



# tree link news

[Home](#) [DNR](#) [DNR Urban Forestry](#) [USFS Urban Forestry](#)

## Quote of the Month

MAY 4, 2012

Just planting a tree is not going to fix things. Unfortunately, it is not that easy. The tree has to be the right tree in the right place for the right purpose, and there are steps needed to GROW the tree so the crown and canopy can contribute to our human needs. ~ *Gordon Mann, Consulting Arborist*

## Are We Planting or Growing Trees?

MAY 4, 2012

The quote of the month highlights the attitude we should have when we plant trees. That is, if we expect the multitude of benefits that trees provide we need to plant, then care for, new and existing trees.

Arbor Day season is past, but installation, or planting, is just the first step in what is a long-term commitment to growing mature trees in our communities. Consistent watering to re-grow root systems, structural pruning to develop strong, resilient canopies, and protection from those things that threaten their survival are all essential to GROWING a tree. Maintenance and management may not be as flashy and fun-filled as planting projects, but it is essential to create safe, sustainable urban and community forests.

Urban trees have many challenges to contend with, whether string trimmers, new construction or sidewalk repairs. They can't jump out of the way of cars, and they are not easily relocated. Most urban trees live for less than ten years! We can help them survive to maturity by planning carefully, and carefully tending this newly planted city infrastructure.

### SEARCH

### IN THIS ISSUE...

[Quote of the Month](#)

[Are We Planting or Growing Trees?](#)

[Coordinator's Corner](#)

[Kennewick – 100 Years of Arbor Day Celebrations](#)

[Forest Health – Likin' Lichens](#)

[Olympia's Tree Tract and Greenbelt Stewardship Guide](#)

[Spokane Regional Arbor Day and Tree City USA Event](#)

[Yelm Celebrates Sweet 16](#)

[Community Event: Blue Trees?](#)

[Web-ucation: Links to Help You Learn](#)

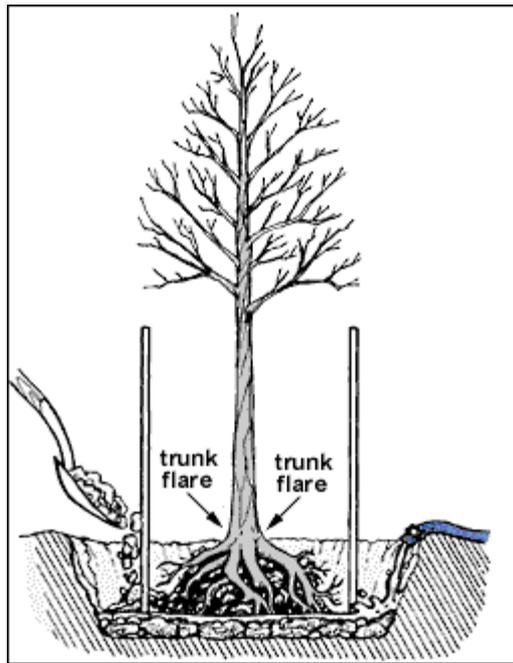
[May Calendar of Events, Activities and Opportunities](#)

### HELPFUL LINKS

[DNR Urban & Community Forestry](#)

[Arbor Day Foundation](#)





*Growing a tree starts with proper planting.*

## Coordinator's Corner

MAY 4, 2012

*"To plant trees is to give body and life to one's dreams of a better world"* – Russell Page



Beautiful spring flowers and sunshine are tempered with sadness this month for me. For the past two years, I have been running half marathons with Rally Northwest raising money for childhood cancer research and for a little girl from Lacey. Mia recently passed away from acute lymphoblastic leukemia. Mia's life was short, only five years, but those who had the privilege of knowing her were touched by example of how to live a full life.

Because of my love of trees, my thoughts turned to planting a tree in Mia's honor in a park near her home. It got me thinking about memorial tree programs. When done well, they can help people heal,

provide a place for quiet contemplation, and provide beauty where there is sadness. Unfortunately, I've seen too many memorial trees struggle or die due to improper program planning; improper tree selection, poor planting techniques and limited maintenance can lead to trees that don't thrive, or perish.

[LEAVE A COMMENT](#)

I've been fortunate to work with a great staff that has helped me and ensure that a tree planted for Mia

ty, please contact the [DNR Urban and](#)

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[Trees are Good](#)

### Publications

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### CATEGORIES

[Arbor Day](#)

[Budgets](#)

[calendar](#)

[Coordinator's Corner](#)

[Council Communique](#)

[Education](#)

[Events](#)

[Forest Health](#)

[Grants](#)

program.

# Kennewick – 100 Years of Arbor Day Celebrations

MAY 4, 2012

The Mid-Columbia region has a strong history of planting and caring for trees. According to the April 12, 1912, edition of the *Kennewick Courier*, “practically every able-bodied man in the city” attended the city’s first Arbor Day celebration; 8,000 trees were planted!

This year Kennewick celebrated its 100th Arbor Day celebration on a beautiful sunny day in Lawrence Scott Park. Mayor Steve Young read the Arbor Day proclamation and the city received its twelfth Tree City USA award.

Marianne Ophardt, WSU Extension, then made a special presentation in recognition of community member Marilyn Hyde, a true community tree advocate. Marilyn grew up in Kennewick and her grandfather was one of those “able-bodied men” that planted trees the very first Arbor Day.

Marilyn remembers that her parents always planted a tree for birthdays and Arbor Day. As an adult, Marilyn became an advocate for trees in her own right. Not only did she oversee tree planting in Kennewick’s beautiful urban forest, she was an original member of the Mid-Columbia Urban Forestry Council and sat on the Washington Community Forestry Council for many years.

Following a discussion of how to properly plant trees, volunteers planted a dozen locally-grown maple trees throughout the park. The trees were provided by the City of Kennewick, the Basin Bloomers Garden Club (Blue Mountain District) and the Mid Columbia Community Forestry Council, and planted with the assistance of Arbor Day partners ConAgra Foods Lamb Weston.

Congratulations to Kennewick and Marilyn for their landmark accomplishments!

[Infrastructure](#)

[Learning opportunities](#)

[Partnerships](#)

[Planning](#)

[Program Management](#)

[Pruning](#)

[Quote](#)

[Risk Management](#)

[Tree care and maintenance](#)

[Tree Planting](#)

[Uncategorized](#)

[volunteers](#)

[Web-ucation](#)

[Wildlife](#)



*Members of the Basin Bloomers Garden Club celebrate with Marilyn*

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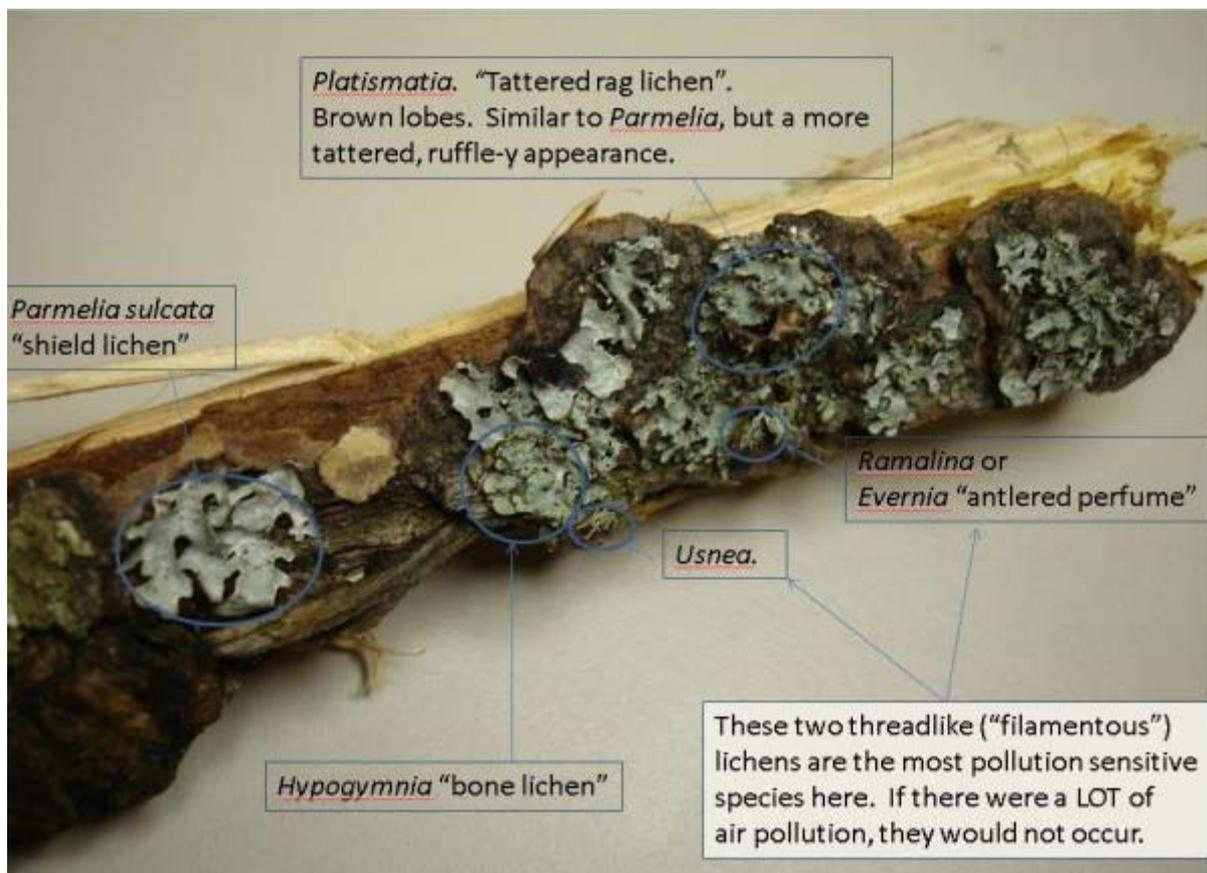
## **Forest Health – Likin’ Lichens**

MAY 4, 2012

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### **Trees, Lichens and Exotic Pests**

Have you noticed things growing on your trees? If you said yes, your next question may be “Will they hurt my trees?” That question was recently posed to DNR’s Forest Health program. A woman was concerned about the Douglas-fir trees in her neighborhood. She had noticed that more and more tree limbs seemed to be covered with some types of dry fungus or moss that almost crumbled when she touched it. “Has a new plant element invaded our country?” she asked. She sent some samples of lichen-covered tree bark (photo 1) and a piece of lichen she’d collected (photo 2). Forest Health Program Manager Karen Ripley answers the question.



Although some fungi cause disease, in general the moss and lichen (a cooperation of fungi and algae) growing on trees are considered neutral or beneficial. These organisms get most of their nutrients from rainfall and air. When they die and decompose, the nutrients they've collected become available to forest plants. In places like the Olympic rain forests, there are many, many pounds of nutrients pulled in from the atmosphere each year due to the biological activity of mosses and lichens.

Although there is a huge diversity of mosses and lichens with many different preferred habitats (on soil, on rocks, on vegetation), many of the tree-growing species require relatively high moisture and relatively cool temperatures, but not much light. They grow and accumulate mostly on the trunks and lower branches of trees where it is shady and most humid, nearest the ground. During dry, dormant periods when the mosses and lichens dry out, they are brittle and crumbly.

When the needles or leaves on these low, shaded tree branches aren't getting enough light to photosynthesize efficiently, the tree naturally lets them die off, which is known as "self-pruning." Over time the dead branches become brittle and break, but it's just because the branches died from lack of light. The cause of death is not related to the presence of moss or lichens. Although the lichens will continue to grow and can completely cover the branches, they don't harm or overwhelm or break those branches.

Lichens rely on the atmosphere for their water and nutrients, and are particularly sensitive to climate and air pollution. The presence or absence of certain lichen species can indicate weather conditions and air pollution levels. If air quality is poor, sensitive lichen species may disappear or may grow in shapes that indicate they have been exposed to and affected by air pollutants.

Sarah Jovan, a lichen specialist with the Forest Service, identified at least six different lichen species on the bark sample provided. They are not alien invaders. The pale green *Usnea* clump (photo 2) and

another threadlike variety present in photo 1 are considered sensitive to air pollutants and appear small and somewhat stunted. However, according to Sarah, the air quality in this area is likely not that bad. If it were terrible, these lichens would not be present and, moreover, there would likely be other nitrogen-loving “eutrophic” species present and flourishing. “Eutrophic” organisms are living things that flourish in areas with a lot of extra nitrogen in the air. Common eutrophic lichens are the yellow and orange crusty types you might see coating the trunks of street trees in metro areas like downtown Portland, Seattle or Tacoma. When eutrophic lichens grow on conifers, it usually means there’s quite a LOT of nitrogen air pollution. (Nitrogen, such as “nitrogen dioxide” (NO<sub>2</sub>), is a by-product of burning fossil fuels).



There are a couple of exotic aphid-like insects that produce a waxy, fuzzy surface that looks somewhat like a fine moss or mold on the twigs and trunks of *eastern* hemlock trees and certain fir trees. They cause the twigs to grow in an abnormal manner, stop producing new needles, die and dry out. These insects, the “hemlock woolly adelgid” and the “balsam woolly adelgid”, also occur in Washington State. Although our *western* and *mountain* hemlock species are not susceptible to damage, several types of fir trees like Subalpine fir, Pacific silver fir and Fraser fir are damaged here. Douglas-fir is not a host to these exotic pests.

It is good to keep an eye out for exotic (non-native) pests, since they can be a huge problem for forests and natural areas. If you have any forest health concerns, you can contact Karen at [karen.ripley@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:karen.ripley@dnr.wa.gov) or 360-902-1691. Including a photograph or sample can greatly facilitate correct identification of the problem.

Editor’s note: Want to learn even more about lichens? Check out the photo gallery on the [Ways of Enrichment website](#).

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# Olympia's Tree Tract and Greenbelt Stewardship Guide

MAY 4, 2012

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## Community Forestry Assistance Grant Success!

by Stacey Ray, Associate Planner, City of Olympia



*“Edge” trees may be hazardous and are often within striking distance of new homes, (there is evidence of root rot in this stand).*

Over 15 years ago, the City of Olympia adopted an ordinance to preserve small stands of mature trees in neighborhoods. These stands of trees are called tree tracts and when new neighborhoods are finished being built, the tracts are turned over to the new Homeowners' Association (HOA). There are now dozens of tree tracts throughout Olympia.

Over time, as original homeowners from a neighborhood moved away or HOA boards quietly disbanded or stopped meeting, City staff began receiving more and more requests to investigate and prune or remove trees in neighborhood 'greenbelts.' We quickly suspected that either the new homeowners didn't know how to care for their tree tracts, or they didn't even know they *owned* a tree tract. Either way,

homeowners needed a guide for how to take care of their leafy, green neighbors, and ensure that those trees were preserved and would continue to provide community-wide benefits for future generations.

In 2011, the Urban Forestry Program, with grant funding from the DNR Urban and Community Forestry Program, reached out to HOAs to better understand their needs, and what we found confirmed our suspicions. Any new outreach campaign and guide would need to include information for HOA's on how to:

- Identify whether or not a neighborhood had an established HOA

- Locate the tree tract

- Be good long-term stewards of their trees

- Hire and work with tree care professionals

Taking what we found from our interviews, we developed a colorful and easy-to-read guide for HOAs called "Tree Tract and Greenbelt Stewardship: A Guide for Homeowners' Associations." HOAs can use the guide to proactively and confidently address safety and liability issues, follow city regulations, remove invasive species, recruit volunteers, and create a long-term management plan.

In addition to providing a guide to being good stewards of their trees, a significant goal of producing the guide was



*Tree tracts are no longer "natural" environments; they need to be managed in perpetuity.*

to help homeowners better understand the environmental and community benefits of their tree tract, and why it was established in the first place. Most of the urban forest is privately owned and cared for, so HOAs should feel encouraged and empowered to plant trees, restore native vegetation, volunteer,

and think creatively and responsibly about investing in the long-term future of their piece of Olympia's community forest.

Follow this [link to the Tree Tract and Greenbelt Stewardship guidebook](#). or visit [Olympia's Urban Forestry webpage](#) and look under "Featured Information."

Contact Stacey at [sray@ci.olympia.wa.us](mailto:sray@ci.olympia.wa.us) or 360-753-8046

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## Spokane Regional Arbor Day and Tree City USA Event

MAY 4, 2012

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### Commissioner of Public Lands Peter Goldmark Recognizes Seven Eastern Washington Cities

On Friday April 27, representatives from all of the communities in Spokane County that earned Tree City USA awards gathered at the Spokane Conservation District for a regional Arbor Day celebration. Washington State Commissioner of Public Lands Peter Goldmark was on hand to present the Tree City USA awards. Employees of Avista Utilities were also present to receive the company's first Tree Line USA award.

The communities on hand celebrated a range of years in which they had earned the Tree City



designation. Rockford was celebrating its first award; Fairchild Air Force Base celebrated its 18th award; and the following communities were somewhere in between: Cheney, Millwood, Fairfield, Spokane Liberty Lake, and Airway Heights.

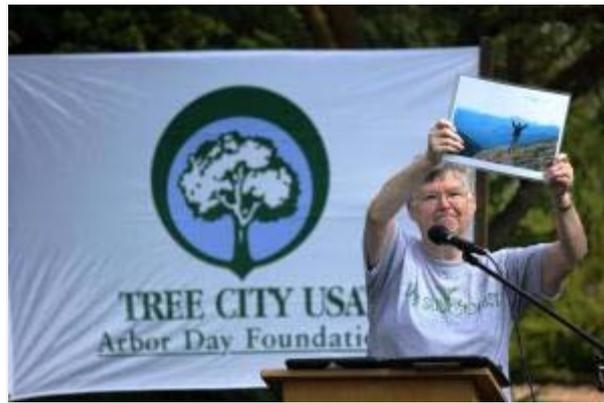
The event started off with Commissioner Goldmark talking about the importance of trees in our urban environment and the benefits they provide. He also spoke about fire prevention efforts currently taking place in Spokane

County. The awards were then handed out by Commissioner Goldmark while Garth Davis from the Spokane Conservation District spoke about what each of the communities and Avista had accomplished in the past year that qualified them for their Tree City USA awards. This was a great opportunity for neighboring communities to find out what was going on in other community forestry programs, and give them ideas for their programs.

Following the award presentations Nancy MacKerrow from the Susie Forest project led

the group in planting a memorial tree, donated by the Spokane County Conservation District. The tree species, a cockspur hawthorn, was selected by Avista Utilities as a tree that thrives in the region and matures at a size that doesn't interfere with electrical power lines. It was proclaimed the "Utility Compatible Tree of the Year" by the City of Spokane.

As part of the tree planting ceremony, attendees wrote their thoughts about the day on biodegradable tree-grams and hung them on the new Susie Forest tree. The idea of the biodegradable tree-grams is that when the papers degrade the tree-grams, along with the thoughts written on them, become a part of the tree. To learn more, visit the [Susie Forest website](#).



*Nancy MacKerrow holds up a picture of her daughter, who inspired the Susie Forest memorial tree program.*

## Yelm Celebrates Sweet 16

MAY 4, 2012



*Washington Community Forestry Council representative Sheil Gray presents Yelm's 16th Tree City USA award to Rick Roberts from Yelm's Tree Board. The city's new memorial tree sculpture stands nearby.*

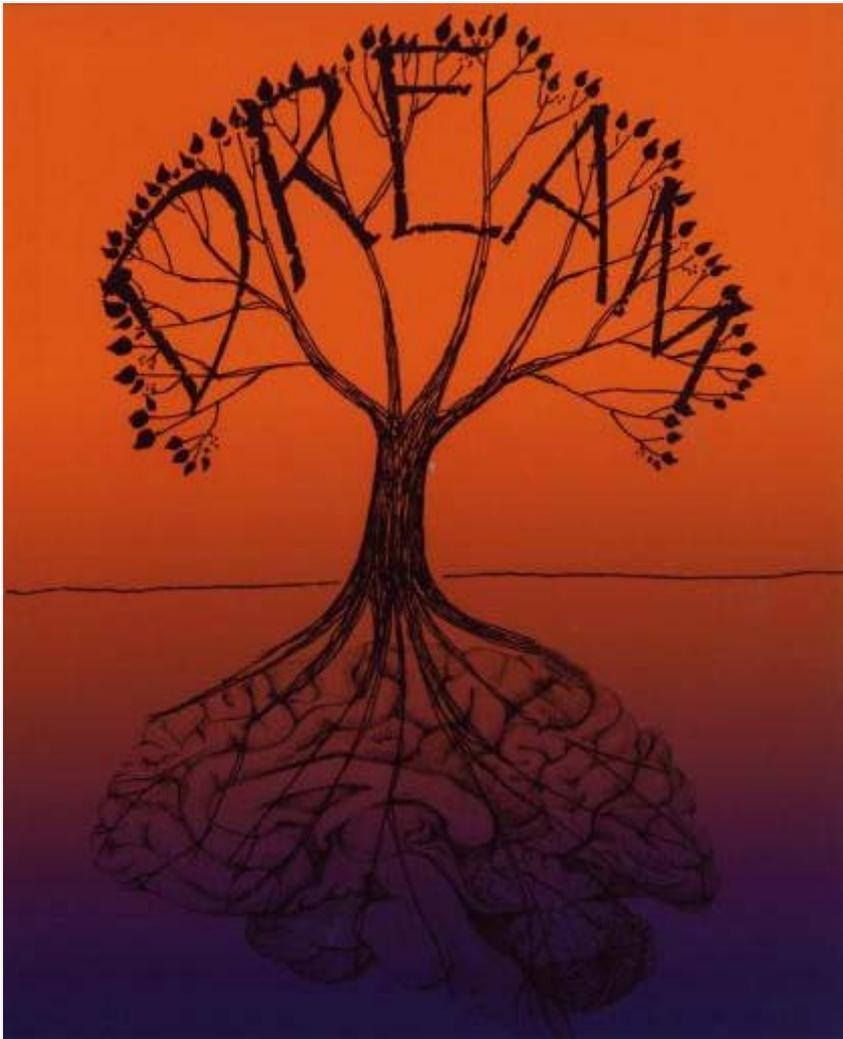
The City of Yelm celebrated its "Sweet 16" anniversary as a Tree City USA on National Arbor Day, April 27. The Ceremony began with a color presentation by the Clover Park High School's Air Force Jr. ROTC Honor Guard. Mayor Ron Harding read the proclamation for Arbor Day followed by a presentation of a giant sequoia to Yelm's sister city, Lacey. Deputy Mayor Jason Hearn of Lacey accepted the tree and in turn, presented a sugar maple to the City of Yelm to replace an elm lost in this winter's ice storm.

Mayor Harding unveiled a brand new memorial tree sculpture which will be displayed in City Hall. Yelm's Memorial Tree Program encourages tree donations to honor,

memorialize, or celebrate a special person, place, or event. Each leaf on the sculpture recognizes a donors to the program.

Washington Community Forestry Council representative Sheila Gray presented Yelm's 16<sup>th</sup> Tree City USA award. Yelm Community Schools participated in the event by recognizing Arbor Day art contest winners grades in K-12. The Prairie Elementary Choir provided Arbor Day music.

Local seniors were presented with trees for their living groups and organizations. The program finished with Nancy Hillman and the Stage Struck Players doing a musical number and skit.



*11th grade poster contest winner Daniel Kabouni's artwork is based on this year's theme, "My Dream Tree." Daniel's teacher is Mrs. White at Yelm High School.*

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## Community Event: Blue Trees?

MAY 4, 2012

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Australian artist Konstantin Dimopoulos raises awareness of deforestation by calling attention to trees in urban landscapes. His art



*Blue Trees at Westlake*

*Photo: Mark Mead, Seattle Parks*

installation arrived in Seattle this April as part of his international art installation, *The Blue Trees*.

Sixteen honey locust trees at Westlake Park and 40 Jacquemontii birch trees planted along the Burke-Gilman Trail sport the color, made from natural materials that will fade over time. Trees that may have once been overlooked will be hard to ignore, adorned in brilliant blue ultramarine.

The project not only is a great first step in raising awareness of deforestation, but in raising the awareness of the great environmental, economic and social benefits urban trees provide.

The Blue Trees installation will be visible for 6 months or more.

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## Web-ucation: Links to Help You Learn

MAY 4, 2012

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Just for fun. Check out this webpage of [trees found “growing around things.”](#)

**[A Million Trees? Only If We Can Keep Them Around](#)** This article by Leda Maritz, a certified arborist writing for the Next American City, takes a hard look at whether tree initiatives are living up to our expectations.

Why we grow trees: **[A study by the U.S. Forestry Service](#)** finds that trees in Tennessee’s urban areas provide the state with environmental benefits valued at nearly \$640 million a year.

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## May Calendar of Events, Activities and Opportunities

MAY 4, 2012

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If you have an event coming up and want to announce it in *Tree Link*, let us know: [urban\\_forestry@dnr.wa.g](mailto:urban_forestry@dnr.wa.g)

## **Trees & Urban Infrastructure**

Thursday, May 10, 9 am – 3 pm, Rocky Reach Visitor Center Theater Room, Wenatchee

This day-long event includes sessions on the Benefits of Urban Trees, Tree Architecture, Urban Soils, Proper Design of Tree Spaces, Tree Selection, Urban Tree Layout Drawing, Large-Shrubs-As-Small Trees, Hands-on structural pruning, Tree Climbing Demonstration with Nadine Lehrer, ISA Certified Arborist.

Questions? Contact Paula Dinius, Urban Horticulturist, 509-667-6540 [pdinius@wsu.edu](mailto:pdinius@wsu.edu)

## **4<sup>th</sup> Annual Urban Forest Symposium: Mobilizing Volunteers**

Monday, May 14, 9 am – 4 pm, University of Washington Botanic Gardens, Center for Urban Horticulture, 3501 NE 41<sup>st</sup> St., Seattle, 98105

The 2012 Urban Forest Symposium will address the concerns of municipalities, NGOs and educational groups whose work involves volunteer planting and care for the urban forest. Keynote speaker Andy Lipkis, founder of Tree People, Los Angeles.

Presented by Plant Amnesty and the University of Washington Botanic Gardens. Contact Jean Robins at 206-685-8033 for more information. Register at <http://www.uwbotanicgardens.org/> Free lunch for the first 50 registrants. A limited number of partial scholarships are available.

## **Puget Sound Urban Forestry Brown Bag Lunch Discussion Group**

Wednesday, May 16, 11 am – 1 pm, WSU Extension Puyallup Room, 2606 West Pioneer, Puyallup

Puyallup WSU Extension will host quarterly brown bag luncheon meeting. This is a great opportunity to visit and assess DED-resistant elm trees at one of only 16 nation-wide trial sites. Contact [DNR Urban & Community Forestry](#) for more information: 360-902-1703

## **Green Kirkland partnership Restoration Events 2012**

Help grow a sustainable urban forest. Sign up for “invasive plant removal” events with [EarthCorps](#)

Saturday, May 19, 9 am – 12 pm, [Kiwanis Park](#), 1405 10<sup>th</sup> St. W., Kirkland.

Friday, June 15, 10 am – 2 pm, [Watershed Park](#), 112<sup>th</sup> Ave NE, South of 53<sup>rd</sup> St., Kirkland.

## **Pruning Class: Rehabilitative Pruning**

Sunday, June 10, 10 am - 12 pm, Sand Point Magnuson Park; Building 406 (The Brig), Seattle

The three most common forms of mal-pruning (tree topping, overthinning of trees and shrubs, and inappropriate shearing) and how to fix trees and shrubs that have been mal-pruned. Included is discussion of watersprouts, suckers, radical renovation techniques, and crown restoration. No preregistration is necessary; there is a small class fee. Instructor: Cass Turnbull

For more information: Email [info@plantamnesty.org](mailto:info@plantamnesty.org) or call 206-783-9813

## **Pruning Class: Tree Pruning 1**

Sunday, July 8, 10 am – 12 pm, Sand Point Magnuson Park; Building 406 (The Brig), Seattle

This is the science and biology behind the pruning of trees. **Bess Bronstein**, honored horticulture teacher from Edmonds Community College, will give us the inside story on how trees grow and survive to become the longest-lived, most massive species on the planet. Famous arboriculturalist, Dr. Alex Shigo, taught us that all pruning wounds trees. Find out how to minimize that damage and work with the tree's natural defenses. Students will gain an understanding of compartmentalization, included bark, branch collar identification, and more. No preregistration is necessary; there is a small class fee. Instructor: Bess Bronstein

For more information: Email [info@plantamnesty.org](mailto:info@plantamnesty.org) or call 206-783-9813

## **My Neighborhood Forest Photo Contest**

Contest deadline is July 22, 2012

Get creative! The U.S. Forest Service challenges you to get outdoors and take photos of your urban or community forest. You could win \$200 in outdoor gear from the National Forest Foundation!

For more information visit the [contest website](#).

## **“TREES: A GLOBAL NECESSITY”**

### **International Society of Arboriculture Annual International Conference and Tree Climbing World Championship**

August 11 – 15, 2012, Portland, Oregon

Mark your calendars now for the 2012 [International Society of Arboriculture \(ISA\)](#) Annual International Conference, Trade Show, and Tree Climbing World Championships. The conference schedule includes an Arbor Fair, and Educational Sessions. [Visit ISA's website for more information.](#)

## **SAVE THE DATE: 2012 Partners in Community Forestry National Conference**

November 14 – 16, Sacramento, California. More information coming soon. Visit the Arbor Day Foundation's [Partners in Community Forestry website](#).

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