

Patching Together the Urban Forest

The Composition, Management, & Restoration of Urban Forest Patches

Tuesday, March 12, 2024 – 8:00 am to 3:35 pm
Virginia Western Community College (VWCC)
Whitman Theatre, 3099 Colonial Ave. SW, Roanoke, VA 24015



Speaker Bios

Carolyn Copenheaver, PhD, Virginia Tech

Dr. Carolyn Copenheaver has been a faculty member in the Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation at Virginia Tech since 2000. She teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in forest ecology and conducts research using dendrochronology, land survey records, and vegetation sampling to answer forest ecology questions. She has earned a doctorate at The Pennsylvania State University in Forest Resources, a master's from the University of Maine in Forestry, and a B.S. in ecology from Juniata College.

Nancy Sonti, PhD, USDA Forest Service

Nancy Sonti is a Research Ecologist with the US Forest Service Northern Research Station. She currently works at the Baltimore Field Station as an interdisciplinary researcher studying urban social-ecological systems. She works to build collaboration among academics, community groups, and government agencies to support the research activities of the Baltimore Field Station. Nancy's current research interests include evaluating and monitoring the health of urban forests by examining urban tree ecophysiology and processes of forest restoration and regeneration. She is also involved in research examining the motivations for engagement with urban green spaces such as community gardens and forest patches. Previously, Nancy worked at the New York City Field Station. She has a Masters in Conservation Biology from Columbia University and a PhD in Plant Science at the University of Maryland, College Park.

Glynn Percival, PhD, Bartlett Tree Experts

Dr. Glynn Percival is the Senior Arboricultural Researcher at the Bartlett Tree Research Laboratory based in Charlotte, NC. He is the author of over 100 scientific papers, magazine articles and book chapters. In addition, Dr. Percival is on the editorial board for Arboriculture and Urban Forestry and Urban Forestry Urban Greening and is the co-editor of the proceedings of the Trees, People and Built Environment Conference, published by the Forestry Commission. Reading University made Dr. Percival an honorary visiting research fellow, citing his valuable contributions within the Plant Science Department and the University. Dr. Percival is also a visiting lecturer at the Kew Royal Botanic Gardens and was awarded the prestigious Arboricultural Association Award for Research and Education in 2017 and the International Society of Arboriculture LCC Chadwick Award for Research in 2020. Dr. Percival is actively involved in managing urban and rural landscapes for the Royal Households and Duchy of Cornwall.

Laura Greenleaf, Founder James River Park System Invasive Plant Task Force

Laura Greenleaf is the founder of the James River Park System Invasive Plant Task Force (2015) and has worked part-time for the JRPS as an invasive management coordinator since July 2021. She became a Virginia Master Naturalist in 2010, which marked the beginning of her invasive species education and involvement. Laura has over twelve years' experience managing invasive plants in the Blue Ridge on her family's land in Clarke County where she grew up. Though her original career was in social work, Laura is also a lifelong conservation advocate with deep roots in the land conservation community. She moved to the City of Richmond from the northern Piedmont in 2007 and lives just south of the James River with her husband and 16-year-old son.

Joey Keefe, CTSP and Lead Training, Bartlett Tree Experts

Joey began his career with Bartlett Tree Experts in 2010. In 2015, Joey and his family moved to Williamsburg, VA where he was a Plant Healthcare Specialist, Champion Climber, Champion Crew Leader, and Local Office Safety Coordinator where he taught and encouraged a positive safety culture. Today, Joey leads the production training in offices in Virginia and Tennessee for Bartlett Tree Experts.

Jeff Metz, Jeff Metz LLC Forestry Mulching

Jeff Metz, along with his family, has been in the forestry industry for 30 plus years. Within the past 7 years, Jeff, and his son Vinny, have been forestry mulching invasive species in Virginia and has been out as far west to Oregon helping create shaded fire lines with forestry mulcher/masticators. Jeff has special interests in mitigating difficult projects, educating people on chainsaw safety and forestry management. He is a certified in sawyer operations, equipment specialist, mitigating hazard trees and certified TAOFT 1, 11, 111.
