

Tree Talk



SPRING 2018

A PARTNERSHIP WORKING TOWARD
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY FORESTS

Spring Workshops Announced!

Two Community Canopy workshops are planned for Friday, March 23rd in Spokane. The first workshop will be 'Managing Trees during Construction' with Preston Hill, Urban Forester for the City of Post Falls. At this workshop you'll learn what can be done before, during, and after a project to help preserve and protect the site's most valuable natural assets. The second workshop is 'Precision Pruning' with Ben Kappan of Northwest Plant Health Care. Ben will cover the science of arboriculture which has improved our pruning practices as we've learned more about how trees react to pruning. The success or failure of wound compartmentalization depends on the quality of pruning cuts.

These workshops are designed for anyone who supervises or performs any kind of landscape maintenance activities. For more details, see enclosed workshop brochure. There is a \$10 registration fee per person per workshop. Coffee and donuts will be provided in the morning and a sack lunch will be provided for those attending both workshops. **Pre-registration is required since space is limited.** For more information or to register, call 208/769-2266 or send an email to kkosanke@cdaid.org

Community Canopy has applied for ISA CEUs and CLT credits for both

Proper Pruning

One of the key elements of good pruning is to cut in a way that minimizes harm to the tree, and reduces the risk of disease or decay. This is done by making "natural target" cuts that leave intact some significant tissue on the remaining branch or trunk. This tissue is called the branch collar, and it is critical for the tree's response to pruning wounds. To understand the branch collar, it helps to look at the anatomy of branches. How does the tree create a structure that can hold up hundreds of pounds of branch tissue, and keep it from ripping out of the trunk? The answer is in the way branches and trunks attach to each other as they grow in diameter or girth.

As active growth begins in late winter, new layers of xylem (and phloem) are formed below the bark. This growth begins at the tips of the branches and proceeds downward in a wave toward the roots. As the wave of new growth reaches the union of the branch and trunk, it forms a layer of branch xylem tissue on the trunk. This tissue is shaped somewhat like a pancake against the trunk, with the branch coming out of the middle. The trunk and larger limbs begin this growth later than the smaller branches. They also produce xylem tissue, and this trunk xylem grows over the top of the layer of branch xylem. Under normal conditions, this pattern is repeated every year, with the interlocking tissue creating a raised area around the base of the branch. Viewed from outside the tree, we see this enlarged area, and call it the branch collar.

Above the branch union, this meeting of tissue forms the branch bark ridge. The presence of a branch bark ridge and branch collar indicate that an attachment is growing normally. If one or both are absent, it may mean the attachment is defective. These features can be hard to find on some tree species like oaks, elms or trees with thicker bark, but that doesn't mean they are absent. When a branch is pruned, it is the tissue associated with the branch collar that will help to compartmentalize the wound. Outside, we see woundwood growing over the cut. Internally, this tissue is physically and chemically resistant to decay. Together, this is the branch protection zone. If a pruning cut causes a tear out, or removes the collar, this slows wound response and leaves the tree open to disease or decay. A proper cut will keep the branch collar intact, letting the tree compartmentalize the wound both internally and externally.

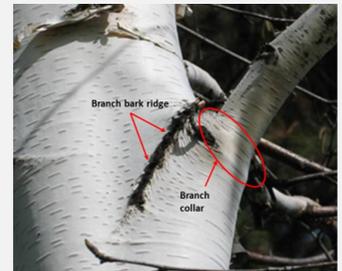


Figure 21. A ring of woundwood

Article adapted with permission from WSU "Community Tree Stewards Online Training"

Upcoming Events



March 23rd in Spokane, Community Canopy Workshop 'Managing Trees During Construction'
March 23rd in Spokane, Community Canopy Workshop 'Precision Pruning'

Arbor Day Festivities:

April 7th—Post Falls Tree Giveaway, 9am Q'emiln Park West Parkway Drive (arrive early to get your place in line)
April 28th—Spokane Arbor Day Saturday, 11am-2pm at Finch Arboretum, 3404 W Woodland Blvd
April—City of Coeur d'Alene Arbor Day with North Idaho College (date TBD, soon!)

North Idaho College To Receive Tree Campus USA Accreditation

North Idaho College will receive Tree Campus USA accreditation this spring! The Tree Campus USA program, sponsored by Bartlett Tree Experts, is similar to the Tree City USA program that is a nationwide movement which provides the framework necessary for communities to manage and expand their public trees. North Idaho College is known for its beautiful campus, and trees are a big part of that.

NIC is surrounded by picturesque native ponderosa pine trees, tree lined streets and a variety of ornamental species planted within the landscape. Currently, there is just one Tree Campus USA in all of Idaho and NIC will be the second.

In order to qualify for the Tree Campus USA program, there are five required standards including having a Campus Tree Advisory Committee, Tree Campus Care Plan, dedicated annual funds for trees and tree maintenance, an Arbor Day observance, and a tree outreach service learning project.

The Tree Campus USA program made sense to campus staff, since many of the requirements are already in place and there has always been a focus on tree planting and care. NIC's facilities Operations Manager, Bill McElver headed up efforts over the last year and has been working diligently with his staff to meet the additional requirements. The City of Coeur d'Alene's urban forester and Urban Forestry Committee have been assisting with these tasks since the city has many similar programs already in place. By meeting the annual standards and being recognized as a Tree Campus USA, it creates a more sustainable campus environment and instills pride in the students, faculty and community.

An Arbor Day Celebration will soon be announced. The City of Coeur d'Alene will partner with NIC for one large Arbor Day event. At that time, NIC will be awarded as a Tree Campus USA for the first year, and Coeur d'Alene will be recognized as a Tree City USA for the 34th year.

