

23rd Annual ReLeaf Conference

July 16–18, 2015

State University of New York
College of Environmental Science and Forestry
Syracuse, New York



**New York
ReLeaf**

“Environmental Science and Urban Forestry”



Department of
Environmental
Conservation



Cornell University
Cooperative Extension
Onondaga County



23rd Annual ReLeaf Conference for New York State 2015 Conference Sponsors

NYS Urban Forestry Council
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

Chestnut Level Sponsors

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Thank you from New York Region 7!



This year we celebrate a milestone in urban and community forestry. It is the twenty-fifth anniversary of the 1990 Farm Bill. It is no exaggeration to say that in 1990 urban and community forestry entered a new era in the United States. The national commitment to urban forestry on the part of the federal government was a component of the 1990 Farm Bill that fundamentally changed the nation's approach to managing urban and community forestry.

This seminal legislation started New York State down the path that has led to the existence of NY ReLeaf and the New York State Urban Forestry Council. In 1991, increased funding for urban forestry led to new rules from the USDA Forest Service for its urban forestry work. All 50 states, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, islands of the Pacific and the District of Columbia were required to create an urban forestry program under the leadership of state foresters, to hire a volunteer coordinator who would coordinate the state's program with local professionals and volunteers, and to establish an urban forestry council as an advisory group for the program. The volunteer coordinator and the council were expected to set up the statewide program in coordination with the state agency. This cooperative plan would establish the capacity to promote volunteer activities related to planting, maintaining, or protecting urban forest resources and for broad-based educational projects. New York State created the program to its fullest extent and has become recognized as one of the leaders in urban forestry in the nation.

A national urban forestry research plan was also called for in the 1990 Farm Bill. The research into urban forests, human health, and environmental quality that is carried out by the USDA Forest Service Northern Research Station in Syracuse is a direct result of this mandate in the 1990 Farm Bill. Today, we benefit from Dr. David Nowak's research involving environmental or ecosystem services from the urban forest thanks to this watershed legislation.

Also, thanks to this legislation, the annual ReLeaf Conference has generated activities performed by over 7,000 volunteers living in 767 communities in New York being served by urban forestry enthusiasts. This 2015 New York ReLeaf Conference, "Environmental Science and Urban Forestry," serves as evidence of the success that began with 1990 Farm bill.

Conference Program

Thursday, July 16

1:00 p.m.–3:30 p.m. New York State Urban Forestry Council Board Meeting, Gateway Center.

10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Ongoing Sponsor/Vendor Exhibit. Gateway Center Concourse.

3:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m. Registration and Dorm check-in, Gateway Center Concourse.

4:00 p.m.–5:30 p.m.

American Chestnut Research and Restoration Project laboratory tour.

Dr. Donald Leopold, Chair of the Department of Environmental and Forest Biology, has repeatedly stated, “The Chestnut Project is not only the most important research project going on at the College, it may be the most important research that has ever gone on at the College.” You have the opportunity to see how they did it. The tour will cover each step of the process, beginning with a bur hanging from a chestnut tree and finishing with testing American chestnut trees for blight-resistance. The tour will finish in the Old Greenhouse, where you will see the newest lines of blight resistant chestnut trees.

Chuck Maynard, PhD., Professor and Director of American Chestnut Research and Restoration Foundation. SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry

Moderator: Kristina Ferrare

DEC categories 10, 2, 25, 3a, 9 = 1.00 CEUs, CFE category 1 = 1.5 credits, CNLP = 1.5 CEUs,

ISA Certified Arborist = 1.5 credits

6:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m.

Annual Council Members Meeting, Gateway Center Concourse.

****Note:** Dinner on your own before the annual meeting or after the Reception.

7:00 p.m.–8:30 p.m.

NYS Urban Forestry Council Members Reception. *Gateway Center Concourse at “Neil’s Place”.*

Introduction to SUNY-ESF’s LEED Platinum Gateway Center.

Hors d’oeuvres, Dessert & Beverages,

The conference this year is in the heart of the SUNY ESF campus. The new Gateway Center walks the talk. For President Emeritus, Neil Murphy, the Center embodies ESF’s commitment to sustainability, both in its physical plant and its education mission. The LEED Platinum building surpasses qualification for the platinum status with its renewable energy system, water quality and conservation systems, ecological landscaping, air quality and more. But, more importantly, the building is an education center for the local and college communities, for environmental professionals who are keeping current with trends in sustainability and for our nascent environmental professionals who will use the building’s technical features to frame their learning and create our future.

Dr. Neil Murphy, President Emeritus, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, 2000-2013.

****DINNER ON YOUR OWN**

Friday, July 17

6:30 a.m.–8:00 a.m. Coffee available, Gateway Center Concourse.

7:00 a.m.–8:00 a.m. Breakfast, Gateway Center Concourse.

7:30 a.m.–3:00 p.m. Registration and Dorm check-in/meet with Exhibitors, Gateway Center Concourse.

8:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. ESF Bookstore open.

8:30 a.m.–9:00 a.m.

Welcomes by Invited Speakers

Brian Skinner, Region 7 Conference Planning Committee Chair

Quentin Wheeler, President, SUNY, College of Environmental Science and Forestry

Stephanie Miner, Mayor, Syracuse, NY

Lazarus Sims, Commissioner of Parks and Recreation, Syracuse, NY

Joanie Mahoney, Onondaga County Executive, Syracuse, NY

Ken Lynch, Director, Region 7, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, Syracuse, NY

Mary Kramarchyk, Urban Forestry Program Manager, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

Andrew Hillman, President, NYS Urban Forestry Council

Moderators: Mary Kramarchyk and Steve Harris

9:00 a.m.–9:45 a.m.

Keynote: Restoring the American Chestnut – History, Benefits and Impacts

The American chestnut (*Castanea dentata*) was, until the early 20th century, a dominant tree and major food source for both wildlife and humans in the eastern forest of North America. The rot-resistant wood was utilized for timber and lumber. The American Chestnut Research and Restoration Center conducts basic and applied research that will lead to the development of a chestnut blight resistant American chestnut tree. The goal is to reintroduce a population of these resistant trees back into the forest ecosystems of New York and then the rest of the eastern United States.

William Powell PhD, Professor, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Co Director, American Chestnut Foundation, Director Council of Biotechnology in Forestry.

Chuck Maynard, PhD, Professor and Director of American Chestnut Research and Restoration Foundation.

SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry

Moderator: Steve Harris

DEC categories 10, 2, 25, 3a, 9 = 0.50 CEUs, CFE category 1 = 0.75 credits, CNLP = .75 CEUs

ISA Certified Arborist = 0.75 credits

9:45 a.m.–10:30 a.m.

Plenary: Urban Forestry in a Changing Environment

All urban forests are not created equal. Urban forests and their ecosystem services and values vary across the U.S. depending upon location. The presentation will illustrate how the urban forests have changed and will likely change in the future. The presentation will also discuss factors that affect urban forests and how and why they vary across the United States. Information will be presented on the structure of urban forests and the various services and values derived from US urban forests, including tree cover, number of trees, leaf area and biomass, potential waste wood and leaf drop, structural value, energy conservation and avoided emissions, air pollution removal and associated health effects, carbon storage and annual sequestration, and oxygen production.

David Nowak, PhD, USDA Forest Service, Northern Research Station, Syracuse, NY

Moderator: Steve Harris

CFE category 1 = 0.75 credits, ISA Certified Arborist = 0.75 credits, CNLP = .75 CEUs

10:30 a.m.–10:45 a.m. Sponsor and Introductions: Sponsors and Exhibitors will introduce themselves and their products/services.

10:45 a.m.–11:00 a.m. Coffee Break, visit Vendor Exhibits, Gateway Center Concourse

11:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m. (choose between the TOUR or ONE of the 2 WORKSHOPS)

(ALL WORKSHOPS will be in meeting rooms of the Gateway Center off of the Concourse.)

Tour–Gateway Center Green Roof and Illick Hall Rain Garden AM GROUP

(This tour also runs in the afternoon.) Limit 30 people. Meet at north end of Gateway Center Concourse. This tour takes in the technical landscape features that have helped earn Platinum LEED certification for SUNY-ESF's Gateway Center. The Green Roof, a rooftop garden that captures rainwater while it insulates and conserves energy, uses native plant species from the dunes of eastern Lake Ontario and the globally rare Alvar ecosystem that naturally tolerate the flooding and droughts. The tour then takes in the rain garden outside Illick Hall which collects rainfall from the roof to slowly percolate into the soil, sustaining plants that provide aesthetic benefits, wildlife habitat and shade to buildings and sidewalks while improving local air quality as well as removing common urban pollutants and recharging groundwater. *Don Leopold, PhD, Chair and Distinguished Teaching Professor, Biology Environmental Forest Biology, SUNY College of Environmental Science & Forestry*

Moderator: Kate Woodle

LA = 1 CEU, CFE category 1 – 1.5 credits, ISA Certified Arborist = 1.5 credits. CNLP = 1.5 CEUs

Workshop 1–Forest Health: Update, Preparedness, Management and Grants

The long term health and productivity of New York's forests are threatened by invasive insect species. Emerald ash borer, hemlock woolly adelgid and southern pine beetle are just three of the many species that have impacted communities across the state. This workshop will provide a forest health overview, information on emerald ash borer parasitoid research, community efforts to prepare and manage infestations, and the availability of grants to identify, monitor and raise public awareness about invasive insects.

Jerry A. Carlson, Research Scientist, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

Melissa K. Fierke, Associate Professor, SUNY College of Environmental Science & Forestry

Jessi Lyons, Natural Resource Coordinator, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Onondaga County

Mary Kramarchyk, Urban Forestry Program Manager, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

Moderator: Greg Owens

DEC categories 10, 2, 25, 3a, 6a, 9 = 1.50 CEUs, LA = 1 CEU, CFE category 1 = 1.5 credits, CNLP = 1.5 CEUs, ISA Certified Arborist = 1.5 credits

Workshop 2–Opportunities and Solutions for Green Infrastructure

How are large projects addressing water quality progressing? Presenters will share challenges, successes and lessons learned about green infrastructure maintenance.

Onondaga County, NY became the first community in the US to sign a consent judgment requiring green infrastructure (GI) to abate combined sewer overflows (CSO) and improve water quality in Onondaga Lake and its tributaries. On average, 6.1 billion gallons of storm water is processed by the Metropolitan Wastewater Treatment Facility (Metro) service area, spread over 7,660 acres. The Amended Consent Judgment (ACJ) strikes a balance between Green and Gray infrastructure and has become known across the country as the Save the Rain program. Since the historic ruling in 2009, Save the Rain has completed over 165 projects and removed over 100,000,000 gallons of runoff from the combined sewer system through GI. In 2013, Save the Rain won the coveted U.S. Water Prize and hosted the first USEPA GI Community Summit. Three aspects of Save the Rain Program will be discussed:

1. Multiple benefits provided to the community: CSO Reductions, Water Quality Improvements, Regulatory Compliance, Civic Infrastructure Rehabilitation, Voluntary Community Infrastructure Contributions (Rain Barrels, Rain Gardens, Tree Planting), and an integrated planning process that includes enhanced urban forest policies and practices (*Matt Marko*).
2. The survival rates of 3500 trees by who planted it, stock type, and season (*Steve Harris*).
3. Green infrastructure and tree maintenance as on the job training using the youth conservation corps model (*Greg Michel, Charles Rivers, and Amy Samuels*).

The Gowanus Canal Conservancy (GCC) will discuss their innovative Bioswale Maintenance volunteer training pilot. New York City is constructing thousands of bioswales in public spaces to manage some of the 27 billion gallons of combined sewer overflows that are released into the NY Harbor each year. The

GCC is conducting a 3-year pilot program to train and engage community members in volunteer maintenance of bioswales. Volunteer stewardship has the potential to enhance the functionality of green infrastructure, saving tax dollars and engaging community members. With other U.S. cities installing green infrastructure, this curriculum could be replicated and utilized in GI management plans across the country. This pilot is funded by a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Grant, U.S. Forest Service grant and by the Google Community Grants Fund of the Tides Foundation (*Christine Petro*).

Matt Marko, CH2MHill, Green Infrastructure Program Manager, Syracuse, NY

Steve Harris, Onondaga County/City of Syracuse Arborist

Greg Michel, Executive Director, Onondaga Earth Corps, Syracuse, NY

Charles Rivers, Green Infrastructure Maintenance Supervisor, Onondaga Earth Corps

Amy Samuels, Education and Outreach Coordinator, Onondaga Environment Institute, Syracuse, NY

Christine Petro, Director of Education Programs, Gowanus Canal Conservancy, New York, NY

Moderator: Sally Kellogg

LA = 1 CEU, CFE category 1 = 1.5 credits, ISA Certified Arborist = 1.5 credits, CNLP = 1.5 CEUs

12:45 p.m.–1:45 p.m. LUNCH

Visit with Vendors—Gateway Center Concourse.

2:00 p.m.–4:15 p.m. (choose between ONE TOUR or the workshops)

2:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m.—choose a TOUR

Tour 1—Gateway Center Green Roof and Rain Gardens PM GROUP

(The tour also runs in the morning.) Limit 30 people. Meet at north end of Gateway Center Concourse.

This tour takes in the technical landscape features that have helped earn Platinum LEED certification for SUNY-ESF's Gateway Center. The Green Roof captures rainwater while it insulates and conserves energy and uses native plant species from the alvar and dune ecosystems of eastern Lake Ontario that naturally tolerate the flooding and droughts. The tour also takes in the rain garden outside Illick Hall which collects rainfall from the roof to slowly percolate into the soil, sustaining plants that provide aesthetic benefits, wildlife habitat and shade while improving local air quality as well as removing common urban pollutants and recharging groundwater.

Natascha Kacoroski, M.S. Candidate, Ecological Engineering, Department of Environmental Resources Engineering, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry.

Moderator: Doug Morrison

LA = 2 CEU, CFE category 1 = 1.5 credits, ISA Certified Arborist = 2.0 credits, CNLP = 2 CEUs

Tour 2—Onondaga Lake Ecosystem Restoration

(Bus leaves from Centennial Hall Dormitory at 2:00 p.m., capacity 42 people)

This field trip will include an initial stop at the Onondaga Lake Visitors Center near the NYS Fairgrounds for an overview of Honeywell's remediation and restoration efforts at Onondaga Lake. From there we will take a short drive to the Geddes Brook/ Nine Mile Creek restoration area. Restoration at the approximately 17-acre Geddes Brook wetlands complex and portions of Nine Mile Creek include many interesting design features for wetland and stream restoration. About 50,000 plantings were made in the area...11,000 of which are trees. To date, more than 100 species of fish, mammals and birds have been observed in the restored wetland areas. The American Society of Civil Engineers, Syracuse Section recently recognized the Geddes Brook and Nine Mile Creek project with the 2015 Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement Award.

Craig Milburn, Managing Partner at Brown & Sanford Consulting

Mark Arrigo, Parsons Habitat Expert

Moderator: Brian Skinner

LA = 2 CEU, CFE category 1 = 1.0 credits, ISA Certified Arborist = 1.0 credit, CNLP = 2 CEUs

Tour 3—Oakwood Cemetery Tree Identification

(challenging terrain, roots, hills and stairs—walking tour, rain or shine) Meet at north end of Gateway Center Concourse.

Oakwood Cemetery is next to the Syracuse University and SUNY-ESF campuses and has long been the stomping ground of ESF students and Syracuse residents hoping to hone their tree identification skills.

The cemetery, founded in 1859, based on the rural philosophy of cemetery design of the day, is one of the most intact examples of cemeteries designed by New York City landscape gardener, Howard Daniels (1815–1863). The original oak forest was selectively cut and additional specimen trees added to the landscape, providing an excellent opportunity to learn a wide diversity of trees, both native and horticultural specimens. Don Leopold has taught Dendrology, the oldest and largest course in the country on this topic, at SUNY-ESF for three decades and has used the cemetery as a teaching laboratory.

Don Leopold, PhD, Chair and Distinguished Teaching Professor, Biology Environmental Forest Biology, SUNY College of Environmental Science & Forestry

Moderator: James Maloney

DEC categories 10, 2, 25, 3a, 9 = 2.00 CEUs, LA = 2 CEU, CFE category 1 = 1.5 credits, ISA Certified Arborist = 2.0 credits, CNLP = 2 CEUs

2:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m.–Workshop: Engaging Youth in Community Forestry

How are young people engaging in their communities through forestry and environmental stewardship? Hear about initiatives and programs from Chenango County's Headwaters Youth Conservation Corp, an experiential-based program that engages youth in environmental conservation project, and about Onondaga Earth Corps, an Onondaga County community-based organization that focuses on youth development through job and life skills training with a focus on environmental stewardship. Cazenovia College will highlight their campus efforts and the Tree Campus USA Program.

Rebecca Hargrave, Assistant Professor, Environmental and Natural Resources Conservation, Morrisville State College, Morrisville, NY

Jacob Barnes, Student, Cazenovia College, Cazenovia, NY

Greg Michel, Director, Onondaga Earth Corps, Syracuse, NY

Joane Etuale, Tree Crew Supervisor, Onondaga Earth Corps

Adrienne Canino, Program Assistant, Onondaga Earth Corps

Moderator: Mary Kramarchyk

CFE category 1 = 1.0 credits, ISA Certified Arborist = 2.0 credits

3:00 pm–4:15 p.m.–Workshop: Get Your Hands Soiled

Get the Dirt on Soils! Join us for a hands-on workshop where you will learn how to test for pH, determine soil texture, test for compaction and drainage. The more you know about soil, the better your tree planting plans will be. Come prepared to have fun, learn about soils, and get your hands dirty.

Barb Neal, Horticulture Educator, Chenango County CCE; Board Certified Master Arborist; Registered Consulting Arborist #428, President of the American Society of Consulting Arborists

Moderator: Kristina Ferrare

LA = 1 CEU, CFE category 1 = 1.25 credits, ISA Certified Arborist = 1.25 credits, CNLP = 1.25 CEUs

3:30 pm–4:15 p.m. Crisis Management: Central New York Responds to Severe Weather and the Emerald Ash Borer

The Village of East Syracuse suffered severe damage in July 2014 when a fast-moving storm swept through leaving a wake of destruction that damaged homes and businesses, blocked roads, and brought down wires. A State of Emergency was declared while the Village DPW and various partners worked to clear the damage and restore power. Compounding these problems, EAB was confirmed in the Town of DeWitt, East Syracuse, and surrounding communities in 2013. Invasive pests weaken trees and will complicate managing the urban forest as storms continue to intensify. Is your Village or Municipality prepared to deal with these types of challenges? Hear some of the lessons learned and management techniques to help to better prepare your community.

Ron Russell, Department of Public Works Supervisor, Village of East Syracuse, NY

Chuck Card, DPW Tree Maintenance, Village of East Syracuse, NY

Samuel Gordon, Director of Planning and Zoning, Town of Dewitt, NY

Moderator: Jessi Lyons

CFE category 1 = 0.75 credits, ISA Certified Arborist = 0.75 credits, CNLP = .75 CEUs

5:30 p.m.–8:00 p.m. Friday Night Picnic, SUNY-ESF campus–Gateway Center.

Saturday, July 18

6:30 a.m.–8:00 a.m. Coffee available, Gateway Center Concourse.

7:00 a.m.–8:00 a.m. Breakfast, Gateway Center Concourse.

8:00 a.m.–9:00 a.m. Registration/meet with Exhibitors, Gateway Center Concourse

8:30 a.m.–9:30 a.m.

Workshop 1 Pre-Hands On Service Project Workshop–Stewardship of the Community Forest

Syracuse has a proud history of engaging community members and volunteers in local stewardship efforts. Hear about CCE Onondaga County programs CommuniTree Stewards and Master Gardeners and the City of Syracuse's and Onondaga Earth Corps successes with residents and youth connecting to efforts in their neighborhoods. Different levels of interactions and strategies for engagement provide the foundation for community connectivity around environmental stewardship in parks and around the City. This workshop is a great set-up for the service project in Kirk Park—the centerpiece of many of these efforts. *Glen Lewis, Planning and Development, City of Syracuse's Department of Parks, Recreation and Youth Programs*

Jessi Lyons, Team Coordinator, Environment and Community Development, CCE Onondaga
Moderator: Jessi Lyons

LA = 1 CEU, CFE category 1 = 1.0 credits, ISA Certified Arborist = 1.0 credit

Workshop 2 Tips for Pits

The Hudson Square Standard project is a three-year collaboration between NYC Parks, NY Tree Trust, and the Hudson Square Connection, a business improvement district, to maximize canopy coverage within the Hudson Square neighborhood of Manhattan. The Hudson Square Standard re imagines the potential for urban sidewalks by finding small changes to the design and structure of our streets that can yield major environmental and health impacts.

The Downtown Rome Brownfield Opportunity Area recently made NY history as one of the first designated BOAs in the state. Central to the Rome's revitalization strategy is the creation of economically vibrant, ecologically functional public spaces. Sustainable infrastructure and strategic tree planting on formerly impervious, contaminated, and underutilized sites is improving environmental quality, pedestrian safety, and return on investment in the City's urban core.

James Kaechelle, Tree Trust Development Manager, Flushing, NY
Chris Mercurio, MVO500 Task Force

Moderator: Brian Skinner

LA = 1 CEU, CFE category 1 = 1.0 credits, ISA Certified Arborist = 1.0 credit, CNLP = 1 CEU

9:30 a.m.–10:00 a.m. Coffee Break, visit Vendor Exhibits, Gateway Center Concourse

10:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m. (choose the Service Project OR the Workshops)

10:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Hands On Service Project–Water You Doing? You Don't Know Mulch About Trees! (Bus leaves from Gateway Center Patio-South at 10:00am, returning at 12:30pm, capacity 42 people.) Come and participate in a service project at Kirk Park, a focus area for the City of Syracuse's Department of Parks, Recreation and Youth Programs. Get your hands dirty with CCE CommuniTree Stewards, Master Gardeners, OEC and City of Syracuse staff to mulch, weed, prune, and water trees and gardens at Kirk Park. Closed-toed shoes are required. Gloves and tools will be provided.

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Onondaga: Master Gardeners and CommuniTree Stewards
City of Syracuse Department of Parks and Recreation

Onondaga Earth Corps

Andy Pleninger, Urban Forestry LLC

Moderator: Jessi Lyons

LA = 2 CEU, CNLP = 1.25 CEUs

10:00 a.m.–11:00 a.m.

Workshop–Tactics and Tools (BMPs) for a Healthy Community Forest

Urban forestry practices are implemented by volunteers and professionals alike. Valuable and timesaving methods to build and support a vibrant community forestry program will be presented in a facilitated discussion format. Leading communities demonstrate how their programs have been formed and how they have progressed. Audience question and answer time is built into the session giving true case studies of best management practices.

Mary Kramarchyk (Facilitator), Urban Forestry Program Manager, NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation

John Holtz, Tree Board Chairperson, Village of Scottsville, NY

Ann Stevens, Tree Committee Chairperson, Dewitt, NY

Pat Tobin, Past President- NYSUFC, Tree Commission Chairperson, Fayetteville, NY

Facilitator/Moderator: Mary Kramarchyk

LA = 1 CEU, CFE category 1 = 1.0 credits, ISA Certified Arborist = 1.0 credit

11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Workshop–Lessons from the Deer Abundance and Distribution Study in the Town of Dewitt

Brian Underwood has been studying and watching the deer densities increase for nearly 30 years. Up until now, suburban deer haven't been well understood or documented. This session will highlight the researchers methods and analysis featuring the use of high resolution imagery and a classification process that may lay the framework for future management planning. Questions about deer abundance, densities, ranging habits, traveling corridors, human tolerances, environmental impacts, tick prevention, Lyme disease, and management options will be addressed.

Dr. Brian Underwood, Research Wildlife Biologist, USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, SUNY-ESF

Moderator: Chris Manchester

CFE category 1 = 1.0 credits

12:30 pm–Box Lunch

CONFERENCE CLOSES

***Don't forget to fill out your surveys ...
and turn them in!***

Conference Speaker Biographies

Keynote Speakers:

Dr. Charles Maynard is a professor of forest genetics at the State University of New York, College of Environmental Science and Forestry. Along with Dr. William Powell, he has been a co-director of the American Chestnut Research and Restoration Project since 1990. He received his BS, MS, and PhD from Iowa State University.

Dr. William Powell received his BS in biology in 1982 at Salisbury University, MD, and his PhD in 1986 at Utah State University studying the molecular mechanisms of hypovirulence in the chestnut blight fungus, *Cryphonectria parasitica*. He spent over two years as a postdoctoral associate at University of Florida researching transformation techniques using the fungal pathogen, *Fusarium oxysporum*. In 1989 he became a faculty member at the State University of New York's College of Environmental Science and Forestry at Syracuse, NY, where he began collaborating with his colleague, Dr. Charles Maynard, researching methods to develop a blight-resistant American chestnut (*Castanea dentata*) tree. He has also worked with American elm and hybrid poplar. Dr. Powell currently has over 50 peer reviewed publications and one patent. He teaches courses in Principles of Genetics, Plant Biotechnology, and Biotechnology Freshman orientation. His most significant accomplishment, with Dr. Maynard, is the enhancement of blight resistance in American chestnut by his research team and collaborators.

Plenary Speaker:

Dr. David Nowak is a Project Leader with the USDA Forest Service, Northern Research Station in Syracuse, NY. His research investigates urban forest structure, health, and change, and its effect on human health and environmental quality. He has authored over 225 publications and leads teams developing software tools to quantify ecosystem services from urban vegetation (e.g., UFORE and i-Tree programs).

Reception Guest Speaker:

Dr. Corneilus Murphy is a Senior Fellow for Environmental and Sustainable Systems, State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry, and past President of the College (2000-2013). Prior to being President of SUNY-ESF, Neil held various positions at O'Brien & Gere starting out as a Laboratory Technician in June 1970 and working his way up to President in 1993 and Chairman of the Board in 1998.

His technical expertise lies in the areas of environmental science and engineering, hazardous waste management, renewable energy systems, limnology, urban runoff planning, and industrial wastewater treatment.

Neil belongs to various professional affiliations including the American Chemical Society, Environmental Chemistry Division; American Association for the Advancement of Science; Water Environment Federation, Pollution from Non-Point Sources Committee (former chairman), and Acid Precipitation Committee; New York Public Consultation Panel of the International Joint Commission on the Great Lakes' "Pollution from Land Use Activities" Reference Group, the American Management Association and the New York Academy of Sciences.

Workshop Speakers:

Mark Arrigo has been working on Onondaga Lake for 25 years and is currently a project manager at Parsons. At Parsons Mark is responsible for managing over 34 acres of wetlands that have been constructed by Honeywell at the Geddes Brook, Ninemile Creek, and former LCP sites. Mark is also managing the final habitat design for the lake that, beginning this spring, will create an additional 35 acres of wetlands.

Jacob Barnes has held interest in the environment and how it works for as long as he can remember. As a rising senior in Cazenovia College's Environmental Biology program, he has had the opportunity to volunteer at a number of events that expressed the importance of urban forestry not only to the environment, but also to the people that live within. He hopes to use this valuable experience in a future career in the biology field after graduation.

Adrienne Canino holds a B.S. in Environmental Studies from Le Moyne College, and an M.P.S in Environmental Studies from SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry. She spent a year in Denver as an AmeriCorps volunteer with Mile High Youth Corps, where she trained as a Crew Leader on projects ranging from ecological restoration to energy efficiency. As Program Assistant at Onondaga Earth Corps, she provides logistics support for each crew's training and field work.

Chuck Card has been working for the Village of East Syracuse for 14 years as an equipment operator. Shortly after his hire, Ron Russell, the DPW Superintendent, quickly recognized Chuck's interest in working with trees. His interest in trees started when he was young, spending most of his summers in the Adirondacks.

Dr. Jerry Carlson is a forester and biologist and the DEC's chief expert on forest protection. The major forest health concerns at present relate to the loss of biological diversity, invasive species impacts, climate change, and forest sustainability. He has a MS in Forestry from the University of British Columbia, and more than 30 years experience working on the health of North American forests.

Ioane Etuale holds a B.S. in Environmental Science and Forestry from SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry. Mr. Etuale has worked as a nature conservationist and program officer for not-for-profit organizations in Samoa, managed 1100 hectares of coastal and cloud forest conservation area as support officer for the South Pacific Biodiversity and Conservation Program, and held numerous positions in landscape maintenance in Central NY, including running his own business. As Tree Crew Supervisor, Ioane is in charge of the implementation of OEC's community based tree planting program, which entails planning tree plantings and tree maintenance, training and supervision of young adult crews and educating the community about the benefits of trees. Born and raised in Samoa, Ioane Etuale's childhood has engrained a sense of environmental stewardship which he communicates to OEC youth daily.

Dr. Melissa Fierke is originally from Northwest Arkansas. She has a BS in Environmental Chemistry and a BS in Environmental Biology from Arkansas Tech University, a MS in Fisheries & Wildlife and a MS in Environmental Science/ Water Resources from Oregon State University. She earned a PhD. in Entomology from the University of Arkansas and is currently a forest entomologist at the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Department of Environmental and Forest Biology. Research in her lab focuses on introduced forest insects in the north-eastern U.S., including emerald ash borer (EAB) and the European woodwasp. She teaches Ecology & Organismal Biology in the fall semester and Systematic Entomology and Forest Health Monitoring in the spring semester as well as field sessions at ESF's Cranberry Lake Biological Station and the BOCES High School program. Recently funded work includes phenology of EAB and their parasitoids, IPM with EAB parasitoids, landscape variables associated with black legged ticks (BLT) & prevalence of BLT diseases, as well as pollinators in secondary forests and willow biomass crops.

Samuel Gordon Samuel Gordon currently serves as the Director of Planning and Zoning for the Town of DeWitt, a suburban community (pop. approx. 25,000) located at the eastern edge of the City of Syracuse in Central New York State. As Director of Planning and Zoning, Sam is responsible for the management of the development process within the Town (i.e. Planning Board and Zoning Board), as well as implementation of the Town's Comprehensive Plan, and coordination of Town Sustainability initiatives. Sam has over 15 years of experience in coordinating community participation and engagement to develop practical approaches for improving community livability. Sam has managed and/or provided consulting expertise on a variety of projects from greenway planning, energy conservation and renewable energy deployment, to neighborhood revitalization.

Sam received a Fellowship in 2005 to work with the Center for Environmental Studies in Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain, which was selected as the European Green Capital for 2012. He has Master's degrees in Landscape Architecture and Environmental and Community Land Use Planning from the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry in Syracuse, NY.

Rebecca Hargrave is an Assistant Professor at Morrisville State College in the Environmental Sciences Department. Prior to that, she was an Extension Educator for Cornell Cooperative Extension of Chenango County working in horticulture and natural resources. Rebecca is also the chair of the City of Norwich Street Tree Commission and on the Advisory Board for the Headwaters Youth Conservation Corps. She lives in Norwich with her husband and two sons.

Stephen Harris is City-County Arborist, Syracuse Department of Parks, Recreation and Youth Programs. Stephen oversees policies, planting and management of Syracuse's 42,000 street and park trees. Stephen previously worked in the nursery industry and as an urban forest educator for Cornell Cooperative Extension of Onondaga County and got his start in forestry as a Peace Corps Volunteer in the Gambia West Africa. Stephen has associates and masters degrees in forestry and is a certified arborist.

John Holtz is chairperson of the Scottsville Tree Board in Monroe County.

Natasha Kacoroski likes to grow plants, but feels a sense of wonder is the most beautiful thing to cultivate. Her current focus is on the human relationship with ecological sustainability and would like to integrate her three interests, biomimicry, ecological design, and phytotechnology, into a study of ecological engineering so that she may better understand how to design, implement, and manage systems and technologies that ameliorate human impacts on natural resources.

James Kaechele—As an ISA Certified Arborist, James Kaechele has been with NYC Parks since 2008 overseeing planting of trees and installation of tree guards in Manhattan, the Bronx, Queens, and Brooklyn. In 2013 James transitioned to lead the NY Tree Trust, a citywide program dedicated to fostering public-private partnerships in urban forestry. These partnerships unite diverse stakeholders such as Business Improvement Districts and Block associations with the NYC Parks Department to raise awareness of the importance of urban forestry and realize fully greened streetscapes. James currently lives along the north Brooklyn waterfront in Greenpoint.

Mary Kramarchyk has been Statewide Community Partnership Coordinator and Program Manager for the Department of Environmental Conservation Urban Forestry Program since 2001. Mary works with communities to coordinate and train volunteers, administer the Tree City U.S.A. and the Utility Tree Line U.S.A. programs, acts as an ex officio member and advisor to the New York State Urban Forestry Council, and coordinates the urban forestry grants to communities. Mary's background includes working in the New York State Senate and as an aide in the Governor's Office of the State

of New York. Mary has served as Associate Director of the NY Land Institute, a non-profit environmental education concern before prior to beginning her work with New York State. Mary served as an elected official in the Town of Kinderhook for eight years.

Dr. Donald Leopold—After Don Leopold earned his Ph.D. in forest ecology from Purdue University in 1984, he joined SUNY ESF's Department of Environmental and Forest Biology in August 1985. He has taught dendrology, among other courses, every year since. In 1998 he was promoted to Distinguished Teaching Professor; in 1999, he was awarded the first SUNY ESF College Foundation Award for Exceptional Achievement in teaching. In 2004, he was given the SUNY Research Foundation Excellence in the Pursuit of Knowledge award, and in 2007 received the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Faculty Service. Don has been Chair of his Department since February 2006. In March 2014, Don was selected as one of Purdue's College of Agriculture Distinguished Agriculture Alumni.

Don has published six books; four are major treatments of trees in North America. His fifth book, *Native Plants of the Northeast: A Guide for Gardening and Conservation* (Timber Press, Portland, OR) was given the Garden Writers Association Silver Media Award for excellence in horticultural writings. In August 2009, he received the New York State Nursery and Landscape Association George L. Good Gold Medal of Horticulture Award for outstanding contributions to horticulture in the state of New York.

Don has garnered nearly \$35 million of extramural funding as principal or co-principal investigator. In 2007 he began serving on the US Army Corp of Engineers National Technical Committee on Wetland Vegetation. His research primarily focuses on the ecology of native plant species, examining drivers of diversity and rarity at micro to macro scales, the restoration of unique plant communities on alkaline industrial wastes in urban areas, and applications of this research to sustainable, urban landscapes and green solutions.

Glen Lewis is an administrator in the planning and development office of the Syracuse parks department. In this role he directs the department's capital improvement program. The work of the office involves coordinating project planning efforts with a variety of stakeholders including parks' staff, park associations and neighbors, municipal and county operating departments, institutional partners, university students and elected officials for an aging 90 year old park system in a rust belt city.

Jessi Lyons coordinates Environment and Community Vitality programs at Cornell Cooperative Extension of Onondaga County. Jessi facilitates the Onondaga County Emerald Ash Borer Task Force. She has a Master's of Landscape Architecture from SUNY ESF and a bachelor's in environmental studies. Her work focuses on stewardship education and community engagement around topics such as invasive species management, urban agriculture and gardening, food systems, forestry, and water quality.

Matt Marko is a New York State licensed Professional Engineer, an American Academy of Environmental Engineers Board Certified Environmental Engineer, and a Vice President with CH2M HILL's Water Business Group managing their Syracuse, NY office. In 2008 Mr. Marko was appointed by the New York State Governor to serve as Trustee for the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, where he also is a Visiting Instructor teaching Ecological Engineering. He's active with NY American Water Works Association, the NY Water Environment Association's Sustainability Committee as well as the Green Infrastructure Task Force, a Past-President of the Syracuse Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers and proud to be elevated to Fellow. He's a graduate of the University at Buffalo, and studied abroad at the University of North London. He is a Program Manager for Onondaga County's CSO Abatement Program more commonly known as Save the Rain, a national model for Green Infrastructure implementation. Matthew resides in the City of Syracuse with his incredibly patient and supportive wife Carrie, and two active young boys Jackson and Cooper.

Christian Mercurio is Deputy Director of the Mohawk Valley Regional Economic Development Council. Previously, Christian served as City Forester and later as Director of Community & Economic Development for the City of Rome. For Rome, Christian led the development of transformational downtown, brownfield, green infrastructure, and clean energy projects - including the Mohawk River Trail and the mixed-use revitalization of the East Dominick / Bellamy Harbor district. He is past-president of the NYS Urban Forestry Council, and has been recognized for innovations in brownfield redevelopment and green infrastructure. Christian is a graduate of SUNY-ESF, and lives in Rome with his wife, Andrea, and two children, Carmella and Stone.

Gregory Michel is an environmental and sustainability educator, consultant and social entrepreneur with over 15 years international and local experience creating and implementing innovative programs that engage students, youth, local governments, and community collaborators to take new and responsible actions regarding the environment. Greg served as Education Program Coordinator and Environmental Correspondent at ECOPLUS in Japan where he engaged students from all over the world in hands on community based learning about the environment that was connected via the internet. As a consultant, Greg helped to start Syracuse's first urban farm, advised the City of Syracuse on its sustainability initiatives, trained hospital workers in green practices and worked with educators on integrating environmental themes in to their curriculum. Greg has been leading the development of the Onondaga Earth Corps since 2007. In his role as Executive Director, Greg works closely with the board in developing and sustaining the organization and collaborates with staff in training, preparation and planning OEC programs.

Craig Millburn is Managing Partner at Brown & Sanford Consulting and has been working with Honeywell as a full-time consultant on the Onondaga Lake project since 2004. He oversees Honeywell's communications, community affairs, and government relations programs associated with their work on Onondaga Lake. He works closely with community members on the Onondaga Lake Citizen Participation Working Group, local stakeholders and government officials to keep them apprised of the progress with the lake cleanup. Craig has overseen three community planning projects that gathered community input for future uses of Honeywell-owned land along Onondaga Lake. He's lived in Central New York since 1994 and is a 2007 graduate of Leadership Greater Syracuse.

Barb Neal is the Horticulture Educator for Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tioga County. She has long experience teaching about soils and leads a master's class on sustainable soil management and tree preservation for George Washington University. She is the president of the American Society of Consulting Arborists. She is a registered Consulting Arborist and a Board Certified Master Arborist.

Christine Petro With 9 years of experience in the NYC education non-profit sector, Christine has a strong background in developing programs connecting STEM education with the local environment. She came to the Gowanus Canal Conservancy (GCC) as a compost volunteer in 2011—and became inspired by the educational and engagement potential in the Gowanus Canal and Watershed. In 2012 Christine started the GCC's education programs and partnerships with public schools in the Gowanus Watershed. She became the GCC Education Director in 2014 and now works on developing and building connections between GCC's School, Volunteer and Public Education programs. She still loves composting and is on the board for her Brooklyn neighborhood's emerging food co-op. Christine has a Master's Degree in the Sociology of Education from New York University.

Andy Pleninger formed Urban Forestry, LLC in 2000 to provide urban forestry and arboricultural consulting services to communities and clients in western New York. It is one of the only urban forestry consulting firms in New York. His skills, experience and expertise are in arboriculture, and planning and management of large populations of trees. Prior to forming Urban Forestry, LLC, Pleninger was City Forester for the City of Rochester, NY for 10 years. In the 1980's he worked commercial arboriculture and landscaping and received a B.S. in Natural Resource Management concentrating in Urban Forestry from Colorado State University.

Charles Rivers has an Associates Degree in Applied Science in Psychology and in Paralegal Studies. He is enrolled at SUNY at Empire College, pursuing a B.A. in Human Services Management. Charles has been through Advance Youth Development Trainings offered by Onondaga County Aging and Youth Services as well as New York State Credential Alcohol Substance Abuse Counselor Certification training through Prevention Network. Charles initially went through green infrastructure training with Onondaga Environmental Institute through L&M Training Center and completed a work study with Onondaga Earth Corps focusing on green infrastructure maintenance. As green infrastructure maintenance crew leader and youth crew leader, Charles is in charge of green infrastructure maintenance with youth crews at over 20 sites. He also oversees development of the summer youth programs in collaboration with other staff.

Ron Russell is a lifelong resident of Village of East Syracuse. He has been employed by the Village since 1972 and has been the DPW Superintendent since 2002. His career has included removing debris from the Dutch Elm Disease epidemic, recovery from the 1998 Labor Day Storm and numerous ice, snow and wind related tree damage events. Recently, two summer storms struck the village resulting in heavy damage to numerous trees and property. Working with Cornell Cooperative Extension has renewed his interest in urban trees including planting "the right tree" and increasing the diversity of village trees. He is a lifelong outdoorsman and appreciates the beauty and function trees add to the landscape.

Amy Samuels has been working with youth and adults on water resource issues for about 20 years. She is currently the education and outreach coordinator with Onondaga Environmental Institute in Syracuse, NY. Amy has devoted much of the last 5–7 years to working on green infrastructure projects with youth from the Onondaga Earth Corps as well as citizens throughout the City of Syracuse through Onondaga County's Save the Rain Campaign and other programs. Amy has a M.S. in Forest Biology from SUNY ESF, a M.S. in Science Education from Syracuse University and a B.S. in General Agriculture from Cornell University.

Ann Stevens has been the chair DeWitt Tree Committee since its formation in 2009.

Pat Tobin is a past president of the New York State Urban Forestry Council and currently Chair of the Fayetteville, NY Tree Commission. She is also a member of the Town of Manlius, NY Tree Commission and a past president of the Fayetteville Garden Club.

Dr. Brian Underwood consults frequently with federal, state and municipal resource managers throughout the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic and Upper Midwest about deer ecology and management, and with graduate students conducts a varied research program focused on solving human/wildlife conflicts.



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