

The Council Quarterly

Quarterly Newsletter of the Florida Urban Forestry Council



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Five Practices for Resiliency, Preservation, and Expansion of a Successful Urban Tree Canopy

Submitted by Eric Muecke, City of Tampa Parks and Recreation Urban Forestry Manager, (Registered Forester, ISA Certified Arborist, TRAQ Qualified)

We are seeing it all over the news — diminishing urban canopies are being noted throughout the state. A simple Google search led me to headlines as:

- *"A Tree Grows in Tacoma, But Will It Be There In 10 Years?"* – The Urbanist
- *"\$1B will bring more city trees. But it'll take more than seedlings to grow urban forests."* – New Jersey Monitor
- *"Two-thirds of trees planted by city of Ann Arbor not thriving, study finds."* – Mlive.com

I have spent 30 years working in arboriculture developing and growing municipal forestry programs. My experience has revealed that planting trees is not enough. Over the years, I have determined that there are five good practices needed for resiliency, preservation, and expansion of a successful tree canopy.

Will planting trees along city streets spark the "green revolution" and canopy recovery that communities want and need? What is the solution? Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) grants? Planting programs? Tree giveaways? Yes, yes, and yes. But more is needed.

1. Private Property Plantings.

Aggressive planting in public spaces is required, but this only goes so far. Most of the planting space in a municipality is privately owned by people, businesses, or corporations. Property owners and developers must be engaged and encouraged to establish planting locations suitable for large-canopy species on private property.

For example, the 2021 City of Tampa Urban Tree Canopy Assessment indicates that only 4.5% of 5.8 million planting sites suitable for large canopy trees are on public property. That means 95.5% of potential large canopy tree planting sites are on private property. How many trees do you need to plant? The 2011 Canopy Assessment indicated that Tampa had 34.4% canopy cover. In 2021 the canopy dropped to 30%, a loss of 3,300 acres of canopy.

Using 2-inch caliper trees with a 6-foot spread, Tampa would need to plant 5.1 million trees today to replace that canopy loss immediately. Even if we take 20 years of growth into account, Tampa needs to plant 104,000 live oaks today to make up that canopy loss in 20 years (Peper, et al). We need more than just planting to achieve our goals.

2. Promote Tree Performance. Preserve trees with the most potential and promise. Often communities enact ordinances that are focused on saving large trees. Don't get me wrong, big, old trees are great, but saving only the biggest specimen trees means that you are at or near the maximum canopy for many of the trees. Or worse, saved a big, old tree just to have 1/3 of the canopy eventually removed to accommodate the second floor on the new house.

Large, mature trees that require large tree protection zones, are more likely to experience soil compaction/ root damage, and often suffer severe pruning to accommodate new structures. Smaller trees require a smaller tree protection zone and are more resilient than older trees.

Saving mid-size trees means that the canopy will expand in future years. Choose wisely.

3. Plan, Prune and Replace - a well-staffed and funded street/ park tree management program. Municipalities must lead by example. Are you ready if another round of IRA grants is announced? Street tree inventories are key to urban forest management and identifying potential planting sites. A map of existing planting locations within disadvantaged communities, and within the scope of the governmental "Justice40 Initiative," would go a long way to helping your grant application.

What does your urban forest management program look like? Pruning cycles increase resiliency and extend the life of all trees. A pruning cycle can help you identify insect and disease outbreaks in the early stage. Do you perform structural/training pruning on your small trees? Structural pruning every three years after planting addresses structural issues early, provides for future adequate street clearance, and determines the future resilience of the tree.

Finally, are you actively identifying and removing your dead and dying trees? Residents who experience the loss and cost of a large tree due to tree failure avoid planting large-canopy species as replacements. In the past four years, nearly 1,400 street trees have been planted by the Tree-mendous Tampa program. Crape myrtle, Japanese blueberry, tabebuia, and bottlebrush make up 78% of the trees requested by residents. Live oak accounts for just 6.2%. The tree management capacity of your urban forestry program has a tremendous effect on how residents view the benefits of trees, the associated risk, and the commitment of the municipality to the canopy.

4. Create Suitable Sites – Save or create the necessary space above and below ground to plant, establish, and maintain large canopy **species**.

Studies show that it takes 1,000 cubic feet of soil to grow a tree to 16-inch DBH (Jim Urban, 1992). There is also a space requirement for the mature tree canopy. Tampa loses the capacity for large canopy species during new construction in old neighborhoods. The single-story ranch or bungalow on a double lot is torn down for two new, lot-line-to-lot-line, multi-story houses. Tampa is not only losing the available rooting area, but we are losing the space to accommodate a large canopy, too.

Municipalities should develop planting guidelines to avoid infrastructure conflict, utility conflict, and prevent sight obstructions, all with a goal of establishing space for large canopy trees. Does your community actively work to establish suitable sites for large canopy trees?

5. A Unified Vision - a citywide vision of a healthy, resilient, and managed urban forest. This cannot fall to a single division, department, or civic organization. Within a municipality the effort must reach all city departments that are affected by, or have an influence over, the urban tree population. Public & private entities must plan for sites suitable for large canopy tree establishment and growth and share in that responsibility. Then we must go from "enforcing" to "educating and engaging" our residents, developers, and private property owners to make tree canopy goals part of their responsibilities, too.

Tree canopy resiliency, preservation, and expansion is the expectation of everyone. It is our responsibility as urban foresters, city arborists, or forestry managers to recognize, educate, discuss, and engage communities in these 5 practices.

SOURCES:

[Absorbent Soil Volumes Under Pavement for Rainwater Management and Healthy Tree Growth](#); James Urban, FASLA; Urban Trees + Soils, Annapolis, Maryland

[Central Florida Community Tree Guide: Benefits, Costs, and Strategic Planting](#); Paula J. Peper, E. Gregory McPherson, James R. Simpson, Shannon N. Albers, and Qingfu Xiao)

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- Issue 1 – December 15 (January 15)
- Issue 2 – March 15 (April 15)
- Issue 3 – June 15 (July 15)
- Issue 4 – September 15 (October 15)

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President's Message

Greetings fellow tree champions!

In this issue of The Council Quarterly we have some very interesting and time relevant topics brought forth in both the articles and featured columns.

The article "Five Practices for Resiliency, Preservation, and Expansion of a Successful Urban Tree Canopy" Eric Muecke, City of Tampa Parks and Recreation Urban Forestry Manager, brings to light some key aspects of sound urban forestry management practices. Currently there are many funding opportunities being offered for new tree plantings. How we, as recipients of these funds, manage or maintain the tree canopy is a critical element toward sustainable urban forests.

The article, "River Oaks Preserve – Estero's Natural Gemstone" by Dr. Merelee Atkinson and Marlene Rodak highlights a wonderful project initiated by the Florida Native Plant Society and the Village of Estero, FL. The project is a good example of a public & private partnership aimed at increasing the community's urban tree canopy.

In this issue "Tree of the Quarter" introduces us to wild plums of Florida. "Stump The Forester" answers a question related to Justice40 Initiative. This brings to our attention a major new funding priority for urban forestry projects. Recent funding opportunities have included "maintenance" as an eligible and qualified component for funding. This is a new development and allows those involved with management or maintenance of the urban canopy opportunity for funding those on-going activities. I would invite our members to visit the official US Government webpage that contains the related Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST) found at: <https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov/>.



The article, "Storm Based Restoration," FUFUC's Communication Committee provides some valuable tips on how to avoid the gridlock of storm-related tree work following a named storm.

On our membership page, you may notice a few new names joining the FUFUC Executive Committee. I'd like to extend a welcome to Mr. Jeromy Mynes joining the Executive Board as an appointee with the Florida Recreation & Park Association (FRPA); Heather Shields - City Arborist & Project Mgr with City of Naples; Jamielyn Daugharty – UF/IFAS Extension Service; and Larsen McBride – Senior Arborist with Resource Environmental Solutions, as they will be sharing their time and talent toward achieving our mission.

Once again, welcome to our new Management Company Advanced Association Management (AAM) and our duly appointed Executive Director Courtney Fegter! On the horizon, we look forward to our upcoming 2025-2030 Five-Year Strategic Plan Workshop. I encourage all Executive Board members to be on the lookout for announcements and invitations to participate in the planning process. In closing, I would like to also extend an invitation to all FUFUC members to join our Executive Board in FUFUC committee work.

In Support,

Darryl Richard
2024 FUFUC President

River Oaks Preserve – Estero’s Natural Gemstone

Submitted by by Dr. Merelee Atkinson and Marlene Rodak, Florida Native Plant Society – Cocoloba Chapter Board Members.

It's Thursday morning and Florida Gulf Coast University students are arriving at River Oaks Preserve to earn required Service-Learning hours. They are greeted by a volunteer who quickly puts them to work. Today, the ground is moist from a soaking rain, so students will be installing native plants in selected areas. They pull exotic weeds first, observe a planting demonstration, and then plant spider lily, spartina, pond cypress, mulberry, swamp dogwood, blue-eyed grass, purple lovegrass and more.

After the Village of Estero purchased the 10-acre parcel in May 2022, it selected The Cocoloba Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society, a local chapter of the statewide Florida Native Plant Society, to manage it along with an adjacent two-acre right-of-way. One goal of the project is to restore and maintain valuable native Florida habitat for the enjoyment of Village residents. Additionally, a native plant nursery offers exciting new landscaping options for homeowners. The parcel, which is bisected by the north branch

of the Estero River, also allows for better stormwater management.

During the last sixteen months, the all-volunteer, non-profit chapter supervised the removal of invasive and exotic plants, established electrical service and a solar-powered irrigation system, set up retail and propagation nurseries, started a long-term planting program to restore natural habitats, mapped gopher tortoise burrows, and secured nearly \$27,000 in USDA government funding. More than 157 volunteers made this happen. Of these, 97 were university students, who contributed 569 of the total 6,200 hours logged by volunteers.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Once our sliver of paradise is paved over and developed, we, along with all the other creatures here, lose the real Florida. This is especially true because so many of our developments use non-native plantings that do not support the pollinators, birds, bunnies, and other wildlife that once abounded in south Florida. Natural areas are also



Cocoloba CHAPTER

essential for human beings. Spending time in them has been linked to a host of benefits including improved cognition, better mental health, and increased empathy and cooperation. And who doesn't need more of that!

SO, WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Well, you can sit in your armchair and complain about overdevelopment, or you can make a difference. Get outside and discover the real Florida. The real Florida has mature pines and massive live oak trees populated with resurrection fern and air plants. The real Florida also has small trees, shrubs, and ground covers that provide even more nesting sites, berries, seeds, and nectar for birds, butterflies, and other wildlife.

Why not make space in your own yard for a bit of real Florida? While you are at it, encourage your HOA to set aside natural areas. Bring pictures of your yard of common space to the nursery at River Oaks Preserve and talk to the volunteers. They will provide free landscaping assistance and help you select plants to create the look and features you want. They will also refer you to other native plant nurseries in our area for a wider selection of plants.

If you live in the area and have time, join the group of volunteers at the Preserve. Even better, get another volunteer organization involved. There is so much to do and you will make lots of new friends.



continues on page 6

WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD FOR RIVER OAKS PRESERVE?

The development of River Oaks Preserve is at a very early stage. Although the site is currently home to gopher tortoises, eastern cottontail rabbits, squirrels, a few bird species, and at least one bobcat, it has the potential to sing and buzz with life as additional native plants are installed. As these "demonstration gardens" mature, residents, students, landscapers, and other visitors will experience the amazing aroma of fiddlewood trees, sweet acacias, Simpson stoppers, and little strongbacks along with the beauty of southwest Florida birds and butterflies. They will delight when the Jamaica caper trees or the scarlet hibiscus bloom. Where can you go to see that?

The master plan also includes small buildings to provide classroom space and necessary storage for tools,

equipment, and supplies. These will replace existing storage containers and provide facilities for educational programs. Want to explore like Ponce de Leon: Teach a class? Brainstorm with other volunteers? Take your youth group on a field trip? All of this will be possible.

Preserving this sliver of land benefits area residents along with the environment. The Preserve is a priceless resource, and it is right in the center of Estero, FL. Kudos to the Village of Estero leadership for preserving this pristine land and for engaging an all-volunteer organization like the Coccoloba Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society to manage it in the best way possible.

River Oaks Preserve is located at 9541 Broadway Ave. E. It is open to the public on Sundays and Tuesdays from 9-1, or by appointment only. The Coccoloba



Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society is a 501(C)(3) organization established in 2001. Their mission is to preserve, conserve, and restore native plants and native plant communities for Florida. Visit www.FNPSCoccoloba.org for more information.

(This article 1st appeared on the "Engage Estero" website, and intended for a regional audience. It can be viewed at, <https://www.esterotoday.com/river-oaks-preserve/>)

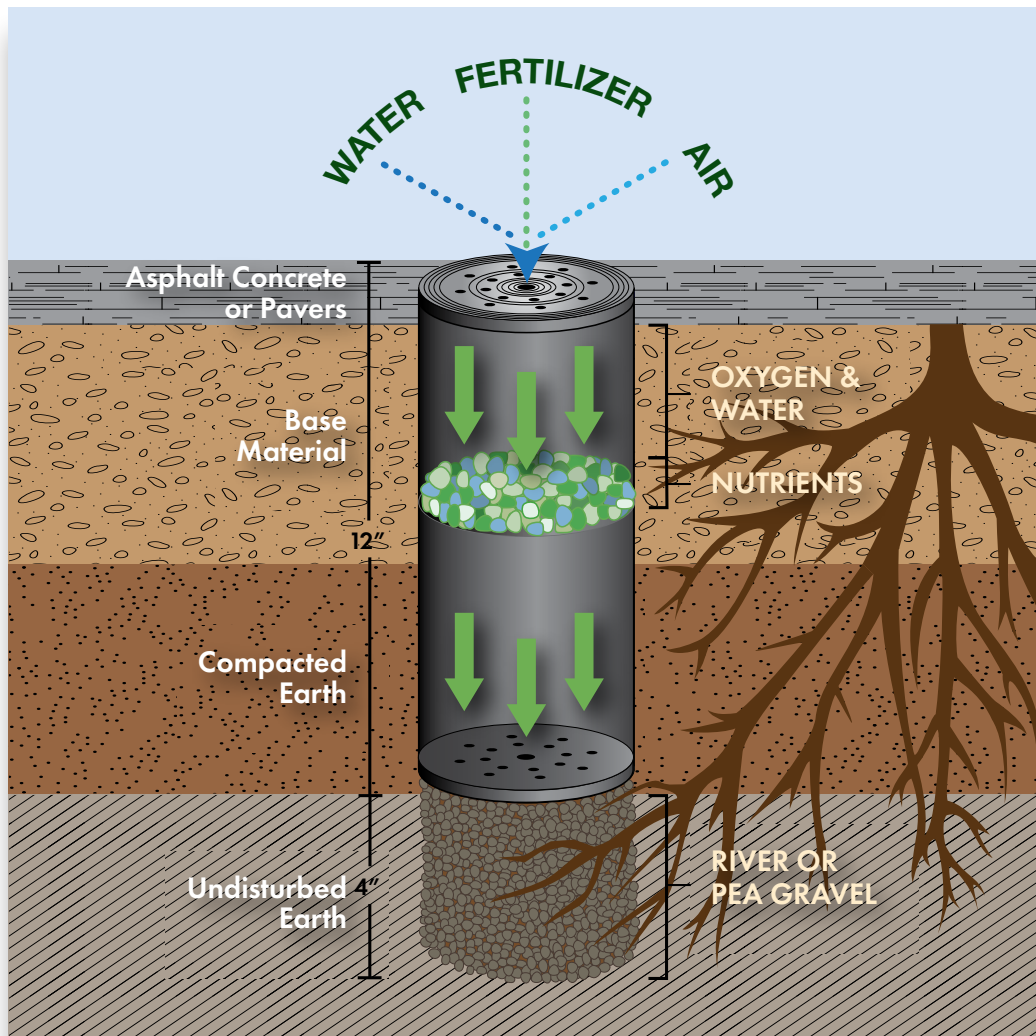


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Stump The Forester

QUESTION: What is the Justice40 Initiative?

ANSWER: Justice40 (J40) is the title of a governmental program stemming from a 2021 Executive Order to advance environmental justice and spur economic opportunity for targeted communities, also known as Justice40 communities. The program aims to ensure at least 40% of the benefits derived from federal spending - grant or procurement spending, financing, staffing cost, direct spending, and critical resources - flow to communities that have traditionally been exposed to legacy pollution and environmental hazards.

Justice40 is led by the combined efforts of Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ); Office of Management and Budget (OMB); Office of Domestic Climate Policy; and Office of Justice Integrity Council.

It is a call to action of all government entities – federal, state, and local municipalities - to disperse federal funding streams and critical resources to communities that meet a measured threshold for environmental, climate, socio-economic, or other burdens and stresses in the following categories: efficient, clean energy; clean transit; affordable & sustainable housing; workforce development; pollution controls; and clean water infrastructure.

Justice40 is a national commitment to good government. It is an effort to expedite climate, economic, and environmental justice – the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people, regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, programs, and policies (EPA 2022).

J40 directs and guides agencies when defining disadvantaged, challenged, overburdened, or impacted communities; methods of calculating and tracking benefits and distribution of benefits; and the development of engagement plans by community stakeholders.

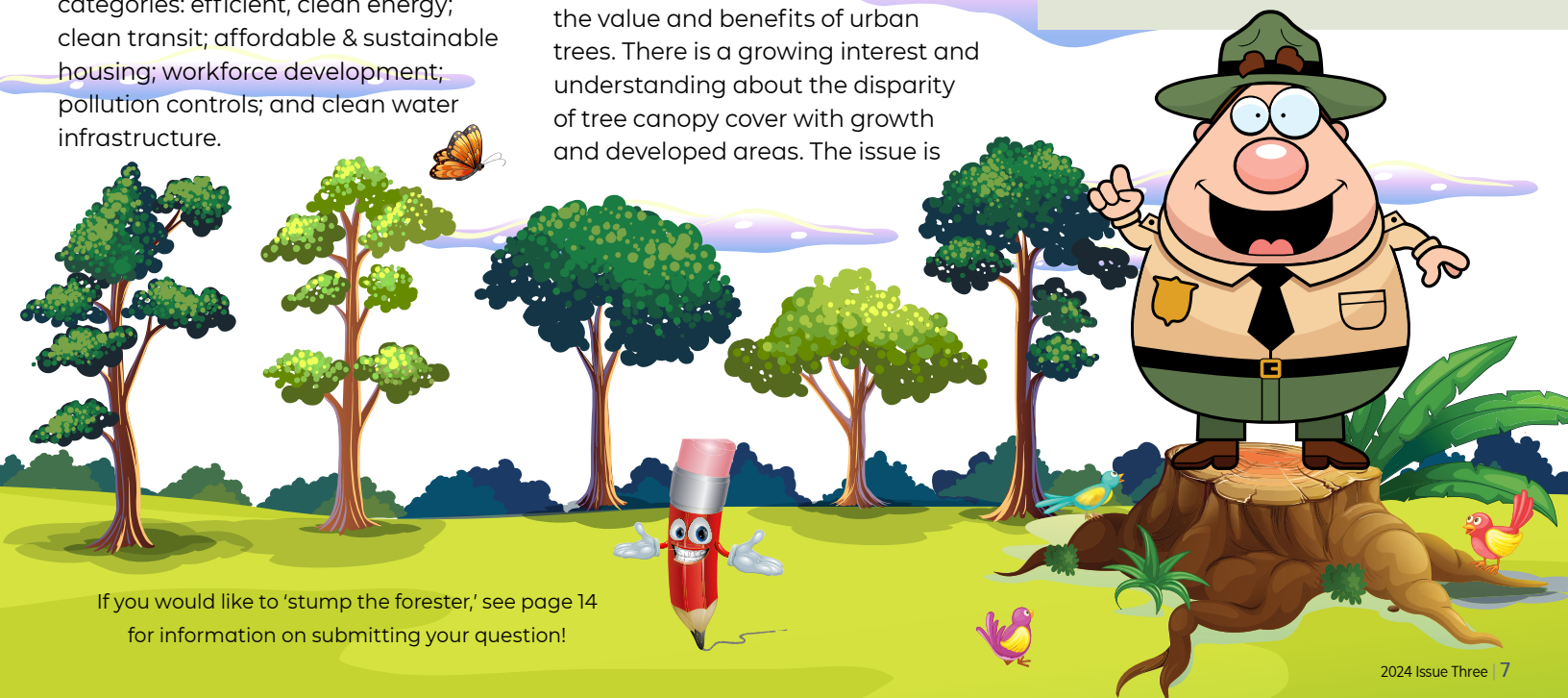
J40 is among a series of systematic reforms to improve equitable distribution of the benefits of governmental funding sources. Climate policies are trending toward green solutions. J40 is an evolving concept that will impact existing and new programs that will eventually expand into aspects of green infrastructure, canopy cover, environmental health, and urban amenities that aren't necessarily equally distributed.

Not everyone profits equally from the value and benefits of urban trees. There is a growing interest and understanding about the disparity of tree canopy cover with growth and developed areas. The issue is



more complex than simply the lack of historical investment. Procedural justice is important, but it will never be enough on its own. Barriers faced by marginalized and overburdened communities results from the lack of customized resources and access to specific knowledge regarding environmental issues and tree-based solutions. If J40 is to succeed the concept must extend beyond governmental entities. Everyone should attempt to spread their discipline, knowledge, experience, and opportunity in as many directions as possible. Community engagement and coordination in all levels of government, private and industrial entities will be needed to achieve fair urban forests. Fair urban forests build bridges. It's about building connections within communities and among communities so that all residents can enjoy the benefits of a greener future.

Answer provided by Joe Anderson – Utility Forester, ISA Arborist; FUFC Utility Arborist Board Member



If you would like to 'stump the forester,' see page 14 for information on submitting your question!

Tree of the Quarter

Submitted by Larsen McBride
– Senior Arborist, Resource
Environmental Solutions

BRIEF INTO:

The flatwoods plum (*Prunus umbellata*) is a tree many Floridians are paying attention to in addition to their close cousin, the Chickasaw plum (*Prunus angustifolia*), named after one of the dozens of southeastern Native American peoples who farmed these trees for centuries. These two plums are quite similar, but for a few distinguishing features. There are a myriad of reasons to appreciate this native, wild plum tree, and I hope that this article gives you an understanding of what the trees look like and reasons to go out and look for them.

HABITAT:

Flatwoods plums grow in Zones 8A to 10A, from coastal Virginia to south Florida and east Texas. Flatwoods plums can thrive in sandhills, flatwoods, and hammocks, and are relatively tolerant of drought and heavy precipitation. Their small size at maturity and tolerance of a variety soil conditions, precipitation extremes, and full sun also offers great potential as an urban street tree. In forest settings, they are similarly tolerant of short-



term precipitation extremes, such as drought or heavy rainfall. They can tolerate being close to fires but cannot be directly burned. Similarly, they can grow in flatwoods, where groundwater tables can be very high, but are not tolerant of long periods of flooding or hydric soils. They require at least partial sun. Pictured are a few specimens thriving in a recently burned flatwoods near Gainesville.

Chickasaw plums are hardy from Zone 6-9a. It is thought that their original range spanned from east Texas to Missouri, and that they made their way to the southeast via the plant trade between several different Native American peoples. Like the flatwoods, they have fantastic tolerance to a variety of growing conditions that made them an ideal horticultural species. Though no longer grown in agricultural settings, they can still be found growing in hammocks, bottomlands, dry prairies, and old fields.

FLORIDA'S URBAN LANDSCAPE:

The flatwoods plum have a particular relevance in urban forestry, namely, its tendency to grow a single leader in small spaces in urban soils, maxing out at 20 feet at maturity.

Municipal arborists - take note of this tree as one that can be responsibly planted under power lines or in small spaces. Native landscaping enthusiasts - these trees are a larval host for several species of butterflies and, at the end of winter, provide some of the earliest supplies of nectar for pollinators. I personally venture to dream of these trees being recruited to meet the same demands that we in the southeast often call upon crape myrtles to fulfill.

Wild Plums of Florida (*Prunus umbellata* & *Prunus angustifolia*)



FORM:

Like many *Prunus* species, flatwoods plums have relatively weak apical dominance, giving them a rounded or vase shape. Form is a distinguishing characteristic between the flatwoods and Chickasaw plums: Flatwoods plums generally retain a single, dominant lead trunk, while Chickasaw plums are often multi-trunked and will spread stoloniferously, sending out runners that can eventually grow into a thicket.

LEAVES:

The leaves are simple, alternate, and elliptic to ovate, with serrate margins, and rarely longer than 2 inches (3.1 cm). They are deciduous, turning yellow to gold in the autumn. It is worth noting that the leaves can be useful in distinguishing flatwoods and Chickasaw plums: Chickasaw plums have small glands on the tips of leaf margin serrations which flatwoods plums do not have. These glands can be easily viewed with a hand lens.

BARK:

Like most other *Prunus* species, the bark, branches, and twigs of flatwoods plums have visible lenticels which



help facilitate gas exchange. The bark becomes more platy and furrowed with maturity. New twig growth is reddish, becoming brown after the first year. Branches may also have thorns.

ROOTS:

The roots of this tree may be moderately tolerant of pruning roots less than 1/2". However, the tree is small, and roots do not lift sidewalks or damage curbs.

FLOWERS:

Perhaps the most remarkable characteristic of all wild plums of Florida, including the flatwoods plum, are its late winter display of flowers. As many readers may know, late January through early March may be considered to be our springtime, as it is when many hardwood species commence both subtle and spectacular flower displays. Our native plums fall squarely on the spectacular end of that spectrum.



For years, I have referred to the flatwoods and Chickasaws as "Florida's cherry blossoms." Just as so many in the northeast U.S. and east Asia spend early spring weekends taking in the Yoshino, Kwanzan, or Sargent's cherry blossoms, my wife and I picnic in the woods around Lake Pithlochocco on crisp February Saturdays to view the flatwoods plum blossoms. As we approach, the trees appear like bright clouds amidst the slash pines and laurel oaks in an ephemeral burst of brilliant white that is the harbinger of spring for north and central Florida.

FRUIT:

As I write this article in the early days of June, the season for enjoying ripened wild plums is imminent for us here in north-central Florida. If you haven't indulged before, be forewarned that these aren't your average farmer's market or grocery store treats. Flatwoods plums, like conventional ones, are round fleshy drupes with thin, red to purple skin and a hard, stony seed coat, but they are not the least bit sweet. They are almost pungently bitter, but the intense taste wanes the more you eat them. It is possible to develop a taste for these fruits, and even to delight in them - I always look forward to late June to early August, when we begin to see ripe flatwoods plums in Florida. Pro tip: like conventional plums, the softer the fruit is, the better they taste.

USES:

The fruits are rich in pectin, which may contribute to the abundant recipes for

flatwoods plum jams, compotes, and even wine. I have tasted such fare but never made them myself, so I cannot vouch for the culinary or fermenting skill required. Nonetheless, making food or beverages from our native plants is an excellent way to develop a personally significant relationship with nature, so I am generally supportive of this, on the condition that the people who harvest the fruit do so considerably, not removing more than 20% of a tree's bounty. For we are far from being the only creatures who enjoy a good flatwoods plum: Dozens of species of birds, mammals, and insects rely on these fruits during the seasonal extremes of Florida's summer. In addition to fruit, this tree provides essential nesting cover for resident and migratory bird species, as well as many species of mammals. I've come across everything from bobwhite quail to American bison resting in its shade, likely after snacking on a few delicious plums.

LITTLE KNOWN FACTS:

I would be remiss if I didn't mention that you can visit the current Florida State Champion flatwoods plum if you ever stop off at the composting toilet at the La Chua Trail, Paynes Prairie State Park, in Gainesville. It's possible that this auspicious location has aided this tree's championship-level growth. Flatwoods plum being the small-statured tree it is, this champion is a whopping 26 feet tall with a 33-foot crown spread and 43 inch trunk circumference!

Advanced Association Management

The Florida Urban Forestry Council (FUFC) will be transitioning into new management with the professional administrative services of Advanced Association Management (AAM). AAM will provide talent, expertise, and experience to advance the FUFC mission and reach FUFC goals, objectives, and strategic plan. Along with many exciting initiatives, AAM will be embarking on a new membership management software that will allow FUFC to better track and engage with membership. Learn more about AAM at, <https://www.advancedassociationmanagement.com/>.

Calling all members! Please fill out the following form so we can keep you in the SPOTLIGHT of who's who in Florida's urban Forestry.

The form link is at:
<https://forms.gle/Basc7r7zhULxjJrw6>



Spotlight



KATHI SCHILDT

AAM Financial Executive

Kathi is the founder of AAM and co-owns the company with her husband Rod Schildt. Kathi earned a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Management, from Doane University, NE. Kathi brings over 30 years of trade association and office management experience to the FUFC. She founded AAM on the idea that associations flourish with the assistance of dedicated staff and full-time availability. She specializes in member services and board facilitation. Kathi & Ron enjoy family and the family dairy farm.



COURTNEY FEGTER

AAM Account Executive; FUFC Executive Director

Courtney joins the FUFC as an AAM Account Executive. Courtney likes organization, meeting new people, and making things better than what they are. Courtney is a University of Nebraska - Kearney graduate with a degree in Recreation & Park Management, with an emphasis in Travel & Tourism/Sports Mgt. As a former track team Pole Vaulter, Courtney is expected to bring the FUFC to new heights.

GUIDELINES

- Nomination can be your own work, the work of your organization or the work of another.
- You may download an application <https://fufc.org/downloads/awards-brochure2024.pdf> or apply online at <https://fufc.org/awards-application/>.
- Deadline for entry is **Friday, October 25, 2024.**
- The completed awards entry form must be the first page of the application. The second page of the application should be a 200-word overview of the nomination. Following the brief overview should be a summary of not more than three typewritten pages that describe the project's, program's or individual's contribution to urban and community forestry as outlined in the Award Categories.
- Support documentation such as photographs, press clippings, printed pieces, and letters of commendation are encouraged, but shall be limited to 12 additional pages.
- If mailing, please submit the original typed application, one full copy and the three digital photos to:

**Friends of Our Urban Forest
Awards Program
Florida Urban Forestry Council
200 2nd Ave. South #130
St. Petersburg, FL 33701-4313**

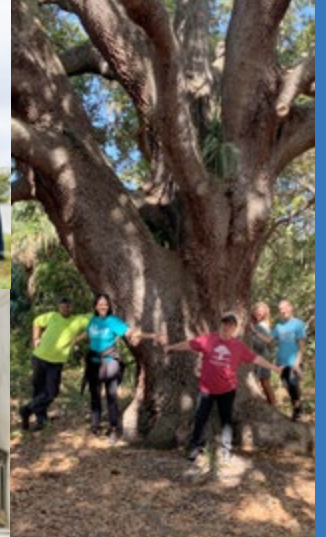
All submitted materials become property of the Florida Urban Forestry Council.

Please note: The Awards Committee reserves the right to reassign the entry to another category if deemed appropriate. For questions or additional entry forms, please visit <https://fufc.org/awards-information/>.



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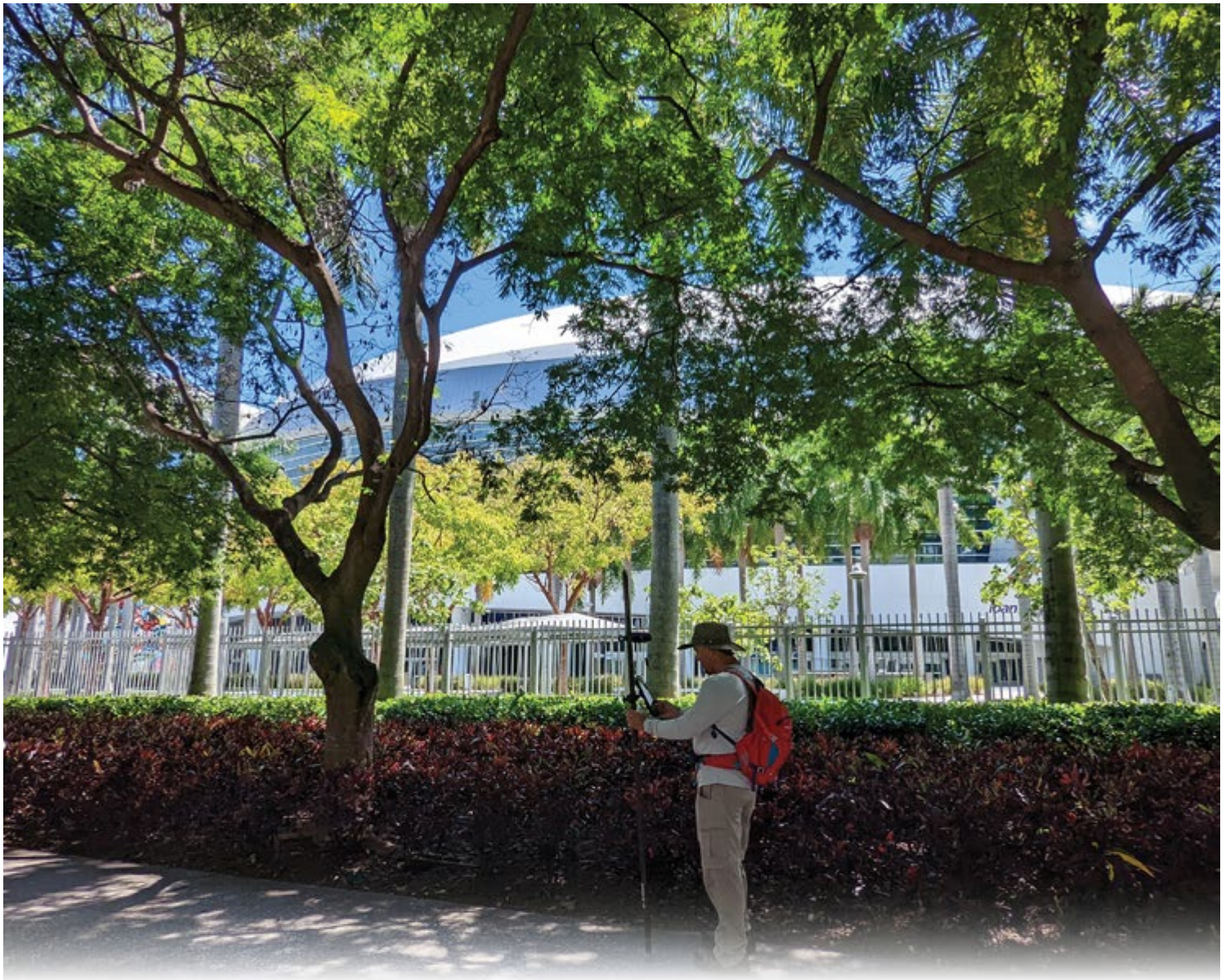


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Trees Florida 2024 Conference & Trade Show

The Florida Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture (FL-ISA) has been a valuable core member of the FUFC governing body since our beginning in 1991. The two organizations have found many ways to support each other in their closely related missions. FUFC was thrilled to participate in the 2024 Trees Florida Conference & Trade show in Fort Lauderdale, FL. The FUFC took an active role in two conference events: The Urban Forestry Bus Tour and the Silent Auction.

FUFC representatives integrated urban forestry principles, topics, and discussions along the route of the bus tour as it toured various local forestry project sites.

The silent auction raised money for Tree Research and Education Endowment (TREE FUND) and the John P. White Scholarship. You can learn more about the TREE FUND at <https://treefund.org>, and the John P. White Scholarship at <https://fufc.org/scholarships/>. Our collaborative efforts benefit members of the FUFC, the FL-ISA, and Florida's urban forest community.



John P. White Memorial Scholarship Fund



Students should be on the lookout as the fall term deadline for John P. White Memorial Scholarship is not far off. The J.P. White Scholarship is sponsored by the Florida Urban Forestry Council and the Florida Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture. The scholarship was first created in 2008 to assist students pursuing careers in Florida's arboriculture/urban forestry industry, or related field, by providing financial assistance for undergraduate,

postgraduate or other advanced education programs. The intent is to encourage active members and future leaders to pursue urban forestry careers. For updates, keep a watchful eye on our monthly *In A Nutshell* e-bulletin, and our social media posts. Learn more about John P. White, scholarship eligibility, and requirements on the FUFC website at <https://fufc.org/scholarships/>.



Storm-Based Restoration

Submitted by the FUFC Communication Committee

Lazy days of summer are not always lazy – especially when Florida’s Atlantic and Gulf coasts are energetic with an active tropical storm and hurricane season from June through November. Healthy and properly maintained trees can help weather summer storms.

Private property owners have a large part to play in storm preparation and resiliency. They are encouraged to schedule tree care today - before the storm. It’s often too late to wait.

Once the height of a storm passes by, and when weather conditions permit, utility and municipal efforts are designed to respond, assess, repair, and restore critical facilities

and services as quickly and safely as possible. Whole neighborhoods and numerous communities may be uprooted, in turmoil and chaotic.

Fortunately, the restoration process and response are not haphazard or chaotic. Restoration efforts are preplanned, strategic, methodical, and in most cases rehearsed. Urgency and availability of response crews may not necessarily be aimed at the need and desire of individual requests for services. Response efforts are often first

centered around public safety with the restoration of local hospitals, shelters, police, fire stations, transportation hubs, and the backbone of public services.

Once core public safety repairs are complete, response crews will expand restoration efforts to various commercial zones, neighborhoods, communities, businesses, and individual customers. Priorities are often given to areas and projects that will provide services to the greatest number of customers.

Having commercial zones and businesses up and running is crucial while the restoration process is underway. Grocery,

hardware, retail stores, restaurants, and financial institutions can provide residents, homeowners and individuals the products, services, and alternatives needed to make repairs and sustain a temporary level of comfort until life can return to an acceptable level of normalcy.

Why wait? Damaged trees, tree parts, and debris are often a major contributor to storm-related damage and disruptions. Healthy and properly maintained trees can help weather a

storm. Remove dead and declining branches, structural defects, and other tree hazards before a storm is in the forecast. The tree care industry can provide the skills, expertise, and tools required to safely complete preventative maintenance of trees and limbs.

Once the storm is in the forecast, and soon after it passes, utilities, municipalities and private tree care professionals will be inundated with calls and requests for tree work. You can avoid being placed on a long waiting list associated with the high volume and demand for tree services by scheduling tree work well in advance of an approaching storm. Remember, once the storm is in the forecast, municipalities and utilities activate storm preparations plans. Tree-related crews and resources are immediately directed to pre-planned priorities, tasks, schedules, and locations associated with critical infrastructure and essential emergency services. Response for individual pleas and isolated requests may be delayed and caught in the bottleneck of the high volume of calls received by call centers and storm response centers. So, don’t delay, prune today.

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“Restoration efforts are preplanned, strategic, methodical, and in most cases rehearsed.”
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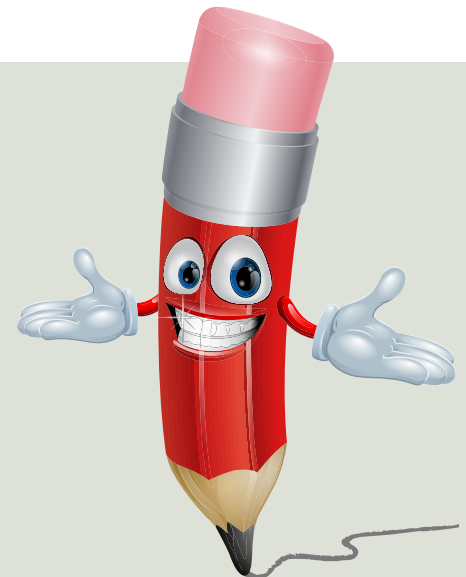
Request for Articles

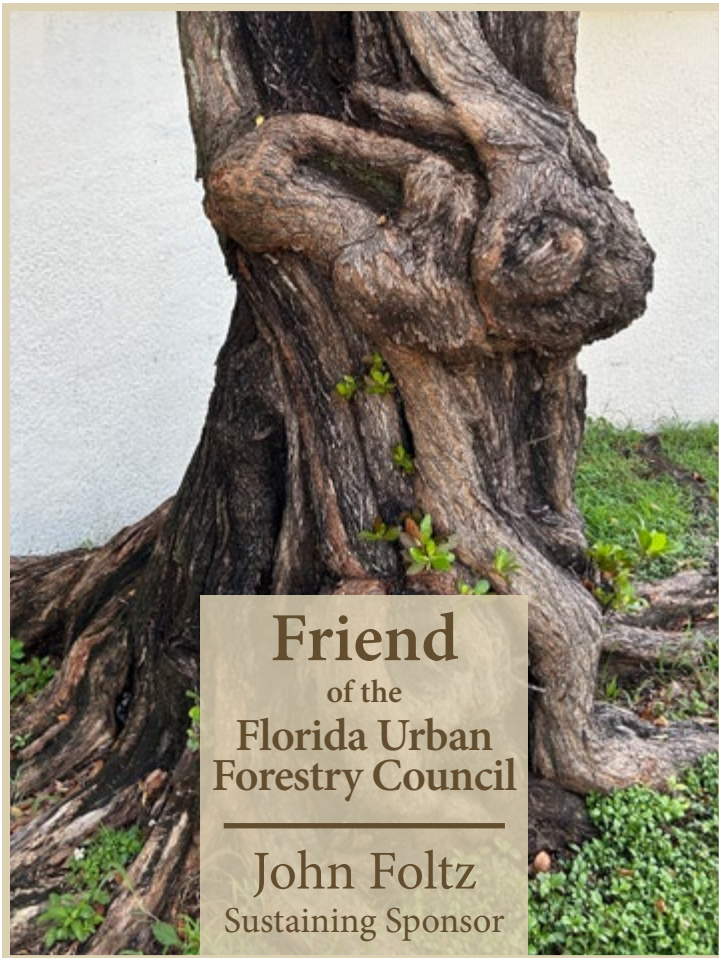
Please let us know what urban forestry projects you have going on in your neck of the woods. The Florida Urban Forestry Council would greatly appreciate the opportunity to share your information in our newsletter. These articles can include:

- 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!





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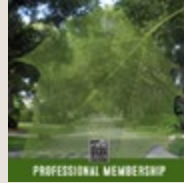
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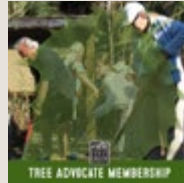
Professional @ \$25.00

(Professional membership is open to anyone who is actively working in the profession of Urban Forestry or any related profession.)



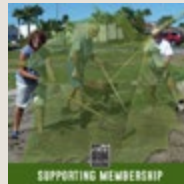
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(Tree Advocate membership is granted to those volunteers who are members of a tree board, beautification committee or other Urban Forestry volunteer group, and/or an interested citizen.)



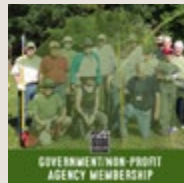
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(Supporting membership is granted to those individuals, groups or other entities expressing a desire for a strong supportive role in the Council. Membership will be granted for up to five individuals of an organization or business.)



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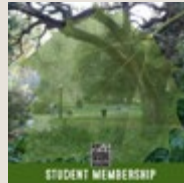
Utility Partner @ \$349.00

(Utility professionals expressing a desire for a strong presence in the Council. Membership will be granted for up to five individuals within the agency.)



Student @ \$10.00

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