time. I know that I am really looking forward to seeing all of you again and toasting to our good fortune.

Christian Mercurio, President



Contact Us

Council website: www.nysurbanforestrycouncil.com
 Council email: treeinfo@nysurbanforestrycouncil.com

My Experience at the Municipal Forester Institute (MFI)

David Moore

At last summer's ReLeaf Conference in Brooklyn, I asked my mentor Lori Brockelbank of Forecon Inc, "Lori, what do you think is the next step for me and my path in urban forestry?" Lori always shares great insights with me when I present her with my professional challenges—our friendship began with her volunteering hours of her time giving me advice over the phone when I first took my job in New York City.

So when she answered my question by saying "You need to go to the Municipal Forester Institute" without hesitating for a second, I felt a need to take her up on that advice. A couple months later, I was signed up and ready to go.

So in February I packed my bags for the Arbor Day Foundation's Lied Lodge in Nebraska to attend what urban foresters in-the-know call "MFI".

This 6 day intensive leadership training hosted by the Society of Municipal Arborists is the equivalent of Jedi training for urban forestry professionals. I use this analogy because MFI does not focus on the technical aspects of arboriculture such as planting, pruning, insect control, or any of the other typical lectures you may attend at an urban forestry conference. Instead, MFI approaches urban forestry training with paradigm-breaking insights of psychology and philosophy that transformed both my perception of myself and the world around me.

The MFI cadre of teachers (aka the Jedi Masters), come from all corners of the country with careers spanning from local municipalities to agencies in state and national government. The great experience and perspective of the cadre helped immerse us (the Jedi knights in training) in topics including: innovation, leadership, problem solving, conflict resolution, mediation, big picture planning, press interview skills, lobbying and advocacy, and inter-agency collaboration. Many of these valuable lessons help you understand more about your own psychology and how to be more effective in your urban forestry role.

Many others help you understand the 'big picture' of urban forestry and how all the facets of local, state, and national government can work in synergy to enhance effectiveness. By working for federal legislation supporting urban forestry efforts nationwide, "We can help raise the tides so all ships can go out to sea," said Society of Municipal Arborist President, Jerri LaHaie.

The understanding of these national issues was reinforced with constant interaction with other MFI pupils who represented all corners of the country—we all learned a lot from each other's perspectives (and also had a lot of great laughs together).

I headed home from MFI with a head full of new ideas and a heart full of re-invigorated inspiration. Upon returning, I could immediately apply the teachings to everyday practice and have seen



(From left to right) Barrett Robinson, VP of Horticulture and Construction, New York Restoration Project; Paul Reis, Director of Co-operative Forestry, United States Forest Service; Jerri LaHaie, President, Society of Municipal Arborists; David Moore, Forestry Manager, New York Restoration Project; Chris Vanterpool, Senior Project Manager, New York Restoration Project

improvements in the attitudes and performance of myself and the people I work with. After all—you don't have to be in charge to be a leader, you can lead the people around you and above you with the right skills and approach. This is all part of the Jedi training.

I hope you take me up on this preview and consider going to MFI yourself; it is definitely worth the trip. If you have any questions, please e-mail me-- I would be glad to discuss them with you. David Moore dmoore@nyrp.org.

State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli - Open Space Supporter!

According to a report released by Comptroller DiNapoli this spring, open space provides economic benefits that need to be identified and considered in land use decisions.

“Open space can provide a variety of public benefits, including storm water drainage and water management,” DiNapoli said. “Open spaces also provide a more direct economic benefit through tourism, agriculture and the forestry industry. All these benefits should be a factor in land use decisions from Montauk to Massena.”

Agriculture is among New York’s largest and most vital industries, encompassing 25 percent of the state’s land and generating more than \$4.5 billion for the state’s economy each year. In 2007, the income generated directly by farms, combined with income generated by agricultural support industries and by industries that process agricultural products, totaled \$31.2 billion.

The study noted that open space contributes to the state’s economy by providing opportunities for outdoor recreational activities. DiNapoli also noted that open space often requires fewer municipal services than lands in other use and tend to generate more in municipal tax revenue.

Open space helps control storm water runoff, preserves surface water quality and stream flows, and aids in the infiltration of surface water to replenish aquifers. When lands are converted to other uses, the natural benefits provided by open space often must be replaced through the construction of water treatment facilities and infrastructure to control storm water, all paid for through local tax revenue. A series of studies have found the preservation of open space to be a more economical way to address storm water requirements.

DiNapoli’s report recommends that New York State consider:

1. Allowing municipalities to establish community preservation funds
2. Evaluating the adequacy of protections for lands providing benefits for municipalities
3. Improving state-level planning for open space to address long-term funding needs
4. Improving the administration of funds for open space programs
5. Encouraging private land conservation

New York State has a history of being at the forefront of

open space conservation efforts. In 1833 New York created the first state park in the nation at Niagara Falls. The state also led in the preservation of wilderness with the creation of the New York State Forest Preserve in the Adirondack and Catskill parks in 1885.

For a copy of the Economic Benefits of Open Space report, go to: <http://www.osc.state.ny.us/reports/environmental/openspacepreserv10.pdf>

2009 Municipal Survey Snapshot

(continued from page 1)

75 Towns (36.4%)

115 Villages (55.8%)

Question 12. Approximately how many public trees are in your community?

<1000	59 (30.1%)
1,001-4,000	43 (21.9%)
4,001-6,000	9 (4.6%)
6,001-10,000	10 (5.1%)
10,001-15,000	1 (0.5%)
15,001-20,000	0 (0.0%)
20,001-40,000	4 (2.0%)
40,001-60,000	1 (0.5%)
60,001-100,000	2 (1.0%)
100,001-200,000	0 (0.0%)
200,001-300,000	1 (0.5%)
>300,000	3 (1.5%)
Don't know	63 (32.1%)

Question 15. What is your approximate 2009 annual tree management budget?

<\$5,000	100 (50%)
\$5,001-10,000	30 (15%)
\$10,001-20,000	15 (7.5%)
\$20,001-40,000	16 (8.0%)
\$40,001-60,000	5 (2.5%)
\$60,001-100,000	3 (1.5%)
\$100,001-200,000	3 (1.5%)
\$200,001-300,000	3 (1.5%)
\$300,001-500,000	2 (1.0%)
>\$500,000	2 (1.0%)
Don't know	21 (10.5%)

See future Taking Root issues for more survey questions and responses.

Annual Conference *(continued from page 1)*

integrated with a workshop and a tour to give participants a chance to explore the theme of the social tree in depth. Finally, the breaks have been lengthened to provide more time for interactions.

Workshop topics include methods of "growing" communities, options for dealing with removals, urban watersheds, funding updates, root zone investigations, and strategies for dealing with the Emerald Ash Borer. Friday afternoon you have a choice of a tour of the City of Geneva that includes an exercise with a small mall, or a hands-on campus workshop on tree management. The Saturday tour will introduce you to the wine, cheese and (wood) chips of the Finger Lakes region.

Conference Fees, Registration and Parking

The conference fee(s) includes refreshment breaks, lunches, barbecue picnic and resource packet. See registration form for details and pricing for 1 day or full conference registration, lodging, meals etc. Please submit one registration form per person. Parking will be available free of charge on the Hobart and William Smith Campus.

Who Should Attend?

All those involved in the field of urban and community forestry; educators, volunteers, tree commissions, arborists, horticulturists, landscape architects, planners, nursery professionals, community/state/utility foresters, local gov-

ernment officials, public works and parks departments, and researchers; also those in need of New York State DEC pesticides, SAF, ISA and Certified Nursery Professional (CNP) re-certification credits. Credits have been applied for and are pending approval. For more information on credits available, please call Betty Shimo at (315) 826-5743, or see www.nysurbanforestrycouncil.com for further details.



Scandling Center

Cosponsored by:

- National Grid
- NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
- NYS Urban and Community Forestry Council
- Urban Forestry LLC
- USDA Forest Service

Yes. Count me in as a Council Member!

Membership Categories*
please check one

- \$10 - Student
- \$20 - Individual
- \$75 - Not-for-Profit Organization
(4 designated representatives per membership)
- \$100 - Governmental Agency
(5 designated representatives per membership)
- \$120 - Small Business (1-49 full-time employees)
(6 designated representatives per membership)
- \$200 - Medium Business (50-99 full-time employees)
(10 designated representatives per membership)
- \$500 - Corporate (100 or more full-time employees)
(12 designated representatives per membership)

* Membership runs Jan.-Dec. Dues are not pro-rated.

Council Members receive discounts to the annual statewide conference and Council sponsored workshops. You are also supporting the dissemination of knowledge about tree care and the importance of tree programs for our health and well-being.

Individual Name or Primary Designated Representative _____

Profession/Title _____

Company or Organization Name _____

Address _____

County _____

Phone _____

Fax _____

e-mail _____

Payment Method (check one) Check Money Order Credit Card
(credit card information) VISA MasterCard

Acct# _____ expire date _____

3-Digit Security Code on Back of Card _____

Name on card _____

Signature _____

Mail coupon with your payment to NYS Urban & Community Forestry Council, C/o Elizabeth M. Shimo, PO Box 124, Cold Brook, NY 13324-0124.

In addition to my membership, I would like to make a tax-deductible contribution in the amount of \$ _____.

TOTAL AMOUNT \$ _____

2010 State-wide Arbor Day Poster Contest Winner

Each year in celebration of Arbor Day, the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation in partnership with the National Arbor Day Foundation, hold an Arbor Day Poster Contest for fifth graders across the country. The winner of each state goes on to compete nationally. This year's state winner was Lawrence Kwong from P.S. 193, Gil Hodges School in Brooklyn, NY. His teacher is Mrs. DiSilvestri.

His poster is shown below and can be seen in color along with past winners online at:
www.dec.ny.gov/education/57780.html



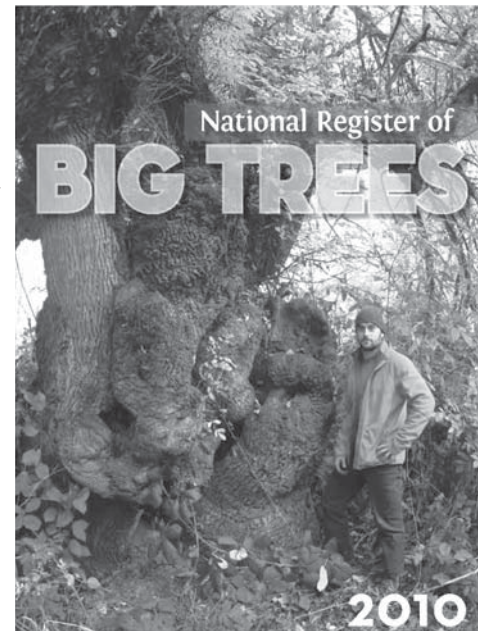
Left: Lawrence Kwong signing prints of his winning poster at the State Arbor Day event in Albany.

Below: Lawrence Kwong shaking the State Forester's, Robert Davies, hand



American Forests Unveils National Champions - 11 are in New York

American Forests' National Register of Big Trees marks its 70th anniversary this year with a total of 733 champion and co-champion trees from 637 native and naturalized tree species in the United States. 175 new champions were added this year.



The 2010 on-line edition also features a revised list of eligible species, ensuring consistency with today's taxonomy and nomenclature for trees.

The 2010 national listing includes eight champions, one set of co-champions, and one co-champion from New York State. The NYS award winning tree species include Hazel ALDER, Speckled ALDER, Prairie crab APPLE, Northern BAYBERRY, Scarlet HAWTHORN, Common JUNIPER, Black LOCUST, Northern red OAK, Norway SPRUCE and Purple-osier WILLOW. The counties represented among these tree champions were: Livingston, Monroe, Nassau, Oneida, Schenectady and Suffolk.

At the top of the 2010 national list remains Sequoia National Park's "General Sherman" giant sequoia – not only the Register's highest scoring tree with 1,321 points, but Earth's largest living thing.

The 2010 National Register of Big Trees is available online @ www.americanforests.org, complete with all the facts and additional interesting trivia about the champs, as well as instructions for measuring and nominating a champion tree.

American Forests works in partnership with the NYS Department of Environmental conservation. New York's Statewide big tree program currently lists 160 state champions and co-champions. The national and state registers rely on participation from the public to find and nominate champion trees, which receive a point total based on their height, circumference, and crown spread.

The NYS Big Tree Register can be found @ <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/5248.html>.