



# Branching Out

## COUNCIL ANNOUNCES EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

By DJ. Scully, U.K. Campbell County Extension Agent and  
Barry Schwartz, NKUCFC—Executive Director

The Northern Kentucky Urban & Community Forestry Council (NKUCFC) is proud to announce the appointment on March 17 of Barry Schwartz as our new executive director. He comes to us from the City of Cincinnati and his consulting business. His wife Natalie is an artist and his daughter will be attending Miami University this fall.

Now that he is here, he has identified foundations, government agencies and corporate donors that he thinks will be interested in providing funding to the Council so that it can better carry out its mission.

His primary responsibilities for NKUCFC will be fund raising, marketing, public outreach, public relations, volunteer coordination, and administration and organizational assistance to the Council.

For the past month, we have been working on the funding application to the Kentucky Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program. Some of the projects we are seeking to get funded are:

### 1. Grants to local entities

The Council will be funding approximately 4– 6 projects submitted by eligible groups in Boone, Kenton and Campbell counties.

### 2. Building Community Capacity

The following 5 programs and projects will focus on urban forestry information, education and training.

**(a) Newsletter** – The Council will publish five newsletters for widespread distribution to raise awareness of urban forestry and educate consumers. The newsletter will be distributed to elected officials, decision-makers, tree boards, developers and other individuals interested in urban & community forestry.

**(b) Sixth Annual Arborist Training for Public Works Employ-**

**ees** – The Council will conduct a daylong arborist related training session for public works employees in the Northern Kentucky area.

**(c) ISA Certified Arborist Training and testing or other certification** – This program will be offered to people who are currently employed in the forestry field and select students. Cost includes exams, membership dues and study guide.

**(d) “Building with Trees” workshop(s)** – These workshops will be co-sponsored by the Home Builders Association Northern Kentucky (HBA). One or more all-day or end-of-day workshops will be offered with assistance.

**(e) Educational Programs & Management Plans** - After the tree inventories are completed, the NKUCFC will offer educational programs and management assistance to those communities and other grantees that have completed tree inventories.

### 3. Phase 2, Kenton County Canopy Study

The NKUCFC is nearing completion of a Phase 1 project to document the size, location and relative quality of forest canopy cover in Kenton County. As a result of this project, this information will be in digital format. It can then be used to document the benefits of the urban forest in Northern Kentucky, as well as educate and influence citizens and decision-makers about the importance of incorporating urban forestry into land use planning and residential and commercial development.

During Phase 2, the Council will analyze this data in terms of public health, safety and ecological benefits of the urban forest. The study will focus on critical areas. With this information, the Council believes real progress can be made to protect remaining forest tracts and educate decision-makers about the importance of using this information in community planning and

development projects.

### 4. “City Green” – A Computer Program from American Forests

Develop a model project using City Green to assess a local urban forest. The Council will kick off this initiative with a public meeting to publicize the effectiveness of City Green in evaluating our urban forests. Everyone with an interest in urban forestry will be invited. A site will be selected after this meeting. The cost will be matched with in kind contributions from the contractor and the Council.

NKUCFC is seeking additional funds to support these programs. The Council is soliciting ideas for other projects from the community. Some of the ones we have discussed include: 1. Developing a model conservation development project with a developer. 2. Conducting a series of workshops with planning and other government officials on flexible zoning, which could more readily accommodate innovative land use that protects the urban, and community forest. 3. A white paper ways on what is hindering “building with trees” in Northern Kentucky.

The Council is also working on updating its strategic plan. As part of that process, we are exploring our most appropriate role in the areas of land use, urban forest/reforest, public policy advocacy and the role of trees in waterways protection.

We will keep you posted through this newsletter and other venues on the progress we are making on our current and potential projects. Our ambitious agenda can only be accomplished with the total community's help.

# Urban Forestry... “A Brief History of Urban Forestry in the United States”

Skip Kincaid, former member of the National Urban and Community Advisory Council, advisors to the US Secretary of Agriculture

## Pre-settlement

2340 BC—Literary references to organized tree planting in communities and towns (the “root” of urban forestry?)

1578—The term “arborist” first used

## Settlement and Post-settlement

Late 1700’s—Americans begin to plant trees in towns and villages  
*Mostly species from Europe (Lombardy poplar, Norway maple, English elm, and Ailanthus). Massachusetts hires “Town Tree Wardens.”*

1850’s—Propagation of native species is practiced

1860—Central Park in New York is designed and created (Olmsted)

1870—Tower Grove Park in St. Louis is designed and created (Olmsted)

1870’s—City planners utilize 30’ setbacks to allow room for street trees

1872—First Arbor Day in US (J. Sterling Morton)

1900—Utility lines proliferate (one sign of the massive growth and development of cities)

**1904—American Forestry Association, a citizen-based conservation organization, was created and holds its first meeting in Cincinnati’s Eden Park**

1910—“American Forestry Association” publishes an article about the job of a forester in New York City. *The job includes tree maintenance, insect control, tree planting, and removal.*

1924—First International Shade Tree Conference (the beginning of the ISA)

**1942—Ohio becomes the first Chapter of the ISA**

1960’s—Dutch Elm Disease is first reported (continues today!)

1965—The term “Urban Forestry” is used (Erik Jorgenson, Univ of Toronto)

“...not...city trees or...single tree management, but rather...tree management in the entire area influenced by and utilized by the urban population.”

1971—US Forest Service designates 4 pilot urban forestry study states (Kansas, Missouri, Georgia, Florida)

\**Dutch Elm Disease*

\**“Turf Battles”*

\**Aging tree populations*

\**The environmental movement (Horticulturists, Foresters, Arborists...Who does what?)*

1972—National Arbor Day created

1978—Public Law 95-313 gives US Forest Service responsibility to administer the disbursement of technical assistance money to states and to allocate urban forestry research funds.

1978—First National Urban Forestry Conference

**1982—Second National Urban Forestry Conference (Cincinnati)**

1982—USFS Urban Forestry budget = ~\$1.7 million

Mid 1980’s—A rapid decline in the overall health of urban forests is documented. The National Urban Forest Council is formed (A “coalition” of members with a common UF interest. *Brought together by “American Forests,” this group was responsible for heightened awareness of UF, which led to increased funding and legislation.*)

1986—Third National Urban Forestry Conference (Orlando)

1989—Fourth National Urban Forestry Conference (St. Louis)

*While technical and social issues are presented, the “Citizen Action Workshops” awaken a large number of “grass-roots” non-profit groups across the country. Non-profits begin to see how they can accomplish work that governmental agencies can’t or won’t do.*

1989—“American Forestry Associa-

tion” (now American Forests) publishes “Shading Our Cities.” A compilation of UF articles including the topics of UF history, tree biology, planning, urban sprawl, citizen action and education

1990—National Farm Bill Provisions *US Forest Service and State Foresters receive expanded authority to provide technical assistance through competitive matching grants to local units of government, volunteer groups, and non-profit organizations for Urban & Community Forestry projects. Funding level authority for UF program within US Forest Service increases from \$1.7 (in 1982) to \$30 million.*

*National Tree Trust created with a \$20 million endowment. Interest and contributions used to provide trees to non-profits and municipalities.*

*15 member National Urban and Community Forest Advisory Council (NUCFAC) is created and given authority to develop a National Urban and Community Forestry Strategic Plan and to develop and manage a challenge cost-share program.*

1990’s—Use of computers to accomplish tree inventories, land-use planning, etc. becomes commonplace. *GPS, GIS, database packages...*

Approximately \$1 million of Challenge Cost-Share Grants are provided each year by NUCFAC. *(continues today!)*

The proliferation of “non-profits” and “grass-roots” UF organizations continues at a rapid pace. *The “scramble for direction” begins and continues...*

1993—US Forest Service publishes “An Introductory Guide to Urban and Community Forestry Programs” *Provides guidance for municipalities.*

1996—TreeLink—www.treelink.org—established as a national Web-based resource center for Urban and Community Forestry...with funding from NUCFAC.

2004—Current USFS UF budget = ~ \$36 million

# SEEING GREEN WITH TREES: THE ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS OF URBAN FORESTS

Sherry Carran, Banklick Watershed Council

This past May 18<sup>th</sup> the Northern Kentucky Urban & Community Forestry Council and Northern Kentucky Area Planning Commission sponsored the webcast SEEING GREEN WITH TREES. The webcast was put together by the International City/Council Management Association (ICMA). This Association is a good resource for local governments. [www.icma.org](http://www.icma.org).

Cheryl Kollin, Director of Urban Forestry - American Forests, spoke about the economic and ecological benefits of urban forest. She said, "Just like our roads, buildings, and utilities make up the built or gray infrastructure of our cities; trees, other vegetation, soils, water and air in our cities makes up our green infrastructure. Just as our gray infrastructure provides valuable services that can be quantified in dollars, so can our green infrastructure."

Cheryl explained how trees manage stormwater by capturing rainwater on their leaves and branches, allowing the rainwater to either evaporate or to be slowed down, reducing the rate and volume of stormwater runoff. (Note: A recent study by the U.S. Forest Service showed that a 28-foot-tall tree intercepted 58.1 gallons or 68% of a 0.5 inch rain event that fell within its crown area.) With a reduced rate and volume, the stormwater can then infiltrate into the soil where pollutants are absorbed and filtered by tree roots. The trees and their roots also reduce erosion and stabilize streambanks and hillsides. Trees also improve air quality by storing and sequestering atmospheric carbon in their wood, and by providing direct shade on buildings with their canopy, thus reducing energy consumption.

Cheryl then addressed *Urban Ecosystem Analysis*. This analysis measures tree canopy change over time, to quantify ecological and economic benefits of trees and related green infrastructure, to communicate urban forest values, and to support public policy

decisions and promote green infrastructure in communities. She then discussed the use of CITYGreen Software to help with this analysis. Basically CITYGreen, with the necessary data, can quantify the savings of using tree canopy to address air pollutant removal and stormwater runoff instead of building gray infrastructure to manage it. The results of an *Urban Ecosystem Analysis* can:

- \*help strengthen local ordinances
- \*secure funding
- \*use tree canopy to meet EPA regulations
- \*enhance program and staffing
- \*increase communications

Peter Gutowsky, Senior Planner – City of Salem, Oregon, presented a case study from Salem, and a case study from the City of Charlotte, North Carolina was given by their Senior Urban Forester, Laura Brewer, and their Systems Analyst, Nick Roberts. These case studies are too detailed for the scope of this article but if anyone is interested in more information please contact the Northern Kentucky Urban & Community Forestry Council.

Gary Moll, Vice President of Urban Forestry, American Forests gave the conclusion to the webcast. Gary emphasized the need for a Green Data Layer and noted some ideal tree canopy cover goals:

Meto Area Average .....	40%
Suburban Residential .....	50%
Urban Residential .....	25%
Central Business .....	15%

Gary explained that local officials who want to take advantage of economic and ecological benefits of urban forest can take the following steps:

- \*Create a green data layer for your GIS
- \*Set a tree cover target for the city
- \*Meet or exceed tree cover targets yearly
- \*Use the green data layer for daily for

decision making

For those of you who want to learn more please check out the following websites:

- ...American Forests  
[www.americanforest.org](http://www.americanforest.org)
- ...TreeLink  
[www.treelink.org](http://www.treelink.org)
- ...Society of Municipal Arborists  
[www.urban-forestry.com](http://www.urban-forestry.com)
- ...USDA Forest Service, Urban & Community Forestry Program  
[www.fs.fed.us/ucf](http://www.fs.fed.us/ucf)
- ...American Forest's CITYGreen  
[www.americanforest.org/productsandpubs/citygreen](http://www.americanforest.org/productsandpubs/citygreen)
- ...City of Salem's Natural Resources Web Site  
[www.cityofsalem.net/naturalr](http://www.cityofsalem.net/naturalr)
- ...City of Charlotte's Tree Ordinance  
[www.charmeck.org/Departments/City+Engineering/Use+Our+Services/Land+Development/City+of+Charlotte+Tree+Ordinance.htm](http://www.charmeck.org/Departments/City+Engineering/Use+Our+Services/Land+Development/City+of+Charlotte+Tree+Ordinance.htm)
- ...Local Government Environmental Assistance Network (LGEAN)  
[www.lgean.org](http://www.lgean.org)
- ...Trees: The Green Infrastructure  
[www.bookstore.icma.org](http://www.bookstore.icma.org)

Thanks to the Northern Kentucky planning agencies that were well represented at the webcast: Keith Logsdon and Melissa Jort from Northern Kentucky Area Planning Commission, Dave Geohegan from Boone County Planning Commission, and Peter Klear from Campbell County Planning & Zoning.

## TREE WALK

July 17 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.  
Campbell County  
Environmental Education  
Center

Call DJ. Scully at  
859-572-2600 to register

**NORTHERN KENTUCKY URBAN & COMMUNITY FORESTRY COUNCIL**

c/o Boone County Extension Service  
P.O. Box 876  
Burlington, KY 41005

Phone: 859-572-2600

*Creating an awareness about the value of urban forestry in Northern Kentucky Communities.*

We're on the web!  
[www.nkyurbanforestry.org](http://www.nkyurbanforestry.org)

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## KRIS'S CORNER

Contributed by Kris Stone, Certified Arborist and Director of the Boone County Arboretum at Central Park

Kris's Corner focuses on recommended and often overlooked high quality urban tree species.

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