



# Community Tree Connections

*Connecting people with resources to help improve their Community Forests*

The Newsletter of the Oregon Department of Forestry  
Urban and Community Forestry Program



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## CALENDAR OF COMMUNITY FORESTRY EVENTS

### November 6-December 18, 2007 Willamette Valley Green Industry Seminars, Aurora

Every Tuesday afternoon, informative half-day seminars are being presented at the OSU North Willamette Research Center. Topics this year include post-construction soils, urban wood waste utilization, invasive species, and much more. A brochure and registration form is available at <http://www.pnwisa.org/calendar.html>

### December 15, 2007 Tree City USA Application and Recertification Deadline

Is your city eligible to join 45 other Oregon cities that have won a Tree City USA Award? Contact a Community Assistance Forester for an application packet - recertifying cities will automatically receive one.

### February 13-14, 2008 High Desert Green Industry Conference, Redmond

The 16th annual High Desert Green Industry Conference is a must-attend event for all green industry professionals who supply, design, maintain or manage landscapes in the Intermountain West. The event includes a trade show with exceptional buying and networking opportunities; a comprehensive schedule of relevant educational sessions; and an opportunity to earn recertification and continuing education credits. Presented by ODF, OSU Extension and OLCA. For more information call 541/385-7988 or visit online [here](#).

## Congratulations Community Tree Management Institute Graduates

Eighteen individuals, including nine from Oregon and nine from Washington, have completed the 2007 Community Tree Management Institute (CTMI). The CTMI course is a "crash-course" in urban forestry offered by the Urban Forestry programs from the Oregon Department of Forestry and the Washington Department of Natural Resources. The course is held in four sessions starting in March and ending in November, on an every-other year basis. The course is designed to help municipal employees and others learn the administrative, managerial, technical, planning, policy, and operational ins-and-outs of running an urban forestry program at the local level.



Congratulations to the nine Oregon graduates, pictured above. Front Row, (left to right), Gus Wettstein - City of Wilsonville, Laura Lesher - City of Salem Shade Tree Advisory Committee, Sarah Mizejewski - City of Happy Valley. Middle Row (left to right) Matthew Gwynn - City of Woodburn, Barbara Taylor - City of Roseburg, Cynthia Orlando - Oregon Dept. of Forestry, Laura Lehman - City of Sisters. Back Row (left to right), Teresa Gustafson - City of LaGrande, John Carnate - City of Sutherlin.

To date, over 115 people have completed the CTMI course. For details on the 2009 CTMI class, contact Paul Ries at [pries@odf.state.or.us](mailto:pries@odf.state.or.us)

## Urban Forestry Information Resource Directory

The Urban Forest Ecosystems Institute (UFEI) at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, maintains an impressive resource directory of urban forestry information that Oregon cities and non-profit organizations may find useful. The UFEI directory contains an A to Z listing of research findings, useful websites, urban forestry organization links, and much more. Some of the information on the site is California-specific, but many of the links are to resources, organizations, and websites of use all across the US. Visit the directory at <http://www.ufei.org/atoz.lasso>.

## COMMUNITY FORESTRY AROUND OREGON

The City of **Talent** has been a Tree City USA since 2000. A city committee known as Together for Talent is made up of citizens who are interested in promoting the appearance and sustainability of the city. The group organized a tree "adoption" project with 40 new trees donated by a local nursery, Plant Oregon. Interested residents signed up for a tree at the annual Harvest Festival in September, and nursery staff and volunteers assisted residents in planting the trees on November 11.

The City of **Carlton** recently received a "Streetscape Award" from the Oregon Downtown Development Association in recognition of its effort to plant trees, install new sidewalks, and add decorative touches such as benches and trash receptacles. The new trees in Carlton's business district will help attract shoppers and improve the climate for business.

To celebrate the rebirth of its tree board, the City of **Banks** hosted a fall tree planting on Saturday morning, Nov. 10th at the city fire station. Banks' goal is to become a Tree City USA community this year.

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## Congratulations to ODF Staff

Two of ODF's urban forestry staff are the recipients of noteworthy news this month. Katie Lompa received the Presidents Award from Oregon Community Trees in recognition of her dedication and service to the non-profit tree advocacy group over the past several years. And Cynthia Orlando passed the ISA Certification Exam and is now a Certified Arborist. Congratulations to both.

## I Spy A Tree

Brian Capo, urban forester with the City of Wilmington, North Carolina, has created an interesting way to get his community focusing on the urban forest. The interactive "I Spy A Tree" asks people to identify a community tree from a picture posted on the Web site. Game players submit their guesses via e-mail and all winning answers are placed in a drawing to win a tree provided by one of the local sponsors. Brian encourages other urban foresters to take his idea and create an interactive way to encourage their communities to get involved and learn more about the trees in their neighborhood. To view the game page, [click here](#).

## "Urban" Tree Health Information Available

The urban forest consists of the both the planted landscape, typically shade or ornamental trees, and native tree species, which may have been individually planted or are growing in groves or stands. When native trees are stressed, what we've learned from the rural side of forestry is quite applicable to the urban side of it. ODF has a couple of recent publications that may help cities deal with stressed trees. Click on the titles below to access these publications.

[Dead Branches, Dead Tops & Dead Trees: The Interaction of Water Stress, Insects & Disease](#)

[Drought & Conifer Mortality in the Willamette Valley](#)

## ecoSmart - A New Planning Tool

Although cities often focus their urban forestry efforts on city owned or controlled land, the majority of the urban forest is comprised of trees owned by city residents. Now, cities can encourage residents to use a new tool for making urban forestry decisions. The tool is ecoSmart - a Web-based software program designed to evaluate the economic trade-offs between different landscape practices on residential parcels. The program estimates the impacts of strategic tree placement, rainfall management, and fire prevention practices. Users work in a computer-simulation environment to test various landscape and hydrologic alternatives to arrive at environmentally and economically sound solutions. As a result, the software helps people plan a home landscape that saves dollars, such as by planting shade trees to reduce air conditioning bills, implementing water conservation practices that reduce water bills, or placing trees and shrubs properly to make a home safer in the event of a fire. Here is how the program works:

- Display your home and landscaping on your computer screen.
- Add a driveway and sidewalks, install decking.
- Add trees and shrubs.
- Add efficient irrigation, infiltration basins, drywell, or cistern.
- Remove trees, grow trees, move trees.
- Add low water-use trees.
- Change species, reduce fuels.
- Simulate prescriptions for up to 40 years into the future.
- Simulate individual rainfall or fire events.

ecoSmart was developed by the Center for Urban Forest Research at the Pacific Southwest Research Station of the USDA Forest Service. Visit [www.ecosmart.gov](http://www.ecosmart.gov) to learn more.

