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A Newsletter for the New York State Urban and Community Forestry Council
\$ Urban Grants Available \$

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) will shortly announce that \$400,000 in funding from the Environmental Protection Fund is available for Urban and Community Forestry (U&CF) projects.

“Large” cities with populations of 65,000 or more may request \$5,000 to \$50,000 in State funds, while other communities may request \$2,500 to \$10,000. These grants, which must be equally matched by local resources, may be used for tree planting, or for any combination of other U&CF activities, including inventories, management plans, training, and some components of tree maintenance.

In addition, for communities that are just getting started on a tree program, “Quick Start” Arbor Day grants of \$1,000 with no match requirement are also being offered.

Karen Engle, DEC Urban and Community Forestry Program Manager, suggests applicants, “identify a prob-

lem or issue and explain how your project will address it. The review committee will want to see real benefits result from the funds expended. Also, many applications are incomplete because applicants did not read the instructions. Be sure to read the application carefully and completely, and respond to all sections.”

Watch DEC’s calendar of events at www.dec.ny.gov/lands/30859.html for application availability and submission deadline.

Also, notice of grant availability will be mailed to everyone on the ReLeaf/Taking Root mailing list. If you are not already on the mailing list, call 518-402-9425 to be added.



Informational grant workshops will be held around the state. Dates will be posted on DEC’s website (address above) and will be mailed to the ReLeaf mailing list.

Tree City Applications Due

Don’t forget to submit your Tree City U.S.A. application and recertification forms by December 31. Call your local DEC forester if you do not have a copy of the form. You may find a listing of you local DEC Lands & Forests offices at: www.dec.ny.gov/about/27790.html.

The Tree City Recognition Luncheon will be held the last week in March 2008. This is a great opportunity to be recognized for your accomplishments and to network with other Tree City U.S.A. communities.

Recent Law Encourages Urban Forestry Training

A recent state law that took effect last January requires members of planning boards, zoning boards of appeals, and county planning boards to receive a minimum number of hours of training each year. Planning board and zoning board members make decisions of major importance to their communities and to all New Yorkers. These decisions can affect the function and appearance of communities for decades to come. Until now, such decisions were mostly made by appointed officials whose only legally required qualifications for office were to be at least 18 years old, United States citizens, and residents of

Continued on page 5.

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.

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Message from the President

At this time, I would like to send my greetings to all and to reminisce a bit on our 15th annual ReLeaf conference held in historic Saratoga Springs on July 19th to the 21st. It was wonderful to see many old and new registrants and to attend the various presentations and tours. The time really flew and, for the most part, the weather was great.

At the conference, I was very pleased to have the opportunity to pay special tribute to our original members and associates who have contributed so much for so many years to the Council's growth and success. We presented personalized trophy awards inscribed "In deepest appreciation of your commitment



Honored members Marty Mullarkey and Andy Hillman

to and efforts in support of the Vision and Mission of the New York State Urban and Community Forestry Council, July 19, 2007."

The pioneering members honored during this presentation were: Dr. Nina Bassuk, Jerry Bond, Peter Frank, Andy Hillman, Mary Kramarchyk, Dr. Chris Luley, Marty Mullarkey, Greg

Owens, John Parry, Peter Pasnik, Andy Pleninger, Jack Stevens, Bob Sympson and Nancy Wolf. For the future, we are developing a program to present service awards on an annual basis in a continuing effort to recognize those

individuals who are so supportive of our Council.

We have a busy year ahead as the committees work to develop our strategic plan to meet our many goals. As always, we look forward to having you share your comments and suggestions at any time.

Pat Tobin, President,
 NYS Urban and

Community Forestry Council



Back row: Mary Kramarchyk, Bob Sympson, Marty Mullarkey. Front: Peggy Stephenson, James Caracciolo. Bob received his award at the Region 1 ReLeaf meeting on Long Island.

For a recap of the 15th Annual ReLeaf State Conference see page 6 and photos throughout this issue.



Washington Park tour, view of beech tree



DEC Saratoga Nursery tour

Tree Planting Initiatives Near and Far

Greening the Bronx: 2nd Phase to Begin

The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NY-SERDA) is seeking applications for a multi-year urban reforestation program in the Bronx. This solicitation is intended to have a lasting effect on the microclimates in the Bronx by planting approximately 6,000 trees in the next 3-4 years. A unique requirement to ensure the continued survival of the trees includes a 2-year warranty for all trees from the date of project completion. This warranty encourages grant recipients to use the best site preparation, tree planting and tree care practices in order that their trees have the greatest success rate.

Pierre Bull, the NY-SERDA assistant project manager explains, "Having healthy, well maintained trees in the urban 'hardscape' aligns extremely well with NY-SERDA's core mission to meet future energy challenges while improving the quality of our environment and growing a more prosperous economy. NY-SERDA's project goal is to enhance the scientific understanding of the magnitude in which trees mitigate urban heat island effects (thus reduced need for building cooling loads) and to educate communities to foster long-term stewardship 'best practices' to assure the trees achieve their full growth potential."

Eligible applicants include tree planting and maintenance contractors, certified specialists in landscape planning and design, arborists and community organizations. Every applicant team must include a community organization. Funding will cover the cutting of new tree pits so planting is not limited to existing plantable locations. Proposed planting sites must be on municipal property and impact pavement. There is a real need to quickly identify

potential planting spaces. Volunteers are also sought to assist in this effort and encouraged to contact NY-SERDA directly at the phone number below or to contact Mary Kramarchyk at the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation at (518)402-9425 to find your local ReLeaf group.

Applications must be received by November 15, 2007. To obtain an electronic copy of the application go to www.nyserda.org/funding/funding.asp?i=2 and scroll down to "Greening the Bronx." You may also call Doreen Darling for a hard copy of the application at (518)862-1090, ext. 3216.

NY-SERDA conducted a New York City (NYC) Regional Heat Island study to advance the science and understanding of the NYC regional microclimates. This study also tested and analyzed potential heat island mitigation strategies, including urban reforestation. The study results show tree planting may help reduce summertime temperature increases and reduce building cooling loads, thereby saving energy. Additional benefits include improved air quality, wildlife habitat creation, increased property values, and improved quality of life. The full report and a summary are available at: www.nyserda.org/programs/environment/emep/project/6681_25/6681_25_pwp.asp.

Each tree is one in a million



Daniel Avila / New York City Parks & Recreation

1 Million New Trees in NYC

On October 9th, Mayor Michael Bloomberg and New York Restoration Project (NYRP) Founder Bette Midler launched the Million Trees NYC initiative to plant and care for one million trees throughout NYC. The Mayor and Ms. Midler planted the first of one million trees in the Morrisania



Ed Reed / New York City

Big Bird joined the festivities as Bette Midler and the Mayor plant Tree #1 to kickoff Million Trees NYC.

section of the Bronx – a neighborhood with too few trees and high rates of asthma. Through a mix of public and private plantings, Million Trees NYC will expand New York City's urban forest by 20%.

The Parks Department will receive nearly \$400 million over the next ten years to plant 600,000 public trees in parks and along streets. The City's partners, including non-profit and community organizations, businesses, developers and everyday New Yorkers will plant the remaining 400,000 trees. The Greening the Bronx plantings (left) will contribute toward the these goals.

The Department of City Planning has proposed new zoning changes that would require the planting of street trees as a condition of all new developments, major enlargements and some conversions. If adopted this spring, the initiative, now in public review, could generate roughly 10,000 new trees each year. For more information, visit www.millontreesnyc.org.

Tree Planting Initiatives *(continued from page 3)*

Replant South Mississippi

Replant South Mississippi is a partnership between the Land Trust for the Mississippi Coastal Plain and the Sun Herald that plans to plant 300,000 trees in the 6 southern counties of Mississippi devastated by the 2005 hurricanes. The purpose is to restore the tree canopy, enhance the public viewshed and diversify the urban forest using native species. This replanting program was launched in February, 2006 with grants from the Sun Herald and the Mississippi Forestry Commission.

The partnership has worked with local communities to create a plan and provide fast-growing trees for pub-



Over 70 people participated in the Greenprint regional planning workshop in August 2007.

lic spaces as well as privately owned lands within the public viewshed. The goal for the fall 07/spring 08 planting season is to get 100,000 trees into the ground. Locations for the plantings vary in each county based on their identified needs, and include schools, parks, along streets and other locations that meet the designated criteria. All of the trees will be provided by RPM Ecosystems. Judy Steckler, Director of the Land Trust, noted that RPM trees mature in one third the time and, "When you have lost so many trees in your community, you want to get them growing as soon as possible."

When asked about their greatest challenge, Ms. Steckler responded, "To be organized, get the trees when we need them, and to get all the trees in the ground and planted properly." One of the most important components

"You need a great group of volunteers."

*Judy Steckler, Director
Land Trust for the Mississippi
Coastal Plain*

Advice to others who are thinking of undertaking a major tree planting effort.

of this project has been to provide public education and outreach about tree planting, care, and logistics (right tree-right place). The Mississippi Forestry Commission estimates that 1.5 million trees were damaged by Hurricane Katrina and a half million destroyed across the state. The six southernmost counties suffered the worst of those losses with an estimated 300,000 trees killed by Katrina or the rebuilding in its aftermath.



The Charleston Horticultural Society planted 15 45-gallon live oaks at Pass Christian High School.

Has your community recently passed a tree ordinance? Embarked on a major tree planting program? Developed a master plan? Please keep us posted on you community's successes and include pictures (300 dpi). You might see your project in a future issue of *Taking Root*. Send your story to our editor. See page 2 for contact information.

Trees, Peace and Human Rights

One might not immediately make the connection but, according to 2004 Nobel Peace Prize winner, Wangari Maathai of Kenya, they are unequivocally interwoven.

The many accomplishments of Professor Maathai are too voluminous to fit in a small article but a sample of her impact is worth noting. As a member of the National Council of Women of Kenya from 1976 to 1987 she began planting trees with Kenyan women to help heal the land and break the cycle of poverty. Her work evolved into the Green Belt Movement which is made up of thousands of groups, primarily of women, who have planted 30 million trees across Kenya.

"Through this very hands-on method of growing and planting trees, women have seen that they have real choices about whether they are going to sustain and restore the environment or destroy it. In the process of education that takes place ... women have become aware that planting trees or fighting to save forests from being chopped down is part of a larger mission to create a society that respects democracy, decency, adherence to the rule of law, human rights, and the rights of women."

"Unless we properly manage resources like forests, water, land, minerals and oil, we will not win the fight against poverty. And there will not be peace. Old conflicts will rage on and new resource wars will erupt unless we change the path we are on."

The above was adapted from material on the Green Belt Movement website at: greenbeltmovement.org.



Save the Date

Cornell Cooperative Extension of the Hudson Valley presents its Annual Urban and Community Forestry Conference

Thursday, January 24, 2008

This conference is designed to give tree care professionals, municipalities and community groups an update concerning the ongoing research regarding the care and maintenance of trees in community and urban landscapes.

This year's featured speaker will be renowned educator, researcher and lecturer, Dr. H. Dennis P. Ryan III, Professor and Coordinator of the Arboriculture/Urban Forestry Program, University of Massachusetts.

Dr. Ryan will discuss hazard tree assessment protocols. Other topics

to be presented include: Street Tree Inventories; Invaluable to Your Community, Development of Street Tree Management Plans, Implementation of Management Plans; the Plan vs. Reality, and Invasive Pest Updates.

Thursday, January 24, 2008
(Snow Date January 25th)

Location: Westchester County Center, White Plains, NY.

Contact: Rick Harper (914) 285-2622 / rwh26@cornell.edu or
Stephanie Mallozzi (845) 677-8223 x 104 / sdm10@cornell.edu

Training continued from page 1

the municipality. Some municipalities previously adopted mandatory training requirements and many planning and zoning officials voluntarily received training. Chapter 662 allows the governing body of each town, village, city or county to determine what courses, training providers, and training formats are acceptable. This is a great opportunity to encourage urban forestry education. More information about the new law can be found on the Department of State's Local Government Training web pages at www.dos.state.ny.us/lgss/mandatorytraining.htm.



Washington Park ReLeaf conference tour

Second Lives for Urban Trees

We want to hear from you.

Some community trees come down in storms or need to be removed for various reasons. Many people and communities have used the wood from these trees to make fine furniture, benches for public parks and even signs and sculpture. Tell us your story and you may see it here in *Taking Root*. Photos (300 dpi) are encouraged. Please write to us to share your story at: Taking Root Editor, 6660 State Route 10, Sharon Springs, NY 13459, or email globug111@hotmail.com.

Yes. Count me in as a Council Member!

- Regular Membership @ \$20
- Student Membership @ \$10
- Not-for-Profit Organization @ \$50

(Please designate a representative)

- Small Business @ \$50

(Please designate a representative)

- Government Agency @ \$50

(Please designate a representative)

- Large Corporation @ \$500

(Please designate a representative)

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

TOTAL AMOUNT \$_____

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.

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Clip coupon and mail with your payment to NYS Urban & Community Forestry Council, PO Box 124, Cold Brook, NY 13324-0124.

15th Annual ReLeaf Conference: Another Successful Year

This year the conference was held July 19-21, at beautiful Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs. 155 people from across the state participated, including arborists and other tree care professionals, landscape architects, municipal tree board members and people who are interested in their community trees.

A couple of the attendees shared their thoughts on the conference:

“The facilities, accommodations, and company were really top notch. What I really enjoyed, though, was the greater forestry community.

It's always an excellent, brilliant bunch of individuals. The program was great, but admittedly, the opportunity to talk with guys like Andy



Hillman, Chris Luley, and Marty Mullarkey is always time well spent.”

Chris Mercurio, Rome City Forester



Lafayette Park Conference Tour

“As Main Street Manager for the City of Hudson, NY about to embark on a citywide tree inventory I attended the Urban Forestry Conference. While my interest in the topic is keen; my knowledge is very rudimentary.

The Urban Forestry conference taught me a lot and one of the key lessons was that a citizen tree board does not need to be peopled by experts or intimidated by the topic; the state offers all kinds of expertise, contacts, informa-

tion and DEC is so easy to work with.

Offering tools, such as this conference does very well to empower local tree boards in making well reasoned arguments to present to their municipalities on the topic, and thus achieve municipal support, is probably the key.”

Hilary Hillman, first-time attendee



Extracting seed from sand cherry fruit



Attendees network and enjoy good food

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