

39th

ANNUAL PROVINCIAL PARKS AND GROUNDS SPRING TRAINING

.....

February 17 — 18, 2016

Coast Hotel & Convention Centre, Langley, BC

.....

*Continuing Education
Credits/Units available for
select sessions!*

**FULL EVENT INFO
& REGISTRATION
ONLINE!**

***[www.bcrpa.bc.ca/
spring-training-2016](http://www.bcrpa.bc.ca/spring-training-2016)***

Wednesday, February 17 · **Maintenance Day**
Thursday, February 18 · **Horticulture Day**
February 16 & 19 · **Pre- & Post- Workshop Sessions**

301-470 Granville Street
Vancouver, BC V6C 1V5
Tel: 604.629.0965
Fax: 604.629.2651
www.bcrpa.bc.ca



Event Information

- Parks & Grounds Spring Training 2016**
February 17 — 18, 2016
Coast Hotel & Convention Centre
20393 Fraser Hwy, Langley, BC
- Pre-Event Session**
BCRPA Playground Safety Awareness Course I
February 16, 2016, 8:30am — 4pm
Douglas Recreation Centre
20550 Douglas Crescent, Langley, BC | lunch included
 A hands-on overview on playground safety and current issues being faced today. This is a cost effective, accessible and informative program for those who need an introductory course on safety awareness and CSA standards.

REGISTER ONLINE

www.bcrpa.bc.ca/spring-training-2016

Spring Training Delegate Fees

Early Bird Rates ending December 22, 2015 (First Early Bird)

	Maintenance Day (Feb 17)	Horticulture Day (Feb 18)	Both Days
Member	\$140	\$140	\$220
Non-Member	\$189	\$189	\$297
Student Member	\$95	\$95	\$130

Early Bird Rates starting December 23, 2015 (Second Early Bird)

	Maintenance Day (Feb 17)	Horticulture Day (Feb 18)	Both Days
Member	\$161	\$161	\$253
Non-Member	\$217	\$217	\$342
Student Member	\$109	\$109	\$150

Regular Rates starting January 16, 2016

	Maintenance Day (Feb 17)	Horticulture Day (Feb 18)	Both Days
Member	\$168	\$168	\$264
Non-Member	\$227	\$227	\$356
Student Member	\$114	\$114	\$156

Pre- and Post- Delegate Fees

	Ending Dec 22	Starting Dec 23	Starting Jan 16
Pre-Event session	\$165	\$175	\$185
Post-Event: iTree	\$85	\$95	\$105
Post-Event: Tour	\$25	\$25	\$30

Policy on recording presentations and event photography is in effect. [Read the policy here: www.bcrpa.bc.ca/documents/Policy_Photos_Recording.pdf](http://www.bcrpa.bc.ca/documents/Policy_Photos_Recording.pdf)

- Post-Event Sessions**
i-Tree tool and its use in Canada I
David Nowak, PhD
February 19, 2016, 8:30 — 11:30 am
Coast Hotel & Convention Centre
20393 Fraser Hwy, Langley, BC
 A hands on training workshop on how to use the i-Tree tool. Available for free for use in Canada, this tool helps provide urban forestry analysis and benefits assessment. **BCSLA credits and 3.0 CEUs (ISA) available.**
- NATS Nursery tour I**
February 19, 2016, 12:30 — 3 pm
24555 32 Ave, Langley, BC | lunch included
 Visit NATS Nursery and check out the inventory of one of BC's largest growers of native plants. Learn from their 28 years of experience with seed processing, propagation of starter plants, integrated pest management (IPM) solutions and green roof systems. **2.5 CEUs (ISA) available.**

At-A-Glance

TUESDAY February 16

8:30 am — 4 pm BCRPA Playground Safety Awareness Course

WEDNESDAY February 17

7:15 — 8 am Registration Check-In & Refreshments

8 — 8:15 am Opening Remarks

8:15 — 9:15 am Opening Keynote

9:15 — 9:30 am Transition Break & Tradeshow

9:30 — 10:30 am Concurrent Sessions A

10:30 — 10:45 am Nutrition Break & Tradeshow

10:45 — 11:45 am Concurrent Sessions B

11:45 am — 1 pm Buffet Lunch & Tradeshow

1 — 2 pm Concurrent Sessions C

2 — 2:15 pm Nutrition Break & Tradeshow

2:15 — 3:15 pm Closing Keynote

3:15 — 3:30 pm Closing Remarks & Prize Draw

THURSDAY February 18

7:15 — 8 am Registration Check-In & Refreshments

8 — 8:15 am Opening Remarks

8:15 — 9:15 am Opening Keynote

9:15 — 9:30 am Transition Break & Tradeshow

9:30 — 10:30 am Concurrent Sessions D

10:30 — 10:45 am Nutrition Break & Tradeshow

10:45 — 11:45 am Concurrent Sessions E

11:45 am — 1 pm Buffet Lunch & Tradeshow

1 — 2 pm Concurrent Sessions F

2 — 2:15 pm Nutrition Break & Tradeshow

2:15 — 3:15 pm Closing Keynote

3:15 — 3:30 pm Closing Remarks & Prize Draw

FRIDAY February 19

8:30 — 11:30 am i-Tree tool and its use in Canada

12:30 — 3 pm NATS Nursery tour

CECs & CEUs

continuing education

Select sessions have been approved for **BC Pesticide Applicator Certificate (BCPAC)**, **International Society of Arboriculture (ISA)** and **BC Society of Landscape Architects (BCSLA)** continuing education credits. View session descriptions for details. **BCSLA credits are available for full day attendance.** For a complete list, visit the Spring Training 2016 website at www.bcrpa.bc.ca/2016-spring-training-cecs

Pre-Event Session

TUESDAY

February 16, 2016

8:30 am — 4 pm | *lunch included*

Douglas Recreation Centre

20550 Douglas Crescent, Langley, BC

BCRPA Playground Safety Awareness Course |

Tim Richards and Chris Revitt | *Facilities*

A hands-on overview on playground safety and current issues being faced today. This is an accessible and informative program for those who need an introductory course on safety awareness and CSA standards, including grounds maintenance, landscape architects and all individuals interested and involved in injury prevention in playspaces.

Maintenance Day

WEDNESDAY

February 17, 2015

SESSION | • All • Operations
STREAMS | • Facilities • Unique Park Applications

John Hawkings

Opening Keynote

8:15 — 9:15 am

The Trails Strategy for BC — a collaborative multi-jurisdictional approach to recreation trails | *All*

The Trails Strategy for British Columbia presents a collaborative, multi-jurisdictional approach to developing and managing a world-renowned network of recreation trails. Increasingly communities are being asked by their residents to provide a wholistic approach to development and management of a multi-use network of trails. This means municipalities, regional governments and the province have an opportunity to collaborate and provide exceptional recreation opportunities.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS A

9:30 — 10:30 am

A1: Bike parks — design/build strategies, management and best practices | **Jay Meneely and Judd de Vall** |

Unique Park Applications

Come and learn about a partnership between a group of trail builders in Invergarry Park near the Port Mann Bridge and the city of Surrey and how it has become the benchmark for how Surrey Staff approach all rogue bike activities in its natural areas.

A2: Community showcase — refurbishing site amenities | **Geoff Mallory, Len Walters and Troy Wilson** |

Facilities

This session will conduct a site tour of Douglas Park to see three upgrades to existing facilities. 1) Playground-Conversion of protective fall surface from rubber tiles to poured -in-place surfacing. 2) Spray Park-revamping surfacing from asphalt to concrete, done on a tight budget. 3) Ball hockey sports box-replace and upgrade boards and refinish playing surface.

A3: Do detention ponds really need to look engineered?

| **Scott Watson** | *Operations*

Detention ponds do not need to look engineered to be functional. As part of an integral storm water management system detention ponds are sometimes the necessary evil. Abbotsford currently has a number of ways of dealing with detention on public lands and some are not as successful as others when viewed or considered for providing additional opportunities.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS B

10:45 — 11:45 am

B1: Grey infrastructure vs green infrastructure — the maintenance paradox for green infrastructure |

Michael James and Alex Kurnicki | *Unique Park Applications*

| **1.0 CEUs (ISA) available**

Through the use of case studies we will look at the difference in capital costs between grey infrastructure and green infrastructure projects. We will also compare the difference in maintenance costs and investigate why green infrastructure maintenance costs are a special case.

As cities densify, we ask trees to do more with less space. Not only do they beautify our streets and clean our air, but they provide habitat, cool the atmosphere and provide structure to our street design. And on top of that, in our moist pacific northwest climate, we ask trees to manage storm water as well. Soil cell technologies offer municipalities a tool to help our street trees to do all of that and more. In this presentation, we'll offer an overview of current trends in soil cell technologies as well as a review of recent installations in the city of North Vancouver.

Maintenance Day

WEDNESDAY

February 17, 2016 continued...

B2: Volunteerism and Stewardship | Alanna Carmichael and Shawn Gurney | *Facilities*

The city of Abbotsford is growing its volunteer programs at a rapid pace and your community could do the same. As employees within a municipal setting we're constantly asked to do more with less as budgets grow smaller or remain stagnant. Volunteers can help you achieve this goal by improving your day-to-day operations with low costs resulting in big returns. This workshop will examine volunteer possibilities and supporting documents required for successful programming. We will analyze current partnerships within our community and will challenge you to rethink volunteerism for use in your day-to-day operations.

B3: Dog Waste Diversion in Regional Parks | Seann Greenwood and Karen Storry | *Operations*

Thousands of dogs visit metro Vancouver's regional parks every year leaving behind tonnes of poop. Responsible dog owners bag the excrement and deposit it in waste bins. Although this is better than littering parks and trails, dog waste in our landfills presents a host of problems as well. Metro Vancouver Regional Parks has been collaborating with Metro Vancouver Solid Waste Services to divert bagged dog waste from the landfill. In 2015, 30 tonnes of dog waste was collected from four regional parks and diverted from the waste stream. Come and find out how they did it.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS C

1 — 2 pm

C1: Fundamentals in Design and Maintenance of Engaging Play Spaces — Adventure Playgrounds and Nature Play | Travis Martin | *Unique Park Applications*

Let's get kids back outside and taking charge of their fun! The adventure playground and nature play spaces are not 'off-the-shelf'. This session will help city leaders, parks designers and operations staff understand the unique considerations for the visioning, design and implementation of these play spaces.

C2: Hot topics in Maintenance | Todd Gross and James Arden | *Facilities*

This is a facilitated session covering the major hot issues in the parks maintenance sector. BCRPA will contact you in advance to get your input into topics.

C3: Progressive discipline in the workplace | Dean Crawford, QC | *Operations*

In this interactive session, Dean Crawford, QC, of Coutts Pulver Crawford, will review the "do's" and "don'ts" of utilizing progressive discipline in respect of employees under their supervision or management. Participants will learn about the rationale for using progressive discipline and guidelines for using appropriate levels of discipline. A series of engaging, interactive sessions entitled "You be the judge" will enable participants to provide their own views on particular real-life fact patterns.

Brenda Robinson Closing Keynote

2:15 — 3:15 pm

Dealing with difficult people | *All*

Take a practical look at improving your skills and your attitude with difficult people. Enhance your ability to deal with difficult people with techniques such as: fogging, tentative agreements, giving space, buying time, pertinent, positive questioning, empathy, moving ahead, ending stalemates and turning the cards in your favor. Discover the power of action vs. reaction, workable compromise, balancing control, key word emphasis and trigger word power.

Horticulture Day
THURSDAY
February 18, 2016

SESSION | • All • Environmental
STREAMS | • Arboriculture • Horticulture

Elizabeth
Elle
Opening Keynote

8:15 — 9:15 am

The bees' needs — planting for pollinators | All |
1.0 CEUs (ISA) available

You've heard that pollinators are declining, but have you considered what to do about it? For the 450+ species of wild bees and countless fly, wasp, beetle, and butterfly pollinators of BC, the most important conservation action is planting pollinator-friendly plants. Whether in habitat restorations or in more formal gardens, flowers mean food, and if you plant them, the pollinators will come.

In this presentation you'll hear about the diversity of pollinators in BC, learn about flower traits that indicate a plant is likely to support pollinators, and get some suggestions for good choices for restorations or other plantings.

Recommendations of attractive garden plants, wild plants for Coastal Douglas Fir, Coastal Western Hemlock, and Bunchgrass/Ponderosa Pine ecosystems will be made, and the general rules about flower types will be relevant to other native plant species and ecosystems.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS D

9:30 — 10:30 am

D1: Catching people doing bad things to good trees |
Steve Whitton | *Environmental* | 1.0 CEUs (ISA) available

This session will focus on the procedures and results of investigating the damage done by developers, builders and home owners on trees in the city of Surrey. These trees are all on private property and other items discussed will be the difficulties of dealing with the public on their property and enforcing the City's regulations.

D2: Outdoor arborist panel — street trees surviving the summer drought | Rob Reny, Trisha McCarthy and Sophie Dessureault | *Arboriculture* | 1.0 CEUs (ISA) available

Strategies for keeping our street trees alive during extended period of drought will be explored including the pros and cons for each method. We will also review the methodologies used during 2015 to help plan for 2016 and beyond.

D3: Identifying and managing the european chafer invasion | Tracy Hueppelsheuser and Peter Isaacson | *Horticulture* | 1.0 IPMS (BCPAC) for Landscape & Pesticide Dispenser

Hear a review of pest biology, basic pest management approaches and learn about pest prevention and management. The focus will be on identifying the european chafer and non chemical management practices on residential turf.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS E

10:45 — 11:45am

E1: Knot What We Thought: Hybridization changes the nature of the invasive knotweed battle | Jennifer Grenz | *Environmental* | 1.0 IPMS (BCPAC) for Landscape

While we have been battling knotweed the enemy has revealed that it may have been masking itself as something entirely different. New information about knotweed populations and their hybridization may change how we manage the species. What you need to know.

E2: Tree Worker Preservation through Prevention | Dwayne Neustaeter | *Arboriculture* | 1.0 CEUs (ISA) available

Accidents are often defined as unplanned events and therefore planning is a logical step in preventing accidents. It is important to have an understanding of what can or has happened in order to make effective work plans. This is gained through experience which can come in many forms and hearing about other's experiences is one of the oldest forms of education and training. Some of the world's greatest teachers shared stories...true stories.

Saving lives through prevention is the purpose of this forensic seminar. By reviewing fatality incidents you will hear what happened and understand how and why the fatality occurred. This seminar deals with real incidents and is done for the sake of learning from other's experiences so we can avoid repeating the same.

E3: Carbon Offsets Using Trees | Robin Clark | *Horticulture* | 1.0 CEUs (ISA) available

To reach the goal of becoming carbon neutral, one needs to calculate current emissions, reduce as much as feasible and offset the remaining emissions. One way to reduce emissions is by planting trees in a way that meets the criteria as a carbon offset. In combination with other carbon offsets, an organization can become carbon neutral.

Horticulture Day

THURSDAY

February 18, 2016
continued...

CONCURRENT SESSIONS F

1 — 2 pm

F1: Community engagement for park development and environmental issues | Nadia Chan | *Environmental* | 1.0 CEUs (ISA) available

When working in a municipal parks setting, community consultation can be a key part of getting your project off the ground. This presentation will review community engagement strategies, discuss challenges in community engagement and identify lessons learned by the City of Surrey's Urban Forestry and Environmental Programs Section.

F2: Building a Better Forest — Vision, Communication and Principles | Ken Snowden | *Arboriculture* | 1.0 CEUs (ISA) available

Society, for the most part, has recognized the importance of the urban forest and the benefits it provides. As professionals, we are trusted to do the right thing with this valuable asset. This session will focus on the ability to communicate our vision based on the principles we apply.

F3: Growing Turnips, not Tulips — Collaborating with organizations to create a garden for learning | Leslie Topness, Holly Rooke and Emma Sweeney | *Horticulture*

Grow turnips, not tulips: collaborating with grass roots organizations to create community-engaged, food-growing spaces. Stories from the Edible Garden Project.: How can you, in your role with the parks, support local food security? The Edible Garden Project is a program of the North Shore Neighbourhood House and our vision is to fill the city with food gardens. We grow, we teach, we share. Let us inspire you to grow turnips instead of tulips and engage the local community to help steward the space. In our work, we coordinate different types of garden sites: in city parks, on school grounds and in front yards, as sharing gardens for donation or an urban farm as a social enterprise. Come find out about our different models, strategies for engaging volunteers who steward the land, and what it really takes to shift our urban landscape toward producing more food. Reflect on the under-utilized spaces in your area and how one of these models could work for you.

David

Nowak

Closing Keynote

2:15 — 3:15pm

Tree and forest characteristics for improving air quality | All | 1.0 CEUs (ISA) available

Trees in cities have both positive and negative effects on air quality and consequently human health. This presentation will discuss: a) air quality issues in cities, b) the four main ways that trees affect air quality, c) the magnitude of impact that trees in cities have on air quality and human health, d) the best species and forest designs in cities to improve air quality and e) tools that can be used assess how urban trees and forests affect the local environment and human health.

Post-Event Session

Friday

February 19, 2016

i-Tree Tool and its use in Canada | David Nowak, PhD 8:30 — 11:30 am | BCSLA CECs and 3.0 CEUs (ISA) available Coast Hotel & Convention Centre 20393 Fraser Hwy, Langley, BC

Benefit from this in-person, hands on training workshop and unlock the potential of i-Tree. Available for free for use in Canada, this tool helps provide urban forestry analysis and benefits assessment. With i-Tree, users can virtually plant a tree or forest and evaluate tree growth visualization and environmental benefits over time, compare tree species' effect on canopy cover, energy costs of nearby buildings and water retention, conduct a community street tree inventory, plus more.

NATS Nursery Tour | NATS Nursery Ltd. 12:30 — 3 pm | lunch included | 2.5 CEUs (ISA) available 24555 32 Ave, Langely, BC

Come visit NATS Nursery and check out the inventory of one of BC's largest growers of native plants for parks, urban forests and reclamation of disturbed sites. Learn from NATS' 28 years of experience about seed processing and propagation of starter plants to 20 gallon containers and field stock, including unique Integrated Pest Management (IPM) solutions. Experience first-hand, the production and simple installation of LiveRoof, the leading modular green roof system and a growing trend on urban buildings.



John Hawkings is director of the recreation, sites and trails branch of the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations. Prior to joining the Ministry as the trails manager in 2007, John spent much of the previous 15 years involved in forest-based recreation planning and implementation throughout the sea to sky corridor in both the public and private sector. John completed a BSc in biology from the University of Victoria in 1998 and holds a diploma in outdoor recreation from Mount Royal College in Calgary. An avid mountain biker, hiker, skier and all around outdoor enthusiast, when not at work John tries to spend as much time as he can enjoying the trails and endless recreation opportunities in Squamish BC.



Brenda Robinson is a speaker, trainer, writer and consultant. She has been addressing groups for over twenty years on topics related to communications, humour, laughter, positive working skills and wellness in general. Brenda received her Bachelor of Arts from Brandon University in Brandon, Manitoba (Major in English) and her Masters of Education from Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, BC in 1998.



Elizabeth Elle is Professor and Chair of Biological Sciences at Simon Fraser University. She has been studying pollination for over 20 years, most of that time in different environments in BC. Her current focus is on how human-modified ecosystems (parks, agriculture) can support pollinators and pollination services.



David Nowak is a contributing member of the **Nobel Peace Prize winning** Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, 2007. He is a team leader with the USDA Forest Service in Syracuse, NY. Dr. Nowak received a BSc and MSc from SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, and a PhD from the University of California, Berkeley. His research investigates urban forest structure, health, change and its effect on human health and environmental quality. He has authored over 250 publications and leads teams developing software tools to quantify ecosystem services from urban vegetation (eg. UFORE and i-Tree programs).

BIOGRAPHIES
Session Presenters

Alanna Carmichael has a passion for volunteer management, community development and education. She is currently the volunteer coordinator for the city of Abbotsford and has over 10 years of experience working in park operations and community development roles within municipal governments. Alanna has two bachelor's degrees — one with a focus in kinesiology and history with the second in education. Her passion for this field extends to her most recent volunteer role as a member-at-large on the Ridge Meadows Leisure Services Commission from 2012-2014. She is a tremendous supporter of environmental education and community volunteering, both as a career and within her personal life.

Alex Kurnicki is a streetscape planner with the city of North Vancouver. After earning his horticulture diploma from what was then Capilano College, he went on to earn a bachelor's of landscape architecture at the University of British Columbia. While going to school, he worked summers with the Vancouver Park Board including two years in arboriculture and three at Van Dusen Gardens as a gardener. Later, while in New York City, he earned a masters in urban planning. Since 2009, he has worked for the city of North Vancouver with a great group of staff to implement a capital street tree planting program as well as coordinating street tree plantings as part of the city's current phase of vigorous development. Alex has previously presented to the BCRPA about the Loutet Urban Farm.

BIOGRAPHIES

Session Presenters continued...

Dean Crawford, QC, is a partner at Coutts Pulver Crawford LLP. He practices in the area of labour and employment law, including employment litigation, human rights proceedings, labour relations, workers compensation and employment standards. Dean works closely with employers and employees on preventative steps to resolve workplace issues quickly and efficiently. He also represents clients in litigation and has considerable experience acting for both employers and employees before the BC Court of Appeal, the BC Supreme Court, the BC Human Rights Tribunal, WorkSafe BC and labour arbitrators. Dean has held several positions with the Canadian Bar Association and is a past president of the CBA's British Columbia branch. He was appointed Queen's Counsel in 2014.

Dwayne Neustaeter is president, curriculum programmer and lead instructor of Arboriculture Canada Training & Education Ltd., an organization focusing on meeting the training and business needs of arborists and related industries. He instructs classes, seminars and hands on training programs on safety and a wide range of skills for arborists around the world. He is widely recognized for his upbeat speaking style, engaging learners and making learning fun. As current president of the Society of Commercial Arboriculture, past-president of the ISA Prairie Chapter, past committee member of the ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualification Panel of Experts and ISA TRAQ instructor, he remains involved in associations and committees across North America to give back to the industry and continue learning.

Emma Sweeney is the communications coordinator for BC Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation. With a background in English and communications, she runs the Foundation's communications and social media and helps tell the story of agriculture. Having grown up in the Fraser Valley on a hobby farm with fresh food grown right in her backyard, Emma has always had an appreciation of where her food comes from and wants to see other children have the same opportunity.

Geoff Mallory has been involved in Parks for over 25 years. He is currently the Manager of Park Operations for the city of Langley. He is a former co-chair of the BCRPA Spring Training committee, and a director of the International Northwest Parks and Recreation Association (INPRA) and trainer for the INPRA Resource Management School at Port Townsend.

Holly Rooke comes to farming from a background in international development and environmental education. She has worked on community development projects across Canada and abroad and it was during her time running a school and family garden program in Honduras that she saw the potential for enhancing community through growing food. After two years fine-tuning her skills as an apprentice at an organic farm in Ladner, BC, she joined the Edible Garden Project as neighbourhood farmer, co-managing two profitable urban farm sites which are run as social enterprises.

Holly believes that growing your own food is an incredibly empowering and rewarding experience and that food growing spaces are some of the best venues for people to get engaged and involved in their community.

James Arden is the director, park services in the parks, recreation and culture department in city of Abbotsford. James has 30 years of experience in the municipal setting in parks and recreation and has started his career as a parks laborer and has a strong background in facilities and project management.

Jay Meneely has worked with the city of Surrey for the past five years in the Parks Planning and Design Section of the Parks Division. Jay's work at the city includes detailed design and construction management of a variety of park amenities. He received his education through UBC, Emily Carr and Utah State University. Before joining the city of Surrey, Jay worked for four years in a private firm in the Vancouver area.

Jennifer Grenz has a BSc in agroecology from the University of British Columbia and is currently working on her MSc in plant science. Jen has been involved in invasive plant management for 15 years through her work for a number of prominent environmental organizations including the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC, Evergreen and the Invasive Species Council of Metro Vancouver. She was involved with the development of the Invasive Plant Strategy for BC and served on the first board of directors for the Invasive Plant Council of BC (now Invasive Species Council of BC) as vice chair. Jennifer currently serves as the past-president on the board of directors for the North American Invasive Species Management Association (formerly the North American Weed Management Association). She speaks internationally for not-for-profit organizations and government agencies about electronic outreach methods and how these methods not only increase reach, but help to leverage funding opportunities. Jen is currently a "recovering farmer" having recently embraced the suburban life with her husband and three young children.

BIOGRAPHIES

Session Presenters continued...

Judd de Vall has honed his expertise in facilitating mountain bike developments through a decade of projects. While working for the International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA), he interfaced with grassroots mountain bike associations and local decision makers across the USA, Canada, Europe, and Latin America. Following a four-year tour on the World Cup circuit, Judd returned to the development of progressive cycling projects including many of North America's leading municipal bike park facilities. Judd is intimately involved in envisioning, design and construction of complex and trendsetting municipal facilities. His work includes key responsibilities such as the employment and leadership of the construction team, securing construction, financing, bonding, and insurance and managing the implementation and quality control of the site's bicycle amenities.

Karen Storry, PEng, started the first five years of her career in heavy civil concrete construction. In 2010 she started at Metro Vancouver as a member of the Engineer in Training (EIT) program where she gained experience in all water, liquid waste, and solid waste. During her rotation in solid waste planning, Karen discovered her passion of rethinking waste and officially joined the zero waste implementation team in 2012. Currently her work includes acting as the technical secretariat for the National Zero Waste Council Circular Economy Working Group, developing end markets for recycling and increasing recycling in the multi-family and commercial sectors. Karen strongly believes in giving back to her community and is currently the leadership mentor for the Metro Vancouver Construction Team, SWANA Pacific Chapter International Board Rep, the SWANA Region 2 Young Professionals Rep and an APEGBC mentor.

Ken Snowden has worked in municipal and commercial arboriculture for over 30 years. He is an ISA Certified Arborist and Tree Risk Assessor, and received his Journeyman landscape gardener certification in 1992. He is past recipient of the Alberta Landscape Architects Association Scholarship and graduated from Olds College, Olds, Alberta in 1988 with a diploma in horticulture.

Len Walters has worked for 18 years as superintendent of parks operations for the city of Langley and previously at the city of Vancouver for 22 years. He has been a part of the BCRPA Spring Training organizing committee for the past 18 years and believes strongly in sharing knowledge and first hand experiences between park staff from various communities, and that we can learn from each other.

Leslie Topness is the community coordinator at the Edible Garden Project. She is responsible for recruiting, mobilizing and teaching all kinds of volunteers with the goal of increasing the amount of food people are growing everywhere. But for her, growing is not just about delicious food, it's about growing rich relationships and a sense of place (connection to ourselves, to other people, to our health, to the land). Leslie brings a diverse background that includes teaching youth in school garden programs with Green Thumbs Growing Kids, starting her own backyard farm project in Toronto and facilitating community garden spaces.

Michael James is the general manager of DeepRoot Canada Corp. Mike has been in the municipal street tree / stormwater industry for over 25 years and has worked extensively with landscape architects, municipalities, engineers and landscape contractors to provide solutions for the health of the urban forest and low impact development techniques. Michael has a degree in public administration and business management.

Nadia Chan has a bachelor of science in forestry, forest operations from the University of British Columbia, is an ISA certified arborist and a certified tree risk assessor. Nadia has worked for the city of Surrey for over 10 years. As the city's natural areas coordinator, she oversees the management of the city's natural area parkland. Nadia is the director of public outreach for the pacific northwest chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture and sits on BCIT's Forest and Natural Areas Management Program Advisory Committee.

Peter Isaacson, President of Desslsaa Horticultural Consultants Inc. and national integrated pest management (IPM) coordinator for the Canadian Nursery Landscape Association, has over 15 years' of experience focusing on urban landscapes and production nurseries to promote the benefits of IPM and pesticide risk reduction in ornamentals across Canada.

Rob Reny is the urban forestry coordinator for the city of Surrey. He has been responsible for the delivery of the Specimen Tree Operational and Capital Programs since 2004. After graduating from Kemptville University College, he has worked in the field of arboriculture for over 25 years in both the private and public sectors.

BIOGRAPHIES

Session Presenters continued...

Robin Clark has been owner of a natural resources consulting business for the past 20 years and has clients in industry, government and First Nations across BC. His company provides expertise in natural resource management, land use planning and ecosystem restoration. In 2005, Robin completed numerous carbon offset projects in both rural and urban settings.

Scott Watson is a registered landscape architect working as park planner/designer for the city of Abbotsford. He is experienced in working with government agencies and private developers in providing beneficial storm water management systems.

Seann Greenwood is passionate about the outdoors and the preservation of natural spaces. Since 2005, he has been the operations technician for west area at Metro Vancouver Regional Parks. He is responsible for area-wide or system-wide initiatives that support park operations. He has a particular interest in sustainability endeavours and has taken a lead role in public place waste diversion for regional parks.

Shawn Gurney has been working alongside volunteers for more than 15 years within natural areas and trail management. He is currently the trades II natural areas supervisor for the city of Abbotsford. Shawn holds a diploma in fish and wildlife technician from BCIT and is certified as an ISA arborist and ISA tree risk assessor. Skeptical of the value versus investment with volunteers in his early days, he soon saw the irreplaceable benefits of volunteers and now embraces them as a critical component in the management of these valuable assets.

Sophie Dessureault is the integrated pest management (IPM) coordinator for city of Vancouver Parks for 18 years. Specializing in urban insect, weed and disease management, she is responsible for developing and implementing the city's various pest management programs.

Steve Whitton has been the manager of the Surrey tree and landscape section for the city of Surrey for the past seven years. He has over 35 years of experience in the landscape/horticulture/arboriculture industries. Steve is trade certified and is a certified arborist. Working for the city of Surrey for 17 years, he has also worked 10 years in the Surrey Parks Development Services and was involved in the design and construction of many parks and projects throughout the city. In his current role he oversees the implementation of the Surrey private property tree protection bylaw. His staff of eight people look after the trees on private property of a city of 500,000 people.

Travis Martin holds a bachelor of urban planning and a master of landscape architecture. Travis' work experience crosses the public and private sectors in planning, landscape architecture and landscape construction. He has a keen interest in ensuring children a healthy active upbringing and has designed a number of local "nature and/or adventure" play spaces that encourage youngster's interests in exploration, and that promote creative and imaginative play.

Todd Gross is currently the manager of parks services with the city of Port Coquitlam. He has an extensive background in public and private sector parks management, urban forestry, horticulture, trails, facilities and project management. Todd is currently working on his masters in leadership and possesses a diploma in biological sciences, landscape horticulture, a certificate in local government administration (Capilano University) and is a certified arborist and landscape inspector. In addition, he holds certifications from the National Recreation and Parks Association Directors and Resource Management programs.

Tracy Hueppelsheuser is a provincial entomologist for the British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture, based in Abbotsford. Her work focuses on biology and pest management of established and invasive insect species that impact BC agriculture. This includes insect identification, outreach and extension activities, policy and regulation development and some surveillance. The Ministry works closely with other organizations with similar mandates and goals.

Trisha McCarthy is the supervisor of horticulture at the district of North Vancouver. She has 30 years of experience working in municipalities. Trish is an accredited organic land care practitioner and garden designer and teacher.

Troy Wilson has been a parks professional with the city of Langley for the past 20 years and hold the position of construction and structural maintenance chargehand.