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2020 Atlanta Canopy Conference Sponsors



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Featured Speakers

Aruni Bhatnagar, Ph.D., F.A.H.A. Widely regarded for spearheading the new field of Environmental Cardiology, Dr. Bhatnagar, a Smith and Lucille Gibson Professor of Medicine at the University of Louisville, has spent more than 25 years studying the impact of toxic substances, tobacco smoke constituents and environmental pollutants on heart disease. He is a graduate of Kanpur University, India and received his post-doctoral training at the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston. His research has been supported by the NIH, EPA, DoD, and the American Heart Association. He currently serves as Director of the Christina Lee Brown Envirome Institute, and Chief of the Environmental Medicine Division at the University of Louisville and Director of the American Heart Association Tobacco Regulation and Addiction Center.

Dan Lambe leads the strategic development of programs and partnerships through which the Arbor Day Foundation strives to educate, recognize and empower people to plant, nurture and celebrate trees. Founded in 1972, the Arbor Day Foundation has grown to become the largest nonprofit membership organization dedicated to planting trees, with over one million members, supporters, and valued partners. The impact of their work is accomplished through their conservation and education programs, including Tree City USA, the Community Tree Recovery Program, the National Conferences, global reforestation, forestry carbon offset initiatives and more

David Nowak works at the 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 325 publications and leads teams developing the i-Tree software suite that quantifies the benefits and values from vegetation globally.



Conference Survey & CEUs

Please complete and drop off your conference survey form and badge as you exit.
This event is eligible for ISA and GA PLA CEUs.
ISA log in sheet and PLA certificates will be available after the close of conference.
Questions or Ideas? Contact: **Judy Yi, Director of Outreach** | judy@treesatlanta.org

Fighting Climate Change with Urban Forests

2020 Atlanta Canopy Conference

February 20, 2020

Presented by:



Trees Atlanta - Kendeda Center
225 Chester Avenue, Atlanta GA 30316

Trees Atlanta is a nonprofit citizens' group that protects and improves Atlanta's urban forest by planting, conserving, and educating.

treesatlanta.org | [@treesatlanta](https://twitter.com/treesatlanta)

Welcome 9:00 am
Greg Levine & Connie Veates – Trees Atlanta, Co-Executive Directors

Georgia Arbor Day Proclamation & City of Atlanta - Tree City USA 9:15 am
Commissioner John Dargle – City of Atlanta, Department of Parks & Recreation



Counting Trees and Making Trees Count 9:25 am
Dr. David J. Nowak - USDA Forest Service, Senior Scientist

Urban forests affect local environment and climate. National and regional tree count data show how and why urban forests are constantly changing. To sustain healthy urban environments, cities need to understand the environmental services provided by trees and the forces that threaten future forest health.

 **Break – Refreshments in the Kitchen** 10:20 am
 Take a moment to sign our **Atlanta Canopy Pledge**: treesatlanta.org/pledge

Where People Live: Local Climate Change 10:35 am
 Global climate change effects intensify in urban areas, including the impacts of urban heat island effect. The outcomes and vulnerabilities vary within the city and can mirror environmental, health, and social patterns.

- Moderator: **Dr. Jairo Garcia** – Climate Reality Atlanta Chapter, Chair
- **Evan Mallen** – Georgia Tech Center for Teaching and Learning, Postdoctoral Fellow, Environmental Planning and Climate Change
- **Arie Manangan** – Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Climate and Health Program, Health Scientist & Geographer
- **Brionté McCorkle** - Georgia Conservation Voters, Director

Living Green Infrastructure: Public Service for the City 11:25 am
 Green infrastructure is more than constructed or built solutions. Living and natural environmental resources is Atlanta's unique asset that enables greater resilience.

- Moderator: **Alfie Vick** – University of Georgia, College of Environment & Design, Georgia Power Professor in Environmental Ethics
- **Dr. Christina H. Fuller** – Georgia State University, School of Public Health, Assistant Professor of Environmental Health
- **Susan Rutherford** – City of Atlanta, Department of Watershed Management, Stormwater Program Director
- **Ayanna Williams** – The Nature Conservancy, Georgia Chapter, Healthy Cities Director

 **Locally-Sourced, Plant-Based Lunch** – Join us in the Kitchen 12:15 – 1:30 pm
 Please enjoy our indoor and outdoor common areas for lunch. Vegan, Vegetarian, and Gluten Free items are served. **Service ware used today is compostable.** Please carefully note and use marked bins for compost, recycling, and trash.

OPTIONAL WORKSHOP: Anyone Can Use i-Tree 12:45 – 1:25 pm
 Instructor: **Dr. David J. Nowak** - USDA Forest Service Location: Large Event Room
 iTreeTools.org software is available online and is free to use. Learn the basics and discover the wide range ecological and value analysis for trees that anyone can use.

OPTIONAL WORKSHOP: Organizing Communities for Change 12:45 – 1:25 pm
 Instructor: **Neil Sardana** - Sierra Club Location: Board Room
 Neil is the Georgia Organizing Representative of Sierra Club. Learn the fundamentals to organizing one's community and how to collaborate to keep decision makers accountable and protect our communities' rights to environmental health.



Green Heart Project: Prescribing Trees for Health 1:30 pm
Dr. Aruni Bhatnagar – University of Louisville, Smith and Lucille Gibson Chair in Medicine

Louisville, Kentucky's Green Heart Project, a 5-year study launched in 2017, is the first controlled experiment to test urban greening in the same way a new pharmaceutical intervention would be tested. This ground breaking study will plant 8,000 trees where people live and measure the health effects of trees. The City of Louisville is the top warming urban area in the country; Atlanta is not far behind as number three. What lessons can urban areas like Atlanta take to heart from the Green Heart Project for the well-being of our people?

Planning for Growth: Keeping the Forest in the City 2:30 pm
 This panel discussion will include perspectives from Downtown and the Westside, as well as the City as a whole and as a part of the Metro Atlanta region. There are public projects in motion in our "City in the Forest" that might suggest achievable outcomes that meet the demands for growth while protecting our urban canopy of trees.

- Moderator: **Jacqueline Echols, PhD** – South River Watershed Alliance, Board President
- **Commissioner Tim Keane** – City of Atlanta, Department of City Planning
- **Lee Harrop** - Westside Future Fund, Vice President of Real Estate Development
- **Audrey Leous** - Central Atlanta Progress, Senior Project Manager for Planning & Sustainability
- **Kelsey Waidhas** – Atlanta Regional Commission, Natural Resources Group, Sustainability Coordinator



The Urgency of Now 3:30 pm
Dan Lambe - Arbor Day Foundation, President

We are honored to celebrate Georgia Arbor Day in Atlanta with Dan. As we consider Atlanta's opportunity to Fight Climate Change with Urban Forests, Dan will inspire us to be bold, have courage, and move with urgency, because the Time for Trees is now.

Conference Close 4:00 pm