

## **AGENDA**

### **9:00-9:20 Welcome and Introduction**

Olivia Price | Adult Education Programs Supervisor, University of Washington Botanic Gardens

Rolf Gersonde | Vice-President, Northwest Chapter of the Society for Ecological Restoration; Forest Ecologist, Seattle Public Utilities

Joy Wood | Restoration Ecologist, Restoration Analytics & Design LLC

### **9:20-10:00 Managing Organizational Change**

Elias Reis, Organizational Change Manager, University of Washington

*As restoration professionals, our priorities can change quickly as emerging science and best practices evolve. But how do we effectively manage change in these instances? Our speaker will highlight how any entity can better integrate change management into its work at an organizational level, as well as some strategies for centering employee wellbeing while effectively managing change.*

### **10:00-10:20 Break**

### **10:20-11:00 Ahead of the Lag: EDRR strategies and examples in King County**

Tom Erler, Noxious Weed Specialist, King County Noxious Weed Control Program

*Washington State Noxious Weed Law and regulation of high priority noxious weeds helps in the early detection and rapid response phase of a weed's introduction. The Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board decides through an annual lengthy process which plants are noxious weeds and where they should be controlled based on their distribution and impacts. King County's Noxious Weed Control Program' is guided by this list but we also have some flexibility to address additional local, emerging issues and impacts. This talk will cover some successes we've had in finding new, impactful weeds and making these discoveries and the resulting lessons learned more accessible for the benefit of local restoration practitioners at all stages of their careers.*

### **11:00-11:40 A Local History of Beavers, and Planning for Beavers Today**

Jen Vanderhoof, Senior Ecologist, King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks

*North American beavers (Castor canadensis) are native to the Pacific Northwest and were nearly eradicated from the region in the mid-1800s. Efforts to re-establish beaver in Washington began in the 1920s, and trapping for fur commenced again as beaver numbers increased. Laws that regulate trapping changed in 2000, when voter-approved restrictions on types of traps made it more expensive and difficult to trap beavers*

*recreationally. Fur prices coincidentally dropped about the same time. The effect of those two changes was a decrease in trapping state-wide. Salmon recovery efforts ramped up in Puget Sound about the same time and typically includes planting trees and shrubs along streams and rivers. These water bodies of King County's Puget Sound Lowlands are almost always intrinsically suitable for beavers, with the exception of food supply. As native vegetation continues to be planted as part of restoration efforts, more and more habitat becomes suitable for beavers in this area with a large human population. The Planning for Beavers Manual is a pro-active approach to restoration planning, as it assumes the arrival of beavers at project sites and incorporates beaver activity into each step of project planning and design. The manual helps reduce impacts to neighbors, reduce project uncertainty, and maximize project effectiveness. This manual is pragmatic while helping shift the paradigm from tolerance of beavers to partnership with them. An improved understanding of the role of beavers as agents of change is needed to further shift the paradigm to one of seeing beavers as essential for ecosystem health and resilience.*

**11:40-12:10 Nursery Panel: Plant Sourcing in the Face of Climate Change**

Jim Brown, Manager, WACD Plant Materials Center

Bill Dittig, Procurement, Pacific Plants

Lea Dyga, Manager (Former), SER-UW Native Plant Nursery

Todd Jones, Owner, Fourth Corner Nurseries

*During this panel session, local nursery and plant sourcing professionals will provide upstream insight into current trends in the industry, including how climate change has changed their seed/cutting sourcing strategies and how they are communicating these changing strategies. We'll also learn how restoration practitioners can be better partners to growers!*

**12:10-1:05 Lunch**

**1:05-1:50 Successful Tree Planting Projects Require More Than Just Planting!**

Gordon Mann, Consulting Arborist and Urban Forester, Mann Made Resources

*Planting trees does not solve any problems. The trees have to grow to provide shade and benefits. To achieve sustainable tree growth, the trees have to grow to maturity. The space needed to grow to maturity is a design issue. The planting process is a very important step in growing the trees. Among the common factors affecting the survival of newly planted trees, under-watering and over-watering are the top two. Providing water to a newly planted tree for the first 2-5 years is critical for its survival and thrive. We all have seen and probably participated in one of the tree planting projects "Million Trees XYZ City" in the spring on exactly two days: Earth Day or Arbor Day. It is a great photo opportunity for politicians, but how about following up with watering in the hot summer days and/or during droughts! Trees die and spring will bring up a new round of tree planting projects. Is there anything we can do to give trees a better chance to survive?*

*By examining the situation and looking at the root of the problem, the real limitation is in the Plant Available Water (PAW). No matter how much one irrigates the soil or how much rainwater falls on to it, any water above the Field Capacity (FC) is wasted. We will review some technologies for stabilizing soil moisture, including methods that significantly boost the PAW without drowning the plant roots. We also review methods and technologies that make the best usage of natural precipitation (stormwater) and the water that is otherwise wasted. Case studies across North America will be used to illustrate how these methods can significantly increase the survival rate of newly transplanted trees.*

**1:50-2:20      Evolving Strategies around Summer Watering**

Roseann Barnhill, Principal & Director of Ecology and Green Stormwater Infrastructure, Dirt Corps

Justin Howell, Principal/Managing Member, Applied Ecology

Tyson Kemper, Grounds Supervisor, UW-Bothell

Heidi Watters, Urban Environmentalist, City of Tukwila

Marcus Webb, Lead Groundsperson, City of Kirkland Parks

*Our Puget Sound summers are getting warmer and drier...but how do we keep up with all of the summer watering! A panel of practitioners will be sharing their team's strategies for staying ahead of the heat.*

**2:20-2:35      Break**

**2:35-3:35      The Duwamish Valley Research Coordination Network: Building Capacity for Tribal, Community, and Agency Research in Urban Watersheds**

Melanie Malone, Associate Professor, Interdisciplinary Arts & Sciences, UW-Bothell

Catherine De Almeida, Associate Professor, Landscape Architecture, UW

Brittany Johnson, Assistant Professor, School of Environmental and Forest Sciences, UW

*This project is focused on contamination in the Duwamish Valley, home of the Duwamish River, an EPA Superfund site. We are monitoring soil, water, and sediment contaminants (PAH, PCB, metals, dioxin/furans) throughout the watershed and in areas identified by the community as areas of concern. Our research is community-led and community-owned. This facilitates community ownership over environmental testing and cleanup processes and develops a bottom-up and reciprocal approach in which our team of researchers supports community needs, rather than a top-down approach that is extractive, short term, and prioritizes academic needs over community ones. Contaminants and high-risk areas are being mapped and identified using 3D models of the landscape developed using drone imagery and sampling results. These socio-environmental data will be shared and developed in partnership with the community in order to connect with restoration and cleanup efforts taking place within the watershed*

2024 Ecological Restoration Symposium  
Topics in Ecological Restoration  
University of Washington Botanic Gardens, Center for Urban Horticulture

Tuesday, April 2nd, 2024  
9:00am – 4:00pm

*both on federal and local levels. Results will also help target future cleanup efforts and plan for climate change impacts in the Duwamish Valley.*

**3:35-4:00      Announcements, Closing Activity and Comments**

**4:00-5:00      Reception**