

25TH ANNUAL RELEAF CONFERENCE

JULY 13-15, 2017
ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY
QUEENS, NEW YORK



New York ReLeaf

“Strengthening Connections:
Diversity in our Urban Forests”



Preliminary Conference Brochure

Thursday, July 13

10:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Sponsor/Vendor Exhibit Set Up

2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. New York State Urban Forestry Council Board Meeting

4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Screening of: *The Trees* followed by a panel discussion

Scott Elliott, Producer, Director, The Trees

Richie Cabo, Horticulturalist, NYC Parks

4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Registration and Dorm check-in

6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Annual Council Members Meeting

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Annual Council Members Reception

Light hors d'oeuvres will be served.

For those unable to attend the Reception, Montgoris Dining Hall will be open to the public until 8:00pm. Cash and Credit accepted. Please see Travel Information Page for dining suggestions close to St. John's University. ****DINNER ON YOUR OWN****

Friday, July 14

7:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. Breakfast, Montgoris Dining Hall (overnight guests)

****Note: Must show StormCard for complimentary breakfast****

7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Registration and Dorm check-in/meet with Exhibitors

8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Welcome Remarks

Mary Kramarchyk, Program Manager Urban Forestry, NYSDEC

Ken Scarlatelli, Natural Resources Supervisor, Region 2, NYSDEC

Mitchell J. Silver, Commissioner, NYC Parks

Vincent Sapienza, Acting Commissioner, NYC Department of Environmental Protection

David Moore, President, NYS Urban Forestry Council

Melinda Katz, President, Queens Borough

Conrado "Bobby" Gempeasaw, President, St. John's University College

Shola Olatoye, Chair & Chief Executive, NYCHA

9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. Keynote: National Perspective of Urban Forestry – 10 Year Plan

National urban forestry program leaders address the attendees in the Keynote address. Priorities, partnerships, success stories and the future of urban forestry will be discussed during the presentations by these distinctive and influential leaders.

Jan Davis, Assistant Director, Cooperative Forestry Program, USDA Forest Service

Dan Lambe, President, Arbor Day Foundation

9:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. Plenary: NYC Street Tree Map – NYC Parks and Recreation

The product of NYC Parks' TreesCount! 2015 Street Tree Census, the New York City Street Tree Map brings New York City's urban forest to your fingertips. The interactive map allows users to learn about the trees in their community, record and share care activities, and much more.

Jennifer Greenfeld, Assistant Commissioner for Forestry, Horticulture and Natural Resources, NYC Parks
Charles Cochran, Communications and Digital Media Coordinator for Forestry, Horticulture and Natural Resources, NYC Parks

10:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Introductions: Sponsors and Exhibitors will introduce themselves and their products/services.

11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Break/ Visit Exhibitors

11:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. (choose between ONE of the 3 WORKSHOPS)

Workshop – Forest Health Update

The long term health and productivity of New York's forests are threatened by pests and diseases. This workshop will provide a forest health overview, information on community efforts to prepare and manage infestations as well as raise public awareness. Oak wilt, emerald ash borer, Asian longhorned beetle and southern pine beetle are just some of the many species that have impacted communities across the state.

Rob Cole, Forest Health Specialist, NYSDEC

Workshop – Green City Force & Young Urban Forester Internship

Engaging youth is an important part of diversifying the urban forest. Hear from two successful programs in the NYC area, Green City Force and Trees New York. Green City Force is an AmeriCorps program that engages young adults from low income communities in national service related to the environment. They are then prepared for sustainable careers, while reducing greenhouse gas emissions and building the green city we want to see. Trees New York's Young Urban Forester Summer Internship is a 7 week, 175 hour urban and community forestry paid internship. The goal of the program is to introduce 15 high school juniors and seniors from low-income households in New York City to the fast-growing field of environmental science careers and the variety of job opportunities in the lab, in the field, at the office or in a classroom.

Nelson Villarrubia, Executive Director, Trees New York
Green City Force

Workshop – St. John's Tree Campus Walking Tour

Follow Tom Goldsmith on a tour of St. John's University wonderful urban forest. View St. John's native tree arboretum and organic garden. Participate in the compost tea workshop and Tree Mapping project. **Limited to 50 participants**

Tom Goldsmith, Director of Environmental and Energy Conservation, St. Johns University

1:00 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. Catered Lunch & Visit with Vendors – D'Angelo Hall

2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. (Choose to attend a **Workshop** or **Tour**)

Workshop – Stew-Map: Visualizing Civic Stewardship Capacity and Engagement

STEW-MAP is a mapping tool and database of organizations designed to help understand and strengthen our civic capacity to take care of New York's neighborhoods. In *One New York: The Plan for a Strong and Just City*, Mayor Bill de Blasio acknowledged that New York City is only as strong as its neighborhoods are – and our civic groups and social networks are a crucial part of the lifeblood of the city and are the stewards of our community resources.

Erika Svendsen, Research Social Scientist, USDA Forest Service

Lindsay Campbell, Research Social Scientist, USDA Forest Service

Tour- NYC Parks Natural Area Bus Tour

Formed in 1984, the NYC Parks Natural Resources Group (NRG) manages natural areas of city parks. Learn about NRG's forest restoration process and tour sites where young forest of native tree and understory canopy have been reintroduced through the Million Trees NYC program. This workshop will be outside, **dress for the weather.**

Limited to 50 participants *****Bus leaves at 2:00pm*****

Kristy King, NYC Parks

Kip Stein, NYC Parks

Annie Weinmayr, NYC Parks

Tour – NYC Green Infrastructure Program Overview and Site Tour

New York City's Green Infrastructure Program has constructed thousands of green infrastructure practices all across the city. The session will feature a presentation on how the program works followed by a tour of installations in the area: standard right-of-way rain gardens and green infrastructure retrofits of larger areas. This workshop will be outside, **dress for the weather.**

Limited to 40 participants *****Bus leaves at 2:00pm*****

Zachary Youngerman, Project Manager, Green Infrastructure Planning & Partnerships, NYC Department of Environmental Protection

5:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. **Friday Night Picnic at Ft Totten Park**

Saturday, July 15

7:00 a.m. – 8:15 a.m. **Breakfast**, (overnight guests)

**Note: Must show StormCard for complimentary breakfast

7:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. **Registration/meet with Exhibitors**

8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. (choose to attend the **Workshop** or **Tour**)

Workshop – Research Highlights: Urban Tree Selection: Beyond the Native/Exotic Debate and USDA Stress Detection Research

In the face of changing climates we hear a lot about resilient landscapes-those that can take a punch and come back beautifully. How do we make the best plant selections, given climate uncertainty? Moreover, urban landscapes are prone to microclimates that predate the larger issues of climate change. Many feel that using native plants are best; however, the very 'non-native', disturbed nature of

the urban environment should play a critical role when deciding which plant will do best. In addition, the cultural desire for uniformity needs to respond to the need for a more sustainable diverse landscape. Diverse, well-sited trees will inherently provide great resiliency in our urban landscapes.

Nina Bassuk, Ph D., Professor, Program Leader, Urban Horticultural Institute, Cornell University

Rich Hallett, Research Ecologist, USDA Forest Service

Bus Trip- Visitor Center at the Newtown Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant, Kingsland Wildflowers and Community Engagement

Situated on 53-acres in Greenpoint, Brooklyn, the Newtown Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant is the largest of New York City's 14 wastewater treatment plants. Serving over 1 million people, across an area of 25-square miles, it treats approximately 300 million gallons of wastewater each day. Kingsland Wildflowers is committed to expanding natural habitat and green corridors for wildlife populations. Learn about the wastewater treatment process, stormwater management, and how stewardship activities in Greenpoint, Brooklyn help strengthen our connections to each other and our urban environments. **Dress for the weather. Limited to 40 participants**

*****Bus leaves at 8:30 a.m.*****

Robin Sanchez, Deputy Director of Education, New York City Department of Environmental Protection

Sophie Plitt, Greening Greenpoint Coordinator, New York Tree Trust, ISA Certified Arborist

Sam Bishop, Director of Education, Trees New York, ISA Board Certified Master Arborist/ Municipal Specialist

Niki Jackson, Project Coordinator, Kingsland Wildflowers

10:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. Coffee Break, visit with Vendors

10:15 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (attend Workshops)

Workshop - Discovery Agents: 10:15 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

The U.S. Forest Service and American Recreation Coalition have teamed up with Discovery Agents, a game developer in Canada, to bring augmented reality mobile games to conservation education. USDA FS partners reached out to NYC Parks and Green-Wood in Brooklyn to collaborate on this exciting opportunity. Discovery Agents is an interactive, location-based mobile game that brings kids out to parks and teaches them about nature.

Joseph Charap, Director of Horticulture, Green-Wood Cemetery

Michael Bohne, Forest Health Program Leader, USDA Forest Service

Brady Simmons, Urban Field Station

Workshop - Post-Sandy Lessons Learned: 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Superstorm Sandy was the most devastating hurricane event to hit New York City in recent memory. With further impacts of a changing climate on the horizon, municipalities are working to forge emergency response plans as well as long-term resiliency efforts.

Vinny Biondo, Street Tree Planting, Town of Babylon

Rebecca McMackin, Director of Horticulture, Brooklyn Bridge Park

Navé Strauss, Director of Street Tree Planting, NYC Parks

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Box Lunch

1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. – (choose between **Workshop** or **Tour**)

Workshop – Funding Presentation

A variety of speakers have come together to speak about state, federal or corporate funding sources available throughout the year. It is important to learn each of these funding mechanisms and procedures to determine what funding is available and when the applications are required. Tree planting projects relative to clean water, clean air or community revitalization will be discussed.

EJ Grants

Rosa Mendez, Director of Office of Environmental Justice

Southern Pine Beetle Forest Health Grants

Rob Cole, Forest Health Specialist, NYSDEC

New Yorkers 4 Parks

Emily Walker, Director of Outreach & Programs, New Yorkers 4 Parks

Partnerships for Parks

Leah Worrell, Technical Assistance Manager, Partnerships for Parks

Tour – Queens Botanical Gardens

Trees are not only an integral part of the Garden’s botanical collection, they are vastly important for their impact on the quality of life in the surrounding community – the bustling, crowded urban neighborhood of Queens. Nearly 20,000 school children participate in workshops and other educational classes each year besides the annual festivals that draw thousands of people adding to the larger community of visitors to the garden. A recent inventory prioritizing the management of this community forest has been taken. A welcoming discussion by Garden staff will be given.

CONFERENCE CLOSE – 3:30pm

IMPORTANT DETAILS

Who Should Attend?

All those involved in the field of urban and community forestry; educators, volunteers, tree commissions, arborists, horticulturists, landscape architects, planners, nursery professionals, community/state/utility foresters, local government officials, public works and parks departments, and researchers; also those in need of New York State DEC pesticide, SAF, ISA, Certified Nursery Landscape Professional (CNLP) and Landscape Architect (LA) re-certification credits.

All applicable credit categories have been applied for and are pending approval. For more information on credits that have been approved, please check www.nysufc.org for further details.

Campus Information

Please refer to the campus map that is included, or visit this link

http://www.stjohns.edu/sites/default/files/documents/Campus/m1-9853_queens_campus_map.pdf.

Parking will be available free of charge at St. Johns University. Signage leading to all facilities will be posted on the campus grounds.

Minors on Campus

Due to the licensing agreement with St. Johns University there will be no minors (defined as anyone less than eighteen years of age) allowed on Campus.

Conference Fees/Registration/Dorm Check-in

The conference fee(s) includes refreshment breaks, lunches, picnic and resource packet. For those attendees staying on campus, breakfasts are also included in the registration fee. See registration form for details and pricing for one day or full conference registration, lodging, meals etc. **Please submit one registration form per attendee.** Receipts for Registration fees ~~will~~ be available at the registration table at the Conference.

Register by **June 20th** to avoid paying \$50 administrative late fee.

Overnight Guests

The primary means of identification at St. John's University is the Conference Services Guest ID Card, known as the StormCard. To obtain your StormCard before the conference you must go online first and fill out the required information and input your picture for the ID. Please head to the link below for more instructions. If you lose the **Storm Card which serves as a key to your room** during the Conference, you will be charged **\$50 for a replacement key.**

https://stj.formstack.com/forms/25th_annual_releaf_conference_2017

Accommodations (Dorm Rooms)

Overnight dormitory accommodations will be available at St. John's University. All dorm rooms are air-conditioned. O'Conner Hall: Suites with living room, bedrooms and bathroom(s). Linens will be provided. Please bring your own toiletries.

Check In: On day of conference is no earlier than 4:00pm and no later than 8:00pm.

Check Out: On the day of your departure with a St. John's University Representative by 11:00 AM. Keys will stop working at 11:00 AM on the day of your departure. Dorm guests must vacate their room by 11:00 AM.

Cancellations

Those cancelling at least 5 days prior to the course will be entitled to a full refund. Thereafter, no refunds will be made. Substitution of participants for the conference registration is acceptable.

DIRECTIONS TRAVEL and TOURIST INFORMATION

Please refer to the **IMPORTANT DETAILS** page of this brochure for **Parking and Check-In** information for St. John's University.

Directions to St. John's University

Enter Gate 6, GPS Address: 81-98 170th Street, Jamaica, NY 11432

By Car

From the North

Take Throgs Neck Bridge/ Geo Washington Bridge/ I95. Continue onto I-295 S to Grand Central Pkwy in Queens, New York. Take exit 17 from Grand Central Pkwy. Continue on Grand Central Pkwy. Take a right onto 168th St 1 block and take the first right onto Goethals Ave which will take you to gate 6 at St. John's University.

From Long Island

From the Grand Central Parkway going west take exit 17. Continue on Grand Central Pkwy. Take a right onto 168th St. Go one block and take the first right onto Goethals Ave which will take you to gate 6 at St. John's University.

From the West

Take I-95 North or I-80 East to the George Washington Bridge. Cross the bridge and take the Cross Bronx Expressway to I-295 to the Throgs Neck Bridge. Follow directions from the North.

Train, Bus, Plane

La Guardia Airport

Take the Grand Central Parkway east (toward Long Island). Exit at Utopia Parkway, turn left at the light and left onto the campus (a 15 minute drive).

Kennedy Airport

Take the Van Wyck Expressway to the Main Street/Union Turnpike, exit. Proceed to the third traffic light and make a right onto the Grand Central Parkway service road. Make a left on Utopia Parkway (at the fourth traffic light) and enter the campus (a 15-20 minute drive).

Subway

E Train: Take train to Kew Gardens/Union Turnpike station. Take Q-46 bus to Union Turnpike and Utopia Parkway.

F Train: Take train to 169th Street station. Take Q-30 or Q-31 bus to St. John's University main gate on Utopia Parkway and 82nd Avenue.

7 Train: Take train to Main Street, Flushing.

Take Q-17 bus to Utopia Parkway and the Long Island Expressway. Transfer to the Q-30 or Q-31 bus to St. John's University main gate on Utopia Parkway and 82nd Avenue.

Long Island Railroad (L.I.R.R.)

Take L.I.R.R. to Jamaica Station.

Take the Q-30 bus to St. John's University main gate on Utopia Parkway and 82nd Avenue.

Lodgings near St. Johns University

Expect inflated prices due to summer season.

The following are near the university:

Comfort Inn

89-34 162nd Street Jamaica, NY 11432
(718) 206-4590

Ramada Jamaica/Queens

164-40 Hillside Ave Jamaica, NY 11432
(718) 526-8500

Sleep Inn JFK Airport Rockaway Blvd

153-75 Rockaway Blvd Jamaica, NY
11434
(718)297-7000

Tourist Information

Conference Attendees are encouraged to take self-guided tours of local attractions, parks, zoos and eateries. Google will help you find these favorites of the conference committee:

Food and Drink around the Area

Vincenzo's Pizzeria & Restaurant

168-19 Union Tpke, Flushing, NY 11366

New Tokyo Sushi

162-16 Union Tpke, Jamaica, NY 11432

Bagels & Co

188-02 Union Tpke, Fresh Meadows, NY 11366

Things to Do

Queens Museum

New York City Building, Flushing Meadows Corona Park Corona, NY 11368

Citi Field - New York Mets

123-01 Roosevelt Ave Queens, NY 1136

2017 ReLeaf Conference Registration Form

Name _____ Affiliation _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
County _____ Phone _____ Email _____

- Please send an Email confirming receipt of my registration
 Would you like to become a NYS Urban Forestry Council Member?

Please include your Membership Fee of \$25 (Register at the Member rate)

REGISTRATION

NYS Urban Forestry Council Member

- Full Conference- \$100
 Friday Only- \$80
 Saturday Only- \$50

Non-member

- Full Conference- \$120
 Friday Only- \$100
 Saturday Only- \$60

Student Rate

- Full Conference - \$60
 Friday Only - \$35
 Saturday Only - \$25

SPECIAL EVENTS

- Do you prefer Vegetarian Selections?
 Do you prefer Gluten Free Selections?
 Will YOU be attending the Friday Night Picnic?
 Guest for the Friday Night Picnic--\$30
 Thursday Reception (No Cost for Council Members)
 Thursday Reception--Guest of Council Member--\$30

ROOM ACCOMMODATIONS- REQUIRES STORMCARD

\$90 per night/person - Double

- Wednesday Night
 Thursday Night
 Friday Night
 Saturday Night

\$95 per night/person - Single

- Wednesday Night
 Thursday Night
 Friday Night
 Saturday Night

Share a room with: _____

SPECIAL NEEDS

Contact the College in advance for on-campus Handicapped Parking Access

StormCard (Dorm Access Card)

Overnight Guest **MUST** register for your StormCard using the link below:
https://stj.formstack.com/forms/25th_annual_releaf_conference_2017

After **JUNE 20th**, add **\$50** late registration
fee to total costs.

Send Registration Form to NYS UFC, P.O. Box 562, Lima, New York, 14485 or scan and
EMAIL to nysufc@gmail.com

Payment by: Check Purchase Order (make payable to NYS UFC) TOTAL ENCLOSED \$
Payment by credit card: Visa MasterCard

Acct #: _____ Exp. Date: _____ 3-Digit Security Code: _____

Name on Card: _____

Those cancelling at least 5 days prior to the conference will be entitled to a refund less administrative costs incurred. Thereafter, no
refunds will be made. Substitution of participants for the conference registration is acceptable

Friday AM Workshops & Tours - Choose ONLY 1

11:30 am - 12:45 pm

- Forest Health Update
 Green City Force & Young Urban Forester
Internship
 Campus Tree Tour (Limit 50 people)

Friday PM Workshops & Tours - Choose ONLY 1

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

- Stew-Map : Visualizing Civic Stewardship
Capacity & Engagement
 NYC Parks Natural Area Tour -(Limit 50
people)
 NYC Green Infrastructure Program
Overview - TOUR (Limit 40 people)

Saturday AM Workshop & Tour- Choose ONLY 1

8:30 am - 12:00 pm

- Research Highlights : Trees for Climate
Change and USDA Stress Detection &
Discovery Agents & Post-Sandy Lessons
Learned
 Visitors Center at Newtown Creek Tour &
Community Involvement Panel

Saturday PM Workshop & Tour

1:00 pm - 3:30 pm

- Funding Presentation
 Queens Botanical Garden Tour