

Up By Roots Workshop to Take Place in Suffern, New York

On September 28th, Jim Urban, FASLA, will be in Suffern, New York to present principles from this latest book, *Up By Roots: Healthy Soils and Trees in the Built Environment*. Jim Urban is the recent recipient of the ASLA Honors Award for Communications for the book, which was heralded as a “must-have for any practitioner” by members of the award panel (Stubbs 2009). Other members of the awards jury predicted that *Up By Roots* will become “the desk reference for the profession on including trees in landscape designs.”

The one-day *Up By Roots* workshop highlights basic principles of soil science and their application in facilitating the growth of healthy trees and development of water-efficient landscapes. Achieving these two objectives helps maximize the environmental and aesthetic benefits associated with large, functional trees, while minimizing future plant maintenance requirements.

This workshop includes lectures and fieldwork intended to introduce the underlying scientific principles guiding tree biology and soil-water relations. It is only through a healthy respect for these guiding principles that one can effectively design, specify, and manage soils, drainage, and trees in the urban landscape. Hands-on sessions will help attendees to connect lessons learned during the lecture to related field applications. Attendees will be offered the opportunity to determine soil texture by feel, pull soil samples with an auger, view a soil profile, and identify visual indicators in the landscape that help determine hidden soil characteristics.

Up By Roots will also prepare landscape architects for the new ASLA Sustainable Sites Initiative, which requires a greater understanding of soil. This initiative will involve analysis, preservation, reuse, and amendment (if needed) of existing soil resources. It will also require that designs provide sufficient soil volumes for healthy tree growth. These soil requirements will be added to future LEED rating systems. *Up By Roots* will provide landscape architects and other LEED professionals with the basic skills needed to understand and design sustainable soil resources.

The workshop presenter, James Urban, FASLA, is a landscape architect with more than 30 years of experience in the field of urban development. Over the past three decades, Jim has routinely dealt with the challenge of planting trees in difficult urban sites. Since 1982, he has researched and tested various methods of tree installation in the urban environment. Jim has developed applications for practicing arborists and landscape architects that include the testing of new urban tree systems and planting concepts, developing new approaches to landscape architectural design, and detailing and specifications in the area of trees and urban soils.

Up By Roots is sponsored by the International Society of Arboriculture, an ASLA LA Ces™ approved course provider.

Source: Stubbs, Stephanie. 2009. "2009 ASLA Awards." *Landscape Architecture Magazine*, August 2009.