



**First Quarter Program and State Arbor Day Event
February 22, 2022
Trees, Equity, and Community Engagement: A Virtual Program**

10:00 – 10:05 a.m.	Welcome Mary Lynne Beckley, Executive Director David Shostak, Board President
10:05 – 10:30 a.m.	What is Tree Equity? Seth Hawkins, Urban and Community Forestry Coordinator Georgia Forestry Commission, Rome <i>Seth will lay the foundation for our program by discussing the definition of tree equity, why it is important for Georgia communities, tools for measuring tree equity in your community, and the need for community participation in tree equity projects.</i>
10:30 – 11:00 a.m.	Forest Patches – Vacant Properties Cassandra Johnson Gaither, Ph.D. Research Social Scientist, USDA Forest Service Southern Research Station, Athens <i>Dr. Gaither will share resident responses to a study she and her colleagues conducted that looks at neighborhood transiency as a potential constraint on resident engagement with civic environmental stewardship.</i>
5 minute break	
11:05 – 11:35 a.m.	Tree Risk and Community Perception – A Study Jason Gordon, Ph.D. Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources University of Georgia, Athens Tawana Mattox, Ed.D. Director, Community Education and Empowerment Athens Land Trust <i>Dr. Gordon and Dr. Mattox will share the findings of studies that they have conducted on community tree management, risk perceptions, and equity.</i>
11:35 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.	Environmental Justice and the Grassroots Movement Na'Taki Osborne Jelks, Ph.D., Environmental Scientist Asst. Professor, Environmental & Health Sciences Spelman College, Atlanta <i>Dr. Jelk's experience as co-founder of the West Atlanta Watershed Alliance gives her great insight into how getting residents involved in investigating the health of their own surrounding natural environment can bring about community leadership in addressing environmental health risks.</i>
12:15 – 12:30 p.m.	State Arbor Day Ceremony <i>Recognizing Georgia's Tree City USA communities, Tree Campus USA colleges and universities, and Tree Line USA utility companies.</i>
Adjourn	