

APRIL NEWSLETTER

Volume III, Issue 3
April 6, 2009
By: G. John Wood, President

FS Commercial Landscape, Inc.

I believe I have broken the record for the amount of water intentionally saved on an office building for a four month period. The system was turned off on December 1, 2008. It was turned back on April 1, 2009. The water has been turned off this entire period. The site includes fescue lawn, annual flowers, large and small trees, shrubs, and ivy groundcover. No hand watering was done. The entire system uses recycled water and has two controllers of twenty-four and thirty-six stations. Previous to shutting off the system, we audited and repaired all breaks, clogs, overspray, etc., so the system ran perfectly for the month and a half prior to the shut off. The location, Dublin, California, is approximately fifty miles east of San Francisco. In southern California this



may not be possible. Too little rainfall and too much fluctuation in temperature make for a highly complex watering schedule. A site in southern California would have to be monitored almost every other day. In order to get this kind of savings, you need to use a smart controller from RainBird or other well known manufacturers. They range in price from less than \$100 to thousands of dollars. The most difficult parts of this job are understanding and programming the controller. Greg Charpentier will be flying to Florida's Disney World for the express purpose of observing one of the RainBird weather stations in action.

We want to

Tree of the Month:
ARCTOSTAPHYLOS
Manzanita Tree

This tree is native to California and as such, drought tolerant. It can grow up to 20 feet tall. The flowers are cup-shaped and hang upside down. The berries are edible in small quantities and have historically been used to make cider.

thank Greg for his extraordinary dedication. The kids will also take part by testing the humidity with the one finger out method on the space mountain ride, while Greg and wife Gina dip a toe by the waterslide to measure evapotranspiration. I wouldn't want to be in their shoes – or sandals, as the case may be.

On a more serious note, Greg is working closely with RainBird and one of our clients to get a RainBird weather station installed that would serve the Inland Empire. Good luck to all involved there.

