



Our Urban Forest Future:

Barcham Trees 2026

SPEAKER INFORMATION



Kenton Rogers FRGS, MArborA, MICFor

Is co-founder of Treeconomics, a social enterprise delivering projects that deliver sustainable treescapes such as i-Tree Eco assessments, Urban Forest Masterplans and Tree Establishment Strategies. He has worked with trees for over 30 years, and holds a master's degree in Forest Ecosystem Management, where his studies focused on urban trees. Kenton was a Trustee of the International Tree Foundation for 10 years, is a Chartered Forester and Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society and has written widely on the role and benefits of trees and urban forests in creating better places to live and work.



Dr Andy Hiron

Andrew D. Hiron is a Senior Lecturer in Arboriculture at University Centre Myerscough, UK. He teaches modules relating to tree biology, tree establishment and tree management. His current research activity is motivated by the need to create resilience in our urban forests and is focused on using plant traits to inform species selection for urban environments. A further interest is in the role of sensors to inform tree management and provide more robust evidence for tree management practices. He is co-author of [*Applied Tree Biology* \(Wiley-Blackwell\)](#) and [*Tree Selection for Green Infrastructure* \(Trees and Design Action Group\)](#) as well as a number of [academic papers](#).



Nicholas D Dunn VMH

- 1969-1972. Hadlow College. Gained credit level ONDA (Agriculture and commercial fruit production)
- 1973-1974. USA Fruit and Nursery stock industry.
- 1974 to present day. Frank P Matthews Ltd, Co -owner and Director.
- 1977 to 2015. Member IPPS (International Plant Propagators Society). GB and I President in 1985. International Director for GB and I 1986. Rose Bowl Award recipient 1994.
- HDC Hardy Nursery Stock Chairman 2008-2013
- Author 'Trees for your garden' 2010. ISBN 978-0-904863-08-7.
- Lecturer on Fruit and Ornamental trees.
- Trustee to Batsford Arboretum, Moreton in Marsh.
- Member RHS Fruit, Vegetable and Herb Committee (Expert Plant Group). Chairman 2014 to 2018.
- Chairman defra National Fruit Collections Advisory Committee 2018 to 2024.
- RHS VMH awarded 2016.
- Member RHS Woody Plant Committee (Expert Plant Group) 2024 to present.
- RHS Council Member (Trustee) - 2020 to present
- Chairman RHS Awards Committee 2025 to present
- Member Science and Education committee International Dendrology Society
- Royal Warrant of Appointment to HM The King 2026.
- Specialist interests:
 - Propagation of rare and difficult woody plant subjects.
 - The genus Malus both apples and ornamentals.
 - Pruning and training of espalier fruit trees.



Marcelo White

Grown up in Hackney, the most tree diverse borough in London. Self taught tree grower who has a keen passion for innovative species and planting. Has developed a community tree nursery over the last 10 years, improving infrastructure and growing techniques to produce trees for communities and the urban environment. Currently managing planting in Islington and working with nurseries to explore how to make more diverse tree species available commercially for local authorities, communities and the public realm.

Sue James

Sue James, AA Dipl RIBA, FICFor (Hon) is a chartered Architect and worked in private sustainability led practice in West Wales.

The focus of her present work is on promoting the need for collaboration and cross-disciplinary working and the collation and dissemination of research and information.

She is a member of the Adult Advisory Board for Teach the Future, the student led climate and nature education campaign (<https://www.teachthefuture.uk/>); a

founding member and Convenor of the Trees and Design Action Group (www.tdag.org.uk); a member of the Edge, the built and natural environment campaigning think tank (www.edgedebate.com); a knowledge programme adviser to Futurebuild (formerly Ecobuild) (www.futurebuild.co.uk).



Tony Kirkham MBE, VMH, FICFor (Hon)

Following an apprenticeship in the forestry industry and 2 years as an arborist, in 1978 Tony started his 43-year career at The Royal Botanic Gardens Kew on the 3-year Diploma course, graduating in 1981 to work in the Arboretum at Kew. In July 2020 he retired as the Head of the Arboretum and Horticultural Services, where he was responsible for the management and curation of over 14,000 trees in the collections.

He participated in and led several plant collecting expeditions to Chile and the Far East of Asia, including China, Taiwan, Japan, S. Korea, Russia and Sakhalin, and has co-authored books on his travels including: "Plants from the Edge of the World" and "Wilson's China: A Century On". In 2004 he completed the revision of the "Pruning of Trees Shrubs and Conifers" with Timber Press and more recently has written "Essential Pruning Techniques" and in 2019 the "Haynes Workshop manual of Trees", and "Remarkable Trees" for Thames Hudson. His latest books are called "Growing Trees" which is a general guide to growing trees in the garden and "Arboretum" by Templar Publishing, a beautifully illustrated celebration of trees from around the world. Tony has also worked with Francis Lincoln on a series of games featuring trees, Match a Leaf, Tree Vision, Tree families and Tree Bingo. He has featured on several tree related TV programmes and lectures internationally and regularly writes many popular articles and technical papers.

He is a member of the RHS Council, chairman of the RHS woody plant committee and sits on the RHS awards committee. He is a trustee of the International Dendrology Society, chairing the Trees and Shrubs Online committee, a member of Action Oak, and the Queen's Green Canopy. In 2009 he was awarded the Associate of Honour by the RHS for distinguished service to horticulture, the RHS Victoria Medal of Honour and an MBE in 2019 for services to the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and Arboriculture and made an Honorary Lifetime fellow of the Arboricultural Association in 2015. He was made the Vice President of the Arboricultural Society and awarded the AA Lifetime achievement award in 2019. Made an Honorary Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Forestry in 2022



Dorella Pinter Burus

Dorella is an experienced Landscape Consultant with a focus on arid environments, working primarily in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. With extensive knowledge of plant selection and urban forestry in harsh climates, she plays an active role in advancing sustainable landscape practices in the region. Dorella leads the development of guidelines and standards for urban forestry, including nursery standards for plant production and nursery operations, to ensure the long-term resilience and effectiveness of urban greening in arid settings. She works closely with government bodies and private sector partners to embed best practices across policy, planning, and implementation. She is also the co-author of the Riyadh Plant Manual, a book containing over 600 plants for Riyadh city, which is aimed to help professionals in the green business making better planning decisions.



Harriet Rix

Harriet Rix grew up in Devon and studied biochemistry at the University of Oxford before an MPhil in the History of Science at the University of Cambridge. She worked in landmine clearance in Iraq and Syria, and then for the UK-based charity The Tree Council, researching tree diseases and the role of urban trees. She has written (inter alia) for the London Review of Books, the Times Literary Supplement, Cornucopia magazine and the Alpine Garden Society Journal. THE GENIUS OF TREES is her first book and has been described as “a true masterpiece” (The Telegraph) and “mind-blowing and erudite” by the Guardian. It was a New Yorker “best books of the year so far”.



Keith Sacre

Keith Sacre has a MSc in Arboriculture and Urban Forestry, a BSc in Arboriculture, a BSc in Social Science and a post graduate diploma in management studies. He is currently a director at Barcham Trees, the largest container tree nursery in Europe. He is a co-founder of Treeconomics, a founder member and trustee of the Trees and Design Action Group and a trustee of the UK Arboricultural Association and is a previous chair of the Association.

Keith has over 30 years of experience in the nursery industry and was the lead author of the UK British Standard Trees: From Nursery to Independence in the Landscape published in 2014. Prior to working in the nursery industry, he spent several years managing and developing public open space in the local authority sector.

Keith has travelled extensively across the world viewing both nursery practice and urban forestry management with a particular focus on young trees. He has spoken at conferences in the UK, USA, Australia, Russia and across mainland Europe and writes extensively for numerous periodicals and journals. He was the instigator of and developed the Barcham Trees Seminar Series and is the organizer of the company's well known 'Big Barn Conference' both of which have attracted speakers from across the world.

He has also written and published three advisory manuals on young tree production, management and maintenance.'

