

All About Oaks:

Discussing Decline, Management & Regeneration

Tuesday, May 30, 2023 – 9:00 am to 2:30 pm
Wetland Studies & Solutions, Inc. (WSSI)
5300 Wellington Branch Drive #100, Gainesville, VA 20155



8:00 – 9:00 Check-in/Registration- Light Refreshments

Morning Session: WSSI, Gainesville VA- Indoor Lectures

9:00 – 9:05 Welcome to the NOVA Urban Forest Roundtable,
VDOF Leadership
Trees Virginia

9:05 – 9:55 **The Ecology & Science of Regenerating Upland Oak Species,**
Dr. Stacy Clark, USDA Forest Service

Upland oak species require disturbances that create a competitive regeneration cohort, but balancing necessary costs and resources with practical recommendations has been challenging. The latest science focuses on identifying and improving seedling quality, development of tree improvement programs, and planting seedlings in environments where they have the best chance for success.

10:00 – 10:50 **Oak Decline: Mo' Factors, Mo' Problems,**
Chelsi Abbott, Davey Institute

This talk will aim to cover the diagnostics of key oak problems, such as two-line chestnut borer, wood decay fungi, foliar pathogens, and soil conditions to understand how these problems attribute to oak decline. Management practices will be focus on a holistic approach using traditional and advanced methods.

10:50 – 11:00 ** BREAK

11:05 – 11:55 **The Truth about Oaks,**
Anne Little, Tree Fredericksburg
Karen Tavakoli, Owl Run Nursery

Anne and Karen will talk about the misconceptions about planting oaks and surprising facts you might not have known. Come learn about oaks and why oaks are the people's choice for Americas' National Tree.

12:00 – 12:45 LUNCH PROVIDED

12:45 – 1:10 ** Travel to Conway Robinson State Forest for the Outdoor Sessions

Afternoon Session: 1:10 – 2:30 Outdoor Rotations

Conway Robinson State Forest

STATION 1: **Walk & Talk about Oaks in the Conway,**
Dr. Stacy Clark

Expanding on the morning discussion about oak ecology and the science in regenerating upland oak species in the Conway Robinson State Forest.

STATION 2: **Plant Health Care Management Techniques for Oaks,**
Chelsi Abbott, Dr. Chris Fields-Johnson, Welvin Osorio

Davey Tree Expert Company is bringing one of their plant health care trucks to discuss and demo various techniques to interface with oaks in decline.

Speaker Bios:



Dr. Stacy Clark, USDA Forest Service

Dr. Stacy Clark has been a Research Forester with the USDA Forest Service, Southern Research Station since 2005. She is based in Knoxville, TN on the University of Tennessee campus where she is Adjunct Assistant Professor. Her research interests span the life cycle of the oak tree from the acorn to old growth to the whiskey barrel. She currently leads research projects on American chestnut restoration and artificial regeneration of upland oak.

Chelsi Abbott, Davey Institute

Chelsi Abbott is a technical advisor and education specialist with the Davey Institute. In her role she provides diagnostic and management support, conducts research, and builds educational content and curriculum. She received her master's degree in plant pathology from Purdue University, she is an ISA certified arborist, TRAQ qualified, and a certified forest therapy guide.

Anne Little, Tree Fredericksburg

Anne Little is Executive Director and founder of Tree Fredericksburg. Tree Fredericksburg has planted over 9,000 trees along city streets, in the parks and at the schools in Fredericksburg. They also have provided over 30,000 trees for our neighbors to plant in their yards. Anne loves bluebirds and is one of the co-founders of the Virginia Bluebird Society, 26 years ago.

Karen Tavakoli, Owl Run Nursery

Karen Tavakoli is the Manager and Grower at Owl Run Nursery in Stafford, VA where she specializes in growing native perennials, shrubs, and trees. This is her 6th season at the nursery. Karen has grown over 1 million native plants so far! She spends a good deal of time outdoors learning from nature and applying that knowledge to her nursery practices and techniques. She is an avid birder and photographer and enjoy long hikes with her dog.

Dr. Christopher Fields-Johnson, Davey Institute

Christopher Fields-Johnson, Ph.D. attended Virginia Tech, graduated Summa Cum Laude in Forestry, and earned an M.Sc. and a Ph.D. in Crop and Soil Environmental Sciences while studying land reclamation, reforestation, and the use of biochar in soil rehabilitation. He is a Technical Advisor for the Davey Institute of the Davey Tree Expert Company, providing scientific support in the region from Philadelphia to Atlanta. He lives with his wife and two children in Charlottesville, VA where they enjoy raising trees and sheep, hiking, kayaking, and cycling in the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Welvin Osorio

Welvin Osorio is a Plant Health Care Technician with Davey Tree Expert Company. Welvin has been employed with Davey since 2017. He enjoys spending time outside with family and fishing.