

Annual Georgia Tree Conference
Webinar
November 3-4, 2021



Program Agenda
“INNOVATIONS IN COMMUNITY FORESTRY”

Wednesday, November 3

9:00 -9:10 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Mary Lynne Beckley, Executive Director
Terry Paige, President 2021, Georgia Tree Council

9:10 – 9:55 a.m.

**Tree Ecological Processors in Community
Hardscapes**

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

Creating viable neighborhood ecosystems and countering our hardscape addiction requires mindful understandings of urban forest needs and functions. The ecological connections within our communities and neighborhoods are decaying and falling apart, as we depend more upon our ingenuity with resource concentration infrastructures. Understanding tree-based ecosystem engines and how life facilitates life in a community will be reviewed. Audience members should apply ecosystem energy and resource models to effectively modify tree and site constraints.

Five minute break

10:00 – 10:45 a.m.

**Successful Tree Planting Projects Require More
Than Just Planting!**

Wei Zhang, Ph.D., Vice President Research &
Development, Zynnovation LLC, Ashland, Virginia
Dan Whitehead, HortSource, Lincolnton, Georgia

Among the common factors affecting the survival of newly planted trees, under-watering and over-watering are the top two. Is there anything we can do to give trees a better chance to survive?

By examining the situation and looking at the root of the problem, the real limitation is in the Plant Available Water (PAW). No matter how much one irrigates the soil or how much rainwater falls on to it, any water above the Field Capacity (FC) is wasted.. We will review some technologies for stabilizing soil moisture, including methods that significantly boost the PAW without drowning the plant roots. We also review methods and technologies that make the best usage of natural precipitation (stormwater). Case studies across North America will be used to illustrate how these methods can significantly increase the survival rate of newly transplanted trees.

10:45 – 10:50 a.m.

Sponsor video – **Native Forest Nursery**

Five minute break

10:55 – 11:00 a.m.

Sponsor video – **Davey Tree Experts**

11:00 - 11:45 a.m.

Using Remote Sensing Technology for Post-Storm Recovery: Hurricane Michael Case Study

Jeremy Cantor, Director, Geospatial Services, PlanIT Geo

Jacob Caggiano, Senior Account Executive, PlanIT Geo

In just one day, Hurricane Michael dramatically altered the community forests of Southwest Georgia and the Florida Panhandle. More than 3 years later, we are still recovering, but now have new tools and technology to help. In this presentation by PlanIT Geo, we'll demonstrate how we can use the latest remote sensing methods to understand the damage and help leaders make data informed decisions. Communities affected by the storm now have access to these tools to see changes in their tree canopy and plan for the future. We will demonstrate our findings and share how these tools work to view, plan, and grow your tree canopy.

11:45 – Noon

2021 Georgia Tree Council S.T.A.R.s

Service, Teamwork, Attitude, Results

Saluting individuals under the age of 40 who are making valuable contributions to urban and community forestry.

Adjourn

DAY TWO

Thursday, November 4

9:00 – 9:05 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

9:05 – 9:40 a.m.

The Consulting Arborist as a Design Professional: *A new perspective for urban arborists*

David Dechant,; Arborguard Tree Specialists (a Davey company), LEED AP, SITES AP, ENV SP, ISA Board Certified Master Arborist, Municipal Specialist, and Qualified Tree Risk Assessor

Design professionals and Civil Engineers recognize the significant contributions an experienced consulting arborist can bring to a design team working on new project designs in an urban environment. This is an evolving role for the arborist as a design professional. In this role, the consulting arborist will be an effective communicator of ideas and successful tree conservation strategies to a diverse audience of design professionals. The presentation will delve into the mechanics of sustainable design initiatives that can improve marketability and provide a competitive advantage to consulting arborists who invest time in advancing their knowledge of sustainability and improving their communication skills. Successfully designed tree conservation projects in urban areas enhances local resiliency, provides benefits to the community, and increases environment benefits.

9:40 – 10:15 a.m.

Learning from the Details: Athens Clarke County Community Tree Study

Rodney Walters, Community Forester
Athens-Clarke County, Georgia

During the summer of 2021, Athens-Clarke County's Community Forestry Program conducted a Community Tree Study with UGA and the Georgia Forestry Commission. Athens-Clarke County has the highest documented tree canopy coverage of any city with a population of 100,000 or more. The Community Tree Study will facilitate a better understanding of the structure, function, and benefits of Athens-Clarke County's trees. This

will allow the value of Athens' Community Forests to be more fully considered by the Athens' community.

The study consists of a statistical survey followed by a set of analyses that reveal many informative details about the Athens community forest on a countywide scale. This information will help facilitate a strategic approach to maintain or increase tree benefits.

5 minute break

10:10 - 10:15 a.m.

Sponsor video – **Tree Diaper**

10:15 - 11:00 a.m.

**The South Carolina Bradford Pear Bounty Program
Dr. David R. Coyle, Assistant Professor, Forest
Health and Invasive Species, Clemson University**

Bradford pears are not native to the U.S. and have been widely planted for years. While the blossoms are pretty, they have a pungent odor and the trees often break during storms. Even worse, Bradford pear trees directly contribute to one of the worst invasive plant species in the Southeast – the callery pear. Learn about this South Carolina program that gives homeowners the option to exchange up to five (5) Bradford Pear trees for an equal number of FREE, healthy, native, young replacement trees, a one-for-one replacement.

11:00 a.m -11:35 a.m.

**Aquaponics Tree Production Beds
Rob Davis, Urban Forester, Grand Junction, CO**

The City of Grand Junction received a 2020 grant from the Colorado Tree Coalition to create a new system of producing high quality trees ready for planting. They constructed 4 raised beds and created a recirculating water system that flows through a larger fish tank, sump, and the beds. Trees were brought in bare root and planted in the beds spring 2020, and harvested in the fall for planting. The nutrients from the fish waste help to promote tree growth through natural fertilization, and this system eliminates unnecessary water waste. After 20 years of urban forestry experience, Rob wanted to find a way to plant trees with a more natural root plate versus the typical container / bnb options. Bringing in

bare root trees also allowed them to purchase trees at half the cost of containers.

11:35 – Noon

Sugarberry Dieback and Mortality – What’s Going On?

Emilee Poole, Graduate Research Assistant, Department of Entomology, University of Georgia

Emilee and her associates are investigating the declining health of sugarberry (*Celtis laevigata*) and hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*) and the role of associated insects in the southeastern United States. She and her fellow entomologists are partnering with pathologists who are investigating potential pathogens. This talk will update us on their current research and findings.

Adjourn