

What do local Tree Commissions generally do?

- (1) Study the urban forest including problems involving the city tree population, determine needs, compose and annually review a Community Tree Plan and seek ways to implement needed work.
- (2) Assist the properly constituted officials of the town as well as citizens and community groups, in the dissemination of news and information regarding the selection, planting, and maintenance of trees within the corporate limits, whether they be on private or public property.
- (3) Provide regular and special meetings at which the subject of the urban forest may be discussed by the citizens of the town.
- (4) May engage in any other lawful activity in pursuit of the mission of the commission which may benefit the urban forest.

We would like to know how your local Tree Commission has benefited your community. Please send your story

**to mrchoate@big-john.com or mail to
PO BOX 960 Heber Springs, AR 72543**

For more information about Tree Commissions visit:
<http://www.greenlaws.lsu.edu/>

The answer to last months riddle: egg *What tree is older than most other trees?*

National Tree Benefit Calculator

The National Tree Benefit Calculator allows anyone to make a simple estimation of the benefits individual street-side trees provide. With inputs of location, species and tree size, users will get an understanding of the environmental and economic value trees provide on an annual basis.

I visited <http://www.treebenefits.com/calculator/index.cfm> . I entered my 10" Japanese Maple to find out it provides overall benefits of: \$86 every year. More than half of that was in property value. I entered my 30" pine to reveal that it will intercept 6,590 gallons of storm water runoff this year. I have to admit after leaving the site the trees in my yard were more meaningful to me and left me wondering what would happen to large tree transplanting if more people understood the overall impact a single mature tree makes?

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or visit Big John on the web at www.big-john.com

Trees on the Move...

Transforming a need into a business is not uncommon to Dan McGuire, landscape contractor and owner of Earthpower Landscaping and Patio. In 1976, Dan graduated from CSU in Landscape Design.

In 1993, Dan bought his first Big John and started his second business Trees on the Move... with the intention of offering customers the service of transplanting that "cute" little Spruce tree that was planted too close to the house, sidewalk or driveway. He viewed a disservice by designers & architects. He also knew there was a need to re-locate trees with the forward sighted vision of twenty plus years down the road.

Dan believes people want to save trees when it comes to a home addition or moving to a new home. He said it is common for people in Northern Colorado to bring a tree to a new residence and often in so doing opening up the yard for the next homeowner. He has heard countless times that many people do not want to wait forever for a shade tree, however, Dan likes to plant with future generations in mind too. Some of Dan's best practices include:

- 1) Always be professional
- 2) Keep your spade truck clean & presentable.
- 3) Take pride in your work.
- 4) If you don't offer a service a customer asks for, refer them to someone who does.
- 5) Always remember tree transplanting is a service business. Developing prospects & leads is a process. Work can take months even years to ripen. Other times it's available to the first one available tomorrow.

"I think those of us in the green industry are savvy enough to weather out this recession; its we hands-on tree people that will survive. Keep those irons in the fire."
Dan McGuire