



2022 Ontario Urban Forest Summit

What's on the Horizon?

November 24th, 2022

8:30am – 8:45am

Welcome and Land Acknowledgement

Janani Sivarajah | President, Ontario Urban Forest Council
Peter Wynnyczuk | Executive Director, Ontario Urban Forest Council
Jack Radecki | Advisor, Ontario Urban Forest Council

8:45am – 9:15am

Sustainable Forestry Initiative's NEW Urban and Community Forest Sustainability Standard

Alix Olson | Urban and Community Forest Intern, Sustainable Forestry Initiative

9:15am – 9:45am

Building Sustainable Green Roofs with Biochar

Wenxi Liao | PhD Candidate, Forestry and Civil Engineering, University of Toronto

9:45am – 10:45am

Seed Conservation: Provincial and National Perspectives

Melissa Spearing | Biologist, National Seed Tree Centre
Elizabeth Celanowicz | Chief Operating Officer, Forests Ontario

10:45am – 11:00am

Break (Heritage Tree Session)

11:00am – 12:00pm

Forest Pests on the Horizon: Spotted Lanternfly + Hemlock Woolly Adelgid

Emily Posteraro | Program Development Coordinator, Invasive Species Centre
Madison Sturba | Program Development Coordinator, Invasive Species Centre

12:00pm – 12:30pm

Lunch and Networking

12:30pm – 12:45pm

Tree-via (with prizes!)

12:45pm – 1:15pm

Climate Resiliency for Urban Forests

Jade Schofield | Director, Ontario Urban Forest Council

1:15pm – 1:45pm

OUFC: A Year in Review

Peter Wynnyczuk | Executive Director, Ontario Urban Forest Council

1:45pm – 2:00pm

Closing Remarks

Janani Sivarajah | President, Ontario Urban Forest Council

Thank You to our Sponsors:



Please Note: our Annual General Meeting will be held on December 1, 2022, from 10:00am-11:00am
Members will receive a Zoom link two days prior to the event. Non-members please email info@oufc.org if you are interested in participating.
All are welcome to join – only members may vote.



Speaker Biographies

Alix Olson **Sustainable Forestry Initiative**

Alix Olson is focused on supporting the development of the new SFI Urban and Community Forestry Sustainability Standard. As part of SFI's urban and community forestry team, Alix works to increase the resiliency and sustainability of communities, both large and small. She is passionate about urban forestry and creating sustainable standards for the forest sector. Before joining SFI, she worked as a tree specialist at a nursery, a landscape technician for the City of Edmonton, and was part of the environmental team at the District of North Vancouver. Alix holds a Bachelor of Urban Forestry from the University of British Columbia and is pursuing an Environmental Management Certificate from the University of Calgary. She loves spending time outside, often with her cat Earl, who behaves more like a dog than a cat.

Wenxi Liao **University of Toronto**

Wenxi Liao is a 4th-year Ph.D. Candidate (direct entry) in Forestry and Civil Engineering at the University of Toronto. Her research focuses on applications of novel substrate additives, such as biochar, to improve hydrological and vegetation performance on green roofs. The objective of Wenxi's research is to build resilient and sustainable green infrastructure to solve environmental problems resulting from urbanization and climate change.

Melissa Spearing **National Seed Tree Centre**

Melissa is currently employed as a seed biologist at the National Tree Seed Centre in Fredericton while working towards a Master of Forest Science degree at the University of New Brunswick. Melissa's prior experience includes nursery production and seed orchard management in Southern Ontario, propagation and sampling for Species at Risk recovery programs, training at the Millennium Seed Bank in England, and a diploma from the Niagara Parks School of Horticulture. She is currently a Director with the Canadian Forest Genetics Association, Editor of the Tree Seed Working Group News Bulletin, and a new member of the Canadian Institute of Forestry Maritimes Section. In her spare time, she enjoys gardening, hiking, camping, cooking, and restoring old farmhouses.

Elizabeth Celanowicz **Forests Ontario**

Elizabeth (Liz) graduated from York University's Environmental Studies program in 2007 specializing in Resource Management while also working internationally assisting in initiatives to preserve rainforests, educate communities on environmental sustainability and increase overall biodiversity. Since graduating, Liz has worked in the forest restoration field having spent 12 years with Toronto and Region Conservation Authority overseeing their tree planting program, managing over 30 staff, engaging with landowners and directly establishing healthy forests. Liz started with Forests Ontario in the fall of 2019 as Operations Manager and was promoted to Chief Operating Officer in 2020 and has been instrumental in the overall growth of Forests Ontario's restoration programs.

Emily Posteraro **Invasive Species Centre**

Emily Posteraro is a Program Development Coordinator at the Invasive Species Centre (ISC). She holds a Master of Environmental Science degree from the University of Toronto, Scarborough, where she specialized in conservation biology. One of Emily's main areas of focus at the ISC is educating industry stakeholders and the public about the invasive spotted lanternfly. Through this preventative work, she aims to help protect Ontario forests, vineyards, and orchards from a highly destructive plant pest. Emily also facilitates collaboration between municipalities and coordinates efforts to address the cumulative impacts of invasive species and climate change.

Madison Sturba **Invasive Species Centre**

Madison is a Program Development Coordinator at the Invasive Species Centre where she focuses on training and outreach, particularly on forest and agricultural pests. She graduated from the University of Windsor with an MSc in Biology and an Honours BSc in Behaviour, Cognition, and Neuroscience.