

Know your Trees by Casey Clapp

Tree identification is a fundamental skill in arboriculture and urban forestry, often one of the first steps required in sound practice. A foundational skill in diagnostics and risk assessment, and a primary skill required for reporting, inventories, and municipal permitting, identifying a tree correctly informs the practitioner of what is expected for a given species, thereby helping to identify what is unexpected or abnormal. This presentation will summarize the attributes of tree species commonly found in the urban areas of the PNW and will provide context as to why proper tree identification is important. I will cover the differences between angiosperms and gymnosperms.

The Z133 Safety Standards by John Ball

Tree work is considered one of the highest risk professions in the United States, almost equal to that of logging and commercial fisheries. But it does not have to be that way. If arborists follow the guidelines in the industry safety standard, the Z133, we could significantly reduce our fatal and nonfatal injuries. This session will cover the most common incidents that occur to arborists and the safety standards that address them. The session will also highlight the upcoming 2024 Z133 revision and the new standards.

Fruit Tree Pruning is all about light management by John Ball

Fruit tree pruning has different objectives and techniques than what we typically have for the ornamental landscape. The primary objective for fruit tree pruning is to maximize the quantity and quality of the fruit, not necessarily the appearance or even the long-term structure of the tree. The key is to balance the need for light to penetrate the canopy in sufficient intensity to promote fruit quality yet maintain enough foliage to obtain the maximum quantity. This session will cover the different pruning systems used for pome and stone fruits and the when and how to prune when the objective is fruit production. The session will also discuss how to merge client's desire to have fruit trees that are ornamentals that also produce fruit!

Diagnostics by John Ball

We all have been faced with impatient tree owners that expect us to diagnosis the reason for their tree's decline and provide a solution (preferable chemical) that can be applied that same day to instantly reverse the symptoms. If only diagnosing tree problems was as quick, easy, and glamorous as the one-hour CSI television shows! But diagnosing tree problems, especially diseases and disorders, takes time and usually the solution is not instant. It may require treatments beginning the following year or might require several years or more of care to restore the tree. Unfortunately, we are often pressed for a treatment recommendation before we can examine the patient. At these times we must remember the medical phrase Prognosis without Diagnosis is Malpractice. This session will cover the basic steps arborists can use to properly diagnosis insect, diseases, and disorders. Equally important the session will cover how to interview clients and discuss treatment options – not recommendations!

We have to see the forest in the tree by John Ball

While trees evolved and adapted to a forest environment, we often forget this link when establishing and caring for trees in urban settings. Trees in forests are trained to a good structure by the surrounding trees and they cooperate in resource gathering and sharing through their common hyphal linkages. The same tree in the urban environment is often isolated from other trees and is more dependent on us for its care. This session will discuss the unique stressors imposed on urban trees and how we can compensate for this through pruning and care practices. We will also discuss the value of creating "mini-forests" in the ornamental landscape to benefit the trees and wildlife.

How Trees Grow, Live and Die by Casey Clapp

Understanding tree biology is a fundamental aspect of managing trees. This presentation aims to expand on the basic biology of trees and cover how trees go about their lives. I will cover the basics of general tree biology and expand from those basics to go over a tree's life cycle from a cradle to grave. The objective of this presentation is to provide an understanding of how trees function (and cease to function) so as to increase the scientific understanding of trees. Topics include how trees grow and react to stimuli; how trees compartmentalize damage and decay; how trees make, store and use energy; what happens when trees begin to decline in vigor or health; and how trees die.