



Leveraging Trees to Meet Community Needs

May 20, 2026

10-2

315 West 2nd Street

Tifton, Georgia 31794

- 10:00 Welcome
Mel Sparrow, Georgia Tree Council
- 10:05 What is Community Forestry? An Overview of Tifton's Community Forestry Program
Stone Nicholson, City of Tifton
- 10:40 Our Community Needs...Trees!
Alicia Holloway, Georgia Tree Council
- 11:20 Building Successful Community Forestry Programs and Projects, *panel discussion*
Angela Bray, City of Valdosta, Stormwater and Arbor Manager
Dorothy McDaniel, Trees Columbus, Executive Director
George Barker, arborist
Kenneth Thompson, City of Thomasville, City Planner
Jayme Smith, City of Colquitt Downtown Development Authority, Economic Director
- 12:00 Lunch,
BJ's Catering
- 12:45 Program update
Keep Georgia Beautiful Foundation and Georgia ReLeaf
- 12:55 Branching out: Arboriculture Skills Rotation
Station 1: Squash or save? Insects in the community forest
Will Thayer, University of Georgia
Station 2: Planting Demo
Nick Benzel, Community Forester, Georgia Forestry Commission
Station 3: Intro to Pruning
Seth Hawkins, Community Forester, Georgia Forestry Commission
- 1:50 Evaluation and Bringing it all Together