

## Urban Forestry

In early 2005 a survey of Water Islands residents revealed the 99% of the respondents had not received any training in the care and culture of trees. The 1% that had some training received that education through reading and getting advice from neighbors. A meeting was set with the Water Island Civic Association and a date was established for the first of two tree pruning workshop was held. Forty (40) homeowners participated overall in the workshops.

### Outcome/output

A pre workshop survey revealed that ninety seven percent 97% of respondents rated their knowledge of subjects such as What is Pruning, Tools of the Trade, Reasons for Pruning, as fair to poor.

At the end of the second workshop, sixty-five percent (65%) of the participants rated their increase in knowledge of the subjects presented as good. Fifty-percent indicated that they had received enough information to prune on their own. The same number indicated that they would continue to seek information on the subject.

Source of funding: RREA

Scope: Water Island

After reading about a tree care workshop conducted by the CES, the city manager of the Tortola, British Virgin Islands invited CES staff to conduct a seminar for City landscape workers as well as the general public. Tree Pruning, Tree Preservation During Construction, and Top Trees For the Virgin Islands were the subjects covered in the one day event. Thirty-three (33) individuals participated in the seminar. A pre-seminar survey revealed that ninety-five percent (95%) of participants received their knowledge of tree pruning and care by trial and error and asking other gardeners. Ninety percent (90%) had pruned a tree within the last three years. Thus, the majority of the participants have been involved in tree care without formal training.

### Outcome/output

Seventy-five percent (75%) of the participants reported that they will seek more information about caring for trees. Sixty percent (60%) indicated that they will inspect their trees before pruning and buy additional safety equipment. Forty percent (40%) of the participants plan to prune their trees earlier.

Source of Funding: British Virgin Islands Government

Scope: British Virgin Islands

As a follow up to a tree pruning workshop conducted earlier in the year for the V.I. Housing Authority's (VIHA) landscape maintenance crew in St. Thomas, CES staff conducted a similar workshop on St. Croix. Ten (10) members of the maintenance crew participated in this half day event. None of the participants had any formal training in tree care. The majority of the crew pruned trees with inspecting the trees. About eighty percent (80%) didn't have knowledge of the basic tree forms and structure.

### Outcome/output

At the conclusion of the workshop all of the crew indicated that they learned more about tree care at that workshop than they had ever learned on their own, including tools used in pruning and spotting hazardous tree situations. They all felt that they were better prepared to better care for the trees in the public housing communities. VIHA plans to schedule more workshops of this kind for the landscape crews in the future.

Source of Funding: RREA

Scope: St. Thomas/ St. John District

Developing of economic opportunities through the use of forest products is one of the goals Renewable Resources Extension Act (RREA) and the Urban Forestry Program. One objective of the program is to assist residents with developing marketing strategies for wood products. CES in partnership with the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) conducted two seminars entitled the Business of Working with Wood. Master woodworkers Avelino Samuel and Clarence “Nick” Cook made presentations on marketing wood products. Twenty-nine (29) residents attended the seminars. Included in the attendees were woodworkers of all skill level, homeowners with large tracks of forested land, and interested citizens. Approximately eighty-five percent (85%) of attendees had never had any formal training in marketing of any products.

### Output/outcome

As a means of providing an avenue for demonstrating some of what was taught in the seminars, CES partnered with the V. I. Department of Agriculture’s Urban and Community Forestry Program to put on a wood workers show in each district. Twenty one (21) woodworkers participated in the show. All had indicated that they had benefited greatly from the seminars. Fifty percent (50%) of the participants actually used some of the techniques learned in the marketing seminars.

Twenty-five percent (25%) of those that attended the seminar indicated that they had gained a better appreciation for the use of forest products and the economic opportunities that could be derived by proper management of the forest resources.

Seventy-five percent of the homeowners plan to seek more information on the management of the tree populations in their area.

Source of Funding: RREA

Scope: Territory