



NC URBAN WOOD GROUP

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In this Issue

In this issue we have some updates and some changes.

As always, articles and photos are always welcome!!!

Eric Muecke has taken a position with the City of Tampa, and is no longer with the NC Forest Service. His skills and efforts will be sorely missed.

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Have you checked out the Urban Wood Exchange Website yet???
<http://www.urbanwoodexchange.org/>



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The NC Urban Wood Group is a combined effort of the NCFS Urban & Community Forestry Program and the NCUFC



Follow-up and Links to NC and VA Workshops

[Small Woodlot and Urban Wood Workshop](http://go.ncsu.edu/no-wasted-wood)

If you didn't make it to the workshop you missed a good networking opportunity. The workshop was well attended with about 50 people. The gallery was loaded with products from siding to slabs to turnings. The panelists and speakers did an outstanding job!

A post-workshop webpage has been made available and you can access it through the workshop link above. You can see some of the presentations, see the list of attendees, and take action on your plans to better utilize small wood sources, and expand your network to others with the same interest.

[Mid-Atlantic Urban Wood Conference](http://www.treesvirginia.org/outreach/virginia-urban-wood-group)

This workshop opportunity was offered in Virginia, with the Virginia Urban Wood Group. The 2 day workshop was attended by about 50 people with some great presentations.

You can access the workshop presentations as well as a variety of other resources on VAUWG webpage.

What's New in the Urban Wood World

1) The www.urbanwoodexchange.org site is undergoing some user additions through direct contact with businesses. The site is only good if it is populated. The primary goal is for people like you: to share what you offer under **Business Listings**, list under multiple headings if you, for example, offer kiln drying and hauling. **Find a Product** is when you are looking for a specific material or have one to offer. It may also be of use to the public eventually, when there are enough postings, and the site gets traffic and hits from the public. It is still a work in progress and it can only be improved when people use it and provide input and suggestions, so we will be able to make the site more useful over time.

2) **Urban Wood Certification** is the latest issue that is being explored and NCFS Urban & Community Forestry Program has a grant to allow us to do that. There are a number of national organizations interested and involved with this and we are hoping that the time has come to push urban wood awareness and usage over the top. Initially:

Goals: Develop a certification process to be incorporated into existing professional & accreditation standards, adopted by municipalities & practiced by arboriculture businesses & processors; consistent messaging to educate the target audience & explain the value & benefits of local urban wood products; encourage engagement by municipal sustainability & solid waste programs; promote involvement by local businesses as a value-added opportunity; increase urban wood utilization.

Desired Impact: Increased demand for locally-sourced wood & wood products by the public & businesses; local arborists & processors handling urban wood for higher use & less wood entering landfills; municipalities incorporating urban wood into their sustainability plans & utilizing their own wood for local projects; increased long term carbon storage in wood no longer burned or decomposed.

3) **Emerald Ash Borer confirmed in South Carolina** - Emerald ash borer, a beetle pest that has devastated ash trees throughout the eastern US, has been officially detected in Spartanburg, Greenville and Oconee Counties. The USDA Animal-Plant Health Inspection Service will impose a quarantine on Greenville, Spartanburg and Oconee Counties, but the Clemson Department of Plant Industry has the authority to expand that quarantine to other counties. Material that will fall under a quarantine include **living emerald ash borer insects, ash trees, limbs, branches, stumps, roots, logs, lumber, chips and bark, and ALL hardwood firewood**. (Note: firewood is any hardwood wood cut to less than 4' in length.)

Safety Notes

Water, Rest and Shade — App to help with that

Summer brings hot weather – and potentially dangerous work conditions. The US Department of Labor's [Occupational Safety and Health Administration](http://www.osha-slc.gov) reminds employers and workers to take precautions to stay safe before a heatwave begins. As part of its [Heat Illness Prevention Campaign](http://www.osha-slc.gov), OSHA offers a website to raise awareness of heat illness symptoms and prevention with educational and training resources in several languages. The site also links to the OSHA-National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health's [Heat Safety Tool](http://www.osha-slc.gov), an app available for iPhones and Androids.

The App allows workers and supervisors to calculate the heat index for their worksite. Based on the heat index, the app displays a risk level to outdoor workers. Then, with a simple tap, you can get reminders about the protective measures that should be taken at that risk level to protect workers from heat-related illness—reminders about drinking enough fluids, scheduling rest breaks, planning for and knowing what to do in an emergency, adjusting work operations, gradually building up the workload for new workers, training on heat illness signs and symptoms, and monitoring each other for signs and symptoms of heat-related illness.

With Eric Muecke having left NC for new challenges, we are going to be making some changes to the layout and to the editor of this newsletter. So you will be seeing some changes as 2017 comes to an end.

You will also have a new contact person who will be compiling the newsletter and will respond to any requests, questions etc. Josh Gray is with NCFS, and works with local wood as well as being one of the instructors at the [Woodworking Open Studio](http://www.ncagr.gov), Cary Arts Center.

Josh can be reached by email at urbanwoodexchange@gmail.com. For the present, if you need immediate assistance, you can contact Nancy Stairs by phone at 919.857.4842.

To be added or removed from this list, please reply to urbanwoodexchange@gmail.com. Thank you!

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