

# Awareness

## The Connection

While trees cannot vote, trees are affected by government policy. We modify our environments in many ways, often to the detriment of plants. Do your best to get involved and speak on behalf of trees by educating yourself on the environmental policies of your elected officials, pledging to protect the “city in the forest” and committing to learning more about our community’s environmental issues.

## Take Action

First, review the environmental policy of your representatives and candidates in any upcoming elections using the site provided in the resources. Second, sign the Atlanta Canopy Alliance Pledge with the instructions provided. Third, read one book, listen to five podcast episodes, join a plant society, or participate in a community science project for 1 year. **With those three action items, you earn 1 acorn!**

## Acorns



## Tracks



# Instructions

- ☐ I promise to review my legislator's environmental scorecards (if they are available) using the instructions below
- ☐ I promise to sign the Atlanta Canopy Alliance using the instructions below
- ☐ Using the list of references below, I promise to pick one of the following:
  - ☐ Read (1) book
  - ☐ Listen to (5) podcast episodes
  - ☐ Join (1) plant society
  - ☐ Participate in (2) community science projects.
- ☐ Note: To meet Bat Stewardship you must participate in Georgia Bat Roost Monitoring (*details below*)
- ☐ Note: To meet Firefly Stewardship you must participate in Atlanta Firefly Project (*details below*)
- ☐ Note: To meet Pollinator Stewardship you must participate in The Great Georgia Pollinator Census (*details below*)

## Environmental Scorecards Instructions

One step in the Environmental Awareness goal is being aware of your legislator's conservation records. Georgia Conservation Voters provides a tool that allows Georgians to explore legislators' records on energy, climate change, public health, public lands, wildlife protection, and spending on environmental programs. Scorecards are typically provided on an annual basis and depending on the time of year and recent political events, not all legislator's scorecards might be available at all times but consider this a starting point.

To do this, you must first find out who your legislators are:

1. Visit: [www.openstates.org/find\\_your\\_legislator/](http://www.openstates.org/find_your_legislator/)
2. Enter the address where you are registered to vote and hit search
3. Both your state and federal representatives will appear
4. Write these names down.

Next, look up your representatives' scorecards by visiting:

1. First, look up your state legislations by Visiting:  
<https://gcvoters.org/scorecards/>
2. Click "view the {year-year} scorecard"

3. Scroll down to the table with the title "{year-year} Georgia Environmental Scorecard Prepared by GCV & Environment GA"
4. Click the top of the column where it says "Legislator" to sort by the last name.
5. Scroll through to find your first state legislators and click on their name
6. Review their voting record
7. Repeat this process with the rest of your legislators
8. Next, glance at your national representative for the state of Georgia's report by visiting: <https://gcvoters.org/federal/>

## Atlanta Canopy Alliance Pledge

Let's work together to protect our "City in the Forest." Trees provide shade, clean the air, and reduce stormwater runoff. Trees improve our quality of life and give us beauty, food, and habitat for wildlife and pollinators. Every day, this important resource — our urban forest — is increasingly under threat.

As residents, voters, and environmental stewards, we want Atlanta's elected officials and community leaders to know that we all care about the trees in our city. To add your voice, please sign the online pledge form and ask your neighbors and friends to sign, too!

To sign the pledge requires your name, email address, and zip code but optional additions are your neighborhood name and a short message on why protecting trees important to you. To sign the pledge please visit:

[www.treesatlanta.org/atlanta-canopy-alliance-pledge/](http://www.treesatlanta.org/atlanta-canopy-alliance-pledge/)

## Book List

You can access all these books on the list below along with book reviews at Trees Atlanta's Bookshelf list on Goodreads. We have provided the link down below but have also listed out these books. If you choose the book option, only one person at the property needs to read a book from this list to meet this goal but if you enjoy reading, don't stop at reading just one! Note: books you have read in the past do not count, and you must read a new book to meet this goal.

**Booklist link:**

[www.goodreads.com/review/list/147783131?shelf=trees-atlanta-book-list](http://www.goodreads.com/review/list/147783131?shelf=trees-atlanta-book-list)

## Book Options

### **Aldo Leopold**

- A Sand County Almanac and Sketches Here and There

### **David George Haskell**

- The Forest Unseen: A Year's Watch in Nature
- The Songs of Trees: Stories from Nature's Great Connectors

### **Douglas W. Tallamy**

- Nature's Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation That Starts in Your Yard
- The Nature of Oaks: The Rich Ecology of Our Most Essential Native Trees

### **Eric Rutkow**

- American Canopy: Trees, Forests, and the Making of a Nation

### **Janisse Ray**

- Drifting into Darien: A Personal and Natural History of the Altamaha River
- Ecology of a Cracker Childhood
- Pinhook: Finding Wholeness in a Fragmented Land
- The Seed Underground: A Growing Revolution to Save Food
- Wild Spectacle: Seeking Wonder in a World Beyond Humans

### **Joan Maloof**

- Among the Ancients: Adventures in the Eastern Old-Growth Forests
- Nature's Temples: The Complex World of Old-Growth Forests
- Teaching the Trees: Lessons from the Forest

### **Jonah McDonald**

- Hiking Atlanta's Hidden Forests: Intown and Out

### **Leslie Edwards**

- The Natural Communities of Georgia

### **Meg Lowman**

- The Arbornaut: A Life Discovering the Eighth Continent in the Trees Above Us

### **Merlin Sheldrake**

- Entangled Life: How Fungi Make Our Worlds, Change Our Minds & Shape Our Futures

### **Peter Wohlleben**

- The Hidden Life of Trees

### **Richard Powers**

- The Overstory

### **Robin Wall Kimmerer**

- Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants
- Gathering Moss: A Natural and Cultural History of Mosses

**Suzanne Simard**

- Finding the Mother Tree: Discovering the Wisdom of the Forests

## Podcasts

You can access all these podcast episodes on the list below to read episode bios on Trees Atlanta's Listen Notes account. We have provided the link down below but have also listed out these podcast episodes. If you choose the podcast option, only one person at the property needs to listen to five episodes on this list to meet this goal but if you enjoy listening, don't stop at five! Note: episodes you have listened to in the past do not count, and you must read a new book to meet this goal.

**Podcast Playlist link:**

[www.listennotes.com/playlists/city-forest-certified-63T7uCnIA2M/episodes/](http://www.listennotes.com/playlists/city-forest-certified-63T7uCnIA2M/episodes/)

**Food Talk**

- [Ep. 28 - For Health and Environment, Food Culture Needs a New Direction](#)
- [Ep. 30 - Food & Water Watch's Wenonah Hauter On Taking Back Food, Water, and Climate](#)
- [Ep. 41 - Project Drawdown's New Narrative for Climate Change: 100 Solutions](#)
- [Ep. 66 - Five Ways You're Responsible for Change in the Food System](#)
- [Ep. 80 - Food: Cause—And Cure—For Health and Environment, Says Dr. Hyman](#)
- [Ep. 85 - We Need More Biodiversity in Our Food System](#)
- [Ep. 95 - Collective power can help us buy better food, says Jose Oliva](#)
- [Ep. 96 - Supporting Organic Farms at the Market and the Bank](#)
- [Ep. 156 - Rose Hayden-Smith on the Recent Rise in Home Gardening](#)
- [Ep. 211 - Jeff Dunn on the Food Industry, Carrots, and Going Plant-Based](#)
- [Ep. 215 - Dan Curtin on Carbon-Neutral Vegan Meat Alternatives](#)
- [Ep. 294 - Good Food That's Good for Climate](#)
- [Ep. 295 - Redesigning nature-positive food to address the climate crisis and biodiversity loss](#)
- [Ep. 296 - Fighting Food Waste Through the Emerson Act](#)
- [Ep. 326 - Pete Pearson on Ending Food Waste and Connecting the Dots Between Food Systems and Climate Change](#)

## **In Defense of Plants**

- [Ep. 34 - Cloud Forest Rescue Mission](#)
- [Ep. 58 - Saving the Rainforest](#)
- [Ep. 60 - Orchid Bees and Deciduous Trees](#)
- [Ep. 62 - In Search of the Mountain Camellia \(\*Stewartia ovata\*\)](#)
- [Ep. 84 - Project Pine Cone and Other Botanical Adventures](#)
- [Ep. 87 - Fire in the Forest](#)
- [Ep. 89 - Conversations on Forest Health](#)
- [Ep. 107 - Chestnut Blight: Causes and Solutions](#)
- [Ep. 115 - On Old Growth Forests and Disturbance](#)
- [Ep. 139 - Tropical Dry Forests](#)
- [Ep. 141 - Beware of Beech Bark Disease](#)
- [Ep. 142 - The Hemlock Restoration Initiative](#)
- [Ep. 152 - Forests, Ozone, and Earth's Largest Mass Extinction](#)
- [Ep. 175 - Conserving Tree Diversity](#)
- [Ep. 178 - Forest Conservation in Laos](#)
- [Ep. 191 - The Changing Forests of the Andes](#)
- [Ep. 198 - The State of the World's Trees](#)
- [Ep. 203 - Oaks: Insights into Evolution & Ecology](#)
- [Ep. 219 - Conifer Country](#)
- [Ep. 221 - Galls Gone Wild!](#)
- [Ep. 224 - Resurrecting a Ghost: The Mission to Save the Ozark Chinquapin Pt. 1](#)
- [Ep. 225 - Resurrecting a Ghost: The Mission to Save the Ozark Chinquapin Pt. 2](#)
- [Ep. 226 - Cities Need Trees](#)
- [Ep. 227 - A Quest to Find the "Stinking Cedar"](#)
- [Ep. 230 - Cryogenic Conservation](#)
- [Ep. 232 - The Plight of the Butternut](#)
- [Ep. 237 - The Fall of the Torreya & What is Being Done to Save It](#)
- [Ep. 247 - The Stories That Tree Rings Can Tell](#)
- [Ep. 253 - Earth's First Forests](#)
- [Ep. 264 - The Longleaf Alliance Speaks for the Trees](#)
- [Ep. 265 - Ancient Trees: Living on the Edge](#)
- [Ep. 272 - Restoring the American Chestnut](#)
- [Ep. 274 - Hollow Trees = Habitat](#)
- [Ep. 284 - Trees in a Changing Climate](#)
- [Ep. 301 - Oaks in Trouble](#)

- [Ep. 302 - Community-Based Oak Conservation](#)
- [Ep. 308 - The Street Life of Trees](#)
- [Ep. 311 - How Oaks Get Around](#)
- [Ep. 315 - Deer & Forest Health](#)
- [Ep. 332 - The Ecology of Douglas Fir](#)
- [Ep. 335 - A Global Effort to Help Magnolias](#)
- [Ep. 338 - How Old are the Oldest Trees?](#)
- [Ep. 347 - Resisting the Emerald Ash Borer](#)
- [Ep. 348 - Reversing the Nightmare on Elm Streets](#)

### **Native Plant Podcasts**

- [Dendrologist Don Leopold on native trees and their use in the landscape](#)
- [Dr. Doug Tallamy on the Nature of Oaks](#)
- [Forest Bathing with Nadine Phillips](#)
- [Plant a wish documentary](#)
- [Soils and the microbes that inhabit them with Author Jeff Lowenfels](#)
- [The Hemlock Hospice project at Harvard Forest](#)
- [Trees Atlanta](#)
- [Using Science to Save the American Chestnut Tree with Dr. Sara Fitzsimmons of the American Chestnut Foundation.](#)

### **Ologies**

- [Bryology \(MOSS\) with Dr. Robin Wall Kimmerer](#)
- [Bufology \(TOADS\) with Priya Nanjappa](#)
- [Chiropterology \(BATS\) Encore with Merlin Tuttle](#)
- [Chiropterology Part 2 \(BATS\) Encore with Merlin Tuttle](#)
- [Cicadology \(CICADAS\) with Gene Kritsky](#)
- [Dendrology \(TREES\) with J. Casey Clapp](#)
- [Entomology \(INSECTS\) with Lila Higgins](#)
- [Fire Ecology \(WILDFIRES\) with Gavin Jones](#)
- [Forensic Ecology \(NATURE DETECTIVE\) with Tiara Moore](#)
- [Forest Entomology \(CREEPY CRAWLIES\) with Kristen Wickert](#)
- [Herpetology \(SNAKES, FROGS, ETC.\) with David Steen](#)
- [Indigenous Fire Ecology \(GOOD FIRE\) with Amy Christianson](#)
- [Is Your Carbon Footprint BS?: How to Save a Planet takes over Ologies](#)
- [Lampyridology \(FIREFLIES\) aka Sparklebuttology with Sara Lewis](#)
- [Lepidopterology \(BUTTERFLIES\) with Phil Torres](#)
- [Lepidopterology \(BUTTERFLIES & MOTHS\) – Encore Presentation with Phil Torres](#)

- [Melittology \(BEES\) with Amanda Shaw](#)
- [Ornithology \(BIRDS\) with James Maley](#)
- [Ornithology \(BIRDS\) Encore Presentation with James Maley](#)
- [Part 1: Dendrology \(TREES\) with Casey Clapp](#)
- [Part 2: Dendrology \(TREES\) with Casey Clapp](#)
- [Smologies #3: TOADS with Priya Nanjappa](#)
- [Spesh Ep: Drawdown Design Project with C. Andrew Hall](#)
- [Spheksology \(WASPS\) with Eric Eaton](#)

### **Radiolab**

- [Forests on Forests](#)

### **Shake the Tree**

- [A Primer on Local Policy](#)
- [Leadership in Urban and Community Forestry \(ft. Cecil Konijnendijk van den Bosch\)](#)
- [The Privilege of the Tree Experience](#)
- [Why Shake the Tree?](#)

## **Plant Societies**

We have provided a list of plant, environmental, and conservation societies that you can join. If you choose the societies option, only one person at the property needs to join and participate with that organization for one year (or until you renew your certification).

### **Georgia Botanical Society**

- [www.gabotsoc.org/](http://www.gabotsoc.org/)

### **Georgia Native Plant Society**

- [www.gnps.org/](http://www.gnps.org/)

### **Mushroom Club of Georgia**

- [www.gamushroomclub.org/](http://www.gamushroomclub.org/)

### **The Azalea Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society (ARS)**

- [www.azaleachapter.com/index.php/home-page](http://www.azaleachapter.com/index.php/home-page)

### **Georgia Master Gardeners or Master Naturalists**

- [www.extension.uga.edu/programs-services/georgia-master-gardener-extension-volunteer-program.html](http://www.extension.uga.edu/programs-services/georgia-master-gardener-extension-volunteer-program.html)

### **Georgia Master Naturalists**



- [www.extension.uga.edu/programs-services/detail.html/40/master-naturalist.html](http://www.extension.uga.edu/programs-services/detail.html/40/master-naturalist.html)

## Community Science Projects

We have provided a list of locally relevant community science projects that you can join. If you choose the community science options, only one person at the property needs to participate in (2) of the projects for one year (or until you renew your certification).

### Atlanta City Nature Challenge

- [www.fernbankmuseum.org/learn/community-programs/atlanta-city-nature-challenge/](http://www.fernbankmuseum.org/learn/community-programs/atlanta-city-nature-challenge/)

### Atlanta Firefly Project

- [www.atlantafireflyproject.org/](http://www.atlantafireflyproject.org/)

### Georgia Adopt-a-Stream

- [www.adoptastream.georgia.gov/](http://www.adoptastream.georgia.gov/)

### Georgia Anabat Acoustic Survey Volunteer Project

- [www.georgiawildlife.com/AnabatProject](http://www.georgiawildlife.com/AnabatProject)

### Georgia Bat Roost Monitoring

- [www.georgiawildlife.com/bat-roost-monitoring?utm\\_campaign=GaWild20200427&utm\\_content=&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=govdelivery&utm\\_term=](http://www.georgiawildlife.com/bat-roost-monitoring?utm_campaign=GaWild20200427&utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=)

### Monarch Watch

- [www.monarchwatch.org/tagging/](http://www.monarchwatch.org/tagging/)

### The Great Georgia Pollinator Census

- [www.ggapc.org/](http://www.ggapc.org/)

### Wildlife Camera Trap Monitoring

- [www.treesatlanta.org/programs/atlanta-beltline-arboretum/](http://www.treesatlanta.org/programs/atlanta-beltline-arboretum/)

## From Our Partner: Georgia Conservation Voters

“Georgia Conservation Voters (GCV) is on a mission to transform Georgia's political landscape by electing leaders with conservation values and holding them accountable to implement policies that ensure clean water and air, abundant wildlife, scenic landscapes, and economic opportunities for all Georgians.”

“Georgia Conservation Voters fight to protect our air, water, and land through political Action. [They] envision a future where the political landscape has changed to place a

high priority on building a sustainable and resilient Georgia and advancing climate justice. [They] are nonpartisan, pragmatic, and effective. [Their] mission is to advocate for public policies that advance a more just and sustainable future, campaign for candidates who will make climate and environmental justice a priority, and hold elected officials accountable for their actions and votes.”

Website: <https://gcvoters.org/>

## References

N/A

