

Wilmington Tree Press

Inside this issue:

Urban Forestry Gaining Ground Statewide 2

New VISTA Announcement 3

TREEminders 4

Conference Showcases Urban Forestry Innovation

• By Adira Riben, Tree Program VISTA

2600 years ago, a young woman stared forlornly upon vast stretches of flat, sun baked land. Her husband, eager to please her and secure his alliance between two nations endeavored to recreate the lush, mountainous landscape of his wife's homeland.

The legendary project of terraced plantings, green roofs and a complex irrigation system stretched 75 feet high upon a 10,000 square foot base and came to be known as the Hanging Gardens of Babylon, one of the seven wonders of the ancient world.

Fast-forward to the year 2007. Hundreds of community leaders, arborists, foresters,

researchers, students and volunteers, including staff members of the Delaware Center for Horticulture, have gathered together for the national 2007 Partners in Community Forestry Conference in Baltimore, MD.

Since none of us are kings or queens with the populace of nations at our fingertips, we explored ways in which we can partner with citizens, community leaders, non-profits, elected officials and government agencies to build well-managed community forests that are able to provide maximum benefits to the community. Workshops and speakers detailed topics relating trees to development, social issues and management of tree cover.

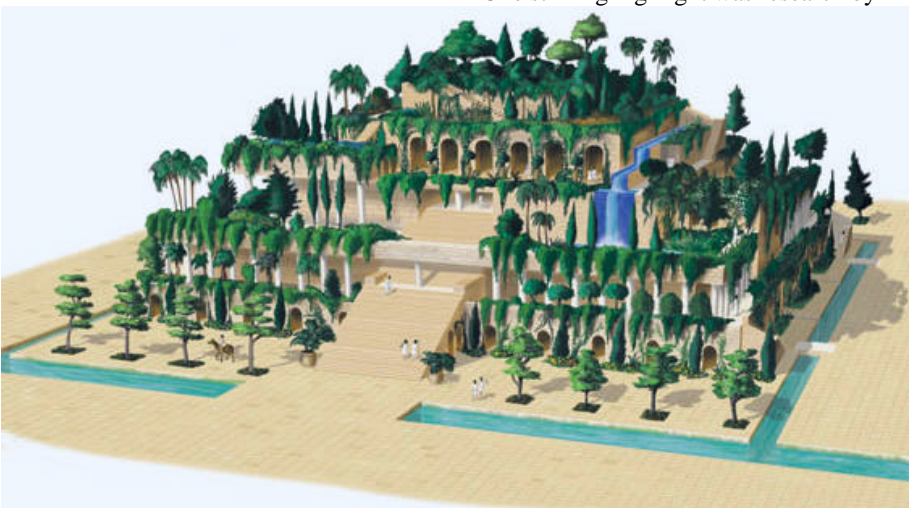
One striking highlight was research by

Dr. Frances Kou relating trees and green space to human health and behavior. The research, presented by Kathleen Wolf, highlighted the many positive influences that trees and landscaping have on our society.

The influence is overwhelmingly positive. As the number of outdoor common spaces increase, researchers found increases in individuals' sense of community, attitude towards others in their household, impulse control, self-discipline and concentration. Also, crimes against people and property decreased as the number of common outdoor spaces increased. Interestingly, Kou's research shows that the social, psychological and physical breakdown associated with low to no tree cover and greening is most profound for vulnerable populations. For example, while self-reported general health improves with more greening, this effect can actually be seen in the mortality rates of older adults. Trees help us to live longer, healthier lives.

Another exciting highlight was the "Growing Home Campaign." A joint project between Baltimore County Department of Environmental Protection and Resource Management, local nurseries, and others, the Growing Home Campaign offers a \$10 coupon to homeowners that they can use to plant trees anywhere on their property. In its first year, the program encourages homeowners to buy 2500 trees! That is a huge step towards the city's goal of 10,000. Plus, the Campaign partner's \$10 per tree contribution was a

Continued on page 3...



Urban Forestry Gaining Ground Statewide

• By Andrea Mosher, Urban Forestry VISTA

The Delaware Center for Horticulture's (DCH) Tree Program went statewide with the Delaware Urban Forest Initiative (DUFI) on November 29th. Andrea Mosher, DCH Urban Forestry VISTA, and Henry Poole, Delaware Forest Service Urban Forest Coordinator, presented the collaborative initiative to the Delaware League of Local Governments.

The League of Local Governments is an association of city, town, and county governments who assist local governments through legislative advocacy at the state and federal levels and through information sharing. The November meeting was a great opportunity to bring more urban forestry awareness to an audience that the Tree Program has had limited connection to until now. The presentation was intended to convey to community-leaders and decision-makers the importance of trees on quality of life and to inform those community leaders of the statewide initiative and the resources available. Many in the audience already understood the importance of trees to our communities and were eager to hear more about the available resources. Approximately 100 community

leaders were in attendance that evening and the response to the presentation was positive; nearly 30 community representatives submitted the DUFI endorsement form indicating their interest in further action toward improving their local urban forests.

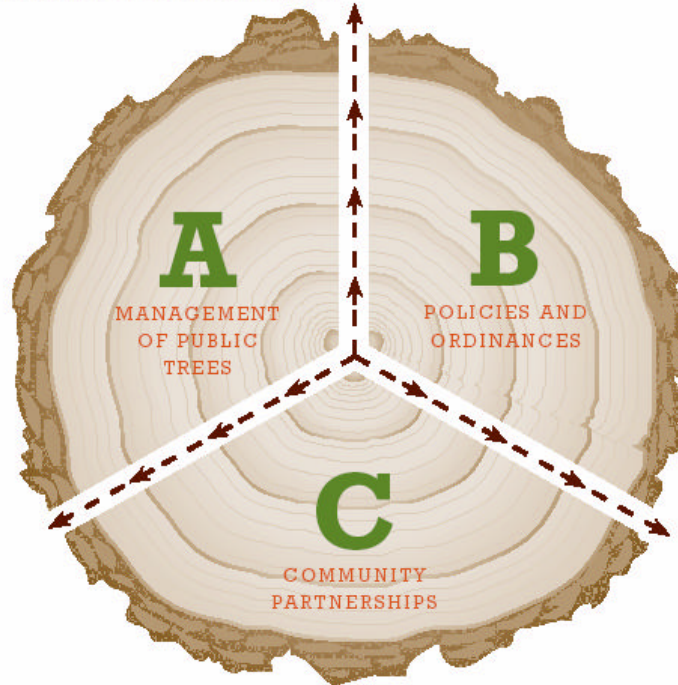
The DUFI will be central to sharing resources and guiding urban forest management in Delaware. The initiative has two primary purposes—to provide a framework and support for urban forest management at

the local level, and to initiate policy, funding, and partnerships that support urban forestry across the state.

The statewide initiative is already up and moving. Cities around the state are at varying stages of the local management planning process, from creating inventories of public trees to developing strategic management plans. The DCH Advocacy Committee that formed in early 2007 is also working to affect state policy and funding for urban trees, which will likely be an initial step in more comprehensive urban forest-friendly policy and funding. The group recently completed a position paper on the importance of trees that emphasizes the impacts of the urban forest on air and water quality.

The future of urban trees in Delaware is at a tipping point; current efforts at the planning and policy level in combination with the grassroots efforts by tree-planting community members from across the state are increasing the momentum for greening our communities and making them more livable. Urban trees need us and we need them. So, whether the role you play is planting trees, serving on a volunteer planning committee, or voting in the next election, get out there and **do it!**

ELEMENTS OF THE GREENPRINT



Witness an incredible story of tragedy and hope

Joel M. Lerner of The Washington Post has called *The American Elm: Majestic, Imperiled, Renewed* a “film of great importance...”

JOIN US at the Delaware Center for Horticulture on January 14th at 7pm as we view this extraordinary film!

-You'll laugh, you'll cry, you'll be inspired-

New VISTA Announcement - Nick Lodsun, Tree Program

Before I started my position at the Delaware Center for Horticulture, I had only planted one tree in my entire life. I have always loved the outdoors, but my arboreal education was not evolved much past the point of an avid hiker and camper. At James Madison University in Harrisonburg, VA, I studied Anthropology. During my studies I became increasingly interested in environmental issues and how they inherently relate to the well-being of humans. I decided that after graduation I would somehow get involved with an organization that combines community service and environmental issues. That is how I came to apply to become an AmeriCorps*VISTA working at DCH.

And after only a month, I have learned so much. I have come to an even greater understanding of the importance of trees and the essential role they play in the world. Within a city such as Wilmington, trees are perhaps more necessary than in other residential areas. Urban trees bring greenery and clean air to an area already crowded with people and lacking in forested areas. I hope to green Wilmington by getting as many trees planted as possible.

Another exciting aspect of my position is the opportunity to be involved with the community. I hope that educating both children and adults about the importance of trees will encourage motivated groups and individuals to come together and make their community a better place.



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Conference Showcases Urban Forestry Innovation (continued from page 1)

mere 11% of total tree costs associated with this program. So the savings to the county are quite significant and, unlike a street tree planting, these trees are being planted on private property where they will receive better protection and care.

An additional idea for supporting urban forest projects came from the Parks and People Foundation and community Wealth Ventures. The groups use social enterprise to produce quality products or services. These may be used by the organization (as a way to save money) or sold to the community. Added bonuses may include employment opportunities, job training or the ability to produce a unique and/or superior service or product. By far the most common example of social enterprise in forestry is the tree nursery. These nurseries can grow trees far more suitable to local conditions than trees purchased from outside sources, and provide bare root trees far fresher than a far-off nursery could possibly provide.

Another conference highlight was Jim Urban's ten steps for planting trees. Echoing the "right tree, right place" mantra of the International Society of Arboriculture, Jim went a step beyond. He insisted that creat-

ing the right place through preservation and improvement of soil, expansion of planting areas and well funded, manageable maintenance plans is essential to establishing a full and vibrant urban forest. After all, a forest where newly planted trees can become large and mature is a worthwhile investment as larger trees offer greater benefits to the community.

"I found it exciting and encouraging that he was so adamant about not planting trees in places and under conditions (like tiny tree pits) that are not going to allow the tree to grow healthy and to reach a mature size," said Andrea Mosher, our Urban Forestry VISTA who feels that the city of Wilmington could benefit by following Jim's suggestions.

To summarize Jim Urban's Ten Steps to planting trees:

1. Plant the easy places first (this may mean planting in lawns as opposed to tree pits).
2. Make bigger planting spaces. Shoot for 20' X 20'.
3. Preserve and reuse soil.

4. Improve soil and drainage.
5. Respect the base of the tree.
6. Make space for roots (a 16" diameter-at-breast-height tree needs 1,000 cubic feet of soil volume).
7. Select the right place to plant (a 3" tree caliper is the best size tree to place in the urban environment).
8. Establish reasonable tree and soil budgets.
9. Create detailed tree and soil documents (which consider drainage).
10. Design for maintenance.

Jim's suggestions, especially 20' X 20' tree pits may sound impossible in our city where a 5' X 5' pit is an uncommon surprise, but like the ancient power couple of Babylon whose vision spurred an unparalleled work of landscape architecture, modern visionaries in urban forestry direct and inspire us in ways that maximize our efforts. While we are not able to build the eighth wonder of the world, we can try our darnedest to make the Urban Forest of Wilmington the best it can be. With public support, quality planning and adequate funding, we are well on our way.

Delaware Center for Horticulture's Executive Director, Pam Sapko, received national recognition in November from the Washington, DC-based Alliance for Community Trees, a nonprofit urban forestry organization. Pam received the organization's "NeighborWoods Academy Scholarship" donated by The Home Depot Foundation, the leader in investing in nonprofit organizations that are in the business of building better communities through urban forestry.



DELAWARE
**CENTER FOR
 HORTICULTURE**
Cultivating a greener community
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The mission of the Delaware Center for Horticulture is to improve the quality of life in Delaware by promoting knowledge and appreciation of gardening, horticulture, and conservation.

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TREEminders

JANUARY

FEBRUARY

Throughout the month...

14

19

5

Plan to volunteer in 2008: Stroll your neighborhood with your wire-cutters. Wires and straps around trunks and limbs can be fatal for a tree and should be removed. Be sure the owner knows what you are doing before addressing their tree with tools.

Help with mailings or submit an article to the newsletter

Become a Tree Steward or recruit another person to become one with you.

Tree Hugger’s Movie Night - 7 pm - “The American Elm: Majestic, Imperiled, Renewed”. Popcorn included!

Tree Care Club - Time and location TBA, contact Nick Lodsun at 302 658 6262 x118 or nlodsun@dehort.org to register

Bare Root Tree pre-orders must be in by the 5th. Contact Annie Acton at 302 658 6262 x106 or aacton@dehort.org.

MARCH

TBA

TBA

Bare Root Tree training and PLANTING! - Come volunteer to plant one of over 50 trees or pick up your pre-ordered tree. The training will be on a week-night and the planting will be the following Saturday. Help us and your fellow citizens make Wilmington greener!

Tree Care Club - Time and location TBA



“The creation of a thousand forests is in one acorn”

- Ralph Waldo Emerson