

Summer 2005



Trees Virginia

A publication of the Virginia Urban Forest Council

**MARK YOUR
CALENDAR**
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- October 26 – Virginia's First "Trees and Utilities Conference @ Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens in Richmond
- November 10 – Conference on Virginia's Urban Forestry Issues: "Cleaning out Air with Virginia's Trees"
- Look for March 2006 Urban Tree Health Care Roanoke Workshop info coming soon!

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We're on the web:

www.treesvirginia.org

E-mail:

vufc@ntelos.net

Our Mission:

To Enhance the Quality of Life Through Stewardship of Our Commonwealth's Urban and Community Trees

A Note from Our President – Adam Downing

2005 is in full swing! While many moons have passed since the last newsletter, I assure you that the Virginia Urban Forest Council (Trees Virginia) is, and has been, as busy as ever. I think you will get a snapshot of that and much more in this issue. The successful workshops in Waynesboro and Roanoke continue to attract good crowds, feature top tree experts in the country and participants enjoy good eats. Trees Virginia is involved in a myriad of other efforts such as a VDOT partnership for updating street tree guidelines; volunteer Tree Steward trainings and Big Tree hunting! Also the 2005 Arbor Day Tree Planting initiative was a success along with the celebration of the State's first ever National Capital Holiday tree – these are just a few of the efforts led by VUFC members in support of our mission. What is our mission? Taking a step back to reflect on goals and methods to achieve those is essential to one day reporting "mission accomplished." However, it is often a vulnerable and humbling experience. I am please to report that your Board of Directors did just that while in retreat recently. Our efforts identified four goals and a work plan was defined:

- To increase Virginian's understanding of arboriculture & urban forestry
- To be a major resource for Virginia's local and state legislation on urban forest issues.
- Encourage protection and establishment of urban/suburban green infrastructure.
- Increase local decision maker's awareness of the importance of funding urban forestry.

A mixture of educational, service and research activities are planned for the year to help meet these goals. Each activity is to be carried out in such a way that will in some way help to meet one or more of the above goals. As this happens, we are in small part achieving out mission.

Lastly, I am honored to serve as President for the rest of the year. I truly consider it as a position of service and I am especially thankful for an outstanding Board of Directors. Together with our membership, will make it all happen. With that, please know that we are always looking for folks to get involved. If you have an idea or want to help with something, please let us know.

Gateway Streetscape Foundation - Martinsville an Henry County



Board member and Executive Director of Gateway Streetscape Lois Christensen and volunteers hard at work.



Gateway Streetscape Foundation, Inc. was formed in 1991 from a Beautification Committee of the Martinsville-Henry County Chamber of Commerce.

The foundation is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization that seeks to enhance the area's aesthetic value by focusing on major roadways and thoroughfares through the orderly planting of trees, shrubbery, and flowers. The emphasis is on creating "gateways" in and around Martinsville and and Henry County to enhance the

chances of further economic development and prosperity for the area. Gateway's mission was expanded on July 1, 2003 to encompass the promotion and protection of the environment in Martinsville and Henry County through recycling, reusing and controlling litter. The new responsibilities are closely related to the promotion and protection of trees in Martinsville and Henry County.

Gateway Streetscape

received the Gold Leaf Award for Virginia from the International Society of Arboriculture in 1999 for its Landscape/Beautification activities. Numerous Keep Virginia Beautiful Awards have been presented to Gateway Streetscape for its municipal landscaping efforts in Martinsville and Henry County. Most recently, Scenic Virginia awarded Gateway Streetscape its 'Most Creative Scenic Improvement Award' in 2004.

Save the Date ~ November 10 *Trees Virginia* Sponsors Conference on Virginia's Urban Forestry Issues

*"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world, indeed it's the only thing that ever has."
-Margaret Mead*

Trees Virginia is pleased to sponsor a conference titled "*Cleaning Our Air with Virginia's Trees*". The conference will be held on Thursday, November 10 at Algonkian Regional Park in Sterling Virginia. Join citizen members of tree boards and commissions, elected officials, urban foresters and arborists, landscape architects, builders, developers and planners

desiring to enhance and protect Virginia's urban forest. National experts and local leaders will facilitate this discussion identifying issues and exploring potential solutions that will fit within Virginia's unique governing laws.

Registration in advance is \$50, on-site registration will be \$65, with a limited number of scholarships available.

Please visit the Trees Virginia website www.treesvirginia.org for details or contact Adam Downing @ 540.948.6881.

Virginia's First Trees and Utilities Conference – October 26, 2005 @ Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens

Trees provide beauty and environmental benefits to communities. However, tree/utility conflicts are the #1 cause of power outages in Virginia. Many communities ignore potential tree/utility conflicts in their tree planting and maintenance decisions, thus assuring future problems, yet attractive trees and reliable utility service can coexist. This conference will present information that will help maximize tree benefits

while minimizing threats to public safety and utility services.

Who Should Attend?

Public Officials

Municipal Employees

Arborists

Urban Foresters

Planners

Landscape Architects and Designers

Master Gardeners

Tree Stewards

Extension Agents

Main Street Virginia Coordinators

Urban Greenway/Trail Coordinators

Tree City USA Representatives

Citizens interested in more attractive communities.

General Registration: \$25.00

After October 7 & Walk-ins: \$40.00

Call 434.220.9024 for registration info.

VCE Urban Forestry Publication

A new urban forestry publication from Virginia Cooperative Extension, *Urban Forestry Issues*, introduces some of the most basic issues affecting our urban forests and can serve as a useful tool in educating the general public. For a copy of this publication, go to: <http://www.ext.vt.edu/resources/> and click on the "Forestry, Fisheries & Wildlife" button."

Virginia Department of Forestry Awards \$448,000 to Local Groups and Localities; 44 Organizations and Local Governments Will Use Funds to Benefit Citizens Across the Commonwealth

The Virginia Department of Forestry (VDof) has selected 44 environmental project proposals for funding under the 2005 Urban and Community Forestry Assistance Grant Program. The U&CF Assistance Grants are funded with money provided by the USDA Forest Service. Total funding awarded for the projects is \$448,000. The grant program funds a diverse mix of projects including non-profit organization support, community open space planning, urban forestry research, municipal program support, conferences and demonstration projects. Projects were funded in each of VDof's six regions in Virginia. The largest grant, in terms of funding, was for \$35,000 to support open-space planning by Virginia Tech's landscape architecture program in several Virginia communities.

Paul Revell, VDof's Urban and Community Forestry manager, said, "the Federal funding that we disbursed today will go a long way toward improving dozens of communities all around the Commonwealth. We had a lot of great proposals this year, and we were able to fund more than 57 percent of them. Each of the grant recipients will use the funding to improve and enhance some aspect of the state, be it the Virginia Capital Trail (between Williamsburg and Richmond) or outdoor classrooms at two high schools in Southwest Virginia."

Since the program's inception in 1992, nearly \$3 million has been disbursed to more than 200 recipients. Many of the projects funded through the Urban and Community Forestry (U&CF) Assistance Grant program have been the impetus for additional funding being obtained by a community. For example, the Town of Broadway, VA used a greenway master plan –

that was funded by a U&CF Grant – as the basis for a \$200,000 grant it received from the Department of Conservation and Recreation. Several projects funded by the U&CF Grant program have won environmental awards – the most recent being the Luray-Hawksbill Greenway, which won the “Best Preservation of a Scenic Water Corridor” from Scenic Virginia. Another award winner was the Gateway Streetscape Foundation that earned both Keep Virginia Beautiful and Scenic Virginia awards.

2005 Trees Virginia Arbor Day Tree Planting Initiative

Trees Virginia began their Arbor Day Tree Planting Initiative several years ago and the program has grown each year with the number of trees planted and participants.

In 2005, 10 Trees Virginia Board members participated in tree planting projects in 14 locations around the state. Areas that received trees were: Tidewater, Staunton, Blacksburg, Richmond, Martinsville, Luray, Marion, Madison and Abingdon.

The Towns of Culpeper and Amherst also benefited from funds allocated to plant a tree in conjunction with the Capitol Holiday Tree Program.

TREES VIRGINIA, registered with the state as **Virginia Urban Forest Council** is a private, non-profit organization whose mission is to enhance, the quality of life through the stewardship of our Commonwealth’s urban and community trees. Established in 1990, the

organization works to promote an awareness of our community forests and the value of trees. Members represent a wide range of professions, organizations and volunteers who are interested in stimulating a public awareness of the role trees and forests play in the urban environment.

The Council is guided by a non-paid volunteer Board of Directors who meet quarterly.

You are invited to become a member of Trees Virginia and to join us in working to improve the quality of our urban forests.



Board members enjoying nice weather and an update on the latest in tree pruning technology from Board member Joe Murray after a recent Board meeting.

Membership Coupon

YES, I want to continue supporting urban and community forestry in Virginia!

Enclosed are my dues for membership in Trees Virginia. Please make check payable to the Virginia Urban Forest Council.

\$20 Individual \$35 Nonprofit \$50 Municipal \$125 Business \$ _____

I am enclosing an additional tax deductible donation \$ _____

I am enclosing a donation for the Richard Forest Scholarship \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Please mail your membership to: Trees Virginia, 900 Natural Resources Drive, Suite #800, Charlottesville VA 22903.

Trees Virginia is a 501© (3) nonprofit organization – all donations, gifts, bequests are tax deductible.



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We're on the Web!
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The Trees Virginia Board says goodbye to Board member and City of Staunton Horticulturalist Holly Chichester. Good luck Holly – we will miss you.

The Trees Virginia Board thanks Rebecca Pokorny for her service on the Trees Virginia Board. Rebecca served in the Tree Steward Coordinator position while on the Board. Rebecca and her husband Karl recently moved to South Carolina – we wish them both well in their future endeavors.

The Board welcomes Sandra Wilson of Front Royal as the new Tree Steward Coordinator. Before moving to Front Royal Sandra worked on the Casey Tree Endowment Fund inventory of the status and health of the street trees in Washington DC in 2002. Sandra attended the May 10 Board meeting and received an orientation on Trees Virginia.

TREES VIRGINIA PHILOSOPHY - Our philosophy is providing a healthy place for forests in our urban communities which requires that we work together to protect and enhance the natural environment. All who live and work in the communities around Virginia affect the condition of the forested parks and green areas, as well as the trees along the streets, in yards, and in front of offices and businesses. If you are interested in supporting or promoting the vision of a healthy forest within our communities, you should join **Trees Virginia**.

