

**GEORGIA URBAN FOREST COUNCIL
ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2015
November 4 and 5
Hilton Savannah DeSoto**



*The Forest Pharmacy:
Nature's Prescription for Healthy Communities*

DAY ONE

Wednesday, November 4

8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

General Session in Cumberland Room

Welcome and Acknowledgements (10 minutes)

To Your Health!

**Kathleen Wolf, Ph.D, Research Scientist, University of Washington
College of the Environment, School of Environmental and Forest
Sciences**

With a focus on trees, Kathy will cover the health benefits associated with experiences of metro nature. Using a life cycle story line – cradle to grave – she will tie together reports of a string of studies. Kathy will also introduce the *Green Cities: Good Health* website as a source to learn more about the current research and evidence about the relationships of nearby nature in cities and health. (1 hour)

10 minute break

**Ray Tretheway, Executive Director, Sacramento Tree Foundation,
Sacramento, California**

Sacramento Tree Foundation is working to build healthy, livable communities in the Sacramento region by growing the best urban forest in the nation and is leading the effort to plant 5 million trees in the region.

“Green Rx:” We’ll learn about this innovative project which conducted original research, using combined urban greening and health data, to determine the association between the extent of urban greening, which is expressed primarily as canopy cover, and major health behaviors and outcomes for children, youth, and adults in the six-county Sacramento region of California. (40 minutes)

10:30 – 11:00 a.m.

Break with exhibitors

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11 a.m. – 12 noon

Breakout sessions:

- **COASTAL GEORGIA GREEN PROJECTS**
 - **Savannah Tree Foundation Initiatives – Karen Jenkins, STF Executive Director**
 - **Green Infrastructure Program for Coastal Georgia –** Rapid development has led to loss of natural areas, fragmentation of natural spaces, and degradation of water resources. A GI plan will ensure continuation of natural services for this area.
Mark McClellan, Georgia Forestry Commission and Hunter Key, Coastal Regional Commission. (Cumberland)

- **TREES AND PARKING LOTS: INNOVATIVE DESIGNS, A MULTITUDE OF BENEFITS**
Michael Browning, ASLA, ISA, LEED ap director, savannah office, jB+a, inc. planning + landscape architecture (Ossabaw)

- **URBAN WOOD UTILIZATION FOR A HEALTHY COMMUNITY**
Eric Wiseman, Ph.D., Virginia Tech (Sapelo)

12 noon – 1:30 p.m.

Boxed lunches

1:30 – 2:00 p.m.

Break with exhibitors

2:00 – 3:00 pm.

Breakout Sessions:

- **STATE PLANS FOR STORMWATER & GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE – Frances Carpenter, Stormwater Unit Manager, Nonpoint Source Program, Georgia Environmental Protection Division / Water Protection Branch (Cumberland)**

- **DESIGNING & UTILIZING HEALTHY PARKS - Rex Schuder, Gwinnett County Principal Community Planner and Lindsey Daniels, Gwinnett County Leisure Services (Ossabaw)**

- **VALUABLE POCKETS OF GREENSPACE: CONSERVATION EASEMENTS & HOW TO GET AND KEEP THEM – Kyle Williams, Conservation Director, Athens Land Trust (Sapelo)**

3:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Break with exhibitors/refreshments

3:30 – 4:30 p.m.

General Session: Technical aspects of stormwater and green infrastructure

5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Evening reception

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DAY TWO

Thursday, November 5

8:00 – 10:00 a.m.

General Session in Cumberland

Design for Health

Kathleen Wolf, Ph.D, Research Scientist, University of Washington, College of the Environment, School of Environmental and Forest Sciences

King County, Washington and the City of Seattle are doing concentrated implementations of green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) in urban neighborhoods to meet the requirements of an EPA Consent Decree. She has worked with project designers to tweak the GSI elements to promote public health. Kathy will talk about design elements and how they can potentially contribute to human health outcomes. (45 minutes)

From Evidence to Program – Participant Workshop

Kathy will conduct a brainstorming session on the question, “How do we take research to practice? Participants visualize what might be a way to promote trees and metro nature for health in their communities and who they might partner with to do so. (1 hour+)

10:00 – 10:30 a.m.

Break with exhibitors

10:30 – 12:30 p.m.

Walking Tour of Savannah’s urban forest, landscape & historic squares

12:30 – 1:30 p.m.

Awards Luncheon in Madison

1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

FINAL SESSION: General Session in Madison

Nature and Health –

From Evidence to Economic Value

Kathleen Wolf, Ph.D, Research Scientist, University of Washington

Kathy will give an overview of the most recent research work done by her team about economic valuation of health benefits on a U.S. national scale. She’ll also discuss economic values from health research completed in the Sacramento, California region. (45 minutes)

5 minute break

Panel Discussion: Testimonies to the benefits of Greenspace & Nature – representatives from medical field, neighborhood groups

Adjourn