

The Georgia Tree Council presents
The 29th Annual
GEORGIA TREE CONFERENCE AND TRADE SHOW
Atlanta Marriott Evergreen Conference Center
Stone Mountain, GA
November 7-8, 2019



A GREENER PATH FOR ALL: Trees and Equity, Community Collaboration, and Building the Future Workforce

PROGRAM AGENDA

Day One, November 7

7:00 – 8:00 a.m. **Breakfast** in Rotunda Room (downstairs to the right)

8:00 – 10:00 am. **GENERAL SESSION IN LAUREL AMPHITHEATRE** (main floor):

- Welcome and Announcements (8 – 8:15 a.m.)
- **Trees and Equity** – Getting diverse populations and students involved in urban forestry – **Eboni Hall, PhD., Senior Director of Urban Forestry, American Forests** (8:15 – 9:00 a.m.) Tree Equity™ connects people to green careers and bridges gaps between and the public and private employers who have openings but don't know where to find qualified workers. In turn, this creates opportunity for overlooked populations like unemployed/underemployed communities of color. The result? A thriving workforce full of qualified and credentialed people that can now build and sustain economic strength and vibrant, green communities.
- **Green Infrastructure to Green Jobs Initiative:** creating nurseries out of brownfields and involving and teaching students – **Nick Deffley, Sustainability Director, City of Savannah** (9:00 - 9:25 a.m.) Savannah Georgia's trees provide a cornerstone of the City's green infrastructure, playing a key part in managing water that inundates the area during coastal storms. As Savannah has grown, it has lost portions of its urban forest to development and extreme weather events. The City developed the Green Infrastructure to Green Jobs pilot project, converting underutilized vacant properties into urban tree nurseries. The intent is to use this project to engage educate residents on the value of trees, develop technical tree skills in our rising workforce, and to grow Savannah's urban forest. The work is supported by the Southeastern Sustainable Communities Fund.

- **Greening Youth Foundation's Tree Care Management Program**
Dr. Daniel Jones, Program Manager, Urban Youth Corps, Greening Youth Foundation (9:25 – 9:50 a.m.) The Greening Youth Foundation works with diverse youth and young adults by connecting them to nature and conservation careers through a public school initiative (environmental education and wellness program), youth conservation corps, and urban youth corps (workforce development).

10 minute break

- **Panel Discussion: Attracting new industry employees:** Luana Vargas, Director of Credentialing Services for the International Society of Arboriculture, moderator, with panelists Dr. Hall, Nick Deffley, and Dr. Daniel Jones (10:00 – 10:45 a.m.)

10:45 – 11:15 a.m.

Break – VISIT EXHIBITORS in the Rotunda Room (downstairs to right). Coffee station available.

11:15 – noon

BREAKOUT SESSIONS:

- **Shade: Don't Throw it. Grow it.** - The Trees Columbus Canopy Restoration Project – Dorothy McDaniel, Executive Director, Trees Columbus, and George Barker, President, Natural Resource Consulting. The Trees Columbus Canopy Restoration Project is an extraordinary urban forest restoration initiative developed in and for Columbus, Georgia. Healthy urban trees provide environmental, economic, and sociological benefits, and the Canopy Restoration Project is improving the health of Columbus's urban forest. DOGWOOD A (downstairs to left).
- **Soil Moisture and Newly Planted Trees** – Dan Whitehead, HortSource
Dan's talk will examine moisture management and environmental challenges during the establishment period. LAUREL AMPHITHEATRE
- **The Industry Perspective: Finding that New Workforce:** Kym Stephens, Georgia Power Company; Art Morris, New Urban Forestry; Raina Turner, HABESHA, Inc. DOGWOOD B (downstairs to left).

15 minute Break

VISIT EXHIBITORS in the Rotunda Room (downstairs to right). Coffee station available.

12:15 – 1:30 p.m.

EXCELLENCE IN URBAN FORESTRY AWARDS LUNCHEON in SALON D (main floor)

1:30 – 2:00 p.m.

Break - VISIT OUR EXHIBITORS in the Rotunda Room downstairs. Coffee station available.

2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES – MEET IN FRONT OF CONFERENCE CENTER TO BOARD SHUTTLES:

Tour 1 - Tour King's Trail to view unique tree habitat, review tree ID, and learn about successes and issues of caring for an urban forest while also hosting high numbers of visitors every year. This walk will be led by Bill Lott of the Thompson Mill State Arboretum and Stone Mountain Memorial Association (SMMA) staff.

Tour 2 - Get a guided tour of Stone Mountain Park's landmark trees: the live oak, cedar, and cypress trees along the lake, the oak at Historic Square, the champion Osage-orange, and then the hemlocks at the Harold Cox Nature Garden. This tour, led by Naomi Thompson of the SMMA, includes a short, easy hike through the Harold Cox Nature Garden.

Tour 3 – For those who crave a more ambitious afternoon tour, SMMA staff will lead a hike up Stone Mountain to talk about succession at a few weathering pits, see the Georgia Oaks along the way, review some unique forested sections, and say hello to the Old Man Cedar. In the interest of time, the group will only hike up and take the Skyride down. Tour starts with a quick introduction in our geology and ecology museum.

5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Reception in SALON EFG (Main floor)

Day Two, November 8

7:00 – 8:00 a.m.

Breakfast in Rotunda Room (downstairs to the right)

8:00 – 10:00 a.m.

GENERAL SESSION IN LAUREL AMPHITHEATRE:

- Welcome and Announcements
- Paula Randler, Urban and Community Forestry Program Manager, US Forest Service
- **Leveraging Community Engagement** - Charlotte King, Snowden & King Marketing and Communications - Community engagement is a powerful tactic in project management for urban forestry to increase awareness, achieving a common mission, supporting public policy, and accomplishing measurable impact. This session explores an overview of the mechanics and the how-to's of maximizing the power of mobilizing different sectors, key influencers, legislators and corporate leaders to appreciate the importance of urban and community forestry. You'll explore national, state and local examples of projects achieving both qualitative and quantitative outcomes from a veteran forestry subject matter expert.

10 – 10:30 a.m.

Break - VISIT OUR EXHIBITORS in the Rotunda Room downstairs. Coffee station available.

10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS:

- **The ROI of Healthy Urban Trees:** Ed Macie, Consulting Urban Forester and Arborist. This presentation will address basic investment theory and apply it to urban trees with a focus on approaches to maximizing their long term value. LAUREL AMPHITHEATRE
- **What Attracts a Young Person to be Involved in a Community Tree Program?** Karina Leung, Sustainability Fellow, Agnes Scott College; Allison Bailey, PhD, University of North Georgia; and Adriana Garcia, Nature Accessibility Advocate, Park Pride. DOGWOOD A (downstairs to left)
- **Creating a Park in a Small Municipality: It's all about Partnerships –** Paula Stinnett, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Fort Oglethorpe and Nancy Lovingood, AICP, Certified Arborist. Creating a new park takes funds and energies that small municipalities don't usually have. Come hear a success story from Ft Oglethorpe. How the idea started, creating interest, and keeping it going will be discussed. How to arrange for a design and volunteer planting days will be discussed. We will also present the success in using Social media. DOGWOOD B (downstairs to left)

11:30 – Noon

Break - VISIT OUR EXHIBITORS in the Rotunda Room downstairs. Coffee station available.

Noon – 1:00 p.m.

Lunch (Pick up bag lunch in the Rotunda Room downstairs to right.)

1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

FINAL SESSION IN LAUREL AMPHITHEATRE: SPOTLIGHT ON THE FUTURE

- **Urban Forestry's Outlook Moving Forward - and the new Warnell School's Urban Forestry Emphasis** – Jason Gordon, Assistant Professor of Community Forestry, Warnell School of Forestry & Natural Resources, University of Georgia
- **The Importance of Urban Greenspace:** This presentation describes projects examining community engagement with the green spaces in South Atlanta Communities – Amanda Aragon, PhD student, University of Georgia's Center for Geospatial Research, whose research focuses on remote sensing techniques and social configurations of urban space.

ADJOURN

CEU Sign-up in Registration Area

Safe journey home!