

# Trees and Utility Safety

Webinar

June 9th, 2026

9-11

Join us to learn from Georgia Power's urban forestry professionals and explore the critical connection between community forests, utilities, and public safety. This program brings together Georgia Power experts to share how their work both impacts—and is impacted by—trees across our communities. This webinar offers insights into utility arboriculture, storm response, and conservation practices on utility lands.

## Agenda

- 9:00      **Welcome**  
*Mel Sparrow, GTC Executive Director*
- 9:05      **Intro to Utility Arboriculture & High Voltage Safety Act**  
*Jessi Pollard, Utility Arborist Supervisor, Georgia Power Company*
- 10:00     **Storm Preparation and Response**  
*Jeffrey Poston, Transmission Forester, Georgia Power Company*
- 10:30     **Rare Plant Conservation on Georgia Power Land and Rights-of-Way**  
*Jim Ozier, Wildlife Biologist, Georgia Power Company*



## Meet the Speakers

### **Jessi Pollard**

*Utility Arborist Supervisor  
Georgia Power Company*

Jessi Pollard has almost a decade of experience with Georgia Power's Forestry & ROW group overseeing vegetation management on the utility right-of-way. She is an ISA Certified Arborist, ISA Utility Specialist, ISA TRAQ, and a State of Georgia Registered Forester. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her husband, daughter, and 2 dogs on their cattle farm in Carrollton, GA.

### **Jim Ozier**

*Wildlife Biologist  
Georgia Power Company*

Jim Ozier is a wildlife biologist for Georgia Power Company whose primary responsibilities include stewardship efforts for plants and terrestrial wildlife on company lands and rights-of-way; ensuring compliance with applicable laws, policies, and license articles; and engaging with internal and external partners to optimize conservation results. Prior to that, he was a Wildlife Biologist and Program Manager for Georgia DNR Wildlife Conservation Section working primarily with statewide management of wildlife such as bald eagles, red-cockaded woodpeckers, gopher tortoises, and bats, as well as promoting public appreciation of wildlife. Jim is a lifelong Georgia resident with a B.S from West Georgia College and a graduate degree from the University of Georgia; he now resides in Barnesville.

### **Jeffrey Poston**

*Transmission Forester  
Georgia Power Company*

Jeffrey Poston is a graduate of the Warnell School of Forestry & Natural Resources at UGA and has worked with Georgia Power Company since 2014. In his current role at Georgia Power, Jeffrey oversees all vegetation management activities along 575 miles of Transmission right of ways in Northern Metro Atlanta. He is an ISA Certified Arborist, ISA Utility Specialist, TRAQ, and has a Georgia Commercial Pesticide Applicator License. Jeffrey has spent time as a Georgia Power Distribution Forester, a Georgia Power Forestry and Right of Way Coordinator, and a Utility Arborist Supervisor at Alabama Power. Outside of work, he enjoys coaching his son's baseball team and cheering on his daughter's gymnastics team with his wife in Cherokee County.



