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Million TreesNYC Conference Proceedings: Editor's Introduction

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Million TreesNYC Conference Proceedings: Editor's Introduction

The manuscript is the Editor's Introduction for the 2010 Special Edition of CATE featuring the proceedings of the Million TreesNYC Conference held in March 2010 in New York City.

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MillionTreesNYC Conference Proceedings Editor's Introduction

Eric G. Strauss
Senior Editor, Cities and the Environment

Welcome to another special edition of Cities and the Environment Journal. In this issue, we focus on the proceedings of the *MillionTreesNYC, Green Infrastructure and Urban Ecology Research Symposium* held in the spring of 2010 in New York City. The *MillionTreesNYC* Initiative is a comprehensive urban greening and education program that is truly trans-disciplinary in scope and participation (www.milliontreesnyc.org). This initiative engages the full range of stakeholders, from the Mayor's Office, The NYC Parks and Recreation Department and the USDA Forest Service, to local NGO's scientists and educators. The diversity of participants in both the conference and the tree planting effort reflects the heterogeneous community engaged in urban ecology as it is practiced today. We are delighted to be the journal that hosts the scholarship supporting this conference. We are offering both full length articles and for the first time, selected poster presentations – all of course in digital format. All of the articles have gone through rigorous peer review prior to presentation at the conference and then again before acceptance to CATE. The articles and posters presented in this edition of CATE reflect the engagement of the full array of participants and stakeholders, including biodiversity, human well-being, ecological literacy, water quality, green infrastructure and planting effectiveness. We are particularly proud of the diversity of scholarship represented in this edition.

Each special edition of CATE features a Guest Editor and this time we are indebted to Dexter Locke for his tireless efforts. Dexter works for the New York City Urban Field Station, a unique partnership between the USDA Forest Service's Northern Research Station and the City of New York Department of Parks and Recreation, as a technician and has dedicated nearly a year to overseeing the review and preparation of the articles and posters that you find in this edition. Supported by the oversight and mentoring of our Managing Editor, Anne Cumming, Dexter was able to gather together the fruits of this conference and shepherd the review process in a timely fashion. A debt of gratitude is offered to our small army of individual reviewers who provided the critical insight into the publication worthiness of the submitted manuscripts. A

special note of thanks goes out to the Forest Service and the NYC Parks Department for allowing Dexter to dedicate such a large portion of his professional time to the journal.

This edition of CATE also marks a significant point in our own ontogeny. The Journal is leaving Boston College and moving to a new home in Los Angeles at Loyola Marymount University where I have accepted a new position as Presidential Professor in Urban Ecology. We are deeply grateful for the institutional support provided during our tenure at Boston College and look forward to a new era for our work at Loyola. This change marks a significant moment of growth for CATE as we hope to exploit this opportunity to expand the reach and scope of the journal. The really good news is that Anne Cumming remains as our Managing Editor and that the USDA Forest Service continues to be a critical partner in this scholarly venture.

The staff at CATE hopes this new geographic location will provide the platform for a new community of scholars and practitioners to join the previous work of the Urban Ecology Collaborative and contribute to our journal. We are actively recruiting additional editors from the West Coast to serve in both guest and permanent positions. You are encouraged to nominate colleagues or yourself for a role here at CATE. In addition, we are planning to continue the model of publishing at least one special topics edition each year. If you are participating in a conference for which the proceedings would make engaging fare for CATE, please contact us for consideration.

Finally, the Editors at CATE wish you a joyous and productive year and hope that you find this edition compelling and a useful tool of your scholarship. As always, we stand ready to respond to your needs as a reader and look forward to working on new editions for your consumption.

Best wishes,

Eric G. Strauss, Senior Editor

Loyola Marymount University