



OREGON *CommuniTree News*



Fall, 2003

Volume 13, Number 2

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 4 - December 16, 2003 Willamette Valley Green Industry Seminar Series, Silverton. This seven week series covers a variety of topics of interest to green industry professionals. Join us every Tuesday afternoon at the Oregon Garden. More information is available online at www.pnwsa.org/calendar.html or by calling 503/874-8263.

December 9-10, 2003. High Desert Green Industry Conference, Bend. Sponsored by ODF, OSU Extension, and OLCA, this conference features educational sessions for the green industry professional and others. Email hdgic@bendcable.com for more information.

December 12, 2003 Oregon Community Trees Board of Directors Meeting and Annual Members Meeting, Silverton. For more information contact Katie Kause at kkause@odf.state.or.us

April 5-12, 2004. Oregon Arbor Week, Statewide. Start planning now for your community's Arbor Week events.

June 4-5, 2004 PNW Community Trees Conference, Portland. Mark your calendars now for June 4-5, 2004, the dates of the 7th Pacific Northwest Community Trees Conference in Portland. This conference will feature educational sessions, networking opportunities, and interesting tours. More information will be available on the OCT website early next year.

Ten Oregonians Complete 2003 Community Tree Management Institute

Ten Oregon municipal tree managers were among 25 individuals from Oregon, Washington, and Idaho to graduate from the 2003 Community Tree Management (CTMI) course. Congratulations to Cleo Slifer and Eugene Fabryka of the City of Gresham, Clyde Keebaugh of the City of Troutdale, John Bellon of the City of Klamath Falls, Troy Kreger and Matt Rivers of the city of Eugene, Robin DeZur and Ken Wofford of Willamalane Parks, Gwen Scott of the City of Medford, and Dennis Capps of the City of Veneta. CTMI is a year-long, intensive urban forestry training for municipal employees who have tree related responsibilities. Many CTMI graduates have gone on to play visible roles in the statewide urban forestry effort. OCT President Chris Neamtzu and Vice President Rob Crouch are both CTMI graduates. Each of the Oregon CTMI graduates will be given a complementary 2004 membership in Oregon Community Trees.

If you or someone from your city is interested in attending the next CTMI class in 2005, contact the ODF urban forestry program.

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Staff and Graduates of the 2003 Community Tree Management Institute.

OREGON URBAN FORESTRY ON THE MAP

Chris Neamtzu, OCT President

The Pacific Northwest recently hosted a very important individual in the world of urban and community forestry. Mr. Mark Buscaino, Director of the USDA Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry program out of Washington DC was in town for a week to gain exposure to and understand some of the complex urban forestry issues that face the great northwest. Mark has been in the job for just under a year and is getting familiar with all kinds of issues nationwide. Mark's background includes being state forester for Washington DC, as well as a municipal urban forester in Virginia and Maryland.

While I have to admit that the agenda set for Mark would have been strenuous and overdone for the most seasoned rock star on a worldwide tour, the State coordinators were interested in giving him a real overview of the issues in the Pacific Northwest region and the State of Oregon, including our vast geography, the progressive programs, talented and dedicated individuals and the sheer beauty.

Mark started by touring the City of Portland where exciting municipal urban forestry issues were presented such as the elm inoculation program and the Neighborhood Tree Liaison program which are outstanding examples of how cities participate and engage the community at a high profile, large scale level. Also covered was the nationally recognized Friends of Trees program, which provided examples of street tree in-fill projects and school property plantings as well as the natural area restoration program, which is restoring acres of degraded urban wildlife habitat with tens of thousands of trees. The tour of Portland covered important inner city issues, which among other things offer programs such as Friends of Trees' School Tree Program that exposes kids to the environment and provides them with hands on experiences that will begin to create the next generation of stewards.

Mark was then whisked off to the east side of the state where he was exposed to issues related to the wildland-urban interface where homes and development are encroaching on natural areas causing conflict between fire and protection of property. This is a very important topic gaining national recognition and is creating heated debates at the highest levels of government about the care and management of the nations forests. Mark also toured Madras where he was shown projects completed with grants passed down through the ODF and discussed cultural and environmental diversity with city leaders.

The next day Mark toured Bend and was shown among other things a model development called Wiestoria Village where developer Kevin Rea has created a project that exemplifies the preservation of native trees in harmony with new development creating a highly successful, desirable and profitable development. Following that was a tour of the town of Sisters where the issues of urban forestry and tourism were covered and how one can help the other.

Later in the day after returning to the Willamette Valley, McMinnville was highlighted and issues related to land use planning and economic development were discussed. The following day, and near exhaustion, Mark was given a tour of Wilsonville where challenges of redevelopment and tree preserva-

tion are playing a large role in a rapidly urbanizing, once rural area. Also toured was an exciting new development called Villebois, a 2,300 unit mixed use, sustainable planned community where a 50+ year old urban forest is being protected and incorporated into new streetscapes, parks and open spaces and native forest remnants and significant natural resources are being protected. The preservation of natural areas and wetlands will add to this future communities marketability, uniqueness and ultimate livability. Villebois has the potential to be nationally recognized as a model for urban forestry and land use planning.

While it is important to note what Mark did see during his tour of Oregon, I think it is even more important to point out what he did not see, which includes the tens of thousands of dedicated passionate individuals state wide in communities small and large that volunteer their free time for tree planting events, spend time educating decision makers, neighbors and friends about the importance of trees in our communities and selflessly giving precious personal time to the greater good of volunteerism in the name of community livability and the environment all being done through the care and planting of trees. This is the part of the State of Oregon's urban and community forestry program that Mark did not have time to see and which is intangible much of the time, but the part where in my opinion, the real recognition belongs. The recognition that Oregon is a special place that is comprised of people who care about community and celebrate the beauty of nature are just some of the reasons why we are lucky to be Oregonians.

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.

OCT ANNOUNCES THE HIRING OF ITS FIRST EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

At it's September 2003 meeting, the Board of Directors of Oregon Community Trees authorized the Executive Committee to enter a contract with Gail Gredler to serve as OCT's first Executive Director. Gail is the former Education Director for the Oregon Garden and has been a Horticulture Agent with Oregon State University Extension. Gail has served on the Board of Directors of OCT and has been active in other tree related organizations. She will be working part time helping move OCT forward.

Gail can be reached by phone at 503/580-2960 or by email (gail@oregoncommunitytrees.org). The Executive Committee is working with Gail on organizational development activities including grant writing, strategic planning, and new programs. OCT has received a matching grant from the Oregon Dept. of Forestry & the USDA Forest Service that enabled the organization to hire Gail. Look for more information from Gail in the Spring issue of *Oregon CommuniTree News*.

URBAN FORESTRY NEWS BRIEFS

2004 Community Forestry Assistance Grant Deadline

Reminder, the deadline for submitting applications for ODF's Community Forestry Assistance (CFA) grants is **December 1, 2003**. The CFA grants are 50/50 matching grants designed to assist local communities, civic groups, and non-profit organizations improve the quality of the state's urban and community forests. Grants are available in five different project categories: Community Forestry Planning, UCF Program Development, UCF Education, Volunteer Projects, and Tree Inventories. Applications are available from the ODF website at www.odf.state.or.us/uf or by sending an email to urbanforestry@odf.state.or.us

Reducing Infrastructure Damage by Tree Roots: A Compendium of Strategies

There is a new publication that can help you with your tree root problems. *Reducing Infrastructure Damage by Tree Roots: A Compendium of Strategies* identifies and describes key strategies used to prevent or mitigate damage to sidewalks, curbs and gutters by tree roots. Strategies include the use of root barriers, structural soil, species selection, alternative design, soil management techniques and many others. Each strategy is described in terms of objectives(s), methods, materials, and limitations. Dr. Larry Costello and Katherine Jones have compiled information that will serve as a quick and complete reference for all professionals interested in reducing infrastructure damage. Literature citations are included and field photos are used to illustrate techniques whenever possible. You can obtain a copy from the Western Chapter ISA at 530-892-1118 or through their website at www.wcisa.net. Cost is \$15 per compendium plus \$8 for shipping and handling in the U.S.



2004 Arbor Day National Poster Contest Materials Available!

Over 70,000 fifth grade classrooms and home schools across America are expected to participate in the 2004 Arbor Day National Poster Contest! Educators can receive a free 2004 Arbor Day National Poster Contest Activity Guide containing lesson plans, student handouts, and contest rules through the World Forestry Center (503) 488-2100, or chenry@worldforestry.org. The deadline for submitting posters is March 12, 2004.

Congratulations to...

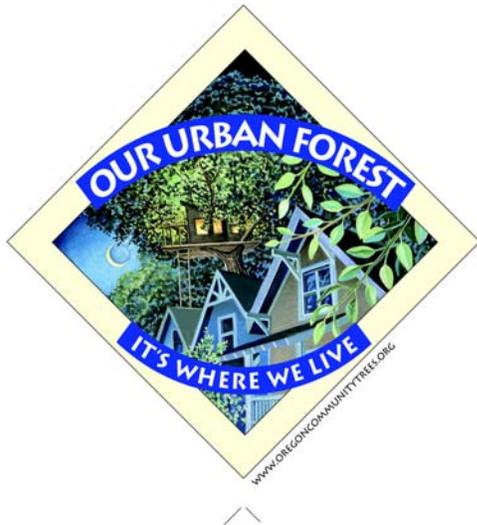
Former OCT director Greg Paulson was honored with an Award of Merit at the recent Pacific Northwest Chapter - International Society of Arboriculture Annual Conference. Current OCT director Matt Stine won the Municipal Arborist of the Year award at that same event.

Resources For After A Storm

The National Arbor Day Foundation has great resources for those seeking information on dealing with the tree issues caused in the aftermath of a storm. Their website at <http://www.arborday.org/media/stormsectionf.html> has all the details.

Tree City USA Applications Due December 15

Tree City USA applications for this year are due into the ODF urban forestry office by **December 15, 2003**. Since 1976, more than three dozen Oregon cities have obtained status as Tree City USA communities. Tree Cities receive signs and certificates recognizing their achievements at local ceremonies that take place each April during Oregon Arbor Week or on National Arbor Day. Contact your Community Assistance Forester for additional details.



URBAN FORESTRY STICKER and T-SHIRTS AVAILABLE

Oregon Community Trees has commissioned its first-ever urban forestry graphic. Using a grant provided by Pacific Power, OCT commissioned the full color graphic for use as a sticker and on t-shirts in order to raise the visibility of the urban forest. The stickers are available free. The t-shirts are white with a full color graphic and are available in sizes Small to 2XL. To purchase a T-shirt with this new logo, send \$15 per shirt plus \$3 shipping and handling to OCT at P.O. Box 13074, Salem, OR 97309.

2003 Oregon Urban and Community Forestry Awards Program



Sponsored by



Oregon Community Trees and the Oregon Department of Forestry

Individual Award Categories

Citizen Volunteer: this category seeks to recognize an Oregonian who during the past year has been instrumental in organizing, motivating or participating in community forestry activities in their community. Individuals nominated for this award may include civic volunteers, community leaders or concerned citizens.

Lifetime Achievement: this category seeks to recognize an Oregonian who throughout their personal and/or professional life has contributed tirelessly to improving the urban and community forestry cause. This category is open to any nominated individual regardless of professional or personal affiliations.

President's Award: annually the president of the council has the opportunity to recognize individuals that have gone above and beyond the call of duty in supporting Oregon Community Trees and urban forestry in the state of Oregon. Selected by the president of OCT, award recipient(s) may or may not be a member of the organization. The only criterion is that the recipient must have furthered the cause of urban forestry in Oregon. The president may choose to award one, many or no awards in any given year.

Professional: this category seeks to identify an Oregonian who through their professional activities has contributed greatly towards furthering the cause of urban and community forestry throughout their community or the state. Individuals nominated for this award may include private arborists or foresters, educators or governmental employees.

Group Award Categories

Business: this category seeks to recognize an Oregon business that has been instrumental in urban and community forestry efforts in the local community or throughout the state. Activities can include fundraising for tree causes, tree plantings and/or public education efforts. Businesses nominated for this award may include corporations or local businesses involved in arboriculture, real estate development, retail or wholesale merchants, or any other professional organization.

Oregon's Tree City of the Year: this category seeks to recognize the Oregon city or community that has achieved *Tree City U.S.A.* status and, during the past year, has most exemplified the intent and spirit of the program. Nominees must hold current *Tree City U.S.A.* status.

Project Award Categories

Civic Organization Project: this category seeks to recognize a non-profit or volunteer organization for conducting an outstanding community forestry project in the state of Oregon during the past year. Projects may include tree plantings, Arbor Day activities, educational seminars or workshops or any activities directed towards the maintenance or preservation of community trees.

Development Project: this award seeks to identify a builder/developer whose residential, commercial or industrial development project conducted in the state of Oregon exemplifies extraordinary tree preservation measures, new tree planting efforts, environmentally sound planning and design, and a long-term plan for the management of the community forest.

Government Project: this category seeks to identify any governmental agency for a project conducted during the past year that is aimed at providing outstanding tree planting, maintenance or preservation/conservation efforts in the state of Oregon.

Partnership Project: this category seeks to identify two or more organizations or agencies for an innovative cooperative project, which has enhanced urban and community forestry in an Oregon community. Corporate or business partnerships with governmental agencies or non-profit organizations or cooperative efforts between multiple private organizations or groups may be nominated.

Student/School Project: this award seeks to identify a student, class or school for an outstanding innovative project conducted as part of a class project aimed at planting, maintaining or preserving trees or raising the awareness of trees in an Oregon community. Projects may be located on or off the campus.

2003 Oregon Urban and Community Forestry Awards Nomination Form

General Information

Category: *please circle* Individual: Citizen Lifetime Professional
Group: Business Oregon's Tree City of the Year
Project: Civic Organization Development Government Partnership Student/School

Individual or Group Nominated: *if applicable, please list all partners*

Project Name, *if applicable*: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Daytime Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Contact Person: _____ Telephone: _____

Alternate Contact Person: _____ Telephone: _____

May we send a letter to the nominee, congratulating them on their nomination? YES NO

Person Submitting the Nomination Application: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ Telephone: _____

Narrative

Attach a short (no more than two pages) narrative detailing the nominee's contribution to urban and community forestry. Individual or group nominations should include information on accomplishments and contributions to urban and community forestry. Individual or group nominations will be judged on leadership, commitment, innovation and impact.

Project nominations should include all details pertaining to the project including date(s), participants, management plan, purposes and goals and accomplishments as well as communications including any supporting information such as newspaper articles. Project nominations will be judged on innovation, media attention, community impact, and sustainability.

Supporting Materials

All nominations must include this nomination form. Supporting materials may also be included (newspaper articles, photographs, slides, videos, letters of endorsement and any other information that is pertinent to the nominee). Supporting materials should help to illustrate the nominee's positive impact to urban and community forestry. All photographs and slides must be sleeved and may not exceed ten in quantity. Videos may not exceed ten minutes in length. All hard copies of supporting materials such as newspaper clippings and letters shall not exceed five additional pages. All information submitted as part of a nomination shall become the property of Oregon Community Trees.

Judging of Nominations

Judging of all of the nominations will be conducted by the Awards Committee of Oregon Community Trees. Nominations may be moved into different categories at the discretion of the Awards Committee. The deadline for all nominations is January 15, 2004.

**Submit nominations to Oregon Community Trees, P.O. Box 13074, Salem, OR 97309-1074
Award nominations must be received by Thursday, January 15, 2004**

Effectively Impacting Decision Makers

- *Ever wondered how to make your voice heard in support of trees and urban forestry programs?*
- *Do you have no idea when it comes to approaching legislators?*
- *Nervous about presenting your views in front of planning committees?*

Well, read on! Here is a primer on how to approach many of these issues. This article was written by Jane Bender and is reprinted with permission.

HOW TO EFFECTIVELY IMPACT YOUR LEGISLATOR

What is grassroots lobbying? It's simple --it means communicating with decision-makers about your views.

HOW DO YOU LOBBY?

Determine your target - Think strategically about whom exactly has the power to make a decision concerning your views. For example, if you want a grocery store to give a discount to people who use their own bags, start with the store manager or owner, rather than a clerk at the check-out stand. If the store manager says, "I have to check with so and so," then ask to be a part of that conversation. Use the same strategy in Salem, ask to speak to a legislator who sits on the committee that will hear your bill.

Make your appointment in advance - Call the decision maker's office and state the time needed for your meeting, who will be present for the meeting, and the topic. Be flexible. Do not be insulted if you are asked to meet with a staff member. Legislators are extremely busy and often ask their legislative staff to take notes during constituent meetings and brief them later.

Prepare your presentation and know your issue - Select one person from your group to be the primary spokesperson for your issue. Each person should introduce themselves, state the group they represent (if any), the issue, and what action the decision-maker is being asked to take. Do not assume that the decision maker is familiar with your issue -recognize that they have many issues before them and need to be quickly briefed on the background of your issue.

Do your homework - Research the background of your target decision-maker. What arguments would appeal to them? What are the decision-maker's interests, backers, past votes, district, etc.? Tailor your presentation to their background and interests.

Be concise, brief, and accurate while presenting your case - Present the facts in an orderly manner. Do not present purely emotional arguments. Demonstrate the impact of your issue. Use illustrations, graphs or charts when possible. Leave a one-page fact sheet on your issue (with the bill number and title for legislative issues), as well as your name, address, and phone number.

Only speak for one-third of your allotted time - You are there to brief the legislator on your issue, but it is crucial to get a feel of whether they support you or not. If at the end of your meeting you have no idea how your legislator feels about your issue, the meeting has not been a success. Encourage questions from the decision-maker and answer them factually. If you do not know the answer, offer to find out and get back to them. Always follow through with your promises.

Determine the legislator's position - Specifically ask the decision maker for some action or commitment. How will they vote? Will they stand for or against a proposal? Will they make a call on your behalf? Be polite, but be persistent.

Thank them - Follow-up by writing a thank you note and restate your position.

Your communication is most effective if you:

- **Are understanding, thoughtful and realistic.** Recognize that there are legitimate differences of opinions. Remember to thank the legislator for a job well done. Be sensitive to their political necessities.
- **Speak from your heart.** Use a personal situation to make your point while sticking to the facts.
- **Maintain contact.** Keep in touch with the legislator you are targeting year-round through common issues and activities.
- **Fight issues, not persons.** In politics, your opposition on one issue may be your friend on other issues. Never make permanent enemies.
- **Maintain one position.** Do not change your position after the legislator has publicly stated their agreement with your position.
- **Be polite and personable.**

These tips will help you become an effective participant in the legislative process.

HOW TO WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR THAT GETS PRINTED

The editorial page is one of the most widely read sections of any newspaper, so it is an ideal forum for conveying your message about environmental issues. Editors view this section of the paper differently depending upon the circulation size of the newspaper. Some see the Letters to the Editor as a community bulletin board where a variety of opinions are printed. For a widely circulated newspaper, hundreds of letters arrive daily. Editors of these newspapers look for criticism, praise or feedback on the stories and columns that have recently appeared. They are also looking for ideas and facts. By providing your editor with information on issues important to you, you help them to inform readers, and you influence others. For example, a legislator is sensitive to the opinion published in papers in his or her jurisdiction. Your letter is most effective if you:

Learn the newspaper's style - Read several days worth of Letters to the Editor to gain a sense of the style of letters printed. Determine the newspaper's audience and its circulation size.

Use your own words - Don't use a form letter. Let your personality and thoughts show by being serious, humorous or ironic, but don't be nasty or offensive. A hint of restrained anger is often more effective than strident outrage. Creative letters using humor or irony will have a more lasting impression on readers.

Localize your letter - Explain how the issue affects your area.

Offer a solution - Whether stating a specific or general approach to an issue, solutions based on facts are the best way to follow up criticism.

Identify the responsible person in your letter - Name a decision-maker, elected official or person who can control or influence the issue. If you want the public to contact a specific legislator, include their phone number, email or address in the letter.

Keep it brief - Check the Letters to the Editor section of the newspaper for word limit or other instructions. A letter of less than 250 words has a better chance of being printed than a longer one, and more readers will read a shorter letter. In general, write no more than four to six paragraphs.

Type your letter - If this is not possible, legibly hand-write it.

Fax or email your letter to the editor - If the newspaper is circulated daily, fax or email your letter so it will get there quicker and possibly be printed faster.

Sign your letter - Most editors will not accept a letter unless the author signs it.

Include your address and daytime telephone number - Most editors will not accept a letter unless these are included. Someone from the newspaper may call you to verify facts and confirm that "you are the author."

Watch the newspaper for your letter. If it does not show up within a few days or in the next issue, call the editor's office to politely ask about the letter. They may offer an explanation or tips to help you get published the next time you submit a letter.

HOW TO PLACE A TELEPHONE CALL TO AN ELECTED OFFICIAL

As a citizen, you have the right to express your opinion to your elected official. When the phone rings in our legislator's office, they are obligated to answer. When many calls come in regarding a specific issue, the elected official is compelled to notice and hopefully take action. Legislators work to serve the people. They cannot do their jobs effectively if they do not hear the opinions and interests of the people, especially the citizens of their districts. The following are some recommendations for placing phone calls to your elected officials.

Prepare - Have an outline or a mini-script of what you intend to discuss with the legislator. If necessary, do research so that you know the subject and its relevancy to current legislation.

Identify yourself - by giving your name and your address.

Relax - If you are nervous, relax and treat the phone call like a normal telephone conversation. Do not read verbatim from a prepared script, but speak coherently and slowly.

Be brief - Clearly and concisely state your position and make your point. Limit your call to one issue. Make separate phone calls for other issues.

Identify the legislation - Make sure you identify the legislation you are discussing by name and number, or by its sponsors. If the legislator or staff person is not familiar with the legislation, provide him or her with a brief summary.

Ask for a viewpoint and a vote - Find out the legislator's views on the legislation, and ask for a commitment to vote for or against the legislation.

Don't argue - It is ineffective to engage in an argument with the legislator or staff person about the issue. You will be more likely to get your message across by keeping your cool, and your conversation clear and succinct. Be courteous, direct and fair.

Don't get discouraged - Don't give up if you get a busy signal. This simply means that others are getting through with a message as well. (You can always send a fax if you can't get through right away). Also, don't be discouraged if you speak with a staff person. Most legislative aides are very reliable in relaying messages, and are knowledgeable about the issues. Conduct the conversation as you would with the legislator.

Follow up - Send a thank you note to the legislator or staff person. Although listening to citizen views is part of their jobs, this is a courtesy and a great opportunity to briefly restate your position in writing.

Be positive - Positive phone calls to your legislator can be very helpful. Mention a good environmental record or good legislation that he/she has recently supported.



HOW TO WRITE AN EFFECTIVE LETTER TO AN ELECTED OFFICIAL

Writing a letter to your elected officials is one of the easiest ways of conveying your thoughts and concerns on an issue. Taking five minutes to write a letter does make a difference. Letters to your own legislator are especially important. When an elected official receives numerous letters on a specific issue, it does influence his or her vote. Some tips for writing a letter to an elected official:

- **Use your own stationery.** A neatly typed or legibly handwritten letter on your own stationery is best.
- **Write your own thoughts and words.** Form letters or pre-printed post cards are not as impressive as an original letter. Write about your personal experience and how the issue affects you. Be brief and not overly dramatic.
- **Be clear on your position.** Clearly state your position on the issue. Show your knowledge in a concise format. Be direct and firm, but not hostile.
- **Identify yourself.** If you have met the legislator before, personalize the letter by noting briefly when and where that occurred so he or she can place a face with your name.
- **Address elected officials properly.** A member of the House of Representatives is, "The Honorable Jane Doe," a senator is, "The Honorable John Smith."
- **Be concise.** Write about only one issue in your letter. A one-page letter is more likely to be read than a longer one.
- **Mention legislation.** If appropriate, cite a specific bill number and name of its principal sponsors. If the bill is not well known, a short summary of the bill may be necessary.
- **Request a specific action.** State exactly what you want the elected official to do. If appropriate, ask the legislator to vote for a particular bill or amendment, request a hearing or co-sponsor a bill.
- **Ask for a reply.** If you ask a question or request something, ask the legislator for a reply explaining his or her position on the issue.
- **Include a return address in your letter.** They may want to contact you with additional questions.

Finally, mail the letter to the right address. Particularly for local elected officials, mail the letter directly to where the legislative session is held. If the legislature is not in session, send the letter to the legislator's home office address.

Have you paid your 2004 OCT member dues yet? If not, send them in today! You may be able to take a tax deduction for your charitable contribution if you itemize, since OCT is a 501(c)(3) organization!

HOW TO TESTIFY BEFORE AN ELECTED OFFICIAL

Committees are the heart of Oregon's legislative process. The committee process provides legislators more opportunity to closely study a measure than would be possible in a floor debate. Committees may hear from many people who support or oppose the measure.

Giving public testimony before a legislative committee can be an exciting and fulfilling experience if you are prepared. Your testimony may influence the committee's action. It also becomes part of the permanent record and may be used in future research.

Listed below are suggestions to help make your presentation successful.

- **Know Your Audience** - The members of the committee are "citizen legislators." They care that you have taken time out of your day to come and testify before them.
- **Be respectful** - Don't accuse committee members of causing your particular problem. Resist the temptation to scold, put down, or insult the decision-makers or other witnesses. This tactic will likely alienate them from your cause.
- **Know the Issue** - Support your personal opinions with as many facts as possible. Be knowledgeable of the "other side of the story." You may be asked to discuss the differences. Draw from your own knowledge and experience.
- **Be Familiar with the Committee Process** - Know the location of the building, the meeting room, and the meeting time. Agendas will be posted outside the meeting room. Check to make sure the measure you are interested in has not been removed from the agenda. The measures may not be heard in the printed order.

If possible, attend a committee meeting before you testify to become familiar with the process and room layout.

HAVE YOU CHECKED OUT THE OCT WEBSITE LATELY?

Visit

www.oregoncommunitytrees.org



HOW TO TESTIFY AT A PUBLIC HEARING

Testifying at a public hearing is an important (and free) method for conveying information and opinions to public officials on an environmental issue during the decision making process. Numbers of supporters can often convey your message as effectively as the limited testimony itself. Supporters should find a creative way to identify themselves as such; e.g., colorful pins/stickers or signs with a simple message, like "S.O.S. -Save Our Salmon."

Media are often drawn to hearings on controversial issues. Circulate written testimony and "Fact Sheets" to the media. Hammer them with your central message. Let them know of any unreasonable cases, where citizens were denied their request to testify.

Helpful pointers for testimony

1. Typically, those testifying are chosen on a first-come-first-serve basis. Inside the hearing room, there will be sign-in sheets, asking you to list your name, address, and whether you are for or against the proposed legislation. Check the box by your name, if you wish to testify. Even if you are not planning to testify, you should record yourself as present at the hearing, and whether you are for or against the legislation. .
2. Limit yourself to 3 minutes.
3. State your name. State your organizational affiliation if you are representing a group. Other members of the same group who are also testifying, should then testify as individuals. Otherwise, the public officials might assume that they will hear the same arguments and stop listening.
4. Thank the committee for allowing you to speak.
5. State whether you are for or against the piece of legislation.
6. State why you are for or against it. ~
 - Add a personal vignette, if possible.
 - Be able to back it up with facts because legislators will be able to question you during testimony.
 - If you are working with a group, make sure that everyone sticks to the same central message.
 - When you arrive at the meeting, sign the witness registration sheet. Witnesses are not always called in chronological order.

Presenting Your Written Testimony

1. When you are called to testify, give copies of your testimony to committee staff before you begin your presentation. The number of copies requested is printed on the bottom of the committee meeting agenda.
2. Begin your presentation by addressing the chairperson first, then members of the committee. "Chair_____, members of the committee..."
2. For the record, state your name, address, and the organization or group you represent.
3. State whether you support or oppose the legislative measure being heard and briefly explain. Do not read your testimony to the committee word for word. Prepare an outline.
4. Keep in mind you may have a ten minute version of your testimony...be prepared to summarize it in one minute, that may be all the time you are allowed!
5. Thank the committee members and offer to answer any questions. "Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today. I would be happy to answer any questions."
6. When a member asks you a question, respond to both that person and the chair by saying: "Chair_____, Senator/Representative _____(state names), the answer to your question is..."
7. Relax! The members understand that this can be an intimidating experience-they don't expect a perfect presentation.
8. Thank the committee for listening to your presentation.
9. Give a copy of your testimony and any other materials to back up your arguments to the committee.

Group Testimony

- Select several people to cover different topics so the testimony is not repetitive.
- Address the problem, possible solutions, and your group's best solution.
- Humor and friendliness will draw more attention to your words.

TIGARD COMPLETES RIPARIAN RESTORATION PROJECT

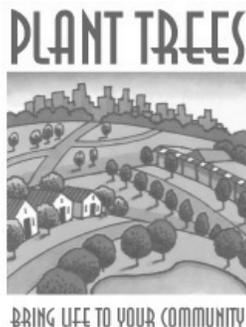
By Matt Stine, City Forester, City of Tigard

As part of a city-wide natural resource restoration plan here in Tigard, Oregon we developed the Fanno Creek Park Enhancement Plan. Fanno Creek Park is a 26-acre tract of land right smack in the middle of Tigard. The City is partnering with several organizations to restore more than eight acres of riparian wetland back to its native condition. George Kral, owner of Ash Creek Forest Management, received a \$9,800.00 grant from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) to implement a portion of the Fanno Creek Park Enhancement Plan. The plan was written by the City Forester and Parks Supervisor and approved by City Council. It is a restoration plan for returning most of the 26 acre park back to its native condition. This includes removing non-native plants such as reed canary grass, Himalayan blackberry and other noxious vegetation. We will replace the non-native vegetation with native herbaceous plants, grasses, shrubs and trees. In addition to the City of Tigard, Ash Creek Forest Management and OWEB, Clean Water Services and Tualatin Riverkeepers will participate in the partnership.

The restoration of these eight acres will take approximately one and a half years with monitoring and maintenance continuing for an unlimited amount of time. The maintenance will include controlling any re-infestations of noxious vegetation and reinforcement plantings if there are too many plants that die after they are planted. A large portion of the plantings, initial and follow-up, will be conducted by volunteers. Clean Water Services will be coordinating the volunteer efforts.

To date we have cut down most of the non-native vegetation and we will begin spraying herbicides later in September. In addition to the invasive grasses and shrubs there is a substantial amount of Washington hawthorn trees growing on the site. We will use the "hack & squirt" method for eradicating these invasive non-natives, but we will keep them standing. They will continue to serve as habitat for wildlife.

This grant opportunity presents very valuable benefits to the city and the surrounding ecosystem. Our enhancement plan for this area will be carried out by qualified organizations at a minimal cost to the city in terms of staff time and financial contributions. Additionally, we are developing very valuable partnerships with organizations that are comprised of talented experts and professionals. These partnerships will almost certainly lead to future collaborations on an assorted array of projects.



WOOD UTILIZATION INNOVATIONS

By Doug Grafe, former Albany City Forester

An innovative approach to increasing wood utilization standards for the City of Albany took shape during this year's Arbor Week festivities. As in most communities, the dead, dying and hazardous trees that are removed in the public rights of way often end up as chips or are bucked up for firewood. However, several trees removed this season were unique; we salvaged several them since they contained sound logs that would have been a terrible waste if pulverized for chips.

Financially sponsored by Weyerhaeuser Company, we were able to hire a portable mill company, "From Logs to Lumber," to mill the logs at South Albany High School for use in the School's wood shop. The project was a tremendous success. Students participated by pulling over 2,000 board feet of freshly cut lumber from the mill, stacking the lumber, sealing the cut ends and re-sawing many pieces to meet their wood working needs. Clocks, bowls, tables, benches and chests were among many of the projects discussed among the students. The science class also benefitted from the project, students took samples to determine the wet and dry wood weights of differing species. In addition, the saw dust was collected for the School's greenhouse, to be used as a medium to grow mushrooms. Testimony to the student's enthusiasm was their willingness to participate during breaks and lunch period; at least a dozen students stayed after school to help finish the project and clean up.

Trees are precious, dead or alive, and we need to continue to find new ways to increase the wood utilization standards from our Urban Forests. Logs that would normally have been turned into chips and a few cords of firewood will now inspire the creativity of South Albany's wood shop classes for many years and has helped to teach a valuable lesson on the intrinsic value of our natural resources. I think the greatest aspect of this project is that it can be repeated in any community. I appreciate the opportunity to share this exciting project with you.

OREGON COMMUNITY TREES 2003 ANNUAL MEETING DECEMBER 12, 2003 Oregon Garden, Silverton

The OCT annual members meeting will be held from 2-3 pm on Friday, December 12, 2003 at the Oregon Garden in Silverton. Refreshments will be served, and the entrance to the Oregon Garden will be free. All OCT members are invited to attend. Come hear what OCT is doing to promote urban forestry in Oregon. For more information, contact Katie Kause at kkause@odf.state.or.us or 542-447-5658.



Oregon Community Trees

Membership Application

Oregon Community Trees (OCT) is Oregon's Urban and Community Forest Council. OCT was formed in 1991 to promote urban and community forestry activities across the state and to serve as an advisory body to the Oregon Department of Forestry's Urban and Community Forestry Assistance Program. 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. OCT is a member organization made up of citizens and urban forestry professionals. Benefits of an OCT membership include:

- ◆ Tax-deductible contribution
- ◆ Member discount at OCT sponsored conferences and events
- ◆ Voting privileges at OCT annual meeting
- ◆ Member invitation to special events such as Governors' Grove Arbor Week Tree Planting
- ◆ Subscription to OCT's newsletter, *Oregon Communitree News*
- ◆ Option to participate in OCT project committees

Membership in Oregon Community Trees is open to anyone interested in urban and community forestry. Individual memberships are \$30 per year; Group or Corporate memberships are available at \$100 for four memberships and \$25 for each additional member. Sliding scale options are available by contacting OCT prior to joining. Sponsorship options are also available. OCT is comprised of people dedicated to planting and caring for trees as a significant strategy for making our cities more livable and environmentally sustainable. Please join us today!

OREGON COMMUNITY TREES MEMBERSHIP FORM

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

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

Names of Group Members:

1. _____ 2. _____
3. _____ 4. _____

(Use additional page if necessary, \$25 each additional member)

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

Thank you for your support.

Mail this form & payment to:
**Oregon Community Trees, P.O. Box 13074,
Salem, Oregon 97309**

Member Information:

Name

Company/Agency

Address

City

Zip

Phone

Email:

Office Use Only: Date Received _____

Payment Type _____

Payment Amount _____



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(c)(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, Chris Neamtzu, Barbara Hollenbeck, Doug Grafe, 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 financial support through 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