

GENERAL SESSION SPEAKERS

Thomas Chamberland - Tom is a retired U S Army Corps of Engineers Park Ranger and has served as the Tree Warden for the Town of Sturbridge, MA for 34 years. Tom currently serves on the United States Forest Service's National Urban Forest Strike Team Advisory Board. Tom was deployed to New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina, serving as the CORPS consulting Arborist, overseeing 5, 10-person assessment teams and 20 tree removal crews in FEMA 325 debris management cleanup efforts. In 2011, as Tree Warden for the Town of Sturbridge, he guided his community thru three presidential declared natural disasters in a 5-month period totaling over 7 million dollars in tree debris cleanup costs. Tom is an ISA TRAQ qualified, certified arborist. He is a Past President of the Massachusetts Tree Wardens' and Foresters Association, the oldest tree protection organization in the USA, a recipient of their prestigious Stone Award, and currently serves on their advisory board. Under Tom's leadership Sturbridge has been recognized as a Tree City USA for 30 consecutive years, been awarded the Growth Award for 13 years, and has been recognized by the Mass Dept. of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Community forestry as a Sustainable Urban Forest Community.

Cecil Konijnendijk van den Bosch, PhD – Prof. Cecil Konijnendijk is a Professor in the Faculty of Forestry, and Program Director for Urban Forestry at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver. He studies, teaches and advises on the role of trees and green space in our cities and towns. His particular interests include green space governance (including community involvement), people-nature relationships and cultural ecosystem services, and urban forestry and greening. His work has brought him across the globe where he has worked in close dialogue with decision-makers and practitioners. Before arriving at UBC, Dr. van den Bosch worked at Wageningen University (Netherlands), the European Forest Institute (Finland), the University of Copenhagen (Denmark), the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (Sweden), and the University of Hong Kong (Hong Kong, China). His research and teaching at UBC focus on urban forest governance, legislation and administration. Cecil is a member of the Board of Directors of the International Society of Arboriculture, and editor-in-chief of the journal 'Urban Forestry & Urban Greening'.

John Patten - John has been with PBI-Gordon for 24+ and has been in the turf and ornamental industry since earning his Bachelor of Science degree in ornamental horticulture from the Delaware Valley College of Science and Agriculture. He is a certified commercial applicator in New Jersey and New York and serves the New Jersey and eastern Pennsylvania territory. John spends approximately a quarter of his time educating people in our Industry on how to properly use Pesticides. He teaches education seminars throughout New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania as a registered speaker with State Universities, Pesticide Training for the New Jersey DEP, and New York State DEC. He has served as President of the New Jersey Agribusiness Association and the New Jersey Green Industry Council (NJGIC), as well as NJPSEP Advisory Board for Pesticide Safety Education. John is also a member of the Rutgers Turfgrass Advisory Board, as well as the Rutgers Allied Organization Board. He has served as Chairman for the National Pesticide Safety Education Month Initiative and is a member of the National Stakeholders Workgroup for Pesticide Safety Education Programs serving on their Consumer Workgroup.

Robert Polomski, PhD - Bob Polomski is an award-winning horticulturist and author. He has served as South Carolina's State Coordinator of the Master Gardener program, has conducted and evaluated educational programs and in-service trainings for green industry professionals, has produced "how to" horticultural segments for two Extension-sponsored television Programs and conducted a live, call-in gardening program broadcast on the SC Educational RadioNetwork. Dr. Polomski has published in scientific journals and authored a variety of commercial-/consumer-oriented articles in print and e-magazines. For 13 years he was the "Questions & Answers" columnist for Horticulture magazine, the oldest national gardening magazine in the U. S. Since 1992 he has earned 34 awards (19 national and 15 regional/state) for publications, radio, and TV programs. His research interests include evaluation identification, and promotion of noteworthy, sustainable landscape plants and the study of urban tree selection and growth.

Richard Rathjens, PhD - Dr. Richard G. Rathjens is an Urban Forester and Senior Agronomist with The Davey Institute, The Davey Tree Expert Company in Kent, Ohio. Richard has a PhD in Urban Forestry from The Ohio State University. He is a Technical Adviser for Davey's Residential/Commercial division where he is responsible for outreach, training and research activities. In his service to the Tree Care Industry, Richard has served as Past President of the Ohio Chapter ISA. The ANSI (American National Standards Institute) standards for Tree Care Operations are voluntary standards prepared by industry leaders, government officials, and expert consultants to provide a framework of guidelines for every asset of tree care operations. Dr. Rathjens is currently Vice Chair of the ANSI A300 Tree Care Standards Committee.

Kathleen Wolf, PhD - As a social scientist, Dr. Wolf investigates people's perceptions and behaviors with regard to urban landscapes. Based on professional experiences early in her career - as an urban forester in [South Florida](#) and a landscape architect in the Midwest - she became interested in the interactions between human and ecological systems. Her work is based on the principles of environmental psychology, exploring the human dimensions of open space, urban forestry and natural systems. Her studies include such topics as nearby nature and human [health benefits](#), public preferences and perceptions regarding urban public landscapes, costs, benefits and perceptions of urban forestry in retail and commercial districts, integration of urban nature and transportation systems, developmental benefits associated with youth participation in urban greening work, and effective integration of science and policy through science delivery. Both qualitative methods (e.g. focused interviews and content analysis) and quantitative methods (e.g. public surveys using photo-questionnaires) are the tools she uses to assess and evaluate public perceptions and preferences. Dr. Wolf's presentations revolve around two themes: the psycho-social benefits of peoples' experiences of urban nature, and how can public perceptions and values be integrated into planning and management of urban open spaces.