

CONFERENCE SYNOPSIS

In CORE training, obtain a solid foundation and understanding of the community forestry program and shade tree commissions, become aware of the legal aspects of managing trees and gain an insight to and recognition of hazardous tree situations. CORE is a full day session that is offered each day of the conference. You choose to attend EITHER Thursday OR Friday.

The Inventory/I-Tree program will address why we need an inventory and prepare participants how to design and conduct a municipal street tree inventory with i-Tree functionality. The program will also teach how to utilize the data collected through the inventory in productive and meaningful ways. Inventory is a full day session and is only offered on Friday, October 19, 2018.

General Session will open with a presentation by Dr. Cecil Konijnendijk van den Bosch from the University of British Columbia – Vancouver “Start with Design: Good Planning Optimizes Your Urban Forest's Return on Investment.” The benefits of urban forests have become widely known and recognized. Yet, it's often still a struggle to develop multifunctional urban forests, and to have urban forestry recognized by decision makers and integrated in urban planning and development strategies. This presentation looks at some of the barriers and opportunities related to this. Based on experiences and examples from across the world, ways of designing and developing better, more productive, and more widely recognized urban forests will be presented.

Following Dr. van den Bosch we will discuss Trees & Sidewalks – Before & After the Fact: Prevention & Solutions.

There will then be a brief discussion from NJ Urban & Community Forestry Program on RGGI. The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) is the first mandatory market-based program in the United States to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. NJ UCFP will share with us New Jersey's recent rejoining of the initiative and how it relates to the Community Forestry program.

Following the RGGI discussion, we welcome Richard Leopold, a graduate student of Rutgers. Rich will share with us his research on the tree growth rate of NJ street trees.

Dr. Richard Rathjens from The Davey Institute then joins us for a discussion on diseases and pests after a storm. Whether there be snowstorms, hurricanes or thunderstorms recent weather appears to be some of the worst in history. Besides some of the obvious injuries to trees caused by high winds and flooding, what pests can an arborist expect in the years following severe weather? The presentation will focus on wood-decay fungi and boring insects that may gain entry to a tree following wounding. The types of pests involved, and possible control measures will be discussed.

Dr. Kathleen Wolf, Research Social Scientist, from the University of Washington, will end session on Thursday with her research on people, health and trees. The research on nature experiences and public health outcomes is emerging as a major influence in community policy and planning. Acknowledging that nature is good for people is not new, but the science can help urban forestry advocates build a stronger case for trees in their communities. Dr. Wolf's presentation will provide an overview of city trees and health research. Taking another step, showing the [business case](#) or [economic value](#) of providing more nature in communities moves trees, parks and gardens from 'nice to have' to an essential element of community planning and design.

Want an update on EAB? Be sure to stay with us! Join us in the Gallery at 5:30 PM for an informal round table discussion regarding EAB in New Jersey. The NJ Community Forestry Council in conjunction with the NJ Urban & Community Forestry Program recently held a stake-holders meeting to discuss EAB in New Jersey. Join us to hear about what was discussed.

Opening Program will begin with Dr. Cecil Konijnendijk van den Bosch who will present “Urban Forest Diversity - Why Variety Biocultural Diversity Matters.” In times of climate change, urban densification, pest outbreaks, and other major challenges, the call for more diverse and resilient urban forests is increasing. This presentation discusses the current state of urban forest diversity, both in and outside of North America, highlighting efforts to promote greater tree diversity. It also introduces the concept of biocultural diversity as a way or recognizing that tree diversity and people diversity go hand in hand in our cities and towns.

Following Dr. Cecil Konijnendijk van den Bosch’s presentation, Thomas Chamberland, from the United States Forest Service’s National Urban Forest Strike Team Advisory Board, will provide a wrap up of the Urban Forest Strike Team Program.

After lunch, Dr. Richard Rathjens, from the Davey Institute joins us once again to help us diagnose soil problems. It has been estimated that 80% of shade tree disorders can be attributed to their soil environment. Unfortunately, because arborists do not have ready access to the root zone of plants, the true cause of many tree maladies goes undetected. The plant symptoms, diagnostic tests and treatments for eight soil-related problems will be discussed.

Following Dr. Rathjens presentation, John Patten, NJ Green Industry Council Past President, will share with us a “One-Two Punch for Spotted Lanternfly Control”. What does the Spotted Lanternfly look like and what is its life cycle? Where did it come from and where is it now? What plants host this insect and how does it spread? How do I know if the Spotted Lanternfly is in our area? What kind of damage should I be looking for? How do I control or trap this insect? These and other questions will be answered by John as he shares his thoughts with us.

Lastly, Dr. Robert Polomski, of Clemson University would like you to join him in a discussion addressing “Tough Trees in Tough Sites while Fostering Biodiversity.” While communities strive to manage large-stature trees that provide more benefits than smaller-stature trees, the urban environment presents an assortment of challenges that affect tree longevity and prevents them from attaining their full genetic potential. Given these urban constraints, certain species and cultivars perform well in urban environments. These high-performing genus groups will be discussed along with approaches that support genotypic diversity to avoid monocultural disasters.