

# CANOPY CON 25

EXPANDING URBAN TREE CANOPIES: LEADING BY EXAMPLE



24 April 2025, Lexington KY





## **CANOPY CON 25 - Expanding Urban Tree Canopies: Leading by Example**

24 April 2025. Fayette County Extension Office, Lexington, KY

---

8:30. Doors open, registration and breakfast.

9:00. Welcome and introduction. **Dr. Craig Wood**, Acting Associate Dean and Director of Cooperative Extension, University of Kentucky.

9:10. Keynote speaker. **Dr. Margaret D. Lowman**, scientist, master arborist and author: "Life in the treetops - conservation of forest canopies around the globe." Q&A.

10:00. Keynote speaker. **Lionel Bradford**, Executive Director of *The Greening of Detroit*: "Growing Tomorrow's Detroit." Q&A.

10:40. Coffee break.

11:00. Examples to emulate: **David Morgan**, President of The Parklands of Floyds Fork: "The interconnected community forest." Q&A.

11:30. Examples to Emulate: **Andover Forest panel discussion**: "Reclamation of bankrupt golf course to neighborhood natural area." Moderators: Heather Wilson, LFUCG Urban Forester and Mitzi Bender, Andover Forest Homeowners Association. Q&A.

12:00. Discussion, conclusions and afternoon orientation.

12:15. Lunch and networking.

1:45-4:00pm. **Field demonstrations**: next page.

\*\*\*

### **Floor exhibits**

African Cemetery No. 2  
Dave Leonard Arbor Advocate  
Geomancer Permaculture  
Kentucky Arborist Association

Kentucky Division of Forestry  
Lex Grow Trees & LFUCG  
Louisville Metro Urban Forestry  
Trees Lexington!

UK Bookstore (*Dr. Lowman's books  
available for purchase and signing*)  
Urban Forest Initiative  
Wild Ones

### **Continuing Education Units (CEUs)**

KY chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA), 5 units

Society of American Foresters (SAF), 5 units

KY chapter of the American Planning Association (APA), 5 hours CM

*Sign-in sheets will be available from 12:15 to 1:45*



## FIELD DEMONSTRATIONS

Visit the seven stations located in the field and woodland behind the Fayette County Extension Office (see map below). Each field site includes a 15-minute demonstration. Participants should follow the direction of the arrows, regardless of station number assigned at the start. *Additional instructions on the field demonstrations will be provided after lunch.*

Station 1. **Urban water**, Nachie Braga (Geomancer Permaculture).

Station 2. **Urban soils**, Dave Leonard (Arbor Advocate).

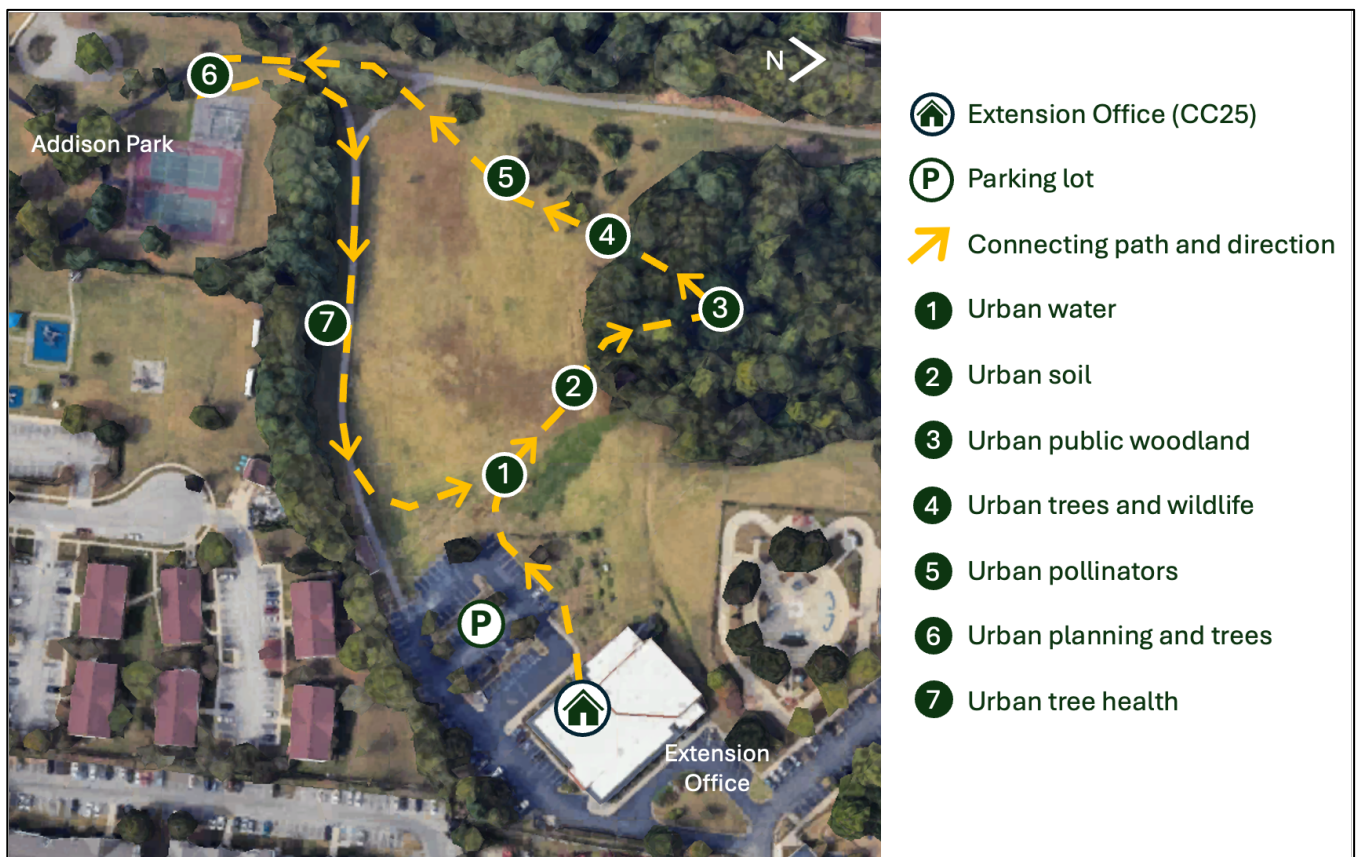
Station 3. **Management of urban public woodlands**, Nathan Skinner (LFUCG).

Station 4. **Urban trees and wildlife** (focus on birds), David Brown (Eastern Kentucky University).

Station 5. **Urban pollinators**, Clare Rittschof (University of Kentucky).

Station 6. **Urban planning and trees**, Lynn Roche Phillips (University of Kentucky).

Station 7. **Urban tree health**, Nic Williamson and Ignazio Graziosi (University of Kentucky).





## ABOUT THE SPEAKERS AND EXPERTS

**Craig Wood, Ph.D.** (welcome address) is Acting Associate Dean and Director of Cooperative Extension, and Assistant Director of Extension for Agriculture, Natural Resources and Horticulture at the University of Kentucky.

**Margaret D. Lowman, Ph.D.** (keynote speaker) is a renowned scientist, conservationist, master arborist, science communicator, and author. Internationally known as "Canopy Meg."

**Lionel Bradford** (keynote speaker) is President and Executive Director of *The Greening of Detroit*, an initiative that has overseen planting and care of nearly 150,000 trees.

**David Morgan** (speaker) is President of the 21st Century Parks - The Park Lands of Floyds Fork in Jefferson County, Kentucky, an interconnected urban park system that belts the outskirts of Louisville.

**Heather Wilson** (panel moderator) is Urban and Community Forestry Manager for Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government, overseeing the growth and care of Lexington's Urban Tree Canopy.

**Mitzi Bender** (panel moderator) is Member of the Board of Directors of Andover Forest Homeowners Association in Lexington, KY, creating an urban forest from a former golf course area.

**Nachie Braga** (field demonstration, urban water) is the founder of Geomancer Permaculture, an award-winning agroecology landscape design organization.

**Dave Leonard** (field demonstration, urban soil) is a certified master arborist and tree advocate with more than 40 years of experience in the arboriculture profession.

**Nathan Skinner** (field demonstration, management of urban public woodlands) is an urban arborist with the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government.

**David Brown, Ph.D.** (field demonstration, urban wildlife) is an expert of birds and a professor of Biological Sciences and Manager of the Taylor Fork Ecological Area at Eastern Kentucky University.

**Clare Rittschof, Ph.D.** (field demonstration, urban pollinators) is an expert on honeybees and associate professor of Entomology at the University of Kentucky.

**Lynn Roche Phillips, Ph.D.** A.I.C.P. (field demonstration, urban planning and trees) is an urban planner and associate professor of Geography at the University of Kentucky.

**Nic Williamson** (field demonstration, tree health) is a certified master arborist and Arboriculture Superintendent for the University of Kentucky campus.

**Ignazio Graziosi, Ph.D.** (field demonstration, tree health) is a forest entomologist and Program Coordinator for the Urban Forest Initiative.

---

*Canopy Con 25 is an Urban Forest Initiative event held in partnership with Lex Grow Trees, Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government and the Kentucky Division of Forestry, and with the support of the UK M-G College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, UK Entomology, UK Geography and Burl Investment Management LLC. We also thank the Kentucky Chapter of the American Planning Association, the Society of American Foresters and the International Society of Arboriculture for providing Continuing Education Units.*