

Tree E-News

From the Urban and Community Forestry Division of the
Colorado State Forest Service
October 2006

Urban and Community Forestry

Western Colorado Community Forestry Conference: The 16th annual Community Forestry Conference was recently hosted by the City of Montrose and the Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) at the Montrose Pavilion on September 22nd. The theme for this year's conference was Money Really Does Grow on Trees, and the speakers did a superb job of conveying that theme to the fifty-two Western Slope residents who attended the conference.

David Hoefer started the morning off by describing the hazard tree survey he completed for the City of Montrose. In his survey, all the large cottonwoods, Siberian elms and silver maples growing in the street right-of-way were examined for defect and rated using the CTC's defective tree rating forms. David produced a report identifying the trees needing the most attention. The city used that information to begin working with homeowners needing to take care of the problem trees.

Next, Cameron Garcia with the Mesa County Solid Waste Management program described the very successful composting program currently underway at the Mesa County landfill. The landfill accepts all organic yard waste and commercial tree trimmings for free. This organic material is then shredded to a smaller size and composted. The composted end product is made available for a small cost to homeowners or commercial ventures for soil improvement purposes.

Mike Legg, a registered property appraiser, wrapped up the morning session by walking the audience through a typical residential property appraisal. Although he personally appreciates the value of trees in a landscape, the lending market unfortunately does not. So good landscaping may not be as valuable as once thought in the eyes of those who love trees.

Ingrid Aguayo, CSFS entomologist, spoke on the Mountain pine beetle, which currently is the costliest insect pest affecting Colorado's forests. She also brought the audience up to date on two imported insect pests currently doing catastrophic damage to urban and native stands of trees in the Midwestern states. The Asian longhorned beetle can kill maple, horsechestnut, poplar, willow, elm and black locust trees by boring into branches or the trunk. The second tree killer is the Emerald ash borer, which fortunately only attacks ash trees.

Following Ingrid was Sara Darling, a local landscape architect. Sara showed several examples of before and after urban landscaping jobs where trees were used to improve the value of the property. She also introduced the audience to new and seldom used trees for Western Colorado landscapes.

Colorado Tree Coalition (CTC)

Trees Across Colorado: For the fifth year in a row the CTC is partnering with Gertie Grant of Trees Across Colorado to offer low cost deciduous trees to communities. The goal of this program is to get volunteers motivated to improve their community by planting trees. Gertie has extensive experience with volunteer tree planting efforts. She has cultivated strong working relationships with nurseries to produce an extensive list of ornamental and shade trees that will grow in our Colorado soils. The trees must be ordered by December 15, 2006. To learn more about this excellent tree planting program, call Gertie Grant at 303-744-3882 or e-mail her at gertiegrant@estreet.com.

CTC Board of Directors to Meet on November 4th: The last meeting of the CTC board for 2006 will be held in Lamar on the first Saturday in November. At the printing of this newsletter, the exact meeting location had not been determined. Contact Ralph Campbell at 303-438-9338 or Vince Urbina at 970-248-7326 for the meeting time and location.