

1. Speaker

Henrik Sjöman

Biography

Henrik Sjöman's work is mainly focusing on developing knowledge of site adapted plant use for urban environments. How the capacity of different trees will vary in context to its urban environment and in delivering ecosystem services has become the prime driver in Henrik's work and as such how to extend the knowledge of diversifying the urban treescape. Finding "plants of tomorrow" means to combine traditional plant hunting of less common species with research and evaluation; creating a diversified approach to a resilient urban forest.

Lecture

Title: Urban tree diversity species use and the role of policies, planning and nursery production

Abstract

With growing awareness of ecosystem services and the role of green infrastructure, trees are gaining recognition in research and in policy making as a means to deliver important structure and thus help to achieve resilience and sustainability in cities worldwide. However, urban trees in streets and parks are facing several challenges where a changing climate, threats of insect attacks and diseases, and highly paved and often compact growing conditions create difficult situations. One of the most effective means of mitigating these problems is to increase the diversity of tree species across the urban landscape. A main message from recent research from a north and central European perspective is that we cannot afford to generally exclude non-native tree species from urban greening. If "native-only" approaches become incorporated in regional, national or international policy documents or legislation there is a risk that urban ecosystem resilience will be compromised, particularly in regions with extreme environmental conditions. Another future challenge is to move away from the species perspective where we today have a good knowledge of the variation within different species regarding their capacity to handle a warmer and drier climate. In the future, the demands will be great regarding the genetic material that we intend to grow - what capacity the unique plant material has in terms of managing challenging inner city environments. This are not only places demands on the tree planners but also for tree nurseries in providing a genetic material suitable for challenges urban sites. The search for compatible new plant material, a comprehensive evaluation of different ecotypes of well-known, as well as more untraditional species is required. In this presentation, several examples are addressed regarding ongoing work to find and evaluate plant material suitable for future urban environments and thus a future tree population with the capacity to deliver important ecosystem services.

2. Speaker

Giacomo Guzzon

Biography

Giacomo Guzzon is a senior landscape architect, academic tutor and lecturer in planting design at the University of Sheffield, University of Greenwich in London and KLC School of Design in London. In addition to his academic activities, he is a Senior Landscape Architect and Head of Planting Design at the international landscape architecture firm Gillespies.

Lecture

Title: Creating Resilient and Biodiverse Plant Communities in Urban Areas

Abstract

A major topic of research and experimentation for Giacomo is the design and maintenance of biodiverse, resilient and visually appealing plant communities that require minimal labour while remaining appealing to the public. In his talk, he will address habitat-specific plant selection, plant sociability and biodiversity for developing practical approaches to planting design in urban areas

3. Speaker

Anneliese Finzel

Biography

After many influential years living in Great Britain, Anneliese returned to Austria to train as a landscape gardener. She has been working at Bognerhof Gärtnerei in St.Peter in der Austria since 2013 gaining valuable experience in planning, building and caring for private and public green spaces. Always longing to expand her knowledge about plants and planting design she regularly visits workshops and international conferences and has recently started studying Landscape Architecture and Landscape Planning at the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU), Vienna.

Lecture

Titel: Resilient plantings – a personal and practical view

Abstract

In her talk Anneliese will discuss what she considers a resilient planting by showing some projects by Bognerhof Gärtnerei, a small landscape gardening enterprise in Austria (www.bognerhof-garten.at). The private gardens and municipal greenspaces they design and build strive to be beautiful, sustainable, functional and economical. She will demonstrate perennial mixed plantings for various situations, sown meadows

as a means of increasing biodiversity and reducing maintenance and will present some of her favorite resilient plants. Finally, she will touch on Austrian projects applying the “Schwammstadt” (Sponge city) principle, an innovative way of planting trees in urban spaces.