

# Tree Talk



FALL 2017

A PARTNERSHIP WORKING TOWARD  
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY FORESTS

## Fall Workshops Announced!

Two Community Canopy workshops are planned for Friday, November 17th in Post Falls. The first workshop will be 'Forest Health' with Melissa Fischer, Health Specialist with the Washington State Department of Natural Resources. Topics covered include common forest insect pests and diseases that affect conifers in eastern WA and Northern Idaho. Learn how to manage against bark beetles, defoliators, root rots, and dwarf mistletoe. The second workshop is 'Diagnosing and Preventing Herbicide Injury in Trees' with Tim Stein, Pesticide Investigator for the Washington State Department of Agriculture's Pesticide Management Division. Tim will lead the afternoon session about identifying herbicide damage in trees and investigation case studies. In addition, pesticide recordkeeping, reciprocal licensing and regulatory updates will be covered.

These workshops are designed for anyone who supervises or performs any kind of landscape maintenance activities. For more details, see enclosed workshop brochure. There is a \$10 registration fee per person per workshop. Coffee and donuts will be provided in the morning and a sack lunch will be provided for those attending both workshops. **Pre-registration is required since space is limited.** For more information or to register, call 208/769-2266 or send an email to [kkosanke@cdaid.org](mailto:kkosanke@cdaid.org)

*Community Canopy has applied for ISA CEUs, CLT credits and WA & ID Pesticide for both workshops.*

## Kootenai Health to Receive Landscape of Excellence Award

Kootenai Health will be soon be presented with a Landscape of Excellence award. The award is presented by Community Canopy in recognition of the outstanding use and preservation of trees. Kootenai Health is located on Ironwood Drive at Hwy 95 in Coeur d'Alene.



Row of London planetrees on Ironwood Drive at Kootenai Health in CDA

Ironwood Drive was widened this year and originally it was thought that the impact would necessitate removal of a row of London planetrees along the north side of the street. Through a partnership effort between Kootenai Health, the Idaho Transportation Dept (ITD) and the City of Coeur d'Alene, modifications were made to the site plans to limit impacts to the tree roots in order to save these trees. This included the street contractor Cameron Riley being very cautious not to damage tree roots, Kootenai Health hiring Bartlett Tree Experts to expose and prune roots, relocating the sidewalk further away from the trees and relocating a light pole that originally was to be replaced through the canopy of one of the trees, which would have required heavy pruning. This site is a wonderful example of successful tree preservation and Kootenai Health's diligence to ensure the trees remain is applauded.

The Landscape of Excellence award will be presented to Kootenai Health at the November City of Coeur d'Alene's Parks and Recreation Commission meeting. This program highlights businesses and organizations that are doing positive things with trees in the landscape.

To make a nomination for a Landscape of Excellence Award, contact Community Canopy through their web site at [www.communitycanopy.org](http://www.communitycanopy.org).



Staff from Kootenai Health, ITD, Bartlett Tree Experts and City Staff meet with Cameron-Reilly to discuss site adjustments.

*Go Paperless!*

Rather get Tree Talk via email? Let us know by sending an email to: [kkosanke@cdaid.org](mailto:kkosanke@cdaid.org)

## Upcoming Events



**Saturday, October 28th**—Spokane Fall Leaf Festival 11am-2pm at John A. Finch Arboretum

**Friday, November 17th**—CC Workshop—‘Forest Health’ in Post Falls

**Friday, November 17th**—CC Workshop—‘Diagnosing and Preventing Herbicide Injury in Trees’ in Post Falls

Spokane County Extension announces its 2018 Horticulture Class Series. Designed for advanced gardeners and landscape professionals. A 12-week series of classes starting Jan. 11, 2018 and meeting on Thursday nights from 6-9pm. Register for the whole series or individual classes. Some classes qualify for pesticide applicator, certified arborist or other continuing education credits. For more information click on this link <http://extension.wsu.edu/spokane/2016/10/2017-horticulture-class-series/> or email Anna Kestell: [akestell@spokanecounty.org](mailto:akestell@spokanecounty.org).

### Pine Engraver Bark Beetles by Melissa Fischer, Department of Natural Resources

As temperatures begin to warm up in the spring, the pine engraver bark beetle will once again rear its ugly head. The pine engraver is a very small bark beetle that attacks small diameter pine trees (2-8 inches DBH\*) or the tops of large pine trees. Upon emergence in the spring, the pine engraver typically infests fresh slash, wind throw, or snow-damaged trees. Overall, it takes about 40-55 days for the pine engraver to complete development from egg to adult. The new generation of adults produced will begin fresh attacks following emergence. If slash is available, this will be preferentially infested. If no slash is available, the beetles will begin attacking nearby live, standing trees. By mid- to late-August another generation will be completed in this material. Signs of pine engraver infestation include reddish-colored frass on the outside of the bark, Y or H-shaped galleries under the bark and/or woodpecker damage on the surface of the bole. The pine engraver is often associated with the western pine beetle and/or the red turpentine beetle.



Pine engraver frass (Photo: Brytten Steed, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org)

The pine engraver can outbreak, and outbreaks can include hundreds of trees. Outbreaks typically occur as a result of drought, overcrowding, and/or the creation of slash, windthrow, or snow damage. Thinning dense pine stands can help mitigate the potential of a pine engraver outbreak by increasing the availability of water, sunlight, and nutrients for the residual trees. This enhances their vigor and allows for more defensive capabilities, such as increased resin flow.

The timing of slash creation is crucial. It is best not to create slash from January through July. Slash created during this time period does not have enough time to dry out prior to the several flights that the pine engraver may carry out each year. Slash created in fall or early winter will usually dry by spring and will be unsuitable habitat. If slash must be created during high risk months, there are several disposal options that may help reduce the risk of infestations that lead to outbreaks.



Y-shaped pine engraver gallery. (Photo: USDA Forest Service Region 6 Pacific Northwest Archive, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org)

Following the creation of slash, the best way to mitigate outbreak potential is by burning slash piles. This of course cannot always be accomplished due to dry, fire-weather conditions. Another option is called the “green chain” where you continuously make slash throughout the entire pine engraver flight period so that the beetles continue infesting the slash (which they prefer) rather than the standing, live trees. At the end of the season these piles can be burned. A third option would be “pile high and deep”, in which case you would create a very large slash pile (10-20 ft in width, length, and height). This method can be effective because when the first generation of pine engraver emerges from the outer portion of the slash pile, they will likely continue moving into the pile where the branches are still moist and viable, having been protected by the outer layer. Again, at the end of the season these piles can be burned. Although these methods have been shown to be effective in some cases, please remember, bark beetles can be unpredictable and may still choose to attack your live, standing trees.



Pine engraver-infested trees with slash pile circled in red

Some other methods of mitigation include completely removing slash from the site. Just be sure not to move it somewhere that may cause damage to someone else’s property. You may also debark larger slash, but this method is hard work and very time consuming if you have a lot of slash. Debarking is best when only one or two trees have been felled. Another alternative is to chip slash, but remember, even though the beetles cannot live and breed in the chips, they will be attracted to the area by the volatiles (chemicals trees give off that can attract bark beetles) that are emitted from the chips and the beetles may start attacking standing trees in the area around the chips. This is also true of the “lop and scatter” method. You can lop all slash greater than three inches in diameter into small pieces and scatter these pieces in a sunny area to dry out the phloem rendering the slash unsuitable for pine engraver infestation, but again, the volatiles emitted may attract beetles to the area and they may then attack your standing trees since the lopped up slash is not viable.

Finally, limit pruning activities to October through December if possible, as pruning wounds also release volatiles that may attract pine engraver. And never stack freshly cut wood next to live, standing trees during high-risk months.