



# The Council Quarterly

Quarterly Newsletter of the Florida Urban Forestry Council

2023 Issue Two

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## NEW URBAN FORESTRY COORDINATOR JOINS THE FLORIDA FOREST SERVICE

Submitted by Todd Little, Urban Forestry Coordinator, Florida Forest Service



It is my honor to serve as the Urban Forestry Coordinator with the Florida Forest Service (FFS). I will be interacting quite a bit with the Florida Urban Forestry Council (FUFC). In this way, I'll also be connecting with each of you, the members who make this council so great. The FFS Urban Forestry Coordinator provides a strong resource for communities to come to with urban forestry needs and concerns. I write this article not just to introduce myself, but also to remind you about several programs and resources we have available throughout the FFS.

Of particular interest to many of you are the Tree City USA and other associated Arbor Day Foundation programs, such as Tree

Line USA, Tree Campus Higher Education, and the Tree City Growth Awards. Florida has a strong showing in all these programs each year with over 163 Tree City USA communities, 15 Tree Campus Higher Education schools, and eight Tree Line USA utilities. I hope Florida's future will have more organizations qualify for these recognitions. There is always room for growth, and I would love to see every municipality, utility, campus, and healthcare facility apply for these programs. The application period for 2023 should open around September. It is never too early to begin working on your community's application. Florida has some of the best urban forestry programs in the nation and I would love to see these programs get the recognition they deserve.

Applications for several of the Arbor Day Foundation programs come through FFS for review and our team members are well-versed in the requirements of each program. They can help with any questions you have. Along with myself, there are 38 county foresters distributed throughout the state. As industry experts, County Foresters available to help with both traditional and urban forestry matters, such as the Arbor Day Foundation recognition programs, funding support, management planning, or overall guidance surrounding best management practices. You can find a listing

of county foresters at [www.FDACS.gov/CountyForester](http://www.FDACS.gov/CountyForester). I'd recommend saving your local county forester's contact information as a great resource to help whenever you have concerns surrounding urban forestry, and especially surrounding programs provided by FFS.

Beyond supporting Arbor Day Foundation's programs, the FFS also provides direct support for communities in their celebration of Arbor Day. County foresters have experience and resources to help community events such as tree giveaways, plantings, or community tree dedication ceremonies. Funds are limited in how they can be used, but if you have an Arbor Day idea reach out

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Greetings all,

Arbor Day holds a special place in our hearts as we celebrate the importance of tree planting and care. In Florida, this day takes on added significance due to the unique challenges we face. Our state's rapid urbanization, population growth, and development have placed immense pressure on our urban forests, threatening the essential ecological, social, and economic benefits they provide. Celebrating Arbor Day in Florida is an opportunity to recognize and address these challenges by fostering a renewed commitment to protecting and expanding urban forests.

Arbor Day can also provide us with a platform to raise awareness about urban forestry issues as environmental justice. It is important to acknowledge that tree canopy coverage and access to green spaces are not evenly distributed among communities. Disadvantaged neighborhoods, often low-income and minority communities, often experience lower tree canopy coverage and fewer ecosystem benefits. Arbor Day becomes our call to action to raise awareness about environmental justice and promote equity in urban forestry. How else can we engage, educate, advocate, and build resilience in our practices and communities?

Progress starts with engaging local communities, particularly underserved areas. Urban forestry is as much about working with people as it is working with trees. By collaborating with residents, community organizations, and local leaders, we can identify needs, understand cultural perspectives, and develop inclusive urban forestry initiatives. This collaborative approach builds trust, fosters community ownership, and instills pride and stewardship over trees and green spaces.

Education and outreach play a crucial role in empowering all communities. We must raise awareness about the multitude of benefits that urban forests bring and equip our communities with the knowledge and tools to participate in tree planting and care. By conducting workshops, educational programs, and forming partnerships with schools, we can instill environmental responsibility and inspire future generations to become passionate and advocates for urban forestry.

Advocacy for policy development is vital to achieve equitable distribution of trees and green spaces across neighborhoods. As urban forestry professionals, we can champion tree ordinances, protection policies, and seek out funding mechanisms, like urban forestry grant opportunities funded through the Inflation Reduction Act. These grants often prioritize tree planting initiatives in underserved communities. By integrating environmental justice considerations into urban planning and policy, we can ensure that the benefits of urban forests are shared by all.

Climate change and associated extreme weather pose added challenges to managing our urban forests and can place additional burdens on disadvantaged communities. We need innovative and sound strategies to mitigate the urban heat island effect, enhance tree species diversity, and promote resilient tree planting practices. By preparing our urban forests to withstand the impacts of climate change, we ensure their long-term health and maximize the benefits they provide to all our communities.

As we celebrate Arbor Day every day, let us remember the invaluable role of trees in shaping our environment, health, and well-being. By embracing environmental justice principles and adopting an ecosystem approach to urban forestry, we can create inclusive and resilient urban environments for Floridians. Let us nurture a deep-rooted commitment to sustainable and equitable urban forestry, securing a greener and brighter future for generations to come.

*Regards,*

*Carolyn Cheatham Rhodes*  
FUFC President



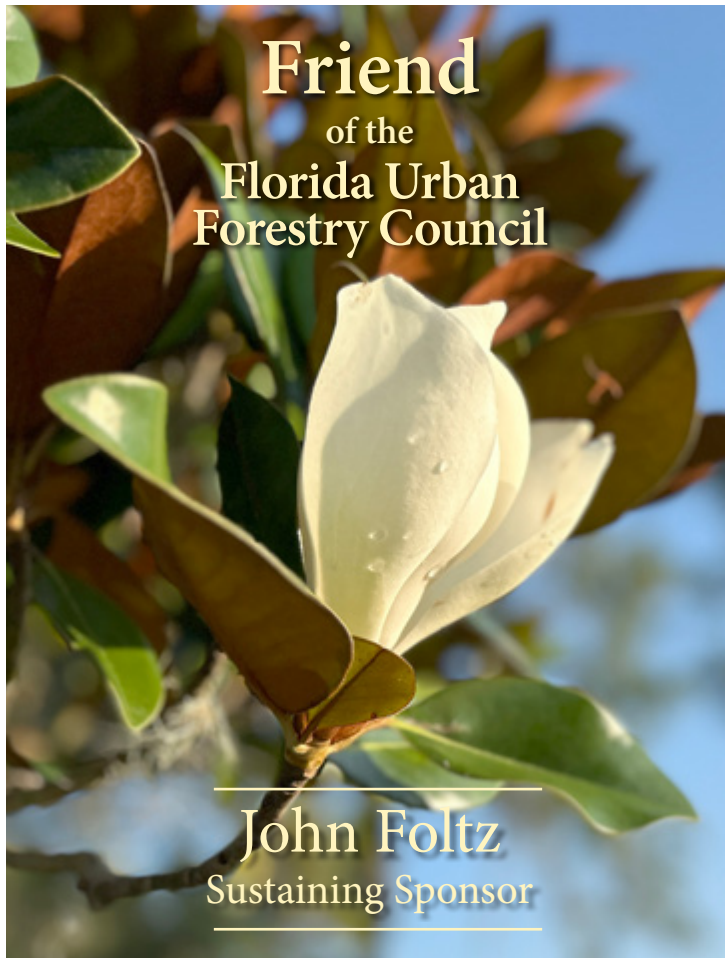


to your county forester and see what we can do for you!

We also administer an expanding grant program for urban forestry. In addition to the traditional grants offered by FFS, we will soon offer programs to meet the goals of Florida's State Forest Action Plan and

the recent Inflation Reduction Act. These grant programs are still developing and will require more time before implementation. This is a great opportunity for urban forestry programs to deepen their roots and extend their branches- establishing urban forestry as a long-term commitment to Florida's future.

I'm looking forward to working with all of you. I'm grateful for the upcoming opportunities to assist you. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me or your county forester directly. We are all here to help. I'm excited to see what the future brings to the Florida Urban Forestry Council and Florida's urban forestry programs.



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# ARBOR DAY FOUNDATION TREE-USA PROGRAMS

Submitted by the Communications Committee



The Arbor Day Foundation promotes a suite of nationwide tree programs including, but not limited to, *Tree City USA*<sup>®</sup>, *Tree Line USA*<sup>®</sup>, *Tree Campus K-12*<sup>SM</sup>, *Tree Campus Higher Education*<sup>SM</sup>, and *Tree Cities of the World*<sup>TM</sup>. Details about the Arbor Day Foundation programs can be found at <https://arborday.org>. The qualifying participants may be operating in your neck of the woods. These tree-mendous organizations may have the resources, expertise, and incentive to collaborate with local tree-related interests and initiatives when fulfilling their respective program requirements. Do you have a local interest in planting and protecting trees? Perhaps you should be reaching out to the participants of these programs? You may each have the solutions to fulfil one another's needs.



## Tree City USA<sup>®</sup>

Tree City USA<sup>®</sup> program provides the framework necessary for communities to manage and expand their public trees. The program's four core urban forestry management standards include:

- (1) an established tree board or department;
- (2) an existing tree ordinance;
- (3) an urban forestry budget; and
- (4) an Arbor Day observance.

Tree City USA<sup>®</sup> communities in Florida can be found at <https://arborday.org/programs/treecityusa/#recognizedSection> (click on the State of Florida on the map).



## Tree Line USA<sup>®</sup>

The Tree Line USA<sup>®</sup> program recognizes the best practices in public and private utility arboriculture and demonstrating how trees and utilities can co-exist for the benefit of communities and citizens. The Arbor Day Foundation collaborates with the National Association of State Foresters on this initiative. The program's five, core utility arboricultural standards include:

- (1) quality tree care;
- (2) annual worker training;
- (3) tree planting and public education;
- (4) tree-based energy conservation program; and
- (5) an Arbor Day observance.

Tree Line USA<sup>®</sup> utilities in Florida can be found at <https://arborday.org/programs/treelineusa/directory.cfm>.



## Tree Campus K-12<sup>SM</sup>

The Tree Campus K-12<sup>SM</sup> program inspires the next generation of tree stewards through experiences that bring the benefits of trees to life inside and outside the classroom. The program is in collaboration with Project Learning Tree (PLT) and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI). The program encourages schools to create purposeful opportunities for students to interact with trees. The four program requirement goals include:

- (1) a tree campus team;
- (2) a tree-related education plan;
- (3) a hands-on experience; and
- (4) an Arbor Day observance.

Examples and case studies can be found at, <https://arborday.org/programs/tree-campus-k-12/case-studies/index.cfm>.



## Tree Campus Higher Education<sup>SM</sup>

The Tree Campus Higher Education<sup>SM</sup> program helps two and four-year accredited colleges and universities establish and sustain healthy trees and student involvement on campuses. The five core standards include:

- (1) an existing campus tree advisory committee;
- (2) a campus tree care plan;
- (3) a campus tree budget, or dedicated expenditures;
- (4) an Arbor Day observance; and
- (5) a service-learning project.

Tree Campus Higher Education<sup>SM</sup> schools can be found at <https://arborday.org/programs/tree-campus-higher-education/#recognizedSection>. (click on the State of Florida on the map).



## Tree Cities of the World<sup>TM</sup>

The Tree Cities of the World<sup>TM</sup> program is an international effort to recognize cities and towns committed to ensuring that urban forests and trees are properly maintained, sustainably managed, and duly celebrated. The five core standard requirements include:

- (1) designated tree care responsibilities;
- (2) a set of governing rules for the management of tree and forest resources;
- (3) an updated tree-related inventory;
- (4) allocated resource for the management of trees; and
- (5) an annual celebration of trees.

See who is recognized at <https://treecitiesoftheworld.org/directory.cfm>.

# STUMP THE FORESTER

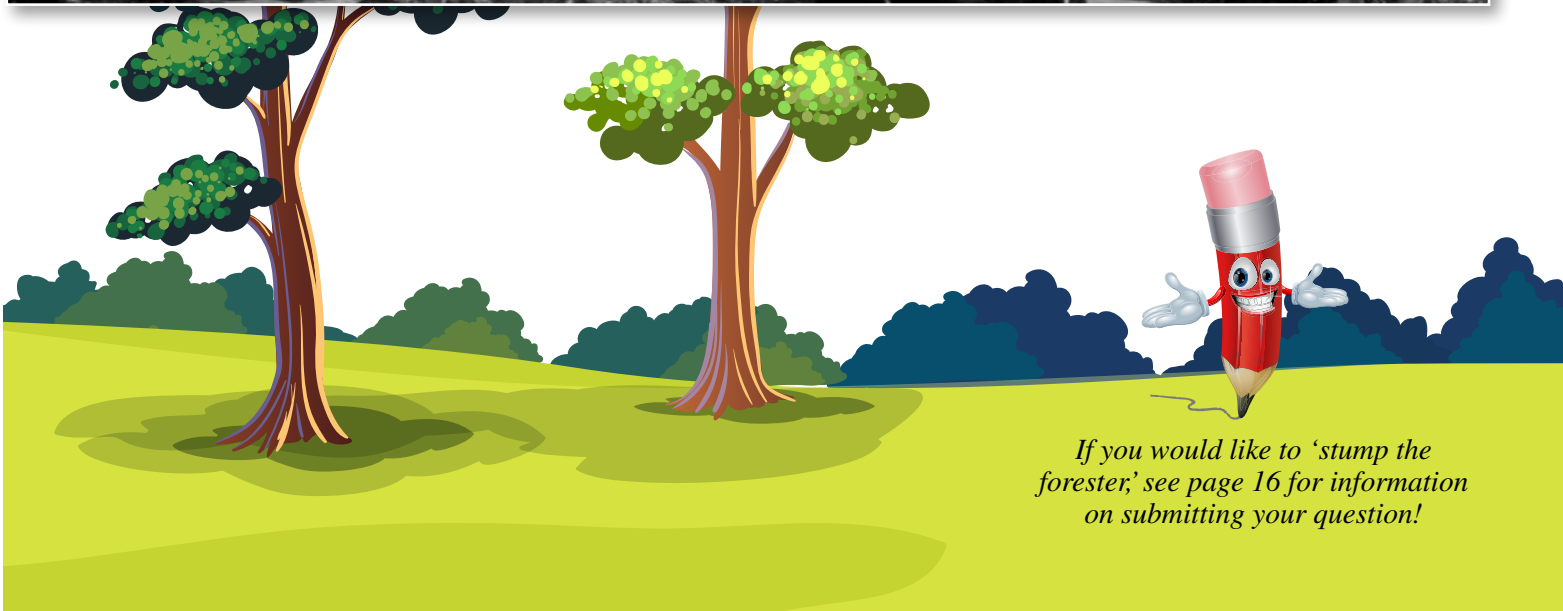
**QUESTION:** Can you tell us about the history of Arbor Day?

**ANSWER:** Arbor Day is a holiday that celebrates the tree – to include the planting, care, and stewardship of trees. The word *arbor* is derived from the Latin word “tree.” Therefore, Arbor Day translates to “tree” day. *Sylvan Day* was one of the early suggested names for the holiday – the celebration of forests. The Arbor Day title was selected because it recognizes the tree – all trees. Tree celebrations branch out across the globe. The holiday has strong roots in the United States where National Arbor Day is celebrated on the last Friday in April. State Arbor Days are also celebrated on different dates based on the best tree planting season of a given

area. Hawaii for example celebrates Arbor Day at the start of the island’s rainy season in November.

In the U.S. early Arbor Day credits are given to Nebraska City, Nebraska, April 10, 1872. An estimated one million trees were planted during the inaugural day. Founding credits go to Julius Sterling Morton, a member of Nebraska’s State Board of Agriculture. Morton was a true pioneer. He moved to Nebraska in 1854 – 13 years before the territory gained statehood in 1867. Morton was a determined tree advocate and the editor for the *Nebraska City News*. The newspaper was a perfect platform to promote and encourage all Nebraskans to plant and appreciate trees.

Ten years later, in 1882, despite the success of Morton’s Arbor Day in Nebraska, Kansas and Minnesota, the claim to Arbor Day was up for grabs. Cincinnati, Ohio, under the leadership of John Bradley Peaslee – city superintendent of schools, was moving to create Ohio’s first “tree” holiday dedicated to planting and honoring trees. Peaslee was as passionate about literature as he was about trees. His early endeavors included the creation of memorial groves where school children planted trees dedicated to American authors. Peaslee’s reinvention of Arbor Day gained momentum in cities, towns, and villages. In 1884 Peaslee was determined to solidify his claim to the new school-style Arbor Day, combining literature and trees, with a *Trees and*



*If you would like to ‘stump the forester,’ see page 16 for information on submitting your question!*

*Tree-Planting* booklet – literary antidotes and practical tips about trees. Nebraska was not willing to give up its claim to the growing momentum of Arbor Day. In 1885 Arbor Day became sanctioned as a Nebraska holiday. In 1888 Nebraska honored J. Sterling Morton as the originator of Arbor Day. By this time, Arbor Day became a widely celebrated and promoted nationwide. During the same period, Agriculturalist Birdsey Northrop promoted the concept of Arbor Day across Europe, Canada, Australia, and Japan. In Arbor Day history, Morton – a prosperous railroad attorney, and founder of the Morton Salt Company – prevailed as the founder of Arbor Day. The Arbor Day Foundation was formed in 1972

in celebration of the 100th anniversary of Arbor Day, to carry out the promotion of a “tree planter’s” holiday.

By 1920, 45 U.S. states and territories celebrated an Arbor Day. However, Arbor Day didn’t become a National holiday until April 24, 1970 with the Presidential proclamation 3980. The designation was in line with other pro-environmental actions of the 1970’s – to include the creation of the Clean Air Act, Endangered Species Act, and the National Environmental Protection Act.

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*“The Arbor Day Foundation was formed in 1972 in celebration of the 100th anniversary of Arbor Day, to carry out the promotion of a “tree planter’s” holiday.”*

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The first seeds of an Arbor Day can date back to any point in history where a tree was planted and celebrated. A

humble granite marker in the village of Mondonedo, Spain, notes an arbor festival as early as 1594. In 1805, in the Spanish village of Vilanueva de la Sierra, don Juan Abern Samtres – a local priest convinced of the importance of trees for natural beauty, environmental health, and cultural values – promoted a tree festival.

Trees are worth planting and celebrating. To learn more about Arbor Day events and activities contact the Arbor Day Foundation, a local tree advocacy group, arboretum, urban forester, municipal arborist, or FFS County forester.

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





# Tree of the Quarter

**WILD TAMARIND**  
*(Lysiloma latisiliquum)*

Submitted by Brian Voelker – Senior Env. Scientist, Chen Moore & Associates



## Brief Intro:

Wild tamarind is native to South Florida and is found in rockland hammocks in Monroe and Miami-Dade counties. In Monroe County, it is very rare and scattered south of Windley Key and absent from most of the middle and lower Keys. In Miami-Dade County, it is limited to an area from Long Pine Key in Everglades National Park northeast along the Miami Rock Ridge to about Cutler Ridge, then present in broken patches at Brickell Hammock south of the Miami River. The tree is also native to the West Indies, Mexico and Central America, where it is harvested from the wild for its wood, which is used locally. It is also cultivated in agroforestry systems in these areas.

## Habitat/Environment:

Wild tamarind grows best in full sun to partial shade, and in well drained clay, sand, or loam soils (alkaline to acidic). This species displays high tolerances to drought, aerosol salt, and wind, and grows in USDA hardiness zones 10B through 11.

## Form:

Wild tamarind grows moderately fast, and at maturity can reach 30 to 60 feet tall and up to 50 feet wide, with a vase-shaped, weeping crown. Co-dominant stems form very low on the trunk without proper pruning and training, and branches will droop toward the ground. Lower branches should be removed to provide overhead clearance in park or sidewalk settings. Major branches often develop embedded or included bark as they grow at the same rate as the trunk. They often grow to about the same size as the trunk. This does not appear to be a problem on small trees but could encourage branch breakage as the tree grows older. Try to keep the major branches from growing larger than about two-thirds the diameter of the trunk.

## Leaves:

Leaves are alternate, bipinnately compound. Primary leaflets are in pairs of three to five and contain 10 to 20 pairs of secondary leaflets. The leaves are dark green on top and lighter underneath and are obovate in shape, with pinnate venation. Leaf blades are four to eight inches long, with secondary leaflets at one half inch in length.



## Bark:

The trunk is light gray to whitish and smooth, becoming light to dark brown and breaking into plate-like scales with age.

## Flowers:

The flowers are white in color, mildly fragrant, and emerge in dense clusters on half inch wide globular heads; each head is attached to a one to two inches long stalk and emerges from leaf axils in groups of three.

## Fruits:

The fruits consist of flat, often somewhat twisted three to eight inches long pods with dry, hard outer surfaces. The pods turn from green to brown at maturity, then the outer surface flakes off to reveal a tan color. The pods do not attract wildlife, and the fruit/leaves are not a litter problem.



**Uses:**

Developing into a more open tree with age, Wild Tamarind makes an ideal shade, park, or seaside planting and is commonly used as a street tree in South Florida.

**Little Know Facts:**

The foliage is the larval food for the cassius blue, large orange sulphur and the mimosa yellow butterflies. Female large orange sulphur butterflies are often seen hovering around this tree as they look for new leaves to lay their eggs on.





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# PROCLAMATION 3980 – NATIONAL ARBOR DAY

Our land has been blessed with a plentiful number and variety of trees. They have beautified our landscape, added a touch of nature to our towns and cities, provided the locale where people could find wholesome recreation, and served as one of the major building blocks in the development of this Nation.

At a time when we as a people are becoming more concerned with the quality of our environment, it is fitting that we give more attention to the planting

of trees in rural and urban communities. In crowded city streets or suburban shopping

centers they stand as things of beauty and as reminders of man's inseparable link with nature.

---

*“At a time when we as a people are becoming more concerned with the quality of our environment, it is fitting that we give more attention to the planting of trees in rural and urban communities.”*

---

The Congress, in order to emphasize the importance of this natural resource to our well being, has by House Joint Resolution 251 requested the President to issue a proclamation designating the last Friday of April 1970 as National Arbor Day, and calling upon the people of the United States to observe such day with appropriate ceremonies

*Now, Therefore, I, Richard Nixon, President of the United States of America, do hereby designate Friday, April 24, 1970, as National Arbor Day, and I call upon the people of the United States to observe that day with ceremonies and activities designed to direct public attention and involvement in the planting of trees for the enjoyment of all.*

*In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-fourth day of April, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and seventy, and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred and ninety-fourth.*



RICHARD NIXON









# 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.





# Join Us

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

*New and renewed members through June 5, 2023. Please let us know if we fail to mention your name.*

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- 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.)
- Student @ \$10.00**  
(Student membership is granted to anyone who is actively enrolled as a full-time student and who is considering pursuing a career in Urban Forestry.)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Firm: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

FAX: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

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

Area of interest: \_\_\_\_\_



FLORIDA URBAN FORESTRY COUNCIL  
200 2nd Ave. South #130  
St. Petersburg, FL 33701-4313

For more information, please contact the Florida Urban Forestry Council:

E-Mail: [info@fufc.org](mailto:info@fufc.org)  
Website: [www.fufc.org](http://www.fufc.org)  
Phone: (727) 475-5900  
Fax: (727) 565-2981

## 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, FUFUC newsletter editor, at [andejs@jea.com](mailto:andejs@jea.com).

*Thanks for contributing!*

## 2023 FUFUC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

### OFFICERS:



**Carolyn Cheatham Rhodes**  
*President*  
Appointed Position  
Executive Officer/  
Advisory



**Darryl Richard**  
*President Elect*  
Executive Officer/  
Advisory  
FDOT - District One



**John Snow**  
*Vice President*  
Executive Officer/  
Advisory  
Appointed Position  
Tree Check Up, LLC



**John Rohan**  
*Secretary*  
Elected Position/Member-  
At-Large  
Davey Resource Group



**David Fox**  
*Treasurer*  
Executive Officer/  
Member-at-Large  
University of Florida -  
SFFGS



**Erin Givens**  
*Immediate Past President*  
Executive Officer/  
Advisory  
Orlando Utilities  
Commission

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

**Jen Ahearn-Koch**, *Appointed Position*  
Advisory  
Florida League of Cities  
Tallahassee

**Stefano Alvernia**, *Appointed Position*  
Advisory  
Winter Park

**Joe Anderson**, *Elected Position*  
Utility Forester  
Jacksonville

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

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

**Lilian Dinkins**, *Appointed Position*  
Advisory  
Gainesville

**Steve Edgar**, *Appointed Position*  
FL SAF  
Port Orange

**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

**Dean Hay**, *Appointed Position*  
Advisory  
St. Petersburg

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

**William “Bill” Lester**, *Appointed Position*  
Cooperative Extension Service  
Hernando County Extension Office

**Will Moriarty**, *Elected Position*  
Tree Advocate  
T.R.E.E. Inc. Tampa Bay

**Mark Williams**, *Elected Position*  
City Arborist  
City of Fort Lauderdale

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

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

**Todd Little**  
*Liaison* – Florida Forest Service

**Matt Kennard**  
*Liaison* – Florida Forest Service

**Dr. Deborah Hilbert**  
*FUFUC Executive Director*