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# URBAN FOREST MANAGEMENT: A PRIMER TO STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS

Submitted by Robert Northrop, Michael Andreu, and Wayne Zipperer

Urban planners and city administrators face daily challenges in managing complex urban environments, such as maintaining sufficient levels of clean water, clean air, energy, housing, and green spaces, as well as addressing conflicts of interest related to land use. More than ever, they must rise to the challenge of ensuring that their cities are economically, socially, and environmentally sustainable. Well-designed and managed urban forests are integral to meeting this challenge: urban forests can make significant contributions to the sustainable

Urban Forest Management:

A Primer to Strategic Planning for Municipal Governments

\*\*Primer to Strategic Planning for Municipal Governments\*\*

\*\*Primer to Strategic Planning for Municip

development, economic viability and livability of cities. In an urban environment, healthy and thriving trees, woodlands, and parks require careful planning, design, and management to achieve their full economic, social, and ecological potential.

Our experience suggests that in the current environment, urban forest management tends to involve short-term decision-making reacting to immediate needs (safety, tree hazards, etc.), principally driven by rapid land-use change and local economic concerns. It tends to address the symptoms of the problem rather than the problem itself (reactive vs. proactive). As a result, decisions and actions are often redundant, inefficient, and sometimes have to be completely redone as other priorities are identified later. What is needed is a longer-term perspective that puts forest management within the broader context of the city's infrastructure and does not leave it as an afterthought.

Decision making has short-term and long-term implications. In the short term, the implementation of urban forest management on a project-by-project basis often meets the immediate needs of citizens and their government leaders. However, in the long run, a focus on immediate objectives and outcomes often misses the opportunity to address the resilience of the urban forest system and its capacity to adapt to the

pressures of urban densification, expansion, and climate change.

An effective and sustainable urban forest management program must address three major components: social systems, governance systems, and the ecological systems. The social component provides the justification for the plan by demonstrating value to the people that live and utilize the forest. The governance component provides guidance to responsible entities on how, when and where management activities will occur. The ecological component addresses the dynamic nature of the system, which is the reason this process is different than simply managing other infrastructure such as transportation systems, sewer systems or

continues on page 3

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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Resiliency is the capacity to recover quickly from adversity. Whether managing the urban forest, an organization, or life itself, resiliency is an ability to keep moving forward through challenges. Resiliency is not a simple trait and may not come naturally to everyone. Fortunately, resiliency can be cultivated and strategically fashioned. You might ask, "How?"

Developing a sense of purpose is a great start. A clearly defined purpose, or mission, provides the motivation to keep going in a particular direction. A sense of purpose can provide the vision to see beyond hardship and adversity.

Purpose alone is not enough. Goals and objectives will scale your long-range vision into manageable parts and pieces. Goals must be SMART - Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, and Time-based. Genuine resiliency requires realistic expectations and a reasonable approach.

An action plan will identify the steps needed to put goals and objectives into motion. Some action items should be easily obtained while others will be more challenging. Flexibility and optimism are essential to accommodate the variable circumstances and dynamic environments you'll be maneuvering through.

Equally important to having a purpose, goals, and an action plan, is having a strong support group. It's so important to have people in your corner, whom you can confide in, especially during a time of crisis. As part of the Florida Urban Forestry Council (FUFC), you are well on our way to having a strong social network. As I've mentioned in previous issues, FUFC is our urban forestry community. We are like-minded professionals whom we can reach out to for support, positive feedback, and possible solutions to our problems and challenges.

It was an honor and life-changing experience to serve as the FUFC President in 2022. We started 2022 with immense heartache and uncertainty with the passing of our beloved, former Executive Director, Sandy Temple, in January. However, thankfully in the face of this challenge, the FUFC was well-equipped to move forward. We had a truly dedicated group of Officers and a strong Executive Committee. We had our Strategic Plan that clearly outlined

the goals, objectives, and action items needed to achieve and continue our mission. In hindsight, the key to our success was the support and passion of my fellow Officers, Executive Committee members, and FUFC members. A shared sense of purpose can be such a strong and powerful force!

It is my hope that all of you, navigating through this wonderful journey called Life, will be successful in the pursuit of your passions, with support around you to overcome any challenges. The Florida Urban Forestry Council is here for you. Please accept my invitation to join us at the 2023 Urban Forestry Institute. It will be held virtually on Whova on March 2-3, 2023. This year's theme will focus on "Trees for Resilient Communities." The agenda will include talks on how to increase the resilience of the human and environmental parts of Florida's urban forests.

Continue to strive for resiliency. The future depends upon it. When life gives us lemons, we'll make lemonade; gather under the cool shade of a resilient tree: and sit back and enjoy the fruits of our labor. Thank you for being you and for being a part of the Florida Urban Forestry Council.

Gratefully, Erin Givens FUFC President



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To place an advertisement in The Council Quarterly, please contact info@fufc.org or order online at https://fufc.org/advertising/. electrical grids. As you might expect, the social and governance components add a level of complexity to the planning process not often encountered when developing an

urban forest management program. Ideally these three components are integrated throughout the plan to inform government department procedures, policies, and other activities.

We wrote Urban Forest Management: A Primer to Strategic Planning for Municipalities to assist in the organization of

strategic plans for urban forest management. The Primer was written specifically for use by people responsible for the initiation, or redesign, an urban forest management program. The methodology is flexible, adaptable and appropriate for town, city,

county and state urban forest management program development. It was initially developed for use in the State of Florida.

"...the social

and governance

components add a level

of complexity to the

planning process not

often encountered when

developing an urban

forest management

program."

Vision, goals, guiding principles, elements, performance indicators and objectives provide a framework for defining a sustainable urban forest management program and assessing progress toward efficient and effective operation and delivering public services.

A strategic plan for urban forest

management identifies a series of practical and quantifiable steps that guide activities and resources to accomplish predetermined outcomes, the time frame for implementation, and the responsible agency or partnership. By establishing clear lines of responsibility and measurable objectives tied to reasonable timelines, the city can measure successes and identify programmatic areas in need of further attention. The plan itself is best seen as a long-term process, a living and adaptable plan of action, and not a static or short-term product.

The ultimate aim of the Strategic plan is to promote improved place-based urban forest management over time, and to further the development of a healthier and more productive urban forest to support a healthier human community.

Urban Forest Management: A
Primer to Strategic Planning for
Municipalities is available as a free PDF
download at: <a href="https://ffgs.ifas.ufl.edu/urbanforestmanagementbook/">https://ffgs.ifas.ufl.edu/urbanforestmanagementbook/</a>.



# Register Now!

Register now for the 2023 Virtual Urban Forestry Institute being held Thursday & Friday, March 2-3, 2023. Don't miss this opportunity to network with urban forestry professionals, discuss the latest research and practices in Florida and nationally & earn CEUs. Sponsor and exhibitor opportunities are also offered. This year's theme will

focus on "Trees for Resilient Communities" and the program will include talks on how to increase the resilience of the human and non-human parts of the urban forest.

# **DEFENDING OUR COMMUNITIES FROM WILDFIRE**

Submitted by John Holzaepfel, Principal/Consulting Forester, Natural Resources Planning Services (NRPS) Charlie Marcus, Urban Forestry Manager, Legacy Arborist Services (a division of NRPS)

Florida has a diverse array of natural vegetative communities. Fire is a natural ecological process in several of these vegetative types where lightning & indigenous human-set fires often spread across large swaths of the historic, undeveloped Florida landscape. While we can attempt to exclude fire from these natural communities, wildfires can still occur. Prescribed fires set under the right circumstances, by contrast, provide a critical tool in managing fire-dependent ecosystems. These fires, along with mechanical/chemical wildfire mitigation treatments, can eventually create fire adapted communities that can withstand a wildfire with much less threat to life or property.

Problems arise when fire is excluded for too many years, especially near developed communities in what is called the *Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI)*. Wildfires in the WUI place humans and nearby structures in danger. These fires also adversely impact human health through reduced air quality. Smoke from fires obscures visibility on roads and highways, contributing to accidents. Wildlife populations, recreational areas, and municipal infrastructure including electrical utilities can also be impacted.

Human-caused wildfires remain as the leading identifiable cause of wildfire in Florida. Lightning strikes, however, continue to start a significant number of wildfires. For Calendar Year 2020, the Florida Forest Service reports that lightning caused 19% of Florida's identifiable wildfires. These fires, however, account for 31% of the acreage burned during this period. That's because they tend to ignite in more isolated areas with heavier fuels and they often threaten developments in WUI areas.

Fuel loads that have accumulated in the WUI often make prescribed burning too dangerous to employ. This means that a comprehensive WUI fire management strategy should also include mechanical and chemical treatments to reduce fuel loads. This strategy should also include providing adequate escape routes, having adequate people and equipment available on



short notice to protect structures, creating defensible space and buffer areas, and establishing wildfire warning systems for residents. Education of local residents is the key to creating an effective WUI strategy.

The needs of each community that resides within a WUI are unique. Therefore, communities should have their own Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP). State and federal monies are now available for communities in the wildland-urban interface to reduce the risk of wildfire to communities through planning, education, and fuel mitigation treatments. One current federal government program is funded by the United States Forest Service (USFS) under the auspices of the Community Wildfire Defense Grant (CWDG). Communities including counties, Indian tribes, municipalities, and homeowner's associations may apply for funding. Low-income communities, those "impacted by severe disaster in the past ten years" (e.g., wildfires or hurricanes), and/or those with "high/very high wildfire hazard" receive the highest consideration for receiving these grants.

A CWDG can provide funding for both developing plans and implementing projects listed in the CWPP if the plan is less than

ten years old. The desired outcomes include the following:

- Restoring & maintaining landscapes that are resilient when fire related disturbances occur.
- Creating fire adapted communities that can withstand a wildfire without loss of life or property
- Improving wildfire response and encouraging safe, effective, and efficient risk-based wildfire management decisions

Information about these grants can be found at the following link: USDA-FS-2022-CWDG-SGSF. If a community has in-house expertise, they could apply for the grant and compose their own CWPP. If not, they can seek professional assistance from sources such as forestry consultants with wildfire expertise. These consultants often began their careers in wildfire management positions with the Florida Forest Service (FFS) where they received comprehensive wildfire management training including several weeks of wildland and structural fire training as well as training in prescribed burning. Several community urban foresters also began their careers in this way and can provide this expertise to their communities.



# **OUR TEAM**

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# STUMP THE FORESTER



QUESTION: What is a resilient urban forest?

ANSWER: Recent storms, changing climate, regulatory, and political trends make for a hard road to easy street in our attempt to establish resilient urban forests.

Florida's wealth of abundant wetlands, riparian zones, flood plains, waterways, coastal shorelines, and low-lying, flat topography, make us most vulnerable to long-range threats of sea level rise and rising temperatures. Adverse impacts are

compounded by the increase of human populations; rapid development; loss of natural habitats; canopy loss; hard-scaped storm water projects; limited, ill-fated projects; incomplete sustainable designs; competitive funding; and a challenged green industry workforce.

A resilient urban forest is one in which the built-in defense mechanisms are not repeatedly overwhelmed by outside stresses or shocks. A resilient urban forest can get hit, yet recover, remain stable, and beneficial. Resilient urban forests have an ability to resist, prevent, absorb, recover from, and adapt to chronic stresses and acute shocks such as hurricanes and high intensity storms; storm surge flooding; nuisance flooding; aging canopy; extreme heat; wildfires; spreading diseases; pests; rapid, incompatible land use development; and other detrimental events.

Trees are not defenseless. Trees and forests do have resilient attributes to combat environmental stresses and shocks. Anchoring root systems, stored energy, load-bearing strength, branch elasticity,

tension and compression wood, protective bark, and compartmentalization processes provide protection against adversity. Urban forests also have external defenses such as stand dynamics and accommodating natural ecosystems. Even so, a resilient urban forest relies on more than a tree's own self defense mechanisms.

Rocky Balboa's quote from an iconic film series says something about resilience. "The world is not all sunshine and rainbows... You, me, or nobody is going to hit as hard as life; but it aint about how hard you hit. It's about how hard you can get hit and keep moving forward; it's about how much you can take and keep moving forward." Now that's resilience; or at least a demonstration of it.

But resilience is more than simply being tough and relying on one's own strength. The fighter doesn't enter the ring blindly. There were prior preparations and training. Experienced fighters know the ropes when





Stump the Forester, continued from page 6.

they enter the ring. There are people in his corner. There were previous fights. There are fans, sponsors, and a strategy. Now that's resilience.

Resiliency is more than an ability to get hit and bounce back. Resiliency is looking

at long-term forecast models and preparing action plans and preparations based on sound projections. Resiliency is about having an array of tree-care professionals

"Resiliency is more than an ability to get hit and bounce back."

and industry experts in your corner. It's about best management practices; on-going research; tree protective ordinances and policies; and tree advocacy efforts in place before the bell rings and the fight takes place.

The urban forest community must adopt a proactive approach to resilient planning and implementation. Management objectives

must include the protection of urban forests assets – to include risk and vulnerability assessments; preparations to accommodate inevitable impacts; and perhaps a managed retreat from vulnerable locations, conditions, and policies.

A resilient urban forest is one where management strategies provide a holistic approach to achieve the fullest benefit. Remediating or protecting one property at a time doesn't get

the job done – and can make things worse for adjoining properties and habitats. An integrated approach will require diverse and creative funding strategies to enhance and diversify revenues and investments. Resiliency plans are good for business. Resiliency plans and preparations can impact the financial, credit, and insurance liabilities levied against cities and municipalities.

Urban forests are often an overlooked solution for the challenges associated with extreme weather and other environmental threats. Resiliency will require a green-living infrastructure as part of a nature-bases design. Nature-based solutions are not sole source, silver bullet solutions, but they have a big role to play in a layered resiliency plan.

It's a hard road to easy street, but if we are facing the right direction we must stay in the fight and keep walking forward.

Answer Provided by Joe Anderson, JEA Utility Forester, ISA Certified Arborist, FUFC Board Member



# Tree of Quarter

# **RED BUCKEYE**

Aesculus pavia, L.

Submitted by David A. Fox, PhD, Lecturer, University of Florida, School of Forest, Fisheries, and Geomatic Sciences, Gainesville, Florida.



#### **Brief Intro:**

If you travel or live along Florida's I-75 corridor, eventually you will meet an Ohio native (full disclosure: I am one). One Florida tree that might give a transplanted midwesterner a reminder of home, minus the cold snowy winters, is the red buckeye. This small tree is not the same species as that which gives the Buckeye state its name, but it does possess the familiar palmately compound leaf and glossy brown nut (a "useless nut", some might say, of Buckeyes).

#### Range and Habitat:

The red buckeye, also known as Georgia Buckeye, has its native range from southern Illinois to northern Florida and west to Texas (Plant Hardiness Zones 6A through 9A). In Florida it can be found across the panhandle then south to Lake County in ravines, hammocks, and mesic pine flatwoods. Typically found in the wild as a solitary mid-story small tree or shrub, red buckeye also does well in an urban garden setting if care is taken to provide a rich moist soil and partial or filtered shade.

#### Size and Form:

Red buckeye can attain a mature height between 15 and 25 feet in natural settings but more commonly grows to 10 to 15 feet when planted in the built environment. The crown can be spreading or upright, depending on sunlight availability and surrounding space. This is an excellent tree for planting in smaller root spaces or near overhead utilities in acid moist, but not saturated, soils.

#### Leaves:

As previously mentioned, the leaves are palmately compound, consisting of 5 elliptic leaflets having serrated margins, 5 to 7 inches long. If that distinguishing characteristic is not enough to set the red buckeye apart from other plants, the leaves are oppositely arranged on the stem, a somewhat rare combination in the plant kingdom (palmately compound and opposite leaves). Leaflets are dark green above and pale green below, palmately

arranged around a 3- to 8-inch-long petiole. Being deciduous, red buckeye is one of the first trees to quickly drop their leaves in late August to mid-September; exhibiting little color change; leaves seem to be 'here today, gone tomorrow.'

#### Bark and Twigs:

The bark is somewhat smooth, light gray, and unremarkable. The brown twigs typically bear twin large conspicuous pointed buds at the tips. When bare of foliage in the winter, the light gray branches are showy in sunny locations.

#### Flowers and Fruit:

The 8- to 10-inch-long panicles of bright red flowers are what give the red buckeye part of its name and landscaping interest. Hummingbirds and butterflies are also attracted to this early springtime show of color, being an early source of nectar.

continues on page 9.







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# TREES FOR RESILIENT UTILITIES

Submitted by Joe Anderson – Utility Forester, ISA certified arborist

Utility is the state of being useful, profitable, or beneficial. Built environments are a complex system of amenities and services that are, indeed, useful, profitable, and beneficial. They don't simply provide for a quality of life; utilities are a piece to a complex puzzle of an essential way of life. Utility providers are charged with delivering safe, reliable, and compatible utilities, such as power, water, wastewater, and communication services. For resilient utilities, providers must have strategies and programs in place that mitigate conflicts that occur with other components and functions that compliment and complete the basic design of streets, rights-of-way, and utility corridors - to include trees.

This is a large part of what utility arboriculture is all about. Utility arboriculture is about trees for resilient utilities. At first glance, the term "utility arboriculture" may seem like a contradiction of terms – an apparent oxymoron not unlike the term "urban forestry." There is no incompatibility here. Not only can trees and utilities coexist, but they must also coincide with all other forms of infrastructure.

By definition – the state of being useful, profitable, or beneficial - we would be correct to identify trees and other natural systems as valued utilities within the framework of a city's working infrastructure. Understanding the essential contributions that trees provide - such as shade; air and water filtration; heat island abatement; storm water control; carbon sequestration; soil stabilization; aesthetics; recreational asset; wildlife habitat;

natural buffers; and more – will enable communities, neighborhoods, and urban centers to find value in the benefits and usefulness of urban forests.

Utility arboriculture is balancing safe and reliable utility service with sustainable and resilient tree canopies. It establishes a balance between the gray infrastructure that we build and the green infrastructure that nature provides. Most urgently, utility arborists and vegetative management professionals are actively providing solutions to conflicts between two separate energy distribution systems - a built electrical energy distribution system and the biological chemical energy distribution system of trees. Both systems have trunk lines, branches, laterals, switches, transformers, and both are grounded. Chemical energy distribution feeds twigs, buds, fruits, and leaves. Electrical energy distribution feeds residences, businesses, and public services. Both have essential, clear pathways to distribute energy - the xylem & phloem and the city rights-ofways. The management objectives are the same – keep the pathways open, energy flowing, and direct the energy for safe distribution.

Ironically, the Best Management Practices (BMP) of utility arboriculture parallel the BMP recommended during the recent COVID experience. As with the virus, utilities are often unseen and potentially dangerous. Both require personal protection protocols and insulating equipment. Both require a recommended minimal approach distance (or social distancing); and both

required a field of trained, experienced professionals to mitigate and manage exposure.

Utility arboriculture is a highly specialized form of arboriculture. Sometimes the added risk and hazards of utilities will require practices outside the scope of traditional landscape, or arboricultural guidelines. Sometimes, but most often utility arboricultural is aligned with traditional arboricultural concepts, such as tree worker safety; tree biology; tree risk & vulnerability assessment and abatement; pruning objectives; tree selection; proper installation and establishment of trees; and plant health care. BMP include line clearance qualifications, insulated equipment, routine pruning cycles, directional pruning; and collaboration with industry professionals (utility, municipal, public & private tree-care professionals; landscape architects; allied affiliations; consultants; educators; and tree advocates). Generally, within utility arboriculture, a healthy tree, and a managed forest canopy provides a lower liability and higher resilience for utility services. Integrated vegetation management of utility corridors, rights-of-ways, and streetscapes require careful planning, design, and management to achieve their full economic, social, and ecological potential.

As a piece of a larger urban forestry puzzle, utility arboriculture has its boundaries and peculiar shapes. Utility arboriculture must fit into a larger narrative of urban forestry with its many parts – each with their peculiar shape. There are municipal pieces; public & private pieces; political; social; cultural; recreational; business; local; state; and federal pieces. There are regulatory pieces; personal; aesthetic; biological; financial; compatible; and incompatible pieces.

Utility arboriculture is about trees for resilient utilities. Utility arboriculture requires a longer-term perspective that puts forest management within the broader context of the city's infrastructure. It provides significant contributions to the sustainable development, economic viability, resiliency, and livability of cities.



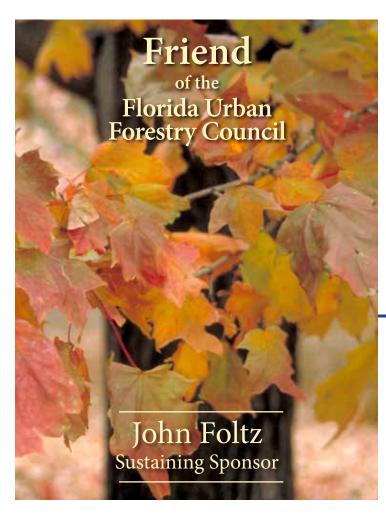
# MEMBER PROFILE

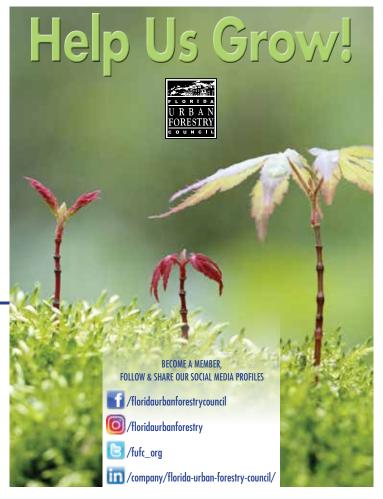
### FUFC Membership Spotlight Carolyn Cheatham Rhodes

Meet our 2023 FUFC President. Carolyn works for the Urban Forestry & Landscape Services section of Pinellas County Public Works. As an Urban Forester, Carolyn manages all assets of the urban forest for the benefits and services they provide. Carolyn has in-depth experience as a researcher collecting and analyzing forest inventory data with the University of Florida and the University of South Florida. Carolyn joined the FUFC to collaborate with a broad spectrum of professions and practitioners working within Florida's urban forest community.

Carolyn admits that urban forestry is not rocket science – it's harder. Hard, but worthwhile. Carolyn encourages us to reach for the stars as we push forward together.







# 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.







#### **FUFC PAST PRESIDENTS**

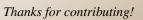
TOTCTASTTRESIDENTS	
Erin Givens	(2022)
Joe Anderson	(2020-2021)
John Harris	(2018-2019)
Linda Seufert	(2016-2017)
Justin Freedman	
Ken Lacasse	(2014)
Elizabeth Harkey	(2013)
Mary Lou Hildreth	
Jerry Renick	(2011)
John Holzaepfel	(2010)
Earline Luhrman	
Celeste White	
Mike Robinson	(2004-2005)
Mike Greenstein	(2002-2003)
Howard Jeffries	
Anna Dooley	
Julie Iooss	
Mike Conner	(1998)
John Tamsberg	(1996-1997)
Norm Easey	
Jeffrey Siegel	(1994)
Andy Kittsley	(1993)
Bill Reese	
Ed Gilman	(1991)
Steve Graham	(1990)

# **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 <a href="mailto:andejs@jea.com">andejs@jea.com</a>.



#### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

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# 2022 FUFC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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**Erin Givens** President Appointed Position Executive Officer/ Advisory Orlando Utilities Commission



**Carolyn Cheatham** Rhodes President Elect Executive Officer/ Advisory Pinellas County



Darryl Richard Vice President Executive Officer/ Advisory Appointed Position FDOT - District One



John Snow Secretary Executive Officer/ Member-At-Large Tree Check Up, LLC



Steve Edgar Treasurer Executive Officer Appointed - SAF City of Port Orange



Joe Anderson Immediate Past President Executive Officer/ Advisory JEA

#### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

Jen Ahearn-Koch, Appointed Position Florida League of Cities

Tallahassee

Elise Cassie, Elected Position Member-at-Large FL Project Learning Tree Gainesville

Brian Dick, Appointed Position ASLA/FL Chapter City of Lakeland

David Fox, Elected Position Member-at-Large University of Florida – SFFGS Gainesville

Justin Freedman, Appointed Position FL Chapter ISA Resource Environmental Solutions Miami Beach

Alex Hancock, Appointed Position Advisory Member PlanIt Geo St. Petersburg

John Harris, Appointed Position **FNGLA** Earth Advisors, Inc. South Florida

Omar Leon, Elected Position Member-At-Large City of Cape Coral Arborist

William "Bill" Lester, Appointed Position Cooperative Extension Service Hernando County Extension Office

Matt Shipley, Elected Position Tree Advocate Community Greening

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

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

Brian Voelker, Elected Position Private Arborist Chen Moore & Associates Fort Lauderdale

William Liner

Liaison – Florida Forest Service

**Matt Kennard** 

Liaison – Florida Forest Service

Vacancy - Elected Position **Utility Arborist** 

Vacancy, Appointed Position Advisory Member

Dr. Deborah Hilbert FUFC Executive Director

**Graphic Design** Sinclair Design Studio