



News

Families plant an urban forest to fight effects of pollution

It's a cold Saturday morning in November, yet hundreds of people have descended on Beckton District Park in east London for a day of tree planting. Dozens of shovels stuck into the muddy earth are waiting to be grabbed by newcomers, while four cordoned-off areas are already full of volunteers measuring and digging holes, before carefully planting the young seedlings, called whips. "By the time the day is done, you look around and there are thousands of trees," says Jazmin Glen, 26, a volunteer supervisor at the event. "It's amazing to think you might come back in however many years and there's an actual forest here that you've been a part of creating."

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Date: January 05, 2020

Source: The Guardian

Tree planting initiative helps provide natural balance for teens in foster care

The Boys and Girls Haven on Goldsmith Lane is celebrating its 70th year of empowering and uplifting children who often have nowhere to go. Through those years the Watterson Expressway developed and grew near their location, which has added a lot of pollutants that can be harmful. 24 trees were planted by volunteers on Sunday who want to help improve the lives of the boys and girls who live on campus. The trees will help eliminate some of the negative impacts that comes with living right next to the Watterson. Alan Gates, a Boys and Girls Haven alumni, said the life lesson he will never forget learning from the organization's founder is if you want to improve yourself or situation, you have

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Date: January 05, 2020

Source: Wave News

Philippine fern efficiently absorbs arsenic, copper from toxic mining soil

Filipino scientists have discovered what might be the next big indigenous plant material for rehabilitating a mining site teeming with copper and arsenic — and it's a largely ignored local fern. Published in the peer-reviewed journal Chemosphere, the study by a group of scientists led by Rene Claveria of the Ateneo de Manila University records the unique ability of Pteris melanocaulon to absorb copper in its roots and arsenic in its leaves in large doses. "It's not common for ferns to absorb both high concentrations of copper and arsenic," Claveria, an environmental geology expert, tells Mongabay. "Plants don't do it simultaneously in large doses. It's something new." The fern was spotted in the

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Date: January 09, 2020

Source: Mongabay

Rare plant species are especially vulnerable to climate change, and rarity is more common than previously understood

Rare plant species are far more likely to go extinct than common species, yet we know surprisingly little about global species abundance. Most efforts to quantify species abundance focus on local communities, according to the authors of a study published late last year in the journal Science Advances, which limits our ability to accurately assess plant rarity. "Fortunately, with the rapid development of biodiversity databases and networks in the past decade, it is becoming increasingly possible to quantify continental and global patterns of biodiversity and test competing models for the origin and maintenance of these patterns at a global scale," according to the authors of the study, a research team led by Brian

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Date: January 09, 2020

Source: Mongabay

A great step for the global plant health community: Uzbekistan joins the IPPC as its 184th contracting party

The IPPC community welcomes a new member as Uzbekistan officially joins the Convention on 13 January. On that date, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Mr Abdulaziz Kamilof, deposited a letter of instrument of adherence to the IPPC to the Director-General of FAO, inaugurating a new era for the global plant health community and giving extraordinary vibrancy to 2020. "What a great year! The accession of Uzbekistan to the Convention marks another historical achievement for the IPPC, especially in conjunction with the International Year of Plant Health (IYPH) 2020. I am sure this new commitment will have a positive impact in the country, and also the

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Source: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

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