

Spring Quarter 2007

The Green Wave

Can see and hear this huge wave that is gathering around us. It is obvious to me that this large tsunami will soon crash onto the shores of America and the color of this wave is green! With the Democrats now controlling both houses of Congress there are many issues that are about to come off the back burner and take center stage. One of these issues is Global Warming, or if you prefer, Climate Change.

Through the U.S. Conference of Mayors, Greg Nickels, Mayor of Seattle, developed an initiative in 2005 called the Climate Protection Agreement. Born out of frustration that nothing was happening on a national level with the Kyoto Protocol Mayor Nickels took action to inspire mayors throughout America to take positive action. So now any mayor in America can sign this Climate Protection Agreement and pledge to cut carbon dioxide emissions within their cities to 7% below 1990 level. One measure of the agreement is to, "Maintain



healthy urban forests and promote tree planting to increase shading and to absorb carbon dioxide." We can now measure carbon dioxide sequestration through the use of the USDA Forest Service i-Tree tools like STRATUM and UFORE (see www.itreetools.org).

Continued on Page 2

Mark Your Calendars Now!

The TUFC is pleased to co-present the annual conference

Building Great Communities

with American Planners Association, American Society of Landscape Architects, US Green Building Council and the Urban Land Institute. When: Thursday and Friday, Sept 6 and 7. Where: Memphis - Hilton

Pre-conference tours on Wed, Sept 5. Opening Reception is on Wed, Sept 5. For planning purposes, e-mail tufc@comcast.net for registration and hotel rates. **ISA and pesticide points assigned.**

8th Tennessee Tree Climbing Championship

Memphis Botanic Garden, Saturday, September 8.

Conference and Championship registration available online at www.tufc.com starting June 1...



TUFC
Helping to Build Healthy
Communities With Trees

Tennessee Arbor Day

Always the first friday in March

2007 Celebration on March 2

The Green Wave (Cont From Cover)

In August, 2006 The Chattanooga Tree Commission urged Mayor Ron Littlefield to also be a signator. He willingly agreed and signed on the spot thus becoming the second mayor in Tennessee behind Cookeville to participate. I was immediately appointed as the City's main point of contact for this initiative. Chattanooga now joins over 225 mayors representing over 42 million Americans in 38 states that have taken the pledge. Here in Chattanooga we became players in this movement more than ten years ago when we switched our bus fleet in the downtown area from diesel burning to electric. In recent years we have switched over to B20 in all of our diesel burning vehicles citywide, increased our fleet of hybrid vehicles, begun to capture methane gas in our landfills, switched the incandescent bulbs in street lights to LED lights, and planted thousands of new street trees for downtown streetscapes.

The belief is that all of these activities make sense both environmentally AND economically and will ultimately contribute towards the overall effort to reduce carbon dioxide.

As I began to work on this assignment I realized with amazement just how timely all of this was coming together. We're now seeing the LEEDS initiative for buildings being advocated by the U.S. Green Building Council; tax credits for hybrid vehicles; green roofs; alternative fuels and the list goes on. You can expect to see more on these ideas as energy independence and conservation come to the foreground. And the issue of global warming is deeply interconnected with energy.

I strongly encourage all TUFC members to get involved in the drafting of a greenhouse gas reduction plan. If your community hasn't done so, urge the mayor to sign the Climate Protection Agreement. Tell your elected officials that we can now quantify the benefits of the urban forest, particularly with regards to the amount of carbon dioxide that can be sequestered. We're definitely players here.

With each passing day that green tsunami is getting ever closer. We can either surf it or get swept away. The choice is yours.

Gene Hyde, City Forester

Chattanooga, TN

Notable Trees of Tennessee Note Cards For Sale

Featuring eight full color images selected from the Notable Trees of Tennessee photographs of historic, landmark, national and state champion trees, they are packaged in sets of four assorted cards with envelopes, two assortments.

Printed on heavyweight vellum, 30% post consumer recycled content, they are ideal for personal correspondence, thank you's to volunteers and supporters, gifts for colleagues and friends.

The price will be \$8.00, \$6.00 for TUFC members, tax included. For more information see www.tufc.com.

Urban Forestry Grants Announced

The Tennessee Department of Agriculture, Division of Forestry has announced the availability of funds for grants to eligible applicants. Applications will be due April 13, 2007, 4:30 p.m. at the Nashville Forestry Division office. Eligible applicants include local governments, non-profit organizations, and educational institutions.

The goal of this grant program is to establish and build local urban and community forestry programs to a managing level. A "Managing Community" is one deemed to have in place all four of the following elements:

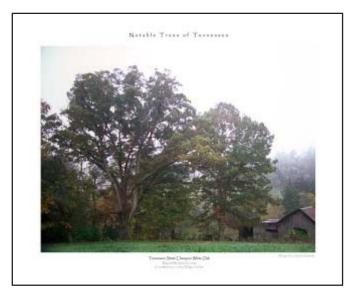
- A tree advisory or advocacy group in the community.
- A forester or certified arborist on staff or on retainer by the community.
- A tree ordinance in place.
- A plan to manage trees based on a tree inventory or assessment.

Grants projects range from developing tree inventories, management plans, tree ordinances and tree boards to hiring staff and consultants. Educational programming including brochures and workshops and tree plantings will also be considered.

To request a grant information package or get more information about the urban forestry grants, please call:

- Bruce Webster at 615-837-5436, bruce.webster@state.tn.us
- Tom Simpson at 865-908-4434, tom.simpson@state.tn.us
- Brian Rucker at 615-837-5439, brian.rucker@state.tn.us
- Shawn Posey at 901-754-5185, shawn.posey@state.tn.us

These funds are provided by the USDA Forest Service and are administered by the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, Division of Forestry.



See photo exhibit schedule on page 8.

TUFC 2007 Board

EAST TENNESSEE

Sam Adams – IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT General Manager, Cortese Tree Specialist, Knoxville

Patrick Haller - PRESIDENT

Quality Trees and Haller Landscaping and Lawncare, Sparta

Jenny Steinle - Area Forester, Blount, Loundon and Monroe Co

David Vandergriff - UT Extension Service, Knoxville

Patrick Walding - VICE-PRESIDENT, City Forester, Johnson City

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Dr. Douglas Airhart - SECRETARY

Professor of Horticulture, TN Tech. Univ. Cookeville

Dr. Nathaniel Appleton

Postdoctoral Research Associate, TN State Univ.

Michael Bouton - TREASURER

Arborists, A.J.'s Tree Service, Murfereesboro

Dr. Chris Catanzaro

Research Asst. Prof., Inst. Agr. & Env. Res., TN State Univ.

Jeff Gill - Dir. of Operations

Middle TN. Electric Membership Coop., Murfreesboro

Carl Herbison - Chairman, Dickson Tree Board

Jerry Jeansonne - Forestry Inspector, City of Chattanooga

Heather Langford - Consultant, Nashville

Keith Pancake - Arborists, Poteet Tree Service - Charlotte

Hester Rodgers - Chairman, Pulaski Tree Board

WEST TENNESSEE

West Hopper - Arborists, Urban Forestry, Memphis

Susan Murray - President, West TN Chapter, TUFC

Trey Watson - Forester, Jackson Energy Authority

ONE YEAR APPOINTMENTS

Rep. Charlie Curtiss - TN State Representative, Sparta

Mike Ganues - Retired Urban Forester, Maryville

Dr. Bridget Jones

Ex. Director, Cumberland Region Tomorrow, Columbia

Warren Nevad

Management Consultant, UT Municipal Tech. Advisory Service

Molly Pike - Landscape Architect, City of Franklin

URBAN FORESTRY STAFF

Jennifer Smith - Executive Director, TUFC

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Bruce Webster - Staff Urban Forester, Division of Forestry

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Brian Rucker

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Tom Simpson

East TN. Regional Urban Forester, Div. of Forestry

865-908-4434, tom.simpson@state.tn.us

Shawn Posey

West TN Regional Urban Forester, Div. of Forestry 901-754-5185, shawn.posey@state.tn.us

Know Before You Grow

Urban Forestry Tree Selection Guide

MANY SURFACE ROOTS

Water oak (*Quercus nigra*), Bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*), Elms (*Ulmus* spp.), Maples (*Acer* spp.), Sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*), White poplar (*Populus alba*), American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*), Cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*), Southern magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*), Willow oak (*Quercus phellos*), Pin oak (*Quercus palustris*), Black walnut (*Juglans nigra*), Lindens (*Tilia* spp.), Canadian hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*), Chinese tallow tree (*Sapium sebiferum*), Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*).

GRASS CANNOT GROW UNDER

American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*), Southern magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*), American holly, and other hybrids (*Ilex* spp.), Japanese cryptomeria (*Cryptomeria japonica*), Chinese evergreen oak (*Quercus myrsinifolia*), China fir (*Cunninghamia lanceolata*), Japanese blue oak (*Quercus glauca*), White pine (*Pinus strobus*).

INCONVENIENTLITTER

<u>Big Leaves, Hard to Rake</u>: Sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*), Blackjack oak (*Quercus marilandica*), Empress tree (*Paulownia tomentosa*), Chinese parasol tree (*Firmiana simplex*).

Narrow Leaves Quick to Clog Gutters: Willow oak (Quercus phellos), Weeping willow (Salix babylonica), River birch (Betula nigra), White poplar (Populus alba), Sugar hackberry (Celtis laevigata), Pecan (Carya illinoinensis).

Seeds and Pods Messy or Hard to Walk Over: Honey locust (Gleditsia. triacanthos), Pines (Pinus spp.), Cottonwood (Populus deltoides), Sweet gum (Liquidambar styraciflua), Empress tree (Paulownia tomentosa), Sycamore (Platanus occidentalis), Pecans and hickories (Carya spp.), Thornless honey locust (Gleditsia triacanthos 'Inermis'), Black walnut (Juglans nigra), Black locust (Robinia pseudoacacia), Kentucky coffee tree (Gymnocladus dioicus).

<u>Fruit Drop Is a Mess</u>: Ginkgo (*Ginkgo biloba*) — buy a male tree, Mulberry (*Morus rubra*), Flowering crabapples (*Malus* hybrids), Chinaberry (*Melia azedarach*).

WEAK WOOD/STRUCTURAL PROBLEMS

<u>Use Only as a Last Resort</u>: Boxelder (*Acer negundo*), Cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*), White poplar (*Populus alba*), Silver maple (*Acer saccharinum*), Chinaberry (*Melia azedarach*), Tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*).

Good Trees but Could Break in Severe Storm: Tulip poplar (Liriodendron tulipifera), River birch (Betula nigra), Golden-rain tree (Koelreuteria paniculata), Bradford pear (Pyrus calleryana 'Bradford'), Water oak (Quercus nigra), Pines (Pinus spp.), Green ash (Fraxinus pensylvanica), Scarlet oak (Quercus coccinea), Leyland cypress (X Cupressocyparis leylandii).

FRAGRANT BLOSSOMS

Black locust (Robinia pseudoacacia), Southern crabapple (Malus angustifolia), Fringe tree (Chionanthus virginicus), Southern magnolia (Magnolia grandiflora), Japanese flowering cherry (Prunus serrulata and cultivars), Sweetbay magnolia (Magnolia virginiana), Kentucky coffee tree (Gymnocladus dioicus), Little-leaf linden (Tilia cordata), Sargent crabapple (Malus sargentii), Silver eleagnus (Eleagnus angustifolia), Texas mountain laurel (Sophora secundiflora), Loquat (Eriobotrya japonica), Citrus (Citrus spp.), Loblolly bay (Gordonia lasianthus), Chinaberry (Melia azedarach), Amur maple (Acer ginnala).

Letter from the President

Happy New Years to everyone. I never expected to be your President two years in a row. With the recent resignation of our incoming President, the board voted to keep me in this position for another year. Wow! I am truly humbled. However, a president is only as good as the people that he surrounds himself with. Many, many people work quietly behind the scenes every day to help make TUFC an organization to be proud of. I want to first thank Jennifer Smith, our Executive Director for taking a major role in our joint conference last year, with the landscape architects and planners, which was one of our best. I'd also like to thank Keith Pancake for running an excellent Tree Climb, Charlie Curtiss, state representative, and Sam Adams for initiating a new partnership with University of Tennessee's Municipal Technical Advisory Services (MTAS) that will last for many years, Jodi Jacobs for continuing to lead our arboretum program, Jerry Jeansonne for taking the lead in our membership campaign and Chris Catanzaro for running our awards program for several years and taking over our Public Relations Committee. THANK YOU very much!

I started my Presidency last year with membership activation and financial sustainability as my two primary goals. I will continue these goals into 2007. At our recent retreat in January, the board did a lot of soul searching and looking at ourselves constructively to reaffirm our mission and purpose so that we CAN reach these goals. One of the purpose statements we agreed to was: The TUFC, with the Tennessee Division of Forestry and its **member** partners, are working to have sustainable/quality trees and green spaces put into our urban and community forests. To accomplish this annual goal, we exist to help the state staff with **funding**, education, and technical assistance and advice. It is through our partnerships and existing programs that we strive to meet these basic functions each year.

Did you notice the people I thanked at the start? I cannot do this without help: dedicated volunteers AND active members are the key. Nor can we, as an organization, continue to operate every year without sufficient funding. If you believe that trees and green spaces need the same importance to the overall infrastructure of a community as do streets and water, then get involved in the TUFC. Dig into your pockets and join us. I also challenge each existing member to make an annual pledge to TUFC to keep our programs functioning at their current excellent levels. Thank You and God Bless!

Patrick Haller





The 2007 board retreat was facilitated by the Knoxville based Collaborative Center.



New board members attended an orientation program held in conjunction with the annual board planning retreat. Front row: state urban forester, Bruce Webster, and TUFC president, Patrick Haller. Second row: new board members, Carl Herbison, Trey Watson, Dr. Bridget Jones, Susan Murray and Heather Lankford. Back row: TUFC Director, Jennifer Smith and new board member Warren Nevad.

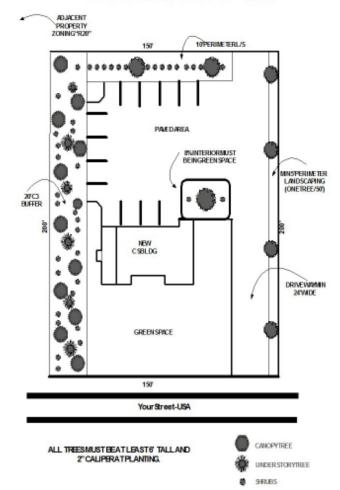


Urban Forestry Awards of Excellence: The 2006 government employee award was presented to Lakeland's Urban Forester, Eric Bridges, center, by TUFC president Patrick Haller and state urban forester, Bruce Webster. Eric works well with developers to preserve the natural heritage of the rapidly growing City of Lakeland.



Arborist Brian Nicholls of the Giving Tree in Nashville, the 2006 Tennessee Tree Climbing Championship winner will be representing the state at the Southern International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Tree Climb which will be held in Little Rock in March. Congratulating him are Wes Hopper, Southern's Tree Climbing chair and Keith Pancake, the Tennessee's Tree Climbing Chair.

EXAMPLE LANDSCAPE PLAN



Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County Example Landscape Plan for their Tree and Landscape Ordinance Plan shows perimeter and interior landscaping and a buffer yard

Forestry Approves Ten Utilities for Tree Line USA

The Tennessee Dept. of Agriculture, Division of Forestry has approved eight municipal utilities and two electric cooperatives for Tree Line USA status for 2006. Tree Line USA is a recognition program sponsored by the National Arbor Day Foundation and the State Forestry agency for utilities whose practices and activities help to improve the urban forest. "Trees and power lines are essential assets to any community," says Tom Simpson, Regional Urban Forester in Sevierville, "but they don't have to always conflict. Tree Line USA provides the standards that allow trees and utility lines to co-exist."

Each utility that receives recognition must meet 3 standards. These are:

- 1.a. Adopt pruning standards that eliminate stubbing or topping, such as lateral pruning
- 1.b. Adopt policies for tunneling rather than trenching near high value trees
- 2.a. Implement an annual training program of tree care for utility crews.
- 2.b. Mail tree care information to all customers at least once each year
- 2.c. Hire an utility forester or arborist or designate someone to serve that capacity
- 3.a. Spend \$.10 per customer on tree planting projects within the community
- 3.b. Participate in the community's arbor day activities

Tennessee stands tied for second in the country in the number of Tree Line USA utilities approved.

The ten utilities receiving this designation for 2006 are: Dyersburg Electric System, Knoxville Utilities Board, Cleveland Utilities, Clinton Utilities Board, Morristown Utilities, Johnson City Power Board, Duck River Electric Member Coop., Cookeville Electric Dept., Appalachian Electric Member Coop., and Bristol Tennessee Electric System.

Final approval will be determined by the National Arbor Day Foundation and is pending.



Municipal Urban Forestry Workshop

The UT Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) will conduct a series of urban forestry workshops at seven statewide locations in August 2007. MTAS and the Tennessee Urban Forestry Council have partnered to increase awareness of this emerging topic in local government. Municipal urban forestry involves and even goes beyond the limits of Public Works, Parks and Utilities. One of the goals of this workshop is to educate municipal and tree board members and employees in the fundamentals of urban forestry. Discussion among participants will also raise awareness of current urban forestry issues.

This four hour course will provide an overview of the purpose and importance of a municipal urban forestry program. Topics include the economic and environmental benefits of urban forestry, starting an urban forestry program for your community, roles of tree boards and staff, identification of potential community stakeholders, technical assistance providers and best management practices in urban forestry.

The cost of this four hour program which is approved for Continuing Education Units (CEU), is \$25 for municipal officials and \$55 for private and other governmental entities. The tentative workshop locations are: Knoxville, Johnson City, Cookeville, Smyrna, Collegedale, Bartlett and Jackson.

Acts of creation are ordinarily saved for gods and poets. To plant a pine, one need only own a shovel.

-- Aldo Leopold



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Ice Storm Susceptibility

The Midwest has had several severe ice storms this winter resulting in dozens of deaths and widespread property loss and damage. Ice accumulation requires a unique set of weather conditions which, fortunately, do not occur frequently. However, it is simply a matter of time before Tennessee experiences another ice storm. Minimizing and managing ice storm damage requires not only maintenance of existing trees, but also careful selection of which species to plant in the future. Therefore, the following information has been reproduced, which includes tree species found in urban areas classified as either susceptible, intermediate or resistant to damage from ice accumulation:

Sucsceptible:

American basswood, American elm, Bigtooth aspen, Black ash, Black cherry, Black locust, Black oak, 'Bradford' pear, Butternut, Common hackberry, Eastern cottonwood, Honey locust, Jack pine, Pin cherry, Pitch pine, Red elm, River birch, Siberian elm, Silver maple, Virginia pine, Willow.

Intermediate:

American beech, Boxelder, Chestnut oak, Choke cherry, Eastern white pine, Green ash, Loblolly pine, Northern red oak, Paper birch, Pin oak, Red maple, Red pine, Scarlet oak, Scots pine, Slash pine, Sourwood, Sugar maple, Sycamore, Tulip poplar, White ash, Yellow birch.

Resistant:

American hornbeam, Amur maple, Baldcypress, Bitternut hickory, Black walnut, Blackgum, Bur oak, Ctalpa, Colorado blue spruce, Crabapple, Eastern hemlock, Eastern redcedar, Ginkgo, Hophornbeam, Horsechestnut, Kentucky coffeetree, Littleleaf linden, Mountain ash, Northern white cedar, Norway maple, Norway spruce, Ohio buckeye, Pignut hickory, Shagbark hickory, Swamp white oak, Sweetgum, White oak, Witch-hazel, Yellow buckeye.

Adapted from: Richard J. Hauer, Jeffrey O. Dawson, and Les P. Werner. 2006. *Trees and Ice Storms: The Development of Ice Storm-Resistant Urban Tree Populations*, Second Edition. Joint Publication 06-1, College of Natural Resources, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, and the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences and the Office of Continuing Education, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. 20pp. Lists adapted from Hauer et al. (1993) and published reports from 42 primary publications.

Chris Catanzaro, Research Asst. Prof. Tennessee State University

New Metro Nashville Tree Advisory Committee Website

The Metro Nashville Beautification and Environment Commission now has a dedicated section of its website for the Metro Tree Advisory Committee. It contains information on tree selection, maintenance and much more. See it on the web at:

http://nashville.gov/beautification/trees.htm

Thanks, New & Renewing Members!

Individuals

Beth Babbit
James Bryant
Leann Crawford
Randy Ellis
Zach French
Elizabeth Gassel
Skip Heibert
Wes Hopper
Tracy Jackson
Lewis Kearney
Joy Sapp
Randall Smith

Guy Zimmerman

Plato Touliatos

Bruce Webster

Laurie Williams

Woodland Tree Service

West Tennessee Chapter

Terran Arwood Lorie Emens Mark Follis Wes Hopper Bruce Webster Laurie Williams Jim Volgas

Business

Duck River Electric Follis Tree Preservation Powers Tree Care Tenn Valley Electric Coop The Parke Company

Non-Profit

American Society of Landscape Architects Mid Tenn Electric Membership Corporation

Government

City of Athens

City of Bristol

City of Cookeville Electric Dept

City of Crossville

City of Germantown

City of Hendersonville

City of Knoxville

City of McMinnville

Partner

Nashville Electric Service

Year End Donation

Atticus Trust

The West Tennessee Chapter

(Established 2004)

Board of Directors

President: Susan Murray, Urban Forester, Consultant

 $901\text{-}757\text{-}9043; \ susanmurray_uf@msn.com$

Vice President: Eric Bridges, City of Lakeland

901-867-2717; ebridges@lakelandtn.org

Secretary/Treasurer: Wes Hopper, Urban Forestry, Memphis

901-387-0376; urbn4estry@aol.com

Jeremy Palazolo, Forester

jpalazol@midsouth.rr.com

Stan Myers, Memphis Botanic Garden

plantmanstan@hotmail.com

Jack Golio, Dyersburg Electric

usshornet2000@yahoo.com

Don Richardson, Park Friends

donrich@juno.com

Calendar of Events

March 2

State Arbor Day Ceremony, 11 a.m. at Dunbar Cave State Natural Area, Clarksville. Join the Clarksville Tree Board and the TN Dept. of Ag, Forestry Division at the state's official celebration. Please RSVP by Feb.23, 931-645-7476, Rosemary Roby, as lunch will be served.

March 3

Arbormaster Seminar, Vermeer of Tennessee, Registration: 615-869-0250, John Taylor, Murfreesboro

April 16-18

Trees and Utilities 14th Annual National Conference, Las Vegas, Nevada, see www.arborday.org

Utility/Community Partnerships; Managing Risk Trees Near Utility Lines; Natural Disaster Planning, Response, and Recovery Issues; EEI Vegetation Management Task Force Activities; Managing Invasive Species; Tree Selection Tools; Tree Planting and Care; Public Education and Communication; Issues and Innovations in Utility Arboriculture; Tree Line USA® Awards Banquet

March 1-4, 18th

Annual Nashville Lawn and Garden Show, *Live and Let Grow*. Presented by the Horticultural Association of Tennessee. Garden displays, exhibits and lecture series, see www.nashvillelawnandgardenshow.com

March 24-27

International Society of Arboriculture, Southern Chapter's 65th Annual Conference and Trade Show, Little Rock, AR, www.isasouthern.org

March 25th

International Society of Arboriculture, Southern Chapter's Tree Climbing Championship, Little Rock, AR, www.isasouthern.org

April 17th

Tennessee State University's Third Tuesday Series – Urban Forestry Workshop, <u>bbush@tnstate.edu</u>, 615-963-1842

May 31st

Landmark and Historic tree Register and Arboretum Certification programs entry deadline, www.tufc.com.

Excellence in Urban Forestry Awards nominations deadline, Jenny Steinle, 865-981-2399, jenny.steinle@state.tn.us

August

Municipal Urban Forestry Workshops – Seven Locations in August – See page ?? for dates and more information

August 21st

Green Industry Field Day – New Venue Location for 2007 – Williamson County Agricultural Exposition, Franklin Tennessee, www.tnla.com



Tennessee Urban Forestry Council

6820 Cloudland Dr., Nashville, TN 37205 (615) 352-8985 - www.tufc.com

Branching Out is a publication of the Tennessee Urban Forestry Council (TUFC).

Newsletter Committee:

Dr. Douglas Airhart, Dr. Chris Catanzaro, Dottie Mann and Jennifer Smith

The Tenn. Dept. of Agriculture, Div. of Forestry, and the TUFC work together to enhance urban forestry statewide.

Notable Trees of Tennessee Exhibit Touring Schedule

Ijams Nature Center, Knoxville www.ijams.org, 865-577-4717 March 15th – April 30

Rogersville Printing and News Paper
Museum at the Old Southern Depot
Town of Rogersville
www.rogersvilleheritage.org, 423-272-1961
May 2 – May 31

Tree Foundation's Big Old Tree Contest to be Big. Deadline to Enter is April 1

The Nashville Tree Foundation's annual Big Old Tree Contest is going to be BIG this year in honor of the 20th anniversary of the effort to find the biggest and oldest trees in Davidson County. "We would like to have a winning tree in each of the 35 council districts," said Betty Brown, president of Nashville Tree Foundation. "We'd also like to salute the biggest tree in each Metro Park, and on each school campus, public or private." She added, "Now's the perfect time to start looking for entries, while the leaves are off the trees and it's not too cold."

To make this the biggest Big Old Tree Contest ever, we need your help, Brown said. Nominate a tree in your council district — or someone else's. Check out the trees at the school nearest you as well as in the parks.

Trees of any species in Davidson County can be nominated by any person. The trees can be on the property of the nominator, the public, neighbor, friend, or stranger. The owner's permission is suggested but not required. An entry form with instructions for measuring the tree is at nashvilletrees.org/botc/html. For information call 292-5175 or e-mail nashvilletree@earthlink.net. The deadline for entries is April 1. The 20th annual High Tree party celebrating the winners will be April 27.

NFL Planting Trees

The National Football League is helping to tackle the heat-trapping gas emissions of the Super Bowl by planting 3,000 mangroves and other trees native to Florida,

Power for the game and fuel for generators at the adjacent NFL Experience Super Bowl theme park, along with its more than 1,200 vehicles, will emit about 500 tons of CO2 on Super Bowl Sunday, according to the U.S. Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

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Storms Over the Urban Forest National Conference

May 21-22, Atlanta GA Presented by the National Arbor Day Foundation

888-448-7337, http://arborday.org/storms

Communities across the country are placing a great emphasis on and financial investment into greening the urban landscape with trees. But that investment and the health of urban forests are at risk without a plan to respond and regreen in the aftermath of a natural disaster—a point that has been clearly illustrated by recent storm events. This conference focuses on the planning, response, and recovery processes necessary to address storms affecting urban and community forests.