



*Operating and Nursery, Community Garden, or Arboretum*

## A Resource List

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### BROWN BAG LUNCH SERIES

The Brown Bag Lunch Series is a monthly webcast held at the lunch hour and made possible through support from The Home Depot Foundation. 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.

### TOPIC

Operating a nursery, community garden, or small arboretum can enhance your organization's programming and, in some cases, provide unrestricted revenue to support your mission. Establishing and sustaining such an operation requires substantial commitment. Learn more about the challenges of site management, the business assumptions that sustain operations, and how these sites are used to enhance public education and outreach. Through the open sharing of urban & community forestry, recorded information is available at:

[http://actrees.org/site/resources/events/operating\\_a\\_nursery\\_community\\_garden\\_or\\_arbor.php](http://actrees.org/site/resources/events/operating_a_nursery_community_garden_or_arbor.php)

### TRAINERS

#### **Glenda Daniel**

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#### **Glenda Daniel**

Glenda Daniel is the Urban Greening Director at Openlands in Chicago. She has extensive experience in conservation, including six years as Executive Director of Lake Michigan Federation. She is the author of *Dune Country: A Naturalist's Guide to the Indiana Dunes*, *The North Woods: A Sierra Club Naturalist's Guide*, and several hiking books.

#### **Mike Bradshaw**

A Texas A&M graduate in landscape architecture, Mike has over thirty-years experience in landscape design, planning, landscape construction and landscape maintenance. Mike has been with the Texas Trees Foundation since 1992 where he served as Project Manager until he became the Executive Director in 1994. While serving the Foundation, Mike has developed successful programs including the Elam Road Growing Center, ShadeKeepers and TREEmendous Schools. During his tenure as Director, the Foundation has provided or planted over 140,000 trees in public open spaces and created the largest non-profit Urban Tree Farm in the country. The TXU Urban Tree Farm at Richland College and the soon to be opened Hamilton Park Urban Tree Farm near Texas Instruments will have a combined capacity to grow over 15,600 trees per year. Mike is a landscape architect and a certified arborist. He is past President of the Texas Urban Forestry Council and past President of the National Alliance for Community Trees.





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### SUCCESS STORIES (Community Nursery)

#### **Forest ReLeaf of Missouri (St. Louis, MO)**

Forest ReLeaf of Missouri runs a program called Project CommuniTree. Originally based on the National Tree Trust's "Growing Out Station" model, the nursery was located on noise abatement buy-out property at the St. Louis airport from 1996-2006. Last year, Project CommuniTree was successfully relocated to area park property. The labor is mostly volunteer, and 5,000-6,000 trees are given away annually (nearly 40,000 to date). Seedlings come from the Missouri State Nursery and go into 3-gallon containers until they are 4-6' in height. Once ready to be given away, trees can go to either public or nonprofit entities (no residential). The program is so successful that other funders continue to support it well after the National Tree Trust dissolved.

More information at: [www.moreleaf.org](http://www.moreleaf.org) (and then click on Plant Trees)

#### **Shreveport Green (Shreveport, LA)**

Shreveport Green continues to operate one of the National Tree Trust's Regional Grow-Out Sites. The Grow Out Station, located in Walter B. Jacobs Nature Park, is a partnership between Shreveport Green, the National Tree Trust, and Caddo Parish. Over 8,000 trees of native species are available for outplanting on public land. Interested groups or individuals sign a contract agreeing to maintain the trees for three years and are responsible for an annual report during that period. Shreveport Green encourages interested "tree stewards" from all over the region to consider them as a source for trees. In 2002, Shreveport Green expanded their operations through wider row spacing, more specific pruning techniques, and specialized care.

More information at: [www.shreveportgreen.org/trees/growing-out-station.cfm](http://www.shreveportgreen.org/trees/growing-out-station.cfm)

#### **Tree New Mexico (Albuquerque, NM)**

Tree New Mexico continues to operate one of the National Tree Trust's Regional Grow-Out Sites. The program is a three-way partnership between the National Tree Trust, Tree New Mexico, and a municipality. The site is located in the Village of Los Lunas, about thirty minutes south of Albuquerque, and is maintained by the Los Lunas Parks Department and a group of Youth Conservation Corps students. The nursery produces 3,000 to 5,000 two-gallon trees and at least a dozen different species for distribution to communities, neighborhood associations, public housing units, highway plantings, and other public green spaces. The Village of Los Lunas also uses some of the trees for their own needs. In addition, Tree New Mexico distributes approximately 70,000 tree seedlings throughout New Mexico and parts of Arizona every spring. In general, these trees fill the "tree gap," supplementing what is planted by city programs, private contractors, and homeowners. All the trees are planted in public spaces and for the public good. They are distributed biannually in the spring and fall, and Tree New Mexico works with state parks, national forests, communities large and small, neighborhood associations, Native American tribes, civic groups, schools, etc., to facilitate the distribution and planting in public areas.

More information at: [www.treenm.com/Programs.htm](http://www.treenm.com/Programs.htm)





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SUCCESS STORIES (Community Nursery cont.)

### **Tree Foundation of Kern (Bakersfield, CA)**

The Tree Foundation has two nurseries that grow trees for their organization. These trees are available for low cost to schools, municipalities, and other organizations that plant trees in public places. A key partnership in operating the nursery is with Bakersfield Association for Retarded Citizens (BARC) through the Kern High School District Adult School Program. They grow the trees for the Tree Foundation while learning valuable horticulture skills and taking on new responsibilities. Additionally, the Tree Foundation supports a program at the Taft Correctional Institute where trees are cared for by prison inmates. Shielded from the commotion of urban life, the nursery is a natural haven filled with lush potted trees and the familiar cat prowling among the leaves. Here, the nursery manager enjoys a daily routine that centers around the earth and trees. Managers oversee the daily operations and provide a link between growers and wholesalers or the general public. They keep abreast of changing fads and trends in the tree industry and watch their inventories closely to avoid damaging to the trees. Although the nursery industry tends to be seasonal with most sales coming between March and June, there is plenty of work to be done in the off season including maintenance, restocking, signage and repairs.

More information at: [www.urbanforest.org](http://www.urbanforest.org)

### **Louisiana Urban Forestry Council (Baton Rouge, LA)**

Prior to the landfall of Hurricane Katrina in late August 2005, the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry maintained and operated a tree nursery in New Orleans' City Park. Floodwaters decimated the tree nursery and destroyed all trees and nursery equipment. In the months after the storm, the Department of Agriculture and Forestry no longer had the capacity to operate the site, and the Louisiana Urban Forestry Council took over the tree farm and its operations. During this same time, Chevron North America officials in New Orleans were looking for a way to "give back" to the community and decided to fund the renovations to the tree farm. In 2006 Chevron donated \$60,000 to the Louisiana Urban Forestry Council to renovate the tree farm. It was renamed the "Chevron Tree Farm" and a partnership between the Louisiana Urban Forestry Council and Chevron emerged. Over 400 volunteers helped to pot over 3,500 tree seedlings during a November 2006 event, which was one of the largest volunteer events held in post-Katrina New Orleans. A substantial grant in 2007 and a long-term agreement with Chevron for continued support ensure that the Louisiana Urban Forestry Council will be able to operate the tree farm and provide trees to nonprofit agencies and governmental units for years to come.

More information at: [www.louisianaurbanforestry.org/about-louisiana-urban-forestry.php](http://www.louisianaurbanforestry.org/about-louisiana-urban-forestry.php)





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### SUCCESS STORIES (Small Community Nursery)

#### **Herring Run Watershed Association (Baltimore, MD)**

In 1994, Herring Run Watershed Association created a small-scale nursery to sell 5 gallon and under container native trees to the public for planting on private and public property. The nursery fits into their mission in that it helps to improve their ability to create greener and healthier streets, parks, and streams within the Herring Run watershed. Mount Pleasant Golf Course provides the space, and numerous volunteers assist with nursery maintenance. Since 1994, they have continued to expand both selection and planting efforts. Today, they carry a wide array of trees and shrubs native to Maryland. This allows them to fill requests for street and yard trees, and plant new buffers along streams throughout the spring and fall.

More information at: <http://www.herringrun.org/LearnSectionNativePlantNursery>

#### **Citizens for a Better South Florida (Miami, FL)**

Citizens for a Better South Florida maintains a native nursery in the heart of the City of Miami. The operation includes a native garden educational facilities for students and teachers and the Biscayne Bay Library. Citizens' native nursery includes a wide selection of native plants for sale. They also donate native plants for community urban greening and educational plantings. The nursery came about because, in the process of educating about native trees, their benefits, and their uses in our community landscape, Citizens' found one overarching challenge: access to native plants. To address the need, they created a community nursery at their Urban Environmental Center. Plants can be purchased Monday-Friday, 9am-6pm and during scheduled weekend native plant celebrations. The nursery is funded by the Florida Division of Forestry, the National Tree Trust, the South Florida Water Management District, Miami-Dade County Department of Environmental Resources Management, Miami-Dade County Water & Sewer, and Miami-Dade County Department of Solid Waste.

More information at: [www.abettersouthflorida.org/urban\\_center.html](http://www.abettersouthflorida.org/urban_center.html)

#### **Milford Trees (Milford, CT)**

With cooperation and support from the City Director of Public Works, Milford Trees and the Tree Commission established a tree nursery at the old sewage treatment plant on Shadyside Lane (hence the name Shadyside Nursery on Gulf Pond). Public Works dedicates weekday and weekend hours working with Milford Tree volunteers giving much needed advice about trees, including getting trees ready for planting in the City's public spaces, transplanting trees, putting in an electric deer fence, building a watering system, weeding, expanding the nursery as trees grow, and training a citizens' pruning group. The nursery is a cooperative operation that grows about 800 trees. Trees are transplanted to public locations when they reach 2-3 inch caliper and stand 12-15 feet tall.

More information at: [www.milfordtrees.blogspot.com/](http://www.milfordtrees.blogspot.com/)

#### **Goleta Valley Beautiful (Goleta, CA)**

Goleta Valley Beautiful operates Growing Grounds at the Devereux Greenhouse. The Devereux Growing Grounds hosts 1,500 trees and growing, from which Goleta Valley Beautiful hopes to plants approximately 500 trees a year in schools, parks, street parkways, and other public areas of the Goleta Valley. Since it takes about three years to grow a tree to planting size, this expansion allows Goleta Valley Beautiful to have an ongoing supply of trees to plant. Operating the nursery is no small feat. It takes over 400 service hours and various partnerships including those with a regional LDS Youth conference and the Shoreline Preservation Fund.

More information at: [www.goletavalleybeautiful.org](http://www.goletavalleybeautiful.org)





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SUCCESS STORIES (Small Community Nursery cont.)

### **Branch Out Burlington (Burlington, VT)**

The Burlington Community Tree Nursery was established in May 2001 to provide a sustained source of low-cost trees to plant along Burlington's streets. They planted 30 Serviceberries and 32 Hackberry trees. In the Spring of 2002, they added 20 LittleLeaf Lindens, 15 Green Ash, 20 Japanese zelkovas, 10 Amur maackias, and 10 Kentucky Coffeetrees. In the Spring of 2003, they planted 40 Autumn Blaze Maples, 20 Japanese Tree Lilacs, and 10 more Serviceberries. And every May, a group of volunteers continues to gather grow the nursery with saplings that will be transplanted to the streets of Burlington after about three years. Trees are weeded and mulched by volunteers throughout the summer and fall. Personnel of the UVM Horticultural Research Center help with the nursery by cultivating the beds and digging the holes before tree planting in the spring. They also set up and maintain the irrigation system during the summer and other miscellaneous tasks throughout the year. The nursery is located on land contributed by the University of Vermont at the Horticulture Research Center on Green Mountain Drive in South Burlington. More information at: [www.branchoutburlington.org/nursery/nursery.htm](http://www.branchoutburlington.org/nursery/nursery.htm)





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SUCCESS STORIES (Educational Nursery or Community Garden)

### **Openlands (Chicago, IL)**

Openlands runs an educational arboretum that teaches about trees through multi-divisional curriculum (math, science, social studies, language arts, etc.). There are 50 active teachers with the program, and several hundred that use the resources. The Arboretum is maintained by Openlands' TreeKeeper volunteers. As a next step, the arboretum will be expanding to a public walk focusing on native, shade, and ornamental trees. The project came about because Openlands wanted an educational site of their own. Previously they were helping others community gardens to thrive, but now they have a permanent place in which to stage programs.

More information at: [www.openlands.org/urbangreening.asp](http://www.openlands.org/urbangreening.asp)

### **Baltimore County's Growing Home Campaign (Baltimore, MD)**

The Growing Home Campaign is a great educational and tracking program for local governments looking to encourage private property tree planting while engaging and partnering with private nurseries. The Campaign educates homeowners about the benefits of trees, as well as how to plant a tree, site consideration, species selection, tree maintenance, and recommended trees. One of the successes of the program is simply a \$10 savings on the purchase of qualifying trees from participating nurseries and garden retail centers. The Campaign is a partnership between Baltimore County, local nurseries and garden centers, and homeowners.

More information at: [www.baltimorecountymd.gov/go/trees](http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/go/trees)

### **TreePeople (Los Angeles, CA)**

TreePeople's nursery is making way for an expanded Center for Community Forestry. The project will began in May 2007 and is scheduled to continue until early 2008. The new facilities will include an environmental learning center, a new seedling nursery, a watershed teaching garden and a sustainably designed parking lot. The new W. M. Keck Foundation Nursery will generate thousands of seedlings for the restoration of local forests and parks. TreePeople staff and volunteers hike to restoration sites, gather and identify seeds, document where seeds were collected, and then propagate the seeds at the nursery. A year or two later we return to those same sites with the grown-up seedlings. This is their process for helping nature without changing the genetic diversity of wild areas. The nursery will also store their community tool bank for street and campus plantings in L.A. County as well as equipment and supplies used to green local campuses, neighborhoods and parks. The nursery will be located closer to Mulholland Drive for easy access for volunteers and staff and also serve as a site for workshops.

More information at: [www.treepeople.org](http://www.treepeople.org) (and click on TreePeople Nursery)

### **New York State Urban and Community Forestry Council (Brooklyn, NY)**

The NY State U&CF Council publishes a how-to manual for their nursery at John Bowne High School. This was a project originally done in cooperation with the National Tree Trust, and later adopted by the NYS Council. The resource now serves as a guide for other high schools, middle schools, and community groups looking to partner with schools on how to start-up and operate a school nursery program.

More information at: [www.dec.state.ny.us/](http://www.dec.state.ny.us/)





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### SUCCESS STORIES (Community Garden)

#### **GreenThumb Community Gardening Program (New York, NY)**

Established in 1978, GreenThumb is one of the nation's largest urban gardening program, assisting over 600 gardens and nearly 20,000 garden members throughout New York City. Their aim is to foster civic participation and encourage neighborhood revitalization while preserving open space. GreenThumb was initiated in response to the city's financial crisis of the 1970's, which resulted in the abandonment of a tremendous amount of public and private land. Today, the GreenThumb program, by providing materials and technical assistance, continues to support neighborhood volunteers who manage community gardens as active and attractive community resources. GreenThumb serves communities primarily through its warehouse distribution, technical support, and educational workshops. The majority of GreenThumb gardens are located in economically disadvantaged community planning districts that receive federal financial support through a complement of open space, affordable housing, and economic development, and are managed by community and block associations.

More information at: [www.greenthumbnyc.org](http://www.greenthumbnyc.org)

#### **Clagett Farm (Annapolis, MD)**

Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) is an innovative marketing tool for farmers that allows consumers to pre-purchase a "share" of the harvest for a six-month season. The Chesapeake Bay Foundation's Clagett Farm runs such a program. This creates a mutually supportive relationship between local farmers and community members because farmers can rely on a pre-established income and shareholders can receive a fabulous variety of quality vegetables throughout the season. In addition, shareholders are welcome to come to the farm at any time to visit, to help, or to harvest as much as they want from designated areas. In addition, with funding assistance, Clagett Farms distributes half of their produce to low-income communities and the Capital Area Foodbank.

More information at: [www.cbf.org/site/PageServer?pagename=act\\_sub\\_restoration\\_clagett](http://www.cbf.org/site/PageServer?pagename=act_sub_restoration_clagett)

