

FUTURE
URBAN
FORESTS



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2021 VIRTUAL URBAN FORESTRY INSTITUTE AGENDA

THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 2021 • Morning Session

9:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. 2021 Virtual Urban Forestry Institute Welcome and Opening Remarks
- Joe Anderson, President - Florida Urban Forestry Council (and other video clips from affiliated organizations)

9:30 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. **Tree Equity Score: A New Tool for Setting Goals and Attracting Investment**
- Ian Leahy, Vice President of Urban Forestry - American Forests

By late April, every Florida urbanized area will receive a set of Tree Equity Scores (TreeEquityScore.org). The presentation will first introduce this free, new science-based resource that synthesizes tree canopy, socioeconomic and local climate data into a point scale for every neighborhood census block group. It will then explore how city and state governments, nonprofit and for-profit urban foresters, community activists and individual residents can use Tree Equity Score to set reforestation goals and policies, attract investment, and focus resources to ensure neighborhoods with the highest needs experience the many benefits of tree canopy.

9:45 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. **Preventing Tree Damage to Hardscape: New Planting Width Recommendations**
- Deborah Hilbert, Biological Scientist and PhD Candidate - Urban Tree and Landscape Management Lab, University of Florida/IFAS Gulf Coast Research and Education Center

Each year local governments spend millions of dollars repairing sidewalks and curbs damaged by trees. Scientists used field measurements to predict the size of trunk flare diameters and to create updated planting width recommendations for medium- and large-stature trees. In this presentation, you will learn how to use these new recommendations to reduce conflict between trees and ground-level infrastructure.

10:15 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. **Urban Forest Management Plan Development: Gainesville Case Study**
- Michael Andreu, PhD, Associate Professor of Forest Systems and Extension Specialist - University of Florida/School of Forest, Fisheries and Geomatics Sciences and SFRC Extension Coordinator

In January 2021 the City of Gainesville City Commission officially adopted the Urban Forest Management Plan 2020. In this discussion, I will review the process used to develop the plan. As with all management plans it answers three critical questions: What do you have? What do you want? How are you going to get there? We will discuss how an iterative approach to plan development may take more time, but results in a document that provides guidance and accountability to the City Staff and builds relationships and confidence with the community members through transparency and communication.

10:45 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. **Tree Condition: Why You Need it in Your Inventory (and how to assess it)**
- Andrew Koeser, PhD, Associate Professor - University of Florida/IFAS Gulf Coast Research and Education Center

An effective tree condition rating is a powerful bit of data--offering insights into a tree's past, present, and future. This one measure can be used to inform future maintenance requirements as well as current ecosystem services and risk. Experience and surveys have shown that a variety of methods are used by urban forest managers to assess tree health. In this presentation, we highlight one approach which is quick, reproducible, and easily normalized to factor in growth patterns inherent to specific species. In addition, we show how it can be applied to a range of Florida vegetation, including palms.

11:15 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. **Q & A Session with Presenters**
- Deborah Hilbert, Michael Andreu, PhD, Andrew Koeser, PhD

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. **Break**



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THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 2021 • Afternoon Session

12:30 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. Creating a Safety Culture

- Paul Hurysz, Manager of Contract Resources for Transmission Organization - Duke Energy

The truth is that no 30-minute presentation on safety, regardless of who is providing the information, can give you all the answers to all your questions, concerns, and problems around creating a culture of safety. With that said, I will try to provide you with a few takeaways that will point you in the right direction as it relates to creating/maintaining/maturing a cultural journey of safety within your organization. The topics of interest I will cover are as follows:

- In 2018, the UAA Safety Committee published a maturity assessment matrix on creating a culture of safety. In theory, it is difficult to create a vision of where you want to be, if you don't have a clear understanding of where you are.
- I will talk about the "Got Ya" culture and why safety shouldn't be a Priority.
- I will discuss Workforce Culture, Diversity and Inclusion, and Generational Gaps and how each can have an impact on culture.
- And lastly, I will try to provide you with insights regarding future trends in safety standards (e.g., OSHA, and ANSI standards).

1:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Placement of Trees in Context Classifications

- Darryl Richard, District Landscape Architect and Scenic Highway Coordinator - Florida Department of Transportation

This presentation will review FDOT's Context Classifications and how to evaluate roadways for placement of tree material. Review of practices and procedures and constraints and opportunities. And, a look towards the future of best practices for inclusion of trees into the roadway corridor.

1:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Soft Spaces

- Ian Lockwood, P.E., Livable Transportation Engineer - Toole Design Group

People prefer soft spaces over hard spaces. Whether the space is inside of a restaurant or in a park, plaza, classroom, living room, or within the largest part of the city's public realm, the streets, people will spend more time in the space and have a better experience if the space is softer. High performing streets economically, socially, recreationally, multi-modally, and environmentally are typically softer than poorly performing streets. Learn the about the differences between hard and soft spaces, the maintenance perspectives, the safety benefits, and the combination of measures that you can take to plan, design, and build softer spaces and better performing streets.

2:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Tree Risk Assessment and its Impact on Future Approaches to Urban Resource Management

- Ryan Klein, PhD, Assistant Professor of Arboriculture - University of Florida / Environmental Horticulture

Large portions of our urban forests are planted and have been designed to fit the spaces that remain following development. Unfortunately, much of the time the growth and long-term survival of these trees are an afterthought. Urban trees can offer a variety of benefits including reducing the urban heat island effect, filtering toxic air pollutants, beautifying the urban landscape, intercepting stormwater runoff, enhancing societal functions, and providing wildlife habitat. Conversely, trees in densely populated areas have the potential to pose significant risks to both people and property. Therefore, it is important to find an equilibrium that can maximize tree related benefits and minimize the associated risk. The research presented throughout the talk explores the accuracy of the current and most commonly used tree risk assessment methods, the subjective nature of assessments, and how this can impact urban forest management and the tree related benefits that we receive.

2:30 p.m. - 2:45 p.m. Q & A Session with Presenters

- Paul Hurysz, Darryl Richard, Ian Lockwood, P.E., Ryan Klein, PhD

2:45 p.m. - 3:15 p.m. Break

3:15 p.m. - 4:45 p.m. Town Hall Forum - Florida Tree Regulations, Tree Benefits and Tree Values in 2021

Moderator:

- John Harris, President - Earth Advisors, Inc. and Principal - Landscape Economics LLC

Panelists:

- William (Bill) Lester, PhD, Extension Agent II - UF/IFAS Hernando County Extension
- Darryl Richard, District Landscape Architect and Scenic Highway Coordinator - Florida Department of Transportation
- Justin Freedman, Senior Associate - E Sciences, Inc.
- Will Liner, Urban Forestry Program Manager - Florida Forest Service

A panel of FUFIC leaders from the Council's member organizations will present current information and experiences with the FS163.045 law (that continues to be debated community by community across Florida). We will discuss highlights from the exciting new research that quantifies over \$4 billion dollars of environmental, social, and economic tree benefits in Florida. Lastly, we will discuss highlights from the Economic Impact Analysis for the Urban Forestry Industry Segment in Florida that quantifies the value of the Urban Forest industry to Florida's economy as over \$4 billion dollars annually. Questions from participants are encouraged on any of these topics, or share with us any other urban forestry issue or concern that you would like to ask about too. This is a Town Hall Forum for your questions and ideas to be heard.

FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 2021 • Morning Session

- 9:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. **A New Tree Environment: Climate Variability Impacts Community Forests**
- Kim D. Coder, PhD, Professor of Tree Biology and Health Care, University Hill Fellow for Distinguished Public Service and Outreach, and Community Forestry and Arboriculture Faculty at the Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia
Assuring community tree and site resilience under increasing climate variability strains will demand creative urban forest management. Appreciating changing site values and associated tree responses to extreme weather events and long-term climate impacts require changing the intensity and breadth of community forest health care. Here aspects of climate variability will be reviewed along with impacts on community trees. The future will not be better or worse, just different, and community forestry must remain agile to effectively respond to change.
- 9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. **The Human Dimensions of Urban Forests: Engaging the Public in Invasive Species Management**
- Mysha Clarke, PhD, Assistant Professor - UF/IFAS School of Forest Resources and Conservation
Invasive species (especially invasive insects) are a significant threat to urban forest management. They can emerge rapidly in urban ecosystems and cause significant socio-ecological impacts. This presentation will highlight the perceptions and approaches used by various urban forestry professionals including the key challenges, information networks, social learning, and communication about invasive species to the non-expert public.
- 10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. **Trees and Roadway Safety - The Human Element**
- Darryl Richard, District Landscape Architect and Scenic Highway Coordinator - Florida Department of Transportation
This presentation will review some of the biometric factors involved with roadway safety and evaluation of how trees affect human perception of the roadway. Review of current research into transportation safety as it relates to trees and human physiology during the experience of driving.
- 10:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. **City of Naples Urban Forest**
- Heather Shields, City Arborist and Project Manager - City of Naples Community Services Department
This presentation will explore how the City of Naples organizes, manages, and grows their Urban Forest. This presentation will take you on a short trip to see some of the beauty that is the Naples Urban Forest while talking about care and management practices.
- 11:00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. **Q & A Session with Presenters**
- Kim D. Coder, PhD, Mysha Clarke, PhD, Darryl Richard, Heather Shields
- 11:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. **Break**

FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 2021 • Afternoon Session

- 12:30 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. **FUFC Annual Report and 2020 Friends of Our Urban Forest Awards Program Presentations**
- Joe Anderson, FUFC President
- 1:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. **After the Pandemic: Making a Business Case for Urban Forestry**
- Kathleen Wolf, PhD, Research Social Scientist - University of Washington, College of the Environment - School of Environmental and Forest Sciences
The need to respond to many community needs during the pandemic will impact local government budgets. There will be hard choices about support for city services. How will your urban forestry budget hold up? Trees can be the source of environmental services that effect the bottom line (such as stormwater management or energy costs). Of rising interest is the many human health outcomes from tree and forest experiences. Dr. Wolf will provide an overview of the health and nature literature and the economic consequences of this evidence.
- 1:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. **It's not a ditch...it's a rain garden! Utilizing Rain Gardens to Provide Multiple Community Benefits**
- Jay Hood, PLA, ASLA - Technical Principal and Director of Landscape Architecture - S&ME
This presentation will provide an overview of the benefits, design and construction of roadside rain gardens. Jay will present the PK Avenue Streetscape, in Auburndale, FL, as a case study for the implementation of multiple Low Impact Development (LID) design techniques. This award-winning project has enhanced the community by reducing flooding, increasing safety, boosting property values, and adding to the urban forest of the City. Jay will share some of the opportunities, challenges and lessons learned through the planning, design and construction phases of this project.
- 2:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. **A Multi-Year Approach to Urban Forestry Grants: The Managing Community Forests Grant Program**
- Will Liner, Urban Forestry Program Manager - Florida Forest Service
The 2020 Managing Community Forests Grant was the second time this new type of grant opportunity was offered to Florida communities. With a targeted approach and a three-year commitment, the Managing Community Forests Grant seeks to assist small to mid-sized cities in building up their urban forestry programs. This presentation will discuss what entities are eligible, what projects are funded over the three-year program, and how to apply.
- 2:30 p.m. - 2:45 p.m. **Q & A Session with Presenters**
- Kathleen Wolf, PhD, Jay Hood, Will Liner
- 2:45 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. **Wrap up and conference ends**
- David Fox, 2021 UFI Co-Chair, Carolyn Cheatham Rhodes, 2021 UFI Co-Chair