

Research: Trees Make Streets Safer, Not Deadlier

by Robert Steuteville

From the September 2006 issue of New Urban News

Winter 2007 In This Issue:

Trees Make Streets Safer	1
President's Message	2
In the News	4
Perry Odom Appointed to International Cert. Board	8
Tree Fund Update	9
Taxes and "Brain Drain"	12
Florida Chapter Education Schedule	13
Florida Chapter Board Updates	14
Membership Survey Results	16
New Florida Chapter Members	17
Florida Chapter Board Meeting Schedule	17
Laurel Wilt Disease of Red Bay Trees English/Spanish Version	18
Arborist Certification Committee Report	20
Red Palm Mite Report	22
2008 Certification Exam Schedule	23

Proposals for planting rows of trees along the roads — a traditional technique for shaping pleasing public spaces — are often opposed by transportation engineers, who contend that a wide travel corridor, free of obstacles, is needed to protect the lives of errant motorists.

Increasingly, however, the engineers' beliefs about safety are being subjected to empirical study and are being found incorrect. Eric Dumbaugh, an assistant professor of transportation at Texas A&M, threw down the gauntlet with a long, carefully argued article, "Safe Streets, Livable Streets," in the Summer 2005 issue of the *Journal of the American Planning Association*. A follow-up article by Dumbaugh, in the 2006 edition of *Transportation Research Record*, will present further evidence that safe urban roadsides are not what the traffic-engineering establishment thinks they are.

Though engineers generally assert that wide clear areas safeguard motorists who run off the roads, Dumbaugh looked at accident records and found that, on the contrary, wide-open corridors encourage motorists to speed, bringing on more crashes. By contrast, tree-lined roadways cause motorists to slow down and drive more carefully, Dumbaugh says.

Dumbaugh examined crash statistics and found that tree-lined streets experience fewer accidents than do "forgiving roadsides" — those that have been kept free of large, inflexible objects. He points to "a growing body of evidence suggesting that the inclusion of trees and other streetscape features in the roadside environment may actually reduce crashes and injuries on urban roadways."

Among the cases cited in his JAPA article are these:

- A study of five arterial roadways in downtown Toronto found that mid-block car crashes declined between 5 and 20 percent in areas where there were elements such as trees or concrete planters along the road.
- Urban "village" areas in New Hampshire containing "on-street parking and pedestrian-friendly roadside treatments" were "two times less likely to experience

Trees Make Streets Safer continued on page 6

A Message From the President



The cool autumn air and color change of deciduous trees leaves is upon us. Right? Well it seems that the “cool” fall has been a little delayed. It is that time of year where we welcome the seasonal change and change in officers of the Florida ISA. This will be my last President’s message of my term. It is bittersweet. I have enjoyed sharing my thoughts, quotations and ramblings in this message. I do look forward to keeping chapter energy moving forward under our incoming President Mary Edwards. I feel totally confident that Mary will serve all of us well.

Tree people and Florida Chapter ISA members are a pretty unique cast of characters. They range in size (right Loren Westenberger?), backgrounds, areas of tree related involvement and expertise. This diversity is fantastic and adds long-term value to the chapter. Some us collect tree seeds, grow trees, install trees, fertilize trees, structurally prune trees, regulate trees, save trees, diagnosis trees and blow trees with high performance engine powered devices to test wind resistance. The bottom line is that all of us touch and help trees. I have never worked with a group of people more caring and protective of a natural resource than tree people.

Every single member of this chapter can make a difference and value to what we do. One chapter member Don Winsett of Stiles Corporation came to a chapter meeting to simply propose an idea. The idea that Don had was for the chapter to initiate a tree related Florida specialty license plate. This plate will provide a consistent source of annual revenue to the chapter and increase awareness to trees in general. It has been long journey from the seeded idea to the Governor Crist signing the bill to establish our plate. The specialty license plate “trees are cool.com” will be shipping very soon. As members, buy one and pass the word to the others. Proceeds from this attractive license plate will go directly into tree research and education.....our business. I work for Kitson and Partners, the company that bought the 92,000 acre Babcock Ranch in Southwest Florida. We are working hard on plans to build a

green, sustainable community on 18,000 acres. The balance of the ranch has been sold to the State of Florida. We think believe this community will be a model for the future. Trees are an important part of the community vision and the commitments we are making.

Green, green, green. Green remains the topic of the day. That is perfect for us as tree people. We are serving green big time baby. The general awareness of environmental issues and the impacts of urbanization is increasing. Green issues are now mainstream media. All of us are green infrastructure specialists. The management of rural and urban forests and trees is critically important to our own health and the health of our children. It is heartening to know you make difference. We do!

I have been proud to have served as your chapter President for 2006 and 2007. The Florida ISA Board of Directors is an awesome group of dedicated people. They work hard and volunteer endless hours for the benefit of trees and our chapter. If you see a Board member, be sure to thank them for serving. Heck, give them a hug.

Our Executive Director, Norm Easey is doing an excellent job of keeping the chapter the moving forward. His leadership and knowledge of urban forestry has contributed to our chapter success. Norm makes things happen. His unwavering dedication and support are appreciated.

Lastly, a grande finale of quotations about nature and trees:

- “Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better.” Albert Einstein (1879-1955)
- “I go to nature every day for inspiration in the day’s work. I follow in building the principles which nature has used in its domain.” Frank Lloyd Wright (1869-1959)
- “Nothing living should ever be treated with contempt. Whatever it is that lives, a man, a tree, or a bird, should be touched gently, because the time is short. Civilization is another word for respect for life.” Elizabeth Goudge (1900-1984)
- “Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces, I would still plant a tree.” Martin Luther (1483-1546)
- “It is not so much for its beauty that the forest makes a claim upon men’s hearts, as for that

President’s Message continued next page

President's Message continued ...

subtle something, that quality of air that emanates from old trees, that so wonderfully changes and renews a weary spirit.” Robert Louis Stevenson

- “If a tree is treated as a living organism, with an understanding of its vital functions, it will be a constant source of profit and pleasure to men.” N.T. Mirov
And the end for now....

- “Approaching a tree we approach a sacred being who can teach us about love and about endless giving. She is one of millions of beings who provide our air, our homes, our fuel, our books. Working with the spirit of the tree can bring us renewed energy, powerful inspiration, deep communion.” Druid Tree Lore and the Ogham
OK....one more!

- “I say if your knees aren't green by the end of the day, you ought to seriously re-examine your life.” Calvin from Bill Watterson's Calvin and Hobbes. ■

President Rick Joyce

A Message from the In-coming President...

by Mary Edwards

As incoming “2008” President for the Florida Chapter, I wanted to introduce myself to those of you who do not know me. First I would like to thank all of our membership for having confidence in electing me to the BOD as your Vice President in 2006. It has been a gratifying experience serving as an active member on the Florida ISA Chapter Board of Directors since 2002. I am a Regional Consulting Arborist for ValleyCrest Tree Care Services and work with branches throughout the state of Florida. I have been with ValleyCrest for 14 years and have actively worked in Green Industry for 28 years. My experience comes from being a Registered Consulting Arborist, ISA Certified Arborist and Florida Certified Landscape Contractor. I look forward to serving as your 2008 President and meeting all of you throughout the year. ■



Letters to the Editor

We welcome your thoughts about Florida Arborist articles, about your Florida Chapter, or about tree issues in general.

E-mail your letters to: floridaisa@comcast.net

*or mail to:
Florida Chapter-ISA
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*Please remember:
Letters should be no longer than 300 words. We reserve the right to condense letters, or to edit as necessary.*

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In the News

Landscape Spending Continues to Rise

A Nat'l. Gardening Assoc. study found that homeowners spent a record \$44.7 billion to hire lawn and landscape services in 2006. Services included lawn care and landscape maintenance, installation and construction, tree care services and landscape design services. An estimated 34.5 million households, 30% of the U.S. total, hire at least 1 type of lawn and landscape service. Installation and construction services were hired by 6.9 million households. Landscape design services were hired by 2.3 million households. NMPRO

Southern Plant Conference Goes to Alabama

The 10th biennial Southern Plant Conference will be Sept. 5-8 in Mobile, Ala. This event, put together by Southern Nursery Assoc. and Alabama Nursery & Landscape Assoc., is an intensive program focusing on new plants, plant production and plant breeding. Tour sites will include Dodd & Dodd Nursery, Van der Giessen Nursery, Martin's Nursery, Kinney Nursery, Twin Oaks Nursery and the Ornamental Horticulture Research Center. NMPRO

Nursery Grower Discovers Termite Solution

La. St. Univ. is promoting vetiver grass (*Chrysopogon* spp.) for its ornamental value and its ability to keep termites at bay. About 13 years ago, Don Heumann, who was then a nursery and greenhouse operator in Metairie, La., noticed no bugs in his greenhouses where he was growing the plant. Gregg Henderson, LSU AgCenter urban entomologist, now believes vetiver grass could be a valuable termiticide. Vetiver grass also is used for erosion and sediment control. NMPRO

B&B's Soil Loss Not Sustainable

Balled and burlapped production depletes farmland soils at a rate "that is not compatible with sustainable agriculture," according to a study done for Connecticut Dept. of Ag. by retired UConn soil scientist Harvey Luce. The research focused on 5 farms in the Suffield, Conn., area. Luce found the average annual soil loss for 8 fields in B&B production ranged from 0.5 to 1.9 inches per year. This translates to a loss of between 73.5 and 279.3 tons of soil per acre per year. The Natural Resource Conservation Service says. NMPRO

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Florida Battles Bromeliad Weevil

Researchers at Univ. of Fla.'s Institute of Food and Ag. Sciences are releasing a parasitic fly that kills the Mexican bromeliad weevil. The "evil weevil,"



as it's been dubbed by IFAS entomologists, has severely impacted Florida's native bromeliads. Many of the state's bromeliads are threatened or endangered. The flies were released at the end of June, and traps were put out mid-August to check on their progress, said Ron Cave, asst. prof. of entomology. The results will show whether the second generation of flies can find and parasitize the weevils. The weevil, native to Mexico and Guatemala, became established in Florida in 1989 when it arrived in Fort Lauderdale, apparently in a shipment of Mexican bromeliads.

*Photo by J.L. Castner
University of FL*

In the News continued on next page

In the News, continued

Fire Ant Control Testing Continues

Two parasitic microsporidia are showing promise for fire ant control. In U.S. and Argentina tests, worker ants transfer *Thelohania solenopsae* spores to the queen, which reduces her egg production and causes the colony to die out. *Vairimorpha invictae* also has successfully destroyed fire ant colonies without infecting non-fire ants or other arthropods. The USDA's Ag. Research Service is working with its Argentina counterpart. Fire ants inhabit more than 320 million acres in several

FNGLA names 6 plants for promotion in 2008

FNGLA named its Florida Plants of the Year: *Aloysia virgata*, almond bush; *Dichorisandra thyrsiflora*, blue ginger; *Mimosa strigillosa*; *Quercus geminata*, sand live oak; *Sabal minor*, dwarf palmetto; and *Stromanthe sanguinea* 'Triostar.' "In choosing the 2008 Florida Plants of the Year, we focused our efforts on picking the best plants from a broad cross-section of the industry as well as plants with large geographic identity," said Rosemary Warner of Native Southeastern Trees in Osteen, chair of the selection committee and FNGLA's

Greening disease confirmed in Polk County, Fla.

Greening, the tree-killing disease that has savaged Florida's citrus belt in recent years, was confirmed to be in Polk County, the state's leading citrus producer and the last big one to fall to the disease. Growers and state regulators said the confirmation of the disease in 2 locations was not a surprise but still was a serious setback. The pathogen is more deadly to trees than citrus canker. Scientists say the disease lurks unseen until it turns leaves a sickly yellow. Wesley Brumback, an Oviedo-based citrus grower and member of the Florida Citrus Commission, told Orlando Sentinel that the disease has probably been in Polk County groves for "quite a long time." NMPRO

Development Makes Solar Energy Affordable

A method for manufacturing low-cost, high-efficiency solar panels will be ready for mass production by the end of 2008. The technology was developed by W.S. Sampath, a Colo. St. Univ. prof. The panels will be produced at less than \$1 per watt. He developed a continuous, automated manufacturing process for solar panels using glass coating with a cadmium telluride thin film instead of the standard high-cost crystalline silicon. The cost to the consumer may be as low as \$2 per watt, about half the current cost of solar panels. Also, this solar technology isn't tied to a grid. NMPRO

Chilli thrips attack Florida live oaks

Researchers found chilli thrips (*Scirtothrips dorsalis* Hood) "in large numbers" on live oaks in a wholesale nursery in Lake County, Fla. Univ. of Fla. entomologist Lance Osborne said the pests were controlled using Marathon II then Conserve. Chilli thrips have a host range of more than 100 plants, and are extremely difficult to differentiate from other thrips in the field. Severe infestations may result in total defoliation and

Florida seeks missing quarantined plants

Fla. Dept. of Ag. put out an APB on the whereabouts of 200 missing 3-gal. camellia plants that were quarantined for *Phytophthora ramorum*, the fungus that causes sudden oak death. The plants were quarantined after a Jan. 2007 survey at Esposito's Garden Nursery in Tallahassee. The survey identified 964 plants for destruction or quarantine; 406 plants were destroyed in Feb., while the remaining plants were moved to Esposito's wholesale location in Havana, Fla. During another survey in April, officials discovered 206 of the quarantined plants were missing. Esposito's told the sheriff the plants were stolen, but failed to report it to the ag. dept. Fla. fined the nursery \$5,000. NMPRO ■

Trees Make Streets Safer continued from page 1

a crash” than the purportedly safer roadways preferred by most transportation engineers.

- A study of two-lane roadways found that although wide shoulders “were associated with reductions in single-vehicle, fixed-object crashes, they were also associated with a statistically significant increase in total crashes.” A rise in multiple-vehicle crashes offset the decline in fixed-object crashes.
- An examination of Colonial Drive (State Route 50), which connects the north end of downtown Orlando to the suburbs, found fewer serious mid-block crashes on the “livable” section than on a comparison conventional roadway. According to Dumbaugh, the conventional roadway also was associated with more injuries to pedestrians and bicyclists.

“Motorists need and benefit from tall vertical roadside features such as trees or buildings in order to properly gauge their speed.”



DRIVERS ADJUST

In his explanation of why “livable streets” enhance safety, Dumbaugh says “drivers are ‘reading’ the potential hazards of the road environment and adjusting their behavior in response.” Dan Burden, senior urban designer for Glattig Jackson and Walkable Communities Inc. in Orlando, notes that there is research showing that “motorists need and benefit from tall vertical roadside features such as trees or buildings in order to properly gauge their speed.”

What Dumbaugh advocates appears to be consistent with, though not as radical as, the work that traffic engineer Hans Monderman has been doing in small towns in Holland. Monderman has introduced trees, paving, stones, fountains, and other features, while eliminating conventional safety devices such as traffic lights, speed-limit signs, and pavement markings. Monderman discovered that, at least in small Dutch towns, drivers therefore slow down and become alert to clues about how to behave.

JAPA accompanied Dumbaugh’s article with a counterpoint from J.L. Gattis of the University of Arkansas-Fayetteville, who argued that the studies cited are not conclusive. More context-sensitive research is needed, Gattis said.

Since then, Dumbaugh has written the forthcoming Transportation Research Record article, which reports on what Dumbaugh found when he examined safety on three routes — State Routes 15 and 44 in DeLand, Florida, and State Route 40 in Ocala, Florida — that have pedestrian-friendly designs along parts of their length and conventional designs along other sections. Dumbaugh discovered that the pedestrian-friendly segments experience 40 percent fewer crashes than comparison roadways.

Burden told New Urban News that “many traffic engineers work out of a pseudo-science when it comes to trees and crash causation, and many others are not well tuned in to urban crash causation.” Research like Dumbaugh’s may help overcome that failing.

Burden has incorporated some of Dumbaugh’s findings into a new article, “22 Benefits of Urban Street Trees.” Among the benefits Burden attributes to street trees are the abilities of tree canopies to reduce temperatures at pedestrian level, absorb some tailpipe exhaust, make drivers calmer, and extend the life of asphalt paving by 40 to 60 percent. The JAPA articles by Dumbaugh and Gattis can be found at: www.planning.org/japa/pdf/JAPADumbaugh05.pdf.

As a general principle, Burden urges that engineers, planners, architects, and landscape architects work closely with one another to come up with functional, safe, complete, and successful urban spaces. Meanwhile, he says, city councils and other community leaders need to exercise more control over “important decisions about things like urban street trees” instead of leaving such matters solely to transportation engineers. ■

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CONGRATULATIONS!

Florida Arborist Appointed to International Certification Board

CHAMPAIGN, IL (October 25, 2007) – Perry Odom, of Tallahassee, FL was recently appointed to the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Certification Board of Directors. The appointment was approved In July at the organization's annual meeting which was held in Honolulu, HI.

The certification board oversees the processes for the international arborist certification program which is managed by the ISA. After being nominated by the certification board, Odom's appointment was approved by the ISA Board of Directors. He will serve a minimum of one three year term. Odom says, "I am pleased to be able to serve and provide a Florida connection to the international certification program."

"I have been a utility arborist for 29 years, and I still enjoy all aspects of the utility arboriculture field"

Odom is a graduate of the University of Florida with a Bachelor of Science in Forest Resource and Conservation. He worked for the Florida Division of Forestry as County Forester in St. Johns and Flagler counties before he began work as a utility forester. After 16 years with Jacksonville Electric Authority he moved to Tallahassee to become an electric utility forester for the City of Tallahassee Electric Department where he is still currently employed.

"I have been a utility arborist for 29 years, and I still enjoy all aspects of the utility arboriculture field," states Odom. An ISA Certified Arborist since 1997 and a Certified Utility Specialist since 1998, he has remained active with the ISA. Having held membership in the organization since 1987, he has also served as a past president of both its Southern Chapter and its Florida Chapter. Odom is also is a member of the Utility Arborist Association (UAA), a professional affiliate of the ISA. ■



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TREE FUND NEWS

Doing the Right Thing for Urban Trees

By Mike Neal, Manager of Forestry & Special Projects, Arizona Public Service and TREE Fund Trustee

As an arborist, I have a concern over the statements made by the federal government about global warming which have gotten a great deal of attention in the media. My concern isn't whether there is scientific evidence that proves the existence of global warming, but the planting of trees as one of the answers to the problem.

Believe me, I am not against planting trees. But communities across North America are making statements about planting millions of trees in urban areas. Again, this draws a lot of media attention, but is this doing the right thing for the trees that are being planted? Over the last 27 years of my career, I have not observed vast

improvements in the health of our urban trees, no matter how many have been planted. Have you?

You may have heard of an American Forestry Association article in the early 80's that stated an oak or maple tree is capable of living up to 400 years in a forest, up to 80 years in a sheltered corner of a college campus, up to 30 years in a heavily used city park, up to 18 years along a suburban street and about 4 years in a downtown planting pit. Twenty years after that article was published, the same mistakes are still being made in some cities by not planting the right tree in the right place, not having the resources to care for the trees, or not making scientifically-based decisions.

Jim Skiera, Executive Director of the ISA, always finishes his speeches with this statement; one tree at a time. This is how we need to work as an industry to fight for more research and development through the TREE Fund. Armed with research and education, we can make sure that each and every tree gets planted properly; the right species in the right place with adequate soil and water

Tree Fund News continued on next page

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Tree Fund News continued, Doing the Right Thing...

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How can you, as an individual, make a difference in our industry? As you probably already know, the TREE Fund isn't a membership-driven organization like the ISA or TCIA, but depends on donations and fund raising events. This is one way you can help, and thankfully, many of you already do.

More importantly, though, you can help us identify family members, friends, customers, or corporations who are looking for a way to leave a legacy or to demonstrate their support of environmental issues. I am sure research isn't as 'sexy' as planting trees, but this is the direction in which our industry needs to go to improve the long-term sustainability of trees in our cities and towns. We need to find people who can appreciate the fact that just plugging trees into the ground along a street will not reduce global warming if those same trees fail or have to be removed within a few years. Research and education will make a difference in the success of our urban forests.

The TREE Fund is asking for your help to identify potential donors who want make a difference in our industry in a big way. I realize it may be difficult for you to ask for funds from family, friends, customers or corporations, but Janet Bornancin, Executive Director of the TREE


Fund, can help facilitate the process. We can do the right thing for our urban trees if we work together to support more research and education. ■

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Tree Fund News continued on next page

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Tree Research & Education Endowment Fund

Tree Fund News continued

Chapter Challenge Results for 2006

The results are in for the 2005-2006 TREE Fund Chapter Challenge and the six chapters listed below rose to the Platinum Leaf level. In fact, Michigan busted through the roof and achieved double-Platinum status! The Gold Leaf chapters also did a great job. Florida, Indiana, Mid-Atlantic, Rocky Mountain and Texas reached that level --some barely missing Platinum status! The dedicated TREE Fund supporters at the Illinois, New England, New York and Pacific Northwest Chapters achieved the Bronze Leaf level.

The grand total raised for the TREE Fund through this 18-month challenge was \$585,245! A huge TREE Fund vote of thanks goes to each and every person of the participating chapters who graciously supported the TREE Fund programs. As always, the TREE Fund will put those Challenge dollars to work to help fund research and scholarships.

If there are specific projects you would like to see funded by the TREE Fund, please contact Executive Director Janet Bornancin (jbarnancin@treefund.org) for information on how to set up a directed grant or to find out how we can assist you in administering projects you may already have underway.

For more information about special events that support the Chapter Challenge, please visit our website at: www.treefund.org.

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Pacific Northwest

Six Hyland Johns Grants Awarded

The TREE Fund Board is pleased to announce the latest recipients of Hyland Johns Grants totaling \$125,000. Their projects were ranked highest of the 29 applications reviewed by the 10-member TREE Fund Research Committee.

Improving soil biology and organic matter for urban tree health:

Bryant Sharenbroch and Gary Watson, Morton Arboretum:

Examine biochemistry in urban soils. Determine the effectiveness of mulching, compost teas, and fertilization to improve soil organic matter and soil biology. Particular focus will be placed on compost teas as a mulch alternative in situations where surface mulching is not possible.

Strategies and techniques to remediate compacted, poorly draining soils:

Nina Bassuk, Cornell University:

Modify the new soil health protocols developed for farmers to be useful for arborists and landscape managers. Evaluate various soil modification techniques and produce a free, web-based manual that will take the landscape manager through the steps necessary to assess and ameliorate the soil in preparation for planting one tree or an entire landscape.

Novel disease control compounds to reduce pesticide usage in the arboricultural industry:

Glynn Percival, University of Reading, UK and Bartlett Tree Research Laboratory:

Investigate the efficacy of calcium, phosphites, and sodium bicarbonate alone and with synthetic fungicides on controlling apple scab and Phytophthora root rot.

Effects of structural pruning on red maple trunk movement in wind:

Ed Gilman and Forrest Masters, University of Florida and Jason Grabosky, Rutgers University:

This study will determine if structural pruning enhances the ability of trees to withstand category one hurricane force winds.

Advanced Pruning Practices

A Day With Dr. Ed Gilman



Professional pruning techniques and the latest research-backed information will be brought together in this dynamic advanced workshop. Dr. Gilman is the foremost authority on pruning and will bring his unique approach to teaching in this one day seminar. The financial success of your future and the stewardship of our urban forests are directly linked to the art and science of proper pruning.

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Advanced Pruning Practices

*** January 8, 2008**

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*** January 11, 2008**

Orlando - Leu Gardens

*** February 29, 2008**

Sarasota - Payne Park Auditorium

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Taxes and the Florida Urban Forestry "Brain Drain"

by David Reilly

According to the Merriam-Webster online Dictionary, Brain Drain means; the departure of educated or professional people from one country, economic sector, or field for another usually for better pay or living conditions.

There is a nervous edge around many municipal arborists these days. As we all know cities across Florida where asked to cut their budgets in preparation for property tax reform. I think many municipal arborists made it through the first round of cuts and layoffs. In most cases unfilled positions were eliminated and some long time employees are taking retirement with those positions eliminated. I know the City of Tampa eliminated the Horticulturists position and the nursery run by the Parks and Recreation Department. This is a huge loss for the City, replacing Tom Olson in the future may prove to be a difficult task. This becomes a greater problem when other cities cannot hire laid-off municipal employees because they are laying people off as well.

If I thought that this was as bad as it was going to get I would say not to harmful to the State. But with a second round of property tax cuts looming around the corner, municipal arborists have to be wondering what the future has in store for them career wise. Who among us has not checked out industry want ads? I have been in the industry long enough to have seen this before in another state. 150 show up for one forestry position only to have the position cut because there was no money to pay for that job. Not only are we losing educated, skilled and professional municipal arborist, think of how many choose not to come to Florida because of taxes and homeowner insurance problems. I do not have the answer. This will have to run its course and hopefully some of our dedicated municipal arborist will still be in Florida.


It is with great dismay that I say goodbye to Steve Graham, the long time City of Tampa Urban Forester and Natural Resources Coordinator. Steve's position became a casualty of the Brain Drain. Steve will be ir-

"Brain Drain" continued on next page

"Brain Drain" continued

replaceable, how could you replace 25 years of experience. The City will feel the effects from this loss for many years to come. It is a big loss to our Department and for me personally. Steve has been a mentor and a friend for 12 years. He got me involved with the Florida Urban Forestry Council as well as the ISA. I know we all wish Steve and his family the best and hope he stays in contact.

I hope I will not have to say goodbye to any more of my municipal arborist friends. I hope that the next Trees Florida Conference will find us all with bigger budgets, more staff and bright futures. ■

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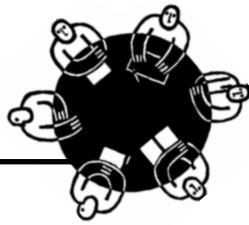
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Florida Chapter ISA 2008 Education Schedule

Date	Seminar/Class	Location (s)
January 8, 2008	Ultimate Pruning Seminar with Dr. Gilman	Orlando
January 11, 2008	Ultimate Pruning Seminar with Dr. Gilman	Ft. Lauderdale
February 29, 2008	Ultimate Pruning Seminar with Dr. Gilman	Sarasota
TBA March/April, 2008	Safety and Climbing (2)	TBA
TBA March/April, 2008	Plant Health Care (3)	TBA

Register for Classes Online at www.floridaisa.org and Save \$10

Florida Chapter Board Updates



The price is for concept only. Colors and materials of production plates may differ from photo.

8-13-07

“Trees Are Cool” License Plates To Be Available in mid-January!

Florida Chapter has been receiving some very positive feedback on our “Trees Are Cool” license plate and we can’t wait to see them along our highways, streets and boulevards! The “Trees Are Cool” speciality license plate was officially welcomed by Governor Crist during a special meeting with the License Plate Committee in late November and is scheduled to be available for purchase in mid-January. Because you have to replace your plates every five years anyway, that’s the ideal time to change. But you might not want to wait five years to show your support for “Trees Are Cool”; you can get the new plates at the time of your annual renewal for a fee of \$10, plus the specialty plate fee of \$25.00. Proceeds from the plate benefit trees through research and education. Spread the word to your tree-lover friends and family, the plates go on sale soon!



“Trees Are Cool” License Plate Welcomed by Governor Crist as License Plate Committee Looks On.

From left: Attorney General Bill McCollum, Governor Charlie Crist, Chief Financial Officer Alex Sink, Commissioner of Agriculture Charles Bronson, and FL-ISA members Don Winsett, Norm Easey, Ron Litts, and David Reilly

Education Committee Report

Plans are currently being made for our Education Committee to increase the number of classes available during the upcoming years. By increasing the number of classes throughout the year Florida Chapter ISA will be able to service more arborists in a wider range of locations. In addition to our traditional class offerings the Chapter will be adding a series of Tree Worker Safety seminars that will be offered at a discounted rate at locations throughout the state. Specifically, the 2008 schedule is to include 3 Pruning seminars, 6 Tree Worker Safety classes, 3 Coast Series seminars, 3-4 Plant Health Care seminars..... Watch your mailbox, e-mail inbox and the Florida Chapter website for more information about these seminars.

TCC Trailer Purchase

At the November BOD meeting, the board approved the purchase of a Florida Tree Climbing Competition (TCC) storage trailer and climbing equipment during the 2008 year. Currently Florida Chapter shares an equipment trailer with Asplundh and the Chapter appreciates their generosity in sharing with our climbers over the past many years. The board decided that the time was right for us to purchase our own trailer and equipment in order to give us more flexibility in using this equipment for training activities. The Florida TCC Chairman, Kris Stultz, anticipates that the trailer and equipment in time for the June 2008 TCC.

Board Updates continued on next page

Board Updates, continued...

The IRS Audit – A Blessing in Disguise

As we reported in our last issue, the Florida Chapter ISA was scheduled to be audited by the IRS. We are pleased to announce that the audit has been completed and is awaiting final approval; as the error causing the audit had already been corrected, the outcome of the audit was very positive. The audit was initially triggered as a result of the Florida Chapter ISA making a political contribution. The contribution was made after it had been approved by our CPA; we later learned that we are not allowed to make political contributions. After this information was learned, we requested and subsequently received the contribution back. In addition we learned through the audit process that the Florida Chapter can actually lobby on behalf of legislation more than we had thought. The IRS agent clarified the rules that allow us to do much more lobbying than we originally thought.

Don't forget to VOTE!!

The board approved a slate of candidates for 4 board vacancies. Ballots were mailed to Florida Chapter members; please don't forget to vote and return your official ballots. The Board approved a slate of candidates for four board vacancies as follows:

2008 Ballot Nominees

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Vice President | David Reilly
Don Winsett |
| Treasurer | Tammy Kovar
Kris Stultz |
| Municipal Director | Lee Mackin
Cris Revell |
| Utility Director | Rocky Robinson
Bill Slaymaker |

Adoption of five new Chapter Policies

The Board approved 5 new Florida Chapter ISA policies to bring the Chapter into compliance with Sarbanes-Oxley legislation; specifically the policies address Whistle-blower code of conduct, Board code of conduct, Partnership and Privacy, Conflict of Interest Disclosure, and the Board meeting minute recording procedure.





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Membership Committee Report

Survey Results Are In!
by Mike Robinson

The Membership Committee would like to thank all those who responded to the recent membership survey that was sent out. We had around 10% of our membership respond so it's a good representative survey. A lot of useful information will be gleaned from the responses and just as important for the feedback given in the comments that were submitted as well. It has been a number of years since a survey of the membership had been taken and the survey is one vehicle through which Board is able to gauge its effectiveness.

Some positive things to share from the responses is an overall satisfaction with the newsletter (98%) and the articles within (58%), the Board is doing a good job of communication with membership (86 %) but can do better (46%) by updating the website more often. Most folks have visited the website (88%), rate it good or great (78%). One item of surprise was a number of members want to change locations for Trees Florida annually (46%) and or rotate is among 3-4 locations (42%).

The Chapter is doing a good job with our educational workshops both in value (87%) and in convenience (71%). As was to be expected each region of our state, North, Central or South responded either okay or not enough in their particular region (29 % and 23% respectively). The Education Committee is looking into this and reviewing ways for improvement. Through the survey a number of respondents gave suggestions for preferences of workshop topics and needs.

In the past the Chapter performed a work day at a location, usually a non-profit agency, to get our message out. 45% of the membership replied they would be interested in volunteering at one in their area. That says a lot about the spirit of our group. In today's world of budget cuts and tight economies, to have a number of folks willing to help out those in need makes us proud to be a part of our group and profession.

The survey pointed out that our group can't wait for the "Trees Are Cool" license plate to make it to the market. 57% stated they plan to buy one or more for their vehicles. Not to be redundant but THAT'S COOL!!!!

One more thing that has come about as a result of the study is each Committee: Education, Membership, and Executive have been challenged with finding at least four items from the survey results to improve upon or take action on. Thank you once again for your response and helping to make our Chapter better than the leading group we already are. ■

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Welcome!

New Florida Chapter Members

Here are the individuals that joined the Florida Chapter during the fourth quarter of 2007, to date. If you see a name from your area of the state, look up their phone number online* and give them a call. Introduce yourself and find out what aspect of arboriculture the new member is involved in. Let's make the Florida Chapter friendlier. We're all working in different ways for the same goals. Get to know other chapter members. You might make some helpful connections for the future.

First Name	Last Name	City	State	First Name	Last Name	City	State
Douglas	Allen	PACE	FL	Thomas	Ellis	WELLINGTON	FL
Shirley	Anderson	Gainesville	FL	David	Evans	BELLEAIR BEACH	FL
William	Barry	FORT PIERCE	FL	Raymond	Garcia	BROOKSVILLE	FL
Kathy	Beville	LECANTO	FL	Norman	Golson	JACKSONVILLE	FL
Patricia	Brandon	Riverview	FL	Brandon	Grant	BRUNSWICK	GA
Dewey	Bullock	VENICE	FL	Justin	Hartmann	S.T PETERSBURG	FL
John	Burns	FORT MYERS	FL	John	Huber	SUMTERVILLE	FL
Clifford	Bush	LAUDERHILL	FL	Ralph	Kennedy	BROOKSVILLE	FL
David	Carter	WAKULLA SPRINGS	FL	Brian	Law	PLANTATION	FL
Scott	Craig	MELBOURNE	FL	John	Mahoney	WESLEY CHAPEL	FL
William	Davis	HOMESTEAD	FL	Charles	Marcus	TALLAHASSEE	FL
Louise	Davis	HOMESTEAD	FL	Esteban	Moriyon	MIAMI	FL
Michael	Davis	SUMMERFIELD	FL	Armando	Munoz	MIAMI LAKES	FL
Aaron	Denby	FREDERICK	MD	Tim	Nigro	WESTON	FL
Brian	Dick	LAKELAND	FL	Vasantrao	Nivargikar	PALM HARBOR	FL
Janice	Dollar	SAINT SIMONS ISLAND	GA	Michael	O'Brien	SARASOTA	FL
Janet	Eden	MIAMI	FL				

*Go to <http://www.isa-arbor.com>, then go to "Members Only" and log in. Then go to ISA membership directory. If you do not know your log in for members only, contact ISA headquarters at (217) 355-9411. Once you log in, you can update your address, check your CEU's, edit or verify Certified Arborist information and search the membership list.

2008 Board of Directors Meetings

An invitation open to all members..... come and see what's happening in your Chapter
Please call 941-342-0153 for times and location specifics.

2008 Board Meeting Dates and Cities:

- January 31, 2008 in Gainesville
- April 3, 2008 in Orlando
- July 10, 2008 in Sarasota
- September 11, 2008 in Orlando
- November 14, 2008 in Sarasota

The following article is provided in English and Spanish

Laurel Wilt Disease of Red Bay Trees in Florida's Urban Forests

*J.A. Smith, School of Forest Resources and Conservation,
University of Florida*

A.E. Mayfield III, Florida DACS Division of Forestry

*Henry Mayer, Miami Dade IFAS Extension and ISA
Hispanic Committee*

*Francisco Escobedo, School of Forest Resources and
Conservation, University of Florida*

Reviewed by Carlos Balerdi, Miami Dade IFAS Extension

Red Bay (*Persea borbonia*) is a tree that can be found in many urban and natural forests throughout Florida. Recent research by the USDA Forest and the University of Florida found that red bay trees make up less than 1% of all trees in Gainesville, Florida. However, as you move south, red bay, sweet bay, and avocado (members of the Laurel family) together can comprise a greater proportion of Florida's urban forests.

Recently, laurel wilt disease (LWD) was discovered in the southeastern US. LWD is presumably introduced and devastating fungal wilt disease caused by a *Raffaelea* fungus species and is causing extensive mortality to red bay and other members of the Laurel family in the southeastern U.S. In 2002 an Asian species of ambrosia beetle was found in insect monitoring traps near Port Wentworth, Georgia. It was soon discovered associated with dying red bay trees in the vicinity. Closer inspection revealed the presence of a fungus similar to the dutch elm disease fungus. The fungus is very aggressive and can kill entire trees in a couple of months. Since its discovery in 2002, the disease has spread to over 33 counties in Florida, Georgia and South Carolina.

Symptoms of the disease include foliar wilting, branch death

and eventually, whole trees die. Symptoms are first observed as leaves turn purplish, wilt, turn brown, and do not fall off the trees. Under the bark a dark colored streaking is evident on the wood xylem. Following death of a tree, numerous ambrosia beetle frass-tubes that appear as tooth-picks are often visible on the main stem.

From limited surveys completed in Florida, South Carolina and Georgia the disease appears to be rapidly decimating stands. Mortality has increased in 2 years from 10% to 92%. Host range studies indicate all members of the Laurel family are susceptible and avocado trees have been killed in the field and in growth-chamber studies. The impact of LWD will likely be staggering and has the potential to significantly impact the approximately \$400 million/yr. U.S. avocado industry. Although many questions about the biology and impact of the disease remain unanswered, it is clear that action is needed immediately to mitigate the potential impacts of this disease. This disease has the potential to cause significant mortality in areas where red bays are present - and this includes many urban forests especially along the Atlantic coast of Florida. Due to the recent nature of this crisis, there is virtually no information on this disease and immediate research is needed to determine the best control strategies.

Given the scope of the potential impacts of tree species-specific diseases such as LWD, it is imperative to maintain a diverse urban forest comprised of several tree species. This is crucial for maintaining a healthy and sustainable tree cover. Current recommendations for minimizing the spread of LWD include the destruction of all infested wood material by burning or chipping, not transporting red bay or avocado firewood, and not transporting *Persea* nursery stock out of infested counties. ■

For more information, see the following Website:
<http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/foresthealth/laurelwilt/index.shtml>.



El siguiente artículo está escrito en Inglés y en Español.

Marchitez del Laurel en Árboles de Laurel Rojo en Bosques Urbanos de la Florida

J.A. Smith, School of Forest Resources and Conservation, University of Florida;

A.E. Mayfield III, Florida DACS Division of Forestry

Henry Mayer, Miami Dade IFAS Extension and ISA Hispanic Committee;

Francisco Escobedo, School of Forest Resources and Conservation, University of Florida

Revisión por Carlos Balerdi, Miami Dade IFAS Extension

El laurel rojo (*Persea borbonia*) es un árbol que se puede encontrar en muchos bosques urbanos y naturales a través de la Florida. Una investigación reciente realizada por el Servicio Forestal del USDA y por la Universidad de la Florida encontró que los árboles de laurel rojo comprenden menos del 1% de todos los árboles en Gainesville, Florida. Sin embargo, hacia el Sur del estado, los laureles y el aguacate (miembros de la familia del laurel) en conjunto pueden abarcar una mayor proporción en los bosques urbanos de la Florida.

Recientemente, la enfermedad del marchitamiento del laurel (LWD) fue descubierta en el sudeste de los EE.UU. Esta introducida y devastadora enfermedad del (LWD) es causada por una especie del hongo *Raffaelea* y causa extensa mortalidad en el laurel rojo y en otros miembros de la familia del laurel en el sudeste de EE.UU. En el año 2002 una especie asiática del escarabajo de ambrosia (*Xyleborus glabratus*) fue encontrada en una trampa de insectos cerca de Port Wentworth en Georgia. Pronto fue descubierta su asociación con la mortandad de laureles rojo. Una inspección más rigurosa reveló la presencia de un hongo similar al de la enfermedad del olmo holandés. El hongo es muy agresivo y puede matar árboles enteros en un par de meses. Desde su descubrimiento en 2002, la enfermedad se ha diseminado en 33 condados en la Florida, Georgia y Carolina del Sur.

Síntomas de la enfermedad incluyen marchite foliar, muerte de las ramas y eventualmente muere todo el árbol. Los síntomas son observados primero cuando las hojas se tornan de color púrpura, se marchitan, se tornan marrón y quedando colgando del árbol. Debajo de la corteza se puede observar un rayado oscuro en la madera del xilema. Después de la muerte del árbol, aparecen numerosos tubos de desechos provenientes del escarabajo de ambrosia los cuales semejan unos palillos sobre el tronco principal.

De los exámenes preliminares realizados en Florida, Carolina del Sur y Georgia parece que la enfermedad puede arrasarse rápidamente con rodales de árboles. En dos años la mortalidad ha aumentado de 10% hasta el 92%. Estudios realizados en los hospederos indican que todos los miembros de la familia del laurel son susceptibles y plantas de aguacates han muerto en cámaras de crecimiento en laboratorios. El impacto del LWD tiene el potencial de afectar significativamente a la industria del aguacate en los EE.UU. valorada en unos \$400 millones /año. Aunque muchas preguntas sobre la biología y el impacto de la enfermedad siguen estando sin contestar, está claro que se deben tomar acciones de inmediato para atenuar los impactos potenciales de esta enfermedad. Esta enfermedad tiene el potencial de causar una mortalidad significativa en áreas donde están presentes los laureles rojos incluyendo muchos bosques urbanos especialmente a lo largo de la costa Atlántica de la Florida. Debido a la naturaleza reciente de esta crisis, no hay mucha información sobre esta enfermedad e investigaciones inmediatas son necesarias para determinar las mejores estrategias de control.

Dado el alcance de los impactos potenciales de las enfermedades con las especies de árboles tales como LWD, es imprescindible mantener un bosque urbano diverso compuesto de varias especies de árboles. Esto es crucial para mantener una cobertura arbórea sana y sostenible. Las recomendaciones actuales para reducir el daño por LWD incluyen la destrucción de todo el material de madera infestado quemándolo o astillándolo, no transportando la leña del laurel rojo o del aguacate, y no transportando árboles de aguacate o laurel fuera de los condados infestados. ■

Para más información, vea el siguiente sitio del Internet: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/foresthealth/laurelwilt/index.shtml>



Florida Chapter ISA Certification Committee Report

By Norm Easey, Certification Liaison

The Florida Chapter would like to congratulate the following 21 Florida individuals for earning their: Arborist Certification, Certified Tree Worker, or Utility Arborist Certification during the third quarter of 2007:

Utility Arborist

Byron Stanage, Fruitland Park, FL

Certified Tree Worker

Robert Ashworth, Naples, FL
Troy Blackwelder, Vero Beach, FL
Jonathan Frank, Boca Raton, FL
Michael Gross, DeBary
Aurelian Richard, Ormond Beach, FL
Martin Rozens, Altamonte Springs, FL

Certified Arborist

Jeffrey Aker, Plantation, FL
Andrew Camizzi, Boynton Beach, FL
Joseph Cruz, Loxahatchee, FL
Charles Crawford, Melbourne, FL
Reinol Diaz, Miami, FL
Thomas Ellis, Wellington, FL
Ben Etheridge, Palm Beach Gardens, FL
Justin Hobbs, Chiefland, FL
Brian Matthews, Plantation, FL
Craig Morell, Pinecrest, FL
Alex Petroski, St. Petersburg, FL
Adrian Rackauskas, Coconut Creek, FL
Kevin Schiavone, Boca Raton, FL
Anthony Tropea, Loxahatchee, FL



Tree Fund News continued from page 11

Effect of pruning on the stability of trees in wind-storms:

Ken James, Brunley College, Brian Kane, University of Massachusetts, and Nelda Matheny and James Clark, Hortscience

Investigate tree and canopy management strategies that mitigate the effects of wind on shade trees.

The early years: An analysis of street tree mortality and survival in New York City:

Brian McGrath, Columbia University, Erika Svendsen and Lindsay Cambell, USDA Forest Service, and Jason Grabosky, Rutgers University:

A sample of 14,000 trees from the 40,000 trees planted between 1999 and 2003 will be analyzed to determine factors that influence survival.



Three Scholarship Recipients Named

The TREE Fund Education Committee congratulates the following three students who were recently approved by the TREE Fund Board to each receive \$3,000 Robert Felix Memorial Scholarships:

George Christie Murray - Lexington, Indiana
School: Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana
Pursued Degree: Urban Forestry & Business Management
Expected to Graduate: December 2008

Kyle Andrejczyk - Clinton, Massachusetts
School: University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Massachusetts
Pursued Degree: Urban Forestry & Journalism
Expected to Graduate: May 2008

Ramie Renee Pierce - Tacoma, Washington
School: The Evergreen State College, Olympia, Washington
Pursued Degree: Urban Forestry
Expected to Graduate: May 2008

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RED PALM MITE COULD BE HEADING FOR FLORIDA

-- TINY MENACE ISLAND-HOPS THE CARIBBEAN --

TALLAHASSEE -- Florida Agriculture and Consumer Services Commissioner Charles H. Bronson said his department is closely monitoring the migration of the red palm mite (*Raoiella indica* Hirst). Though it has not arrived in Florida, agriculture officials fear it is only a matter of time before it does.

“Arrival of the red palm mite in Florida could threaten Florida’s vibrant ornamental palm industry,” Bronson said. “The department is aggressively surveying for this dangerous plant pest, and we are participating in joint programs with other agricultural organizations to delay its entry into the state and to develop control measures in the likely event of its appearance in our country.”

The red palm mite quickly spread ever closer to the U.S. mainland after it was identified in the Western Hemisphere three years ago on the Caribbean island of Martinique. The mite is now in St. Lucia, Dominica,

Grenada, Guadeloupe, Martinique, St. Martin, the Dominican Republic, Trinidad, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the invasion represents the biggest mite explosion ever observed in the Americas.

The red palm mite causes serious leaf damage, which ruins the ornamental value of palms, and some growers anticipate as much as a 50 percent loss in coconut production. Scientists observed that the mite has spread in the Caribbean to infest other exotic and ornamental plants, including banana and heliconia species. Equally worrisome is the mite’s ability to disperse with the wind, which in Florida means that hurricane season may bring with it more than devastating weather.

In Florida, members of the Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey Program (CAPS)--a combined effort by state and federal agricultural agencies to conduct surveillance, detection, and monitoring of exotic plant pests--has been on the lookout for potential invasions of the mite since late 2006.

An intensive outreach program is underway involving the distribution of flyers and educational materials to county extension agents, growers, nursery owners, and landscapers. Outreach to cruise ship tourists is also being conducted because they often return to Florida with woven palm handicraft souvenirs.

Surveys for potential palm infestations have been conducted in coastal areas of Miami-Dade, Hillsborough, Sarasota, Manatee, Pinellas, Broward, Monroe (Florida Keys) and Lee counties. In May, another survey of coastal areas near ports, as well as nursery environs was completed. No evidence of red palm mite infestations was found. Ongoing activities include additional surveys and intensifying outreach and educational programs to county extension agents, importers, landscapers, plant nurseries and the public.

If you need further information on the red palm mite, contact Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services entomologist Dr. Cal Welbourn at welbouc@doacs.state.fl.us or visit www.doacs.state.fl.us/pi/enpp/ento/red_palm_mite.html. After reviewing the pest alert, if you think you have seen a red palm mite, contact the department’s helpline at 1-888-397-1517. ■

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2007-2008 Certification Exam Schedule

The **FLORIDA CHAPTER of ISA** is pleased to announce our revised 2007-2008 schedule of Certification exams and Study Guide review sessions. See the chart below for the site nearest you.

Date	Exam/ Class	Location	Time	Proctor or Instructors	Last Date to Register	Cost Member/ Nonmember
Dec. 15 2007	Exam	Indian River Community College 500 NW California Port. St. Lucie, FL 34986	7:30 A.M. to Noon	Norm Easey and Ann McMullen	Nov. 29, 2007	\$125/\$225
Dec. 15 2007	Exam	Pinellas Tech. Ed. Ctr. 901 34th Street South St Petersburg, FL 33711 727-893-2500 X1101	7:30 A.M. to Noon	Michael Pettay and Greg Charles	Nov. 29, 2007	\$125/\$225
Feb 16, 2008	Exam	Broward County Ext. 3245 College Avenue Davie, FL 33314	7:30 A.M. to Noon	George Fitzpatrick and Henry Mayer	Jan. 31, 2008	\$125/\$225
Mar 29, 2008	Exam	Leon County Ext. 615 Paul Russell Road Tallahassee, FL 32301	8:30 A.M. to 12:30 PM	Perry Odom and Brian Wiebler	Mar. 13, 2008	\$125/\$225
Apr. 5, 2008	Exam	Broward County Ext. 3245 College Avenue Davie, FL 33314	7:30 A.M. to Noon	George Fitzpatrick and Way Hoyt	Mar. 20, 2008	\$125/\$225
June TBA,	Exam	Bonaventure Resort 250 Racquet Club Drive	7:30 A.M. to Noon	TBA	TBA	\$125/\$225

This schedule is subject to change as additional tests and review sessions may be added.

For an application form to register for an Exam call the ISA Office in Champaign, IL at 888-472-8733
To purchase an ISA Certification Study Guide, call the Florida Chapter ISA at 941-342-0153 or order online.

The ISA Illinois must receive your application & exam fees **TWELVE WORKING DAYS** prior to the exam date.

NO EXCEPTIONS! (ISA Illinois is closed New Year's Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and the day after, and Christmas Day) *****PREPAYMENT IS REQUIRED*****
VISA/MC/AMEX accepted. US FUNDS ONLY



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International Society of Arboriculture Florida Chapter

Our Mission: “To Promote and Improve the
Scientifically Based Practice of Professional Arboriculture”



Arborist Code of Ethics

Strive for continuous self-development by increasing their qualifications and technical proficiency by staying abreast of technological and scientific developments affecting the profession.

Not misuse or omit material facts in promoting technical information, products or services if the effect would be to mislead or misrepresent.

Hold paramount the safety and health of all people, and endeavor to protect property and the environment in the performances of professional responsibilities.

Accurately and fairly represent their capabilities, qualifications and experience and those of their employees and/or agents.

Subscribe to fair and honest business practices in dealing with clients, suppliers, employees and other professionals.

Support the improvement of professional services and products through encouraging research and development.

Observe the standards and promote adherence to the ethics embodied in this code.