

Canadian City Foresters Learn From Omaha Downtown Tree Consultant

Jack Phillips, acting curator for the Omaha Downtown Arboretum and tree consultant for the Downtown Business Improvement District taught an intensive three-day tree biology and care course for the municipal forestry department of Ottawa, Ontario in July 7-9. While in Canada, he was also the keynote speaker for the Canadian Forestry Institute Invasive Pest Conference.



The tree biology intensive combined tree anatomy, ecology, and biology in a systems approach to tree care. The goal of this course was to teach city foresters sustainable planting, preservation, and design strategies that work with natural tree systems for growth and defense against pests and pathogens. The systems approach was developed by the late Dr. Alex Shigo and Dr. Kevin T. Smith of the US Forest Service and emphasizes sustainable management of urban trees. The Ottawa class included 46 tree workers, inspectors, arborists, landscape architects, and managers.



Following the Ottawa course, Jack Phillips opened the Canadian Forestry Institute conference with a presentation on “Tree Responses to Insect Pests and Associates.” He emphasized how dynamic equilibrium works in natural tree communities, and how this principle can inform urban management strategies. Following the conference he accepted an invitation to tour the arboretum at the Consul General's residence.



Jack Phillips is a Registered Consulting Arborist based in Omaha, Nebraska, and has been retained by the Omaha Downtown Improvement District Tree Board for establishing an urban arboretum and replanting public trees. He consults on planting and preservation projects throughout the U.S., and has recently joined the faculty of Arboriculture Canada Training and Education.



Contact information: Jack Phillips RCA (402) 571-7460
e-mail: jackphillipsrca@gmail.com