



CITIZEN FORESTER PROGRAM

The San Joaquin Valley Urban Forests Council, TreeFresno, the City of Clovis, CalFire, PG&E, and the Fresno County Master Gardeners have collaborated to create and implement a program to train citizens in the greater Fresno/Clovis area in Urban Forestry Practices. The program will train participants in tree biology, tree and site selection, species identification, proper planting and pruning techniques and basic tree care. The program will consist of 4 classes, starting February 26th 2011, that will combine both classroom presentations and hands-on experience. Topics will include: Urban Forestry, Pruning, Planting, Tree and Site Selection, Tree Biology, Tree Hazards, Irrigation, Safety, and Hiring Arborists. The final class will be held at the Fresno State Campus, featuring tree identification. Afterward there will be a ceremony where the Citizen Foresters will be given certificates (and perhaps other items).

The goal of this program is to educate and create involvement of the community in Urban Forestry issues. The Citizen Foresters are expected to participate and be leaders in community events promoting Urban Forestry. This program has been modeled after several existing Citizen Forester Programs across the country.

After the training, 'Citizen Foresters' will assist with tree planting projects or other community service projects involving trees, and there will be annual events to bring Citizen Foresters together for updates and fellowship. A great way to become involved! Download an application from the TreeFresno website, and mail or fax it in; or for more information, contact Ron Nishinaka at Tree Fresno, (559) 221-5556, Ext 103.

The Citizen Forester Committee is: Jeff Wooten, Chairman (City of Clovis), Ron Nishinaka and Karen Maroot (Tree Fresno), Darla Mills (Cal-Fire), Lee Ayres (TreeTOPS), Patrick Denney (PG&E), Beth Teviotdale (UC Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners), and Max Younkin, (Retired Forester).

