

Agenda June 14 - 7:10AM to 4:30PM

7:10 AM **Breakfast & Registration**

8:10 AM **Welcome Address**

8:30 AM **Prof. Cecil Konijnendijk** *The Urban Forest of Tomorrow – Emerging Storylines for Leafy Success*



Urban forests provide a range of crucial contributions to our cities and towns. However, their importance is often not reflected in political arenas nor in terms of allocated resources. Taking a global perspective, and through examples from across the world and Canada, this talk identifies some of the most promising developments and storylines for urban forestry. It will show how linking urban forests to, for example, public health, happiness, and economic interests can lead to success and more sustainable urban forestry programmes.

10:00 AM **Coffee Break**

10:20 AM **Q & A with Cecil Konijnendijk**

10:40 AM **Henrik Sjöman** *Discovering Successful Urban Trees – 21st Century Plant Exploration*



Trees contribute a range of ecosystem services to urban environments. However, the magnitude of their contribution is related to their physiological condition and capacity to persist within towns and cities. This requires that species are matched to their planting sites and that their vulnerability to pests and diseases is assessed.

Most urban areas today incorporate a limited range of tree species in their urban forests. There is a reluctance to use less-known or non-native species, which affects the production-demand from tree nurseries. This situation limits tree diversity and reduces the overall resilience of the urban treescape to disturbances such as pests, diseases, and climate change. Therefore, increasing the use of currently under-utilized species is an important part of enhancing urban resiliency and enhancing urban forest ecosystem services.

In the presentation by Henrik Sjöman, several examples of ongoing research will be presented, including the monitoring and evaluation of a large number of frequently used and less common tree species for their ability to grow in different urban environments and their capacity to deliver benefits. Much of the research is based on field studies in the trees' native and natural environments, where first-hand information supports a sound platform for further assessment. The presentation will highlight experiences from North America, China, Romania, Azerbaijan, the Republic of Georgia, and other locales, with the objective of discovering the successful urban trees of tomorrow.

12:00 PM **Lunch**

1:00 PM **Q & A with Henrik Sjöman**



Conference Host

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Urban Forest
Innovative Solutions

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1:20 PM

David Callow Building Climate Resilient Urban Forests – A Melbourne Perspective



Melbourne has long been regarded as Australia's 'garden city', but more than a decade of drought and severe water restrictions has left the city's tree population in a state of unprecedented decline – and it's only going to get hotter! The Melbourne Urban Forest Strategy seeks to manage this change and provides a strategic framework for the city's urban forest. A core focus of the strategy is to adapt the urban forest to climate change by increasing forest diversity and to mitigate extreme heat by increasing canopy cover.

The success of the tree planting program is critical to achieving the outcomes of the Strategy. Since it was endorsed in 2012, the development of several key tools enables clear, evidence-based decision-making for tree planting throughout the municipality. Among these tools include:

- Trees for Melbourne's Climate Future .
- Urban Forest Precinct Plans
- Urban Forest Visual

To inform tree management into the future and to achieve a healthy tree population, the City is also developing an Urban Forest Health Management Plan. This plan includes:

- Strategies to manage species, age and spatial diversity,
- Tools and guidelines for the assessment and management of health threats.
- Contemporary knowledge and best management practices for maintaining tree health.
- Indicators for monitoring urban forest health.

David will share his experience in developing and utilizing these tools and strategies and provide valuable insights for urban forest stakeholders interested in applying similar approaches to solving challenging and complex problems facing their local urban forests.

2:35 PM

Janet McKay Advocating for Urban Forests as Essential Infrastructure



Urban forests provide a multitude of measurable benefits such as storm water attenuation, energy savings, human health benefits and climate change mitigation. However, municipalities are on their own when dealing with escalating threats from exotic pests, more frequent and severe storms and the loss of soils in urban developments. In order to contribute to healthy, resilient communities, these valuable green assets need to be managed proactively and supported consistently across the province. Janet will share the efforts of the Green Infrastructure Ontario Coalition to gain support from higher levels of government and will provide highlights of the resources developed to help stakeholders advocate for urban forests.

3:05 PM

Coffee Break

3:30 PM

Q & A with David Callow

3:50 PM

Q & A with Janet McKay

4:00 PM

Day 1 Wrap up Panel

Agenda June 15 - 7:10AM to 4:50PM

7:10 AM **Breakfast & Registration**

8:10 AM **Dr. Peter Del Tredici** *Human Nature – Urban Ecology*



Spontaneous urban ecosystems are the ultimate manifestation of the dynamic conflict between humans and nature – between our desire for neat, orderly landscapes on the one hand and our fear of messy ecological chaos on the other. This presentation will focus on the plants – especially trees – that grow without cultivation in cities and their remarkable ability to flourish in spite of stressful environmental conditions. Cities can be considered "novel" ecosystems and their vegetation reflects an irrevocable past and presages an unpredictable future. For better or worse, the spontaneous vegetation of our cities is as cosmopolitan as its human population and, quite often, better adapted than the native species that once grew there. In the era of shrinking municipal budgets, this vegetation can be viewed as part of the solution for cleaning up the mess we have made of the planet.

9:30 AM **Keith Sacre** *Are Nurseries Preparing for the Future Urban Forest?*



In this presentation Keith will examine nursery production and ask the question “is the nursery industry meeting the requirements of today and tomorrow’s urban forests?” Keith will look for answers to this question by exploring best practices in the nursery (including crown and root development), the monitoring of physiological health of trees in nurseries, and the Arborcheck nursery benchmark system. He will consider how current species in nursery production meet or do not meet the need for urban forest resilience and species diversity and question whether the ecotypes currently in production actually mirror the needs of urban forest managers.

Finally, a case study will reveal how one UK tree nursery has tried to rise to the challenge presented by the current and future demands for urban forest trees by not only modifying its production methods, but also by embracing a series of innovative initiatives designed to place the nursery at the centre of the urban forest

10:30 AM **Coffee Break**

10:50 AM **Q & A with Peter Del Tredici**

11:05 AM **Q & A with Keith Sacre**

11:20 AM **Meaghan Eastwood** *Urban Ecosystem Service Valuation and Planning
– Seeking a More Equitable and Inclusive Approach*



This presentation will explore some of the environmental justice concerns facing greenspace managers and citizen advocates in the Greater Toronto Area. A focus will be placed on the drivers of inequitable access to greenspace, the paradox of making neighbourhoods “just green enough”, and the potential decision-making making tools that can be used to support more inclusive and fair greenspace governance.

12:00 PM **Lunch**

Agenda June 15 - 7:10AM to 4:50PM

1:00 PM **Joris Voeten** Connecting Green Infrastructure to the Built Environment with Water



Rapid urbanization and climate change are creating immense pressure on cities and their inhabitants worldwide. Urban trees are a great and cost-effective ally in combatting the urban heat island effect and reducing the risk of urban flooding while providing crucial green space for human health and well-being. However, in increasingly dense cities we find that space for trees, and especially tree roots, is getting scarce.

This talk will explore how innovative practices in managing urban water are transforming our views on rainwater from “waste” to resource. By creating multi-functional green spaces in and on top of our cities we can create economic, ecological and human value and help mitigate adverse climate change effects on our cities. Case studies will illustrate how cities that treat water with respect, as nature does, become more resilient urban ecosystems.

2:10 PM **Q & A with Joris Voeten**

2:30 PM **Coffee Break**

2:50 PM **Ted Green MBE** Why Care for Old Trees?



In modern cities today we all benefit from our forebear's vision to plant trees in urban settings. Our knowledge and experience on how to care for trees increases day-by-day. While we strive to expand the future urban forest we must also work to preserve what we have.

Old trees are living monuments, part of our history and cultures, reservoirs of biodiversity, and gene banks for the future. Perhaps above all, they provide essential biological continuity for soil communities that we still know so very little about. Ted's talk will update the audience on projects that are under way on both sides of the Atlantic to preserve seed, graft twigs from ancient trees, and plant tomorrow's ancients. Their future is in your hands.

4:10 PM **Q & A with Ted Green**

4:25 PM **Day 2 Wrap up Panel**

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