

Regional Tree & Shade Summit 2.0

Branching Out One Community at a Time



March 9, 2016

A.E. England Building at Civic Space Park
Phoenix, Arizona



Climate-Proofing Arizona's Urban Forests

Dr. Greg McPherson, USDA Forest Service

Findings indicate that the urban tree canopy is declining. In his presentation, Dr. McPherson will address the critical need to increase the biodiversity and resilience of urban forests in Arizona for a more stable, productive and climate-friendly forest.

As one of the leading researchers on measuring and modeling the benefits and costs of urban forests, McPherson has roots in Syracuse, Chicago and even six years in Tucson before becoming the Director of the Center for Urban Forest Research in Davis.

Growing Potential, Stewards and Policy for a Thriving Urban Forest

Brad Lancaster, Desert Harvesters

Kieran Sikdar, Watershed Management Group

From grassroots to policy, Sikdar and Lancaster will share lessons learned on how to support a thriving urban forest by simultaneously planting rain, trees, fertility, community and food.



This event is brought to you by:



Funds for this project were provided by the Urban and Community Forestry Financial Assistance Program administered through Arizona State Forestry - Urban & Community Forestry Program and the USDA Forest Service.

PROGRAM: Regional Tree & Shade Summit 2.0

Morning General Session, 8:30 am to 1:00 pm

7:30 am - 8:30 am	Registration & Networking
8:30 am - 9:00 am	<p>Welcome & Introductions with Richard Adkins, City of Phoenix</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - City of Avondale, Mayor Kenn Weise - City of Mesa, Scott Bouchie - City of Phoenix, Mark Hartman - ASU Sustainable Cities Network, Anne Reichman - Arizona State Forestry, Jeff Whitney and Alix Rogstad
9:00 am - 9:15 am	<p>A Modern Reality: Urban Forests in the Desert</p> <p>Richard Adkins, City of Phoenix</p>
9:15 am - 10:00 am	<p>Climate-Proofing Arizona's Urban Forests</p> <p>Dr. Greg McPherson, USDA Forest Service</p> <p>Arizona's urban forests account for about 5% of the state's land area but are home to 90% of its 6.7 million residents. On average, tree canopy covers 6% of urban lands and its health and resilience is intimately related to the quality of life and well-being of all urban dwellers. Recent findings indicate that the urban tree canopy is declining, in part due to the combination of extreme weather events and invasive pests that are killing city trees at unprecedented rates. This presentation addresses the critical need to increase the biodiversity and resilience of urban forests in Arizona. Such a transformation will require a generation of dedicated commitment to urban forestry, but its legacy will be a more stable, productive and climate-friendly forest for our children's children.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>ISA</i></p>
10:00 am - 10:30 am	Break - Network & Visit Exhibitors
10:30 am - 11:15 am	<p>Growing Potential, Stewards & Policy for a Thriving Urban Forest</p> <p>Brad Lancaster, Desert Harvesters; Kieran Sikdar, Watershed Management Group</p> <p>A vision and emerging practice has been established to support a thriving urban forest throughout Tucson. Through policy, stewardship and persistence we plant rain, trees, fertility, community and food to lift potential and grow value. New policies and local community funding is necessary to increase investment in urban forests and incentivize appropriate stewardship. We will share our vision, goals and lessons learned from our journey.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>ISA</i></p>
11:15 am - 12:00 pm	<p>Building Capacity for Our Local Canopy</p> <p>Incorporating trees and green infrastructure are critical for the health and sustainability of our desert cities. Multiple organizations, agencies and nonprofits will briefly present ways we can work together towards addressing crucial issues, limitations, policy implementation, advocacy and environmental benefits to increasing tree canopy goals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Einav Henenson, Arizona Department of Water Resources - Phillip McNeely, Maricopa County Air Quality Department - Harry Cooper, Flood Control District of Maricopa County - Cheryl Goar, Arizona Nursery Association - Beverly Babb, Arizona Community Tree Council - Judy Gausman, Arizona Landscape Contractors' Association - John Gauthier, Arizona Public Service - Lori Rogers, Salt River Project - Aimee Williamson, Valley Permaculture Alliance - Ray Cabrera, Downtown Phoenix Inc. <p style="text-align: right;"><i>ISA</i></p>
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm	Growing Connections - Lunch, Conversation & Visit Exhibitors

Afternoon Sessions, 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Time	Track 1: Roots Planning & Policy Main Auditorium, Danielle Poveromo	Track 2: Trunk Engagement & Advocacy ASU Cronkite Room 122, Ken Vonderscher	Track 3: Branches Management & Environment ASU Cronkite Room 125, Nalini Chhetri
1:00 pm to 2:05 pm	<p>Urban Trees in a Desert City: Seeing the Forest Through the Trees</p> <p>Dr. Greg McPherson, USDA Forest Service</p> <p>While it's widely accepted that the urban forest has an extensive range of beneficial impacts for our cities, there are also concerned perspectives that trees can be problematic due to their water consumption and the emission of ozone-forming compounds. This presentation discusses strategies to create healthy and resilient urban forests while minimizing potentially adverse effects.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>ISA & APA</i></p>	<p>Green Infrastructure Projects and the Public Strategies Towards Success</p> <p>Denise Dunlop & Jeff Velasquez, J2 Engineering and Environmental Design, LLC</p> <p>Teresa Makinen, MakPro Services, LLC</p> <p>The design of a complete street integrates people and multi-modal transportation models in the planning, design, construction, operation and maintenance of these integrated transit networks. Engineering and landscape architecture need to work in unison for a project to be site sensitive, technically functional, and to foster the expansion of a sustainable urban forest. The presenters will describe their metrics and public involvement strategies used in designing Low Impact Development (LID) streetscapes and other urban design projects.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>ISA & ASLA</i></p>	<p>Species Diversity: Ideas and Lessons in Tree Selection for Urban Forests</p> <p>Tanya Quist, University of Arizona Campus Arboretum</p> <p>Ann Audrey, LEAF (Linking Edible Arizona Forests)</p> <p>Cheryl Goar, Arizona Nursery Association</p> <p>Bart Worthington, Mountain States Wholesale Nursery</p> <p>A cornerstone of healthy urban forests is species diversity, yet restrictive plant lists can limit species selection in our desert cities. This talk discusses some foolproof and lesser known desert species, and even the use of edible trees for appropriate public spaces. Nursery industry tips for securing healthy and diverse trees will also be presented.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>ISA & ASLA</i></p>
2:15 pm to 3:20 pm	<p>Beyond Planning: Implementing Green Infrastructure for Sustainable Cities</p> <p>Irene Ogata, City of Tucson</p> <p>Kieran Sikdar, Watershed Management Group</p> <p>How does a city transition from planning the urban forest to the implementation of those policies? How do you get a wide spectrum of city departments, elected officials, as well as community organizations and agencies implementing plans? Learn from experts on how to develop standards, policies, metrics, funding sources and partnerships that will help you pivot from 'planning to implementing.'</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>ISA & APA</i></p>	<p>Living Community Engagement and Urban Forestry</p> <p>Brad Lancaster, Desert Harvesters</p> <p>This is an evolving story of a central Tucson neighborhood's planting and use of a native food forest over a 20-year span. The speaker will share how it has influenced, and been influenced by the nonprofit, Desert Harvesters. The goals of the organization was to bring the value, harvest and planting of wild, food-bearing perennials back into Tucson's daily experience in a way that simultaneously enhances the health of its citizens, neighborhoods, watershed, economy and vocation.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>ISA & ASLA</i></p>	<p>Urban Forestry Management, Contracts and Maintenance</p> <p>Alix Rogstad, Arizona State Forestry Division</p> <p>Andy Trotter, West Coast Arborist</p> <p>Kasey Billingsley, AZ Landscape Contractors Association</p> <p>Beverly Babb, AZ Community Tree Council</p> <p>This panel of industry experts will share best practices for urban forestry management including tree inventories, canopy assessments and use of data to justify budgets. See how inventories and maintenance go hand-in-hand and learn about education and certification programs to improve staff knowledge.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>ISA</i></p>
3:30 pm to 4:35 pm	<p>Constructing the Urban Forest: Creating Standards & Policies That Grow Healthy Trees</p> <p>Jackie Keller and Karen Nyhus, City of Phoenix</p> <p>The vast majority of a city's urban forest is located on private property. New development and redevelopment present an opportunity to help achieve tree canopy goals. Learn from experts on how policies and plans get translated into codes and ordinances. Understand how different city structures allow for different approaches to regulating and enforcing urban forestry objectives.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>ISA & APA</i></p>	<p>A Tale of Three Cities: Different Paths to Tree and Shade Planning</p> <p>Richard Adkins, City of Phoenix</p> <p>Drew Bryck, City of Avondale</p> <p>Bonnie Richardson, City of Tempe</p> <p>A tree and shade plan is a roadmap for creating a healthier, more livable and prosperous desert city. As we deal with issues such as climate change, the role of trees and shade in the urban realm will become increasingly important. Avondale, Phoenix and Tempe will share the different paths taken to tree and shade planning in their communities.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>ISA</i></p>	<p>When Trees Aren't An Option: Structural Shade in a 'Cool' City</p> <p>John Kane, Architekton</p> <p>Complex systems of existing underground utilities and city furnishings in the pedestrian zone place restrictions on tree planting in urban settings. Too often the pedestrian experience is an afterthought and we find people standing behind a light pole to catch a bit of relief from the sun. A fresh look at the interplay between structured shade, landscape and city buildings provides creative and innovative examples of how we can transform this urban desert experience into an enticing, exciting 'cool' walkable city.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>ISA & ASLA</i></p>
4:35 pm to 5:00 pm	Return to main auditorium for final wrap-up and to turn in CEU forms.		

Session Speaker Biographies alphabetical

Richard Adkins is the Forestry Supervisor for the Parks and Recreation Department at the City of Phoenix. He is a Registered Consulting Arborist, and one of the principal authors of Phoenix's Tree and Shade Master Plan. Richard has over 30 years of experience working with trees and resource management. He currently oversees staff training and management regarding the city's urban forest resource.

Ann Audrey is an environmental consultant working on projects involving rainwater harvesting, edible trees in urban forestry, and habitat restoration. From 2006 to 2009 she was the Environmental Projects Coordinator at the City of Tucson where she helped develop Tucson's commercial rainwater harvesting regulations, worked on riparian habitat preservation, and promoted the use of sustainable design principles in urban environments.

Beverly Babb has served as the Executive Director of the Arizona Community Tree Council since 2013. She oversees writing and managing grants focused on bringing quality education to professionals working with trees. Beverly also manages contract programs that bring homeowner's tree care workshops to towns and cities in Arizona. She works with hundreds of volunteers across the state to support proper care and planting of trees.

Kasey Billingsley is the Educational Coordinator at the Arizona Landscape Contractors Association, where she oversees the Arizona Certified Landscape Professional and Sustainable Landscape Management programs. She understands the importance of educating our industry and enjoys sharing her enthusiasm with others. Kasey received her degree in Urban Horticulture from ASU and is an ISA certified arborist.

Drew Bryck is the Environmental Program Manager for the City of Avondale and has six years of experience managing pragmatic sustainability programs. In his current role he is responsible for implementing Avondale's comprehensive Municipal Sustainability Plan. Drew holds both a Bachelor of Science and Master's degree in Sustainability from ASU.

Denise Dunlop is a landscape architect with J2 Engineering & Environmental Design. Her professional career has focused on projects including streetscapes, parks, open space master plans, trail systems, and commercial and private developments. Denise specializes in Urban Design and Downtown Redevelopment projects focusing on community placemaking, economic development, and sustainable design principles.

Cheryl Goar is Executive Director of the Arizona Nursery Association (ANA), a 250-member trade association for the wholesale and retail nursery industry. She has served ANA for 20 years and is responsible for the government regulations and lobbying, as well as the public relations and administration of the association. Cheryl also serves as director of ANAFUND, their scholarship foundation.

John Kane is a founding partner and design principal with Architekton. John's designs are respected throughout the Southwest as a paradigm for an appropriate and sustainable architecture. Architekton's never-ending passion to be creative and innovative has resulted in more than 125 local, regional and national citations for design excellence since 1989. John also serves on the board of the Arizona Forward Association.

Jackie Keller is a landscape architect with over 25 years of experience in private and public sector development—developing comprehensive and specific plans, implementation programs, zoning ordinances, and design and development standards and guidelines. Jackie is currently a Planner II for the City of Phoenix where she reviews major and minor site plans, subdivisions, hillside, and landscape plans.

Brad Lancaster is a dynamic teacher, consultant, and designer of regenerative systems that sustainably enhance local resources and our global potential. His hometown projects have included working with the City of Tucson and other municipalities to legalize, incentivize, and provide guidance on water-harvesting systems, demonstration sites, and policy. Brad's aim is always to boost communities' true health and wealth by using simple overlapping strategies to augment the region's hydrology, ecosystems, and economies—living systems upon which we depend.

Teresa Makinen of MakPro Services, has over 16 years experience in public involvement, public outreach, stakeholder coordination, and meeting facilitation for a wide variety of projects and topics. Her specialty is public involvement and outreach projects that directly impact residents, businesses and users on a more intense scale, or require sensitive discussions with stakeholders.

Greg McPherson is a Research Forester with the USDA Forest Service's Pacific Southwest Research Station. He works with a team of scientists to measure and model effects of trees on energy use, urban heat islands, air pollutant uptake, carbon sequestration, and rainfall interception. Their research is helping justify investments in urban forest planning and management. In 2000, Greg received the ISA L.C. Chadwick Award for Research.

Karen Nyhus has been working for the City of Phoenix in the Planning and Development Department since 2007. She has worked on a variety of plan review types including landscape, inventory, salvage, hillside, civil engineering and site planning.

Irene Ogata is the Urban Landscape Manager for the City of Tucson Office of Conservation & Sustainable Development. A registered landscape architect and land planner, she worked in the private sector for over 20 years and managed projects involving public participation, strategic planning, ordinance drafting, landscape master planning and designs, and recently conducting an urban heat island workshop.

Tanya Quist is an Assistant Professor of Practice at the University of Arizona School of Plant Sciences and is the Director of the U of A Campus Arboretum. Her interests relate to arid-adapted woody ornamental landscape plants with a focus on sustainable horticultural practices for urban forest ecosystems. She has a PhD in plant physiology/molecular genetics from Purdue University's Dept. of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture.

Bonnie J. Richardson is an architect and urban planner for the City of Tempe. As project manager for the Tempe Transportation Center (LEED Platinum), she introduced green building strategies to city decision makers, citizens and staff. She is currently working on Tempe's Urban Forest Masterplan.

Alix Rogstad is Program Manager for the Urban & Community Forestry at Arizona State Forestry. She works with partners to build healthy and sustainable communities by promoting urban forestry awareness and by fostering local action including: urban forest inventory, canopy development programs, green infrastructure enhancement, tree planting projects, local and state policy development, and outreach/education.

Kieran Sikdar combines his experience as a Civil Engineer (MS), Certified Floodplain Manager, and Certified Water Harvesting Practitioner with over 10 years of experience in cost benefit analysis, green infrastructure/low impact development design, watershed restoration, and permaculture design. His focus is to implement water-harvesting practices on a broad scale as critical flood mitigation and stormwater infrastructure to shade and beautify our communities while repairing our urban watersheds.

Andy Trotter is Vice President of Field Operations at West Coast Arborists, Inc. He oversees tree pruning, removal and planting crews as well as recycling and training programs for the company. Active in the tree care industry, Andy is certified by the ISA as an Arborist and Utility Specialist. He also is a Certified Tree Care Safety Professional with the Tree Care Industry Association.

Jeff Velasquez is a landscape architect with J2 Engineering & Environmental Design in Phoenix. His professional career has been focused on achieving creative sustainable design solutions for public sector clients, including municipal, county, state, and federal clientele. Jeff has specialized in urban design, parks, and placemaking projects and is currently working with several municipalities on community economic revitalization efforts.

Bart Worthington has been in the nursery and landscape industry for over 40 years with more than half of that time as general manager at Mountain States Wholesale Nursery. He volunteers his time with both state and national nursery associations and currently serves as a board member of ANAFUND, the Arizona Nursery Association's scholarship foundation and the Arizona Agricultural Employment Relations Board.

Special Thanks to our Sponsors



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