

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

*Want to upgrade local tree care?
See page 3 for training and education*

Bright Future for Community Forestry in Idaho

I have the honor of writing my first coordinator's column and the first column of the 2020's decade. I am Michael S. Beaudoin, the new program manager for the Idaho Department of Lands' Urban and Community Forestry Program. Working with Idaho's municipal community forest managers and partners since I began in July 2019 has been a humbling and rewarding experience.

My short time in this role has shown me what great progress Idaho community forests have made over the last several decades and what an innovative program I inherited from Dave Stephenson. I feel fortunate to have been selected to replace such a great program manager and person in Dave and look forward to how we can all improve Idaho's community forests for present and future generations.

First a little bit about me. Although I was not raised in Idaho, my numerous connections to the Gem State made taking the role of UCF program manager an easy decision. My great-grandfather spent most of his life in Idaho and is buried in Kooskia. I was first drawn to Idaho as a wildland firefighter and fought several fires around Stanley, McCall, and Hailey in the early 2010's.

I returned to Idaho for graduate studies in history and public policy at Boise State University. During these studies, I focused on the urban forest history of the Italian Maritime Republics of the Renaissance period. The Italians of this time period faced many of the same problems and issues we face today in Idaho's urban forests – stormwater management, maintaining or improving species diversity, and managing the community forest for the greatest possible public benefit.

There are a lot of reasons for looking forward to the future of Idaho's community forests. The continued adoption and use of IDL's TreePlotter inventory program provides a live and up-to-date tree inventory for cities and counties to utilize



Michael S. Beaudoin

to inform management decisions. IDL's Urban and Community Forestry program will continue to invest in Idaho's community forest programs by providing training seminars for arborists to prepare for and take the ISA certified arborist exam. The training seminars will provide attendees with technical knowledge for tree care and ANSI safety guidelines for tree maintenance and removal.

IDL's Urban and Community Forestry program continues to showcase Idaho's leading role in community forestry education and technical assistance and will host the 2020 Western States Urban and Community Forestry Meeting in Boise. This meeting will bring together the state coordinators from 19 western states to learn how Idaho cities have successfully implemented community forestry projects. Coeur d'Alene will once again host the International Society of Arboriculture Pacific Northwest Chapter's annual training conference this October. The future of community forestry in Idaho is bright and will continue to set the bar very high for all of the western states.

I look forward to working with you. If I haven't had the opportunity to discuss your community forestry program with you and how IDL's Urban and Community Forestry program can assist you with your goals please contact me. I can be reached at 208-666-8621 or via email at mbeaudoin@idl.idaho.gov.

-- Michael S. Beaudoin

Community Forestry Program Manager

Editor's Note

We're Back!

After a one-year hiatus, quarterly publication of *Idaho Community Trees* has resumed. For readers who retain these newsletters, please note that the numbering sequence will continue uninterrupted despite the absence of 4 issues. We hope this publication will help bring together the community tree programs throughout Idaho and encourage our cities of all sizes to plant trees and continually upgrade the care of public and private trees.

-- Jim Fazio, Editor
Idaho Community Trees

Education is Key

Most Idaho citizens are passionate about their trees. Increasingly, people recognize the contribution that trees make, whether in a downtown business district or in a windrow on the family farm. This makes education about trees and plants an important component of any city's community forestry program.

Whether it's public education or employee training, keeping people up to date on current methodology and practices is essential for health of the tree canopy in your community. Certification programs are available for this purpose and most require continuing education units to maintain certification, whether in arboriculture or pesticide application. This assures that workers are knowledgeable about evolving science that applies to their profession. Idaho cities need more ISA Certified Arborists working in them. To help, Idaho Department of Lands is hosting an Arborist Certification Training Workshop in Boise on March

23-24, 2020. There will then be an ISA Certification Exam offered on March 25th.

Additionally, many Idaho cities now offer educational classes to the public, using local experts as instructors. For example, Boise, Meridian and Nampa all offer spring classes to the public. Topics range from Tree Biology to Pruning, Planting, and Insect and Disease Issues.


Another important component of public education is for a city to "get in front" of a controversial issue involving trees on public property. Perhaps a well known tree needs to be removed to accommodate development, or a policy or code is being adopted that changes citizen responsibility, or a quarantine order is issued due to an insect invasion. Making residents aware of the changes and the reasoning behind them can prevent misunderstanding and build support.

The Idaho Community Forestry Program places a high priority on education. Our community forestry assistants are happy to participate in any activities that help provide information about tree care and the benefits of trees. For additional information, contact Gerry Bates at plantingidaho@gmail.com.

Importance of Community Trees in Idaho Recognized Early

The January issue of *Idaho Magazine* has an interesting article about a recently found manuscript by famed writer Vardis Fisher. It was written during the Great Depression in the mid-1930s. The unpublished work was titled 'Boise Guide' and in it he wrote, "As cities go, Boise is physically attractive, but it is the trees and not the buildings that make it so... Upon any of several streets can be found enough incongruous architectural ineptness to abash any lover of the beautiful – if it were not for the trees, and it is the trees after all which give to Boise its somewhat legendary distinction of being one of the loveliest cities in the nation. Without them, the city would not inappropriately invite the metaphor of a peacock divested of its feathers."

For access to the entire article or to subscribe to this monthly magazine, visit www.IDAHOMagazine.com.



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Changes Made in Tree Appraisals

We all know that trees in urban settings have value, but how do we put a dollar amount of them? Many Idaho tree ordinances refer to establishing value based on the 9th edition of the Council of Tree and Landscape Appraiser's *Guide for Plant Appraisal*. Placing a value on trees is important for insurance purposes, litigation reasons, tree preservation, inventories, etc. and the methodology used to establish value has to be defensible and consistently applied.

The International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) recently published the updated guide. This book builds on 20 years of experience and takes a different approach to appraisal than in earlier editions. Previously, the trunk formula technique was most commonly used to establish value on trees that were larger than commonly available trees from a nursery. Besides the number of square inches in the trunk, it relied on several other factors such as location, function, etc. to arrive at a conclusion of value. The 10th edition uses a modified and simplified version of the trunk formula method, but also encourages the appraiser to consider other factors such as costs, sales comparisons and income. And, each of these approaches contain one or more methods.

Last December, a Pacific Northwest ISA workshop about the new appraisal methods was held in Boise. The two-day, intensive workshop explored all the approaches to tree appraisals and the methodology required for each. James Komen, a consulting arborist from Class One Arboriculture instructed the group and encouraged participants to adopt the methods that will more accurately establish values on individual trees.



Photo by Lance Davisson

James Komen works with Idaho arborists to introduce them to the 10th edition of the Plant Appraisers Guide.

Winter/Spring 2020 Events Calendar

February 12 and March 11

Urban Forest Connections Webinar Series

Monthly 1 ¼ hour long webinars on a wide range of timely topics start at 10:00 a.m. Pacific Time, 11a.m. Mountain Time. There is no cost and CEUs are available for certified arborists. For topics and to view previous webinars, visit: www.fs.fed.us/research/urban-webinars.

March 23-24

Arborist Certification Training Workshop, Boise. Exam follows on March 25. For more information and to register contact: Gerry Bates at plantingidaho@gmail.com or Michael S. Beaudoin at mbeaudoin@idl.idaho.gov.

March 27-29

Boise Flower and Garden Show. Information at: www.inlagrow.org

April 24

Arbor Day

May 11-13

ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (TRAQ) Workshop and Exam, Boise.

Register at: www.pnwisa.org

May 14

ISA Tree Disorders Diagnosis, Boise. Register at: www.pnwisa.org

May 14

ISA Why Trees Fail, Boise. Register at: www.pnwisa.org

Boise Public Education, Boise Public Library, 715 S Capitol. Information at: dcook@cityofboise.org

Jan 29 – Fruit Tree Pruning

Feb 12 – Tree Selection and Planting

Feb 19 – Tree Problems

Feb 26 – Wildflowers and More

Mar 4 – Organic Gardening

Mar 11 – Roses and Landscape

Mar 18 – Lawn and Irrigation

May 13 – City Arboretum Tour

Nampa Public Education, Nampa Rec Center, 131 Constitution. More information: murrayc@cityofnampa.us

Feb 27 - Fruit Tree Pruning

March 5 - Tree Pruning Techniques

March 12 - Perennials for Season Long Color

March 26 - Watering – How Much is Enough

April 2 - What's Wrong with My Tree?

July 28-30

Western States Urban and Community Forestry Annual Network Conference, Boise. More information to come in Spring 2020 issue.

October 4-7

Pacific Northwest ISA Annual Training Conference,

Coeur d'Alene. More information available at:

<https://pnwisa.org/classes-events/annual-training-conference>.

Upcoming Certified Arborist (CA), Certified Tree Worker (CTW), Municipal Specialist (MS), Utility Specialist(UA), Tree Risk Assessment (TRAQ) Exams. For more information contact IDL or www.pnwisa.org.

March 7 - Central Point Oregon (CA, UA, MS)

March 23 - Seattle (TRAQ)

March 25 - Boise (CA)

May 11 - Boise (TRAQ)

May 15 – Boise (TRAQ Renewal Exam Only)



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Tree tip



Photo by Jim Fazio

A homemade bee hotel is ready and waiting for mason bees to appear next spring. Commercial versions are available online.

Be There for Bees

The popularity of fruit trees in cities seems to be on the rise while at the same time the number of bees and other pollinators are in decline. Wild bees (bumble bees, mason bees, miner bees, etc.) are especially helpful because they start early in the spring, work under poor weather conditions, start earlier in the day and work later in the day. So, let's hear it for wild bees! And here's what you can do to help reverse the bee population trend and assure good fruit:

- Dedicate a little space for plants that attract bees, butterflies, hummingbirds and other pollinators.
- Provide a water source. For pools or open containers, use a branch, piece of burlap or other 'ramp' so insects don't drown.
- Make or purchase a bee hotel. Common mason bees like tubes about 5/16" in diameter and 4" – 6" in depth. The holes should be sheltered from rain, face east or south and be protected from hot afternoon sun.
- Use pesticides judiciously!