Urban Forestry at Virginia Tech
Program Reflections and Visions

P. Eric Wiseman, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
Dept. of Forest Resources & Env. Conservation
Virginia Tech

November 20, 2009
Presentation Overview

• Early history of urban forestry at Virginia Tech

• Recent accomplishments of the Virginia Tech urban forestry program
  • Learning
  • Discovery
  • Engagement

• Future vision for the Virginia Tech urban forestry program
  • Learning
  • Discovery
  • Engagement
Presentation Overview

• Early history of urban forestry at Virginia Tech

• Recent accomplishments of the Virginia Tech urban forestry program
  • Learning
  • Discovery
  • Engagement

• Future vision for the Virginia Tech urban forestry program
  • Learning
  • Discovery
  • Engagement
Program History

1970s

• Dr. David Smith
Program History

1970s

• Dr. David Smith
• 1974 – request to review EIS
• Brandermill Planned Community
Program History

1970s

• Dr. David Smith
• 1974 – request to review EIS
• Brandermill Planned Community
Program History

1970s

• Dr. David Smith
• 1974 – request to review EIS
• Brandermill Planned Community
Program History

1970s

• Dr. David Smith
• 1974 – request to review EIS
• Brandermill Planned Community
• 1976 – developed urban forestry special study based on experiences there
Program History

1970s
- Dr. David Smith
- 1974 – request to review EIS
- Brandermill Planned Community
- 1976 – developed urban forestry special study based on experiences there
- 1979 – urban forestry course established
- Continued field trips to Brandermill into 1980s
Program History

1970s
- Dr. David Smith
- 1974 – request to review EIS
- Brandermill Planned Community
- 1976 – developed urban forestry special study based on experiences there
- 1979 – urban forestry course established
- Continued field trips to Brandermill into 1980s
1980s

• Dr. Peter Feret

• Conducted some research on urban landscape trees

• Established VT Arboretum Committee in late 80s

• Founding member of Virginia Urban Forest Council in 1990

• Taught urban forestry course from 1989 to 1993
Program History

1990s

• Dr. Smith resumes teaching urban forestry course

• Susan Day attends VT for forestry doctorate and begins assisting with urban forestry course

• 1999 – Urban Forestry option added to Forestry Major

• 2000 - Dr. Day takes over instruction of urban forestry course
Program History

2000s

• 2002 – Department hires its first full-time urban forestry faculty member, Dr. Brian Kane

• 2004 – Second urban forestry course added to the curriculum
Program History

2000s

• 2002 – Department hires its first full-time urban forestry faculty member, Dr. Brian Kane

• 2004 – Second urban forestry course added to the curriculum

• 2005 – Dr. Eric Wiseman replaces Dr. Kane as program director

• 2008 – Dr. Day joins urban forestry faculty
Presentation Overview

• Early history of urban forestry at Virginia Tech

• Recent accomplishments of the Virginia Tech urban forestry program
  • Learning
  • Discovery
  • Engagement

• Future vision for the Virginia Tech urban forestry program
  • Learning
  • Discovery
  • Engagement
Program Accomplishments

Learning

• Arboriculture Practicum

• Bartlett Research Lab Field Day

• Roanoke Municipal Forestry Field Day

• Street Tree Management Capstone Project

• SAF Accredited Urban Forestry Curriculum

• Urban Forestry Minor
Program Accomplishments

Learning

• Arboriculture Practicum

• Bartlett Research Lab Field Day

• Roanoke Municipal Forestry Field Day

• Street Tree Management Capstone Project

• SAF Accredited Urban Forestry Curriculum

• Urban Forestry Minor
Program Accomplishments

Learning
• Arboriculture Practicum
• Bartlett Research Lab Field Day
• Roanoke Municipal Forestry Field Day
• Street Tree Management Capstone Project
• SAF Accredited Urban Forestry Curriculum
• Urban Forestry Minor
Program Accomplishments

Learning

• Arboriculture Practicum

• Bartlett Research Lab Field Day

• Roanoke Municipal Forestry Field Day

• Street Tree Management Capstone Project

• SAF Accredited Urban Forestry Curriculum

• Urban Forestry Minor
Learning

- Arboriculture Practicum
- Bartlett Research Lab Field Day
- Roanoke Municipal Forestry Field Day
- Street Tree Management Capstone Project
- SAF Accredited Urban Forestry Curriculum
- Urban Forestry Minor
Program Accomplishments

Learning

• Arboriculture Practicum
• Bartlett Research Lab Field Day
• Roanoke Municipal Forestry Field Day
• Street Tree Management Capstone Project
• SAF Accredited Urban Forestry Curriculum
• Urban Forestry Minor
Program Accomplishments

Discovery
• Applied Arboriculture
  • Urban Forest Ecophysiology
  • Urban Soil & Rhizosphere
  • Urban Forest Inventory & Analysis
Program Accomplishments

Discovery
• Applied Arboriculture
• Urban Forest Ecophysiology
• Urban Soil & Rhizosphere
• Urban Forest Inventory & Analysis
Program Accomplishments

Discovery

- Applied Arboriculture
- Urban Forest Ecophysiology
- Urban Soil & Rhizosphere
- Urban Forest Inventory & Analysis
Program Accomplishments

Discovery
• Applied Arboriculture
• Urban Forest Ecophysiology
• Urban Soil & Rhizosphere
• Urban Forest Inventory & Analysis
Program Accomplishments

Discovery
- Applied Arboriculture
- Urban Forest Ecophysiology
- Urban Soil & Rhizosphere
- Urban Forest Inventory & Analysis
Program Accomplishments

Discovery

- Applied Arboriculture
- Urban Forest Ecophysiology
- Urban Soil & Rhizosphere
- Urban Forest Inventory & Analysis
Program Accomplishments

Engagement
• Tree Campus USA
  • Sustainable Sites Initiative
  • Virginia Urban Forest Council
  • ISA Science & Research Committee
  • Arboriculture Research & Education Academy
Program Accomplishments

Engagement

• Tree Campus USA

• Sustainable Sites Initiative

• Virginia Urban Forest Council

• ISA Science & Research Committee

• Arboriculture Research & Education Academy
Program Accomplishments

Engagement

• Tree Campus USA
• Sustainable Sites Initiative
• Virginia Urban Forest Council
• ISA Science & Research Committee
• Arboriculture Research & Education Academy
Presentation Overview

• Early history of urban forestry at Virginia Tech

• Recent accomplishments of the Virginia Tech urban forestry program
  • Learning
  • Discovery
  • Engagement

• Future vision for the Virginia Tech urban forestry program
  • Learning
  • Discovery
  • Engagement
Program Future Vision

Learning
• Grow and diversify undergraduate enrollment
  • Develop an urban forestry major
  • Formalize an internship program
  • Create new urban forestry graduate courses
Program Future Vision

Learning

- Grow and diversify undergraduate enrollment
- Develop an urban forestry major
  - Formalize an internship program
  - Create new urban forestry graduate courses
Program Future Vision

Learning

• Grow and diversify undergraduate enrollment

• Develop an urban forestry major

• Formalize an internship program

• Create new urban forestry graduate courses
Program Future Vision

Learning
• Grow and diversify undergraduate enrollment
• Develop an urban forestry major
• Formalize an internship program
• Create new urban forestry graduate courses
Program Future Vision

Discovery

• Develop an urban forestry graduate fellowship

• Strengthen partnerships with geospatial colleagues

• Work on integrated resource topics

• Explore international opportunities
Program Future Vision

Discovery

• Develop an urban forestry graduate fellowship

• Strengthen partnerships with geospatial colleagues

• Work on integrated resource topics

• Explore international opportunities
Program Future Vision

Discovery

• Develop an urban forestry graduate fellowship
• Strengthen partnerships with geospatial colleagues
• Work on integrated resource topics
• Explore international opportunities
Program Future Vision

Discovery

• Develop an urban forestry graduate fellowship

• Strengthen partnerships with geospatial colleagues

• Work on integrated resource topics

• Explore international opportunities
Program Future Vision

Engagement

• Center for Sustainable Urban Landscapes

• Comprehensive urban forestry extension program

• Leadership in growth of the discipline

• Student engagement
Program Future Vision

Engagement

• Center for Sustainable Urban Landscapes

• Comprehensive urban forestry extension program

• Leadership in growth of the discipline

• Student engagement
Program Future Vision

Engagement

• Center for Sustainable Urban Landscapes

• Comprehensive urban forestry extension program

• Leadership in growth of the discipline

• Student engagement
Program Future Vision

Engagement

• Center for Sustainable Urban Landscapes

• Comprehensive urban forestry extension program

• Leadership in growth of the discipline

• Student engagement
Acknowledgments

Faculty
Dr. Bonnie Appleton
Dr. Susan Day
Dr. Peter Feret
Dr. Roger Harris
Dr. John McGee
Dr. John Seiler
Dr. David Smith

Staff
Sarah Dickinson
Velva Groover
John James
Jen McKee
John Peterson

Graduate Students
Alexis Alvey
Julia Bartens
Danielle Gift
Joe Hoffman
Chris Jones
Mike Pavlis

Undergrad. Students
Ethan Crockett
Steve Jordan
Mason Patterson
Crisi Suarez
Stephanie Worthington