

Learning Opportunities in the Urban Forest



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BULLETIN**

It has been said, "Learning is like rowing upstream; not to advance is to drop back." This same bit of wisdom is reflected in the 1980 postage stamp ascribed with "Learning Never Ends." Whether you are a volunteer or a veteran professional, continuing education is essential to personal growth and community service.

Why Education is Vital

Whether you are a young person seeking a career in urban forestry, a tree worker or urban forester wanting to advance, or a volunteer wanting to know more about the field in which you serve, more education is essential for success. Here are some of the reasons as expressed by a panel of leaders in urban forestry.

The practice of urban forestry is a very demanding profession, requiring skill sets beyond tree biology, arboriculture, and management. Effectiveness in the profession today is dependent on a multidisciplinary background and experience that exceeds what is typically covered in preparatory learning programs. Emerging issues and technology are rapidly changing urban forest management needs, focuses, and approaches. Continuing education is critical for today's urban forester to rapidly respond to these changes and to maintain a resilient resource.

— Ed Macie, *Regional Urban Forester,
U.S. Forest Service, Southern Region*

Being a lifelong learner is key to being a good urban forestry professional (or volunteer). Because urban forestry is so complex — involving technical, administrative, managerial, political, social, and economic considerations — there seems to always be more to learn. Fortunately, there are a lot of resources out there to help people advance their knowledge, skill, and expertise. An important concept is to be able to keep up with change or, better yet, anticipate it, and that requires continuing education.

— Paul D. Ries, *Instructor and Extension
Specialist, Oregon State University*

TOPICS OF SPECIAL IMPORTANCE

Based on current trends and their personal experiences, experts point out these areas as heading the list of topics that should be studied.

Technology

- Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
- Remote sensing
- Hand-held data collection
- Database management
- The i-Tree suite of programs
- Canopy analysis

Emerging Issues

- Sustainability practices
- Quantifying ecosystem services
- Invasive insects and diseases
- Trees as green infrastructure
- Resilience – Managing for climate change and natural disasters

Multidisciplinary Learning

- Planning methods
- Public works
- Engineering basics
- Hydrology basics
- Building construction and land development

Social Engagement

- Social networking
- Public speaking
- Working with the media
- Crisis management
- Employee supervision
- Cultural awareness

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

- Organizations offering continuing education
- Self-help opportunities at home
- Conferences and workshops
- Formal education
- The Volunteer Center



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