

Plant Pathology Seminar Series



“Forest Health Watch – Community engagement to keep trees healthy”

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Abstract

Biosecurity is a shared responsibility. Our forests face critical threats from the global spread of tree pathogens and the unprecedented rates of climate change. Of particular concern is the urgency for more information and greater capacity to monitor for new disease issues as we plant more trees for climate resiliency and move species for climate adaptation. Community science is one approach to address these pressing issues. Besides the obvious value of community science initiatives for early detection and monitoring, they can also contribute widely to raising awareness, informing decisions regarding control (eradication and containment efforts) to minimize pest and pathogen spread, and even finding resistant plant material for restoration of diseased landscapes. Community scientists can enhance biosecurity.

The Forest Health Watch (<https://foresthealth.org/>) is a WSU led program to engage Pacific Northwest communities in forest health research and learning. Anyone is welcome to participate and learn as community scientists. The program was established in 2020 and shaped by many partners and collaborators. The pilot project was co-designed to investigate the dieback of western redcedar because it was identified as a primary concern by many partners. Through multiple methods of engagement in this pilot project, the Forest Health Watch is growing a network of citizen scientists eager to engage, learn, and discover solutions to pressing forest health issues in the Pacific Northwest.

Support for the Forest Health Watch program is provided by the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture and through collaboration with many local agencies and partners. The program also benefits from internal WSU support provided by the McIntire Stennis Cooperative Forestry Research Program. The program leaders always seek additional partners and collaborators to help shape the program. Please visit <https://foresthealth.org/partner> to learn more.

Bio

Joey Hulbert is a USDA NIFA Postdoctoral Fellow in the [Ornamental Plant Pathology](#) program at the WSU Research and Extension Center in Puyallup. He has a background in forest pathology that began with a Natural Resource degree from WSU in 2010. After which, he joined Dr. Everett Hansen at Oregon State University to study *Phytophthora ramorum* and completed a Dual MS in Botany and Plant Pathology and Wood Science. Thereafter, Joey traveled to South Africa to join Dr. Mike Wingfield to complete a doctorate degree and continue his research with *Phytophthora* spp. at the [Forestry and Agricultural Biotechnology Institute](#). In South Africa, he led a program called [Cape Citizen Science](#) to engage communities in research to explore the diversity of *Phytophthora* species in The Cape Floristic Region. A quick video about the youth engagement activities in this biodiversity hotspot is available [here](#). This experience prepared him to lead the Forest Health Watch, where he currently acts as the Program Director.

4:10 pm | April 26th, 2021

Zoom Link: <https://wsu.zoom.us/j/93395333254?pwd=OVlwWk8xcnNadVluVjFYUW5hWWx1dz09>

Meeting ID: 933 9533 3254

Passcode: 305936

Call in number: 1 253 215 8782



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