



News

Invasive plants can boost blue carbon storage

"We were aware of the effects of invasions on other facets of these habitats, but this was the first time we really delved into blue carbon storage," said Ian Davidson, a marine invasions biologist at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC) and lead author of the new study. While blue carbon has become a buzz word in climate change circles, it has not appeared in many conversations about invasive species, especially in the marine realm. The paper, published Monday, Oct. 1, in *Global Change Biology*, is the first meta-analysis to look exclusively at marine habitats when tackling the issue of invasions and carbon storage. Previous carbon storage research has focused largely on terrestrial environments like forests. But marshes and mangroves can store carbon an estimated 40 times faster than.....[Read more...](#)

Date: October 01, 2018

Source: Science Daily

Planting rain gardens to reduce pollution

The corner of Van Buren and Lincoln streets were transformed Sept. 25, as volunteers and Blue Heron middle-schoolers worked with the WSU Extension to turn the plain, grassy area where weeds once flourished, and water pooled up, into a luscious rain garden, filled with flowers, grasses, herbs and shrubs. The rain garden was planted in a strategic spot, where water will collect and drain into the soil, instead of running down the roads and into the Puget Sound. "I have worked with the city over the past couple of years to identify locations that are getting higher flows (of water runoff) and also have a direct contribution to those flows going into the bay," said Bob Simmons, water resources faculty member from the WSU Extension. The WSU Extension, in partnership with the Marine[Read more...](#)

Date: October 03, 2018

Source: Pt. Leader

Gardening: Better breathing with houseplants

There's a simple reason why humans cannot exist without plants and that is our habit of breathing. The oxygen we require to survive is a byproduct of photosynthesis and 98 per cent of it is produced by both terrestrial and marine plants. To be succinct: no plants, no people. We can all see the worldwide symptoms of stripping forests or using our oceans as a waste facility because we hear about it every day. Whether it's severe weather patterns or the decline of our few remaining killer whales, you can point the finger at the person in the mirror, and we are not averse to fouling our own nests. Every single town-house, apartment and home we live in is a potential hazardous waste site filled with harmful chemicals such as benzene, ammonia, xylene, formaldehyde and trichloroethylene.....[Read more...](#)

Date: October 7, 2018

Source: Mapleridge News

We have 12 years to limit climate change catastrophe, warns UN

The world's leading climate scientists have warned there is only a dozen years for global warming to be kept to a maximum of 1.5C, beyond which even half a degree will significantly worsen the risks of drought, floods, extreme heat and poverty for hundreds of millions of people. The authors of the landmark report by the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released on Monday say urgent and unprecedented changes are needed to reach the target, which they say is affordable and feasible although it lies at the most ambitious end of the Paris agreement pledge to keep temperatures between 1.5C and 2C. The half-degree difference could also prevent corals from being completely eradicated and ease pressure on the Arctic, according to the 1.5C study, which was launched[Read more...](#)

Date: October 8, 2018

Source: The Guardian

Self-fertilizing crops are better for farmers and environment

Fertilizer runoff from farms can leach into local watersheds, contaminate ecosystems and is a major contributor to the Gulf of Mexico's dead zone, an oxygen-deprived area larger than the state of New Jersey. Even though farmers are aware of the environmental impacts of fertilizer, particularly nitrogen, their crops and livelihoods depend on it. For corn farmers, a nitrogen-rich fertilizer is sprayed on newly planted seeds and as the corn is growing. Without this process, their harvests and health of their crop would suffer. But fertilizer is expensive, and finding a better alternative would not only benefit the agriculture industry but it would also help reduce nitrogen pollution. Pivot Bio, a biotech company in Berkeley, California, may have found a solution to the fertilizer pollution problem[Read more...](#)

Date: October 9, 2018

Source: Earth.com

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