Tools for assessing and managing
Community Forests

i-Tree Newsletter—June 2006

i-Tree Training Workshop Success

The list of i-Tree students continues to grow! Two of three planned i-Tree workshops for 2006 were successfully implemented this spring in Clemson, SC (March 21-22) and Golden, CO (May 17-18). Approximately 30 students participated at each location and represented a diverse group of regional, state, and volunteer U&CF coordinators, municipal foresters, consulting for-

esters, non-profit managers, university profes-sors and graduate students. The full two-days of presentations and materials from these work-shops are available for download on the i-Tree website by clicking the links above.

Jerry Bond walks workshop participants through field data collection procedures.

The third planned workshop for 2006 will take place November 15-16 at the University of Min-nesota, Twin Cities campus. For details and registration information, visit the following link: Midwest i-Tree Workshop. Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis, so don't delay...

Leslie Chadwell and Lois Edwards navigating an i-Tree PDA Utility in Clemson.

Spotlight on Minneapolis

In order to compete successfully for limited city funding, municipal foresters need compelling evidence that urban forests are worth the investment of citizens' tax dollars. i-Tree can help by answering the fundamental questions surrounding urban forest management and investment:

- What is the structure, function, and value of the urban forest? (*What do our trees do?*)

- Do the accrued benefits from municipal forest management justify the annual expense? (*Are trees worth the cost?*)

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board's legacy of tree planting, management, and desire for improved stewardship made it an ideal community to pilot test i-Tree and demonstrate i-Tree's ability to answer these

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i-Tree Release Date: August 2006

The official release of the i-Tree suite of software tools is scheduled for this Au-gust. Attend the i-Tree presentation at ISA's An-nual Conference in Min-neapolis (August 1st) and watch your email for the latest information.

Mark Buscaino—On behalf of the i-Tree Team...

For the past two years we've been moving forward with the i-Tree suite of tools developed by USDA Forest Service Re-search & Development to help assess, manage and demon-strate the benefits of urban/community forests of all sizes. The tools within i-Tree are based on two decades of publicly-funded research—and making these tools widely available to the public who paid for their development is long overdue! The concept on which i-Tree is built consists of a simple framework of develop-ment, dissemination, support and refinement (DDSR): take peer-reviewed FS tools, disseminate them to the public, provide training and support, and come full-circle by refining the tools over time with user input. The final piece of this process—using the ideas and thoughts of the users themselves to make this public domain product as good as it can be—is what technology transfer and being responsive to our constituents is all about.

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questions. With help from the i-Tree Cooperative, teams of arborists, Minnesota Tree Care Advisors and Tree Trust community volunteers worked together to train and carryout data collection.

Results of the i-Tree analysis demonstrate that *trees pay us back*! Citywide, Minneapolis's estimated 979,000 trees cover 26% of the city's land area and represent an investment worth $756 million in structural value. These trees currently store approximately 250,000 tons of carbon valued at $4.6 million and annually remove 384 tons of criteria air pollutants (0_3, PM_{10}, NO_2, SO_2, and CO), providing societal benefits worth over $2 million.

Turning to trees maintained with public dollars, Minneapolis's estimated 199,000 street trees provide dramatic benefits to the community. Each tree provides average yearly benefits of $126 or, looking at it another way, $32 per resident! Of particular importance is the $6.8 million dollars in energy savings and $9.1 million in stormwater interception benefits the trees afford the community every year. Including aesthetic, air quality, and carbon benefits, the total annual benefits produced by street trees, alone, is $25 million. With street tree-related expenditures totaling $9.2 million, net benefits to the community were valued at nearly $16 million. The city's municipal forest currently returns $1.59 to the community for every $1 spent on management—not bad!

For more information, visit Trees Pay Us Back.

The DDSR framework within which i-Tree functions is backed by a growing cooperative of partners that includes the National Arbor Day Foundation, Davey Tree Expert Company, the FS Northern and Pacific Southwest Research Stations, the Urban and Community Forestry Program, and, most recently, the Society of Municipal Arborists. Without this cooperative, the necessary resources to develop and keep i-Tree a reality could not have come to fruition. Each partner's contribution goes beyond the Forest Service's capacity and provides the essential link to the field.

The goal of i-Tree is simple: provide all who are interested the tools and information they need to better manage and articulate the benefits of their urban forest resources. When publicly-funded research and tools are made widely available for the public to use, and when the information generated from those tools benefits the public-at-large, everyone profits. This is what i-Tree is all about, this is what the DDSR framework is all about, and this is what successful technology transfer is all about.

I hope that the i-Tree suite makes your work more productive and successful in the years and decades to come!

– Mark Buscaino

Have i-Tree Questions?

A free technical support system has been established to answer your i-Tree questions. Call us, write us, or create a personal i-Tree knowledge center to get your questions answered. Visit i-Tree Frequently Asked Questions or Support for details.

A cooperative initiative between: