

Tree Selection & Diversity: Past, Present, & Beyond

Dr. Laura Jull – Associate Professor/Extension Specialist, UW-Madison/UW-Extension

Mike Wendt – Retired Instructor, MATC

Randy Krouse – Forestry Services Manager, City of Milwaukee – Forestry Section

Anna Healy – Urban Forester & Naturalist, City of Fitchburg

Jay Weiss – Principal, Cambridge Tree Project

Description of Presentation

1. New & Improved Cultivars & Species Alternatives Available - Dr. Jull will present new, underused and alternative tree species and cultivars suitable for the urban landscape.
2. What Tree Species were Planted in Previous Decades and What Kind of Problems They Present Today - Mike Wendt
3. The Importance of Tree Diversity for Sustainable, Healthy Urban Forests: Large Municipality - Randy Krouse - The City of Milwaukee plants nearly 4,000 street trees and more on other public green spaces annually. Species diversity is paramount in selecting trees to plant in public spaces to ensure the sustainability of the urban forest. This presentation will give you a glimpse into how the City of Milwaukee selects trees to plant throughout the City with a diverse inventory of trees grown in its municipal nursery.
4. The Importance of Tree Diversity for Sustainable, Healthy Urban Forests: Small Municipality - Anna Healy
5. What Tree Species/Cultivars Will be Needed in the Future in Relation to Climate Change & What Trees Will We be Sitting Under in 50 Years - Jay Weiss will use research compiled from nearly 10,000 data points taken over 15 years to predict which trees will succeed over time as climate extremes challenge weaker selections.

Speaker Bios

Dr. Laura Jull received both of her A.A.S. degrees from Oakland Community College in Landscape Technology and Liberal Arts. She earned a B.S. degree in Horticulture from Michigan State University and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Horticultural Science from North Carolina State University. She has worked for almost 40 years in numerous positions in the Green Industry. For the past 22 years, she has been a professor and

Extension Specialist for Woody Ornamental Horticulture at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Mike Wendt is a retired Arboriculture and Landscape Horticulture Instructor at Milwaukee Area Technical College where he taught for 25 years. He has practiced tree care for over 40 years, and has been a certified arborist for over 30 years. He specializes in tree ID and pruning.

Randy Krouse directs the management and operations of the City of Milwaukee Department of Public Works - Forestry Section. Past President of the WAA and current Program Chair. Enjoys spending time with family and outdoor activities such as hiking, biking, camping, and fishing.

Anna Healy is currently employed as the Urban Forester and Naturalist for the City of Fitchburg. Her responsibilities include managing approximately 14,000 public trees and 200 acres of woodlots and natural areas. Prior to working at the City of Fitchburg, Anna was employed with the DNR as a Forest Products Specialist and as a Plant, Pest and Disease Specialist with the DATCP Emerald Ash Borer Program. Other career highlights include working as a Park Ranger for the National Park Service in Rock Creek Park, Washington, D.C. and a Peace Corps assignment in Paraguay, South America. Anna's educational background includes a BS in Environmental Science from UW-Green Bay and an MS in Forestry from University of Montana-Missoula.

Jay Weiss founded the Cambridge Tree Project in 2006 with the aim of donating and establishing 1000 additional trees in his village by 2020. This goal was met one year early. A secondary goal of the Project sought to greatly expand tree diversity in Cambridge, which grew from 35 species to 164 during this time. He has been the Village Forester in Cambridge since 2010 and a member of the Dane County Tree Board since 2018.