

THE DESERT ARBORIST

Tree Values Quantified

By Jim Geiger

A large 40 year-old tree pays back tax payers and homeowners nearly \$60 per year according to new research unveiled by the Center for Urban Forest Research for the cold and snowy climate region. For a community with 10,000 trees, that benefit is almost \$600,000 per year. The larger the tree the greater the environmental benefits for communities.

According to Dr. Greg McPherson, Center Director, "a 40 year old green ash tree on public property, annually intercepts over 2143 gallons of stormwater, removes 2.5 lbs of air pollutants, conserves seven percent of energy bills for cooling, and adds one percent to the resale value of a home. Costs for the same large tree are considerably less than the total benefits, ranging from \$8 for a yard tree to \$18 for a street or park tree. So the benefit/cost ratio for a community is as high as 7.9 to 1, and well worth the investment."

Strategically planted trees conserve energy, reduce stormwater runoff, improve local air quality, enhance community attractiveness and investment, increase property value, and even promote human health and well-being. According to Dr. McPherson, "It all depends on where the tree is placed and the amount of leaf surface area. The bigger the tree the more leaf surface area is exposed to the environment and the greater the benefits to communities. But it must be located properly to maximize its effectiveness."

Rainfall interception is the biggest benefit, paying back to a community over \$23 for every large tree 40 years after planting. Property value enhancement is valued at nearly \$15 per tree, air pollution reduction at \$13, and energy conservation for heating and cooling at nearly \$8.

The new research is packaged in the Center's latest tree guide – *Northern Mountain and Prairie Tree Guide: Benefits, Costs and Strategic Planting*. The guide was designed for the "cold and snowy" climate region and is the fifth in a series of tree guides for the Western United States. The region extends from Alaska, Western Washington and Oregon, and Northern California on the west, through Idaho and Montana, to the Dakotas and Nebraska on the east. The region extends south through Wyoming, Nevada, Utah and Colorado, to the mountainous areas in New Mexico, Arizona, and Southern California.

Future guides are planned for the San Francisco Bay Area and the "desert southwest" climate region. The Inland Empire, South Coast, and San Joaquin Valley climate regions of California and the Rainy Northwest climate region of Western Washington and Oregon have already been completed. (*Editor's note: In the Inland Empire, a small tree's benefits are valued at \$16.73, a medium tree is \$63 and a large tree's value is calculated to be \$78.47.*)

The purpose of the *Tree Guide* is to identify and describe the benefits and costs of planting trees in the cold and snowy climate region by providing a tool for community officials and tree managers to increase public awareness and support for tree programs. The *Tree Guide* answers a number of questions about the environmental and aesthetic benefits community trees provide:

What is their potential to improve environmental quality, conserve energy, and add value to communities? Where should residential and public trees be placed to maximize their cost-effectiveness?

Which tree species will minimize conflicts with power lines, sidewalks, and buildings?

Answers to these questions will assist policy makers, urban forest managers, non-profit organizations, design and planning professionals, utility personnel, and concerned citizens who are planting and managing trees to improve their local environments and build better communities.

"As communities continue to grow during the next decade, sustaining healthy community forests becomes integral to the quality of life residents expect," Dr. McPherson said. "The role of urban forests to enhance the environment, increase community attractiveness and livability, and

foster civic pride is taking on greater significance as communities strive to balance economic growth with environmental quality and social well-being. The simple act of planting trees provides opportunities to connect residents with nature and with each other. Neighborhood tree plantings and stewardship projects stimulate investment by local citizens, business, and government in the betterment of their communities." ▼

Jim Geiger is the public information specialist at the Center for Urban Forest Research in Davis, CA. For more information on these guides and more, visit <http://wucfire.ucdavis.edu>.

News

NLA ELECTS BOARD



Left to right: Dave Grillo, Tim Laskowski, Jason Perry, Pete Luna, John Marman

The Las Vegas Chapter of the Nevada Landscape Association recently announced their Board of Directors for April 2003 March 2004: John Marman, Past President, West Coast Turf; Pete Luna, President, Ewing Irrigation Products; Jack McClary, Secretary/Treasurer, ABC Landscape Company; and Director, Jim Johnson, Star Nursery; Erik Proksch, Camden Development, Inc and Rob Diaz, Yards 'R' Us.

The newly elected State Board of Directors of the Nevada Landscape

Association for 2003-2004 is as follows: Jason Perry, President, Western Turf, Reno; Dave Grillo, Secretary/Treasurer Nitro-Green, Reno & Las Vegas; and Directors Tim Laskowski of Legends Landscaping & Nursery in Reno along with Marman and Luna of the Las Vegas Chapter.

For more information about the Nevada Landscape Association, call 775.673.0404 or visit www.nevadanla.com. ▼

DROUGHT: DOOMSDAY OR OPPORTUNITY

Desert Green VII, set for November 6-7 at the Henderson Convention Center, Henderson, NV, will explore the effects of drought on the Southwest green industry. In its seventh year, the conference is the largest green industry educational conference in Nevada, consistently drawing more than 300 turf and landscape professionals.

For the first time in its history, the conference also will feature a dedicated sports turf session, co-sponsored by the Arizona Sports Turf Managers Association. In addition, the keynote speaker will be Steve Wightman, sports turf manager at San Diego QualComm Stadium, who will speak on "The Super Bowl Experience."

The conference theme this year, "Drought in the Desert: Doomsday or Opportunity" recognizes the long drought in the Southwest and will focus on practical solutions for water-starved landscapes.

There will be a total of 38 presentations over two days. Tracks include: Pesticide Training (with CEUs for Nevada, Arizona and California); Golf Course Maintenance; Sports Turf; Designing for Drought; Plant Solutions and Irrigation Innovations. CEUs have also been applied for covering Certified Arborists, Certified Irrigators and golf course superintendents.

A "green industry mixer" that will follow the sessions on November 6 from 3-6 p.m. The exhibit hall will be open, free of charge, to all turf and landscape professionals. Beverages and snacks will be offered, and there will be a no-host bar. There will also be an expanded Student Career Day on November 8-9.

For registration information, contact ML Robinson at 702.257.5529, robinsonm@UNCE.unr.edu. For exhibitor information, contact Helen Stone at 702.454.3057, helen@swtreesandturf.com. ▼



**We've got
the Southwest
covered.**

Regular Deliveries to:

**Arizona
California
Nevada
New Mexico
Utah
Texas**

Mountain States Wholesale Nursery
10020 W. Glendale Ave. Glendale, AZ 85307
P.O. Box 2500 Litchfield Park, AZ 85340
1-800-840-8509
623-247-8509 • fax 623-247-6354
sales@mswn.com



SYNAGRO
Professional Organic Soil Products

Southern California's Largest Manufacturer/Distributor of Premium Quality Organic Products. **Serving California, Nevada & Arizona.**

Specializing in Golf Course Grade Top Dressing / Seed Cover and HydroMulch Compost → **Ask for Top Guard.**

The Industry's Best Soil Amendment → **Ask for Contractors Compost**

800-242-2222 or 909-277-2662