



# 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 13, 2006**

**Nomination Deadline for Oregon Urban and Community Forestry Awards.** For details, visit the Oregon Community Trees Web site at [www.oregoncommunitytrees.org](http://www.oregoncommunitytrees.org)

**February 15-16, 2006**

**High Desert Green Industry Conference, Redmond**

For more information on this annual training opportunity, contact Katie Kause at [kkause@odf.state.or.us](mailto:kkause@odf.state.or.us)

**March 10, 2006**

**Structural Pruning of Young Trees, Oregon City**

This half-day seminar on tree pruning is sponsored by the PNW-ISA. Visit the PNW-ISA website at [www.pnwisa.org](http://www.pnwisa.org) to register.

**April 3-8, 2006**

**Arbor Week in Oregon**

How is your community planning to observe Arbor Week? Check out the Oregon Arbor Week website at [www.arborday.org/oregon](http://www.arborday.org/oregon) for ideas.

**May 18-19, 2006**

**PNW Community Trees Conference, Anchorage, AK**

Every two years, urban forestry enthusiasts in the Pacific Northwest gather to share knowledge and expertise. This year's featured speaker is noted landscape architect James Urban. Registration materials will be available soon, so mark the date!

**June 1, 2006**

**Annual Oregon Urban Forestry Conference, Salem**

This year, the state's annual urban forestry conference moves from March to June. The theme will be tree inventories and management plans. Registration materials will be available soon, so mark the date!

## From The Editors

Winter is an important time in the urban forest. Abundant precipitation helps recharge groundwater and build snowpack. In Western Oregon, newly planted trees get watered in for a healthy start. It is also a great time for planning....not just the New Year's resolution type, but the strategic type as well. Winter is a great time to plan Arbor Week activities for April, to organize community tree planting projects for later in the winter or spring, or to schedule tree inventory projects. Your ODF urban forestry staff can help with all these activities. Let us know how we can help you improve the quality of life in your community.

## Bud Breaking News

### Tree Planting Season is Here, or Fast Approaching!

Winter to early spring is a great time to get trees planted in Oregon cities. Do you have a neighborhood that needs new street trees? Or a park that needs re-greening? Need help planning an Arbor Week community tree planting event? ODF is partnering with Oregon Community Trees to help cities plan volunteer tree planting projects. We can assist by helping with logistics, training volunteers, and perhaps even subsidizing the cost of trees. By planting trees at the appropriate time of year and following-up with proper tree care you can contribute to the health of your cities urban and community forest. If you would like assistance in organizing a tree planting event in your city, please contact Sarah Kresse, ODF Urban and Community Forestry Program Outreach Coordinator at (503) 945-7398 or by email at [skresse@odf.state.or.us](mailto:skresse@odf.state.or.us)

### City Trees Are Good For Business

The Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania is widely regarded as one of the country's premier business schools. Recently, the Wharton School delved into the question of how urban forests benefit cities. Real estate professor Susan Wachter found significant increases in the value of individual homes near cleaned-up vacant lots, street trees, and parks:

- Cleaning and greening of vacant lots can increase adjacent property values by as much as 30%.
- Planting a tree within 50 feet of a house can increase its value by about 9%.
- Location of a house within 1/4 mile from a park increased values by 10%.
- Neighborhood blocks with higher concentrations of unmanaged vacant lots displayed lower house prices, by about 18%.

The study also found a considerable increase in the total value of property in the community. Wachter suggests that the "direct and indirect impacts to the city's property tax base are likely to contribute to the overall fiscal health of the city." She also acknowledges a spill-over effect: with a healthier tax base, the city could offer improved services, encouraging more people to come back, thereby lowering individual tax burdens over the long term. More details are at <http://www.pennsylvaniahorticulturalsociety.org/phlgreen/seeinggreen.htm>

### Project Learning Tree - Arbor Week Workshop Planned

The World Forestry Center will be hosting a Project Learning Tree Workshop to help teachers prepare for Arbor Week. The date is Friday February 24, 2006. Interested teachers should contact Rick Zenn at 503-488-2103 for details.

## Quotable Quotes

"I'm thrilled to be here in the midst of this urban forest."

- Dr. Bill Grace, prefacing his keynote address to the 2005 League of Oregon Cities Conference in Eugene

## Urban Forestry by the Numbers:

In a survey, customers rated the **quality of the products** available at businesses. Ratings were **30% higher** in downtowns having trees over those with barren sidewalks. Does your downtown have trees?

From: Trees in Business Districts: Positive Effects on Consumer Behavior, by Dr. Kathleen Wolf, University of Washington, Seattle, WA.

*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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## Scholarships Available: The High Desert Green Industry Conference

If you are managing or maintaining the green infrastructure for an Oregon municipality, you are eligible to apply for a scholarship from the U&CF program to attend the High Desert Green Industry Conference. Scholarships cover conference registration (a \$135.00 value). To receive a scholarship application, contact Katie Kause. Deadline to submit scholarship application is January 20, 2006. The High Desert Green Industry Conference in Redmond, Oregon on February 15 & 16, 2006 is a *must-be-there* educational event for all municipal staff who manage or maintain their community's green infrastructure. Come and learn about the latest innovations in Green Industry products, equipment and services at the 2-day tradeshow. Attendees can earn ODA Pesticide Recertification Credits, ISA Certified Arborist Continuing Education Units and Golf Course Superintendent Education Credits. Additional information can be found online at <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/deschutes>. Not applying for a scholarship? **Register now!** Early bird discounts available until January 27, 2006.

## Resources You Can Use

### Oregon Homeowner's Guide to Tree Care Being Reprinted

ODF's most popular brochure, *An Oregon Homeowner's Guide to Tree Care*, is being reprinted this spring. If you would like to reserve a quantity of copies for your city planning desk, public works building, nature center, or park office, contact your Community Assistance Forester.

### Project Learning Tree Urban Forestry Website

A recently completed grant project resulted in a new Project Learning Tree web resource that lists, organizes, and provides a bibliography relevant to teachers in urban and community areas. Web training and support materials have now been incorporated into Project Learning Tree curriculum used in the organization's network of thousands of workshops. Visit <http://plt.org/cms/urbanforestry/> and check out this new resource.

## Did You Know....?

### ODF Can Help Small Cities Complete Tree Inventories

Tree management plans are fundamental to your city's Urban and Community Forestry Program and aid in maintaining the health of your city's urban and community forest. Tree inventories are a great start for developing a tree management plan. ODF Urban and Community Forestry is offering assistance to the smaller cities throughout Oregon in organizing and conducting street tree inventories. If you would like to conduct a street tree inventory in your city please contact Sarah Kresse, ODF Urban and Community Forestry Program Outreach Coordinator at (503)945-7398 or by email at [skresse@odf.state.or.us](mailto:skresse@odf.state.or.us)

### The Society of Municipal Arborists Serves Your Needs

You may not be aware of SMA - The Society of Municipal Arborists - but this organization is nearly 1000 members strong across the US and Canada. SMA produces an excellent bimonthly magazine called *City Trees*, sponsors an annual conference, and manages other educational projects that can help you manage your city trees. Membership in SMA is \$60 per year. For more information, visit the SMA website at [www.urban-forestry.com](http://www.urban-forestry.com), or contact the ODF staff and we can loan you a back issue of *City Trees*.

### Do You Have Something To Share?

*If you have a success story or an interesting piece of tree news in your city, send it in to the ODF Urban Forestry Staff. We are always looking to highlight successful urban and community stories or projects. We are often asked for success stories and feedback about our program for regional and national reports, so send something in for your city's 15 seconds of tree fame.*