

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

Coordinator's Column

New Faces in Idaho's Community Forestry Program

I am pleased to introduce several individuals new to the Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) Community Forestry Program, and tell you a little bit about each.

Stephen Drinkard will provide education and technical assistance to north Idaho communities in Bonner, Boundary, Kootenai, Shoshone and Benewah Counties, including help with tree committee development and organization, ordinance creation and review, and completion of tree inventories and management plans. He is available to answer questions on tree issues that cities are having, can help communities initiate or improve a tree program and provide education most beneficial to community staff and volunteers.

Stephen brings to this position a 25-year education background and twelve years as the City of Sandpoint's city forester. He was instrumental in building Sandpoint's community forestry program from the roots up. He organized a very active tree committee, updated the city's tree ordinance, developed a city arboriculture manual, completed a public tree inventory, oversaw development of a comprehensive city forestry plan, and instituted a public tree maintenance program. Stephen also spearheaded creation of a citywide citizen-based tree-planting program called *Neighborhoods*, modeled after similar efforts around the country. In partnership with the city's public works director, he initiated the use of structural soils and bioswales in the downtown corridor as a way to mitigate stormwater on site.

Philip Shinn is looking forward to providing similar services to central Idaho communities in Latah, Clearwater, Lewis, Nez Perce and Idaho counties. Phil has always been passionate about trees. In 1991, he joined the Lewiston Tree Commission, which he chaired for most of the 15 years he served. In 1992, Phil helped form and continues to volunteer for the non-profit Modie Park Conservancy, whose mission is to create and maintain an outdoor classroom where youth and adults can learn about natural processes. After retiring from a 32-year career in sales and management, Phil transitioned from Tree Commission chair to city forester, a position he held for seven years. One very notable accomplishment during his tenure with the city; he partnered with Washington State and University of Idaho to create a 13-workshop series focused on the International Society of Arboriculture Arborist Certification topics, or domains,

Want help with your city's tree program?

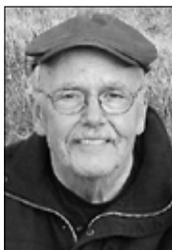
Read the Coordinator's Column.

and has helped dozens of individuals over the years become Certified Arborists. Phil himself is a Certified Arborist and UI/Nez Perce County Master Gardner.

Lance Davisson will be working closely with a diverse and dedicated group of professionals to build on the data and geospatial tools created as part of the Treasure Valley tree canopy assessment, including development of projects, programs and policies that enhance the quality of life for area citizens. His work will include developing strategies, addressing training and collaborative learning needs and coordination among project partners. Lance has been involved with delivery of natural resource management and community forestry programs for 13 years in three different states, including four years as my counterpart in New Mexico. Lance now owns and is principal consultant for *The Keystone Concept* in Boise, where he works with partners across the U.S. to improve organizations, programs and projects that create positive impacts in our communities and environment. Lance wears a number of other hats as well. He is a Board Member of both the ISA's Pacific NW Chapter and the Society of Municipal Arborists, and is a member of the National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council.

Each of these individuals will be working under contract with IDL for an average of 1-2 days per week. I'm hopeful most of you will get to meet at least one of these individuals in the near future. Should you wish to get in touch with them, their contact information is located in the masthead on page two.

— *David Stephenson*
Community Forestry Coordinator



Stephen Drinkard



Phil Shinn



Lance Davisson

Continued on page 2

Bad News – The Ash Beetle Draws Nigh

Wisconsin Dept. of Agriculture



The dreaded emerald ash borer (EAB) is making its way west! This destructive beetle kills ash trees of all species and has been a disaster in Midwest and eastern cities. It is a native of Asia and was first found in Michigan during the spring of 2002. From there it has spread throughout the Northeast quarter of the country and southeastern

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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: Stephen Drinkard, C.F. Ass't, Ph. 208-610-9999; Stephen@drinkard.org.

Central Idaho: Phil Shinn, C.F. Ass't., Ph. 208-790-7402; forestryaide@gmail.com.

Southern Idaho: Gerry Bates, C. F. Ass't., Ph. 208-681-5964; plantingidaho@gmail.com.

Treasure Valley Canopy Project: Lance Davisson, Ph. 208-994-1135; lance.davisson@gmail.com.

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Canada. This summer, the EAB was detected in Boulder, Colorado. To date, that is the western-most spread of this insect. According to the Colorado Department of Agriculture, a quarantine has been initiated in the area of the discovery and a search is on to determine how widespread the presence may be. The adult beetle can fly only about ½ mile, so its spread is attributed to the movement of firewood, logs, nursery stock or other means for it to 'hitchhike' to new areas.

The EAB is small, metallic green insect that gives away its presence through declining branches of ash trees, vertical splits in the bark, serpentine tunnels under the bark, and D-shaped exit holes about 1/8-inch wide.

There are chemical treatments available to protect high value ash trees, but the guidance of a professional arborist is recommended for its use or decisions about replacing ash with less vulnerable

species. There is plenty of information about the EAB online, including photos of harmless insects that resemble the bad one. A good starting point is www.emeraldashborer.info or a site set up in Colorado at www.colorado.gov/ag/dpi (and click on emerald ash borer). If you detect EAB in Idaho, please contact the Idaho Department of Lands (See page 2 masthead).

Treasure Valley Canopy Partnership – Building a Sustainable Future

In May 2013, The Treasure Valley Canopy Partnership released an urban tree canopy assessment that encompasses 240 square miles, 2 counties and 9 communities in southwestern Idaho, home to nearly 40% of Idaho's population. The assessment is the culmination of a vision created over 5 years ago by community forest managers, planners and environmental professionals who wanted to better understand and quantify the benefits provided by tree canopy. Just a few of the results of this project reveal:

- Treasure Valley tree cover averages 10% (ranging from 20% in Garden City and 16% in Boise to 5% in Middleton). Boise's Harrison Boulevard neighborhood averages 41% tree cover.
- Tree canopy removes 581 tons of air pollutants annually, a \$7 million yearly benefit.
- A large tree planted on the west side of a residential home can save up to \$48 per year in reduced electricity and natural gas use.
- Tree canopy mitigates 125 million gallons of stormwater annually, saving \$1.1 million in stormwater infrastructure costs.

Now that the assessment is complete, the partners have data and computer tools to start influencing how tree canopy is managed through planning and tree planting. The tools are already being used for:

- An energy conservation program based on strategic tree planting.
- Enhancing watershed planning and stormwater management through implementation of green infrastructure practices.
- Strategic planting of street trees in neighborhoods.
- Promoting similar efforts throughout southeast Idaho communities.
- And much more!

Agency and community leaders recognize that the hard work and opportunities for the partnership are just beginning as we use the information and tools to make a difference. Stay tuned as efforts continue to raise awareness and develop projects, programs and policies to enhance tree management and quality of life in the Treasure Valley – and elsewhere in Idaho.

For more information, contact Lance Davisson – Coordinator for the Treasure Valley Canopy Partnership. (contact info on page 2)

More Action in Treasure Valley

Following an enormous amount of data collection in the Treasure Valley, a geospatial technology firm, Plan-it Geo, and The Treasure Valley Canopy Partnership created computer tools that integrate the data with quantified ecosystem services at regional and site-level scales through time. Using these fact-based tools, planners, air and water resource managers, and urban foresters can better use trees to address critical environmental, economic and human health issues. Specifically, the tools will help identify priority planting areas, analyze site-specific cost/benefit ratios, and show the dollar amount of cumulative benefits.

Idaho Power and Ada County Apply the Tools

Using some of the geospatial benefit modeling tools, Idaho Power is developing an Energy Saving Trees pilot program to subsidize tree planting around customer homes. This is a way to reduce energy use, much like Sacramento's popular utility-based program to reduce consumer energy demand through planting trees on private property. By reducing demand, air pollution is reduced not only on site, but through avoiding the need for additional power plants. Ada County Highway District will also use the scenario tools to develop strategies for managing street trees for maximum stormwater reduction.

Kuna Receives an Initial Grant

Thanks to a cooperative program between the Arbor Day Foundation and utilities such as Idaho Power, Strategic Tree Planting Initiative Grants are being made available to help in the effort to shade more homes and lower energy demand. In the first round of grants, Kuna, Idaho, was among the first three organizations to be awarded \$10,000 planting grants. Some 250 trees are being distributed this fall to homeowners, with 2,500 to follow next spring. Education about the relationship between trees and air and water quality is also part of the project.

Moscow Plans to Beautify Entrances

For the 'Heart of the Arts' and home to the state's 'flagship university,' Moscow's highway entrances are something less than beautiful or a model for other communities. But city officials are trying to change that and a major project is entering its second phase. First, an analysis of the four main entrances was conducted by City Councilman Walter Steed and a committee of 'stakeholders.' Now, \$25,000 has been allocated for the development of conceptual plans as part of stage two. Eight sites have been identified for improved landscaping. Public reviews are built into the project to receive community feedback.

Fall/Winter 2013-14 Events Calendar

November 15

Inland Northwest Green Industry Series, 'The Acers Among Us – An Overview of Proper Maple Culture,' Spokane County Conservation District. Visit <http://pnwisa.org/event/2013-inland-northwest-green-industry-series/2013-11-01/> for more information and to register.

November 14–15

Desert Green Conference XVII: Sustainability in the Landscape, Las Vegas, NV. Visit <http://www.desert-green.org/> for more information and to register.

November 20-23

Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (TRAQ), Boise, ID. This course will provide education and training on the fundamentals of tree risk for arboriculture professionals, and includes a written and field exam to become a qualified Tree Risk Assessor. Visit <http://www.isa-arbor.com/events/reg/event.aspx?EventID=30> for more information and to register.

December 15

Idaho Tree City USA Applications due

January 22-24, 2014

2014 Idaho Horticulture Expo and Trade Show, Boise, ID. Visit the Idaho Nursery and Landscape Association Website for more information and to register; http://www.inlagrow.org/2014_IHE.htm.

February 23-28, 2014

Municipal Forestry Institute (MFI), Lied Conference Center—Nebraska City, NE. An intensive professional development course that will you learn and master community forestry leadership and management skills and tools. Visit <http://www.urban-forestry.com/mfi-2014> for more information and to register.

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

1) November 16, 2013 — Las Vegas, NV (CA,US, MS)3
For information or to register, contact International Society of Arboriculture at (217) 355-9411 or e-mail: cert@isa-arbor.com.

2) January 23, 2014 — Boise, ID (CA, CTW, UA, MS)2
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.

3) January 28, 2014 — Sandy, UT (CA, UA, MS)
For information or to register, contact: Utah Chapter, International Society of Arboriculture at (801) 446-8229 or email: Lisa_UCFC@Yahoo.com.

University of Idaho

Department of Conservation Social Sciences

875 Perimeter Drive MS 1139

Moscow, ID 83844-1139



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Tree tip



Ash trees line both sides of the downtown streets in Pullman, making the entire area vulnerable to the onslaught of emerald ash borers.

Will We Never Learn?

The approach of emerald ash borers again reminds us of why planting an entire street, parking lot or institutional grounds with a single species is a very bad idea. Throughout Idaho such areas can be found planted with ash trees and these sites will soon be vulnerable to a single invasive insect.

Frank Sanatmour, a respected researcher at the U. S. National Arboretum, provided these guidelines for diversifying the composition of urban trees:

- Plant no more than 10% of any species.
- No more than 20% of any genus.
- No more than 3% of any family.