



Forestry and Landscape MANAGEMENT

News about a College Tech Prep Initiative from the Six District Educational Compact

Meet a Completer

Manager credits Forestry CTP for jumpstarting career

Ryan Shalashnow, a 1998 completer and Hudson graduate, is the Park Manager of the South Chagrin Reservation. It is part of the Cleveland Metroparks, where he has worked for 16 years.

"I have the privilege of managing the South Chagrin Reservation in the Cleveland Metroparks," Ryan says. "My most important responsibilities include managing and training my crew so they are safe and have the knowledge and skills they need to accomplish their duties, upholding the standards of care that our Park receives from the pruning of our trees to the maintenance of our buildings and implementing the strategic initiatives of the Cleveland Metroparks. These include protecting our natural resources, maintaining a good relationship with neighboring communities and making sure that the Park is safe for our patrons when they 'Come Out and Play.'"

According to Ryan, Forestry and Landscape Management College Tech Prep Initiative "helped jumpstart my career."

He credits the instructors. "The experience and knowledge of both **Tom Franek** and **John Lang** proved to be very valuable and unforgettable," Ryan says. "They both have an awesome work ethic and job knowledge that helps prepare and train you in a way to be successful in the real world, no matter what job you have."

Ryan also notes that the Career Passport he received "proved to be a valuable tool and gave me an edge in the job interview process." He says the partnership with Davey Tree Expert Co. was very helpful in providing resources and training for students, as well as employment opportunities.

"I have many good memories, most of which involve the work we did as a class such as building a retaining wall and climbing and pruning the trees around the school," Ryan says. During a rally for the Career Tech programs in the auditorium, we repelled from a false ceiling above the stage and caught the audience off guard. We had a lot of fun."

Ryan's advice for current students is to "have fun and enjoy what you do. Nothing comes easy. Be willing to work hard in order to achieve the goals that are important to you."

He concludes, "Be a sponge and absorb as much as you can. The knowledge and skills that are available will prove to be very valuable in your career whether you stay in the green industry or choose another path."



Ryan Shalashnow

Establishing a working partnership with Smithers Oasis

Representatives of Smithers Oasis Company approached Forestry teachers **Tom Franek** and **John Lang** because they were interested in making a connection in an effort to find employees. Two students from Forestry and Landscape Management College Tech Prep were able to take advantage of this work-study opportunity.

As part of another educational initiative, a six-week educational program was started with Smithers Oasis Company. Students learned how to grow plants hydroponically in a water medium - soilless foam product produced by the Kent-based company. Level I students are constructing a growing system that Smithers Oasis provided for the class.

Carolyn Billick, Grower Business Manager at Smithers Oasis, **Michael Wiebe**, Senior Research Greenhouse Technician, and **Ashley Cook**, Safety and Environmental Manager, are collaborating with students and the instructors to complete the project. They visit the classroom every week for six weeks to help educate the students on how to operate the system.



Senior Research Greenhouse Technician Michael Wiebe talks about growing lettuce hydroponically.



Six District Educational Compact

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Seeing turf and landscape management equipment up close

In October, Forestry and Landscape Management Level II students attended the Baker Vehicle Systems, Inc. Field and Training Day. Located in Macedonia, Baker sells vehicles and equipment, including professional turf equipment, industrial vehicles and accessories to commercial customers such as golf courses, schools, landscape contractors and others in the "green industry."

Students were introduced to the most up-to-date turf and landscape management equipment technology available. They met and heard from industry representatives of leading equipment manufacturers discussing advancements in pneumatics, fuel efficiency, hydraulics and other mechanical advancements.



Visit from OSU Agricultural Technical Institute rep

In October, a representative from The Ohio State University Agricultural Technical Institute visited both Level I and II students. **Jill Byers**, Admissions Counselor, gave a presentation to explain the opportunities available at OSU-ATI. Students were invited to visit the campus.

Learning about KSU-Salem Branch horticulture

Representatives of Kent State University's Salem Regional Campus visited the Forestry and Landscape Management College Tech Prep classes.

Stan Jones, Professor of Horticulture and a Registered Landscape Architect, talked to the students about the basic concepts and components of landscape design. He explained about the importance of color, texture, light, space and form in a design.

Mr. Jones gave students a glimpse of what a class in landscape design is like for Kent students. He concluded his presentation by giving a short presentation about the various horticulture programs offered at KSU.



Stan Jones



About 'Threes for Trees' program

Northeast Ohio will be a little greener in the future thanks to the Cleveland Cavaliers and PwC and their "Trees for Threes" program. With trees donated by The Davey Tree Expert Co., the two organizations pledged to plant one tree for every three-pointer made by the Cavs over the course of the team's 41 regular season home games in 2014-15 – resulting in 422 total trees being planted in Cleveland and Akron.

In November, 100 trees were planted at Betty Jane and Windemere Community Learning Centers in Akron. Students in Forestry and Landscape Horticulture College Tech Prep helped plant the new trees.

Another 300-plus trees were planted in Cleveland at Anton Grdina Elementary School on Cleveland's east side.