

## **After the Storm: Symposium co-hosted by PNW-ISA and UW Botanic Gardens**

NHS Hall, Center for Urban Horticulture (3501 NE 41<sup>st</sup> St., Seattle, WA 98105) and available for remote attendance online

December 5, 2018, 8:30am-4:00pm. Reception to follow: 4:00-6:00pm

### DESCRIPTION

*After the Storm*, a symposium co-hosted by PNW-ISA and University of Washington Botanic Gardens, will feature six case studies presented by experienced arborists and allied professionals who work with trees and storms. Case studies of best practices and lessons learned related to storm preparation, management, and post-storm prioritization will be presented. Presenters come from a variety of perspectives including; municipalities, field arborists, consulting arborists, utilities, and allied professionals.

### Agenda

#### **8:30-8:45: Welcome & Introduction**

*Melissa Amrhein - Education Program Manager, PNW-ISA, and  
Jessica Farmer - Adult Education Supervisor, UW Botanic Gardens*

#### **8:45-9:45: Learning from the Storm**

*Evan Sussman – Owner, Sonshine Tree Care*

Storms can be a chaotic time for anyone involved, especially so if everyone “needs” your help to get a tree out of their living room or off their vehicle. This opening presentation will cover some of the lessons Evan and his team have worked through in responding to tree-related emergencies and discuss ways arborists can better prepare both for that response and also for the learning opportunities during the storm.

Topics to be discussed include:

- *How do we prioritize response?* The questions we ask and the way we communicate can help prioritize our response and help them to understand how work is prioritized.
- *How can we be prepared as a tree service?* Keeping go-boxes, and a stock of supplies and tools that are specific to storm response. This gives us the ability to efficiently dispatch and respond.
- *How can we prepare trees and our clients?* During our pre-storm time onsite with clients, we can help them to understand how and why trees fail and how they can use our services to manage the risk associated with trees.
- *What can we learn during and after storms?* By observing and documenting trees during and after storms we can learn lessons about species failure characteristics, effective and ineffective pruning types, and more.

*Evan Sussman is the owner and lead arborist of Sonshine Tree Care in Stanwood, WA. Evan is actively involved in the furthering of the arboriculture profession in our Chapter through community engagement, as a professional tree worker instructor, and in the development of apprenticeship programs. Evan is currently serving on the PNW-ISA board as the Liaison to the TREE Fund (Tree Research and Education Endowment Fund).*

9:45-10:00: Break

**10:00-11:00: Subtle to Severe: Municipal Storm Preparation and Response**

*Larry Maginnis – Operations Supervisor- City of Portland Urban Forestry Division*

The responsibilities of a Municipality for emergency and storm response are a full-time commitment. The expectations and obligations can be tremendous. Undertaking various storm-related challenges requires a great deal of preparation, communication, skill and outfitting that need to take place before and after the storm. Subtle or severe, regardless of the size of incident or municipality, properly strategized emergency protocols can ensure response occurs safely and smoothly. This presentation will discuss steps that can be taken coupled with case studies that will provide attendees a little insight into municipal storm processes... and ideally a few extra tools to add to their toolkit.

*Larry Maginnis is the Operations Supervisor for the City of Portland's Urban Forestry Division. His responsibilities include the planning and supervision of all field arborists to ensure the City's urban forest is maintained and in full compliance of the City codes and ordinances. Prior to his position in Portland, Mr. Maginnis was the Urban Forestry Program Manager for the University of Texas and the City Forester of Missoula, Montana.*

**11:00-12:00: Managing Risk While Stabilizing Failed Trees**

*Allen Taylor – Owner, Conservation Tree Care*

Stabilizing failed trees can be hectic and dangerous. Creating checklists and frameworks for mitigating risk is vital to dealing with these situations safely and efficiently. Checklists are a simple yet powerful tool which some professions such as aviation and emergency medicine take very seriously, and are an underutilized resource in our industry. Allen has prepared a checklist approach for mitigating the hazard associated with failed tree parts. This presentation will work through the process beginning with information gathering and continuing all the way through site cleanup.

The discussion will also include common climbing and rigging scenarios encountered while dealing with storm damaged trees. Often the scenarios encountered in storm emergencies require creativity and ingenuity and may take us out of our comfort zones. We will cover some of the systems Allen has used to safely access and stabilize storm damaged trees.

Finally we will cover the group dynamics that affect all arborists while working in high stress situations. Drawing on research conducted in the field of Snow Science we will examine what makes groups work well together and heuristic traps we need to watch out for. Approaching storm damaged trees with a mental framework and a physical checklist can give us the greatest chance of success.

*After growing up in New Hampshire and attending the University of Vermont School of Forestry, Allen Taylor moved to Washington in search of big trees and tall mountains. His passion for climbing made Arboriculture a natural fit. He has been working in commercial operations arboriculture for his entire career and has recently transitioned to spending part of his time working as a consultant and business manager.*

12:00-12:45: Lunch

**12:45-1:45: The 2015 Summer Storm in Surrey, BC**

*Robin Landucci – Urban Forestry Manager, City of Surrey, BC*

The presentation will focus on the significant wind storm that occurred in the lower mainland of British Columbia on August 29th, 2015.

We will discuss the typical weather patterns found in the lower mainland, review recent storm events and the environmental conditions that set the stage for this wind event. An overview of the City of Surrey's tree risk assessment and storm response procedures will also be provided. As the City of Surrey transitions into the TRAQ model of assessing trees, we will identify key takeaways and lessons learned from this storm event.

*Rob Landucci has more than 10 years of experience overseeing the management of parks and urban forests in Surrey and Port Coquitlam. A Natural Resource Professional with the Association of BC Forest Professionals, his work experience includes tree risk assessments, habitat restoration, forest health management and wildlife research.*

*Rob has a Bachelor of Science (Natural Resource Conservation) from the University of British Columbia, is an ISA Certified Arborist and Qualified Tree Risk Assessor. He is on the Urban Forestry Committee with the Association of BC Forest Professionals.*

**1:45-2:45: Disputing Common Tree Failure Beliefs**

*Chris Rippey – Co-Creator of the PNW Tree Failure Database, Owner of Rippey Arboriculture, LLC., and Tree Trimmer at Seattle Parks and Rec.*

There are many sayings and beliefs which are often touted by arborists. According to the Pacific Northwest Tree Failure Database (PNWTFDB), many species which arborist say are "bullet-proof" often fail in storms. On the other hand, many trees that are regularly removed for safety concerns because they are believed to be frequent branch droppers are not the most reported branch dropper in the database. Chris has found that during his 20-year career in arboriculture, many of these beliefs are not backed up by what he has seen in the field or what evidence he has collected.

*Chris Rippey is a third-generation arborist from Palo Alto, CA. He has pruned, removed or inspected thousands of trees during his 20+ years in the arboriculture industry. He loves to share the knowledge that he has gained from his years of touching trees.*

2:45-3:00: Break

### **3:00-4:00: Planning for Storm Response & Recovery**

*Micki McNaughton – Owner, Arborea, LLC.*

Arborists are key participants in storm and emergency response teams throughout the Pacific Northwest. As arborists, our expertise can be helpful to our communities in planning for more effective and efficient response to storm events and their aftermath. We can also help reinforce key safety messages that are important to public safety. In this presentation, we will bring together what we have learned throughout the day to discuss working with clients and local jurisdictions to develop effective preparation and response plans for storms and other emergencies. We will also take a look at how to prepare our own workers and businesses for the challenges that follow a major storm event, setting a good example of planning and preparation.

*Micki McNaughton is an ISA Certified Arborist and Municipal Specialist, and owns Arborea, LLC, an urban forestry consulting business that focuses on helping communities realize the maximum potential from their urban trees through planning and program development.*

*Micki is a member of the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA), the Pacific Northwest Chapter of the ISA (PNW-ISA), the Society of Municipal Arborists (SMA), and the Planning Association of Washington (PAW). She serves on the Board of Directors of PNW-ISA and PAW.*

### **4:00-6:00 Reception**