

## ISA NEWS & NOTES

---

### BOOK REVIEWS

Tree Root Damage to Buildings, by P.G. Biddle. 1998. Sold as a set only. £95 plus postage. Available from Willowmead Publishing Ltd., Ickleton Road, Wantage, Oxon, UK OX12 9JA. ISBN 095330860X. Phone (01235) 762478; Fax (01235) 768034.

The effects of tree roots close to buildings have long been debated, yet there are few comprehensive studies to support the many claims made. In Great Britain, the insurance industry has been quick to assume that tree roots are the prime cause of cracked foundations and walls, causing extensive property damage. The resulting controversy about soil properties, the role of trees, and the need or lack of need for stringent engineering specifications has been underway for many years.

The information contained in this work goes a long way in providing the technical data required for well-reasoned discussion. Dr. Giles Biddle has been conducting detailed research on these issues for the past 20 years, and the 2 volumes distill his work into a technical and well-thought-out publication. Volume I, *Causes, Diagnoses and Remedy* (376 pp.), contains 20 chapters, each of which provides excellent discussion and detail about such issues as the tree, the root system, the soil, seasonal changes in soil moisture content, the interaction between trees and buildings, species variations, forms of root damage, and the legal framework. Each chapter contains

a detailed case study to further illustrate the points being made. The combination of theoretical knowledge and practical results of the case studies provides an excellent and definitive reference.

Volume II, *Patterns of Soil Drying in Proximity to Trees on Clay Soils* (229 pp.), contains a description of the methods applied and the technical data derived, by species and soil type. The data sets discussed in Volume I are discussed and illustrated in Volume II. Although the second volume is well suited to people who need the raw data for their own work, it may be of less interest to the general reader.

Given that engineers and the insurance industry in Great Britain appear to have condemned so many trees on what appears to be false evidence in many cases, this work will be useful in providing solid evidence about the role of tree roots near buildings. The final chapter, a *Revised Role for the Professions*, is particularly interesting in that it lays out the manner in which all professions can, and should, work together to better understand complex problems. That message is one that all arborists should take to heart as we more clearly establish our role in the management of trees.

Overall, this 2-volume set is a commendable production. It should be required reading for anyone involved in this aspect of arboriculture.

Reviewed by Dr. Julian A. Dunster, Bowen Island, British Columbia, Canada.

#### AREA NEWS

Arboricultural Research and Education Academy (AREA) announces its new officers for 1998–1999:

- President: Alicia Chacalo, Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana, Azcapotzalco, Mexico City, Mexico
- President-Elect: James Klett, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO, USA
- Vice President: Patrick Kelsey, The Morton Arboretum, Lisle, IL, USA
- Past President: Pavel Svihra: University of California Cooperative Extension, Novato, CA, USA
- Treasurer: Dan Struve, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, USA

The winner of the Best Poster Award from the 1998 ISA Conference in Birmingham was John R. Hartman, University of Kentucky, for his poster, "Reactions of dogwood species and cultivars to powdery mildew."

Receiving distinctions for very good quality posters were the following:

- Bal Rao and Brian Jeffers, The Davey Tree Institute: "Comparison of barrier materials for root inhibition."
- Chad E. Sperry and William Chaney, Purdue University: "Effects of honey locust planting densities on populations of three common insect pests."

The AREA traveling grant winners are

- Marek Zdarsky, Czech Republic
- Daniel Rivas Torres, Universidad Autónoma de Chapingo, Mexico
- Jill Mahon, University of Wisconsin—Stevens Point, WI, USA

## CALL FOR PAPERS

COST Action E12, Urban Forests and Trees,  
IUFRO, Research Group Urban Forestry,  
International Society of Arboriculture,  
and four Danish research institutes  
invite speakers to the research symposium:

### URBAN GREENING AND LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Copenhagen, Denmark  
June 23–25, 1999

The aim of the research symposium Urban Greening and Landscape Architecture is to provide a scientifically and intellectually stimulating environment for the discussion of present and future research within the field. In this context, Urban Greening means the form, functions, technical aspects, and management of urban forests and trees. Research presented at the symposium should be considered in relation to landscape architecture.

#### INVITATION

We are now inviting potential participants to submit abstracts. Applicants whose papers are accepted will give an oral presentation at the conference and submit a written paper. Peer-reviewed papers will be considered for publication in *Landscape and Urban Planning* and *Journal of Arboriculture*. The programme will include 36 oral presentations. Other relevant selected papers will be offered a poster presentation. Be sure to include the following information: Name, Affiliation, Address, City, Postal Code, Country, Phone, E-mail, Title of Paper and Presentation. Inform us of the working session in which you want your abstract to be considered. The deadline is February 1, 1999. Full papers must be submitted for peer review by April 1, 1999:

- 1: Objectives, Form, and Functions of Urban Greening
- 2: Urban Plant Establishment and Plant Selection for Urban Uses
- 3: Planning and Management of Urban Greening

Please send your abstract of not more than 200 words before February 1, 1999 to:

Thomas B. Randrup, Ph.D.  
Danish Forest and Landscape Research Institute  
Hoersholm Kongevej 11  
DK-2970 Hoersholm, Denmark  
Fax: (+ 45) 45 76 32 33  
E-mail: tbr@fsl.dk

#### POSTERS

Abstracts of relevance for the symposium but not selected for presentation will be offered a poster presentation. The poster presentation will be on display throughout the whole research symposium and during the IFLA World Congress, which will be held immediately after the research symposium.

#### CONFERENCE FEES

Full participation (Wednesday afternoon, all day Thursday, Friday morning):  
2,100 DKK if registered before March 1, 1999.  
2,300 DKK if registered after March 1, 1999.  
Trip to Copenhagen Harbour, incl. dinner: 350 DKK.

#### WEB SITE

Check relevant information at <http://www.ifla.dk>