

# SPLIT SESSION SPEAKERS

**Mary Charlotte Gitlin** (Paul Cowie & Associates) is a consulting ecologist and urban forester. She is a New Jersey Licensed Tree Expert (#715), ISA Certified Arborist (NJ-1333A), and holds a Bachelor of Science from Rutgers University in Ecology, Evolution, and Natural Resources.

Mary Charlotte passionately believes that a properly and proactively managed urban forest is critical to maintaining livable communities as the climate continues to rapidly change. She endeavors to collaborate with professionals in different disciplines and think outside the box to maximize the benefits of trees and associated vegetation.

**Lisa Simms** has a Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Science from Rutgers University and 25+ years' experience in urban and community forestry and nonprofit management. Ms. Simms has been the Executive Director of the New Jersey Tree Foundation since its inception in 1997. She develops and directs all the Foundation programs, and runs the fee-for-service Green Streets Program which hires men under parole supervision as a tree planting crew. Ms. Simms provides technical assistance and educational programs to other forestry groups, educators and community organizations. Prior to directing the NJ Tree Foundation, Ms. Simms was the Greening Program Director for the Greater Newark Conservancy which targeted low-income neighborhoods of Newark in the beautification and revitalization of their community.

**Lindsay Campbell** attended Princeton University, where she studied public policy and environmental studies.

Lindsay Campbell joined the U.S. Forest Service soon after Sept. 11. Immediately she hit the ground running working on the Living Memorials Project, an agency initiative that gave grants to communities to use trees to create living memorials in remembrance of the tragedy.

Today the research social scientist is working at the New York City Urban Field Station and is a doctoral candidate in geography at Rutgers University while also competing on the U.S. National Team for fencing where she is ranked third in the country.

**Pam Zipse** is the Outreach Coordinator for Rutgers Urban Forestry Program and works to connect the personnel and programs at Rutgers to the community of forestry consultants and shade tree program volunteers in NJ who can utilize the information, contacts, and tools developed through these programs in the management of their local shade tree resources. Pam is a NJ Licensed Tree Expert and serves on the Board of the NJ Tree Foundation, the NJ Board of Tree Experts, the NJ Community Forestry Council, and is currently President of the NJ Shade Tree Federation.

**Wayne Dubin** holds a B.S. Degree in Plant Science from Cook College, Rutgers University. After graduation, he went to work as an Account Executive for Gruntal & Co. In January 1989, he joined the F. A. Bartlett Tree Expert Co. in Westchester County, New York as an Arborist Representative. In 1993 he was promoted and transferred to Local Manager in Warren, New Jersey and subsequently became District Manager and then Assistant Division Manager for the Metropolitan Division in April 1999.

Wayne currently serves as Vice-President and Division Manager for Bartlett's Metro-West Division (New Jersey and New York, excluding Long Island) managing eight offices and thirty-five Arborist Representatives. He has a successful record of accomplishment in sales and sales management for forty years.

Mr. Dubin is Vice-Chair of the NJ Community Forestry Council, Vice-Chair of the ANSI A300 Committee for Tree Care Standards and is a Past President of the NJ Arborists, Chapter ISA as well as the NJ Shade Tree Federation. He is a NJ Licensed Tree Expert.

## Split Session Speakers continued...

**Ben Graziano** joined State Street Associates in 2018 after 15 years in politics. Ben began his career in the district office of U.S. Representative Robert E. Andrews, where he handled constituent and veterans' issues. In 2009, Mr. Graziano began working as the director of Legislative Affairs for then-Assemblyman Jack Conners. Mr. Graziano joined the Assembly Majority Office (AMO) in January of 2012 as a policy analyst. During his seven-year tenure at the AMO, Mr. Graziano staffed several important Assembly committees and helped to craft several key legislative initiatives. Mr. Graziano holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Mount Saint Mary's College and a Master's in Public Administration from Rutgers University. He was awarded the State of NJ Commendation Medal for his service assisting New Jersey's National Guard and Veteran community.

**Tom Purtell** is a NJ Licensed Tree Expert retained by Richview Consulting. His primary role is part time municipal arborist for the Townships of Bloomfield and Montclair since 2018. He has recently conducted full tree canopy inventories for Maplewood, Springfield, and Verona Townships. He also assists with assignments in Madison, Mt. Olive, Glen Ridge & South Orange. Tom is currently the vice president of the NJ Arborists Chapters of the International Society of Arboriculture.

One of the past projects Tom is most proud of was assisting in the regular monitoring of the Freedom Tower tree farm in Millstone NJ when employed by Bartlett Tree Experts for 20 years. He will give you a glimpse of the regular issues township DPW departments face when residents contact them with concerns. It is up to all of us to make good planting decisions that will not repeat mistakes of the past.

**Kathleen Kyle** is a fifth year PhD candidate in the Lockwood Lab at Rutgers University, New Brunswick in the Ecology and Evolution graduate program. She completed her BS in the same department at Rutgers and began to work on environmental DNA (eDNA) projects in the Lockwood Lab. Ms. Kyle's dissertation research focuses on pushing the bounds of current eDNA surveying methods to develop protocols that more inclusively survey species of concern in various terrestrial niches.

She grew up on a farm in central New Jersey and this upbringing helped foster her interest in the environment and learning how ecological systems function.

**Robert Wells** is a NJ Licensed Tree Expert, a Board-Certified Master Arborist and a Registered Consulting Arborist. With his son David Wells, Robert is the owner of Wells Tree & Landscape Inc. in Princeton, now in its 50th year of operation. He has a BS from Cook College, Rutgers, and earned a Master's in Environmental Studies from the University of Pennsylvania. He was the Associate Director of Arboricultural Outreach at Morris Arboretum from 2007 until 2020 and was instrumental in the development of The School of Arboriculture. His passion and advocacy for trees in New Jersey are expressed in the consulting work with which he is now engaged.