



State of Wisconsin \ DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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Press Advisory

At 10 a.m. on Thursday May 28, Dan Traas, president of Ranger Services Inc. of Appleton and a member of the Wisconsin Urban Forestry Council, will present the 2009 Innovations in Urban Forestry Award at the former American Quality Fibers site. The award will be presented at the former drum recycling facility located at 204 Railroad St. in the City of Menasha.

Receiving the award will be City of Menasha Mayor Don Merkes; John Bodnar, Winnebago County corporation counsel, representing the county; Environmental Consultant Brian D. Wayner, representing OMNNI Associates of Appleton; and Sharon Isebrands, representing her husband Dr. J.G. Isebrands of Environmental Forestry Consultants. In addition to the plaque that Traas will present the county, the city, and the two consultants, the City of Menasha will receive a 2-inch Regal elm donated to the City of Menasha by Silver Creek Nurseries of Manitowoc. Award recipients will be available for interviews.

The Innovations in Urban Forestry Award, one of four awards presented this year by the Wisconsin Urban Forestry Council, "recognizes the innovative use of trees to assist in the clean-up of contaminated soil and groundwater at a contaminated brownfield property." In 2006, Winnebago County received a Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Urban Forestry grant (facilitated by DNR Urban Forestry Specialist Tracy Salisbury) to purchase, plant, and monitor 400 trees on a contaminated brownfield property in the City of Menasha. The trees were used to assist in the remediation of contaminated soils and groundwater. Grant funds were also used for a public awareness campaign: for signs, tree tags, a newsletter, and website updates used to increase public awareness of how trees can be used to help restore brownfield properties in urban settings.

The Wisconsin Urban Forestry Council presents annual awards to outstanding individuals, organizations, communities, and tribes that further urban forestry in Wisconsin. The council advises the DNR on the best ways to preserve, protect, expand, and improve the state's urban and community forest resources.

Details about the project can be found at the project's OMNNI Associates website at http://www.omnni.com/active_projects/former_american_quality_fibers_project/former_american_quality_fibers_project.html.

For additional information about the May 28 award presentation, contact Brian Wayner at 920.735-6900 or Dan Traas at 920.731-3511. More information about the Wisconsin Urban Forestry Council Awards can be found at <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/uf/council/awards.html>.