



The Council Quarterly

Quarterly Newsletter of the Florida Urban Forestry Council

2012 Issue Four

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TRAIL OF TREES – FALL 2012

Julie Iooss, Environmental Horticulture Program Manager - City of Orlando

Few of us reach adulthood without hearing the tale of Johnny Appleseed, the generous tree-planting pioneer who traveled America spreading gifts of fruit and conservation education. The historical figure may have died in 1845, but his spirit lives on in the form of an energetic activist, Tim Womick. Traveling America spreading the word about his love of trees to children and adults alike, Tim has a unique and unforgettable presentation style in which he incorporates his

African drum, numerous props, volunteers, and even a water-filled squirt bottle. Kids of all ages are unable to avoid Tim's passion for trees and the environment.

Tim's program, Trail of Trees, is part of Tree Family, a non-profit educational effort with emphasis on the value of the trees "where you live." All who participate in Tree Family learn that the caring for the forest where they live is not only good

for personal health and the health of the environment, but it is good citizenship enhancing individual and neighborhood character as well. The focus is to educate children about Arbor Day and the importance of trees in our community.

During 2012, thanks to the support of individual contributors and agencies like Orlando Utilities Commission, Urban Forestry Organization, Infrastructure Corporation of America, and the Florida Forest Service, over 3,400 students at schools in Orlando, Tampa, St. Petersburg, and Tallahassee were fortunate to witness the antics of our modern-day Johnny Appleseed. Students and teachers laughed and shouted through maraca shaking, scarf wearing and even a little juggling. Those lucky enough to work closely with Womick during his visit may have even received a tiny silver acorn or a packet of trees to remind them that even the smallest object can grow into something large and magnificent.

The Florida Urban Forestry Council is proud to be a supporter of Tim Womick

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



As I reflect on my year as President, I am first astonished at how quickly it has gone by—but, as we all know, this seems to happen faster and faster the older we get! Our strategic plan goals continue to be met as we work towards educating people on the importance of trees and the urban forest.

I would like to acknowledge Charlie Marcus and the Florida Forest Service for

being our steadfast supporters and contributors. Without them we would not exist. Also, thank you to Sandy Temple, our Executive Director, for all your hard work throughout the year. Your tireless devotion to this organization keeps us on track and makes us look great! Of course, we are grateful as well for our sponsors. Their partnership is vital to providing our membership, citizens, students, and our communities with educational opportunities.

We've had a very successful year with programs. We reached thousands of students with our very popular Trail of Trees presentation by the incomparable Tim Womick. Educating our children on the importance and value of trees in their community leaves an enduring legacy. Our regional Right Tree/Right Place seminars reached out to the professional sector, providing valuable information on proper tree selection and planting. The Urban Forestry Institute has proven to be a fantastic opportunity for our members to learn and network. Our second UFI is quickly approaching. The topics for this year's conference are designed to teach attendees how to use collaborative strategies to do more with less. I strongly encourage you to attend March 14-15, 2013 in Tampa.

Finally, I applaud our Executive Committee members. These volunteers work tirelessly to market our organization, develop educational opportunities, increase membership, publish this newsletter, and so much more. In the past two years we have had many new EC members come on board and they have stepped up to the challenge and brought fresh ideas, energy and excitement to our organization.

Again, it has been a wonderful year and my humble honor to serve as President of an organization I truly love being a part of. Now I will step down and continue on in the background. I wish Elizabeth Harkey, our incoming President, an equally successful 2013!

As always, I encourage you to visit our website at www.fufc.org and learn more about our educational programs, sponsorship opportunities and links to a myriad of websites that will help you navigate the wonderful world of trees and the urban forest.

Sincerely,

Mayor Mary Lou Hildreth

FUFC President



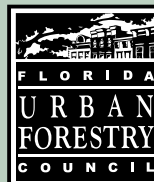
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and the Trail of Trees Program. FUFC has been involved with the program since 2004 and hope to continue our support of the program for many years. This takes volunteers and sponsorship in order for programs of this caliber to reach our youth. Next year we hope to be in the Jacksonville, Orlando, Tampa, and the Palm Beach areas. If you are interested in sponsoring this program or having it come to your area, please contact us.

"Remember, trees are the lungs of the Earth and get your Johnny Appleseed on." – Tim Womick



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STANDING TALL: THE MAN WHO MEASURES FLORIDA'S CHAMPIONS

Originally published in *Forest Files* November 2012, the e-newsletter of *American Forests*



Mark Torok beside a national contender button-mangrove. Credit: Mark Torok

When a new tree is submitted from Florida for the National Register of Big Trees, chances are Mark Torok is the person who measured the nominee. In the six years that he has been with Florida's Champion Tree Program, Mark has measured and verified more than 220 Florida champions and 130 national contenders. That includes approximately 86 current and former national champions, as well as measurement updates for the 10-year rule.

Mark is the senior forester for the Florida Forest Service Cooperative Forestry Assistance Program and the state forester for Broward, Miami-Dade, Monroe and Palm Beach Counties. Given his ideal location, it makes sense that he enjoys going to the beach to surf, fish and hike and landscaping with plants and trees that attract beautiful wildlife such as butterflies and hummingbirds. Oh, but we can't forget that part of the fun is also eating at some good restaurants, too.

For someone who has measured the country's biggest trees, you have to wonder if he can lay claim to nominating any of Florida's national champions. He can. Mark is the nominator of the national champion cocoplum in Pompano Beach, located in a park where he played soccer and tee ball as a kid. His next potential champ is a mango tree behind the house where he grew up in Pompano Beach.

When asked about his favorite trees, Mark lists them based on size. He says his favorites among his "not so big champions" are the Jamaica caper (62 points) in Key Largo, the roughbark *lignumvitae* (137 points) in Key West and the black ironwood,

or leadwood (110 points), in *Lignumvitae* Key, an island in the upper Florida Keys. Of the bigger sized champs, his two favorites are the same species — the former and current (260 points) champion green buttonwoods, or button-mangroves, both in Palm Beach. "I think they look very majestic-looking, like something out of a fairy tale. They are extremely larger than what you typically see in the landscape and have such gnarly-looking bark that catches your eye!"

So how does he do it? What's his technique? Mark is in the field about 50 percent of his work time. "I use a diameter tape or logger's tape for circumference, a clinometer for height and a 100' logger's tape or a 120' reel in measurement tape for the crown measurement. Recently, I have added a green laser pointer to my arsenal to help with measuring tree crown. The laser pointer helps you know when you are at the edge of the tree canopy. I also use a GPS unit for tree location and my laptop and Google Earth for mapping the trees."

On a few occasions, Mark has had to use Joseph Nemecek, a park ranger in his 60s, as his GPS. While updating measurements for trees in John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park and Dagny Johnson Key Largo Hammock Botanical State Park, Mark had to rely on Nemecek for directions to find trees that hadn't been visited in more than five years. Many trees were hundreds of feet away from any road or trail, and without a compass most would be lost in the middle of a tropical hardwood hammock — a dense canopy forest. At times, Mark wasn't sure if Nemecek knew where he was going, but in the end he led them to the right tree. Mark

thinks "Joseph had a GPS system built inside him."

Florida reigns supreme with 130 national champions, but that doesn't mean Mark's work is done. He says his eyes and ears are always open for big trees. Mark encourages everyone, including employees who work for natural areas, arborists, horticulturalists and tree enthusiasts, to hunt for big trees and promote Florida's Champion Tree Program to their friends. Several trees are on lands open to the public and some parks, gardens and municipalities provide guided tours of their champion trees, such as the Vizcaya Museum and Garden in Miami-Dade County where Mark recently gave a measurement demonstration on how to measure champion trees. The tour ended perfectly when they discovered a pigeon-plum was one point larger than the current champ. If no other nominees are submitted, the pigeon-plum will become a new co-champion in the spring 2013 National Register.

"Doing work for the National Big Tree Program and the Florida Champion Tree Program is probably my favorite aspect of my job. I enjoy seeing the excitement and happiness in the tree owners faces when they find out their tree is a champion. These programs have increased my tree identification skills tremendously as well. These programs have taken me to many places I have never been before and many places not open to the general public. I have also been provided with many opportunities by these programs to network with many wonderful people who are landowners and/or employees for parks or gardens that I would have never met. Some of these people I have become good friends with. So, I will forever be thankful I had the opportunity to work with the National Big Tree Program and the Florida Champion Tree Program."

Keep up the great work, Mark.



Mark standing at the base of one of his favorite Florida champions, the kapok tree. Credit: Mark Torok

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ORLANDO'S FORESTRY PROGRAM, PAST AND PRESENT

Andy Kittsley, Urban Forester – City of Orlando



Orlando has had an active tree care section since 1917 when the Parks Department sent out a letter asking residents to pay \$1 a piece for a tree to be planted in front of their house. Tree trimming and removal has been offered in the decades from then through today. Before 1987, when the position of Urban Forester was created and filled, tree care was largely “trim by request.” Trees were known by address and long association by the members of the tree crew.

Since 1987 the Forestry section has become more scientifically based. An initial tree inventory was undertaken in 1989. The most important data were the species and age correlations that upheld the commonly held knowledge that Orlando's urban forest was heavy on one species (laurel oak) and evenly aged; species tables and diameter class tables bore this out.

Management options were based heavily on the data provided by that early inventory. A laurel oak management plan was devised

that included a removal and salvage program in which retained laurel oaks were crown reduced to improve weight to strength ratios and decrease risk of failure. In areas where several laurel oaks lined each side of a street, the worst tree(s) were removed, nearby trees crown reduced and new trees were planted. During the 25 years the plan has been in operation, the laurel oak population has been reduced by 90% and an uneven aged-mixed species replacement urban forest has grown.

A new tree inventory of street and park trees was undertaken and completed in 2007. This inventory lists the GIS address (and street address) of each tree, species, size (DBH - diameter of trunk in inches, measured 4.5 feet above median grade), site, health and condition designations, and maintenance recommendations.

This new database enabled the City of Orlando to undertake both STRATUM (Street Trees) and UFORE (complete urban forest makeup) analyses of the urban forest. These studies are part of the i-Tree Suite of Urban Forest Management tools.

STRATUM (now i-Tree STREETS) is a study based on a computer-generated

random selection of street trees. Samples are taken of the leaves, along with measurements of the crown, height and diameter. The study estimates the environmental benefit of trees on the street by species and

“The study estimates the environmental benefit of trees on the street by species and size providing values for carbon storage, sequestration, storm water interception and retention.”

size providing values for carbon storage, sequestration and storm water interception and retention.

UFORE (Urban Forest Effects Model) uses a statistically valid, random, computer-generated selection of 150 one-tenth acre plots scattered across the City of Orlando. All vegetation, impervious

surface and water areas are measured within each plot. The result of the data gives the same breakdown of environmental benefits as STRATUM does, with the added parameter of energy savings for buildings shaded by the trees on the plots. While STRATUM is street trees alone, UFORE measures all the components of the urban forest.

Additionally, the new inventory has given us the data needed to even more efficiently manage the trees in the urban forest. Work can be organized by work needed, neighborhood, priority, and request.

The City of Orlando Forestry Department still trims on a request basis, but now the tree work requirements of any neighborhood can be addressed while incorporating the requested work into the work schedule. The Tree Management Plan, established in 2007 as a result of the tree inventory, continues to provide direction in maintaining the City of Orlando's urban forest.

Orlando's City Planning Division will use the analysis to guide planning and provide the City with sound information for policy decisions and goal-setting for the urban forest. The Parks Division will use the analysis to guide planting and maintenance operations well into the future.

Science can yield true benefit to cities. The analysis done by STRATUM and UFORE revealed that for each dollar invested in tree maintenance, Orlando realizes \$1.87 in real, tangible benefit. Intangibles such as benefits to wildlife and aesthetics were not quantified, but certainly only augment the value of the trees growing in Orlando, indeed, in any city.



Based on the studies, and the quantified benefits, Orlando's Urban Forestry Program was nearly doubled in staff and budget in 2010. It was obvious that an asset as valuable and as beneficial as the urban forest required more management. The increased budget and staffing has been working as hoped--with a 95% reduction in priority pruning and removals based on the inventory recommendations.

Orlando's UFORE study cost \$45,000 and was completed by late summer 2010. It was paid for by a grant from Orlando's Green-Works Program. Results provided a baseline measure of the health and extent of the forest. The Forestry Department intends to repeat the study every five years to ensure sufficient improvements to the canopy. The Parks Division is currently drafting code language changes that would allow future studies to be funded out of the Street Tree Trust Fund, a funding approach that Tampa and other communities have taken.



Gainesville, Jacksonville, Tallahassee, and Tampa are other cities that have completed UFORE studies of their urban forests. The Tampa study, unveiled to great public support in May 2008, found that the city had over 7 million trees, but only a 28% canopy coverage rate. Mangroves comprised a large percentage of the tree population, which are considered inadequate for urban canopy coverage. Also, 16% of the total was considered invasive species. The study resulted in substantial policy changes intended to enhance Tampa's urban canopy and reduce the proliferation of invasives.



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OUC, TROOP #924 AND DAVEY TREE PARTNER UP

Wayne Zimmerman, Vegetative Manager – Orlando Utilities Commission



The Scouts of Boy Scout Troop #924 gathered often, but struggled to find an area conducive to camping and outdoor events. Starting in 2011, troop leaders worked to find a solution. They found what they were looking for thanks to Rejoice in the Lord Ministries of Orlando, which generously dedicated an area of land for scouting activities.

It was then that Scout Master Thomas Johnson had a vision to develop the area as a campsite for his Boy Scouts. Mr. Johnson,

who is a Supervisor of Fleet and Facilities at the Orlando Utilities Commission (OUC), consulted with one of The Davey Tree Expert Company's arborists, Mike Mittiga, on developing the urban setting into a camping area. Mr. Mittiga suggested designing a convenient "urban campground" for scouts to enjoy in their community. He developed a landscape design conducive to Scout camping activities that included a dense tree canopy and shrubs to shield it from neighboring properties.

For the past two years, more than 30 volunteers from the Boy Scouts, Davey Tree and OUC have celebrated Arbor Day by planting more than 70 trees and shrubs on the site. The plants were provided through a sponsorship with OUC, which supports Arbor Day activities to promote planting the right tree in the right place.

Thanks to the vision of Johnson and Mittiga, the site now known as "Camp

Rejoice" hosts hundreds of Boy Scouts each year. Now, Camp Rejoice provides the Boy Scouts with a scenic site close to home to learn about camping and nature. It has become a place where they can gather and grow right along with the trees they planted.



Volunteers from Davey Tree Expert Company, Boy Scouts and OUC working side by side.

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GREENSCAPE OF JACKSONVILLE HAS SUCCESS IN SUCCESS PARK

Anna Dooley, Executive Director – Greenscape of Jacksonville, Inc.



In October, Greenscape of Jacksonville received a grant through Alliance for Community Trees (ACT) from TD Bank and TD Auto Finance to provide trees

to a new community park to be known as SUCCESS PARK. The New Town Success Zone (NTSZ) is a neighborhood enrichment program modeled after the Harlem Children's Zone in New York. This public-private partnership was formed to provide a place-based continuum of services from pre-natal to college or post-secondary training for the children and families of the neighborhood.

The NTSZ has approximately 5,000 residents of which 1,575 are children. It is widely understood that the first three years of a child's life are perhaps the most critical.

This project works to educate parents during that important phase of development. The four areas of programs are healthcare, neighborhood safety and stabilization, early childhood, and public education.

It is under the heading Neighborhood Safety and Stabilization that SUCCESS PARK was born. The safety and well-being of NTSZ children and residents is a core need and providing and maintaining respectable environments for recreation and exercise are a priority. The planting was to augment the City of Jacksonville's construction of the new park which includes basic infrastructure. Just over half an acre in size, the green space features a walking trail with exercise stations geared toward the elderly, and for the smaller participants - much needed playground equipment. Combining the needs of the two far ends of life's spectrum serves the entire community.

Edward Waters College (EWC) is located within three blocks from the park site and has agreed to maintain the park for twenty

years so that children living in the area may play in an environment conducive to success in life and education.

The plan called for the addition of sixty trees to enhance the area and provide a green and shady respite. Forty crape myrtles, 10 river birches and 10 live oaks made up the planting palette, and special recognition goes to Mike Robinson and JEA for their invaluable help. Greenscape provided leaders for every ten TD Bank volunteers to guide the planting activity. The leaders demonstrated the correct planting procedure and remained with the team through the mulching and watering.

As there is currently no source of water on the site, Greenscape contracted with Davey Tree Expert Company to water in the newly planted trees, maintain the refilling of the irrigator bags for a six-month period and monitor the post-planting progress. The NTSZ will seek funding for future irrigation and, as stated, EWC will maintain the park for 20 years.

A PIECE OF HISTORY

Reprint from the City of Sanford Newsletter

The Seminole County Board of County Commissioners recently approved all requests for the remains of "The Senator." One of the fortunate recipients was the City of Sanford which received two pieces of the tree for display and remembrance. Trees are an important part of community life in Sanford, which has been designated a "Tree City USA" by the National Arbor Foundation for 25 years. "The Senator" was one of the oldest and largest trees in the United States and was the largest Cypress tree in the State of Florida, making it a Florida Champion tree. It was visited and enjoyed by generations of Sanford citizens and tourists since the 1800's and had survived more than 3,500 years until it was killed by fire on January 16, 2012.

One piece of the historic tree was received by Curator Alicia Clarke at the Sanford Museum, a part of the Recreation Department. The other piece was received by Urban Forester Elizabeth Harkey of Parks and Grounds Operations. Both departments are ecstatic to have been able to obtain a piece of history for the City of Sanford.



TD BANK TO PROVIDE TREE PLANTING GRANTS TO COMMUNITIES



TD Bank and the Arbor Day Foundation have announced a cooperative venture to provide tree planting funds to selected communities. The TD Green Streets Program will support innovative practices in community forestry by providing a total of \$200,000 in grants to selected communities. These municipalities will receive grants of \$10,000 to \$20,000 in support of local forestry projects in low- to moderate-income (LMI) neighborhoods. To be eligible for a TD Green Streets grant, a municipality must have been certified as a Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation in 2011 and must have a TD

Bank located there. The primary applicant must be a municipality, but partnerships with non-profit groups, neighborhood associations, etc., are encouraged. Up to 50 percent of the proposed funding can be used to purchase and plant new trees. The remainder must be used for either training or continuing education of community staff and volunteers, educating local citizens about the importance of trees in their community, maintenance of trees, etc. The application deadline for the 2013 TD Green Streets program is January 31, 2013. Applications will only be accepted online. A printable PDF version is available for communities to work through, but the actual application must be filled out online. The application and information about the TD Green Streets grant program is available at www.arborday.org/tdgreenstreets.

TD Green Streets grant applications will be reviewed by representatives from Arbor Day Foundation and TD Bank and evaluated on the following weighted criteria:

- Partnership/Community Involvement (40%)
- Innovation (25%)
- Technical Training/Education (15%)
- Maintenance (15%)
- Monitoring System (5%)

The Arbor Day Foundation will communicate the status of all applications by the beginning of March to the grant applicants.

The official announcement of the selected grant recipients will come at the beginning of April. All projects must be completed by December 1, 2013, with final accomplishment reports due by December 31, 2013. Eligible applicants can come from the 13 states nationwide where TD Bank does business. In Florida, eligible communities include the following:

Apopka	Davie
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Questions can be directed to Charlie Marcus, FFS Urban Forestry Coordinator at 850-921-0300 or via E-mail at charles.marcus@freshfromflorida.com.

CEREMONIAL MACE CRAFTED FROM 3,500-YEAR-OLD TREE

Loraine O'Connell, Media Relations Coordinator – Seminole State College of Florida

“The Senator,” the Seminole County landmark that had stood for 3,500 years, will live on as a new symbol at Seminole State College of Florida.

Seminole State College debuted a ceremonial mace crafted from a branch of “The Senator” at its fall commencement on December 16.

Seminole State’s mace was created from a six-foot branch of “The Senator,” which was one of the world’s oldest bald cypress trees and the largest native tree in Florida before it was destroyed by fire earlier in January, 2012.

As Seminole State Theater Professor Eric Craft, who specializes in theater design, transformed the branch, his design concept was “to celebrate the tree and also Seminole

State College.” He wanted the mace to convey both a classic feel and a sense of the future, so he juxtaposed the ancient wood with an acrylic sphere at the top to “bring us into modern materials.” The College’s colors are represented by the inset bands of gold leafing and blue paint.

Historically, the use of a ceremonial mace dates to the Middle Ages, when maces were carried before or placed near a magistrate or other dignitary as a symbol of authority. “The Senator” was named after Moses Oscar Overstreet, a state senator from 1920 to 1925 who donated what is now Big Tree Park to Seminole County.

Seminole State operates six sites in Central Florida, including campuses in Altamonte Springs, Heathrow, Oviedo, and Sanford/

Lake Mary. Seminole State, one of the fastest growing two-year colleges in the nation, has enrollments of more than 32,000.



Theater Professor Eric Craft describes to students the process he used to design the College’s new ceremonial mace made from The Senator.



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Sumter Electric Cooperative has always placed a high priority on the environment by working to stay in harmony with nature. Evidence of SECO's environmental stewardship is displayed through the following programs.

Sumter Electric Cooperative:

- was named a *Tree Line USA* utility for the fourth consecutive year by *The National Arbor Day Foundation*. Employee arboriculture training, public education, and maintaining abundant, healthy trees in SECO's service area are common practices.
- installs osprey nesting dishes atop of the utility pole cross arms as needed for these magnificent birds.
- places squirrel guards atop the transformers to protect a variety of animals from danger, particularly squirrels.
- offers net metering to members interested in renewable generation such as photovoltaic systems.
- recycles retired power equipment, scrap steel, aluminum, copper, porcelain, fluorescent lights, ink printer and copier cartridges, plus much more.
- researches and writes *Nature's Reflections*, a special column in the members' newsletter developed to educate the community on the flora and fauna of Florida with eco-friendly topics like xeriscaping and conservation.



Industry leading
equipment resources



Nationwide 24/7 crisis response

Unmatched safety record

Highest standards for crew professionalism



Contact your Nelson representative today to discuss your vegetation management needs:

Bob Turner Jr. at 1-856-694-4100

Join Us

Our members are the lifelines of our mission.
Thank you for your continued support.

New and renewed members through December 31, 2012. Please let us know if we fail to mention your name.

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Ed Gilman.....(1991-1992)
Bill Reese.....(1992-1993)
Andy Kittsley(1993-1994)
Jeffrey Siegel(1994-1995)
Norm Easey(1995-1996)
John Tamsberg.....(1996-1998)
Mike Conner(1998-1999)
Julie Iooss(1999-2000)
Anna Dooley(2000-2001)
Howard Jeffries.....(2001-2002)
Mike Greenstein.....(2002-2003)
Mike Robinson.....(2004 and 2005)
Celeste White(2006 and 2007)
Earline Luhrman(2008 and 2009)
John Holzaepfel.....(2010)
Jerry Renick.....(2011)

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

(Dues are effective for the calendar year of January 1 - December 31)

Make check or money order payable to FUFC and mail to:

Post Office Box 547993, Orlando, FL 32854-7993

Categories (please check one):

- Professional @ \$25.00**
(Professional membership is open to anyone who is actively working in the profession of Urban Forestry or any related profession.)
- Tree Advocate @ \$20.00**
(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**
(Student membership is granted to anyone who is actively enrolled as a full-time student and who is considering pursuing a career in Urban Forestry.)

Name: _____

Title: _____

Firm: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: (_____) _____

FAX: (_____) _____

E-mail: _____

Amount Enclosed: _____ Date: ____/____/____

Would you be interested in further information regarding serving on a Council subcommittee? Yes No

Area of interest: _____



FLORIDA URBAN FORESTRY COUNCIL
 Post Office Box 547993
 Orlando, FL 32854-7993



For more information or change of address, please contact the FUFUC:

Phone: (407) 872-1738
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 Advisory Member
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 (Retired)



Linda Seufert
Secretary
 Appointed Position
 Advisory Member
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Jerry Renick
Immediate Past President
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Sherie Burch, *Elected Position*
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 City of Ocala Utility Services

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 URS Corporation

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Justin Freedman, *Elected Position*
 Member-at-Large
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Guy Murtonen, *Appointed Position*
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Vacancy, *Appointed Position*
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