



California Shade

Fall, 2004

*A Newsletter From The California Department of Forestry
and Fire Protection Urban Forestry Program*

Sometimes Bigger Really Is Better

When planning an urban forest landscape, one of the key considerations is what kind of trees to plant. On size-restricted sites small-stature trees may be the best choice, however where space does allow for larger trees, their benefits can far outweigh the initial cost of planting. Dollar for dollar, large-stature trees deliver bigger long-term savings. Compared to smaller trees they do more to conserve energy, reduce storm-water runoff, extend the life of surface streets, improve local air, soil and water quality, reduce atmospheric carbon dioxide, provide wildlife habitat, and increase property values.

The value of tree benefits varies widely, although in most areas of the country, communities can care for their large trees for as little as \$13 per year, per tree. And, each tree can return an average of \$65 in energy savings and other benefits annually. A large ash tree in southern California can yield as much as \$160 per year in savings and benefits. Even at maturity, small-stature trees do not come close to providing the same payback. The USDA Center for Urban Forest Research has found that on average mature large trees deliver an annual net benefit two to six times greater than mature small trees.

The loss of our magnificent Elm trees to Dutch Elm disease has reminded many of us just how much we valued their lovely arching canopies that shaded our streets and lawns. Replacing them with as many large-stature trees as possible will ensure that one day those benefits will be realized again in future generations.

We also need to care for our already-established large trees to keep them healthy and strong. Through them, the investments that community leaders made years ago are still producing dividends today.

Hot Topics

The National Arbor Day Foundation has developed a resource guide for volunteers. Called the *Tree Planting Resource Kit For Volunteers* it includes an 80-page leadership guide, 20-minute video, Arbor Day Guidebook, a packet of reproducible handouts and a Velcro secured container for easy storage. Designed for assisting with all kinds of tree-planting events this kit is loaded with helpful tips and advice. Call the Foundation at 888-448-7337 or go online at www.arboday.org.

The National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council (NUCFAC) has released the 2005 Challenge Cost-Share Request for Pre-Proposals. For more information see www.treelink.org/nufac.

Grant Opportunities For additional urban forestry-related grant opportunities visit www.fedgrants.gov

Proposition 12 2004-2005 contracts are being worked up at this time.

Proposition 12 2005-2006 applications should be available in December of 2004 on the UFEI site. www.ufe.org.

Leaf-It-To-Us applications are now available on the UFEI site and will be due in on December 1, 2004.

The volunteer/paid contractor issue has been resolved. Volunteers are certainly welcome to work with your projects. The "fix" is retroactive to include all activity from 2002 forward.

Side View: Eric Oldar

Eric Oldar is one of the 'old guard' of urban forestry. He has spent most of his career as a forester deeply involved in the promotion and coordination of urban forestry objectives, bringing his knowledge, passion and endless energy to the street, literally. Under his watchful eye, hundreds of trees have been planted and are now thriving on city streets and in school yards that had once been lifeless stretches of concrete.

Eric currently serves in the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF), as a Regional Urban Forestry Field Specialist after holding the position of California's State Coordinator for Urban and Community Forestry through the 1990's. He also held a number of other assignments with CDF in the area of rural forestry assistance programs and as a field urban forestry specialist for

the Southern California area. He has served in assorted wildland fire control positions, having worked as a Fire Captain and as a Fire Crew Supervisor. His background extends beyond CDF, where he worked for the Los Angeles County Fire Department as a staff forester in various field assignments as well as a number of seasons with the USDA Forest Service. A longtime resident of the Southern California area and a native Californian, he carries a bachelor's degree in Forest Management from Humboldt State University. His expertise in urban forest management issues and his educational background give him the right combination of skills to assist California's growing Urban & Community Forestry program with CDF.

As an urban forester, one of Eric's

greatest strengths is his love of trees and people. As a Regional Field Specialist for the Southern California area, he plays a facilitating role in the Department's delivery of community forestry programs to the 35 million residents of California. "I am always challenged to find innovative ways of engaging our state's urban areas in better management of our community forests through fostering collaboration, cooperation, and innovations in community forest management," he said. "My greatest challenge lies in redefining the public's image of urban forests from aesthetic amenities to that of a sustainable working forest reflecting multiple values and benefits".

Eric has been instrumental in the coordination of education and technology transfer in the urban and community forestry fields and has worked hard to foster development of California's new urban hardwood utilization program. He sits as an advisory member to the cabinet & furniture department at Palomar College, and facilitated an agreement for CDF to loan a portable sawmill and kiln to the school for students to demonstrate how recycled urban woods can be used in furniture production and artwork.

Recently Eric was honored by the CA Urban Forest Council, at their statewide conference, with the designation of honorary Certified Urban Forester. He also serves on the Council of Western State Foresters committee for Urban & Community Forestry and the Advisory Board, Forestry Natural Resources Department, Cal-Poly State University, San Luis Obispo.



Second-Hand Wood

California Artisans Have Found A Unique Resource In Recovered Urban Hardwoods

For many years Californians have been planting trees in their backyards, playgrounds, schools and along their city streets. Their choices reflect the diversity of tastes that is characteristic of California living, bringing a broad variety of trees to the urban landscape. This variety also provides an expanded source of quality hardwoods for local artisans who seek out certain types of wood for their beauty and distinctive features, giving them access to exotic woods that are often unavailable in the wholesale market.

In an effort to facilitate better utilization of urban tree wood that has been removed due to age, damage or disease, the California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection has partnered with Palomar College in San Marcos, loaning the school a small portable sawmill and portable kiln. The students use trees removed from city streets, parks and private property and prepare the wood for use in the school's woodworking and furniture-making program, where student artisans craft guitars, clocks, furniture and other artwork. These pieces are now being shown in trade journals and fair exhibits.

The Urban Forestry Ecosystems Institute, UFEI, www.ufeio.org maintains a directory of businesses, agencies and individuals involved in utilization of recovered urban woods. The site has pictures of some of the wood and trees that are available for milling as well as the lumber and products produced. Through this site users can find information and connections for all aspects of urban forest wood utilization.



Treesearch

The USDA Forest Service has just announced the launching of "Treesearch", a new database that allows access to Forest Service research publications online. With Treesearch, customers can locate and download agency-authored or sponsored publications, including those in journals, books and conference proceedings. The research results behind these publications have been peer reviewed to ensure the highest quality science.

The publications in Treesearch can be accessed from www.treesearch.fs.fed.us. The database supports searches by author, keyword, originating organization or date, and returns the abstract and, if selected, the full text of the publication including tables, figures and citations.



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