

## HIGHLIGHT

**Great for Bugs and Great for Inspectors:** new structural pest facility provides unique hands-on training



(Above left: Trees and plants line the side of the new structural pest facility: good habitats for potential pest colonies; Above middle: Dan Suomi from WSDA, Jon Newkirk WSUP Center Director, and Carrie Foss, WSU Urban IPM Coordinator, at the formal ribbon cutting; Above right: Two floor coverings provide separate areas for examination; Below top left: More pest habitat—wood alongside a building; Below top right: two types of decking; At bottom left: Guests discuss the new facility alongside the new rain garden( foreground) that receives roof runoff; At bottom right: Rich Zack, WSU Entomology Department Chair ).



The new Urban Structural Integrated Pest Management Facility had an official Grand Opening ceremony on April 9<sup>th</sup>. Over 60 guests from local businesses and agencies took facility tours and heard explanations during the sunshine in the early afternoon. As the rain started to pour down, the ceremony moved for the formal presentations and official ribbon-cutting to the Allmendinger Center.

Environmental health and safety concerns impact the building and structural engineering industries and affect the individual health and financial security of every homeowner in the country. Learning to accurately diagnose and mitigate conditions conducive for pest problems protects the integrity of all structural facilities and secures financial investments. The new facility is the only one of its kind in

the western United States and was constructed and financed by a successful collaboration and partnership between Washington State University, state and local agencies, and Puget Sound businesses. For a complete list of partners and sponsors, please see details at [http://structuralpest.wsu.edu/pdf/SPI\\_Facility.pdf](http://structuralpest.wsu.edu/pdf/SPI_Facility.pdf).

### WSU Puyallup: Solutions for the Region; Programs for Its People

Highlights is provided by the people and programs of WSU Puyallup from February through December. For story ideas for upcoming Highlights, please contact either Tanyalee Erwin, [terwin@wsu.edu](mailto:terwin@wsu.edu), 253-445-4504, or Jon Newkirk, [jnewkirk@wsu.edu](mailto:jnewkirk@wsu.edu), 253-445-4568. If your email is set to text messages only and you wish to see the graphical version of this Highlight, please email Tanyalee.