



JUNE 2011

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
URBAN & COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROGRAM

WELCOME TO THE JUNE TREE LINK



"June is bustin' out all over!" Of course, unlike some municipal foresters, Rodgers and Hammerstein weren't referring to the summer season and infrastructure repairs too often associated with tree roots.

Trees are often planted with good intentions in anticipation of the benefits they will provide. But when sites are not carefully evaluated or sufficiently prepared, allowing trees to grow to their full capacity above *and* below ground, they may be removed sooner than planned. Municipal foresters need to work carefully with city planners, engineers, and

public works departments to make sure trees are planted with forethought, and then managed carefully as city infrastructure. The community will then realize the expected benefits.

Because trees are dynamic, they do eventually die and need to be removed and replaced. What happens to trees in your community when they are removed? Check out this month's WEB-UCATION for links to learn of some creative ways that urban trees are being utilized.

Remember, in order for newly planted trees to grow and thrive, they need enough water to re-grow their roots. June precipitation averages under two inches, July and August under one inch. Since young trees need at least one inch of water per week per inch of stem diameter to thrive, it is clear that supplemental watering is necessary. Start with five gallons per inch of stem diameter per week, (measure the stem at about a foot above the ground). Watch the tree for signs of wilting or drying to make sure it is getting the moisture it needs.

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

No town can fail of beauty, though its walks were gutters and its houses hovels, if venerable

trees make magnificent colonnades along its streets."

- Henry Ward Beecher, *Proverbs*, 1887

[Find more tree quotes](#)

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## COORDINATOR'S CORNER



I was happy to volunteer as a timer at the Washington Regional Tree Climbing Competition last weekend in Olympia. Great job, all you climbers and organizers. It was a good reminder to me of the hard work our talented arborists put in to keep our trees strong and healthy. I was at the foot lock event and was continually amazed at the strength and determination the men and women showed to get up that 40-50 foot rope! It also got me thinking about all the 'tree care' companies in Washington that are not certified and the permanent damage they can cause. Please remember that tree care is not regulated here, and anyone can call themselves a tree expert. Please check for certification, qualifications, and references when hiring anyone to work on your trees.

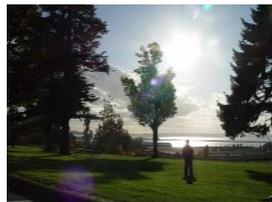
A brochure "Why Hire an Arborist" is available at [www.treesaregood.com](http://www.treesaregood.com).

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## ARE YOU LETTING SUNSHINE THROUGH YOUR TREES?

By [Far to the Ground](#) blog



Shohomish County

With rising energy costs, solar panels as energy alternatives and gardens that produce local food resources are gaining in popularity. But what happens when a tree is blocking your access to the sunshine? (With the little sunshine we're getting these days.) Whatever you do, don't top it!

Tree topping is never an acceptable management alternative to increase solar access. As a matter of fact, the regrowth that occurs after topping may be even more effective at blocking the sunshine.

### If you have trees:

- The canopy of a tree can sometimes be thinned with proper pruning to allow more sunlight through the canopy, while not doing severe damage. Always consult a [certified arborist](#) before undertaking a thinning job to make sure the tree remains healthy.
- If your goals are to reduce your carbon footprint with alternative energy resources, consider the [environmental benefits that trees provide](#) to both you and the community. You can then weigh the decision to install alternative energy sources like solar panels or retain a tree that provides energy and other ecological service benefits.
- Look at your yard to find the best solar opportunities. Gardens positioned to the south of your home and trees will receive adequate solar access under the branches.

### If you are planting trees:

- Some species of trees cast dense shade (maples) and restrict what kind of plants may grow under them. Others have light or spotty shade (honey locust). [Research the best tree](#) for your site.
- Trees come in all shapes and sizes. Select planting sites and species of trees carefully to allow trees and solar panels to coexist.
- In [selecting trees](#), consider the size of the tree and your goals. Strategically placed trees can reduce energy consumption and reduce your carbon footprint.

- Position trees to assure good solar access for solar panels; site them so panels receive clear solar access between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

#### If it is your neighbor's tree:

- Talk to your neighbor about your goals. Research and share the names of [certified arborists](#) who may be able to help thin the canopy.

Solar access has become a debatable issue in Washington, and often trees are in the middle of the argument. But remember, the real key to solar access is to plan ahead before you plant the right tree. Also, be a good neighbor. Consider your neighbor's access to the sun, and try not to plant a tree that will grow over your neighbor's yard.

Learn more about what DNR's Urban and Community Forestry program is doing for the [anti-tree topping campaign](#).

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## FRUIT TREE TIP OF THE MONTH



Adult Codling Moth

Some people will have taken steps to protect against apple scab already, but now is the time of the year to start paying attention to the bugs.

The first bug to arrive on the scene for the apple is the codling moth. Talk to a local nursery about a spinosad product, neem oil, kaolin clay, or another safe, organic product.

This month's tip is courtesy of City Fruit. For more great tips on growing fruit and fruit trees visit their [website](#) or [blog](#).

Want more pest information? [Washington State University](#) Tree Fruit Research & Extension Center [Orchard Pest Management Online](#) is a great resource for information on integrated pest management concepts, direct and indirect pests of tree fruit, and beneficial insects.

Photo: J.Brunner, WSU TFREC

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## INSPIRED CELEBRATIONS - WHAT DID YOU DO FOR ARBOR DAY?

Do you need inspiration on how to celebrate Arbor Day where you live? Take a peek at how some Washington communities celebrate the 'tree planter's holiday' this spring!



Team planting in Kent

The **City of Vancouver** celebrated Arbor Day and its 22nd Tree City USA award at Clark College, which received its first Tree Campus USA award. Along with Clark County PUD, which received its 12th Tree Line USA award, the city became the first official "tree-fecta" in Washington!

The **City of Issaquah** has a new park, Squak Valley. During this year's Arbor Day celebration, a grove of trees was planted for the past 10 honorees of the Ruth Kees Award. The annual award is given to a local citizen in recognition of their contributions to environmental advocacy in Issaquah.

According to coordinator Victoria Andrews at the **City of Kent**, 117 adult, teen, and child volunteers "morphed into an army" and nearly filled a 20-yard dumpster with blackberries extracted during an Arbor Day restoration project at Fenwick

Park. Following blackberry removal the volunteers planted 125 native Douglas firs, red-flowering currant shrubs, and vine maples. They then laid 15 yards of wood chips to protect the trees.

City of **Lacey** Mayor Tom Nelson and City of **Yelm** Mayor Ron Harding continued a long-standing tradition; trading Arbor Day trees between communities. Since Yelm's second anniversary as a Tree City in 1997, each mayor has attended its sister city's celebration, toting a tree and presenting it to their counterpart in the spirit of friendship.



Washington State Forester, Aaron Everett, presents Snoqualmie's first Tree City USA award to Mayor Pro Temp, Kathi Prewitt

The **City of Lacey** distributed flowering dogwood, katsura, pyramidal English oak, red leaf Japanese maple, and rose tree of China seedlings during their annual seed distribution and Arbor Day festival.



Julie Taylor at Wenatchee tree distribution

The **Greater Wenatchee Arbor Day Celebration group (GWADC)** started in Wenatchee in the mid-1980s. Today it is a partnership of six communities (Wenatchee, Cashmere, Leavenworth, Entiat, Orondo, and Manson) and Chelan Public Utilities, a designated Tree Line USA. Together, GWADC distributed almost 4,200 seedlings to residents this Arbor Day season. More than 60 folks get together for "Wrapping Night" to prepare trees for distribution. Local merchants donate raffle items, space to work in, and a pizza dinner for the volunteers. Trees are distributed with information about the tree, a right-tree-right-place handout and a pamphlet on pruning, not topping trees.

The **City of Yelm** recognized winners in its K-12 Arbor Day Art contest and those who donated memorial trees to the city throughout the year. A poem, written by Rick Roberts from the Yelm Tree Advisory Board, was performed by members of the Standing Room Only Theater Group, and there was a musical performance by the Yelm Middle School Band.

The **Cities of Omak and Okanogan** share a tree board and each year hold two separate Arbor Day events; one at each community. First up was the celebration in Okanogan, which included a tree planting. This year it was at a restoration project along the river in a new city park. The board then headed up to Omak where they shared lunch at a local restaurant before moving on to the second celebration and tree planting event of the day, .

Visit [DNR's Flickr site](#) for great photos of events.

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## CACHE-ING IN ON TREES - AN ARBOR MONTH TREE-SURE HUNT IN RICHLAND.



Richland Park Ranger and Recreation Assistant Jenny Wheeler teaches and leads geocache classes as a way to encourage families to get outside, hike, explore nature, and have fun learning together. Geocaching is a real-world outdoor treasure hunting game. It uses GPS-enabled devices to help participants navigate to a specific set of coordinates in an attempt to find a geocache (container) at a hidden location.

This year Jenny formulated an idea for a tree geocaching activity just in time for Arbor Month. She pitched the idea to Parks and Facilities Manager, Tim Werner, a Certified Arborist who manages Richland's Urban Forestry Program. Together, they helped the idea sprout and take root.

Tim contacted Brian Cramer, a utility forester and Washington Community Forestry Council representative, and the three tree advocates worked together to locate interesting trees throughout the city.

Jenny researched facts about the trees and created a [tree-rific puzzle cache](#) that sends participants on an adventure through Richland, learning to identify, measure, and assess the trees at their locations along the way. The course leads those who take the journey to six different trees, where they must complete a task necessary to complete the final puzzle challenge.



The cache, resting in its secret location.

The last stop, along with the hidden geocache, is located in one of Richland's beautiful parks. Coordinates to the site are found by using the information collected at the previous six sites to solve the GPS puzzle. The course is estimated to take approximately 1 to 1 ½ hours to complete.

As for the participants, here are a couple comments posted on the [geocache webpage](#):

"It was fitting to find this cache the day after Earth Day, during Arbor Month, and on a CITO event day that we headed to later in the morning. We loved the cache container! TFTH!" (thanks for the hide)

"We had a lot of fun doing this cache! Great idea for a puzzle cache. Lots of interesting information about trees and lots of pretty spots to visit on a nice spring day. When we did the tree height, we each did it differently (one stick method, one inclinometer) and got the same result, so the good ol' stick works pretty good. Very cool container! TNLN. TFTC! (took nothing, left nothing, thanks for the cache)

Anyone can access the puzzle cache by following this [link](#) or can sign up for a free account at [geocaching.com](#) then search for the Geocache (GC) Code: GC2QQ94. If you want to learn more about the sport of geocaching navigate to [www.geocaching.com](#)

Watch for a new puzzle cache next year. Jenny says it will be ready to launch at the beginning of Arbor Month 2012.

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## GRANT PAYS FOR REFORESTATION PROJECTS TO CREATE HEALTHIER STATE FORESTS

from April 29, 2011 [Ear to the Ground blog](#)

DNR's Northwest Region Office will help create healthier forests through reforestation projects on state trust land. The grant will fund 104,425 western red cedar, noble fir, and lodgepole pine seedlings.

Where would we be without grant funded projects? Who knows! But luckily, the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) received \$42,998.55 to reforest state lands in the northwest region of our state.



The grant comes thanks to the [Arbor Day Foundation](#).

In the past, Washington State had created Douglas fir plantations with little diversity in our forests. Now, DNR ensures that there is species diversity across the landscape, creating healthier habitat for a variety of animals.

Western red cedar is one of the most important species planted on state lands. This species has maintained high value over time and provides a wealth of ecological benefits, including the creation of long-lasting snags and down, woody debris on which many animal species depend. This also is a tree of significant cultural value to Northwest Native American tribes.

The largest of the true firs in the Pacific Northwest, noble fir has many wood characteristics that are superior to other native true firs (higher strength ratios and less taper in the trunk). This species also makes valuable products for the holiday market, such as boughs.

DNR also plants a limited number of lodgepole pine, which occurs in small pockets in western Washington. It is found in reasonably high concentrations on one of the sites planned to be reforested this winter. Seed from lodgepole pine at nearby sites was collected and grown at [DNR's Webster Nursery](#) in order to replant with site-adapted seedlings.

The Arbor Day Foundation works in partnership with the National Association of State Foresters to identify reforestation projects that help support healthy state forests. Forests that are recovering from fire, storms, disease, and insect damage are candidates for assistance with reforestation costs.

For more information on the approved funding from the Arbor Day Foundation or more information associated with the project, please contact Chris Hankey, DNR's Northwest Region Silviculturist, at 360-854-2811 or [chris.hankey@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:chris.hankey@dnr.wa.gov).

Photo: DNR

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## STILLY-SNOHOMISH IS CONNECTING TREES & COMMUNITY

The Stilly-Snohomish Fisheries Enhancement Task Force is working to connect youth, forest ecology, and community by emphasizing the crucial roles trees play in our everyday lives through its Tree Connections program. Tree Connections is a project-based education program consisting of four classroom lessons and one field trip. Participating students learn about the economic, environmental, psychological, and aesthetic benefits of urban forests, plant biology, and the advantages of responsible land stewardship for both people and the other living things in their community.



During the 2011-2011 school year, three fifth-grade classrooms from Pioneer Elementary School in Arlington and four eighth grade classrooms from Cedarcrest Middle School in Marysville participated in Tree Connections. Students began the program by creating their own keys to identify trees, including those in local parks. Following, students used a small-scale, geologic model to investigate and document how trees affect soil erosion and benefit overall water quality.

After these classroom lessons, students went on a field trip to put their knowledge to work and plant trees at a city-owned public park. The park visit included a salmon-bearing stream and an urban forest. First, students tested water quality and created their own plant guides to take home. They used GPS units to create maps and accurate recordings of both where trees were already located in the park and where they thought

trees should be planted. Then, students left their mark by completing a small-scale tree planting, which they will be able to visit for years to come to watch their trees grow into a healthy, functioning ecosystem!

Students ended the program by communicating their recommendations to staff from their respective cities. The students explained where their city parks need more trees. They also explored the ecological interactions within an urban forest and reviewed the community benefits of healthy forests.

Overall, the 200 students walked away from the Tree Connections program having experienced first-hand the important roles healthy forests, science, innovative technology, collaboration, and communication play in affecting positive change in their community.

More information on the Stilly-Snohomish Fisheries Enhancement Task Force can be found at: [www.stillysnofish.org](http://www.stillysnofish.org)

Funding for Tree Connections is provided by: Washington State Department of Agriculture, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington State Department of Natural Resources in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry program, Anne and Mary Arts and Environmental Education Fund, and First Heritage Bank Employee Giving Fund. Partners include City of Marysville, City of Arlington and Snohomish County Surface Water Management.

For more information contact [Cara Ianni](#), Education Program Manager, [Stilly-Snohomish Fisheries Enhancement Task Force](#), 425-252-6686

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## COUNCIL COMMUNIQUE?

### Studies of Urban Forestry and Civic Environmental Stewardship -

By Kathleen Wolf, Ph.D.



Few local governments have adequate budgets and staff to meet their urban forest program goals and management needs. Many city or county departments run volunteer programs to help get things done.

Volunteers may work for free, but careful and professional volunteer management is needed to achieve good results.

Social science may be able to help managers build better volunteer programs. A joint program of research is underway that includes the City of Seattle, King County, Cascade Land Conservancy, EarthCorps, University of Washington, and U.S. Forest Service. A nested set of studies has begun to learn more about individual civic stewards, meaning those people who volunteer for projects on public lands, as well as the full range of organizations that help keep them busy.

At the individual volunteer level, a set of surveys is attempting to expand understanding about the motivations and satisfactions of the volunteer experience, so that more citizens might be engaged, and then continue to volunteer in a meaningful way. At the next level are studies about the organizations that sponsor and host environmental stewardship programs. The goal is to learn more about the social infrastructure of stewardship operations and how to build greater capacity across the broad base of groups that develop stewardship projects and lands. Finally, the studies are attempting to look at the entire landscape scale of stewardship.

Civic stewardship programs typically include invasives removal, tree planting, and forested open space restoration. Studies of the positive stewardship 'footprint' are building understanding about the entire geographic extent of stewardship activity.

The research goals are to display the locations and density of activity across different places in the landscape, that is, where and how many people are working on the land. Then, better understanding of local outcomes can justify increased support and budgets for stewardship.

Study goals include both ecological and social change outcomes, that is, measures that can tell us about urban forest improvements and human community-building that result from people

working together. While all the studies are now focused in the metro Seattle area, the methods and measures could be eventually applied across other cities in Washington State.

[Dr. Kathleen L. Wolf](#), represents the University of Washington (UW) College of Forest Resources on the Washington Community Forestry Council. She is a Research Social Scientist at UW researching environmental psychology.

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## WEB-UCATION - LINKS TO HELP YOU LEARN

[Utilizing Municipal Trees: Ideas from Across the Country](#) U.S. Forest Service publication highlights successful wood utilization projects from around the United States.

Reusing Urban Wood - weblinks

[Urban Forest Ecosystems Institute's](#) (UFEI) web site [UrbanWood](#) is part of UFEI's ongoing efforts to demonstrate tangible benefits of green infrastructure. This web resource provides information about market development for urban wood.

Reusing Urban Wood - collected articles of interest

[Harvesting the 'urban forest'](#)

*Star Tribune* (June 8, 2010)

[Community Projects: Traverwood Branch Library](#) - Ann Arbor, Mich. /Inform Studio Architect: The magazine of the American Institute of Architects (October 6, 2009)

[A Backyard Trunk Could Be Your Living Room's Treasure](#)

*The Washington Post* (July 15, 2006)

[Entrepreneurs log the unwanted urban forest](#)

The Christian Science Monitor (December 21, 2005)

[The Urban Timber Crusade: Pacific Coast Lumber is just one example of sawmill owners cashing in on waste wood](#)

*TimberWest: Journal of Logging and Sawmills* (October 2004)

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS -

Want to publish an event in your community? Contact [Linden Mead](#)

[National Get Outdoors Day](#)

June 11, 2011

National Get Outdoors Day is a new annual event to encourage healthy, active outdoor fun. Participate by offering opportunities for American families to experience outdoor activities, reaching first-time visitors to public lands, and reconnecting youth to the great outdoors.

To find out more about Get Outdoors USA!, go to: [www.getoutdoorsusa.org](http://www.getoutdoorsusa.org) From Alliance for Community Trees (ACT)

**Pruning Class in Spanish: Tree Pruning**

Sunday, July 10, 10 am - noon, Sand Point Magnuson Park; Building 406 (The Brig), Seattle

A two-hour lecture (en Espanol) on basic tree pruning, followed by an outdoor demonstration. Taught by George Ortiz, CLT, of Signature Landscaping. For more information: [Email](#) or call Plant Amnesty 206-783-9813

Oregon Urban & Community Forestry Annual Conference - Community Trees for Healthy

## Streams

Thursday, June 02, 8 am - 3:30 pm, World Forestry Center, Portland, Ore.  
Communities across the country are successfully using trees as a solution to stormwater issues. Explore strategies for sound development that retains the values produced by healthy forests and watersheds at this day-long conference. [Register on line.](#)

## WEBCASTS

[Alliance for Community Trees](#) (ACT)  
[Tree Technology- Part III: Social Media](#)

June 16, 2011

Creating connections and instantly spreading messages via social media puts you in direct conversation with those most interested in your organization. With trainers Robert Palmer, President, Platzner & Co. (Oakland, Calif.) and Teri Ruch, Communications Director, Friends of Trees (Portland, Ore.)

[Urban Natural Resources Institute](#) (UNRI)

UNRI is an initiative of the US Forest Service Northeastern Research Station. UNRI scientists regularly provide online educational presentations on timely topics and current research and development initiatives via live webcasts you can view for free on your computer. [Recorded webcasts](#) are posted and may also be viewed online.

Upcoming e-learning webcasts: Note: all webcasts are presented at 8 am PT. Visit the [website](#) to register.

June 15 - i-Tree 4.0: The Latest Release

July 20 - Social Networking Tools

August 17 - Using Science for Firewise Plant Selections and the Eastern United States  
Firewise Plant Selector

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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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