

# IDAHO COMMUNITY TREES

News You  
Can Use  
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A NEWSLETTER FROM THE IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF LANDS - COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROGRAM AND IDAHO LANDS RESOURCE COORDINATING COUNCIL

*Protect your trees from the coming invasion.  
Read the Coordinator's Column*

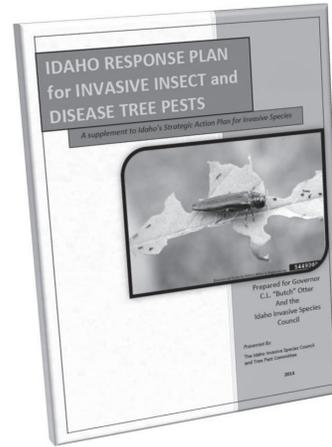
## Coordinator's Column

### **Resilient Community Forests – Is your city prepared for invasive species?**

Most of us are familiar with invasive species and the damage they can cause. In the early 1900's, an Asian bark fungus known as chestnut blight nearly wiped out the most common tree species in the eastern U.S., killing 3 to 4 billion American chestnut trees. The value lost in food alone (there are enough calories in the nuts of 3 billion chestnut trees to meet the entire caloric needs of the U.S. population) is staggering. In the middle to late part of the last century, Dutch elm disease (another Asian introduction but identified in the Netherlands, hence its name) marched across the country, decimating one of the best and most common urban shade trees. More recently, pests such as Emerald ash borer (EAB) are making their way westward; city forestry staff discovered EAB in Boulder, Colorado, a year and a half ago. Unfortunately, for pests such as this, it's not a matter of whether they will find their way to Idaho, but when.

Working collaboratively with the states of Colorado and Montana, the Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) is preparing for potential invasive tree pest and disease outbreaks. Late last year, a group of state, local and federal partners working through the Idaho Invasive Species Council finished the Idaho Response Plan for Invasive Insect and Disease Tree Pests. This important document is available for download at [www.idl.idaho.gov/forestry/forest-health/index.html](http://www.idl.idaho.gov/forestry/forest-health/index.html). It provides background information on potential threats, including a list of known invasive species, whom to contact for help, Incident Command System (ICS) procedures and actions, and additional information such as a community planning checklist. I encourage you to download and review the plan and have it handy in case an invasive tree pest arrives in your community.

Being prepared and having a plan in place is key to early detection and rapid response, both essential for eradicating or controlling additional spread. Since people are most often responsible for moving invasive species to



*The first step has been taken in preparing Idaho for invasive pests that are destroying community trees in eastern states. Every community should download this document and start planning to identify and combat any invasive insect or diseases that may – and most likely will – arrive.*

new areas, communities are frequently the areas first impacted.

This year we will select 3-4 cities in Idaho to help develop community invasive species response plans and, from these, develop a planning template for use by other cities. Critical to planning and management is having information about the resource, both locally and statewide. To address this, we are currently soliciting proposals for a statewide tree inventory system that can be used by individual cities with the ability for IDL to roll up data statewide from all cities using the program. This helps inform both local management needs and helps us understand the potential risk from invasive species statewide. Our goal is to have an easy to use, browser-based (no software needed) tree inventory and mapping program available by early summer for cities in Idaho to use at no cost.

If your city is interested in working with us on a community invasive species response plan, would like help completing a city tree inventory, or would like to use the inventory software once available, please contact me, Gerry Bates or Stephen Drinkard (See masthead on page 2). We look forward to working with you.

## Delayed Results of Poor Planting Demonstrated at Emmett Workshop

Photo by Jeff Bayes



*The tip of these lopping shears marks the top of the wire basket, an indication that the tree was planted much too deep. The original root flare was several inches below the wire and should have been even with the soil level.*

### IDAHO COMMUNITY TREES

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

In March the City of Emmett hosted an educational tree workshop. Instructors were Gary Moen, retired horticulture professor, Jeff Bayes, certified arborist and owner of Tree Maintenance, and Gerry Bates, South Idaho Community Forestry Assistant. Morning sessions were held in the Emmett City Council Chambers. Topics included Tree Planting, Tree Biology, and Tree and Site Selection. The afternoon was spent in City Park. Attendees were updated on Pruning Methods, Chain Saw Safety and Tree Felling. Additionally, some trees that were in decline were dug up so that issues with planting too deeply could be observed.

About 15 to 20 years ago, four maples were planted in City

Park. At planting time, they were approximately 2 inches in diameter and were balled and burlapped and contained in a wire basket. These trees grew vigorously for a dozen years and then began showing signs of decline. They reached a diameter of about 14 inches and then stopped growing and exhibited dead and dying branches throughout the top of the crown.

Upon excavation of one of the trees, it was evident that the tree had been planted too deep. Circling, girdling roots had compressed the cambium layer of the tree to the point that it could no longer maintain circulation between the roots and the canopy. The photo illustrates that the top of the wire basket was buried more than a foot below ground. Additionally, the root flare of the tree was below the top of the root ball by several more inches. Essentially, this tree was planted 18 inches too deep!

Planting a tree in its permanent location is the most important time in the tree's life. There is one chance to do it correctly. This 2-inch tree became a 14-inch tree worth several thousand dollars. And then it died due to a mistake that occurred years ago. Gerry Bates says, "Thanks to the City of Emmett for allowing us to do this demonstration and show arborists a graphic illustration of the consequence of planting deep. And, thanks to the West Central Highlands RC&D for their help in making the workshop possible."

## Cities Join Forces to Hire Consultant

Sometimes, especially in semi-remote locations in the state, partnerships between cities can get things accomplished that may not have otherwise been possible. Tree inventories are a necessary component of a sustainable community forestry program. They provide information about the composition and condition of the trees within a community, allowing for accurate planning and adequate maintenance. However, data collection, especially when utilizing professional inventory software, can be expensive. The Cities of Ketchum and Hailey have developed an agreement on tree related issues that allows them to jointly collect inventory data for a first rate tree inventory. Ketchum hosts the Tree Works software program and does the edits and updates. Both cities hire a consultant to inventory around 500 trees per year. Until 2014, Hailey had 416 trees in their inventory. At the end of 2015, that number had increased to 934.

This is just one example of what can happen when cities pool resources for mutual benefit. Partnering and working with a professional consultant allows them to obtain a quality product that illustrates the benefits that trees offer to the community, identify maintenance needs, and plan for sustainable growth of the community forest. Contact Gerry Bates (See masthead) for more information.



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## Four Idaho City Foresters attend the Municipal Forestry Institute

In the Fall 2014 issue of Idaho Community Trees newsletter we publicized a scholarship opportunity to attend the Municipal Forestry Institute, an intensive, high-level leadership training and education program of the Society of Municipal Arborists ([www.urban-forestry.com/](http://www.urban-forestry.com/)). City Foresters Tom Grundin (Moscow), Preston Hill (Post Falls), Elroy Huff (Meridian), and Riley Stark (Lewiston) each applied for and received scholarships worth approximately \$2,000 each and attended the Institute with 56 others from around the country in February. Each described their experience as an outstanding opportunity to gain knowledge and tools to improve leadership, strategic thinking and planning skills, manage relationships, form coalitions, work effectively with tree boards and non-profits, and much more. Summarizing his experience, Riley Stark noted, “The Municipal Forestry Institute was a tremendously beneficial experience for the urban forestry program in Lewiston and for participants from across the U.S. Through the guidance and instruction of the teaching cadre, I am much better equipped to expand the influence of urban forestry in Lewiston and serve as a resource for members of this community.”

Watch for a similar scholarship opportunity for the 2016 Institute later this year!

## Need a Summer Intern?

The Society of Municipal Arborists sponsors a program designed to provide aspiring arborists and urban foresters with on-the-job experience. The Intern Program was created in 2011 through a grant agreement between the USDA Forest Service and Society of Municipal Arborists. This grant provided funding for a 3-year pilot program to prepare college students for urban forestry careers. The grant program has now been extended. The interns are paid by the grant for 10 weeks during the summer. The host community provides experience in at least two of 7 ‘focus areas.’ For more information, phone SMA or email: [urbanforestry@prodigy.net](mailto:urbanforestry@prodigy.net). Unfortunately, the deadline for host city applications is April 30, but if you miss it this year, make a note to take advantage of it in 2016.

## Spring/Summer 2015 Events Calendar

### May 6-8

**Tree Risk Assessment Qualification**, Boise, Idaho.

Contact Gerry Bates (See masthead) or visit: [www.isa-arbor.com/events/workshopsandsymposia/traqevents.aspx](http://www.isa-arbor.com/events/workshopsandsymposia/traqevents.aspx).

### June 24-25

**Idaho Lands Resource Coordinating Council Meeting**, Moscow, Idaho. Contact Susie Jude at [sjude@idl.idaho.gov](mailto:sjude@idl.idaho.gov) for additional information

### August 8-12

**International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Annual Conference**, Orlando, FL. Visit [www.isa-arbor.com](http://www.isa-arbor.com) for more information and to register.

### Planning in the Face of Change:

Urban Forestry Webinar Series

Hosted by the North Carolina Forest Service, these webinars are aimed at those responsible for managing urban forests. CEU's available. See [www.ncsu-feop.org/UFW/](http://www.ncsu-feop.org/UFW/) for more information. Webinars are one hour starting at 11 AM PDT, 12 PM MDT.

- April 30 – Green Infrastructure
- May 28 – Tree Management

### Urban Forest Connections Webinar Series:

[www.fs.fed.us/research/urban-webinars/](http://www.fs.fed.us/research/urban-webinars/) Webinars are one hour starting at 10 AM PDT, 11 AM MDT.

- May 13, 2015 – The Science behind i-Tree
- June 10, 2015 – Topic to be announced
- July 8, 2015 – Topic to be announced

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

June 6, 2015—Lewiston, ID (CA, UA, MS, CTW)

Nov 7, 2015—Pocatello, ID (CA, UA, MS, CTW)

For information or to register, contact visit [www.isa-arbor.com/certification/becomeCertified/index.aspx](http://www.isa-arbor.com/certification/becomeCertified/index.aspx)

## Yellowing Pine Needles Noticed in North Idaho

If you have noticed ponderosa pine needles turning yellow or brownish toward the tips, don't be too concerned. According to the Idaho Department of Lands, the best thinking at this point is that it is winter-related, possibly due to a quick and drastic drop in temperature last November. “The soil freezes, a dry wind blows and the needles can't get moisture,” says Tom Eckberg, an IDL forest health specialist. Normal growth should return with summer unless the problem really is caused by something more serious. For additional information, see Hot Topics at [www.idl.idaho.gov/forestry/forest-health/index.html](http://www.idl.idaho.gov/forestry/forest-health/index.html).



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## Tree tip



### Avoid Circling Roots Before Planting

Circling roots result in large part from young trees being grown too long in a pot or other container. This results in roots that constrict other roots and impede the transport of water and nutrients. The end result is a tree with a shortened life span and even a dangerous tree because the weakening defects are hidden underground. Here are some prevention methods:

- Purchase trees produced at the nursery in air-pruning containers like shown in the photo.
- Inspect all planting stock. Reject stock with large, severely circling or diving (make a 90 degree turn downward) roots.
- Completely remove all package materials before backfilling the planting hole.
- Straighten flexible roots where circling is minor and cut diving or kinked roots at the joint just before the turn or kink.

*A planting demonstration of a tree grown in a air-pruning pot.*