



# CommuniTreeLink

Connecting people with resources to help them improve their Community Forests

The newsletter of the Oregon Department of Forestry  
Urban and Community Forestry Assistance Program



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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**January 15, 2005.**

### **2004 Oregon Urban and Community Forestry Awards Deadline**

You don't have much time left to make a nomination for the annual urban forestry awards. Each year, Oregon Community Trees (OCT), Oregon's non-profit urban forestry organization, joins with ODF in recognizing accomplishments that enhance and maintain Oregon's community forests. Nomination forms are available on OCT's website at [www.oregoncommunitytrees.org](http://www.oregoncommunitytrees.org)

**February 17 - 18, 2005**

### **High Desert Green Industry Conference, Redmond**

Seminars and trade show on the why's and how-to's of managing our landscaped environment. Presented by ODF, OLCA and OSU Extension. Visit <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/deschutes> for conference information, or call 541-548-6088.

**March 11, 2005**

### **Oregon Urban & Community Forest Conference, Eugene.**

"Natural Disaster Planning within the Urban Forest" is the theme for this annual event. Come learn how your city can plan and effectively respond to ice and wind storms and other disasters. A registration form will be mailed in late January, and will also be available on the OCT website at [www.oregoncommunitytrees.org](http://www.oregoncommunitytrees.org)

**April 3-10, 2005**

### **Arbor Week in Oregon**

Start planning now for how your community can celebrate. Visit the Arbor Day website: [www.arborday.org/oregon](http://www.arborday.org/oregon) for ideas, or contact your Community Assistance Forester.

## From The Editors

*By the time this issue hits your mailbox it will be early January, which begs the inevitable question...how are your New Years resolutions coming? If you have made any tree related resolutions this year, you probably haven't fallen behind yet. You still have plenty of time to plan for Arbor Week, or get working on achieving Tree City USA status. Winter is a great time to plan. So in between budget preparation and nursery catalog browsing, give some thought to how you'll improve the community forest where you live this year. Contact your Community Assistance Forester and let us know how we can help.*

## Bud Breaking News

### **Survey Shows Cities Doing A Better Job Managing Trees**

More Oregon cities are taking a proactive approach to dealing with tree issues, according to a new survey report from the ODF Urban and Community Forestry Assistance Program. ODF surveyed all 240 cities and found that 37% of the respondents reported having a tree planting or tree care program in their city, up from 26% in a similar 1992 survey. The survey also revealed:

- Nearly 1.5 million people, or 63% of Oregon's incorporated population, live in a city with a tree planting and care program.
- Over 62% of cities responding have a municipal tree ordinance, 38% have tree advisory committees, and 9% have community forest management plans.
- Cities reported aggregate expenditures of \$7.8 million on urban forestry activities in 2003, an increase over the \$1.2 million reported in the 1992 survey.
- Cities' top three urban forestry concerns are hazard trees (73%), root conflicts or problems (51%), and tree preservation or protection (46%).
- Primary benefits of managing trees in cities were reported as community pride, attractiveness, image (82%), enhancing community appeal to new residents, businesses, shoppers (71%), and shade (44%)
- Most commonly cited negative aspects of city trees were hazard trees (57%) the financial cost of maintaining trees (54%) and tree/utility conflicts (54%)

The high response rate to several questions regarding hazard trees may have been influenced by the memory of the January 2004 ice and snow storms. For the last 12 years, ODF has been assisting Oregon communities develop urban forestry programs. A copy of the full report is available on the web at:

[http://egov.oregon.gov/ODF/URBAN\\_FORESTS/docs/04SurveyRptfinal.pdf](http://egov.oregon.gov/ODF/URBAN_FORESTS/docs/04SurveyRptfinal.pdf)

### **American Public Works Association Accreditation and Tree Inventories**

Attention Public Works Directors and staff! What do Bellendorf, IA, Chandler, AZ, Berkeley, CA, and Eugene, OR, have in common? These cities, and many more nationwide, all have (or are pursuing) **comprehensive tree inventories** as part of the process of becoming accredited through the American Public Works Association (APWA). The purpose of the accreditation program is to "provide a means of formally verifying and recognizing public works agencies for compliance with the recommended practices set forth in the *Public Works Management Practices Manual*." The objectives of this voluntary, self-motivated accreditation program include (1) offering a voluntary evaluation and

## Quotable Quotes

"...groups of well-grown trees, clustering among the busy streets and houses of a thriving city, have a very quaint appearance: seeming to bring about a kind of compromise between town and country; as if each had met the other half-way, and shaken hands upon it..."

— Charles Dickens

## Urban Forestry by the Numbers:

**2,559**

The total number of  
Tree City USA communities  
in the United States.

Is yours one of them?

From: National Arbor Day Foundation ([www.arborday.org](http://www.arborday.org))

*Do you have an interesting number to share that reflects the value of trees to our cities? Send it to the editors and you might see it in a future issue.*

## COMMUNITREELINK

This newsletter is published bimonthly by the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) Urban & Community Forestry Assistance Program in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service. The mission of ODF's Urban and Community Forestry Assistance Program is to help Oregonians improve their quality of life by promoting community investment in our urban forests. This newsletter is available in electronic or printed format. Subscriptions are free and available by contacting any of the ODF staff listed below. USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



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education program rather than government regulated activity, (2) recognize good performance and provide motivation to maintain and improve performance, and (3) instill pride among agency staff, elected officials, and the local community. Accreditation is based on a self-assessment process, which includes having a public tree inventory. This is one way to make inventorying the trees in your community part of a Larger Vision or Goal, rather than an end in itself. Visit the APWA website at: [www.apwa.net/About/Accreditation/](http://www.apwa.net/About/Accreditation/) for more information. Here you will also find the list of accredited agencies with contact information for each, so you can contact real people and get the low-down on how to make this program work for your community. And remember: the ODF Urban and Community Forestry program offers financial support for tree inventories annually through its community forestry assistance grants.

## Resources You Can Use

### Website Explores Past, Future of Willamette Basin

A wealth of information about Oregon's Willamette River basin is now available on the Web, featuring everything from video clips to research articles, expert listings, pioneer stories and sophisticated data collections—all with a goal of making good conservation decisions for the future. This new web-based, user-friendly "library," at <http://willametteexplorer.info>, is called "Willamette Basin Explorer: Past, Present, Future." It was developed as a key part of its two-year effort to provide Oregon residents and community leaders with more information to help make sound, informed decisions about land and water use. This initiative is a collaborative effort of the Institute for Natural Resources at Oregon State University, OSU Libraries, the University of Oregon, Willamette Restoration Initiative and Defenders of Wildlife. The website provides a history of the Willamette basin, analysis of critical issues, mapping tools, colorful video clips, links to publications, data sets, and helpful resources, and much more. The web site explores different development options and scenarios for the Willamette Basin, and provides data ranging from the simple to highly complex, to help people better understand the implications of land management decisions.

### Can the AmeriCorps Program Help Improve Your Urban Forest?

Each year the Northwest Service Academy (NWSA) recruits and places AmeriCorps members in nonprofit organizations and government agencies focusing on Education, Environment, and Volunteerism. Members serve 1700 hours (roughly the equivalent of a .8 FTE) working on projects in these areas in exchange for a small living stipend and an education award they can use for student loans or future education. NWSA is seeking host organizations (sponsors) for members who would start in either October 2005 or January 2006. Each host organization is required to provide a cash match of \$6,000 for a full-time AmeriCorps member for nonprofit organizations and schools, or \$7,000 for government agencies, and \$5,000 in-kind match. AmeriCorps members are not staff, can't displace or replace staff, and will be spending some of their time developing their skills. In addition to the members' stipend, education award, health insurance, etc, NWSA will also provide member training and support. If you're interested in learning more, the contacts are: Margi Guilfoyle ([Margi.Guilfoyle@esd112.org](mailto:Margi.Guilfoyle@esd112.org)) for the greater Portland area and Susan Navrotsky ([Susan.Navrotsky@esd112.org](mailto:Susan.Navrotsky@esd112.org)) for the rest of Oregon.

## Did You Know....?

### Congress Named The Oak as America's National Tree

Recent legislation by the US Congress officially recognized "the tree genus Quercus, commonly known as the oak tree, is the national tree." The effort got its start through a popular on-line vote organized by National Arbor Day Foundation. Arbor Day's John Rosenow sees the designation as a tool we can all use for raising awareness, calling attention to the national stature and importance of trees. Almost every state has at least one species of native oak.