

TechTransfer

highlights

March 2001

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Dear Readers:

I want to take this opportunity to personally thank each of you for your feedback on February's premiere issue of the Technology Transfer Highlights. We received many encouraging comments from colleagues and partners around the country. A special thanks to the National Technology Transfer Team for having the vision to create this document, the commitment to implement it, and the consideration to share it with a broad audience. With your continued feedback and assistance, we plan to provide many high quality future issues. Below are just a few comments we received from readers.

Sincerely Yours,

Larry Payne
Director
Cooperative Forestry

"You are brilliant!"
Gina Childs, Group Leader
Information Management
and Analysis

"Thank-you very much for the Tech Transfer. Its compilation and format are very impressive". "I would like to be able to take articles from it to circulate to the Municipal Arborists here in the UK".
Ian McDermott

"This is a good publication"
Ann Loose, Director
Conservation Education

This Month's Feature:

The Northeast Center for Urban & Community Forestry

The USDA Forest Service Northeast Center for Urban & Community Forestry (U&CF) at Amherst, Massachusetts one of three U&CF 'Centers of Excellence' serving the Northeastern Area. The Northeast Center for U&CF at Amherst represents a cooperative partnership between the Forest Service Northeastern Area's State and Private Forestry, the University of Massachusetts' Department of Natural Resources Conservation, the six New England states and New York. The two other regional U&CF Centers of Excellence are located at the St. Paul Field Office and at Keystone College, LaPlume, Pennsylvania. The three Centers serve as technology transfer hubs for the Northeastern Area.

An eleven-member Advisory Board provides input into the strategic direction and mission of the Northeast Center for U&CF. The Advisory Board is comprised of representatives of the State Foresters in New England and New York, as well as a representative of the utility industry, commercial tree care, and community based programming. Additionally, a representative of the University of Massachusetts and the Durham Field Office serve on the Advisory Board. The Northeast Center for U&CF was established in 1996, as a grant program to the University of

Massachusetts, and was named a Forest Service unit in 1999. David Bloniarz serves as the Project Director of the Northeast Center for U&CF, and has worked at the Center since its establishment.

Our Mission

The Northeast Center for U&CF responds to urban and community forestry information needs, facilitates and supports new and existing research, and coordinates the exchange of information among states, that contributes to healthy sustainable communities. The principal focus of the Northeast Center is Urban Forest Management, including the transfer of technology related to the development of more effective municipal tree care systems.



Hazardous Tree Workshops Include Demonstrations of State-of-the-Art Technology

Our Goals

The Northeast Center for U&CF aims to provide effective technology transfer delivery through a variety of methods. The Goals of the Center include:

- Assisting state Urban & Community Forestry Programs by focusing on common information needs, services, and research.
- Providing a point of access for research, information, and technology relating to urban and rural communities.



Streetscape design workshop participants plan for street tree survival

- Fostering community participation and volunteerism in the stewardship of healthy sustainable communities.
- Working with other technology transfer centers, including the Midwest Center for Urban and Community Forestry and Keystone College's Mid-Atlantic Center for U&CF.
- Supporting partnerships among Federal, State and local officials, green industry and utility professionals and volunteer groups.

What We're Up To

The Center is involved in a wide range of technology transfer initiatives and projects throughout the area we serve. We're working to make a difference in the Northeast's urban and community forests.

A few of our recent initiatives

- Developed and distributed a model "Storm Damage Assessment Protocol for the Northeast." This model establishes mechanism for the timely and accurate estimates storm damage costs to trees growing in urban areas.
- Developed and distributed a "Tree Emergency Manual for Public Officials" and an accompanying "Resource Compendium." The manual is designed

to be a practical and concise guide to managing disastrous tree damage in urban and community forests.

- Produced an 18-minute video, and accompanying CD-ROM, entitled "From Sketch to Street: Design for the Urban Forest," which provides an overview of the use of trees as a component of the urban environment.

- Developed "Training Resource Modules for Management of the Asian Longhorned Beetle" which provides an introduction to the beetle, its life cycle, physical characteristics and eradication protocols.

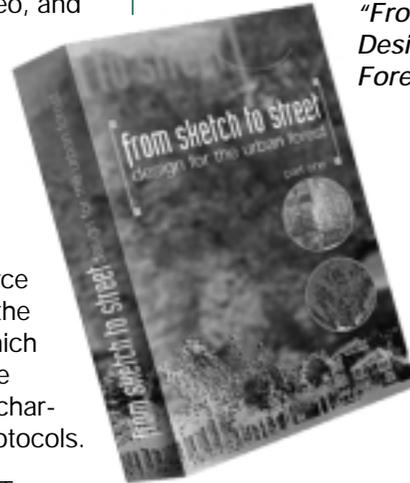
- Developed Street and Park Tree Inventory Templates for collecting, archiving and analyzing data on the location, type, condition and management needs of public street and park trees.

- Developed a Street Tree Inventory Template for Palm Pilot® hand held Personnel Digital Assistants (PDA) which can be linked to computerized spreadsheet or database software programs.

- Conducted Hazardous Tree Assessment Workshops for state natural resource personnel, municipal foresters, and state transportation agency staff.

- Provided technical assistance to states and communities implementing Street and Park Tree

- Inventories, including training curriculum development and instruction, and field testing of state-of-the-art data collection technologies.



"From Sketch to Street, Design for the Urban Forest" video.

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About the Center's Staff
 David Bloniarz, Ph.D. is an urban forester with an extensive background in urban forest management and landscape design. David holds a Masters Degree in Landscape Architecture and a Doctorate in Urban Forestry from the University of Massachusetts/Amherst.

For More Information
 Visit the Center's Web Site at
<http://www.umass.edu/urbantree>