2016 Annual Report

Leading Colorado’s efforts to preserve, renew, and enhance community forests.
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President’s Message

Mike McGill, CTC President

2016 was another great year for the Colorado Tree Coalition. The year’s success was a result of the contributions of all the people, partnerships, and programs involved in the organization. Some program highlights for the year included launching the Tree Collections tool that connects users to a network of diverse tree collections throughout the state for purposes of conservation, scientific and educational study, display, and preservation; awarding nearly $50,000 worth of grants to 17 organizations statewide; holding a day of service at Fairmount Cemetery where volunteers inventoried 1,230 trees in the historic cemetery; hosting a successful Tour de Poudre Bike Ride that brought together 29 riders to raise nearly $6,000 for tree education and research, hosting the Arbor Day Poster Contest that drew participation from 47 schools; and distributing approximately 1,100 trees to 14 groups through the Trees Across Colorado program.

The CTC worked to streamline, update, and adopt its Strategic Plan in 2016 that will help steer the organization for the next five years. The Plan focuses on what the organization does best and focuses on achieving three main goals: deliver quality education & outreach programs, secure diversified funding for financial sustainability, and provide exceptional managerial & administrative support.

In 2016 we recognized a few exceptional individuals that helped the CTC in its mission to preserve, renew, and enhance community forestry in Colorado. Scott Grimes was awarded the well-deserved Lifetime Achievement Award and Ralph Zentz, Toni Evans, Donna Davis, Kyle Sylvester, and Doug Schoch were awarded Distinguished Service Awards. I would like to extend another congratulation and thank all for their contributions. I also encourage CTC members to nominate deserving individuals for CommuniTree Awards in 2017.

My two-year stint as President has come to a close and I truly am proud to have been able to serve the organization in this capacity. I would like to thank everyone for their support during this tenure. Chuck Gehringer will be assuming the President role in 2017 and the organization is in excellent hands under his leadership. I am excited to continue to work with Chuck and the rest of the talented Board members in leading the CTC to great things in the future.
## CTC Leadership

### Colorado Tree Coalition Board of Directors

The accomplishments of the Colorado Tree Coalition are due to the help and support of the Board of Directors and the hard-working program and committee members.

The Board of Directors is the managing group of the organization. It is comprised of chapter members, invited representation from tree related organizations, and the immediate past president. The CTC’s current board structure follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>North Chapter Representative</td>
<td>Wendy Ball</td>
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<td>Northwest Chapter Representative</td>
<td>David Hoefer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Front Range Urban Forestry Council (Front Range Representatives)</td>
<td>Kyle Sylvester, Caleb Palmer, Laurel Brabec**, Chuck Gehringer, Josh Theobald**, Nancy Biekarck**</td>
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<tr>
<td>Executive CTC Administrator</td>
<td>Keith Wood**</td>
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<tr>
<td>American Forests / Champion Trees</td>
<td>Neal Bamesberger**</td>
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<td>Colorado State Forest Service Representative</td>
<td>Vince Urbina</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community Development Representative</td>
<td>Karen Scopel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Industry Liaison Representative (Tree Company)</td>
<td>Becky Wegner**</td>
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<tr>
<td>Industry Liaison Representative (Wood Utilization)</td>
<td>Dan Odell</td>
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<tr>
<td>International Society of Arboriculture Rep.</td>
<td>Mike McGill**</td>
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<tr>
<td>Society of American Foresters Representative</td>
<td>Phil Hoefer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trees Across Colorado Representative</td>
<td>Gertie Grant</td>
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<tr>
<td>ASLA Representative</td>
<td>David Flaig**</td>
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<tr>
<td>ASCA Representative</td>
<td>Scott Grimes</td>
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<tr>
<td>CTC Historian</td>
<td>Phil Hoefer</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Colorado Tree Coalition – Board of Directors (2017)</strong></td>
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Josh Theobald
Nancy Biekarck**
Pete Harrington
Dave Sexton
Micaela Truslove |
| Executive CTC Administrator | Keith Wood** |
| American Forests / Champion Trees | Neal Bamesberger** |
| Colorado State Forest Service Representative | Vince Urbina |
| Community Development Representative | Karen Scopel** |
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| Trees Across Colorado Representative | Gertie Grant |
| ASLA Representative | David Flaig** |
| ASCA Representative | Scott Grimes |
| CTC Historian | Phil Hoefer |
| Immediate Past President | Mike McGill** |

**Executive Committee**

*Colorado Tree Coalition Board meeting at one of the four annual board meetings*
**Executive Committee**

*Overview:*
The Executive Committee is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Colorado Tree Coalition and is selected by and from the Board of Directors.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Member Name</th>
<th>Committee Position</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mike McGill</td>
<td>President</td>
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<tr>
<td>Josh Theobald</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nancy Biekarck</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Becky Wegner</td>
<td>Treasurer</td>
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<tr>
<td>David Flaig</td>
<td>Past president</td>
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<td>Laurel Brabec</td>
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The Front Range Urban Forestry Council (FRUFC), an active chapter of the Colorado Tree Coalition (CTC), held six meetings and programs in 2016. Attendees at meetings this year included federal, state and municipal forestry employees, agency, independent and non-profit representatives, Parks and Recreation District staff, tree company staff, landscape architects, and wood-workers. Meetings included committee update information on insects and diseases, tree risk assessment information, select tree evaluations, and partnership updates with the U.S. Forest Service, CTC, and the International Society of Arboriculture-Rocky Mountain Chapter. Organization representatives in attendance were also encouraged to give updates on community forestry-related activities going on in their communities at each meeting.

The first meeting of the year was held at the Colorado Department of Agriculture offices in Broomfield on January 21st. Information was presented by the U.S. Forest Service on the national Urban Forest Inventory & Analysis (FIA) program and the University of Colorado’s Community Assistance Program which can help communities do tree inventory work through their local Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) offices.

On March 17th, the group met in Fort Collins to hear three excellent presentations on Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) work going on in Boulder, preparations and plans by surrounding communities, and Denver City Forester Rob Davis’ summary of his 2015 trip to several Midwest cities impacted by EAB.

On May 19th Xcel Energy hosted the group at their Southwest Service Center in Lakewood. Pete Harrington with Xcel’s Vegetation Management Division presented to the group on the latest rules and regulations of utility line clearance and scheduled activities in Front Range cities. Toni Smith and Korey Lofy of Rainbow Treecare showed a video and presented on the “Saluting Branches, Arborists United for Veteran Remembrance” program.
The July 21st event was a first of its kind for both FRUFC and the Colorado Tree Coalition’s/Colorado State Forest Service’s statewide urban tree inventory tool, CO-TreeView! Over 40 volunteers descended on Fairmount Cemetery to inventory the historic and incredible urban tree resource at the cemetery. Over 1,250 trees were mapped and recorded to allow Fairmount to better understand its tree resource and facilitate management of these amazing trees.

The next meeting of the year was held in Longmont on September 15th. Staff from the City of Boulder and Boulder County Parks & Open Space presented information on their TreeOpp grant from the Knight Foundation and the Emerald Ash Borer program in Boulder County. The group took an intermission break in the beautiful Longmont Museum Theater to watch a screening of the “Trees in Trouble” video and enjoy some popcorn along with the video!

Our last meeting of the year occurred on November 3rd and was hosted by the City of Littleton. Pete Harrington from Xcel Energy provided an update on vegetation management plans for 2017 and provided details on their partnership with the Arbor Day Foundation’s Energy Savings Trees Program.

All in all it was another good year of meetings and programs for the Front Range Urban Forestry Council and the group looks forward to visiting 6 new sites in 2017 with a new array of programs and presenters!
2016 Tour de Poudre Bike Ride

Tree loving cyclists enjoyed a beautiful fall ride September 24, 2016 on the 17th annual CTC bike ride ‘Tour de Poudre’. A chilly and damp morning quickly gave way to sunshine and smiles as 29 riders pedaled 1,500 miles and raised nearly $6,000 for trees. Sixteen riders went from Swingle Tree in Fort Collins to Rover Run Dog Park and on to Island Grove Park in Greeley and back while 13 folks rode to Eastman Park in Windsor and back to Fort Collins.

Thanks to donations, and our host sponsor Swingle Tree, a light breakfast, lunch and trail snacks kept the riders and volunteers nourished and refreshed. A special thanks to Jannieth Lewis who acquired a ‘Blue Spruce’ sponsorship of $1,500 from Banner Health and to Sarah Rickenbacker who also brought in a ‘Blue Spruce’ sponsorship of $1,500 from MountainGate Capital. The Rocky Mountain Chapter of ISA contributed $500, Phelan Gardens donated $250 and Little Valley Nursery and KRG Capital Partners each provided $150 cash donations to help cover expenses.

Fort Collins Wholesale Nursery (FCWN) stepped up and provided trees for planting in Greeley, Windsor and at Odell Brewing in Fort Collins. Louis Linn and Ross Shrigley from FCWN even delivered and helped plant the Sensation Boxelder at Odell's. Speaking of Odell's, they were great hosts after the ride and treated all our riders and volunteers to a refreshing beverage. What’s better than bikes, beer and trees?

The support team was led by Jannieth Lewis who helped with all aspects of ride preparation and support. Other volunteers included CTC Board member Nancy Biekarck and her son Matt, as well as Alison O’Connor, Gertie Grant, Eric Dixon, Danielle Grimes and Susan Hardin. These folks really made a great impression on the riders with their encouragement, smiles and the award-winning banana bread Alison provided in Windsor. Fresh cookies from Susan Hardin were devoured by the riders upon their return to Fort Collins.

Without the many volunteer hours, these folks give we would not have this great fundraising ride. Thanks to all of you!

We’re already talking about the 18th annual CTC ride and want to hear from anyone with ideas on improving upon this year’s success or wanting to help or ride with us. See you next year!
Champion Tree Program

This year was a record year for nominations, many thanks to the city and district state foresters and citizens who nominated and remeasured about 150 trees in 2016. Keeping the champion tree list current wouldn’t be possible with your help. We generally record the top three trees of any one species on our champ tree registry, there are 740 trees on the 2017 list. Seventy trees were nominated, 65 of them made the list for 2017. Of the new trees to make the list, 25 were ranked in first place.

Currently Colorado has 9 national champions including 4 Blue Spruce, Narrowleaf and Rio Grande Cottonwoods, Singleleaf Ash, Utah Juniper, and Bristlecone Pine. Two more state champs will be nominated for national status this spring; Narrowleaf Cottonwood in Gunnison and a Cerro Hawthorn in Ft. Collins. Some of the more unusual species are; Japanese Emperor Oak, Chalk Maple, Sawtooth Oak, Southern Magnolia, Contorted Black Locust, Weeping Alaskan Cedar, Winterberry Euonymus, Shantung Maple and American Hophornbeam.

Twice yearly American Forests issues their National Register of Big Trees to foster an interest in and appreciation of the largest and most significant trees in the country. Since 1940, the National Big Tree Program has been a testament to American Forests’ legacy of leadership in recognizing the beauty and critical ecosystem benefits provided by our biggest and oldest trees, there are more than 750 documented champions. American Forests is the nation’s oldest conservation nonprofit established in 1875.

The Colorado Tree Coalition (CTC) is a volunteer organization that was established in 1991 as a result of the Community Forestry Assistance Act. From modest beginnings as a group of metro foresters started in 1985 we have grown into a statewide nonprofit organization whose mission is “leading statewide efforts to preserve, renew, and enhance community forests”.

Among the many programs of the CTC is the Champion Tree Program. A list of the largest species of trees is updated each year to reflect new nominations from citizens, public and private entities.
$500 Reward: Bring Home the Blue

The Colorado Tree Coalition is offering a $500 reward to the individual responsible for “Bringing Home the Blue”. This fantastic reward is available to whoever finds a large enough Colorado Blue Spruce (*Picea pungens*) to dethrone the current co-champs in Colorado and Utah. Colorado is certainly capable of growing the largest blue spruce in the nation and it’s likely growing here and just waiting for some “big tree hunter” to find it and claim the prize. Get your boots on, your tape measure and camera in hand and go out there and “Bring Home the Blue”, you could claim the $500 reward!

**Notable Tree Program**

A notable tree is one that is remarkable or distinguishable in some way, or related to a famous or historical person, place, or event. A tree may also be notable if the surrounding community accepts it as being special based upon its species, uniqueness, or contribution to the community. Many of the trees in Notable Tree tours are notable because they are among the largest of their species in Colorado and are called Champion Trees.

The following Notable Tree Tours are available in pdf format at [http://www.coloradotrees.org/programs.php#notable](http://www.coloradotrees.org/programs.php#notable):

- **Boulder**
- **Colorado Springs**
- **Fort Collins**

**NEW Tree Collections**

The CTC launched its Tree Collections program to create a unique platform that links users to a network of diverse tree collections throughout the state, while also delivering consistent and comprehensive individual tree species information. Tree Collections is an educational tool for all seasons that can be utilized by students, curious visitors, nature lovers, and tree people alike. When you get a chance, please check out it out at [https://treecollections.com/](https://treecollections.com/)!
Select Tree Evaluation Program (STEP)

The Select Tree Evaluation Program was established in 2001 with the goal of increasing the overall diversity of Colorado’s urban forests. Each year, a potential tree species that has not been widely planted in Colorado is selected for planting in local communities to evaluate its potential suitability for broader planting in the state. The program aims to further diversify the list of species communities have available to choose from when planting, making it easier to plant diversely.

The Sucker Punch Chokecherry was selected as the evaluation species for 2016. The communities of Colorado Springs, Littleton, and Longmont became the new homes for 12 Sucker Punch Chokecherries (three in each community).

In past years, STEP has evaluated the following trees:
2001: Chinquapin Oak, White Spruce, and Shumard Oak
2002: Frontier Elm
2003: Lacebark Pine
2004: Burgundy Ussurian
2006: Pear Canyon Maple
2010: Pacific Sunset
2011: Maple Sensation
2012: Boxelder Wavy leaf
2013: Expresso Coffeetree
2014: Purple Beech ‘Dawyck
2015: David Elm ‘Choice Qty’
2016: Sucker Punch Chokecherry

Diverse planting helps to protect Colorado’s community forests from the impact of insects and disease. The Colorado State Forest Service recommends that no one type of tree should make up more than 10 percent of a planted landscape. For a list of recommended tree species, visit [http://www.coloradotrees.org](http://www.coloradotrees.org).
Trees Across Colorado

For the fifteenth year, this past April Trees Across Colorado (TAC), a program of the Colorado Tree Coalition, provided shade trees to help communities organize volunteer tree planting projects. Communities that participate in TAC have the opportunity for outreach with information about the benefits of trees, good species selection, proper tree planting and maintenance practices and the importance of tree diversity for the long-term health of our urban forests.

This year fourteen communities came to Windsor, Arvada and Littleton to get 1050 shade trees on Wednesday, April 13th, including bare root, balled and burlaped and trees grown in #7 and #15 patented containers that air prune the roots. Before shipping, the air pruning containers are removed and the root balls are wrapped in burlap. The root balls are so dense that they don’t fall apart when the burlap is completely removed during planting and they weigh less than B&B trees of comparable caliper. They are much easier to plant and establish in their new planting sites more quickly.

Many of the trees distributed through this program are low water-demand and, at 5-12 feet tall and 1 to 1.5 inches in caliper, are a good size and weight for volunteers to plant. Low water demand trees offered this year included Hedge Maple, Hot Wings Tatarian Maple, Hackberry, Kentucky Coffeetree, Swamp White Oak, Bur Oak, and Turkish Filbert. Less common trees included Rocky Mountain Maple, Bigtooth Maple, Shumard Oak, Chinkapin Oak, Ginkgo and American Yellowwood. Flowering trees included Spring Snow Crabapple, Ivory Silk Treelilac, Japanese Pagodatree and Redbud.

City and town arborists, community Tree Boards and neighborhood groups participate in TAC. Two homeowners’ associations in Colorado Springs rented a trailer and came to Littleton to pick up their trees. Tree recipients are frequently individual homeowners but sometimes volunteer group planting projects are arranged along park trails or at schools.

Trees Across Colorado continues to be a successful program in distributing low cost, high quality trees to communities and groups all over Colorado. It has been a successful fundraiser for CTC to support scholarships, grants for tree projects across Colorado and educational projects, bringing in over $9,000 in 2016, thanks to volunteer time contributed to the CTC! For information about the Trees Across Colorado program, please call CTC’s Trees Across Colorado Coordinator Gertie Grant at 303-744-3882 or email at gertiegrant@estreet.net.
Colorado Arbor Day Foundation Poster Contest
Mariah B. Rosenweig Wins 2016 CTC Poster Contest

This past year’s poster theme was “Celebrate Trees in Our Community.” Mariah B. Rosenweig, a fifth grader from The Denver Waldorf School in Denver, CO, has been selected as the winner of the 2016 Colorado Arbor Day Poster Contest. Mariah’s poster, in accordance with the contest selection criteria, depicts the importance of trees and a variety of ways that they benefit our community.

Mariah’s poster was on displayed at the State Capitol along with the posters of the other forty-five state finalists. A panel of judges from the Colorado Tree Coalition (CTC) selected the winning poster from dozens of quality entries submitted by fifth graders throughout Colorado.

Mariah was recognized by the CTC and Representative Alec Garnett alongside her family, Mariah’s 4th grade brother, Carmi, mother, Cheryl Spector and her grandfather, Larry Spector on Monday, April 18th in a presentation at the display of the state finalists’ posters in the North Foyer of the State Capitol. Additionally, she was recognized on the floor of the Colorado House of Representatives and enjoyed a tour of the Capitol.

The Colorado Arbor Day Poster Contest is sponsored by Arborscape Services, the Colorado Tree Coalition and the Colorado State Forest Service.
Scholarship Program

The Colorado Tree Coalition (CTC) provides scholarships to eligible members of the CTC to promote its mission of preserving, renewing and enhancing community forests.

The Colorado Tree Coalition (CTC) has a limited amount of funds to assist people with registering to attend conferences and workshops throughout the year. Because of the limited dollars available it is required of all who request assistance to follow these guidelines:
1. Must be an individual, family or patron CTC member in good standing.
2. Scholarship requests will be limited to a maximum of $300, and can only be applied to cover registration costs of the event.
3. To request a scholarship submit the form on the CTC website http://www.coloradotrees.org/programs.php#awards. At a minimum the request should contain the name and location of the conference and what is hoped to be learned at the event, how it will be applied in your current position, and how it benefits the mission of the CTC.
4. Requests will also be limited to one person per community/group/organization per workshop or conference. Many workshops and conferences now offer concurrent sessions and there is a value to sending more than one person. However, the CTC will not be able to fund more than one person.
5. Scholarship requests will be reviewed and approved by a majority vote of the Executive Committee of CTC.
6. Those receiving scholarships will be required to supply an article or notes to be used in Tree Talk and/or placed on the CTC web site and/or in another electronic newsletter format so others can benefit from the workshop aswell.
7. The board of the CTC is committed to education and is seeking additional funds so the scholarship program can be expanded and more people throughout Colorado can benefit from the various educational opportunities available.

Tree Risk Assessment Program

CTC’s Tree Risk Assessment program continued to update materials in 2016 to align with recently published Best Management Practices and Standards around this topic. Updated materials and training sessions are being planned for 2017.
2016 Colorado Tree Coalition CommuniTree Awards

**Distinguished Service Award**

**Toni Evans** - For planning, supervising and participating in Ordway’s South Park tree planting and overall dedication and commitment to the Town of Ordway.

**Ralph Zentz** - For leading the Northern Colorado Pest Group, the Emerging Pests Committee of the Front Range Urban Forestry Council, and planning the successful Plant Health Care Workshops.

**Kyle Sylvester** - For coordinating the Colorado Tree Coalition’s 5th grade poster contest and promoting the benefits of community forests to children, their families, schools and legislative representatives in the process.

**Doug Schoch** - For coordinating the Colorado Tree Coalition’s 5th grade poster contest in Denver schools and promoting the benefits of community forests to children, their families, schools and legislative representatives in the process.

**Donna Davis** - For coordinating the Colorado Tree Coalition’s 5th grade poster contest and promoting the benefits of community forests to children, their families, schools and legislative representatives in the process.

**Lifetime Achievement Award**

**Scott Grimes** - For his years of service to the arboriculture and green industries of Colorado, two-terms as Colorado Tree Coalition President, and passionate efforts as an arborist and forester to preserve, renew and enhance community forests.
Rollinger Tree Collection
50-Year Survey Project

The Rollinger Tree Collection 50-Year Survey Project is a collaboration between Denver Botanic Gardens, Denver’s Office of the City Forester, Colorado State University Extension, Colorado State Forest Service, the Colorado Tree Coalition, and other local participants to revisit a survey of major trees done in 1968 by Alan Rollinger in order to gain insight into the history, health, and future of Denver’s urban trees.

**Background**
In 1968, Al Rollinger was a young landscape designer, recently graduated from CSU. Curious about the kinds of trees growing in Denver, he decided to do a survey of the more unusual trees - ones other than the very commonly planted species like American elm, silver maple, honeylocust, and green ash. Therefore, he undertook the huge effort of doing a street-by-street survey, noting the species, location, diameter, and height of over 1100 trees of 46 species. In 1969, Al documented the results of his survey in a written report.

**The Project**
Now, almost 50 years later, we have realized how valuable the data collected in this survey could be to analyze the health, mortality, and growth patterns of these various species in the Denver area.

We are currently in the process of finding, measuring, and taking photographs of the trees surveyed in 1968 to determine which are still alive and to determine growth patterns. These data will be analyzed and stored in a database held by the Denver Office of the City Forester, and will be reported in a book publication, to include the results of the data analysis, before and after pictures, stories of some of the most interesting or unique trees, and implications for the future of trees in Denver. We expect that this study will provide a wealth of information that can be used to assess which tree species are best suited to Denver’s climate, and act as a guide to future tree planting.
The Colorado Tree Coalition was accepted by Community First Foundation and FirstBank to participate in Colorado Gives Day which took place on December 6, 2016. This is an annual statewide movement to celebrate and increase philanthropy through online giving.

The event is powered by ColoradoGives.org, a year-round, online giving website. Here is a direct link to the CTC profile: CTC Donation Page

The donations CTC received was close to $700. By participating in Colorado Gives Day, these donations will help fund the many CTC’s programs, which includes: The Champion Tree, Tree Risk Assessment and Fifth Grade Arbor Day Poster Contest programs. Additionally, the Trees Across Colorado program provides low cost trees to CO communities, and the ReForest Colorado program helps communities recover from natural disasters.

Thanks to Community First Foundation and First Bank, Colorado Gives Day features a $1 Million Incentive Fund, one of the largest gives-day incentive funds in the country. The Colorado Tree Coalition is receiving a portion of the Incentive Fund, which increased the value of every dollar donated.

At Community First Foundation, their name says it all. Since 1975, they have been helping generous donors and innovative nonprofits come together to improve the quality of life and create positive change in Jefferson County, the Denver metropolitan area and beyond. They serve as a connector, partner, collaborator and resource to fuel the power of community for the greater good. They are proud to use our energy, leadership and trusted stewardship of financial resources to energize giving across our state, strengthen nonprofits, support donors and find new ways to address community needs.
CTC Program Contacts

If you are interested in volunteering for a specific program or have any questions regarding a Colorado Tree Coalition program, please contact the Program Leader by e-mail.

Membership Program
- Phil Hoefer Pihoefer@aol.com, Kamie Long Kamie.Long@ColoState.edu, Laurel Brabec, Adam Moore

Awards Program
- Karen Scopel, Phil Hoefer, Wendy Ball, Ralph Zentz, Laurel Brabec, Dan Odell

CTC Grant Program
- Keith Wood Keith.Wood@ColoState.edu, David Flaig

Champion Tree Bike Classic
- Scott Grimes coloradotreeconsultants@yahoo.com, David Flaig

Champion Tree Program
- Neal Bamesberger nbamesberg871@hotmail.com, Kyle Sylvester, Ben Rickenbacker, Vince Urbina

Community Forestry Conferences
- Eastern Colorado Communities - Keith Wood Keith.Wood@ColoState.edu
- Western Colorado Communities - Vince Urbina Vince.Urbina@ColoState.edu

Colorado Tree Trust and ReForest Colorado Funds
- Colorado Tree Trust – Scott Grimes coloradotreeconsultants@yahoo.com
- ReForest Colorado – Vince Urbina Vince.Urbina@ColoState.edu or Keith Wood Keith.Wood@ColoState.edu

Tree Risk Assessment Program
- Bill Cassel Bill.Cassel@denvergov.org, Ralph Zentz, Scott Grimes, Kyle Sylvester, Keith Wood, Vince Urbina
Poster Contest
- Kyle Sylvester KSylvester@brightonco.gov, Angela Poulson, Donna Davis, Keith Wood, Shawna Crocker, David Merriman, Matt Johnson, Doug Schoch

Newsletters, Annual Report and Website
- Newsletters/Annual Report – Angela Poulson, Keith Wood, Vince Urbina
- Website – Kamie Long Kamie.Long@ColoState.edu
- Facebook – Mike McGill mmcgill@erieco.gov, Kyle Sylvester KSylvester@brightonco.gov, Laural Brabec

Notable Tree Program
- Notable Tree Tours – Mike McGill mmcgill@erieco.gov, Karen Scopel, Kyle Sylvester, Neal Bamesberger, Kathleen Alexander, Phil Hoefer, Rich Thurau, Keith Wood

Select Tree Evaluation Program
- Tim Buchanan tbuchanan@fcgov.com, Gertie Grant

Trees Across Colorado
- Gertie Grant gertiegrant@estreet.com, Scott Grimes, David Flaig

Emerald Ash Borer
- Keith Wood Keith.Wood@ColoState.EDU, Angela Poulson, Tom Wells, David Flaig, Kyle Sylvester, Shiloh Hatcher, Rob Davis, Mike McGill, Kathleen Alexander, Jay Hein
Awards Summary

Thanks to on-going financial and administrative support from the USDA Forest Service and the Colorado State Forest Service, dues-paying members, and sponsors of the grant program, the Colorado Tree Coalition (CTC) awarded $42,848 to 17 organizations in 2016. Along with matching funds provided by the grant recipients this helped plant 360 trees in communities across Colorado. Each of these projects allowed residents the opportunity to make a difference in their community with a combined total of 3,117 hours of volunteer service. These grants were made possible through the support of the USDA Forest Service, the Colorado State Forest Service, Xcel Energy Foundation, Xcel Energy Vegetation Management, and the members and supporters of the Colorado Tree Coalition. Since 1991 the Colorado Tree Coalition has awarded 501 grants totaling nearly $844,000. These grants have been matched with over $7.8 million in community money and/or time. As a result of these grants 74,110 trees have been planted throughout the state.
Since 2004, Xcel Energy Vegetation Management Program has provided nearly $27,000 for utility tree planting demonstration projects. Since 2011, the Xcel Energy Foundation has provided $150,000 in funded projects.

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**Grant Recipient Highlights – Fort Garland and Revitalization Committee - Tree Replacement and maintenance in Blanca/Fort Garland Cemetery Project**

Fort Garland Revitalization Committee has received a $500 grant from the Colorado Tree Coalition (CTC) for the Tree Replacement and maintenance in Blanca/Fort Garland Cemetery. The community has loved ones at Blanca/Fort Garland Cemetery. The Sierra Grande school is within walking distance of the cemetery, so they took the students to help plant the trees. They worked with the teachers to help educate the students about the benefits of trees and proper planting techniques. There were at least 2 classrooms with approximately 40 students participating. During the planting, they utilized the students to weed around the trees already growing and pick up trash.
Grant Recipient Highlights – The Town of Estes Park- Tree Identification Project

The Parks Division of the Town’s Public Works Department recently received a $500 matching grant from the Colorado Tree Coalition to produce and install new identification signs on trees across Town properties. Most have already been installed, and by mid-August, all 50 identification plaques will be placed on various trees within Town parks, streetscapes and at the Fairgrounds at Stanley Park.

The use of healthy and appropriate trees downtown and in Town parks helps to illustrate sustainable and practical planting options for Estes Park's unique climate. The tree identification plaques are an effort to promote the use of such tree species by local residents for their own landscaping purposes.

Grant Recipient Highlights – The Park People- Community Forester Program

The Park People received a grant of $2,000 to help fund the Community Forester Program. The purpose of this CTC grant is to promote community forestry: proper tree selection, planting location, planting and maintenance practices. Denver's forest management needs are great. The city is home to an estimated 2.2 million trees with room for more than 3 million more. Unfortunately, both the Denver Forestry Office and The Park People (Denver’s urban forestry nonprofit) lack adequate personnel to meet all the needs of our community trees.

Additionally, trees in the public right-of-way pose an interesting management challenge. While technically owned by the City, residents are responsible for the maintenance, care, and eventual removal of street trees adjacent to their properties. Many residents are not aware of their responsibility and know little about tree care, which leads to poor management decisions, neglect, and higher future costs. Thus, there is a critical need to educate and provide support for residents on issues of early tree care.
Grant Recipient Highlights – Needham Elementary School – “Trees are the Answer!” Project

In 2011, The Needham Elementary began the initial "Trees are the answer!" program with the planting of 7 trees to start an arboretum at Needham Elementary. Since this time, they have planted every year and more than 50 diversified species of trees on the Needham Campus. But what makes this year special is the fact that those students who are in 5th grade and will go onto Middle school next year have planted a tree every year of their elementary school career since kindergarten. The importance of trees is part of their conscientious.

Needham Elementary received a grant of $2,000 to help fund the pre-K area of their campus. This area has been neglected over the years. It is sectioned off from the rest of the playground area. Last year our "Trees are the answer!" project planted six beautiful shade trees outside the pre-K classrooms to protect them from the western sun. This year we want to completed the Pre-K endeavors by cleaning up and improving their playground area.

With continued support of the CTC, we plan to remove two Russian Olive trees that have created an unsightly mess of the Pre-K playground. In their place, we plan to plant up to five trees in a treeless, barren playground. The long-term goal is to provide shade in various parts of the playground.
The City of Alamosa Parks & Recreation and Alamosa Tree Board received a grant of $2,000. The purpose of CTC/Xcel Energy grant is to promote community forestry: proper tree selection, planting location, planting and maintenance practices. Boyd and Diamond Parks are highly used and are in residential areas in different parts of Alamosa. There are very few street trees in the Diamond Park neighborhood. In the Boyd neighborhood, most of the existing street trees are in poor shape. These trees suffer from aging, years of drought, and neglect.

Their goal was to plant a diverse number of small shade trees under the power lines in each park which will enable folks to walk in the shade when they visit. The trees will improve the beauty of the area and we hope will encourage folks in the surrounding neighborhoods to plant and care for appropriate street trees. Through the planting, they educated residents on selecting “The Right Tree for the Right Place” under powerlines.
Grant Recipient Highlights – The City of Brighton - Tree City USA 
30-year Anniversary/ Arbor Day Celebration

The City of Brighton received $6,000 grant from the CTC. This year is Brighton’s 30th year anniversary as a Tree City USA. Brighton planted 30 trees at Midland Park to honor this event for Arbor Day. There was between 200-400 Brighton High School Seniors that participated in the event. Brighton High’s Student Council came to the City to ask if there was a large-scale project that the High School Seniors could participate in so they could acquire their required service hours in order to graduate. The High School wanted an event that could be scheduled during Senior “Ditch Day” so students would have a productive alternative to simply ditching school for a day. Over the last four years this program has been very successful. Planting 30 trees at Midland will certainly require many “hands” to help get this event finished.

Grant Recipient Highlights – The City of Loveland Parks’ Division - Ash Tree Replacement Project

The City of Loveland Parks’ Division received $6,000 grant from the CTC. With this funding, the City are continually planting trees to replace Ash trees that are being removed. Some of these trees have already been removed, and some will be removed in upcoming years. Currently, they hope to underplant trees anticipate removing in the next 2-3 years with a 1:1, or 1:2 ratio. The project also had an educational component of educating the community regarding the threat of Emerald Ash Borer, the wisdom of tree diversity, and the availability of substitute species.
Events and Outreach

Eastern Colorado Community Forestry Conference

The ECCFC was combined with the Greeley Tree Care Workshop in 2016.

Western Colorado Community Forestry Conference

The Colorado State Forest Service, City of Alamosa, Adams State University and Colorado Tree Coalition hosted the 26th Annual Western Colorado Community Forestry Conference on Friday, Sep. 9, at ASU’s Student Union Building. At the western Colorado’s premier experts from CSFS, local landscapers, regional businesses with International Society of Arboriculture’s Certified Arborists and other organizations will provided 30- to 75-minute presentations relevant to small communities in Colorado. This year’s conference theme was, Adding Value to Communities and will focus on tree values, funding needs and costs associated with community forestry programs. In addition to community tree finances, we will also look at urban trees from the perspective of the arborist, landscaper, and city department responsible for trees.

ProGreen, Workshops, and Other Events

The Colorado Tree Coalition was once again able to obtain free booth space at several events in 2016 to distribute literature on CTC programs and services and to sell and give away merchandise. These events included the ProGreen Expo held at the Denver Convention Center in February, the Greeley Tree Care Workshop in February, the Colorado State Capitol, Eastern Colorado Community Forestry Conference in Trinidad and Estes Park GeoFest in April, the City of Greeley’s Arbor Day celebration in May, the Plant Health Care Workshop in Fort Collins in June, grand opening event at Whistling Duck Furniture in June, the North American Tree Climbing Championship event in Longmont in September, the ISA-RMC Annual Conference in Keystone in September. The CTC booth is always a popular gathering spot at these events to catch up with old friends, make new ones and form long-lasting partnerships.
Volunteers Inventory 1,230 Trees in Historic Cemetery

By Angela Poulson

Volunteers from more than a dozen cities across the state inventoried more than 1,200 trees in Denver’s Fairmount Cemetery July 21 during a day of service organized by the Colorado State Forest Service, the Rocky Mountain Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture and the Colorado Tree Coalition. Fairmount – founded in 1890 – was originally landscaped with more than 4,000 trees. Today, Fairmount is the state’s largest arboretum and home to numerous notable and state champion trees.

Event organizer Scott Grimes, who chairs ISA-RMC’s day of service committee, said the idea of a Fairmount day of service has been on his mind for years. He originally discussed the idea with the Fairmount Heritage Foundation’s former executive director, Patricia Carmody. “[She] got me involved with the labelling of trees at Fairmount and she and I discussed a day of service for arborists caring for these majestic trees. Initially, we were hoping to find a private tree care company to ‘adopt’ the notable ash on the property and start caring for and protecting these trees from emerald ash borer.”

In 2012, an ash inventory and notable tree labeling project came to fruition with the help of a grant from the Colorado Tree Coalition. But as Grimes assisted with the project, he came to realize that Fairmount’s needs went beyond just ash tree care. “As I wandered the grounds, I saw many more tree needs and more opportunities for arborists and others to get involved and help preserve, protect and renew this wonderful community forest. As a community forester, I saw the usual situation: too much work to accomplish with the current budget.”

Recognizing the need to identify maintenance priorities for such a large arboretum, Grimes knew an inventory would be the best first step to helping Fairmount care for the trees. He contacted the Colorado Tree Coalition to see if its Front Range Urban Forestry Council meeting for July could be converted to a day of service, and he teamed up with the Colorado State Forest Service for help with rallying volunteers and handling logistics.

On the day of the event, 47 volunteers from communities as far away as Fort Morgan attended a training on the online inventory application being used – Colorado Tree View (CO-TreeView) –
and received a refresher course on tree inventory basics. They then broke into groups and got
to work, inventorying more than 65 cemetery blocks throughout the day. When Kelly Briggs,
president and CEO of Fairmount, learned that more than 1,200 trees had been inventoried, he
said he was amazed. He said he was surprised and grateful to have so many people show up to
help out. “And they were all such great people,” he said.
Briggs said some of the trees in Fairmount can’t be found anywhere else at such a large size,
“so it’s really important to preserve those. There’s a lot of people – just judging by the number of
schools that come out here – that are really interested in trees. So there’s an important
educational part to this, too.” Fairmount has always lacked the time and people required to
conduct a full inventory, kept busy with the constant and immediate needs of such a large
forest. Without volunteers’ help, he said, “we never would have gotten it done.”

Now that most of Fairmount’s trees have finally been inventoried, Briggs has begun an analysis
of the collected data. CO-TreeView, which allows users to conduct mobile device-based
inventory collection, also allows for inventory analysis using a variety of filtering and statistics
tools, helping urban forest managers to gain valuable insights.
An initial analysis of the Fairmount data revealed, for example, that maple trees had at some
point in the past been greatly overplanted. It also revealed that silver maples in particular –
which often become brittle with old age – were driving above-average rates of potentially
hazardous conditions. Briggs said he has long been aware of the declining maples problem, but
he said he didn’t realize the severity of the problem until now. “It’s nice to have it confirmed,” he
said. “This is proof versus just me saying it.”
Briggs says having a searchable record of each tree’s characteristics, management needs and
location will help with hazard mitigation, worker training/instruction, storm damage prevention,
budgetary planning, planting strategy, funding solicitation, tree tour development and more. It
will even help Fairmount to assist grieving families looking for meaningful burial sites for loved
ones. “And there are probably lots of other things that I haven’t even thought of yet. It’s going to
be invaluable.”

Volunteers also got a lot out of the event, according to a post-event survey. Many said they
enjoyed seeing some of the state’s most historic trees first-hand and doing something good for
the community. “I wanted to help Fairmount with their inventory and give back,” said Broomfield
City Forester Tom Wells, who conducted his group’s inventory assignment alongside his own
forestry staff. “Bringing my staff to the event exposed them to Fairmount and the trees that are
there, plus it was a great place to learn about trees and inventories.” Several volunteers said
they also really enjoyed spending time with other professional foresters and arborists from
around the state, exchanging stories and learning from each other’s past experiences.
Fairmount’s Briggs said he’s looking forward to using CO-TreeView to continue to analyze the
inventory data and to keep it up to date, and Grimes at ISA-RMC said he hopes to continue to
build on the event’s success. “Now we can market further opportunities for people and
companies to get involved and do their part to help care for this century-old forest.”
Colorado Tree Coalition 2016 Treasurer’s Report
Submitted by Becky Wegner

The Colorado Tree Coalition (CTC) continued to operate at an efficient level spending within the 2016 budget. This is accomplished through the support of the Colorado State Forest Service, an all-volunteer Board of Directors and a group of long term partners and granting organizations.

CTC and its partners continue to be on the leading edge of Emerald Ash Borer efforts in Colorado. In 2016, CTC partnered up with Colorado Department of Agriculture, Pest Detection, Colorado Emerald Ash Borer Response Team, and Front Range Community College to put on a one-day taxonomic training to identify Emerald Ash Borer and Asian Longhorned Beetle. The training sold out despite the bad winter storm that hit in late March.

The CTC and the Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) funded Colorado Tree View, a GIS based inventory database to help communities understand their ash populations and other things about their tree populations. A second GIS project for tree collections was funded in 2016. This database is for smaller unique populations of trees in the state.

Xcel Energy remains a partner, providing $25,000 in pass through grants to 4 communities in areas served by the utility provider as well as additional support of the traditional community grants program. Since 1991, the CTC has been providing grants to assist forestry programs in cities and towns across Colorado. In 2016, over $18,000 was awarded to communities throughout the state to support tree, planting, management and education projects in their community.

The Tour de Poudre bicycle ride, an annual fundraising event, was a great success with netted over $4,800. These proceeds were split between CTC programs and a donation to the Tree Fund. Trees Across Colorado (TAC) continues to provide good urban trees for communities across Colorado, providing revenue for other CTC programs.

In 2016, the Colorado Tree Coalition joined the Colorado Gives Organization and participated in Colorado Gives Day on December 6. Donations over $600 came in from generous individuals throughout the state. These funds will provide revenue to help support the CTC programs throughout the coming year.
Colorado Tree Coalition 2016 Statement of Activities
January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016

Ordinary Income

Government Income

Government Grants 20,000.00
Government Memberships 1,540.00

Total Government Income $21,540.00

Non-Government Income

Tour de Trees Bike Ride 5,935.00
Membership Dues 2,925.00
Notable Trees of Colorado Calendar 298.75
Xcel Energy Foundation Grants (pass-thru) 25,000.00
Xcel Vegetation Management Grant 2,044.30
Reforest Colorado Fund 3,889.45
Other Donations 728.01

Total Non-Government Income $40,820.51

Merchandise Sales 534.23

Total Merchandise Sales $534.23

Program Service Revenue

STEP (Select Tree Evaluation Program) 1,978.54
Western Colorado Community Forestry Conference 850.00
Taxonomic Training 4,500.00
Colorado Arbor Day Poster Contest 500.00
Trees Across Colorado 56,623.25

Total Program Service Revenue $64,451.79

Total Income $127,346.53

Ordinary Expense

Board Development Expense

CTC Administration 11,572.91
Accounting Services 4,415.00
Liability Insurance 1,687.00
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Partnerships

A big part of the Colorado Tree Coalition’s success is due to its partnerships with other organizations. Now, more than ever, the CTC partners with several credible organizations. Partnering offers organizations a way to pool scarce resources and brings out the talents of individual members to achieve particular goals. Following is a list of organizations CTC has partnered with in the past or continues to partner with:

**Colorado State Forest Service** - The Colorado State Forest Service continues to provide the support necessary for CTC to be a successful non-profit organization. The CTC would not be able to function as effectively as it does without the administrative, technical and financial support of the CSFS.

**United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service** - The USFS also continues to support urban and community forestry programs and those groups administering them, including the CTC’s grant program that receives federal funding through the Farm Bill each year.

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**International Society of Arboriculture Rocky Mountain Chapter** - The ISA-RMC has been a great partner over the past few years combining efforts with CTC to provide educational seminars, workshops and conferences. ISA-RMC has also played a key role in helping coordinate efforts with the Champion Tree Bicycle Classic the last eleven years.

**ArborScape** - Denver's ArborScape Tree Services Company came “on-board” in 2011 to help sponsor the CTC with its poster contest. Lawn and tree care is not just a job at ArborScape—it’s an art form. And with 20 years of tree and lawn care history on their side, ArborScape has the experience to make your landscape beautiful and sustainable.

**Colorado Public Radio** - The CTC expresses its sincerest thanks for the continued partnership with Colorado Public Radio. Through its Evergreen Partner program members choose this convenient and cost saving option and never have to worry about renewing again. Monthly checking account withdrawal subscriptions renew automatically until members contact the membership department to cancel, and a portion of these funds goes to the CTC’s ReForest Colorado program. More info can be found at [Evergreen Partner](#).
Colorado Municipal League - In 2012 the Colorado Tree Coalition became an Associate Member of the Colorado Municipal League. As such, CTC has been able to promote its programs through the CML newsletter, website, webinars and annual conference. CTC looks forward to expanding its awareness through CML to communities across Colorado.

Xcel Energy Vegetation Management - Xcel Energy continues to support proper tree planting and management near utility lines throughout the state of Colorado, partnering with CTC to get the “right tree in the right place” message out. Xcel Energy continues to help sponsor the CTC Vegetation Management Grant Program and fund projects that promote proper tree planting near utility lines. Funding since 2004 has amounted to nearly $25,000 to the grant program.

Xcel Energy Foundation - CTC and the Xcel Energy Foundation continue to partner on a statewide tree planting grant program that has made a significant difference in communities impacted by storms and budget cuts across Colorado. Since 2011 this program has distributed $125,000 worth of grant funding to Xcel-served communities across the state.

BKI Woodworks - BKI Woodworks was started in 1979 by its current owner and is one of the longest operating professional cabinetry and woodshops in Boulder, Colorado. BKI continues to support the ReForest Colorado fund through donations made by their clients and customers.

Peaks N Pines Brewing Company - Peaks n Pines, a newly opened brewery in Colorado Springs, established its first week of business in November 2015 to provide a portion of sales as a donation to CTC’s ReForest Colorado fund. Check them out at www.peaksnpinesbrewery.com.

Trees Across Colorado - CTC began its partnership with Trees Across Colorado (TAC) in 2004. TAC is a shade tree distribution program administered by Gertie Grant providing trees to community groups at wholesale prices. TAC continues to be a successful program in distributing trees to communities and groups all over Colorado and has been a successful fundraiser for CTC as well, bringing in nearly $11,000 in 2015!

Colorado Tree Coalition Members and Donors - Last, but certainly not least, our wonderful members join in around the state to provide support for grant projects, local educational opportunities, Arbor Day programs and numerous other events that promote sound community forestry management in Colorado.

We thank all of our partners for working closely with CTC and look forward to future endeavors to work together to preserve, renew and enhance our community forests.
When the devastating and fast-moving emerald ash borer first made its appearance in Colorado in 2013, the Colorado Tree Coalition (CTC) knew it was critical to educate communities about it immediately.

Using a TREE Fund grant, the CTC's Emerald Ash Borer Colorado Public Relations project has resulted in more than 100,000 affected citizens gaining awareness of EAB and access to EAB resources. Colorado communities have learned how to plan for and budget their response to EAB, thus decreasing the risk and speed of the infestation and reducing its financial impact.

As part of this project, CTC collaborated with other organizations and communities and leveraged existing resources. In the end, the project's impact was magnified far beyond the initial investment.

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