Dear AREA Members,

With winter and the holiday season fast approaching, I am happy to bring to you this Fall Edition of the AREA Newsletter. A number of important announcements are included in the publication, including the Call for Papers for the 2010 ISA Conference in Chicago, Illinois. All submissions are DUE NOVEMBER 23rd, 2009. Please make sure you receive an email confirmation for your submission.

Another important announcement is the opening of a tenure-track Professor of Urban Forestry position at Western Illinois University. This position is currently filled by the soon-to-retire Dr. Tom Green. To learn more about Dr. Green and the position, please check out pages 7 and 11.

Finally, please make sure to note several important deadlines for the Garden Club of America Urban Forestry Fellowship, The NUCFAC Innovation Grant, and other education and research funding opportunities.

Take care,
Andrew Koeser

LANDSCAPE BELOW GROUND III

The proceedings of the third International Workshop on Tree Root Development in Urban Soils provide the details of The Morton Arboretum’s most recent international forum for presentation of the latest research and management practices related to all aspects of tree root development in urban soils. (©2009, 403 pp., softcover)

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ISA Launches ArborPod™ — “Science of Arboriculture” Podcast Series

Since last July, ISA has been posting monthly installments of its “Science of Arboriculture (SoA)” Podcast series. This member-only service within the ISA website is hosted by Dr. Tom Smiley at the R.A. Bartlett Tree Research Laboratories and produced by Luana Vargas at ISA Headquarters. The SoA Series features presentations from top researchers, educators, and practitioners speaking on a variety of research projects and industry-related topics. These talks can be streamed from the ISA website or downloaded on your laptop or portable MP3 player for listening on the go.

Three talks are currently available at the SoA website (http://www.isa-arbor.com/podcast/PodcastDetail.aspx?ID=7). The first features Dr. Seth Guikema, Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography and Environmental Engineering at Johns Hopkins University. In his talk, “Trees, Hurricanes, and Risk to Electric Power Systems: An Engineering Perspective,” Dr. Guikema explains several key engineering principles of risk management decision making. He then highlights how these principles have been used to predict hurricane related power disruptions in the Gulf Coast in an effort to reduce utility crew response times.

Dr. Chris Luley is featured in the second SoA installment with his talk, “Testing Street Trees for Decay.” Dr. Luley offers insights on tree decay detection techniques ranging from visual assessments and mallet thumping to more advanced methods of decay detection. His overview of decay detection methods concludes with a past study assessing the effectiveness of each.

Finally, the latest posting on the SoA site features a review of several past studies conducted by Dr. Ed Gilman at the University of Florida. These works investigated what role certain nursery production techniques play in determining roots system quality, what options arborists have for remedying root defects at time of planting, and the effects these defects and remedies have on tree stability and health.

Coming up in the SoA lineup is a talk by Kent State professor and meteorologist, Dr. Thomas Schmidlin. Schmidlin gives an outside perspective on storm-related tree mortality in his talk, “Human Fatalities from Wind-related Tree Failures in the United States.” Check the site regularly for upcoming episodes or subscribe to the SoA RSS feed http://www.isa-arbor.com/podcast/xml/ScienceofArboriculture.xml to receive a notification when a new presentation becomes available.

The National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council (NUCFAC) Innovation Grant Call for Proposals

NUCFAC has released the 2010 call for proposals for its National Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Cost Share Grant. Pre-Proposals must be submitted electronically to www.grants.gov by December 15, 2009. Those Innovation pre-proposals selected for full review will be due March 17, 2010 (tentative date).

NUCFAC is offering Innovation Grants for program development, research, and collaboration to address the areas of priority:

- Energy Conservation and Urban Forests
- Climate Change and Urban Forests
- Public Health and Urban Forests
- Green Infrastructure Assessment

A total of $900,000 dollars is available for 4 or more funded projects.

To read the entire NUCFAC Requests for Proposals, please go to http://www.fs.fed.us/ucf/supporting_docs/9_22_09_2010%20RFP.pdf
ISA Releases Proceedings for Three Recent Conferences

The Annual Conference in Providence, Rhode Island marked the debut of three new ISA publications. At 403 pages, *The Landscape Below Ground III: Proceedings of an International Workshop on Tree Root Development in Urban Soils* (LBG III) is a hefty volume containing more than 50 papers from the October 2008 soil and root conference held at the Morton Arboretum. *LBG III* covers a wide range of topics related to root and soil research and has applications in nursery production, planting, plant health care, tree protection, and more. *The Landscape Below Ground III* offers a truly international perspective on the current state of root and urban soil research and is an excellent resource for academics, educators, or practitioners who wish to stay current with developments in the belowground aspects of arboriculture.

Risk assessment and tree biomechanics are important topics of discussion in both the industry and the arboriculture scientific field. In February 2009, ISA, the R. A. Bartlett Tree Laboratories, and the Southern Chapter of ISA hosted an international researcher summit to assess the current state of tree- and risk-related research. The summit featured 14 speakers from North America, Europe, Asia, and Australia. These presentations were recorded and are included on a DVD-ROM, along with electronic (.pdf) versions of the original slide presentations and articles related to the topics discussed. More than seven hours of presentations in two different formats are included in the proceedings. Video (.wmv) files allow those unable to attend (or those wishing to relive the excitement) to watch all of the presentations from the comfort of his or her home computer. Additionally, audio (.mp3) files may be saved to a portable player for enjoyment on the road or at the gym.

Finally, a spiral-bound proceedings with companion CD-ROM (featuring expanded content) was produced for ISA’s 2009 Annual Conference in Providence, Rhode Island. Printed abstracts are provided for all presentations. In addition, nearly all of the presentations are supplemented with summary articles, *Arborist News* or *Arboriculture & Urban Forestry* reprints, slide presentations, handouts, and more.

### IMAGES NEEDED

AREA is working to create promotional materials for display and distribution at conferences and seminars. In order to do this we need interesting images of research and education. Potential images include field trips, research “action” shots, climbing classes, and more. Please help AREA by donating research and education photographs that are unique to our profession.

Images may be submitted to akoeser@isa-arbor.com

Every accepted picture replaces an Arabidopsis image!
Garden Club of America Zone VI Fellowship in Urban Forestry

Applications are now being taken for the Garden Club of America (GCA) Zone VI Fellowship in Urban Forestry. The fellowship, which was established by the GCA with additional support from Casey Trees of Washington, D.C., supports students enrolled in urban forestry related (e.g. urban forestry, arboriculture, horticulture, environmental studies, forestry) programs. Awards of $4000 will be awarded to one or more students at both the graduate and undergraduate level. Past fellowship recipients may reapply for the award. All applicants must be enrolled as a full-time student in the coming academic year.

Students must apply online at (http://www.cnr.vt.edu/urbanforestry/scholarship/index.htm). A supporting application form from a student’s academic advisor is required (posted on website) and additional letters of support are welcome. Completed and signed advisor recommendation forms should be mailed to:

Attn: Dr. Susan D. Day  
GCA Fellowship in Urban Forestry  
Department of Forestry  
Virginia Tech  
228 Cheatham Hall, 0324  
Blacksburg, VA 24061

The application deadline for the GCA Fellowship is January 31, 2010. Complete applications (student and advisor forms) must be received prior to this date to be considered for eligibility. Successful candidates will be notified after award decisions have been made in late February.

International Society of Arboriculture  
86th Annual Conference  
Chicago, Illinois • July 23-28, 2010

ISA’s international annual conference and trade show is the premier gathering of arboricultural professionals in the world. Practicing arborists come together with top researchers and educators to learn the latest in research, technology, and innovations in arboriculture and urban forestry.

ISA is seeking proposals for presentations for the 2010 conference. Proposals will be accepted for oral presentations during general and split sessions, Tree Academy workshops, Climbers’ Corner demonstrations, and poster presentations.

Proposals will be evaluated based on overall quality, appropriateness and timeliness of topic, well-defined focus, practical application of material, and attractiveness to a diverse audience.

To learn more about submitting a proposal, visit ISA’s Web site or go to www.isa-arbor.com/calendar/submitpaper.aspx

Only proposals submitted online will be accepted.
Arbor Day Foundation Honors 29 Colleges and Universities in Tree Campus USA’s Inaugural Class

Nebraska City, Neb. (Feb. 10, 2009) — Twenty-nine schools from across the United States earned Tree Campus USA status from the nonprofit Arbor Day Foundation for their dedication to campus forestry management and environmental stewardship. The 29 schools recognized by the Arbor Day Foundation make up the initial Tree Campus USA class.

Tree Campus USA is a new national program launched by the Arbor Day Foundation and aims to honor colleges and universities that engage in best tree-care and sustainability practices. The launch of the Tree Campus USA program was supported by a generous grant from Toyota.

“We are proud to recognize the first 29 colleges and universities to be honored as a Tree Campus USA school,” said John Rosenow, chief executive and founder of the Arbor Day Foundation. “These schools have made a major commitment to protecting, caring for and adding to their campus forest, and the results of this commitment will have a lasting, positive impact not only on campus but in the overall community.”

Colleges and universities who earned Tree Campus USA status were: Albany Technical College; Arizona State; California State University, Fresno; Creighton; Duke; Furman; Georgia Tech; Gwinnett Technical College; Illinois State; Indiana State; Indiana University, Bloomington; Jackson State; Kent State; Macon State; Nebraska Wesleyan; Northern Kentucky; Northland College; Oregon State; Southeastern (N.C.) Community College; University of California, Davis; University of California, San Diego; University of Maryland; University of Michigan; University of Nebraska-Lincoln; University of North Texas; University of South Carolina Upstate; University of Texas, Austin; Virginia Tech; and Western Michigan.

Tree Campus USA is modeled after the Arbor Day Foundation’s Tree City USA program. Since its inception in 1976, Tree City USA has had a powerful impact resulting in more trees and better tree care in more than 3,300 communities nationwide.

Tree Campus USA creates opportunities for college campuses to work with the greater community through tree-care management practices. The program also provides a hands-on way for students to care for their local environment through tree-related events.

To receive Tree Campus USA recognition, schools are required to meet five core standards of tree care and community engagement. Those standards are: establishing a campus tree advisory committee; evidence of a campus tree-care plan; verification of dedicated annual expenditures on the campus tree-care plan; involvement in an Arbor Day observance; and the institution of a service-learning project aimed at engaging the student body.

“Connecting students with tree-planting opportunities on campus will create healthier communities for people to enjoy for generations to come,” Rosenow said. “Tree Campus USA will teach students the many benefits trees provide our communities, and the students will leave school and go out and plant trees where they work and live.”

The Arbor Day Foundation and Toyota launched the Tree Campus USA program last fall by planting nearly 1,000 trees at nine college campuses throughout the nation.

More information about Tree Campus USA is available at www.arborday.org/TreeCampusUSA.
Lab Activity: Ash Seed Collection

Ash (Fraxinus spp.) trees are common throughout the world. While not typically a dominant forest species, these tough, adaptable trees are found in many environments. Their scrappy nature has made them a “go-to” tree for many urban foresters when forced to contend with adverse site conditions.

While, North American ash trees in the wild and in urban areas have successfully endured environmental extremes and native pests, the now infamous emerald ash borer (EAB) brings a serious threat of extinction to natural ash populations. Unlike chestnut blight and Dutch elm disease, which typically do not kill hosts until they are older (often having a chance to reproduce before death), EAB attacks and kills all North American ash regardless of age or condition.

While there are number of relatively simple and inexpensive systemic treatment options that appear to be effective means of preventing EAB infestation, widespread use of these products in native forest environments is currently too costly and labor intensive to offer successful control. It is conceivable that as EAB spreads, only isolated pockets of natural ash and protected urban specimens will remain.

Many state and government agencies are taking the threat of extinction so seriously, they have begun seed collection campaigns to preserve genetically unique ash populations and provenances. The hope is that once an effective large-scale control is found (or EAB bores itself out of existence in North America), replanting efforts can begin to restore ash populations. Collecting native seed ensures that more than just ‘Autumn Purple’ white ash will be preserved over time.

Below are a list of resources that can be easily adapted for a number of labs related to arboriculture and urban forestry. With a little creativity, a seed collection exercise can be incorporated into a wide range of class lab activities. Budding arborists can practice their climbing skills while emulating the work of ITCC Champion Bernd Strasser. Urban forestry students can inventory tree seed sources, lock in their coordinates with GPS, and create GIS maps of native ash at a nearby preserve or school forest (allowing a class to monitor populations over time). Horticulture student can stretch this lab over several sessions, learning lessons in tree identification, seed viability testing, seed storage, dormancy, and seed germination.

Resources:

National Ash Tree Seed Collection Initiative
Includes: collection forms, tree and seed identification guides, seed collection and submission guidelines, and promotional materials.

USDA Forest Service Ash Identification and Seed Collection Powerpoint
Includes: Some regional specific information, but has excellent tree/seed identification images and a step-by-step photographic overview of the seed collection process.

Recommendations for the Collection, Storage, and Germination of Ash (Fraxinus Spp.) Seed
Includes: A very inclusive guide to ash seed collection, storage, testing, and germination.
Professor Tom Green to Retire from Western Illinois University

After 16 years of teaching, Dr. Tom Green has announced his intentions of retiring from Western Illinois University (WIU) in Macomb, Illinois. As Professor of Urban Forestry, Dr. Green has introduced many students to arboriculture and has seen past advisees grow into leadership positions within the industry. One of his earliest students, Don Roppolo, is well known for his work with the Illinois Arborist Association, Society of Commercial Arboriculture, TREE Fund Tour de Trees, and for his work with students in the Midwest. A current student, Caleb Smith, was last year’s ISA summer fellowship recipient.

Dr. Green admits that many students enter his urban forestry program through the “back door.” They often come from other programs within the College of Agriculture or from WIU’s law enforcement program. After taking a class or two in arboriculture, and looking seriously into their future job prospects and duties, many see the light and pick up an urban forestry minor.

Prior to teaching at WIU, Dr. Green worked as the Urban Forester for the city of Burlington, Iowa, and as a Research Pathologist for the Morton Arboretum. He holds a bachelor’s degree in Zoology and a master’s degree in Botany from WIU. Dr. Green earned a Ph.D. in Pathology from Iowa State with the successful defense of his dissertation, “Symbiotic Relationships Among Alnus and its Mycorrhizae and Actinorhizae.”

In addition to teaching many young arborists, Dr. Green has continuously worked to advance his own knowledge in arboriculture and urban forestry by staying active with the Illinois Arborists Association, ISA, and the Tree Care Industry Association. During his time as a practicing urban forester, researcher, and academic, Dr. Green has seen many advances within the industry, particularly in regard to safety, noting that the constant state of improvement with climbing and rigging equipment that has lead to greater efficiencies in the workplace. Finally, Dr. Green noticed a change in how many people perceive pesticide and fertilizer use.

“At first it was all NPK [when talking about soil nutrition].” However, Dr Green noted that researchers and practitioners are now interested other aspects of soil nutrition, such as mycorrhizal inoculants and compost teas. Arborists are looking to see how nature manages soil nutrients rather than using chemicals to manage deficiencies.

While Dr. Green has noticed numerous advancements in the industry, he is also troubled by a loss of arboriculture and urban forestry academic positions over the past few years. As key educators like Harvey Holt retire, the fates of their positions are unknown. Many Land Grant institutions have dropped their applied professor positions or filled them with experts from more lucrative biotechnical fields. Dr. Green hopes that both ISA and TCIA will work together to help prevent future losses, noting a past success at the University of Massachusetts with the funding of Dr. Brian Kane’s position by the Massachusetts Arborist Association.

Dr. Green is passionate about the need for more arboriculture curricula in vocational high schools. Most non-vocational high schools appear to be geared towards preparing students for college, even though many will
not pursue higher education. Vocational schools provide a much needed niche for students planning to enter the workforce after graduation and arboriculture is a strong match for this academic setting.

With his retirement, Dr. Green jokes that he will finally “graduate” after spending decades learning with and from his students. He plans to manage a chestnut plantation in Macomb and work on a personal herbarium of the native plants surrounding his second home in Utah.

While other universities have done away with their arboriculture and urban forestry positions, Dr. Green is proud that his program will live on through the hiring of a new Urban Forestry professor. Western Illinois University is an institution which prides itself on its small class sizes, accessible tuition rates, and educational quality. Dr. Green’s replacement can expect to find himself or herself teaching numerous applied arboricultural classes, many of which simulate commercial and municipal work situations.

Dr. Green admits that each time he sends out his job posting to a colleague or places it online, his upcoming retirement becomes an unavoidable reality. He is hopeful for the future of WIU’s Urban Forestry program and is optimistic that his replacement will also have a successful career inspiring future arborists and watching them grow as leaders in the industry.

If you are interested in the Urban Forestry Professor position or know someone who is, please check out the position description at the end of this newsletter.

**Student Scholarship Opportunities and TREE Fund Research Fellow**

The TREE Fund offers several scholarship opportunities for students studying in arboriculture or urban forestry related programs. The Robert Felix Memorial Scholarship was established through the Tree Care Industry Association and Robert Felix Memorial Fund. This scholarship program offers up to four $3000 awards to students intending to enter the arboriculture industry upon graduation. The deadline for application is May 1, 2010.

A relatively new scholarship program is the John Wright Memorial Scholarship which offers an award of $2000 to students who intend to or are currently enrolled in arboriculture-related fields. Funded by Wright Tree Service, this award is intended to support students who wish to pursue careers in commercial arboriculture upon graduation. The deadline for the John Wright Memorial Scholarship is June 15, 2010.

Academic advisors should strongly encourage their students to apply for these funding opportunities. Arboriculture and urban forestry is a relatively small academic field. Students that stand out in your program may end up securing one of these scholarships. For more information on these opportunities, please visit the TREE Fund scholarship website at [www.treefund.org/scholarships.htm](http://www.treefund.org/scholarships.htm).

In addition to undergraduate scholarships, the TREE Fund will soon be offering its second Research Fellowship. This prestigious and generous award is aimed at providing funding for a budding arboricultural researcher’s doctoral research. The fellowship is currently being re-evaluated to define new focus topics. Check the TREE Fund Website for an updated list of research priorities and a new submission deadline.
ISA Student Membership

With tuition rates increasing to offset diminishing state funding levels and living expenses looming overhead, how can students effectively engage in ISA’s professional network and still have enough money left over for frozen pizza and toilet paper? A new student group discount may be the answer.

ISA has recently started a discount program to encourage student group involvement and increase awareness of ISA and arboriculture to students in related fields. When five or more students from the same academic institution bundle their ISA member applications together, each is eligible for a $15 dollar discount. To receive the discounted rate of $30 (normally $45), a student advisor or instructor must submit membership forms, current student schedules, and payments as a group. Any student enrolled full-time in a program related to arboriculture or urban forestry is welcome to join ISA for $45.

In addition to this cost savings, many ISA chapters offer breaks to budding arborists. For each student membership processed, ISA gives $15 dollars back to the student’s local chapter to support local student programming. Select chapters will give students a chapter membership at no additional cost. For other chapters, this contribution allows them to offer a discounted student member rates or promote student initiatives. Check with your local chapter to see what discounts apply and make sure to mark down which chapter you would like to join.

Finally, all members are given the option of receiving paper copies of either Arborist News or Arboriculture & Urban Forestry, ISA’s journal of research. Regardless of which publication one chooses to have delivered, all members can access both periodicals through the members-only section of the ISA website. Starting in 2010, ISA will be posting Arborist News online. As with Arboriculture & Urban Forestry, this new member benefit will allow users to search past and current articles by subject, author, and a variety of other criteria. Members will be alerted when the newest issues are posted online.
Professional Opportunities

Assistant Professor of Urban Forestry – Western Illinois University

Macomb, Illinois

APPOINTMENT: January 18, 2011.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS: Earned doctorate in forestry or closely related discipline is required by the start of contract. Candidate is expected to meet the physical requirements of the tree care industry and must possess knowledge of temperate tree species care and culture.

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS: Preferred qualifications include previous experience in the tree care industry, undergraduate teaching, independent research, and service experience. Candidates with knowledge and experience in sustainable management practices and newer technology (GPS/GIS) are desired.

RESPONSIBILITIES: The candidate will teach arboriculture, dendrology, and urban forestry courses, as well as a class in Integrated Pest Management for ornamental/landscape plants. The individual is expected to provide visibility and leadership for the urban forestry program, communicate and interact with the agricultural/horticulture community, and conduct science/teaching-based research. The individual is also expected to demonstrate effective communication and interpersonal skills with undergraduate students and serve on School of Agriculture, College, and University committees.

RANK & SALARY: Assistant Professor with salary commensurate with training and experience. Western Illinois University offers a competitive benefits package that includes domestic partner benefits. For full benefit information visit: http://www.wiu.edu/hr/benefits.php

APPLICATION: Interested individuals should send an application letter, complete curriculum vita, copies of college transcripts (an official transcript will be required at hiring), brief statement of teaching and research interests to:

Dr. William C. Bailey, Director
School of Agriculture
Western Illinois University
1 University Circle
Macomb, IL 61455-1390
Phone: (309) 298-1080
Fax: (309) 298-2280

Second-round candidates may be required to submit additional information on short notice.

The Search Committee will begin evaluating applications Feb 1, 2010 and will continue until a suitable candidate is employed.

Have a career opportunity, fellowship, assistantship, or internship you would like to post?
Contact akoeser@isa-arbor.com