

IDAHO COMMUNITY TREES

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Summer
2020

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

Coordinator's Column

What tree pests threaten Idaho?

See page 2

Some Ideas for Alternative Arbor Day Celebrations

Arbor Day allows our communities to celebrate the services that our forests and trees provide. Showcasing your program and planning an Arbor Day celebration has been derailed in a lot of Idaho communities this year due to COVID-19 and social-distancing guidelines. Although many communities were not able to celebrate Arbor Day this past April, there are many opportunities to still hold an Arbor Day celebration.

Postponing your Arbor Day until fall can actually provide benefits to your program and your community forest. Planting new trees in the fall allows the tree roots to become better established before winter weather and helps the new sapling avoid the summer heat during its first few months in the soil. Some root growth can actually take place in fall and winter, getting the tree partially established and ready for spring growth. Fall can also present an opportunity to highlight the contributions of trees to your town's well-being at a different time of the year than usual. As we recover from COVID-19 and being isolated from our friends and family, trees can be shown as playing an important role in our health and well-being

If your city is not prepared to hold an in-person Arbor Day this year, there are some alternative celebration ideas provided by the Arbor Day Foundation. For example, you can hold a virtual online Arbor Day demonstrating tree planting or pruning. You can conduct a virtual tour of your city's historic or most important trees. The Arbor Day Foundation provides other examples of alternative Arbor Day celebrations at www.arborday.org/celebrate/alternative-celebration-ideas.cfm.

Please feel free to reach out to me or our community forestry assistants if you require assistance with planning your Arbor Day celebration.

-- Michael S. Beaudoin

Community Forestry Program Manager

Rexburg's "Flow-bor Day"



Photo by Gerry Bates

The Lorax (Ann Bates) joined Mayor Jerry Merrill (3rd from right) and other volunteers as Rexburg added flowers and more trees to their city.

Trees and flowers became the focus of the Arbor Day celebration in Rexburg last spring, so the term 'Flow-bor Day' was coined for the occasion.

Community volunteers gathered on Main Street and planted flowers in barrels and flower beds throughout the downtown area. At least 200 people turned out to help beautify their city and many of the volunteers were able to take home flowers and tree seedlings. The flowers were purchased by the city and the trees were supplied by the Idaho Forest Products Commission.

After the flower planting, the volunteers met at Porter Park which was celebrating 90 years as Rexburg's main city park. Porter Park was donated to the city by Arthur Porter who moved to Rexburg in 1902. He was an educator, publisher, merchant, mayor, legislator and religious leader. Among the first trees planted in the park were cutleaf weeping birches along the eastern boundary. This was before the lilac/ash borer was an issue in Idaho and the trees thrived until a few years ago. Then, as they grew past maturity, they became subject to the insect. The trees had to be removed.

This spring during the Flow-bor Day celebration, a line of red maples were planted to replace the birch trees. In the center of the row, a few birches were replanted to recognize the long term contribution that the original trees provided. Members of Arthur Porter's family, including a great-great granddaughter, Annie Mounts, assisted in the planting. Annie first got involved in the event by creating a fundraiser with her friends for her church's Young Women project to support the care of Porter Park. She also designed a sticker to sell door to door and to local businesses in an effort to promote the city's unique Arbor Day celebration.

Right Tree, Wrong Place

By Gerry Bates

As I travel the state working with Idaho communities, I often see tree planting projects that make me scratch my head and wonder why a particular situation occurred. I realize that every tree is planted with good intentions, but good tree selection doesn't only have to consider whether or not the tree will be successful, but also the location in which it's planted.

Recently, I was asked to visit the City of Victor to look at a situation where a subdivision developer had used narrowleaf cottonwoods as street trees. The cottonwoods were planted next to a walking path and roadway, lining the entire subdivision. Once the subdivision had been completed, the city assumed maintenance of the right-of-way and the trees began to grow. In a short time (in tree years), the shallow root system of the cottonwoods began to lift up the asphalt of the walking path and in some cases, even the adjoining street. The walking path had been lifted in irregular 6-inch high ridges, making bicycling or handicapped access almost impossible.

The city asked if there were mitigation measures, so we discussed root barriers, root pruning, etc. But the nature of the roots of the species in question made it evident that any measure short of removal would be a short term fix. Therefore, I recommended that the trees be removed and replaced with an appropriate species.

When the subdivision was being planned, the public works director questioned the use of cottonwoods as street trees. Unfortunately, the project moved forward anyway. After the city took possession, the anticipated conflict became reality. I would like to encourage all Idaho cities to work closely between departments. Planning and Zoning should have a close relationship with Public Works, Parks, Streets and so on. Take the time to see if language in your tree ordinance and land use codes is compatible and be sure to have open lines of communication between departments, developers, public officials, and residents. Most issues can be resolved before implementation of a project – it just takes the time and forethought to make it happen.

The City of Trees Challenge

Boise and the Treasure Valley Canopy Network have initiated a unique program to help offset carbon dioxide by planting more trees. The challenge is to plant 100,000 trees – one tree for every household in the city. Volunteer opportunities and a way to record the number of trees planted are part of the city's website at: www.cityofboise.org/departments/parks-and-recreation/city-of-trees-challenge.

Look Out for Invasive Pests

Tree damaging insects such as the emerald ash borer, gypsy moth, Japanese beetle, and Asian longhorned beetle are threatening urban forests in Idaho. City workers and arborists play an important role on the front lines of the battle to keep invasive pest species out of our state. Being able to identify the pests and their patterns of damage associated with them will enable arborists to notify the Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) if an outbreak occurs in their area.

At the APHIS website, www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/planthealth/plant-pest-and-disease-programs, you can do your research by looking at picture galleries of the pests in all their life stages and the damage they do. Information about the biology of the pests, regulations, controls and restoration after the damage, is also available on the website.

Insects aren't the only organisms that are likely to damage to our urban forests. Diseases such as European larch canker and thousand cankers disease are potential threats. The APHIS website has information on these diseases that you can use for identification.

To report a pest or disease in Idaho you can contact State Plant Health Director Brian Marschman by phone at 208-373-1600 or by email at Brian.L.Marschman@usda.gov. Prompt notification of the presence of invasive insects and diseases can help stop or contain outbreaks and limit damage to Idaho's urban and community forests.

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The invasive, damaging emerald ash borer.

Photo from Animal Planet Health Inspection Service

Arbor Day Grant Recipients

Once again, 44 Idaho communities benefited from the Arbor Day grant program. The Idaho Nursery and Landscape Association, in cooperation with the Idaho Department of Lands, Avista, Rocky Mountain Power, and Idaho Power, provided \$300 each to the following communities. The funds were to help with Arbor Day celebrations and the purchase of appropriate trees:

American Falls	Hayden	Rexburg
Ashton	Idaho Falls	Riggins
Blackfoot	Inkom	Samaria
Bonnars Ferry	Juliaetta	Shelley
Buhl	Ketchum	Shoshone
Burley	Malad	Spirit Lake
Dietrich	McCall	Star
Donnelly	Meridian	Stites
Eagle	Mountain Home	Sugar City
East Hope	Nezperce	Tetonia
Emmett	Oakley	Twin Falls
Filer	Orofino	Ucon
Garden City	Payette	Victor
Gooding	Peck	Winchester
Gooding County	Potlatch	

Software Helps Social Distancing

Just in time to help out with the COVID-19 situation, PlanIT Geo has come out with a map-based software program that allows tree care companies to prepare estimates and bid on tree jobs without making contact with the property owner. The feature, called TreePlotter™ JOBS is also a component of the tree inventory program, Tree Plotter, used by many Idaho communities. JOBS is being offered free until November 1. For information, visit: www.treeplotter.com/tryJOBS.

Summer/Fall 2020 Events Calendar

Note: *With the recent outbreak of Covid-19 and the Center for Disease Control's recommendations for social distancing and postponing events with more than 10 people, many of our planned workshops may be affected. If you have any questions regarding upcoming events, feel free to contact us at CommunityTrees@IDL.Idaho.Gov*

Urban Forest Connections Webinar Series

Webinars are 1 1/4 hours starting at 10:00am Pacific Time, 11am Mountain Time. (You can view previous webinars at this same website.) Check this link for future topics on the following dates: www.fs.fed.us/research/urban-webinars.

- o July 8th, 2020
- o August 12th, 2020

July 8

Forestry Short Course, Sandpoint. University of Idaho Cooperative Extension - For information: mbeaudoin@idl.idaho.gov

July 24

Green Industry Golf Tournament, Falcon Crest. Information at: www.inlagrow.org.

July 31

Tree Disorder Diagnosis and Why Trees Fail- The physics of Windstorm Tree Failure, Boise.

Location: Idaho State Museum, 610 Julia Davis Drive. Information: <https://pnwisa.org>.

August 26 – 28

Farwest Show, Portland -CANCELLED

October (Various Dates TBA)

Pacific Northwest ISA Annual Training Conference. (Virtual). More information available at: <https://pnwisa.org/classes-events/annual-training-conference>.

October 19-20

Arborist Certification Training Workshop, Boise (Tentative). For information, contact: plantingidaho@gmail.com

November 18 – 19

Partners in Community Forestry Conference, Louisville, KY. For information, contact the Arbor Day Foundation at www.arborday.org/programs/pcf.

January 20-22

Idaho Horticulture Expo, Boise. For information: <https://inlagrow.org>.

Note: For a list of available online courses, visit <https://pnwisa.org>.

Upcoming Certified Arborist (CA), Certified Tree Worker (CTC), Municipal Specialist (MS), Utility Specialist(UA), Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (TRAQ) Exams:

July 27-29 – Boise. (TRAQ) Location: Boise State University, Student Union Building - 1700 W. University Dr

July 30 - Boise (TRAQ Renewal)

Location: Boise State University, Student Union Building - 1700 W. University Dr.

August 24 - Seattle (TRAQ Renewal)

August 26-28 - Seattle (TRAQ)

October 21 - Boise (CA, MS, UA)- Tentative- For information: plantingidaho@gmail.com
Location not yet determined.



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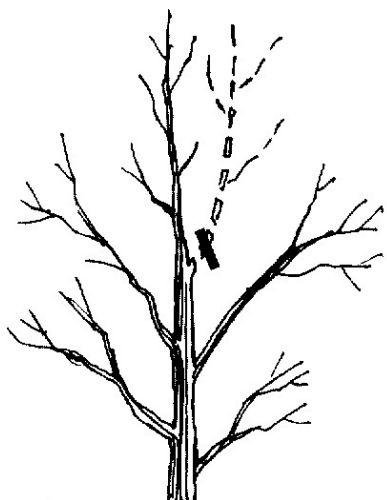
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Small but Important – A Bit of Wisdom

A very wise and experienced arborist once said, “Besides planting at the right depth (not too deep), the best thing you can do to avoid tree problems is to prevent double tops on young trees. All it takes is a pair of hand shears and minute of your time.”



The result of this simple process is that a tight fork will be prevented. Whether co-dominant leaders or two side branches, tight forks will likely result in included (in-grown) bark that acts like a wedge and creates a weak spot in the tree. Tending to this issue in the first few years of a tree's life will save time and money later on – and prevent an accident if a split occurs and half of the offending pair falls to earth.

Preventing a double top can save a lot of time and money later on.