



Summer Quarter 2008

17th Annual Urban Forestry Conference

The 17th Annual Urban Forestry Conference, “The Nature of Design: Educating for the Future,” will be held together with the American Society of Landscape Architects on Thursday, September 11 and Friday, September 12 at the Knoxville Downtown Hilton.

Keynote speaker James Urban, from Annapolis, Maryland, is a nationally noted speaker in the areas of landscape architecture and urban forestry. He is an urban forest and landscape architect with over 30 years of experience in difficult urban sites. Researching and testing ideas related to the installation of trees in the urban environment since 1982, James has collaborated with many leading arborists, horticulturalists and researchers, developing applications of their ideas for landscape architects. This includes testing new urban tree systems, innovative soil and planting concepts, and finding new approaches to landscape architectural design, detailing and specifications. Keynote Address is “Alternative to Structural Soil.” Second Session: “Soil Compaction: Strategies for the Most Difficult Soil Problems.”

CEU Options: *ISA, Pesticide, Landscape Architecture and Certified Nursery Professional.*

For registration and hotel information, visit www.natureofdesign.org. Early bird registration deadline is July 31st. Knoxville Hilton room reservation deadline is August 19th.

Other Program Highlights:

- Engaging Communities in Urban Tree Risk Assessment
- Tree Planting and Urban Forestry Grant Opportunities
- Urban Tree Sustainability: Urban Forestry & Landscape Architect Perspective
- Tennessee Arboretum Certification Program
- Future Implications of Freeze/Drought Stress on Woody Ornamentals
- Knoxville’s South Waterfront - An Inner City Reclamation Project.
- Effective Tree Boards
- Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Concepts
- The Economics of Tree Preservation: Saving Trees and Making Money during Construction
- Clear and Present Dangers in Tennessee’s Forests - Pests and Diseases
- Sustainable Sites Initiative - The USGBC and LEED, Driving Market Transformation

Want a *Tree Specialty License Plate*?

TUFC is pursuing a specialty auto plate that promotes trees while supporting the cause of urban forestry. **1000 tags must be pre-sold for \$ 35.00 each** before the tree license tag is official! The marketing campaign will be kicked off this summer with the design being unveiled. Your help is needed by buying a tree tag and helping spread the word about this opportunity. Go to www.tufc.com for more information and to print an application form.

Mark Your Calendars Now!

10th Annual Tenn. Tree Climbing Championship

Sept. 13 – Lakeshore Park, Knoxville. For Conference and Tree Climb registration and hotel information, visit <http://www.natureofdesign.org>.



A Smart Water Saving Idea From Trees Atlanta

Trees Atlanta has negotiated an arrangement with the City of Atlanta's fire department to use the water that would otherwise go down the drain when the fire department periodically checks and flushes the fire hydrants. Trees Atlanta conceived the idea to make use of a previously wasted water source as Atlanta continues to experience a severe rainfall deficit. This organization, which helps with the planting and care of Atlanta's city trees, already had trucks with water tanks. The signs on the trucks note "Recycled Water". Trees Atlanta coordinates with the fire department's regular schedule of flushing, and they go to the various fire hydrants and fill up their tanks.

Urban Forestry Awards of Excellence Nominations Due June 30

Award categories: Private Professional, Green Industry, Builder/Developer, Government Employee, Tree Board, Citizen Activist, President's Award. Go to www.tufc.com to get an awards application. For more information, contact Awards Chairman Jeff Gill at jjgill@mtmc.com.

Tennessee Groves Tree Planting Program at Visitor Centers

The new Tennessee Groves program is expected to be launched this summer. It is a partnership between the TUFC and the Tennessee Department of Transportation through the Roadscapes Initiative. The TUFC will serve as administrators and through the program trees and bulbs will be planted at welcome centers, rest areas and other locations. These plantings may honor or memorialize loved ones, commemorate birthdays or anniversaries, or simply contribute to the natural beauty of the state. As the program kicks off, it will be featured on www.tufc.com.



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Communities With Trees
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urban forests tomorrow--join
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www.tufc.com

TUFC Board Nominations

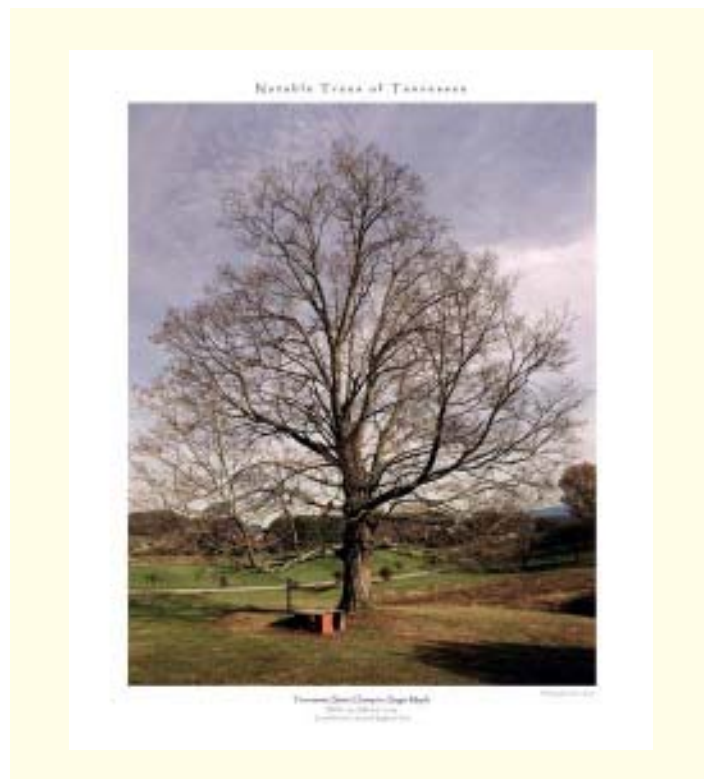
Nominations for the TUFC Board of Directors will be accepted through June 30, 2008.. Immediate past president Patrick Haller serves as the nominating chair with a committee of past presidents. Patrick encourages self-nominations. He may be reached at 931-261-5885 or Patrick.haller@qualitytrees.net

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.



TUFC 2008 Board

EAST TENNESSEE

Liz Didier - Utility Forester, Knoxville Utility Board
Patrick Haller - IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT
Quality Trees and Haller Landscaping and Lawncare, Sparta
Mike Ganues - Retired Urban Forester, Maryville
Jon Nettle - Arborist & Landscape Consultant, Chattanooga
Warren Nevad - Mgmt Consultant, UT Municipal Tech Advisory Svc.
Patrick Walding - PRESIDENT, City Forester, Johnson City

MIDDLE TENNESSEE

Dr. Douglas Airhart – SECRETARY
Professor of Horticulture, TN Tech. Univ. Cookeville
Dr. Nathaniel Appleton
Postdoctoral Research Associate, TN State Univ.
Zach French - Arborist, Tree Solutions Consulting, Nashville
Jeff Gill - Dir. of Operations
Middle TN. Electric Membership Coop., Murfreesboro
Carl Herbison - Chairman, Dickson Tree Board
Karla Kean - VICE PRESIDENT - TSU Extension, Clarksville
Heather Langford - SECOND VICE PRESIDENT
Sustainable Solutions Group, Nashville
Hester Rodgers - Chairman, Pulaski Tree Board

WEST TENNESSEE

Jimmy Ferrell - TREASURER
Arborist, Ferrell's Tree Service, Memphis
Wes Hopper - Arborist, Urban Forestry, Memphis
Susan Murray - West TN Chapter, TUFC
Trey Watson - Forester, Jackson Energy Authority

ONE YEAR APPOINTMENTS

Mary Thom Adams - Marketing Consultant, Knoxville
Dr. Bridget Jones
Ex. Director, Cumberland Region Tomorrow, Columbia
Todd Morgan - Planner, City of Morristown
Parvathi Nampoothiri - Planner, Hastings Architecture, Nashville

URBAN FORESTRY STAFF

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615-837-5439, brian.rucker@state.tn.us
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

Tennessee Ag Enhancement Program (TAEP) Funds Available

The Tennessee Department of Agriculture, Forestry Division is pleased to announce the availability of Tennessee Agricultural Enhancement Program (TAEP) funds for community tree planting projects. The Division of Forestry will accept urban forestry project proposals from city and county governments, and private non-profit organizations for planting trees on public land, such as parks, streets or greenways.

Additional details on the types of projects along with application forms and proposal instructions are available in the TAEP grant information packet. Proposals must be received by Friday, August 15, 2008 at the Division of Forestry office in Nashville no later than 4:30 p.m.

To request an information packet or to get more information about the TAEP community tree planting grant, please call or email the following urban forestry staff:

Bruce Webster, (615) 837-5436, bruce.webster@tn.gov

Brian Rucker, (615) 837-5439, brian.rucker@tn.gov

Shawn Posey, (901) 754-5185, shawn.posey@tn.gov

Tom Simpson, (865) 908-4434, tom.simpson@tn.gov

Are You Good at Identifying Trees?

Let's hope so if you're going to drive through here! Urban forestry is not just about putting trees in the urban environment, but in choosing the right trees for the right spot to meet the right objectives. A well-run tree board can help you avoid another *Nightmare on Elm Street!*



TUFC New & Renewing Membership

Individual

Heather Langford
Noah Long
Keith May
Dr. Randall Smith
Sarah Webster

Chapter

Jan Castillo
Keith May

Non-Profit

Bristol Tree Board
Nashville Tree Foundation

Benefactor

TVA

Donation

Heather Langford

Tree Tag Participants

Douglas Airhart - Monterey
Alice Ann Barge - Nashville
(2) Anna Beesley - Crossville
Nick Bridgeman - Memphis
Eric Bridges - Lakeland
Shirley Broom - Lakeland
Phillip Brown - Clarksville
William Dickinson - Cookeville
Liz Didier - Knoxville
Sheila Donilon - Ooltewah
Jeff Gill - Murfreesboro
Patrick Haller - Sparta
Vickie Holland - Lakeland
Gene Hyde - Chattanooga
Lewis Kearney - Cleveland
Heather Langford - Nashville
(3) Lisa Lemza - Chattanooga
Larry Loiseau - Antioch
Dottie Mann - Clarksville
Steve Scott - Nashville
Jennifer Smith - Nashville
Patrick Walding - Johnson City
Barbara Ware - Crossville
Mary Weaver - Fairfield Glade
Guy Zimmerman - Cookeville

Congress Budget - Contact Needed

The TUFC hosted a letter writing campaign to members of Congress to request their support for restoring funding for USDA Forest Service State and Private Forestry Programs, which have been reduced in the Administration's proposed fiscal year 2009 budget to the point of virtually eliminating these programs.

The Administration's FY09 budget proposal calls for an **82% reduction to Urban and Community Forestry** funding, an 83% reduction to Forest Stewardship funding, a 26% reduction to State Fire Assistance, a 44% reduction to Forest Health Management as well as other forestry reductions.

Please let Jennifer Smith, TUFC Executive Director, know of any Congressional contacts you may have to assist us in our on-going efforts to educate our elected officials on the benefits of urban forestry.

Notes on the Nashville Tree Ordinance

The Nashville Tree Ordinance has been under review in two areas. A city council member appointed a task force to review the Tree Bank. This Bank was created to give developers an alternative option to planting trees per the ordinance if approved by the Board of Zoning Appeals.

The Bank was initially questioned as it was found the amount that was being charged, \$350 per unit, was never approved by the City Council. The task force made up of Tree Board members, urban forestry staff and developers determined a more realistic figure of what the cost should be and the new, higher figure of \$750 was approved.

Secondly, the issue concerning parking lots was resolved. Earlier a judge had ruled in a court case that parking lots, asphalt and concrete, should be counted as structures and therefore be deducted from the Tree Density Unit (TDU) counts required by the tree ordinance.

Another City Council member took up this cause and has tweaked the Tree Ordinance to state that parking lots shall not be considered structures, hence they are subject to the TDU counts.

TUFC Mission Statement

The Tennessee Urban Forestry Council serves as an advisory body to promote healthy and sustainable urban and community forests in Tennessee by providing leadership and guidance through education, planning, advocacy, and collaboration.

News From the West Tennessee Chapter (WTCTUFC)

2008 Meeting Schedule: July 10th and October 9th. The board meetings are at 11:00 am followed by the general meeting at noon; all meetings held at AgriCenter Board Room in Memphis, unless otherwise scheduled.

New promotion: “10 by 2010” to promote Tree Cities in Western Tennessee and have ten communities as a ‘Tree City’ community by 2010!

WTCTUFC has established a task force to study their by-laws and make recommendations to the board and general membership.

Burk Renner, member of TUFC/WTNUFC and planner with the Memphis/Shelby County Office of Planning and Development, gave a presentation during our last meeting on April 10th on the new Unified Development Codes and Urban Forestry Issues.

“Building with Trees” seminar presented in Memphis at the Memphis Botanic Garden on April 29th. The seminar was sponsored by TUFC, Arbor Day, Town of Collierville, and National Association of Home Builders.

WTCTUFC members, Alan Wyatt, Eric Bridges, Jim Volgas, and Shawn Posey have been assisting with a horticultural class at Melrose High School, Memphis to instruct students on proper arboriculture and horticultural procedures in the renovation of two courtyards. (See photo above).



WTCTUFC members Alan Wyatt, Eric Bridges, Jim Volgas and Shawn Posey with a horticultural class at Melrose High School in Memphis.



The West Tennessee Chapter sponsored a booth at the Earth Day Celebration at Shelby Farms on April 19th. Chapter President Alan Wyatt announced the “10 by 2010” program to promote Tree Cities in western Tennessee and have ten communities as a “Tree City” community by 2010.

Calendar of Events

June 18 and Sept 11

Engaging Communities in Urban Tree Risk Assessment

Workshop Dates and Locations

- * June 18th – Jackson – West TN Exp. Station - Room B
- * Sept. 11th – Knoxville – Hilton at the Urban Forestry & Landscape Architecture joint conference. Held as a pre-conference workshop

This workshop will give hands-on training to arborists and green industry professionals to better assess the trees in their communities, including evaluating decayed wood in trees using IML Resistograph technology. It is designed to increase their ability to locate and manage trees that may be hazard situations in their surrounding environment.

Participants will learn these skills:

- (1) Identifying highest risk trees so that they can be treated first and determining how many trees can be treated within the budget and how much that would reduce risk within the population,
- (2) Assessing adequacy of the current budget to fund abatement treatments (justify urban forestry budget in cities), and
- (3) Determining whether additional funds or educational efforts are needed, to moderate community risk tolerance and demonstrating that the agency is acting reasonably to protect public safety.

Tennessee State Extension is sponsoring this workshop series and presenting it with these key partners: University of Tennessee, Tennessee Tech University, Tree Solutions and Haller's Landscaping. Workshop Fee: \$25. For registration information contact: Karla Kean, TSU Extension Agent-Montgomery County, 931-648-5725, kkean@utk.edu

September 11 & 12

17th Annual Urban Forestry Conference, "The Nature of Design: Educating for the Future," held with the American Society of Landscape Architects. Knoxville - Downtown Hilton.

CEU Options: ISA, Pesticide, Landscape Architecture and Certified Nursery Professional.

Thursday, September 11 - Pre-conference workshop, Tours, Trade Show & Award Ceremony.

Friday, September 12 - Concurrent & Keynote Programs and Trade Show.

September 13

10th Annual Tree Climbing Championship. Saturday, September 13 at Lakeshore Park, Knoxville.

For Conference and Tree Climb Registration and Hotel Information, visit <http://www.natureofdesign.org>.

July 17

TUFC Board Meeting in Nashville. For more information, please call (615) 352-8985.

July 26 - 30

International Society of Arboriculture, 84th Conference and Trade Show, St. Louis, MO. <http://www.isa-arbor.com>.

Date TBA

Municipal Urban Forestry Workshop.


The UT Municipal Advisory Service (MTAS) will again conduct urban forestry workshops approved for Continuing Education Units (CEUs) at four locations statewide. MTAS and TUFC have partnered to increase awareness of this topic in local government.

Urban Forestry transcends Public Works, Parks and Utilities. One of the goals is to educate municipal and tree board members, utilities, planners and city employees in the basics of urban forestry. Discussions among participants will increase awareness of urban forestry issues.

Topics include the benefits of urban forestry, starting a program in your community, roles of tree boards and staff, identification of community stakeholders, technical assistance providers and best management practices. For more information, contact Warren Nevad, warren.nevad@tennessee.edu, 865-974-9839

**People who will not sustain trees will soon
live in a world which cannot sustain people.**

— Bryce Nelson



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For At Least 250 Years, the World's Finest Streets Have Been Lined With Trees - Design and Safety Issues

On the best tree-lined streets the trees are planted all the way to the corners. Indeed, in Paris, a city noted for its street trees, if the regular spacing of trees along the street runs short at an intersection, there is likely to be an extra tree placed at the corner. Yet in America, elm- or oak shaded residential streets and commercial main streets are all too often only memories of good American urban design. In the automobile age, a real concern with safety has resulted in street tree standards that dictate long setbacks from intersections, ostensibly to achieve unobstructed sight lines for drivers. But are street trees the safety problem they are purported to be?



Unobstructed Views:

Engineering design policy manuals, such as those of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), recommend designing street intersections with clear sight-triangles so a driver can see potential conflicts before entering an intersection. These triangles extend hundreds of feet beyond the intersection. Recommended designs eliminate objects above sidewalk level that intrude into the sight-triangle and may interfere with a driver's vision.

In the end, the basic conclusion of our research is that street trees-if properly selected, adequately spaced, and pruned to branch high-do not create much of a visibility problem for drivers entering an intersection where there is a stop control on just one roadway. Cars parked on the street, particularly large ones such as the SUVs used in our digital models to simulate worst-case conditions, create a substantially bigger visibility problem, and newspaper racks also get in the way.

Although additional research is necessary, it's clear that the AASHTO guidelines regarding recommended street-tree setbacks at urban intersections need to be re-evaluated.

-- Submitted by Bruce Webster, State Staff Urban Forester

Breakthrough in Bio-Fuel Production Potential Use for Wood Waste

A recent report from ScienceDaily indicates researchers from the University of Massachusetts have made a significant breakthrough in the development of cellulose based bio-fuels. The approach, in layman's language, is to "rapidly heat cellulose in the presence of solid catalysts, then rapidly cooling the product to create a liquid that contains many of the compounds found in gasoline."

This process requires less energy input to make than current ethanol bio-fuels, and will help develop markets for crop residues, switchgrass, and various wood products that currently go unutilized.

Commercial production is estimated to be from 5 to 10 years away. Perhaps this will provide an alternative for urban wood waste that currently goes to landfills.

The complete article is at: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/04/080407102812.htm>

-- Submitted by Bruce Webster, State Staff Urban Forester

TUFC Hosted Town Hall Meetings: 31 Since 2000!

Since 2000 the Tennessee Urban Forestry Council has hosted Town Hall meetings in 31 cities across the state. These meetings have provided opportunities to bring together city elected officials, employees and tree board members to focus on the local urban forestry program and to note what is happening statewide and nationally. This opportunity happens over the lunch break of the TUFC board meetings. A side benefit for TUFC board members is the opportunity to bring ideas back to their local programs.

Host cities: Nashville; TTU Cookeville; Jackson; Clarksville; Nashville/Brentwood; Knoxville; Memphis; Harrogate; Murfreesboro; Sparta; Pulaski; TSU Nashville; UT Knoxville; McMinnville; Dickson Renaissance Center; Cookeville; Johnson City; Legislative Plaza of the State Capitol; Cleveland; Jackson; Clarksville with a dedication of the memorial Tuttle Grove; Chattanooga including a city tour; Morristown including arboretum tour; Lebanon and Signal Mountain. Plans are scheduled to host a meeting this fall in Columbia.



2009 Keep Tennessee Beautiful Awards of Excellence

Since The Keep Tennessee Beautiful organization along with the Tennessee Department of Transportation has announced their Awards of Excellence for 2009. The awards recognize outstanding individuals, organizations and programs across the state for their creativity and dedication to engage fellow Tennesseans to take greater responsibility for their community environments. Cash prizes come with the awards. Applications are due November 3. www.ktnb.org.

SHADY ADVICE: If you plant a tree today on the west side of your home, in five years your energy bills should be 3% less. In 15 years the savings will be nearly 12%. Landscaping can reduce air conditioning costs by up to 50% by shading the windows and walls of a home. Trees properly placed around buildings can reduce air conditioning needs by 30% and can save 20-50% in energy used for heating. The net cooling effect of a young, healthy tree is equivalent to ten room-size air conditioners operating 20 hours a day.

World's Oldest Tree Discovered in Sweden

The world's oldest tree has been found in Sweden, a spruce that first took root just after the end of the last ice age. This tree, in Fulu Mountain, Dalarna in central Sweden, was dated by carbon dating at a laboratory in Miami, Florida to 9,550 years old.

Underneath the crown in the soil there were another three generations of wood from the same clone, dating 375; 5,660 and 9,000 years old that have the same genetic makeup.

For the complete article on this item of interest, go to Telegraph.co.uk for Science Editor Roger Highfield's article.

-- Submitted by Jennifer Smith

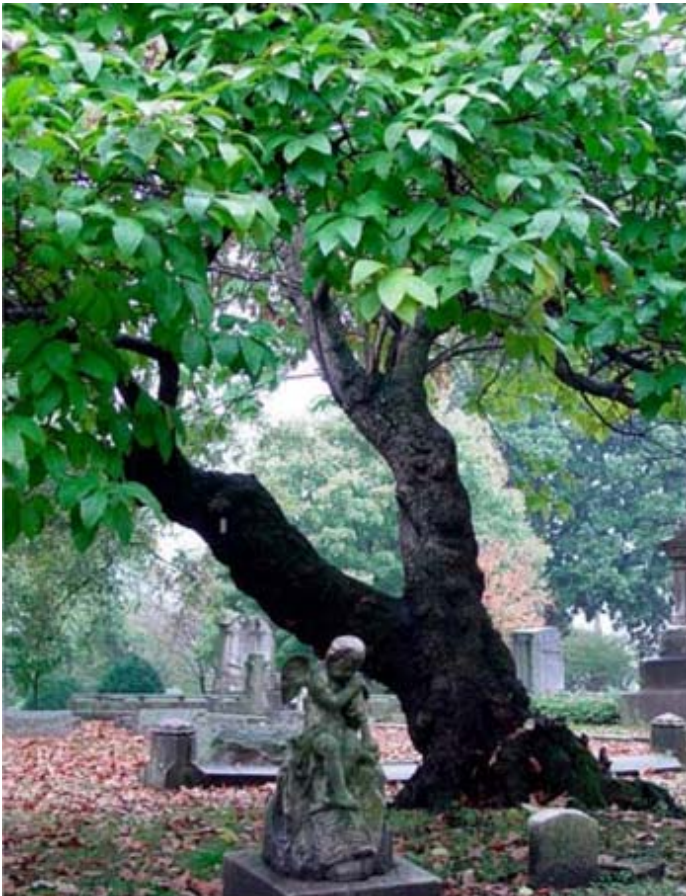




Knoxville Utility Board employees and Green Math and Science Academy fourth and fifth grade students planted six trees at the school to celebrate Arbor Day.



Knoxville Utility Board (KUB) Steve Noe (Overhead Construction), Bill Elmore (Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer), and Larry Brown (Vegetation Management) accept the Tree Line USA award for KUB at an Arbor Day Ceremony in Ijams Nature Center on April 25. KUB has been named a Tree Line USA Utility every year since 2001 for its national leadership in properly caring for trees while meeting customers' need for reliable utility service.



This American Fringetree, in historic Elmwood Cemetary, Memphis, is featured in the Notable Trees of Tennessee Photo Exhibit.



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Tennessee Urban Forestry Council

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

Newsletter Committee:

Dr. Douglas Airhart, Dottie Mann and Jennifer Smith



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

Tree-Lined Streets May Help Childhood Asthma Rates

Young children living in neighborhoods with lots of trees have lower rates of asthma than children who reside in areas with fewer trees, a new study finds.

Researchers looked at asthma rates among children aged 4 to 5, and asthma-related hospital admissions for children up to age 15, in 42 service districts of New York City. Asthma is the leading cause of hospital admission among children aged 15 and younger in the city. The researchers compared the medical data to the number of trees in each of the districts, along with sources of pollution, population density, and racial and ethnic composition.

Nine percent of the young children in the study had asthma, and the city had an average of 613 trees per square kilometer. Asthma rates decreased by almost 1/4 for every standard deviation increase in tree density, equivalent to 343 trees per square Km., the study found. This held true even after the researchers factored in sources of pollution, socioeconomic status and population density.

However, there was no association between tree density and asthma-related admissions to hospital among older children. The results don't mean that tree density in a neighborhood is directly related to asthma rates among children, said the researchers, who added that trees may help reduce asthma rates by encouraging children to play outdoors more or by improving air quality.

The study was published online in the *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health*. The researchers noted that New York City is planning to plant 1 million extra trees by 2017, which could provide an opportunity to study exactly what impact tree density may have on asthma.

Article from HealthDay, News for Healthy Living, Robert Preidt

“If what I say resonates with you, it is merely because we are both branches on the same tree.”

-- W. B. Yeats

Zach French, Tree Solution Consulting Services



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Certified Treecare Safety Professional #30
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