



AUGUST 2011

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
URBAN & COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROGRAM

IN THE AUGUST ISSUE:

FREE THE TREES! There is much at stake...



An embedded stake in  
a beech tree.

Trees are often - literally - staked to within an inch of their life. Did you know that support stakes can actually weaken trees? Trees develop strength when they sway in the breeze. The constant bending encourages growth of trunk wood that supports the vertical structure of the tree.

Root systems of newly planted trees need to remain firm in the soil until their fragile root systems grow out into their new soil environment. However, over-tight staking or stakes left on too long prevent a tree from moving and developing trunk strength. If stakes are not removed after the first year, especially when using hard materials like the popular wire-in-hose method vs. wide strapping, trees begin to grow *around* support ties. Ties can become embedded in the bark and wood of a tree which prevents the transportation of water and nutrients along a tree's natural "pipeline," located just below the bark. Over-tight ties not only stress a tree, but create a weakened point along the trunk making it susceptible to breakage.

Save time and money by staking trees only if necessary. According to Ed Gilman, Ph.D., professor of environmental horticulture at the University of Florida, container and bare root trees often require stakes to hold them firm. Balled and burlapped trees, with their heavier root systems, generally remain stable without staking. If you do stake trees, make sure to remove them after the first growing season.

Sometimes stakes are left in the ground to deter vandalism or protect the tree from mower damage. In this case, ties should be significantly loosened or removed entirely.

Visit [Dr. Gilman's website](#) to find out more about staking and to find several innovative ways to stake trees.

- [Coordinator's Corner](#)
- [Grant Success! Seattle Fruit Tree Stewardship Program](#)
- [Fruit Tree Tip of the Month](#)
- [Washington Enters the American Grove](#)
- [\\*NEW\\* Tree Link Bulletin - Tree Topping Issue now Available](#)
- [2012 Community Forestry Assistance Grants](#)
- [Renton's Canopy Analysis Report - An Urban Initiative Grant](#)
- ??• [NUCFAC Volunteer Opportunities](#)
- [Web-ucation: Links that Help you Learn](#)
- [Calendar of Events](#)

Do you have a story to share in Tree Link? [Contact us!](#)

Every oak tree started out as a couple of nuts who decided to stand their ground.

-- Unknown

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## COORDINATOR'S CORNER



Heating up in Texas.

Sarah has been on fire assignment in Texas since the beginning of the month. She is working as an information officer and spreading the word about how to prevent wildfire in a state that has been experiencing more than its share this year. [Watch a clip](#) of Sarah "in action" looking pretty cool, in the 100 + degree heat!

Even though Washington is experiencing an unusually cool, moist summer, remember to be careful with fire.

According to a recent [Ear to the Ground blog report](#), wildfires are often started by lightning but many fires are caused by people. Some of the most destructive fire threats to our state's wildlands and homes in rural areas can be traced to three sources: careless campfires, indefensible home sites, and sparks caused by equipment or vehicles.

DNR has a new [Wildfire Prevention Tip Card](#) that explains how you can prevent wildfires and keep your home and community safe.

And don't forget, a [statewide burn ban](#) is in effect this summer on all DNR-protected lands.

Report fires to 911 or DNR Fire Hotline: 800-562-6010

Get information about major wildfires and fire conditions in Washington State by following [DNR's Fire Twitter news feed](#).

[back](#)

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## COMMUNITY FOREST ASSISTANCE GRANT SUCCESS: SEATTLE'S JOSE RIZAL PARK GETS A FACE LIFT & AN ORCHARD

Summer is on us, and the apples in the local orchard on Beacon Hill are filling out.



Pruning class at the park.

A year ago, the apple orchard at [Dr. José Rizal Park](#), located on the west side of Beacon Hill with views of Seattle and Puget Sound, was in its first step of recovery. As part of a wider park and forest restoration project, an orchard of some 15 true apple trees and 15 crab apple trees was reclaimed from the 10-foot tall thicket of blackberries that had overtaken the site.

As part of the Seattle Green Partnership, a partnership between the City of Seattle and the Cascade Land Conservancy, José Rizal Park forest stewards and volunteers have helped lead the effort to save over 1000 trees from invasive plant competition, while planting thousands of native trees, shrubs, ferns, and wildflowers.

Neighbors and volunteers from the Filipino-American community, businesses like Microsoft, non-profits like EarthCorps, Seattle Works, local schools, colleges, and universities all helped in the effort to gain access to the orchard and the adjacent woodland through the thicket of blackberry.

Restoration of the area is also a pioneering effort to apply [crime prevention through environmental design](#), (CPTED) principles in a natural setting.

Enter Gail Savina the Executive Director of City Fruit! City Fruit, a non-profit organization based in Seattle, works neighborhood by neighborhood to help residential tree owners grow healthy fruit, to harvest and use what they can, and to share what they don't need. City Fruit

collaborates with others involved in local food production, climate protection, horticulture, food security, and community-building to protect and optimize urban fruit trees.

Gail visited the orchard in June 2010 and saw the potential of the site's orchard as part of a pilot project to train Fruit Tree Stewards. Armed with a Community Forest Assistance Grant, through Washington State Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) Urban and Community Forestry Program in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service, Gail worked with the City of Seattle Parks & Recreation and Office of Sustainability & Environment Departments to organize and train volunteers in five Seattle Parks, including Jose Rizal.

As soon as news got out about the pilot project, it began to bear fruit. Neighbors and volunteers became involved and recruited others. These volunteers were trained as Fruit Tree Stewards.

With help from those neighbors and volunteers, and with guidance from City of Seattle Parks & Recreation staff, the orchard has grown. More apple trees were uncovered in a lower

meadow of the park, including Winesap apples by the viewing area, a stand of trees carved out of the blackberries at the northern tip of the park, and a black walnut tree discovered at the southwest point. The Stewards also developed a 5-year management plan for the orchard.

This fall will be the orchard's second harvest. It's expected to be bigger than last year.

The Mountains to Sound Trail extension project through the meadow and near the orchard will bring new visitors to the park. As more people are attracted to this working orchard at the gateway to downtown, harvests of apples and support will continue to grow,

Thanks to Gail Savina and Forest Steward Bob Thompson for an inspiring story.

Funding for the Seattle Fruit Tree Stewardship Project was paid for by a grant from USDA Forest Service administered through [DNR's Urban and Community Forestry Program](#).

[back](#)



Volunteers enjoy the view at the Park.

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## FRUIT TREE TIP OF THE MONTH



Apple scab is apt to be a larger-than-normal problem this year due to the wet, wet spring. For that reason, it's especially important to remove all fruit from the tree during harvest and all fallen fruit so the spores don't overwinter. Pruning your tree to allow in light and air is also a good idea (see summer pruning class in the calendar of events).

The hard skin of most European pears has made them impervious to codling moth so far. However, as the summer progresses and the skin softens, it is time to think about putting a bag or footie (or spray) on the pears to protect them. You are probably not too late if you do this early in August.

Clemson University -  
USDA Cooperative  
Extension Slide  
Series, Bugwood.org

Fruit Tree Tips of the Month courtesy of [City Fruit](#) .

[back](#)

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## WASHINGTON ENTERS THE AMERICAN GROVE

By [Nicki Eisfeldt](#), Grants & Grove Coordinator

Social networking has reached the Urban Forestry world. The American Grove is a free, online



community connecting tree enthusiasts locally, nationally and, potentially, globally. Much like Facebook, members can create their own profile, friend other users, post comments, photos, links, videos, events, and even blog entries. Members can make comments or "like" other members' posts and pictures and are encouraged to share thoughts, experiences, and knowledge about trees to empower others to protect urban tree canopy

and create thriving community and urban forests.

The American Grove was started in 2009 by the Georgia Urban Forest Council, the Georgia Forestry Commission, and the U.S. Forest Service with a goal of enabling "members to share their experiences of planting trees and commemorating special life moments with family, friends and their communities." Really though, it can do much more. More connections can be made among the tree loving community (both personal and professional). There is potential for this to be a forum not only for state and local urban foresters to interact, but also for the public to interact with their local and state urban foresters.

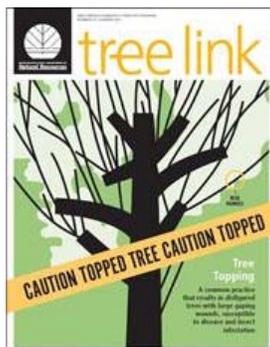
Members of the Grove can get updates on local planting events as well as join in tree related discussions. The Grove also offers a tree match tool to choose the right tree to commemorate a special event, as well as information on tree planting and tips and the benefits of maintaining a healthy urban forest.

Each state also has its own "Grove." The Washington Grove is now live! The Urban & Community Forestry Program at DNR will be administering the Washington Grove. To become a member, you will need to first join [The American Grove](#) and then sign up as a member of [the Washington Grove Group](#). Once you are a member please feel free to send events, articles, or other information you would like to share as tree stories or knowledge. On your own wall, you can also share your experiences, post photos, blogs, videos, and more. Come and celebrate trees everyday by joining the Grove!

[back](#)

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## \*NEW\* TREE LINK BULLETIN - TREE TOPPING NOW AVAILABLE



We are pleased to announce the latest addition to the anti-tree topping toolbox; the new *Tree Link Bulletin* focusing on tree topping. This four-page bulletin captures, in one document, the reasons why topping trees is a bad idea, alternatives to topping, and lists some great references.

The publication will help inform community members about the real cost and danger of topping trees. Visit the Urban & Community Forestry ["Don't Top Trees"](#) web page to read and download a PDF, or [contact us](#) if you would like one or many copies of the printed publication.

[back](#)

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## PUT ON YOUR THINKING CAPS FOR GRANT SEASON

If you are part of a local unit of government, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, educational institution, or tribal government within the State of Washington, start thinking about potential project ideas for the



upcoming community forestry assistance grant applications.

In early fall 2011, DNR's Urban & Community Forestry program with financial assistance from the U.S. Forest Service will post the 2012 Community Forestry Assistance Grant application. The grant awards up to \$10,000 for Urban & Community Forestry planning, program development, and education. Successful past projects have included developing and accomplishing urban forest tree inventories, community forest management plans, tree policies and ordinances, the formation and training of community tree boards, community education programs, and outreach materials to non-traditional audiences.

A small portion of the funds will be available for tree planting demonstration projects that contribute to a reduction of climate change or enhance the health of the Puget Sound.

Get your ideas together, do some cost and fact checking, and look for the application in September. For more information please contact Nicki Eisfeldt at 360-902-1330 or [nicholene.eisfeldt@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:nicholene.eisfeldt@dnr.wa.gov).

[back](#)

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## COUNCIL COMMUNIQUE

### RENTON'S 2011 URBAN TREE CANOPY ASSESSMENT REPORT



by [Terry Flatley](#), Parks Manager/City Forester, Renton

The City of Renton recently completed an urban tree canopy assessment and report of findings in July. The \$54,000 project was partially funded by a \$30,000 2010 Urban Initiative Grant through the Washington Department of Natural Resources Urban and Community Forestry Program in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service.

Key findings from the study conducted by AMEC Environment and Infrastructure, Inc. include:

- Average Canopy Coverage in 2010 was 28.6%
- Average Impervious Surface in 2010 was 42.6%
- Approximately a Net Loss of 52 Acres of the Urban Forest since 2002
- 69% of the Urban Forest is Private; 31% is Public
- Approximately 1,312 Acres of the Urban Forest is at Risk to be Developed
- Overall, the City is 11% below the American Forest's Canopy Cover Goals

The report is divided by six land use categories and nine community planning areas, and by individual parcel. Potential Urban Tree Canopy was determined using CommunityViz software and shows there are over 61,000 potential tree planting sites on both public and private properties using constraints such as distance to street lights and exclusions such as recreational ball fields. Renton's urban forest currently provides \$1.3 million in annual air quality benefits and stores 200,000 tons of carbon. Each mature tree in Renton intercepts 2,390 gallons of stormwater, saving taxpayers approximately \$31 per tree annually in stormwater treatment costs.

The summary of the report shows the following figure comparing the percent of urban tree canopy in Renton with that of neighboring communities.



The canopy cover analysis has created some broad-based management objectives for increasing tree canopy. The objectives require further refinements through discussions with all City departments. A few of the objectives are listed below:

- Implement other city plans, especially the City Center Plan and the Renton Clean Economy Strategy in relation to increasing tree canopy.
- Include the [Urban Forestry Program](#) as a major element in future Comprehensive Plan updates with emphasis on increasing urban tree canopy cover.
- Create an Urban Tree Canopy Program that residents can utilize for increasing tree canopy on private property.
- Modify development regulations as a result of an interdepartmental discussion and review of this Report.
- Include the Urban Tree Canopy Report into future planning documents as a reference where applicable.

Note: Terry represents Urban Forest Managers and Municipal Arborists on the Washington Community Forestry Council.

[back](#)

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## ANNOUNCING NATIONAL URBAN & COMMUNITY FORESTRY ADVISORY COUNCIL (NUCFAC) VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Washington, DC (June 26, 2011) - The Forest Service is seeking nominations to fill three positions on the [National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council](#). The Council serves in an advisory capacity to the Secretary of Agriculture and the U.S. Forest Service's Urban and Community Forestry Program and related natural resources.

The Forest Service will be accepting nominations that will serve as representatives for the following three positions:

1. Position 6: A member representing forest products; nursery, or related industries;
2. Position 8: One of two members representing academic institutions with an expertise in urban and community forestry activities; and
3. Position 15: A member representing a community with a population greater than 50,000 and has experience and is active in urban and community forestry. They may not be officers or employees of any government body.

These positions will serve a 3-year term from January 1, 2012, until December 31, 2014. [Forms are available online.](#)

Nominations should be submitted to [nucfac\\_ucf\\_proposals@fs.fed.us](mailto:nucfac_ucf_proposals@fs.fed.us) The subject line should read: "2011 May NUCFAC Nominations."

Nominations must be received by August 29, 2011.

For more information or assistance, contact: [Nancy Stremple](#), Executive Staff, 202-205-7829

[back](#)

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## WEB-UCATION - LINKS TO HELP YOU LEARN

[Tree Owner's Manual](#) We have owner's manuals for automobiles and appliances, now the U.S. Forest Service Northeastern Area Urban & Community Forestry program has created and published a manual for new tree owners. The booklet includes a "parts list, instructions for installation, tips for troubleshooting common issues, recommended service, and more."

What do [sweetgums and chopsticks](#) have in common? A company in Georgia has it figured out.

Are you interested in selling small quantities of wood from your property, especially a specialty type of wood that may have high value for furniture, cabinetry, and such? You may find an outlet for your product through a local small-scale sawmill. WSU Extension maintains a [statewide directory of small-scale sawmills](#)

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[back](#)

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS - Would you like us to post your event? [Contact us!](#)

### SUMMER FRUIT TREE PRUNING

August 6, 10 AM - NOON, Bradner Gardens, Seattle

Late summer is a great time to prune fruit trees. Their growth has slowed, so pruning doesn't result in emphatic new growth. Bill Wanless, owner of Brooke/Wanless Gardens, will lecture on basic principles of summer pruning and provide a hands-on demonstration on pruning apple, plums and espalier. Sponsored by [City Fruit](#).

### PRUNE FRUIT TREES

August 06, 2-4 PM, Seattle Tilth's Learning Garden,  
Good Shepherd Center; 4649 Sunnyside Ave. N., Seattle

Learn to prune your fruit tree for bountiful and delicious harvests.

### [SUMMER FRUIT FESTIVAL](#): 20<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY

August 20, 8:30 AM to 4 PM, Western Washington Fruit Research Foundation, Mt. Vernon.  
In cooperation with Washington State University, Northwest Washington Research and Extension Center, 16650 State Route 536, Mount Vernon ([directions](#))

### WEBINAR: STORMS OVER THE URBAN FOREST - PART II: POST-EVENT RESPONSE

August 18, 2011, 10-11 AM

Successful revitalization of urban trees following a natural disaster requires both immediate response and fully developed recovery plans that evaluate damage, assess community needs, and ensure best practices for replanting. Hear what worked in Greensburg, KS, after its devastating 2007 tornado, and what's happening now in Joplin, MO.

[Pre-register](#) with [Alliance for Community Trees \(ACT\)](#)

### WESTERN WASHINGTON FOREST OWNERS FIELD DAY

Saturday August 20, 9 AM-4:30 PM (Gates open at 8 AM) Palmer Family Forest, Chimacum

The annual Westside summer forestry field day will be held in Jefferson County this year near Chimacum. This in-the-woods educational event is packed with practical how-to information. Classes and activities are led by experts in forest health, wildlife habitat, soils, fire protection, and timber and non-timber forest products. Youth activities are available throughout the day

Get more information and [register online](#) or call Andy Perleberg at 509-667-6658

## WHIDBEY ISLAND FOREST FIELD DAY

Saturday September 10, 10 AM - 4 PM, McKee Property, Coupeville

If you can't attend (or can't get enough of!) the Chimacum field day, you can still catch the most popular field day sessions at a special field day on central Whidbey Island. Topics will include forest insects and diseases, wildlife habitat, thinning and pruning, special forest products, planting trees, hardwood management, and small-scale sawmill and equipment demos. The state's top forestry experts will hands-on field sessions.

Get more information and [register online](#) or call 425-357-6017

## PRUNING CLASS: TREE PRUNING IN SPANISH

Saturday, August 13, 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM, Sand Point Magnuson Park; Building 406 (The Brig)

**George Ortiz**, CLT, and **Gonzalo Yepes** will present a Spanish lecture and PowerPoint presentation on *How to Prune Trees*, followed by a live pruning demonstrations. No preregistration required Just show up and pay at the door. Cost: \$5

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

## PRUNING CLASS: HOW TO PRUNE & RENOVATE THE OVERGROWN GARDEN

September 11, 10 AM - 12 PM, Sand Point Magnuson Park; Building 406 (The Brig)

Taught by PlantAmnesty founder, Cass Turnbull, this popular class covers basic pruning of ornamental trees and shrubs as well as creative solutions to the overgrown or over-planted garden. You will gain insight into the process of yard renovation, where pruning is but one tool in restoring a garden.

For more information: [Email](#) or call 206.783.9813

## FALL PRUNING & GARDEN RENOVATION WORKSHOP

Saturday, Sep 17, 2011, 10AM - 3PM, an overgrown yard somewhere in King County, TBD.

The Renovation Workshop is a popular hands-on all-day event that features a rare 3:1 student-teacher ratio and real-world experience. Pruning and creative solutions for the overgrown garden are taught as an entire yard is renovated during the class. The workshop is designed for home gardeners, landscape professionals, and Master Pruners. Complete details and materials, including a pruning DVD and handouts on various pruning topics, will be provided to all participants prior to the workshop.

Fee: \$75 (\$65 for PlantAmnesty members). Pre-registration is required. For more information: [Email](#) or call 206.783.9813 [Click here for a downloadable registration form.](#)

## PACIFIC NW CHAPTER - INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF ARBORICULTURE (PNW ISA) ANNUAL TRAINING CONFERENCE - COMMON ROOTS TO COMMUNITY BENEFITS

October 2 - 5, Coeur d'Alene Resort, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

Tree Climbing Championship competition, Sunday, October 2; Field Day and Conference Monday - Wednesday, October 3-5. Visit the [Chapter website for more information](#) or contact the [Chapter office](#) (503) 874-8263

## LANDSCAPE PRUNING WORKSHOP IN SPANISH

Friday, October 7, 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM, Class will be in King County; final location to be determined

**George Ortiz**, CLT, **Gonzolo Yepes**, and six other teachers will lead an all-day, hands-on landscape-pruning workshop in Spanish. This event features a rare 3:1 student-teacher ratio and real-world experience. The day begins with a lecture in Spanish. After lunch, the students and teachers will practice hands-on pruning while renovating an actual overgrown landscape.

Fee: \$30 - Class size is limited, so preregistration is required. [Click here for a downloadable registration form.](#) For more information: Email [info@plantamnesty.org](mailto:info@plantamnesty.org) or call 206-783-9813

## FALL PRUNING & GARDEN RENOVATION WORKSHOP IN SPANISH

Friday, Oct 7, 2011, 8:30 AM - 3 PM, an entire overgrown yard somewhere in King County.

Pruning and creative solutions for the overgrown garden are taught as an entire yard is renovated during the class with a 3:1 teacher ratio. The day begins with a lecture followed by hands-on experience out in the yard. The workshop, designed for Spanish-speaking landscape professionals and Master Pruners, takes place at a private residence within King County selected for its neglected state and diverse plant material. Complete details and materials, including a pruning DVD and handouts on various pruning topics, will be provided to all participants prior to the workshop.

Fee: \$30. Pre-registration is required. [Click here for a downloadable registration form.](#)

For more information: [Email](#) or call 206.783.9813

## DIFFICULT PLANTS TO PRUNE

Sunday, Oct. 9, 10 AM - 1 2 PM, Sand Point Magnuson Park; Building 406 (The Brig)

This class teaches how to prune Rhododendron, Hydrangea, Callicarpa (Beautyberry), Viburnum bodnantense, and Abelia. Included in this class are basic pruning techniques, common pruning mistakes and corrective pruning. Taught by PlantAmnesty founder, Cass Turnbull

For more information: [Email](#) or call 206.783.9813

[back](#)

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## Contact Us:

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The Washington Urban and Community Forestry Program is made possible with assistance from the [USDA Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry Program](#).

The program's purpose is to educate citizens and decision-makers about the economic, environmental, psychological, and aesthetic benefits of trees and to assist local governments, citizen groups and volunteers in planting and sustaining healthy trees and vegetation wherever people live and work in Washington State. The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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