

### **DEEP Commissioner Katie Dykes**

Katie Dykes is the Commissioner of Connecticut's Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP). She has served since 2019, when she was first nominated by Governor Ned Lamont, and was re-confirmed in February 2023 to serve in Governor Lamont's second term. Katie previously served as Chair of the Connecticut Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) from 2015-2018, and as Deputy Commissioner for Energy at Connecticut DEEP from 2012-2015. Katie also serves as the Chair of the Board of Directors of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, Inc. (RGGI). Katie joined CT DEEP in March 2012 after prior service in the White House Council on Environmental Quality and the U.S. Department of Energy. She is a graduate of Yale College and the Yale Law School.



### **Andrea Urbano**

Andrea Urbano is the Program Supervisor of Private and Municipal Lands for Connecticut's Division of Forestry. As such, she manages Connecticut's forest stewardship and urban forestry programs. She previously served as Connecticut's Central District Service Forester, and worked as a CT Christmas Tree Grower, a private consultant forester, and a contracted urban forester. Andrea has a Master of Science in carbon forestry and Bachelor of Science in environmental conservation and political science.



### **Frank Cervo**

Frank is the Eastern District Service Forester with Connecticut DEEP covering Somers, Ellington, Vernon, Bolton, Hebron, Stafford, Tolland, Coventry, and Andover. Previously, he was the Forest Manager for the Yale School of Forestry. He holds a Bachelor of Science from the University of Connecticut and a Master of Forestry from Yale. He serves on the board of the Eastern Connecticut Forest Landowners Association and the New England Society of American Foresters. He is also a member of the Forest Steward's Guild and the Connecticut Interstate Fire Crew.



### **Heather Dionne**

Heather is the City Forester for the City of Hartford. Since 2012, she has been managing an urban forest that includes 434 shoulder road miles and almost 3,000 acres of greenspace and forestland. Educating the public on the importance of trees, climate change, and proper arboricultural practices is her focus. She has worked hard to encourage decision makers to see trees as a necessity and not just a luxury, especially regarding budgeting and planning. Seeing first-hand the social injustices in a city relating to tree canopy gives her a vantage from which she can bring stakeholders together to come up with solutions. Heather studied Urban and Community Forestry at Unity College in Maine, is a licensed arborist in Connecticut and with the International Society of Arboriculture, and recently acquired her certification as a supervising forest products harvester in Connecticut.



### **Mark Brand**

Dr. Mark Brand is Professor of Horticulture at the University of Connecticut. Dr. Brand holds degrees from Cornell University and The Ohio State University. He is the author of numerous scientific papers and has received several prestigious awards. His most recent work involves the development of sterile cultivars for valuable landscape shrubs that might otherwise become invasive, the development of digital horticultural resources, ornamental plant breeding, and genetic improvements to selected native shrub species.



### **Mayra Rodriguez Gonzalez**

Dr. Mayra Rodríguez González is an Urban Community Forestry Educator at the University of Connecticut. Dr. Rodríguez holds a Doctorate degree from Purdue University's Department of Forestry and Natural Resources and a Bachelor's in natural sciences from the University of Puerto Rico in Bayamón. Her work encompasses the realm of environmental justice and urban environmental management. Dr. Rodríguez has worked with cities and towns throughout the United States to assess the access of tree canopy and its benefits by minoritized communities. She has also supported the development of tree planting plans to alleviate inequities in access. Currently, she partners with CT organizations to promote community-engaged programs on the benefits of urban trees.



### **Eric Hammerling**

Eric Hammerling has been Executive Director for the Connecticut Forest & Park Association (CFPA) since 2008. Eric is the lead advocate for CFPA on forest, park, trail, and open space issues before the CT General Assembly. He chaired the State Vegetation Management Task Force (2012), Forests Sub-Group of the Governor's Council on Climate Change (2020), and the working group that published the Policy on Resilient Forests for Connecticut's Future (PRFCT Future) in 2021. Eric serves on the Board of the CT Land Conservation Council, CT Outdoor Recreation Alliance, CT Urban Forest Council, and Connwood Foresters, Inc., and on the Steering Committee of the Working Lands Alliance.



### **Tom Worthley**

Tom Worthley is Associate Extension Professor for Forestry at the University of Connecticut. A graduate of the University of Maine, he is also a Conservation and Wetlands Commissioner in the Town of Haddam, a member of the Haddam Land Trust, the Society of American Foresters and with his wife, Catherine, a woodland owner in Higganum. He has invested a 40+ year career with industry, consulting, and academia in the notion that if woodland owners can derive benefit, reward, and satisfaction from being woodland owners, then the woodlands are at lower risk of being converted to something different.

