

CONSERVATION Connection News

Winter Review

Winter can be a time of rest and reflection of the past year and a time to plan for the year to come. As we switch gears and take on our cool season duties or slip on snow skis, there is an opportunity to break up the day with educational opportunities offered by the City of Bend's Water Conservation program. See upcoming workshop opportunities at left.

Workshops

**Feb 15 - Smart Irrigation
An Approach to Water
Management in the
Landscape** (3 CEHs available)

This interactive workshop is for landscape and irrigation contractors and covers the principles of managing water in the landscape. Topics include creating a water budget, controller management, impacts of distribution uniformity, soils, etc. 3 CEHs are available.

**June 12, 20, 28 -
WaterWise Workshop
Series at Hollinshead Park**

This is a WaterWise Program series covering residential landscape irrigation. interactive workshops will capitalize on the recently installed WaterWise Garden at Hollinshead Park. The new addition to the park is a collaborative effort between Central Oregon Master Gardeners, Oregon State University Extension Service, Bend Parks and Recreation, and the City of Bend.

Workshops are FREE, but pre-registration is required: Phone 541-693-2194 or Email conservation@bendoregon.gov

Improving Distribution Uniformity Saves Water and Money

One of the reoccurring issues seen during our Sprinkler Inspection Program visits is the over looked and often straightforward adjustments that adversely affect the water distribution during an irrigation cycle. These simple issues such as sunken, blocked or tilted sprinklers, incorrect nozzles seem minor but greatly affect the coverage and Distribution Uniformity of a system. Ultimately, simple issues lead to stress in the plant material and the controller cranked up to compensate. Time and time again, excessive water use comes down to poor system Distribution Uniformity and peak summer conditions.

Performing a Distribution Uniformity (D.U.) test is an excellent way to gauge the performance of a sprinkler

system. All the effects from pressure, sprinkler spacing, sprinkler pattern alignment and sprinkler type will be highlighted during a D.U. test. The D.U. % is used to calculate the amount of additional water necessary to supply the dry spots with adequate water; conversely, a keen mind might market this to his or her customers as the savings potential when system repairs are completed.

During our Sprinkler Inspection Program, we focus on providing customers with the most cost effective recommendation to increase the D.U. of their irrigation system, saving them water and money long term. Distribution uniformity tests are frequently done during Sprinkler Inspection site

visits, but staff also check system functionality, soil type and offer recommendations for scheduling and a repair checklist. Do you have a customer that could benefit from this information? Have them request a FREE inspection at our website waterwisetips.org or call 541-317-3000.





Conservation Contemplation

A recent trip to visit family and friends in San Diego this Christmas solidified my perspective of how lucky we are in Central Oregon. Here we have such accessible, clean water at our disposal. Making my way through the dry chaparral foothills of eastern San Diego toward the beautifully green coastline, my reminiscing mind couldn't help but draw similarities to where things were 15 years ago, pre-drought, and where things are at home in Bend today. Back then, the Sierras were white, Mammoth mountain was open until June and the landscape construction business was booming. Life was good. Most of us know what followed. Unsettling possibilities went through my mind as I passed block after block of gravel front yards (there were a few nice ones too), and I was re-energized to spend 2018 spreading the message of water management and responsible water use in hopes that Bend never goes brown....or gravel.

Know Your Waterwise Team



Mike Buettner

CONSERVATION PROGRAM MANAGER

Mike manages all aspects of the City's WaterWise Program. Originally from the upper Midwest, Mike has extensive experience in the commercial landscape and irrigation industry. A seven year stint in Arizona managing irrigation systems for a large park system got him interested in the conservation side of the green industry. Mike is CLIA certified from the Irrigation Association and has his LEED AP accreditation from the U.S. Green Building Council.



Dan Denning

COMPLIANCE SPECIALIST

Dan came to Bend from San Diego, CA. He brings an extensive background in Landscape and Water Conservation. Dan spent time as a landscape contractor and managed the Landscape Irrigation Program for a Resource Conservation District facilitating multiple conservation programs for local Water Agencies and Water Wholesalers. He holds a CLIA from the Irrigation Association and multiple certificates from Cal Poly SLO's Irrigation Training Research Center.



Doug Voderberg

COMPLIANCE SPECIALIST

Doug is an Oregon native and lifelong student of horticulture. A lifetime learner, he returned to OSU as an adult to earn a bachelor's degree in turf management and again recently to obtain a master's degree studying sustainable landscape systems. With over 30 years of green industry experience and a vision for a healthy urban ecosystem in Bend's future, Doug is well suited to help community members with their conservation goals.

In the News

There are three (3) bills introduced in the 2017 legislative session that could potentially affect the LCB. Below is brief information about each:

House Bill 3337: Creates limited landscape construction professional license. Specifies scope of work that holder of limited license may perform.

Senate Bill 474: Eliminates continuing education requirements for landscape construction professionals.

House Bill 2206: Eliminates education, experience and examination requirements for issuance or renewal of landscape contracting business license or landscape construction professional license

For up to date information about the status of each bill, you can visit the Oregon Legislative Information website at: <https://olis.leg.state.or.us> and enter in the bill number.



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