Welcome to "Rod's Tree Tours" of the University of Nevada, Reno Arboretum. My name is Rod Haulenbeek, AKA "The Tree Hunter." I am the host for this tour.

This is the "Front Lawn" Tree Tour. It starts at the intersection of Ninth Street and the Center Street Entrance, heads toward the parking lot, goes along the south side of the Orr Ditch, goes down the long stairway, and ends back at the starting point.

Before you start, know that there are five Nevada State Champion Trees of the twelve trees on this tour. This is for two reasons: first, these are among the first trees planted on campus, sometime around 1900 to 1910; second, because the landscape designers picked five non-native trees which were not likely to be available locally.

Okay, let's get started.

Begin at the southeast corner of the intersection of Center Street and Ninth Street at number 1 on the map.
Tree
No.

1
Spanish Fir

The tree on the corner is Spanish Fir (scientific name *Abies pinsapo*, probably planted about 1950). A native of Spain, it looks to most people like a Spruce because it has fat needles. However, its cones are egg-shaped and upright, while spruce cones grow downward. The needles are soft, unlike the sharp Spruce needles. The branches grow level or upright. This tree is the Nevada State Champion.

2
White Spruce

To its left, at number 2 on the map, is White Spruce (scientific name *Picea glauca*, probably planted around 1950), native to the Northern U.S. and Southern Canada. This Spruce has two-inch cones, and dwarfs well: there are many dwarf cultivars on the market. (As a matter of fact, the Dwarf Alberta Spruce, featured on the "Around Thompson and Frandsen " Tree Tour, is a cultivar of this species). White Spruce branches grow level or upward. There are only two of these trees on campus, and this is the Nevada State Champion.

3
Norway Spruce

Continue up the street. The group of similar-looking trees on the right at number 3 are Norway Spruce (scientific name *Picea abies*, probably planted in the 1950s), native to central and northern Europe. Its branches tend to droop on each side of the limb, and the limbs tend to droop from the trunk. Its cones are longer than those of White Spruce, four to 6 inches long.
Across the street at number 4 is the third of the Spruce species planted on campus, **Colorado Blue Spruce** (scientific name *Picea pungens*, planted in the early 1950s). Native to the Northern Rocky Mountains, it grows quite well in Reno. Its blue-gray foliage makes it a desirable accent tree. It appears fuller than Norway Spruce and the branches do not droop.

Walk on the lawn about 50 feet toward the steps, stopping between the two very large trees at number 5. The tree on the right is **Siberian Elm** (scientific name *Ulmus pumila*, probably planted around 1930), native to Northeastern Asia. It is not susceptible to Dutch Elm Disease like other Elms, but it is attacked in late summer by Elm Leaf Beetles, which make lacework out of the leaves and make them look gray or brown. This tree is generally considered a nuisance tree because it tends to form thickets; this particular tree is the Nevada State Champion.
The tree to the left at number 6 is the Nevada State Champion Green Ash (scientific name *Fraxinus pennsylvanica*, probably planted about 1930), native to the Eastern United States. This tree is desirable because of its bright yellow color in early Fall, but Green Ash trees all over Reno are susceptible to aphids (which curl up leaves but don't usually kill trees) and a new pest, the Western Ash Borer, which has killed many mature Green Ashes in Reno.

Proceed east about 50 feet until you get to another large tree at number 7. This is Eastern Cottonwood (scientific name *Populus deltoides*, planted about 1910), which is native to the eastern half of North America. This tree is fast-growing and provides both shade and windbreak to farms and towns in the Midwest. However, it has weak branches which are constantly falling on lawns, as well as "cotton," the misty seeds which cause "snowstorms" in June. This tree's native habitat is along streams, so as a water-sucker it is illegal to plant them in the City of Reno. The Nevada State Champion Eastern Cottonwood is the similar-looking tree about 50 feet from the steps.

Between the two cottonwoods at number 8 is Valley Oak (scientific name *Quercus lobata*), native to interior valleys and foothills of the Great Valley in California; this is the tree you see on grassy hills on the way to San Francisco. This member of the White Oak Group is identifiable by its deeply-incised, rounded lobes.

Between the Nevada State Champion Eastern Cottonwood and the steps, at number 9, is an Elm, possibly Dutch Elm (scientific name *Ulmus x hollandica*, planted about 1910). There are many elm trees on campus, and, except for Siberian Elm (which has smaller leaves), they all look similar. Dutch Elm was introduced in the 17th Century.
Descend to the bottom of the steps, arriving at a columnar conifer on the left at number 10. This is **Columnar Scotch Pine** (scientific name *Pinus sylvestris* 'Fastigiata', planted 1979). It is tall and thin, compared to the species, which is native to northern Europe. These trees are uncommon, and this particular tree is the Nevada State Champion.

Across the steps is another **Colorado Blue Spruce**.

Walk back along the sidewalk to the gray-green conifer at number 11, just before the Center Street Entrance. This is **Candicans White Fir** (scientific name *Abies concolor* 'Candicans'). White Fir is native to the Sierra Nevada, and makes up about a third of the trees in the Lake Tahoe area; it is identified by upright cones on the top fourth of the tree, and by flat needles which stick out perpendicular to the branch. 'Candicans' differs from the species in that its needles are larger and are silver-gray.

Walk across the street on the crosswalk to the tree with the sign in front of it at number 12. This tree, a **Norway Spruce**, was planted in 1913 to commemorate the Grand Army of the Republic, a fraternal organization of Civil War veterans. This organization was founded in 1868.

This concludes the "Front Lawn" Tree Tour. Thank you for joining me on this tour. If you would like to support the Arboretum, please see the options on the “Donate” link on the UNR Arboretum website.