

Illinois Urban Wood News

Illinois Emerald Ash Borer Wood Utilization Team, Winter 2011

Wood Utilization Team's Fall Training a Big Hit

"I received more info than I was expecting."

"I thought it was great. A nice convergence of information in a very useful forum."

"It was all relatively new information, and all the presenters were very good."

That's what some of the 94 people who attended the Illinois EAB Wood Utilization Team's urban wood utilization training program this fall had to say about it. Municipal Managers Urban Timber Harvesting for Hardwood Lumber Utilization and Recovery, more affectionately known as M2UTiH2LzR, was offered in St. Charles and Rantoul, Illinois. The full day trainings included invasive pest and disease updates, panels on urban and traditional wood markets and contracting for wood utilization removals as well as classroom and field training on grading standing trees and logs for lumber and calculating available timber and its value.

Attendees represented sawyers and woodworkers, commercial arborist companies, municipalities, parks departments, forest preserve districts, local green industries, nonprofit organizations, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, the Illinois Department of Agriculture, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The training provided a good venue for introductions, discussion, and information sharing that will most likely lead to more log recovery. Many attendees came looking for advice and information about how to develop programs. They discussed the possibilities of organizational partnerships and councils of government working together to create systems of recovery, combine resources, and equipment, and collect volumes of logs for marketing.

Attendees gave the trainers and the content high marks. All the attendees would recommend the training to others, 95% will be sharing information from the training, 90% would attend or send staff to future programs, 80% will be looking into the possibility of wood utilization in their community, organization, or business, and another 80% are interested in working with other groups to utilize urban wood.

As part of their registration, attendees received an information packet with a free copy of the Lumber from Hardwood Trees CD, information on hardwood lumber prices for the region and state and on tree grading and calculating board feet of lumber from logs. The packet also included an Illinois specific guide for arborists and municipal managers with a wood materials marketing chart, the Illinois Custom Sawmill Directory, ash wood properties information, a sample letter to homeowners explaining the value of unprocessed trees, and links to national resources on wood properties and urban wood utilization networks and programs.

Information from the training program is available on www.illinoisurbanwood.org/arborist



University of Illinois Extension Forester, Jay Hayek, explains hidden defects in a potential log. Rantoul, IL



Purdue University wood products professor Daniel Cassens discusses visible log defects before milling a walnut log at the St. Charles, IL training..

New Urban Wood Resources Available!

Wood Markets Chart
Illinois Sawmill Directory
Properties of Ash Page
Letter to Homeowners

Download at:

Illinoisurbanwood.org/community

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Local sawyer Gary Carstens comments on the wide sapwood on an urban walnut log. Other local sawyers in attendance at the training included Wade Ellis-Ellis Custom Sawing, Bruce Horigan-Horigan Urban Forest Products, Alan Dummer-Log on Sawmill, and John Kopek-North West Wood Products.



Lumber milled at the Rantoul M2UTiHLzR was donated to the City of Rantoul's Recreation Department wood shop. The wood shop is open to the public. Access to the shop's equipment is \$2 per hour with a maximum fee of \$5 per visit. For more information on [Rantoul's Wood Shop](#)



Trainers Dan Cassens and Dave Griffith, IDNR, discuss external indicators for defects that may affect commercial lumber value.

Urban Timber Harvesting Program to be offered in 2012

As a complement to the M2UTiHLzR program, the Illinois Arborists Association (IAA) is looking at offering UTiHLzR *Urban Timber Harvesting for Hardwood Lumber Utilization and Recovery* in spring or summer 2012. This program will cover more in-depth safety procedures, proper cutting, and felling techniques for recovery of logs. Updates to follow. Watch the IAA website for details.

Thank you to our Funder!

To support emerald ash borer outreach, the Illinois Department of Agriculture funded the Illinois EAB Wood Utilization Team in 2011 to provide resources, grow the Wood Utilization Network, and organize the M2UTiHLzR training sessions. We appreciate the department's generous support. Beginning in 2012, staffing for the team will be on a volunteer basis until more funding is secured.



Attendees had the opportunity to meet representatives from other communities and organizations that may be potential partners working towards utilization



Professor Dan Cassens discusses the markets for low grade urban logs including industrial timbers, rail ties and pallets.