

Tree E-News

From the Urban and Community Forestry Division of the
Colorado State Forest Service
April 2012

Urban and Community Forestry

Arbor Day 2012: Since 1889, the third Friday in April has been set apart and known as “Arbor Day” in Colorado. This year Colorado’s official Arbor Day will be April 20th and marks the 123rd year that this tree planter’s holiday will be celebrated in this state. The last Friday in April is the traditional Arbor Day for the nation. This year that date is April 27th.



Celebrating Arbor Day is just one of four standards that must be met every year for a community to be recognized as a Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation (ADF). The other three standards are: 1) designating an individual, department, or board that will be responsible for completing the annual community forestry plan; 2) adopting and maintaining a tree ordinance that details how trees will be cared for in the community; and 3) annually spending \$2 per capita on trees.

Since 1977, the ADF has been acknowledging towns and cities across America. In the spring of 2012, 91 communities will be acknowledged as Tree City USA communities in Colorado for their community forestry efforts completed in 2011. This year *Basalt* will be celebrating its first year as a Tree City, while *Colorado Springs* will be celebrating its 35th year as a Tree City USA. The following Western Slope communities: *Aspen*, *Cortez* and *Olathe* will be celebrating their 20th year as a Tree City USA. Congratulations to all of these cities who have made a concerted and consistent effort to keep trees as an integral part of their community.

In addition to managing the Tree City USA program, the ADF oversees the Tree Campus USA program. Started in 2008 in partnership with the TOYOTA Corporation, the Tree Campus program requires similar standards to the Tree City USA. Successful programs must meet five standards: 1) create a campus advisory committee to provide tree program guidance; 2) write a campus tree care plan that identifies the responsible authority and tree care policies; 3) spend up to \$3 per full-time enrolled student towards the campus tree program; 4) celebrate Arbor Day either on campus or in conjunction with a nearby community; 5) complete a service learning project that involves student participation.



In 2010 Western State College in Gunnison was the first college in Colorado to be acknowledged as a Tree Campus USA. Fort Lewis College in Durango was added in 2011. In 2012 Colorado State University (CSU) and Colorado University (CU) will be included in the Tree Campus USA program. There are two scheduled tree planting events to inaugurate these Tree Campus programs; April 20th at CSU and April 27th at CU.

Western Colorado Community Forestry Conference (WCCFC): The 22nd annual WCCFC will be held on the campus of Western State College on May 18th. The theme for this year’s conference is “Tomorrow’s Community Forests: Start Today.” This year marks the first year that a college campus will host the WCCFC. A diverse and experienced palette of speakers has been assembled and will address tree issues applicable to all community forest types. In fact, all but one of the speakers will be first time presenters at the WCCFC. In the past we have incorporated an outdoor session for the conference, and due to the positive conference feedback we will go outside once again. This year the focus will be community forest health. Dario Elliott of Tree Tamers Inc. is an ISA Certified Arborist and he will lead the discussion.