

IDAHO COMMUNITY TREES

News You
Can Use

No.70
Spring
2014

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

*Did your city get an Arbor Day grant?
See page 2.*

Coordinator's Column

Ready, Get Set, GO

New Projects Underway!

This year is shaping up to be a very busy and productive one. As mentioned a couple issues ago, we are now fully staffed statewide with three community forestry assistants (CFAs). Gerry Bates, Stephen Drinkard and Philip Shinn are ready to help you initiate or improve your community forestry program, and Lance Davisson is busy coordinating the efforts of the Treasure Valley Canopy Network.

Additionally, each year the State of Idaho has the opportunity to submit up to four applications for USDA Forest Service State and Private Forestry grants to implement significant "landscape scale" projects identified in the state's Forest Action Plan. Idaho competes with 16 other western states and 5 Pacific Island Territories for these funds. The competition is stiff, but Idaho has done extremely well. In fact, Idaho proposals have ranked first and second in the West in each of the past two years!

One of the projects receiving funding last year is the Southeast Idaho Canopy Assessment, an effort similar to the Treasure Valley canopy project discussed a number of times in this newsletter. This new project is engaging a variety of partners in the greater Pocatello and Idaho Falls areas to identify the extent, function and value of forest canopy in these cities, and to quantify the future benefits for energy savings, stormwater management and air quality improvement from strategic tree planting. Data collection for the first phase—an i-Tree Eco assessment—will begin in about a month, with a geospatial analysis slated to begin later in the year.

For 2014, the West's top ranked grant proposal is Idaho's Treasure Valley Working Shade Trees initiative. Using the information and data derived from the canopy assessment, one of the projects—the Treasure Valley Canopy Network (a coalition of government, education, business and non-profit organizations)—is working to reduce energy consumption around homes through strategic tree planting. Idaho Power is major partner in this effort and, building off a smaller pilot project completed last fall, plans to provide 7,500 trees to homeowners for planting in targeted locations around their homes. The Arbor Day Foundation's Energy Saving Trees



Photo credit: Idaho Power

Local arborists in the Treasure Valley teach homeowners how to properly plant their new trees during Idaho Power's pilot Energy Saving Trees program last fall.

online sign-up tool will help homeowners select proper species and planting locations to maximize energy savings. Project partners will help with tree distribution, education, outreach and promotion, and will use the assessment modeling tools to calculate the value of energy saved.

One primary focus of our program this year is to help cities complete an inventory of their public trees and develop a realistic plan to manage this important resource. I listed some of the reasons this is so important in the last issue of this newsletter. If your community would like assistance, please give one our CFAs a call (see masthead on page two for contact information).

And remember—Arbor Day is right around the corner. In Idaho, the official holiday is the last Friday in April. This year that falls on the 25th. However, your community can celebrate on whatever day works best. Have a safe, productive and enjoyable spring, and Happy Arbor Day!

– David Stephenson
Community Forestry Coordinator

Tree Board or Tree Department?

The Idaho Community Forestry Program has completed another year of Tree City USA recertifications. This year, there are 64 Tree City USAs in the state of Idaho. Tree City USA is a program of the Arbor Day Foundation that recognizes cities that have community forestry programs. There are four Standards that must be met to become a Tree City USA.

1. A Tree Board or Department
2. A Tree Care Ordinance
3. A Community Forestry Program with an Annual Budget of at Least \$2 per Capita
4. An Arbor Day Observance and Proclamation

Over the past few years, some Idaho communities have had problems keeping a viable volunteer tree committee acting as an advisory group to the city council. It's been said that 90% of the volunteer work in a community gets done by 10% of the people. In a small community, that core of dedicated folks can become burned out and falter, causing the program to become ineligible for participation in the Tree City USA program.



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

Permission is hereby given to duplicate and distribute this newsletter for educational purposes. Credit is appreciated.

While the Idaho Community Forestry Program strongly encourages the use of volunteers in a city, sometimes it may become impossible for a city to retain a functional tree committee. It's not absolutely necessary to have a tree committee to maintain Tree City USA status. As stated in Standard 1, a tree board (committee) or department is what is required. If the city has an official tree department, or has officially charged another department (usually public works or parks) as responsible for tree management, Standard 1 is fulfilled. The department may include a city forester, parks or public works director, or other employees and perhaps the city councilperson with responsibility for the public trees. They will still benefit from the assistance of a tree committee, so having both is even better.

If you need assistance with the development of a tree committee, or perhaps training for the committee in appropriate activities, please contact your regional community forestry assistant. He will help assure that the volunteers in your community have the knowledge to advise and advocate for the trees in your town.

45 Idaho Cities Receive Arbor Day Celebration Grants

The Idaho Nursery and Landscape Association, on behalf of the Idaho Department of Lands, received applications from 64 communities for the 45 \$300 grants available to help celebrate Arbor Day and plant trees. Funding for the grants comes from Avista, Idaho Power, and Rocky Mountain Power. Awards are made through a drawing and this year Bingham County and the following cities were the successful applicants:

| | | |
|-----------------|-------------|---------------|
| American Falls | Garden City | Mountain Home |
| Arimo | Grangeville | Orofino |
| Blackfoot | Idaho Falls | Payette |
| Bliss | Juliaetta | Plummer |
| Boise | Kamiah | Ponderay |
| Buhl | Kellogg | Potlatch |
| Burley | Ketchum | Priest River |
| Cascade | Kuna | Salmon |
| Coeur d'Alene | Lapwai | St. Anthony |
| Cottonwood | Lewiston | Sugar City |
| Council | Mackay | Tetonia |
| Donnelly Downey | McCall | Twin Falls |
| Driggs | Melba | Ucon |
| Fairfield Filer | Meridian | Wardner |

Federal Funding Update

Working through partisan differences, Congress passed a 2014 omnibus spending bill a couple months ago. The bill included a number of structural changes that will create greater efficiencies, and while funding for State and Private Forestry programs was generally flat, urban and community forestry (U&CF) saw an increase nationally of about \$1.1 million—good news considering the original House bill contained no funding for the program. The Farm Bill also passed earlier this year which reauthorized the U&CF program.

The budget process for 2015 has also started. The President released his 2015 budget proposal in early March. The amount stated for U&CF is about \$4 million less than this past year, though the budget also proposes an increase in competitive funding for larger projects by \$10 million. This is just the start of the process; the next step is Congressional budget hearings and committee mark-ups, which usually begin during the summer. For more information, visit <http://www.fs.fed.us/aboutus/> and click on the 2015 Budget Justification. The section on U&CF begins on page 4-40.

Congratulations to Tetonia!

The City of Tetonia joined the ranks of Idaho's other 63 Tree City USA award winners this year. Additionally, three communities went beyond the four requirements to achieve a Tree City USA Growth Award. These honored communities are: Boise, McCall and Payette.

An Offer You Can (Hardly) Refuse

Idaho is fortunate to have community forestry assistants who are ready and willing to provide assistance to help communities start or improve their tree care efforts. Gerry Bates is one of these and in some cases he has had trouble getting the attention of city officials so they would take advantage of his services.

Last year Gerry had a new idea that would be a little different than the usual publicity about his being available to help. He created a "Community Forestry Advisor Agreement," basically a contract, and mailed it and a cover letter to 11 communities in his region. The only work required by an official was to complete the city's name on the 3-page form and have it signed. The rest of the document showed a start and finish date (with opportunity to extend), some limitations such as liability and extent of time provided or the number of visits, and conditions of how either party could terminate the agreement. It also spelled out the services to be provided:

- a. Employee education for pruning of young and mature trees
- b. Insect and disease identification and suggestions for appropriate control measures
- c. Assistance with completion of a tree inventory on public property
- d. Creation of a long-term community forestry master plan
- e. Prioritization of management needs as included in the master plan
- f. Training and support for the city's advisory tree board or committee
- g. Review of the tree ordinance and recommendations for enhancement
- h. Identification of high risk trees

Cost to the city: Free! There is no hourly cost for community forestry assistants, or their travel, lodging, meals or office expenses. The city is only responsible for any tools, employee travel, copies, and legal fees they may deem necessary. All of this was previously available and is available to all cities in Gerry's territory, but use of the 'contract' approach caught attention and the acceptance by 7 of the first 11 cities contacted.

Summer/Fall 2013 Events Calendar

April 25

Arbor Day!

August 2 - 6

International Society of Arboriculture Annual Conference and Trade Show, Milwaukee, WI. Visit <http://www.isa-arbor.com/events/conference/index.aspx> for more information and to register.

September 28 - October 1

Pacific NW Chapter, ISA Annual Training Conference, Vancouver, WA. Visit <http://pnwisa.org/events/category/pnw-isa-conferences/upcoming> for more information.

November 3 - 4

Society of Municipal Arborists Annual Conference Charlotte, NC. Visit the Society of Municipal Arborists website at <http://www.urban-forestry.com/> for more information.

November 5 - 6

Partners in Community Forestry Conference, Charlotte, NC. Visit Arbor Day Foundation's Conference website at <http://www.arborday.org/shopping/pcf/2014> for more information and to register.

Upcoming Exams

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

June 7, 2014 – Lewiston, ID (CA, CTW, UA, MS)¹

September 27, 2014 – Pocatello, ID (CA, CTW, UA, MS)¹

October 3, 2014 – Salt Lake City, UT (CA, UA, MS)²

¹For 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.

² For information or to register, contact Utah Chapter, International Society of Arboriculture at (801) 446-8229 or email: Lisa_UCFC@Yahoo.com.

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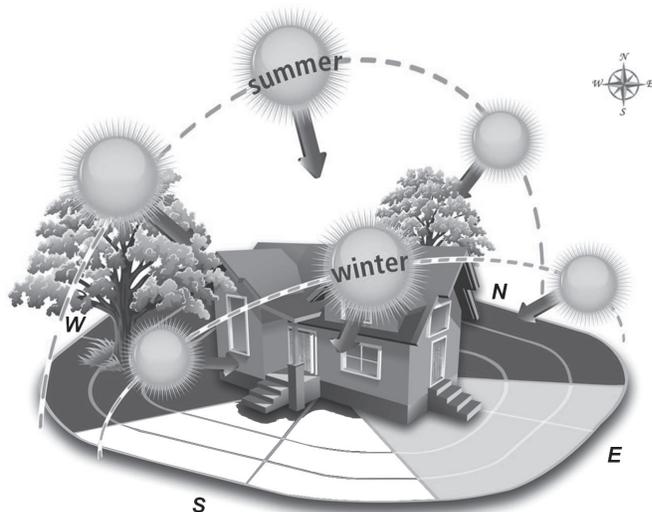


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Tree tip



Location Matters

The location of just one or two trees on a residential property can make a huge difference in the cost of energy for summer air conditioning. Placement of conifers for winter wind protection also helps lower the energy bills. In the drawing, the darker the area surrounding the house, the better the location of an energy-saving tree. For more information, visit: arborday.org/globalwarming/summershade.cfm. Graphic courtesy of Arbor Day Foundation.