

Front Range Urban Forestry Council

Meeting Minutes

March 16, 2017

City of Louisville, City Services Bldg.

Upcoming Events:

- May 4th – ISA Certified Tree Worker Climber Specialist Skills Exam
 - May 17th – First Northern Colorado Pest Meeting, the Gardens on Spring Creek, Fort Collins
 - May 17th – ISA-RMC Tree Injection BMP Workshop
 - June 7th – ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualification
 - Plant Health Care Workshop, June 15th, The Hilton, Fort Collins
 - July 21st – ISA RMC Tree Climbing Competition at Washington Park in Denver
 - September 11th–12th – ISA RMC Annual Conference, The Ranch, Loveland, CO
 - Nov 9th – Pesticide Workshop at the Denver Police Protective Association (new location)
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EPIC – Ralph Zentz

- Save the Date: The 2017 Plant Health Care Workshop will take place—June 15th, 2017 at the Hilton, Fort Collins.
- David Flaig will emcee again this year.
- There will be equipment demonstrations again in the Hilton’s west parking lot, including a small crane from Splintered Forest that can be used for complex removals in difficult-to-reach locations.
- The workshop will focus on local speakers and issues based on feedback from the last PHC workshop.
- Topics will include abiotic and biotic issues, long term climate trends, pollinator health, current insect and disease issues, and information a biomass burner system from Austria as an option to address wood disposal.
- Ralph is finalizing the speaker agenda now and registration open soon on the ISA-RMC website.

Northern Colorado Pest Meetings – Ralph Zentz

- The first Northern Colorado Pest Meeting will take place on May 17th. Other dates are July 19th, August 16th, and September 20th. All meetings will be held at the Gardens on Spring Creek in Fort Collins.
- Denver Pest Meetings are cancelled due to low attendance.

Select Tree Program – Tim Buchanan

- This year’s tree is David elm ‘Choice City’.
- Some have been released through Fort Collins Wholesale Nursery.
- Tim would like to get these planted throughout the Front Range for evaluation
- There are enough trees for 5 cities to participate, contact Tim if your community is interested in participating (tbuchanan@fcgov.com).
- Applications are due 3-29-2017.

- Participating cities pay for trees and receive an invoice from CTC.
- Trees are picked up in Fort Collins.
- All trees are B&B.
- 'Choice City' has good scale resistance and cold hardiness.
- It is an Asiatic elm, not as big as American elm.
- Selections from Morton Arboretum were grown from cuttings by Fort Collins Wholesale Nursery.

Program/Membership – Keith Wood

- A big thank you to Louisville for hosting.
- The next FRUFC meeting will be on May 18th in Wheat Ridge, likely at their community center.
- The Nature Conservancy will be presenting about their urban initiatives based out of the Boulder Office.
- The Institute of Environmental Solutions will talk about how they are engaging schools.

CTC – Chuck Gheringer

- CTC is working on the Colorado Tree Collections app, which is similar to CO-Tree View. Collections can be any public tree collection in a town/city you want to share with people. The app is web-based, so does not require users to download anything to their mobile devices. When a user views a tree, the app will provide basic species information for each tree.
- The CTC just finished paperwork for their next grant from CSFS.
- Eastern Colorado Community Forestry Conference took place in Lamar, CO on March 2nd. There were approximately 50 attendees.

ISA – Kyle

- Events: (check dates with Kyle)
- ISA-RMC is planning upcoming annual events, and is adding a lot of new workshops this year. Upcoming events include:
 - May 4th – Certified Tree Worker Climber Specialist Skills Exam – 8 spots available, will likely expand
 - May 17th – Tree injection BMP workshop,
 - June 7th – Tree Risk Assessment Qualification
 - July 21st – ISA RMC Tree Climbing Competition at Washington Park in Denver
 - September 11th–12th – Annual Conference, The Ranch, Loveland, CO
 - Nov 9th – Pesticide Workshop at the Denver Police Protective Association (new location)
- See the ISA-RMC for more information about these and other upcoming events.
- Bill Cassel: ISA-RMC is trying to raise money for research, and is looking at possible collaborations with CSU and other grants. Recently chapter membership reached 1000 members for the first time.

Community Updates:

- There is a full-time tech opening with Ken Caryl Ranch Metro District. For more information, contact Allen Rogers at allenr@kcranch.org.
- Michael Towers got a call from someone from Lakewood asking him to come speak about EAB because the caller was told EAB is there, which is incorrect.

CTC Risk Assessment and Management Program – Bill Cassel:

- Forms for the Tree Risk Assessment and Management Program should be available online on the CTC website Monday, March 20th.
- Bill has been making updates to the old form with Ralph Zentz and others since 1985.
- The old form was based on a USFS forest health assessment form.
- Urban areas have far more species and targets than traditional forest trees, so an updated risk assessment form was needed to reflect this difference.
- Species, defect, and target were the primary focus areas of the program.
- In making updates, Bill and others looked at ISA BMPs and ANSI standards.
- The current program focuses more on management than assessment; assessment is just one piece of this program.
- The program is intended for owners of multiple trees (cities, campuses, etc.), and is designed to help meet agency risk management requirements.
- Designed to be systematic, “reasonable,” and proportionate to resources – what most courts look for in a program if a lawsuit results from a hazard tree issue.
- CTC: followed global and national risk management standards, language, and procedures when developing the program.
- The program recognizes that some trees decline differently than others – species specific.
- Base indicators can be localized depending on needs - use indicators to select individual trees to assess/that need more attention.
- Information can be used in writing specifications for tree work: hybrid of ANSI level 1 and level 2 (360 assessment).
- ISO requires standards be reviewed every 5 years.
- ANSI A300 Part 9 Tree Risk Assessment is currently at the end of an update process, and the draft has levels 1, 2 and 3 assessments. New ANSI standard only looks at intersection trees that block stop signs, etc., not all trees on a block.

- History
 - 1987 – first urban hazard tree workshop
 - 1988 – National Urban Tree Symposium III, hazard tree workshop
 - 1989 – CO Urban Forestry Council hazard tree committee formed
 - 1989 – Created urban multiple tree form from USFS and NPS programs
 - 1991 – Added Location Priority form
 - 1991 – ISA Photographic Guide to Hazard Tree Management

- Related forms for RA Program:
 - Inspection Priority Rating Form
 - Tree Risk Rating Form
 - Individual Tree Rating Form – can use just for species, or for target
 - Definitions of Indicators
 - Single “Crib” Sheet of Indicators
 - Tree Failure Report Form
 - Directions for Use
 - Suggested Resource Information

- The new program looks at tree risk assessment from an ASCA perspective/legal perspective.

- Even if tree care professionals are not TRAQ qualified, they should have the tree risk assessment handbook because it tells managers what to look for in a potential hazard tree.
- International Org for Standardization and American National Standards Institute:
 - ISO 31000 and 31010
 - 2011 – A300 Part 9 ANSI Standards and accompanying BMPs and TRAQ
 - 2016 Review and rewrite of A300 Part 9 as required by ISO update process
 - 2017 A300 Part 9 published
- The original ANSI A300 Part 9 left out multiple tree owners, and was meant for individual tree assessment only.
- A Tree Risk Treatment should take into consideration what is reasonable for the resources an organization has available.
- Study: *Common Sense Risk Management of Trees* found that 1 in 10,000,000 deaths annually result from trees if certain conditions present (e.g. high winds).
- Principles for a risk management program are developed by managers and informs a framework for mapping risk. From this, a consistent process can be developed that is systematically followed every time when assessing risk.

- Form information:
 - The risk assessment piece of the new form is straight from ISA TRAC (does not imply TRAC certification), and has been used with permission of the ISA.
 - Definitions are included on the back of the form to assist in completing the form, such as likelihood of failure, likelihood of target impact, consequences of failure target, species, and action.
 - The components of the Failure Report Form were taken and used with permission from California.
 - Inspection priority rating form:
 - Definitions on back of form.
 - Use this form for prioritizing area for tree work, justification for why work is being done in this area specifically rather than in another area, think through why this area and not another should be focused upon.
 - When managers start the process, they should specify that this was a ground-based visual assessment that was performed without using tools to assess trees.
 - Forms in general are for anyone involved in risk management, not just tree managers, and were designed to be used by someone who is not necessarily a tree person.

- This system is designed to decide not only if a tree is “bad”, but if it is a danger. In other words, it is used to quantify risk/hazard.
- Colorado does not have a formal “tree law”. Instead, tree issues are defined by “boundary law” (where tree is located).
- How does this new program relate to EAB? The program focuses on tree health in general, no matter what the issue is.
- When a risk manager notifies a homeowner that a tree will be removed, they are doing their due diligence and showing they are doing their part. After that, removals may be stopped for political or other reasons, but it is documented that risk manager did his/her part.

- Recommended resource materials (will also be online):
ANSI A300 Part 9, 2011, Tree Risk Assessment

Tree Risk Assessment, Best Management Practices, ISA 2011
Tree Risk Assessment Manual ISA, 2013
*Urban Tree Risk Management, USDA Forest Service 1992
The Body Language of Trees, Claus Mattheck, 1997
**Common sense risk management of trees*. UK Forestry Commission, 2011
*Construction Damage Assessments: Trees and Sites, Kim Coder 1996
Tree Risk Assessment in Urban Areas and the Urban/Rural Interface, 2005, Julian Dunster Work
Safe Canada – old TRACE program, hard to find
*TreeAZ, Jeremy Burrell, 2010 (Safe Useful Life Expectancy)
Tree and Neighbor Law for Homeowners and Professionals blog, Victor Merulla:
<https://treeandneighborlawblog.com/> - follows tree accidents, failures – updated daily

*free resources that can be obtained online

For questions:

Bill Cassel

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Same Tree, Different Day – Michael Pach

- Michael is a professional photographer, and is the owner of 3 Peaks Photography. He teaches classes and does commercial photography work. He is also the founder, Colorado Photography Learning Group and hosts “The Photo Show” on KCMJ-LP 93.9 in Colorado Springs, Mondays at 7:30 p.m. This is an interview show about photography. Anyone can get episodes on the Tune In app and SoundCloud.
- Michael photographed a hackberry behind his house in Jackson Park in the Holland Park neighborhood of Colorado Springs every day for a year.
- Guiding quote: “I shall open my eyes and ears. Once every day I shall simply stare at a tree, a flower, a cloud, or a person. I shall not then be concerned at all to ask what they are but simply be glad that they are.”
- Michael photographed the tree from January 12, 2015 – January 11, 2016, and the project resulted in 376 images. Students from the Colorado Springs Conservatory created the soundtrack for the video. Michael is currently working on creating a meditation video based on the images.
- Michael created a short video slideshow of the project.
- His goal was to take a photo every day at sunrise, though he may have taken an image at different times throughout the day, depending on the weather, etc.
- Michael spent about 2 hours per shot photographing and editing.
- Images can be found on his blog at <https://sametreedifferentday.wordpress.com/>.
- Michael is also using the project to raise awareness for mental health issues.
- Messages/Lessons from this project:
 - Importance of our trees and parks.
 - Try to find beauty where you are – you don’t have to travel long distances to see it.
 - Staying committed during a long project (Jerry Seinfeld Strategy).
 - Seeing the same thing differently.
 - Awareness, mindfulness, living in the moment.

- Michael hopes that this project inspires others to complete similar projects or to reach their own goals.
- This project gave Michael something to look forward to everyday.
- On most days, the Universe provided exactly what he needed when he needed it, he just had to show up.
- This project helped Michael to find his voice as an artist.