

IDAHO COMMUNITY TREES

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Fall
2017

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

Coordinator's Column

*A new one-stop info website?
Yes! See page 2*

Urban Timber

– Capitalizing on a Tree-mendous Resource

A lot has been written in this newsletter about trees in our communities when alive. But these trees can have a second life once they are removed—as a dinner table, artisan bowl, or other special creation. Unfortunately, most trees removed in our communities instead end up in landfills or, at best, are chipped or sold as firewood. The U.S. Forest Service estimates that enough urban wood is generated each year that, if sawn into boards, would produce 3.8 billion board feet of lumber, or nearly 30% of the annual U.S. hardwood production.

When Steve Cashman, a transplant to Star from the Midwest and a hobby woodworker, looked for hardwood lumber in southwestern Idaho last year, he found it a lot more expensive because it came from so far away. At the same time, he observed hardwood trees of the species he was seeking being removed in the cities around him.

Being cheap, as he told me, he started calling and e-mailing tree services, mills, and others to see how he could find and buy this local wood, but with no luck. By the time he contacted me last December, his original intent had transitioned into something much bolder. “I see a great resource being wasted,” Steve explained. “Why pay a lot of money to import hardwood when we have it right here? We have a valuable resource that can be grown, harvested, processed and crafted locally, becoming beautiful and functional products. Plus, carbon is stored long-term, new jobs are created and landfill space is freed up. The end product also has a backstory; the wood that panels a corporate office could come from the trees removed during construction, or a coffee table might be built from a tree planted by the owner’s great-grandparents, or from one that grew down the street.” After I talked with Steve, made some connections and provided some resources, Steve started that “big log” rolling.

The path hasn’t been easy. Steve owns a small data protection consulting business, so none of this is within his wheelhouse. He spent hundreds of hours learning about the entire process, including cutting, transporting, milling, drying, and marketing. The biggest challenge has been, ironically, getting the trees. Steve has contacted dozens of tree services

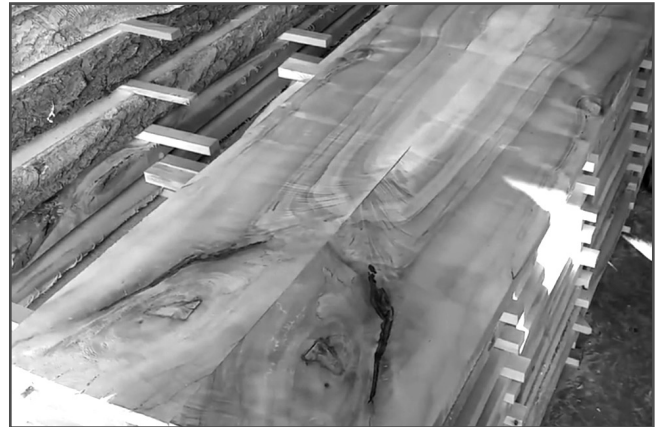


Photo by Steve Cashman

An example of book-matched, live-edge lumber being produced from urban tree removals and making useful products instead of being chipped or discarded in landfills.

throughout the Treasure Valley, but has so far found only one willing to help out. “Joshua Chavco (Chavco Tree and Landscape) has been great to work with,” Steve told me. “He understands and supports what we’re trying to accomplish and calls whenever he has a tree he’s removing that has potential.” As well, Boise City Forestry sells logs to the public from trees they’ve removed, so this has been another source. Another key partner is Mark Tucker (Tuckers Timber). He’ll drop off a trailer at the removal site so the logs can be loaded onto to it. He takes the logs back to his small mill and cuts them into slabs or boards. Steve then takes the boards home to air dry, store and sell.

So far, this nascent enterprise has produced about 1,000 board feet of beautiful live-edge slabs, boards and incredible burls for turning. Species include ash, walnut, ginkgo, maple, black locust, basswood and elm. As a woodworker myself, the photos on Steve’s website (www.208urbantimber.com) and Facebook page (www.facebook.com/208UrbanTimber) make my mouth water. It’s fantastic material.

I asked Steve what he hoped to accomplish over the next year. He told me, “I really want to grow the network—arborists, local artisans, architects, homebuilders and more—and demonstrably increase the supply of available wood. I’m not doing this to make money (eventually he plans to create a non-profit). I’m selling the wood at a price that covers costs with some to reinvest into improving the system so that prices can be kept low.” As well, he would love for more tree services

Continued on page 2

and cities to become partners. He added, "I know it takes less time to just chunk the trees up and take them to the landfill, but I hope the idea of reducing waste and atmospheric carbon, adding value and saving money in landfill fees will entice folks to be part of this effort. Steve welcomes feedback on how he can make the process as easy as possible for them.

If you'd like to be involved in any step of the process, from sourcing trees to buying the lumber, please contact Steve. His contact information is available on the two websites noted above. For more on what is being done nationally, see Tree City USA Bulletin No. 81, "Urban Wood: A Wonderful Resource" (www.arborday.org/bulletins).

– David Stephenson
Community Forestry Coordinator

U.S. Forest Service Launches 'Vibrant Cities Lab' Website

The Vibrant Cities Lab (www.vibrantcitieslab.com) is a joint project of the U.S. Forest Service, American Forests and the National Association of Regional Councils that merges the latest research with best practices for implementing green infrastructure projects in your community. This site is designed to provide a single "clearinghouse" for information that can help citizens and professionals discover how healthy tree canopy can enrich their own communities and help guide them as they build effective community forestry programs. The site has three primary components.

The first component is a series of case studies on a variety of topics such as how trees improve human health, air quality, transportation, planning and more. These case studies can help citizens, partners and professionals from different disciplines understand not just how trees are valuable, but present on-the-ground projects that demonstrate their impact toward the different topic areas. Idaho case studies are included in the water quality and city planning topic areas.

The second major component is an urban forestry toolkit that provides a step-by-step guide to implementing urban forestry in your community, including assessing, prioritizing, organizing, planning, building and sustaining a program. Within each of these steps are explanations of what each involves and related resources that provide additional help. Last, there is a library of nearly 500 on-line resources searchable by key-words.

The third component is a synthesis of up-to-date, professionally vetted research papers on the value and management of trees in our communities that can help support decision-making, budget setting and more.

Check out this very helpful and well organized "one-stop" website on urban and community forestry.

IDAHO COMMUNITY TREES

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Sharpen Up Your Tree Board – for \$3.00

If your tree board, commission or committee runs like a rusty watch, perhaps it is time to look at some ways to make it more active and efficient. This is the topic of Arbor Day Foundation's *Tree City USA Bulletin No. 54 – How to Grow a Great Tree Board*. This 8-page issue contains items covering how to run a better meeting, defining responsibilities, ideal composition of the group, training, and other helpful subjects. Other bulletins that can help include:

- No. 9 *Writing a Municipal Tree Ordinance*
- No. 27 *How to Plan for Management*
- No. 36 *How to Work with Volunteers Effectively*
- No. 58 *Community Engagement*
- No. 78 *Finding New Friends for Urban Forestry*
- No. 83 *Creative Marketing Campaigns*

These and other issues of Tree City USA Bulletin are available for \$3.00 each at the Foundation's website: www.arborday.org/bulletins. Click on 'Bulletin Archive.'



TREE CITY USA BULLETIN
54
By James R. Fazio, Editor • \$3.00

How to Grow a Great Tree Board

Tree boards are an essential component of the Tree City USA program. They can be a great asset to any community that values its trees. An effective tree board can assist professional arborists and city foresters, serve as an advocate for trees, and help residents and businesses in the community understand and appreciate the benefits of maintaining trees. A well-organized tree board provides immeasurable service to the community today and its citizens of the future.

The rising number of American communities that receive the Tree City USA award each year is a good indication of the interest that citizens and city officials have in the trees that grace their streets, parks and yards. In these progressive communities, tree planting and care is recognized as essential for protecting and enhancing investments in the green infrastructure. In all cases, tree boards play an important role.

Tree boards go by many names, including commissions, councils and committees, but their position for service is universal and they are needed in communities of all sizes. Their activities range from simply maintaining an Arbor Day program once a year to actively engaging as a quasi-public body for municipal purposes. Importantly, when a community is large enough to have employees to look after its tree resources, the role of a tree board is to complement, not replace professional leadership.

From his association with tree boards over the years, retired community forestry administrator Roger Blanchard of Moscow, Idaho says there were many ways the board contributed to success of the urban forestry program in his city. "In my case, where I was pretty much the only staff, the board provided a great support group. If I had an issue, I could take it to the board members to help me work through it. They also helped complete an inventory, develop a management plan, and develop a tree guide. There is no way I could have done these things by myself." Blinger cites other functions provided by the board such as providing advice on the general direction of the program; conducting outreach projects and developing good public relations advice on the ground; feedback on what is working or what needs to be changed.

An active tree board is the key to success in the community on one side and elected officials and city employees on the other. If you are part of a board, we hope this issue of the bulletin will help you find ways to make your group the best it can be in serving your community. If you do not have a tree board, we hope these pages inspire you to become the spark that ignites action.



The end result of a great tree board is a great community forest.

Mobilized by
Arbor Day Foundation
100 Arbor Avenue • Westside City, NE 68010

Scholarship Now Available for Municipal Forestry Institute

The Idaho Department of Lands is offering up to two \$2,100 scholarships for municipal staff to attend the week long national **2018 Municipal Forestry Institute** from February 18-23, 2018 in Litchfield, CT (<http://www.urban-forestry.com/>). The Institute is an intensive, high-level leadership training and education program. It helps participants build leadership skills, think and plan strategically, and increase success in working with boards, coalitions, organizations and individuals. Those interested in applying for a scholarship should download the fill-in application form (<http://www.idl.idaho.gov/forestry/community-forestry/index.html>), complete and return it to IDL by **November 17, 2017**.



It's That Time of Year...

The trees are turning and this means it's also time to start working on your city's Tree City USA application. **The deadline for applications is December 15th**, and it helps tremendously if you can meet that. The easiest way to complete your application is on-line at <https://portal.arborday.org/Login.aspx>. If you encounter any problems with the on-line tool or have any questions on the process, please phone David Stephenson at 208-666-8621. Note that the website does not support Mozilla Firefox, so please use Chrome or Explorer. If you have made efforts to grow your program, consider also applying for a Tree City Growth Award. If your city isn't a Tree City, please consider becoming one. Go to the website and learn more about the program with the links in the right column for the benefits and list of criteria.



TREE CITY USA.



TREE CITY USA

Signs of pride! Tree City USA awards are given to communities that meet four standards showing that a systematic, continuous tree care program is in place. The Growth Award reflects going beyond the basic standards.

Fall/Winter 2017-18 Events Calendar

Urban Forest Connections Webinar Series:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/research/urban-webinars/> Webinars are one hour starting at 10 a.m. PDT, 11 a.m. MDT. (Previous webinars can be viewed at this same website.)

- October 11, 2017 | 1:00pm- 2:15pm ET – **Integrating Trees into Stormwater Management Design and Policy**

Future topics to be announced

- December 13, 2017 | 1:00pm-2:15pm ET
- January 10, 2017 | 1:00pm-2:15pm ET
- February 14, 2017 | 1:00pm-2:15pm ET

November 14

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

November 15 - 16

Partners in Urban Forestry Conference—Tulsa, OK. Visit www.arborday.org/programs/pcf/ for more information and to register.

December 16

Tree City USA Applications Due!

January 17-19, 2018

2018 Idaho Horticulture Expo—Boise, Idaho. Visit www.inlagrow.org for more information and to register.

February 4, 2018

ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualification—Seattle, WA. Visit www.pnwisa.org for more information and to register.

February 20, 2018

Turf, Tree and Landscape Conference—Post Falls, ID. Visit www.inlagrow.org for more information and to register.

February 18-23, 2018

Municipal Forestry Institute (MFI)—Litchfield, Connecticut. Visit www.urban-forestry.com for more information and to register.

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

January 18, 2018— Boise, ID (CA, UA, MS, CTW-written exam). For information or to register, contact visit www.isa-arbor.com/certification/becomeCertified/index.aspx



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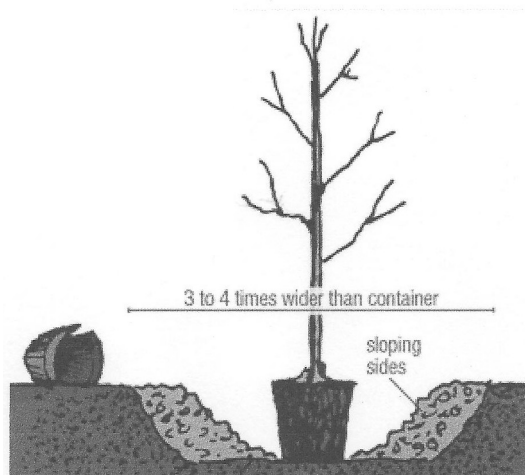
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Four Reasons for Fall Planting

Spring is not the only time to plant trees. Consider these four reasons why it is a good idea to consider planting in autumn:

- Unlike a tree's branches, its roots continue to elongate during winter.
- By helping roots establish over winter, tree growth will have a head start when warm weather arrives.
- After planting and initial watering, you probably will not have to worry about water again until summer.
- Many nurseries offer bargain prices on trees at this time of year.



Whether spring or fall, proper planting methods will lead to greater survival rates.