

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

What not to plant!

See page 4

Spring Is Here! Time to Celebrate Trees

After setting records for single day, monthly and seasonal snowfall in various parts of the state this winter, spring is finally here. Unfortunately, warm temperatures and rainy weather have caused flooding in some communities. The result is increased soil compaction, leading to reduced soil oxygen, conditions that can injure or kill tree roots. Alternatively, flooding can also wash away or saturate soil which may reduce the trees' stability. Timing also plays a role—with winter flooding less damaging than spring or summer flooding. Trees that typically grow in wetland areas are more tolerant of these conditions and are good species to plant in lowland areas prone to flooding. For more information including the best species for these areas, type flooding effects on trees in your internet search engine, or read this article on the International Society of Arboriculture website: http://www.isa-arbor.com/quizbank/355/ceu_2014_08.pdf.

On the bright side, Arbor Day is just around the corner. Once again, I'd like to thank Avista, Idaho Power and Rocky Mountain Power for their generous contributions to our Arbor Day grants program, and the Idaho Nursery and Landscape Association for managing the program. This year, their generosity means 52 cities will receive \$300 grants to help them celebrate this important day.

Arbor Day is a great opportunity to celebrate and educate. If you are looking for educational materials, one really useful website is www.forestinfo.org. In particular, a set of 17 videos called Forest Fast Breaks is especially good. Less than two minutes each, these videos "simplify complex forestry topics into concise, engaging animated shorts with sound effects and narration." They are fun, fast paced and informative. On the website, click on Discover, then Forest Fast Breaks. Last, if you haven't already, order your Idaho Arbor Day t-shirts at the Idaho Forest Products Commission: <http://www.idahoforests.org/arborday.htm>.

Happy spring and happy Arbor Day!

— David Stephenson

Community Forestry Coordinator



Photo by David Stephenson

Idaho Falls, a Tree City USA community for 24 years, will soon add a new arboretum and interpretive area to its amenities for residents and visitors.

Chesbro Donation to Create New Idaho Falls Arboretum

A generous donation from Neil Chesbro of Chesbro Music has resulted in Idaho Falls entering the planning stages for a new arboretum. According to Gerry Bates, Southern Idaho Community Forestry Assistant, the arboretum will be incorporated into the city's popular greenbelt along the Snake River and will include a self-guided interpretive tour.

Chesbro Music Company is an anchor to downtown Idaho Falls with its retail and wholesale businesses that reach out across the nation. It has been in the Chesbro family for over 100 years and is currently run by the family's fourth and fifth generations. The company's stated business philosophy is: "Hold yourself accountable. Foster music in others. Give back to the community."

Chesbro offers hand-made guitars created from western redcedar, a tree that will grow in Idaho Falls but cannot currently be seen in a public space. It is Neil's wish to offer an educational setting for Idaho Falls' residents and visitors that features the western redcedars along with new cultivars and hybrids that are not common to the city. City officials are currently looking for additional sponsors to expand the project even further.

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The arboretum will be an additional feature to the Idaho Falls Greenbelt, an interconnected walking path along the banks of the Snake River that already features an impressive variety of trees. The new area will be signed and recognized as an arboretum. In addition, at least 20 new specimen trees will be procured and planted in suitable locations to enhance the public's experience. Idaho Falls, at 4800 feet in elevation, is in zone 5 on the USDA Zoning Map. A goal of the project is to demonstrate to residents that trees exist that can enhance a landscape and increase diversification beyond simply spruce and ash trees which comprise a significant portion of the city's trees.

Kiosks will be included at each end of the project to offer details about the trees such as their origins, hardiness and care. Pamphlets will be offered with a map of the arboretum showing the location of each of the various species and cultivars.



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Fourteen Years Later – Looking for Lessons Learned

by Stephen Drinkard, Community Forestry Assistant and former Sandpoint City Forester

In 2002, the City of Sandpoint, working with Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) and Idaho Department of Lands (IDL), chose to dramatically facelift the main Highway 95 business corridor. A four-block-long area was not conducive to business growth due to no safe sidewalks, no lighting and no landscaping.

As part of the project, the highway corridor was widened to accommodate more traffic and a bike path. Sidewalks with parkways were included thanks to a Community Transportation Enhancement (CTE) grant.

The city used the grant funds to plant 68 2-inch caliper deciduous trees and transplanted 19 6-inch diameter caliper Austrian pines on the west and east sides of 5th Ave. (Hwy. 95). On the west side, the

Austrian pines were interspersed with London planetrees and a few maples. On the east side mostly Emerald Queen maples were planted. The work attracted significant commercial development, due in no small part to the trees.

Now we ask, "How are the trees doing?" and what have we learned from this experience.

My estimation is, "Fairly well." Rich Del Carlo, local ISA certified arborist agrees. There has been no loss of any of the 68 maples or the London planetrees and only two of the transplanted Austrian pines have died. "Except for the fact that the trees have a large, grassy parkway in which to grow, it's a hostile environment with thousands of cars passing by each day and winter road salts splashing up on the trees," says Del Carlo. However, of the 30 maples on the east side of the highway about 50% have significant sun scald, slowing their growth. We believe this is because the trees face a western sun bouncing off 100 feet of concrete road and no winter tree guards were used to protect the thin bark.

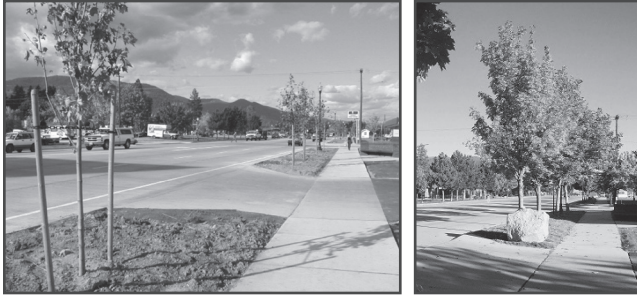
As expected, the Emerald Queen maples have grown more slowly than the London planetrees, now averaging about 6" DBH compared to the planetrees' 8" DBH. We were both surprised that pines that were transplanted by tree spade have doubled their original size.

Because trees often defy expectations, both of us have scratched our heads for definitive reasons as to why one London planetree has grown to a spectacular 15" DBH while other ones in the same parkway are only about 8" DBH.

Here are some lessons we definitely have learned from this experience. When the deciduous trees were first planted, the landscape company hired by ITD used an architect's instructions to plant the balled & burlapped trees at "nursery container depth." Consequently, the trees were planted too deeply. IDL's David Stephenson, administrator for the CTE grant, immediately noticed "the stove pipe" plantings and the city had to lift all 68 deciduous trees so the root collars were above ground. Also, because the landscape company did not remove the burlap from the

trees during planting, a few trees with circling roots went undetected and now may eventually strangle those trees in the years to come.

Despite some mistakes, the overall project has been a success. By evaluating the results, we are now better prepared to make future plantings even more successful.



Some of the newly-planted Emerald Queen maples (left) compared with the same trees 14 years later.

Nine Idaho Cities Receive Tree City Growth Awards

Congratulations to the 67 cities in Idaho that achieved Tree City USA status this past year. Nine of these cities—Boise, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho Falls, Lava Hot Springs, McCall, Moscow, Nampa, Post Falls and Priest River—also earned Tree City Growth Awards. This special award is for activities beyond the four basic Tree City USA requirements and include such things as completion of tree inventories and management plans, enhanced land-use planning coordination, improved ordinances, and implementation of interpretive and tree-worker safety programs. This work, accomplished through the dedication, passion and hard work of staff and volunteers, creates healthier, greener and more vibrant communities!

For a list of activities that can help your city earn a Growth Award, visit www.arborday.org/programs/treecityusa/growthawards.cfm.



Spring/Summer 2017 Events Calendar

April 27, 2017

Trees and the Law — Boise Depot, Boise ID. To learn more and register, visit <http://pnwisa.org/event/trees-and-the-law/>

April 28, 2017

Celebrate Arbor Day!

July 14, 2017

Tree School— Spokane, WA. Educational programming for professionals and landowners to promote the proper care of trees and forests. To learn more and register, visit <http://www.sccd.org/departments/forestry/tree-school>.

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.)

- May 10, 2017 1:00pm-2:15pm ET
 - June 14, 2017 1:00pm-2:15pm ET
 - July 19, 2017 1:00pm-2:15pm E
- Future topics to be announced

July 29 – 30

International Society of Arboriculture Annual Conference and Trade Show— Washington, DC. For information, visit <http://www.isa-arbor.com/events/conference/index.aspx>.

September 26 – 28

Trees and Utilities National Conference—Kansas City, MO. For information, visit <http://www.treesandutilities.org/>.

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

June 3rd— Lewiston, ID (CA, UA, MS, CTW-exam only)

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



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Tree tip

Be Careful About What Yew Plant

Shrubs play an important part in the urban landscape, but perhaps not introduced yews (*Taxus* sp.). According to Idaho Dept. of Fish & Game botanist Lynn Kinter, writing in *The Taproot*, 85 elk, pronghorn, mule deer and moose died in Idaho last winter by ingesting parts of decorative yew bushes. Dogs and other mammals are also vulnerable to the poisonous taxine contained in all parts of the plant. The exception to this danger – our native Pacific yew (*T. brevifolia*). Its quantity of taxine is too small to be considered dangerous. But avoid:

- Japanese yew (*T. cuspidata*)
- English yew (*T. baccata*)
- Chinese yew (*T. chinensis*)
- Canadian yew (*T. canadensis*)
- Hybrids of the above

Photo by Lynn Kinter, Idaho Dept. of Fish and Game



All parts of the non-native yews contain a powerful chemical that is toxic to mammals.