



2023 Network Retreat
May 10th -11th in Sacramento



Agenda Packet





Location & Parking Information

Reception - May 10th | 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Tapa the World

2115 J Street
Sacramento, CA 95816

Appetizers and wine will be served.

Parking: Metered street parking and limited-timed parking spots are available in the general two-block vicinity around the restaurant.

Retreat - May 11th | 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

California Endowment Center Sacramento

1414 K. Street, Suite 100
Adelante Room | 1st Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814



Parking: Parking is available on a first-come, first-served basis across the street at Capitol Center parking garage or the Capitol Garage for an hourly fee. Additional parking may also be found in surrounding buildings or on the street for an hourly fee.

1600 J Street

Sacramento, CA 95814

Rate: \$10 per day

Accepts exact change and all major credit cards

1614 J Street

Sacramento, CA 95814

Rate: \$10 per day

Accepts exact change and all major credit cards

1621 J Street

Sacramento, CA 95814

Rate: \$10 per day

Accepts exact change and all major credit cards

Capitol Center Garage

1550 K Street

Sacramento, CA 95814

Rates: each 20 minutes = \$2.00

Hourly: \$6.00

Daily max of \$24.00

Accepts all major credit cards



Additional Retreat Information

Adelante Room: The Retreat will be held in the first floor Adelante Meeting Room.

Upon entering the California Endowment lobby off the K Street entrance, walk down the hall and look for the Adelante Room sign on your left-hand side.



Light Breakfast and Lunch Provided

A light breakfast, including coffee, tea, and pastries, will be available at 9 a.m. during check-in.

A sandwich lunch (vegetarian options available) will be provided at Noon. We will also have water and tea available. We highly encourage attendees to bring their own water bottles to reduce waste.

Water Dispensers

Water dispensers will be available to refill water bottles.

Restrooms

Restrooms are available in the downstairs lobby. Restroom keys will be made available at the check-in table near the Adelante Room entrance.

Wifi

TCE Guest | No password required

Recording

The Retreat will be recorded and made available via California ReLeaf's YouTube Channel in the weeks following the Retreat.

Other Amenities

If you need to bring your luggage, there is a storage area available. If you have dietary restrictions and want to bring your own food/drink, there is a refrigerator available.

May 11th - Agenda

8:45 - 9:15 a.m.

Sign-in and Coffee & Pastries

9:15 - 9:30 a.m.

Opening Remarks

- Welcome - Ray Tretheway, California ReLeaf Board President
- Land Acknowledgment
- Network Update - Cindy Blain, California ReLeaf Executive Director
- Emcee Message - Kat Superfisky, California ReLeaf Board Member

9:30- 9:45 a.m.

Network Sharing - Round Robin at Tables

9:45 - 10:30 a.m.

Keynote - Cross Cultural Work: Planting for Justice

Wanda Stewart, Executive Director,
Common Vision

10:30 - 11:15 a.m.

Growing Urban Tree Canopy and Youth Leadership in Watsonville

Jonathan Pilch, Executive Director,
Watsonville Wetlands Watch

11:15 - 12:00 p.m.

Trees PLEASE - School & Park Tree Planting Program

Miranda Kokoszka, Natural Resources
Program Manager, Butte Environmental Council

12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

Lunch - Table Topics

May 11th - Agenda Cont'd

- 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.** **Data-Driven Urban Forest: How We Can Use Data Tools to Manage Urban Forests**
Dr. Matt Ritter, Dr. Jenn Yost, Dr. Natalie Love, & Camille Pawlak of the Urban Forest Ecosystem Institute at Cal Poly SLO
- 2:00 - 2:30 p.m.** **Learning As We Grow**
Adrienne Thomas, President, & Nedra Myricks, Executive Assistant, SistersWe Community Gardening Projects
- 2:30 - 2:45 p.m.** **Break**
- 2:45 - 3:15 p.m.** **Urban Wood: Waste to Wonder**
Jennifer Szeliga, Director of Operations, Sacramento Tree Foundation
- 3:15 - 3:30 p.m.** **ReLeaf Update on Advocacy and Funding**
Victoria Vasquez, Grants & Public Policy Manager, California ReLeaf
- 3:30 - 3:45 p.m.** **CAL FIRE Update**
Walter Passmore, State Urban Forester, CAL FIRE
- 3:45 - 4:00 p.m.** **Closing Remarks**
Kat Superfisky, California ReLeaf Board Member and Retreat Emcee
- 4:45 - 5:30 p.m.** **Optional Tour of SacTree's Urban Wood Rescue**
Address: 6045 Midway St., Sacramento, CA 95828
20 - 30 minute drive to the location.
See Registration Table for RSVP & Carpooling Information.



Optional Add On Tour



Following the Retreat on May 11th, you are invited to an optional add-on tour of **Sacramento Tree Foundation's Urban Wood Rescue** facility. You will be treated to a behind-the-scenes tour with Jennifer Szeliga, the Operations Director at Sacramento Tree Foundation - who will also be presenting about the program during the Retreat. Please complete the **RSVP Form** to attend.

Tour Time: 4:45 - 5:30 p.m. | **Facility Address:** 6045 Midway St., Sacramento, CA 95828

*We estimate it will take approximately 20-30 minutes to drive to the facility from downtown Sacramento.

Transportation: You can drive yourself and/or carpool to the facility after 4 p.m. following the Network Retreat. Please complete our **RSVP and Carpool Sign-Up Form**.

Emcee Bio



Kat Superfisky

Kat Superfisky is an urban ecologist, designer and educator who devotes their days, nights and dreams to transforming urban areas into more habitable places for people, plants and other animals. After obtaining a Master of Landscape Architecture, Master of Science in Conservation Ecology and Teaching Certificate from the University of Michigan, Superfisky moved 2,300 miles across the country for the Los Angeles River. Superfisky sees LA—and its river—as the perfect laboratory to explore how to (re)design urban areas into more “symbiotic cities.”

Prior to transplanting in LA, Superfisky planned, implemented and managed 24,000 acres of parkland in Metropolitan Detroit and developed an interactive environmental education program about sustainability in the built environment for the University of Michigan. In LA, Superfisky has spearheaded ecological planning and design efforts at Studio-MLA—a landscape architecture and urban design firm, founded Grown in LA—a nonprofit that is assisting in the increase of locally produced climate-appropriate plants, while providing Angelenos with educational and workforce development opportunities—and is currently the City of Los Angeles’ first Urban Ecologist.

Superfisky carries their practice and perspective of urban ecology and socio-ecological systems into the classroom, teaching at institutions like UCLA, USC, CalPoly Pomona, and the University of Michigan. Superfisky is a former Doris Duke Conservation Fellow and currently serves on the Ecological Society of America’s Board of Professional Certification, US Forest Service LA Urban Center’s Executive Oversight Team, California ReLeaf’s Board of Directors, City Plants’ Advisory Board, and the LA Biodiversity Index Expert Council and Interdepartmental Working Group.



Speaker Bios



Wanda Stewart - Keynote Speaker

Wanda Stewart (she/her/they) is the Executive Director of Common Vision - an organization "doing good" at the nexus of education, food, and the environment. With a focus on the needs of disenfranchised communities of color and school children, Common Vision's work reflects gardens in schools, trees in ground, and food to families. After many professional years as a public and private school administrator, Wanda defines her essential roles now as farmer, community organizer, and enthusiastic tree-hugging environmental steward. As a Black woman, mother and teacher, cultural connections, creativity and courageous conversations are central to her personal growth, her work in community, and her steadfast determination to be of meaningful service in the transition to a blossoming new world.



Jonathan Pilch

Jonathan has worked in environmental conservation and restoration in the Pajaro Valley for the past 18 years and has served as the Executive Director of the Watsonville Wetlands Watch (WWW) since 2016. WWW is a non-profit agency that works to preserve and restore wetlands and watersheds in the Pajaro Valley and increase environmental literacy for youth and the community. Since 2017, WWW has run a community based urban forest project for the City of Watsonville, focused on providing youth leadership and training opportunities and developing an equitable and well developed urban tree canopy. Jonathan holds a degree in geography from the University of California Berkeley. In addition to his work in environmental conservation in the Pajaro Valley, Jonathan has enjoyed a variety of professional and volunteer environmental restoration and agroecology experiences within the US and Latin America and run a small family farm in Watsonville. He strives to develop environmental restoration and conservation projects that help to ensure positive community health outcomes.



Miranda Kokoszka

Miranda Kokoszka is from San Diego, CA and moved to Chico to get a degree in Natural Resource Management, which was completed in fall 2021. Upon graduation she started an internship, per degree requirement, at Butte Environmental Council (BEC) as the Urban Forest Coordinator Intern. This position was part of The Urban Forest Revitalization Project which aimed to plant trees in Chico neighborhoods. After that, she was hired on as the Natural Resources Program Coordinator to fulfill the new Trees PLEASE program, which started in January 2022. Later, being promoted to Natural Resources Program Manager to oversee BECs many other natural resources related programs. Overall, she has planted over a hundred trees since 2021 and is excited to share her story.



Speaker Bios



Jennifer Szeliga

Jennifer Szeliga is the Director of Operations for the Sacramento Tree Foundation. Since joining the Foundation seven years ago, Jennifer helped launch the organization's Urban Wood Rescue program, where her passion for stewarding the urban forest creates positive environmental and social impacts through keeping trees out of landfills. Jennifer has consulted nationally and internationally on the topic of urban wood utilization and has appeared on CBS Saturday Morning. Jennifer holds a BS in Environmental Studies and MA in Organizational Management. Contact Jennifer at jennifer@sactree.org.



Dr. Matt Ritter, Dr. Jenn Yost, Dr. Natalie Love, & Camille Pawlak

Dr. Matt Ritter is a professor in the Biology Department at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. On campus, he shares his passion for plants with those looking to engage with and understand the amazing world that grows around us. He is the author of many publications, including *A Californian's Guide to the Trees Among Us* and *California Plants: A Guide to our Iconic Flora*.



Dr. Jenn Yost is an evolutionary biologist who focuses on the botany of California and is a Professor at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. She studies urban trees, the genus *Eucalyptus*, and the invasion potential of tree species. Jenn's research also focuses on ecological differentiation, speciation, and reproductive isolation. She is also a tree planter and regularly teaches arborists botany, tree ID, and evolutionary biology.

Dr. Natalie Love is currently a Frost Postdoctoral Fellow at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo with Dr. Matt Ritter. Her research focuses on the structure, function, and diversity of California's urban forests. She received a B.S. in Soil Science and an M.S. in Biology from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. She received Ph.D. in Ecology, Evolution and Marine Biology from UC Santa Barbara where she studied the ecological and evolutionary drivers of trait variation in plants.

Camille Pawlak is a graduate student in the Biological Sciences Department at Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo, California, where she studies the California's urban forest. She has a B.S. in Environmental Science from U.C.L.A. Camille's research interests include urban forests, remote sensing, and California's trees.



Speaker Bios



Adrienne Thomas & Nedra Myricks

Adrienne Thomas is President and founder of SistersWe Community Gardening Projects. She is a native of San Bernardino, CA, growing up in Muscoy, a rural part of the city; and is a retired Riverside County Human Resources professional. The mother and grandmother of 2 has always enjoyed gardening and being outside. She also enjoys reading, studying history, music, art, travel, and has a flair for photography. She fondly remembers the trees and greenery of Muscoy which had slowly disappeared. After retiring, she attended and graduated from the local "Green Infrastructure" training program and wanted to bring the knowledge and skills she acquired to her community and others. She obtained her Master Gardner's certification from Cal State San Bernardino in 2019. SistersWe was established in December 2018 to create a community garden on a blighted, vacant property across the street from the family compound; where she lived on a property next door to her mother, sister, and brother. That weed and trash filled property across the street was cleaned up and transformed into the "Muscoy Pocket Park". With grant monies received from California Releaf, 35 trees have been planted on that property.

Nedra Myricks is the Executive Assistant for SistersWe. She is a writer and a retired Administrative Professional with over 40 years of experience. Born and raised in San Bernardino, CA the oldest of 7 children from a big, loving family. She has two children and four beautiful grandchildren. In 2006 she was awarded a Fellowship to the "Diversity Institute" at Tennessee's Vanderbilt University to study community journalism; and previously served as editor for two local publications "Images Magazine" and "Inland Scene Magazine." She enjoys the outdoors, cooking, art, music of all kinds and travel. All members of SistersWe have a long history of supporting community activities in the art and music fields.

Walter Passmore

Walter Passmore has served as the State Urban Forester for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) since 2021. He studied natural resources and forestry at Cal Poly State University, San Luis Obispo. He has worked professionally with trees for more than 20 years: as a researcher for the U.S. Forest Service in the Sierra National Forest in California and in Starkville, MS. He has also served as City Urban Forester in Dallas and Austin, TX, and for the City of Palo Alto.





Speaker Bios



Victoria Vasquez

Victoria is the Grants and Public Policy Manager at California ReLeaf. Living in the City of Trees, Victoria is passionate about creating equitable public health outcomes by increasing and maintaining green infrastructure and a healthy tree canopy. Prior to joining California ReLeaf's staff in 2022, Victoria worked as a community organizer with Sacramento Tree Foundation where she connected community leaders in high-pollution census tracts with resources and civic leaders. Victoria's focus on collaboration amongst a wide variety of partners and grantees helped to implement greenhouse gas reduction grants and prioritize tree plantings at schools, places of worship, residences, parking lots, and parks.

Victoria currently serves as the Vice Chair of the City of Sacramento Parks and Community Enrichment Commission, as a Girl Scout Troop Leader, and on the Board of Directors for Project Lifelong, a nonprofit that supports youth development in non-traditional outdoor sports – for example skateboarding, hiking, skim boarding, and surfing.

Sponsors



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Tremendous thanks to this year's Retreat sponsors for their continued support of the California ReLeaf Network!



Attendee List

Organization	First Name	Last Name	Email	Phone
Benicia Tree Foundation	Steven	Goetz	info@beniciatrees.org	707-745-4546
Butte Environmental Council	Miranda	Kokoszka	steward@becnet.org	530-891-6424
CAL FIRE	Walter	Passmore	walter.passmore@fire.ca.gov	916-214-5420
Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo	Camille	Pawlak	camipawlak@gmail.com	425-301-2244
Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo	Jenn	Yost	jyost@calpoly.edu	805-756-5869
Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo	Matt	Ritter	mritter@calpoly.edu	805-756-2775
Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo	Natalie	Love	nlove@calpoly.edu	805-252-7868
California ReLeaf	Cindy	Blain	cblain@californiareleaf.org	916-407-8234
California ReLeaf	Megan	Dukett	mdukett@californiareleaf.org	916-497-0037
California ReLeaf	Ray	Tretheway	ray8733@swisscows.email	816-619-8722
California ReLeaf	Shannon	McDonald	smcdonald@californiareleaf.org	916-497-0036
California ReLeaf	Victoria	Vasquez	vvasquez@californiareleaf.org	916-497-0035
California ReLeaf /Grown in LA	Kat	Superfisky	superfisky@gmail.com	248-890-6409
California Urban Forest Council	Nancy	Hughes	njhughes@cauf.org	415-479-8733
Canopy	Arlene	Nunez Garcia	arlene@canopy.org	650-964-6110
Canopy	Aubrey	Knier	aubrey@canopy.org	650-964-6110
Canopy	Bria	Blitch	bria@canopy.org	650-964-6110
Canopy	Christina	Galitsky	christie@canopy.org	650-964-6110
Canopy	Evany	Wang	evany@canopy.org	650-964-6110
Canopy	Gabrielle	Trudeau	gabrielle@canopy.org	650-964-6110
Canopy	Indira	Selvakumaraswamy	indira@canopy.org	650-964-6110
Canopy	Karina	Soria - Mendoza	karina@canopy.org	650-384-1080
Canopy	Lily	Heidger	lily@canopy.org	650-964-6110
City of LA Urban Forest Council Office	Scott	Harmon	scott.harmon@lacity.org	818-921-0080
CityTrees	David	Grabel	dgrabel@gmail.com	650-346-6064
Climate Action Now!	Markos	Major	markosmajor@gmail.com	415-503-7639
Climate Action Now!	Walter	Yaya	walteryaya@gmail.com	415-503-7639
Common Vision	Wanda	Stewart	wanda@commonvision.org	510-665-1665
Friends of the Urban Forest	Ben	Carlson	ben@fuf.net	415-497-9342
Friends of the Urban Forest	Bunny	McFadden	bmcfadden@fuf.net	415-295-9356
Friends of the Urban Forest	Caroline	Scanlan	cscanlan@fuf.net	415-680-4865
Friends of the Urban Forest	Mike	Yarak		
Friends of the Urban Forest	Paawan	Kothari	paawan@fuf.net	415-268-0784
Friends of the Urban Forest	Sierra	Marinos	smarinos@fuf.net	628-213-6856
Koreatown Youth & Community Center	Jonathan	Diaz	jdiaz@kycccla.org	323-243-5334
Nehyam Neighborhood Association	Jeff	Rowe	jfrowe@rocketmail.com	562-343-3834
North East Trees	Aaron	Thomas	aaron@northeasttrees.org	213-798-9190
Petaluma City Tree Advisory Committee	Cindy	Chong	cchong@cityofpetaluma.org	707-778-4333
ReLeaf Petaluma	Jessica	Holten	releafpetaluma@gmail.com	707-616-6370
ReLeaf Petaluma	Michele	Loftin	camoonshine@yahoo.com	707-529-8395
Roseville Urban Forest Foundation	Katie	Palatinus	katie.palatinus@rosevilletree.org	916-250-2902
Roseville Urban Forest Foundation	Monica	Colosi		
Roseville Urban Forest Foundation	Robert	O'Hare		
Sacramento Tree Foundation	Jennifer	Szeliga	jennifer@sactree.org	
Sacramento Tree Foundation	Jessica	Sanders	jessica@sactree.org	
SistersWe	Adrienne	Thomas	Adrienne_thomas1@yahoo.com	909-884-3967
SistersWe	Nedra	Myricks	Namyricks@aol.com	909-884-3967
The Watershed Project	Jeanine	Strickland	jeanine@thewatershedproject.org	415-755-3125
Tree Davis	Torin	Dunnivant	torin@treedavis.org	310-717-1831
Tree Fresno	Mona	Cummings	mona@treefresno.org	559-666-0010
Tree Lodi	Barbara	Utting	barbutting51@gmail.com	209-747-0779
Tree Lodi	Constance	Starnier	cmstarnier@msn.com	209-662-2087
United Latinos	Vincent	Valdez	vvaldez@unitedlatinos.org	916-743-3011
Urban Forest Friends	Lynn	Miller	20tufa20@gmail.com	510-604-8206
USDA Forest Service	Alicia	Sanchez Scott	alicia.sanchezscott@usda.gov	805-450-8369
Watsonville Wetlands Watch	Jonathan	Pilch	Jonathan@watsonvillewetlandswatch.org	831-728-4106
Watsonville Wetlands Watch	Yesenia	Jimenez	yesenia.wetlandwatch@gmail.com	831-247-4984
Woodland Tree Foundation	David	Wilkinson	davwilk@pacbell.net	916-712-9461
Your Children's Trees	Riley	Bushman	rileybushman@umail.ucsb.edu	916-834-6942

Stay In Touch

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**TO JOIN OUR
EMAIL LIST**

Upcoming Learn Over Lunch Sessions

Learn Over Lunch is a Network peer-to-peer learning opportunity held virtually on select Wednesdays throughout the year. It is an excellent opportunity to learn about what Network Members are doing across the state and allows you to meet and connect with other Network Members.

June 14th - Friends of the Urban Forests

Topic: Community Engagement – Creating Space for Hope and Joy Amid the Climate Crisis

August 8th - Tree Fresno

Topic: Green Team Workforce Development Program

October 11th - California ReLeaf

Topic: Advocacy at the State and Local Level

December 13th - TBD

Topic: TBD



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2023 Network Retreat

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