May 21, 2019 – Urban Forest Symposium
Center for Urban Horticulture, NHS Hall (3501 NE 41st St., Seattle, WA 98105)

http://bit.ly/urban-forest

PROGRAM AGENDA

9:00 Welcome and Introduction
Dominic Barerra, Executive Director | PlantAmnesty
Jessica Farmer, Adult Education Supervisor | University of Washington Botanic Gardens

9:10 Global Weirding Impacts on Our Local Urban Forests
Michael Yadrick, Plant Ecologist | Seattle Parks and Recreation, Green Seattle Partnership

The world crossed a threshold last year, and global carbon dioxide levels are currently at ~411 ppm while we struggle to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees C over pre-industrial levels. The impacts of global weirding are inequitable. Climate change isn’t just an issue for future generations anymore. As the heat rises in our growing urban areas, global warming has already exhibited effects on our most vulnerable neighbors and sensitive habitats. Meanwhile, it is actively provoking a patchwork of impacts – sometimes delayed or invisible - on our region that make our human and forest communities vulnerable to climate change. We are witnessing local damage and illness due to forest fires, extreme winter weather events, heat-related stress/pollution, drought, sea level rise, spread of pathogens and pests, and loss of iconic Pacific Northwest species. This compromises the urban forest’s power to support microclimates, carbon cycles, energy use, our culture, human security and the healing magic of nearby nature. We will explore local examples of adaptation so we can better prepare for the curve of trends we see today.

9:45 Insects and Pathogens in Warmer, Urban Forests
Patrick Tobin, Associate Professor | University of Washington, School of Environmental and Forest Sciences

Climate change can greatly affect forest ecosystem function and diversity due to its profound effect on many biotic processes. Additionally, climate change could interact with other anthropogenically driven agents of forest alteration, such as the introduction of non-native invasive species and habitat modification. Urban forest ecosystems are particularly challenged by these interacting threats. This talk will discuss the ramifications of insects and pathogens – both native and non-native – in a warmer world and in urban forest ecosystems.

10:20 Break

10:50 Getting Washington Urban Forest Pest Ready – A New Response Planning Initiative
Justin Bush, Executive Coordinator | Washington Invasive Species Council
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10:55 **Urban Forestry Technology Tools for Assessing Canopy Health**  
*Anne Fenkner | The Davey Tree Expert Company, and Chair | Sacramento Chapter, California Urban Forest Council*

What questions do you want to answer? Technology is a useful tool to provide insight and help solve problems. Almost all high-level urban forestry decisions are made with some use of technology such as smartphones, GIS, KMZ files, drones, LiDAR, automatic extraction, partitioning and more. Within the quickly changing field of technology, it can be difficult to stay up on the latest tools to know what is useful, what is emerging, and what is still in the “dream phase”. What is right for you and your needs? In this presentation Anne Fenkner will provide insight and examples into current urban forestry technology applications, as well as discuss their effectiveness and costs.

11:30 Lunch

12:30 **Introduction to afternoon session**  
*Hannah Kett, Cities Program Manager | The Nature Conservancy, Washington Field Office*

12:35 **Promoting Stormwater Benefits of Urban Canopy in Puget Sound**  
*Brandy Reed, Director of Strategic Partnerships | King Conservation District  
Rebecca Dugopolski, PE, Associate Engineer | Herrera Environmental Consultants  
Lance Davisson, Owner / Principal Consultant | The Keystone Concept  
Scott Maco, Director of Research & Development | Davey Institute*

King Conservation District and partners will present information about a multi-stakeholder collaborative to explore tools that enhance Puget Sound communities’ ability to link tree canopy and stormwater management. Through the lens of the Puget Sound Urban Tree Canopy and Stormwater Management Project, a panel of presenters will share recommendations, a technical report and other resources for communities to improve management of urban tree and forest cover in general and to reduce stormwater runoff volumes. This session will include presentations on tree canopy mapping and associated stormwater runoff evaluations through a comparison of the i-Tree Hydro software tool and the Western WA Hydrology Model, an introduction to a tree canopy and stormwater management handbook, and an overview of i-Tree software developed to support urban forest management and stewardship.
New Funding for Urban Forests through Carbon+ Credits
*Mark McPherson, Executive Director | City Forest Credits*
*Kathleen Farley Wolf, Forest Carbon Program Manager | King County*
*Tor Bell, Field Programs Director | Mountains to Sound Greenway*

Carbon credits have been traded for over twenty years. But urban forests have been left out of the carbon equation. This presentation describes the work of Seattle-based non-profit City Forest Credits to enable local tree planting and preservation projects to earn and sell carbon credits. Mark McPherson from City Forest Credits will give a summary and overview of urban forest carbon—how it works, where projects are being implemented, and what lies ahead. Kathleen Farley Wolf from King County and Tor Bell from the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust will describe their implementation of a preservation pilot and a planting pilot in Puget Sound and opportunities and challenges they see.

Neighborhood Flyways: Cities as Climate Refugia for Birds and Wildlife
*Joshua Morris, Urban Conservation Manager | Seattle Audubon*
*Jennifer Lang, Conservation Science Coordinator | Seattle Audubon*

Over the past century, development has been the primary driver of population decline for most bird species. Climate change now poses an additional threat. One hundred eighty-nine bird species in Washington State are climate threatened—projected to lose more than 50% of suitable habitat by 2080. Ensuring a place for our birds will require us to protect critical habitat. Or perhaps create it. Cities have great potential to enhance habitat values and may become refugia for climate threatened species. Urban landscapes are already intensively managed (e.g., controlling invasive species in parks, or watering street trees during periods of prolonged drought) and with some planning, urban habitats can provide stable and abundant resources to wildlife as climate, wildfire, and land-use changes create more unpredictability elsewhere. Seattle Audubon’s Neighborhood Flyways initiative seeks to maintain, enhance, and connect habitat patches across the urban landscape for greater habitat function and to provide food resources for birds throughout the year. We envision a healthy, growing urban forest that improves the quality of life for all Seattleites—human or otherwise.

Creating Healthy Communities
*Hilary Franz, Washington State’s Commissioner of Public Lands*

Commissioner Franz will discuss the critical role urban forests play in cleaning our air and water and creating healthy communities. She will highlight opportunities and new strategies for expanding urban forests throughout Washington.

Closing Remarks
*Jessica Farmer | UW Botanic Gardens, & Dominic Barrera | PlantAmnesty*