Workshop Agenda: The What & Why of Mature Tree Care
Best Western Inn & Conference Center - 109 Apple Tree Ln, Waynesboro, VA 22980

7:15 – 7:45  Check-in/Registration- Light refreshments

Reveling Track- Morning Session:

7:45 – 7:50  Welcome / Announcements
7:50 – 8:00  Trees Virginia’s Education Mission
8:00 – 8:50  High Profile Preservation: Caring for the Trees on the National Mall
➢ Matthew Morrison, National Mall & Memorial Parks

8:50 – 9:00  BREAK
9:00 – 9:50  The Merry Tree at Virginia Tech - Cultural and Historical Sentinel
➢ Jamie King, University Arborist, Virginia Tech

9:50 – 10:50  Oklahoma City Survivor Tree
➢ Mark Bays, Urban & Community Forestry Program Manager, Oklahoma Forestry Services

10:50 – 11:00  BREAK
11:00 – 11:50  Managing Mature Trees in an Urban Environment
➢ Elden LeBrun, Research Technician, Bartlett Tree Research Laboratory

12:00 – 1:15  LUNCH @ Ridgeview Park Woodland Shelter & Gardens (Catered BBQ)

Reveling Track- Afternoon Session: Ridgeview Park

1:15 – 3:35  STATION 1: Mitigation Options for Mature Trees
Elden LeBrun
STATION 2: Demonstration: Meaningful Urban Wood Utilization
Joe Lehnen
STATION 3: Tree Protection Zones for Construction
Jay Banks

Directions to Ridgeview Park from the Best Western Conference Center
Exit the Conference center turn RIGHT onto LEW DEWITT BLVD at the stoplight turn LEFT onto Rosser Ave. After the cemetery at the stoplight, turn RIGHT onto 13th Street. At the first stop sign turn, RIGHT onto Magnolia Ave. Magnolia dead-ends into Ridgeview Park. Walk past playground to Woodland Shelter for lunch.

Arborist Track – 8am to 3pm – (Separate Registration)
ACRT Arborist Training – Instructor – Kevin Myers
Advanced Climbing Techniques – Outdoor Class

Ridgeview Park
700 S Magnolia Ave. Waynesboro, VA
Friday, September 15, 2023

Workshop Agenda:

7:15 – 7:45  Check-in/Registration- Light refreshments

Reveling Track- Morning Session:

7:45 – 7:50  Welcome / Announcements

7:50 – 8:00  Trees Virginia’s Education Mission

8:00 – 8:50  High Profile Preservation: Caring for the Trees on the National Mall
  ➢ Matthew Morrison, Arborist, National Park Service

Caring for some of the most photographed trees in the world takes some extra care and attention. During this presentation, Matthew will discuss the different types of arboricultural maintenance practices his team performs to keep these trees in top shape. From the ongoing prophylactic Dutch Elm Disease treatments conducted among the Elm alley to the detailed maintenance schedule of the 3,700 cherry trees that are on display once a year during the National Cherry Blossom Festival, Matthew’s team ensures that scopes of work are clear to get the work completed successfully.

9:00 – 9:50  The Merry Tree at Virginia Tech - Cultural and Historical Sentinel
  ➢ Jamie King, University Arborist, Virginia Tech

Trees in cities, towns, college campuses, and other urban environments create gathering places and often witness human history. One of those witness trees, The Merry Tree at Virginia Tech, stood on University property near William Preston’s Smithfield for more than three centuries. The tree held significant importance to the enslaved people at Smithfield and that legacy continues with their descendants and the Virginia Tech community today. This tree is likely the longest documented landmark at Virginia Tech and the tree’s failure presented a special opportunity to use the wood to create a new space where people can travel, gather, reminisce about the past, and plan for the future.

9:50 – 10:50  Oklahoma City Survivor Tree
  ➢ Mark Bays, U&CF Program Coordinator, Oklahoma Forestry Services

In 1996 at the request of the Oklahoma City Memorial Foundation, Mark Bays an urban forester with Oklahoma Forestry Services, was asked to assist with the care for the Survivor Tree and this has continued ever since. Mark and others worked closely with the designers, engineers and construction crews in all aspects of the construction relating to the Survivor Tree and many innovative designs were considered and implemented. This presentation will discuss the challenges and victories associated with caring for such an important piece of history.

11:00 – 11:50  Managing Mature Trees in an Urban Environment
  ➢ Elden LeBrun, Research Technician, Bartlett Tree Research Laboratory

Meeting the challenge of maintaining mature trees in the landscape can be very challenging. Trees generally become less tolerant of site changes and stress as they age. Creating a management plan of care for mature trees will maximize longevity. Topics will include: inspections, soil/root care, site management, pruning, support systems, & pest management.
Matthew Morrison, Arborist, National Park Service
Matthew began his professional career as an arborist in 1979 while studying Arboriculture in forestry school. Three decades were spent mostly self-employed as the owner of a tree care company, always with a vision of exercising environmental stewardship, public safety, education in arboriculture, and hard work. Matthew is currently the Arborist at the National Mall and Memorial Parks specializing in Urban Forestry, bringing 4 decades of practical experience to the National Park Service. He has the responsibility for some 20,000 trees, including the year-round maintenance of the cherry trees featured in the National Cherry Blossom Festival. Doubling as the Tree Crew Supervisor, he oversees the National Mall and Memorial Park’s in-house tree crew to perform storm damage/emergency work along with routine cyclic maintenance.

Jamie King, University Arborist, Virginia Tech
Jamie King has served as the Urban Forest Manager and University Arborist at Virginia Tech since 2019 and he is developing the school’s first comprehensive urban forest management program. Before beginning the new program at VT, Jamie served the City of Roanoke, VA as the City Arborist. Jamie has a BS in Natural Resource Conservation from Virginia Tech, is an ISA Board Certified Master Arborist, ISA Municipal Specialist, he holds the ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualification, serves on the boards for the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture and the Society of Municipal Arborists, and he represents SMA on the ANSI Z133 Committee and the ISA Credentialing Council.

Mark Bays, Urban & Community Forestry Program Manager, Oklahoma Forestry Services
Mark has B.S. Graduate in Forestry from Oklahoma State University 1982. Worked in traditional forestry in the states of Colorado and California; self-employed in Oklahoma and Texas as a consultant in urban & community forestry, arboriculture and tree care. He has been with Oklahoma Forestry Services for the past 31 years. In 2022 he was the recipient of the Larry Kotchman Lifetime Achievement Award as presented by the National Association of State Foresters. Since the spring of 1996 Mark and many others in the tree care industry have been involved with the Oklahoma City Memorial Foundation and the recovery efforts centering on improving the health the Survivor Tree. This native, American elm is less than a hundred yards from where the bomb was detonated and is the closest living tree that took the full force of the bomb.

Elden LeBrun, Bartlett Research Technician, Bartlett Tree Research Laboratory
Elden accepted a position with Bartlett in May of 1978, after graduating with a degree in Forestry from Allegany College of Maryland. He worked out of the Baltimore Maryland location as a climber, crew leader, Foreman and Pest Management Technician. Beginning in early 1985 his duties expanded to include PHC Specialist (Plant health Care/Integrated Pest Management). He transferred to the Charlottesville VA office in August of 1987. Initially tasked with training a Crew to handle the production operation in the Shenandoah Valley, he served the Local office as Production Foreman through December of 1999. In addition to managing Safety and Training programs he served as a Crew Forman and PHC Specialist. Elden began work at the Research Laboratory in January of 2000 where he continues to serve as a Research Technician. His primary responsibilities are facilitating Research and Training programs at the Laboratory and remote locations within the operating area of the Company. He is responsible for providing technical support for PHC Specialists and assists with developing training resources.