



OREGON *CommuniTree News*

Published by the Oregon Department of Forestry's Urban and Community Forestry Assistance Program

Volume 10, Number 3

Fall 2000

Look for *CitizenTreeActions!* The newsletter of the Oregon Community Trees on page 9

On the Stump for Trees

*Scott Plamondon, ODF,
Urban and Community Forestry
Assistance Program Manager*

It is a whirlwind of election year political activity! We humans are debating the issues and having a general discussion of each candidate's viewpoint on a variety of important social, economic and environmental issues. But where in all of this dialog are trees being represented and heard? Who is out there campaigning for "Trees and Tree Issues"? Who is on the stump for Trees?

Well, in this issue of *Oregon CommuniTree News*, I am on the stump for trees! Let us now consider the tree's perspective on the many issues being discussed within our political process.

In all this talk about livability, has anyone stopped and thought about **livability for trees**? How can we trees be against livability? It is a basic need! Each of us – trees and humans – need our space. But, since we are rooted in one place, livable space becomes all the more important. We need an environment with good soil, adequate

Continued on page 2

Oregon's 1999 Tree City USA of the Year Sends Representatives to the PNW Community Trees Conference in Anchorage Alaska

By Chris Neamtzu, City of Wilsonville

The City of Wilsonville is one of the fastest growing cities in the state of Oregon, as is its urban forestry program. Wilsonville is a small city of approximately 13,000 residents located 15 miles south of Portland on the I-5 corridor. Wilsonville became a Tree City USA for the first time in 1998, received re-approval in 1999 along with a Growth Award and was also recognized as Tree City USA of the Year for the State of Oregon by the Oregon Community Trees. Wilsonville adopted a tree preservation ordinance in 1996 and has recognized the impor-

tance of a strong urban forestry program as it relates to improving and enhancing the quality of life in our community.

As a "thanks" for the hard work that has been done on urban forestry related issues and as an acknowledgement for the recent accomplishments and awards, the City Manager graciously authorized Mayor Charlotte Lehan, City Arborist Floyd Peoples,

Continued on page 7



City of
WILSONVILLE
In OREGON

Inside this Issue

Manager's Message: On the Stump for Trees	Page 1
Community Profile	1
Mark your Calendar!	3
Funding/Resource Opportunities	4
Urban Forestry Briefs	4
Tools of the Trade	5
Bud Breaking News	5
Street Tree Spotlight: Beech	6

CitizenTree Actions! Begins on page 8

Manager’s Message

Continued from page 1

space and sufficient water and nutrients. We need an environment where we can reach our potential and have healthy, productive lives. Is this too much to ask for? A livable environment for us means each of you get fresh air, shade, food, beauty and grace.

Reduce the crime rate against trees. Yes, reduce violence to trees on streets and park in the public domain, in yards front and back! We support measures that will reduce the excess crimes we experience each day at the hands of humans through opening of car doors, running lawn mowers, and the dreaded use of trenchers, chainsaws and axes.

Everyone is talking about gun control, but what about **chainsaw control**? Back in the good old days – decades and centuries ago – life was safer for us because there were only handsaws that took two humans working long hours all day to cut through just one of us. But now, oh how, we are maimed by the chainsaw! And the scary thing is that everyone wants one ... anyone can buy one. Yes, we need chainsaw control. Yes, everyone should register their saws and receive training on the proper use of them. Stop the savage cutting! Prune according to our friendly arborist’s nationally accepted pruning standards and we will grow for you to enjoy.

We need **public education about trees.** Yes, indeed everyone needs to be educated on ways to live in harmony with us. We trees are all for spending funds to im-

prove the education of your youth and adults, so more of us can live and give you the benefits we unselfishly provide you each day.

Pro environment . . . heck yes! Remember, we (humans and trees) are all part of the environment. To us it is a no-brainer to support efforts to conserve and enhance our home – the place where we have roots. Humans can move around and go to another place less spoiled, but not us. We are to live out our lives where we were left or planted by you. We have no choice but to endure the negative results of poor environmental consciousness manifested in some of your fellow human activities.

Yes, let’s **keep social security solvent.** Without social security, baby boomers are sure to panic and will be looking at us as mere firewood to heat their homes! But we are more than just firewood. Let us encourage their spending of social security checks on planting more of us where we can block cold winter winds and filtrate the hot summer sun, keeping down the cost of heating and cooling their homes. No one panics. Leaving us to beautify and inspire.

Trees for **tax breaks.** Yes, by all means let’s get more money into

the hands of an educated public so more folks can afford to hire certified arborists to do stylish, nationally accepted pruning. After all, we too want to look good, be accepted and seen as up on the newest, stylish, and fashionable pruning cut.

On the stump for trees...hey! On the stump...does that mean I am on the remains of one of my kind? Not a pleasant thought. How would you like being on the coffin – metal, of course – for humans? Hmm. Instead of being on the stump for trees, let me say that I am out on a limb. Yes, I am out on a limb, extending a branch for trees. I am rooted in the belief that we trees are a necessary part of this world and deserve some consideration, especially during these political times! Remember, trees need space too. Just a livable environment and a little bit of your help to keep us healthy and growing for everyone to enjoy. We leaf it up to you and hope you canopy – ah, can (oh please) – see the value of going out on your own limb and extending a branch for trees in your community’s canopy.



Calculate the Number of Trees That Will Offset Your Vehicles’ CO² Production

For every 10,000 miles you drive

Plant this many trees:	7	10	15	20	25
If you get mpg:	40	30	20	15	12

Visit American Forests’ online calculator at www.americanforests.org to learn more about how trees help balance our auto emissions.

The Time is NOW to Think Tree City USA 2000 for Your Community!

For Oregon communities, **December 15, 2000** is an important date to remember! Why? Because, applications for Tree City USA – both new and renewal – and applications for Growth Awards are due into the ODF Salem office by this date. December may seem far off in the horizon, but when it comes to gathering figures, newspaper clippings and signatures, the month is just around the corner! NOW is the time to start getting the 2000 Tree City USA application together.

Need assistance in applying? Please contact Scott Plamondon, Kristin Ramstad or Katie Kause. They will be happy to hear from you!

What it Does Not Mean to be a Tree City USA

By Kristin Ramstad, ODF

Editor's Note: Do you know if you live in a Tree City USA community? To find out, visit our web page at: www.odf.state.or.us/fa/UF/uf.htm.

For those of you who do not live in a Tree City: have you ever considered leading the effort for your city to become one? The designation of your city as a Tree City USA does NOT necessarily mean that your town has streets lined with mature trees, parks with giant oaks and elms, and a city-owned chunk of forested land. It means that your community is managing the city tree resource it

has, regardless of its size and splendor. Nor does Tree City USA mean your town has it "all together" when it comes to managing its trees. However, it does mean your city is making a concerted effort to care for its community trees – through actions, words, and spending some time and money on them.

If you like trees, and want to see the efforts your community is making to care for its trees recognized nationally, please contact us at ODF to learn how you can make it happen.

The application deadline for Tree City USA 2000 is **December 15, 2000**.

Mark Your Calendar 2000!

September 6 and October 18-20

Community Tree Management Institute. Contact Scott Plamondon, Oregon Department of Forestry at 503/945-7391, splamondon@odf.state.or.us.

September 6 Session III. Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR

October 18 – 20 Session IV. Silver Falls Conference Center, Silverton, OR

September 9

Arborists in the Arboretum. A morning of socializing work for professional arborists and arboretum staff. Hoyt Arboretum, Portland, OR. Contact Fred Nilsen, 503/823-4492.

September 22

Oregon Community Trees' Board of Directors Meeting. Ashland, OR. Contact Katie Kause, ODF at 541/447-5658, kkause@odf.state.or.us.

September 25 – 27

PNW-ISA Annual Training Conference. Boise Center On The Grove, Boise, ID. Contact the PNW-ISA Chapter office at 503/874-8263, info@pnwisa.org.

September 26 – 27

Trees, People, and the Law National Conference. Arbor Day Farm/Lied Conference Center, Nebraska City, NE. Contact The National Arbor Day Foundation at 402/474-5655, conferences@arborday.org Or www.arborday.org.

September 28 – 30

Tree City USA National Conference. Lied Conference Center, Nebraska City, NE. Contact The National Arbor Day Foundation at 402/474-5655, conferences@arborday.org or www.arborday.org.

December 8

Oregon Community Trees' Board of Directors Meeting. Salem, OR. Contact Scott Plamondon, ODF at 503/945-7391, splamondon@odf.state.or.us.

December 13 - 14

High Desert Green Industry Conference. Central Oregon Community College, Bend, OR. See article in this issue. Contact Ed Bartz at 541/389-5296, ebartz@bendcable.com.

December 15

Tree City USA applications due into ODF Salem office. See article in this issue. Contact Scott Plamondon at 503/945-7391, Kristin Ramstad at 503/945-7390 or Katie Kause at 541/447-5658.

Funding/Resource Opportunities

Environmental Leadership Program Fellowship Announcement

Application materials are now available for the Environmental Leadership Program (ELP) Fellowship Class of 2001-2003.

ELP is a non-profit organization dedicated to training and supporting a new generation of environmental leaders from diverse cultural backgrounds, disciplines, and sectors. Through the three-year ELP Fellowship, ELP provides training, mentoring, funding

for innovative projects, and technical support to 30 emerging environmental leaders per year. Applications must be received by **October 2, 2000**.

To learn more about the Environmental Leadership Program and the ELP Fellowship, please visit www.elpnet.org or contact the Environmental Leadership Program, fellowship office at 413/268-0035, elpnet@mindspring.com.

Urban Forestry Briefs

Federal Agencies Being Held Environmentally Accountable

THE WHITE HOUSE issued an Executive Order on April 22 making the head of each Federal agency responsible for ensuring that all necessary actions are taken to integrate environmental accountability into agency day-to-day decision-making and long-term planning processes, across all agency missions, activities, and functions.

Environmental management considerations must now be a fundamental and integral component of Federal Government policies, operations, planning, and management. The head of each Federal agency is responsible for meeting the goals and requirements of this order.

Related to urban forestry "Each

agency shall strive to promote the sustainable management of Federal facility lands through the implementation of cost-effective, environmentally sound landscaping practices, and programs to reduce adverse impacts to the natural environment."

Further, "Each agency providing funding for nonfederal projects involving landscaping projects shall furnish funding recipients with information on environmentally and economically beneficial landscaping practices and work with the recipients to support and encourage application of such practices on Federally funded projects."

For full text of the Executive Order, contact prodbell@fs.fed.us

Friends of Trees Launches Final Year of *Seed the Future*

by Sheryl Sackman, Friends of Trees

On Saturday, November 18, 2000 Friends of Trees will launch the final year of a historic community tree planting campaign, *Seed the*



Future. By April 2001, Friends of Trees will complete its campaign to involve thousands of volunteers to plant 144,000 trees

and seedlings throughout the Portland region.

"Friends of Trees' *Seed the Future* campaign is a unique partnership between a non profit organization, the public and private sectors and community volunteers to improve the health and livability of the five-county Portland area," stated Friends of Trees Executive Director Jane Foreman. "We are very proud of our accomplishments and grateful for the support of all of our partners."

While *Seed the Future* will end in April 2001, Friends of Trees will continue its vital work restoring our urban forest and strengthening neighborhoods. Friends of Trees Board and Staff members are ironing out the final details of a strategic plan to build upon the success of the campaign and ensure our urban forest remains healthy.

Anyone wanting to get involved with community tree planting or maintenance projects are welcome. Visit the Friends of Trees web site at www.friendsoftrees.org or call 503-284-TREE (8733).

Bud Breaking News

High Desert Green Industry Conference 2000 – Bend, Oregon

December 13 and 14, 2000 brings to Central Oregon the High Desert Green Industry Conference (HDGIC). You don't want to miss this exciting Green Industry event! Taking place within the Boyle Education Building on the campus of Central Oregon Community College in Bend, the conference promises to be packed full of informative sessions and networking opportunities! The HDGIC 2000 will be addressing topics such as weed identification and control, hazard tree analysis (PNW-ISA taught), water quality, irrigation, pruning (with Certified Arborist,

Rich Baker), integrated pest management, business management, xeriscaping, and more!

To receive registration information, please contact the High Desert Green Industry Conference at 541/389-5296, ebartz@bendcable.com. Seating is limited. Early registration is recommended! Continuing education units will be available.

The HDGIC is a partnership between Oregon Department of Forestry, Oregon State University Extension Service, Oregon Landscape Contractors Association, and Central Oregon Community College.

The National Civic League Announces All-America City Award

The All-America City Award, sponsored by the Allstate Insurance Company and administered by the National Civic League, recognizes civic excellence by honoring communities of all sizes in which citizens, government, businesses, and voluntary organizations work together to address critical local issues. Winning the All-America City Award can help create jobs, increase local investment, and foster civic pride. Any community may enter. A "community" may be an incorporated city, town, or village; a neighborhood within a large city; a county; a re-

gion comprised of two or more cities and/or counties; or a rural region with common but not necessarily formal ties. The League encourages potential applicants to have a committee of citizens representative of their community's demographics and public, private, and nonprofit sectors complete the application.

Deadline is **March 29, 2001**. Application forms and program details, including an application fee schedule, available online at www.ncl.org/NCL/aac.htm or you may contact Sharon Hartman at 303/571-4343, sharonh@ncl.org.

Tools of the Trade

Utah Council Produces Shigo Workshop Video

The Utah Community Forest Council (UCFC) has produced a new 2-hour videotape of Dr. Alex Shigo's, *A New Tree Biology Workshop* which he conducted in Salt Lake City December 13-17, 1993. The tape, released in June, 2000, has been professionally edited with descriptive captions and excerpts from Dr. Shigo's books. The tape highlights the cultural practices aspects of the workshop.

The UCFC has produced this tape as a fundraiser for the administration of the council. Copies of the tape are selling for \$39.95 each. Bulk rates are available by calling 801/561-7457. Orders may be submitted via the internet at: www.spotlightvisual.com or mail orders to: UCFC, PO Box 961, Salt Lake City, UT 84110-0961. Master Card and VISA are accepted.



Street Tree Spotlight

Beech *Fagus spp*

By Kristin Ramstad, ODF

At the top of the “Oregon’s Under-Planted Tree List” is a relative of oaks and chinquapins: the stately beech. This is a tree to plant for posterity, since it grows slowly and (eventually) gets rather large. Both the American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*) and the European beech (*F. sylvatica*) end up broadly oval, and close to 100 feet tall.

Legend has it that if you plant a beech tree near your house, lightning will not strike the house or the tree. Clearly, the larger beech species will not do for your average street tree situation, unless your community still has curbside planting strips wider than ten feet and lacking overhead wires. This is a tree for parks, large yards, and to plant around large buildings when space allows. Fortunately, a few smaller beech cultivars are also available for street tree situations — what they lack in majesty, they make up for in visual interest.

The tree’s smooth gray bark contrasts beautifully with its glossy leaves. Leaves turn red-brown in winter and hang on. Pointed winter buds and softly-angular branches give the tree a lacey winter silhouette. In spring, the emerging leaves are glossy, slightly furry, and unfold slowly. American beeches tend to have larger leaves than their European kin.

Beeches like light, and when established, need little to moderate water, but salt (in the water or soil), wind, and hot glaring sun can

wreak their great potential. These trees are not particularly disease-prone, but when stressed can harbor woolly aphids, whose sticky honey-dew will eventually end up on the windshield of the Mayor’s car (and anyone else’s vehicle that happens to be parked beneath the trees). With a little care and good siting, however, beeches can grow in all of Oregon’s planting zones.

Beeches have considerable lore and legend associated with them, according to Rebecca Rupp in her wonderful book, *Red Oaks and Black Birches*. The term “Fagus” comes from the Greek “phagus” to eat. The edible parts of the tree are the tiny morsels enclosed in a three-sided bur, which are 22 percent protein and 50 percent fat. Early settlers fattened hogs on beech nuts, which gives rise to the possibility that AA Milne knew this when he gave Winnie-the-Pooh’s friend, Piglet, a beech tree for a home. Passenger pigeons, prior to their demise, would gorge themselves on beechnuts, consuming nearly half a pint of nuts per pigeon per day.

European beech varieties are available in many shapes and shades, but American beech varieties are much harder to come by. Portland’s Hoyt Arboretum has an excellent collection of beeches available for inspection. The following are a few of the more well known, recommended, and widely-available European-type

varieties listed by Sunset’s Western Garden Book:

‘Asplenifolia’: Leaves narrow, deeply lobed nearly to the midrib. Delicate foliage on large robust tree.

‘Atropunicea’ (Copper beech, purple beech): Leaves deep reddish or purple. Often sold as *Riversii* or *Purpurea*. Seedlings of copper beech often bronzy purple, turning bronzy green in summer.

‘Fastigiata’ (Dawyck beech): Narrow upright tree like a Lombardy poplar in form (8’ x 35’), grows broader with age, but still narrower than species.

‘Laciniata’ (Cutleaf beech): Narrow green leaves, deeply cut.

‘Pendula’ (Weeping beech): Irregular spreading form. Long weeping branches reach to the ground. Green leaves. Without staking to establish vertical trunk it will grow wide rather than tall.

‘Purpurea Pendula’ (Weeping copper beech): Purple leafed weeping form.

‘Tricolor’ (Tricolor beech) Green leaves marked white and edged pink. Slow to 24-40 feet, usually much less. Foliage burns in hot sun or dry winds.

‘Zlatia’ (Golden beech) Young leaves yellow, aging to yellow-green. Smaller tree. Subject to sunburn.

There are many great web sites that you can visit to get further information, including photos, of the beech. For example, check out: <http://osu.orst.edu/dept/ldplants/2plants.htm#fagr> and http://www.hcs.ohio-state.edu:90/pmi_4/

Wilsonville

Continued from page 1

and Associate Planner Chris Neamtzu to attend the 5th Pacific Northwest Community Trees Conference in Anchorage, Alaska. As you can imagine, our excitement was almost uncontainable as we were headed to Alaska to learn about the latest trends in urban forestry in one of the most beautiful places on earth!

We were not disappointed, as arriving in Anchorage was an experience to remember! I was shocked at the size of the Municipality of Anchorage, which encompasses some 2,000 square miles. I was also surprised that Anchorage is arid, receiving only 15” of precipitation per year. The conference was located in downtown, also referred to as the

“bowl”. The bowl is a major urban center that is very hard on street, park and landscape trees. Daylight fluctuations, the application of road salts to reduce freezing, the moose, some improper pruning, the cold winters and warm summers all take their toll on the trees in Anchorage’s bowl. After touring downtown on foot as part of a mobile workshop led by landscape architects from Land Design North, it made me appreciate just how lucky we are to be from Oregon where we have an abundance of species to choose from and a climate where almost anything grows. As tree people, we are very lucky to have this diversity available to us. It is true that only a handful of tree species can survive in the harsh Alaska climate. As Mayor Lehan noted, “It was great to see the passion for urban forestry from all over the

Northwest, but I was glad to get back home where we have REAL trees. I have lilac bushes taller than the trees in Anchorage.”

The conference was excellent with many qualified presenters. There was a small Oregon contingency that included Katie Kause of ODF, Paul Ries of PNW/ISA and Terry Flanagan of General Tree Service. Some of the highlights of the conference included the field trips to Chugach State Park



Floyd Peoples, Mayor Lehan, and Chris Neamtzu from the City of Wilsonville, with Katie Kause, ODF (second from right) in Anchorage, Alaska at the monument designating the starting line for the Iditarod Sled Dog Race.

where a black bear was encountered on the trail, and Russian Jack Springs Park where the boreal forests were explored. The birch/spruce forests were beautiful, although there is a bark beetle that is creating havoc on the spruce trees. There were numerous sessions that were informative and entertaining, and where excellent dialogue was exchanged. Some of the best presentations included the opening session that covered Anchorage’s urban open space program, and sessions on managing the community forest, the right tree in the right place, managing natural open space, tree preservation, contracting specifications, community building, and insects and disease. The closing session was very interesting, with members of the Alaska Urban Forestry Council presenting a slide show on the different

areas of Alaska.

We came away from the conference motivated to take our urban forestry program to the next level. One idea that we discussed was to create a Tree Standards Manual that could be used by developers and the general public. The idea is to publish a guide regarding all the right things to do for trees. The City of Post Falls, Idaho presented a document that was very user friendly and full of valuable information. This manual contained information on everything from planting and pruning guidelines to removal and maintenance responsibilities. The document contained many useful photographs and diagrams that assisted the reader in understanding the issues being discussed. Another valuable piece of information was the approved street tree list. This list included the tree height, spread, form, color, water regime, planting width, and pros and cons of particular species. It was laid out in an easy to understand format that would be useful to the novice or expert tree person. My next urban forestry project will be to try and create a similar manual for the City of Wilsonville.

Overall, attending this conference was a fantastic experience. We met great people who are passionate about trees and urban forestry issues. We enjoyed some of the most beautiful landscapes around and gained valuable information that we will apply locally. I look forward to the next conference!

Does anybody know if Hawaii has an urban forestry program?

Editor’s note: Yes, they do!

Citizen TreeActions!

a forum for community forest volunteers

A newsletter published jointly by the Oregon Department of Forestry and Oregon Community Trees

Words from the Council President

By Terry Flanagan



The biggest challenge that we as Urban Forestry advocates face, is to increase funding

that the government and/or private sectors provide for Urban Forestry. The management and implementation of Urban Forestry is considered by some, unnecessary certainly West of the Cascades where "trees do just fine without our help". At least more people are understanding that trees in the urban setting do need help to overcome all the urban stresses that we throw at them. But understanding and funding the problem are two different animals. Especially with all the anti-tax initiatives on the ballot, most public officials are more concerned with securing enough funding to provide basic services. Services like Police, Fire, Education, and new programs such as the Oregon Health Program. Urban Forestry is WAY down the list.

This is not to say we should give up! There are people in leadership positions in government that do understand the importance of Urban Forestry. These people obviously know of the difficulty in finding funds for Urban Forestry, but still feel that the issue is too important to give up on.



SUMMIT 2001

ENHANCING LIVABILITY THROUGH COMMUNITY TREES

How Urban & Community Forestry Can Meet the Multiple Challenges of SALMON RECOVERY, URBAN SPRAWL & COMMUNITY LIVABILITY

March 9, 2001

Corvallis, Oregon

Mark your calendar!

Please Post within your Newsletter & Web Site!

For further information, contact Al Kitzman, Benton County Parks, 541/766-6018, al.a.kitzman@co.benton.or.us or visit

OCT web page at www.odf.state.or.us/fa/uf/oct/index.html

OCT's Board of Directors have formed a sub-committee that is researching the potential of meeting with Earl Blumenauer, Oregon's District 3 representative in the U.S. House of Representatives, and other state and local politicians to brainstorm ways of increasing the funding level for Urban Forestry.

If you have any ideas that you would like to suggest, please contact me via e-mail at teragan@aol.com or phone (503) 656 2656 ext. 414. No idea is too small. Some projects that I thought would never really get of the ground, have blossomed into really great

Continued on page 9

Inside this Issue

Words from the Council President	Page 8
OCT Director Meeting Schedule	9
Volunteers Can Spearhead Tree Inventories	9
Personality Profile... Floyd Peoples	10



Words from the President

Continued from page 8

organizations.

One example that I was personally involved with, was Friends of Trees. Even though I thought it was important to help create a group to help advocate the planting of trees in the Portland area, I never dreamed that the organization would develop into the premiere planting organization that it has. That is why we can never let our own self-doubts limit the possibilities.

As I've stated before, it's time we all learn to operate in the political system. Get to personally know your government representatives. They will have ideas on how we can bring Urban Forestry funding to the higher level that we know is necessary. We must also be patient. With the anti-tax sentiment in the State of Oregon, we will have to put forth a great deal of effort and creativity to change the current status quo.

I will keep you posted on the Council's efforts to affect the level of support for Urban Forestry in future newsletters.

With everyone doing their part, we can and will make a difference.

Board of Directors

Meetings in 2000

Please note that the Fall meeting date has been changed from September 15 to September 22!

September 22 **Ashland**
December 8 **Salem**

Volunteers Can Spearhead Street Tree Inventories!

Part 2 of a two part article by Joseph Poracsky

See Citizen TreeActions! Spring 2000 Issue for Part One of this article

The word "inventory" means different things to different people. Some view inventory as mapping canopy cover, some view it as "counting trees," some view it as recording a select group of easily-observable tree characteristics, and some view it as a process of making and recording a variety of detailed measurements. Each of these approaches is appropriate in a particular situation, but none is optimal in all situations, since each collects different kinds of data. An inventory that might answer every question that comes up would be so expensive and time-consuming to perform that it would become infeasible. Matching the inventory technique to the data needs of the community is of primary importance.

An inventory cannot and should not replace field visits and site inspections. When a decision is being made that concerns the removal or planting of trees, it is imperative that an arborist make a decision based on what is in the field, not based just on what is in the data base. The inventory data can be useful as a flag to indicate that a particular action might be necessary, but the data should not be assumed to be 100% correct, because it will not be. No inventory is perfect.

Inventory can be time-consuming and the more details that are col-

lected the more time and money is consumed. It is somewhat ironic, but critical to remember, that as soon as an inventory is "completed" it is history and its value begins to decline as soon as the data is collected. Likewise, its value continues to diminish as it gets older. Therefore, without a plan for maintaining the data, or at least updating it periodically, As a result, it is not likely to be worthwhile to perform a highly-detailed, one-time inventory. And while there is some benefit to a quick, simple, one-time snapshot, the greatest benefit of inventory comes from its potential for long-term monitoring of urban forest condition and evaluation of program success.

There is a second, more important reason to not get too much information. An inventory is supposed to be a tool, not an end in itself. If an elaborate array of highly-detailed data is collected, it becomes expensive both to set up and to maintain. Urban foresters should not get bogged down in managing data and allow it to become a drain on resources, but should make the data work for them and become an asset. In this regard, less is very likely more.

The costs of on-the-ground inventory can be substantial. Figures quoted by professional arboricultural firms for street tree inven-

Continued on page 11



Personality Profile... Floyd Peoples, Operations Manager, Public Works, City of Wilsonville

By Steve Elder, Blue Heron Farm

This year, the City of Wilsonville was awarded the Oregon Tree City USA of the Year Award by the OCT. I recently spoke with Floyd Peoples about the City's programs and his personal involvement.

Floyd came to Wilsonville three and one half years ago after a lifetime spent in horticulture. After being involved in sod production in the 60's, he worked in the urban forestry department with the City of Beaverton for 9 years, then with the City of Tigard for 5 years. Then he worked in the private sector for a couple of years before going to Wilsonville. As the Operations Manager, Floyd oversees the water supply, main buildings, streets, and parks. With his background in arboriculture, the infrastructure of trees and landscape that are part of this picture are very important to Floyd.

During his time with the city, several innovative programs have been initiated. These include the Charbonneau Hazard Tree Replacement Program, the Charbonneau Tree Preservation Program, and Street Tree In-fill Program.

When the Charbonneau streets were originally developed, the de-

veloper installed the trees, and apparently many were planted too deep. As a result, significant proportions of these have developed root problems and are snapping off at ground level.

In addition to installation prob-



blems, some of the growing conditions for the trees were exacerbating the situation. In conjunction with outside consulting arborists, Floyd came up with a program that includes sod removal, proper mulching practices, and soil injection with Mychorrhizal Inoculents. Indications to date are that unbelievable improvements in canopy density and quality have followed the implementation of this program.

Developers now pay fees to the

City based on a formula that takes into account the development they are involved in. These funds are then available for future tree replacements throughout the city.

Floyd is also actively trying to preserve existing White Oak specimens by providing financial assistance to owners. This would include many of the strategies employed with success on the other trees in Charbonneau. He is also trying to plant more Oregon White Oak in the street-scapes, but of course finds supply a major problem.

Floyd has instigated the use of a new machine for the soil injection of Mycorrhizae. It was originally used as an injector for golf courses, but works admirably for trees in grassed situations or planter beds. He also employs a holistic approach to tree care in general...a fine blend of science and natural products provide a solution that is not only working, but is environmentally friendly as well.

Editor's note: Floyd is a student of the ODF, 2000 Community Tree Management Institute.

Visit the OCT web page at
www.odf.state.or.us/fa/uf/oct/index.html



Volunteers

Continued from page 9

tory generally average out to about \$3 per tree or potential tree site. This kind of cost frequently puts professionally-performed inventory out of the reach of many communities. As an alternative, volunteer-based inventory can be very effective. Experience in several Portland-area inventory projects has demonstrated that volunteers can do a more than acceptable job. The keys are to (1) get a motivated group of volunteers (as opposed to a “captive” or unwilling group); (2) focus on collecting basic data (species, height, diameter, etc.) rather than “professional-level” assessments (such as disease identification, detailed tree health rating systems and the like); and (3) maintaining systematic quality control.

Volunteers need not be adults. Very reliable data has been collected by middle-school and high school students, and some teachers have integrated the program into the science curriculum of their classrooms. In these cases the students get the educational benefits of learning about tree botany and proper tree care, how trees fit into the ecological structure of urban areas, how tree needs become codified in regulations seeking to put the right tree in the right place, how to make systematic observations, and how to input and analyze data on the computer. The local community benefits from the efforts of the students by using the data to plan tree plantings and neighborhood low-limb pruning. Getting this information out to the youth of the community today means that we are training tomorrow’s prop-

erty owners to be good stewards of the urban forest.

The educational and community benefits of volunteer-based inventory are important, because there is general agreement that the amount of cost reduction through the use of volunteers is not extremely significant. Dollars saved on salaries for those collecting the data will largely go to training, quality control and administration. The substantial value as a public education tool, not only for youth but for adults as well, is the real selling point for volunteer-based inventory. This education results in public buy-in to the concept of urban forest management and a general improvement in the level of care of trees on the not-directly managed 90% of the urban forest. And, when it comes to budget time, these citizens become tree advocates that can be invaluable allies in the process of lobbying elected officials for tree management resources. Volunteer-based urban forest inventory will result in improved tree care and an understanding of the need for professional assessment and maintenance of individual trees. This potential long-term benefit is extremely important and needs to be factored in when considering inventory.

Joseph Poracsky is Professor of Geography at Portland State University and has been a member of the OCT Board since 1991. He and his students have been involved in urban forest inventory since 1993.

OCT Board . . . what are they doing?

Dick Bocci, our display coordinator, is plotting a marketing strategy for the Council, to further infiltrate the general public and imbue them with a sense of awe about Urban Forestry.

Ric Catron, our Vice-Chair, aka Webmeister, coordinated our new electronic presence. He was also our coordinator for the Summer meeting/tour.

Steve Elder, our Newsletter coordinator, taps away merrily on his PC, producing articles and snippets for the OCT’s outreach newsletter.

Terry Flanagan, our President and Membership coordinator, is chairing the Board meetings and executive committee meetings, keeping tabs on the Board to ensure they are following through on their responsibilities, and inspiring everyone to become more involved.

Jane Foreman is our Grants coordinator, with assistance from Kristin Ramstad and Rick Zenn.

Al Kitzman and Mike Riddle are putting together next year’s Summit, probably the most involved task of anybody’s.

Joe Lymp is spearheading the legislative effort.

Jay Neil is spearheading the annual Awards committee.

Julie Porter, our Administrative Assistant is coordinating all Board meetings, conference calls, Membership, and Newsletter production.

Al Tocchini, our Treasurer, is back from his pseudo-retirement to look after our books and make sure we don’t spend too much money on Web page design.

Our Education Coordinator position is open and simply longing for someone to take it on!



"STEWARDSHIP IN FORESTRY"

Urban and Community Forestry
Assistance Program
Oregon Department of Forestry
2600 State Street
Salem, Oregon 97310

PRSR STD
U.S. postage
PAID
Salem, OR
Permit No. 106



"STEWARDSHIP IN FORESTRY"



OREGON
COMMUNITY TREES

Oregon CommuniTree News is published by the Oregon Department of Forestry's Urban and Community Forestry Assistance Program. The program is possible through funding from the USDA Forest Service. *Citizen TreeActions!* is published by the Oregon Department of Forestry and Oregon Community Trees (Oregon Urban and Community Forest Council). *Citizen TreeActions!* is partially funded through a grant from the National Tree Trust Partnership Enhancement Program. Anyone may reprint, with appropriate credit to the Oregon Department of Forestry or the Oregon Urban and Community Forest Council, any article in *Oregon CommuniTree News* or *Citizen TreeActions!*, unless copyright © is otherwise noted.

You can view *Oregon CommuniTree News* and *Citizen TreeActions!* on the Oregon Department of Forestry web page: www.odf.state.or.us/fa/UF/uf.htm. If you wish to receive *Oregon CommuniTree News* and *Citizen TreeActions!* electronically or be removed from our mailing lists, please contact Diana Peden, Oregon Department of Forestry, at 503/945-7386, dpeden@odf.state.or.us.

Submission of articles, photographs, or other information is welcome. Submission deadlines are: February 1, May 1, August 1, and November 1. Address submissions to:

Oregon CommuniTree News
Katie Kause, Oregon Department of Forestry
3501 E. Third Street
Prineville, OR 97754
kkause@odf.state.or.us

Citizen TreeActions!
Steve Elder, Blue Heron Farm
7445 SW 102nd
Beaverton, OR 97008
treekiwi@email.msn.com

This issue was produced by Ron & Judy Bennett of CMG, Monmouth, OR. 503/838-2328.