

We Speak For The **TREES**



Fall 2009

Issue 09-04

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



By Preston Smith, AUFC President

In early April a devastating tornado swept through Mena, Arkansas. This tornado killed three and injured 30 people. The twister descended quickly on Mena shortly after 8 p.m. after a series of siren blasts warned residents of tornadoes in the area. An initial survey of the damage suggests the tornado packed winds of at least 136 mph, weather service forecaster John Robinson at North Little Rock said. These powerful winds showed no mercy on homes, businesses, and trees. ReGreen Mena, a project to replace the trees, plants and grass destroyed in the April 2009 Tornado, will replant 65 hardwood trees in Janssen Park at 10A.M in Mena, Arkansas on Thursday, November 12th, 2009, seven months after the storm. Diamond bank is spearheading the project, and partners:

Arkansas Forestry commission

Arkansas Forestry Association

Arkansas Urban Forestry Council

Arkansas Chapter of Sierra Club

Weyerhaeuser

University of Arkansas Agriculture

The cost of the project has been calculated at \$10,300. The AUFC would love to invite any member to come and help plant trees November 12th. If you would like to donate any money, contact Cathy Slater at info@arkansastrees.org. One last thing, be gearing up for our AUFC annual conference next year in Fort Smith. Lacey Jennen is working very hard recruiting excellent speakers! We would also like to welcome Sarah Wruck to the Advisory Committee.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

**AUFC'S 19th
ANNUAL
CONFERENCE**
In partnership with the
**Arkansas Recreation and Parks
Association**

February 8-10, 2010

Holiday Inn City Center
Fort Smith, Arkansas
Call 479-783-1000 for hotel reservations
Room block ARP

Stay tuned to our website for
details! www.arkansastrees.org

If you would like to be an exhibitor,
contact Cathy Slater
info@arkansastrees.org
or 800-958-5865

NOMINATIONS FOR AUFC BOARD

Nominations Needed for Arkansas Urban Forestry Council (AUFC) Board

We have 4 board member positions opening up at the end of June 2010.

Logistics: The board members serve 3-year terms and meet quarterly, usually mid-month in January, April, July and October. The spring meeting is a planning retreat over two days (Monday noon thru Tuesday noon) and typically includes meals/lodging. The other meetings occur during lunch time, normally 11:00 – 1:00, usually at a central location such as Little Rock and lunch is provided by the council. In addition, there is an annual conference, lasting primarily two days with great topics and speakers. There are events throughout the year such as tree plantings or workshops that board members may be involved with &/or attend, especially if it is in their area of the state. The board is made up of people from varied professions that share a concern for maintaining the urban forest in common. This is a great group to share that concern by promoting community forests throughout our state and networking together.

Who is eligible: The nominee needs to live in the state and be an AUFC member to be eligible.

Please email any nominations to Executive Secretary, Cathy Slater (info@arkansastrees.org) or myself (lynn.warren@arkansas.gov) **by January 4, 2010.**



ARKANSAS RELEAF

Please join us at for tree planting at our Arkansas ReLeaf project in Janssen Park, Mena, AR at 10:00am on November 12. The Arkansas ReLeaf project this year will be part of the ReGreen Mena project. We will be planting trees in the park to replace those that were lost when a tornado hit on April 9. AUFC has donated \$2,000 to ReGreen Mena toward the purchase of trees. This will be a celebration with hamburgers and hot dogs. If you would like to make a donation to AUFC, send an email to Cathy Slater at info@arkansastrees.org.