



## A Resource List

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### THIRD THURSDAY WEBCAST SERIES

The Third Thursday Webcast Series is a monthly webcast held at the lunch hour and made possible through support from The Home Depot Foundation and USDA Forest Service. The goal is to provide training opportunities for local urban and community forestry practitioners. The trainings highlight successful programs and practices that you may want to adapt in your communities. Webcasts are open to all.

Correctly planting and protecting trees is a good thing to do. However, planting and protecting trees also requires coordinating time and resources. ACT minimizes such requirements by sharing the innovative ideas and organized approaches of successful projects and models for members to replicate. We invite you to join the Alliance for Community Trees for more ways to get involved. Together, we create a strong voice on behalf of the urban forest and make a great difference in the health, beauty, and livability of our communities. We strengthen communities by offering action-oriented approaches that bring people together around a common purpose.

### TOPIC

The Tree Campus USA program recognizes college and university campuses that effectively manage their campus trees, develop connectivity with the community beyond campus borders to foster healthy urban forests, and strive to engage their student population utilizing service learning opportunities. By meeting the annual standards and being recognized as a Tree Campus USA college, you can create a campus that not only benefits the environment, but also instills pride in the students, faculty, and community.

More information at: [http://actrees.org/site/stories/tree\\_campus\\_usa.php](http://actrees.org/site/stories/tree_campus_usa.php)

### TRAINERS

#### **Mary Widhelm**

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**Mary Widhelm** is a Program Coordinator for the Arbor Day Foundation, specifically working with the organization's National Poster Contest and its newest venture, Tree Campus USA. She oversees the recruitment of universities and dissemination of materials and information to the various participating campuses as well as other partnering organizations. Mary received a degree in Communication and Spanish from Nebraska Wesleyan University in 2004 and has four years of experience in working with teens and young adults in youth ministry. This partnered with her life-long love of nature and the outdoors makes her a valuable addition to the Arbor Day Foundation, the nation's largest non-profit tree-planting organization with nearly one million members.

More information at: <http://www.arborday.org/programs/treeCampusUSA/index.cfm#>

**Teresa Rhodes** is Director of Advancement for Keep Indianapolis Beautiful, managing a fundraising campaign to raise \$8 million for NeighborWoods from a diversity of corporations, individuals and foundations. She has devoted nearly 20 years of her career as a fund development professional currently with Keep Indianapolis Beautiful, with past experience at a public policy think tank and working for U.S. Senate campaigns. Her expertise includes cultivating donors, securing major gifts, conducting prospect research, grant writing, annual fund development and execution, and managing hundreds of large and small events. Her skills and experience extend to strategic planning, marketing, management and brand development. She believes the joy in philanthropy is discovery and union – discovering a person's charitable aspirations and uniting them with a worthy cause.

More information at: <http://www.kibi.org/>





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### SUCCESS STORIES

#### **Western Michigan University (Kalamazoo, MI)**

Western Michigan University was named a Tree Campus USA institution in January 2009. The designation recognizes the school's commitment to environmental stewardship, and will help bring more attention to its tree program and annual Arbor Day celebration. A Tree/Arboretum Committee composed of students, local arborists, faculty and staff will plan new initiatives to broaden involvement in the tree program to include more of the campus and local community. One of the University's new tree commitments is to develop a Campus Tree Walk for their community and visitors. Western Michigan University has more than 4,500 inventoried trees on campus, all of which are mapped on GPS, measured, and catalogued by students and faculty from the Department of Geography in 2006. This data will be used by the Physical Plant to create the University's arboreal walking tour.

More information at: [www.wmich.edu/wmu/news/2009/03/007.html](http://www.wmich.edu/wmu/news/2009/03/007.html)

#### **Georgia Institute of Technology (Atlanta, GA)**

The Arbor Day Foundation honored Georgia Tech's dedication to campus forestry and environmental best practices with a Tree Campus USA designation in November 2008. Tech established its Campus Tree Care Plan in September 2008 to achieve goals of 55% tree canopy, 22% woodlands coverage area, effective management of the impact of development and construction on campus trees, and proper removal and replacement of trees. The committee overseeing this plan includes voices from across the campus and the community, all lending different perspectives on the role of trees at Georgia Tech. The committee is comprised of Tech students, area neighborhood representatives, and members from many Institute departments, including Facilities, Housing, Capital Planning and Space Management, Parking and Transportation, Center for Geographical Information Systems, and School of Biology.

More information at: [www.gatech.edu/newsroom/release.html?id=2342](http://www.gatech.edu/newsroom/release.html?id=2342)

#### **University of California San Diego (San Diego, CA)**

The University of California San Diego (UCSD) held a tree planting ceremony in November 2008 to celebrate its designation as one of the first nine Tree Campus USA institutions. UCSD's Chancellor Marye Anne Fox invited local tree experts and campus leaders to the event, including the City of San Diego's Urban Forester and representatives from the State of California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, International Society of Arboriculture, San Diego Regional Urban Forests Council. Dozens of Urban Corps of San Diego County members and UCSD student volunteers planted one hundred new trees in a grove on campus where hundreds of trees had been lost to storms, land development and drought in recent years. Even children from the kindergarten class at UCSD's Early Childhood Education Center pitched in at this event to help restore the tree canopy on campus and increase tree species diversity throughout the campus forest.

More information at: [http://ucsdnews.ucsd.edu/thisweek/2008/11/17\\_arbordaytrees.asp](http://ucsdnews.ucsd.edu/thisweek/2008/11/17_arbordaytrees.asp)

#### **Casey Trees and The George Washington University (Washington, DC)**

Casey Trees and students and staff from The George Washington University collaborated to produce an inventory of campus trees. This inventory was conducted with the Building Cities class and focused on green infrastructure in an urban area. The students collected data using GIS technology on mobile PDA devices and then analyzed it to understand more about the trees on their campus. For example, an inventory of park and open space trees is quite different than street trees because of the tree variety and placement.

More information at: [www.caseytrees.org/geographic/tree-inventory/community-inventories/results/gwu/index.php](http://www.caseytrees.org/geographic/tree-inventory/community-inventories/results/gwu/index.php)





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### RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS

#### **The College Sustainability Report Card**

The 2008 Report Card from the Sustainable Endowments Institute finds that most U.S. and Canadian colleges are becoming “greener,” with more than two out of three earning higher marks for their sustainability practices and policies over the previous year. However, a majority of the wealthiest institutions continue to lag in applying green metrics to their endowment investments. The report examined the green practices of the two hundred public and private universities with the largest endowments, with grades determined by reviewing publicly available information, conducting surveys of school officials, and assessing performance across thirty-nine indicators in eight categories. More information at: [http://actrees.org/site/stories/2008\\_college\\_sustainability\\_report\\_card.php](http://actrees.org/site/stories/2008_college_sustainability_report_card.php)

#### **Campus Trees Pay Big Eco-Dividends**

Trees absorb carbon dioxide as they grow and provide cooling shade for people and buildings. A study at the University of California San Diego (UCSD) measured the value campus trees as part of the school’s strategic aim to reduce their carbon footprint, cooling costs, and other expenses. The study, a component of UCSD’s multi-faceted sustainability plan, found that the University’s 200,000 trees capture nearly 10,000 tons of carbon dioxide emissions per year, or 5 percent of its annual emissions. The total annual savings attributed to the trees, including reduced energy costs, were \$2.2 million.

More information at: <http://www.newswise.com/articles/view/551408/>

