

The Council Quarterly

Quarterly Newsletter of the Florida Urban Forestry Council



This Issue:

1 - 3	Urban Tree Risk Assessment: Principles and Practices
3	President's Message
4	FUFC Urban Forestry Summit
6 - 7	Stump the Forester
8 - 9	Tree of the Quarter
10	FUFC Q2 Workshops & Events
11	FUFC Member Spotlights
12 - 13	2025 UFI In Review: Excerpts from Co-chair Review
15 - 16	Certified Urban and Community Forester Credential Aims to Elevate the Profession and Grow SAF
16	Hear Ye, Hear Ye
17	Request for Articles
18 - 19	Members & Past Presidents

2025
Issue
Two

The Council Quarterly newsletter is published quarterly by the Florida Urban Forestry Council and is intended as an educational benefit to our members. Information may be reprinted if credit is given to the author(s) and this newsletter. All pictures, articles, advertisements, and other data are in no way to be construed as an endorsement of the author, products, services, or techniques. Likewise, the statements and opinions expressed herein are those of the individual authors and do not represent the view of the Florida Urban Forestry Council or its Executive Committee. This newsletter is made possible by the generous support of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Florida Forest Service, Wilton Simpson Commissioner.

Urban Tree Risk Assessment: Principles and Practices

Submitted by Dr. A. D. Ali, Manager of Special Projects with the Davey Institute, The Davey Tree Expert Company

Urban Foresters are tasked with managing thousands of trees in their respective municipalities. Benefits of trees have been documented by many researchers to include improving air quality, reducing runoff, providing shade, ameliorating temperatures, and improving aesthetics, among others. However, as trees age, they may pose certain risks that must be evaluated against the benefits.

This article will allow the reader to:

- Be able to recognize structural defects in trees based on their body language.
- Learn how to evaluate risk with respect to potential targets (people, pets, structures).
- Become familiar with new technologies that detect internal defects and determine the amount of strength loss in tree trunks due to such defects.

- Confidently implement a proactive approach to managing urban trees.

Obvious defects include weak v-shaped or multiple branch attachments, broken and



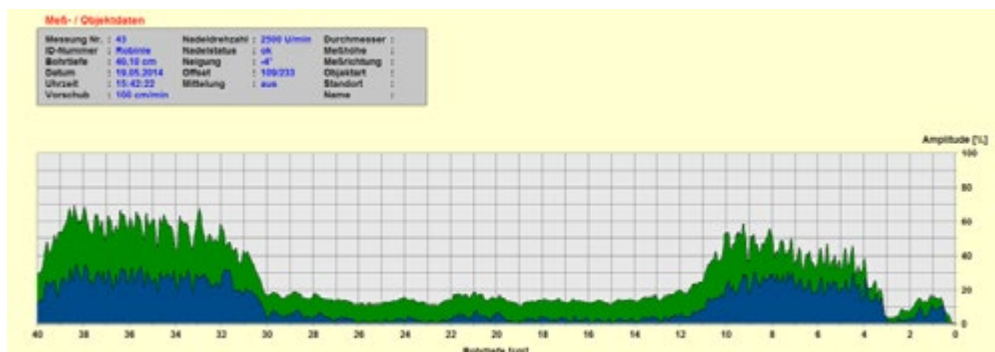
Ganoderma on Royal Poinciana trunk

continues on page 2

hanging branches, cankers in the trunk or scaffold limbs, unbalanced canopies and open cavities. However, trees may contain defects that are not visible and require further assessment with specialized tools. For example, wood decay fungi affect internal wood tissue, and their activity will not be detected until a fruiting body (conk or mushroom) grows externally. The extent of internal decay and/or cavity will then need to be determined to evaluate the magnitude of risk.

To evaluate the level of risk associated with a tree, one must consider the target (people, vehicles, or structures). Trees with significant defects along busy streets are usually classified as high risk due to frequent or constant interaction with people and traffic. Those in natural areas or remote parts of public parks may be considered low risk due to infrequent interactions. Urban forest managers must also consider high priority targets such as schools, hospitals, police stations, and others when evaluating trees for risk.

Methods to assess risk vary and range from simple tapping on the trunk with a rubber mallet to microdrilling,



Results of electronic resistance drilling inside a trunk

to advanced acoustic tomography. Resistance drilling utilizes very small diameter drill bits to record wood strength. Results are illustrated on a strip of paper. Older, mechanical models are still in use; however, newer electronic versions are becoming popular. Both techniques are somewhat invasive and there have been some concerns regarding the spread of internal decay if the bit penetrates through any of the CODIT walls.

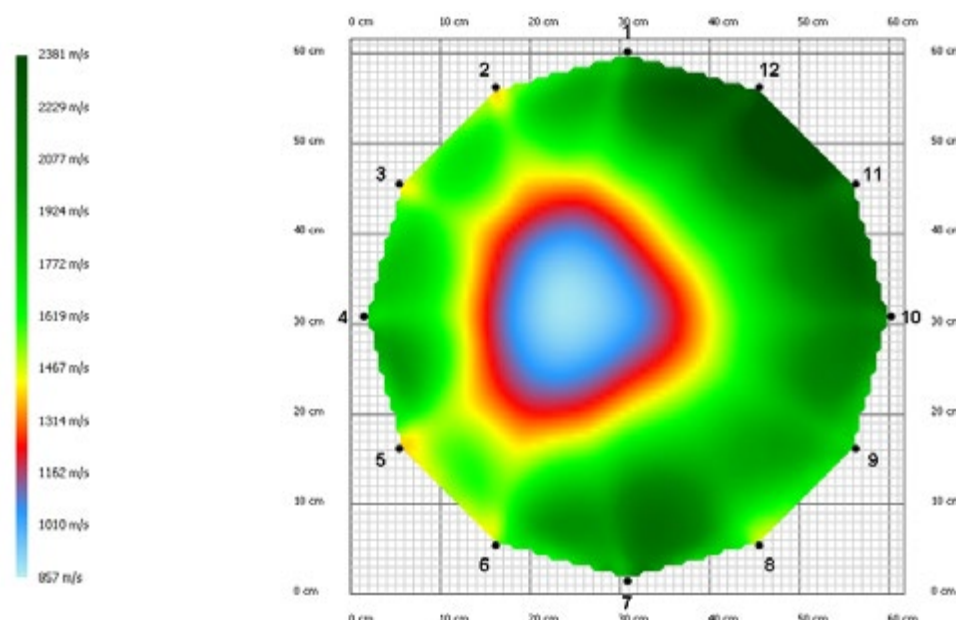
A less invasive method is Sonic Tomography which uses acoustic waves to determine the extent of internal decay and/or cavities in trunks and scaffold limbs. It produces a two-dimensional image called a tomogram that can be interpreted to estimate the size of defects within the tree. This technology is used in Level 3 Tree Risk Assessments to supplement

other observable conditions and to help provide a more complete understanding of the risk associated with a tree, along with better informed options for mitigating risk.

Generating a tomogram image using sonic tomography begins with selecting exactly where on a tree to perform a scan. Suspected decay or defect areas are good candidates. The goal of interpreting images generated by sonic tomography is ultimately to assist in assigning a risk of failure rating to the scanned section of the tree. Once an image is generated, further calculations can be made to estimate the relative strength of the remaining sound wood in the scanned plane. The estimated loss of wood strength at that point can be compared to the expected loads on that point to predict the relative likelihood of failure.

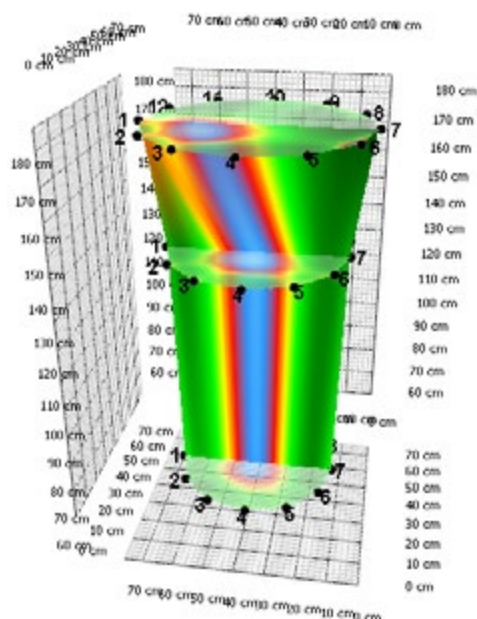


Fungal canker in the trunk of a red oak



Tomogram results showing decay (red-yellow) inside a trunk

Strength loss calculations are done by using the tomogram image to measure the thickness and position of sound wood in comparison to the overall diameter of the cross section of wood. Some degree of experience and judgement will always be required to decide which areas of the image indicate decay or a cavity that would be associated with strength loss. Multiple scans can be taken at selected vertical intervals to generate an image of the internal column of decay.



Tomogram with multiple level scans showing extent of internal decay column

As mentioned earlier, the Urban Forester cares for thousands of trees. In order to facilitate evaluations, a thorough tree inventory and management plan are needed. Data on defective trees or those with high levels of concern can be gathered to focus the efforts of risk assessments on those specimens. The process will then be performed in an efficient manner and with sound budgetary planning.

Dr. A. D. Ali, Manager of Special Projects

Davey Institute, The Davey Tree Expert Company.

For more information on TRA or Sonic Tomography

Contact ad.ali@davey.com

President's Message

Hello FUFCC Members,

Spring has sprung, and our urban forests are bustling with new growth, and so is the Florida Urban Forestry Council (FUFCC)!

I'm excited to share some significant developments designed to expand your opportunities for professional growth, networking, and education.

The FUFCC Committees have worked diligently to introduce a series of convenient "Lunch and Learn" webinars specifically designed for professional development. Additionally, they have pieced together our first-ever inaugural *Urban Forestry Summit*, specifically designed for FUFCC members. The event is scheduled for July 31st through August 1st, in Gainesville. This exciting In-Person event complements our flagship Urban Forest Institute (UFI). The summit will offer unique networking opportunities, educational sessions, an educational field trip, CEUs, and our annual awards.

While much of our programming targets industry professionals with specialized content, FUFCC remains committed to being accessible and valuable to everyone interested in urban forestry. Our core strategic goals—Guide, Cultivate, and Educate—are inclusive, serving both professionals and community members alike. You don't need to be an industry professional to benefit from our offerings or to become involved.

In line with *The Council Quarterly's* recent evolution into a dynamic weblog format, our expanded educational offerings reflect FUFCC's ongoing commitment to staying current with technology and trends, providing you with a powerful, searchable, and diverse platform for accessing valuable urban forestry insights.

As we grow, it's crucial to recognize the value these educational opportunities bring:

- **Targeted Connections:** Attendees invest in themselves, gaining access



to a room filled with potential partners and industry leaders.

- **Expert Insights:** Our speakers and educators are leaders in their fields, delivering valuable knowledge and proven strategies you can immediately apply to advance your business or career.
- **Investing Wisely:** There's tremendous value in doing things right the first time. Investing in expert advice now avoids costly mistakes later. Remember, professional expertise comes at a cost, but the alternative often leads to greater expense and recurring issues.

We're here to provide you with resources, genuine value, and expertise to help you continue to spring forward in the ever-evolving field of urban forestry. Thank you for your continued support and active participation in FUFCC.

Looking forward to joining with members at the Urban Forestry Summit!

Cheers!

John Snow
2025 FUFCC President

P.S. As a member, you have the opportunity to join and assist one of our committees. Again, this is a tremendous opportunity to grow professionally, and network with others in the field. Please reach out to Courtney, our Executive Director, to find out more by emailing her at info@FUFCC.org.

Florida Urban Forestry Council Urban Forestry Summit

The Florida Urban Forestry Council is thrilled to extend an open invitation to attend the Urban Forestry Summit. Join Florida's tree community of industry professionals, advocates, and enthusiasts to discuss, explore, and celebrate urban forestry topics, achievements, and initiatives.

Join us July 31st – August 1st, 2025, at the Hilton University of Florida Conference Center, Gainesville, FL. An educational field trip, CEU's, membership networking, and award opportunities are in the works. Stay tuned to the FUFCC website, *In A Nutshell* monthly bulletins, and social media announcements for registration details.



URBAN FORESTRY SUMMIT

Earn up to 8 CEU's, and attend
the Inaugural Awards Ceremony

JULY 31 - AUGUST 1, 2025

Hilton University of Florida Conference Center
Gainesville, FL

Wedge[®] Direct-Inject[™] TREE INJECTION SYSTEM

Our advanced technology for
tree treatment allows you to

INCREASE THE NUMBER OF TREES YOU TREAT IN A DAY!

Multiple injection tips designed for all types of trees, conifers and palms



- ◆ No drilling damage
- ◆ No mixing at job sites
- ◆ No guarding or return trips
- ◆ No waiting for uptake
- ◆ Treats most trees in five minutes or less!
- ◆ Successful and most profitable add-on service



AVAILABLE AT



239-657-8374 • www.winfieldpro.com



Read in-depth articles by the industry's best tree care professionals and elevate your game. There might even be a funny story or two as well!

Very interesting.

Very engaging.



Get your free subscription at
tcimag.tcia.org or scan here.



Photo: Rip Thompkins and Bruce Duffy enjoy *TCI Magazine*. Taken by Chris Hall, TCIA.

TCIMAGAZINE™

Official publication of the TREE CARE INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

Your essential news source for the tree care industry.

Introducing



"More of the good stuff"

Check it out at
Patreon.com/TCIA

Stump The Forester

QUESTIONS: What are codominant stems and what do I look for?

ANSWER: In this issue, Stump The Forester answers a codominant question about codominant stems.

Codominant stems are "twin stems," or multi stems that form within a tree's branching. They are forked stems nearly the same size in diameter, arising from a common junction and lacking a normal branch and trunk union. They are perhaps the most common structural defects that can compromise the integrity of a tree. They are considered structural defects because they form a weak point in a tree's anatomy creating a high potential for failure or breakage. Codominant stems are rather conspicuous if you know what to look for. Look for two or more vertical stems that originate from a common point, or joint. There is no one clear central leader as two or more vertical stems are competing for dominance. Adjacent stems will be similar in diameter since they formed at the same approximate time during the tree's growth. Co-dominant stems do not form a trunk & branch attachment with interlocking fiber. Codominant stems form an adjacent trunk upon trunk arrangement with included bark often embedded between the stems. They will form a sharp V-shaped

union as opposed to the wide U-shape common with strong branch & trunk attachments. Put simply, look for forked stems nearly the same size in diameter, rising from a common junction, and lacking a normal branch attachment to a parent stem or trunk.



The codominant stem is just one example of a wide variety of structural defects that can emerge if growth is allowed to expand unchecked. Trees are designed to grow and get big. They are engineered to take up space. Trees compete for space among neighboring trees, adjacent structures, land use, and between branches and stems within their own canopy. There are tricks-of-the-

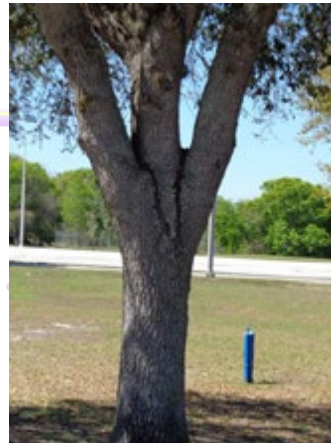
trade a tree can use in the race for space. Some branch tactics are shadier than others. The codominant stem is a trick and not a tried-and-true methods for achieving long-term stability and longevity during branch formation.

Good form and strong branch structure are best when a tree forms a single, leading trunk, or dominant stem. Strong U-shaped unions with interlocking wood fiber develop between trunks and subordinate branching within the tree. Internal chemical and physical properties are formed

at branch unions that protect and strengthens a tree. This will decrease a tree's vulnerability to outside forces, stressors, and the spread of internal decay.

Opposing stems will compete for dominance. Each will play the role of a primary trunk, or leading stem of the tree. They can form at the base of a tree, or at various heights along a trunk. Each vertical stem will have a terminal bud and an independent branching structure. Internal branch protection zones - favorable chemical and physical properties associated with proper branch unions - are absent. The strong internal interlocking wood fiber needed for mechanical support, reinforcement, or strong attachments will not form between codominant stems. The opposing stems will continue to develop their own protective bark that will build a wall between the stems. Internally, the soft bark tissue acts like a separator between the stems as opposed to the overlapping wood fiber that threads together with normal branch attachments. Internal bark formation becomes hidden as the tree

matures and puts on girth. This condition is known as included bark - bark that becomes embedded within codominant stems and causes a weak structural union between tree parts. Bark inclusion (inside bark tissue) increases the risk of internal decay. When codominant stems split, the inner portion of

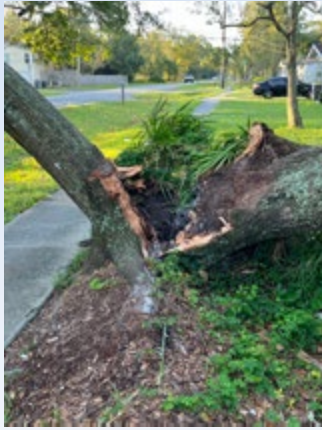


If you would like to 'stump the forester,' see page 17 for information on submitting your question!

the stems are exposed. Upon close inspection, the included bark is easily seen.

The weak branch arrangements are more susceptible to acute stress as high winds, storms, snow, ice, wet leaves, impacts, or the chronic force of gravity over time. Codominant stems will fail or break at the point of attachment. If there is a house, parked car, roadway, utility, or other targets within the fall zone, the structural defect can create a significant risk. Failure is not always immediate during a storm event. The acute stress during storm can start a slow separation process. Chronic stress with damaged stems can begin pulling stems apart slowly over time. Eventually the limbs fail and separate completely. The pull of gravity can stress mature stems that have developed significant size and weight. Large branch failures create large tree wounds that can further expose the tree to pathogens, decay, and external stressors. Mature trees exhibiting codominant stem characteristics should be inspected for cracks, splits, splintered wood fiber, or signs of internal decay at the point of attachment.

The best treatment for correcting codominant stems in young trees is pruning. Proper pruning can train



Advance treatment may require expert recommendations when prescribing how to proceed to avoid branch failure, tear out, exposure, or unintentional harm. Cabling and bracing may provide an alternative treatment when

the growth of young shoots and can greatly reduce the need for drastic structural pruning for the tree when mature. Selecting and removing a codominant stem early in a tree's growth will allow the pruning cut to seal and will enable the tree to resume a desirable, proper single, dominant leader. Reducing a codominant stem is an alternative to complete removal. It will allow a portion of the stem to remain, but with a subordinate role like a branch rather than a leading stem. The aspect ratio between the size of co-dominant stems will decrease as growth will be pushed to the single, dominant, leading stem. Stronger branch unions will develop as the aspect ratio between the stems is reduced.

The removal, or reduction of a codominant stem in the later stages of a mature tree can present risks.

reinforcing susceptible, large, mature codominant stems. In some cases, selective pruning to reduce the weight, or to decrease the gravitational pull upon extended branches may provide a temporary solution for codominant stems that cannot easily be pruned.

Codominant stems and delinquent branch structures are not a new phenomenon to experienced tree-care professionals. The tree-care industry has the talent and resources needed to identify, assess, prescribe, and provide treatment options. They include, certified arborists, with municipal, utility, academic entities; private tree-care professionals; consulting firms; landscape architects; nursery growers; and tree advocacy groups. Schedule a site visit today. Don't delay.

Answer provided by Joe Anderson – Veg. Mgt Spp, ISA Arborist, FUFCA & FL-ISA Board Member



Tree of the Quarter

Submitted by Joe Anderson – JEA Veg. Mgt. Specialist, FUFC and FL-ISA Board representative

The Treaty Oak Jacksonville, Florida

The Treaty Oak is an impressive southern live oak (*Quercus virginiana*) and an iconic arboricultural landmark in downtown Jacksonville, FL. The tree is estimated to be 250 years old or more, predating the founding of the City of Jacksonville in early 1822. There are references that hint the tree was once known as, "Giant Oak." In the 1930s, in a campaign to save the Giant Oak from incompatible land use development, Pat Moran – a journalist with the Florida Times-Union – solicited public support with stories boosting the tree's historical significance. Moran published stories suggesting that early treaties between indigenous populations and European settlers were signed under its branches. Henceforth, the tree became popularly named, The Treaty Oak. Of course, this would have implied that the tree may have had reputable size for such legendary ceremonial events and was well over 250 years old.

.....
Of course, this would have implied that the tree may have had reputable size for such legendary ceremonial events and was well over 250 years old.

The tree exhibits a trunk over 25ft in circumference, 70ft in height, and a canopy spread over 145 feet. One doesn't need to climb the tree to walk among its branches. Large, low, well-developed limbs arch down, embed

themselves in the ground and spring back up and out expanding its reach.

Currently, the City's largest tree resides in the City's smallest park. In 1964 Jessie Ball duPont saved the tree from destruction by buying the property surrounding the tree and donating it for a park that now bears her name. The tree and property are maintained through the City's Parks & Recreation Department. Through the years, the tree survives through the preservation efforts of the stewardship of City staff; protective ordinance; the advocacy of corporate sponsors, local civic groups, and private individuals; and a proactive tree-care plan. It should come as no surprise that the preservation efforts parallel the principles of S.O.A.P. (Staff, Ordinance, Advocacy, and Plan) necessary for a successful urban forestry program.

Routine pruning, cabling, a lightning protection system; elevated boardwalk, and other tree-care protective measures are in place to protect the mighty oak.

The vegetative management staff of certified arborist with JEA – Jacksonville's utility provider, once

oversaw an inmate nursery program where Treaty Oak acorns were collected, seedling were grown, and saplings were planted throughout Jacksonville.

At the base of an adjacent live oak is a plaque that reads, "Trees At Work, A Planting Project by The Florida Urban Forestry Council, August 19, 1999." The purpose was to establish additional live oaks throughout the park to maintain a mature oak canopy as overmature trees age out.

True to form, the Treaty Oak is a classic southern live oak with strong, dense wood; circular crown; and simple, ovate, leathery leaves. The low, spreading canopy, wider than tall – potential growth 80 ft in height and 120 ft width - has superior wind resistance and shade potential. When mature, a large live oak can dominate a landscape and live for centuries.



Florida's Champion live oak is in Alachua County with a circumference of 36.5 ft, height of 78 ft, and spread of 160.5 ft. The National Champion live oak is in Ware, Georgia with a circumference of 36 ft, height of 78 ft, and spread of 161 ft.



FUFC Q2 Workshops & Events

TREES AND THE LAW

Date: Friday, May 30, 2025
Time: 11:00 AM – 1:30 PM (ET)

This in-depth legal and arboricultural webinar is eligible for 2 CEUs from ISA, SAF, FNGLA, LIAF, LACES, and CAM (law) with verified attendance.

Part 1:

Senate Bill 518; Florida statute 163.045: a Critical Education on the Do's and Don'ts

Co-Presenters:

- Tim Snedaker, Esq. – Snedaker Law
- Joe Samnik – Testifying Expert Witness

Join veteran testifying expert Joe Samnik and attorney Tim Snedaker for an eye-opening webinar examining the full impact of Florida's Senate Bill 518—known as the Property Owners Bill of Rights. We'll explore the law's origins, intent, and fallout from both legal and arboricultural perspectives. What started as an effort to limit local government overreach has shifted the balance of power in urban forest management, giving property owners new freedoms while sidelining municipalities and arborists. This session will unpack the statute's reliance on the Best Management Practices (BMP) 2nd Edition (2017), the broad definition of "documentation," and the loopholes around verbal or informal assessments. Using real-world case studies like Vickery v. Pensacola, the Gandy mobile home park, and the Schiller property, we'll explore how the statute has been interpreted in court, how "residential" is now strictly defined, and the critical role ISA-certified arborists play in tree risk assessment. If you manage urban canopy policies, perform risk assessments, or advocate for sustainable tree protections, this webinar is a must.. Learn what's really required, what's missing, and what's at stake for Florida's urban forests.

FUFC Webinar Series
Trees And The Law
May 30, 2025
11:00 am - 1:30 pm ET

Part 1
Senate Bill 518; Florida statute 163.045: A Critical Education on the Do's and Don'ts
Co-Presenter: Tim Snedaker Esq. Snedaker Law
Co-Presenter: Joe Samnik, Testifying Expert Witness

Part 2
HB 599: The Fallen Tree Act: Dead Bill, Live Consequences
Co-Presenter: Tim Snedaker Esq. Snedaker Law
Co-Presenter: Joe Samnik, Testifying Expert Witness

Pricing
Members Watch Course / No CEU's: FREE
Members with CEU's: \$20
Become a Member + CEU's: \$40
Non-Members with CEU's: \$50
REGISTER AT WWW.FUFC.ORG

SNEDAKER LAW
TIM SNEDAKER
JOE SAMNIK

Expert Tree Consultant
Consulting Forensic Arborist

This webinar is eligible for ISA, SAF, FNGLA, LIAF, LACES, CAM (law) CEU's with verified attendance.

Part 2:

The Fallen Tree Act: Dead Bill, Live Consequences - How Self-Help and Case Law Still Shape Tree Disputes in Florida

Co-Presenters:

- Tim Snedaker, Esq. – Snedaker Law
- Joe Samnik – Testifying Expert Witness

Although HB 599 and SB 724 have been withdrawn, the legal questions they raised remain very much alive—and misunderstood. This timely webinar demystifies property owner liability, the limits of "self-help," and how the Massachusetts Rule and Gallo v. Heller continue to govern tree disputes in Florida. Learn what

happens when a tree fails across a property line, who bears responsibility, and why relying on hearsay can cost your clients—or your company—dearly. Packed with case law insights and practical risk guidance, this is a must-attend for urban forestry professionals working at the intersection of policy, practice, and tree risk management navigating the gray zones of tree law.

Don't miss this important opportunity to stay informed and earn CEUs while protecting Florida's urban forests.

Register at: <https://floridaurbanforestrycouncil.growthzoneapp.com/ap/Events/Register/QZFOR93cdCnCO>

Webinar: June 27, 2025 – 12:00 pm ET

Title: Wetland Mitigation Banking in Florida

Presented by: Victoria Bruce, Wetland Mitigation Group, Inc.

Learn the Wetland Mitigation Banking industry specifically pertaining to Florida; to understand how to be qualified for a potential wetland mitigation bank; the process of obtaining a permit to become a mitigation bank, and the credit sales for when the mitigation bank is implemented with a conservation easement and Short and Long Term Financial Assurances.

Register at: <https://floridaurbanforestrycouncil.growthzoneapp.com/ap/Events/Register/4IFNZ32fRCMCx>

FUFC Member Spotlights

JEROMY MYNES

Jeromy Mynes is a Project Manager for the Trails and Parks Division for Seminole County Parks and Recreation Department. Jeromy is passionate about enhancing public spaces, preserving natural resources, and creating recreational opportunities for the communities he serves.

As a graduate of West Virginia University, Davis College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Jeromy nurtured his love for all things trees! A strong background in agriculture, natural resources, and recreation provides Jeromy with a unique perspective on how green solutions

can create a natural choice for recreation, and how different disciplines intersect to benefit urban forestry.

Jeromy was appointed to the FUFC Executive Committee as a liaison for the Florida Recreation and Parks Association. He also serves as an Executive Officer holding the Secretary seat. Through the FUFC, he can effectively expand his knowledge, commitment, collaborative efforts, and advocacy for urban green spaces, and recreational trail connectivity throughout Florida and the FUFC network.



LARSEN MCBRIDE

Larsen is the Senior Arborist at Resource Environmental Solutions offering arborist services to a variety of clients and projects across Florida. Larsen holds a master's in environmental horticulture and a bachelor's degree in urban forestry from the University of Florida. He has been actively involved with urban forestry since 2027 serving in various roles in consulting, academic, and government.

Larsen serves as an advisor on the Florida Urban Forestry Council (FUFC) Executive Board. Larsen joined the interdisciplinary mission of the FUFC bridging together the many facets of urban forestry management to include, education, urban planning, utility management, mental and physical

health, academic research, philosophy, land management, and arboriculture.

Larsen enjoys talking about trees and enabling people to connect with trees, forests and management solutions.



2025 UFI In Review: Excerpts from Co-chair Review

Submitted by Jamielyn Daugherty Hagyard – Horticulture Agent, UF/IFAS Extension Service

In 2025, the Florida Urban Forestry Council (FUFC) continued a long-standing tradition with an annual Urban Forestry Institute (UFI) conference. The UFI provides affordable education for urban forestry professionals through a wide range of urban forestry topics. Leading organizations from Florida's Urban Forestry community came together in conversation about Piecing Together Urban Forestry.

The UFI Program Committee and the FUFC Executive Board would like to thank all the presenters, participants, sponsors, exhibitors, and organizers behind the scene that made the UFI possible. The following excerpts provide a quick recap of the 2025 UFI.

The 2025 FUFC Urban Forestry Institute (UFI) virtual conference was held on March 12-14. On the 12th, John Snow, FUFC President and Master Arborist led the Arborist Accelerator Course. This course was a great way to review and prepare for the ISA Certified Arborist exam.

On Thursday the 13th, the FUFC Executive Board President, John Snow, kicked off the day addressing how FUFC partner organizations fit into the larger Urban Forestry puzzle in Florida. The President's address was an invitation to join the FUFC and help make the FUFC and Florida Urban Forestry the best it can be.

Joe Anderson, FUFC Communication Committee Chair presented a brief history of the Urban Forestry Institute with the help of *Stump the Forester* and *The Council Quarterly* newsletter. Our first UFI conference was held in 2012, where Florida Urban Foresters came together for comradery, education, a bit of fun, and to discuss the S.O.A.P. (Staff, Ordinance, Advocacy, Plan) concept.

Next, the Florida ISA "Prescription Pruning Qualification" was introduced by Dr. Ed Gilman. I recently participated in a PPQ class. I cannot speak highly enough about the proactive communication and advanced pruning techniques.

Rebecca O'Hara, representing *The Florida League of Cities* introduced the Municipal Home Rule and Legislative Preemption introduced to the Florida Constitution in 1968. Though there are restrictions and preemptions that limit a city's ability to full autonomy, cities are not dependent on the legislature for authority to act and to set policy.



continues on page 13

Omar Leon, Urban Forester provided a brief history of Cape Coral, and provided some suggestions for developing partnerships as you plan and fund an Urban Forestry Program.

Next, the UFI heard from John Harris – FNGLA representative who explained details about the [*Florida Nursery, Growers and Landscape Association*](#) (FNGLA) 10 professional certifications and three areas of apprenticeships.

The UFI continued as UF Extension Service agents, Tia Silvasy and Tina McIntire presented on UF/IFAS Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ (FFL) nine core principles, to include “right-plant, right-place.” The presentation highlighted plants to consider when landscaping. You can get more information from the UF/IFAS FFL website (<https://ffl.ifas.ufl.edu/>).

If you ever wanted to know more about how the Florida Dept of Transportation (FDOT) determines tree planting locations, the next presentation was for you! Darryl Richard – FDOT Landscape Architect, and Immediate Past President for FUFCA, shed some light on the topic.

The Society of American Foresters (SAF) followed with Erin Turner - credentialing director for SAF with a brief history of the organization and details about professional certifications available from the organization. The most recent SAF Certified Urban and Community Forester Program (CUCFP) was discussed (https://www.eforester.org/Main/Certification_Education/Certified_Forester/New-Certifications/Main/Certification/New-Certifications.aspx?hkey=4b6811ba-6f14-4e42-bcc5-6c55a71a54de/).

Day two started off with Richard Durr, Director of the Seminole County Parks and Recreation Department, and President of the [*Florida Recreation & Parks Association*](#) (FRPA) reminding us that we are in the quality-of-life

business together. The presentation stressed the importance of a holistic approach to urban park planning; collaborating with partners; thinking of parks as a system; and increasing park lands & opportunities.

Next, the UFI heard from the three urban forestry UF/IFAS extension agents (Alyssa Vinson, Larry Figart, and Jamielyn D. Hagyard). They highlighted scope of UF/IFAS Extension Service; Urban Forestry Extension Council; specialized audiences; and programming - citizen pruning; ISA Prep Classes; CEU classes; ordinance writing; planning and working groups; specific municipal outreach; and plant diagnostics. Urban Forestry researchers at UF were introduced - Dr. Andrew Koeser, Dr. Ryan Klein, Dr. Mica McMillan, Dr. Braham Dhillon, Dr. Michael Andreu, Dr. Brian Bahder. You can participate in a programming survey at: <https://forms.gle/NCZo3xLYLHwy3WzK7/>.

Student Presentations followed with Suzie Suhendy, Ph.D. Student at the University of Florida and recent recipient of the John P. White scholarship, who shared her research regarding the specific benefits of urban trees to human health. Results indicated a potential connection to the 3-30-300 rule for green spaces.

Teagan Young is also a Ph.D. student at the University of Florida. Teagan gave us an overview of possible changes to climate across Florida impacting several areas, including our urban forests. Her study focuses on the issue of underwatering newly planted trees.

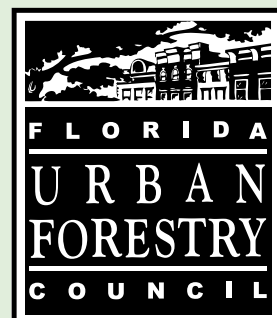
James Rose, a researcher for FUFCA, sampled 265 city and county ordinances, created 27 indicators for analysis, discussed codifying a tree ordinance, the importance of universal definitions, and provided vital insight to issues in tree ordinances across the state.

Student presentations were followed by Joe Anderson, Veg. Mgt Specialist with JEA (Jacksonville, FL utility provider) brought information about utility arboriculture, integrated vegetation management, urban forestry, storm response, line-friendly tree list, Tree-Line-USA program, and the balance of several priorities including safety, service reliability, tree health, and aesthetics.

Next, Dr. Robert Raze brought us information about [*Florida Project Learning Tree*](#) (FPLT). Florida's Project Learning tree is part of the sustainable forestry initiative education program. Dr. Raze took time to review several curriculum options and a wide variety of programming for PLT professional development.

Todd Little, Urban Forest Coordinator for the Florida Forest Service concluded with the final presentation, detailing the S.O.A.P. (Staff, Ordinance, Advocacy, Plan) initiatives when building a municipal urban forestry program, and how S.O.A.P. is used to keep your urban forests clean...I mean well managed. FFS is here to support our programs across the state.

John Snow, FUFCA President provided a brief farewell address and invitation to join the 2026 UFI.





OUR TEAM

JOHN HOLZAEFEL, CA, TRAQ

(352)238-0917

ERIC HOYER, CA, RCA, TRAQ, WRRQ

(863)670-0734

CHARLIE MARCUS, CA, TRAQ

(850)570-5963

STAN ROSENTHAL, TRAQ

(850)508-6771

JAY VOGEL, CA, WRRQ

(352)238-0458

LEGACY ARBORIST SERVICES

A DIVISION OF NRPS FOCUSED ON PROVIDING INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS
FOR MANAGING THE URBAN FOREST

Tree Inventories and Management Plans

Tree Protection Strategies

Tree Appraisals and Risk Assessment

Tree Ordinance Analysis

Tree Health Care Treatments Expert

Witness Testimony Educational

Workshops

i-Tree/Environmental Analysis

Community Wildfire Plans/Mitigation



CREATING A LEGACY, GROWING YOUR FUTURE SINCE 1974

www.NRPSforesters.com

Certified Urban and Community Forester Credential Aims to Elevate the Profession and Grow SAF

Submitted by Eric Wiseman, PhD. Associate Professor of Urban and Community Forestry, Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation, Virginia Tech

Forest resources in urban, peri-urban, and wildland-urban interfaces are increasingly important to people and the environment. Over 8 in 10 Americans currently live in an urban area, and large expanses of forest land have been enveloped by urbanization in recent decades. Almost every municipality in the United States is grappling with the interconnected issues of housing shortages, climate change adaptation, and sustainable development. Increasingly, municipalities are looking to urban and community foresters for leadership and expertise on how to develop land responsibly and utilize trees to meet environmental goals and improve quality of life. Urban and community forestry has emerged as a distinct profession that is grounded in the science and practice of traditional forestry, yet incorporates specialized skills related to urban soil science and ecology, arboriculture, land development, and public policy.

For years, urban and community foresters have demonstrated their qualifications and competency through surrogate credentials borrowed from traditional forestry, arboriculture, and others. This patchwork of credentials has made it difficult to clearly communicate the expertise of urban and community foresters to the public and has hampered their professional identity and credibility among other professions vying to

influence natural resource decision-making in urban areas. Over the past decade, momentum has been building for urban and community forestry to codify and recognize its specialized expertise through a standalone credential.

.....
“Urban and community forestry has emerged as a distinct profession that is grounded in the science and practice of traditional forestry, yet incorporates specialized skills related to urban soil science and ecology, arboriculture, land development, and public policy.”
.....

In 2013, SAF entered an agreement with the California Urban Forests Council to explore nationwide use of the state's urban and community forester certification. In 2020, SAF conducted a market analysis that showed demand and viability for a nationwide credential. Thereafter, credential development by SAF began in earnest,

starting with a job task analysis to identify key competencies and culminating with creation of an exam to test those competencies in prospective credential holders. The certification exam comprises seven knowledge domains that encompass thirty-seven distinct competencies. Certification exam development concluded in late 2023, and SAF began accepting exam applications from certification candidates in early 2024.

The first cohort took the exam in April 2024, and since that time 60 professionals have passed the exam and earned the designation from SAF of Certified Urban and Community Forester. An update about the credential rollout was published in the August 2024 edition of The Forestry Source. Recognizing that urban and community forestry is a melting pot

for educational and professional backgrounds, SAF has created three pathways for credential eligibility. Two pathways are laid out for those possessing either a professional degree or technical degree. A third pathway exists for those possessing no degree, but strictly professional experience in urban and community forestry. Each pathway requires a minimum number of years of applicable work experience to attain candidate status for the credential. Work experience requirements are lower with higher degree attainment in forestry or related fields. Five years is the minimum work experience to qualify for taking the exam. Details about eligibility criteria and exam application can be found on the SAF Certification Page (https://www.eforester.org/Main/Certification_Education/Certified_Forester/New-Certifications/Main/Certification/New-Certifications.aspx?hkey=4b6811ba-6f14-4e42-bcc5-6c55a71a54de/).

A significant investment has been made by SAF and over 50 subject matter expert volunteers to develop the Certified Urban and Community Forester credential. They have built it, now will they come? Early enthusiasm for the credential is promising, but growing the credential to a sustainable level will require broad-based advocacy and public recognition that the credential is a valued metric for discerning competency and professionalism in urban and community forestry.

So why should SAF foresters outside the urban realm cheer for this new credential? Here are a few reasons that come to mind for me. First, the credential is rigorous and very well designed. A very high bar has been set both for professional experience and

knowledge competency, which will only be surpassed by those who are capable and committed practitioners of urban and community forestry.

Second, the credential exposes SAF to a whole new demographic for membership and revenue. Historically, a minority of urban foresters have been SAF members or Certified Foresters, instead opting to affiliate with organizations and credentials in the arboriculture profession. As a result, this credential should be additive rather than duplicative to SAF's membership and credential holders.

Third, the credential raises the visibility and credibility of SAF in urban areas. For better or worse, urban areas are centers of economic and political power. At a time, when rural resources may risk losing relevance to average Americans who overwhelmingly live

in urban areas, urban and community foresters may be a vital linkage between the public and SAF's broader interests.

Fourth, the credential legitimizes urban and community forestry as a distinct academic and professional pathway and identity. The body of knowledge is now defined and tangible. The profession can stand on its own and clarify its role in modern society.

Finally, the credential stakes a claim to urban and community forestry subject matter expertise. Multiple professions intersect in the urban space and vie for influence over urban forest planning and management. This credential should give urban and community foresters a stronger voice to promote sound forestry practices as the urban century unfolds before us.



Hear Ye, Hear Ye

The Council Quarterly newsletter is embracing the times, technology, and trends with a new style, fresh look, and interface. After all, it's the "Write thing to do." The updated conversion from the previous portable document format (pdf) to a weblog layout has been long overdue. You asked for it. We listened and delivered a more powerful, searchable, and diversified content tool. *The Council Quarterly* can now come out from hiding. All its parts and pieces can be found by those searching for valuable urban forestry topics, features, and solutions.

The weblog conversion is a growth strategy. The newsletter will continue to mature and gain girth when serving our membership. *The Council Quarterly* has now advanced it's search and

web-based capabilities. The format aligns with, FUFCC Website, *In-A-Nut-shell* monthly e-bulletin, social media outlets, and mobile devices.

Doing the "write" thing is what *The Council Quarterly* is all about. The FUFCC newsletter is made possible by the curiosity of our members and the generous support of advertisers, sponsors, and contributors. *The Council Quarterly* helps us help you to promote the value, enhancement, and sound management of urban forests through leadership, collaboration, guidance, and education.



Right Tree, Right Place Posters

Order Today!

- Tree Selection Tips
- How to Plant Trees
- Area Guidelines
- What to Avoid
- Watering Guidelines
- Pruning Tips
- Charts & Illustrations
- Convenient Size Poster
- Informative for Everyone



CENTRAL & NORTH FLORIDA REGIONS
(South coming soon!)

1 to 25 @ \$10.00 each
26 to 100 @ \$6.50 each
101 to 1,000 @ \$5.00 each
1,001 to 2,500 @ \$4.00 each

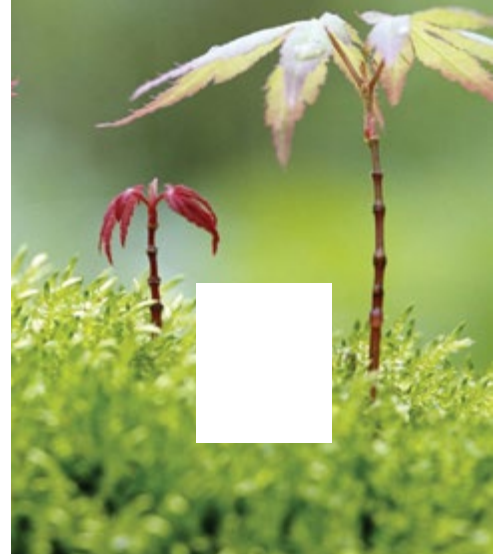


Order online or download an order form and fax or mail your order form to:

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

Help Us Grow!

Become a member, sponsor, or...
Follow & Share Our
Social Media Profiles



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.

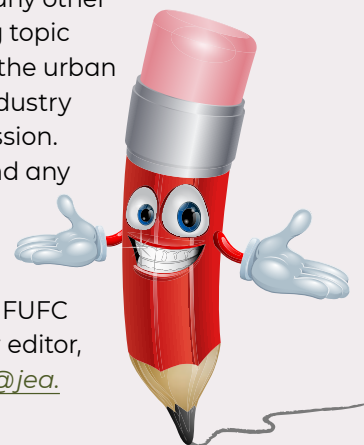
These articles can include:

- 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, FUF C newsletter editor, at andejs@jea.com.

Thanks for contributing!



Membership

JOIN US

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

New and renewed members through April 2025. Please let us know if we fail to mention your name or have it displayed incorrectly.

SUPPORTING

NRPS LEGACY ARBORIST SERVICES
John Holzaepfel
Charlie Marcus



OUC
Rick Taylor
Dustin Goodson
Rich McCoy



UTILITY PARTNERS

DUKE ENERGY
Tamron Fernandez
Anthony Coody
Nick Fanelli
Andrew Marquis
Andrew Whetten

WINTER PARK ELECTRIC UTILITY
Josh Nye

GOVERNMENT/NON-PROFIT

CITY OF CAPE CORAL
Dustin Davidson
Honey Phillips
Keithon Patterson
Omar Leon
Paul Rees

CITY OF MOUNT DORA
Mark DeCosta
Mark Miller
Robert Austin
Steve Langley
Vince Sandersfeld

CITY OF PEMBROKE PINES
Yelena Hall

CITY OF ST. PETERSBURG
Bill Olive
Casey Evans
Charles Hargrove
Dean Hay
Maeven Rogers
Shane Largent

CITY OF TAMPA PARKS AND RECREATION - FORESTRY DIVISION
Jorge Ysusi
Kathleen Carter
Luis Alcantara
Miriam Brown
Nelson Martinez-Cortes

CITY OF TAMPA PARKS AND RECREATION - FORESTRY DIVISION
Sherri Mullis
Toby Loveall

CITY OF TITUSVILLE
Maureen Phillips

COMMUNITY GREENING
Adriene Tynes
Josh Weiner
Kenneth Williams
Mark Cassini
Shelby Fischer

DUKE ENERGY
Andrew Marquis
Andrew Whetten
Anthony Coody
Nick Fanelli
Tamron Fernandez

FLORIDA TREE PROJECT
Mikayla Summerall

JEA
Greg Preston
Joe Anderson
Joe Pazzalia
Sam Dunbar
Scott Souder
Slice Demby

NRPS LEGACY ARBORIST SERVICES
Caitlyn Cherro
Charlie Marcus
Eric Hoyer
John Holzaepfel
John Vogel

OUC
Dustin Goodson
Erin Givens
Rich McCoy
Rick Taylor

SEMINOLE COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION
Jeromy Mynes

SFFGS
Amanda Tanner
Basil Iannone
Michael Andreu

TAKEMAR
Michelle Ellena

UF/IFAS EXTENSION SUMTER COUNTY
Adam Smith
Jim Davis
Lisa Sanderson
Madelyn Greathouse

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
John Roberts
Kaylee August
Stephanie Cadaval

WINTER HAVEN
Savannah Winstanley

PROFESSIONAL

Abdias Dalisma
Alexis Wells
Alison Walker
Ander Alvarez
Andrew Malmquist
Anthony Gross
Arpan Patel
Beverly Cline
Bonnie Stine
Brandi Rangos
Brian Dick
Brian Voelker
Bryan Morales
Buck Rollings
Camille Schillizzi
Charles Carr
Cheryl Callender
Christian Camacho
Christian Torres
Christina Stocking
Christine Claus
Chuck Lippi
Clark Ryals
Daniel Spencer
Dante Ditommaso
David Crawley
Dianne Yekel
Donald Spence
Donald Ullom
Drew McLean
Emily Gonzalez
Emilyvette DeGaetano
Eric Muecke
Erika Bonnema
Garner Cox
Gayle Lafferty
Greg Wright
Gregory Reynolds
Ingrid McClellan
Jackie Hartley
Jamielyn Daugherty
Janine Lester
Jason Ellington
Jessica Dalisma
Jim Myers
Jimmy Beaver
Joe Samnik
John Beaudet

John Fuller
John Gentile
John Guziejka
John Roberts
John Rohan
Johnny Turvin
Jordan Upcavage
Jorge Rivera
Joseph Ferris
Juliane Barker
Kalyn Ennis
Kate Johnston
Katie Habgood
Kelly Carson
Keri Smith
Kyra Paris
Larsen McBride
Laura Tooley
Lauren Adams
Laurie Hall
Leah Davis-Bonsenor
Lisa Grubba
Marguerite Beckford
Mark Miller
Mark Williams
Matt Hill
Matti Rukholm
Michele Laskowski
Mona Neville
Omar Leon
Paula Osborne-Vasquez
Phil Jubert
Rachel Chambers
Robert Gould
Roger Burda
Ruth Hamberg PLA
ASLA
Ruth Hamberg
Ryan Divin
Shane Largent
Stephanie Cadaval
Suzanne Newman
Tammy Vrana
Terry Kincaid
Trevor Ross
William Fowler
Yasmin Rodriguez

TREE ADVOCATE

Andrew Russell
Carla Wells
David Fox
David Wing
Derric Tay
Jan Bel Jan
Keithon Patterson
Stacey Kaufman
Susan Carter
Tom Walsh

STUDENT

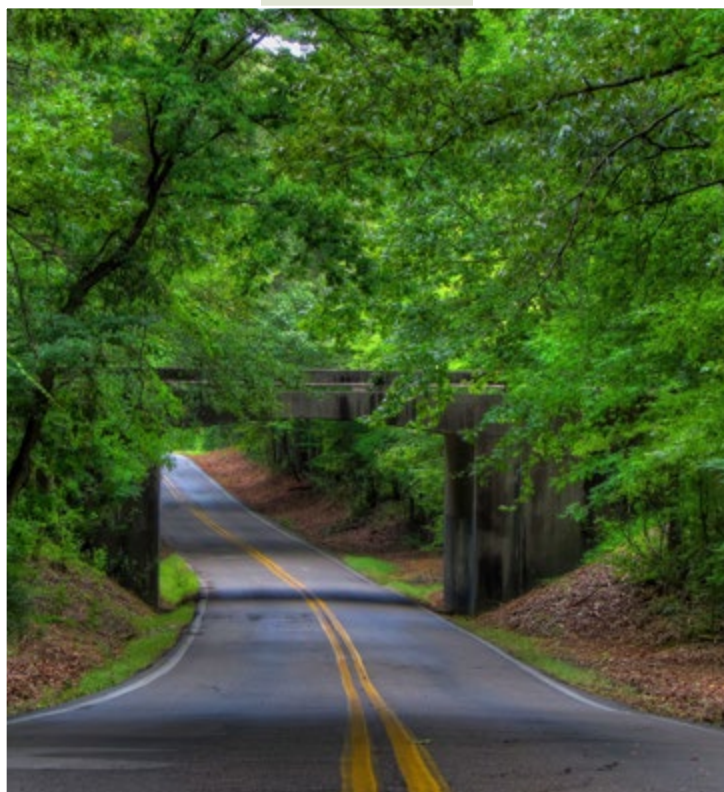
Paul Luzuriaga

HONORARY

Joe Anderson
Mike Conner
Anna Dooley
Norm Easey
Justin Freedman
Ed Gilman
Erin Givens
Steve Graham
Michael Greenstein
Elizabeth Harkey
John Harris
Mary Lou Hildreth
John Holzaepfel
Julie Ioss
Howard Jeffries
Andy Kittsley
Ken Lacasse
Earline Luhrman
Bill Reese
Jerry Renick
Darryl Richard
Mike Robinson
Linda Seufert
John Tamsberg
Celeste White

FUFC Past Presidents

Darryl Richard.....	(2024)
Carolyn Cheatham-Rhodes	(2023)
Erin Givens	(2022)
Joe Anderson	(2020-2021)
John Harris.....	(2018-2019)
Linda Seufert.....	(2016-2017)
Justin Freedman	(2015)
Ken Lacasse.....	(2014)
Elizabeth Harkey	(2013)
Mary Lou Hildreth.....	(2012)
Jerry Renick.....	(2011)
John Holzaepfel	(2010)
Earline Luhrman.....	(2008-2009)
Celeste White.....	(2006-2007)
Mike Robinson.....	(2004-2005)
Mike Greenstein	(2002-2003)
Howard Jeffries	(2001)
Anna Dooley.....	(2000)
Julie Iooss.....	(1999)
Mike Conner.....	(1998)
John Tamsberg.....	(1996-1997)
Norm Easey	(1995)
Jeffrey Siegel.....	(1994)
Andy Kittsley	(1993)
Bill Reese.....	(1992)
Ed Gilman.....	(1991)
Steve Graham.....	(1990)



Become a Member!

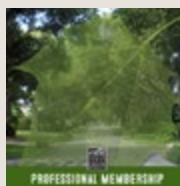
By joining the FUFC you will help promote the value, enhancement, and sound management of urban forests through leadership, collaboration, guidance, and education. Your membership adds your voice to hundreds of others working together for a tree-filled future for Florida.

.....

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES:

Professional @ \$25.00

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



Tree Advocate/Individual @ \$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.)



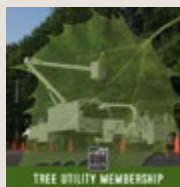
Government/Non-Profit Agency @ \$100.00

(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.)



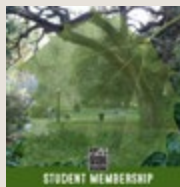
Utility Partner @ \$349.00

(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

(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.)



.....

Scan the QR code to join
or go to fufo.org/membership/



2025 FUFUC Executive Committee Members

OFFICERS:



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



Vacant

President Elect
Executive Officer/
Advisory



John Rohan
Vice President
Elected Position/
Advisory Appointed
Position
Davey Resource Group
(Fort Myers)



Jeromy Mynes
Secretary
Elected Position/
Member-at-Large
FRPA Representative



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



Darryl Richard
Immediate Past President
Executive Officer/
Advisory
FL – DOT Landscape
Architect

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

JEN AHEARN-KOCH, *Appointed Position*

Advisory
Florida League of Cities
Tallahassee

STEFANO ALVERNIA, *Appointed Position*

Advisory
Winter Park

JOE ANDERSON, *Appointed Position*

FL Chapter ISA
JEA – Jacksonville, FL

CAROLYN CHEATHAM-RHODES,

Appointed Position
Pinellas County Public Works

JAMIELYN DAUGHARTY, *Appointed Position*

Advisory
UF/IFAS Lake County Extension

BRIAN DICK, *Appointed Position*

ASLA/FL Chapter
City of Lakeland

STEVE EDGAR, *Appointed Position*

FL SAF
Port Orange

JOHN HARRIS, *Appointed Position*

FNGLA
Earth Advisors, Inc.
South Florida

DEAN HAY, *Appointed Position*

Advisory
St. Petersburg

OMAR LEON, *Elected Position*

Municipal Forester
Cape Coral

ANDREW MARQUIS, *Elected Position*

Utility Arborist
Duke Energy - FL

LARSEN MCBRIDE, *Appointed Position*

Senior Arborist
Resource Environmental Solutions

ERIC MUECKE, *Appointed Position*

Advisory
Urban Forestry Manager, City of
Tampa Parks & Recreation

ROBERT RAZE, *Appointed-Advisory Position*

Member-at-Large
FL Project Learning Tree
Gainesville, FL

HEATHER SHIELDS, *Elected Position*

Member-at-Large
City of Naples

BRIAN VOELKER, *Elected Position*

Private Arborist, Chen Moore and
Associates
Fort Lauderdale

JOSH WEINER, *Elected Position*

Tree Advocate
Community Greening

MARK WILLIAMS, *Elected Position*

Member-at-Large
Fort Lauderdale

TODD LITTLE, *Liaison*

Florida Forest Service, Tallahassee

MATT KENNARD, *Liaison*

Florida Forest Service

FUFUC ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Courtney Fegter - *Advanced Association Management*



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

Website: www.fufc.org

Phone: (727) 475-5900

Fax: (727) 565-2981

For previous issues of
The Council Quarterly
visit fufc.org