BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Sherie Burch
Sherie Burch attended the University of Florida’s School of Agriculture and had the opportunity to intern with the City of Gainesville in 2001 where she coordinated the Southern Pine Beetle Suppression program. The internship provided her the opportunity to work with the Gainesville City Arborist, Gainesville Regional Utilities and the Florida Division of Forestry. She was asked to give a presentation on her internship at the Student Society of Arboriculture meeting at Clemson while there was invited to participate in a travel group from Clemson’s School of Forestry and Natural Resources to study Arboriculture in England. After returning to the United States, Sherie completed her B.S. in Horticulture with a specialization in Arboriculture at the UF campus in Davie while working for Environmental Consultants Inc. planning line clearance work for FPL. She was transferred to Marion County to work for Progress Energy as a Utility Forester. Sherie Burch is currently a Utility Arborist for the City of Ocala’s Utility Services Department. In this position she oversees the utility line clearance program, helps plan the annual Arbor Day festival and consults with customers in the Marion County area concerning tree issues of all types. The City has been very supportive of her progressive tree trimming program, which has been awarded Tree Line USA designation for the past seven years running. Sherie is also an ISA Certified Arborist/Utility Specialist and has served on the FUFC Executive Committee for the past year in the capacity of Newsletter Committee Chairperson.

Jeff Shimonski
Jeff Shimonski has worked full time in the horticulture/arboriculture industry since 1975, first starting as a horticulturist at Parrot Jungle and now--35 years later--as vice president of horticulture at Jungle Island. His consulting work for the past five years has included working with landscape architects on local and international projects, expert witness testimony in cases involving trees and risk assessment of urban trees. For the past five years, Jeff has written many articles on tree care including a monthly garden column for the Biscayne Times that encourages sustainable horticulture and arboriculture. His website is www.tropicaldesigns.com.

John Springer
John Springer earned the rank of Eagle Scout and the William T. Hornaday Award, for Distinguished Service to Conservation, during his youth in Indiana. He graduated from Purdue University in Landscape Architecture with a Minor in Forestry in 1970 and completed Master's coursework from Florida Institute of Technology in 1976 in Environmental Education. During this time period, John spent 30 years serving in the Boy Scouts including creating several camporees called Touch the Earth. He is also a Life and Voting Member of the American Forestry Association and the National Wildlife Federation.

John presently works as a Residential Landscape Designer as Earth Art/Landscape Walkabouts for several homeowners and landscape contractors in addition to conducting Enchanted Walkabouts and presentations to truly see and feel the world through a new set of eyes and heart while in nature. His experience includes teaching and conducting programs with the Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Misty Forest Academy, YMCA, Home School Groups, Sacred Lands Preservation Center, Environmental Education Centers, LEEF, and other groups and organizations. He has developed several social community networking groups designed to be like the Chamber of Commerce. John is known as a “networker”-- connecting communities together, matching resources to those seeking services and connections.
Wayne Zimmerman

Wayne Zimmerman is currently a manager for Orlando Utilities Commission in the areas of distribution and transmission maintenance, serving the commission for the past twenty-four years. His responsibilities include administering OUC’s North American Electric Reliability Council (NERC) compliance plan for Transmission Vegetation Maintenance. OUC maintains an integrated vegetation approach in its management strategies emphasizing proper treatment methods matched to environmental and regulatory compliance. This includes 1200 miles of distribution lines and 300 miles of transmission lines within the central Florida area. OUC is a proud participant in the National Arbor Day “Tree Line USA” program for the past eleven years. These responsibilities have included active participation in the communities we serve through Arbor Day events, underlining Public Education and Tree Planting in addition to activities and training sessions within local ISA chapters and Florida Vegetation Management Association.

Wayne has an A.S. in Manufacturing Engineering and a B.S. in Electric Engineering from the University of Central Florida. He is also a certified Power Quality Professional (AEE) and IEEE member and received an honorable mention by NERC (North American Reliability Council) Audit Committee for OUC’s 2007 Transmission Vegetation Program.