

IDAHO COMMUNITY TREES

No. 87
Summer
2018

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

Coordinator's Column

Why are yard trees so important?

See pages 2 & 4

Making a Difference

—The work we do

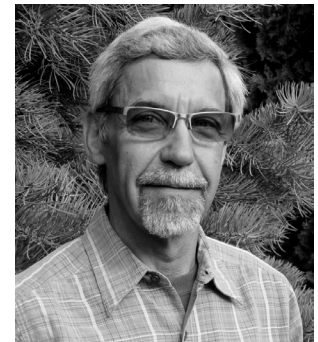
This is my 64th and final Coordinator's Column. After 40+ years working in urban and community forestry in three different states—16 of those years at the helm of this program—I have decided to hang up the job hat and try on some others. My last day in the office will be June 29.

I had initially planned to use my last column to review program projects and accomplishments over the years, but I have already written extensively on these in the past. These efforts—whether helping cities with planting projects, inventories, tree maintenance efforts, program development, or using trees strategically to address specific issues—are ultimately successful due to the work of a great many people. Thank you for your contributions. Each of you has and/or is working hard to make Idaho communities healthier, greener and more appealing. Whether celebrating Arbor Day with a group of school kids, landscaping a park, managing a forestry program, or volunteering on a tree board, you are making a positive difference.

Indulge me for a moment, and step outside and look around. Find a large tree and walk over to it. If the temperature feels better under its shade, the air a bit cleaner, the soil less compacted, and the place more attractive, thank it. At its core, this is the purpose of our work. When we start adding more trees to the mix, in a park or neighborhood or along a street, and then zoom further out to our community, we begin to see how they work as a system, filtering pollutants, cooling our homes, reducing runoff, increasing property values and providing that connection with the natural world so very important for our well-being. In the pursuit of projects, budgets, deadlines and more, it can be easy to overlook this.

Critical to this purpose is the network of people that together create and maintain these forests. That

David Stephenson, now retiring, has served at the helm of the Idaho Department of Lands Community Forestry Program for 16 years.



includes each of you. You make it happen. Organizations such as the USDA Forest Service, Avista, Idaho Power, Rocky Mountain Power, Idaho Nursery and Landscape Association, Idaho Resource Conservation and Development Councils, the (former) Idaho Community Forestry Advisory Council, the Idaho Lands Resource Coordinating Council, and many other organizations also play important roles. Together, we are achieving our mission of creating healthy forests for all Idahoans “from Main Street to mountaintop.”

I would like to say a special thanks to those who have worked on behalf on this program during my time here. These include Joyce Jowdy Debbie Cook, Garth Davis, Sue Izard, Philip Shinn, Lance Davisson, Del Jaquish and the folks at Northwest Management. Of course, Gerry Bates continues to provide stellar community forestry assistance in southern Idaho (now in his 21st year), and Stephen Drinkard fills this important role in northern Idaho. Dr. Jim Fazio continues to serve as editor of this newsletter and has done so since its inception in 1996, and has been a valuable mentor to me all these years. Last, I want to thank all of you for your council, friendship, advice and the work you do. You have made my time in this position rewarding, fun and productive.

IDL is seeking a new Urban and Community Forestry Program Manager. If you or anyone you know is interested, please check our jobs webpage at <https://www.idl.idaho.gov/jobs/> for the position posting and application.

Eagle Helps Homeowners Plant Trees

City of Eagle leaders recognize the importance of planting trees, not only on public rights-of-way and in parks, but also on private property throughout the community. Increasing the tree canopy in Eagle maximizes the benefits for all citizens and businesses by cleaning the air, maximizing energy savings using shade, producing oxygen, capturing storm water runoff, providing wildlife habitat, and providing myriad other benefits.

The City of Eagle has made available \$10,000 to encourage the planting of trees in the residential areas of the community. People who reside within the city limits will be eligible for a rebate of up to \$100 for the purchase and installation of approved trees, a list of which is provided on the city website. The objective of the program is to encourage and celebrate urban forestry within Eagle. (The offer does not include landscaping shrubbery or bushes.) The program is available to residential participants and will extend through September 14, 2018, or while funding is available. For more details visit www.cityofeagle.org or contact Eagle City Hall at 208-939-6813.

Partnerships Provide Tree Education for Idaho Cities


For many years, the Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) has participated in a valuable partnership with Idaho Resource, Conservation and Development Councils (RC&D's). In southwest Idaho, the Wood River RC&D works with IDL to provide community forestry outreach. This spring, the Wood River RC&D, in partnership with the Gooding Soil Conservation District, offered a workshop for people in the Magic Valley and Wood River Valley.

On February 28th, a workshop titled "Greening It Up, One Tree At A Time" was held at the Community Center in Shoshone, Idaho. There was no cost for the workshop and folks from cities and counties from Heyburn to Ketchum attended. Topics included tree planting and selection, habitat shelter belts and farm forestry, tree pruning and care, and insect and disease control. Speakers were: Gerry Bates, South Idaho Community Forestry Assistant; Bill Novinger, conservation farmer of the year from the Gooding Soil and Conservation District; and Craig Nuthak, Wilbur Ellis Company.

Workshop attendees enjoyed expert instruction on important tree related topics, with plenty of time for questions and answers. Organizers Joy Ci-miotti and Barbara Messick were thrilled with the attendance and level of participation with the audience and presenters and will likely make the workshop an annual event. We urge you to plan now to attend.

Boise's Sequoia Still Doing Well

The Associated Press has reported that Boise's famous 10-story tall transplant is doing well in its new home. The giant sequoia was moved two blocks last summer by tree mover David Cox of Environmental Design, undoubtedly making it the largest transplant in Idaho history. Cox said that it is still too early to tell, but all signs look good and the tree seems happy. At one point, sensors placed in the root system indicated that more water was needed, so that issue was corrected. Let's keep our fingers crossed and again thank St.Lukes's Hospital for setting an example about the importance of heritage trees.



Idaho Community Trees is published four times a year by the Idaho Department of Lands—Community Forestry Program.

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Post Falls Upgrades Equipment for Better Care of its Growing Trees

“Trees grow slowly and often so do urban forestry programs that exist to care for them,” says Stephen Drinkard, community forestry assistant for northern Idaho. “But sometimes cities like Post Falls, Idaho, a growing community between Spokane and Coeur d’Alene, ‘suddenly’ (in tree time) wake up and realize that the trees are growing taller and the normal ladder and pole saw no longer cut it.”

Preston Hill, program manager and urban forester for Post Falls, adds, “Post Falls has been planting trees for some time now and the trees are no longer small. They are what I call ‘tweeners’. To do crown cleaning or even clearance work (over streets and walkways) requires not only more staff but different tools.”

It’s not just that the trees are growing taller, Post Falls has been growing as a city. There are many new roads and sub-divisions, all with more trees planted. Moreover, Post Falls has been remarkable in the number of new parks it keeps adding each year, including significant forested areas for trails.

“Realizing that our small staff couldn’t care for the trees with our present equipment,” says Hill, “we sent bid requests to private companies to handle just the maintenance work. But, even the lowest bids were way too much money for the Post Falls budget on an annual basis.”

Instead, the city hired another full-time forester AND they purchased a bucket truck to reach those tall(er) trees. The bucket has a working height of 50 feet and a side reach of 30 and, said Hill, “most importantly, a smaller truck allows the city to work in the rights-of-ways without blocking traffic.”

Hill says that the decision to spend the money for this upgrade was the result of demonstrating the value of trees and urban forestry, as well as awareness that services are needed for new residential areas, new streets and all else that goes with a vibrant, expanding community.

Summer/Fall 2018 Events Calendar

Urban Forest Connections Webinar Series:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/research/urban-webinars/> Webinars are 1-1/4 hours starting at 10 a.m. Pacific Time, 11 a.m. Mountain Time. (You can view previous webinars at this same website.)

- July 18, 2018—**NUCFAC Highlights: Growing the leaders of tomorrow’s urban forests**

Check link above for future topics on these dates

- August 8, 2018
- September 12, 2018
- October 10, 2018

August 5 – 8

2018 International Society of Arboriculture Annual Conference and Trade Show, Columbus, OH—Visit <https://www.isa-arbor.com/Events/Annual-Conference/2018-Annual-Conference> for brochure and to register.

August 16

Healthy Trees, Healthy Communities Seminar, Spokane, WA—For more information and to register, visit <https://dnr-treelink.wordpress.com/2018/04/09/new-seminar-for-2018-healthy-trees-healthy-communities-3/>

September 28 – 30

Trees and Utilities National Conference, Omaha, NE—For information and to register, visit <http://www.treesandutilities.org/>.

October 10 – 12

Northern Rockies Tree School, Cody, WY—For more information, visit www.facebook.com/northernrockiestreeschool/

September 30 – October 3

Pacific Northwest Chapter ISA Annual Conference and Trade Show, Vancouver, BC—Visit <http://iufcvancouver2018.com/> for more information and to register.

November 5 – 6

Society of Municipal Arborists Conference, Irvine, CA—Visit www.urban-forestry.com/ for more information and to register.

November 7 – 8

Partners in Urban Forestry Conference, Irvine, CA—Visit www.arboday.org/programs/pcf/ for more information and to register.

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

June 22—Kalispell, MT (CA, UA, MS)

For information or to register, contact visit <http://www.isa-arbor.com/certification/becomeCertified/index.aspx>



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Tree tip



Trees on private property provide benefits to the entire community.

What about Trees on Private Property?

Now that would be a contentious topic, especially in Idaho. But if the cleaner air, storm water retention, and other benefits provided by trees are a public good, and with approximately 80 percent of a community's trees being in yards or other private parcels, this part of the 'urban forest' has to be considered. Here are some ways cities can encourage tree planting and care without appearing to be the big ogre from government!

- Follow the example provided by the City of Eagle (see page 2) and help subsidize planting of shade trees purchased at local nurseries.
- Sponsor traditional tree 'give-aways' at fairs and Arbor Day celebrations.
- Encourage planting by highlighting the benefits of trees in local media and/or door hangers.
- Visit Arbor Day Foundation's website, arborday.org/ energy. If your utility is a partner in the energy-saving tree program, you are entitled to a free shade tree for your property.