



California Shade

Spring, 2005

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

What's Makes A Quarter?

What is in a quarter? Some might answer, "Two dimes and a nickel, or five nickels, or twenty-five pennies," or an assortment of other coin combinations. The answer depends on who you ask.

Ask the City of Modesto and the answer is, "A tree ordinance, a tree board or department, a tree budget of at least \$2 per capita per annum, an Arbor Day observance and celebration, sweat, tears, energy, many budget crises, and lots of dedication."

So how does that make a quarter? It makes a quarter of a century, or 25 consecutive years of Tree City USA status for the City of Modesto. What makes this 25-

year designation so special is that California has 146 Tree City USA - designated communities and Modesto is one of only 28 of them to be selected as a Tree City USA for more than 20 consecutive years.

One look around Modesto's urban forest and it is easy to see why they consistently qualify as a Tree City USA. The City places a great deal of importance on staying current with new planting and maintenance techniques, working with residents and city officials, and trying innovative projects that will compliment the older trees that grace their streets and parks. Modesto has also patented two separate species varieties, the Modesto Ash and

Chinese Pistache "Pearl Street."

All of this has contributed to urban forestry practices and management that have placed Modesto at the forefront of California's Tree Cities and helped them develop a successful and magnificent urban forest.

On March 1, 2005, the City of Modesto received its 25th consecutive Tree City USA Award. The Mayor accepted the award on behalf of the City, with Bill Dufresne, Superintendent of Modesto's Community Forestry Division, on hand to watch his division's hard work pay off for another year. Modesto's Arbor Day celebration was held on March 10 at Freedom Elementary School, in Modesto.

Hot Topics

EPA updates funding directory for environmental projects This directory of energy efficiency, renewable energy, and environmental protection assistance programs provides an extensive list of grants available from EPA, other federal agencies, state governments and private foundations. For more information visit www.lgean.org



California Community Forests Advisory Committee members met on March 9 to develop a mission statement and goals for the State's five-year urban forestry plan. Members will design strategies to accomplish these goals and meet in late May to compile them into a final format.

Proposition 12 2005-2006 Applications and guidelines are available at www.ufei.org. Applications must be submitted to CDF by no later than close of business on May 2, 2005.

Leaf-It-To-Us 2004-2005 contracts are being worked up at this time.

CDF has chosen a new Urban Forestry Program Administrator. His name is Glenn Flamik, an urban forestry consultant and principal in Forest City Consulting in Roseville, CA. Glenn began at the Sacramento HQ in April. Herb Bunt transferred to a unit forester position at CDF's Madera Mariposa Merced unit located just a few minutes from his home in Copperopolis, CA.

Side View: Bruce Hagen

Bruce Hagen has worked for the California Dept. of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) as a Forester for nearly 20 years. He currently oversees CDF's urban forestry program for Northern California from his office at the CDF Northern Region offices in Santa Rosa, California.

Prior to 1992, Bruce worked on the California Dutch Elm Disease Program, and also worked for several years as an urban and rural forest pest management specialist before moving into CDF's urban forestry program.

Before starting with CDF, Bruce was an economic entomologist with the California Department of Food and Agriculture for nearly 10 years. He graduated from San Diego State University in 1974 with an MS degree in Entomology. He's a Certified Arborist, Registered Professional Forester, and a Community College instructor, teaching classes in arboriculture, environmental horticulture, pest management, and western forest insects and diseases. He currently serves as editor for the *Western Arborist*, the quarterly educational publication of the Western Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture (WCISA). He also is

contributes articles for *Arborist News*, the newsletter of the ISA. Additional involvement with WCISA includes chairing the continuing education committee and serving on the Board of Directors. He has published numerous articles on tree selection, pest management, tree pruning and improved tree care practices, oak woodland and urban forestry issues and FireSafe landscaping.

In his present position as a state urban forester, he provides technical assistance to local government, advocacy groups, nonprofit tree organizations, landowners, professional arborist and landscape maintenance associations and the public. He provides service forestry assistance on FireSafe landscaping, habitat restoration, tree selection, Christmas tree production, windbreaks, erosion control, woodlot production, wood utilization, forest pest management, ordinance development, resource management, tree care and technology. A major portion of his time is spent on public outreach such as education, technology transfer, presentations, publications and technical writing. In addition to grant evaluation and administration, other duties include liaison work to nonprofit

groups, commercial and city arborists and local planners.

"I've spent much of my career working in a specialized field of urban forestry and forest health," he said. "As a forester, my role has been to promote the concepts of managing forests, both urban and rural, on a sustainable basis. From my perspective, this is best done by planting ecologically appropriate tree species, ensuring adequate species and age diversity, providing proper tree care and silvicultural practices, and maintaining a long-term commitment to management."

Bruce said he sees urban forestry as a complex subject involving many professions. Politicians, city managers, planners, developers, landscape architects and contractors, civil engineer, arborists (municipal, commercial, consulting and utility), nurserymen and nonprofit groups all participate in managing or maintaining the urban forest landscape. Each entity has its own concerns, interests, purposes and perspectives. He adds that there has been some noteworthy progress in urban forestry practices as the number of Certified Arborists and Tree Workers continues to grow and the continuing education requirements keep these arborists abreast of new technology, changing standards and the latest research.

Cities and counties are now hiring urban foresters to help manage the urban forest on an ecosystem basis.

"The urban forest is an integral part of the larger, regional ecosystem. Urban and rural ecosystems, each distinctly different, interact, overlap and join to form regional ecosystems," he said. "A gradient extends from the urban to the suburban to the urban-rural inter-mix to the rural, to developing forests and wildlands."

Bruce is currently co-authoring a book with Larry Costello and Katherine Jones, both of the U.C. Cooperative Extension for San Mateo and San Francisco counties titled *Managing Oaks in the Landscape*.

Fostering Natives

Goleta Valley Beautiful (GVB) is a non-profit organization dedicated to the support and enhancement of a healthy and expanding urban forest in California's Goleta Valley. They have opened a native plant nursery to provide tree stock for planting that is native, phenotypically and genetically correct for their area. Local nurseries do not currently have such stock available. This small nursery project is in its infancy, and is being funded by a grant from The Home Depot. GVB is working with Growing Solutions Restoration Institute, a non-profit native plant

advocacy group and with the Goleta Campus of Devereaux California, a non-profit care group for the developmentally disabled. Devereux California provides volunteers for the joint project and the greenhouse is located on their property.

GVB currently is the recipient of a Proposition 12 tree-planting grant through the California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection's urban forestry program that is designed to plant 429 trees in locations throughout the Goleta Valley by March 2006.



Tree Line USA

California Utilities Commit to Sound Urban Forestry Practices

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's urban forestry program works with the National Arbor Day Foundation Tree Line USA program to promote the dual goals of dependable utility service and abundant, healthy trees in America's communities. To meet these goals, criteria have been developed that highlight three key practices that need to be followed by the utility in order to be publicly recognized for their contribution to better community forests. They are: quality tree care, annual worker training, and tree planting and public education.

Practices such as pruning rather than topping trees, planting low-growing varieties under power lines and trenching and tunneling methods near trees that won't harm the root systems have multiple benefits. They help create energy-efficient landscapes with lower peak energy demands, increase reliability of service due to reduced damage to power lines from downed trees, and lower line clearance costs resulting from regular tree care.

In 2004, 12 California utility companies were recognized as Tree Line USA utilities. Each received a plaque and a Tree Line USA flag for display.

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