



MARCH 2011

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
URBAN & COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROGRAM

WELCOME TO THE MARCH TREE LINK



Who doesn't love spring? Longer days, sunshine peeking through the clouds, then hail, then rain, then sunshine, (all within 15 minutes); great tree planting weather! If your community is recognized as a [Tree City USA](#) or planning to apply for Tree City USA recognition, you are getting ready to proclaim and celebrate Arbor Day, "the tree planters holiday."

Arbor Day in Washington is officially the 2nd Wednesday of the month, April 13th this year. Nationally, Arbor Day is celebrated the last Friday of the month of April, the 29th this year. If you are still planning for your Arbor Day celebration, and need ideas on how to make the day special, visit the [Arbor Day Foundation's webpage](#) or feel free to give us a call.

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"The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit."
~Nelson Henderson

COORDINATOR'S CORNER



Greetings! The Urban and Community Forestry Program is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2011 Community Forestry Assistance Grants! Once again, we had a difficult decision to make due to the fantastic applications we received. Nineteen projects were selected and are listed below. The Community Forestry Assistance Grant Program, with funding assistance from the USDA Forest Service, is offered annually for urban forestry planning, management, and education projects statewide. If you are interested in more information about the

2011 projects or future grant possibilities, please feel free to contact us.

Applicant	Project
Bremerton Parks and Recreation Department	Lions Park Tree Planting Project
City Fruit	Urban Orchard Stewards
City of Dupont	Citizen Tree Care Manual
City of Fife	Fife Urban Forestry Management Plan
City of Issaquah	Urban Tree Canopy/Vegetation Assessment
City of Kent Parks, Recreation & Community Services	Green Kent Partnership
City of Kirkland	Urban Forest Strategic Management Plan
City of Lacey	Wonderwood Park Forest Management Plan
City of North Bend	Public Tree Inventory and Urban Forestry Plan
City of Puyallup	Puyallup Urban Forestry Project
City of Renton	North Renton Neighborhood Tree Planting
City of SeaTac	Public Tree Inventory and Assessment
City of Spokane	Logan Neighborhood Pilot Project
City of Vancouver	Vancouver GIS Tree Canopy Assessment
Earthcorps	Park Habitat Mapping/inventory
Hands On Childrens's Museum	Naturalist Cabin: Nature Explore Classroom
Planning Association of Washington	Urban Forestry Planning Short Course
Plant Amnesty	Tree-Care Education/Outreach Project
Stilly-Snohomish Fisheries Enhancement Task Force	Tree Connections

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FRUIT TREE TIP OF THE MONTH

It isn't too late to prune your fruit trees, but do it soon--and be cautious. The wood you take off now will encourage the tree to produce more wood (and yes, more pruning down the road). Focus on branches that are dead, damaged, diseased, and de-ranged. You can download City Fruit's fact sheet on [Pruning Fruit Trees](#) to help. Nurseries have their bare root stock on sale, so it's also a good time to buy and plant. See [Planting Fruit Trees](#). Tip courtesy of City Fruit www.cityfruit.org

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TREES IN YOUR VIEW? WHATEVER YOU DO, DON'T TOP THEM!

Part of the beautiful landscape around us involves trees. When trees compete with our view, it's not uncommon to top them in an effort to open up the view. However, this does NOT work in the long run.

Topping is defined as severely and indiscriminately cutting back or removing large branches in a mature tree. When a tree is topped, it responds with rapid, vigorous re-growth in order to replace the loss of leaf area. The re-growth is very dense and will typically achieve, or even grow beyond, the height of the removed foliage within a few years. The dense re-growth does not lend itself to views and must be continually removed, in order to achieve clearance. This practice is costly for the property owner and detrimental to the tree.

Is topping a tree a justifiable means to create or retain a view? No, but there are [alternatives](#).



Short of removing the tree entirely, there are several alternative techniques that can help open views. Often the presence of trees enhances a view by framing the vista, adding visual interest, bringing distance into perspective and focusing the view on the landscape beyond. [Professional arborists](#) can assist in pruning a tree to help frame a view with techniques like thinning, windowing or skirting, while keeping a tree healthy.

Thinning involves retaining the natural form of the tree by removing foliage evenly throughout the canopy to create a filtered view through and beyond the foliage. Care must be taken not to remove too much foliage (less than ¼ of the total canopy) in order to avoid sucker growth.

A pruning technique termed windowing involves selectively removing branches to allow a full view

Skirting is a pruning technique where the lower branches of a tree are removed in order to achieve a view looking under the foliage. To make sure the tree remains healthy, it is important not to over do branch removal. No more than 1/3 of the tree's total height in branches should be removed.

If an existing tree has been topped repeatedly, it might be better to start over. If you remove a tree, make sure the species that replaces it is appropriate for the site (a small-maturing tree) or select a different planting site so the tree frames a view as it reaches its mature height.

Trees provide many benefits to communities. If they are thoughtfully planted and [carefully maintained](#), they will continue to provide those benefits for us and for those who follow. Check out DNR's resources for the [Anti-Tree Topping Campaign](#).

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COUNCIL COMMUNIQUÉ -- Congratulations to Cass Turnbull

Recipient of the WA Community Forest Stewardship Award.



Cass, a "hero for trees."

"Cass is a hero for trees," wrote Laura Watson, General Manager & Referral Coordinator for PlantAmnesty in her nomination request. The Washington Community Forestry Council wholeheartedly agreed, and presented Cass with the Washington Community Forest Stewardship award last month during a PlantAmnesty "Meeting of Like Minds" gathering.

Cass founded [PlantAmnesty](#), a nonprofit organization in 1987. The nonprofit, still based in Seattle, has nearly 1,200 members in 32 states and three countries. PlantAmnesty's mission is **to end the senseless torture and mutilation of trees and shrubs due to mal-pruning**. The goal of the organization is to educate commercial and private sectors on responsible and appropriate pruning and landscape management practices, establishing a standard of quality care for the urban ecology.

Cass, who tirelessly crusades against tree topping, has organized successful community-wide events to educate both home owners and professionals about the necessity of properly planting, and managing urban trees. She recently launched a new resource for the public, [Urban Forest Gateway](#). **The Gateway** contains contact information for over 80 tree-friendly organizations, connecting the public with those government agencies, nonprofits, and educational institutions that can help answer tree care questions.

Cass spends half her time in the field with hands-on maintenance and renovation projects. The other half is spent working through PlantAmnesty and the Tree Canopy Coalition to promote better care of plants.

Armed with a sense of humor and a mission, Cass has gained considerable local and national acclaim for pruning reform. She makes frequent appearances on evening news programs, in local newspapers, and on radio broadcasts, always making the case for trees. She has published many articles and two books, including ***Cass Turnbull's Guide to Pruning***, published in 2005.

Cass is most deserving of a Community Forest Stewardship award. She has made tremendous efforts toward stewarding Seattle's urban forest for nearly 25 years.

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GYPSY MOTH ROUNDUP IN PUYALLUP!

By Karen Ripley, Forest Health Program Manager, Washington Department of Natural Resources

Many arborists are familiar with the sight of bright red or green triangular insect traps hanging on tree trunks in yards and along roadways. Such simple traps, folded cardboard with a non-toxic sticky interior, can be set up with a pheromone chemical to lure many different kinds of insects. However, the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) annually installs and baits the vast majority of these traps to attract gypsy moths.



Gypsy Moth larvae

Gypsy moths (*Lymantria dispar*) are hungry, hairy caterpillars that are native to Europe and Asia. They have a broad range of host plants, mostly trees and shrubs.

The European moth was mistakenly introduced to eastern North America in the late 1800s and tends to prefer broadleaved host trees such as oaks, poplars, and fruit trees. They have caused significant ecological and economic impacts in the United States and Canada, including reducing the percentage of oaks in the northern hardwood forest and causing adverse human health effects due to skin and lung irritants within the caterpillar hairs. The caterpillars spread short distances on the wind, but the egg masses can be transported long distances when people move

items such as household goods, recreational vehicles, or firewood.

The Asian gypsy moth has been detected in North America only a handful of times since 1991 and has been most often brought via commercial shipping and trade goods. In addition to other host plants, Asian gypsy moths also consume conifer foliage, so would be an even bigger threat in Washington.

Currently, gypsy moths are not established in Washington. So far, since 1974, the WSDA has successfully detected recently introduced moths and, if a population seems able to reproduce, an effort is made to eradicate it. The most common trigger for eradication is that more than one "life stage" (egg, caterpillar, pupa, moth) is collected. Usually, adult moths are caught in the traps and then searchers on the ground find fresh egg masses that were laid in that area.



Gypsy Moth trap

In the summer of 2010, seven gypsy moths were caught in detection traps in the Puyallup area near the South Hill Mall. WSDA proposes to spray vegetation in the area (29 acres) with up to 3 to 5 applications of the biological insecticide *Bacillus thuringiensis kurstaki* (B.t.k.) during April to May. There are no residences within the treatment area.

The insecticide, B.t.k., is a bacterium that is commonly found in soil. It kills caterpillars that eat it. It does not kill other insects like bees or beetles and is not harmful to humans, fish, birds or other types of animals. You may have used B.t.k. in your home garden or yard. Its use is allowed for several organic growing practices.

This gypsy moth eradication project may require repeated applications because B.t.k. degrades quickly. Cool wet weather could also reduce the efficacy of the B.t.k. and lengthen the hatch period requiring the higher number of applications.

If gypsy moths become established, they would significantly damage our forests, gardens, and quality of life. The uncomfortable presence of hordes of caterpillars would make people choose

to use lots of pesticides. Luckily, WSDA's gypsy moth detection and eradication program successful. For more information on gypsy moths, detection, and control by WSDA, and the 2011 proposal, see <http://www.agr.wa.gov/PlantsInsects/InsectPests/GypsyMoth/>

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WEB-UCATION - LINKS TO HELP YOU LEARN

[The Urban Timber Program](#) is a groundbreaking initiative between Cincinnati Public Schools, Cincinnati Parks, and the Hamilton County Solid Waste Management District. The program utilizes urban trees for their highest and best use; in this case, furniture for public schools.

[National Environmental Education Week \(EE Week\)](#) is the nation's largest environmental education event, inspiring environmental learning and stewardship among K-12 students.

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OPPORTUNITIES:

Call for Nominations: National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council

The U.S. Forest Service is seeking to fill five positions for the [National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council](#) (NUCFAC), to bring together the wide variety of voices raised about a common concern: the present health and future preservation of America's urban treescapes. NUCFAC was founded to synthesize the full spectrum of views into a consistent vision, as a foundation for practical policy on urban forestry.

In addition to the specific position descriptions, national experience, and experience related to urban and community forestry, the Council is also required to maintain its national representation in which an emphasis will be placed on those nominees from geographical areas that have low representation on the Council. At the present time, the western part of United States has low representation, including the demographics that this area represents:

The Call for Nominations Letter and nomination form has been posted the Forest Service website at www.fs.fed.us/ucf under the "Spotlight" section. Nominations are due March 29, 2011. Self-nominations are accepted.

EPA Seeks Applicants for \$1.2 Million in Environmental - Justice Grants to Address Local Health and Environmental Issues

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is accepting grant applications for \$1.2 million in funding to support projects designed to research, educate, empower and enable communities to understand and address local health and environmental issues. Eligible applicants from non-profit, faith-based and tribal organizations working in the community of the proposed project are encouraged to apply.

Environmental Justice Small Grants funding is available for two categories of projects:

- 40 grants of up to \$25,000 each to support projects that address a community's local environmental issues through collaborative partnerships, and;
- 4 grants of up to \$50,000 each to gather better science on the environmental and health impacts of exposure to multiple sources of pollution in communities.

Environmental justice means the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people, regardless of race or income, in the environmental decision-making process.

Visit the [Environmental Justice Grant webpage](#) or the [Environmental Justice Small Grant program](#) webpage or more information about the program and how to apply for the grant.

The Washington Arboriculture Exchange Program - applications now being accepted

The purpose of the Washington Arboriculture Exchange Program (WAEP) is to exchange urban forestry expertise, management ideas and technology through direct on-site experience with working municipal arborists. It is designed for individuals interested in or responsible for developing or expanding a community forestry program, including planners, public works

and/or parks managers, and tree board members,

How does the program work?

A participant will spend up to 2 days visiting and working with another city's urban forestry department. Travel and basic expenses are covered by the WAEP scholarship. Staff time will be considered a match for the program, and is not reimbursable.

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.

How to apply

The WAEP is ongoing. If you are interested in more information or would like to apply to participate, visit www.dnr.wa.gov/urbanforestry for an application form or call 1-800-535-8733 and we will send you one.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

How to Prune Landscape Plants - en espaniol

Two classes available, Thursday, March 9, 9 am-11:00 am and Thursday, May 12, 9 am-11:00 am

George Ortiz, CLT and Gonzalo Yepes present a slideshow at Casa Latina, 317 - 17th Ave. South. This class is free and no preregistration is necessary.

Sponsored by PlantAmnesty. For more information call Casa Latina at 206-956-0779.

Sustainability That Works! Landscapes in Transition

Friday, March 11, 2011, Lake Washington Technical College, \$25.00, or \$35.00 day of event. Stimulating "down to earth" information on the future of working with landscapes, provided in an interactive seminar.

Sponsored by: Keep It Simple, Lake Washington Technical College, Environmental Horticulture program, Sustainable Redmond, and COOL. Register online: www.gardeningwithmicrobes.com CEUs available

Utility Arborist Association - PNW Regional Meeting

March 23-24, 2011, Puget Sound Energy Headquarters, Bellevue, WA

For more information, contact [Beth I. Rogers](#), Contract Manager, 425-462-3958

Sidewalks & Trees: How to Repair and Maintain the Structural Integrity of Both

April 28, 2011, 8:00 am-2:30 pm WSU Extension Office, Spokane, WA

With proper planning and design, forests can coexist in harmony with sidewalks, streets, parking lots and other hardscapes. This continuing education seminar is intended for professionals who deal regularly with conflicts between tree roots and infrastructure. Arborists, urban foresters, arboricultural consultants, landscape architects, and planners as well as contractors, engineers, city managers and public works staff are encouraged to attend.

[Register Online](#). For questions, contact the PNW-ISA at 800.335.4391 or info@pnwisa.org

WEBINARS:

"Urban Tree Canopy (UTC) Analysis: Using the Results Effectively in Your Community"

Wednesday, March 23, 2011, 8:00 am (Pacific)

Sponsored by The [Urban Natural Resources Institute](#) (UNRI) For [more information](#) visit the UNRI webpage or contact [Dave Bloniarz](#), Project Coordinator

"Planting a New Urban Forest: Using Aerial Sketch Mapping for Asian Long-horned Beetle (ALB) Reforestation in Worcester, MA"

Wednesday, March 16, 2011, 8:00 am (Pacific)

Sponsored by The [Urban Natural Resources Institute](#) (UNRI). For [more information](#) visit the UNRI webpage or contact [Dave Bloniarz](#), Project Coordinator.

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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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