

IDAHO COMMUNITY TREES

News You
Can Use

No. 65
Winter
2013

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

*Need help with Arbor Day?
See pages 1 & 3.*

Coordinator's Column

Seeing the Forest and the Trees

Creating awareness of and interest
in your community forest

“Out of sight, out of mind” is a familiar saying. Unfortunately, “in-sight, out of mind” is more the case with our community forests. The trees around us become so much a part of the background of our communities that they, and the value they provide, are often unnoticed. As a result, we too frequently take them for granted . . . until they are no longer there. To keep, maintain and grow healthy, productive and functional community forests, we need to have folks notice and appreciate the work trees do.

An interesting art project I saw when in Sacramento for the Partners in Urban Forestry Conference last fall, called “Blue Trees,” intends to do just this. Blue Trees is a worldwide effort to raise awareness and encourage discussion about the benefits of trees and forests for people and the planet. Trunks of trees in highly visible areas of cities around the world are painted with a specially blended, vividly ultramarine water-based colorant. Lasting about six months and safe for trees and people, the effect most certainly grabs your attention! Educational signs and materials near the trees explain the purpose behind the project. Unfortunately, a black and white publication cannot reproduce photos that capture this, so I encourage you to Google “Blue Trees” for many links with information and photos of this striking tree awareness effort.

This got me thinking about the importance of drawing attention to the work we do and its value to our communities. Arbor Day is coming up soon and is, of course, a great opportunity to celebrate trees. Some ways to enhance your celebration are:

(1) Apply for an Arbor Day Grant. This is a joint effort by the Idaho Nursery and Landscape Association, Avista, Idaho Power, Rocky Mountain Power and the Idaho Department of Lands. Partner with local businesses, schools and other organizations to enhance your celebration. More information is available at: www.idl.idaho.gov/bureau/community_forestry/arbor_day.

(2) Encourage your local schools to participate in the Idaho Forest Products Commission's Arbor Day Photo Con-

test for grades 5-12. Visit www.idahoforests.org/photoentry.htm for information and to see photos of prior year winners. Ask downtown businesses to display all the local entries in their front windows, bringing attention to both students and trees.

(3) Consider placing giant “benefits price tags” on selected trees. The tag indicates the dollar value of the environmental benefits a tree provides over its lifetime. In Idaho, the cumulative 40-year benefits of a large tree averages \$1,900 to \$2,600. If you add what it would cost to replace the tree, this number increases substantially. This is a great way to publicize the benefits trees provide and the money they save communities and homeowners.

(4) Conduct an inventory of public trees or publicize the information you have already collected. An inventory not only provides information important for managing community trees, it's also an opportunity to tell community residents about what you are doing – or need to do – in the way of tree care, why it's important, and how tree management efforts contribute to public safety and maximize the value of and benefits provided by trees.

Sometimes, like viewing trees in a forest, we don't always see the individual for the crowd. Yet each person who notices, appreciates and supports trees in your community is important. There are many other ways to create attention and interest in trees and their benefits. Let me know what your city has done and we can include a list of examples in a future issue.

— David Stephenson
Community Forestry Coordinator



Large “price tags” such as this one hung on trees in visible areas can provide interest, generate questions and provide an opportunity to educate residents on the value of trees in our communities. For information on ways to create an over-sized tag, you can contact David Stephenson.

A Very Special Arbor Day Tree

Janet Meckel spotted a beautiful spruce at a tree farm near McCall and tagged it for later transplanting to her yard. On the ribbon, her husband, Tony, wrote, "Janet's Tree." What followed was what Janet called an "arduous journey" as she fought a life-threatening case of acute myeloblastic leukemia.

Last year Janet celebrated her third-year anniversary after a grueling bone marrow transplant procedure. In a letter published in McCall's *Star-News*, she wrote, "When we were ap-

proached this year to help out with a tree for the Arbor Day celebration we were delighted, grateful and admittedly emotional as we realized what we must do, what we would have the privilege of doing. We agreed, as a family, it was finally time to transplant "Janet's Tree" to its new home. We first saw the tree as a beautiful and grand symbol of life and second chances. Now where it stands, in the middle of Legacy Park, our hearts celebrate knowing its branches will provide to everyone comfort in the heat and shelter



Troy Berheim with Meckel Excavation lowers a beautiful spruce into its new home at McCall's Legacy Park.

in a storm, just as the arms of this community did for us. It is our prayer and desire that the tree will stand as

a monument of gratitude and as a symbol of hope for generations to come."

Ordinance Enforcement Benefits (Almost) Everyone!

The City of Idaho Falls has an ordinance requiring tree care companies to have a certified arborist on staff if they work on trees within the city limits. Some companies complained about the ordinance and for awhile it was not enforced. Finally, after one company not only continued to work without a certified arborist, but also performed

poor pruning practices, City Forester Delbert Lloyd asked the police to enforce the ordinance. They did – first letting the company finish its job and then telling them they were not to work again in the city without a license.

According to Delbert, word of the ordinance enforcement spread quickly through the tree care community. As a result, there has been a sudden increase in arborist certifications in Idaho Falls, including among the companies that initially

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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.

For address changes, program assistance or additional information, contact Community Forestry Coordinator, Idaho Dept. of Lands, 3284 W. Industrial Loop, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815; phone 208/666-8621; fax 208/769-1524; e-mail communitytrees@idl.idaho.gov.

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 (plantingidahogmail.com).

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i-Tree Version 5.0 is Now Available

The suite of free software useful in urban forestry has now been updated. For more information and access to the programs please visit www.itreetools.org. Technical support, users' manuals and resources, and a peer-to-peer online forum are also available. The programs include:

- *i-Tree Eco* to sample or inventory data to assess forest structure, ecosystem services and values for any tree population.
- *i-Tree Streets* is similar to Eco, but focuses on street tree populations.
- *i-Tree Storm* helps assess widespread street tree damage following storms.
- *i-Tree Species Selector* helps you select trees appropriate for specific planting sites.
- *i-Tree Vue* allows users to utilize freely available national land cover data maps to see and assess their community's land cover, tree canopy and impervious surfaces.
- *i-Tree Hydro* simulates the effects of changes in tree and impervious cover within a watershed on hourly stream flow and water quality.
- *Pest Detection Protocol* helps with detection and monitoring.
- *i-Tree Canopy* provides a simple, quick and inexpensive means for cities to accurately estimate their tree and other cover types.
- *i-Tree Design* allows users to sketch their home and see how their trees affect energy use and savings, and other environmental services.

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complained. The moral of this story is that it does no good to have a tree ordinance on the books if it is not taken seriously, and when it is – residents benefit through better tree care and legitimate companies can offer a higher level of professional service. In short, a presumed ‘negative’ becomes a ‘positive.’

Looking for Volunteers? Or a Chance to Volunteer?

There is a nifty new website sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation that allows visitors to list their needs for volunteers, and for interested individuals to locate volunteer opportunities in their community. There is no charge for the service and it is easy to use. Currently there are approximate 30 volunteer opportunities related to natural resources shown for Idaho. The site also allows visitors to register and keep track of their volunteer hours. For more information, visit arbordaynow.volunteermatch.org.

Forest Products Commission Promotes Arbor Day

Arbor Day 2013 is just around the corner. The tree planting holiday will be celebrated in Idaho this year on Friday, April 26 and once again the Idaho Forest Products Commission will be one of its strong supporters. The Commission is teaming up with businesses, community foresters and others to encourage the celebration. There will be a special new Arbor Day T-shirt, brochure and poster, and a “Look to the Forest” photo competition for children. Also featured will be a statewide billboard campaign, public service radio announcements, a celebration at the state Capitol and, of course, seedlings for communities to distribute.



If you are planning an Arbor Day celebration and have not already done so, please contact Betty Munis at the Idaho Forest Products Commission right away. She can be reached at (208) 334-3292 and more information is available at www.idahoforests.org.

Winter/Spring 2013 Events Calendar

February 4 – May 6

Landscaping with Trees, Lewiston, ID. Thirteen different classes on Monday evenings cover the ISA Certified Arborist exam domains. Enroll in all or selected classes. Sponsored by City of Lewiston, Washington State Extension and University of Idaho Extension. Brochure, schedule, and registration form can be found at www.cityoflewiston.org/DocumentCenter/View/5805.

February 9 – April 13

2013 Utah Arborist Series, Provo City Library. Enroll in all or selected classes. Information can be found at Utah Community Forest Council’s website www.utahurbanforest.org or download a brochure at www.utahurbanforest.org/images/2013%20Spring%20Arborist.pdf.

- Feb. 9th ‘Tree Biology, Tree and Soil Relations, Water Management’
- Mar. 9th ‘Tree Nutrition and Fertilization, Diagnosis and Plant Disorders, Plant Health Care’
- Apr. 13th ‘Pruning – Safety, Tree Assessment and Risk Mgmt., Trees and Construction, Climbing and Working in Trees’

March 27

Idaho Lands Resource Coordinating Council Meeting, Moscow Best Western. For more information, contact Suzie Jude at sjude@idl.idaho.gov or at (208) 666-8620.

March 19

Understanding Tree Risk: A Webinar for Municipal Officials, sponsored by the States of Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. Webinar hosts are Paul Ries, Oregon Community Forestry Coordinator and Jerry Mason, Attorney for the Association of Idaho Cities.

This important webinar is for mayors, city councilors, city managers and attorneys. It will help community leaders mitigate risk associated with public trees, understand city responsibilities, and more. Webinar will begin at noon, Pacific Time (1p.m. Mountain Time) and last one hour. There is no cost. For more information, visit: www.idl.idaho.gov/bureau/community_forestry/home.

April 26

Arbor Day!

Upcoming Exams

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

- June 1, 2013 Lewiston, ID (CA, UA, MS)¹
- June 1, 2013 Twin Falls, ID (CA, UA, MS, CTW written exam)¹
- September 21, 2013 Pocatello, ID (CA, UA, MS, CTW/Aerial Lift Specialist written exam)¹

¹For information or to register, contact Pacific Northwest Chapter, International Society of Arboriculture at (503) 874-8263 or (217) 355-9411 or by email at: info@pnwisa.org.

University of Idaho

Department of Conservation Social Sciences

875 Perimeter Drive MS 1139

Moscow, ID 83844-1139



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Tree tip

Upgrade your Tree Knowledge – at Your Own Pace



Learning is at your fingertips by going to <http://elearn.sref.info>.

Beginning urban foresters, arborists, park workers and anyone that works with trees can now learn at home or in the office through eLearn: Urban Forestry. This state-of-the-art, online distance-learning program lets you learn at your own pace. It is sponsored by Texas A&M and the U.S. Forest Service and it is free. Lessons include:

1. Benefits & Costs of the Urban Forest
2. Tree Growth & Development
3. Urban Soils
4. Site, Tree Selection & Planting
5. Arboriculture
6. Assessing & Managing Tree Risk
7. Disorder Diagnosis & Management
8. Trees & Construction
9. Public Policy & Urban Forestry
10. Urban Forest Management

ISA and SAF certification credits are available for a \$50 fee.