



**CENTER FOR URBAN FOREST
RESEARCH**
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Urban Forest Research News Brief

March 2003

Dr. McPherson Presentation – March 18 Conference Call

Dr. Greg McPherson will make a presentation during an urban heat island **conference call** on March 18, 2003. U.S. EPA is hosting the call.

Greg's presentation will cover several topics:

- **Effects of tree planting on energy and carbon dioxide.**
- **Effects of trees in parking lots and tree shading ordinances.**
- **Canopy cover targets for streets/sidewalks.**
- **Effects of tree shade on street pavement durability.**

The call usually has about 40-50 people working in environment or energy offices, non-profits, and industry (cool roofing, asphalt and concrete).

To participate in the call contact Eva Wong, Heat Island Reduction Initiative (HIRI), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency: wong.eva@epamail.epa.gov, or **202-564-3528**

Fire Tool Demo is Big Hit

Our new ecoSmart Design Software **FireWise Tool** was a big hit at the New Orleans National Fire Plan meeting in January. **Dr. Greg McPherson demonstrated the tool** – stressing the interactive capability of the computer-based tool that allows users to test various firewise techniques.

Fire-danger warning indicator – rewards implementation of good landscape and structural practices.

FireWise allows users to:

- assess the threat of fire
- place their home on a lot
- interactively add, remove, grow, and prune trees
- react to a **fire-danger warning indicator** that changes from green (low), to yellow, to red (high) if vegetation is too close

The FireWise tool is in the **beta-test stage**, and could be used:

- to train those conducting residential fire risk evaluations
- as a web-based self-evaluation tool in conjunction with work by local FireWise councils.

Field testing will begin this spring in various locations in the West.

ecoSmart is a **web-based software program** that:

- evaluates trade-offs between different landscape practices on residential parcels
- displays buildings and landscape features on a graphical user interface
- provides 3 components – FireWise, WaterWise and EnergyWise.

Staff Changes

Leaving – Dr. Lisa deJong's last day was February 7th. She was our fire research scientist who did pioneering work in South Lake Tahoe. She was with us only 18 months, but made significant contributions in furthering the understanding of the human side of fire management in the urban/wildland interface. You can see some of her work on our website at: <http://cufr.ucdavis.edu/research/fire.html>

Lisa is putting her career aside for a while. She and her new husband Arend Jan are moving to her hometown, Dallas, Texas, to start a family. She expects to encounter even bigger challenges in her new life than she did at our Center, and is looking forward to it!

Leaving – Sabrina Mathis, our ecology intern, has also left us. Her last day was February 21st. Sabrina was hired under the 1890 Scholarship Program in 1995 and completed her undergraduate work before coming to us in 1998. She recently fulfilled her contractual obligations under the Scholarship Program and has decided she needs a new focus in her life. For the near future she will try her hand at the retail business, using her Center experience to create a website and build a new inventory procedure for a used record store.

Sabrina's long term goals include law school in the fall of 2004, and some foreign travel. Her real dream is to live in several foreign countries to get a more in depth understanding of their cultures. While in these countries, she plans to support herself by teaching English.