

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Forest Health Focus of Conference at Morris Arboretum & Gardens Research conference brings together plant scientists and conservation experts

Philadelphia, PA— It is no secret that plants in our region are facing new challenges to their survival, growth, and reproduction because of a variety of threats that include land-use change, habitat loss, climate change, and more. One of the places this is most keenly felt is in our regional forests.

Join us either in-person or virtually as we bring together a panel of plant scientists and conservation experts for the Mid-Atlantic Plant Research Conference: A Focus on Forest Health, an intensive one-day conference that highlights the intersection of plant science and conservation, to be held Friday, May 31, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm, at Morris Arboretum & Gardens, 100 E. Northwestern Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19118. The fee is \$150; student fee with ID is \$80. Register and see the agenda at www.morrisarb.org/MAPRC.

Speakers include:

- Elan Alford, PhD, plant conservation scientist, and Nathan Shampine, natural lands manager, Mt. Cuba Center
- Tim Block, PhD, director of plant science, Morris Arboretum & Gardens
- Emile DeVito, PhD, manager of science and stewardship, New Jersey Conservation Foundation
- Jared Westbrook, PhD, director of science, American Chestnut Foundation
- Matt Kasson, PhD, mycologist and forest pathologist, West Virginia University
- Randall Morin, PhD, research forester, US Forest Service

Whether you work in conservation, forestry, arboriculture, landscape design, or plant science—or are simply interested in forests—you will learn about innovative plant research as well as how we can work to address the challenges forests face in the Mid-Atlantic Region in a multi-disciplinary way.

In-person and virtual attendance is available. Lunch is provided to all in-person attendees. In-person seats are limited—<u>register now</u> for this unique opportunity, easily accessible to individuals in the Philadelphia area. This conference has been approved to carry 5.5 LA CES and ISA CEUs and submitted for 5.5 LTE/LTCO CEUs from the New Jersey Board of Tree Experts.

The logo for the conference is attached for your use.

For more information or questions about this event, email Mellany Armstrong, Communications Coordinator, at mellanya@upenn.edu or call 610.329.4022 (cell).

The Morris Arboretum & Gardens is one of more than 30 Philadelphia gardens in America's Garden Capital. This 92-acre horticultural display garden features a spectacular collection of mature trees in a beautiful and colorful landscape. The Morris Arboretum & Gardens offers educational programs for many audiences ranging from youth to professional and is a leader in botanical and horticultural research.

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