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THE FUTURE OF FLORIDA'S URBAN FOREST

Submitted by Rob Northrop, UF/IFAS Extension Forester - Hillsborough County

Upon the 30th anniversary of the FUFC, let us explore Florida's future urban forests. What can we expect and how will the future influence urban forestry practices.

The rapid urbanization of Florida is evidenced by the expansion and densification of cities, and continued population growth. The Florida 2070 Report, a joint effort of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, 1000 Friends of Florida and the University of Florida's Geoplan Center, provides us with a roadmap to the nature of Florida's urban expansion.

According to the Report the state's population will have nearly doubled by 2070, with a need to accommodate 15 million new residents. The greatest growth in population will occur in the Central and North East portions of the peninsula. To accommodate this growth, the percentage of developed land will increase from 18% (2010) to 34% (2070) for the total land area of Florida. While protected lands, excluding agriculture, will increase by less than 1%. Agricultural lands will decrease from 22% to 16% of Florida's total land area. These changes suggest a very significant loss of vital ecosystem goods and services for future generations due to the loss of forest lands, wetlands, grasslands, and agriculture.

By 2070 existing patches of natural areasforest, grassland, wetland, and scrub--will be swimming in a sea of urbanization. Florida's natural lands, both public and private, are going to be absorbed into our





metropolitan regions. Their continued presence and future management will more closely reflect the values of the region's urban residents and their local governments. Outcomes for management will increasingly be aligned with societal measures of sustainability. The rural character of many parts of Florida will be transformed by the emerging urban landscape.

So how might this affect the discipline and future practice of urban forestry in Florida?

 Urban foresters will have a significant opportunity to affect distribution, character and ecological value of Florida's future urban forest through active participation in land planning activities. This will require knowledge of not only planning and adaptive

- management but also communication and conflict management skills.
- 2. Urban foresters will increasingly find themselves responsible for the management of not only the trees

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Thank you for joining us inside the pages of The Council Quarterly newsletter. With this issue, we'll be turning a page in the story of the Florida Urban Forestry Council (FUFC). Soon, we will be celebrating our 30th year anniversary. On April

10, 1991, the FUFC was incorporated to act as a forum, resource, catalyst, liaison, and advocate concerning urban forestry issues in the state of Florida. The framers of the FUFC had a vision to create an association that represented the stakeholders and caregivers of urban forests. It's what I will affectionately call the "Stewards of Stewardship."

In celebration of our anniversary, in recognition of that far reaching vision, we will be looking forward, not back. In this newsletter we will be looking to the future of urban forests and the balance for success. We will explore current trends, discuss solutions, and set course for a tomorrow. You can learn more "About Us," our history, who we are, bylaws, and strategic plan by visiting our website, your website, the website, https://www.fufc.org. You can also see where we have been in the past 30 years by scrolling through the pages of previous newsletters at https://www.fufc.org/newsletter.php.

Don't be left behind. The Florida landscape is changing rapidly. Technology is advancing swiftly. The urban forest industry is making strides to keep pace. The stewardship of the urban forest is everyone's business, but it is moving forward like nobody's business. I encourage you to keep up and stay up-to-date by joining the conversation, scrolling through the pages of the newsletter, touring our website, visiting our social media platforms, and joining the FUFC membership. We very much appreciate your participation in the past, present, and the future.

Sincerely,

Joe Anderson FUFC President





and recreational parks within dense urban cores, but also the embedded natural areas and largely naturalistic conservation parks. This will require knowledge of ecosystem management and use of adaptive decision making.

- 3. Urban foresters will work on and lead interdisciplinary teams. This will require knowledge of other professionals such as foresters, botanists, wildlife biologists, land use planners, landscape architects, sociologists, utility engineers and also effective communication leadership skills.
- 4. Urban forestry will become more closely aligned with more traditional forms of sustainable forestry, as the practice of forestry itself adjusts to the reality of Florida's emerging landscape. This integration of traditional forestry will bring with it needed expertise in silviculture and ecological restoration.

Urban Forestry is a relatively new discipline. The social, economic and

ecological targets of the discipline are still evolving. Stewardship and growth should be guided by ecological science, experience and common sense. With these expected changes, there is much to learn over the coming decades. We will need to be more active in sharing our

knowledge--both successes and failures. We need to do it as often and in as many ways as possible – to include webinars, newsletters, open forums, blogs, social media, and just plain old phone calls. There is a tremendous amount of knowledge being generated by the people who are actively working on the ground. The Florida Urban Forestry Council has done yeoman's work at keeping the community of urban forestry informed during the past 30 years, but it is

not enough. They cannot do it alone. One recommendation has been the development

"We will need to be more active in sharing our knowledge--both successes and failures. We need to do it as often and in as many ways as possible..."

of regional working groups which can play an important role in information exchange, fostering cooperation and building supportive collaborative programs.

The frantic pace of change in Florida points to the critical need for the urban forestry profession

to deliberately and actively embrace its pivotal leadership role in the design and interdisciplinary management of Florida's future urban trees and urbanizing forests.



CITY OF MIAMI BEACH — COMBATING CLIMATE CHANGE BY CHANGING THE CLIMATE OF URBAN FOREST MANAGEMENT

Submitted by Omar Leon - Urban Forester, City of Miami Beach

Miami Beach is famous for its beautiful beaches and historic art deco architecture. Its vibrant, subtropical urban forest is becoming the next cool feature making Miami Beach stand out. In addition to its status as a Tree City USA, Miami Beach is part of the inaugural class of Tree Cities of the World. Miami Beach had the honor of being the only US city to present at the first Tree Cities of the World Conference this past October. The City is pushing the practice of sustainable Urban Forestry Management into new territory. With the assistance of grant funding through the US Forest Service and the Florida Forest Service, we collected the necessary data to develop the City's first Urban Forestry Master Plan.

The Urban Forestry Master Plan, adopted in October 2020, lays out a strategy for managing the City's tree resources. It also identified the unique challenges to managing and expanding a healthy urban forest. Miami Beach is currently experiencing impacts from climate change, increased temperatures, rising sea levels, and constant redevelopment. As such, we must analyze the unique characteristics of our City and develop long term goals that will help us adapt to the stress and impacts from climatic change and urbanization.

In 2013 the City initiated a comprehensive stormwater management program to proactively combat sea level rise. This \$600 million program consisted of gray infrastructure projects including raising the elevation of City streets and adding new water quality treatment systems to assist with flooding. In 2017, through a partnership with the 100 Resilient Cities network, the Urban Land Institute (ULI) conducted an independent evaluation of the City's resilience program. The ULI advisory panel applauded the City's efforts to date. An important key component was using an integrated approach to stormwater management that incorporates green infrastructure into all future City projects.

The Urban Forestry Master Plan provides guidance on how to properly manage and build a sustainable urban forest while

adapting to new and future climatic stresses. The Urban Forestry Master Plan also considers how the City can preserve and enhance its urban tree canopy while continuing major infrastructure projects.

Utilizing data from our GIS inventory and the latest urban tree canopy assessment, the Master Plan provides strategic

recommendations and guidance for practices that promote and protect the urban forest over the upcoming decades. Requirements for proper soil volume needs for urbanized plantings; recommending that the City establish a comprehensive maintenance program for public right-of-ways; enhancing tree preservation through local ordinances; and other policy guidance were included.

Approaching the management of our urban forest from a holistic approach will greatly improve tree canopy benefit Citywide.

Over the years, the "The Urban Forestry City's urban tree canopy Master Plan also had gradually become dependent on palm considers how the species. Recent analysis City can preserve illustrated that over 57% and enhance its of the existing canopy urban tree canopy coverage is made up of palms while only 43% while continuing is comprised of shade major infrastructure canopy trees. In addition, 61% of the landmass is currently made up of impervious surfaces

> with the remaining area having constrained abilities to reforest due to current land use, utilities, and poor growing conditions.

As a result, the City's current overall tree canopy percentage is 17%. With very limited abilities to expand the current urban forest under existing conditions, this has led to an intensification of the urban



projects."

heat island effect and constrains the ability to maximize environmental benefits from the tree canopy. One major contributing factor to this is the current palm canopy coverage of 57%, which is only contributing to 4% of annual tree canopy benefit.

In strategically shaping the future of the urban forest, Miami Beach will be focusing on initiatives geared at expanding total tree canopy benefits. This will include properly preserving the existing tree canopy, improved tree canopy designs moving forward, and proper tree species selection. A component of this includes progressively reversing the City's current palm centric canopy so that shade canopy trees once again become the predominant source of tree cover in the City. By shifting away from palms, the City will dramatically improve the benefits and value of tree canopy within limited planting spaces. The City's Master Plan will also expand initiatives that create interconnected communities and improved walkability as Miami Beach continues to transform and become less dependent on cars as a principal form of transportation.

The plan also serves as a guide for property owners by providing a tool kit on how to properly design new landscapes and protect existing trees.

The City's Urban Forestry Master Plan expands beyond just tree canopy and considers how green infrastructure plays an important role in the City's future. For example, the plan promotes the proper use of suspended pavements and other underground infrastructure to improve stormwater management capacities and improve water quality utilizing trees and other plants.

As we look into the future of Urban Forestry, we must understand that our role as Urban Foresters has evolved. It has become a fundamental component of how cities plan for the future. As we continue to experience new climatic and environmental stressors, city leaders are looking for innovative approaches when providing sustainable community services. Urban foresters are taking a front seat to long-term planning and overall management of green infrastructure systems. Although trees are not a new

innovative product, the way we incorporate them into the urban forest can drastically improve our ability to, not only combat climate change, but create a healthier urban environment. As such, urban foresters are becoming essential urban planners in the development of long-term strategies to manage and transform future urban tree canopy and urban forest practices.





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 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.

Tree of Quarter

AMERICAN HOLLY

(Ilex opaca)

Submitted by Alexander Clark, Graduate Student - School of Forest Resources and Conservation, University of Florida

When walking through the moist soils of a bottomland, you are likely to come in contact with the American holly (*Ilex opaca*) --a prehistoric looking tree with spikes on its leaves. This is a beautiful tree with bright red fruit--a very important food source for animal species living in this ecosystem.



Size and Form:

American holly is a smaller stature tree with heights normally ranging from 35-40 feet and a spread of 15-25 feet. This slow growing tree normally has a symmetrical canopy--a common characteristic for the species.

Habitat:

American holly grows alongside red maple, sweetgum, slash pine, and other typical species found in fertile wetlands and occasionally sandy coastal areas.

Range:

American holly is found from Florida north to Massachusetts, west to Texas, and north along the Mississippi Valley to Indiana and Illinois.



Leaves:

The American holly is an evergreen tree with leaves that are simple in composition and alternately arranged. The upper surface of the leaf is dark green and glabrous. The underside is a paler green and also glabrous. The tip of the leaf is sharply pointed followed by stiff spines on the margin of the leaf. Some of the leaves on the tree may not have spines.

Twigs and Branches:

Twigs are grey, slender, and usually covered with a rust colored pubescence. Small buds are also rusty in color.

Bark:

Typical of the holly family (Aquifoliaceae), the bark is grey in color, thin and relatively smooth. Sometimes the tree will have a splotchy appearance due to lichens growing on the trunk.

Roots:

The roots are shallow and usually small in diameter. In urban settings, small diameter roots of the American holly are less invasive and less of a threat to soil upheaving.

Flowers:

American holly is a dioecious plant meaning that there are both male and female tree. The male flowers form clusters of 3-7 cymes. Female flowers are small, white, slightly fragrant, and emerge from the axils of the leaves.

Fruit and Seed:

The fruit is a bright red drupe that is about \(^{1}\)4 of an inch in diameter. The fruit is only present on female trees and is usually present in clusters along the branches in the fall and winter.

Usaae:

Used as an ornamental, though not a popular ornamental as other holly species. American holly is also used as holiday decorations due to its attractive, bright, red berries complimented by dark green, persistent leaves. It has some timber value for cabinet making, but not a large market.

Wildlife:

American holly is a vital food source for many species of birds and mammals within bottomland ecosystems. This is an especially good food source in the winter since berries are present at that time. American holly is also important to wildlife for shelter and winter cover due to persistent leaves.

itations:

Andreu, Michael. "Bottomland Hardwoods." Dendrology Lab. 10 Oct. 2020, Gainesville. Gilman, Edward F., et al. "Ilex Opaca: American Holly." EDIS New Publications RSS, Environmental Horticulture, 15 Apr. 2019, edis.ifas.ufl.edu/st304. "SFRC: 4-H: American Holly." UF, 17 Dec. 2015, sfrc. ufl.edu/extension/4h/trees/American holly/index.html.



STUMP THE FORESTER

QUESTION: What does the future hold for Florida's workforce regarding the tree-care industry?

ANSWER: The future holds challenges, uncertainties, and opportunities. Currently, the labor force is not keeping up with demand. Rapid development; regularity pressure; intensifying weather patterns; spreading vegetative disorders and pathogens; aging canopies; increased liabilities, risks and accountability; availability of qualified and experienced labor; rapid turnover; labor intensive work; technical literacy; ill-defined career paths; attractive incentives from other expanding markets; and current stigmas will continue to challenge the tree-care industry. These are not simply challenges. They are crippling obstacles for entry and growth within the entire industry.

Perceptions of unskilled occupations have to change if the tree-care industry is to

capture, retain and develop a labor force. The industry must prepare to out-compete other employment opportunities for talent, experience, and promising prospects by embracing the realization that the industry is reinforced by a skilled work force. To succeed in this industry workers must develop special skills over time, pursue specific training and education, and acquire experience.

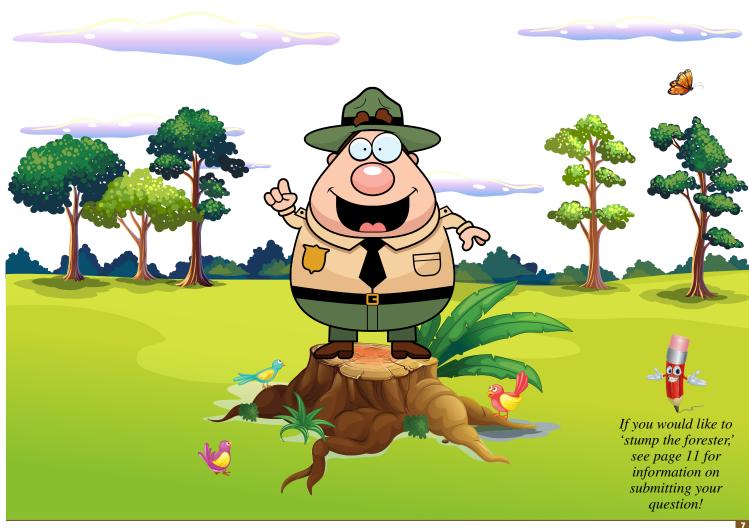
The tree industry needs to offer more than jobs and increase wages. The industry needs to tether its talent with careers in order to benefit a business, the profession, and the overall contributions to a sustainable future. Promising career paths need to be established outside the college degree.

To enhance stability and prosperity the industry needs to adopt strategies to develop a competent workforce. Training resources need to be spent on those

individuals who are most likely to benefit from them. Investing in the right people is good business. Entry level screening before training is the notch before a final cut is made. This makes good sense for the individual employer, but it's not enough. The growing crisis is too BIG. A lone wolf can't bring down BIG prey.

Perhaps the best workforce-development solutions will occur when leading employers come together to address the talent problem for the entire industry. Local, state, and federal agencies need to join the effort and collaborate with the private sector, education providers and other stakeholders to deliver effective job screening, placement, training, and safe and reliable careers.

Answer provided by Joe Anderson – JEA Utility Forester, ISA Certified Arborist



URBAN FORESTRY — A DECISION TO HAPPILY EVER AFTER

Submitted by Joe Anderson – JEA Utility Forester

Urban forestry is a complex balancing act. Balance creates a condition in which different elements are equal, or in the correct proportions. There are many things to consider, and many stories to tell. Let me start with a short anecdotal story about a little girl, a little wooded lot, and a BIG old frog.



The Girl and the Frog

Once, in a nearby neighborhood, there was a little girl who strolled along a wooded area adjacent to her backyard. It was a familiar place, a special place, an enchanted place. On this day, she heard somebody call her name. She looked around and didn't see anybody, but again she heard her name. She looked down and saw a frog--a talking frog. He said, "If you kiss me, I'll become a handsome prince and we can live happily ever after." She picked up that frog they began to talk. They talked, and talked, and talked. They talked about acorns, trees, wooded lots, boggy creeks, school, annoying little brothers, and costume jewelry. After a few hours the frog reminded her, "Remember, if you kiss me I'll become a handsome prince and we can live happily ever after." She raised her eye brow, smiled and carefully put that frog in her purse and said, "No, I think I'd rather have a talking frog."

Did she make the right decision? Maybe kissing that frog would have been the right thing to do--but maybe not. Maybe not

right away. Urban forestry too, is all about decisions. Urban forestry is not merely about the urban environment, and it's not purely about the forests. It's about the balance between the urban and the forest. At first glance it appears to be a balancing act between contrasting, opposing and competing elements. The term "urban forestry" seems to be a paradox, or a contradiction of terms. Urban forestry joins a list of oxymorons as healthy cough, pretty ugly, working vacation, and jumbo shrimp. Let us first look at the term landscape architecture. There's no great controversy with the term landscape architecture. There's a piece of architecture (a building) complimented with an adjacent landscape (trees, shrubs, and groundcover) around the building. If done right, there's a balance between the two. Urban forestry is a larger narrative. Urban forestry involves many buildings, many landscapes, and the infrastructure that binds them together (structures, roads, sidewalks, streetlights, power, water, sewer, drainage systems, parks, parking lots, etc.). If done properly, there's a balance between the urban and forest resources. If done properly, there's no paradox--there is no contradiction.

Let's go back for a moment to the little girl and the frog. She's not going to be a little girl forever, and the frog is likely not to be a frog forever. If they are to live happily ever after, there needs to be space for growth. A lot of things have to happen in-between



now and then. A lot of conversations will need to take place first. A lot of preparations need to be complete.

The same is true for an acorn and a small town. They both start off small. The acorn is not going to be an acorn forever; and the small town may not be small forever. The acorn and the city need the same things. They need a little Florida sun, water, and space to grow. Both are designed to grow, get BIG, and to build. The tree

builds girth to roots, trunks and stems. It builds branches, twigs, buds, fruits, and flowers. The city builds infrastructure, roads, sidewalks, buildings, parking lots, amenities, and utilities. The parts and pieces of trees and cities need to be maintained-and sometimes replaced. Both the tree and the city will need the proper people, positions, policies, and budgets in place to build, maintain, and prosper.

Let's consider the tree for a moment. The tree is a chemical distribution system. It takes energy from the sun, converts it to chemical energy, and distributes chemical energy throughout the trunk, branches, twigs, buds, leaves, and fruits and flowers. There are certain pathways that are used to distribute that chemical energy – the xylem and phloem. If those pathways become blocked, bad things are going to happen to the tree, or parts of it.

In the same way, the city builds an electrical distribution system. Electrical energy is distributed throughout trunk lines, branches, laterals, the buds, leaves, fruits, and flowers of the city. The leaves, buds, and fruits and flowers of the city are our homes, businesses and public spaces. There are certain pathways that are used to distribute that electrical energy--the xylem and phloem of the city are the right-of-ways. If those pathways become blocked, bad things will happen to the city, or parts of it.

There must always be a balance between the "grey" infrastructure that is built and the "green" infrastructure that nature provides.

Return to the lessons of photosynthesis and we find that there is no better device for tackling global warming than a tree. A mechanism or device that runs on solar energy (clean energy) and pulls greenhouse gas from the atmosphere and converts it to useful carbon--converts it to wood.

Cities need trees. We need trees. We need wood; oxygen; shade; soil stabilization; color; structure; pollution control; carbon sinks; artistic inspiration; fruits and flowers; outdoor recreation; and natural diversity. We need natural pumps with pipes that can penetrate into soil, and capture available water within the capillary space between soil particles; and through transpiration, pull

water through a system of pipes, up into the canopy, and recycle it back into the air. We need sight and sound barriers; natural areas; wildlife habitat; and we need tree-related jobs. We need trees if we are to live happily ever after.

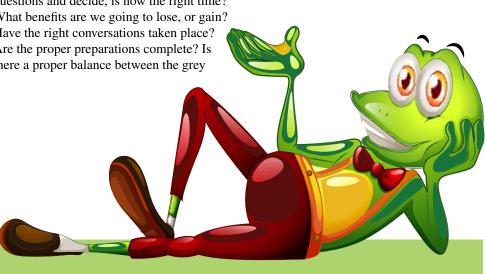
Yet it's not enough to have trees. Our cities and communities will need a sustainable and resilient forest canopy. A sustainable and resilient forest canopy will need a strong urban forest industry. A strong urban forest industry will require municipal foresters; utility arborists; skilled private tree-care professionals; informed civic organizations; state and federal agencies; landscape architects, urban planners, civil engineers, city officials, educators and an informed public. To obtain balance we need a strong, tree-related industry that can provide the solutions needed to maximize

the benefits of trees and mitigate the risks and hazards.

So, when cities are asked to cut down trees for growth and opportunity--when we're asked to kiss a frog to create a handsome prince/princess--we need to stop, ask questions and decide, is now the right time? What benefits are we going to lose, or gain? Have the right conversations taken place? Are the proper preparations complete? Is there a proper balance between the grey

infrastructure that we build and the green infrastructure that nature provides? If there is, we can live happily ever after.

(You can view a virtual presentation of this article at, https://youtu.be/RyVhbnp0IP0)









New and renewed members through December 31, 2020. Please let us know if we fail to mention your name.

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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.

Thanks for contributing!

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, and/or an interested citizen.)
☐ 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 (Government/Non-Profit Agency membership is granted to those individuals, groups or other entities actively working in the profession of Urban Forestry or any related profession. Membership will be granted for up to five individuals within the agency.)
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COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Kathleen Brennan, Appointed Position Florida League of Cities

Tallahassee

Jody Buyas, Appointed Position Advisory Member

City of Orlando

Elise Cassie, Appointed Position Advisory Member

FL Project Learning Tree

Brian Dick, Appointed Position ASLA/FL Chapter

City of Lakeland

Steve Edgar, Appointed Position Society of American Foresters

City of Port Orange

David Fox, Appointed Position Advisory Member

UF/SFRC

Elizabeth Harkey, Elected Position City Arborist

City of Sanford

Julie Iooss, Appointed Position FL Chapter ISA

Retired - City of Orlando

William "Bill" Lester, Appointed Position Cooperative Extension Service

Hernando County Extension Office

Carol Mini, Appointed Position Advisory Member City of Palm Coast

Daisy Morales, Appointed Position Advisory Member Orange County Soil and Water Conservation District

Ricky Peterika, Elected Position Member-at-Large Dark Moss LLC

Gregory Polidora, Appointed Position Advisory Member

FP&L

Darryl Richard, Appointed Position FL Department of Transportation FDOT - District One

John Springer, Elected Position Tree Advocacy **Enchanted Walkabouts**

David Watford, Elected Position Utility Forester SECO Energy

Mark Williams, Elected Position Member-at-Large City of Fort Lauderdale

Ian Wogan, Elected Position Private Arborist

True Tree Service

Greg Wright, Appointed Position **FRPA** City of Largo

Vacancy - Member-at-Large

William Liner

Florida Forest Service Liaison

Stephen Llovd Florida Forest Service

Sandy Temple FUFC Executive Director