

# IDAHO COMMUNITY TREES

News You  
Can Use

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A NEWS BULLETIN FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO, THE IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF LANDS—COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROGRAM AND THE IDAHO COMMUNITY FORESTRY ADVISORY COUNCIL

*Is there a Tree Campus USA near you?  
Find out on page 2.*

## Coordinator's Column

### **Investing in the Health of Our Communities**

#### — Economic Stimulus through Green Infrastructure

Since the last time I sat down to write this column, many things have changed. A presidential election has come to its historic conclusion. The snowiest December on record dumped more than nine feet of snow in less than three weeks in my neck of the state. The economy has taken a blind dive off the high board and into a pool of unknown depth, and we are about to engage in the largest public infrastructure investment in the history of our country.

When we talk about infrastructure, we most often think of things like roads, bridges, dams and water treatment plants. That is, gray infrastructure. Just as important, however, is the green infrastructure, or natural capital, we have in our communities. The community tree canopy is the principal component of our green infrastructure.

With this in mind, the National Association of State Foresters (NASF) is urging Congress—as part of the economic stimulus package—to invest in programs that will provide future employment opportunities in forest-based communities as well as infusing capital into the management of our nation's public and private forests. The activities they outlined will reduce wildfire risk, increase energy self-sufficiency, improve public and environmental health, and create “green” jobs.

Recognizing the importance of community forests, NASF's proposal includes an investment of between \$90 and \$221 million in urban and community forestry programs.

*continued on page 2*



*Arborists and other tree workers learn the ropes of safer, more efficient climbing from Tom Dunlap, long-time tree climbing expert and competition judge. This event was in Julia Davis Park in Boise as part of the Pacific Northwest Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture's Annual Training Conference last fall. Next year's conference will be in Kelowna, British Columbia.*

James R. Fazio

## **...And Don't Forget Investing in Education**

There seems to be two kinds of management styles surfacing during the unprecedented economic climate in which we find ourselves. One is the turtle style. The idea is to hunch down, hold on to what you have, perhaps go backwards, and by all means just let the winds of change blow as they may. The other is what we might call the ensign bearer. In this style, the idea is to look ahead, rally your people, and move toward the future as best you can. The latter takes guts, but in the long run it will win the day and mean a better tomorrow.

Education of arborists, tree board members and others in the green industry can benefit from the ensign bearer. This would include putting a high emphasis on training. Elevating employees through education is an investment in safety and more efficient, progressive management. In the long run it will mean lower liability risks, healthier community forests, and greater benefits that come from the green infrastructure that is described in the Coordinator's Column on this page.

See the many upcoming opportunities in the Calendar on page 3 and plan how you or your employees can prepare for the future through taking advantage of these and other educational offerings that are available.

## Introducing 'Tree Campus USA' — Who will be first in Idaho?

The Arbor Day Foundation has introduced a campus version of Tree City USA. The purpose is to promote planting of trees on college campuses and assure better tree care and protection at the nation's private and public institutions. An additional purpose is to help college students gain a greater appreciation for trees and their needs, and provide opportunities for 'real life' experiences working in planning groups and with tree boards and tree professionals.

Approximately 10 campuses were in the historic first group to be recognized for this new honor. None were in Idaho and to date none have applied. Unlike Tree City USA, the application process is open year around and information about applying is available

at [www.arborday.org/tree-campususa](http://www.arborday.org/tree-campususa). Tree City USA Bulletin No. 50, soon to be released, also features this new program and some of the nation's 3,500 campuses that have already qualified. Here is a summary of requirements for the award:

- A campus tree advisory committee that includes at least one student, one faculty member, a representative from facilities management, and someone from the community such as a tree board member or the city forester.
- A campus tree care plan
- Dedicated annual expenditures for tree care, suggested (but not required) to be \$3 per full-time student.
- Arbor Day observance
- Service-learning projects available to students



Arbor Day Foundation

*Although our neighbor to the west has achieved Tree Campus USA status, none of Idaho's institution's of higher education have yet applied. A nice goal would be to have the distinction of being the only state in the nation with all its college campuses qualifying for the award. It is truly a no- or low-cost program with high value. So, who will be the leaders in Idaho?*

### Coordinator's Column continued from page 1

This would be used to conduct tree inventories and health assessments, plant trees, respond to threats of urban tree insects and diseases, and remove and utilize infested trees. Doing so, they state, would improve human health through cleaner air and water, save communities money by reducing the need for storm water retention structures and reduce energy demands through strategic placement of trees. Additional benefits include increased business patronage, longer lasting pavement, reduced stress levels, and much more.

How this proposal will fare is unknown at this time, but as we think about investments in public infrastructure, we should consider all of it—including our community trees and forests. While making these investments at any governmental level is difficult in these tough financial times, doing so is an investment in our economy, the health of our communities and, by extension, the health of all of us who live within them.

— David Stephenson,  
Community Forestry Coordinator

## IDAHO COMMUNITY TREES

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### Field Contacts

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## Tree Committee Tree Competition A Great Idea

Vaughn and Jeanine Anderson were the winners of the Shelley Tree Committee's first annual 'Tree Committee Tree Competition.' They were selected as the best of 8 entries. The award was announced in the *Shelley Pioneer* and presented during Vaughn's 84<sup>th</sup> birthday party.

Shelley initiated the contest to spotlight homes where the use of trees in the landscape illustrate the beauty and practical benefits that trees can provide. The purpose was also to make residents more aware of the committee and its work on behalf of city trees. Here is how the contest works, and could work in your community:

1. Announcement was made in the local newspaper and with posters placed in stores.
2. Residents could submit nominations that were then judged by members of the tree committee and Community Forestry Assistant Gerry Bates.
3. The winner was selected based on these criteria:
  - a. Are trees a major part of the landscaping?
  - b. Are the trees well maintained?
  - c. Was the landscaping design, planting and maintenance done principally by the owner?
  - d. Were the species selections appropriate for the climate and site?
  - e. Other comments by the nominator.

## Upcoming Certified Arborist (CA), Municipal Arborist (MA), Utility Arborist (UA), and Certified Tree Worker (CTW) written Exams

**March 19** – Sandy, UT (CA, MA, UA)<sup>1</sup>

**April 18** – Spokane, WA (Finch Auditorium—CA, MA, UA)<sup>2</sup>

**May 14** – Orem, UT (CA, MA, UA)<sup>1</sup>

**June 6** – Twin Falls, ID (College of Southern Idaho—CA, MA, UA)<sup>2</sup>

**June 6** – Lewiston, ID (Lewiston Community Center—CA, MA, UA)<sup>2</sup>

**June 9** – Provo, UT (CTW)<sup>1</sup>

**June 20** – Boise, ID (Idaho Power Building—CA, MA, UA, CTW)<sup>2</sup>

**August 20** – Orem, UT (CA, MA, UA)<sup>1</sup>

**September 26** – Pocatello, ID (Zoo Education Building—CA, MA, UA)<sup>2</sup>

**November 6** – Salt Lake City, UT (CA, MA, UA)<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>For information or to register, contact: Utah Chapter, International Society of Arboriculture at (801) 446-8229 or email: [Lisa\\_UCFC@yahoo.com](mailto:Lisa_UCFC@yahoo.com).

<sup>2</sup>For information or to register, contact: Pacific Northwest Chapter, International Society of Arboriculture at 503/874-8263 or 217-355-9411 or email: [info@pnwisa.org](mailto:info@pnwisa.org).

## Lots of Planting Planned in California

According to an article in HORTIDEAS and reprinted in the Idaho Nursery and Landscape Association's Tap Root, 5 million trees are to be planted in the Sacramento area by 2045. This will double the canopy cover in the area and reduce the average ambient temperature by 3 degrees F. In turn, this is expected to lower the annual number of "bad air" days by 50 percent. Called the Greenprint Initiative, the project is a cooperative effort between the Sacramento Tree Foundation and the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (that covers six counties). The majority of the trees will be planted on private property. For more information about this ambitious and beneficial project, you can visit: <http://greenprintonline.org/default.aspx>.



## Calendar— Spring 2009

### February 29

**2009 Utah Spring Arborist Series—Tree Biology, Tree and Soil Relations, Water Management, Orem, Utah.** (More information at [www.utahurbanforest.org/events/2009\\_Spring\\_Arborist\\_Series\\_registration.pdf](http://www.utahurbanforest.org/events/2009_Spring_Arborist_Series_registration.pdf))

### March 3

**Beyond Survival—Planting Trees that Thrive. Orofino City Hall.** (Contact Todd Perry at 208-476-4725)

### March 5-6

**Certified Arborist Training Course, College of Southern Idaho, Twin Falls.** (Contact Dave 'Treeman' Kiesig at 208-732-6431 or e-mail [dkiesig@csi.edu](mailto:dkiesig@csi.edu))

### March 21

**2009 Utah Spring Arborist Series—Tree Nutrition and Fertilization, Diagnosis and Plant Disorders, Plant Health Care, Orem, Utah.** (More information at [www.utahurbanforest.org/events/2009\\_Spring\\_Arborist\\_Series\\_registration.pdf](http://www.utahurbanforest.org/events/2009_Spring_Arborist_Series_registration.pdf))

### April 6-8

**Trees & Utilities 16<sup>th</sup> Annual National Conference, The Fairmont Dallas, Dallas, Texas.** (Phone 1-888-448-7337 or visit [www.arborday.org](http://www.arborday.org))

### April 18

**2009 Utah Spring Arborist Series—Pruning – Safety, Tree Assessment and Risk Mgmt., Trees and Construction, Climbing and Working in Trees, Orem, Utah.** (Information at same web site as above)

### April 24

**Arbor Day in Idaho!** Plan now to make it bigger and better than ever in your community.

## Improved i-Tree

If you have been holding off on taking the plunge into the use of the i-Tree suite of programs for community tree inventorying and benefit analysis, here is some good news. The i-Tree development team is working on i-Tree version 3.0 and plans to release it this spring. Many modifications are promised to increase functionality and improve performance under a uniform platform. Included in this is integrating the MCTI (the inventory tool) and STRATUM (the street tree analysis tool) into one seamless program. This is an improvement David Stephenson of IDL has been urging and will make the programs much more practical for use in Idaho's smaller communities. More information about these programs is available in *Tree City USA Bulletin No. 46* or by going to [www.itreetools.org/about\\_itree.shtm](http://www.itreetools.org/about_itree.shtm).



# University of Idaho

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# Tree tip

## Know Your Trees

Most of us have not had the opportunity of taking a course in trees such as Dendrology or Plant Materials. Now there is help to fill in the gaps of what tree knowledge you or your employees may have.

☛ **Utah Tree Browser** is a new, online source that can help you identify and obtain information about 241 native and introduced trees that grow not only in our neighbor state but throughout the Intermountain West. The site, sponsored by Utah State University, includes 1,073 color photos. You can search for trees by 21 different characteristics and find information ranging from leaf shapes to suitable hardiness zones. Available free at [www.treebrowser.org](http://www.treebrowser.org).

☛ **What Tree is That?** is a new, 150-page pocket-size book from The Arbor Day Foundation. It combines its previous tree identification keys for eastern and western U.S. into a single publication that includes nearly 300 trees. The key is easy to follow and the book is richly illustrated. Sales will begin in April. An online version of the key is available at [arborday.org/trees/whattree](http://arborday.org/trees/whattree).

Both of these sources were written by Dr. Mike Kuhns of Utah State University; Dr. James Fazio of the University of Idaho wrote commentary for each of the trees in the Arbor Day Foundation publication.



**What Tree is That?**