



Issue 3, 2026

Trunkline

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OCT 27, 2026 SOUTHERN UTAH GREEN CONFERENCE



REGISTRATION



7:00 am Registration				
7:00- 7:30 am CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST - Exhibit Hall				
7:30 - 8:35 am	Keynote Speaker	People + Trees: Inspiring Community Ownership of Urban Trees	Lisa Ortega Nevada Plants	1 DOPL-Pro, 1 ISA, 1 UCNP
8:50 - 9:40 am	Tree Care Track Sunbrook A	Tree Law	Brent Bateman Dentons Durham Jones Pinegar	1 DOPL- Core, 1 ISA, 1 UCNP
	Landscape Track Sunbrook B	Using AI to Create Compelling Landscape Renderings	Doug Bennett WCWCD	1 DOPL-Pro, 1 ISA, 1 UCNP
	Irrigation Track Exhibit Hall	Smart Controllers vs. Conventional Controllers	Andy Belingheri Husqvarna	1 DOPL-Pro, 1 IA, 1 QWEL, 1 UCNP
	Pesticide Track Sunbrook C	Tree Pest Updates for Southern Utah	Marion Murray USU	1 DOPL-Pro, 1 ISA, 1 Pest-USE, 1 UCNP
9:45 am GIVE AWAY-EXHIBIT HALL				
9:55 - 10:45 am	Tree Care Track Sunbrook A	Tree Establishment & Aftercare in the First 1-5 years	Lisa Ortega Nevada Plants	1 DOPL-Pro, 1 ISA, 1 Pest-USE, 1 IA, 1 QWEL, 1 UCNP
	Landscape Track Sunbrook B	Cooler Roots Happier Plants: Organic vs. Rock Mulch	Judy Mielke, Logan Simpson	1 DOPL- Pro, 1 UCNP
	Irrigation Track Exhibit Hall	Backflow Part 1	Paul Wait Zurn Industries	1 DOPL-Core, 1 IA, 1 QWEL, 1 UCNP
	Pesticide Track Sunbrook C	Pesticide Legislation: Recent Updates and Impacts	Henry Nahalewski UDAF	1 DOPL-Core, 1 Pest-LAW, 1 UCNP
10:50 am GIVE AWAY-EXHIBIT HALL				
11:00 - 11:50 am	Tree Care Track Sunbrook A	How to Protect Trees During a Turf Conversion	Andy Belingheri Husqvarna	1 DOPL- Pro, 1 ISA, 1 IA, 1 QWEL, 1 UCNP
	Landscape Track Sunbrook B	The Best Plant Deals: Tried & True Species That Cover More for Less	Wendy Proud Mountain States Wholesale Nursery	1 DOPL-Pro, 1 ISA, 1 UCNP
	Irrigation Track Exhibit Hall	Backflow Part 2	Paul Wait Zurn Industries	1 DOPL- Core, 1 IA 1 QWEL, 1 UCNP
	Pesticide Track Sunbrook B	Diagnosing Abiotic vs. Biotic Plant Disorders	JayDee Gunnell USU	1 DOPL- Pro, 1 Pest-USE, 1 UCNP
11:50 am LUNCH				
12:50 pm Exhibit Hall - Sponsored by: Rain Bird				
1:00 - 1:50 pm	Tree Care Track Sunbrook A	Optimizing Your Gear: Techniques That Cut Costs & Improve Workflow	Mark Malmstrom Arbor Aide/USU	1 DOPL-Pro, 1 ISA, 1 UCNP
	Landscape & Irrigation Track Sunbrook B	Hydro Zoning Real Life vs. Ideal Situations	Ryan White WCWCD	1 DOPL- Pro, 1 IA, 1 QWEL, 1 UCNP
	Pesticide Track Sunbrook C	Agave Snout Weevil: Updated Prevention & Treatment Strategies	Ben Scho USU	1 DOPL- Pro, 1 Pest-USE, 1 UCNP
2:00 - 2:50 pm	Tree Care Track Sunbrook A	Fire Blight: A Brief History, & it's Management	Joe Boffa Rainbow Ecoscience	1 DOPL- Pro, 1 ISA, 1 Pest-USE, 1 UCNP
	Landscape & Irrigation Track Sunbrook B	Lessons Learned: Updates on Waterless Landscapes	Joseph Rawlinson Ivins City	1 DOPL- Pro, 1 IA, 1 QWEL, 1 UCNP
	Pesticide Track Sunbrook C	Drif, Runoff, and Residuals: Navigating Utah R68-7 & Federal Standards	Amy Davidson UDAF	1 DOPL-Core, 1 Pest-SAFETY, 1 UCNP
2:55 pm GIVE AWAY-EXHIBIT HALL				
3:05 - 3:55 pm	Tree Care Track Sunbrook A	Pruning Techniques & Timing for Healthier Trees	Miles Becker USU	1 DOPL-Pro, 1 ISA, 1 UCNP
	Landscape & Irrigation Track Sunbrook B	Navigating the New Water Efficiency Standards: How & Where the Ultra-Efficient Rules Apply	Doug Bennett WCWCD	1 DOPL-Core, 1 IA, 1 QWEL, 1 UCNP
	Pesticide Track Sunbrook C	Arundo Donax	Jake Powell USU	1 DOPL-Pro, 1 Pest-USE, 1 UCNP

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Trunkline is published four times each year as a membership benefit to inform UNLA members of the opportunities and actions of the association and its members.

Send submissions to:
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INTERNET RESOURCES
UNLA
www.utahgreen.org



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2026

TUESDAY,
OCTOBER 27

SOUTHERN UTAH GREEN CONFERENCE

Join green industry leaders from across the region for the Southern Utah Green Conference. Explore expert-led sessions in **Tree Care, Irrigation, Landscape, and Pest Management**. Earn CEUs: DOPL (Pro & Core), ISA, IA, Pest (Use, Law, & Safety), QWEL, & UCNP.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

LISA ORTEGA

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Andy Belingheri

Andy Belingheri is a 30-year landscape industry veteran with extensive experience in landscape maintenance, design and construction. He has a degree in Landscape & Urban Horticulture from BYU, is an ISA Certified Arborist and has built his career helping others find solutions to their landscape needs. As a native of the Nevada desert, he understands the importance of water conservation and sustain-

(continued next page)



Southern Utah Green Conference Speakers (continued)

able landscape practices. He also believes in well-thought-out landscape designs that have profound impacts on people. Andy enjoys all things plants and loves to help neighbors, relatives and friends in their landscape and garden efforts. He appreciates nature and loves being outdoors, especially recreational water sports, camping, hiking and fishing.

Presentation Description:

A famous proverb goes: "The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second-best time is now." This message resonates because we all understand and appreciate the value of a shade tree – especially on a hot, sunny day. As the water shortage crisis continues, and we look for ways to reduce water use, landscape is a big target! In many areas, one effective approach to reduce landscape water usage has been converting high water use lawns to low water use *xeriscapes* or *localscapes*. Important lessons have been learned from reduced landscape

water use. For example, improper turf conversion practices can cause conservable harm and damage to an often overlooked but high value asset, shade trees. Many large, valuable shade trees have been lost because turf conversion practitioners did not understand two vital components of trees growing in grass: **tree roots and tree water requirements**. The good news is conserving water and protecting valuable shade trees are not mutually exclusive. Attendees in this class will learn critical steps to protect tree root systems and provide proper irrigation (during and after) when performing turf conversions.

Joe Boffa

Joe Boffa has over a decade of experience in the tree care industry. He focuses on plant healthcare, education and training in the Rocky Mountain region. He provides support to commercial tree care and landscape companies, municipalities and other public entities. He has his Bachelor's degree in Forestry and is a certified arborist as well as a Qualified Supervisor Applicator with the Colorado Department of Agriculture. He finds his passion in helping urban trees survive and thrive, and helping his clients succeed in their care of trees.



Presentation Description:

In this presentation, we will be covering the history of the bacterial disease fire blight in North America. We will look at the impact it had on early settlers to the United States and how it was historically identified and treated and how we choose to treat and manage it now. Bring your cell phone; there will be an interaction quiz at the end of the presentation.



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Amy Davidson

With 19 years at the UDAF Plant Industry Division, and more than eight years as a Pesticide Inspector in Southern Utah, Amy Davidson is passionate about keeping communities safe and informed through education and compliance. A San Diego native, Amy has lived in St. George since 2007. She is a proud mother of three boys and a loving grandmother to two.



Presentation Description:

Drift, Runoff, and Residuals: Navigating Utah R68-7 and Federal Standards:

The core purpose is to bridge the gap between compliance and practical field application by teaching applicators how to prevent drift, chemical trespass, and long-term residual damage while staying compliant with FIFRA and Utah Rule R68-7.

ern Landscapes” and has taught courses in Landscape Plant Materials and Arizona Native Plants at Arizona State University. Judy is a Certified Arborist and a Certified Water Harvesting Practitioner. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in Horticulture from Washington State University and she worked for nine years as a horticulturist at the Desert Botanical Garden in Phoenix before returning to school for her Masters of Environmental Planning from ASU. Judy is an avid home gardener whose interests include succulents, wildflowers, flowers for cutting and vegetables.

Presentation Description:

Cooler Roots = Happier Plants

Summer can be rough on landscapes, but one way to provide relief to plants is to keep the soil, and by extension, plant roots, as cool as possible through the use of mulch. Judy will discuss the pros and cons of organic mulch versus rock mulch. Attendees will also learn about the benefits of allowing natural plant litter to remain on the soil surface as additional mulch material, and practicing restraint in pruning, particularly during the summer, to provide as much shade as possible over the soil surface.

Jake Powell

Jake Powell is a Professor and Extension Specialist in Utah State University's Department of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning. Jake graduated from Utah State University in 2008 with a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture and a minor in Watershed Sciences. After working professionally, Jake returned to pursue a Master of Science in Landscape Architecture from Penn State University.



Jake's subsequent professional career has focused on uniting communities to their surrounding land-

Judy Mielke

Judy Mielke is a Senior Landscape Architect with Logan Simpson in Tempe. She has more than 35 years of experience designing landscapes for projects as diverse as parks, schools, custom residential, and freeways, both urban and rural. Judy also frequently conducts native plant inventories that result in the salvage and replanting of trees, saguaros and other types of cacti. Judy is author of the award-winning book *“Native Plants For Southwest-*



(continued next page)

Southern Utah Green Conference Speakers (continued)

scapes through collaborative planning and design efforts. Prior to joining the faculty at Utah State, Jake was the Director of the Intermountain West branch of the American Conservation Experience, based in St. George, Utah. During his tenure, this conservation corps worked in partnership with the

Virgin River Program to complete the Arundo Donax removal project in the lower Virgin River.

Presentation Description:

Arundo Donax, also known as Giant Reed, is an invasive species listed on Utah's Noxious Weed list. Once sold as an ornamental plant, this reed is especially aggressive in riparian areas and began popping up in the Virgin River watershed in the late 2010's. A targeted effort to locate, remove, and treat local infestations was piloted nearly ten years ago. This presentation will discuss the strategies, logistics and lessons learned from this effort, and how this effort can influence similar projects today.

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Wendy Proud

Wendy Proud is a horticultural maintenance specialist, educator, and founder of Kinship League. With more than thirty years of experience spanning nursery production, landscape installation, consulting and horticultural education, she helps landscape professionals preserve design intent through informed maintenance practices. Wendy has spoken throughout the western United States, been featured in Sunset, San Diego Home & Garden and DIY Home & Garden Network and is widely recognized for advancing the practice of landscape stewardship.



Presentation Description:

Are you looking for tried-and-true plants that give you the most bang for your buck—plants that are hardy, dependable, readily available and cover more ground with less maintenance? We'll look at selections that offer real value through size, durability, low maintenance, adaptability and year-round interest, while still making sense for both growers and landscape professionals.

2027 UTAH GREEN CONFERENCE

Continuing Education • Sustainable Landscaping
Nursery Trends • Industry Networking

Matt Johnson

KSL Weatherman

Keynote Speaker



Mountain America Expo Center 9575 STATE ST SANDY, UT

JANUARY 25-26-27



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UNLA Awards



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- Distinguished Contribution Award
- Public Service Award
- Women in the Green Industry Award
- Commercial Landscape Installation Excellence Award
- Residential Landscape Installation Excellence Award
- Landscape Management & Maintenance Award (Residential or Commercial)

The nomination deadline is October 9th!

Awards presented January 25, 2027, at UNLA Awards Banquet
during Utah Green Conference.

Email memberservices@utahgreen.org with questions.

www.utahgreen.org/events/2027-unla-awards

UNLA Lagoon Day July 8, 2026

We started the day off bright and early with a Backstage Garden Tour hosted by Brent Buhler with Lagoon. Brent guided the attendees through the grounds of Lagoon and shared stories and history. He walked us all over the park and knew every detail to the grounds. Brent's experience and knowledge is pretty impressive. We saw peacocks and the nursery on the grounds. The UNLA always appreciates Brent and Lagoon's generosity. Once the tour ended, UNLA Members entered the park and enjoyed a day of rides, ice cream, and hamburgers. It was a hot day but the lines were not too long. We appreciate everyone who attended and participated.





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Calendar 2026

OCTOBER

9 **UNLA Award** Nominations Deadline

19-21 **CUWCD QWEL Seminar & Test**

27 **2026 Southern Utah Green Conference**

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