



# The Council Quarterly

Quarterly Newsletter of the Florida Urban Forestry Council

2016 Issue Two

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## NATURE CONNECT TRAIL - A RECREATION AND LEARNING EXPERIENCE FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Submitted by Jody Buyas, Keep Orlando Beautiful Coordinator

Bill Frederick Park at Turkey Lake, a 185-acre natural park on the west side of Orlando, has developed a very special recreation and learning trail. The "Nature Connect Trail" is based on the Arbor Day 'Nature Explore' principals that create dynamic, nature-based play and learning spaces. 'Nature Explore' areas apply research-based, field-tested design principles to create nature-rich outdoor spaces.

Research is showing that children need connections with the natural world as a regular part of their healthy growth and development. Disconnection from nature is leading to increases in problems such as childhood obesity, dislike and even fear (often media induced) of the outdoors--especially forests and trees. To answer the profound need for connecting young children with nature, the Arbor Day Foundation and the Dimensions

Educational Research Foundation have collaborated to create the Nature Explore program.

Bill Frederick Park has captured the energy and resources of volunteers and the Nature Explore program for the past several years, creating the quarter-mile Nature Connect Trail. As you travel thru this special trail, you will encounter several outdoor stations. Every station contains supplies made out of trees, and the trail itself is lined with native Central Florida plant and tree species.

The Gathering/Journaling Area is also the main entrance/exit to the trail. This area gives visitors a place to relax and appreciate the shade, discuss the learning and recreation adventure they are about to embark or

*continues on pg. 2*

### Nature Connect Trail

Bill Frederick Park at Turkey Lake



### Learning Experiences

Bill Frederick Park (formerly Turkey Lake Park) provides an outdoor experience for your students in a fun self-guided way. The park offers an approximate two mile walking trail with many stops along the way.

Tour a working farm. Burn some steam on a stellar playground. Experience a fun day of fishing from an extraordinary pier for catch and release. Enjoy lunch in a serene pavilion overlooking a lake.

All of these are a great way for both students and teachers to be part of "Lets Move!", the First Lady's initiative to fight the obesity epidemic in America today.



### Children's Farm

Bill Frederick Park offers a working farm for children to explore the lives of farm animals and to be introduced to a sustainable way of life. This is a stop on the Nature Connect trail. There are horses, rabbits, goats, pigs, turkeys, guineas and chickens. For many of your students this will be the first time they meet some of these animals.

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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



*Hello FUFC members!*

*A few weeks ago, I went out to a park to access the playground that will be replaced within the next year. Just north of the playground is a large banyan tree. A beautiful tree, providing shade to part of the playground and swings. As I was reviewing the layout, I could not help but notice how the kids kept running from the playground to the tree and back. So I stopped for a few minutes and watched as the children played. Two kids ran to the roots of the tree and sat*

*down, looking at the ground and pointing to an insect climbing along those roots. Another child ran from the playground and walked along the top of the roots, like it was a balance beam. When he reached the trunk of the tree, he leaned against it, and looked back, proud of his achievement. As I looked around the park, I saw others enjoying the trees within the park. People sitting on benches, enjoying the shade provided by some live oaks, a young adult leaning against a jacaranda tree, using an iPad, and even some ducks sitting along the shoreline at the base of a cypress stand. What a wonderful view.*

*Next time you are at a park, stop for a moment and focus on the trees and their beauty. Then try to imagine the park with no trees? No shade, no watching squirrels, birds and other wildlife enjoying the tree canopy, and no whistling sound blowing thru the trees on a windy day. Not a place you would want to spend a lot of time, especially on a hot Florida afternoon. Trees add to the beauty of the park. They help reduce street noise and sound pollution, reduce glare from the sun and provide protection from sun. The recreational value of trees is as important as the environmental benefits of trees and should be regarded as an important amenity in every park. This issue of the The Council Quarterly will discuss further how trees benefit recreation.*

*Finally, I would like to thank everyone who attended the Urban Forestry Institute in Gainesville. The venue was outstanding, the sponsors were generous and the hard work of our UFI committee helped make this year's Institute a success. UFI 2017 is already being planned and more information will be coming, so stay tuned to our website [www.fufc.org](http://www.fufc.org) for upcoming details and information on other events such as the regional workshops.*

*Linda Seufert*

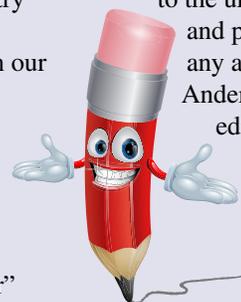
Linda Seufert

2016 FUFC President

## REQUEST FOR ARTICLES

Please let us know what urban forestry projects you have going on in your neck of the woods. The Florida Urban Forestry Council would greatly appreciate the opportunity to share your information in our newsletter. These articles can include:

- New trends in the industry
- News about tree advocacy groups
- Volunteer projects
- City tree programs
- Letters to the Editor
- Questions for "Stump the Forester"



We look forward to hearing from you on this or any other interesting topic related to the urban forestry industry and profession. Please send any articles or ideas to Joe Anderson, FUFC newsletter editor, at [andejs@jea.com](mailto:andejs@jea.com).

*Thanks for contributing!*

*continued from pg. 1*

reflect on and discuss their experience and what they learned.

The stations are laid out in no particular order along the circular trail, but each is constructed to enhance learning through interaction and recreation with nature and in particular, trees. At the Climbing Station, wooden balance beams and logs are used to help children develop balance, body awareness and control while appreciating the beauty of trees and learning from each other. The Art Station encourages children to look for beauty in nature and inspires them to use natural items to create interesting patterns, mosaics and other works of art.

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*"Here, children play with the blocks and learn to appreciate the beauty of nature as they build with these interesting, organic shapes. This helps with early mathematical and engineering skills."*

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A variety of seeds from trees are used at this station and Pine cones gathered from nearby seem to be among the favorite. The Rhythm Station uses a hollowed out Cypress Tree that creates a fun, unique sound when beat on with a wooden stick. This station allows for children to use an actual tree as their instrument, which gives them a chance to form creative expression and experiment with different sounds. At the Building Station, supplies consist of flat round

## NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING ANNUAL RATES:

...  
Business-card size advertisement: \$75  
Quarter page advertisement: \$115  
Half-page advertisement: \$225  
Full page advertisement: \$450  
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To place an advertisement in *The Council Quarterly*, please contact Sandy Temple, *FUFC Executive Director* (407-872-1738).

shapes, tubular shapes and block shapes all cut from trees that were taken down by the City's Parks Division. Here, children play with the blocks and learn to appreciate the beauty of nature as they build with these interesting, organic shapes. This helps with early mathematical and engineering skills. The next station is referred to as the Messy Materials Station where larger cuts of trees in all sorts of random shapes and sizes are laid out for children to play with. This encourages imaginative, pretend play and the creation of sometimes elaborate, collaborative projects. The life-cycle of wood is also studied as the tree cookies (flat, round cuts) are different in color, cracks and breaks.

The Bird ID Station and Overlook Area are additional fun stops where children can learn specifics about native trees and observe how wildlife interacts with trees.

Everything along the trail is carefully put together for children and families to recreate in and learn from while helping to contribute to a good, healthy mental state and most importantly, making a connection to trees and nature. Educators and mental health professionals world-wide are becoming concerned that many of today's children are no longer able to spend unhurried hours exploring the natural world in the same ways that previous generations enjoyed.

We hope you experience the Nature Connect Trail, along with the many other amenities Bill Frederick Park at Turkey Lake has to offer. Please visit the website for more information: [www.cityoforlando.net/parks/bill-frederick-park-turkey-lake](http://www.cityoforlando.net/parks/bill-frederick-park-turkey-lake)

For more information on the Arbor Day Foundation's Nature Explore Program, please visit: [natureexplore.org](http://natureexplore.org)



# FAMILIES, PARKS & RECREATION

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**BUILDING STATION**  
Inspire Creativity, Imagination and Hands-on Learning with Natural Building Materials

**RHYTHM STATION**  
Encourage Creative Expression and Movement Exploration

**OVERLOOK STATION**  
Encourage Creative Expression and Movement Exploration

**BIRDING STATION**  
Inspire Observation and Discovery of Many Native Florida Bird Species

**ENTRANCE**

**CLIMBING STATION**  
Encourage Healthy Bodies and Imaginative Minds with Natural Climbing Elements

**ART STATION**  
Inspire Close Observation and a Sense of Wonder with Natural Art Materials

**ALL CHILDREN'S FARM**  
Working Farm for Children to Explore the Lives of Farm Animals, Introduction to a Sustainable Way of Life

**The Journey Begins**

**Climbing**

**Art**

**All Children's farm**

**BILL FREDERICK PARK AT TURKEY LAKE**  
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**CITY OF ORLANDO, FLORIDA**  
**FAMILIES, PARKS & RECREATION**  
CITY OF ORLANDO



**Deadline for Submission:  
October 28, 2016**

**CATEGORIES**

- OUTSTANDING PROFESSIONAL
- OUTSTANDING TREE ADVOCATE OR TREE ADVOCACY GROUP
- OUTSTANDING PROJECT
- OUTSTANDING URBAN FORESTRY PROGRAM
- LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

To apply online or for more information about categories, please go to [www.fufc.org/awards\\_information.php](http://www.fufc.org/awards_information.php)

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**AWARD CATEGORY (please check one):**

- Outstanding Professional
- Outstanding Tree Advocate or Tree Advocacy Group
- Outstanding Project
- Outstanding Urban Forestry Program
- Lifetime Achievement Award

**GUIDELINES**

- Nominate your own work, the work of your organization or the work of another.
- Each application must be typed and presented in a standard three-ring binder (no larger than 1/2 inch capacity). The completed awards entry form must be the first page of the application. The second page of the application should be a 200-word overview of the nomination. (Note: For winning nominations, the overview of the nomination will be used for presentation purposes and to highlight the individual, project or program in *The Council Quarterly* newsletter.) Following the brief overview should be a summary of not more than three typewritten pages that describe the project's, program's or individual's

contribution to urban and community forestry as outlined in the Award Categories.

- Support documentation such as photographs, press clippings, printed pieces, and letters of commendation are encouraged, but shall be limited to 12 additional pages. All supporting documents must be attached or secured inside the application. Please, no loose documentation such as videotapes. Each application must include at least three digital photos in order to be considered. Examples include photos of the individual recipient, project logo, etc.
- Deadline for entry is **October 28, 2016**. Submit the original, one full copy and the three digital photos to:

**SEND ALL NOMINATIONS TO:**

Friends of Our Urban Forest Awards Program  
Florida Urban Forestry Council  
Post Office Box 547993  
Orlando, FL 32854-7993

*All submitted materials become property of the Florida Urban Forestry Council. **Please note:** The Awards Committee reserves the right to reassign the entry to another category if deemed appropriate. For questions or additional entry forms, please contact Sandy Temple, Florida Urban Forestry Council Executive Director at (407) 872-1738.*

# STUMP THE FORESTER

**QUESTION:** How fast will my newly planted tree grow?

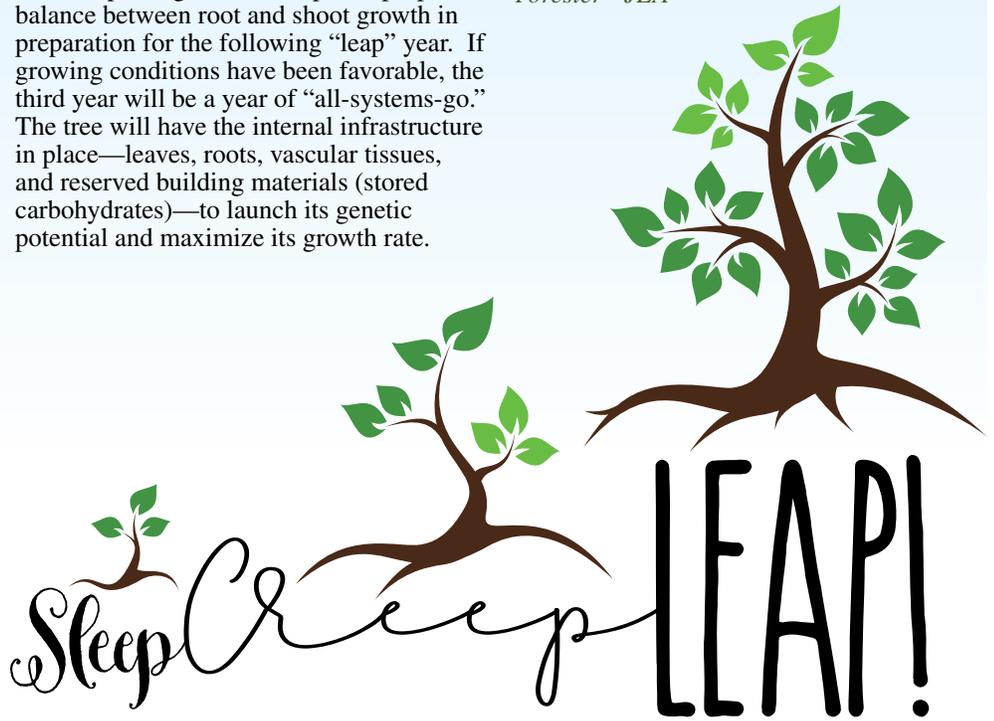
**ANSWER:** Great! You planted a tree. By putting down roots you have just joined a community of trees, people, and places actively involved in improving our quality of life through trees. Now, how fast will it grow? This is a frequently asked question from those purchasing and planting young trees. After all, the faster and larger a tree grows, the sooner and bigger the benefits of the tree will be. There are many variables that influence the rate of growth of a tree. Growth rates are largely determined by genetics and influenced by site conditions. Trees are genetically engineered to grow, but growth rates will vary among species. A tree's ability to reach its genetic potential will depend upon the quality of the site conditions, such as soil productivity, available light, sufficient water, nutrients, and appropriate space for crown and root growth. If the right tree was planted in the right place, your young tree will leap to its peak performance and optimal rate of growth; but, perhaps, not before sleep and not before creep.

What can you expect from a newly planted tree? **First year, watch it sleep; second year, watch it creep; and third year, watch it leap.** In its first year, a newly planted tree will need to build the internal infrastructure and create the building blocks

to sustain itself through photosynthesis, respiration, nutrient absorption, and the storage of carbohydrates. Much of the early growth will take place unseen, underground. The young sapling may appear to sleep as the young tree builds a root, storage, and anchoring system. The second year can be a balancing act. The young tree will creep along as it develops the proper balance between root and shoot growth in preparation for the following "leap" year. If growing conditions have been favorable, the third year will be a year of "all-systems-go." The tree will have the internal infrastructure in place—leaves, roots, vascular tissues, and reserved building materials (stored carbohydrates)—to launch its genetic potential and maximize its growth rate.

**Special Note:** Terminal buds leave behind a scar that encircles a twig. You can track a tree's growth by measuring the annual elongation of twigs between the current terminal bud and the previous terminal bud scars.

*Answer provided by Joe Anderson, Utility Forester - JEA*



*If you would like to 'stump the forester,' see page 2 for information on submitting your question!*

# Tree of the Quarter

**WINGED ELM**  
*(Ulmus alata)*



**Winged Elm (*Ulmus alata*)** Winged elm, also called corked elm, can be distinguished from other elms by the woody, wing-like growths along the branchlets. The growths are often irregular and may appear on one or both sides of the twigs. The size of the wings varies greatly from one tree to another. A North American native, the branches of this fast-growing deciduous tree rise through the crown, then bend in a sweeping manner toward the ground. It is found growing in wet sites as well as dry, rocky ridges. It is a very adaptable tree for urban planting being a common street and shade tree. It is, however, susceptible to Dutch elm disease in the northern parts of its range.

The Winged Elm is extremely sturdy as long as it is pruned regularly at an early age to eliminate double and multiple trunks. Strive to produce a central trunk with major lateral limbs. Trees look open and lanky following proper pruning but will fill in nicely to make a well-adapted, beautiful shade tree.

**Size and Form:** Winged elm is a medium to large, deciduous tree that grows from 40' to 60' tall and forms a pyramidal to vase-like or rounded shape, with lateral branches and a rounded, open crown. The tree is characterized by corky, wing-like growths along many of the branches.

**Habitat:** Winged elms adapt well to dry, gravelly soils or moist, well-drained areas. They are commonly found in upland woods and flood plains, zones 6-9. They grow in partial shade but prefer full sun, alkaline to acidic soil with moderate salt tolerance.

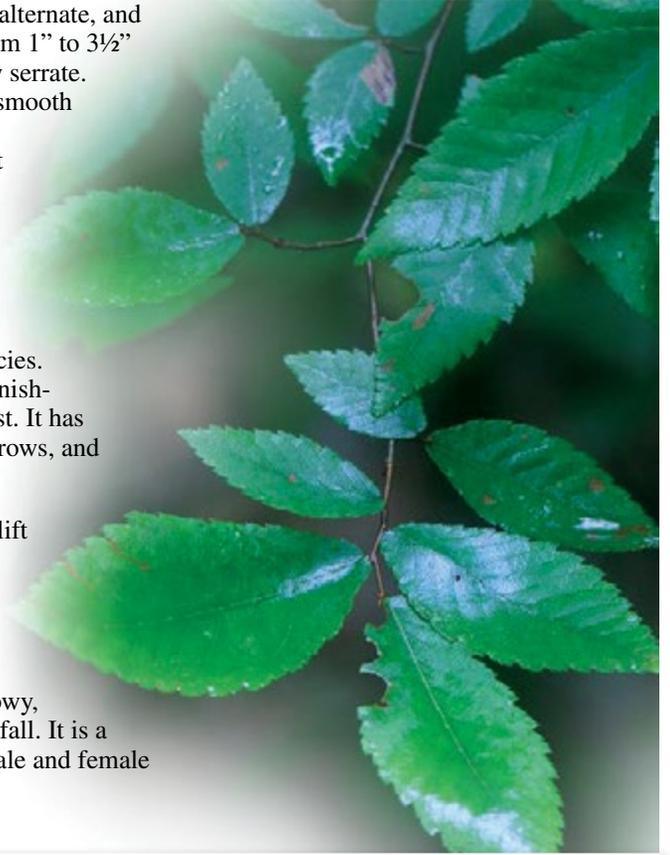
**Growth Rate:** Fast-growing deciduous tree.

**Leaves:** The leaves are simple, alternate, and oval to narrowly elliptical, from 1" to 3½" long. Leaf margins are doubly serrate. Leaves are dark green with a smooth upper surface and paler, hairy undersides. Leaves turn bright yellow in the fall.

**Bark:** The corky, wing-like projections that appear on opposite sides of twigs and branches is a characteristic identifying feature of this species. The bark on the trunk is brownish-gray, often with a greenish cast. It has tight vertical plates, curvy furrows, and flat ridges.

**Roots:** Roots do not appear to lift sidewalks and curbs readily, therefore suitable for parking lot islands and confined spaces.

**Flower:** The flowers are not showy, greenish-red appearing in the fall. It is a perfect flower, having both male and female reproductive structure.





**Fruit and Seed:** The fruit is a flat, hairy, reddish-orange samara, about 1/3" long, surrounded by a narrow wing. It appears in late winter (February and March) before the leaves emerge on the tree.

**Environment:** This species provides a nutritious browse for white-tailed deer, especially in the spring when the vegetation is tender and most easily digested. The seeds are eaten by rodents, small mammals, and numerous birds.

**Usage:** Used in flooring, boxes, crates, and furniture. The flexibility of the wood is particularly useful for rocking chairs or curved pieces. Winged elm is the wood of choice for hockey sticks, due to its resistance to splitting. The fibrous inner bark is used to make baling twine. The wood itself is hard, heavy, and strong, and anatomically Winged Elm is classified among the hard elms.

**Little known facts** – The Creek Indian called this tree the Wahoo, because it resists splitting.



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# TREES AND RECREATION

*Submitted by Leah Hoffman, CPRP – Marion County*

You might be asking yourself, who thought up this title and how does it fit into the Urban Forest? If you stop and think, trees and recreation are symbiotic. Outdoor recreation in particular relies on our forests and canopies to make the experience fun and enjoyable. Taking your child to the playground with a tree canopy not only protects them from the burning sun, but makes the temperature 5 to 10 degrees cooler. So on a hot, humid 90 degree day, kids can have a great time on the play structures without having to have shade screens built over the unit.

Trees not only provide shade and cooler temperatures, but provide one's imagination the opportunity to soar when they walk in the woods examining different plants and animals, or climb trees to check out what is over the next hill, or stop to build a tree fort, or have a picnic.

Trees play an important role in the development of equipment used in sports activities. Baseball bats, hockey and lacrosse sticks, bowling pins, various types of rackets (tennis, racket ball, and pickle ball), snow and water skis. Strike up the band. Many musical instruments are made from wood and along with the musician create beautiful music.

Forests have the distinction of hosting many outdoor recreational activities encouraging us to live healthy and active lifestyles. Taking a walk in the woods helps to relieve stress and improves mental alertness. Communing with Nature allows us to leave our cares behind for a little while.

Forests play a major influence on eco-tourism which in-turns will enhance a community's economic impact. People come to kayak, canoe, and paddleboard rivers winding through the forest. They come to camp and enjoy nature. Some come to hunt and fish. Not everyone wants to have the "Disney Experience" but they do want to get out of the fast lane and come to a forest and enjoy what nature has provided. Trees are in fact an essential part of recreation.



# CONNECTING FAMILIES WITH FORESTS

*Submitted by Lorna Radcliff, Recreation Specialist - Florida Forest Service*

Promoting the importance of forests to communities requires getting families out to recreate in the woods to appreciate the space and opportunities. Florida Forest Service staff at Tate's Hell State Forest recently partnered with the Florida Youth Conservation Centers Network in hosting a youth activity event where families could take part in archery, fishing and kayaking. The Florida Forest Service provided vans to shuttle families from the Carrabelle Riverfront Festival to the forest's Gully Branch Recreation Area to enjoy the outdoor recreation opportunities. Volunteers taught basic skills to participants and over the course of the day being able to observe their growth in knowledge, skills and self-confidence was rewarding.

It is through organized events, like this one, that more citizens can be reached and educated about the many uses of forests. Removing the apprehensions of going out into a forest is critical in developing a connection and an appreciation for the outdoors. Creating recreationalists, enthusiasts and volunteers for our forests

*Kayaking is a great way to explore remote areas that go unseen to most forest visitors.*

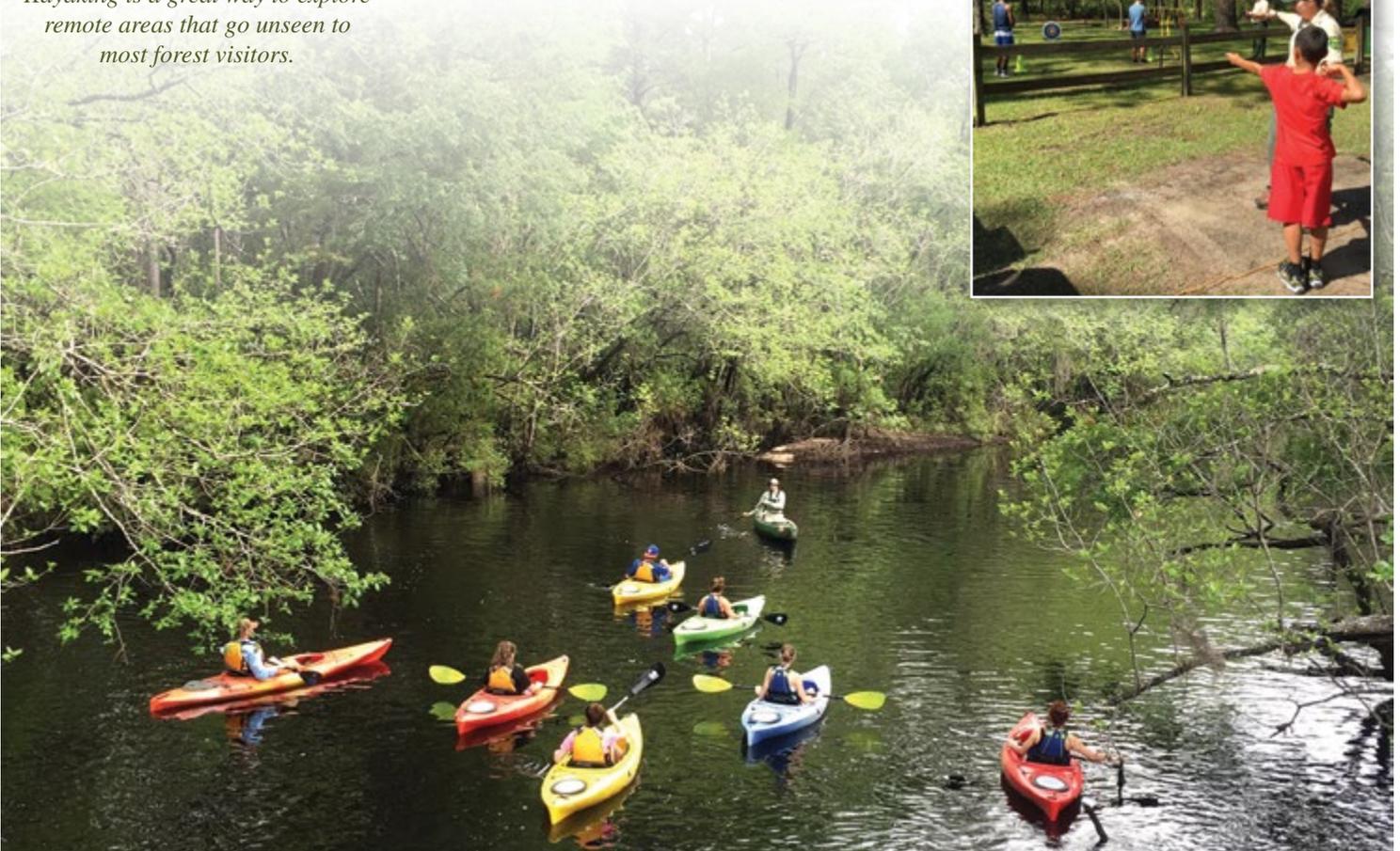
is an ever evolving job with each new generation. Technology changes and influences each new generation. The timeless simplicity of a leisure drive through the forest can bring an appreciation and a desire to explore the forest even deeper. Youth are naturally curious, get them outdoors, educate them and get them inspired. There has to be a value they can connect with in order to expect them to protect our forests for future generations. Teach them how much fun the forests are, while respecting them at the same time.



*Hiking, camping, paddling and hunting are largely enjoyed recreational activities on Tate's Hell State Forest's 202,437 acres.*



*Archery helps develop focus, self-discipline and improves hand-eye coordination.*



Through community partnerships and support, the Friends of Florida State Forests program assists the state forests to expand outdoor recreation, education and reforestation on our 37 state forests representing more than 1.1 million acres of public land.



The Eagle Rock Equestrian Club made a difference not only by raising funds for the past few years, but also volunteering their time to help build a picnic pavilion at Tiger Bay State Forest. The pavilion was dedicated on Oct. 18, 2015.



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## Working in Harmony with Nature

**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.



# MORE TREES AND RECREATION

Submitted by Joe Anderson, Utility Forester - JEA

What do trees have to do with recreation? Everything; EVERYTHING! Perhaps the most implicit benefits from trees are those that enhance our recreational experiences. I once dreamed of hiking and camping without trees – it was a nightmare. When it comes to our most iconic American pastimes – sightseeing, camping, hiking, picnicking, birding, fishing, hunting, so on, and so on – trees are essential. Trees are more than a decorative background, or a fawning backdrop. Trees are a requirement. Trees are actually part of the parkitecture of many national, state, county, and local parks. Yes, *parkitecture* is an actual word. Parkitecture is an architectural style developed in the early 20th century by the U.S. National Park Service. It's an architectural style that celebrates a building's majestic surroundings. Local materials and character are engineered into the design of recreational buildings. The style is heavily influenced by local trees and forests. Parkitecture is not unlike a tree. A tree harnesses solar energy and channels it through its trunk, branches, twigs, buds, leaves, fruits, and flowers. Parkitecture does the very same thing by channeling recreational energy through its visitor centers, cabins, campgrounds, lakes, rivers, and hiking trails. Yup, parkitecture is not

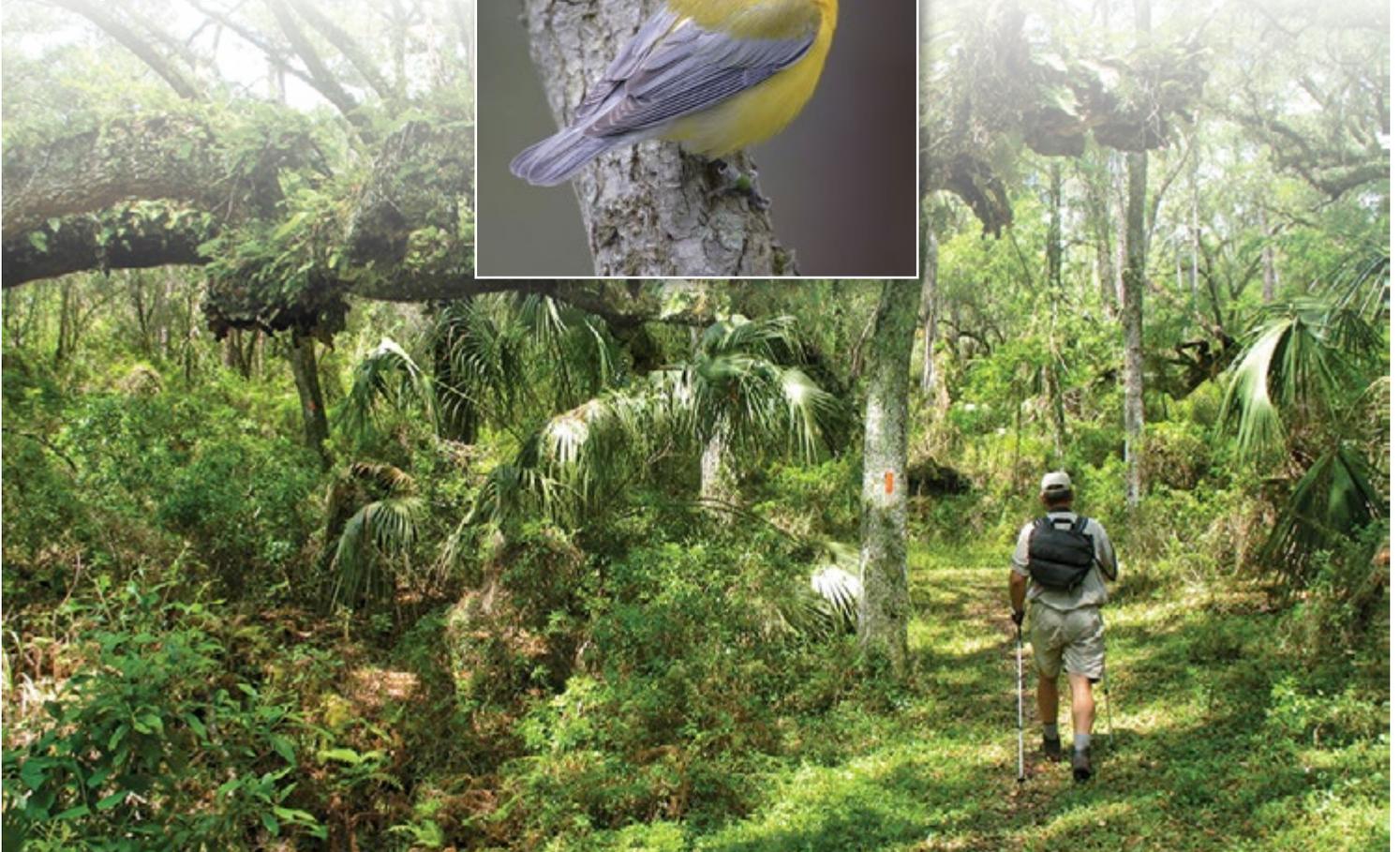
unlike a tree. Trees are indeed a requirement for recreation. Even simply swinging in a hammock on a summer afternoon - the most passive of leisure activities – is not whole without the shade of, at least, two trees.

The most primitive backcountry experiences will inevitably lure you into the backwoods. The search for that elusive bird will first have you searching for the appropriate jungle, forest habitat, or in some cases, an individual tree. I was once hiking a wooded trail in search for a Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*). The bird commonly breeds along the coastal plain of Northern Florida, Georgia and the Carolinas, but its range can extend along inland rivers and swamps. The first clue that led me to a successful sighting was not the bird itself, or it's ringing, high pitch tweets, but rather, a characteristic cavity in a tree. It was the sighting of the tree cavity that brought me to the right place where I found the bird. As an aside, I crossed paths with another birder on the trail. Introductions hardly

seemed necessary. Our brief conversation was limited to the subject to birds, trees, and trails. It seemed appropriate at the time to recommend the bird book I had in hand written by Robin M. Carter. With a cordial handshake he introduced himself. As you might guess, I just recommended the book to the author himself. Yup, I was shaking hands with Robin M. Carter. It is just one of the many stories I can share of the people and places I've come to know while leisurely wondering under a forest canopy.

Unfortunately, not all the stories are pleasant and comforting. For example, the story of the invasive Woolly Adelgid (*Adelges tsugae*) insect and its impact on the Eastern hemlocks (*Tsuga canadensis*) and brook trout anglers may not end happily ever after. Once upon a time, if you wanted to fish for brook trout, you would look for the dense shade of the Eastern hemlock. The trout are dependent upon the cold water habitat created by a dense hemlock canopy. The Woolly Adelgid is responsible for the loss of hemlock populations; in turn the loss of cold water habitats; in turn the loss of brook trout; and finally, the loss of fishing opportunities.

Florida has its own sad story when it comes to trees and recreation. There is no better



time and place to tell the haunting story of the untimely death of our redbay tree (*Persea borbonia*) than when roasting marshmallows over a campfire. The redbay was once an abundant, evergreen tree common to the Southeastern United States. Unfortunately the tree is dying out due to an invasion of a deadly fungus carried by the redbay ambrosia beetle (*Xyleborus glabratus*). The widespread sale of beetle-infested firewood for recreational campfires and outdoor grilling led to the rapid expansion of the deadly tree disease throughout the state.

Recreational pressure will place stress and strain on our natural resources - to include trees. In the end though, recreation may be the saving grace for trees and the forest habitats they create.

In the 1970's, the growth of outdoor recreation on our public lands placed the traditional forest management practices in the public eye. People became vocal in their criticism of some timber management practices which degraded the esthetic values of the forests and their recreational attributes. In response to increased recreational pressures, land management practices and programs were developed that enhanced outdoor experiences. No longer would the investment of time, talent, and treasure be limited to the "cut" of

trees and forests, but would expand to the management of outstanding natural beauty and intrinsic values that would keep land in forests.

Worldwide, humanity's ecological footprint may prove to be the most destructive force on earth – greater than any earthquake, volcano, or tsunami. The most ruinous of our activities include, in order of importance, habitat destruction, invasive species, pollution, and population growth. Keeping the land in forests and trees is a counter balance to that destructive force.

The recreational value of a tree is just as relevant to the wilderness as it is for rural, suburban, and urban environments. In each case there will be a need to breath oxygen; a need for shade; soil stabilization; color; structure; pollution control; carbon sinks; diversity; inspiration; wildlife habitat; fuel wood; and a need for sound and sight barriers. There is a need everywhere for the installment of trees - natural pumps that can pull ground water from capillary space in the soil and release it back into the air. Most importantly there is a need for tree-related jobs designed to maximize the benefits and minimize the risks of standing trees – be it at the busy street corner, or a remote trail head. Recreational areas and destinations are not immune to tree-related hazards. Roads, parking lots,

restroom facilities, visitor centers, cabins, campsites, picnic areas, boat ramps, trail heads, and trail junctions need to be free of tree-related hazards. Tree failure can be damaging, or catastrophic – at and away from home. A tree management program is no less important for our recreational facilities as they are for city streets and rights-of-way. Tree management programs will require the appropriate staff and budget to carry out inspections, risk assessments, and the proper response to tree-related hazards. The need for a safe, sustainable and resilient forest canopy is not limited to within city limits. Maximizing the benefits and minimizing the risk of a tree is the key to a tree's value and survival. We need trees to make our time on earth a great place to live, to work, and to play. What do trees have to do with recreation? Everything. EVERYTHING!

*About the author: Joe Anderson is an utility forester for JEA – Jacksonville, FL utility. Prior to JEA, Joe hiked, climbed, canoed, and camped as a Park Ranger for twenty years within the forests of New York, Minnesota, Missouri, and South Carolina – to include the Park Manager for S.C.'s Mountain Bridge Wilderness Area.*

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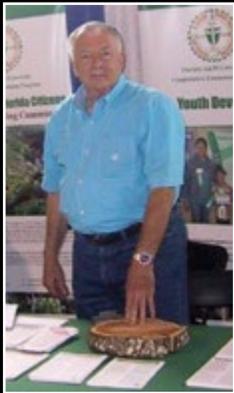
# 2015 FRIENDS OF OUR URBAN FOREST AWARDS PROGRAM

The following is a summary of the winners for the 2015 Friends Of Our Urban Forest Awards Program. This program that the Council supports each year provides an opportunity for all involved and associated

with the urban forestry industry to share with others their successes whether it be as an individual, group, a project and more. Please visit our web site for more information ([www.fufc.org](http://www.fufc.org)). The

application period for the 2016 nominations will end October 28, 2016. Again, thank you to all who participated in the 2015 awards program and congratulations to all of our winners!

## SAMUEL E. HAND, JR. *Outstanding Professional*



For the past 50 years, Sam Hand has devoted his career to improving the quality of Florida's urban forests. He has worked as a landscape architect, consulting arborist, educator, and owner of a tree care company. Numerous individuals have recognized Sam as both a knowledgeable and dedicated professional in the various disciplines of urban forestry.

He currently serves as an Associate Professor of Landscape Design and Management at Florida A&M University, a curriculum that he personally established. His extension work includes on-site tree evaluations, presentations, and media articles and productions, many of which he has completed within the past year. In addition, Sam provides arboricultural consulting services to a number of public and private entities. This includes expert witness testimony in Florida and throughout the United States.

Sam holds a Bachelor's degree in Landscape Architecture and a Master's degree in Urban Design. He has maintained an ISA arborist certification, a membership in the American Society of Consulting Arborists, and a landscape professional certification with the FNGLA for several years. He has provided leadership to each of these groups in the past. He has also served on various boards and organizations in the Leon County area where his expertise has benefited the local tree canopy and the community at large.

## URBAN PARADISE GUILD *Outstanding Tree Advocacy Group*



Urban Paradise Guild (UPG) has been advocating for trees since 2008 through programs that engage thousands of volunteers in planting trees, growing them in nurseries and through experiential education.

Rather than taking a “do as we say, not as we do” approach, UPG brings volunteers out in the field for planting. Where some groups simply plant, UPG's organic stewardship methods and strategies remove invasive exotics to create planting areas and then protect what they plant. UPG currently provides volunteer opportunities eight times per week to make progress at concurrent, multi-acre projects at the following locations:

- Oleta River State Park: Maritime Hammock (2.5 acres), nursery, 40+ acres stewardship
- Arch Creek East Preserve: Coastal Strand (7 acres pre-planting stewardship)
- Amelia Earhart Park: Upland Hammock Mountain Bike Trails (5 acres), nursery, planned 1 acre food forest
- Vizcaya Museum and Gardens: 3 acres Hammock restoration, 1/8 acre new Pineland, 20+ acres stewardship, nursery
- Matheson Hammock Park: 5+ acres stewardship with restoration

UPG's unconventional operational model makes this possible. The staff is all volunteers made up of stewards, interns and team leaders who lead by example and train new volunteers, transforming them into highly effective workers.

## PARTNERS IN PRESERVATION Broward County Environmental Planning and Community Resilience Division

*Outstanding Project*



The Broward County Land Stewardship Program was created in 2008, providing funds for ecological restoration of conservation and other publicly-owned natural lands and for expedited development of bond-acquired green space and open space sites. The Environmental Planning and Community Resilience Division manages this program and oversees the Land Stewardship funding through two grant opportunities: “Partners in Preservation” and “Parks for People.”

The Partners in Preservation Grant Program is providing successful applicants funding up to \$50,000 per project for the ecological restoration of publicly-owned natural lands within Broward County through the removal of invasive non-native vegetation and replanting with appropriate native trees and shrubs on public properties which contain a defined native vegetative community. As the program nears conclusion, some fifty sites in eleven municipalities have received funding which improved the “environmental health” of diverse native vegetative communities through natural recruitment and replanting with appropriate tree species. These actions provide aesthetic pleasure, cooling shade and carbon offsets, which successfully furthers the mission of an enhanced urban forest.

**CITY OF ORLANDO,  
ONE PERSON ONE TREE**

*Outstanding Urban Forestry Program/Large  
Community*



The City of Orlando has launched One Person One Tree, a new City-wide tree initiative to increase the urban canopy cover to 40% by 2040. In combination with its existing programs, the City has partnered with Arbor Day Foundation, Orlando Utilities Commission and the Florida Forest Service to provide an innovative program to target private property tree plantings. The program, run through Arbor Day Foundation's Energy Saving Trees online platform, will provide residents with a free tree to plant on their private property.

The City of Orlando is the first city in the country to implement an Energy Saving Trees Program on the municipal scale. Tree species were selected based on the biodiversity needs of the City's urban canopy, were grown in Florida nurseries and will be shipped directly to the resident's front door. This direct mailing program is accompanied by a robust series of existing and new tree-giveaway-events, bolstering the existing tree programs and strategic community-tree-planting-events hosted through partnerships with local business and non-profit organizations.

**STEVE GRAHAM**

*Lifetime Achievement Award*



For over 30 years, Steve Graham has demonstrated an exceptional commitment to the field of Urban Forestry in the state of Florida. Considered an "Urban Forest Pioneer," Steve is a graduate of the University of Florida and was the first President of the Florida Urban Forestry Council. Steve was the obvious choice at the time because he was one of a handful of professionals leading the charge for Urban Forest management providing guidance and the professional skills the Council needed to set the course for the advocacy of urban forest issues.

Steve worked for the City of Tampa for over 25 years as the Urban Forestry Coordinator. A co-author of the City's Tree Preservation and Landscape ordinance that is still in use today, Steve managed the City's Forestry Management Division and was responsible for thousands of trees in public rights-of-way and park lands. He wrote and produced a monthly cable-television program—"Shades of Tampa"—for over 15 years that was rated the number-one-viewed cable television program in the City. The program provided the community the most current information available on trees, their maintenance and cultural requirements for successful landscapes. His legacy is evident throughout the City of Tampa where he planted and created numerous public spaces with trees.

After leaving the City of Tampa, Steve went to work for the Florida Forest Service managing the Tiger Bay and Lake George State Forests. His current position as Park Manager with the City of Melbourne allows him to utilize his extensive knowledge in ensuring the City has exceptional landscapes with the optimum urban forest resources.

Steve Graham has dedicated his entire career to advancing the cause of Urban Forestry throughout the state and is well deserving of this Lifetime Achievement Award.



**Nominations are now being accepted for the  
2016 Friends Of Our Forest Awards Program.**

Apply online @ [fufc.org](http://fufc.org)

# FLORIDA FOREST SERVICE PARTNERS WITH ARBOR DAY FOUNDATION AND FLORIDA URBAN FORESTRY COUNCIL TO PROVIDE FIRST EVER STATE-WIDE ENERGY SAVING TREES PROGRAM

Lou Shepherd, Florida Urban Forestry Coordinator – Florida Forest Service  
Photographs by: Florida Forest Service

Trees are one of the most effective ways to mitigate the impacts of climate change. The Florida Forest Service, the Arbor Day Foundation and the Florida Urban Forestry Council have partnered to help utility company customers throughout the State of Florida take advantage of this exciting program by providing trees to lower green house gas (GHG) emissions and homeowner energy costs.

Strategically, the Energy-Saving Trees Program has tools in place to evaluate and enhance the homeowner's ability to help mitigate local impacts of climate change by reducing carbon emissions from power plants. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, a single healthy, young tree can provide the same net cooling effect as ten room-sized air conditioners operating 20 hours per day.

Energy-Saving Trees Program is designed to:

- Promote energy efficiency
- Advance the notion that trees are a viable option for energy reduction
- Educate the public on the value of trees
- Identify levels of interest and generate support
- Provide jobs for Florida nursery growers
- Help reduce carbon emissions from power plants

The program software incorporates technology to help people save energy and money. The Arbor Day Foundation and the Davey Tree Institute created a web-based planting tool to help consumers understand the "Right Tree—Right Place" principles of planting trees around their home.

Urban forestry practices in our rural and urban communities are one of the most cost-effective investments we can make. The Arbor Day Foundation's Energy-Saving Trees Program statistics indicate a Positive Cost/Benefit Ratio: For every \$1 invested up to a \$3.09 return in community benefits result.

The program was kicked off on Florida Arbor Day, Friday, January 15, 2016. At that time 10,000 trees were made available

statewide. All single family residential homeowners were eligible and encouraged to participate. The goal of the state-wide plan is to provide environmentally-friendly energy efficiency for big and small communities while helping urban forestry programs to plant, protect and improve urban forests for the future.

The urban heat island effect is one of the biggest challenges for city and town residents. It amplifies heat and humidity. The state's urban heat island effect is already creating disproportionate literal hot spots in urban centers where older adults and children are vulnerable to extreme heat conditions.

This long-term strategy is intended to reduce energy costs and urban heat island effects while increasing wildlife habitat, carbon sequestration, biodiversity and storm water management.

For the homeowner, this translates into a low investment cost which yields a proven method of saving money on energy. Based on research from the U.S. Department of Energy and the U.S. Forest Service, studies have shown planting strategically placed trees helps to reduce energy consumption. According to these studies, planting a tree

which provides shade to the home can reduce household electrical use by up to 20 percent.

The Florida Forest Service selected an appropriate species palette based on the states' climatic zones. Citizens reserved one tree per household that were delivered to their door. The program ran for 60 days until March 18, 2016 when all 10,000 of the trees were reserved.

This project's design blends dimensions of urban ecosystems, biophysical and social needs. Part of the mission is to discover, understand, and communicate the value of ecosystems services as it relates to climate change. It is also hoped that the program creates partnerships collaborating on how to best share results and to encourage community change.

To ensure success with creating shade to save energy, the program's web-based tool instructed customers on how to determine the best planting location around the home. A dedicated call center answered customer questions about the program. Once the customer plants the trees, it is then up to the participant to maintain the trees for best results in reducing energy consumption.



*Trees Tagged For Shipment for the Energy Saving Trees Program*

The 20-year total estimated cumulative electric savings for Florida consumers is \$1,781,000, and the total savings in energy and community benefits is \$3,718,000.

The trees already reserved are estimated to produce within 20 years:

- Over \$1 million in customer savings
- 15 million kilowatt hours (kWh) in energy savings
- Mitigate over 305 million gallons of stormwater runoff
- Sequester 50 million pounds of carbon
- Remove 131,000 lbs. of air pollutants

We would like to thank the U.S. Forest Service for funding, the Arbor Day Foundation, the Davey Institute and Florida's utility companies for their partnership as we enhance our urban and community forestry program to provide the best possible service for Florida's citizens.

We believe that Florida's pilot program will generate a groundswell of citizen support making the program sustainable. We are asking all Floridians to support the program by contacting their local electric service provider and urge their active participation in the future. It is anticipated that this initiative will encourage community change through outreach, networking and



*Lou Shepherd Inspects Trees Ready for Shipment*

understanding of the social psyche as it relates to our natural world.

Looking ahead, The Florida Forest Service, the Arbor Day Foundation and the Florida Urban Forestry Council are already

preparing for the 2017-18 give-away seasons of Energy-Saving Trees, Florida. And, we wish to introduce and welcome the Georgia Forestry Commission for joining the effort in 2017.

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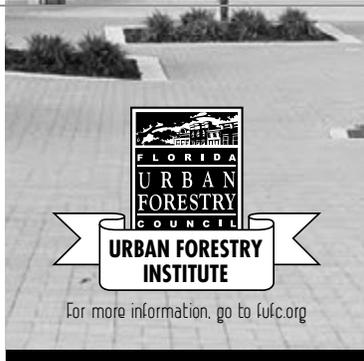
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 Florida Forest Service

**Vacancy** - FNGLA Representative

**Vacancy** - Advisory Member

**Sandy Temple**  
 FUFUC Executive Director