

The Council Quarterly

Quarterly Newsletter of the Florida Urban Forestry Council



This Issue:

1 - 3..... Resistance & Conductivity to Urban Forestry
3..... FUFC Quarterly Calendar
4..... President's Message
6..... Brief History of UFI
8 - 9..... Stump the Forester
10 - 11..... What was Great at the 2025 Great Southern Tree Conference
11..... 2026 Spring Scholarship Recipient
12 - 13..... Tree of the Quarter
14..... Arbor Day Foundation Tree-USA Programs
16..... FUFC - What are we talking about in 2026
18 - 19..... Members & Past Presidents
20..... Request for Articles

2026
Issue
One

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.

Resistance & Conductivity to Urban Forestry

Submitted by Joe Anderson – JEA Vegetation Management Specialist, and FUFC Board member

People take the path of least resistance. Organizations, management, and habits lean toward the path of least resistance. That is not the path of urban forestry. Urban forestry is not the easiest, simplest, most familiar or comfortable route. Urban forestry professionals often find requests, budgets, participation, and opportunities a low priority with an organization, legislation, and competitive budgets. While it can seem easier to avoid the complexity of urban forestry - work, cost, conflicts, liabilities, and responsibility of management - avoidance will lead to irreversible ecological erosion, infrastructural deterioration, missed growth, lost benefits, environmental degradation, and answerability. We must recognize and confront trends toward the easy way out, or intentionally avoiding the harder, more meaningful route.

With regards to resistance, urban forestry has a quality similar to electricity. I'm not talking about the urban forest. The physical attributes of an



urban forest are in plain sight within the urban landscape, street rights-of-way, and our personal experiences. This is not the same for the “forestry,” or management of the urban forest. Both urban forestry and electricity must be produced, discharged, and put to use in order to exist at all. Both can be engineered to create efficient and livable environments. Unfortunately, both are largely taken for granted. Things unseen often are. Homes, business, and industries are insulated from the professions, capital, and framework associated with urban forestry.

Electrical resistance is a measure of opposition to current flow. For urban forestry resistance is any opposition to progress. The larger the resistance, the greater the barrier against the advancement of current, or progress. In an electrical system, once energy is applied, electrons start moving along a conductor. While moving, the electrons slide and collide with the atoms and molecules within the material, or make up, of the conductor. The level of resistance will depend upon the nature of the material of which energy and efforts are applied. The same is true inside urban forestry. Tree-care professionals, practitioners, arboricultural practices, and advocacy should better understand, and alter where they can, the make-up, or characteristic of the various conduits that exist within our community - politics, social, cultural, and competing entities. To overcome resistance, efforts need to be directed toward points of conflict, friction, and collisions between urban forestry and opposing criteria. This is not a path of least resistance.

Can the resistance of a conduit be altered or transformed. In an electrical system it can. Consider the tree that comes in contact with electricity – such as with an overhead electrical distribution line. The tree becomes a conduit for the transfer of electrical energy. Wood is not a great conductor. The flow of energy meets resistance. The flow is slow. At the forefront,

electrical energy is converted to heat energy and the wood burns. If sustained, current will slowly burn its way down the wood of the tree. Burnt wood is transformed into carbon. Carbon is a better conductor of electricity. Electrical energy flows easily down a carbon path etched into the wood of the tree until it reaches ground zero – boom! Exciting things happen.

In urban forestry resistant processes, systems, and entities can also be altered to improve conductivity. If there is a lot of resistance, progress may be slow and won't be made without a little heat. If urban forestry is to succeed, efforts need to be sustained. We should roll up our sleeves and run toward trouble spots. In our industry, we can't run from trouble. There's no place that far. Eventually, when we do reach ground zero, exciting things will happen.

Resistance to urban forestry may be acute, or chronic. Whichever the case, urban forestry systems must be strong and adaptable enough to confront whatever opposition comes our way.

Common factors of resistance include:

- Fractionalization of urban forests.
- Status Quo – doing the bare minimum.
- Attractive incentives for incompatible alternatives.
- Unrealized intrinsic value and fundamental worth of urban forest resources.
- Fear of risks, liabilities, and accountability associated with trees.
- Uncertainty in the tree-care workforce.

Fractionalization, or segmentation of urban forest resources creates a significant form of resistance. The complexity and sheer scale of autonomous parts and pieces can make urban forestry seem like an uphill climb. The advantages of a sole source provider do not exist – that's not urban forestry. The division of ownership, property rights, intended use, and available funds can interrupt

the essential services urban forestry delivers to an ever-expanding service territory. Certainly, being responsible for the resources within our respective interest, expertise, or jurisdiction is essential, but we must not insulate ourselves from the interface and boundaries of our individual urban forestry perspective. Conflict resolution through collaboration and unification will always be part of the process.

Progress can be slow with the status quo. Maintaining a status quo, or doing the bare minimum, is often the path of least resistance. It is seldom an option for advancement or growth. Nor is it an option for survival. Status quo often leads to social conformity – following existing social norms rather than challenging them. If the current state of affairs remains the same, urban forestry, as an industry, is in trouble. A status quo is not all bad. It can provide a comfort level of familiarity; appreciation for what we can control; and a cruising speed for an established urban forest program. The complexity of urban forestry often allows it. Limitations often require it. Still, a status quo can make us resistant to change and have a powerful effect on decision-making.

Attractive incentives and short-term gains from other expanding markets and alternative land use can have development and urbanization turn a blind eye to long-term benefits and investments in forest resources. Strategic efforts to ease barriers for commerce, development, and urbanization are creating a path of least resistance for alternatives to urban forestry. Florida's *Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI)* provides incentives for aggressive economic development in three distinct *Rural Areas of Opportunity (RAO)*. Northwest communities are organized under *Opportunity Florida*. North-central counties are marked by the *North Florida Economic Development Partnership (NFEDP)*; and south-central counties are advocated by the

Florida Heartland Economic Region of Opportunity (FHRO). If not careful, fast-track decisions will incur risks to people, property, and ecosystems.

Urban forestry is not in conflict with economic growth and business opportunities. In fact, the promotion of the green industry complements, completes, and protects it. Urban forest tree canopies are in sync with business opportunities and growth; but urban forestry principles and practices need to be in the mix. Strategic urban forest management resources, collaboration, guidelines, legislation, boundaries, and advocacy will increase the conductivity of Florida communities; but they need to be in place steadfast.

Unrealized intrinsic value and fundamental worth of urban forest resources; fear of tree-related hazards, risks, liabilities, and accountability associated with trees on property; and uncertainty in the tree-care workforce caused by labor intensive work, regulatory pressure, rapid turnover, and ill-defined career paths are not simply challenges, they are crippling obstacles within the entire industry.

Let us go back for a moment to an electrical system. Resistance is equal to voltage divided by current ($R=V/I$). Voltage is symbolic to the pressure and work needed to move progress in a positive direction. Current is synonymous to the rate of progress, achievements, and headway urban forestry initiatives are making. As progress increases, resistance decreases. Therefore, current achievements need to be seen, funded, transparent, rewarded, and celebrated. This is exactly why the National Arbor Day Foundation "currently" promotes the celebration of trees.

In an electrical system, *conductivity* is the opposite of *resistance*. Conductivity is a material's ability to allow the flow of energy. Within the discipline of urban forestry, there are several conductive conduits that will enhance

the flow of progress within a community. Conductivity can be measured by the level of staffing, ordinances, advocacy, and planning in place.

Common factors of conductivity inside urban forestry include:

- Professional staff (arborists, foresters, landscape architects, tree-care providers, etc.)
- Tree protection ordinances.
- Conservation easements.
- Available & affordable green industry solutions and services.
- Research, educational programs & campaigns.
- Institutional protocols & procedures.
- Transcending/generational masterplans.
- Financial incentives.

Superconductors are where electrons (electricity) are allowed to flow superfast. Internally, electrons are no longer flowing independently. They pair up and increase in strength. By pairing up with partner organizations, available funds, parallel missions, talent, memberships, and sponsorships, urban forestry systems can become superconductors for progress and achievement.

The Florida Urban Forestry Council (FUFC) exists to create superconductors. The FUFC mission is to improve the cohesiveness of several professions, disciplines, allied organizations, and other entities to develop a united front. It's all about solutions – cost effective, sustainable, obtainable solutions.

Choosing the path of urban forestry will require adopting a proper mindset, changing habits, and consciously building developmental boundaries, structural designs, and controls. Continuing along the difficult path of urban forestry will increase our stamina, stance, confidence, professional development, and long/short term rewards. We must strive to energize our communities and strengthen both the conductivity and the ability to overcome resistance.

FUFC Quarterly Calendar

- **FUFC Committee Workshops**
January 14, 2026 – Virtual
<https://fufc.org/calendar>
- **Watering the Roots of the Future Industry and Engaging Schools**
FUFC and Project Learning Tree (FL-PLT)
January 30, 2026 – Virtual
<https://fufc.org/regional-workshops>
- **FUFC Executive Committee Meeting**
February 11, 2026 – Virtual
<https://fufc.org/calendar>
- **Trees & The Law – Tree Risk Assessment Standards**
FUFC Foundation Friday Webinar
February 27, 2026
<https://fufc.org/regional-workshops>
- **FUFC Committee Workshops**
March 11, 2026
<https://fufc.org/calendar>
- **Urban Forestry Institute (UFI) Conference**
March 12 & 13, 2026
<https://fufc.org/urban-forestry-institute>

President's Message

Looking Ahead to 2026: Building Momentum Where It Matters Most

As we begin 2026, I want to shift our focus forward to where the Florida Urban Forestry Council is headed and how each of you fits into that work.

The year ahead is not about reinventing who we are. It's about building on what works, strengthening the systems that support urban forestry across Florida, and inviting more people into the work. Momentum matters, but only if it's directed with purpose.

Education as a Core Member Value

Education will continue to be a cornerstone of FUFUC's work, not simply as programming, but as a core member value.

Monthly Foundation Friday webinars, the Urban Forestry Institute, the Urban Forestry Summit, and regional workshops, will enable FUFUC to deliver practical, high-quality education that professionals can apply immediately in their work. Just as important, FUFUC membership now includes CEUs through participation, turning engagement into direct professional value for arborists, planners, landscape architects, foresters, and allied professionals.

Education is how we build shared understanding, professional confidence, and consistency across disciplines. It is also how we strengthen the collective capacity of urban forestry in Florida.

Partnerships That Increase Conductivity

Urban forestry does not move forward in isolation. Progress depends on collaboration.

FUFUC will continue to strengthen partnerships with allied organizations, agencies, utilities, academic institutions, and industry groups. Our role is not to replace the work of others, but to connect efforts, align missions, and reduce friction between disciplines.

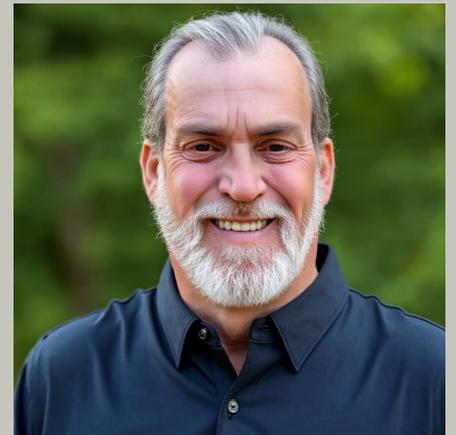
When partnerships are intentional, they increase conductivity, allowing ideas, resources, and solutions to move more efficiently through communities. That is where real progress happens.

S.O.A.P. as an Operating Framework

S.O.A.P.—**Staff, Ordinance, Advocacy, and Plan**—is not a slogan. It is an operating framework for effective urban forestry.

FUFUC will expand and develop our S.O.A.P. resources, making them more Florida-centric. This will allow us to continue supporting communities as they strengthen staffing capacity, modernize ordinances, build advocacy, and implement long-range planning.

Strong urban forestry programs don't happen by accident. They are deliberately built through these four elements working together.



FUFUC as a Connector—and an Invitation

At its core, FUFUC exists to connect people, professions, and ideas.

As leadership roles rotate and committees realign, now is an ideal time to get involved. Whether your interest is education, policy, outreach, planning, or partnership-building, there is meaningful work to be done, and space at the table.

Urban forestry is not a passive discipline. It advances when you show up, share your expertise, and work together across boundaries.

The opportunity is clear. The foundation is strong. The network is growing. And the path forward is one we build together.

Thank you for being part of FUFUC—and for leaning into the work ahead.

Cheers,

John Snow

President, Florida Urban Forestry Council

Newsletter Advertising Annual Rates

Business-card size advertisement..... \$75/yr.
Quarter page advertisement\$115/yr.
Half-page advertisement.....\$225/yr.
Full page advertisement.....\$450/yr.

To place an advertisement in *The Council Quarterly*, please contact info@fufc.org or order online at <https://fufc.org/advertising/>.





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](https://www.ouc.com/preservation)

OUC 
The *Reliable One*®

Brief History of UFI

By Stump the Forester



In the beginning, the spirit of the UFI hovered over a formless, shapeless, empty, dark space in urban forestry. The Florida Urban Forestry Council (FUFC) said, "Let there be value, enhancement, and sound management of urban forests.

Let there be leadership, collaboration, guidance, and education. Let there be arborist, foresters, landscape architects, planners, nursery growers, vegetation managers, educators, researchers, and other tree-minded people and professions.

Let there be federal, state, and local agencies, utilities, non-profits, and advocacy groups. Let there be research, case studies, presentations, lectures, town halls, networking, sponsors, and advertisers." And the Urban Forestry Institute (UFI) was created, and it was good!

The UFI is not the genesis, or first chapter of urban forestry, but it is an integral part for Florida. It does hold stories of creative ideas, the evolution and progress of managing trees, forests, forest resources, and professions. Through the years, the UFI has produced sermons and identified the names of patriarchs (movers and shakers) of urban forestry and Florida's green industry. As with most things that come about – tools, industries, organizations, technologies, practices,

In quick review, over the years the UFI has been emphasizing a truth that urban forestry is an action word. In the state of Florida, urban forestry continues to bridge, maintain, climb, prepare, grow, expand, unite, piece together, and resolve conflicts. Each UFI reminds us that there is a purpose and a future everywhere throughout Florida. The UFI encourages us not to go it alone. Urban forestry is BIGGER than the talent, knowledge, experience, and budget of an individual person, profession, agency, or mission. Urban forestry is what we make it. It is our creation.

policies, programs, and positions – it takes shape over a void, a need, or vacancy. In the case of the UFI, there was a need for urban forestry practitioners to come together, to unite and begin piecing the urban forestry puzzle together.

There are scriptures, clues, and answers that will shed light on the early history of the UFI. They can be found and reviewed inside the pages of *The Council Quarterly* newsletter. The need, idea, and conversations about the UFI existed long before it became a formal offering of the FUFC. Still, early mention of it appears in "The President's Message," inside volume 4, 2011 with,

"In the month of March (8-9) 2012, the FUFC will hold its first annual Urban Forestry Institute at the University of Central Florida Campus where 'S.O.A.P.' will be the focus of the seminar. The Council has worked hard over the last year in preparation for this workshop that is intended to provide a quality program by leaders of the urban forestry industry for working professionals in order to develop their knowledge and skills..." At this workshop, the acronym S.O.A.P. was introduced. The message is followed by a brief article, *"Coming Soon: The Urban Forestry Institute – March 8-9, 2012, Orlando, FL."*

It is within this issue that the original FUFC logo wrapped in a UFI blue banner appears.

In most cases, volume 4, of *The Council Quarterly*, will promote the upcoming UFI of each subsequent year. For example, *The Council Quarterly*, vol 4, 2012, promotes the UFI-2013.

THEMES & LOCATIONS:

UFI 2012 – "S.O.A.P." University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL

UFI 2013 - "Bridging The Gap: Solving the Challenges of Managing the Urban Forest through Collaboration." University of South Florida, Tampa, FL

UFI-2014 - "Conflict Resolution: Trees versus Infrastructure." Nova Southeastern University, Fort Lauderdale, FL.

FUFC 2015 Symposium - "The Cost of Not Maintaining Trees." University of South Florida campus, Tampa, FL.

UFI-2016 - "Urban Forests Forever! Creating a Sustainable and Resilient Urban Forest." Gainesville, FL.

UFI-2017 - "Climbing to the Next Branch of a Managed Urban Forest." Valencia College, Orlando, FL.

UFI-2018 - "Natural Disaster Preparation and Response." University of Florida Gulf Coast Research and Education Center, Wimauma, FL.

UFI 2019 - "Growing Benefits and Trimming Risks in our Municipal Forests." Nova Southeastern University, Fort Lauderdale, FL.

UFI 2020 - "Expanding Your Canopy." Stenson University, Deland, FL.

UFI 2021 - "Future Urban Forests – Balance for Success." This is the first virtual format for the UFI.

UFI 2022 - "CEU's – Community, Environment, and Unity." Virtual format.

UFI 2023 - "Trees for Resilient Communities." Virtual Format.

UFI 2024 - "Purpose Driven Canopy." Virtual format.

UFI 2025 - "Piecing Together Urban Forestry." Virtual format.

UFI 2026 - "Resilience, Resistance, and Recovery – Designing Urban Forests for Everyone, Everywhere." Virtual format.

REGISTER!
 Thursday & Friday
 March 12-13, 2026



2026 URBAN FORESTRY INSTITUTE

The Virtual Urban Forestry Institute (UFI) brings together urban forestry professionals from across Florida and beyond to “talk trees” and share cutting-edge insights on resilience, resistance, and recovery in urban forests. With 20+ expert speakers and up to 10 CEUs available, this online experience is designed to help you grow professionally, connect with peers, and deepen your practice.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE.

Registration opens February 2, 2026.
 For details, go to <https://fufc.org/urban-forestry-institute/>

Wedgle® Direct-Inject™ TREE INJECTION SYSTEM

Our advanced technology for tree treatment allows you to

**INCREASE THE
 NUMBER OF TREES
 YOU TREAT
 IN A DAY!**

- ◆ 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

Multiple injection tips designed for all types of trees, conifers and palms
Insecticides • Fungicides • PGRs • Antibiotics • MicroNutrients



AVAILABLE AT



239-657-8374 • www.winfieldpro.com



Stump The Forester

QUESTION: What is a resilient urban forest?

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

In our attempt to establish resilient urban forests, seasonal storms, changing climate, regulatory, and political trends make for a hard road to easy street.

Florida's wealth of abundant wetlands; riparian zones; flood plains; waterways; coastal shorelines; and low-lying, flat topography, increases our vulnerability

to long-range threats of sea level rise and rising temperatures. Adverse impacts are compounded by the increase of human populations; rapid development; loss of natural habitats; canopy loss; hard-scaped storm water projects; limited, ill-fated projects; incomplete sustainable designs; competitive funding; and a challenged green industry workforce.

Trees are not defenseless. Trees and forests do have resilient attributes

to combat environmental stresses and shocks. Anchoring root systems, stored energy, load-bearing strength, branch elasticity, tension and compression wood, protective bark, and compartmentalization processes provide protection against adversity. Urban forests also have external defenses such as stand dynamics and harmonious natural ecosystems. Even so, a resilient urban forest relies on more than a tree's own self defense mechanisms.

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

But resilience is more than simply being tough and relying on one's own strength. The fighter doesn't



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

enter the ring blindly. There were prior preparations and training. Experienced fighters know the ropes when they enter the ring. There are people in his corner. There were previous fights. There are fans, sponsors, and a strategy. Now that's resilience.

Resiliency is more than an ability to get hit and bounce back. Resiliency is looking at long-term forecast models and preparing action plans and preparations based on sound projections.

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

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

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

A resilient urban forest is one where management strategies provide a holistic approach to achieve the fullest benefit. Protecting one, single property at a time doesn't get the job done – and can make things worse for adjoining properties and habitats. An integrated approach will require creative funding strategies to enhance and diversify revenues and investments. Resiliency plans are good for business. Resiliency plans and preparations can impact the financial, credit, and insurance liabilities levied against cities and municipalities.

Urban forests are often an overlooked solution for the challenges associated

with extreme weather and other environmental threats. Resiliency will require a green-living infrastructure as part of a nature-based design. Nature-based solutions are not sole source, silver bullets, but they have a big role to play in a layered resiliency plan.

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

*Answer provided by Joe Anderson
– JEA Veg Mgt Spp; ISA-Arborist;
FUFC Board member*



What was Great at the 2025 Great Southern Tree Conference

Submitted by John Harris – President of Earth Advisors, Inc., FUFC Board member

As the Florida Urban Forestry Council (FUFC) Board member representing the Florida Nursery, Growers, and Landscape Association (FNGLA), I share the interests, concerns, and ideas of growers, contractors, and all FNGLA members, with the other allied organizations and agencies of the FUFC. The 2025 Great Southern Tree Conference (GSTC) (November 19-20, at the UF Hilton Convention Center) provided a great summary of the priorities and challenges we want to focus on for FNGLA, the Green Industry, the FUFC, and for the Urban Forestry segment of Florida's economy.

At the 2025 GSTC we learned so much more about why trees are great; what current research is proving for nurturing of trees; and about the economic, regulatory, and business challenges

that we all need to work together to overcome. The conference was dedicated to presenting and visiting the University of Florida (UF) research sites as they relate to landscape trees – the largest contribution to our Green Industry and Urban Forestry.

Key presentations and research included:

- Challenges, trends, and solutions affecting the Green Industry worldwide, in the US, and Florida economies - Stevan Novakovic of Farm Credit.
- Increasing pressure on government agencies, the Green Industry, homeowners, and the public overall to reduce water use for irrigating landscapes was summarized by Dr. Michael Dukes.
- Developing the urban forests of

tomorrow by the re-development and modification of urban properties. - John Fleming of Trimark Properties.

- Introducing nature to development projects using ecological landscapes for sustainability principles for both landscaping and for community parts (people, places, views/aesthetics, water, etc.). - by Timothee Sallin of Cherrylake.
- The multiplicity of governmental and private property associations, and research for how tree canopy cover varies depending on HOA management strategies and other challenges for trees within HOAs was explained by Alyssa Vinson, Urban Forestry Agent with UF-IFAS.
- Panel discussion was moderated by Dr. Ryan Klein of UF, with discussion focused how to gain more

continues on page 11



sustainable landscapes for urban areas.

- The future growth of the tree industry, research and practices to improve tree architecture for urban-ready trees, Florida Grades & Standards, and Florida's Prescription Pruning Qualification (P.P.Q.) was presented by Dr. Ed Gliman, a core professor and researcher for Urban Forestry and the Green Industry.
- Field trips included tree plots at the various research stations to explore planting space; irrigation restrictions; alternates to in-ground irrigation; large tree moving methods; planting space & tree stability; pest predation; pruning practices on nursery stock; soil amendments, substrates, and potting soils; sprout growth; and Grades and Standard studies.
- UF-IFAS mission and efforts to support Florida's tree-industry to educate new professionals, utilize ground-breaking technology like AI, and youth education was discussed by Dr. Scott Angle
- Understanding urban nature through human eyes, to include perceptions of professionals and communities about urban forests; urban greenspace; climate change, storms and trees; and TREE Fund research was presented by Dr. Mysha Clarke.
- Tree and site data available through current Lidar, photogrammetry, aerial/remote images, and 3D modeling was presented by Dr. Andrew Lassiter.
- The physiology of urban trees, stress tolerance, and implications for irrigation management was described to us by Dr. Grace.
- The role of Fungi in the life of trees, from soil to canopy, was the main topic presented by Dr. Matthew Smith.
- Lightning round student presentations covered topics about planting sites for newly planted trees, municipal tree giveaway programs, phantasma scale in south Florida palms, Neighbor-Wood Watch

project (Neighborwood Watch), socio-economic & tree planting success for Trees Atlanta

I hope this summary of the 2025 GSTC provides you with ideas to improve the results of your work and the success of your career in whatever Green Industry profession you are in. Start making your plans to attend tree-centric conference opportunities in Florida. Hear and learn from all that is presented, including the answers to your questions from leading researchers and Subject Matter Experts. I look forward to continuing working with you for a better shared environment.

- John A. Harris, Landscape Economist; MS, MBA, BS, AAS

Certified Arborist #OH-0274A, Certified Forester, Registered Consulting Arborist, Certified Landscape Inspector, Qualified Tree Risk Assessor, Professional Mangrove Trimmer, Nursery Tree Grader, Tree and Plant Appraisal Qualified

2026 Spring Scholarship Recipient

Congratulations to the John P. White Memorial Scholarship recipient, Alyssa Vinson. Alyssa will receive the 2026 spring scholarship to support her doctoral studies exploring the social and ecological impacts of tree care management.

This scholarship is offered in partnership between the FUFCA and the FL-ISA. The scholarship was funded to support education in the arboriculture/urban forestry industry for qualifying students. Applications for the 2026 fall term must be submitted by June 15, 2026. Visit <https://fufca.org/scholarships> for more details – to include a list of past recipients.



Tree of the Quarter

Submitted by Joe Anderson – JEA Veg Mgt Spp; ISA-Arborist; FUFC Board member

BRIEF INTRO/FLORIDA URBAN

LANDSCAPE: Florida is proud of all our Magnolias. They put the “Flori” in Florida. Once you see the bloom of the star magnolia (*Magnolia stellata*) you’ll understand why its signature includes the word “star.” It may not be as large and stoic as the Southern magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*), but the most spectacular blossoms are not always on the tallest trees.

The slow-growing, medium-sized, flowering, deciduous shrub, or small tree, can make for a perfect ornamental tree, or accent shrub. The star is heat tolerant, but low tolerance for urban pollutants or high winds. Though small, it will demand its space. The roots are shallow and don’t like to be disturbed.

HABITAT: Adaptable to most well-drained, slightly acidic soils;

Star Magnolia (*Magnolia stellata*)



it thrives throughout the U.S. in hardiness zones 4-9. Zone 9 includes Florida’s panhandle and much of the northern 2/3 of the state – to





William (Ned) Friedman, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons

include Jacksonville, Gainesville, Orlando, Lakeland, and Ocala. The star magnolia delights in full sun. A southern exposure, or sheltered location may provide some protection from late-winter frost. Good air circulation is never a bad thing.

FORM: Small, compact shrub, or small tree; commonly growing to a height of 5-10 ft, but can, under ideal conditions, reach 15-20ft when mature. The common spread of 10-15 ft. Young trees can display an upright oval form, but crowns will commonly round-out to a dome shape with age. Well-formed branch collars at branch unions make proper pruning an easy task. It possesses a denser, more compact foliage than the saucer magnolia (*Magnolia x soulangeana*).

LEAVES: Deciduous leaves are oblong, long and narrow; about 4 inches in length, 1.5 inches wide. Early bronze-green leaves fade to deep-green as they mature; can be susceptible to magnolia scales.

BARK: Attractive smooth silvery gray bark.

FLOWERS: Fragrant, showy white flowers often with a hint of flamingo pink. Small 3-4 inch flowers form a petal arrangement creates a starburst effect. Even at a young age, the star magnolia will bloom late winter to early spring before the leaves appear. Flowers are vulnerable to frost.

FRUIT: Early autumn, gray-green, cluster of pubescent, fat, fuzzy buds; 2 inches long. Mature fruit splits open revealing an orange-red seed.

USES: Popular ornamental; attracts birds, butterflies, and other pollinators.



Photo by form PxHere

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 CAMPUS

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 Campus

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.

TREE CITIES OF THE WORLD

The Tree Cities of the World program is an international effort to recognize cities and towns committed to ensuring that urban forests and trees are properly maintained, sustainably managed, and duly celebrated. The five core 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 City
— USA —



OUR TEAM

JOHN HOLZAEPFEL, 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

FUFC - What are we talking about in 2026

Submitted by the Communications Committee

What will the Florida Urban Forestry Council (FUFC) be talking about in 2026? We will be talking about seasonal transition; new membership strategy; strategic planning; UFI Conference; S.O.A.P.; Arbor Day Foundation programs; educational workshops; FUFC Awards; Marketing; and other urban forestry topics.

SEASONAL TRANSITION: First and foremost, the FUFC will be talking about the rotation of positions and responsibilities inside its governing body. Routine changes follow the calendar year with staggering terms of elected and appointments positions within the Slate of Officers and Executive Committee members. There will be some anticipated alignments and perhaps temporary vacancies. This is a great time to seek open positions and jump on board. Opportunity is never an orphan. Vacancies don't stay vacant for long. Learn more "About Us" at <https://fufc.org/who-we-are/>.

STRATEGIC PLANNING: The FUFC is talking about the 2026 Annual Work plan as it relates to the 5-year Strategic Plan. The Education, Communication, Membership, Marketing, Awards, S.O.A.P., Executive, and sub committees will be realigning their talent and experience to a cohesive effort to move urban forestry forward. The FUFC Strategic Plan can be found at <https://fufc.org/strategic-plan/>.

THE URBAN FORESTRY INSTITUTE (UFI): The UFI committee will be talking about "Urban Forestry - Resilience, Resistance, and Recovery – Urban Forests for Everyone Everywhere." The UFI conference is long-standing tradition for the FUFC, providing affordable education for a wide range of topics about urban forestry people, places, and professions. To learn more about the UFI in 2026, visit <https://fufc.org/urban-forestry-institute/>.

THE URBAN FORESTRY SUMMIT: The 2026 Urban Forestry Summit follows on the success of its first inaugural Summit in 2025. The on-site venue

provides a perfect opportunity to learn, network, and celebrate with leaders and peers in urban forestry. Whether you are an arborist, city planner, landscape professional, or simply passionate about trees, this in-person event is for you!

FOUNDATION FRIDAY EDUCATION WEBINARS: The education committee will be providing monthly webinars with a variety of educational content that will help you in your work. Webinars, and the C.E.U.'s they carry, are free to members. Foundation Friday webinars are scheduled for the last Friday of each month.

ENGAGEMENT REWARDS PROGRAM: FUFC coupon rewards provide an incentive to members to actively participate with FUFC committees, meetings, events, content submissions, recruitment, and other valuable contributions that support the organization.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITY LEVELS: are now being talked about as current sponsor opportunities are being reviewed and discussed. If you provide urban forestry products & services, FUFC may be able to help you be seen and heard.

S.O.A.P.: In 2026 the FUFC will be talking about S.O.A.P. initiatives and funding opportunities for urban forest projects & programs. Staffing, Ordinances, Advocacy, and Planning will bring about the strongest urban forestry rewards for Florida communities. Learn more about S.O.A.P. by reviewing FUFC newsletters at <https://fufc.org/downloads/councilquarterly21v2.pdf>, and "Stump The Forester" inside at, <https://fufc.org/downloads/councilquarterly24v1.pdf>

ARBOR DAY FOUNDATION PROGRAMS: The FUFC joins the Arbor Day Foundation when nurturing an ecosystem of people, organizations, campuses, utilities, and municipalities who plan, plant, care, promote, and celebrate trees. FUFC will continue to promote the Arbor Day Foundation's

suite of tree-recognition programs; to include Tree City USA, Tree Cities of the World, Tree Campus Higher Education, Tree Campus K-12, Tree Campus Healthcare, and Tree Line USA programs. Learn about Arbor Day Foundation's recognition programs, visit, <https://www.arborday.org/communities/>.

FUFC AWARDS: The FUFC enables outstanding professionals; tree advocates; urban forestry projects & programs; utility arboriculture, sponsors, and lifetime achievements will be seen and celebrated through a long-standing Awards program. Are your outstanding people, places, and programs being recognized, announced, celebrated, and awarded? Find out more about the *Friends of Our Urban Forest Awards* program at <https://fufc.org/awards-information/>.

FUFC VALUE TO MEMBERS: Of course, we will be talking about growing an upward trending membership by expanding our audience, impact for FUFC projects and programs; and increasing the value of membership. Join the "who's who" in Florida's urban forestry community by becoming a member and joining the FUFC. Stand up, stand out, and be recognized. Select the tier that's right for you, at <https://fufc.org/membership/>.

FUFC MARKETING: The FUFC will continue progress to enhancement of existing partnerships with member organization and cultivating partnership opportunities with allied and like-minded organizations.

OTHER TOPICS: Other topics of discussion can be found within the agenda for the UFI conference; the Urban Forestry Summit; regional workshops; *The Council Quarterly* newsletters; *In A Nutshell* monthly e-bulletins; social media posts; and during the FUFC Executive Board meetings. Lean in, speak up, roll up your sleeves, and join the tree-talk. We got work to do.

TCI MAGAZINE™

Official publication of the TREE CARE INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

Very interesting.
Very engaging.

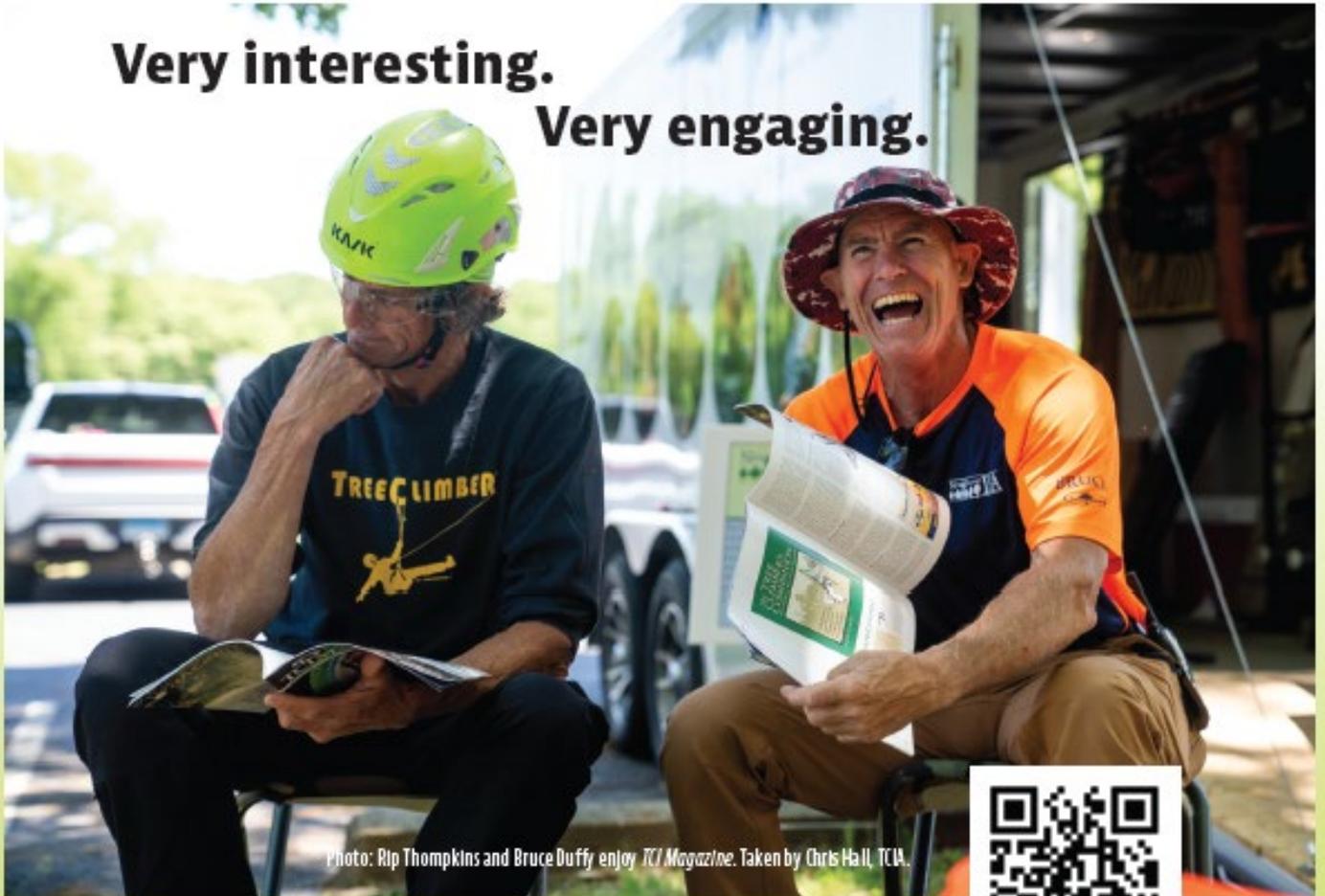


Photo: Rip Thompkins and Bruce Duffy enjoy *TC I Magazine*. Taken by Chris Hall, TCIA.



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!

tcimag.tcia.org

Scan to get a FREE
PRINT or digital
subscription!

Introducing *TC I Magazine +*
for "more of the good
stuff" Check it out at
Patreon.com/TCIA



Membership

JOIN US

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

New and renewed members through January 2026. Please let us know if we fail to mention your name or have it displayed incorrectly.

CORPORATE

A Budget Tree Service Tree Care
Carolyn Nelson

All About Trees Tree Service
Pete Capoccia

Earth Advisors, Inc.
John Harris

NRPS - Legacy Arborist Services
John Holzaepfel
Greg Barton
Caitlyn Cherro
Scott Crosby
Eric Hoyer
Charlie Marcus
Stan Rosenthal
Kyrstee Van Den Bosch

GOVERNMENT/NON-PROFIT

City of Cape Coral
Omar Leon
Keithon Patterson
Dustin Davidson
Paul Rees
Honey Phillips

City of DeLand
Kim Grebosz
Mariellen Calabro
Stephanie Cooper
Laureen Kornel

City of Mount Dora
Mark Miller
Robert Austin
Mark DeCosta
Steve Langley
Vince Sandersfeld

City of Tampa - Forestry
Eric Muecke
Luis Alcantara
Miriam Brown
Toby Loveall
Sherri Mullins
Jorge Ysusi

City of Tampa Natural
Resources Group 1
Brian Konx
Henry Perez
Joseph Cermak
Michael Lousias
Mary Danielewicz-Bryson
Dana Hall

City of Tampa Natural
Resources Group 2

Sarah Arnold
Dan Graham
Erin Maehr
Steven Eyster

James Stephens
Dana Hall
Brian Knox
Dylan Bacon

Community Greening
Kenneth Williams
Adriene Tynes
Josh Weiner
Mark Cassini
Max Haughey
Ford Derastel

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

Pinellas County -
Development Review
Services, Environmental
Staci Tippins

Pinellas County Urban
Forestry

Drew McLean

Seminole County Parks
& Recreation
Jeromy Mynes
William Abbott
Sarah Hartung
Kaydie McCormick
William Pandos

PROFESSIONAL

Aida Curtis
Alexis Wells
Andrew Malmquist
Bob Schankweiler
Brian Dick
Brian Smith
Brian Voelker
Buck Pittman
Carlson Cox
Casey Lee
Casey Lee
Celia Nichols
Chad Bates
Charles Carr
Charles Walker
Christina Stocking
Chuck Lippi
David Neville
Dean Hay
Donald Spence
Doug Durling
Edward Perry
Tollman
Eric Muecke
Greg Geissinger
Jeffrey Boen
Jennifer Hitchcock
Jeremy Hinkle
Jeremy Wilhelm
Jerry Upcavage
Jessica Dalisma
Joe Samnik
John Cross
John Durden
John Giedraitis
John Rohan
Jordan Upcavage

Jordon Munizzi
Joseph Brinson
Joseph Ferris
Ken Miller
Kevin Hunt
Larsen McBride
Laura Tooley
Lucinda Utter
Maria Furey
Mark Hughes
Mark Lange
Mark Miller
Mark Williams
Maureen Phillips
Mike Woodward
Mona Neville
Nicole Kresse
Omayra Guedes
Oona Johnsen
Patricia Hoot
Patricia Hoot
Phillip Howell
Phillip Smith
Roger Boen
Roger Burda
Ruth Hamberg
Scott Crosby
Shannon Brewer
Sherie Burch
Stephanie Cadaval
Stephen Davis
Suzanne Newman
Tim Snedaker
William Fowler
William Lester
Yair Goldberg
Yista Urbina

TREE ADVOCATE

Carla Wells
Carol Delehanty
Cathy Harrelson
David Wing
Dennis Haddix
Derric Tay
George N Ackerson
Ingrid McClellan
Jamielyn Daugherty
Jan Bel Jan
John Foltz
Laura Ureta
Marguerite Beckford
Teresa Myhre

STUDENT

Keri Smith

HONORARY

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

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 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.

.....

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.

.....

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



2026 FUFC Executive Committee Members

OFFICERS:



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



Mark Williams
President Elect
Executive Officer/
Advisory
Consulting Arborist,
Fort Lauderdale, FL



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



Shannon Brewer
Secretary
Elected Position/
Member-at-Large
Tree Check Up, LLC



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



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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

WILLIAM ABBOTT, *Advisory Position*
Seminole County Parks & Recreation

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

JOE ANDERSON, JEA Utility Forester
Elected Position
Advisory
Jacksonville

EMILY BLUM, FL PLT
Appointed Position, Advisory
Member at Large
Gainesville

JAMIELYN DAUGHARTY, Cooperative
Extension Service
Appointed Position
Advisory
UF/IFAS Lake County Extension

BRIAN DICK, ASLA/FL Chapter
Appointed Position
Retired

NICK FANELLI, Utility Arborist,
Duke Energy
Elected Position, Advisory

LISA GRUBBA, *Advisory Position,*
Retired - Exec. Dir. Greenscape of
Jacksonville

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

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

OMAR LEON, Municipal Forester
Elected Position
Cape Coral

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

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

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

HEATHER SHEILDS, *Appointed
Position, Florida ISA*
City of Naples

BRIAN VOELKER, Senior Scientist,
Chen Moore & Associates
Elected Position
Fort Lauderdale

JOSH WEINER, Community Greening
Tree Advocate, *Elected Position*
Boca Raton

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

MATT KENNARD
Liaison – Florida Forest Service

FUFC 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

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.

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.

Thanks for contributing!

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"

