



The Council Quarterly

Quarterly Newsletter of the Florida Urban Forestry Council

2007 Volume One

LIVE OAK TREES STRUGGLE FOR SURVIVAL IN GROWTH AREAS

By Cathy Keen, Staff Writer, University of Florida News and Public Affairs

The majestic live oak is losing its battle for survival to suburban sprawl and the encroachment of taller trees, a new University of Florida study finds. An icon in American history and literature, broad-crowned live oaks thrive in open savannas, but are dying off as they are crowded and overshadowed by the encroachment of taller trees, said Francis Putz, a UF botanist and the study's co-author.

It is an irony of nature that the successes of reforestation and urban forestry threaten live oaks, which in the past maintained the elbow room they needed from logging, cattle grazing and frequent fires, said Putz, whose work is published in the June issue of *Forest Ecology and Management*. "We are confusing our natural savanna heritage with forested landscapes and the tragedy is that the forest is killing live oaks," he said. "If we allow other trees to grow up too close to the live oak, the live oak will die. Our research clearly establishes this fate in both rural and suburban landscapes."

The live oak's broad crown, with long arching limbs that spread horizontally rather than vertically, as most trees do, give it a distinctive architectural makeup, said Tova Spector, who did the study with Putz as part of her master's degree in ecology. "Trees that grow straight and tall crowd the live oaks, causing their crowns to die back," she said. Once their branches begin to grow horizontally, live oaks seem unable to reverse this trend by growing upwards," said Spector, who mapped and measured crown densities in both closed canopy and savanna-like tree stands in Alachua County, Florida.



Sweet gum, black cherry and magnolia are among the culprits, but the worst offender ironically is laurel oak.

The live oak's deep roots, relatively short stature and strong wood help it to withstand the high winds and strong storm surges that topple other trees during hurricanes, Spector said. Spector also measured changes in savannas and woodlands, live oak habitat, from 1955 to 1999, using aerial photos of rural parts of Alachua County. She found that these open habitats declined from 70 percent cover to less than 33 percent, mostly because of the establishment of pine plantations.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Fifteen minutes of fame.

One of the most exciting events that I have ever been involved with was the recent FUFUC grant funded project—the professional video production of Tim Womick's Trail of Trees. You may have read in past issues of The Council Quarterly about the FUFUC's efforts to reach school-aged children through Tim's live Trail of Trees performances. Because of the success of that program, but the limited number of students it reaches, the FUFUC Board submitted and received a U&CF grant to videotape Tim's performance and distribute a copy to every elementary school in Florida.

This is where the fun begins. My local government access television, Orange TV, was contracted for the production. In July, Orange TV had just moved into their new, state-of-the-art studio and they were ready for their first big project. In a combined effort, Tim, Matt Juvinal (producer) and I began to write a script. Tim is the ultimate free spirit so pinning him down to put his act on paper was like trying to catch the wind. We needed at least 30 school-aged kids to create a Nickelodeon-type audience. We didn't have money for professional actors, but the kids had to be able to speak in front of people and remember lines yet be spontaneous and funny. We approached Orange County 4-H and they responded with enthusiasm. They were able to get commitments from 25 kids to spend a full Saturday in the recording studio with no compensation. They were just doing it for fun. The rest of the kids came from FUFUC Executive Committee member's families.

Next came the set design...on a limited budget. Brent McCallister, Orange County Streetscape Coordinator, came up with the idea of a park-like setting with lots of trees. We didn't have the money to buy trees that would be big enough (and frankly, we didn't have a home for the trees after the taping). So we started to ask around if we could borrow trees. The City of Orlando not only stepped up to the plate, they delivered the trees, unloaded them, left us one of their tree dollies, then loaded them up again and brought them back to the nursery a week later. We had to figure out how to conceal the 30-gallon pots that the trees were in, but didn't want to haul in a ton of mulch. Brent came up with the idea of using a mulch-colored erosion control mat that we were able to drape over the pots (and made the clean up easy!).

Tim wanted a big, furry Treeture named Steward to spin discs like a DJ, but we had to find somebody who was willing to wear a hot, bulky suit for hours under the studio lights. FUFUC Executive Committee member Janet Maland readily agreed. It is amazing how kids of all ages wanted to give her a hug and have their pictures taken with her. Tim also wanted some of the technical terms of the trade in the video and Andy Kittsley, City of Orlando Urban Forester, became Arborist Andy. He even had a segment where he enters the set by repelling in from above using his ropes and saddle.

On the actual day of the taping, just like a real movie set, we had a professional makeup artist, a full spread of food (thanks to Sandy), five cameras, fifteen crew members and even the director's voice from above that said "Let's try that again" and "That's a rap!". The parents in the green room were having a great time laughing as they watched their kids perform. (There were enough bloopers that we are looking forward to that tape when it comes out!) When the day came to the end, people hugged, hung around for a while, took pictures and said goodbye. It was sad to see it come to an end.

The finished product is everything that we had hoped that it would be and the DVDs and videotapes have already been distributed to the schools. We have already had a few calls from some of the schools requesting Tim's live performance. It was a fun, exciting and exhilarating project and a lot more fun than my real job.

Celeste White

Celeste White



A 2003 published study of live oak trees in four suburban Gainesville neighborhoods that Putz did with another graduate student, Mark Templeton, found that more than 90 percent of these trees were crowded by other trees. Based on these findings, Putz said he believes more than half of the live oaks in the city of Gainesville alone are in danger of being destroyed by encroaching trees, a process that can take anywhere from 10 to 30 years and is most rapid in the suburbs where lawns are fertilized. The problem is widespread because suburban sprawl and forest expansion are threatening savannas and open-canopied woodlands in many parts of the world, Putz said.

“The trees of these savannas, from the oaks of California and Europe to the acacias of Africa and the legumes of tropical America, are all likely to suffer when forest trees encroach on their crowns,” he said. “In the U.S. alone, savanna is the natural vegetation all across the coastal plain from Virginia to Texas.”

Saving live oaks sometimes means having to kill other trees, which can be expensive, but preserving a single live oak can add as much as \$30,000 to the value of a house, Putz said. Furthermore, having a live oak nearby is good protection against hurricane damage.

In Southern history, live oaks were landmarks where people met to socialize and conduct business. “When a lot of people think of the South, they immediately think of spreading live oaks festooned with Spanish moss,” Spector said. In the opening scene of “Gone with the Wind,” Scarlett O’Hara flirts with bachelors under live oaks at a barbecue. Similarly, Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings ends her book “The Yearling” with the hero saying goodbye to his childhood under the live oak trees.

The frigate named the USS Constitution got its name “Old Ironsides” for the strength of its live oak wood. In a War of 1812 battle, cannon balls bounced off the side of the boat, Spector said. “Naval captains at the time specified that ships were to be made of live oak because it was one of the most durable woods in the world,” she said.



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ARTICLES WANTED

The Florida Urban Forestry Council would like to share information on what is going on throughout the state in our newsletters. We would like to receive articles on any aspect of our field. Article ideas may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- New trends in the industry
- News about tree advocacy groups
- Solutions to common problems in your typical workday
- Childrens’ poems, drawings, favorite quotes
- Volunteer projects
- Favorite or new websites
- Ideas on working with the public
- City tree programs

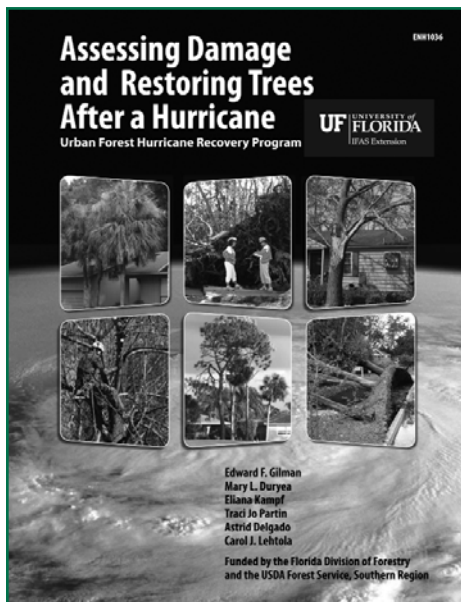
Please share what is going on in your corner of the state so that we can learn from each other. Our newsletter is not only a great way to share information, but a way to show off our accomplishments and successes. Articles can be sent to Laura Sanagorski at LSanagorski@deerfield-beach.com.

Thanks for contributing!



NEW, FREE BOOKLET CAN HELP YOU PROTECT TREES FROM STORMS

By Mickie Anderson, News Director, University of Florida, IFAS



University of Florida researchers have released a booklet that's full of practical advice about how to protect your trees from storm damage—and what to do if they're damaged despite your best efforts. "We've learned a lot about trees in our studies of the last 10 hurricanes and hope that our tips will help make urban trees

more healthy and wind resistant," said Mary Duryea, associate dean for research at UF's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences.

The booklet answers everything from when and how to prune, to choosing the sturdiest trees for your part of the state to knowing when a damaged tree needs expert help. The 12-page, color booklet—called "Assessing damage and restoring trees after a hurricane"—is available at any of the state's 67 county extension offices, Florida Division of Forestry offices or can be downloaded at the Florida Cooperative Extension Service's Website: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/EP291>.

Here are a few of the booklet's tips:

- Don't wait until the last minute to think about preparing your trees for storms.
- Plant wind-resistant species. The booklet has lists of recommended trees for North and South Florida.
- Know how old your trees are. Different species have different life spans. For

example, laurel oak only lives about 50 years and becomes increasingly susceptible to storm damage and disease the older it gets.

- Give trees enough soil space so they can take root and be firmly anchored.
- Properly pruned trees survive high winds better.
- Replant trees in groups when possible. Groups do better than a lone tree that's fully exposed to the wind.



VISIONS OF HABITATS

By Shirley Sue Reed, National Wildlife Federation Volunteer

What do wildlife and urban forests have in common? Habitat! According to Webster's Dictionary, the word habitat means "native environment" or "the place where a person or thing is ordinarily found." People tend to equate habitat with humanity, thanks to Jimmy Carter and his efforts. However, what about our fellow creatures—mammals, birds, fish, frogs, butterflies, and such? They certainly need habitat also. Do humans have to run roughshod over the needs of wildlife in order to provide for their own? Hopefully, most people would answer, "No, of course not!" But, actions really do speak louder than words.

In our continuing efforts to create habitat for ourselves, we are inadvertently destroying habitat for our little creatures. Unfortunately, we have the ability to be no less forceful than a massive tornado that descends upon the land. And, what emerges in its destructive wake are tow-

ers of architecture and miles of roadways. This creates plenty of habitats for humans, but unfortunately destroys lots of habitat that used to provide for wildlife.

We may need to explore the urban forest and the habitats it creates from a botanical standpoint and educate others that, quite frankly, without healthy plants and trees there would be no life as we know it on this earth—no food, no fuel, no air.

INSPIRATION - We can inspire others to be aware of how human actions create reactions.

ENCOURAGEMENT - We can encourage thoughtful interaction with the environment rather than with the use of brute force.

"...without healthy plants and trees there would be no life as we know it on this earth..."

EDUCATION - We can emphasize educational experiences for kids and adults that express the need to provide habitats for wildlife with the planting and care of urban forests.

COMMUNICATION - We must accept the challenge and communicate with others how humans benefit from creating healthy habitats for *both* themselves and wildlife.

VISION - We can create goals to interact with our communities and be vigilant about planting the seeds of education—one seed, one tree—one at a time.



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FLORIDA'S DIVISION OF FORESTRY PROMOTES NEW OUTREACH INITIATIVE

By Micah Pace, Florida Division of Forestry

In a continued effort to serve the residents of the State of Florida and provide valuable public assistance, the Division of Forestry has begun a new marketing campaign that is designed to reach across the state offering technical support, cost-share opportunities and public education. The new campaign entitled “Your Forest. Managed.” is aimed to serve all landowners in Florida whether they are year-round residents, seasonal, or non-resident, and private non-industrial forest landowners, local municipalities, and the general public.

The purpose of this campaign is to ensure that the services provided by the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Programs and the benefits associated with the sustainable management of rural or urban-forested property are publicized. Additionally, the program's goal is to ultimately encourage Florida's forest landowners to actively manage their property regardless of their goals. Florida's Division of Forestry wants all forest landowners to have an actively managed and sustainable forest and is available to provide the technical assistance in order to help achieve this goal.

“...the program's goal is to ultimately encourage Florida's forest landowners to actively manage their property regardless of their goals.”



Nearly half of Florida's land base is forested and approximately half of this property is in the hands of private, non-industrial forest landowners. By their land management decisions, over 300,000 private landowners decide the

future of Florida's forestland. It's important for all Floridians to know the vital role our forests play in our daily lives and the lives of future generations.

For communities around the state, forests play an important role in meeting

our daily needs. Over 5,000 products are derived from forestlands: from the rubber for the tires we drive upon, to the toothpaste we use, and the maple syrup we enjoy. On average, each American will use approximately 3 pounds of wood products per day, and private landowners control over half of the state's raw timber supply. Forest products account for the State's largest agriculture-based industry, contributing over \$16 billion and 137,000 jobs to the state's annual economy.

Our environment and wildlife survives with healthy forest land. Through sound forest management, our forests modify our climate, clean our air and enrich our soil. Florida's forests provide habitat for wildlife and a diverse plant population, sheltering more than 100 species of animals including threatened and endangered species.

Proper forest land management is critical to maintaining the primary lifeline to the state—our water supply. By acting as a filtering system, Florida forests directly affect the drinking water of 90 percent of Florida's population. Every day, we depend on forests.

“Your Forest. Managed.” provides several elements to improve a landowner's ability to practice sound land management. “Your Forest. Managed.” will supply landowners with a comprehensive landowner's manual. For the new landowner who is unfamiliar with how they should manage their land or undecided about their goals for their land, the landowner manual is a great entrance into the world of forest ownership. For the non-residential landowner, this manual can be their source of options and resources to best manage their land. For our long-standing landowners, the guide is an innovative way of taking a fresh look at improving their management plan.

An informative website has been developed and is readily available to the public at www.yourforestmanaged.com. This interactive website provides landowners with a wide variety of information to address their forestry-related questions and provides a means to contact their county forester through the online forester database.

“Your Forest. Managed.” enables landowners to be more aware of the services provided by their county foresters as well as the management tools available to them. Advice on management practices and how to enroll in available cost-share programs remain readily available through the “Your Forest. Managed.” website or your local County Forester. Please contact us and ensure that your property is under healthy and productive management.

TREE SIZE IMPACTS ESTABLISHMENT RATE IN THE LANDSCAPE

By Dr. Ed Gilman, University of Florida

Objectives: Determine if smaller nursery stock becomes established faster than larger nursery stock; determine if larger trees secure themselves in the ground at the same rate as smaller trees.

What we did: 30 Cathedral Oak™ were transplanted from #45 and 30 from #15 containers into the field at the end of March 2005. Trees were fertilized with 100g of 16-4-8 per tree, applied to a 36" area around the stem, in April and March 2005. In September 2005, an additional 400g of 16-4-8 was similarly applied to each tree. We stressed trees considerably in the first four months after planting by withholding water for a period required

to bring trees to a near death experience (this means foliage began to drop). Then we irrigated daily beginning July 2005. Caliper, height and spread were measured in May and October 2005.

What we found out as of December 2005: #15 container trees displayed a much greater caliper, height, and spread growth rate the first eight months following transplanting into the field than #45 container trees. Since the #15 trees were considerably smaller at transplanting than the #45 trees they are becoming established much quicker. This means that roots are coming into balance with the trunk at a faster rate than the larger trees. The

smaller trees in the #15's grew more in height than spread, just the opposite of the more stressed larger trees. This may be a response to the increased drought experienced by the larger trees. #15 trees were never really stressed beyond 19 bars (see Table 1.) which is only a moderate stress. On the other hand, some trees from #45 containers became so stressed (some >25 bars) that they began losing foliage when we withheld water during hot dry weather. The conclusion of this study is that small nursery stock appears to establish quicker than larger nursery stock.



Table 1.

Percent caliper, height and spread increase between May and October 2005 for live oak transplanted from 15 gal and 45 gal containers to the field.

CONTAINER SIZE AT PLANTING	% CALIPER INCREASE	% HEIGHT INCREASE	% SPREAD INCREASE
#15	60.4a ¹	36.5a ¹	55.8a ¹
#45	14.8b	9.1b	36.4b

¹ Means in a column followed by the same letter are not statistically different from each other at the P<0.05 level.



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UNDERSTANDING THE SACRED BOND WE POSSESS WITH TREES: REVEALS VALUA

By Terry Mock, *Tree of Life Sustainable Development Consulting, Inc.*, TreeOfLife@bigplanet.com

Albert Einstein once said, “Look deep, deep into nature, and you will understand everything.” Through my involvement as a land developer dating back to the early 1970’s, I’ve come to understand at least a few things about how this statement holds important truths for our industry.

Examining the fundamental attraction that all people have toward trees—especially big trees—provides unique insights into effective land development and sustaining, even improving, the quality of life to which we’ve become accustomed. Over the years, I’ve experienced how this bond can be capitalized on while “doing good” at the same time. Strategic preservation and restoration of healthy, long-lived tree canopy not only decreases development costs, but increases demand (and property values) by 30% or more.

The Tree of Life

The mythology of the Tree of Life has been an important component in the evolution of nearly every culture, and for good reason. With its branches reaching into the sky, and roots deep in the soil, it is a link between heaven and the earth and it symbolizes unity between our past, present and future.

Since the dawn of recorded time, trees have provided food, shelter and a bond with nature. They enrich ecosystems, sequestering carbon, producing oxygen, cleaning air and water, and creating and stabilizing soil. Trees are inextricably and productively engaged with our systems—providing for, propagating, and participating in the sustenance of life. Trees are, in

fact, the unsung heroes of the technological revolution that has brought us from the Stone Age to the space age. Throughout the ages, trees have provided the material to make fire, the heat which has allowed our species to reshape the earth for our use.

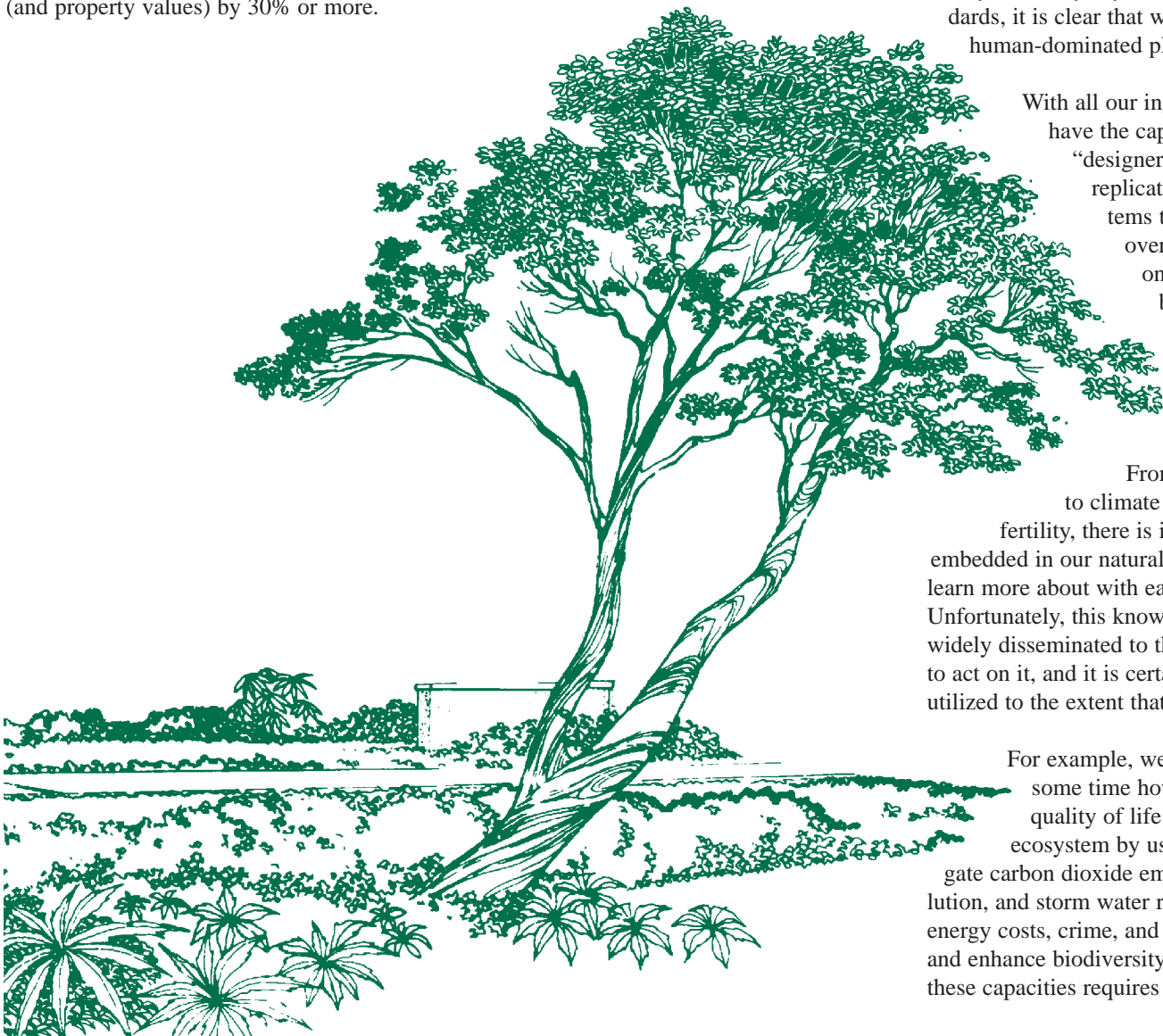
Our Alteration of the Global Environment

Between one-third and one-half of the earth’s land surface has been transformed by human action; the carbon dioxide concentration in the atmosphere has increased by nearly 30 percent since the beginning of the Industrial Revolution; more atmospheric nitrogen is fixed by humanity than by all natural terrestrial sources combined; and more than half of all accessible surface fresh water is put to use by humanity. By these and other standards, it is clear that we live on a human-dominated planet.

With all our ingenuity, we now have the capacity to build “designer ecosystems” and replicate the natural systems that have evolved over 4 billion years on this planet to build the very conditions necessary for life as we know it to continue indefinitely.

From water filtration to climate stability and soil fertility, there is intelligence embedded in our natural systems that we learn more about with each passing day. Unfortunately, this knowledge is not now widely disseminated to those in position to act on it, and it is certainly not being utilized to the extent that it must be.

For example, we have known for some time how to improve the quality of life in an urban ecosystem by using trees to mitigate carbon dioxide emissions, air pollution, and storm water runoff; reduce energy costs, crime, and medical bills; and enhance biodiversity. Capitalizing on these capacities requires a holistic



approach incorporating state-of-the-art, green industry best management practices and comprehensive ecosystem management. So far, continuing declines in key urban ecosystem health indicators clearly show that we are not extensively implementing these best practices. A major reason for this is that all the scientific knowledge in the world won't protect natural services unless the public understands that they are vital to our health and well being.

Restoring a Sense of the Sacred

Beyond examining the ecological facts and historical record, the question of our cultural responsibility comes up in terms of identifying causes and seeking solutions for the state of our world. One easy solution is for us to understand the fundamental bond people have with trees—for good reason—and embrace this dynamic to the greatest extent possible in our developments. The benefits come to everyone involved, for all time.

LDT Editorial Board member Terry Mock shares the sacred bond between nature and developers. This article was originally published in Land Development Today.



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MANDARIN ROAD PATRIARCH OAK TREE PROJECT

By Kortney Mosley, Public Information Officer, City of Jacksonville

The City of Jacksonville's Public Works department has undertaken a study that has only been completed two other times in this country. The study, an assessment of all trees over 12 inches in diameter, is being conducted in an area on Mandarin Road, also known as the "Patriarch Area."

The site is approximately two miles in length and contains about 200 trees. It's estimated that approximately 100 trees, mostly live oaks, will require aerial inspection while the remaining trees will be assessed from the ground. GPS mapping equipment will be used, and from this a GIS map will be produced that will include aerial photography, ROW, and parcel boundaries, pavement and utilities. Information from this the map will be used to attribute data for tree management.

"A project this size has only been attempted twice before in the country..."

One of Davey's most experienced senior Urban Foresters and a certified Arborist will perform the assessment. A project this size has only been attempted twice before in the country, at the Statue of Liberty site and the National Mall, in Washington D.C.

The project will be divided into three phases and three groups of trees will be identified in the first phase. The largest group will be clearly healthy, with no specialized maintenance needed. The smallest group will likely have severe structural defects in which case removal is the obvious choice. The third group will have some structural defect that may or may not require removal or immediate pruning.

If the study is well received by the resident's and City Council member Sharon Copeland, a hydrant line will be placed along this two mile stretch of Mandarin Road, but it is important to note that this study will stand alone.

For further information, please contact Don Robertson, City of Jacksonville's Urban Forester, at (904) 472-2900.



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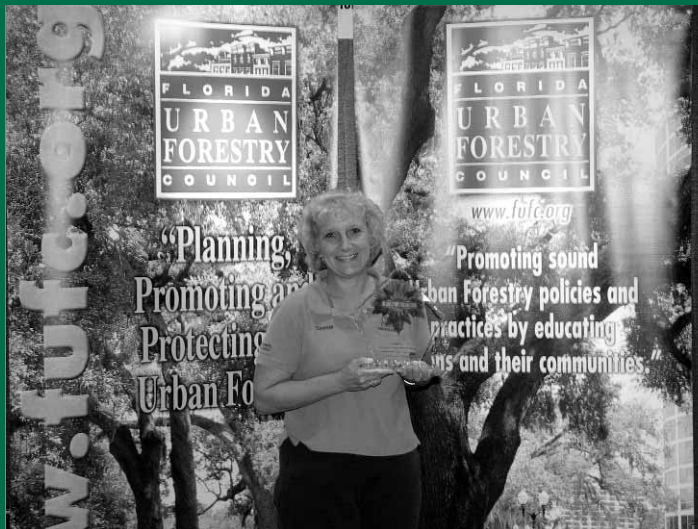
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WHAT TO DO IF YOU FIND A BABY BIRD

Paid advertisement submitted by Jeff Farley, Professional Tree Care, Inc.



Over 75% of young animals that are “rescued” by well-meaning people do not need help. Often times the parents are close by watching your every move, anxiously waiting for you to leave so they can return to their young.

What should you do if you find a baby bird on the ground? First, survey the area for any domestic animals that might pose a threat and remove them from the area. Second, patiently observe the young bird to decide if it actually needs your help before you intervene.

Young songbirds should be returned to the nest. There is no need to worry about leaving your scent on the baby. Birds in general have a poor sense of smell and the parents will not reject their offspring simply because it was handled by humans.

“Birds in general have a poor sense of smell and the parents will not reject their offspring simply because it was handled by humans.”

If you cannot locate the nest, or if it has been destroyed, it is easy to create a substitute. Use a small box, basket or hanging planter and cushion the bottom with natural nestling materials like pine needles, grasses or moss. Securely position the substitute nest well above the ground and in the shade of the same tree, or close to where the baby was found. Place the baby in the nest and watch to make sure the parents return.

Assume that the baby has been abandoned only after 4 to 6 hours have passed with no sign of an adult. If an adult does not return, you can ensure the greatest chance of survival by getting the baby to a licensed wildlife rehabilitator as soon as possible.

If the tree is to be pruned or taken down, do wildlife survey before you start the saw. Listen for peeps and squawks. Survey the tree for nests. Watch for birds in the area. Cavity dwellers like squirrels, owls, woodpeckers, etc., can be very good at camouflaging their entrance

holes, especially previous pruning cuts that have hol- lowed out and not healed over. Inspect before you saw!

Put a towel over the entire animal. Pick up the entire towel and place the animal in a dark box with air holes with soft materials

for it to grip. Have as little contact with the animal as possible.

Do not feed or give liquids to the bird unless you know what you are doing. A bird’s glottis (which leads to its wind- pipe) is at the base of its tongue, and it’s easy to interfere with the function of the glottis and drown the bird.

Keep the animal warm. Even on hot days, air conditioning can send them into life-threatening shock. In stressful situa- tions, their temperature quickly plum- mets.

Orphaned birds of prey—eagles, hawks, falcons, owls, kites, and vultures—need specialized care. If you find a young raptor, call the Center for Birds of Prey at 407-644-0190 for instructions.

The Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission can refer you to the closest rehabilitator, or in the Orlando vicinity, call the Florida Audubon Society.

Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission:

Northwest Region	850-265-3676
Northeast Region.....	352-732-1225
North Central Region	386-758-0525
South Region.....	561-625-5122
Southwest Region	863-648-7200

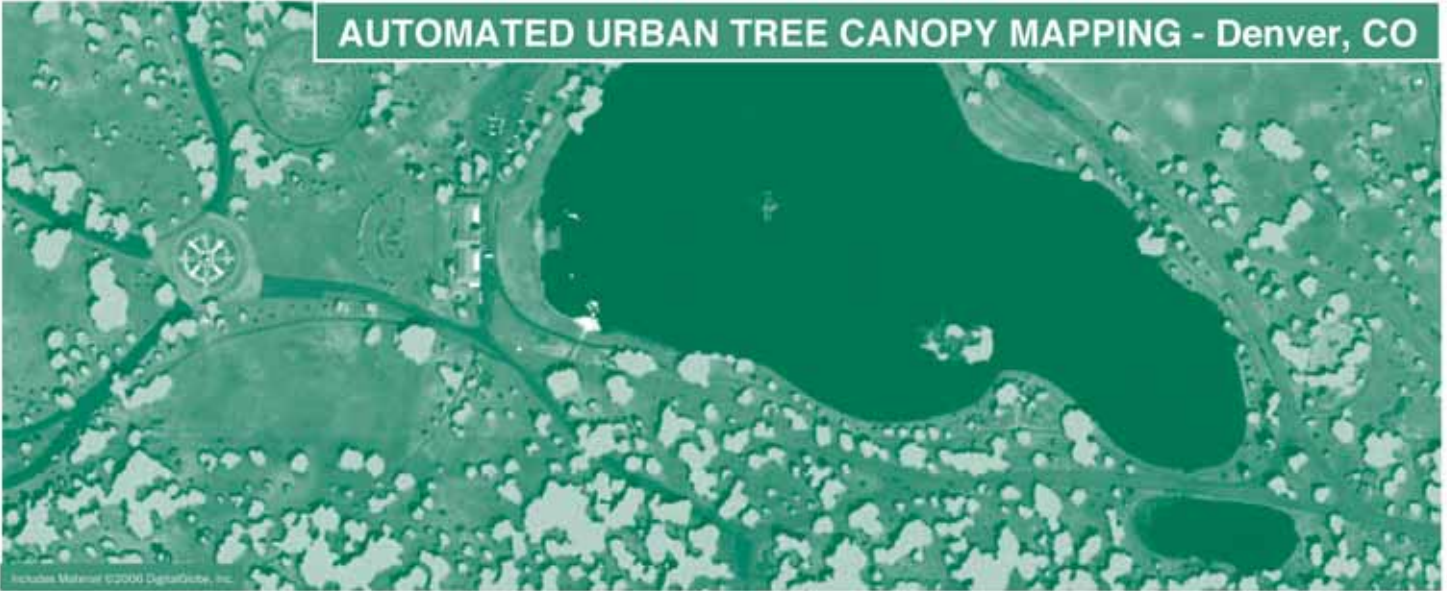
Florida Audubon Society:

Songbirds	407-539-5700
Birds of Prey.....	407-644-0190

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(Tree Advocate membership is granted to those volunteers who are members of a tree board, beautification committee or other Urban Forestry volunteer group.)
- Supporting @ \$200.00**
(Supporting membership is granted to those individuals, groups or other entities expressing a desire for a strong supportive role in the Council. Membership will be granted for up to five individuals of an organization or business.)
- Government/Non-Profit Agency @ \$100.00**
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- Student @ \$10.00**
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 Area of interest: _____

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Jennifer Magavero, <i>Secretary</i>	City of Leesburg	FRPA
Vacancy, <i>Immediate Past President</i>		Advisory



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