

Andreas Løvold

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Andreas Løvold studied landscaping and is a certified arborist. He has over 30 years of experience in practical tree care and has also been a teacher and instructor. He currently works for The Natural History Museum and Botanical Garden at the University of Oslo. His work is in tree care, education, conducting walks, lectures and press contact. His recent focus has been on a project regarding the collection of Paleo botanical fossils in Svalbard.



1. Please share with us your life trajectory and why you chose to work with nature and plants?

After 12 years in school I registered at the University of Oslo, but realized that I needed more time outdoors, with the sounds and views of living beings and experiencing the shifting of nature. I started working as a caretaker at a cemetery, then became a landscaper and an arborist. Now I have been working for The Botanical Garden of Oslo University for ten years. Besides taking care of the trees, I am involved in dissemination and teaching.

2. What do the Hibaku-jumoku and the work of Green Legacy Hiroshima mean to you and University of Oslo, and why was it important to engage with this initiative?

For me, and the University of Oslo, the Hibaku-jumoku and the work of GLH is an opportunity to combine knowledge on plant biology with important psychological and philosophical questions, and be able to bring the message of peace sharing the story of the trees that survived the Hiroshima bombing.

3. How do you think the message of peace can be spread further in our troubled war-prone world, using plants and nature?

Sharing the complexity and connections in nature might be an opener for people's curiosity and respect for all living beings. The everyday choice we have and how small actions nursing trees and life will be crucial for mankind.

4. What have you personally learnt during the process of caring for the Hibaku-jumoku and trees in general?

I had an oral and mythological view into the Hibaku-jumoku, now I have more of the documented history. I believe that the Initiative really can make a difference. Most of the tree species from Hiroshima can thrive in a subtropical climate, and will not survive outdoors in Norway. Testing new species that might work is an ongoing learning by doing process. Finding ways and a program, indoor - outdoor, for Hibaku-jumoku will be a challenge of interest. Working with the seeds and nursing the trees is a continuing education on plant propagation. The damage and decay on the Hibaku-jumoku from the bomb reminds me of damage from fire I have seen many times before. Still this is something else which is hard to describe.

5. How important is science education and awareness, especially for those not in the field?

Most people are living urban lives estranged from our obvious dependence on nature to survive.



Andreas Løvold shares three specimens of Kaki plum, grown from seeds through GLH.

Please see the link below about our visit to the botanical garden in Oslo.

<https://glh.unitar.org/en/countries/NOR/page3>

Feature edited by Saeeda Razick of GLH