

# IDAHO COMMUNITY TREES

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

## Coordinator's Column

*Need help with Arbor Day?*

*See page 3*

## Tree City USA Turns 40!

In 1976, I was just entering college to study forestry, Dutch elm disease was killing thousands of elms in cities across the country, and management of community trees was rare in all but the largest cities. That year also marked the beginning of Tree City USA, a program of the Arbor Day Foundation in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters. The now-familiar set of four standards were created to help communities establish a framework for tree management. The award program helped to recognize and promote their efforts. That first year just 42 communities across America earned Tree City designation. Today, more than 3,500 cities—home to 140 million Americans—proudly fly the Tree City USA flag!

Boise became Idaho's first Tree City USA the following year, so this year will mark their 39th in the program. Caldwell was second in Idaho, earning the title a year later, with Coeur d'Alene coming on board six years after that. This year, 68 Idaho cities earned the award, with Priest River being the latest to join this elite group. Donnelly and Samaria are our smallest Tree Cities with populations of 132 and 215, respectively.

The most enjoyable of the four standards is that cities proclaim and celebrate a day of their choice as Arbor Day. As we celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Tree City USA program, consider beefing up your celebration or trying something new. Here are a few ideas based on the wide variety of events that were part of Idaho celebrations last year.

Many cities engaged youth in a variety of ways with essay and poster contests remaining popular. The City of Hayden held an amazing Arbor Day celebration. Local organizations, businesses and 45 volunteers set up 28 learning centers at a local park covering a full span of grade-level curricula on a host of tree topics. 700 students (public, parochial and home schools) plus parents, teachers and chaperones visited the learning centers during the daylong event.

The City of Hailey held an Arbor Day "Mud-Run" which gave kids a great reason to get thoroughly muddy (and happy). Combining Arbor Day and Earth Day, many cities held both tree planting and community cleanup activities. Driggs, Teton and Victor teamed up with Teton County for community cleanup and recycling efforts while still hosting

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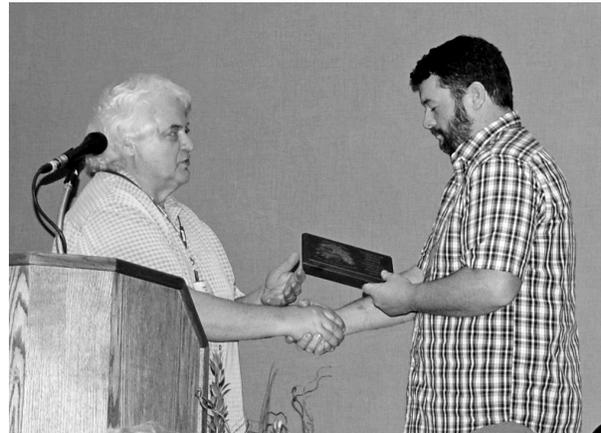


Photo by Marcella Getsinger

*Gerry Bates (left) of the Idaho Community Forestry Program presents this year's Legacy of Leaves Award to Post Falls City Forester Preston Hill.*

## 2016 Legacy of Leaves Goes to Post Falls

Every year, the Idaho Nursery and Landscape Association presents an award to the city that held the best Arbor Day celebration using Arbor Day grant funds provided by the Idaho Department of Lands. This year, the award, titled 'Legacy of Leaves,' was presented to the City of Post Falls at the Idaho Horticulture Expo in January.

Through a generous donation by an anonymous donor, over 3,500 bareroot trees and shrubs were given to the residents of Post Falls. The turn-out by the public was overwhelming and transformed the \$300 grant into a project valued at \$49,500 considering the donated trees, planting supplies, volunteer time and citizen labor. This program is in its eleventh year and more than 30,000 trees and shrubs have been planted in Post Falls through this event.

City Forester Preston Hill said, "The long-term impact of this can't be quantified. It's been an honor to be a part of it. A lot of people contribute time, money and effort to make it happen." Over 70 volunteers and more than 1,000 homeowners participated in last spring's event. Tree experts were present to assist residents select the trees or shrubs that would best meet their needs and to offer planting advice. Trees and shrubs were treated with a solution to prevent drying of the roots and then placed in plastic garbage bags for transport.

their own, unique Arbor Day events. Turning cleanup into fun, Victor held a “Trash Dash” to see who could pick up the most trash within a set timeframe.

Some cities really focused on increasing the tree canopy. For the 11th year in a row, local businesses in Post Falls stepped up big, donating more than 3,000 landscape-sized trees to give away to area residents (see article on pg. 1).

This is just a small sample of how cities make their celebration of trees fun and informative. As we celebrate Tree City USA’s 40th milestone, I challenge all of us to continue to improve the environment in which we live. If you are already a Tree City USA, consider how you might step up your efforts and earn a Growth Award. Otherwise, please consider becoming one. To help with your Arbor Day celebration, consider applying for an Arbor Day Grant, sponsored by Avista, Idaho Power, Rocky Mountain Power and administered by the Idaho Nursery and Landscape Association. Information on the grants will be posted soon at <http://www.idl.idaho.gov/grants/index.html>. Happy 40th Anniversary Tree City USA, and happy Arbor Day to you!

-- David Stephenson  
Community Forestry Coordinator



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## Urban Forestry Internships Available

The Society of Municipal Arborists is offering generous summer internships to undergraduate and graduate students interested in a career in urban forestry. Selected students will be provided mentoring and hands-on experience alongside professionals working in municipal, utility and non-profit sectors of the field. The deadline for applying is 5 p.m. (EST), March 1. More information is at [www.urban-forestry.com](http://www.urban-forestry.com). This is a golden opportunity!

## Treasure Valley Canopy Network – Collaborate, Innovate, Sustain

In May 2013, Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) in partnership with consulting firm Plan-it Geo, nine area cities and a host of public, private and non-profit partners, released the Treasure Valley Canopy Assessment in SW Idaho. From this project grew the Treasure Valley Canopy Network (TVCN), supporting efforts to use urban forestry to help create vibrant, healthy communities. TVCN has implemented projects that reduce energy use, lower stormwater runoff and improve public health, and created on-line resources to inform strategic urban forest management.

As you read the brief summary of accomplishments below, consider how these might be helpful in your community.

- TVCN’s website ([www.tvcanopy.net](http://www.tvcanopy.net)) houses a wide range of information and resources on strategic urban forestry management, including: ‘Map the Canopy’ (<http://www.tvcanopy.net/map-the-canopy>), a simple on-line mapping tool that allows users to use the 2013 canopy assessment data to help with planning decisions.
  - Map the Canopy ([www.tvcanopy.net/map-the-canopy](http://www.tvcanopy.net/map-the-canopy)), a simple on-line mapping tool that provides access to the 2013 canopy assessment data to help inform planning decisions
  - Network partner Ecosystem Sciences Foundation produced new infographics highlighting canopy benefits for energy conservation, stormwater and air quality. Website visitors can view and download these at [www.tvcanopy.net/resources/](http://www.tvcanopy.net/resources/)
- With help from IDL and a Forest Service grant, TVCN and Idaho Power are implementing the Treasure Valley Shade project, an effort to demonstrate, quantify, and sustain efforts to reduce energy use through targeted tree planting.
  - To date, over 4,300 shade trees have been planted on the west side of homes to provide summer shade, reducing overall energy use
  - Project information and resources were created and are available on-line at [www.tvcanopy.net/treasure-valley-shade-trees/](http://www.tvcanopy.net/treasure-valley-shade-trees/)
  - The next distribution event this April will include trees provided by a new local partner, Jayker Re-Wholesale Nursery, Inc.

New projects with new partners are on the horizon. New partners include Idaho Smart Growth and Capital City Development Corporation—Boise. The new projects will focus on mitigating stormwater on site, lowering flood potential and keeping our rivers cleaner, and on efforts that improve human health. If you'd like to stay updated, we encourage you to follow TCVN on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/TVCanopy](http://www.facebook.com/TVCanopy)), and Twitter ([www.twitter.com/TVCanopy](http://www.twitter.com/TVCanopy)). You may also contact TCVN Coordinator, Lance Davisson (contact info in masthead).

## Arbor Day is Just Around the Corner

Arbor Day is a time to celebrate trees and forests. In Idaho, we celebrate Arbor Day the last Friday in April which falls on April 29 this year. Communities, schools, clubs and individuals are all encouraged to participate in Arbor Day 2016.

As part of this year's celebration, the Idaho Forest Products Commission will give away 25,000 seedlings throughout the state at community events and special points of distribution. There will also be a new t-shirt and brochure, a statewide billboard campaign, social media contests, public service radio announcements, and a celebration at the state Capitol. IFPC is also sponsoring a photo competition for Idaho students to share what they see when they "look to the forest." If you want to start an Arbor Day celebration or improve on it, the Commission has a tremendous number of resources available to help. Contact IFPC right away to reserve seedlings and order materials as supplies are limited. Learn more or reserve seedlings at [www.idahoforests.org](http://www.idahoforests.org) or contact Betty Munis at (208) 334-3292.

## Idaho Selected to Supply 2016 National Christmas Tree

The tradition of placing a huge Christmas tree on the west lawn of the Capitol during the holiday season began in 1964, and since 1970 a different national forest has been selected to provide the tree each year. Next Christmas it is Idaho's turn to shine. The tree will come from the Payette National Forest, 13 years after the last Capitol Christmas tree from our state.

After the tree is cut next fall there will be a variety of ways schools, businesses and civic organizations can help make this the best U.S. Capitol Christmas tree ever. Coordinating the events will be Choose Outdoors, a national nonprofit whose mission is to connect Americans to public land through outdoor recreation. This organization assists the U.S. Forest Service by developing partnerships and coordinating events throughout the nation and in Washington, DC.

For more information go to [www.chapitolchristmastree.com](http://www.chapitolchristmastree.com) or 'like' [chapitolchristmastree](https://www.facebook.com/chapitolchristmastree) on Facebook. To learn how to get involved contact Brian Harris, U.S. Forest Service ([bdharrisa@fs.fed.us](mailto:bdharrisa@fs.fed.us)) or Bruce Ward, president of Choose Outdoors ([Bruceward1@gmail.com](mailto:Bruceward1@gmail.com)) (cell: 303-917-1476).

## Winter/Spring 2016 Events Calendar

**February 18, 2016**

**Turf, Tree, and Landscape Conference**, Templin's Hotel, Post Falls, ID. To learn more and register, visit [www.inlagrow.org](http://www.inlagrow.org) Templin's Hotel, Post Falls, ID.

**February 22-23, 2016**

**Idaho Lands Resource Coordinating Council meeting**, Riverside Hotel, Boise. Contact Susie Jude at [sjude@idl.idaho.gov](mailto:sjude@idl.idaho.gov)

**February 24, 2016**

**Tree Hazard/Tree Appraisal Workshop**, Lone Peak Pavillion in Sandy, UT. Visit [www.utahurbanforest.org](http://www.utahurbanforest.org) for more information

**February 27, March 26, April 16, 2016**

**2016 Spring Arborist Series, Springville, UT.** Visit [www.utahurbanforest.org](http://www.utahurbanforest.org) for brochure and to register

**March 9, April 13 and May 11**

**Urban Forest Connections Webinar Series.** One hour webinars starting at 10 a.m. PDT, 11 a.m. MDT. Topics announced and past webinars available at: [www.fs.fed.us/research/urban-webinar](http://www.fs.fed.us/research/urban-webinar)

**March 11, 2016**

**Tree School: Windstorms—Best Practices Moving Forward**, Spokane, WA. Spokane County Conservation District. Visit <http://sccd.org/departments/forestry/tree-school> for more information and to register.

**April 7, 2016**

**Chain Saw Workshop**, Draper, UT. Visit [www.utahurbanforest.org](http://www.utahurbanforest.org) for brochure and to register

**April 29, 2016 Celebrate Arbor Day!**

**Sept. 16 – 19, 2016 Early Notice! Pacific Northwest ISA Annual Conference**, Boise. Save the date; more info will follow.

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

April 16, 2016—Spokane, WA (CA, UA, MS)

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



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## Tree tip

### April – A Good Time to Plant, but...

*Their roots moist and well protected, young trees await being given to home owners in Post Falls for planting*



Photo by Preston Hill

The success of street and landscape trees begins in the nursery, but a critical period exists between lifting at the nursery and being planted in their final home. Major point, and often overlooked – keep the roots moist!

- Plant as soon as possible, ideally within 48 hours. This requires some advance planning!
- During a delay between delivery and planting, cover roots with wet sawdust, straw, or chips. Shade is great, too, when possible.
- Thoroughly water newly planted trees and plan for follow-up watering as necessary.