



# Branching Out

## Seventh Annual Tree Seminar for Northern Kentucky Public Workers and the General Public

Thursday, March 9, 2006

Boone County Cooperative Extension Service

6028 Camp Ernst Road

Burlington, Kentucky 41005

The Northern Kentucky Urban and Community Forestry Council is pleased to provide its Seventh Annual Tree Seminar for Northern Kentucky Public Workers on Thursday, March 9, 2006.

This program is specifically designed for public works employees assigned, in addition to many other important tasks, the responsibility for care of street and park trees. Members of local tree boards, parks and recreation commissions, garden clubs and the general public are also invited to attend.

### Agenda

- 7:15 *Registration, Coffee and Donuts*
- 7:45 *Introduction and Overview*
- 8:00 *Pruning: "Making the Right Cut" and the "Five Step Program for Training Young Trees"*
- 9:30 *Break*
- 10:00 *Field Demonstration of "Five Step Pruning Program (Demonstration outdoors—please dress appropriately for early March)*
- 11:45 *Lunch (hot catered buffet lunch, free with \$15 pre-registration)*

12:30 *The Essentials to Planting Trees Correctly*

1:30 *Break*

1:45 *Field Demonstration Tree Planting*

2:45 *Evaluations & Certification of Completion*

Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis.

Pre-registrations will be accepted, upon available space, through March 3, 2006 at a fee of \$15 per participant. After that date, the registration fee is \$20.

The registration fee covers the cost of lunch, refreshments, the program and handouts.

Complete and return the registration form and enclose a check payable to: Northern Kentucky Urban and Community Forestry Council.

**Send to:** Boone County Cooperative Extension Service, P.O. Box 876, Burlington, KY 41005-0876

**Questions?** Please call: Mike Klahr, Boone County Cooperative Extension Service (859) 586-6101.

*Seminar sponsored by Northern Kentucky Urban and Community Forestry Council in conjunction with Northern Kentucky Public Works Association; Cooperative Extension Services of Boone, Kenton Campbell Counties; and Kentucky Division of Forestry.*

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### REGISTRATION FORM

Seventh Annual  
Tree Seminar

For

**Northern Kentucky  
Public Workers**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

City/Agency \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

We are sending \_\_\_\_\_ attendees at a cost of \$15 per person.

A check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed. (If received after 03/03/06, cost is \$20)

Please make checks payable to:

**NORTHERN KENTUCKY URBAN & COMMUNITY FORESTRY COUNCIL**

Detach and mail this registration form and check to:

Boone County Cooperative Extension  
P.O. Box 876

Burlington, KY 41005-0876

Attention: Public Works Tree Seminar

# Northern Kentucky Certified Arborist Scholarship Program

By: *Kris Stone, Chairperson, NKY Urban & Community Forestry Council*

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In an effort to promote more professional arboriculture in the area, The Northern Kentucky Urban and Community Forestry Council is offering tuition and other benefits for up to six applicants for the calendar year 2006. The Certification Exam will be given in the Fall of 2006.

Successful applicants will receive:

1. One-year membership to the International Society of Arboriculture
2. One-year membership to the Kentucky Arborists Association
3. A personal copy of all study materials needed to prepare for the examination
4. Access to local Certification Preparation classes
5. Payment for one Certification Examination

Applications are available from the Northern Kentucky Urban and Community Forestry Council website at [www.nkyurbanforestry.org](http://www.nkyurbanforestry.org). The applicants will be judged on their ability to successfully pass the Certification Test. The application should be mailed to Kris Stone, Director, Boone County Arboretum, P.O. Box 566, Burlington, KY 41005. (859) 384-4999. Application must be postmarked by April 28.

## Eligibility Requirements

The ISA Certification Board requires a candidate to have a **minimum of three years of experience in arboriculture**. Acceptable experience includes the practical use of knowledge involved in pruning, fertilization, installation and establishment, diagnosis and treatment of tree problems, cabling and bracing, climbing or other services that

directly relate to arboriculture. Examples of experience sources include **but are not limited to**

- Tree care companies
- Nursery & landscape personnel
- Municipalities
- State forestry personnel
- Utility personnel
- Instructors of arboriculture/horticulture
- Consulting Arborist
- Pest control advisors/applicators

The eligibility requirement also may be satisfied with a two-year degree in arboriculture and two years of practical experience or a four-year degree in a related field and one year of practical experience.

An arborist by definition is an individual who is trained in the art and science of planting, caring for, and maintaining individual trees. ISA Arborist Certification is a non-governmental, voluntary process by which individuals can document their base of knowledge. It operates without mandate of law and is an internal, self-regulating device administered by the International Society of Arboriculture. Certification provides a measurable assessment of an individual's knowledge and competence required to provide proper tree care.

Certification is not a measure of standards of practice. Certification can attest to the tree knowledge of an individual but cannot guarantee or ensure quality performance. Certified Arborists are individuals who have achieved a level of knowledge in the art and science of tree care through experience passing a comprehensive examination developed by some of the nation's lead-

ing experts on tree care.

## Scholarship Requirements:

1. All applicants who receive the scholarship, and pass the examination, will be required to provide the Council 25 hours of volunteer time within one year of receiving the scholarship. This requirement may be fulfilled by performing such tasks as: consulting with local communities on urban forestry issues; coordinating or participating in public education events, such as Arbor Day; providing the Council with administrative or technical support; and/or other useful tasks at the mutual agreement of the scholarship recipient and the Council.
2. Certified Arborists must also continue their education to maintain their certification, as it is desirable that they remain up-to-date on current techniques in arboriculture. To maintain certification, Certified Arborists must obtain 30 Continuing Education Units (CEU) within a three-year period. Scholarship recipients who successfully obtain certification must obtain these CEUs at their own expense. The Council will assist the recipients in learning of the many no-cost and low-cost methods of obtaining the CEUs.
3. Applicants must reside in the Northern Kentucky area and have a demonstrated interest in arboriculture.

# DR. THOMAS BARNES—FORESTRY COUNCIL'S FALL DINNER EVENT

By Sherry Carran

Vice Chairperson, NKY Urban & Community Forestry Council

On November 3, Dr. Thomas Barnes visited Northern Kentucky to be the guest presenter at Northern Kentucky Urban & Community Forestry Council's Fall Dinner Event.

The event was held at the City of Southgate's Community Center, a fantastic facility, overlooking a park with walking trails, at the base of a beautiful hillside covered with trees in fall color. The setting was perfect for Dr. Barnes' presentation on forest ecology and species selection.

Dr. Thomas Barnes is well known for his books: *Gardening for the Birds*; *Kentucky's Last Great Places*; and *Wildflowers and Ferns of Kentucky* (co-authored with S. Wilson Francis). Many came to meet Tom and to get signed copies of his books, as well as to hear his presentation on forest ecology and species selection.

Tom started his presentation to say that Kentucky is losing its natural habitat at the rate of 100-160 acres a day. Habitat loss is the number one reason for species becoming endangered. The second reason is invasive exotic organisms. How can we change this course of direction?

We cannot bring back natural habitats that have already been destroyed; but conservation, management and restoration of our remaining natural heritage is possible. If we all (corporations, developers, farmers, individuals, and public agencies and officials) look at the impact of our actions, try to understand their implications and then adjust those actions to have less

negative impact (or to even have a positive impact), not only will the natural environment benefit, but we as a society will enhance the livability and sustainability of our communities.

Tom expressed his thoughts about how the American landscape is being homogenized. As the land is being developed the character of the land is being lost. Growth needs to happen with a different perspective. Growth and land development should be a creative process where maintaining the character of the land is one of the major guiding principles.

Tom stated there needs to be a new "landscape ethic," asserting that the single most important factor for this new "ethic" is the reduction of lawns. This means less land being disturbed when a site is being developed and more land being restored to natural landscapes. Tom noted a reduction in lawns means a reduction in air and water pollution. Less lawn also means more land available to diversify plantings, and to recreate forest and grasslands.

In the fourth edition of the *Wild Ones Handbook* ([http://www.epa.gov/greenacres/wildones/wo\\_2004b.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/greenacres/wildones/wo_2004b.pdf)), there are some facts from *Redesigning the American Lawn* by Bormann, Balmori, and Geballe, from Yale University Press—1993.

- A lawn mower pollutes as much in one hour as does driving an automobile for 350 miles.
- 30 to 60 percent of urban fresh

water is used for watering lawns.

- \$5,250,000,000 is spent on fossil fuel-derived fertilizers for U.S. lawns.
- 67,000,000 pounds of synthetic pesticides are used on U.S. lawns.
- 580,000,000 gallons of gasoline are used for lawn mowers.
- 20,000,000 acres are planted in residential lawns.

When working toward less lawn and creating natural landscapes, plant selection is very important. It is very important to use native plants and to diversify the selection. Remember, invasive exotic organisms are the second reason for native species being endangered.

Tom mentioned in his presentation that more than 15% of Kentucky's flora is now made up of exotic plants. An introduced, exotic, or alien plant is a species that has been introduced either accidentally or intentionally from outside its natural geographic range. Exotic plants can become invasive, meaning they spread to become problems in natural biological communities. Tom reported that 40% of the worst invasive plant species came strictly from the horticultural industry. (Examples: bush honeysuckle and kudzu). You can find invasive exotic species in Kentucky listed at <http://www.invasive.org/listview.cfm?list=16>

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Tom suggested that when planting native trees to go small. He said there is wider species selection if you plant the younger trees. Many native trees have tap roots and cannot be transplanted easily after reaching a certain size. He also suggested thinking outside of the box, meaning don't use species that are over planted.

Joyce Powers of CRM Ecosystems/Prairie Ridge Nursery wrote for the Wild Ones Handbook, "The more different kinds of plants we can restore, the more different type of birds, butterflies and small mammals can live on the land. And the more different life forms we can keep with us on this planet, the better the chances that we, our children and their children will not only survive, but live in a balanced and beautiful world."

Tom closed his presentation by asking us all to be good stewards of our natural environment, including our own yards. He emphasized that we need to be creative when planting our natural landscapes.

The Northern Kentucky Urban & Community Forestry Council would like to say thank you to:

- Dr. Thomas Barnes for his visit, his presentation and his inspiration.
- City of Southgate for the use of their fantastic Community Center, for creating the park around the Center and for conserving the wooded hillside that overlooks the Center.
- All those who attended and showed support for the Forestry Fall Event.

## Tree Board Seminar Scheduled

An educational seminar for Tree Board members (and for those who work with Tree Boards) will be held on March 4, 2006 in Frankfort, Kentucky.

Tree Boards, those boards that generally advise communities on trees and urban forestry matters, have great and often untapped potential for improving our communities and the environment. In most parts of the state there aren't many training activities or specific resources for Tree Boards, and members from different Tree Boards rarely get together to share their experiences and success stories and show their support for each other.

To address this concern, the Frankfort Tree Board is sponsoring a Tree Board Seminar with assistance from an Urban and Community Forestry Grant. It will be a great opportunity to meet and learn from local and national speakers and contacts in order to make our Tree Boards more effective.

The seminar will run from 8:30 to 4:15 at the Salato Wildlife Center (Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Game Farm) 2 miles west of Frankfort off US 60. The seminar is free.

### **TO REGISTER CONTACT:**

[Acammack@fewpb.net](mailto:Acammack@fewpb.net)

Andrew Cammack  
City Arborist  
310 Clay St.  
Frankfort, KY 40601

(502) 803-0764



# Woody Plants for Problem Soils

By Rick Durham, U.K. Department of Horticulture

## Is your soil compacted?

- Difficult to dig?
- Hard pan evident?
- Poor percolation of water?
- Trees in decline?
- New construction site?

## Installation in compacted soils

- Plant high
- Excavate wide, shallow hole (1/2 depth of root ball)
- Back fill with existing soil and mound to top of root ball
- Apply 3 inches of mulch
- Staking optional depending on plant material

## Good Trees and Shrubs to Use for Compacted Soils

### *Quercus phellos*—Willow Oak

- Large tree >50 ft
- Medium growth rate
- Needs acid to neutral soils
- Fine texture
- Fibrous root system so easy to transplant
- Native to bottom lands and floodplains



### *Quercus rubra*—Red Oak



- Large tree >50 ft
- Fast growth
- Requires acid soils
- Used extensively as a street tree in Midwest and East
- Susceptible to heat and drought

### Other oaks that tolerate soil compaction:

- Swamp Oak (*Q. bicolor*)
- Bur Oak (*Q. macrocarpa*)
- Pin Oak (*Q. palustris*)

### *Celtis occidentalis*—Hackberry

- Medium to large tree, 40-60 ft.
- Medium to fast growth
- Tolerates restricted root space and some fill
- Will not tolerate standing water
- Gonoderma, witches broom and nipple gall are the main problems



### *Taxodium distichum*—Baldcypress



- Large tree >50 ft
- Medium growth rate
- Adaptable to wet or dry soils
- Needs acid soil
- Unique feathery texture
- Roots form knees that may hinder traffic beneath trees

### Buttonbush—*Cephalanthus occidentalis*

- Small shrub <6 ft (may reach 15 ft in warmer climates)
- Lustrous dark green foliage
- Best suited to wet sites; does not tolerate drought



### Redosier Dogwood—*Cornus sericea*



- Medium shrub <9 ft
- Fast, vigorous growth
- Red stems are attractive in winter
- Tolerates wide variety of soil types, dry to swampy
- Use as border, naturalized, bank stabilization

**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)**

## Upcoming Programs

### Shiitake Mushroom Production Workshop

Thursday, February 23, 2006

6:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m.

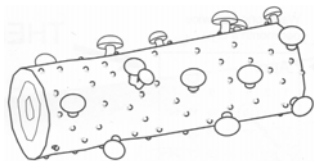
Campbell County Environmental Education Center,  
1261 Race Track Road (1 mile east of US 27)

Alexandria, Kentucky

#### **Registration is Required**

(859) 572-2600

*Cost is free and includes a light appetizer and  
materials*



In this hands-on workshop, participants will learn about shiitake mushroom production and their nutritional value and will take home a

log capable of producing shiitakes.

Please call by Tuesday, February 21 to register.  
Class size is limited.

### Eastern Bluebird Educational and Nesting Box Construction Workshop

Saturday, February 25 10:00 a.m.

Campbell County Environ-  
mental Education Center

1261 Race Track Road  
(1 mile east of US 27)

Alexandria, Kentucky



#### **Registration is Required**

(859) 572-2600

Join us for a discussion of this beautiful native bird and learn its preferences of habitat, food and nesting structure. Following the educational session, each participant can construct a bluebird nesting box. (Limit 1 box per family)

*Cost is free. Call by Thursday, February 23.  
Class size is limited.*