



Schedule of the Day

Thursday, July 15, 2021 – Eastern Time

12:30 Opening slides of Woody Plant Conference Sponsoring Institutions

12:45 – 1:00 Welcome from the Woody Plant Conference Committee

1:00 – 2:00 Southern Comfort: Southeastern Trees and Shrubs for a Warming Mid-Atlantic – Bill Cullina

Native trees, shrubs, and vines are not only beautiful and versatile, they are cornerstones of local ecosystems, offering food and shelter for a host of birds, mammals, and insects. However, many of the native species we are familiar with are no longer good landscape choices as the climate changes. Thirty years ago, in Southeastern Pennsylvania, southern magnolias barely survived the winter and sugar maples lined suburban streets. Now, the magnolias are a common sight while once stately maples are rapidly dying from heat stress and drought. We must be proactive, promoting and planting species that will thrive in this new environment. In this talk, Bill will showcase some less well known but beautiful natives that show great promise in a rapidly warming Northeast and Mid-Atlantic.

2:00 – 2:10 Q&A with Bill Cullina

2:10 – 2:20 Break

2:20 – 3:10 Gardeners Voices with Eric Hsu, Hasan Malik, and Leah Blanton

2:25 – 2:40 Japanese Americans and Their Plant Introductions: A Brief Look – Eric Hsu

When we reflect on the origins of our garden plants, we often recognize the plant hunting exploits overseas in east Asia. However, the stories of our garden plants can be found on our shores as immigrants who sought better opportunities in the United States brought with them the plants evocative of the homes they left. The Japanese Americans played a large role in enriching our gardens.

2:40 – 2:55 How to Select Trees That Will Thrive – Hasan Malik

Trees have fascinated Hasan Malik for as long as he can remember. He started Tree Northeast, a non-profit that has planted over 1,000 trees throughout Northeast Philadelphia. He also founded Tree Authority, a nursery and tree care company that stocks over 200 varieties of trees including a diverse selection of natives. His talk focuses on what to look for when selecting nursery-grown trees so they have the best chance to survive in the landscape.

2:55 – 3:10 Connecting People with Plants: Revitalizing Urban Spaces through Horticulture – Leah Blanton

Leah will be discussing the unique opportunity the PHS Public Landscapes team has in Philadelphia to infuse underutilized sites with interesting plantings, push a naturalistic aesthetic that highlights natives and biodiversity, and create dynamic spaces for people to interact with the city in new ways. She will provide an overview of the teams' projects, the design approach to public planting and installation, and discuss the staple plants that we rely on to perform in tough conditions.

3:10 – 3:20 Q&A with Eric Hsu, Hasan Malik, and Leah Blanton

3:20 – 3:30 Break

3:30 – 4:20 A Park in Six Trees – Georgia Silvera Seamans

The land on which Washington Square Park sits supported an oak-tuliptree forest before the park was established in 1827. Red oak and tuliptree remain part of the park's canopy though they were intentionally planted. The approximately 30 tree species in this patch of urban forest in downtown Manhattan reflect the ecological past as well as our plant love. Georgia will explore the changes in this 9.75-acre landscape, and urban forests in general, through the lens of six tree species.

4:20 – 4:30 Q&A with Georgia Silvera Seamans

4:30 – Closing Comments

5:00 – 6:00 Happy Hour: For those who have registered for Happy Hour, a separate link to join will be emailed to you.

Woody Plant Conference 2021 Speaker Biographies

Leah Blanton is a skilled planting designer, using her artistic eye and horticultural knowledge to create beautiful and functional urban landscapes. She currently works as a Project Manager in Public Landscapes at the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society where she designs and manages a diverse range of public horticulture projects in Philadelphia.

Bill Cullina (kul-EYE-nuh) holds degrees in plant science and psychology and has been working in public horticulture for 25 years. He is the F. Otto Haas Executive Director at the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania. A well-known author and recognized authority on North American native plants, Bill lectures on a variety of subjects to gardening and professional groups and writes for popular and technical journals. His books include, *Wildflowers; Native Trees, Shrubs, and Vines; Understanding Orchids; Native Ferns, Mosses, and Grasses;* and *Understanding Perennials*.

Eric Hsu is the Plant Information Coordinator at Chanticleer Garden. He is a writer whose work has been featured in various publications, including RHS's *The Plant Review* and *Wall Street Journal*. In addition, Eric writes for his blog Plinth et al.

Hasan Malik started Tree Authority in 2012 with a goal of providing superior tree care in the Southeastern Pennsylvania region; the nursery began the following year in Perkasio. Hasan and his wife Tasneem continue to expand the nursery which now stocks varieties of fruit, shade, and ornamental trees. Hasan is an ISA Certified Arborist and has a degree in Civil Engineering from Temple University. In 2008 Hasan founded Tree Northeast, a nonprofit organization that plants street and yard trees throughout Northeast Philadelphia, engaging volunteers and residents in greening the community.

Georgia Silvera Seamans is an urban and community forester, and the director of Washington Square Park Eco Projects. Georgia is also an independent researcher and freelance writer. She has bylines with *Popular Science*, *Urban Omnibus*, and *Audubon*, and her research has been published in *Urban Forestry & Urban Greening* and the *Arboriculture & Urban Forestry*. She's an alumna of Wesleyan University, the Yale School of the Environment, and UC Berkeley.