

Tree E-News

Colorado State Forest Service

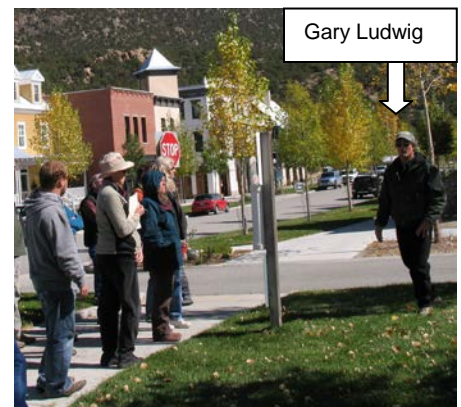
December 2011

Urban and Community Forestry

Western Colorado Community Forestry Conference: The 21st annual Community Forestry Conference for Western Colorado was hosted by the Town of Buena Vista and the Salida District of the Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) on October 7th. The theme for this year's conference was Community Forests: Solutions for Tree Lovers and City Planners.

Chris Forman, forester for the City of Aspen, started the day by sharing his experiences and solutions he recently used to effectively address problems in Aspen. According to Chris, before you can tackle a problem you need to know what you have growing on public property. To accomplish this objective, the city contracted with the CSFS Grand Junction District in 2006 to complete an updatable ArcGIS tree inventory. Following the tree inventory, you need to write a management plan to provide direction for the program. The City of Aspen has a plan that identifies the tree species, the status of those trees, and addresses tree needs. This plan is available to the public. Chris shared two problem scenarios. The first problem was dealing with a very large spruce planted in the wrong spot that had toppled over because of wind. The second problem involved preserving trees where recent construction could have compromised the roots. He described the steps he used to determine a solution. The steps were methodical and involved public and client input. The issues were identified, and solutions were applied that met everyone's tree objectives.

Gary Ludwig, owner of Pleasant Avenue Nursery in Buena Vista, followed Chris and described how his nursery was started by his father to supply mine reclamation plant material. Since 1972, his nursery has grown into a full range plant nursery supplying plant material suited to the desert-like environment of Colorado's high country. Over the years, Gary has tested hundreds of woody plants for their suitability to his part of Colorado. Following his indoor presentation, he led the group on a short walk to look at a new subdivision in Buena Vista and the trees he supplied for that landscape. We then walked along the Arkansas River to examine the amazing plant diversity of Colorado's high country. On the river walk, Gary showed and talked about these reliable natives: alder, birch, currant, three leaf sumac, cottonwood, and chokecherry.



Dave Leatherman, forest entomologist and part-time philosopher, shared some practical principles to help us tackle the really bad tree pests. There are too many insects, diseases, and people's opinions to apply a one stop solution. He recommended these simple steps to solve our serious problems: 1) Do an inventory to learn what you have and its condition. 2) Do regular tree check-ups to learn what a happy tree looks like. 3) Access good reliable information from people who know trees and pests. 4) Learn how to perform remedial corrections or find a reputable professional who can take care of the serious problems.

Jason Jones, arborist with Aspen Tree Service, finished the day's presentations with a thorough discussion of all the steps necessary to effectively manage the community forest. In every community good management starts with well written and industry accepted tree ordinances, specifications, and pruning standards. Jason showed the audience how these rules and standards should be applied by explaining the do's and don'ts of tree industry pruning techniques. He also showed and talked about the value of some new and infrequently used tools like the air spade, tree growth regulators, and the resistograph.

Colorado Tree Coalition

Tree Grants: Visit the CTC website at www.coloradotrees.org to learn about all the trees grants that will be available in 2012. This is also a great site to learn about trees in general and to order the 10th Anniversary edition of the 2012 Notable Trees Calendar.