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**INDIANA URBAN FOREST COUNCIL**

# Press Release

## **Indiana Urban Forest Council Awards People and Groups for Outstanding Work in Urban Forestry**

**Carmel, October 24, 2011** The Indiana Urban Forest Council held its 21<sup>st</sup> annual Fall Conference on October 19<sup>th</sup> in Indianapolis. The IUFC presented its Annual Urban Forestry Awards to recognize people and organizations whose accomplishments and innovation are helping to expand and preserve the trees in Indiana's cities and towns. The following is a list of categories and recipients:

**Outstanding Individual:** Larry Rose, President of Trees Lafayette

**Outstanding Tree Steward:** Gregory Shaner of Lafayette

**Outstanding Civic Group:** International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 697

**Outstanding Business:** NIPSCO and LaPorte County Nursery

**Outstanding Tree Board:** North Manchester

**Project of the Year:** Greendale Arbor Day

**Outstanding Government Entity:** City of Fort Wayne

**IUFC Lifetime Achievement Award:** Pam Louks, IDNR, Community and Urban Forestry

Larry Rose was recognized for his outstanding contributions to enhance the environmental quality of life in Lafayette with his dedication to trees in an urban setting. Under his leadership as president, Tree Lafayette went from a small organization to one that has 12 board members, five

different committees, and more than 100 volunteers. Gregory Shaner, a retired plant pathologist from Purdue University has turned his retirement into a full time commitment to urban forestry and serves as chairman of the Tree Lafayette Tree Committee and has served on the Tree Lafayette board since 2009. Shaner was also recently elected to the IUFC board of directors.

NIPSCO, a gas and electric services provider for Northern Indiana and La Porte County Nursery received the Outstanding Business award for providing and planting large trees on public buildings sites, such as schools, in an effort to save energy through shade and windbreaks. The partnership was created when Bill Woodruff of the LaPorte County Nursery determined that he had a large quantity of trees that would need to be bulldozed because they were getting too large in the nursery. Woodruff saw that as a waste and decided to see if he could find someone to help him get those trees new homes rather than destroy them. NIPSCO representatives Jason Lietz and John Stout helped Woodruff develop the “Cool Communities” program designed to get the trees in the ground where they can provide ecological services.

The IBEW (International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers) Local 697 won the Outstanding Civic Group Award for preserving 9.3 of the 11 acre woodland that their new headquarters is housed on. In addition green building practices, including the utilization of harvested wood, were implemented at their facility resulting in LEED certification.

North Manchester won Outstanding Tree Board for their continued work toward greening their community through excellent organization and a tireless group of volunteers led by Chairperson Ruth Ann Schlitt. The City of Greendale won Outstanding Project for their enthusiastic dedication to education in their schools for Arbor Day. The city of Fort Wayne won Outstanding Government Entity for their exceptional response to the attack on their city’s Ash trees by the Emerald Ash Borer. Fort Wayne stands to lose nearly 30% of their tree canopy to the devastating Emerald Ash Borer.

Finally, Pam Louks, Program Coordinator for the Community and Urban Forestry program

housed within the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, received the IUFC Lifetime achievement award for her longstanding dedication to expanding and protecting the urban forest in Indiana.

The Indiana Urban Forest Council (IUFC) is devoted to promoting public awareness about the benefits of urban and community trees in Indiana, while protecting, improving and expanding Indiana's urban forest. Membership to the IUFC is open to anyone with a genuine concern or interest in the trees within Indiana communities. Contact Ashley Mulis, Executive Director at (317) 489-8775, E-mail [director@iufc.org](mailto:director@iufc.org) or on the web at [www.iufc.org](http://www.iufc.org) for more information.

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