



## Southern Region Urban Forestry Technical Service Center

State Activities - Spring 1996

USDA Forest Service  
Southern Region and Southern Research Station



**ARE YOU WORKING WITH YOUR STATE LEAGUE OF MUNICIPALITIES?** Participating in the Alabama League of Municipalities Annual Conference has opened many doors for the Alabama Forestry Commission. Not only did the League ask the Forestry Commission to have an urban forestry exhibit and give a presentation at their recent annual conference, but also asked them about the possibility of sponsoring urban forestry workshops for continuing education credits for League members. This is a great opportunity to meet and talk with mayors, city council members, judges, and other municipal leaders. Every southern state has a League of Cities or League of Municipalities and they can open doors for you, too. Contact Neil Letson at 334/240-9360.

**LOOKING FOR SOMETHING DIFFERENT TO DO ON ARBOR DAY?** Several Kentucky arborists and landscapers gathered in Farmington, KY on Arbor Day to donate their services to Farmington Historic Home, an 18 acre site with an orchard, garden area, avenues and natural areas lined with mature trees. Nine tree care companies and five landscape companies donated their time while others donated trees or sent financial assistance. Each year this group selects a different site to visit on Arbor Day and donate their services. Contact Dave Leonard at 606/252-2529.

**ARE THE FORESTRY COMMISSIONERS IN YOUR STATE AWARE OF WHAT SERVICES THE URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROGRAM PROVIDE?** During the planning phase for the construction of a Retirement Complex, a Regional Medical Center consulted with the Arkansas Forestry Commission thanks to one of the Arkansas Forestry Commissioners. The Commissioner was a key player in letting the medical center know that the Commission can provide technical assistance related to construction activities and trees. Contact Jim Northum at 501/664-2531.

**MEDIA CAMPAIGN IN DALLAS SAVES HISTORIC TREES.** The Dallas Historic Tree Coalition was successful in saving historic trees that were going to be destroyed for the construction of new power plant for a local hospital. Key to the success was a media campaign, bill boards and two page ad in the local newspaper. The Tree Coalition also hired their own architect to draw alternate plans that would save the trees and save the hospital \$500,000 in construction costs. The Coalition received the Large Civic Organization Project Award from the Texas Urban Forestry Council. Contact Don Mueller at 409/845-2641.

**PLACING PRICE TAGS ON TREES DURING CONSTRUCTION.** That is exactly what was done during recent construction of the National Wildflower Research Center in Austin, Texas. To add extra incentive for construction contractors to be cautious, price tags were placed on more than 800 trees to be protected. Any damage to a marked tree would have cost the contractor anywhere from \$3,000 to \$25,000, depending on the size of the tree. Contact Don Mueller at 409/845-2641.

**URBAN FOREST LICENSE PLATES.** Chesapeake, VA has used an urban and community forestry grant to initiate a new locality license plate for urban forestry. After the city pre-sells 1,000 plates for \$25 each, the VA Dept of Motor Vehicles will issue the plates and \$15 of the costs of each plate will be used to fund urban forestry activities. Contact Gail Bradshaw at 804/547-6411.

**URBAN FORESTRY EXHIBIT WINS BEST IN SHOW AWARD.** The Virginia Dept of Forestry found a great way to educate landscapers and nurserymen and in the process their urban forestry exhibit won the Best in Show award. The exhibit was displayed at the Maymont Flower and Garden Show and highlighted correct tree planting techniques and native tree species in Virginia. What a great way to educate thirty thousand people who visit the garden show. Contact Paul Revell at 804/966-2201.

**HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE LUNCH WITH THE STATE FORESTER?** That is exactly what the Alabama Urban Forestry Association did during their annual conference. It was a great way for Urban Forest Council members and the State Forester to meet and talk with each other. Contact Neil Letson at 334/240-9360.

**LOOKING FOR A VIDEO ON PRUNING THAT ALSO HAPPENS TO BE HUMOROUS?** The Tree Bank Foundation of Oklahoma has recently completed a 15 minute video on proper pruning techniques. The video is great for those with no pruning experience or for those who need a refresher course. Best of all, the video features Mark Bays as a clown doing the pruning. Contact Mary Caffrey at 405/842-3320.

**ALABAMA URBAN FORESTRY ASSOCIATION HIRES AN EXECUTIVE SECRETARY.** The Association recently signed a contract with a professional conference company to provide several services such as coordination of annual conference and quarterly meetings, correspondence, membership list, bookkeeping, and office location. Contact Neil Letson at 334/240-9360.

**GREAT EXAMPLE OF THE STATE FORESTRY AGENCY WORKING WITH THE STATE PARKS AGENCY.** The Louisiana Office of State Parks requested assistance from the Office of Forestry to do tree health evaluations of trees located in developed areas in the state parks. The Urban and Community forestry staff will complete the evaluations and provide training to state park staff as necessary. Contact Paul Orr at 504/925-4500.

**URBAN/RURAL INTERFACE ACTIVITIES.** The Georgia Forestry Commission is moving forward with the initial phase of its Urban/Rural Forest Interface Program. This program will address changing land use patterns and how they impact local and regional natural resource issues. The Commission is also focusing their 1996 U&CF grant program toward Urban/Rural Interface projects. Contact Joe Burgess at 770/528-3195. Rockingham County, Virginia is helping communities that have wooded subdivisions prepare for fire season. Contact Cindy Frenzl at 540/459-3151.

**ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A UNIQUE WAY TO INCREASE YOUR URBAN FOREST COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP?** The South Carolina Urban Forest Council sponsored a free Shigo Workshop (one-day) for council members. They added 40 new members to their council. Contact Joel Felder at 803/896-8800.

For more information on the Southern Region Technical Service Center, or if you have information that others in the southern region would be interested in hearing about, please contact:

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## **Southern Community Forestry Summit Changing Landscapes**

**Sept. 18-21, 1996**

Adams Mark Hotel  
Mobile, Alabama

The objective of the 1996 Southern Community Forestry Summit will be to focus on future challenges in urban natural resource condition, policy and management in the South.

Contact Nancy Stremple at 404/347-6218

If you are interested in participating in the Poster Session please contact Magaly Zayas at 404/347-1650

### **Preconference Workshop for Urban Forest Councils**

**September 18, 1996**

This will be the first time Urban Forest Council leaders and members from across the south get together specifically to discuss and share ideas related to Urban Forest Councils.

Contact Ingrid Sather at 706/546-3203