

CONFERENCE SYNOPSIS

Dr. Linda Chalker-Scott, PhD will open the conference each day and will present a two-part series titled “Landscape Zombies! Tree and shrub myths that will not die”. We all want the latest plant and soil scientific information to pass on to our clients or practice in our municipalities but how do you tell what’s science and what’s pseudoscience? Landscape professionals, in particular, can quickly lose their credibility (and business) when they end up promoting products and practices that aren’t based on reputable science. This two-part series will focus on landscape tree care and provide us with some guidelines for evaluating articles, books, and electronic resources objectively. For each myth busted, Dr. Chalker-Scott will discuss alternatives that are both practical and scientifically grounded.

Dr. Peter Del Tredici will address “Street Trees: The Struggle for Survival”. This lecture provides a broad view of street trees, utilizing historical, ecological, aesthetic and horticultural perspectives to assess the role that trees play in making cities more livable for all their inhabitants. Using this integrated approach, Dr. Del Tredici will look at the myriad of issues that influence the survival of trees in the urban environment, including soil compaction and pollution, planting specifications, appropriate tree selection, and climate change issues related to temperature, rainfall and pests and pathogens.

Carole Stanko will present “Deer Management in NJ – Restoring Balance in Nature”. White-tailed deer have reached problematic numbers in numerous communities in New Jersey. Overabundant deer and other large herbivores can degrade ecosystems and hamper restoration efforts. Carole will share the steps the Division of Fish and Wildlife has taken to manage deer populations.

Emelie Swackhamer, will provide an update on “The Spotted Lanternfly: What you need to know and where do we go from here?” The invasive insect, *Lycorma delicatula*, commonly known as the spotted lanternfly, threatens grapes, feeds on many trees and is a nuisance in residential landscapes. It has spread to at least 9 states in the eastern US and regulations are in place to try to contain it. Emelie will focus on SLF biology, behavior, things to consider when choosing a management strategy and research findings.

Carrie Sargeant will present new Community Forestry Management Plan Guidelines. A management plan is an essential guide to successfully achieving a healthy and safe community forest. By developing and implementing a management plan for a community forest, the tree program can become more proactive and efficient. A management plan can also lead to decreased tree maintenance and removal costs, shorter response time to citizen requests for work, and a decrease in hazardous tree situations. The NJUCF provides minimum guidelines needed to create a Community Forestry Management Plan as required under the New Jersey Shade Tree and Community Forestry Assistance Act. Carrie will share those guidelines.

Phillip Kelley will address the LTE/LTCO professional with a presentation addressing safety on the job.

Dr. Richard Hallett will discuss how “Trees can do the dirty work of waste cleanup”. When it comes to ridding the earth of pollution leaking from dumps, closed landfills, and other waste sites, specific types of trees are quietly and efficiently absorbing the toxins. Through a process known as phytoremediation, green plants are used to remove, degrade, or stabilize pollutants and contaminants, such as toxic metals, from soil or groundwater. Trees are even playing a role in blighted urban areas to address empty lots and “brown fields” that look unattractive and often serve as a dumping ground for trash. Dr. Hallett will share with us the research that is being done to develop hardy, pioneer species of trees planted to mature in phases, so when the fast-growing trees such as poplars or willows begin to die off, slower-growing trees such as oaks and maples will begin maturing.

Dr. Greg Dahl will present “Codominant Unions: One Reason to Prune Trees Early” and review the growth and development of branches and branch unions, discuss how the control of the lateral buds by the terminal buds drives crown shape and prepares a tree for potential storm damage (or aargh topping). He will present research on whether there are differences in loading patterns between codominant branches and lateral branch unions.

Dr. Suzanne Simard will teach us “How Trees Communicate”. Dr. Simard is an internationally renowned forest scientist and environmental activist who pioneered the theory that trees have a vast underground social life. She demonstrated that trees in a forest do not always compete with each other for food, but also cooperate through intelligent communication networks.

Rosa Yoo will provide an update on the latest forest health issues – how to identify them, who to call if you spot any, and actions you can take to prevent or minimize spread. Although many forest health issues are non-native, some native forest health pests have expressed invasive tendencies under certain circumstances, adding to the list of threats. But it’s not all doom and gloom! Scientists are finding innovative ways to overcome these challenges.

Mike Galvin will present Wood Waste Utilization and the Urban Wood Workbook. Tree businesses and municipalities have to deal with wood waste as part of tree and waste management efforts. Is there a way to turn this cost of doing business into a source of materials and revenue? Mike will look at urban wood waste nationally, he will present models on recovery and reuse of materials, and some key items to make urban wood utilization efforts successful.

Representatives from municipalities throughout the State of New Jersey will present successful municipal tree projects that have greatly contributed to the field of urban and community forestry in New Jersey.

Dr. Peter Del Tredici joins us once again to address “Urban Nature: Human Nature”. Urban ecosystems are the ultimate manifestation of the dynamic conflict between humans and nature: the desire for neat, orderly landscapes on one hand and the fear of messy ecological chaos on the other. Dr. Del Tredici focuses on the ecological significance of the plants that grow without cultivation in cities because of their remarkable ability to flourish in spite of stressful environmental conditions. This spontaneous urban vegetation is as cosmopolitan as the city’s human population and, quite frankly, better adapted to our changing environmental conditions than the native species that once grew there. Like it or not, these so-called novel ecosystems have become the new ecological normal and people need to recognize that they are helping not only to make our cities more livable for people and animals but also to clean up the mess we have made of the planet.

Paul Cowie will present “CSI Tree Guy: Evaluating Tree Health + Reading the Landscape”. Accurate diagnosis of tree disorders requires a combination of arboricultural knowledge and experience, third party resources, wide open eyes and ears, gut instinct, and a thorough diagnostic process. Paul will review a systematic approach to the process on both an individual tree and a whole-landscape basis. Through the use of third-party aids, and evaluating the significance of the clues uncovered, Paul will demonstrate what to look for step-by-step and help us to see the big picture in the context of site pressures, site history, and primary versus secondary problems. Specific case studies will be presented to illustrate each point.

Rosa Yoo will address the professionals in the industry with a more technical discussion on the latest forest health issues – how to identify them, who to call if you spot any, and actions you can take to prevent or minimize spread. Although many forest health issues are non-native, some native forest health pests have expressed invasive tendencies under certain circumstances, adding to the list of threats.