



OCTOBER 2011

## WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES URBAN & COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROGRAM

IN THE OCTOBER ISSUE:

### IT'S URBAN & COMMUNITY FORESTRY MONTH!

October is a great time to plant trees. Maybe that is why we recognize it as Community Forestry Month.

This is the time of the year when volunteers in cities and towns throughout Washington come together to clean-up and restore natural areas, plant trees, and celebrate the positive impact trees make in our lives.

There is a quote by Lucy Larcom, "He who plants a tree, plants a hope." What do you hope for when you plant a tree; shade, screening, fruit, singing birds, a place to hang the hammock? Whatever your goal is, make sure that it will come to fruition by planning for and planting your tree correctly.



Container-grown trees frequently have circling roots. Photo: Gary Johnson/University of Minnesota.



Girdling roots compressing a tree trunk. Photo: Gary Johnson, University of MN

A huge problem that has become apparent in the last decade or so is something called stem-girdling-roots (SGR). Roots that do not grow straight to begin with, and are not straightened when planted, continue on their circular path. SGR are common in container-grown trees.

As they grow in size, roots that circle close to or touch the stem of a tree start to compress the trunk, choking off the route of nutrients flowing from roots to canopy and vice versa. Even if a tree compensates by growing around the root, a weak spot develops, in effect a divot in the stem of a tree, which becomes an inherent weak point.

Although they appear healthy, trees with SGR begin to decline. Just when they begin to make a significant impact visually and ecologically, these trees become increasingly susceptible to insect and disease pathogens. Weakened stems can succumb to wind storms and break off at ground level.

Hope is lost, goals are unrealized, and safety is compromised.

Before you plant trees this fall, educate yourself about planting trees and the dangers of SGR. A new online book, "[Stem Girdling Roots: The Underground Epidemic Killing Our Trees.](#)" by Gary Johnson at the University of Minnesota in partnership with the US Forest Service Northeastern Area, teaches about SGR. It is an easy read, but full of great information and (*shocking!*) photos.



A tree failure due to stem-girdling roots. Photo: Gary Johnson, University of MN

Editor note: I first learned of the SGR publication through the [American Grove](#), an online community that is all about trees. Visit the Grove at: <http://thegrove.americangrove.org/> and become a member of the [Washington Grove](#).

Read in this issue to find:

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

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How beautifully leaves grow old. How full of light and color are their last days. ~John Burroughs

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## COORDINATOR'S CORNER



Happy Urban and Community Forestry Month! Get out there and plant (and care for) some trees! Since fall has arrived in the Pacific Northwest, it's time to look forward to all the great events and training opportunities that keep us occupied now that the sun seems to have moved on. There are some great offerings in the Northwest and across the country to learn more about urban forestry and trees in our communities. I encourage all municipal governments to look at the Community Tree Management Institute in 2012. We are again partnering with the Oregon Department of Forestry to offer this course, but it will be undergoing big, innovative changes for this round. Much of the course will be offered online which allows participants to learn at their own pace. I also encourage you to consider applying for a Community Forestry Assistance Grant for 2012. Funding is once again available thanks to our funding partner, the US Forest Service. If you have questions or would like more information, please [give me a call](#).

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## URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY MONTH - OCTOBER FREE ARBOR DAY TREES FOR TREE CITIES



Did you know that a community can proclaim and celebrate the tree planter's holiday at any time of the year? Many cities select fall for their Arbor Day celebrations because it is a great time of the year to plant trees.

Thanks to funding assistance from the US Forest Service, DNR Urban and Community Forestry will once again provide grants for Arbor Day tree planting. The \$200 grant is offered to help cities purchase a nice landscape-sized tree for their celebration. A 25 percent match (that is \$50 worth of donated or purchased materials, or volunteer or staff time) is required.

If your community is a designated [Tree City USA](#), or will qualify as a Tree City in 2011, you are eligible to apply for the grant. For more information, take a look at the [Arbor Day 2011 Accomplishment Report and Reimbursement Request form](#) on our web page.

Not a Tree City? Give us a call or visit Arbor Day Foundation's Tree City USA webpage for more

information.

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## THE SUSIE FOREST

### MEMORIAL TREE PROGRAM IN SPOKANE GOES INTERNATIONAL

By Rachel Rooks, Spokane County Conservation District Outreach Project Coordinator

The Susie Forest started out small -- just three trees planted in 2003. Since then, it has grown to more than 100 trees -- not just in Spokane but all over the world. The Susie Forest is a living, growing legacy to Susie Stephens, the daughter of Nancy MacKerrow. Susie was a bicyclist, an environmentalist, an activist, and world traveler who was dedicated to educating others about bicyclist and pedestrian safety. Susie was killed in 2002 after being struck by a bus while using a crosswalk to cross the street in St. Louis.

Nancy started The Susie Forest for three reasons:

1. To plant trees;
2. To encourage others to plant trees;
3. To education people, especially children, about the importance and benefits of trees



A Susie Forest Tree planted in Spokane's Finch Arboretum sports biodegradable messages written by those that planted the tree.

Each tree planted in The Susie Forest is a reminder that life goes on and starts anew. All trees planted are associated with an individual, except for two of the trees planted each year -- one on Susie's birthday and one on the anniversary of her death. Whether it is to celebrate the birth of a newborn or a special anniversary, as a memorial of someone who has passed, or to celebrate a reading program at a local library or school, each Susie Tree is deeply rooted in personal connection.

Nancy works closely with Reforest Spokane, a program of the Spokane Parks Foundation. Some of the Susie Trees are planted as street trees, which are desperately needed in the Spokane area. Most of the trees are planted in public parks, at libraries and other public sites, and on private property. Just as Susie traveled the world, the Susie Forest has gone national & global. There are now Susie Trees planted in Washington, D.C. and as far away as New Zealand and Iran.

The Susie Forest is now online

at [www.thesusieforest.wordpress.com](http://www.thesusieforest.wordpress.com). The web site features a blog written by Nancy about the various plantings, and a map of all of the Susie Trees throughout the Spokane area. Visit the site to learn more about The Susie Forest or contact Nancy MacKerrow for more

information at [thesusieforest@hotmail.com](mailto:thesusieforest@hotmail.com) .

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## IS THE FOREST DYING ON BLEWETT PASS?

### BLAME THE PESKY WESTERN SPRUCE BUDWORM

By [Ear to the Ground Blog](#)

The western spruce budworm (*Choristoneura occidentalis*) is native, yes. But is it always good? No! This destructive little critter has been eating new growth from Douglas-fir and grand



Saplings and pole-size trees in the foreground are partially defoliated and suffering topkill caused by spruce budworm that may have fallen from the taller trees nearby. Photo: Dave Powell, US Forest Service, Bugwood.org

fir trees in parts of Washington. You can easily see the damage if you drive over Blewett Pass (south of Leavenworth), but the outbreak is much broader -- it stretches from Wenatchee to the Snoqualmie Summit.

The western spruce budworm is the larva of a rusty brown colored moth native to this area. It lies dormant in silk shelters through the winter and awakes in spring to crawl inside developing tree buds to feast on the growing needles, causing defoliation. It takes several consecutive years of defoliation before top kill (usually at three years) or mortality (usually at four or more years) occurs. The whole process results in damaged trees marked with drying, reddened, dead needles rather than healthy, new, green buds. This damage can be easily seen from the highway on Blewett Pass, but it is found a growing number of tree stands elsewhere.

The current state of poor forest health conditions has set up our forests to be vulnerable to disease, insects, and wildfire. A combination of over-crowded stands Douglas-fir trees and many years of extensive wildfire suppression has caused the poor health of some of our forests.

See where the outbreaks occurred during 2010 in DNR's [annual Forest Health Highlights report](#). You also can get advice and assistance from the [DNR Forest Stewardship Program](#).

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## COMMUNITY FORESTRY ASSISTANCE GRANT CITY OF KIRKLAND GAINS MORE TREE CANOPY; GOOD NEWS FOR RESIDENTS



Marina Park

This summer, the City of Kirkland completed its first comprehensive Urban Tree Canopy (UTC) assessment to measure tree canopy coverage. Even with today's pressures of development, Kirkland had a gain in tree canopy between 2002 and 2010, compared to substantial canopy losses in nearby cities.

Over those eight years, the City's tree canopy coverage increased by 4.4 percent. It was found to have 36 percent tree canopy, not including the recent annexation area. When including the annexation area, the current canopy cover is 40.7 percent.

### Canopy comparison of nearby cities

- Bellevue: 36%
- Renton: 28.6%
- Shoreline: 31%
- Mercer Island: 41%

Kirkland's Comprehensive Plan established a 40 percent tree cover goal as recommended by the American Forest's ecosystem analysis of the Puget Sound area. The city contracted an environmental engineering firm to complete the GIS mapping project. The firm analyzed different land cover categories of the city from 2002 and 2010.

Trees are a valuable natural resource that provide multiple public benefits including stormwater runoff reduction, pollutant removal, carbon sequestration, and other valuable ecosystem functions.

The Kirkland City Council has committed itself to providing natural resources management in order to protect our natural environment for current residents and future generations.

The canopy assessment project was funded by the US Forest Service through the Washington State Department of Natural Resources' Urban and Community Forestry Program.

For more information about the study, contact [Deb Powers, Urban Forester](#), 425-587-3261, or visit Kirkland's webpage at [www.kirklandwa.gov](http://www.kirklandwa.gov).



Kirkland's Watershed Park

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## PEST ALERT! - BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR ASIAN LONG-HORNED BEETLE

This June a single, unmated live female Asian long-horned beetle (ALB) was found in solid wood packing material at a facility in North Bend, about 30 miles east of Seattle.



Adult ALB

Photo: Kenneth R. Law, USDA APHIS PPQ, Bugwood.org

The ALB, a native of eastern China, is a large beetle, about 1 to 1.5 inches long, its bullet-shaped body is shiny and black with white spots. It has exceptionally long antennae with black and white bands. Their elongated feet are black with a whitish-blue upper surface.

The ALB is a serious threat to U.S. trees. ALB larvae bore deep into deciduous hardwood trees such as maple, birch, horse chestnut, poplar, willow, elm, and ash, eventually killing them. Since its discovery in 1996, damage from ALB has resulted in the removal of more than 30,000 trees in Illinois, New Jersey, and New York. Quarantines and quick action have limited expansion of beetle populations. It is important to be on the

lookout for these tree- killing insects.

Washington State Department of Agriculture and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service are coordinating intensive surveys in the vicinity of the ALB find in North Bend.

Citizens in the area are asked to be extra vigilant for signs and symptoms of ALB (on almost any hardwood species):

- The beetles are relatively large -- [follow this link with photos of ALB](#) and similar beetles.
- Egg-laying niches and/or ~3/8" round exit holes on tree trunks and large branches.
- Sawdust at the base of a tree and/or the crotches of large branches.
- Die-back of individual branches or tree crowns.

Some additional links:

[ALB Pest Alert](#),  
[Northeastern Area US Forest Service ALB website](#)  
[More ALB images](#)  
[US Department of Agriculture ALB Website](#)

Citizens who think they might have spotted an invasive species should contact 1-877-9-INFEST. [Look online for more information](#) about the species and how to report sightings.



ALB egg-laying niche.  
Photo:Dennis Haugen,  
USDA Forest Service,  
Bugwood.org

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## 2012 COMMUNITY FORESTRY ASSISTANCE GRANT

by [Ear to the Ground](#)

[Applications for Community Forestry Assistance Grants](#) are now open. The federally funded program gives cities, counties, non-profits, schools, and tribes the opportunity to apply for grants ranging from \$3,000 to \$10,000. Community groups and neighborhood associations also can work their city or county to apply.

The money can be used to fund education and planning projects, such as tree inventories, canopy assessments, and management plans. A small portion of the funds may be used for planting projects that demonstrate proactive mitigation of climate change or that improve water quality in the Puget Sound watershed.

DNR's Urban and Community Forestry program works with the US Forest Service's Urban and Community Forestry Assistance Program to promote a more comprehensive approach to caring for urban trees. The goal is to make lasting improvements to the health and quality of the urban environment through well-tended and planned urban forests -- city trees, that is.

Find more ideas and sample projects on the [DNR Urban and Community Forestry Resources web page](#).

Applications are due no later than November 10, 2011.

Our thanks to the US Forest Service for making this funding possible.

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## TREE CITY USA ONLINE APPLICATIONS



Every year Tree Cities must report on the great things they have accomplished during the past year and provide a work plan for the year to come. This is the second year that communities have the option to post their reports through [Arbor Day Foundation's online reporting system](#).

The deadline for reports and new Tree City USA applications is December 1, 2011. This allows time for UCF staff and the State Forester to look over and approve applications before sending them to Arbor Day Foundation for final approval.

Visit [Arbor Day's Tree City USA webpage](#) to start an application. If this is your first year applying online, you will first need to request a password. If you have questions or need assistance with the new reporting system, contact Linden (360-902-1703). In Eastern Washington, contact Garth (509-535-7274). We can help answer questions or visit your community to assist you.

By the way, Arbor Day Foundation will still accept hardcopy (paper) applications, if you are unable to report online. Visit their [application resources page](#) to find out more, or call 360-902-1703.

Not a Tree City USA? We can help! [Contact us](#).

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## WEB-UCATION - LINKS TO HELP YOU LEARN

["Stem Girdling Roots: The Underground Epidemic Killing Our Trees."](#) by researchers at the University of Minnesota and the US Forest Service teaches about the cause of SGR, prevention and mitigation.

Visit the [Washington Association of Conservation District's Plant Materials Center](#), if you are looking for restoration seedlings and cuttings for fall planting. The Center's mission is to provide high quality conservation grade plants, shrubs and services that benefit natural resources.

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

If you have an event to announce, please give us a call, 1-800-523-8733

### TACOMA'S FALL TREE FESTIVAL - GO CLIMB A TREE!

Saturday, Oct 15, 2011. 10am to 3pm, Wright Park, 501 South I St, Tacoma

Kids get to climb trees! Under the careful supervision of certified arborists, who will bring ropes, harnesses and helmets to help kids climb safely, kids can experience tree canopy up close and personal. Kids can also create leaf art projects and go on a scavenger hunt. While the kids climb trees, adults can stroll new pathways, relax beside the restored pond, check out the new basketball court, horseshoe pits and lawn bowling greens. Metro Parks Tacoma's Urban Forester will also be on hand to answer tree care questions. All activities are free.

For information on the Fall Tree Festival, call 253-305-1022

### GREEN KENT PARTNERSHIP RESTORATION EVENTS

Register for events at [www.GreenKent.org](http://www.GreenKent.org)

Be sure to dress for working outdoors, wear sturdy shoes and bring your own water.

Saturday & Sunday, Oct. 8 & 9, 2011. 9am-Noon

We will be removing invasive species and hopefully planting.

Lake Meridian Park, 14800 se 272nd St, Kent, WA 98042

NOTE: Park at the boat launch side of the park located on 152nd Way SE and look for the people ready to get their hands dirty.

Saturday, Oct. 15, 2011. 9am-Noon

We will be removing invasive species and hopefully planting.

Morrill Meadows Park, 10600 SE 248th St, Kent, WA 98030

Saturday, Oct. 22, 2011. 9am-Noon.

We will be removing invasive species and hopefully planting.

Scenic Hill Park, 25826 Woodland Way S., Kent, WA 98030

Saturday, Oct. 29, 2011. 9am-Noon.

We will be removing invasives and cleaning-up debris.

Morrill Meadows Off-Leash Dog Park, 10600 SE 248th St, Kent, WA 98030

### FREE TREE WORKSHOPS IN TACOMA

Oct 22 at 10:30am - Tree Selection

Oct 22 at 12:30pm - Tree Planting

All workshops are at the Envirohouse, 3510 S. Mullen St., Tacoma, WA 98409 [RSVP via email is appreciated.](#)

### MUNICIPAL TREE CARE WORKSHOPS

October 13 in Yakima; October 19 in Camas; October 25 in Montesano - 8:30am - 3:30pm

Attend one of these full-day municipal tree care workshops. The workshops will teach basic tree biology, tree selection, planting, pruning, and general maintenance those that care for trees in communities. The workshops are low or no cost thanks to several generous sponsors, including

Grays Harbor PUD. For more information or to sign up for one of the workshops, contact [Linden Mead](#) or call 360-902-1703.

DNR's UCF office offers education opportunities statewide. If you would like to schedule a workshop for communities in your area, please contact us.

#### PRUNING CLASS: JAPANESE GARDEN PRUNING

Sunday, Nov 13, 2011. 10am - noon, Sand Point Magnuson Park; Building 406 (The Brig)

Japanese gardens are among the most admired gardens in the world. This class covers the advanced pruning skills essential to the annual maintenance of these gardens. Students will learn to prune Japanese maples (upright and weeping), bamboo, cloud pruning pines and tamamono shearing of lower story elements. For more information [email Plant Amnesty](#) or call 206.783.9813.

#### 2011 PARTNERS IN COMMUNITY FORESTRY NATIONAL CONFERENCE

November 15-17, 2011. Disney's Coronado Springs Resort, Lake Buena Vista, Florida

This annual event serves as a gathering of leaders in the field of urban forestry. The conference promotes sustainable partnership models, connecting diverse organizations that impact the health of community trees and encouraging innovation in programs and projects through traditional and nontraditional partners. Visit the [conference webpage](#) for more information, or contact [Kyrsten Mottl](#), 402-473-9553

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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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