

DFE Hires Urban Forester

Meet Brian Satterlee

Brian is a native of Detroit, Michigan, and forestry is a second career for him. After getting a business degree and working in the business world for some time, Brian one day had an epiphany about his future while sitting on a mountaintop, and signed up for a graduate forestry program at Michigan Tech. This was no ordinary graduate forestry program, but one that required international experience, which he acquired by volunteering for a 27 month stint in the Peace Corps as an Agro-Forestry Extension Agent in Cameroon, Africa.

Brian's urban forestry experience came as a utility arborist with ACRT, a vegetation management contractor with N-Star in the New Bedford area. His new job as the urban forester for Rhode Island, working under Deputy Chief Paul Dolan, is to conduct technical outreach to the state's tree care organizations, including the RI Tree Council, community groups, cities and towns, and schools. This, says Brian, is part of his "dream come true", expanding peoples' awareness of the importance of trees in our environment.

Brian will work towards increasing the number of Tree City USA-recognized communities in the state, as well as improving communications with tree wardens and arborists by creating a website and a list-serv that can help disseminate important information to those professionals that care for city and town tree resources.

Based on his experiences with the Peace Corps, Brian's other passion is helping to spread the word about the great work they do. Brian is looking for opportunities to talk about his experiences with the Peace Corps, and encourage other people who are looking for a meaningful way of spending some time to consider the Peace Corps.

As always, the RI DFE has lots of information to help you with your shade tree problems, and Brian will be able to help you get answers. You can call him at (401) 647-3367 with your questions, and don't forget to ask him about the Peace Corps!!