



31st Annual NY ReLeaf Conference

July 24–26, 2024 at the Hilton Albany in Albany, NY

Register online: nysufc.org/releaf-annual-conference/

Join Us!

All tree enthusiasts are invited to attend this year's ReLeaf Conference at the Hilton Albany. Trees can fix and mitigate issues ranging from climate change to stormwater management. Considering trees in all stages of community planning helps maximize their benefits. We'll hear from speakers on how to plant trees properly. Attendees will also have the opportunity to network and exchange ideas with leading urban forestry specialists and professionals.

Conference Purpose

New York ReLeaf is a state program promoting sound management and care of community trees across our state. It is a cooperative effort coordinated by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the NYS Urban Forestry Council (NYSUFC), with major funding supplied through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service. The goal of New York ReLeaf is to create partnerships among tree professionals, citizen volunteers, educators, government, and the private sector. The annual ReLeaf State Conference brings together interested parties from across the state to share experiences, ideas, and new information.

Continuing Education Credits

Continuing education credits may be available for members of the Society of American Foresters (SAF), International Society of Arboriculture (ISA), and Certified Nursery & Landscape Professional (CNLP) Program, and DEC pesticide applicators. Information regarding which credits have been approved for applicable presentations will be posted on the NYSUFC website as it becomes available. Please check www.NYSUFC.org periodically for updated information or email urbanforestry@dec.ny.gov with any questions.

Conference Fees and Registration

The full conference fee includes refreshment breaks, lunches, tour transportation, the Thursday night picnic, and transportation to the picnic site. Please see the registration form for details and pricing for conference registration (one day or the full event), lodging, meals, etc. Please submit one registration form per attendee. Receipts for registration fees are available upon request. Register by May 31, 2024, for an early registration discount.

Cancellations

Cancellations must be made by July 15, 2024, to receive a refund, less any administrative costs incurred. Substitution of participants is allowed.



Department of
Environmental
Conservation



NEW YORK STATE
URBAN FORESTRY COUNCIL

Where to Stay

This year's conference is hosted by the Hilton Albany (40 Lodge Street, Albany, NY, 12207). A room block is available: www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/releaf-conference-2024/

Or call (800)-HILTONS and provide the code "1RC" to book reservations.

If the hotel block at the Hilton Albany has filled, there are many other hotels in downtown Albany. For a list please visit: www.albany.org/hotels/downtown/

Transportation Information

Parking at the Hilton Albany is available in the garage next door at a special conference rate of \$10 per day.

For other parking locations around Albany, please visit the Albany Parking Authority website: www.parkalbany.com/

For information on buses and public bicycles, please visit: www.albany.org/about/about-the-area/transportation-and-maps/capital-district-transportation-authority/

Tourism Information – Make It a Weekend

We encourage you to check out all the Capital Region has to offer and make a weekend out of your conference. Arrive early on Wednesday or stay Friday afternoon to explore some of the sites before and after the conference!

Top attractions in Albany can be found at www.albany.org/blog/post/must-see-attractions-for-first-time-visitors-to-albany/

NATURE AND HIKING

Cohoes Falls
www.albany.org/listing/falls-view-park/2416/

Albany Pine Bush Preserve
www.albanypinebush.org/

DEC's Five Rivers Environmental Education Center
dec.ny.gov/places/five-rivers-center

Vischer Ferry Nature & Historic Preserve
cliftonparkopenspaces.org/locations/vischersferry/

ARBORETUMS AND BOTANICAL GARDENS

Empire State Plaza Farmers Market: Wednesday, 10 a.m.–2 p.m. at the Empire State Plaza
empirestateplaza.ny.gov/empire-state-plaza-farmers-market

Free Alive at Five Concert Series: Thursday, 4:30 p.m.–8 p.m. at Jennings Landing
www.albanyevents.org/events/alive-at-five/

Capitol Building Tour: Join a drop-in tour of the NYS Capitol building any weekday at 10 a.m., 12 p.m., or 2 p.m.; tours run 45 minutes
empirestateplaza.ny.gov/tours/new-york-state-capitol

2024 ReLeaf Conference Agenda

Wednesday, July 24	
1:00–3:00 p.m.	Sponsor and vendor exhibit setup
3:00–5:30 p.m.	Attendee check-in
1:00–3:30 p.m.	NYS Urban Forestry Council board meeting
4:00–5:30 p.m.	Pre-conference activity
6:00–7:00 p.m.	NYS Urban Forestry Council members meeting
7:00–9:00 p.m.	NYS Urban Forestry Council members reception
Thursday, July 25 – Morning	
7:30 a.m.	Attendee check-in opens; light breakfast for attendees
7:30–8:30 a.m.	Light breakfast for attendees
8:30 a.m.	Welcome to ReLeaf 2024! DEC Urban Forestry and NYSUFC opening remarks
8:45–9:15 a.m.	City of Albany Plenary Session
9:15–10:00 a.m.	Keynote Leslie Berckes – Executive Director, Urban and Community Forestry Society
10:00–10:05 a.m.	Exhibitor introductions
10:05–10:45 a.m.	Break – please visit our exhibitors and sponsors
10:45 a.m.–12:00 p.m.	<p>Concurrent workshop sessions</p> <p>Session A: “Factors associated with urban tree survival and tips for monitoring urban trees” Deborah Hilbert, Ph.D – Many Trees Consulting, and “A century of change in a NYC Urban Forest” Eliot Nagele – NJ Director of Lands, the Nature Conservancy</p> <p>Session B: “Grant writing and preparation for municipalities” Josh Behounek – Davey Resource Group, and “NY urban forestry grants: project successes” (Panel discussion)</p> <p>Session C: “Lessons learned planting trees in environmental justice neighborhoods” Panel discussion with representatives from Community Fathers (Schenectady), Newburgh Environmental Justice Fellows (Newburgh), Radix Ecological Center (Albany), and Onondaga Earth Corps (Syracuse)</p> <p>“Creating sustainable tree equity initiatives” Panel discussion with Kathy Lawrence – Newburgh Parks Conservancy; Scott Kellog – Radix Ecological Center; Greg Michel – Onondaga Earth Corps; Alexandria Carver – City of Schenectady; Kenneth Brooks – Community Fathers</p>
12:00 p.m.	Lunch, and attendee check-in closes

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Thursday July 25 – Afternoon	
1:30 p.m.	Board buses for local tours, or walk to sites
2:00–4:30 p.m.	<p>Concurrent local tours:</p> <p>Tour 1: Albany Pine Bush Preserve – Learn about fire management in a suburban nature preserve that protects this globally rare ecosystem</p> <p>Tour 2: Washington Park – Learn about tree care in Washington Park, City of Albany’s flagship park</p> <p>Tour 3: Radix Ecological Sustainability Center – Join a walking tour of Radix’s South End Biocultural Diversity Forest to learn about this effort to create a ‘food forest’ in a historically redlined district</p>
4:30–5:15 p.m.	Return from tours and break
5:15–8:00 p.m.	Common Roots Albany Outpost dinner event for all attendees
Friday, July 26 – Morning	
8:00–9:00 a.m.	Breakfast for attendees
9:00–9:45 a.m.	<p>Concurrent workshops</p> <p>Session D: Research track – TBD</p> <p>Session E: “Urban forestry models in Capital Region communities” Panel discussion</p> <p>Session F: “Impacts of Historical Redlining on Tree Occupancy, diversity, and composition in Schenectady, NY” Jeff Corbin, Ph.D, and Allison Malatesta</p>
9:45–10:00 a.m.	Break – please visit our exhibitors and sponsors
10:15–11:00 a.m.	<p>Concurrent workshops</p> <p>Session G: “Updates from DEC’s Forest Health Lab on current research projects and forest pests and pathogens threatening urban trees” Jess Cancelliere – Forest Health Program Lead, NYS DEC</p> <p>Session H: Planning and grants – TBD</p> <p>Session I: “Addressing infrastructure obstacles to equitable tree planting” Panel discussion with representatives from Onondaga Earth Corps and City of Syracuse</p>
11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.	“Infrastructure innovation for urban tree health and sustainability” Nina Bassuk, PhD – Professor Emeritus, Cornell University
11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.	“Women in urban forestry: today and tomorrow” Panel discussion with Fiona Watt – Division Director and State Forester, NYS DEC; Danielle Gift – USFS; Lori Brockelbank – Davey Resource Group; and Jeanne Grace – City Forester, City of Ithaca
12:00 p.m.	Grab-and-go lunch available
1:00 p.m.	Conference ends

Nondiscrimination Statement

In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, and reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.)

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible State or local Agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

Additionally, program information is also available in languages other than English.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

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Trunk level:

Rare Earth Nursery

Roots level:

NYS Arborists

Washington Park Conservancy

