



# OREGON *CommuniTree News*

Spring, 2001

Volume 11, Number 1

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### June 7, 2001

Healthy Roots Make Healthy Trees, held at the World Forestry Center in Portland. For more information on this education seminar, contact the PNW-ISA at 503/874-8263.

### June 15, 2001

Oregon Community Trees Board of Directors Meeting - Monmouth. For more information contact Katie Kause at 541/447-5658.

### September 5-8, 2001

National Urban Forest Conference, Washington, DC. For more information contact Kasey Russell at kaseyrussell@citynet.net or 304-345-7578.

### September 14, 2001

Oregon Community Trees Board of Directors Meeting - Eastern Oregon. For more information contact Katie Kause at 541/447-5658.

## WELCOME TO THE NEW OREGON COMMUNITREE NEWS

Beginning with this issue, *Oregon CommuniTree News* has evolved to be the official newsletter for Oregon Community Trees! Since its inception in 1991, *Oregon CommuniTree News* was the newsletter for the Oregon Department of Forestry's Urban and Community Forestry Assistance Program. The Program will continue to supply information to its audience through periodic Program news bulletins and by submitting articles and information to the council's newsletter.

With the council now known as Oregon Community Trees (the official name for the council remains Oregon Urban and Community Forest Council), it seemed appropriate to ODF program staff and the council's board of directors, to transfer the newsletter's title to the council. So now, the newsletter for Oregon Community Trees is Oregon CommuniTree News – see the parallel? We thought you would!

Oregon Community Trees is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the planting and care of our urban forests. We would welcome you to join our organization of community leaders, citizen activists and dedicated professionals. Membership dues are \$30 per calendar year. Benefits include a newsletter subscription, reduced cost for events, and the knowledge that you are supporting a worthy cause - urban forestry in Oregon. For more information on membership, contact President Ric Catron at 503/618-2747 or Secretary Katie Kause at 541/447-5658. ☼

## URBAN FORESTRY BILL SUBMITTED TO STATE LEGISLATURE

*Would Create Statewide Grant Program*

House Bill 3487 was introduced in the Oregon House of Representatives by Rep. Wayne Krieger (R-Gold Beach). The bill creates the Oregon Municipal Tree Restoration Program to be jointly administered by the Oregon Departments of Forestry and Transportation.

This bill was introduced at the request of Oregon Community Trees. Many city representatives and citizen activists testified in April at hearings before the House Agriculture and Forestry Committee. While the concept of the bill was well received, several representatives expressed reservations with the funding mechanism. The bill suggests that the new grant program for street trees be included in the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) local grant funding programs. These programs routinely provide \$60 million per biennium for a variety of transportation infrastructure projects. HB3487 takes \$800,000 of this \$60 million and dedicated it towards trees. In the end, the bill passed out of the committee by a vote of 6-3 and was sent to the House Ways and Means Committee for further hearings.

The Oregon Community Trees legislative committee will be working with a variety of individuals and other organizations in an attempt to find alternative funding mechanisms. You can follow the path of HB3487 on the Oregon Legislature website ([www.leg.state.or.us](http://www.leg.state.or.us)). If you have additional questions, contact Paul Ries by email at [pries@teleport.com](mailto:pries@teleport.com) or by phone at 503/585-9429. ☼

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## Living the Arbor Legacy

In my youth I spent part of my summers in Nebraska City, my mother's hometown. Everyone in town is aware of the famous Catron Orchard, the last family-owned apple orchard left in town. The "Family Farm" is adjacent to Arbor Lodge State Historical Park and across the street from Arbor Day Farm, home to the National Arbor Day Foundation ([www.arborday.org](http://www.arborday.org)). Apples are important to the Nebraska City economy. Thousands of visitors flock to the Applejack Festival every September to celebrate the start of the apple season. Without these beautiful trees, the community would not have the character, scenic qualities or desirability that makes it such a special place to visit, live and work.

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*"Trees make a community. Tell us your stories, we want to hear them, and to inspire others"*

*New OCT President Ric Catron*

The fact is, trees are important to every community. It was a long time ago since that first Arbor Day was celebrated. Trees are more important now than ever. With a growing population, the environment is more in need of protection and enhancement than ever. There are an estimated 100 million + available tree-planting spaces around homes and busi-

nesses in U.S. cities and towns. Planting those trees could reduce atmospheric carbon dioxide emissions by an estimated 18 million tons per year. Trees help reduce suburban sprawl and slow traffic when properly preserved. Trees cool our communities so that summer energy costs are reduced. Trees control surface runoff, which damages our salmon, runs. And they are just darn pretty, with their seasonal attributes of flowers, fruit and winter texture.

As Morton before me, I advocate planting trees by individuals and organizations. I commend the efforts of Friends of Trees, a Portland-based tree advocacy group in Portland. They recently successfully completed their five-year 'Seed the Future' mission. Kudos to Gresham High School science teacher Stefan Aumack, who is having his students replant the banks of Johnson Creek with native species. And congratulations to the Hood River Chamber of Commerce for promoting the scenic qualities of the "Fruit Loop" drive through acres and acres of apple and pear orchards. Trees make a community. Tell us your stories, as we want to hear them, to share them and to inspire others.

Ric Catron  
Gresham Parks Planning

## Oak Named National Tree

*Compiled from wire reports*

On National Arbor Day, Friday April 27, the National Arbor Day Foundation (NADF) released the result of its nationwide vote to determine America's national tree. The oak tree should be designated a national arboreal symbol, according to a majority of the nearly half-million voters who participated in an online nationwide election.

The oak received more than 101,000 votes out of 445,000 cast. The redwood came in second with 80,000 votes, followed by the dogwood and maple with about 45,000 votes each and the pine with 24,000. Oregon's state tree, the Douglas fir, drew a mere 6,400 votes.

The outcome of the vote has no official status since only the US Congress can make a such an official designation as national tree, but NADF officials are hoping legislation will be introduced to that effect.

"The oak is a fine choice to represent all of America's trees and to exemplify the importance of trees in our lives," said NADF president John Rosenow, who cited the oak's diverse range with more than 60 species growing in the United States. "This magnificent tree is significant in sheer numbers alone," he said, "with oak trees being America's most widespread hardwoods. From the earliest settlement of our country, oaks have been prized for their shade, beauty and lumber." More information about the national tree vote can be found on the NADF web site at [www.arborday.org](http://www.arborday.org).

### Oregon Arbor Day Poster Contest Winner Named

*By Jennifer Kent, World Forestry Center*

Congratulations to Kris Webb, A fifth grader, from Liberty Elementary School in Tillamook! He is the Oregon winner of the 2001 National Arbor Day Foundation poster contest. Kris' poster colorfully expressed this year's theme, "Trees are Terrific . . . and Forests are Too!"

As the Oregon winner, Kris, received a free one year family membership to the World Forestry Center, and hard bound book, While a Tree was Growing by Jane Bosveld, a FANDEX Field Guide to North American Trees, a plush Beaver, and a color copy of his poster. Kris' teacher, Mrs. Wirick, received a \$100.00 gift certificate to Office Depot for classroom materials. His poster was sent to Lincoln, Nebraska to compete in the national poster contest.

Lindsey Davidge of Holy Cross Area School in Portland was the second place winner in the Oregon contest. Theodore Lindsey a homeschool student of Beavercreek earned third place.

An activity guide containing contest guidelines for next year will be available later this year. Contact Charlotte Henry, World Forestry Center at (503) 228-1367 x 100 or email [chenry@worldforestry.org](mailto:chenry@worldforestry.org)

# ARBOR DAY 2001

## ARBOR DAY THEN AND NOW

By Ric Catron,  
OCT Council President  
City of Gresham Park Planner

In 1854, J. Sterling Morton moved into the Nebraska Territory. Nature-loving Morton was a journalist and editor of Nebraska's first newspaper, the Nebraska City News-Press. Provided that forum, he spread agricultural information and his enthusiasm for trees to early Nebraska pioneers. Trees were needed on the harsh Nebraska prairie. They furnished shade from the hot sun, served as windbreaks to keep soil in place, and were used for food, fuel and building materials. Trees also secondarily provided sweet-smelling blossoms and colorful autumn foliage. However, attractive qualities weren't the primary reasons for planting trees. Trees were planted for survival and to protect and enhance the environment.

Morton not only advocated tree planting by individuals in this articles and editorials, but he also encouraged civic groups and other organizations to become involved in their communities. As his prominence increased, he became Secretary of the Nebraska Territory, which provided him another opportunity to stress the value of trees.

On April 10, 1872, (129 years ago!), the first "Arbor Day", a tree-planting holiday was held, as proposed by Morton to the State Board of Agriculture. Prizes were offered to counties and individuals for planting the largest number of trees on that day. It has been estimated that more than one million trees were planted in Nebraska on the first Arbor Day.

Arbor Day was officially proclaimed in 1874. By 1885, Arbor Day was named a legal holiday in Nebraska and April 22, Morton's birthday, was selected as the date for its permanent observance. During the 1870s, other states passed legislation to observe Arbor Day, and the tradition began in schools nationwide in 1882. Today the most common date for state observances is the last Friday in April. A number of state Arbor Days are held at other times of the year based on the local climate and growing conditions

for trees. These range from November in Hawaii to January and February in the southern states to May in Alaska.

Trees are part of the Oregon landscape. Oregon formerly celebrated Arbor Day on the last Friday in April. Trees are so important to Oregon, that in 1983 the state legislature designated the first full week of April as Arbor Week. From the Oregon Coast to the mountains, along our streets, parks and schools, to our backyards, trees are everywhere. Trees provide aesthetics, but also play a major role in the state economy by providing fruit and nuts, paper and wood products, nursery and floral stock as well as Christmas trees. Trees also serve as green infrastructure, in filtering out both subsurface and airborne pollutants, reducing storm water runoff and providing habitat for wildlife.

On behalf of OCT, we hope you had a Happy Arbor Week, 2001! ❀

## OREGON GOVERNOR KICKS OFF ARBOR WEEK

Oregon Governor John Kitzhaber kicked off Arbor Week 2001 on April 2nd by planting a tree as part of Oregon Community Trees' Governor's Grove Project. The project was coordinated by Kristin Ramstad, and involved the planting of a Cornelian Cherry Dogwood near the Oregon Department of Forestry office complex in Salem. The Governor and OCT President Rick Catron were joined by school children from nearby elementary schools, citizen activists from the Southeast Salem Neighborhood Association, Oregon Community Trees members, and employees from the Department of Forestry. The school children wrote good will wishes that were placed in the tree planting hole, and radio and television stations showed up to cover the event. All in all, it was another successful Governor's Grove planting. ❀



**Governor Kitzhaber (Center) greets local school children prior to the Arbor Week 2001 Governor's Grove Tree Planting sponsored by Oregon Community Trees.**

# Enhancing Livability Through Urban and Community Forests

## Keynote Address from the 2001 Oregon Community Trees Summit, March 9, 2001

By Dr. Hal Salwasser

People love forests. We love to walk in them; we love to use their vital natural resources; we love to find solitude in them; we love to argue about them; and we love to live in them! In fact, when we decide to live in places that do not have trees, we promptly plant trees to create as much forest as we can around our homes, along our streets, along our river courses, and in our parks. Then we struggle to keep them alive, fight off the bug attacks, keep the roots out of the sewers and from cracking the side walks, keep them from burning up, and keep them from falling over on people, cars and houses during storms. But not until recent times have we thought of trees in urban areas as forests – nor of urban areas themselves as ecosystems -- and not until recent times have we considered the full array of contributions these urban forest ecosystems make to our well being, the quality of our lives and the overall sustainability of our state, nation and planet.

We have known for a long time that trees in urban areas make the settings more pleasant to look at, more valuable when we go to buy and sell properties, and that they create some management needs. But we didn't know that those trees play vital ecological roles in providing habitats for native species -- some not-so-native ones as well; in reducing energy demands in both summer and winter; in keeping at least some of the urban land porous to water percolation; in taking up enough carbon to generate an equivalent amount of oxygen that the residents of cities such as Sacramento breathe and to hold at least some of the carbon produced by our lifestyles; in reducing the volatilization of chemicals from parked automobiles on a hot summer day; in filtering pollutants created by our urban activities; and maybe most importantly, giving the millions of people who live in cities their most tangible connection with nature and the many values of forests.

It is time to recognize that the urban and community forests of Oregon and the nation are just as vital to the sustainability of our environments, communities and economies as are all our other forests, from tree farms to multi-use forests to agro-forests to parks and forest reserves. It is time to recognize that urban and community forestry is a vital and needed specialty in the whole spectrum of forestry. So, I am here to talk about how we can bring these recognitions into realities.

### *First a Little Philosophy*

Conservation leader Aldo Leopold had many great ideas but among them the one I like best is his perspective on people and

land. He wrote in his journal, "There are two things that interest me; the relationships between people and land, and the relationships between people and other people." Well, what else is left? The key concept here is relationships; linkages between objects, in this case between organic objects. Leopold later went on to propose a land ethic concerning the relationship between people and land; a relationship of respect, reverence, interdependence, and stewardship with the goal of maintaining healthy land and healthy people. Leopold's land ethic placed people squarely within the ecosystems that provide the resources for our lives just as our cultural ethics place us in the communities that create the context for our lives. Leopold argued that a land ethic is needed to counter some natural tendencies of humans to exploit and dominate land for immediate benefit.

Ethics evolve to help people counteract some of the undesired effects of our natural biological drives. These biological drives cannot be eliminated or completely neutralized or we would cease to survive; other species would out-compete us for the space and resources we possess. But since we don't care for all the ramifications of these natural drives, we have ethics to temper them.

At this point, you might be thinking, what does this land ethic and cultural ethic stuff have to do with urban and community forestry? I think it has a lot to do with it. Consider these two questions. Where do most of the people now live in the U.S. and the West? More than 80% now live in cities and urban areas. Where do most of these people interact with other people outside their immediate families? Same place, of course. And where do all these people have any kind of daily connection with land or nature (or some semblance of nature)? You got it, the connection is made in those same cities and urban residential areas. So, if we are going to foster a land ethic in our people and at the same time strengthen our culture's ethics about how people relate to one another, what better place to focus than in our cities and communities?

The potential for urban and community forestry to yield environmental as well as social, cultural, and economic benefits has not even been envisioned yet by most people, let alone tapped in a substantial way. If people who live in cities gain a new or renewed respect, understanding, and sense of caring for the land that nourishes their bodies and spirits, and a similar respect for working together with one another, then perhaps they will extend this ethic to other

places and other kinds of human interactions. Now, wouldn't that be something! The environmental, economic and aesthetic benefits of such a transformation would not be trivial. The magic of urban and community forestry is in how people connect with one another for land stewardship in their very own neighborhoods and communities. This is a message I have continually heard about urban forestry from the Best of the West Summit in San Francisco several years ago to all the personal visits I have enjoyed with people practicing urban forestry in towns and cities throughout the country.

### *Vital Roles for Research and Extended Education in Urban and Community Forestry*

Let me focus for a bit on roles that research and extension can play in realizing this magic. Resources for urban forest planning and management are precious few. One important way that research and extended education can contribute to healthier community forests is by producing knowledge and transferring technologies that will lead to more informed decision-making and cost effective management of urban forests. Science is critical -- necessary but not by itself sufficient -- for more progressive policies and better management of community forests throughout the nation. In collaboration with practitioners, policy-makers, and other stakeholders, researchers and extension faculty can help find innovative solutions to pressing problems in our communities.



*Dr. Hal Salwasser was named Dean of the Oregon State University College of Forestry and Director of OSU's Forest Research Laboratory in July, 2000 after a distinguished career with the U.S. Forest Service.*

One reason that resources for urban and community forestry are lacking is that policy makers and potential investors are not aware of the benefits that urban forests provide. Maybe that is because urban residents themselves are not aware of these benefits. Science-based information and education can increase public awareness and support for investments in urban and community forestry. For example, because trees can increase human well being, improve air quality, and reduce energy demands and atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>, you would think that health care foundations, air quality districts, and electric utilities all stand to benefit from investments in urban and community forestry. Attracting new partners like these will rely in part on sound science that quantifies benefits and costs associated with tree planting and stewardship programs and in part on effective education and communication.

### ***Future Trends That Will Influence Urban and Community Forestry Research and Education***

A number of social and demographic trends are influencing communities in the West and these trends will influence research and outreach. The most profound trend is rapid population growth. Communities in most of our Western states are among the fastest growing populations in the U.S. With rapid urbanization comes concern about preserving and enhancing quality of life. In metropolitan areas this concern is expressed in policies aimed at building community capacity, strengthening social capital, protecting water quality, insuring ample water supplies, reducing energy consumption, improving air quality, and enhancing and sustaining overall livability. Where urban zones grade into wild lands – the so-called urban-wild land interface -- issues such as fuels management and riparian habitat protection reflect the desire to maintain rural atmosphere and environmental quality while accommodating economic growth.

A second trend influencing urban and community forestry research and education is the increasingly diverse ethnic and cultural composition of our communities. Trees mean different things to different people. Some attitudes and perceptions about urban and community forests and forestry are probably not shared by all sectors of our communities. To be successful, research and outreach will need to address the variety of specific cultures within our communities.

The West is notorious for our frontier mentality, pioneer spirit and respect for individual freedoms. One reflection of these characteristics is the increasing interest in local control over land use and economic decision-making. With few exceptions, state and regional planning are less preferred than local planning. Of course, in some places planning

itself is not viewed favorably but that tends to be places other than Oregon. This suggests that research and extended education will be most effective when applied at the local level. Only after examples of local success are widely recognized will opportunities for regional scale applications become possible. Researchers will need to work with local professionals to solve pressing problems in ways that can be applied to other communities.

To maximize the public's return on investment given limited research funding, we need to plan research and education to integrate all aspects of what I will call the "knowledge cycle." The knowledge cycle has several stages: questions or hypotheses based on existing knowledge and theories, basic research, applied research, product development, training, outreach, monitoring to see what we've learned, then starting at the front with new questions or hypotheses. Often we only do one or a few of these stages and hence, do not capture the full value of the knowledge cycle. We can "close the loop" by linking each stage in the cycle. For example, basic plant physiology research on environmental control of stomata could be linked with field measurements of transpiration and tree water use. The knowledge gained from such basic research could then be applied to develop information on irrigation requirements for trees in different settings, then irrigation strategies to keep those trees healthy followed by monitoring to learn if the strategies work or need to be adjusted, a process we call adaptive management. Brochures/videos/workshops/computer software could be developed to transfer this knowledge to different user groups. We must make the most of limited dollars for research and education by developing the capability to not only conduct research but to develop and deliver products that make a difference to our customers.

In the future, research and extended education will have to become more collaborative; that's the trendy term for what we used to call teamwork. The problems and challenges posed for urban ecosystem science are complex and multi-dimensional; they involve biological, physical, social, political, and economic sciences coupled with humanities, arts and plain old practical common sense. Solutions to complex, multi-dimensional problems require interdisciplinary approaches that blend an assortment of expertise and perspective. Universities, consultants, businesses, various agencies of governance and non-profits will play increasingly important roles in defining the urban and community forestry research and outreach agenda and in carrying out the needed work. Interdisciplinary or cross-cultural "steering committees" will facilitate and guide specific research and

outreach projects and the development of products. Oregon's watershed councils are good examples of this. Researchers must strive to address the needs of an increasingly diverse clientele, not just the demands of peers in the science community though that is important for obtaining credibility on the research results.

To sustain support from customers and funding sources, research and outreach must remain relevant to real problems and programs. Moreover, programs that are framed broadly are likely to engender the widest base of support. For example, a program with a vision such as "growing livable communities through urban forestry" could connect urban forestry with the broader notion of community sustainability. Or, how about "making Oregon's urban rivers salmon friendly?" If we were to take on such programs, here are three specific issues that could guide research and outreach in Oregon and the West: (this is not meant to be exhaustive of relevant issues)

- **Urban forest health.** This can be framed as the capacity of urban ecosystems to sustain desired conditions of species composition and structure and ecological processes under urban stresses. We would need to

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*"To sustain support from customers and funding sources, research and outreach must remain relevant to real problems and programs."*

develop or adopt indicators that would inform us on those conditions and processes that are meaningful to desired outcomes, outcomes that might include salmon-friendly, fishable, swimmable waters. We could then use those indicators to (1) better understand the current health of our urban and community forests, (2) develop programs to monitor conditions and trends and determine responses to stresses, and (3) mobilize resources to enhance desired conditions of urban forest health.

- **Urbanization and the urban-wildland interface.** Forces of change at the urban-wild land interface are multi-dimensional. They include environmental, cultural and technological change, as well as a nearly complete spectrum of human uses of land. To retain some of the wild land values of urbanizing landscapes and reduce some inherent risks from wild lands to urban properties and life we need to better understand how to manage urban and interface forest landscapes to retain as much ecological diversity as possible while reducing threats generated by conditions in both the urban and wild land zones to one another,

*Continued on Page 6*

e.g., threats posed by forest fuels to homes and threats posed by domestic pets and exotic landscape plants to biodiversity.

• **Livable cities, sustainable landscapes.**

Polluted run-off threatens drinking supplies, fisheries, aquatic biodiversity, lakes, and beaches. Here in Oregon the worst water quality occurs in urban areas. That is not just a problem for those cities though. As the rivers leave the cities they flow back into wilder landscapes, carrying their pollutants and degraded ecological conditions with them. If projections hold true, some large western cities could run out of drinking water in 20 years. That probably won't happen because powerful communities impose their needs on less powerful ones – just consider the U.S. *vis a vis* the rest of the world, California *vis a vis* the rest of the west, or Portland metro *vis a vis* the rest of Oregon as illustrations. The point is that people in many places suffer the effects of poor environmental stewardship in our urban areas. Some cities in the West have serious air quality problems and as health standards become more stringent an increasing number of communities will be addressing air quality issues. Urban forests can help. Unchecked sprawl transforms prime agricultural land into suburbs and don't we know about that one in Oregon. As local communities strive to maintain vital economies and build community capacity while improving environmental quality, research and extended education could play vital roles in helping us learn how urban forest ecosystems can be managed to enhance the livability and sustainability of both our cities and the wilder lands that provide most of the resources that sustain human well being in those cities. And that includes the education involving our urban forests that can help us make better choices in our lifestyles and rates of resource consumption.

**Future Directions in Technology Transfer and Applications**

We do not know much of what we need to know to get the most out of our urban forests. We need to develop cutting-edge urban forestry technologies and training programs from science-based information and to apply them to solve local problems and build community capacity. Traditional partners in technology transfer include State Foresters and their State Urban and Community Forest Councils, Forest Service State and Private Forestry, Cooperative Extension, and conservation non-profits. That is not enough. Stronger affiliations are needed with schools, colleges and universities, with state and local community planning agencies, with tribal agencies, with watershed councils, and with private sector businesses to broaden the application of urban and community forestry. In

larger communities, local non-profits will play an increasingly important role in technology transfer by extending knowledge and technologies to diverse user groups and potential investors. TreePeople in Los Angeles is a great example of this; Oregon Community Trees could become the TreePeople group for Oregon. Emerging developments in technology transfer could include:

- Implement demonstration projects that support sustainable urban forest ecosystems, build capacity of local communities, and develop applications that can be transferred to other communities in the state and the West.
- Develop conservation education projects to increase public awareness of the many benefits of healthy, sustainable community ecosystems. Efforts should be focused on at-risk youth, ethnic minorities, and other population sectors that have a large stake in the future health of urban communities.
- Deliver training sessions on the use of tree inventory/management software and GIS-based programs to evaluate community forest benefits and costs.
- Create regional Centers of Excellence and Advisory Committees to prioritize and coordinate projects in a focused and cost effective manner. Projects would be solicited from and accomplished by local partners and cooperators.

To accelerate the delivery of research results and extended education to Oregonians and others in the West, scientists will need to work more closely with partners such as State Foresters, municipalities, cooperative extension, grass root non-profits, universities, and others.

**Resources for Research & Development**

In addition to the millions of people who live in our cities and communities, the paramount resource we have to work with in urban forestry -- an asset of enormous political value -- is the 19 million acres of urban forests in this nation. This forest resides in the backyards of more than 200 million people. Why is such a small area of forest of such political importance? Because this is the forest most of the voters know and care about! Unfortunately, the importance of this resource is not reflected in the level of investment made to support its management. An anti-urban bias has existed historically in federal and state natural resource management agencies. It still does. This bias is rooted in our agrarian past and the political forces that developed to maintain allocations of research and resource stewardship funding. For example, less than 2% of the total Forest Service Re-

search budget is allocated to urban and community forest research. Furthermore, of the national total for urban and community forest research, only 15% is received in the West.

There are some signs that this trend may be changing. Recently the National Science Foundation established its first urban Long-Term Ecological Research Sites in Baltimore and Phoenix. Cooperative Extension and Agriculture Experiment Stations in states such as Nevada and Utah are showing increasing interest and support for urban forestry issues. The new journal *Urban Ecosystems* has an international audience for articles related to urban and community forestry. The Center for Urban Horticulture at the University of Washington, the Urban Forest Ecosystems Institute at California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo, and the Department of Environmental Horticulture at UC Davis provide University-based research expertise and technical assistance. The Western Center for Urban Forest Research and Education is the only Forest Service research unit west of Chicago with an emphasis on urban ecosystem science. Located in Davis, CA, this center is our hub for bringing the synergies we need in Oregon and the West on urban and community forestry. I hope that we can generate the interest and political and financial support to create a strong Oregon program to connect with that hub.

**Summary**

Urban and community forests are where most Americans experience forests, forestry, and community-based land stewardship. The essence of urban and community forestry lies in the people-to-land and people-to-people connections that can transform the ways we live, the ways we treat land, and the ways we treat one another. Making these connections instills a land ethic, enriches our cultural ethics and generates a spirit of can-do cooperation. Spin-off benefits of these connections are the environmental, economic, and aesthetic benefits that urban and community forests produce. Research and extended education can help inform people, provide useful technologies, and quantify the social, environmental and economic costs and benefits of urban and community forest programs. But the total investment in urban forest research and education to date is a very small portion of total investment we as a society make in natural resources research and education. This will not change until people like you make your voices heard and your needs compelling. What is at stake is the livability of our communities and the sustainability of the remarkable landscapes that make Oregon such a wonderful place to live. If we join forces in this cause we will make a difference in the kind of future that our children and grandchildren will inherit. ☘

## Excerpts from Other 2001 OCT Summit Presentations

### Willamette/Lower Columbia River Ecosystem Analysis Project

Scott Plamondon, ODF, and Sarah Foster, WDNR, presented information on the Willamette/Lower Columbia River Ecosystem Analysis Project. This project is an American Forests' City Green regional ecosystem analysis that uses satellite images, aerial photography and Geographic Information System (GIS) technology to measure the changing structure of the landscape and analyze the scientific and engineering implications of the change. Neighborhood level computer models will be developed using CITYgreen software, American Forests' GIS application for calculating ecosystem benefits. The models will represent six typical neighborhood landscapes in each participating community and measure the effects of these landscapes on stormwater and air quality. The purpose of this project is to document the value of tree-covered landscapes to urban areas. Furthermore, it provides urban decision makers with the information and tools they need to measure the value of natural landscapes and incorporate more trees into future developments. This northwest project is a unique partnership between the USDA Forest Service, American Forests, Washington Department of Natural Resources, Oregon Department of Forestry and the eleven interested communities including Longview, Vancouver, Portland, Gresham, Beaverton, Tualatin, Wilsonville, Salem, Albany, Corvallis, and Eugene. Similar City Green Regional Ecosystem Analysis projects have been conducted in Atlanta, Houston, Chicago, Washington D.C., Colorado Front Range and the Puget Sound.

The project is expected to be completed by July, 2001. The results will be presented, during the first week of September, at the next American Forest Urban Forestry Conference in Washington D.C., 2001 and at the Oregon Community Trees 2002 Summit in Wilsonville, Oregon.

### Community Solutions for Fuel Load Issues in the Urban Growth Boundary

Gary Marshall, Assistant Chief and Marshall of the Bend Fire Department gave a convincing presentation on the importance of the potential wildfire problem in the West. Due to fire suppression over the last 100 years, fuel loading is contributing to the impending fire disaster in Central Oregon. In cooperation with SAFECO, the Bend Fire Department developed and implemented a

comprehensive education program designed to help mitigate wildfire affects on dwellings. By adopting the FireFree program, the homeowner can implement 10 simple steps to help create a buffer to wildfire. The Bend program sponsors two FireFree programs during the year that encourages yard cleanup by low cost yard waste processing. The 1999 effort got 9,000 cubic yards of potential fuels safely recycled into compost. If your neighborhood could benefit from the FireFree program please call Gary (541.766.6018) for more information on brochures, videos and speaking opportunities.

### Green Neighborhoods – Planning & Designing for Air, Water, and Urban Forest Quality

With the listing of Northwest salmon, architects and planners discovered in 1998 that habitat and water quality issues had to be designed in to neighborhood plans. Planners are charged with the co-existence of urbanism and environmental quality. Ron Kellett, Assistant Professor of Architecture at the University of Oregon gave an informative presentation on how these large requirements can be fulfilled. Ron gave real life examples of how, with up front planning, developments can enhance the natural setting and lessen the impact of urbanism. Ron charged the audience with looking for opportunities during the planning stages. By capitalizing on opportunities, planners can meet the tough standards of today and enhance livability.

### INFLUENCE OF LAND MANAGEMENT ON PATTERNS OF DIVERSITY IN THE WILLAMETTE RIVER

Professor Stan Gregory, OSU Department of Fisheries & Wildlife discussed the significant changes that have occurred in the Willamette River Valley since development of the 1850s. It has been and continues to be a matrix of oak savannahs, meadows, forests and wetlands. It is also the most populated part of Oregon, with significant agricultural and urban development. At one time measuring 3.9 million acres, natural areas have been reduced to 2.2 million acres. Although future development is uncertain, percentages of the above attributes should not change much as the major damage has already been done.

Development percentages are not expected to change much in the next 30 years.

A study was performed along a transit of the river reaching from Harrisburg to Albany. Certain areas had lost up to 60% of native vegetation. Rivers need to flood. Without this ability Cottonwoods cannot rejuvenate. Throughout the Willamette River system, 80 miles of dry streams are the result of current agricultural and urban practices.

Projections double that amount to 160 miles. River channel capacity has been reduced by 80% north of Albany. Conservation measures can be applied which will increase riparian buffers and allow for natural river flows. In some areas it is estimated that restoration can achieve 30 -40% levels. Native fish species have been seriously affected since riparian cover has been eliminated. At the same time the increase of exotic fish species continues to impact native fishes.

### AN ESA UPDATE ON SALMON RECOVERY IN OREGON

Louise Solliday, Natural Resources Advisor Governor's Office discussed plans for the final two years of the Kitzhaber administration. The Oregon Plan started in 1995/96. Oregon decided to be pro-active prior to National policies being implemented. Starting with Coho, followed by Steelhead, Oregon went from individual listings to comprehensive watershed health. The "4d Rule" allows for a wide range of "take" or kill exceptions. The ruling has been challenged in Washington State for two of the exceptions. Steelhead in the Klamath River, south of Cape Blanco are to be determined to be listed. The National Marine Services is currently under a March 31, 2001 court deadline to make that determination. Regardless of future administrations, SB 433 will allow for implementation of the Plan. Salmon recovery is complicated on different levels, no less than 14 different public environmental agencies having jurisdiction. HB 3487 - Municipal Tree Restoration Program, will dedicate \$0.25 per vehicle registration to be used for urban forestry programs. Such programs would contribute to improved salmon health. Ms Solliday stated that urban areas cannot be overlooked for salmon protection, as spawning does occur in Portland watersheds such as Tyron and Johnson Creeks.

*Continued on Page 8*



## Phytoremediation (phyto = plant, remediation = remedy or improvement)

Phytoremediation is a symbiotic relationship between plant roots, fungi and bacteria that naturally captures toxins and pollution from soil, water and air. This process can remove, metabolize, neutralize, sequester, filter, or store pollutants.

There are five biological processes that work in phytoremediation:

- 1a) Phytoextraction – ability of plant roots to pull pollutants out of the soil and into the upper parts of the plant or roots for storage. An example of this is Indian Mustard (*Brassica juncea*), which has the ability to sequester and store lead (Pb).
- 1b) Rhizofiltration – ability to filter dissolved contaminants. Sunflowers (*Helianthus annuus*) will filter Uranium (U).
- 2) Phytostabilization – immobilization of contaminants by absorbing and binding them in the cell walls of roots [www.dsa.unipr.it/phytonet](http://www.dsa.unipr.it/phytonet). Popular (*Populus spp.*) immobilizes lead, arsenic, Copper, Uranium, and Selenium.
- 3a) Phytodegradation – ability to breakdown the molecular structure of pollutants into neutral, safe forms. Duckweed (*Lemna spp.*), (*Spirodela spp.*), (*Wolffia spp.*), (*Wolffiella spp.*) and Parrot feather (*Myriophyllum aquaticum*) can metabolize TNT.
- 3b) Rhizodegradation – this process requires many different plant forms, such as yeast, fungi, and bacteria to breakdown pollutants. Mulberry (*Morus alba*) has the ability to degrade refinery sludge.
- 4) Phytovolatilization – ability to transpire contaminants through the plant leaves into the atmosphere.
- 5) Hydraulic Pump – ability of plants with high water uptake to act as a dam to pollutants traveling through the soil.

While plant materials from plants used to filter Uranium must be disposed of in landfills, safe plant material can be used as a commodity such as pulp, lumber, or biofuel.

Some drawbacks to phytoremediation include:

- 1) The process is slow and works best on shallow sites with low to moderate levels of contamination
- 2) Mechanical clean-up methods may still be required. In addition, measures to prevent erosion or confine leachates may be needed.

- 3) Chemical spills may need added chemicals to dissolve solids for uptake
- 4) Plants that store heavy metals in their stems and leaves can poison wildlife, and the metals can work their way up the food chain.

### Example of application

The Metropolitan Wastewater Management Commission (MWMC) developed a successful 'Value-added' sewage treatment facility. Five hundred and ten acres were used to provide the needed land area capacity to siphon sewage into the area, and allow enough time for harvest rotation of the stands. An additional eighty-eight acres were dedicated to wetlands, access roads, and perimeter buffers.

Stands were populated with hybrid poplar male clones to prevent seed and cotton production. Landscaping was designed with phytoremediation in mind as well, utilizing poplar, aspen, and willow. This also provided rapid tree cover while establishing the long-term landscape design with longer-lived hardwoods and conifers.

This trial study was successful for a number of reasons:

- 1) Due to limited access to wood supplies, many mills are searching for wood substitutes. Hybrid poplar provides an aesthetic, non-structural wood product
- 2) Corporations are investing in plantations and mills to use Hybrid poplar for veneer and lumber
- 3) Market 'scale' is increasing for long-term sales of Hybrid poplar

Additional sources of information on phytoremediation:

Phytoremediation of Organics Action Team (EPA) [www.rtdf.org](http://www.rtdf.org)

PHYTONET – Phytoremediation Electronic Newsgroup Network  
[www.dsa.unipr.it/phytonet](http://www.dsa.unipr.it/phytonet)

Ground-water Remediation Technologies Analysis Center [www.gwrtac.org](http://www.gwrtac.org)

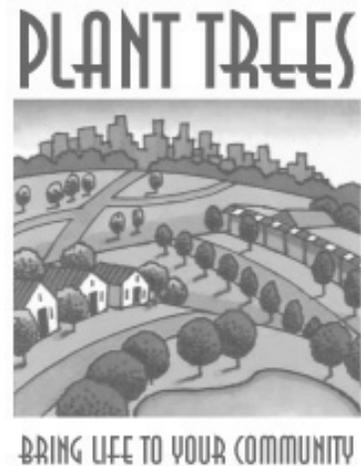
## Partnerships for Open Space Development

Bill Dygert, of Vancouver based consulting firm Dygert and Simpson, gave an excellent presentation on funding methodology, partnerships and planning regarding open space development and maintenance. Using the highly successful East Fork Lewis River Greenway Project as an example, he showed how the use of "Building Block"

acquisitions, multiple grants, partnerships and matching funds can provide the basis for ongoing expansion of projects. The East Fork Project sponsorship consisted of 38% coming from county agencies, 31.3% from NPO's, 18% from conservation districts, 10% from city governments, and 3% from state agencies. In all, 62 different projects generated 8.5 million dollars in funding. Also emphasized was the need for long term media partnering to keep the projects in the forefront of the public eye. Mr. Dygert and his firm can be reached at [bdygert1@home.com](mailto:bdygert1@home.com), or by phone at: (360) 696-1388. ☼

## WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE PART OF A NATIONAL URBAN FORESTRY CAMPAIGN? By Ann Bates, NUCFAC

The National Urban & Community Forestry Advisory Council (NUCFAC) had created a national ad campaign "Plant Trees-Bring Life Back To Your Community". Print ads will appear in The New York Times Newspaper and Time Magazine. It will be heard on National Public Radio, All Things Considered radio program, Morning Edition radio program and Car Talk radio program. You can "tag on" to this national campaign by using the logo on your local advertising with YOUR company or agency message. The idea is to get people to recognize and appreciate the value of urban and community forests.



Check out [www.communitytrees.org](http://www.communitytrees.org) for more information. ☼

## 2000 Urban and Community Forestry Awards

### CIVIC ORGANIZATION PROJECT

*Save Our Elms, Portland.* Since 1995, this group of volunteers from the Ladd's Addition neighborhood in southeast Portland has worked to preserve a grove of 250 American elm trees that are providing a living canopy over their streets. The group has raised money to fund an inoculation program to protect the trees from Dutch Elm Disease. In addition, they have performed an inventory of the trees in their neighborhood and planted over 150 Homestead elm trees. So far, Save Our Elms has been successful in preventing any further losses of the stately elm trees that grace this historic neighborhood.

### STUDENT/SCHOOL PROJECT

*Philomath High School, Philomath.* During the past year, students at Philomath High School accepted a request from their city and the local Rotary Club to help with a street beautification project. The students inventoried the existing trees, worked with the city and ODOT to recommend tree species that could be used, raised funds and donations for the work, and ultimately got nearly 100 trees planted along Main Street in Philomath. The project was so successful that plans are now in the works for two more years of planting trees along main thoroughfares in town.

### GOVERNMENT PROJECT

*Karen Streeter and Clackamas County Water Environment Services, Clackamas.* On February 12<sup>th</sup> of last year, 150 volunteers showed up at Mt. Scott Creek in Clackamas County to help plant over 3,000 trees and shrubs. The effort was one of several projects organized by Karen Streeter and the Clackamas County Water Environment Services Department to help restore endangered fish-bearing streams and draw the public's attention to the issue of riparian area preservation and conservation. Karen has been successful in forging alliances with other concerned entities in the area that are focused on enhancing greenspaces throughout Clackamas County.

### PARTNERSHIP PROJECT

*Friends of Trees and Portland General Electric for the Seed the Future Tree Planting Campaign, Portland.* For the last five years, these two organizations have worked together to educate the public on the challenges faced in the urban forest by sponsoring tree planting projects throughout Portland. To date, Friends of Trees and their Presenting Sponsor, Portland General Electric, have organized more than 14,000 volunteers who in turn have planted over 44,000 new trees to Portland's urban forest as of Earth Day of this year.✽

## OREGON COMMUNITY TREES ISSUES FIRST EVER LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Oregon Community Trees has created the a new award category, the Lifetime Achievement Award, to honor an individual who has made significant contributions to improving the quality of life in Oregon communities through the planting and care of trees.

The first-ever Lifetime Achievement Award goes to Ed Harris, one of the founders of the City of Madras Urban Forestry Commission and a past president of OCT. As the parks supervisor and later public works director for the city of Madras, and as a private citizen, Ed has worked tirelessly to promote urban forestry throughout the entire state.



Ed Harris



Oregon Community Trees President Terry Flanagan (Far right) congratulates some of the winners of the 2000 Oregon Community Forestry Awards



Oregon Community Trees Vice President Mike Riddle (Far left) presents the OCT Lifetime Achievement Award to Ed Harris (right) at a ceremony in Madras.

## URBAN FORESTRY AROUND THE STATE

### SAMPLE OF GREEN INFRA- STRUCTURE CASE STUDIES IN- CLUDED ON THE NEW GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE WEBSITE

City of West Eugene--Local Wetlands Plan, OR ([www.riceinfo.rice.edu/wetlands/](http://www.riceinfo.rice.edu/wetlands/)). After discovering that nearly 1,500 acres of a proposed industrial park were planned on wetlands, the city of Eugene, Oregon had to make a choice - either construct the site on the wetlands, while replacing the resources elsewhere (very expensive), or come up with an alternative idea. In 1988, the city hired Steve Gordon, a land-use planner, to compose a team of experts--engineers, planners, environmental and ecological consultants and financial advisors to work with the public and interest groups that ranged from property owners and industrial to environmental groups and concerned citizens. The West Eugene Wetlands Plan was formulated, a plan that protects 1,019 of 1,278 acres of wetland from development. Also, the concept of the mitigation bank was introduced - a fund which enables public agencies, rather than the industrial firm, to purchase and maintain the wetlands.

### FIRE-RESISTANT PLANTS PUBLICATION ISSUED

Oregon State University County Extension Agents Steve Fitzgerald (Forestry) and Amy Jo Waldo (Horticulture) recently completed the development of a 4-page document titled, "Fire-Resistant Plants for Oregon Home Landscapes."

The document can also be found on the Oregon State University Extension - Deschutes County web page: <http://extension.orst.edu/deschutes> Scroll down about halfway and on the left, click on "Fire-Resistant Plants Publication."

This publication features a list of groundcovers, perennials, shrubs, and trees that are appropriate for planting in the home landscape for the purposes of creating defensible space in the event of wildfire. ☼

## Cornus mas....A Spectacular Small Tree in the Right Spot

*By Steve Elder*

*Cornus mas*, or Cornelian Cherry Dogwood, was the most recent addition to the Governor's Grove Planting, and has several attributes that make it very desirable for use where traffic or pedestrian clearance is not an issue. It's specifications are outlined in the following table:

Zone:	5
Height:	20'
Spread:	22'
Shape:	Low branched, rounded
Foliage:	Dark green, glossy
Fall Color:	Variable, reddish
Flower:	Small yellow, in masses
Fruit:	Bright red, cherry-like, 1/2"

The natural habit of this plant is usually to be branched to the ground, which makes it use in lawn problematic. However, several nurseries now produce it in a tree-form, which is much easier to work around, however, it may sucker profusely.

It flowers very early in the spring, usually in March, and then follows up with very attractive, bright, glossy cherry-red fruit which is appreciated by local birdlife.

Another great feature is it's exfoliating or peeling bark, which exposes varying colors and adds winter interest.

*Cornus mas* is not particularly fussy regarding soil type as regards acidity, but does prefer fairly rich, well-drained sites. It will do well in sun to partial shade. ☼

## Urban Forestry Publications & Websites

*Submitted by Katie Kause*

"**The View from the Road: Public Perceptions of Freeway Roadsides and the Urban Forest**", a recent study, funded by NUCFAC and conducted by the University of Washington, evaluated what drivers prefer to see in the urban roadside. Transportation psychology studies indicate that views from the road influence stress response both while driving and walking. Yet most programs that address roadside visual and scenic resources focus on wildland or rural locations. Not surprisingly, the presence of trees is consistently associated with high visual quality. The results of the study offer evidence of public attitudes about trees, and suggest roadside management practices that can be used to meet both commercial and ecological goals. The results of the research are summarized in four fact sheets found on this web site: <http://www.cfr.washington.edu/research.envmind/>. For additional information, or hard copy versions of the fact sheets, contact the project director, Dr. Kathleen L. Wolf, by email at: [kwolf@u.washington.edu](mailto:kwolf@u.washington.edu)

**Streetscape Design Video Now Available** - The USDA Forest Service Northeast Center for Urban & Community Forestry, in cooperation with the University of Massachusetts Department of Natural Resources Conservation, has completed an 18-minute video, which addresses the use of trees along streetscapes in urbanized areas. Titled "From Sketch to Streetscape", the video, which will also be available in CD-ROM format, is intended to provide designers, landscape architects and planners an introduction to the physiologic, aesthetic and functional use of trees as an element of the urban streetscape. Contact Dr. David Bloniarz for more information by email at [dbloniarz@fs.fed.us](mailto:dbloniarz@fs.fed.us) ☼

**Putting a Hex on *Hedera helix***  
*Oregon State Weed Board puts English ivy on state's noxious weed list; quarantine could be in the future*  
By Cam Sivesind

The Oregon State Weed Board voted unanimously Feb. 16 to place English ivy, *Hedera helix*, on the state's noxious weed "B" list.

The listing does not prohibit the propagation, growing or sale of the fast-growing ground cover, but it does put growers — 20 OAN members list the product in the 2000-2001 *Directory & Buyers Guide* — on notice that the plant could possibly be quarantined in the future. The first step toward the quarantine of a plant is having it listed on the noxious weed list.

Don Richards, OAN member, nurseryman and owner of Applied Horticultural Consulting Inc. in Lake Oswego, sits on the State Weed Board. "The major reason why I'm for it being on the B list is certainly not to punish or cause consternation to my fellow nurserymen," Richards said during the board's deliberations that followed an hour and a half of public testimony. He explained that the listing provides an opportunity to get grant funding for research and for projects to control English ivy in areas where it is out of control. "If it's not on any of the lists, there's no way this board can provide any funding," he said.

Richards added that having *H. helix* is on the "B" list does not affect the nursery grower now. "However, an astute nurseryman will see this plant has a limited shelf life," he said.

OAN members who testified at the Oregon Department of Agriculture offices in Salem were Barbara Kuzma of KHE Groundcovers in Salem, Stan Schultz of Stan's Ground Colors LLC in Molalla, and Mark Krautmann of Heritage Seedlings Inc. in Salem.

Kuzma said English ivy represents about 15 percent of the business that she and her husband operate. Schultz said he sells about \$1,000 of the ground cover annually, a number that was \$15,000 yearly until the city of Portland banned the use of the plant about five years ago. Multnomah County has also banned use of the plant in public landscapes.

"Why I grow ivy is because there is a demand for ivy," Kuzma said. "If there was no demand, I wouldn't grow it. It's a

nice, quick-growing ground cover that can establish itself in two to three years." She added later, "If there were regulation against it, we'd just switch to growing a different product."

Krautmann, who said he is for the eventual quarantine of the "tenacious" plant, said he'd like to offer his fellow nurserymen a substitute plant to grow in place of English ivy. He said there must be a ground cover that is far more profitable than the low-cost ivy. And it is up to the nursery industry to educate the buying public about growing ivy responsibly.

The noxious weed listing is limited only to *H. helix* and excludes recognized horticultural cultivars of the plant, such as *H. helix* 'Needlepoint' or *H. helix* 'Ivalace.' A quarantine of English ivy would require an administrative rule approved by the ODA. Hearings would be held, and the process takes two to three months. The OAN will notify members of such hearings if and when they take place. A recommendation was made that no quarantine movement take place until after the current growing and sales season.

Sandra Diedrich is director of the Forest Park Ivy Removal Project for the Portland Parks & Recreation Department. Diedrich told the State Weed Board that careless dumping of yard debris containing *H. Helix* has led to the unnatural proliferation of the plant in Forest Park — a hiking and biking destination in Portland's West Hills — and native plants and animals are suffering.

"We know ivy has been a preferred plant in landscapes," Diedrich said. "It grows well, it doesn't require weeding and it doesn't require much water. But that is the problem. "In Forest Park, we've tried to hand weed it out — we started the project in 1994. We get overwhelmed with homeowner requests to help them with ivy removal. It's a relentless threat."

Because Ivy is shade tolerant, it grows steadily under tree canopies. Animals do not eat the bitter and tough plant that covers native species' food sources. What ivy is good for, Diedrich said, is proving habitat for rats and other vermin, leading to a vector-control problem. And nothing, chemical or biological, has been found effective against stopping the plant.

"We use ivy as our poster child for the invasive species issue, cognizant that other invasive species are out there," Diedrich said. "We are not interested in taking resources away from other ODA-funded weed-control programs. We want the public to be educated and become better stewards."

Kathy Murrin oversees the horticultural program for Portland Parks, the largest landowner in Oregon's largest city. "We spend in excess of \$100,000 a year dealing with English ivy, and that's just our department alone," she said, alluding to the fact that city, county and highway departments also dedicate resources to the plant's control. "Our contract for grounds maintenance has gone from \$800,000 to \$100,000," so controlling problems such as ivy is a concern.

Diedrich said nearly \$900,000 in volunteer hours has been spent on ivy removal in Forest Park. Volunteers cut away a section of ivy away from ankle-high to shoulder level from the tree bottoms. If a complete swath is cut around the tree, including a 6-foot circle of ground cover removal around the tree, the top part of the ivy will dehydrate and die. To date, volunteers have removed ivy from 13,000 trees in Forest Park.

"What I'm hearing is that ivy fits the classic definition of a weed, which is a 'plant out of place,'" Richards said.

Kuzma said homeowners and landscapers like the fast-growing plant because it is inexpensive and chokes out weeds. Growers like it because it is easy to propagate. "I appreciate the problem, but there are still some very good uses for ivy," she said.

Krautmann said he sympathizes with his fellow nurserymen who grow *H. helix*, but he said even trying to promote the idea of using the ivy responsibly "won't outlast the tenacity of this plant."

"The first plant I see when I got out of my truck here (at the ODA offices in Salem) is English ivy," he said. "I see it everywhere. It is so tenacious ... our inability to assure that it will stay where it's put is the issue. It's difficult to drive more than a couple of blocks and not see this plant." ❁

*Cam Sivesind is the editor of The Digger, where this article originally appeared. Reprinted by permission.*



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