

## Tree E-News

From the Urban and Community Forestry Division of the  
**Colorado State Forest Service**  
October 2009

### ***Urban and Community Forestry***

***Western Colorado Community Forestry Conference:*** The 19<sup>th</sup> annual Community Forestry Conference for Western Colorado was hosted by the Towns of Basalt and Carbondale and the Grand Junction District of the Colorado State Forest Service. The theme for this year's conference was Growing Green Solutions for Communities. Coincidentally, the Town of Carbondale also hosted this same conference in 1999.

Carol Lyons, the executive director of the Institute for Environmental Solutions, delivered two unique presentations to the 35 conference attendees. The first talk was entitled The Secret Environmental Lives of Trees and explained how trees achieve the following objectives: air quality improvement, energy conservation, storm water management, and carbon sequestration. Using science-based principles, Ms. Lyons showed how trees accomplish these effects in the urban environment. She listed those trees that are best for improving air quality, improving water conservation, and storing (i.e., sequestering) carbon. Most trees are beneficial to the urban environment but three tree species excel in all categories: bristlecone pine, green ash, and Kentucky coffeetree.



Kentucky coffeetree

Dave Carpenter, of DHM Design in Carbondale, and his partners described and took the audience through the community discussion, design, and building of two Western Colorado projects that used trees, shrubs, perennials and turf. Mr. Carpenter's firm designed the outdoor gardens just north of the new Carbondale Recreation and Community Center. The facility received the prestigious LEED Platinum Award that has been given to only one other facility in Colorado by the U.S. Green Building Council. The garden layout and plant list were part of the award application packet and were instrumental in the town receiving the LEED Platinum designation. Touring the garden with the designers was part of the program. The gardens have meandering paths where visitors can learn about specific plants, groupings, and maintenance. There is an emphasis on native plants, and many of the plants are labeled. One of the unique features of the garden is the incorporation of a storm water runoff system from the building that augments irrigation for the gardens.

Chris Forman, City Forester for the City of Aspen, introduced the audience to the *i-Tree* program from the USDA Forest Service. The City of Aspen's park and street trees were inventoried in 2006. By incorporating information on community population, tree maintenance costs, local energy costs, local community energy statistics, and the inventory data into the *i-Tree* program, he was able to generate reports that can be used for planning and budgeting purposes. He showed the audience graphs and pie charts depicting the species composition of Aspen's urban forest. He can also generate reports showing storm water interception values, air quality benefits, energy savings on electricity and natural gas, management costs, and net annual benefits. The program can generate numbers that show the impact Aspen's urban forest has on the local environment. For example Aspen's urban forest annually intercepts 9.4 million gallons of storm water and sequesters 1.1 million pounds of carbon dioxide.

### ***Colorado Tree Coalition***

**Poster Contest:** The 2010 National Arbor Day Foundation (NADF) Poster contest "Trees are Terrific...and Energy Wise" packet of materials is now available to download from the NADF website, [www.arborday.org](http://www.arborday.org). The Colorado deadline for submittal of posters is March 5, 2010. For more information, contact Donna Davis, the poster coordinator, at 719-384-9087 or by e-mail, [dodavis@lamar.colostate.edu](mailto:dodavis@lamar.colostate.edu).

**CTC Board of Directors to Meet on October 23, 2009:** The annual fall meeting of the CTC board will be held at the Broomfield City Building in the Zang Spur Conference Room. The address is 1 Descombs Dr. The meeting will be from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Contact Vince Urbina at 970-248-7326 for more information.