GENERAL SESSION SPEAKERS

Dr. Nina Bassuk has been a professor and program leader of the Urban Horticulture Institute at Cornell University for the past 40 years. She is on the Board of Directors of the New York State Urban Forestry Council and is co- author of 'Trees in the Urban Landscape," a text for landscape architects and horticultural practitioners on establishing trees in disturbed and urban landscapes. In addition, Dr. Bassuk has authored over 100 papers on the physiological problems of plants growing in urban environments, including improved plant selections for difficult sites, soil modification including the development of 'CU-Structural Soil' and improved transplanting technology. She works closely with municipalities to help implement best practices in urban forestry management.

Dr. Jason Grabosky is a professor at Rutgers Univ. / NJ Agricultural Experiment Station. He is the John and Eleanor Kuser Faculty Scholar in Urban and Community Forestry. Jason teaches classes in arboriculture, urban forestry, and general forest ecology topics.

He maintains an extension program in urban forestry and conducts research in a series of areas generally associated with trees and built environments.

Paul Johnson is the Senior Director of Urban and Community Forestry for the Sustainable Forestry Initiative.

Paul is an International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Board Certified Master Arborist, Municipal Specialist, and is Tree Risk Assessment, Texas Oak Wilt, and Wildfire Risk Reduction Qualified. He is also a Society of American Foresters Certified Forester. Paul has been recognized as a True Professional of Arboriculture by ISA and received the Leah MacSwords Current Achievement Award for Communications from NASF.

He is Past President of the ISA Board of Directors and he graduated from Oklahoma State University with a degree in Forestry. He has been a state U&CF program leader, radio talk show host, newspaper columnist, Extension horticulturist, University adjunct instructor, and plant health care specialist.

Paul believes that #TreesAreKey to healthier, happier, safer communities.

Dr. Nicole Davi is a Professor and the Chairperson of the Environmental Science Department at William Paterson University. She is also an Adjunct Senior Research Scientist at the Tree-Ring Laboratory at Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory.

Davi is a paleoclimate scientist focused on the development and interpretation of tree-ring records and has a background in physical geography. Her research focuses on understanding climate variability, dynamics and forcing on time scales ranging from years to millennia, as well as understanding the impacts of climate variability on ecosystems and people. Davi has developed tree-ring records that have documented the history of late Holocene drought across Central Asia as well as warming across the northern latitudes, particularly in the circum-Arctic. Currently, she is building a field program focused on Northeast coastal forests with the aim of reconstructing tropical cyclone frequency and severity recorded in these unique maritime forests. She has authored/co-authored 59 peer-reviewed papers in high-impact journals and she has authored many more published abstracts, many with students as lead authors or co-authors.

During her career she has been awarded more than $3 million through federal and private funding agencies. Davi also has several projects that focus on improving science literacy for undergraduate and also for public audiences. Davi often collaborates with artists to explore new and compelling ways to communicate the excitement of scientific explorations with diverse audiences.

Walt Warriner is a Consulting Arborist & Urban Forester based in Hawaii and California, but is willing to work anywhere in America to preserve our urban forests. For over 35 years he has worked with government agencies, developers, contractors, law firms, insurance agencies and individual property owners. His education includes Agriculture and Business Accounting from the University of Hawaii and Landscape Architecture from UCLA. He is a Certified Urban Forester, Certified Arborist and Municipal Specialist, Pesticide Applicator, Pest Control Advisor, Qualified Tree Risk Assessor and a Qualified Tree Risk Appraiser. He is a founding member of the Municipal Forestry Institute where he taught leadership in urban forestry from 2006 – 2021.