

Time	2026 KAA Annual Conference, Thursday Feb. 19, 2026	
7:30 - 8:00 am	Registration Opens	
8:00 - 8:45 am	Exhibition & Continental Breakfast	
	Main Conference Room	
8:45 - 9:30 am	"The Changing Weather Patterns Globally" John Gordon, Director of National Weather Service, Louisville (Retired)	
9:30 - 10:15 am	"Feeling the Heat: Effects of Climate Change on Trees and Insects" Dan Herms, PhD, Vice President of Research and Development, Davey Tree Expert Company	
10:15- 10:30 am	Exhibition with Break	
10:30 - 11:45 am	"Scale Insects: Timing Is Everything—When and How to Treat Effectively" Dr. Jonathan Larson, PhD, Extension Assistant Professor, UKY	
12:00 - 1:30 pm	KAA Members' Meeting, Lunch & Exhibition	
1:30 - 2:15 pm	"Plant Disease Update" Julie Beale, Plant Pathology, Diagnostic Lab Director and Diagnostician	
2:30 - 3:15 pm	"Urban Soils and Modern Management" Zach Shier, Joseph Tree Plant Healthcare Manager	
3:15- 3:30 pm	Exhibition with Break	
3:30 - 4:35 pm	"Tree Fund Charity Event" Paul Putman, PhD, President & CEO Tree Fund	
4:45 - 5:00 pm	Exhibition with Break	
Time	2026 KAA Annual Conference, Friday Feb. 20, 2026	
7:30 - 8:00 am	Registration Opens	
8:00 - 8:30 am	Exhibition & Continental Breakfast	
8:45 - 9:45 am	"Transforming Tree Care With AI: Practical Applications for Your Business" Monica Hemmingway, PhD, Founder & CEO of Tree Care Marketing	
10:00- 10:45 am	"Tree Law and The Insurance Industry----How They are Affecting Tree Care" Taylor Cooper, Attorney Keuler, Kelly, Hutchins, Blankenship & Sigler, LLP	
11:00- 11:45 am	"Kentucky Horticulture DOL Greenworks" Chelsea Maupin, Greenworks & Bill Sandell, Apprentice Work Force Consultant	
11:45 am - 12:30 pm	Exhibition & Lunch	
	Main Conference Room	
12:30 - 1:30 pm	"Prescription Pruning Qualification" Carson Smith, Partner and Operations Officer at O'Neil's Tree Service	
1:30 - 2:15 pm	"Futureproofing Kentucky's Beech: Strategic Management of Emerging Beech Leaf Disease" Cory McCurry, Certified Arborist (Midwest Arborologist) , Rainbow Ecoscience	
2:30 - 3:30 pm	"Restoring and Expanding the Urban Forest" Kenton Sena, PhD, Heather Wilson, Senior Mgr	Woodford Reserve Tour 2:00 - 4:00 Laura Lyon
3:30 - 4:00 pm	Exhibition & Afternoon Break	
	Project Room 1	
	Climber Session	
1:30 - 3:00 pm	"Pruning for Long Term Viability and Storm Damage Mitigation" Lily Soderlund	
3:00 - 3:15 pm	Afternoon Break & Exhibition	
3:15 - 4:00 pm	"Producing vs Training" Lily Soderlund	