The Georgia Tree Council presents
THE GEORGIA TREE CONFERENCE WEBINAR PROGRAM
November 4-5, 2020

Two-Day Webinar Agenda for
EMBRACING THE CHALLENGE:
DOING OUR PART TODAY TO PRESERVE TOMORROW'S URBAN FOREST

Day One, Wednesday, November 4

9:00 – 9:05 am.	**Welcome** from Mary Lynne Beckley, Executive Director (CEUs, thanks to sponsors, etc.) Susan Russell, President, Georgia Tree Council
9:05 – 10:05 a.m.	**Warm Winters, Dry Summers, Bigger Storms: Climate Variability and Tree Growth** Future climate variability in our communities will provide more extreme events impacting tree survival and growth. It will also impact tree pests and exotics / invasives. Trends moving forward for urban and community trees show more intense storms, greater heat load impacts, and more deep drought periods. This talk will discuss climate trends which began 100 years ago and project these forward two generations. Upland and inland tree impacts will be highlighted. The future is not worse or better for tree managers, just different. **Dr. Kim D. Coder,** Professor of Tree Biology & Health Care / University Hill Fellow, Warnell School of Forestry & Natural Resources, University of Georgia, Athens
10:05 – 10:35 a.m.	**How is climate change affecting the tree species that are available? Dan Whitehead,** HortSource, Lincolnton GA
10:35 – 11:00 a.m.	**Latest Challenges with Invasive Plants – Rebekah Wallace,** Bugwood Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health, UGA, Tifton
11:00 – 11:10 a.m.	**Break (Sponsor Spotlight videos)**
11:10 – 11:40 a.m.	**Tree Conservation on Atlanta's First Sustainable SITES Project, David Dechant,** Arborguard Tree Specialists, Avondale Estates GA
11:40 a.m. – 12:10 p.m.	**Using Drones in Urban Forestry – Dan Staley,** Arbordrone, Aurora CO
12:10 – 12:30 p.m.	**Research in the Merkle Research Lab for conservation and restoration of threatened North American trees: Scott A. Merkle,** Professor and Associate Dean for Research, Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, University of Georgia, Athens

Closing Remarks for Day One

<u>Day Two, Thursday, November 5</u>

9:00 – 10:30 a.m.	**Welcome and Announcements**

Cultivating the Next Generation of Arborists and Community Foresters

Presented by panel: Holly Campbell, Kim Coder, Jason Gordon, Travys Harper, Seth Hawkins, and Jessie McClellan

This panel discussion will highlight current Georgia programs that are cultivating the next generation of diverse and qualified arboriculture and community forestry professionals and explore how these programs best meet the needs of public and private employers. Panelists will start by discussing specific programs' successes and challenges and stakeholder needs. Following this introduction, audience members will be encouraged to participate through a discussion framed by prepared open-ended questions. Questions will address ways of attracting and retaining talented students; evaluating subject areas or qualifications that need to be strengthened in recent graduates; developing better industry and educational partnerships to strengthen programs; and more. Panelists represent the University of Georgia, Georgia Forestry Commission, Trees Atlanta, and the tree care industry.

Participants will learn about Georgia-based educational and internship programs in arboriculture and community forestry, discuss ways to strengthen the pathway and quality of education from interested students to qualified graduates, and consider industry qualifications and education sought in young professionals.

10:30 – 10:50 a.m.   **Announcing our first annual GTC STARs list – Matt Malament, Georgia Tree Council Board of Directors.** *Our first annual list of outstanding individuals under 40 years of age who are showing Service, Teamwork, Attitude, and Results in their work for Georgia's community trees.*

10:50 – 11:00 a.m.   **Break (sponsor spotlight)**

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.   **Mitigation of Urban Tree Hazards and Community Perceptions**
Panelists: Abbie Judice, Jason Gordon, Jesse Abrams, Kris Irwin

Using Georgia as a case study, this project aims to identify and describe public risk perceptions of urban tree hazards as well as the municipal activities that reduce tree risks while maximizing benefits. The study employs a social-ecological resilience framework to examine data collected through qualitative interviews with municipal employees and community leaders to provide insights into challenges and opportunities for creating more sustainable urban forestry through public engagement. Comparisons across physiographic regions and city population sizes identify whether dynamics influencing this success or failure vary among diverse communities and regions within the state. Using the insights gained from this study, recommendations will be presented related to urban forest management practices and policy. This project furthers research seeking to

understand community-level perceptions and behaviors regarding urban environmental vulnerabilities.

12:10– 12:30 p.m.	**Asian Longhorned Beetle Update** **Dr. David Coyle,** Assistant Professor, Forest Health and Invasive Species, Clemson University

Closing Remarks
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