

Report on participation at the 86th Annual Conference of the Shade Tree Federation

By Arti Sahni, Ewing Environment Commission

Date: October 21, 22, 2011

Location: Crowne Plaza, Cherry Hill, NJ

The programs attended by me were the general session on October 21st and the Core Session on October 22nd. The general session earned the township 5.5 CEU's. Core session certificates will be received by the participant and upon receiving it; I will provide the township a copy, for the township records. There are no CEU associated with the CORE training.

The general session had mixed relevance for me as a member of the EEC. The presentations by Edward Gilman PhD were fascinating. He was very articulate, full of information. It was amazing to learn the amount of research and studies that has gone into the maintenance of trees. I attended two of his presentation "Structural Pruning: what is it, why is it the cornerstone of arboriculture and how can I sell it" and "Roots- the better half".

The legal perspective of tree and all issues related to them was presented by John Anlian, Esq. He gave relevant information for all township employees and advisory boards regarding the legal issues related to trees. (I have a one sheet handout of his presentation). Some sessions were more specifically tailored for arborists' and their licensing requirements.

The core session was excellent. I have 2 manuals from this conference that need to be kept available for all Green Team and Environment Commission members to review.

1. Urban Tree Risk Management: A Community guide to Program Design and Implementation. This manual covers topics on detection and assessment of hazardous defects in trees as well as prevention and correction of these defects.
2. Street Tree- factsheets: This manual lists detailed information on 175 tree species.

The importance of two volunteers of the Ewing Township attending the Shade tree federation is the liability protection it gives the township in the process of seeking approved status under the requirements of the NJ Shade Tree and Community Forestry Assistance Act. The township needs 8 Continued Education Units and the Core training. Currently we have earned 11 CEU + 2 CORE. In terms of requirements from volunteers, we have provided the township coverage retroactive to the beginning of the year, if we achieve approval status. It is to be remembered that an employee of the township also needs to acquire credits.

Finally I would like to thank the township for facilitating our attendance at the 86th Shade Tree Federation.