

# Vermont Arbor Day Conference

Thursday, May 3, 2018  
8:30 AM - 3:45 PM  
Vermont College of Fine Arts  
Montpelier, Vermont

8:30 AM	Registration and Refreshments			
9:00 AM	Welcome and Arbor Day Address			
9:15-10:15 AM	<i>Wise Trees*</i> with Diane Cook & Len Jenshel			
10:15 AM	Break			
TRACKS	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>
10:30-11:15 AM	<b>Tick Talk*</b> Judy Rosovsky	<b>Managing Urban &amp; Community Forests*</b> Andy Whitman	<b>Tree ID Made Easy*</b> Meredith Whitney	<b>Technical Tree Climbing*</b> N. American Training Sol.
11:15 AM	Break			
11:30-12:15 PM	<b>Elm Restoration*</b> Gus Goodwin	<b>EAB: Prepare Your Community*</b> E.Schadler & M. Whitney	<b>Citizen Science with iNaturalist*</b> J. Garton & E. Mitchell	<b>Technical Tree Climbing*</b> N. American Training Sol.
12:15 PM	Lunch (provided)			
1:00 PM	Awards Ceremony			
1:45 PM	Break			
2:00-2:45 PM	<b>Managing a Floodplain*</b> Intervale Cons. Nursery	<b>Planning for Forests &amp; Wildlife: Act 171*</b> Jens Hawkins-Hilke	<b>Heritage Narratives*</b> Christine Carmichael	<b>Arborist Technical Rigging*</b> N. American Training Sol.
2:45 PM	Break			
3:00-3:45 PM	<b>What's Wrong With My Tree?*</b> VJ Comai	<b>Renovating Sidewalk Tree Wells*</b> John Snell	<b>Trees for Managed Landscapes*</b> Mark Starrett	<b>Arborist Technical Rigging*</b> N. American Training Sol.

**\*Eligible for continuing education credits for ISA, SAF, or VT Foresters license**

# Tracks

## Who should attend?

The conference is open to all and intended to support urban tree care professionals, municipal staff, tree wardens, tree boards, citizens, and anyone else caring for tree canopy at the local level.

A

**Forest Health:** open to all to learn about general forest health and restoration efforts

B

**Municipal Staff:** planners, town managers, parks or public works department staff, and roads crews

C

**Volunteers:** Tree wardens, tree boards, conservation commission, and planning commission members

D

**Tree Care Professionals:** arborists, foresters, and landscapers

## Detailed Agenda

9:00 AM Welcome and Arbor Day Address

9:15 AM *Wise Trees* with Diane Cook & Len Jenshel

### Diane Cook & Len Jenshel

Leading landscape photographers Diane Cook and Len Jenshel spent more than three years traveling to more than 70 sites across five continents to photograph some of the world's most historic and inspirational trees. *Wise Trees* showcases more than 60 of these beautiful trees, along with their remarkable stories.

Each tree in *Wise Trees* was carefully selected to inspire awareness of the enduring role trees play in nurturing and sheltering humanity. From Luna, the coast redwood in California that became an international symbol when activist Julia Butterfly Hill sat for 738 days on a platform nestled in its branches to save it from logging, to the Bodhi Tree, the sacred fig in India that is a direct descendent of the tree under which Buddha attained enlightenment, Cook and Jenshel reveal trees that have impacted and shaped many cultures and countless lives. There are also survivor trees, including a camphor tree in Nagasaki that endured the atomic bomb, an American elm at the Oklahoma City National Memorial, and a Callery pear at the 9/11 Memorial.

Trees can live without us, but we cannot live without them. Not only do trees provide us with the oxygen we breathe, food gathered from their branches, and wood for both fuel and shelter, but they have been essential to the spiritual and cultural life of civilizations around the world. **SAF-1.0 category 2 credits**

10:15 AM Break

## Tick Talk

**Judy Rosovsky**, State Entomologist, Vermont Agency of Agriculture

Thirteen different species of ticks have been identified in Vermont. Of these 13 species, five are known to bite humans and four of those five can transmit diseases. However, over 99% of all tickborne diseases reported to the Vermont Department of Health are caused by only one tick: the blacklegged tick. Join Judy Rosovsky, State Entomologist with the Agency of Agriculture, for an engaging “tick talk” where she will cover the biology, disease transmission, and surveillance of common ticks in Vermont. **ISA- 0.75 credits; SAF- 0.5 category 2 credits, Vermont Pesticide License - 1 credit category 7B, 2.**

## Managing Urban and Community Forests and their Local Benefits in a Changing Climate

**Andy Whitman**, Director, Sustainable Economies Program, Manomet

Urban and community forests maintained by local communities and land trusts provide essential natural benefits to local communities as green infrastructure. We will briefly describe the key forest benefits for local communities and how they are threatened by climate change. We will discuss how the US Forest Service’s i-Tree software can be used to assess the value and vulnerability of forests. We then review the Weather-Wise Checklist that can be used to guide urban foresters, planners, land trusts, and private landowners on how to prepare for climate change and conserve these natural values to reduce the vulnerability of local forests to a changing climate. The checklist highlights learning, building support, creating a plan, applying practices, and tracking improvement. Anyone can use it and you don’t need to use all of it. The checklist is designed to guide citizen groups working with small and large communities to tackle climate change. **ISA- 0.75 credits; SAF-0.5 category 1 credits**

## Tree ID Made Easy

**Meredith Whitney**, Forest Pest Education Coordinator, University of Vermont Extension

Join Meredith Whitney, Forest Pest Education Coordinator with UVM Extension, for an engaging workshop to break down the concepts of tree identification. Using some technical language combined with easy to understand observational techniques, participants will identify some of Vermont’s most common tree species. This workshop will provide you with a set of tools and tricks to identify the trees in your backyard and forest. **ISA- 0.75 credits; SAF-0.5 category 1 credits**

## Technical Tree Climbing: Moving Rope Systems (MRS)

**North American Training Solutions**

This talk will provide participants with knowledge in the use of specialized equipment and techniques employed in Moving Rope Systems (MRS). Safe work procedures for popular technical work at height moving rope systems will be demonstrated. Attendees will gain an understanding of the advantages and limitations of MRS while maintaining and following safe work practices and legislation pertaining to fall protection. Participants will be educated in applicable forces on anchor points, redirects, and tie off methods for tree climbing systems. This talk meets the requirements of ANSI Z133, Z359, CSA Z259 and is in compliance with ANSI Z490- Accepted Practices in Safety, Health, and Environmental Training. **This workshop is intended for tree care professionals only. ISA- 1.5 credits; SAF-1.5 category 2 credits (must attend both sessions for credits)**

11:15 AM Break

11:30 AM - 12:15 PM Workshop Session 2

## Elm Restoration

**Gus Goodwin**, Conservation Coordinator, The Nature Conservancy

Prior to the arrival of Dutch Elm Disease in the mid-20th century, the American elm was once the biggest, most abundant, and longest-lived tree on our northern floodplains. Now, it rarely survives to maturity, leaving an important ecological niche unfilled. The Nature Conservancy, along with the US Forest Service, is working to change that.

Thousands of experimental elms, containing the genetics from over 80 survivor elms are being planted in floodplains across northern Vermont and New Hampshire. It's an ambitious project, whose goals include improving floodplain function, enhancing resilience of floodplain forests through restoration of native diversity, and the return of a beloved species. **ISA- 0.75 credits; SAF-0.5 category 1 credits**

## EAB: How to Prepare Your Community

**Elise Schadler**, Technical Assistance Coordinator, University of Vermont Extension

**Meredith Whitney**, Forest Pest Education Coordinator, University of Vermont Extension

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) was confirmed in northern Orange County, Vermont in February 2018. Join Elise Schadler, Vermont Urban & Community Forestry Program's Technical Assistance Coordinator, and Meredith Whitney, Forest Pest Education Coordinator, to learn about resources available and steps your town can take to reduce the impact of EAB when it reaches your community. **ISA- 0.75 credits; SAF-0.5 category 1 credits, Vermont Pesticide License - 1 credit category 2**

## Advancing Your Citizen Science Initiatives Using iNaturalist

**Joanne Garton**, Resilient Right-of-Way Project Coordinator, VT Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation

**Erika Mitchell**, Volunteer Citizen Scientist, Naturalist and Photographer

Before you decide that people wandering amongst the trees with their smartphones in hand need a wake-up call from nature, consider that technology may be a friend when it comes to the important work of volunteer citizen scientists. Easy-to-use apps like iNaturalist not only let us record the occurrence and location of both our common and uncommon species, but also log yearly phenology, the unpredictable spread of invasive species, and even wildlife behavior. And for the beginning naturalist, online mapping apps allow us to help each other identify the species we see in our backyards, on our streets, and in our forests.

In this workshop, Joanne will discuss why citizen science matters and help you learn the basics of using iNaturalist on your smartphone to tap into the wealth of information already recorded in your area. Erica will then lead you on a journey through her own citizen science initiatives, sharing how she uses iNaturalist and photography to record the plants and wildlife she discovers in her travels. Get inspired and learn about another way to tell your tree stories! **SAF-0.5 category 2 credits**

# Technical Tree Climbing, Stationary Rope Systems (SRS)

## North American Training Solutions

This talk will provide participants with knowledge in the use of specialized equipment and techniques employed in Stationary Rope Systems (SRS). Safe work procedures for popular technical work at height moving rope systems will be demonstrated. Attendees will gain an understanding of advantages and limitations of SRS while maintaining and following safe work practices and legislation pertaining to fall protection. Participants will be educated in applicable forces on anchor points, redirects, and tie off methods for tree climbing systems. This talk meets the requirements of ANSI Z133, Z359, CSA Z259 and is in compliance with ANSI Z490-Accepted Practices in Safety, Health, and Environmental Training. **This workshop is intended for tree care professionals only. ISA- 1.5 credits; SAF-1.5 category 2 credits (must attend both sessions for credits)**

12:15 PM Lunch (provided)

## 1:00 PM Awards Ceremony

The Vermont Urban & Community Forestry Program and Council recognizes Vermont 2018 Tree Stewards and the recipients of national Arbor Day Awards for Tree City, Line and Campus USA.

### Tree City USA

TBD

### Tree Steward Awards

Unsung Hero

Community

### Tree Campus USA

TBD

Youth/Student:

Leader

Arbor Day Award

### Tree Line USA

TBD

Hamilton Award

1:45 PM Break

## 2:00-2:45 PM Workshop Session 3

## Successes and Challenges of Managing a Floodplain

### Intervale Conservation Nursery Staff

Since 2002, Intervale Conservation Nursery (ICN) has been growing native, locally sourced trees and shrubs for riparian restoration projects throughout Vermont and neighboring states. Their efforts to restore Vermont's floodplain forests have expanded beyond production to include planting services as well as stewardship. In this workshop, ICN will be presenting about floodplain forests in Vermont and their efforts to improve Vermont's watersheds. They will showcase their conservation efforts in a discussion of their work along the Winooski River on Intervale property; this will include a historic perspective on the ecological evolution of the landscape, a discussion about the community partnerships that have developed, and a look at the restoration efforts that have culminated in a project that benefits both the land and the community. **SAF-0.5 category 1 credits**

# Planning for Forests & Wildlife in VT Towns; Land Use Planning Provisions in Act 171

**Jens Hawkins-Hilke**, Conservation Planning Biologist , VT Fish & Wildlife Department

In this session, participants will understand how the pattern of our forests has changed over time and the implications of that change for our quality of life, including wildlife, recreation, and working forests. We'll explore BioFinder, an online mapping tool for learning about forests and biodiversity statewide. And we'll discuss land use provisions in Vermont's Act 171 Forest Integrity law that requires towns to identify forest blocks and habitat connectors and include those concepts in their natural resource maps, future land use maps, and planning process. **SAF-0.5 category 1 credits**

## Heritage Narratives: How Stories of a Community's Past Shape Engagement in Urban and Community Forestry Programs Now

**Christine Carmichael**, Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Vermont

At the local level, people respond to environmental initiatives partly based on how it fits within their heritage narratives, which are selective renditions of a community's history, and the character of its people (both past and present). There are often multiple heritage narratives told by different groups in a community, which can constrain land planning practices when proposed actions are in conflict with a particular group's heritage narrative. By learning of these diverse narratives, it is possible to better understand the reasons for: (1) current approaches used in environmentally-related initiatives, (2) conflicts that exist between groups involved, and (3) lack of engagement in initiatives among certain populations.

This presentation shares results from research conducted in Detroit, Michigan between 2014 and 2016 which examined the reasons for resistance to a non-profit organization's tree-planting program among city residents. Differing views on decision-making power related to selection of tree species to plant and maintenance responsibilities emerged as key reasons for resistance to tree-planting, and were linked to differing heritage narratives told by city residents and those within the non-profit organization. Attendees will learn how to inquire about heritage narratives in the communities where they work, and ways to integrate this knowledge into development of tree-planting and stewardship programs. **SAF-0.5 category 2 credits**

## Arborist Technical Rigging

**North American Training Solutions**

Arborist Technical Rigging will educate participants how to work as a team, using new tools and techniques under expert guidance and coaching in real world situations. The Arborist Technical Rigging presentation is designed to provide skilled tree workers with education and practice in making sound designs on how to plan and set up complex rigging systems. This workshop is recommended for those arborists who are already experienced with basic rigging techniques. **This workshop is intended for tree care professionals only.**  
**ISA- 1.5 credits; SAF-1.5 category 2 credits (must attend both sessions for credits)**

2:45 PM

Break

## What's Wrong With My Tree?

VJ Comai, Burlington City Arborist, City of Burlington

What's wrong with my tree? That's a tough question to answer. Join Burlington City Forester, VJ Comai, for an **outdoor walk** to learn how to assess tree health and identify some basic signs and symptoms of common diseases and pests. **ISA- 0.75 credits; SAF-0.5 category 1 credits, Vermont Pesticide License - 1 credit category 2**

## Renovating Existing Sidewalk Tree Wells

John Snell, Chair, Montpelier Tree Board

Urban trees planted in sidewalk tree wells often either fail completely or fail to thrive. Thirty-two cubic feet of "soil" is simply not enough for good tree health. When the City of Montpelier made plans to repair sidewalks downtown, the Tree Board approached them to also renovate the existing tree wells by excavating around them and adding structural soil. Although it is too early to see the effect on the tree growth, the session describes the project and shows what we did and what we learned. **ISA- 0.75 credits; SAF-0.5 category 1 credits**

## Trees for Managed Landscapes

Mark Starrett, Associate Professor of Horticulture, University of Vermont

In this presentation, we will take a look at some old favorites as well as new cultivars and hybrids suitable for use in a managed landscape. Many of these new trees are columnar, weeping, or compact growers that can help fit more difficult planting locations. Trees that provide flowers for pollinators and fruit for wildlife (and people!) will also be discussed. **ISA- 0.75 credits; SAF-0.5 category 1 credits**

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