

2023 Annual Georgia Tree Conference
October 25-26
Columbus Georgia Convention and Trade Center
801 Front Avenue, Columbus GA 30901



TREES ARE THE ANSWER! *Tools, Techniques, and Data for Protecting the Benefits of the Urban Forest for the Next Five Years ... and Beyond*

October 24 – Pre-Conference Activities

- 3:00 – 6:00 p.m. Conference Check-in and Exhibitor Set-Up
- 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. **Conference Bike Ride** on the Riverwalk
- 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. **Tree Board Roundtable:** Tree board members are invited to participate in this session, an open forum for sharing successes and challenges with their tree program. With **Joan Scales**, Partnership Coordinator, Georgia Forestry Commission and **Seth Hawkins**, Urban and Community Forestry Program Coordinator, Georgia Forestry Commission

October 25

- 7:00 – 8:00 a.m. Breakfast
- 8:00 – 10:00 a.m. General Session

Welcome: **Mary Lynne Beckley**, Executive Director, Georgia Tree Council
 Holly Campbell, President, Georgia Tree Council

Plant, Preserve, Protect, and Maintain: Urban Forestry Achievements in Columbus, Georgia

- **Eric Gansauer**, Forestry Administrator, Columbus Consolidated Government
- **Dorothy McDaniel**, Executive Director of Trees Columbus

Tools and Techniques: Calculating the Benefits of Trees Using the i-Tree Suite of Products

- **Joe Joyner**, Urban Forestry Consultant, Davey Resource Group

10:00 – 10:30 a.m. Break – visit with exhibitors

10:30 – 11:30 a.m. Breakout sessions

1) UGA Campus Arboretum Eco Study Results

Holly Campbell, Public Service Assistant, Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, University of Georgia, Athens; **Preston Harden**, Undergraduate in the School of Ecology; and **Clara Nibbelink**, Graduate Student, Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, University of Georgia, Athens

2) Low-Tech Tools: Students demonstrate simple ways of measuring temperatures, relative humidity in a parking lots or downtown area. With **Ava Dixon**, Sustainability Director, Columbus State University

- 3) **Urban Wood Re-Use session: Carmen Rodriguez**, Sales & Marketing, Eutree, Villa Rica and **Kelley Lowe**, Director of Salvage, Re:Purpose Savannah

11:30 a.m. – Noon Break – visit with exhibitors

Noon – 1:30 p.m. **Excellence in Urban Forestry Awards Luncheon**

1:30 – 2:00 p.m. Break - Visit with exhibitors

2:00 – 4:00 p.m. **Urban Forestry Tours:**

- 1) **Downtown Walking Tree** Tour with **Eric Gansauer**, Forestry Administrator, Columbus Consolidated Government
- 2) **Bus Tour** to Lakebottom Park and Theo McGee Park to view tree plantings with **Dorothy McDaniel**, Executive Director, Trees Columbus
- 3) **Bus Tour** to Columbus State University's Oxbow Meadows Environmental Learning Center with **Ava Dixon**, Sustainability Director, Columbus State University

4:00 – 5:00 p.m. Break

5:00 – 7:00 p.m. Reception with Silent Auction

October 26

7:00 – 8:00 a.m. Breakfast

8:00 – 10 a.m. **General Session**

Spotlight on Georgia Cities:

- **Green Infrastructure Center's Work with Valdosta and Tifton**
Matt Lee, Community Landscape Forester, Green Infrastructure Center, Scottsville, Virginia
- **Results of the Athen-Clarke County i-Tree Eco Study Results**
Jason Gordon, PhD., Associate Professor of Community Forestry, Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, University of Georgia, Athens

10:00 – 10:30 a.m. Break – visit with exhibitors

10:30 – 11:30 a.m. Breakout sessions

- 1) **Design for Sustainability:** The Savannah College of Art and Design's long-term project exploring the impact of trees on the environment, economy, human health and social well-being in Savannah. **Zoe Rinker**, Executive Director, Savannah Tree Foundation (partner on the project).
- 2) **Mercer University's River Restoration Project:** Learn about the Chattahoochee River Buffer Enhancement and Maintenance Project at Mercer Medical in Columbus, a collaboration of public, private, non-profit, and commercial entities in order to accomplish a major trash cleanup, removal of invasive species and planting of natives along a small stretch of the Riverwalk.
Ashley Taylor, REM, Senior Environmental Scientist, Moon Meeks Associates, Inc.

3) Urban Tree Physiology Network: Results of the Urban Tree Physiology Study and Discussion

Dan Johnson, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Tree Physiology and Forest Ecology, Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resource, University of Georgia, Athens

11:30 a.m. – Noon Break – visit with exhibitors

Noon – 12:30 p.m. Lunch

12:30 – 1:30 p.m. **Spying on Tree Growth: Visual Assessment of Crown Risks and Branch Attachment Strength**

Kim Coder, Ph.D., Professor of Tree Biology & Health Care, University Hill Fellow for Distinguished Public Service & Outreach, Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, University of Georgia, Athens

We are pruning trees too much and in the wrong way, which is costing us time, money, and tree lives. Making trees more prone to failure is not effective management. Simple observations can help determine actual pruning needs.

Adjourn