



The leaves of Blackgum (*Nyssa sylvatica*), one of the finest trees for fall color.



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



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November 2011

CALENDAR OF COMMUNITY FORESTRY EVENTS

December 15, 2011

Deadline for submitting Tree City USA applications or recertification. Contact your Community Assistance Forester for additional details.

January 31, 2012

Deadline for submitting applications for the 2012 Community Tree Management Institute (CTMI). See article for additional details.

February 19-24, 2012

Municipal Forestry Institute, Nebraska City, NE. This intensive leadership training is useful for anyone wanting to take their urban forestry program to the next level. Application deadline is November 15, 2011 or when full. Details at: <http://www.urban-forestry.com/>.

April 1-7, 2012

Arbor Week in Oregon. It isn't too early to start planning your 2012 Arbor Day/Week events.

June 12, 2012

Annual Oregon Urban Forestry Conference, Portland. Save the date for this annual event, and look for more details in the January issue of this newsletter.

August 11-15, 2012

Trees: A Global Necessity - the 2012 International Society of Arboriculture Annual Conference, Portland

This event features educational sessions, a trade show, and the International Tree Climbing Championships. For additional information, visit <http://www.isa-arbor.com/events/conference/index.aspx>.

Urban Forestry Education Goes Online

The ranks of today's municipal urban foresters are populated with a diverse array of professionals with varied educational backgrounds. Most municipal urban foresters received college degrees in something other than urban forestry, such as horticulture, urban planning, parks and recreation, or forestry. Others are graduates of the "school of hard-knocks" who picked up continuing education opportunities throughout their careers. But regardless of their educational background, all municipal tree managers are witnessing a revolution in the way urban forestry education is being delivered. It used to be that people had to attend place-based conferences, seminars, and workshops to keep up with research, practices, and technological information. As time and technology have progressed, these place-based continuing education opportunities are being supplemented by, and sometimes supplanted by, online offerings. Every year, new educational opportunities are cropping up in an online form.

The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) has received a grant from the USDA Forest Service, through the Western Competitive Grant process, to create an online urban forestry technology transfer program. Working in concert with the state urban forestry programs from Alaska, Idaho and Washington, and the Pacific Northwest ISA, ODF will be helping create an online portal for arborists, urban foresters, and municipal tree managers to participate in a wide array of online educational offerings. These will include webinars, podcasts, short courses, and lifelong learning opportunities. Look for pilot-test offerings to begin in January, 2012, with a series of webinars as part of the Willamette Valley Green Industry Seminars go online. Additional offerings will follow throughout the year.

Online courses will not completely replace place-based ones; ODF and its partners will continue to offer conferences, seminars, and workshops. However the cost-saving benefits of online training will continue to make the Internet-based training opportunities more commonplace.

Register Now for the 2012 Community Tree Management Institute

The application deadline to join the class of the 2012 Community Tree Management Institute (CTMI) is fast approaching - January 31, 2012. CTMI is an innovative continuing educational curriculum consisting of educational sessions specifically tailored to the needs of municipal parks, planning, or public works employees who have tree related responsibilities in their city. Sponsored by the Oregon Department of Forestry and the Washington Department of Natural Resources, the course includes five sessions, with face-to-face meetings for the first and last sessions and three online sessions in between. Since 1994, over 120 people have completed this course. The 2012 CTMI is open to any municipal employee in Oregon, Washington, Alaska, and Idaho. CTMI is appropriate for anyone who coordinates community forestry issues, reviews tree plans, issues permits, or inspects trees in your city. Contact your Community Assistance Forester to obtain a CTMI 2012 application.



Community Tree Management Institute

COMMUNITY FORESTRY AROUND OREGON

ISA Certified Arborist Scholarships for City Employees

ODF has awarded scholarships to cities to help them advance the professional knowledge of their staff. Congratulations to Bryan Stewart from the **City of Newburg**, Mark Brindle from the **City of Central Point**, Jason Whitbeck from the **City of Irrigon**, and Jonathon Burchell from the **City of Madras**, who are currently working on their Certification. A limited number of scholarships are still available; contact your Community Assistance Forester for details.

Willamette Valley Green Industry Webinars to Debut in January 2012

Save the Dates! If you liked the recent lunchtime webinar on Canopy Assessment, and would like to see more webinars on urban forestry and horticulture, climate change, tree care and more, please mark your calendars for the Willamette Green Industry Webinar Series coming in January! They will be shown at Noon, for one hour, for the last FOUR Tuesdays in January. Details will follow to all the recipients of this newsletter as topics and CEU credits are clarified.

COMMUNITY TREE CONNECTIONS

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Resources You Can Use

Here are some urban forestry items of interest that can help you manage your community forest:

- **New Video Clip on the Benefits of City Trees** - Check out this brief video clip that you can use to help introduce people to the important benefits derived from managing city trees: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YT8dXEb1E8Y&feature=channel_video_title
- **Community Gardens Grant** – Fiskars will select 11 community recipients for Project Orange Thumb. The company provides tools, materials, and other support to help communities reach their goals for neighborhood beautification, community collaboration, and healthy, sustainable food sources. Ten communities will receive \$5,000 in cash and tools, and one applicant will receive a complete garden makeover. During a Project Orange Thumb garden makeover, Fiskars works with neighbors, business leaders, volunteers, and community partners to transform a barren lot into a beautiful, productive community gathering space - all in a single day. Applications will be accepted from any nonprofit organization within the U.S. Application Deadline: December 5, 2011. See <http://www2.fiskars.com/Activities/Project-Orange-Thumb> for details.

Oregon State to Offer Two Urban Forestry Courses

Oregon State University will offer two urban forestry courses online in Winter Quarter 2012. FOR/HORT 350 Urban Forestry is an introduction to the subject. FOR/HORT 455 Urban Forest Planning Policy and Management is an advanced class covering many aspects of urban forestry. These two online courses are a great way for people who work in the natural resources field to become more familiar with urban forestry without having to travel to OSU's campus in Corvallis to take a course. More information is available at the OSU Ecampus website: <http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu>.



Smart Growth Technical Assistance

The Livability Solutions coalition is accepting applications from communities interested in receiving free technical assistance on how to implement sustainable and smart growth development programs. This opportunity is made possible through a grant from U.S. EPA's Office of Sustainable Communities through their Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities Program. The overall goal of this effort is to help communities enhance livability, create lasting economic and environmental improvements, and to affect positive change in the public and social health of residents. The deadline for applications is November 22, 2011 at 5:00 pm PST. The application is short and simple, but must be completed on-line.

For more information on the technical assistance, providers, tools offered, visit the Livability Solutions website at: <http://livabilitysolutions.org/>

TREEBATE: An Idea For Your City?

Because trees contribute to healthy watersheds, clean rivers, and livable communities, the **City of Portland** offers the Treebate incentive to residents who plant trees in their yards. Trees planted in residential yards between September 1, 2011 and April 30, 2012 earn a one-time stormwater utility bill credit of half the purchase price up to a maximum of \$50, depending on the mature size of the tree. Large-canopy trees earn as much as a \$50 credit; medium and small trees earn up to \$25 and \$15 each.

Most trees are eligible for Treebate, provided they meet a few guidelines. For example, trees on the city's nuisance plants list, trees planted as a condition of development or mitigation, and trees otherwise subsidized by the city are ineligible for the credit. Eligible trees must be at least 1" caliper and 6' tall (4' if coniferous) at time of planting, and they must grow to at least 15' tall to receive the credit.

Learn more about the program at: www.portlandonline.com/bes/treebate or call program administrator Jennifer Karpis at 503-823-2263 or by email at jennifer.karpis@portlandoregon.gov.