



OREGON *CommuniTree News*



Spring, 2003

Volume 13, Number 1

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 20, 2003

Oregon Community Trees Board of Directors Meeting, Portland. For more information contact Katie Kause at kkause@odf.state.or.us

August 21-23, 2003

The 2003 FarWest Show, Oregon Convention Center, Portland. This annual nursery trade show features an expanded format this year, including a new exhibit hall, seminars, and more exhibitors. Show hours are noon-6 p.m. daily. More details are available on the show website at www.farwestshow.com or by calling OAN at (800) 342-6401.

September 12, 2003

Oregon Community Trees Board of Directors Meeting, Klamath Falls. For more information contact Katie Kause.

September 17-20, 2003

The National Urban Forestry Conference, San Antonio, Texas. More information on this event is available at www.americanforests.org/conference/.

October 6-8, 2003

The PNW-ISA Annual Training Conference, Sunriver. More information is available by calling 503/874-8263, or online at www.pnwisa.org/conference.html.

Governors' Grove Tree Planting Kicks off Arbor Week

By Steve Elder, OCT Newsletter Editor

On Monday, April 7th, a group of hardy local proponents for urban forestry gathered in the South Park Blocks of Portland to witness the planting of Arbor Week's Governor's Grove Tree Planting.

This was the first time that a tree for this symbolic "Grove" has been planted outside of Salem. Busy budget sessions prevented Ted Kulongoski from being present, but his environmental policy advisor, David Vanthof, did a very able job of reading the Governor's Arbor Day Proclamation, and helping plant the tree.

Prior to this were short presentations from Gail Gredler of the Oregon Garden, Michelle Harper of the City of Portland, David Johnson of the Portland Urban Forestry Commission, and Steve Thomas of the Oregon Department of Forestry.

The tree is a handsome Oregon White Oak (*Quercus garryana*), that will hopefully be with us all for many years to come, and provide both shade and inspiration to our grandchildren.



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You Make the Difference For Trees

Chris Neamtzu, OCT President

My name is Chris Neamtzu (pronounced Nam-sue, and is of Romanian origin) and I am honored to have recently been elected President of Oregon Community Trees. I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. I have called Oregon my home for the last eight years and currently reside in Sherwood with my wife Margot, and our extended family, which includes a dog and a cat. I graduated from Humboldt State University in 1993, in the heart of the redwood forest. My experiences at college, along with a childhood spent at the beach, helped to instill in me a true passion for our environment. Our natural surroundings and the redwood forest continue to be a big part of my life.

For the past eight years, I have worked for the City of Wilsonville as a land use and parks planner. I have found that working for a rapidly growing city provides many daily challenges and wonderful opportunities to weave trees and natural areas into the fabric of a developing community. I firmly believe that cities with an abundance of trees and open spaces are places that most of us would prefer to be, and will over time be the places that attract and retain businesses, and spawn safe, livable communities. I feel that it is part of my job to promote this approach to building cities.

Over the years, I have been lucky enough to work on a wide variety of tree-related projects ranging from tree protection ordinances, street tree inventories and Goal 5 compliance, to designing new streetscapes, reviewing new development and master planning open space for habitat restoration. One of the most satisfying aspects of my job is working with the development community to incorporate important trees and groves into projects, making better places for people and critters to reside.

A basic philosophy that we take in Wilsonville is that each piece of land is unique, and comes with a wide variety of natural features that are to be respected, and when possible, incorporated into the design of a project. This resembles a somewhat McHargian (Ian McHarg-*Design with Nature*) approach to land use. Land is too often looked at as a blank slate with no characteristics worthy of recognition. I commend the developer who studies the land, and makes decisions about development weighing existing characteristics with the desired improvements. It takes a different breed to embrace this approach, but I want you all to know that they are out there.

All of us, as members of OCT and friends of the environment and trees, can help make a difference by influencing decision makers and informing our friends and neighbors, making them aware that our trees work for us every day. Unselfishly, trees do not ask for much. They only ask to be given adequate light, space, and water, and in return they will share their beauty to make our lives more enjoyable. As the new President of OCT, I want to thank you all for giving me the opportunity to lead this talented group of members as we continue to make our beautiful state even more magnificent by promoting the planting and care of our urban forests - *the trees where we live*.

Editors note: OCT President Chris Neamtzu can be reached in the City of Wilsonville Planning Division at 503-682-4960 or via email at neamtzu@ci.wilsonville.or.us.

37 Oregon Communities Named "Tree City USA"

The City of Lebanon claimed the title "Tree City USA" during Arbor Week in Oregon, April 6-12, 2003. Lebanon received its first Tree City USA awards, joining 36 other communities across the state. Tree City USA, a program of the National Arbor Day Foundation and sponsored by the Oregon Department of Forestry, recognizes cities that have developed programs that plant and care for trees.

Oregon cities being recertified as Tree City USA communities for 2002 include: Albany, Ashland, Baker City, Beaverton, Coburg, Coos Bay, Corvallis, Cottage Grove, Eagle Point, Echo, Eugene, Forest Grove, Grants Pass, La Grande, Lake Oswego, Madras, McMinnville, Medford, Monmouth, Philomath, Portland, Reedsport, Rogue River, Salem, Scappoose, Scio, Seaside, Sunriver, Sweet Home, Talent, Tigard, Tillamook, Toledo, Tualatin, West Linn, and Wilsonville.

"These cities are to be commended for taking the necessary steps to make their communities more livable through planting and caring for trees," said Paul Ries, who coordinates the program for ODF.

Successful Tree Cities must meet four criteria set forth by the National Arbor Day Foundation: 1) adopt a tree care ordinance, 2) establish a program, tree board or commission, 3) spend at least \$2 per capita on a community tree care program, and 4) conduct an Arbor Day or Arbor Week ceremony. Founded in Nebraska in 1872 by J. Sterling Morton, National Arbor Day is celebrated each year on the last Friday in April. Arbor Day is celebrated in every State and many other countries as well. Oregonians celebrate Arbor Week the first full calendar week in April.

In addition to Tree City USA status, nine Oregon cities also received a Tree City Growth Award. Beaverton, Echo, Forest Grove, LaGrande, Medford, Portland, Tualatin, and Wilsonville were each recognized for going beyond the minimum Tree City requirements with projects that improved their programs.

If your city isn't a Tree City, contact the ODF Urban and Community Forestry Assistance Program and find out how your city can earn this prestigious award.

URBAN FORESTRY NEWS BRIEFS

Hazard Tree Mitigation Grants Still Available

ODF still has some of the 2003 Hazard Tree Mitigation Grant Program funds available. These grants are offered in cooperation with the Oregon office of Emergency Management (OEM) and FEMA. For 2003, up to \$90,000 in 75%-25% matching grants are available to local governmental units and non-profits in a six county area (**Benton, Coos, Curry, Douglas, Linn, and Lane**) affected by the February, 2002 windstorm event. Eligible projects will be a) educational efforts, and b) tree removal and replacement under powerlines. Applications are available from the ODF website at www.odf.state.or.us/forestlandowners.

An Urban and Community Forestry Research and Education Agenda for Oregon.

This publication is the product of a year-long process to identify the most important research and education priorities in the state. It is designed to provide practitioners, researchers, policy-makers, and potential funding organizations and agencies with a blueprint for the future to help address critical issues in Oregon communities through the management of our urban forests. To obtain a printed copy send an email to dpeden@odf.state.or.us, or call 503/945-7386. You can access an electronic version (.pdf format) of this publication on the OCT website at www.oregoncommunitytrees.org.

ODF Revises Homeowner's Guide to Tree Care Brochure

ODF has revised its most popular brochure, *An Oregon Homeowner's Guide to Tree Care*. Since it was first published in 1992, over 80,000 copies have made it into homes and businesses throughout Oregon. The new version, now in color, contains even more tree planting tips and tree care knowledge than the original version. These new brochures are available for you to distribute locally, free of charge. We have several thou-

sand copies available, so if you would like large quantities of this publication to distribute at your city's permit desk, at Master Gardener events, at park district offices, or wherever similar information is available, contact Diana Peden at dpeden@odf.state.or.us or call 503/945-7386.

The Value of Volunteer Time

According to a report on Giving and Volunteering in the United States, the value of the time Americans will give to charitable organizations has climbed to \$16.05 per hour, up from \$15.39 in 2000. In 2000, nearly half of adults (44%) or 83.9 million people volunteered their time. Their work represents the equivalent of over 9 million full-time employees at a value of \$239 billion. The average volunteer gave 3.6 hours of time per week; and the annual hours for volunteering were 15.5 billion. Independent Sector research shows that the best way to motivate people to volunteer is to simply ask them. If asked, 63 percent will volunteer, compared to the 25 percent who volunteer when not asked. For more information, visit: www.IndependentSector.org.

ISA Launches A Spanish Language Website

The International Society of Arboriculture has unveiled ISAHispana.com, a website containing links to publications available for purchase in Spanish and links to documents in Spanish that can be downloaded and printed for free, including some of ISA's consumer education brochures. The site also contains links to other Web sites of interest to Spanish-speaking workers and their employers. New material, resources, and links will be added as they become available. The address is www.ISAHispana.com.



RESEARCH NEWS

You Can Receive An Electronic Urban Forestry Research Newsletter

The US Forest Service Center for Urban Forest Research in Davis, CA is now publishing their quarterly newsletter electronically. To sign up, visit their website at <http://wcufore.ucdavis.edu/newsletter.asp>, and while you're at it, take a look at the Spring 2003 newsletter article on how urban forestry programs can survive proposed budget cuts.

The Value of Parks

The American Planning Association's City Parks Forum is dedicated to providing information on how healthy parks are fundamental to many aspects of community prosperity. These include improving economic health and vitality, reducing crime, improving public physical and mental health, creating a strong sense of community, supporting overall quality of life ... the list is quite long. While these benefits are understood broadly, they have not been compiled and presented in a way that explicitly shows these relationships. The City Parks Forum has begun an initiative to produce a series of briefing papers on "How Cities Use Parks For..." to meet this specific need. This series should help support mayors, their parks advisors, private sector parks advocates, planners, and others in promoting parks and ensuring an urban parks legacy across the country. APA's briefing papers are available at <http://www.planning.org/cpf/briefingpapers.htm>

Current topics include How Cities Use Parks For...

- Community Revitalization
- Community Engagement
- Economic Development

Future topics for briefing papers include: Reducing Crime, Improving Public Health, Attracting the "Creative Class," Green Infrastructure, Smart Growth, and Tourism.

2002 Oregon Urban and Community Forestry Award Recipients

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

CITIZEN VOLUNTEER

Bodie Dickerson, Albany. Bodie has served on the Albany Tree Commission since 1999 and spearheaded the Heritage Tree Program in Albany. Through Bodie's personal efforts five Albany area trees were recognized and started the Heritage Tree Program. An offshoot of her efforts started the Friends of Mature Albany Trees. This group works with developers and convinces them to protect mature trees during the planning and building process. Because of her selfless work, Albany now has a more tree friendly development code and mature trees resting easy in the shade. Bodie serves as the Tree Commission's editor and liaison to City Council.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

Greg Paulson, Albany. Greg has been a teacher, mentor, and friend to literally hundreds of green industry professionals and citizen activists who care about and for the urban forest. While teaching Ornamental Horticulture at Linn Benton Community College, he still finds time to serve in many volunteer capacities. He has served on the PNW ISA Board, Corvallis Street Tree Task Force and the Oregon Community Trees Board. Widely respected for his knowledge of and passion for trees, Greg regularly instructs at urban forestry educational seminars and conferences throughout Oregon and the Pacific Northwest.

PRESIDENT'S AWARD

Alan Tocchini, Salem. Al has been a fixture on the Oregon scene for over 30 years. He has worked for private, state and federal forestry entities and recently retired as the Oregon Parks Forester. Al has been actively involved with various urban forestry groups and has helped shape Oregon Community Trees. Al has served as treasurer for OCT since 1993 and has helped keep the groups' financials. Al also serves on the Oregon State Heritage Tree Committee as Vice Chairman. Oregon's urban forests are better places for all to live, work and play thanks to Al's willingness to get the job done, organization skills and personal involvement.

PROFESSIONAL

Stephen Peacock, Portland. Stephen owns and operates Peacock Tree Preservation located in Portland. Stephen's enthusiasm for arboriculture is contagious and is exemplified by all of the time he gives back to the community. Some of the activities Stephen has helped out with include: Neighborhood Tree Liaison, PNW-ISA, the Heritage Tree Committee, and the annual Hoyt Arboretum Pruning Day. His volunteer activities spill over into the communities of Troutdale and Gresham.

GROUP AWARDS

OREGON'S TREE CITY OF THE YEAR

City of Portland. The City of Portland has received Tree City USA status for a quarter of a century, and will celebrate #26 this April. Portland has also received the annual Tree City Growth Award for the last 13 years. Some of the highlights of Portland's 2002 program include: Holding the first annual Neighborhood Tree Liaison (NTL) Conference, creating a school outreach component for the NTL program, and celebrating Arbor Day with over 100 participants in the South Park Blocks. The city planted 227 three-inch caliper trees on city property and assisted with revegetation at Johnson Creek, Willamette River, and Columbia Slough. Several educational brochures were produced including "The Trees of East Delta Park", "Endangered Species", and the Heritage Tree Booklet update.

PROJECT AWARDS

CIVIC ORGANIZATION

Eugene Tree Foundation, "Trees for Concrete", Eugene. The Eugene Tree Foundation (ETF), established in 1997 is a volunteer based group dedicated to making downtown Eugene an environmentally friendly and aesthetically pleasing place to live, work and shop. The ETF has planted 342 street trees in conjunction with the city's urban forestry program. They have led three "Trees for Concrete" projects since 1999. In addition to getting trees planted, the ETF incorporates citizen stewardship to care for the trees, and educational placards at each location to inform about the project.

DEVELOPMENT

EcoTrust, Jean Vollum Natural Capital Center, Portland. Ecotrust has restored a historic 1895 warehouse to create a vibrant gathering place for environmentally and socially responsible ideas, goods and services. The restoration includes a green rooftop planting that allows water filtration and storage for landscape plants. The bioswales in the parking lot support plantings of native grass, shrubs and trees. The permeable parking surface absorbs and scrubs water prior to draining to bioswales downhill from the parking lot. The development also includes many construction practices using reused, recycled, and reclaimed building materials.

GOVERNMENT

City of Tualatin, *Urban Forestry Plan, Tualatin.* The plan addresses species diversity, tree health, sidewalk damage from tree roots and funding. An innovative approach to replacing/repairing sidewalks damaged by trees has taken root in Tualatin. Either the tree is removed and replaced with a suitable species or the sidewalk is rerouted around the tree. Any remedies taken do not directly cost the property owner. Instead, a small fee on the monthly Road Utility Fee pays for the work. A homeowner can basically get a nuisance tree removed, sidewalk repaired and a new tree planted for \$18.00.

PARTNERSHIP

Ed Kerns, *Lents Springwater Habitat Restoration Project, Portland.* This project spearheaded by Ed Kerns has been going on for the last 6 years. During this time the project has planted 8,000 trees and shrubs with the help of 1,500 kids and 1,000 adults. Many groups working in a cooperative manner, cleaned the area of trash and invasive vegetation. Ed coordinates summer tree care and monthly community workdays with Kelly and Lent Elementary, Lane Middle and Marshall High School.

STUDENT/SCHOOL

Sisters High School IEE Class, *Community Tree Survey, Sisters.* Sisters High School has a unique class for their Junior students called Interdisciplinary Environmental Expedition Class (IEE), under the direction of teacher Rob Phelps. In 2002, the class worked on six projects, one being a community tree survey. Students inventoried existing trees in the two city parks and collected data on the location, height, DBH, and the relative health of each tree. This information, maps and data, were presented to the Sisters' City Council, along with the students recommendations regarding sustainable maintenance procedures and the need to develop a public awareness system on the needs of a healthy urban forest. The data collected will serve as a basis, leading to a comprehensive community forest plan specifically addressing the distinctive environment that exists in Sisters and the need to maintain and restore this unique resource.



AWARD WINNERS: (L-R) Front Row: Ed Kerns (Lents-Springwater), Jeff Lanza (Eugene Tree Foundation). Back Row: Brian McNerney (City of Portland), Steve Peacock, Rob Phelps (Sisters High School), Bodie Dickerson, Paul Hennon (City of Tualatin), Greg Paulson.

2003 URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY AWARDS

Start thinking now about who you might want to nominate for the 2003 Oregon Urban and Community Forestry Awards. Nomination forms will be available in September, and the nomination deadline will be January 15, 2004

'A Christmas Carol' Lesson in Urban Forestry

Ed Macie makes time each day to just *think*. Even during his busy work schedule, he practices what most of us in our due-yesterday/techno-slam work niche never pause to consider, much less try. Contemplation, resulting in elucidation, proved worthy to all in attendance at the 2003 OCT Urban Forestry Conference. Ed stood alone at the podium, not donned with appealing graphics and screen presentation, but humbly, with a message to impart. More like a familiar Charles Dickens story, he portrayed our historic urban forestry past, how it has taken shape in the present, and then glued together the pieces of his mosaic to complement his pictorial of an achievable future. With Ed as our guide, let's take an abridged tour of the past, present, and future.

Journeying through the past, we discovered that the stir of urban forest consciousness began, in the U.S., with the rise of the industrial revolution and the subsequent birth of the National Park system, which emerged during a then accelerated pace of urbanization in our society. Early city planners sparked the genesis of city parks, such as Central Park in Manhattan, to bring the countryside (nature) to the city, for the multitude of tired workers who could seldom get away. The early 1900's saw the beginnings of an ecological approach to urban design-a movement led, in part, by Sir Patrick Geddes, and later, Lewis Mumford, who recognized how cities would grow beyond their natural limits, outgrow their natural resources, and face imbalance. Dutch elm disease brought to focus the importance of management of street trees on public lands-what is now considered part of urban forestry.

"Nothing is more dramatic than the emergence of citizen non-profit urban forestry groups, both big and small, and state urban forest councils, providing both foundation and the conscience for local and statewide forest advocacy, in acting to recruit nature into work and play."

— Ed Macie

Post war America witnessed urban sprawl and the resultant cluster-or constellations-of cities; Los Angeles now covers thousands of miles, Atlanta covers fifty political regions, New York hosts a population of twenty million, and Houston's four counties number eight million people. The land base was consumed disproportionately: ten times the land consumed for a one-time increase in population. Ed pointed to Stewart Udall's book *The Quiet Crisis* as required reading for anyone who exerts influence on stewardship of our natural resources, and quoted Udall as saying, "We can't afford an America where expediency tramples upon aesthetics, and development decisions are made only in eyes of the present." Unfortunately, that expediency trampled on our ecological function, sense of place, economic and social well being, and nearly severed our connection with the natural world.

In the early to mid-1980s, urban forestry focus began to shift to conservation and protection of trees and forests, in developing communities, with sensitivity towards natural resources, shown in building and planning practices. Tree ordinances became a vital tool. This period advanced with land use issues, urban land ethic, individuals and grass roots groups, making changes across the urban landscape. Ed stated, "Nothing is more dramatic than the emergence of citizen non-profit urban forestry groups, both big and small, and state urban forest councils, providing both foundation and the conscience for local and statewide forest advocacy, in acting to recruit nature into work and play." These forces have become more self-sufficient as bigger players, by planting trees, changing policy, and taking ownership as stewards of the urban forest: "A community that owns its urban forest will take care of its urban forest." Ed emphasized grass roots organizations and citizen action as "the stuff that really counts."

During the 1990's, concepts of green infrastructure grew in acceptance, awareness of tree values increased, and trees became part of city restoration and building- much like the grey infrastructure components of steel, pipes, and concrete. Trees became money in our pockets due to measurable cost benefits to cities, e.g. carbon storage, storm water management, ozone reduction; increased consumer activity and preference of treed retail and commercial environments, real estate value, traffic calming, stress reduction, and human health benefits proved recompense, indeed.

Disembarking into present and familiar surroundings, Ed led us to apprehend a plausible urban forestry future. He emphasized host Mark Snyder's call to realize the importance to think forward in time, noting the sweeping changes in three generations: technological advancement, sedentary/non-pedestrian lifestyles, isolation of communities, and loss of 'place,' due to sprawl. Ed urged us to mold and shape the future, and select the desired future condition through strategic planning, and by becoming proactive in our dreams and vision. A list of steps, some of which we now find ourselves on the threshold of practice, was offered as a catapult into that future. Macie's steps are as follows:

- ♦ "The continued urbanization-to-nature resources must be measured and quantified."
- ♦ "Indicators of local environmental conditions and landscape performance can be used to plan for resource management and conservation. ...what is our canary in the coalmine?"
- ♦ "Awareness and expertise, at the local level, to address the effects of land use change and management policy is essential - not government councils - it is expertise at the local level: urban foresters, natural resource managers, whatever you are; you make all the difference in the world; someone in the backyard who can talk about cause and effect."
- ♦ "Minorities and other represented groups must be engaged in resource and policy management issues ...how we engage people of color, and minorities, and indigenous cultures in planning for resources, is critical."
- ♦ "Communication networks - being able to communicate

Presentation Highlights from the 2003 Oregon Urban and Community Forestry Conference

across jurisdiction boundaries and across state lines on issues related to resource planning policy.”

- ♦ “Land use change must be managed in various scales across jurisdictional boundaries, professional boundaries - environment does not stop at political boundaries; its never focused on a single issue-we have to think of the ecology of what is going on; think about how ecology changes.”
- ♦ “The public must come to recognize the influence of natural resources on individual and community health, as well as the impact of individual and community behavior on the health of the resources, - we are part of a system, and our health depends on it being healthy.”
- ♦ “The cost effectiveness of natural resource management, of ecological presentation of open space conservation, must be understood and promoted.”
- ♦ “Recognizing the role of responsibility and ownership, and the contributions of resource conservation and stewardship, can create a sense of place in community... people own their forest-they have a responsibility to recreate place.”

Ed concluded with the exhortation to keep an eye to the future, with sensibility and sensitivity, creativity and imagination, and the courage to dream: “Move forward as a community and prepare for your children’s world.”

Ed Macie is the Southern Region Urban Forestry Group Leader for the USDA Forest Service in Atlanta, Georgia. For the past 13 years, He has directed the Southern Regional Urban Forestry Program for the Forest Service, administering grants and educational programs to help states deliver their urban forestry programs, community-based groups plant and maintain trees, and improve the environment where people live, work, and play.

Written by John Bellon, City Forester and Parks Supervisor for the City of Klamath Falls.



OCT Conference Co-Chair Mark Snyder welcomes over 100 attendees to the 2003 conference. Thanks to Mark and the other co-chair, Cynthia Girling, for putting together a top-notch event.

“An Ecosystem Based Approach to Urban and Community Forestry” by Gary Mason, ASLA, Wolfe Mason Associates, Oakland, CA

Green areas are important to people. This is the guiding principle that Gary Mason of Wolfe Mason Associates follows, and tries to achieve in his work. The principles of an ecosystem-based approach to communities are founded on the connection between humans and the environment. In the past the environmental component of the development process has been ignored. With the ecosystem-based approach, the application of ecology and environmental science to community planning, design and management is used. People must learn from ecosystems in creating their urban environment.

The main ecological principles of this approach include 1) retaining water, 2) cycling nutrients, and 3) minimizing soil loss. Water is the primary factor to consider when developing a plan, as each of these principles is connected to the water cycle. By changing language to more positive terminology, people will begin to understand the goals of the process better. Storm water design and management, based on “catch it quick and move it away”, is better thought of as water resource design and management, based on “slow it down and retain on site”. This practice is implemented on a site scale to achieve benefits on a watershed scale. Where traditional storm water management focuses on 5, 20, or 100-year events, water resource management looks at the daily/weekly hydrology of the area.

The process begins with site planning, which must include what is around the site and within the site, not just the two dimensional aspect that zoning maps usually provide. In site planning, let the land and nature do the planning, it’s always less expensive. Elements of watershed-wide implementation strategy are:

- ♦ Land conservation and management
- ♦ Sustainable development plans
- ♦ Stream buffering and restoration
- ♦ Innovative and sustainable open space planning
- ♦ Best management practices

These are achieved through the following techniques:

- ♦ Green roof systems - to retain water runoff from buildings and modify microclimate
- ♦ Porous pavement - for water infiltration and storage
- ♦ Storm water harvesting - to keep water close to origin and available for beneficial uses
- ♦ Bio-engineered detention facilities and created wetlands - to keep water diffused and improve water quality through bio-filtration

This along with site design, (which assists the planning process in energy efficiency, conservation of resources, and creation of diverse outdoor places), are all used to produce development in locations that create whole community living. Ultimately, this will reduce energy costs and pollution associated with the distance of travel to home, job, or other services.

Written by Lynn Walters, Treekiwi, Inc.

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS CONTINUED...

Trees for Green Streets

*Kelley Webb,
Transportation Planner, Metro
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The “*Trees for Green Streets-an Illustrated Guide*” is a companion document to the “*Green Streets-Innovative Solutions for Storm-water and Stream Crossings*” produced by Metro in June, 2002. Ms. Kelley Webb conducted extensive research over the course of nine months, interviewing urban forestry professionals from around the Portland Metropolitan Region to produce an illustrated guide of 30 trees that are appropriate to be planted along Green Streets.

Green Streets are a component of a larger watershed approach to improving the regions water quality and are designed to incorporate a system of storm-water treatment into the right of way; minimizes the quantity of water that is piped directly to streams; makes visible a system of green infrastructure; incorporates storm-water systems into the aesthetics of a community; and maximizes the use of street trees to capture and intercept rain and to provide temperature mitigation and air quality improvement.

Ms. Webb identified the loss of small tributary streams, loss of urban forest canopy cover, and increased pollution and runoff from streets into creeks and increased urbanization as primary reasons why a “*Trees for Green Streets*” manual should be produced. Green Streets concepts help to restore the hydrologic water cycle, and people’s connection to water, which for people living in parts of the City of Portland has for the most part been lost. By implementing Green Streets, we can begin to connect the built and natural environment, restore tree canopy, and reduce and treat the pollution in storm-water runoff.

Streets represent 40% of the developed land in Portland, and are often over-built to accommodate traffic volumes that do not exist. Reducing impervious surfaces will allow for larger trees that can intercept more rainfall and provide more benefits to the environment. The “*Trees for Greenstreets*” manual provides preliminary information about using trees as a primary storm-water management

tool, as they are the first line of defense for capturing rainfall. Ms. Webb spoke to the many benefits of street trees including the reduction of the urban heat island effect, reduction of soil erosion and runoff, and the replenishment of soil moisture, as well as mitigation of pollution in storm-water.

Numerous characteristics of street trees were evaluated for inclusion in the manual, with the four primary characteristics being a wide canopy, a long life and drought and inundation tolerance. The top 30 trees that met these criteria were included in the document. Each of the selected species contains a page with common and latin names, the form of the leaf, the trees size at 5 and 30 years (including drawings), the advantages and disadvantages of each species, tree needs, and a checklist of the different storm-water characteristics that each tree provides.

The next steps for this project include more Portland specific tree species research, pilot projects, additional funding, monitoring, evaluating designs, and public education and stewardship. While indeed the right tree in the right place has been an urban forestry mantra for some time, Ms. Webb points out that making the right space for the trees we want should be equally as important. Ms. Webb should be commended for her outstanding research in producing such a progressive document that will improve the health of the urban forest and quality of life in our cities while enhancing the natural environment.

For copies of the “*Green Streets*” and “*Trees for Green Streets*” manuals, please contact Metro’s Data Resource Center, 600 NE Grand Avenue, Portland, OR 97232, or call 503-797-1900. You can also order on Metro’s web site at www.metro-region.org/DRC or by email at 2040@metro.dst.or.us

Written by Chris Neamtzu, City of Wilsonville

OCT MEMBERS MAKING NEWS

OCT director **Sean Stephens** was recently featured on Oregon’s NewsNet service. This service provides interviews to radio stations throughout the state. Sean was interviewed about his work training youths at the Angell Job Corps.

Former OCT director **Barbara Walker** was featured in a lengthy article in the April 28 issue of The Oregonian, highlighting her work with the 40 mile loop trail and other conservation projects in the Portland area.

Former OCT director and 2003 OCT Lifetime Achievement Award winner **Greg Paulson** is retiring in June as professor of Ornamental Horticulture at Linn Benton Community College. Greg has contributed to the education or continuing education of most of the urban forest professionals in the state.



Greg Paulson



HAVE YOU CHECKED OUT THE OCT WEBSITE LATELY?

Visit

www.oregoncommunitytrees.org



One Public Official's Perspective

By Jane Bender

Following is a major portion of an article written by Jane Bender for the Fall 2001 issue of California Trees, the newsletter of California Releaf. Reprinted with the author's permission.

What have I learned as a former tree planter and now politician that could be helpful to other groups?

1. Concentrate your pitch for trees on local issues.

Most local politicians know how serious global warming is, but the reality is that local problems are more pressing. So be creative. For example, traffic is a major issue in Santa Rosa. We are implementing some traffic calming solutions, such as re-striping streets to include bike lanes and on-street parking. Those will narrow the street, thereby slowing traffic. But tree-lined parkways also make a street seem narrower. So whenever we embark on a traffic calming solution, we will be doing an extensive tree planting, which includes planting all along the street, not just where residents want them. We can do that because the parkways actually belong to the city.

2. Help find solutions for maintenance.

I know most groups do this now, but I need to repeat it because the labor costs are so huge for a city. Public safety is a big-ticket item and other departments have to cut back in order to accommodate the demands for increased police and fire protection. I don't have any easy answers for this one, but if we are going to be really successful in getting tree-lined cities, we have to come up with maintenance solutions.

3. Energy and water are pressing issues for cities.

A lot of cities are looking at ways to become more energy self-sufficient. Trees are a great way to reduce air conditioning loads. Water supply is a major issue as we continue to grow. Work with your local water department to show how little water a tree uses as compared to lawns, etc. Erosion control and water quality are also critical in cities like Santa Rosa, which has an extensive creek system. Think of ways to incorporate energy and water issues into your programs.

4. Don't be a purist.

It's easy to be adamant about trees and the environment when we work in the ivory tower of a tree group. Cities have to deal with a lot more than the environment, however. My other council members and I have to make compromises every week- often things that I don't totally agree with. There's a place for ideology, but in my opinion, it's not at the council level. We need people who will work with different points of view. If, as a tree group, you have the reputation of being reasonable, you'll get a lot more support from a council. And remember, you need a majority to get that support. So it may be the two members of the council who don't show an interest in the environment that you need to work with.

Jane Bender was elected to the Santa Rosa, CA City Council in November, 2000. Prior to that, she was the co-director (with Ellen Bailey) of Sonoma County Releaf, a tree planting and stewardship organization begun by Jane and Ellen in 1988.

Regional Ecosystem Analysis

by Al Kitzman, Benton County Parks

American Forests recently performed a Regional Ecosystem Analysis of the Willamette/Lower Columbia Region that includes urban areas from Vancouver, Washington to Eugene, Oregon. The analysis, performed using satellite imaging, shows how the landscape has changed over a 28 year period from 1972 to 2000.

A fundamental trend from the study notes that as population and development expand, tree cover declines. This translates into billions of dollars in lost ecological benefits from trees including stormwater management benefits, air quality benefits and energy savings. Major findings from the analysis over the 28 year period include:

- ◆ Avg. tree cover in the region is 24%, down from 46%.
- ◆ Avg. tree cover in the region's urban areas is 12%, down from 21%.
- ◆ Acres of heavy tree cover (>50% cover) declined by 56%.
- ◆ Acres of light tree cover (<20% cover) increased by 51%.
- ◆ Lost air pollutant cleaning value is \$322 million/yr.
- ◆ Lost stormwater value is \$140 million/yr.

American Forests suggest a 40 % tree canopy target as a reasonable goal. Currently the region's canopy is 24%. This expanding gap needs to be bridged to offset the ecological effects of increasing populations. The analysis suggests the following guidelines to reverse this negative trend:

- ◆ Share this study with local policy makers to begin a constructive dialogue.
- ◆ Create and maintain a green infrastructure inventory for your community.
- ◆ Model various tree cover scenarios and calculate financial benefits during the design and engineering phase of construction with CITYgreen software.
- ◆ Encourage increased tree cover as a strategy to meet air pollution and stormwater management needs.
- ◆ Use 40% canopy goal to guide land use planning and growth management.
- ◆ Identify locations where high density tree canopy cover can be saved or maintained and create public policy to do so.
- ◆ Plant trees, save trees during development and improve tree maintenance to increase cover.

A more detailed study of the above information may be obtained from American Forests, P.O. Box 2000, Washington DC 20013 or e-mail cgreen@amfor.org and ask for the 'Regional Ecosystem Analysis for the Willamette/Lower Columbia Region of Northwestern Oregon and Southwestern Washington State' publication.

TIGARD'S STREET TREE PLANTING PROGRAM

by Matt Stine,
Tigard City Forester
mstine@ci.tigard.or.us

During the past year the City of Tigard's Tree Board and I have been developing and implementing a new Street Tree Planting Program. This program is intended to plant more street trees throughout the city, focusing on neighborhoods where there are very few trees along the streets and planting the "right tree in the right place." The city purchases the trees to be planted as street trees and the neighborhood members or individual homeowners plant the trees. The Street Tree Planting Program uses funds from the Tree Mitigation Fund, which is money that developers pay when they cannot plant enough trees that are required to substitute the trees that they removed to build the development.

This tree planting program works rather simply and has run without any major problems so far. Throughout the year, I inform Tigard citizens that this program exists. There are numerous ways of informing the public including the city newsletter, the local newspaper, the city's website and bill stuffers. When someone contacts me with interest in planting street trees, I find out if they are interested in planting trees for just their home or the entire neighborhood.

If they are only interested in planting trees in their right-of-way, then the interactions with the homeowner are short and quick. I meet with the homeowner and we determine where the tree(s) can be planted. The species is selected, the tree(s) is ordered and I drop the tree off at the home. If the homeowner will be planting the tree, I make sure that he or she knows how to plant a tree, and I will provide instruction if they are unfamiliar or unsure of how to properly plant a tree. Then the process is done with only the follow-up reminders on how and what to do to maintain the tree(s) left to do.

If the person is interested in having trees planted throughout the neighborhood, the process is much more involved. I will visit with the person who we refer to as the neighborhood liaison. During this initial meeting I explain the program to them and we go over any questions or concerns. The neighborhood liaison then

writes a letter to each homeowner in the neighborhood informing them of this opportunity to have free street trees provided by the city. I always give the liaison a copy of a form letter that they can use and modify as they see fit. I mail the letters and we wait until a certain date for responses back from the community members. When the liaison receives the letters back we walk through the neighborhood and determine which homes can actually receive trees (I look for restrictions such as utilities, street signs, visual clearance issues, etc.) and what sizes of trees will be most appropriate (small, medium, large). I develop a list of trees that each homeowner can choose from. I also let them know why we can plant trees only in certain areas. This letter is mailed out to each homeowner by the City, and we, again, wait until a deadline arrives for their responses to be returned. When I know which species of trees have been chosen I order the trees from a nursery and have them delivered either to a central location in the neighborhood or to Public Works. I will have the trees delivered (or I will deliver them myself) to the neighborhood on the day before the trees will be planted. Usually, homeowners throughout the neighborhood have come up with the money to pay a landscaper to plant the trees. A few communities have, however, come together and made a day out of planting the trees together and having a neighborhood barbeque afterwards. The neighborhood liaison makes all of the arrangements to have the trees planted since my job ends when the trees are delivered. I will follow-up the planting with a visit to the neighborhood to check on the trees to see how well they were planted and I will send out maintenance reminders throughout the year.

This program has, so far, been very well received by people throughout the City. I especially like the program for two main reasons. One, it gets more trees planted along the streets where they are so important and serve so many vital functions. Two, it gives me numerous opportunities to interact extensively with people in the Tigard community. As the City Forester, I feel that getting to know and working with as many Tigard citizens as possible is crucial to the success of my job.

Western Black Walnut An Underappreciated Opportunity

Black walnut always been a highly valued and sought after wood for fine furniture and other high quality products. Walnut saw logs, especially veneer logs, have historically commanded high dollar value. Western black walnut, as opposed to eastern black walnut is an even more highly prized walnut. Since western black walnut trees grow well only in Northern California, Oregon and Washington, the wood is rare. The color and grain patterns of western walnut have a very "exotic look". This walnut has red, orange and occasionally green colors with black contrasts on a brown background giving it a "rosewood look."

With the recognition of its high value and high end use, foresters, farmers, golf club planners and parks and urban foresters have been using black walnut for its aesthetic value as well as its habitat enhancement for birds and squirrels. They are also planning for its long-term value with eventual harvest. Plantation grown trees offer an advantage over residential grown trees. Plantation trees have better bole configuration – less likelihood for included metal and more uniformity of similar aged trees. Western black walnut in Oregon has proven its durability and disease resistance. As a consequence of its hardness and fast growth, trees are able to grow to three feet in diameter in 60 years or less. With a forester's stewardship of appropriate care and pruning, western black walnut trees generate tall boles of high commercial value. Western walnut saw logs of three feet in diameter and larger will presently (2003) bring \$1200.00 per thousand BF or more in value. Veneer logs will bring \$3000.00 to \$4000.00 per thousand BF in value, making it more valuable than fir and other softwoods. Plantation grown black walnut has an advantage with their ease of maintenance and pruning.

Our lumber business has, for 28 years, attempted to be a good steward of the salvaged trees we process. Generating uses for the lumber, gunstocks, veneer, turning stock and hobby wood has been our goal. As co-chair of the Oregon Chapter of the National Walnut Council and as a nursery operator, we have been actively encouraging black walnut reforestation. We have been successful in getting about 100 black walnut trees planted for every one we process. We would like to encourage others to seriously consider western black walnut as an alternative to conifers and other hardwoods when tree replacement or reforestation plans are made.

For more information, contact Gary Goby, Owner, Goby Walnut Products, Albany, Oregon, (541) 926-1079. Visit our web site and learn more! www.gobywalnut.com (Editors Note: This article is not intended to endorse any particular business, but to offer an alternative to poplar fiber production for small woodlot growers).



Oregon Community Trees

2003 Membership Application

Oregon Community Trees (OCT) is Oregon's Urban and Community Forest Council. OCT was formed in 1991 to serve in an advisory role to the Oregon Department of Forestry's Urban and Community Forestry Assistance Program, and to promote urban and community forestry activities across the state. OCT is led by a 25 member Board of Directors representing a variety of organizations and agencies active in the effort to make Oregon communities more livable through the planting, care, and management of our urban and community forests.

The mission of Oregon Community Trees is to promote healthy urban and community forests through leadership, education, awareness, and advocacy. Some of OCT's activities include:

- ▶ Organizing an annual urban forestry conference, (March 7, 2003 in Eugene)
- ▶ Co-sponsoring other educational events including Arbor Week activities
- ▶ Publishing *Oregon Communitree News*
- ▶ Maintaining an informative website (www.oregoncommunitytrees.org),
- ▶ Coordinating an annual urban forestry awards program.

Membership in Oregon Community Trees is open to all individuals and organizations with an interest in urban and community forestry activities. Individual memberships are \$30 per year; and Group or Corporate memberships are available for \$100 per year for one voting member and additional non-voting individuals. Sponsor or Partner memberships at the \$250, \$500, and \$1000 levels are also available. OCT is made up of people dedicated to planting and caring for trees and making our cities more livable. Join us today by completing and returning the membership form below.

OCT 2003 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Yes, I'd like to Join Oregon Community Trees for 2003:

- \$30 Individual Membership
- \$100 Group/Corporate Membership

Voting Member: _____

Additional Members:

1. _____ 2. _____

3. _____ 4. _____

Use additional pages if necessary

Please check the appropriate level and return this form with payment.

Thank you for your support.

Member Information:

Name

Company/Agency

Address

City Zip

Phone Fax

Email:

Mail this form & payment to:

Oregon Community Trees, P.O. Box 13074, Salem, Oregon 97309



Oregon Community Trees
P.O. Box 13074
Salem, OR 97309



Oregon CommuniTree News

OREGON COMMUNITREE NEWS is published twice a year by Oregon Community Trees, a 501©(3) non-profit organization formed to promote the proper planting and management of our urban and community forests. Articles from around the state are welcome, and in fact are requested. Any item in this newsletter may be reprinted elsewhere with proper citation. Editor: Steve Elder. Copy Editor: Paul Ries. Articles contributed by Steve Elder, John Belton, Chris Neamtzu, Lynn Walters, Al Kitzman, and Matt Stine.

Article submissions for *Oregon Communitree News* are welcome. Send electronic copy to Steve Elder at [treekiwi@email.msn.com], or printed copy by fax to 503/644-0529.

Oregon Communitree News is published in cooperation with the Oregon Department of Forestry's Urban and Community Forestry Assistance Program with the financial support of the USDA Forest Service. If you would like to join Oregon Community Trees, contact Katie Kause at 541/447-5658, Fax 541/447-1469, or email to kkause@odf.state.or.us