

# 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 LANDS RESOURCE COORDINATING COUNCIL

*Is your community fire safe?  
See pages 1 and 4.*

## Coordinator's Column

### **Living with Fire – Creating Fire Adapted Communities**

Some reading this column will remember 2012 as a year of incredible sunsets. Most, however, will remember the reason behind these—the thick layer of smoke settling over our state and communities from wildland fires for much of the year. With more than 1.7 million acres burned so far, 2012 is the worst wildfire year in Idaho in well over a decade. Most of the fires were in “rural forests,” but some burned into the areas where these forestlands meet our communities, known as the wildland-urban interface, or WUI, and with tragic results.

Addressing wildfire is not solely a fire management, fire operations or a WUI problem—it is a larger, more complex land management and societal issue. The National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy notes that restoring and maintaining resilient landscapes and creating fire-adapted communities are among the greatest challenges—and opportunities—for positively addressing wildland fire. Because the WUI is often a combination of rural forests, rural and urban subdivisions, and cities, community forest managers have an important partnership role to play.

Most Idaho counties have a County Wildfire Protection Plan, or CWPP, which you can find at [http://www.idl.idaho.gov/nat\\_fire\\_plan/county\\_wui\\_plans/index.htm](http://www.idl.idaho.gov/nat_fire_plan/county_wui_plans/index.htm). These plans contain risk assessments identifying the highest priority areas in each county, and strategies for preparedness and for treatments to reduce fire risk. Look through the plan for your county and consider how your program can assist. Whether helping educate landowners on selecting plant materials and landscaping to create fire-resilient, defensible space around homes; working with homeowner associations on management practices to reduce risks on a neighborhood scale; or managing community lands for fire resilience, there are actions each of us can take to make our communities safer from fire. Many communities in Idaho are already doing these things, and some cities—or neighborhoods within them—have achieved Firewise Communities USA designation. Coordinating these activities with the county group overseeing the CWPP can increase effective-

continued on page 2

## **McCall Wins National Award**



Sue Abbott

*The beautiful landscaping around McCall's Legacy Park is part of the reason the city has won national recognition from 'America in Bloom.'*

The City of McCall won the prestigious America in Bloom (AIB) Award for 2012. Honors for this awards program were announced at an annual symposium held in Fayetteville, Arkansas in September.

The AIB program is low cost and a great way to get a community evaluation. It spurs community involvement, increases quality of life, and enhances community pride. McCall was also given honorable mention for community involvement, landscaping, and its tree protection program. Additionally, a special mention went to the Parks Department and McCall Golf Course for tree care practices. McCall was judged on seven criteria: overall impression, community involvement, environmental awareness, heritage, urban forestry, landscape, and floral displays across three sectors: municipal, residential, and commercial.

McCall competed in the population category of less than 3,000, receiving a prestigious four-bloom rating that won in that population category. The judges commented, “Congratulations to McCall, Idaho on earning a FOUR BLOOM rating and winning your population category as a result of your efforts at continuous improvement in all the evaluated criteria. We thank the McCall in Bloom Committee and Carol Coyle, chairperson, for all of their hard work

continued on page 2

ness of the larger effort, leading to greater overall success.

For more information on wildland fire landscaping, education and more, visit these excellent Idaho websites: Idaho Firewise ([www.idahofirewise.org](http://www.idahofirewise.org)); University of Idaho Forestry Extension (<http://www.uidaho.edu/extension/forestry/content/fire/wildlandurbaninterface>); and Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security (<http://www.bhs.idaho.gov/Pages/Preparedness/Hazards/NaturalHazards/Fire.aspx>). A good source of information on available assistance before, during or after a fire is the Idaho Interagency Coordination Guide, available at [http://www.idl.idaho.gov/nat\\_fire\\_plan/iicg/id\\_interagency\\_guide.pdf](http://www.idl.idaho.gov/nat_fire_plan/iicg/id_interagency_guide.pdf).

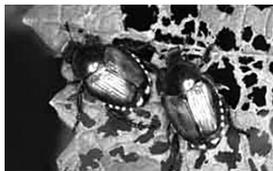
Wildland fire in Idaho is a natural event. However, decades of fire suppression and a lack of forest management have led to unhealthy forests and a build-up of fuels. Expansion of communities and subdivisions into fire ecosystems has further exacerbated the risk to homes and people. While we cannot eliminate fire, we can take steps to create fire resilient communities and landscapes. We all share in this responsibility. How can you help?

-- David Stephenson

Community Forestry Coordinator

## Another Bad News Bug Invades Idaho

The unwelcome Japanese Beetle has finally found its way to Idaho. This is one of the East's most destructive pests and it has now been detected in Ada and Kootenai



Japanese Beetles

Maine Dept. of Agriculture

### IDAHO COMMUNITY TREES

Idaho Community Trees is published four times a year by the College of Natural Resources, Department of Conservation Social Sciences, University of Idaho, Moscow, ID 83844. Direct editorial matters to James R. Fazio, Editor: 208/882-0965; fax 208/882-0373; e-mail [jfazio@turbonet.com](mailto:jfazio@turbonet.com).

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#### Field Contacts

Northern Idaho: Vacant. For assistance, contact the Coeur d'Alene office.

Southern Idaho: Gerry Bates, C. F. Ass't., 2445 John Adams Parkway, Idaho Falls, ID 83401. Ph. 208/522-5964 ([plantingidaho@gmail.com](mailto:plantingidaho@gmail.com)).

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## In Memory of Karen Knapp Haskew

Karen Haskew, Coeur d'Alene's city forester for the past 25 years, passed away on July 16. Just ten days earlier, residents of Coeur d'Alene honored Karen for her quarter century of contributions and dedicated a Katsura tree and plaque in her honor. Parks Superintendent Doug Eastwood recognized her as one of the city's shining stars, and talked



about just some of her many accomplishments. These include developing the Landscape of Excellence Award; Volunteers in Pruning (VIP); Street Replacement Programs; the *Historic, Unusual and Big Tree Book* and Tour; the online Bloom Report and informative urban forestry web page information; and leading development of the Community Canopy organization, newsletter and fall workshops.

Under Karen's leadership, the city received Tree City USA awards every year she served as forester, and received eight Growth Awards for the program improvements she made. Last fall, Karen received the Pacific Northwest Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture's Municipal Arborist Award.

Karen graduated from West Virginia University in 1974 where she was an honorary member of Xi Sigma Phi in the forestry school, and recognized as the Most Outstanding Senior. She was also known for her skill in throwing a double bladed axe, winning many championships while in school.

While Karen's good humor, positive personality, and outstanding work will be missed deeply, her legacy of a greener, healthier Coeur d'Alene lives on and serves as an example to others.

### McCall Award continued from page 1

and dedication to the continued beautification efforts for their city. This is the third year of participation in AIB. The support they have received from the municipal government, business owners, and resident volunteers is outstanding! And it is still growing and blooming."

America in Bloom promotes nationwide beautification through education and community involvement by encouraging the use of flowers, trees, and other environmental and lifestyle enhancements. Founded in 2001, America in Bloom is modeled after programs in Europe and Canada. They offer a national awards program for cities, towns, townships, college campuses, business districts, military installations and identified sections of large cities. The program provides a framework for improving the overall quality of life of citizens. It is the only program of its kind that provides on-site, one-on-one mentoring and coaching by a team of expert judges who provide a detailed, written evaluation.

For information about the award, contact Carol Coyle in McCall at [ccoyle@mccall.id.us](mailto:ccoyle@mccall.id.us) or visit America in Bloom's website at [www.americainbloom.org](http://www.americainbloom.org).

# Fall 2012 – Winter 2013 Events Calendar

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## November 5-8

**2012 Arborist School**, Kaysville, Utah. (Visit [www.utahurbanforest.org/events/calendar](http://www.utahurbanforest.org/events/calendar), or call 801-446-8229). Optional ISA Certification Exam on November 9.

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## November 8

**Idaho Lands Resource Coordinating Council Meeting**, Coeur d'Alene, ID. (Contact IDL for more information. See masthead on page 2 for contact information).

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## November 9

**Sustainable Tree Species for the Inland Northwest**, Spokane, WA. (Visit PNW-ISA website at <http://pnwisa.org/> for more information).

**Fruit Tree Pruning**, Spokane, WA. (Contact Community Canopy c/o Coeur d'Alene City Forestry at 208-769-2266).

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## November 12-13

**Tree Risk Assessment Course and Exam**, Redmond, OR. (Visit PNW-ISA at <http://pnwisa.org/>).

**Society of Municipal Arborists Annual Conference and Trade Show**, Sacramento, CA. (Visit [www.urbanforestry.com/conferences](http://www.urbanforestry.com/conferences)).

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## November 14-16

**Partners in Community Forestry Conference**, Sacramento, CA. (Visit <http://www.arborday.org/shopping/conferences/brochures/pcf/2012/>).

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## November 16

**Inland Northwest Shade Trees: New and Common Problems**, Spokane, WA. (Visit PNW-ISA website at <http://pnwisa.org/>).

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## January 23-25, 2013

**Idaho Horticulture Expo**, Boise, ID. (Visit Idaho Nursery and Landscape Association website at [www.inagrow.org/2013\\_IHE.htm](http://www.inagrow.org/2013_IHE.htm)).

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## January 28-30, 2013

**Utah Green Industry Conference and Trade Show**, Sandy, Utah. (Visit Utah Nursery and Landscape Association website at [www.utahgreen.org/events](http://www.utahgreen.org/events)).

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## February 17-22, 2013

**Municipal Forestry Institute (MFI)**, Nebraska City, NE. (Visit the Society of Municipal Arborists website at <http://www.urban-forestry.com/mfi-2013>).

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

November 9, 2012–Kaysville, UT (CA, UA, MS)<sup>1</sup>

November 19, 2012–Sandy, UT (CTW Climber Specialist)<sup>1</sup>

January 24, 2013–Boise, ID (CA, UA, MS)<sup>2</sup>

Check-in: 1:30 p.m. Also, Tree Workers, written test.

June 1, 2013–Lewiston, ID (CA, UA, MS)<sup>2</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).

## Hayden Arborist Receives 'Tree Professional' Honor from ISA

Tim Kastning, owner of Grace Tree Service and a certified arborist, has been named a 'True Professional of Arboriculture' by the International Society of Arboriculture. This designation honors tree care professionals for their positive impact on the industry and in their communities.

Kastning is a community leader, supporter of tree preservation and a local news columnist who promotes trees and quality tree care. As a business owner, he invests in his employees' education and encourages them to become ISA Certified Arborists. Among his other projects are designing and implementing forest restoration and fuel reduction strategies and helping private forest owners maintain small parcels of forested land for future generations to enjoy.

In receiving the award, Kastning said, "In the last 20 years, the profession has advanced tremendously in science, education, tools and techniques. It's important to help others grow and succeed in this industry and if we do that, we will continue to make progress in the years ahead. We have only laid the foundation for what is to come in arboriculture."

Profiles and case studies of 'Tree Professionals' can be found at the ISA website, [www.isa-arbor.com](http://www.isa-arbor.com).

## Good Bye to Barb Ham

A valued individual behind the scenes of *Idaho Community Trees* is our dedicated layout and graphics specialist, Barb Ham. Barb is retiring from the University of Idaho's Creative Services and Print Management Department at the end of December. She helped design the first issue of the newsletter in 1996 and has been involved with all 64 editions since then. We thank Barb and wish her happy days in retirement!



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## Tree tip

### Make Yours a Firewise Community

Small communities or even neighborhoods can earn Firewise Communities/USA status and become a safer place to live. You create your own program with assistance from local fire staff and state forestry agencies. Award criteria are:

- Enlist a specialist for fire risk assessment and creation of a plan with agreed-upon solutions.
- Sponsor a Firewise task force or committee that maintains the Firewise Community program and tracks its progress.
- Observe a Firewise Communities/USA Day each year that is dedicated to a local Firewise project.
- Invest at least \$2.00 annually per capita in local Firewise Communities/USA efforts. (Can include volunteer time and grants.)
- Submit an annual report to Firewise Communities/USA documenting compliance.

For more information, visit [www.firewise.org](http://www.firewise.org) and [www.idahofirewise.org](http://www.idahofirewise.org).

