

# The Council Quarterly

Quarterly Newsletter of the Florida Urban Forestry Council



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2025  
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## FUFC Membership: Growing Value, Expanding Access, and Investing in Education

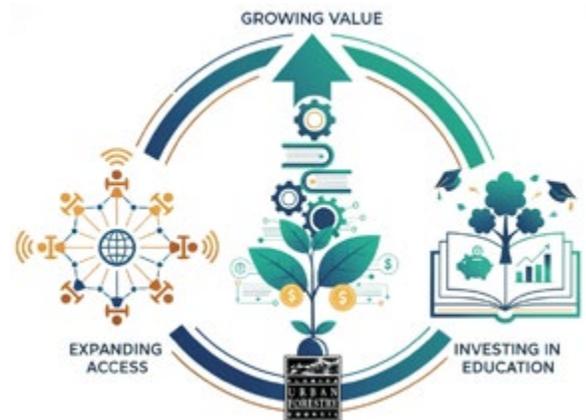
*Submitted by the FUFC Membership Committee*

FUFC leadership and committees have been brewing up something transformative – a new, future-focused membership and pricing structure, and sponsorship platform, that reflects FUFC’s growing reach, evolving programs, and commitment to professional education. In 2026, FUFC will officially launch a streamlined, value-driven Membership and Sponsorship model that strengthens the connection between education, engagement, professional development, and community.

### WHY THE CHANGE?

In urban forestry, climate change is not limited to Florida’s ecological climate. Our political economic/financial, legal, and social climates are changing – and they are changing fast and furious. After reviewing member feedback and benchmarking against industry needs, market demands, and financial forecasts, FUFC recognizes that previous models and policies

would not support, or reflect, the full value of membership expectations – particularly in continuing education. With webinar attendance increasing and continuing education units (CEU) demand at an all-time high, FUFC restructured its membership structure to ensure that education will be fully supported and promoted.



continues on page 2

**WHAT'S NEW?**

Simplified Tiers & Pricing

Tier	Annual Rate	Highlights
Professional 	\$150	For practicing professionals. Includes unlimited webinars, free CEUs, publications, network opportunities, directory listing, leadership eligibility, and event discounts.
Government/Non-profit Agency 	\$600	Includes 5 professional group membership, publications, webinars free CEUs, discounts, agency listings and recognition.
Corporate Partner 	\$750	Includes, 5 professional group membership, webinars, CEUs, logo listing, complimentary UFI registration, marketing and promotional opportunities.
Utility Partner 	\$750	Includes, 5 professional group membership, webinars, CEUs, logo listing, complimentary UFI registration, one Right Tree, Right Place poster, vendor priority at events, and Tree Line USA support.
Tree Advocate/Individuals 	\$50	Ideal for tree-community volunteers, tree board members, and non-professional urban forest advocates. Includes webinars, publications, entry into committee work, and recognition.
Student 	\$25	For full-time student. Includes free webinars, mentorship, entry into committee work, and digital badge recognition.

**ADDITIONAL ENHANCEMENTS:**

- **CEUs:** All professional-level and group memberships include complimentary CEU credits for FUFC webinar. Qualifying credits include ISA, SAF, FNGLA, LIAF, LACEA, CAM as available).
- **Engagement Rewards Program:** Members can now earn discounts for attending meetings, contributing content, and recruitment.

**INVESTING IN THE FUFC MISSION:**

Every membership dollar fuels the FUFC mission – delivering educational programming, hosting Urban Forestry Institute (UFI), Urban Forestry Summits, producing The Council Quarterly, In A Nutshell, social media posts, urban forestry outreach, scholarships, and other initiatives designed to advancing

urban forestry awareness across Florida. By embracing Continuing Education Units (CEUs) into annual dues, FUFC ensures that CEUs remain accessible and that professionals are supported year-round.

**JOIN THE MOVEMENT:**

Urban Forestry is an action word. Join the movement. Whether you're a tree-advocate investing your time and talent toward local urban forestry efforts, a student investing in your future, a professional advancing your professional and personal ambitions, or an established organization shaping canopy practices and policy, FUFC membership is designed to meet you where you are – and continue growth from there.

Select and renew your membership at, <https://fufc.org/membership/>

Learn more at, <https://fufc.org>



# President's Message

Hello FUFUC Members,

This year, I am reminded that the strength of the Florida Urban Forestry Council (FUFUC) stems from the people who are engaged in urban forestry. Your commitment to enhance the value and stewardship of urban forests keeps Florida's urban forest management moving in the right direction. As we close out 2025, we are entering a pivotal moment for FUFUC, and I want to share it with you directly and transparently.

This upcoming year, FUFUC will launch a new membership structure and sponsorship model. This is one of the most significant updates we have made in many years, and it is built around a single principle: **the value of membership should always strengthen, never weaken.** This change ensures that FUFUC can continue providing the training, CEUs, resources, and partnerships our members rely on, especially during a time when external financial & regulatory pressures are tightening nationwide.

It has become clear that relying largely on federal or governmental funding puts the long-term stability of FUFUC at risk. Budgets dependent on federal level spending have been particularly vulnerable and unpredictable. To continue without adjusting our model would put us in jeopardy. The programs that matter most to our members—webinars, continuing education potential, conferences, youth outreach, and publications—would eventually suffer. That is something none of us can accept. To grow a sustainable

urban forest, we must also grow a sustainable organization.

The innovative membership model reflects this mindset. It is streamlined, easier to understand, and designed to provide real value to every level of membership. Most importantly, all professional, corporate, utility, and agency members now receive Foundational Friday webinar CEUs at no additional cost; all you need to do is attend. This protects member access, supports professional development, and allows FUFUC to deliver the education that is core to our mission, and central to your career advancement.

You will also see something brand new in 2026. We are introducing an **Engagement Rewards Program** that rewards members that participate, contribute, connect. Members can earn rewards simply for submitting articles, helping recruit new members, getting involved on a committee, or contributing to the Council's work. These are more than perks. They reinforce that **FUFUC is strongest when our members are active and engaged.**

In this issue of *The Council Quarterly*. Our colleagues at the UF/IFAS Urban Forestry Extension Council are engaged and have actively taken over this edition. They have provided a full slate of articles, features, and educational content. This is a clear sign of where FUFUC is headed. We are expanding our partnerships, working closely with allied organizations, and building a broader network



across Florida. **Collaboration will be a cornerstone of our future.**

I want to be clear about one more thing. **These changes are about protecting FUFUC's mission - not about raising revenue.** They are meant to keep CEUs accessible, strengthen member value, support our Strategic Plan, and ensure FUFUC does not retreat from the progress we have made together. Your membership fuels education, outreach, youth programs, grants, and every initiative that helps communities manage, grow, and expand their urban forests.

This Council belongs to its members. We are building this next chapter with you in mind, and I am excited about what the coming year will bring. Thank you for everything you do. Thank you for supporting this mission. And thank you for helping shape a healthier, more resilient, and more sustainable urban forest for all Floridians.

Cheers,

*John Snow*  
2025 FUFUC President

## Newsletter Advertising Annual Rates

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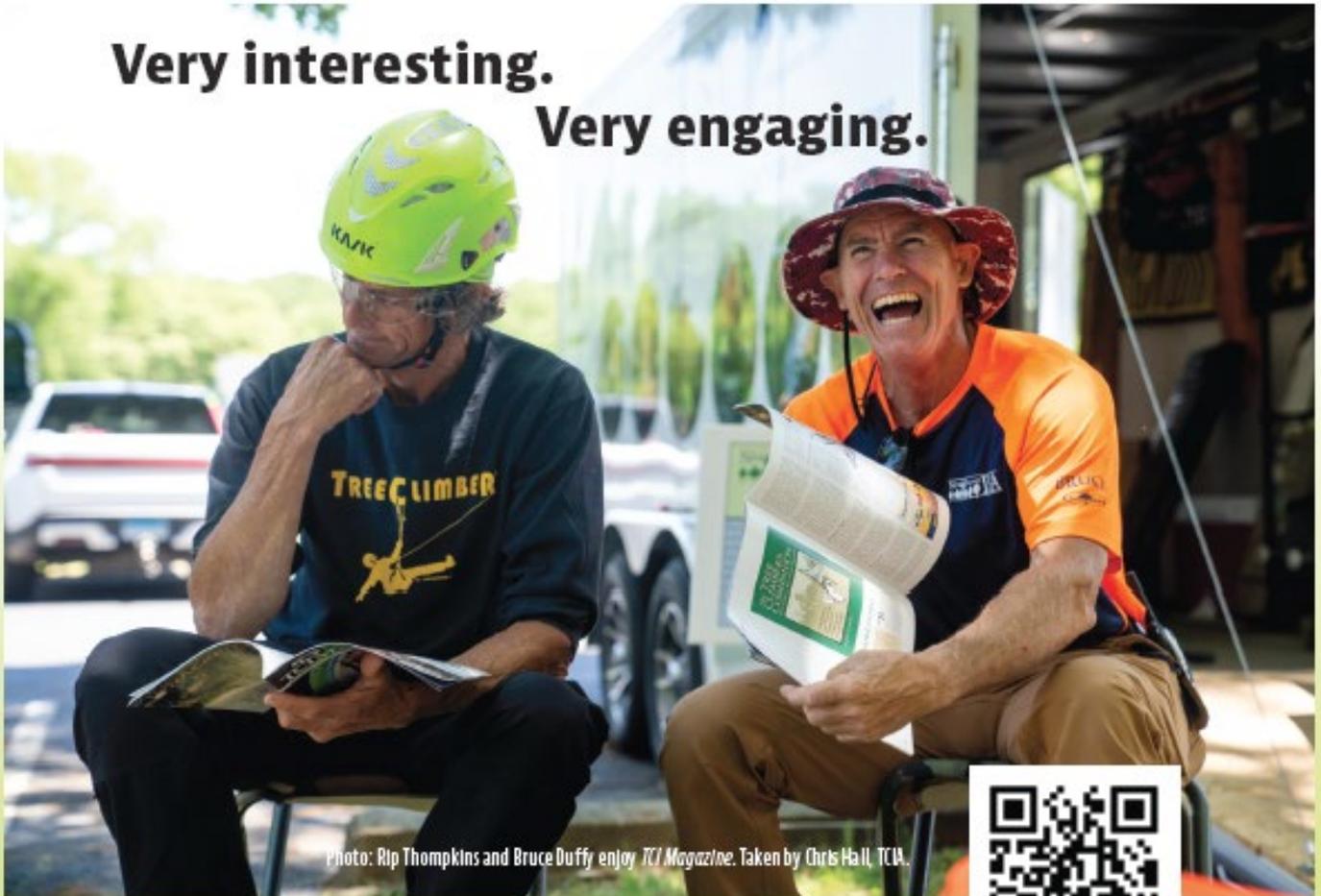


Photo: Rip Thompkins and Bruce Duffy enjoy TCI Magazine. Taken by Chris Hall, TCI.

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# The UF/IFAS Urban Forestry Council - A New Resource for Statewide Extension Education and Outreach

*Submitted by Stephanie Cadval, PhD., Urban Forestry Extension Coordinator, University of Florida School of Forest, Fisheries, and Geomatics Sciences*

The Urban Forestry Extension Council (UFEC) is an interdisciplinary group, engaged in urban forestry, operating from the University of Florida/Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) Cooperative Extension Service.

## URBAN FORESTRY IN FLORIDA

Florida's urban forests are challenged by rapid development, a changing climate, invasive species, aging tree canopies, aging infrastructure, and limited resources allocated to planting, maintenance, and the removal of trees. Our urban trees and green spaces contribute so much to our local communities. During the dog days of summer, we're all looking for ways to keep cool. The shade offered by trees of our urban forests offer a precious respite. Trees play a role in placemaking and are where we gather or recreate. People appreciate the ecological, economic, aesthetic, and social value trees and green spaces bring to our communities. Yet, many Floridians do not understand how to best care for and preserve urban forests.

## HOW WE GOT TO UFEC

UFEC was established to collaboratively develop new resources and educational messaging for UF/IFAS Extension. UFEC's goals include increasing public awareness of the benefits of trees and urban forests, engagement in urban forestry activities, and supporting the maintenance and growth of Florida's urban forests. Our first meeting took place earlier this year. However, UF Extension agents and specialists began laying the groundwork for such an initiative years earlier. Parallel efforts for exploring urban forestry issues and creating educational opportunities for different audiences emerged within the University of Florida. They provided space to share academic papers, exchange scientific knowledge, and discuss urban forestry



*Bringing people together to support urban forestry Extension in Florida: Dr. Stephanie Cadval, UF/IFAS Urban Forestry Extension Coordinator (left), is pictured with Christian Wanamaker, Volunteer Coordinator for the UF Invasive Species Survey Group. UFEC works to bridge urban forestry and other related areas like invasive species management.*

in Florida. These groups came together to form the UF/IFAS Urban Forestry Extension Council.

In October 2024, with support from the Florida Forest Service, UF/IFAS hired an urban forestry Extension coordinator to facilitate UFEC's development, build a network of partners, and identify collaborative actions supporting urban forestry in Florida.

## WHO IS INVOLVED IN UFEC?

In the past, challenges presented by geographical distance and divergent workloads among Florida Extension agents and specialists working on urban forestry topics limited the potential impact for statewide urban forestry Extension program. The Urban Forestry Extension Council was developed to address these challenges. Combining the past efforts, expertise, and participation of previous groups along with new, collaborative goals,

UFEC brings together researchers, specialists, and Extension agents from the University of Florida; city planners and municipal urban foresters, educators, program coordinators; and representatives from state agencies, the Florida Urban Forestry Council, and the Florida Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture. Members represent various experiences and perspectives from around the state and work to ensure that local needs and challenges are addressed in UFEC's work. Together, members meet once a quarter to discuss progress on ongoing initiatives and emerging issues and topics in urban forestry.

## WHAT IS THE MISSION AND VISION OF UFEC?

The mission of UFEC is to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and best practices on urban and community

forest management through science-based Extension programming. Looking towards the future, UFEC aims to encourage a healthy and sustainable urban forest across Florida that enhances the quality of life in communities. We envision a well-informed and engaged population—including tree care professionals, municipal departments, and residents—actively supporting the expansion of urban tree canopies and maximizing the ecosystem services that urban forests provide. UFEC is adaptive in nature, dynamically responding to needs observed by local Extension agents and members, and in response to surveys, data, and scientific research.

**SPOTLIGHT ON THE FLORIDA URBAN TREE STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM: A NEW INITIATIVE**

Rapid urbanization in Florida and the influx of pandemic and post-pandemic residents from other states made clear a need for active statewide collaborations within the university system and with professional partners to provide education that helps urban forestry users and managers throughout Florida. The first major project being undertaken by UFEC is the development of the Florida Urban Tree Stewardship program, which cultivates urban forest advocates across the state.

The Florida Urban Tree Stewardship program offers a comprehensive “train-the-trainer” course. After completing the trainer course, participants – who include Extension agents, municipal urban forestry managers, leaders in non-profit and tree advocacy groups, and other educators – will be able to train volunteers in their communities to become Florida Urban Tree Stewards. These groups will define local needs and goals, including planting trees, maintaining and pruning trees, advocating for trees in local tree boards and in HOAs, and educating others in their communities about the value and benefits of trees. The program draws from past county-level Extension tree stewardship programs, academic research on stewardship, and the expertise of diverse UFEC members.

**WHAT CAN UFEC ACHIEVE IN FLORIDA'S URBAN FORESTRY FUTURE?**

As communities expand, more and more Floridians' first encounters with nature will involve the trees in backyards, schools, parks, streetscapes, and retail centers. These urban trees are critical for countering the increasing heat and flooding that many of our communities are experiencing. They have also been proven to boost the overall well-being of residents. Urban forestry is becoming

increasingly important to more people, whether they know it yet or not.

UFEC is uniquely positioned to bridge academic research, professional practice, and community outreach. The diversity of our membership provides a uniquely interdisciplinary perspective for the resources we create. UFEC's structure enables dialogue, resource sharing, and peer-to-peer learning, offering opportunities to explore creative solutions that support all of Florida's communities. The launch of UFEC has already created new partnerships among Extension agents and specialists working on similar issues and topics. Finally, UFEC provides opportunities to form connections with other partners and can expand the capacity of those working with urban forestry Extension programs.

We invite you to learn more about UFEC as we work to engage and support communities across Florida.

**WHERE TO LEARN MORE**

Explore our partners and webpage: <https://programs.ifas.ufl.edu/urban-forestry-extension-council/>

Subscribe to our newsletter and view our archive: <https://programs.ifas.ufl.edu/urban-forestry-extension-council/about/>

# FUFC Q4 Workshops & Events

**FUFC WEBINAR SERIES**

- Trees & The Law – Recognizing Tree Risks in Your Community Association  
December 12, 2025 – Webinar  
<https://fufc.org/regional-workshops/>

**FUFC Foundational Friday Webinar**  
**Recognizing Tree Risks in Your Community Association: A Practical Guide for Property Managers & Board Members**

**Friday, December 12, 2025**  
**12:00 - 1:00 pm ET**

Join us for a practical, CEU-eligible webinar designed for CAMs, HOA/COA board members, and property managers. Discover the most common warning signs of hazardous trees, what to do when you notice them, and when to call a Certified Arborist. Strengthen community safety, reduce liability, and gain confidence in recognizing early tree risks.

*Disclaimer: This webinar provides educational information only and does not constitute legal advice.*

**JOHN SNOW**

**TREE CHECK UP**

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

Save  
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March 12-13, 2026



### 2026 URBAN FORESTRY INSTITUTE

The Urban Forestry Institute is a yearly conference hosted by the Florida Urban Forestry Council. The virtual format will include talks, presentations, and discussions that help promote, manage, and grow a healthy urban forest. Don't miss this opportunity to network with urban forestry professionals. Stand out; be seen. Sponsorship opportunities are available. Further details are posted at, <https://fufc.org/urban-forestry-institute/>.



#### OUR TEAM

JOHN HOLZAEFFEL, 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

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## POWER MEETS PRESERVATION



For more than 25 consecutive years, OUC—The *Reliable One* has earned the Arbor Day Foundation Tree Line USA® designation for its ongoing commitment to effective vegetation management within the communities it serves. This makes OUC the longest-running recipient of the award in the state of Florida.

Tree Line USA® is a national program that encourages utilities to adopt practices that protect and enhance urban forests. It promotes the dual goals of delivering reliable electricity while preserving community trees, allowing the power grid and urban forest to co-exist.

To achieve this recognition, OUC meets five rigorous standards for urban forest management, including quality tree care, employee training, tree planting sponsorships, public education, and participation in Arbor Day events.

Learn more at:  
[OUC.com/Preservation](http://OUC.com/Preservation)



# Stump The Forester

**QUESTION:** My Palm leaves are turning brown, does it have a disease, or a nutrient deficiency?

**ANSWER:** Before providing an answer, we must ask a few questions of our own.

1. How often should a palm be fertilized?
2. What do you use when you fertilize?
3. Have you assessed your soil for pH and nutritional content?

We need to know this before we can properly address the question. Nutrient deficiencies in palms can look like disease. We want to rule out nutritional issues before moving to diseases. Palms need to be on a fertilization schedule. Once a plan shows a nutritional issue, it can take 2-3 years before the canopy regains a healthy appearance. A University of Florida study on palm fertilization found an 8-2-12+4 to be the best overall palm fertilizer. Why assess soil pH and nutrient content? Having soil pH that is off can lock up nutrients, making them unavailable to the plant.

If a plan is deficient in nutrients, we can work to mitigate that issue. Make sure you fertilize regularly, with the right fertilizer, and at the right rate. Read the package label for proper application. Apply with a spreader to

ensure even distribution. Contact your local UF/IFAS Extension office if you need help with this.

Next, let us talk about diseases. There are several diseases that impact the Florida palms. Most are lethal. Currently there are six common diseases causing issues across the state.

Lethal bronzing (*Phytoplasma bacterium*) is one of the more prevalent diseases. Larry Figart did a great job going over this in detail in an accompanying article, so I will not go into detail here.

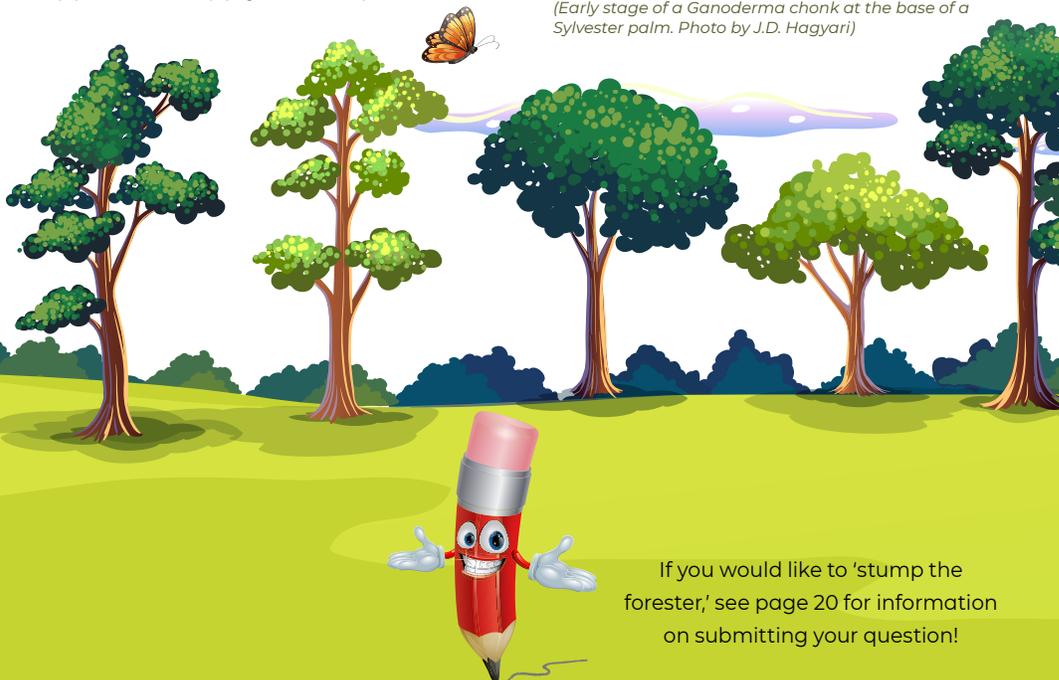


(Early stage of a *Ganoderma chonk* at the base of a Sylvester palm. Photo by J.D. Hagyari)

## LET US LOOK AT THE OTHER FIVE:

**Thielaviopsis Trunk Rot** (*Thielaviopsis paradoxa*) is caused by fungal spores that attach to open wounds on the palm, like a cut from a green leaf. This disease causes a collapse of the trunk after early leaf death. You may notice a fermented fruit smell coming from a wound in the trunk. The best way to prevent this is to not over prune. Remember, only take off fully brown leaves. There is no cure for or treatment for this disease.

**Rachis Blight** (*Multiple fungi*) is the only disease that is not a guaranteed death sentence, but it does require testing. Both Rachis Blight and Fusarium wilt (below) have the same outward symptoms in the early stages. Both diseases present with one side of the leaf (left or right) turning brown, while the other side remains green. Testing is the only way to know which disease you have. Apply fungicide to protect new growth. Watch your palm. It can weaken over time with this disease.



If you would like to 'stump the forester,' see page 20 for information on submitting your question!



**Fusarium Wilt** (*Fusarium oxysporum* f. *sp. palmarum*) fusarium wilt takes only 2-3 months from the first symptom to full palm death. There is no cure. Evaluate your palm with the UF diagnostic lab to learn if your palm has this disease, or rachis blight.

**Ganoderma Butt Rot** (*Ganoderma zonatum*) This fungus attacks the lower 4-5 feet of many palm species. Symptoms include leaf discoloration and wilt. Mushroom conks form in

advanced cases. These spread the spore to other palms in the area. If your palm ever gets a mushroom like this, remove the tree and roots as soon as possible. The palm should be incinerated to reduce spread. Do not plant another palm in that location. Once established the disease resides in the soil.

**Phytophthora Bud Rot** (*Phytophthora palmivora*) is another fungal disease. The fungi is spread by wind, water, and

soil. As the name suggests, you will notice symptoms at the terminal bud the center spear dying. A dead center spear does not always mean you have this disease as several nutrient, such as boron and magnesium, issues can impact the spear as well. A lab test would confirm an accurate diagnosis. If caught early, fungicide may help.

Remember, DO NOT prune green leaves off your palm. You are taking away nutrients from your plant, while also leaving wounds that can attract disease carrying pests. Removing affected fronds may take away diagnostic information needed by professionals to determine if there is an issue with your palm. One way to prevent the accidental spread of several of these diseases is to ensure tools are sanitized between use on different plants.

If you have questions about your palms, contact your local UF/IFAS Extension office, an ISA Certified Arborist, or a professional tree-care specialist for help.

*Answer (and photos) provided by  
Jamie Daugherty Hagyard  
Florida-Friendly Landscaping and  
Urban Forestry Extension Agent*



# Lethal Bronzing in Palm

Submitted by Larry Figart – Urban Forestry Extension Agent, Duval County

If you have palms in your landscape or are thinking of planting palms you may want to know more about Lethal Bronzing. Lethal Bronzing (LB) is a serious disease of palms that has become more prevalent throughout Florida. It is often called a “new” palm disease, even though it was first discovered in Hillsborough County almost 20 years ago, and has spread to 36 counties in Florida. In the beginning, only sabal (cabbage) palms and date palms were known to be susceptible. As the disease has spread throughout the state, it is now known to infect 21 palm species. This number is expected to grow as the disease spreads to new areas with greater palm densities.

The disease is caused by a bacterium without a cell wall called a phytoplasma that is spread from tree to tree by a treehopper called the palm cixiid (*Haplaxius crudus*). The treehoppers feed off the phytoplasma laden sap of an infected tree and carry it to an uninfected tree thereby spreading the disease.

The first noticeable symptom of LB is any fruit and/or flowers on the tree drop all at once. This symptom may not be noticed if the flowers or fruit have been pruned out.



Notice the adjacent palm has fruit while this tree has none. Fruit drop is one of the first symptoms of lethal bronzing. Image by L. Figart UF/IFAS



Notice the Reddish/Brown color in the lower fronds. This “bronzing” progresses from lower fronds upward.

The next symptom is the death of the spear leaf. The death of the spear leaf is an indication of the death of the main growth point of the palm commonly called the “heart”. In palms, once the “heart” dies, the rest of the palm will die soon thereafter. This is followed by the lowest fronds turning a reddish-bronze color as they dry out and die. This “bronzing” progresses upwards from the bottom fronds. The first symptoms are noticeable four to five months after the tree is infected with the phytoplasma. Typically, most palms die 2-3 months after the first symptom is observed.

The symptoms are similar to other palm diseases, so if you suspect lethal bronzing; it is recommended that you send a sample of sawdust from the core to University of Florida Plant Disease Diagnostic Center (<https://plantpath.ifas.ufl.edu/extension/plant-diagnostic-center/>). They can test for the presence of the LB phytoplasma in a sample of sawdust from the tree. The sample can be obtained by using a battery powered drill and a sterilized 5/16” drill bit. For detailed instructions

on how to collect a sample go to Sampling Palms for Lethal Bronzing (<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/IN1197>). Once the sample is collected, it is important to keep it refrigerated until it can be shipped to the lab.

Once a tree has been properly diagnosed or has a positive test result, it should be removed immediately to reduce the chance that the treehoppers can spread the disease to other trees. Nearby palms should also be tested if a tree in the landscape is diagnosed with LB.

While there is no treatment for palms diagnosed with LB, there are two options that can help prevent the disease in healthy disease-free palms. The first option has been available for a long time. If LB is found in the vicinity, nearby palms that are disease free can be preventatively treated with doses of the antibiotic, oxytetracycline HCl (OTC). The injections should be repeated every three months. This treatment has been shown to be very effective. It is warranted especially when the palms are

continues on page 11



Collecting a sample for testing using a sterilized drill bit.

heal. New drill sites need to be used every 3-4 treatments depending on the method of OTC injection. Over time the drill sites start to add up. Additionally, the OTC injection only protects the palm that is treated.

The second option has not been thoroughly studied but shows a lot of promise. It involves using liquid applications of a systemic pesticide called imidacloprid applied to the root area of the palm. The insecticide is then taken up by the tree. Research by Dr. Brian Bahder of the University of Florida has shown that within 24 hours of treatment 90% of the treehoppers in the palm were killed and after 4 days 100% of the planthoppers were killed. This has the potential to provide landscape protection by reducing

the population of the planthoppers with no wounds or injections in the tree. The biggest downside to using imidacloprid is that it is harmful to bees. This means that the treatment should only be used in the late summer after the palms have finished flowering. Further research will be able to provide better recommendations as far as timing and how long the pesticide is effective in the tree.

The good news (if you want to call it that), is that this disease cannot be spread by pruning tools as is the case with other palm diseases. Unlike some other palm diseases, any palm species removed because of LB can be planted back into the landscape.

integral to the landscape and worth the investment in treatment. The downside to this treatment is that injecting the antibiotic into the tree creates multiple wounds in the palm trunks that, in palms, do not

For more information on lethal bronzing go to:  
Lethal Bronzing: <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/pp163>  
Sampling Palms: <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/IN1197>  
Treating Palms with Oxytetracycline. <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/IN1240>

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# Tree of the Quarter

Submitted by Alyssa Vinson – Urban Forestry Extension Agent, UF/IFAS Hillsborough County; ISA certified arborist; and FL-ISA Board member.

Tropical trees are not only beautiful, but depending on where they evolved, they may have some incredible

adaptations to storms. One great example is our native subtropical **Gumbo Limbo** (*Bursera simaruba*).



## Gumbo Limbo (*Bursera simaruba*)

This tree is a true survivor in storm-prone areas, thanks to a couple of turlly amazing features.

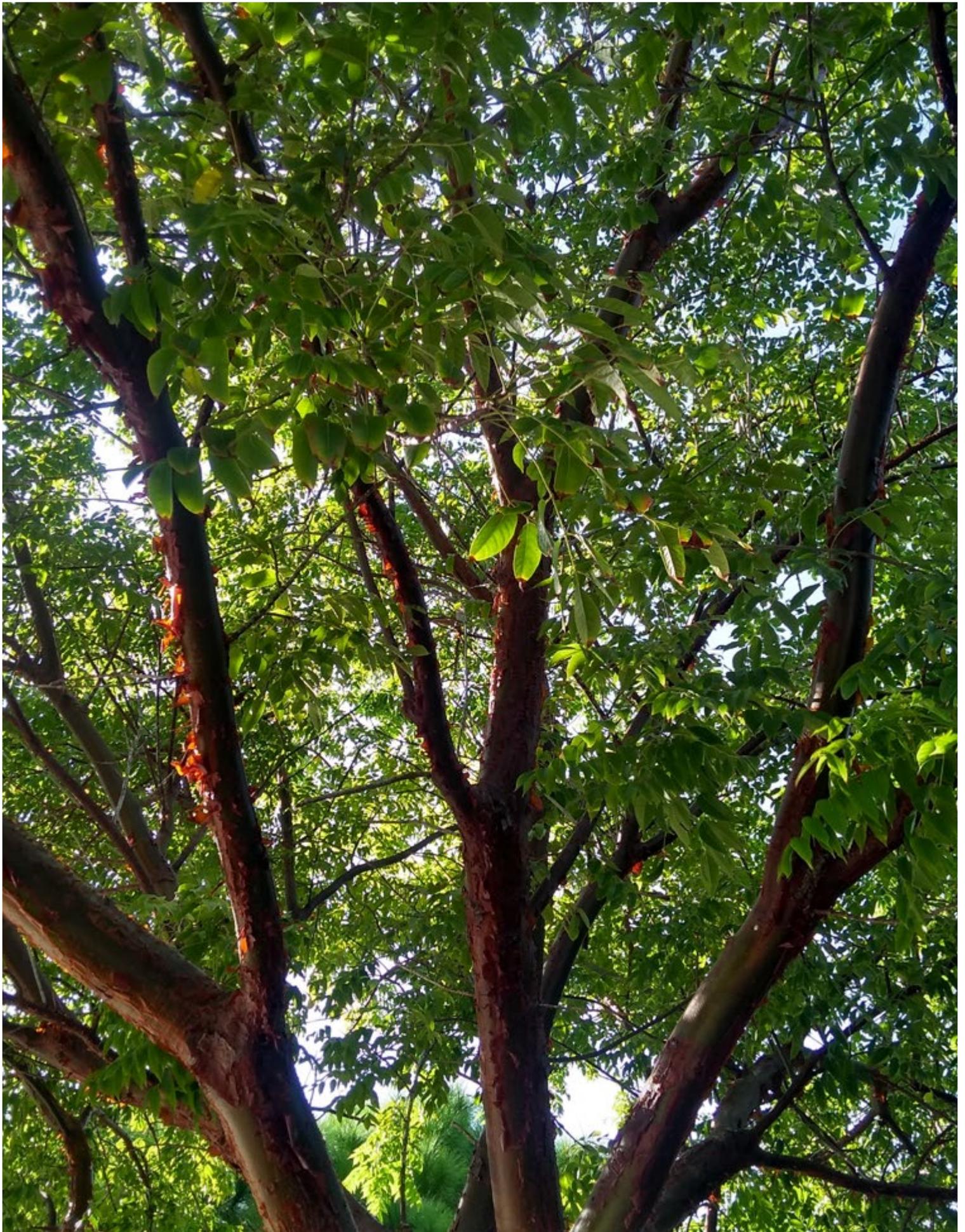
Take a look at the bark – it's shaggy, reddish, and peels away in strips. Underneath, you'll find a smoother, greenish layer that's not just for show. That green bark contains **chlorophyll**, which means it can **photosynthesize**, just like leaves do! So when storms strip away branches or leaves, the Gumbo Limbo doesn't miss a beat – it keeps feeding itself through its bark. Pretty clever, right?

Gumbo Limbo is found throughout South Florida, the Caribbean, and parts of Central and South America, thriving in warm, coastal environments. In Florida, it's commonly seen in hammocks, coastal uplands, and urban landscapes. At maturity, these trees can reach 30 to 60 feet tall, with a broad, spreading canopy that provides excellent shade.

If you're thinking about planting one, Gumbo Limbo is a great choice for well-drained soils in full sun to partial shade. It's drought-tolerant once established, and its fast growth makes it a favorite for reforestation and landscaping projects. Just be sure to give it enough space to grow – this tree likes to stretch out!

Want to learn more about Gumbo Limbo? Check out your local extension office or visit Florida's urban forestry resources. There's always more to discover about these amazing trees!

continues on page 13



# Arbor Day Foundation Tree Programs

Submitted by the Communications Committee



## Arbor Day Foundation™

The Tree USA programs are a suite of nation-wide programs provided by the Arbor Day Foundation to include, but not limited to, Tree City USA, Tree Line USA, Tree Campus, Tree Campus K-12 USA, and Tree Cities of the World. Details about the Arbor Day programs can be found at <https://www.arborday.org/our-work>. Qualifying participants may be operating in your neck of the woods. Participating organizations may have tree-mendous resources, expertise, and incentive to collaborate with local tree-related initiatives when fulfilling respective program requirements. Do you have a local interest in planting and protecting trees? Perhaps you should be reaching out to the participants of these programs? You may find common ground when planting trees in the ground.

### TREE CITY USA

Tree City USA provides the framework necessary for communities to manage and expand their public trees. The program's four, core, urban forestry management standards include, (1) an established tree board or department, (2) an existing tree ordinance, (3) urban forestry budget, and (4) Arbor Day observance.

### TREE LINE USA

The Tree Line USA recognizes the best practices in public and private utility arboriculture, demonstrating how trees and utilities can co-exist for the benefit of communities and citizens. The Arbor Day Foundation collaborates with the National Association of State Foresters on this initiative. The program's five, core, utility arboricultural standards include, (1) Quality tree care, (2) Annual worker training, (3) Tree planting and public education, (4) Tree-based energy conservation program, (5) Arbor Day observance.

The Tree Campus USASM higher education program helps two and four-year accredited colleges and universities to establish and sustain healthy trees with student involvement. The five core standards include, (1) An existing campus tree advisory committee, (2) Campus tree care plan, (3) Campus tree budget, or dedicated expenditures, (4) Arbor Day observance, (5) Service-learning project.

### TREE CAMPUS K-12

The Tree Campus K-12 USA program

inspires the next generation of tree stewards through experiences that bring the benefits of trees to life inside and outside the classroom. The program is in collaboration with Project Learning Tree (PLT) and Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI). The program encourages schools to create purposeful opportunities for students to interact with trees. The four core standard requirements include, (1) A tree campus team, (2) A tree-related education plan, (3) Hand-on experience, (4) Arbor Day observance.

### TREE CITIES OF THE WORLD

The Tree Cities of the World program is an international effort to recognize

## Tree Campus

cities and towns committed to ensuring that urban forests and trees are properly maintained, sustainably managed, and duly celebrated. The five core requirements include, (1) Designated tree care responsibilities, (2) Set of governing rules for the management of tree and forest resources, (3) Updated tree-related inventory, (4) Allocated resource for the management of trees, (5) An annual celebration of trees.

## Tree Cities OF THE WORLD

### TREE CAMPUS

# 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-brochure2025.pdf> or apply online at <https://fufc.org/awards-application/>.
- Deadline for entry is **Monday, December 15, 2025.**
- 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/>.*



# AWARDS PROGRAM 2025

*Sponsored by*



- OUTSTANDING PROFESSIONAL
- OUTSTANDING TREE ADVOCATE OR TREE ADVOCACY GROUP
- OUTSTANDING PROJECT
- OUTSTANDING URBAN FORESTRY PROGRAM
- OUTSTANDING TREE ORDINANCE
- OUTSTANDING UTILITY
- LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

## CATEGORIES



*Apply today. Download an application or apply online at <https://fufc.org/awards-application/>*  
**Nominations must be submitted by Monday, December 15, 2025.**

# Membership

## JOIN US

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

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

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Dean Hay  
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Joseph Cermak  
Mary Danielewicz-Bryson  
Brian Knox  
Michael Lousias  
Henry Perez

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Luis Alcantara  
Miriam Brown  
Kathleen Carter  
Toby Loveall  
Sherri Mullis  
Jorge Ysusi

### CITY OF TITUSVILLE

Maureen Phillips

### COMMUNITY GREENING

Kenneth Williams  
Mark Cassini  
Adriene Tynes  
Josh Weiner

### FLORIDA TREE PROJECT

Mikayla Summerall

### JEA

Mikayla Summerall  
Joe Anderson  
Slice Demby  
Sam Dunbar  
Joe Pazzalia  
Greg Preson  
Scott Souder

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Staci Tippins

### SEMINOLE COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION

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William Abbott  
Sarah Hartung  
Kaydie McCormick  
William Pandos

### TAKEMAR

Michelle Ellena

### UF/IFAS EXTENSION SUMTER COUNTY

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Jim Davis  
Madelyn Greathouse  
Lisa Sanderson  
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Stephanie Cadaval  
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Savannah Winstanley

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### OUC

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Jennifer Hitchcock

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Anthony Coody  
Nick Fanelli  
Andrew Marquis  
Andrew Whetten

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Josh Nye

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Abdias Dalisma  
Aida Curtis  
Alan Mayberry  
Alexander Schore  
Alexis Wells  
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Alison Walker  
Amber Carson  
Amber Clark  
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Ander Alvarez  
Andra Ward  
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Mona Neville  
Nicholas Nicholas  
Nicole Orman  
Omayra Guedes  
Patricia Hoot  
Patricia Smith  
Paul Cliff  
Phil Jubert

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- |                             |                   |                  |
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| Phillip Smith               | S. Jay Plager     | Thomas Pope      |
| Quatisha Oguntoyinbo-Rashad | Sam Sigars        | Tian Wang        |
| Rachel Chambers             | Samantha West     | Tim Hellijas     |
| Raphael Gonzalez            | Samuel Schatz     | Tim Snedaker     |
| Ray Jarrett                 | Scott Crosby      | Tim St. Gordon   |
| Rebekah Barnes              | Sean Creedon      | Timothy Jones    |
| Reza Karimipour             | Sebastian Koerber | Todd Belback     |
| Rhonda Lynn Gutfrucht       | Shane Largent     | Trevor Ross      |
| Richard Barocas             | Shannon Brewer    | Vernon Hiott     |
| Richard Hefley              | Shannon Kinney    | Victoria Bruce   |
| Rick Harman                 | Sherie Burch      | W Jeffrey Cowden |
| Rob Gresham                 | Stepanka Newman   | Walter Bone      |
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| Roger Boen                  | Suzanne Newman    | Yair Goldberg    |
| Roger Burda                 | Tamara Mayer      | Yvette Sheets    |
| Ruth Hamberg                | Tammy Vrana       | Zak Syed         |

**TREE ADVOCATE**

- |                    |                |
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| Carla Wells        | Norimichi      |
| Cathy Harrelson    | Nagaishi       |
| Chris Schaumberg   | Shawn Smith    |
| David Fox          | Stacey Kaufman |
| David Wing         | Susan Carter   |
| Deborah Crouch     | Susan Carter   |
| Dennis Haddix      | Teresa Myhre   |
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| Celeste White    | John Harris     | Michael Greenstein |
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| Earline Luhrman  | John Snow       | Mike Robinson      |
| Ed Gilman        | John Tamsberg   | Norm Easey         |
| Elizabeth Harkay | Julie looss     | Steve Graham       |
| Erin Givens      | Justin Freedman |                    |

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- Kevin Rose  
Paul Luzuriaga

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 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 looss.....(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!**

Membership roots you into the FUFC mission to promote the value, enhancement, and sound management of urban forests through leadership, collaboration, guidance, and education. Your membership unites your voice to hundreds of others working together for a tree-filled future for Florida.

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**MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES:**



**Professional - \$150.00 Annually**

Professional membership is open to anyone actively working in the profession of Urban Forestry or a related professional field. The Professional level is intended for those interested in advancing their careers, along with their professional and personal knowledge in Florida's urban forest industry.



**Tree Advocate/Individual - \$50.00 Annually**

Tree Advocate membership is for non-professional volunteers who demonstrate a vested interest or contribution to urban forestry programs, initiatives, or organizations. These often include volunteers who are members of a tree board, local civic groups, or other Urban Forestry volunteer groups, or interested citizens.



**Corporate - \$750.00 Annually**

Corporate membership is for those individuals, groups, or other agencies expressing a desire for a strong supportive role in the FUFC. Membership will be granted for up to five (5) individuals of an organization, business, or enterprise. Corporate membership provides continuing education, marketing, and promotional opportunities that the FUFC provides.



**Government/Non-Profit Agency - \$600.00 Annually**

Government/Non-profit Agency membership is for those individuals, groups, organizations, or other entities actively working in the profession of Urban Forestry or related profession occupation. Membership level includes up to five (5) individuals with the agency.



**Utility Partner - \$750.00 Annually**

Utility Partner membership is for utility providers with a vested interest in the support and advancement of utility arboriculture inside urban forestry. Utility Partner membership provides continuing education, marketing, promotional, and "Tree Line USA" requirement opportunities provided by the FUFC.



**Student - \$25.00 Annually**

Student membership is an investment into a future in urban forestry. 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.

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Scan the QR code to join or go to [fufc.org/membership/](http://fufc.org/membership/)



# 2025 FUFC 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*  
Executive Officer/  
Advisory Appointed  
Position  
Davey Resource Group  
(Fort Myers)

Vacant

*Secretary*  
Elected Position/  
Member-at-Large



**Jeremy Mynes**  
*Treasurer*  
Executive Officer/  
Appointed Position  
Florida Recreation &  
Parks Association  
(FRPA)



**Darryl Richard**  
*Immediate Past  
President*  
Executive Officer/  
Advisory  
FDOT Landscape  
Architect

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**JEN AHEARN-KOCH**, *Appointed  
Position, Advisory, Florida League of  
Cities*  
Tallahassee

**STEFANO ALVERNIA**,  
*Advisory, Appointed Position*  
Winter Park

**JOE ANDERSON**, JEA Utility Forester  
*Elected Position, FL-ISA Representative*  
Jacksonville

**JAMIELYN DAUGHARTY**, Urban  
Forestry Agent  
*Appointed Position*  
Advisory

UF/IFAS Lake County Extension

**BRIAN DICK**, ASLA/FL Chapter  
*Appointed Position*  
City of Lakeland

**JOHN HARRIS**, Earth Advisors, Inc,  
FNGLA  
*Appointed Position*  
South Florida

**DEAN HAY**, Urban Forester  
*Advisory, Appointed Position*  
St. Petersburg

**OMAR LEON**, Municipal Forester  
*Elected Position*  
Cape Coral

**ANDREW MARQUIS**, Utility Arborist,  
Duke Energy  
*Advisory, Elected Position*

**WILLIAM "BILL" LESTER**, Cooperative  
Extension Service  
*Appointed Position*  
Hernando County Extension Office

**LARSEN MCBRIDE**, Senior Arborist,  
Resource Environmental Solutions  
*Appointed Position*  
Gainesville

**ERIC MUECKE**, Urban Forestry  
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*Appointed Position*  
Advisory  
City of Tampa

**JEROMY MYNES**, Florida Recreation &  
Park Association (FRPA)  
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Seminole County

**ROBERT RAZE**, FL PLT  
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Member at Large  
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**BRIAN VOELKER**, Senior Scientist,  
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**JOSH WEINER**, Community Greening  
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**MARK WILLIAMS**, Consulting Arborist  
*Elected Position, Member At Large*  
Fort Lauderdale

**TODD LITTLE**, Urban Forest  
Coordinator  
Liaison – Florida Forest Service  
Tallahassee

**MATT KENNARD**  
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Courtney Fegter  
Advanced Association Management



FLORIDA URBAN FORESTRY COUNCIL  
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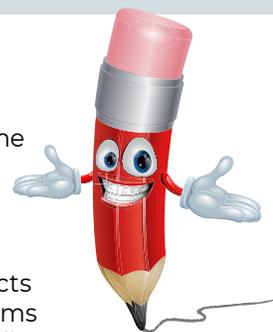
For more information, please contact the  
Florida Urban Forestry Council:

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

## Request for Articles

Please let us know what urban forestry projects you have going on in your neck of the woods. The Florida Urban Forestry Council would greatly appreciate the opportunity to share your information in our newsletter. 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 these or any other interesting topics related to the urban forestry industry and profession. Please send articles or ideas to Joe Anderson, FUFC newsletter editor, at [andejs@jea.com](mailto:andejs@jea.com).

*Thanks for contributing!*