

Trees and Climate Change Webinar

4:30 PM EDT April 15 2020

Program

Greetings by Carmen Twillie Ambar, President of Oberlin College

Facilitator: Ann Sherif, Professor of East Asian Studies, Oberlin College

Presenters

Connor Ryan is the Rhododendron Collections Manager at Holden Forests and Gardens (HF&G), a Northeast Ohio public garden comprised of Holden Arboretum and Cleveland Botanical Garden. In this role, Connor curates the HF&G *Rhododendron* collection, oversees the management of the David G. Leach Research Station, and helps run HF&G's *Rhododendron* breeding program. He earned a bachelor's degree in Plant Science from Auburn University and a master's degree in Plant Breeding, Genetics, and Genomics from the University of Georgia. He has worked for HF&G since 2019.

Sarah Carrino-Kyker is a Research Associate at Holden Forests and Gardens. She earned a PhD in Biology from Case Western Reserve University. She studies the influence of human-induced and natural environmental changes on soil fungi and how these changes belowground can impact ecosystem health. Her work is conducted primarily within the deciduous forests at Holden Arboretum, which allows for long-term patterns to be elucidated.

Short Video Message From Green Legacy Hiroshima: Xin (Jenny) Luan (Shansi Fellow), HORIGUCHI Chikara (Arborist, Hiroshima), and WATANABE Tomoko (Co-Founder of Green Legacy), Hiroshima, Japan, April, 2020.

Nassrine Azimi is co-founder/coordinator of the Green Legacy Hiroshima Initiative, a global campaign to disseminate worldwide seeds and saplings of trees that survived the 1945 atomic bombing of Hiroshima. Founding director and Senior Advisor of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research's (UNITAR) Hiroshima Office, Azimi has been, among other assignments, coordinator of the UNITAR's environmental training programs and chief of its New York Office. She is special visiting professor at Hiroshima Shudo University and adjunct professor at Doshisha Women's College in Kyoto, and has written extensively on UN peacekeeping and peace-building, post-conflict reconstruction, environmental and cultural governance, and Asia.

Discussants

Steven Wojtal is Professor of Geology and co-Director of Oberlin's Luce Initiative on Asian Studies and the Environment (LIASE) Grant. He is a structural geologist whose research interests include the dynamics of glacial systems, and he teaches about glaciers and climate change.

David Benzing* (Ph.D University of Michigan: Botany) is Robert S. Danforth Professor of Biology Emeritus at Oberlin College where he taught courses in plant taxonomy, anatomy, physiology, environmental studies and technical writing, published five books and more than 50 peer reviewed reports that concern various aspects of the ecology, evolution and adaptations of tropical flora particularly that of epiphytic members of the flowering plant families Bromeliaceae and Orchidaceae, extensive field work in the American tropics. Benzing contributes to the The John Bartram Arboretum, an accredited as a Level I Arboretum by [Arbnet](#), at Kendal at Oberlin.

Dr. Mike Moore is Professor of Biology at Oberlin College, where he has been on the faculty since 2007. He is an expert on plant biodiversity and works on projects ranging from the evolution and conservation of the Hawaiian flora to the origin of desert plants in North America.

John Petersen* is the Paul Sears Professor of Environmental Studies and Biology. He received an MFS in Forest Hydrology from Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies and a PhD Systems Ecology from the Center for Environmental and Estuarine Studies at UMD. While he has focused his work on developing [Environmental Dashboard](#) technology, he also manages and experimental hazelnut orchard and monitors carbon sequestration on a college-owned forest parcel.

Questions from audience (read by facilitator) from youtube chat and email to liase@oberlin.edu

Supporting Material*

From David Benzing

A *Science Daily* article about our planet's mature undisturbed tropical forests experiencing an unanticipated and alarming rapid loss of capacity to sequester carbon dioxide in part as a consequence of climate change.

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2020/03/200304141623.htm>

From John Petersen

Posters developed by Oberlin college student collaborators working with Professor Petersen on trees and carbon sequestration on the Oberlin College campus:
Research on Carbon Sequestration by Oberlin College Students:

- [Oberlin's Experimental Hazelnut Orchard: Exploring Woody Agriculture's Potential for Climate Mitigation & Food System Resilience](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1o-UDYCAArSI46ukU_d-Kh7BDAdXQh1uc/view)
- <https://drive.google.com/file/d/10jyPDcyUCbw-ST2HsHBVhQsKaBnX77ad/view>
- [A 45-acre forest sequesters carbon at an increasing rate, offsetting a small percentage of annual campus carbon emissions](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1tx8B-T_857pIq7LZuaznoJ_zdIY9Dbcl/view)
- https://drive.google.com/file/d/1tx8B-T_857pIq7LZuaznoJ_zdIY9Dbcl/view

Tree and Climate Change Partners:

[ANT-Hiroshima](#)

[Cleveland Botanical Garden](#)

[Green Legacy Hiroshima](#)

[Holden Arboretum](#)

[Kendal at Oberlin](#)

[Oberlin College](#)

[Oberlin Shansi](#)

The symposium is sponsored by the Luce Initiative on Asian Studies and the Environment (LIASE) Implementation Grant to Oberlin College from the **Henry Luce Foundation**. Many thanks to the Oberlin College Biology Department, East Asian Studies Program, Environmental Studies Program, Geology Department, Oberlin Shansi, and the LIASE TEAM: Lea Watkins-Chow, Spencer Tu, Howard Spencer, Steve Wojtal, Ann Sherif, Pam Snyder, Mary Lang, Lizzy Edgar, Gavin Tritt

LIASE <http://cilc.oberlin.edu/liase/>

Earth Day 50 Events in Oberlin

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1G4_LX3vv4ViVuh_D8zLXsPGqwpGHT5pgElt7L4S90TQ/edit?usp=sharing