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Dear AREA Members,

For those of you who missed the original early bird deadline for conference registration, I have great news: ISA has extended the discounted rate deadline to June 12, 2009. This gives you a few more days to log in and sign up for the AREA Business Luncheon at the discounted rate! The annual AREA business luncheon is scheduled for Wednesday, July 28th, 2009, from noon to 1:30 p.m. This is your opportunity to meet with other educators, researchers, and students, enjoy a good meal, and contribute your thoughts and ideas. What is AREA doing right? What can it improve on? What should AREA be doing that it isn’t? Your input is important.

If this issue was to have a theme, I would say it is “participation.” Below is a summary of the existing and future projects you can get involved with as a member of the arboricultural community:

- i-Tree is launching a new academic page and is looking for content to share with other educators. Find out how you can help on page 7.
- The TREE Fund continues to give money to deserving students and researchers in an effort to promote arboriculture-related research (Page 8). Don’t forget to support the fund with its Tour des Trees, golf outing, and auction initiatives.
- Greg McPherson is leading an international panel on urban forestry and climate change at this year’s conference. See what others have to say on this issue and share your own thoughts (page 9).
- Are you an urban forestry educator? The Society of American Foresters has a new accreditation for urban forestry programs. Find out what it entails and how it can help you on page 2.
- Finally, are you involved with urban forest inventoring? David Nowak is leading an initiative to create an international standardization of inventory data. Find out how you can contribute to this project on page 6.

Take care,
Andrew Koeser



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Society of American Foresters' Specialized Accreditation for Urban Forestry Academic Programs

P. Eric Wiseman, Assistant Professor, Urban Forestry, Department of Forestry, Virginia Tech

Accreditation Background

Founded in 1900, the Society of American Foresters (SAF) is the largest professional organization for foresters in the world. A central mission of SAF is to advance the forestry profession through accreditation of forestry higher education programs. The SAF Council first adopted accreditation standards in 1935 with the ongoing purpose of improving the overall quality of professional forestry education through periodic program self-evaluation and peer review. The Council for Higher Education Accreditation recognizes SAF as the specialized accrediting body for forestry education in the United States. Today about 50 baccalaureate and post-baccalaureate institutions in the United States possess SAF-accredited forestry programs.

Recognizing the growth of the urban forestry profession and realizing that the accreditation standards for general forestry education were an inadequate measure of urban forestry curricula, the SAF Council charged its Educational Policy Review Committee in 2005 to develop specialized urban forestry accreditation standards. The review committee, augmented by additional members with urban forestry expertise, presented its accreditation recommendations to the SAF Council in December 2006. Following public review, the SAF Council approved the Standards for Specialized Accreditation of Educational Programs in Urban Forestry in June 2007 and incorporated the standards into the SAF Accreditation Handbook in August 2007. The handbook, which details the accreditation standards and procedures, is available at <http://www.safnet.org/education/AccHdbk2007.pdf>.

Accreditation Standards and Procedures

The standards for specialized accreditation in urban forestry are structured in the same manner as the general forestry education standards. There are six standards covering multiple facets of the educational program, including program goals, organization, administration, faculty, students, and curriculum. The essence of the accreditation is the curriculum standard, which is subdivided into general education and professional education domains. General education requirements address fundamental skills such as communication, social sciences, and computer literacy. Professional education requirements address specialized skills, including urban forest biology and ecology, measurement and management of urban forests, and urban forest policy. Required competencies in each domain are detailed and specific.

SAF administers the urban forestry specialized accreditation using its existing procedures for accreditation application, review, and appeal. An urban forestry program seeking accreditation must first be recognized by SAF as an accreditation candidate. This status provides the program with a period of no more than five years to organize its operations and modify its urban forestry curriculum to meet SAF accreditation standards. Before the candidate status period expires, the program must submit a formal letter of application and commence the accreditation review. The review entails a comprehensive self-evaluation of the urban forestry program along with an on-site assessment by an SAF-appointed external review team. The self-evaluation consists of a written report that documents how the program meets accreditation standards. The report should conform to an outline that methodically addresses each of the six standards and must include a series of forms that document curriculum content, faculty qualifications, and student demographics.

Virginia Tech Accreditation – A Case Study

Virginia Tech's forestry major has been accredited by SAF since 1965. When an urban forestry option was added to the major in 1999, its curriculum was based on the existing forest resource management option with

a few courses in horticulture and arboriculture substituted for less relevant forestry courses. This top-down, incremental approach to curriculum development was intended mainly to ensure that the option retained SAF general forestry accreditation.

When Virginia Tech hired urban forestry faculty in the early 2000s and began investing more heavily in urban forestry education, it became apparent that the existing urban forestry curriculum was inadequate. However, the forestry department was committed to its long-standing tradition of SAF accreditation and was reluctant to jeopardize accreditation of the urban forestry option by substantially modifying its curriculum. Thus, Virginia Tech joined a large group of stakeholders in lobbying SAF for a specialized urban forestry accreditation so that a modern urban forestry curriculum could be developed.

While SAF was developing and finalizing the urban forestry accreditation standards during 2005–2007, Virginia Tech urban forestry faculty were busily crafting a new urban forestry curriculum that better reflected the multi-disciplinary nature of the urban forestry profession. After the revised curriculum was approved by the college in spring 2008, Virginia Tech proceeded with SAF review for the specialized urban forestry accreditation. The self-evaluation report was submitted in summer 2008, followed by an on-site assessment by the SAF-appointed external review team in September 2008. During the site visit, the review team met with forestry department administrators, faculty, and students and toured departmental facilities to assess the program's educational capacity. At the annual SAF meeting in Reno, Nevada in November 2008, SAF granted Virginia Tech the specialized urban forestry accreditation, making it the first program in the nation to receive the new accreditation. Virginia Tech's accredited urban forestry curriculum is viewable at <http://www.cnr.vt.edu/urbanforestry>.

Accreditation Benefits

So what are the potential benefits of specialized urban forestry accreditation from SAF? First, accreditation provides a framework within which to develop a high-quality curriculum. For a program seeking to create or refine an urban forestry curriculum, the SAF standards identify key competencies that can guide course selection or creation. Second, accreditation aids program marketing and student recruitment. Enrollment in natural resource majors is stagnant or declining across the nation due in part to misconceptions about the professions. Accreditation from an established organization such as SAF helps elevate the professional status of urban forestry and provides accredited programs a competitive edge in student recruitment. Third, accreditation moves urban forestry education closer to consensus on a national scale. Traditional forestry education is much more cohesive in terms of curricular content and learning outcomes. Although the professional practice of urban forestry and arboriculture have been unified through ISA's commitment to publishing ANSI standards and Best Management Practices, the formal education of urban foresters and arborists lacks unity on a national scale. Perhaps SAF's Specialized Accreditation in Urban Forestry will provide a mechanism to standardize urban forestry education in the years to come.

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!

Harvey Holt and Rita McKenzie Retire from Purdue University

Life can steer us down any number of paths. One can only guess how long he or she will end up travelling in a particular direction. For Dr. Harvey Holt, a recently retired professor in the Department of Forestry and Natural Resources (FNR) at Purdue University, West Lafayette, Ind., the last 34 years of his life have been devoted to educating aspiring urban foresters and arborists. One of his pupils, Rita McKenzie, struck a similar and intertwining path during her time at Purdue University. Rita started as both an undergraduate and a master's student in FNR and continued on to work for 13 years as the department's Urban Forestry Specialist. Each found great accomplishments and successes and each will now begin a new journey in retirement.

In his career, Dr. Holt has helped the arboriculture and urban forestry program at Purdue expand from a handful of small weekend workshops to one of the largest and most comprehensive curriculums in the United States. Throughout his time at Purdue and previously at the University of Arkansas, Harvey worked to advance science in a variety of arboriculture-related fields – from industrial vegetation management and utility pruning to more human and ecology-based research areas. Over the course of his career, Harvey has earned many honors including: the R.W. Harris Author's Citation Award at last year's ISA conference in St. Louis; the Award for Excellence in Arboriculture Education (2005); and the Distinguished Service Award (2006). Going beyond his obligations as a professor at Purdue, Harvey stood on numerous committees and was actively involved with many organizations, including the Indiana Arborist Association, ISA (as a Board of Directors member from 1993 – Present), and the Arboriculture Research and Education Academy.

After obtaining a bachelor's degree in wildlife science, Rita McKenzie began a rather unintentional career in urban forestry when she signed on to perform tree inventories for the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. With this introduction to the world of Urban Forestry, Rita returned to Purdue in pursuit of a master's degree and was hired as an Urban Forestry Specialist. In serving as the Urban Forestry Specialist, Rita worked to develop education programs in urban forestry; organized arboriculture/urban forestry workshops, conferences, and teleconferences for tree care business professionals; taught forestry courses; and assisted in numerous research projects. In addition to her academic work, Rita has co-authored numerous articles with Harvey and retains membership with numerous organizations, including: ISA, Utility Arborist Association, Indiana Arborist Association, and Indiana Urban Forest Council.



Harvey Holt conducting a climbing lab at Purdue.



Rita McKenzie pictured with her family.

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THE 85TH ANNUAL
ISA CONFERENCE & TRADE SHOW

*Set Your Course
for New England*

The top 6 reasons to attend:

- Hear more than 50 top industry speakers from around the world
- Earn CEUs (60+ credit opportunities to choose from)
- Network with arborists from around the world
- Experience the International Tree Climbing Championship
- See cutting-edge industry products and techniques
- Participate in hands-on workshops

Schedule of Activities:

An Expanded schedule to meet the increasing demands for more educational programming opportunities. Events now begin on Friday.

Friday, July 24	International Tree Climbing Championship (Masters' Qualifying Events)
Saturday, July 25	International Tree Climbing Championship (Head-to-Head Footlock and Masters' Finals) Arbor Fair (New)
Sunday, July 26	Up to 8 hours of Hands-On Tree Academy Workshops Trade Show Sneak Preview- FREE (New) Welcome Reception on the Trade Show Floor (New)
Monday, July 27	Educational Sessions Trade Show
Tuesday, July 28	Educational Sessions Trade Show
Wednesday, July 29	Educational Sessions and Professional Affiliate Educational Tours

Register Online

Register online now for a full conference registration and earn a chance to win a FREE full conference registration.

www.isa-arbor.com/conference



Keynote Speaker:

Thomas Pakenham, Author of *Remarkable Trees of the World*
A well-known British historian, photographer, writer and tree enthusiast, Pakenham is the author of several well-known books about remarkable trees. *Remarkable Trees of the World* is the result of four years spent travelling the world in search of trees with "noble brows and strong personalities." Pakenham is well known in the UK for his books and public appearances. He also serves as a Trustee of the Tree Registry of Britain and Ireland, and is Chair of the Irish Tree Society.

Housing and Registration Available Now

Registration: Early member* rate:
\$395 for full conference registration.
*Must be an ISA or New England Chapter Member at time of registration.

To register for conference or to reserve housing visit www.isa-arbor.com today.

For questions regarding the annual conference call 1-888-472-8733.

ISA Providence, RI ♦ JULY 24-29, 2009

ISA Teams Up with USFS and IUFRO to Assemble International Urban Forest Data Standards Committee



The International Society of Arboriculture (ISA), the U.S. Forest Service, and the International Union of Forestry Research Organizations (IUFRO) are looking to convene a team of scientists and practitioners to develop international standards for urban forest data collection, measurement, and recording.

Development of international standards related to urban forest data collection will facilitate ease in data analyses, allow communities across the globe to share data and analysis tools, and help promote urban forest management internationally. Though many of the details will be worked out by the committee, the following are the types of issues under consideration: 1) What are the standard variables to be collected for an urban forest assessment (e.g., species, dbh, condition); 2) How will these variables be measured and classified (e.g., standardized species code list, height to measure dbh, and how to consistently rate tree condition); 3) Development of a standardized field input data base structure with consistent variables and codes to facilitate data sharing and tool development; and 4) Development of a global species and geographic location database to aid in international urban forest analyses. Use of these standards would of course be optional, but could greatly assist in enhancing urban forest measurement and management across the world.



The first face-to-face meeting of this committee will be at the 85th Annual ISA Conference in Providence, RI, USA, July 24-29, 2009. For more information, contact: David J. Nowak at dnowak@fs.fed.us (Project Leader U.S. Forest Service and Deputy Coordinator of IUFRO 6.14.00 Urban Forestry) or Jim Skiera at jskiera@isa-arbor.com (Executive Director, ISA).

RETIREMENT continued from page 4

In her years in the industry, Rita has noticed the fields of arboriculture and urban forestry become more professional and gain greater recognition with those outside the field. She believes that arboriculture and urban forestry will continue to overlap with urban planning as trees become a greater consideration in planning and development. To prepare students for this interaction with planners, landscape architects, and civil engineers on greater level, Rita foresees a greater need for courses that address conflict resolution and public relations. In addition, she feels that all arborists and urban foresters could benefit from classes addressing the financial aspects of their work.

Both Harvey and Rita have made their mark on the arboriculture industry. Now both have decided it is time for a change in scenery. For Harvey it's a move to Seattle with his wife, and for Rita it is some quality time spent with family in Columbus, Ohio. While their journeys to this point have been filled with long hours, tedious schedules, and many memories, the two can now relax and enjoy watching educational, administrative, and research efforts continue to impact those in arboriculture and urban forestry.

i-Tree Academic Request for Participation and Educational Materials



In conjunction with the early-summer release of i-Tree Version 3.0, the i-Tree Academic team is requesting your participation in the effort to bring the software tools into college and university classrooms. The development of a working team of educational cooperators, who will share tools such as course curricula, lecture/presentation notes, PowerPoint presentations, video content, laboratory and classroom exercises, and other related materials is currently underway, and your participation is invited.

Many educators have assembled teaching and educational materials related to the prior releases of the i-Tree software, and those can serve as the foundation for the sharing of resources related to the latest version of the software. The i-Tree Academic Initiative is welcoming your participation in this process, though sharing of teaching materials, that you have developed, with other educators in classrooms around the world. You will also be able to access the tools that have been developed by your peers, in hope that the sharing of educational resources will become a vital component in the i-Tree Academic community.

Additionally, your participation in a continued dialog, via electronic communication and semi-annual net-conferences, will help to move the i-Tree Academic Initiative forward in a manner that most compliments your work in the classroom. You are invited to become part of this exciting dialog.

Please contact Dave Bloniarz, US Forest Service, dblontarz@fs.fed.us, if you would like to participate in this effort. Also, you can visit <http://academic.itreetools.org> for more information on i-Tree Academic.

Oregon State Announces New Online Urban Forestry College Course

Oregon State University will offer an online Urban Forestry course beginning in the Fall of 2009 through its award-winning Extended Campus (Ecampus) program. The new course is the result of a partnership between the Oregon Department of Forestry and Oregon State University, with financial support from the USDA Forest Service. The new 3 credit course is cross-listed as FOR 350 / HORT 350, and is available for college credit in the College of Forestry and the Department of Horticulture, or as a non-credit course.

The OSU Urban Forestry course is an introductory level course covering a variety of urban forestry topics and issues. As an online course, it is suitable not only for college students, but also for people new to urban forestry or working in allied professions, even outside of Oregon. This course would be valuable to people wanting to learn more about urban forestry, or to professionals moving into the urban forestry field from other related fields such as forestry, horticulture, or city and regional planning. A sample course syllabus is available on the Ecampus page at <http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/> . Ecampus course tuition is the same price for Oregon residents, Non-residents, and International students. Enrollment opens on June 4, 2009 and Fall Quarter begins on September 28, 2009. Class size will be limited. The course will also be offered during Winter Quarter 2010. For additional details, contact Paul Ries at paul.ries@oregonstate.edu or 503/945-7391.

“Tree Owner's Manual for the Northeastern Midwestern United States” Available Online

Produced by Jill Johnson, Gary Johnson, Maureen McDonough, Lisa Burban, and Janette Monear for the United States Forest Service.

Published in 2007 and recently released online, “Tree Owner's Manual for the Northeastern Midwestern United States” is a creative new resource for homeowners, clients, students, and educators. Designed to mimic a homeowner’s appliance or power equipment manual, the guide includes a parts list, instructions for installation, recommended service log, and event tips for troubleshooting common health issues. Produced by the United States Forest Service, this guide is available for download and distribution.

To check out this guide for yourself, visit http://na.fs.fed.us/pubs/uf/tom/090202_tom_hr.pdf.

TREE Fund’s First Research Fellowship Awarded!



The Tree Research and Education Endowment Fund is pleased to announce the award of its first research fellowship to the University of Massachusetts for Dr. Brian Kane’s research entitled, “Assessing the Impact of Decay on the Structural Integrity of Trees.”

With the support of \$100,000 over the next three years, the arboriculture industry can look forward to receiving much-needed biomechanical data that will advance hazard tree assessment and worker safety.

Dr. Kane’s proposal was one of five submitted to the TREE Fund Research Committee and his team includes Dr. Sergio Brena, and a graduate student Payman Karvanirabori. The fellowship program was created by the TREE Fund for the purpose of addressing a specific topic—in this case, biomechanics—and to provide support to a young scientist who is being mentored by an established and published scientist. The fellowship is designed to support multi-year research projects (three to five years in duration), but no more than one grant can be awarded to any project.

This initial TREE Fund Research Fellowship is funded in part by the Dr. Mark S. McClure Research Fellowship Fund and will be named in his honor. Thanks to the Connecticut Tree Protective Association, the McClure Fund was established within the TREE Fund in early 2008 and in only 11 months, this enthusiastic organization had raised the \$100,000 needed to endow the first research fellowship award! The remainder of the Dr. Mark S. McClure Fellowship will be supported by the annual fund of the TREE Fund.

To find out more about the goals and application guidelines for the fellowship or to make a donation to support research and scholarships, please visit www.treefund.org/research_grants.htm.

SPEAKING OF SCHOLARSHIPS ...

Applications for the \$2,000 **John Wright Memorial Scholarship** are still being accepted until June 15th. Please apply online at www.treefund.org/scholarships.htm. The TREE Fund received 11 applications by the May 1st deadline for the Robert Felix Memorial Scholarship program, which provides \$3,000 for up to four applicants per year. Decisions on both the John Wright and Robert Felix Memorial Scholarships will be announced soon after the July 28 TREE Fund Board Meeting, but we need your applications by June 15th. Questions? Please feel free to contact TREE Fund Executive Director Janet Bornancin at jbarnancin@treefund.org or 630-369-8300. Thanks.

Tree Research and Education Endowment Fund
552 S. Washington St., Suite 109, Naperville, IL 60540
630-369-8300

Forestry Databases Under Review

The University of Minnesota (UMN) Forestry Library currently hosts and maintains four distinct online databases. In an effort to assess the impact of these labor intensive initiatives, the library is asking for input from those who use the databases for teaching, personal use, or research. In addition, the UMN Forestry Library would like to hear from those who have stopped accessing these sites or have never accessed these databases despite being familiar with them.

Direct links to the databases:

Social Sciences in Forestry

<http://forestry.lib.umn.edu/bib/SSiF.html>

Urban Forestry

<http://forestry.lib.umn.edu/bib/urban.html>

Trail Planning, Construction, and Maintenance

<http://forestry.lib.umn.edu/bib/trls.html>

Tropical Forest Conservation & Development

<http://forestry.lib.umn.edu/bib/trps.html>



Please contact Linda Eells at lle@umn.edu with your comments.

“Managing Urban Forests in the Face of Climate Change” Forum

Greg McPherson will be leading a discussion panel of researchers and industry leaders to provide insights how urban forests and urban forestry professionals are reacting to climate change. Ultimately, the results of these discussions will be used to help generate new research questions and help guide future work in this area. The 90-minute session will first highlight current works of three international researchers (Marco Bindi, University of Florence; Francesco Ferrini, University of Florence; and Kamran Abdollahi, Southern University). Immediately following these brief presentations, industry leaders and researchers will weigh in on the issues, sharing their perspectives and experiences. These representatives include: John Goodfellow with a utility arboriculture and research perspective, Gene Hyde with a urban forestry management take, and Lauren Lamphear with a commercial and consulting perspective. This event is just a part of the activities featured at the Wednesday, July 29th AREA session. All are welcome to join and participate.

Professional Opportunities

Urban Forestry Specialist

Location: Department of Forestry and Natural Resources, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN 47907

Description: The incumbent will create and conduct educational programs in the form of workshops, seminars, conferences, media, etc., to assist the Indiana Arborist Association (IAA), professional arborists, extension educators, and the public on issues associated with urban forestry, arboriculture, woody plant identification, and tree care. Development of educational materials including extension publications and products is expected, as well as undergraduate mentoring and instruction in arboriculture methods. The incumbent will serve as principal liaison between Purdue and IAA, and as the IAA chapter administrator. The incumbent also will serve as the point of contact for inquiries from the public related to urban forestry and will maintain the Purdue FNR urban forestry web site using Contribute or comparable software.

Requirements: M.S. degree in forestry or related discipline, with coursework in urban forestry/arboriculture. At least 1 year of experience in urban forestry required; experience developing and delivering educational programs preferred. Knowledge of arboriculture and tree care activities, urban forest management, urban forestry and urban forestry issues is necessary. Skilled with use of computers (word processing, presentation, spreadsheet software), GIS hardware and software, care and use of equipment associated with arboriculture (chainsaws, ropes, chipper, etc.). Must be an ISA certified arborist and possess a valid driver's license. Ability to work with undergraduate students and extension constituents including tree-care industry professionals, members of the board of the Indiana Arborist Association, natural resource professionals, herbicide applicators, and landowners. Strong organizational, oral, written, and electronic communication abilities are essential.

For information on applying please visit the Purdue University employment website:

<http://purdue.taleo.net/careersection/wl/jobdetail.ftl?lang=en&job=71100>.

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