

**WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
URBAN & COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROGRAM****WELCOME TO THE MAY EDITION OF TREE LINK**

Spring has sprung, as the old saying goes, and April showers did indeed bring May flowers. Magnolias, pears, cherries are all sharing the lime light. If you are considering planting flowering trees, it is a good idea to watch them for a full year. That two-week window of "Look at me, I'm beautiful!", as wonderful as it is, fades quickly. Look for attributes, sizes, and shapes that are not only attractive throughout the year, but also fit into the landscape physically and aesthetically. (Look up, down, and all-around, before planting). There are some good online tools to help you select the perfect tree for your space. Visit the [Urban and Community Forestry website](#) for some links to get started.

photo courtesy The Dow Gardens Archive, Dow Gardens, [Bugwood.org](#)

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"Oak trees come out of acorns, no matter how unlikely that seems. An acorn is just a tree's way back into the ground. For another try. Another trip through. One life for another."

- Shirley Ann Grau

COORDINATOR'S CORNER



All of the festivities in April kept the Urban & Community Forestry Program staff busy! Linden and I were able to attend Arbor Day events in a number of communities this year and enjoyed the celebrations! We were assisted by Washington Community Forestry Council members, as well as DNR employees from executive management and our Region offices. With 80 Tree City USA communities, 9 Tree Line USA utilities and 4 Tree Campus USA schools we get stretched very thin. Thank you to everyone that hosted a representative at an event and to all those that participated in planting trees this Arbor Month! Now is the time to look forward to great summer weather that is coming (I hope!) and think about what you can do to enhance the health of your trees. If you would like information on proper mulching, pruning, Firewise landscaping, or other spring maintenance information, let the [Urban & Community Forestry program know!](#)

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ARBOR DAY CELEBRATIONS BLOSSOM



Commissioner Peter Goldmark celebrated Arbor Day in Tacoma. Photo: Ramie Pierce

Many communities proclaim and celebrate Arbor Day in April. Celebrations range from large to small, but at every event in which DNR staff and the Washington Community Forestry Council participated, communities celebrated planting trees and were recognized for their efforts in achieving the 2010 Tree City USA award. Watch for photo highlights of events which will be posted on [DNRs Flickr site](#) in mid-May.

There is still time to organize and celebrate Arbor Day in 2011. The "Tree Planter's Holiday" can be proclaimed and then celebrated at any time of the year. Fall is a great time to plant trees so is a perfect time to gather the shovels and hold an event.

For help in planning your celebration, check out the [Arbor Day Foundation's website](#) or call Washington DNR Urban & Community Forestry, 360-902-1703, and we will send you a planning booklet.

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PARTNERSHIP IN TWISP... SOMETHING TO CELEBRATE!

Twisp, population 995, has been designated a Tree City USA (TCUSA) for the past 11 years. The town, is one of Washington's smallest TCUSA communities, (first-year TCUSA Yarrow Point also has a population of 995). Twisp's urban forestry program is unique in that it has always been a dynamic, all-volunteer effort by members of the community.



Two parks have been the focus of Twisp's urban forestry efforts the last few years, Commons Park and Confluence Park, located at the confluence of the Twisp and Methow Rivers. The story of Commons Park, a volunteer effort from start to finish, truly demonstrates the

commitment this town and its residents have to the community forest.

The community worked together to raise money necessary to purchase the property where the Park now stands through private donations. The property was then donated to the town as a park and green-space. Volunteers not only planned the park layout but also the execution of building the park, planting trees, and landscaping. This huge volunteer effort came to fruition with the recent completion of Commons Park, where this year's Arbor Day and Tree City recognition ceremony will be held. The park will eventually be a respite from hot, dry summers with beech, maples, a Kentucky coffee tree, and a few flowering crabapples casting cooling shade over the little park.

Ironically, even while resting near two rivers, the competition for water rights is resulting in limited available water for the town, challenging this dry community's trees. The city is working to find drought-tolerant species that thrive in urban environs.

Even with this challenge, the tree board remains positive and is planning to re-write the tree ordinance this year.

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FRUIT TREE TIP OF THE MONTH

Courtesy of [City Fruit](#)



If you have bees, put them out near the trees. Once we have some sun, they will be working hard.

If you're buying new trees, look for those that are scab resistant. As far as apples go, try Liberty, Holstein, Williams Pride and Pristine. You can still [prune](#), but limit it to removing branches that cross, grow into the center, or shade other branches. Too much spring pruning stimulates water sprouts.

And finally, begin to think about [controlling pests](#) in your apples and pears.

It's time to think about codling moth and apple maggot fly. They get busy in late May. City Fruit offers a class on [organic pest management](#) on May 14, and you can download fact sheets on apple maggot fly and codling moth and see a video on how to put on apple maggot barriers on their [web site](#). The [Seattle Tree Fruit Society](#) sells apple maggot barriers.

FRUIT AND PESTS

[Spotted-wing drosophila](#), a type of red-eyed vinegar fly, was found in a trap in a semi-abandoned apricot orchard in Pasco. Combined with the ubiquitous codling moths and other fruit flies, it's a constant threat to the area's agriculture.

If you do not harvest fruit from your trees, remember to prevent the spread of these and other pests by removing all fruit from the ground around your trees, and disposing of it properly. Visit the [Benton/Franklin County Extension website](#) for more information.

Photo courtesy of Jerry A. Payne, USDA Agricultural Research Service, Bugwood.org

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DON'T WHACK TREES PLEASE, WHERE'S THE BENEFIT IN THAT?

By [Ear to the Ground](#)

Even with all the scientific information we have that shows topping harms trees, some people still practice this act.

That's why the City of Tacoma joined forces with DNR this month to take a stand [against tree topping](#). After all, April is Arbor Month in Washington, and there is a strong movement to show the benefits that our urban and community forests provide.



Tacoma is showcasing its commitment to healthy trees and a good quality of life. Tacoma created the [Urban Forest Project](#), a community collaboration to raise awareness of the importance of trees. The city has planted 85 banners about the environment by local designers, artists and students in the heart of Tacoma. In addition to a unique public arts exhibit, the Urban Forest Project Tacoma is an excellent way to raise awareness of the importance of trees to our urban landscape. Take a drive down Pacific Avenue in Tacoma to see the wonderful world of art, trees, and the environment.

The city has a goal of increasing its tree canopy -- the percentage of the city area under tree cover -- from the current 12.9 percent to 30 percent

by the year 2030.

DNR's [Urban and Community Forestry Program](#) and the City of Tacoma are raising awareness about the benefits of trees in communities. Join local urban forests efforts so your city can benefit from the healthy quality of life that forests can offer.

Are you in doubt? Pick a tree in your neighborhood, measure the diameter, and find out exactly what [benefits](#) it provides. You'll be happily surprised!

Healthy trees are an asset to our society, and the practice of tree topping often leads directly to a tree becoming unhealthy and unsafe. Because of this, DNR encourages you to contact a [certified arborist](#) when considering help with tree care.

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ANTI- TREE TOPPING POSTERS NOW AVAILABLE



Topping Hurts Trees!

We are pleased to announce that hard-copy posters and bookmarks of our anti-tree topping materials are now available. The idea is to get information out to the community about the negative effects tree topping has on tree health and safety. We encourage you to distribute these materials broadly, partnering with community advocates like libraries, nurseries, and downtown business associations to display one or all three posters.

Go to www.dnr.wa.gov/urbanforestry to see the posters and bookmarks, then give us a call, if you would like to place an order, or have questions.

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CELEBRATE FORESTS!

This year has been designated by the United Nations as the International Year of Forests (IYOF). The U.S. campaign's theme is "[Celebrate Forests. Celebrate Life.](#)" The campaign's [website](#) is interactive with a community tool kit containing sample activities, and media kits to promote upcoming events.



The campaign seeks to connect the concept of trees and forests to health in the everyday lives of American citizens as well as the role trees and forests play in: clean air and water; ecosystem health; economic health; and community/personal health.

In celebration of IYOF, American Forest Foundation is coordinating the first ever [National Walk in the Woods Day](#) on May 21, 2011. You can help youth and adults alike to discover a forest and learn about its importance by participating in, or leading, a "walk in the woods." Visit the website to find out how.

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DO URBAN TREES REALLY SAVE ENERGY?



by [Ear to the Ground](#)

Of course, [urban trees save energy](#). However, in order to keep them healthy, we need to know how they are adapting to climate change and other issues.

At no cost to the state, the Washington State Department of Natural Resources' [Urban and Community Forestry Program](#) is participating in research that will help city planners make better decisions about the management of urban trees. Funding is from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, made available through the U.S. Forest Service.

This is the first joint effort of its kind in the Pacific states to gather data on the health of urban forests in cities around Alaska, California, Hawaii, Oregon and Washington. This research, led by [U.S. Forest Service scientists](#), will take place at approximately 1,000 sites in these states.

The data will be compiled for a comparative study on the health of trees in urban areas. This research will give us a baseline of the current health of urban forests in the Pacific Coast states. The results of this research will be used to evaluate questions about the potential reduction of energy needs, such as trees cooling the urban environment, the contribution of urban trees to carbon sequestration, water management within urban areas, and quality of life for urban residents. Data collection is expected to be completed in 2012.

There is little doubt that urban forests will change as the [climate changes](#). Over the longer term, monitoring will help to determine if and how urban forests are adapting to changing conditions and will shed some light on possible improvements. The data from this project will help communities develop urban forest management plans that address the impacts of climate change on their urban forest resources.

The project is being carried out in collaboration with the Oregon Department of Forestry, California Polytechnic State University, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, Washington Department of Natural Resources, Alaska Department of Natural Resources and the Hawaii Urban Forestry Council.

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NEW! TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN EASTERN WASHINGTON

Through a new and unique interagency partnership agreement, we are very happy to announce that five counties in Eastern Washington now have a great technical resource for urban and community program assistance in their back yard!



Garth, out-standing in his field!

[Garth Davis](#), the Forestry Program Manager for Spokane Conservation District, is now available to provide urban and community forestry technical assistance in Pend Oreille, Stevens, Lincoln, and Whitman Counties, as well as Spokane County.

Garth runs several planting programs in the county, conducts educational workshops, assists cities with their community forestry programs, provides Firewise home site and community assessments, and provides technical assistance to tree and forest owners.

"I am very lucky to have a job that I love, and I get to share my love of trees with people on a daily basis," Garth proclaims.

Before working for the Conservation District, Garth was a forester for Ibex Vegetation Management, and contracted to the Idaho Department of Lands as a Community Forestry Assistant. He has an AAS in Natural Resource Management from Spokane Community College and a B.S. in Forest Resources from the University of Idaho. Garth is an ISA Certified Arborist and Tree Risk Assessor, a SAF Certified Forester and a graduate of the Municipal Foresters Institute. He also is an all-around nice guy!

Garth resides on the South Hill of Spokane with his wife Cindy, daughter Kaitlynn, two dogs and one cat. He enjoys hiking, biking and fishing.

If your community needs technical or educational assistance, including how to address tree issues, learning best management practices for community trees, or how to become a Tree City USA, feel free to contact [Garth](#) at 509-535-7274.

The Spokane County Conservation District helps landowners in Spokane County take care of

their trees and forests. You can learn more about the Conservation District at <http://www.sccd.org/>

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WEB-UCATION - LINKS TO HELP YOU LEARN

[Tree Board University](#) Unique online training to help you learn more about trees, about people, and about serving in a citizen advisory role in your city, town, or village.

The [Urban Natural Resources Institute \(UNRI\)](#) is a science-based source for information and answers to questions on urban natural resources stewardship. The site offers the opportunity to ask tough questions of scientists, webcasts, tools to help you manage your urban forest, an update on the latest breaking news, and more.

Getting ready to write or revamp your community tree ordinance? The International Society of Arboriculture's offers an online booklet, [Guidelines for Developing and Evaluating Tree Ordinances](#), to help you out.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

WASHINGTON COMMUNITY FORESTRY COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, May 11, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Finch Arboretum, Spokane. Public welcome.

3rd ANNUAL URBAN FOREST SYMPOSIUM: TREES AND URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE

Monday, May 9, 2011, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., University of Washington Botanical Gardens, Center for Urban Horticulture, 3501 NE 41st St, Seattle

Sponsored by PlantAmnesty and the University of Washington Botanic Gardens this all-day event will bring together experts, including ecologists, arborists, landscape architects, and utility planners to talk about how trees and the urban infrastructure can co-exist. Email or call Jean Robins at UWBG at 206-685-8033. Cost: \$55. CEU credits available. Email or call [Jean Robins](#), 206-685-8033 or more information or [register online](#),

E-LEARNING TRAINING SERIES

There is still time to register for [i-Tree 4.0 Online Training](#): Tools for Assessing and Managing Community Forests

May 5, 2011, 10 a.m. -- i-Tree Hydro and Design

May 12, 2011, 10 a.m.-- i-Tree Streets, Storm and IPED, Series Wrap-up

These are the last two in a four-part web-based instructional series that introduces participants to the latest tools in the [i-Tree software suite](#), a collection of inventory, analysis and reporting tools for urban and community forests. i-Tree is a state-of-the-art, peer-reviewed software suite from the USDA Forest Service that provides urban forestry analysis and benefits

assessment tools. All tools are in the public domain and freely accessible. If you miss the webcasts, check out the recorded versions [online](#) at the Urban Natural Resources (UNRI) website.

TREE & SHRUB PRUNING WORKSHOP

Saturday, May 14, 1:30 p.m., City of Tacoma [EnviroHouse](#) (Tacoma Landfill, 3510 S. Mullen St.)

Contact [Ramie Pierce](#), Tacoma Urban Forestry for more information, 253-591-2048 or visit Tacoma's [EnviroWorks website](#) to register.

TACOMA'S TREE-MENDOUS PROJECT

Children from first through eighth grade are invited to tell about trees by entering a story, a poem or a poster in the contest. There are prizes in each category and grade level. **Deadline for entries is May 13.** For more information visit EverGreen Tacoma on Facebook or email rstearne@cityoftacoma.org

2011 STATEWIDE FOREST OWNERS FIELD DAYS

[Eastern Washington](#): June 18 near White Salmon (Klickitat County)

[Western Washington](#): August 20 near Chimacum (Jefferson County)

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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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