



JANUARY 2011

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
URBAN & COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROGRAM

Welcome to the January 2011 edition of Tree Link



Winter, Clark County Photo:
Florian Deisenhofer/DNR

Another year is over and resolutions are on our minds. What are your urban forestry goals this year? January is a great time of the year to look back at successes as well as challenges, then create a work plan for the upcoming year. Work plans can be simple or complex, but they are a big help in managing time, organizing resources and determining budgets. They also are a component of the Tree City USA application and re-certification; [Standard Three](#).

If your community has a tree inventory and management plan, you are a step ahead in developing your annual work load. No inventory or management plan? Consider applying for the [2011 Community Forestry Assistance Grant](#), to help you get off on the right planning foot. But hurry, proposals are due by 4:30 p.m. on January 27.

Read on and find in this issue:

- [Coordinator's Corner](#)
- [Fruit Tree Tip of the Month](#)
- [Proper Pruning Costs Less](#)
- [DNR UCF Anti-Topping Campaign](#)
- [NEW! Washington Arboriculture Exchange Program \(WAEP\)](#)
- [Council Communique'](#)
- [Web-ucation - links that help you learn](#)
- [Calendar, Events, Deadlines](#)

"Winter is the time of promise because there is so little to do - or because you can now and then permit yourself the luxury of thinking so." - Stanley Crawford

COORDINATOR'S CORNER



Happy New Year from the Urban & Community Forestry Program! We are looking forward to a big celebration in 2011 as it marks the 20th anniversary of the legislation that established the program in Washington. We are planning to feature projects from our early years, as well as highlight growth in urban forestry programs across the state.

A lot has changed since the 1991 Farm Bill provided a funding increase to the USDA Forest Service Urban Forestry program, ultimately providing financial support for urban and community forestry across the country. It has been entertaining to look at

pictures and documents from the early days (before hard drives, cell phones, the internet, digital cameras, Facebook, etc). I started with DNR in 1999, and the delivery of our program has changed in more-than-a-decade since then. It will be fun to look back and see how far we've come, and set some goals for the NEXT 20 years! If you have projects, photos, or stories from the early days of your community's urban forestry program, please send them to me at sarah.foster@dnr.wa.gov.

[back](#)

FRUIT TREE TIP OF THE MONTH



This is the time to get out your catalog--or computer--and think about ordering a tree. Bare root trees are available in late winter/early spring. Check out the fact sheet, [Best Fruits for Western Washington Yards](#) by G.A. Moulton and J. King, Washington State University, Northwestern Washington Research and Extension Center, to find the perfect tree.

[back](#)

PROPER PRUNING COSTS LESS -Tree topping means more maintenance



Topping a tree is bad for its health, but did you know it also causes you to work much harder at maintaining that tree's excessive growth? This could be costly!

Topping is defined as severely cutting back or removing large branches in a mature tree. Some individuals believe that topping a tree will reduce the amount of time and money spent on tree care and maintenance. But look at the facts.

When large branches are cut back indiscriminately, a tree responds by quickly growing many branch shoots in order to replace the lost leaf surface, a tree's food supply. The dense, bushy re-growth is very weakly attached to the main stem of the tree and grows so quickly that branches often regain the original height of the tree in just two to three years. As the shoots grow larger, they increase in weight and must be pruned frequently in order to avoid potentially hazardous branch failures. The need for maintenance is increased - not decreased - and that means more of your time and money.



Expense of Tree Topping

The actual cost of topping is only the *initial* bill. Further expenses are incurred because:

- The tree needs maintenance more often.
- Poorly attached branches break off (possibly damaging something else).
- The tree will die prematurely and will need to be removed and replaced.
- Property values are reduced.
- Liability is increased.
- Research has shown that proper pruning techniques work with the trees biology, not against it.

Mature trees may occasionally benefit from removal of dead wood and light branch thinning, but in general, they require correct, strategic pruning only every 5 to 10 years. Before pruning mature trees, consult a [certified arborist](#) to determine the best course of action for your tree. Make sure you ask for credentials, and check that the company does not offer tree topping services.

Remember the old saying, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." Think before

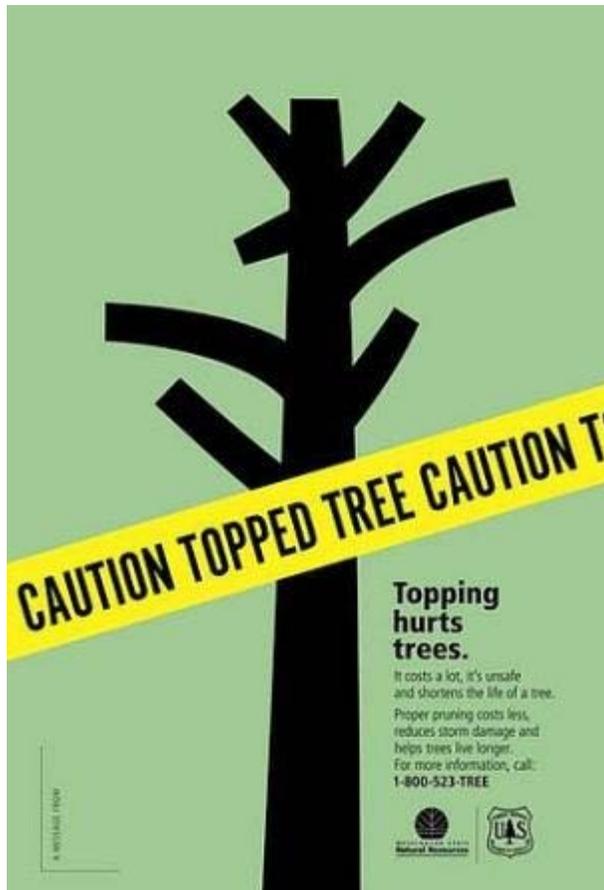
you plant. Research the maintenance requirements before you select the perfect tree for your yard.

For more information on tree care, go to [DNR's Urban and Community Forestry Program](#) website.

[back](#)

ANNOUNCING ANTI-TREE TOPPING GRAPHICS AND SUPPORT

With winter and winter storms upon us, the Urban & Community Forestry Program has continued focusing on our anti-tree topping campaign. We invite you to spread the word about the harmful practice of topping trees, by launching your own local campaign.



Visit our website at www.dnr.wa.gov/urbanforestry, or [click here](#) for promotional materials, including a sample press release and letter to the editor. You will also find resources for creating and maintaining a healthy urban forest. Check it out and let us know what you think. Keep in mind that we will continue to add to the promotional materials through the month of January.

You can also visit our [Flickr site](#) to find some great new anti-topping posters.

The campaign will continue through 2011, including a once a month article on [DNR's Ear to the Ground blog](#) and articles in this newsletter that you can share and distribute locally.

Remember, well-managed, healthy trees provide a multitude of [benefits for the community](#). Topping is *not* a best management practice and destroys the structure, value, and safety of trees.

Feel free to contact us if you have questions about the promotional materials, resources or why topping is harmful to the health and safety of trees.

[back](#)

NEW!! THE WASHINGTON ARBORICULTURE EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Department of Natural Resources Urban and Community Forestry program (UCF) is excited to launch a new program for Washington communities; the Washington Arboriculture Exchange Program (WAEP).

The purpose of the WAEP is to exchange urban forestry expertise, management ideas and technology through direct on-site experience working with municipal arborists. It is designed for individuals interested in or responsible for developing or expanding an urban and community forestry program in their community, including planners, public works and/or parks managers, and tree board members,

HOW DOES THE PROGRAM WORK?

Participants apply to UCF with a written description of their current program challenges & goals, and anticipated learning outcomes. UCF will select participants and work with them to find host communities for the exchange.

UCF will fund travel and basic expenses for professional visits to communities with established urban forestry



programs. Staff time will be considered a match for the program, and is not reimbursable. Each participant will spend up to 2 days visiting and working with another city's urban forestry department. An "exchange" may be "two-way", meaning that paired participants take turns hosting the other, or "one-way", where a selected participant only visits a willing host city identified and approved by DNR.

Participants are expected to write a final report detailing experiences and what they learned as a result of the exchange. Reports may be included in Tree Link bulletins.

SUMMARY OF PROGRAM GOALS

- Inspire and motivate beginning and developing urban & community forestry program managers
- Exchange technical and program management information between communities to develop successful urban & community forestry programs
- Build a knowledge base in communities that have minimal resources available for hiring or training tree care personnel
- Create a state-wide network in the arboriculture community

PARTICIPANTS MUST BE:

- Responsible for and/or overseeing planting, care and maintenance of trees
- Responsible for program management and development
- Working with a community that is either currently recognized as a Tree City USA *or working toward that designation*

HOW TO APPLY

For more information and to apply to be an exchange participant, contact UCF for an application form. Forms are available by calling 1-800-535-8733, by visiting www.dnr.wa.gov/urbanforestry

Successful applicants will be notified within 4 weeks of submitting the application. The actual timeframe for an exchange will be determined by the participants, and communicated to UCF program coordinators.

[back](#)

COUNCIL COMMUNIQUE´

Knockout Knotweed Project and Partnership

by Joe Scorcio

Pierce County Public Works and Utilities; Public Development Division has completed the third year of our "Knockout Knotweed Project". This multi-jurisdiction project, initiated in 2008 with the help of a grant from WA DNR, targets the very invasive species, Japanese Knotweed. In addition to the three local governments, 95 residential property owners have signed up to participate in the project. Knotweed thrives in wet soils, reproduces rapidly and can grow up to



15 feet tall. Knotweed out-competes native species and erodes stream banks thereby reducing biodiversity, creating water quality problems and unstable banks.

The project area is in Pierce County and consists of 11 miles of waterways covering four contributory creeks; Flett, Peach, Leach and Chambers. Flett, Leach and Peach creeks merge into Chambers Creek which eventually discharges into the Puget Sound after flowing over 2 miles through [Pierce County's Chambers Creek Properties](#)

The Knockout Knotweed Team spent the first year surveying and mapping the project area. At the end of the first year a map was created showing geographic locations of all the knotweed in the project area. During surveying, Peach Creek was the only contributory that did not have a knotweed invasion.

Restoration efforts also began last winter on County property along a 100 foot stretch of lower Chambers Creek. Willow stakes were harvested from trees within the immediate area and

staked along the stream bank.

In 2011, restoration work will continue and knotweed treatment will resume in the late spring and continue into September.

Joe Scorcio, Public Development Manager for Pierce County Public Works & Utilities, is the Chairman of the Washington Community Forestry Council representing Public or Private land development, and urban planners. Contributing writer: Shelly Eisenbarth, Pierce County Public Development Division

One effective method of treating knotweed involves bend the stock of the plant a couple inches from the ground which then kills the upper portion of the plant. The plant immediately begins to regrow producing larger leaves but doesn't grow as tall. In about 3 to 5 weeks the leaves can be safely and effectively sprayed with herbicides. State licensed team members completed treating the entire 11 miles of waterway this past summer; a total of 26 acres of knotweed infested land.

Photo courtesy Pierce Co.

[back](#)

WEB-UCATION - LINKS TO HELP YOU LEARN!

[When Severe Weather Strikes](#) City of Vancouver website details advice on managing trees before and after a storm.

Many [Washington State Conservation Districts](#) offer native plant sales during this time of year. Check the District nearest you for ordering deadlines (some are this month!)

[Native Plant Availability from the Plant Materials Center](#) Native plants may be purchased directly through the plant materials center. Contact Jacquie Gauthier, pmcsales@clearwire.net Washington Association of Conservation Districts Plant Material Center: 360-757-1094

[A toolbox for public involvement in forest and woodland planning](#)- a toolbox to assist forest and woodland managers when planning for public involvement

[Western WA Fruit Research Foundation](#) Favorite tree fruits for the Puget Sound

[back](#)

CALENDAR, EVENTS, DEADLINES

[2011 Community Forestry Assistance Grant](#) proposals are **due January 27, 2011** by 4:30 p.m. For more information about the grant, visit www.dnr.wa.gov/urbanforestry or call Nicki for more information 360-902-1330. For an electronic version of the application and budget worksheet navigate to http://www.dnr.wa.gov/Publications/rp_urban_app_budget_wrksheet.docx

[Sidewalks & Trees: How to Repair and Maintain the Structural Integrity of Both](#)

Same workshop, two locations: January 25, University Place & January 27, Bellingham WA

A major expense for cities is damage to sidewalks, curbs and streets by tree roots. Strategies exist to reduce the conflicts between green and grey infrastructure elements. This seminar for professionals will discuss on site design details, the importance of specifications and inspections, and the administration, customer service, and transitional implementation of sidewalk repair projects.

For more information contact Pacific Northwest Chapter, International Society of Arboriculture (PNW ISA): 503/874-8263, 800/335-4391, info@pnwisa.org

City Fruit promotes the cultivation of urban fruit in order to nourish people, build community and protect the climate. The organization is offering several workshops this winter, including:

[Fruit Tree Biology and Orchard Management](#)

Saturday, January 15, 10 am - noon, 6532 Phinney Ave. N, Seattle

Understanding the basic systems of a tree-its root, vascular, and photosynthesis/leaf systems-helps you better care for your trees and produce healthier fruit.

[Mason Bees for Pollination](#)

Saturday, January 29, 10 am - noon; Phinney Neighborhood Association: 6532 Phinney Ave. N, Seattle (location tentative)

North America is in the midst of a pollination challenge with the honeybees; our fruit and garden crops suffer as result. In this class, you'll learn how to be successful in raising mason bees, you'll see fun techniques to try in your yard, and you'll receive hands-on experience with harvesting mason bees. Instructor Dave Hunter .

[Fruit Tree Pruning Basics](#)

Saturday, February 5, 10 am - noon; Phinney Neighborhood Association: 6532 Phinney Ave. N, Seattle

Regularly pruning fruit trees improves their overall health, appearance, and can even increase fruit production. In this beginner class, learn the biology behind pruning fruit trees, practice basic pruning cuts, learn about pruning tools and get hands-on experience pruning a fruit tree.

[Pruning Fruit Trees to Produce More Fruit](#)

Saturday, March 5, 10 am - noon; Jackson Place Co-housing: 800 Hiawatha Place S, Seattle
Learn the biology behind pruning fruit trees and get hands-on demonstrations of how to clean Place Co-housing grows apples, pears and plums in a highly urban environment and has both well-established and very young trees.

Visit City Fruit's web site for more information on classes: <http://cityfruit.org/classes.htm> or email info@cityfruit.org

[Where Do Trees Come From?](#)

Friday, February 11, 2011 from 8:00 AM - 3:30 PM (PT), Pasco

Nursery production methods, varied methods of propagating trees, growing and handling nursery stock, what to look for in selecting quality nursery stock.

Sponsored by the [Pacific Northwest Chapter International Society of Arboriculture](#). For more information, contact [Tim Werner](mailto:Tim.Werner@ci.richland.wa.us), Richland Parks and Recreation t Werner@ci.richland.wa.us

[Streambank Soil Bioengineering: How to Build & Install Vegetative Structures for Reducing Streambank Erosion](#)

Same Agenda, Two Locations: February 23-24, 2011, Portland, OR & March 9-10, 2011, Spokane, WA

This is a practical, in-depth and applied workshop on building and installing vegetative structures for reducing stream bank erosion. A wide variety of designs and applications will be covered with an on-the-ground assessment of what works and what doesn't.

Presented by Western Forestry and Conservation Association. Call 888-722-9416 or 503-226-4562 or email michele@westernforestry.org

[back](#)

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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.

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