



# The Council Quarterly

Quarterly Newsletter of the Florida Urban Forestry Council

2010 Issue Three

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## LESS IS MORE: UTILITY LINE CLEARANCE IN TALLAHASSEE FLORIDA

F. Perry Odom, Utility Arborist - City of Tallahassee Electric

Tallahassee, Florida, is known for its beautiful trees as well as its 80 miles of "canopy roads" dedicated to preserving the Old South atmosphere of the 1800s, when these roads were used to carry corn, tobacco, and cotton to market. A permit is required to cut even the underbrush along the scenic roads, and strong local ordinances make it difficult to remove a tree on any of the protected canopy roads.

Tallahassee is also famous for its tree lovers. Coupled with a nine-month growing season, this gives you some idea of the challenges that the local municipal electric utility has to face in regard to tree trimming.

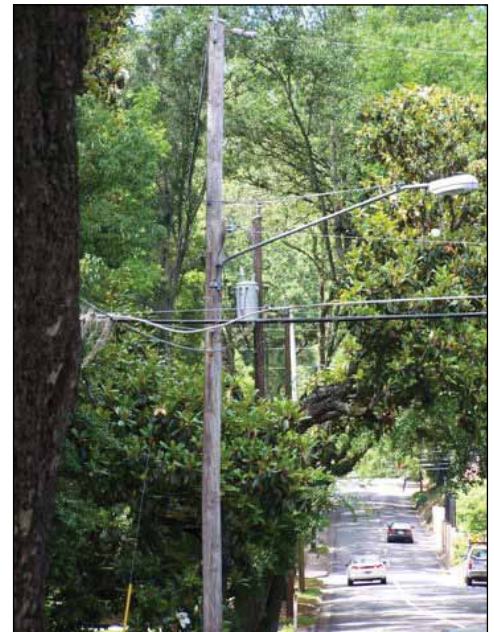
In the early 1990s, Tallahassee Electric began trying to establish a regular maintenance trim cycle. However, due to inadequate funding and the historical practice of "hot spotting," in which trees are trimmed only as a result of an outage, some of the lines had not been trimmed out in several years. When they finally were trimmed, the 10 to 15 feet of clearance had quite an impact on the canopy, not to mention the residents of Tallahassee. In 1995, when I transferred from another north Florida municipal utility, I was fully convinced that 10 feet of clearance and a three-year trim cycle was the most efficient and cost-effective way to go. Well, the community had a different idea of what line-clearance tree trimming was supposed to look like. So, after two years of me butting heads with homeowner associations, environmental organizations, and individual customers about how "their" trees should be trimmed, the city commissioners decided that a select committee of citizens appointed by them should decide how the electric utility would proceed with its line-clearance

tree trimming operation. So, for the first seven months of 1997, this committee met once or twice each month in order to develop a policy and a set of pruning standards that the electric utility would follow.

Some of the main parts of this new commission-approved policy were a standard clearance of only 4 to 6 feet, an 18-month trim cycle, a tree replacement policy that prohibited the planting of utility-incompatible trees under the power lines, and a requirement to begin using tree growth regulators (TGRs) on "significant trees." All this, with no increase in funds or number of tree crews.

### WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

The first thing we did was sit down with our line-clearance contractor to work out a game plan. The easiest task was to put together a TGR crew and begin treating trees that were growing beneath the overhead lines. This aspect of the new policy was the only part we received additional funds to cover. Next, we had to figure out how to allocate our available bucket crews in order to get the most bang for our time and material dollars. We have since converted the line-clearance contract to a firm-price billing contract in which the electric utility pays the contractor based on the number of line miles that are trimmed instead of an hourly rate for labor and equipment. This change has resulted in a significant cost savings over time. We did create "super crews" that consisted of three or four buckets and one follow-up chipping crew. This allowed the bucket crews to trim continually without having to stop and chip their brush. We also began using pre-inspectors, from the existing contractor workforce, to obtain permission/notification



from the customers. Again, this step allowed the trimming crews to concentrate on trimming trees and not the administrative part of the work.

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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



The 2010 autumnal (for those with a Northern hemisphere bias) or September equinox occurred on September 23rd when the sun crossed the celestial equator, the earth's axis of rotation being perpendicular to the sun's rays. Equinox has a Latin root meaning "equal night" and refers to the fact that daytime roughly equals nighttime during the vernal and autumnal equinoxes. Of course, the shortening daylight hours, along with other factors such as changes in temperature and rainfall patterns, triggers a number of responses in the trees of our urban forests. Tree growth slows down and trees begin to absorb essential nutrients in root storage, or as the old-timers put it - "the sap is falling."

Psychological effects occur for those of us enjoying and tending the forest. I suspect the effects aren't quite so enhanced in Florida as more northern states, since seasonal changes are more subtle here. I have spent time in Northern Ohio, and I can tell you from experience that "Spring Fever" is a real phenomenon. Still, after the extra-long Florida summer, especially for those of us that spend some of our work time out of doors, the fall-time reprieve from the heat and humidity is enough to put a hearty skip in your step that Michiganders (much less Yoopers) just wouldn't understand. So here's to fall time - cooler weather, football, bird migrations, a lowering risk of hurricanes, pumpkin pie, Thanksgiving, and eventually, even some fall color in the foliage of our deciduous trees here in Florida.

A relatively new fall tradition for your Council is the Regional Workshop and Annual Membership Meeting. The FUFC Executive Committee had made intermittent attempts at Regional Meetings in the past, but we are now committed to the concept. Last year ('09) we held a meeting in North Florida at Bunnell and featured relevant educational topics on Laurel Wilt and Firewise Communities followed by a short informative membership meeting. This year's Regional Meeting was held on October 7th in Winter Park and featured presentations on the Sustainable Sites Initiative (SITES) and Important Urban Tree Diseases and Treatments. Many thanks to Edward Broward with Land Design Innovations, Inc. and Dr. Ed Barnard, Florida Division of Forestry, for presenting on these topics! Next year's regional meeting will be planned in South Florida and will also highlight our 20th-year celebration.

Finally, I would like to share with you about our new five-year Strategic Plan. This was a significant undertaking for the Executive Committee, in part, because we decided to follow Charlie Marcus' advice and build an entirely new Strategic Plan rather than just tweaking the old plan. So we rolled up our sleeves and started the process during our annual board planning retreat in February and the effort continued well into the summer. We feel the process has allowed us to take a long hard look at who we are as an organization, set a new course, and begin making decisions that will allow us to best allocate our resources of staff (i.e. Sandy!), volunteers, and capital. We are real excited about the potential outcomes of this effort and pleased to present the Strategic Plan to you in this issue of your Council Quarterly newsletter. The 2010-2015 FUFC Strategic Plan has five Strategic Directions: Education, Sustain the FUFC, Partnerships, Awareness and Advocacy, and Encourage the Development and Enhancement of Local Urban Forestry Programs. Each Strategic Direction is further developed with an explanation of the "major intent" and a descriptive list of "key components" and "critical indicators of success." In addition, a detailed Action Plan is developed for each Strategic Direction with specific "action steps," dates, and committee assignments. While the Strategic Plan will serve as a five-year foundation document, the Action Plan will be frequently updated. We have not included the Action Plan in the newsletter as it is rather long and detailed, but we would be happy to share this with anyone who has an interest.

I hope you all will take time to fully enjoy the 2010 Issue Three of The Council Quarterly. Wishing all of you a blessed fall season.

Gratefully yours,

*John Holzäpfel*  
FUFC President

[JohnH@nrpsforesters.com](mailto:JohnH@nrpsforesters.com)



## NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING ANNUAL RATES:

Business-card size advertisement.....	\$75
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Half-page advertisement.....	\$225
Full page advertisement.....	\$450

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To place an advertisement in *The Council Quarterly*, please contact Sandy Temple, FUFC Executive Director (407-872-1738).

## ARTICLES WANTED

The Florida Urban Forestry Council would like to share information on what is going on throughout the state in our newsletters. We would like to receive articles on any aspect of our field. Article ideas may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- New trends in the industry
- News about tree advocacy groups
- Volunteer projects
- Favorite or new websites
- Ideas on working with the public
- City tree programs
- Solutions to common problems in your typical workday
- Children's poems, drawings, favorite quotes

Please update us on urban forestry news in your corner of the state so that we can learn from each other. Our newsletter is not only a great way to share information, but also a way to show off our accomplishments and successes. Articles can be sent to Sherie Burch, FUFC newsletter editor, at [sburch@ocalafl.org](mailto:sburch@ocalafl.org).

Thanks for contributing!

We began our “sensitive and gentler” tree trimming program by continuing where we had left off seven months before on our previous three-year trim cycle. We monitored the tree crews more closely, encouraging them to “work smarter.” Part of our task was to obtain the 4 to 6 feet (1.2 to 1.8 m) of clearance while maintaining pruning standards based on ANSI A300. As you know, these standards do not allow topping, hedging, or stubbing the limbs back to a set distance. According to ANSI A300, limbs must be pruned back to a lateral branch at least one third the size of the branch being removed.

This sometimes resulted in clearances of more than 6 feet. To help speed up the process, we decided to adopt a modified “just in time” trimming style. Only those trees with branches within the pre-established clear zone would be pruned. This practice sped up the process by reducing the number of setups on any stretch of line. There was also less time spent chipping brush because there were fewer trees being trimmed and less brush taken out of each tree.

The first cycle under the new program was completed in approximately 24 months. As I mentioned earlier, some of the overhead lines had not been pruned in more than five years, which slowed down the process. The second cycle was accomplished in just over 16 months. Florida was at the end of a severe drought, resulting in significantly less tree growth, and we think this had a lot to do with the dramatic shortening of the trim cycle. Finally, the third cycle was completed in 18 months. We had met our goal.

### CUSTOMER REACTION

Most customers loved our softer, gentler approach to line-clearance tree trimming. There were still those few customers who did not want their trees pruned no matter how or why we wanted to prune them (until their lights went off, of course), but that is normal for any electric utility. There were times when a customer would call us in response to the door hanger notification card wondering when we were going to prune the trees on their street. They were very pleased to hear that we had already pruned all we were going to. I know it is hard to imagine (it was for me, too), but for many of the streets with only a single phase of primary line, you could hardly tell we had done anything to the trees. One of the reasons for this is that where the large, overhanging live oak limbs appeared to be healthy and was high enough to not contact

the conductor during wet weather; we did not adhere strictly to the minimum of 4 feet (1.2 m) of clearance. Also, where other large limbs and/or the trunks of healthy trees were within the clear zone, they were left as well.

One of the techniques used to soften the effect of the pruning was to intentionally leave a few small branches with foliage on the large limbs we were pruning underneath or beside the lines and only prune off the aggressively growing sprouts. This not only reduced the visual impact, it also seemed

to trick the tree into “thinking” that it had not been pruned; therefore, it did not “see” the need for prodigious sprouting in order to replace the leaf surface area we had removed. This technique, combined with the application of TGRs, has been the dealmaker of this program.

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*“To help speed up the process, we decided to adopt a modified ‘just in time’ trimming style.”*

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### EFFECT ON RELIABILITY

I won’t bore you with the previous or current SAIDI, or SAISI, of our system reliability figures. Suffice it to say that we have made many of our linemen and troubleshooters mad at us because of the way we have cut way into their overtime hours from after-hour storm restoration. We have recently had whole months go by without any tree-related outages. And to do that anywhere, but especially here in Florida, is quite an accomplishment. In addition, most, if not all, of the tree-related outages we have experienced have been the result of tree or limb failure—not regrowth into the lines.

### ENGINEERING ALTERNATIVES

Another of the policies of this new program was to find alternatives to the engineering styles with cross-arm construction. Thanks to a progressive-thinking power engineering staff, we have reduced the amount of pruning required by employing designs that include delta construction, which groups the three-phase primary in a much tighter configuration on the pole and vertical construction with back-to-back circuits on the poles in some locations, as opposed to vertical overbuilt circuits that would negatively impact the graceful, overarching live oak limbs. We also utilize “tree wire,” especially on the canopy roads where tree canopies arch completely over the roadways like the ceiling in a cathedral. Approximately 25% of our system is built with tree wire. The use of tree wire does not necessarily reduce the amount of clearance we need, but it does dramatically reduce momentary interruptions that are the pet

peeves of all customers. This results in significantly improved reliability figures. Another engineering alternative used mainly on the canopy roads is “zigzagging.” As the name implies, we design the line to zigzag back and forth across the road, leaving most of the conductor out over the middle of the road. This technique allows us to avoid large, significant trees and prune the trees only where the lines attach to the poles along each side of the roadway.

### LESS IS MORE: THE CONCLUSION

What exactly does “less is more” mean? Less pruning means more aesthetically pleasing trees along the roadways here in Tallahassee. Less pruning means more cooperation from homeowner associations and individuals when we need to construct or relocate lines for road-widening projects. Less pruning means more reliability because of the reduction of regrowth after the pruning operation. But most important, less pruning means more happy customers.

I did not implement this new program alone. Without the support of my staff, the backing of upper management, engineers who have been willing to look at trees in a totally different way when designing new lines, and a line-clearance contractor that was both flexible and accommodating to my ideas, none of the strides we have made in the last seven years would have happened. I also want to thank the Citizens Tree Committee for not listening when I tried to tell them for 13 months that their ideas would not work.





**Deadline for Submission: November 12, 2010**

**CATEGORIES**

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- OUTSTANDING TREE ADVOCATE OR TREE ADVOCACY GROUP
- OUTSTANDING PUBLIC EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM
- OUTSTANDING PROJECT
- OUTSTANDING URBAN FORESTRY PROGRAM  
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- Outstanding Tree Advocate or Tree Advocacy Group
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- Outstanding Project
- Outstanding Urban Forestry Program / Large Community
- Outstanding Urban Forestry Program / Small Community

**GUIDELINES** **SEND ALL NOMINATIONS TO:**

- Nominate your own work, the work of your organization or the work of another.
- Each application must be typed and presented in a standard three-ring binder (no larger than 1/2 inch capacity). The completed awards entry form must be the first page of the application. Following the entry form should be a summary of not more than three typewritten pages that describe the project's, program's or individual's contribution to urban and community forestry as outlined in the Award Categories.

- Support documentation such as photographs, press clippings, printed pieces, and letters of commendation are encouraged, but shall be limited to 12 additional pages. All supporting documents must be attached or secured inside the application. Please, no loose documentation such as videotapes. Each application must include at least three digital photos in order to be considered. Examples include photos of the individual recipient, project logo, etc.
- Deadline for entry is **November 12, 2010**. Submit the original, one full copy and the three digital photos to:

Friends of Our Urban Forest Awards Program  
 Florida Urban Forestry Council  
 Post Office Box 547993  
 Orlando, FL 32854-7993

*All submitted materials become property of the Florida Urban Forestry Council. **Please note:** The Awards Committee reserves the right to re-assign the entry to another category if deemed appropriate. For questions or additional entry forms, please contact Sandy Temple, Florida Urban Forestry Council Executive Director at (407) 872-1738.*

# EVEN SMALL PATCHES OF URBAN WOODS ARE VALUABLE FOR MIGRATING BIRDS

Jeff Grabmeier, Director of Research Communications - Ohio State University

**COLUMBUS, Ohio** – Even tiny patches of woods in urban areas seem to provide adequate food and protection for some species of migrating birds as they fly between wintering and breeding grounds, new research has found. The results are important because, with the expansion of cities worldwide, migrating landbirds increasingly must pass through vast urban areas which offer very little of the forest habitats on which many species rely. “The good news is that the birds in our study seemed to be finding enough food in even the smaller urban habitats to refuel and continue their journey,” said Stephen Matthews, co-author of the study and a post-doctoral researcher in the School of Environment and Natural Resources at Ohio State University. Matthews conducted the study with Paul Rodewald, an assistant professor of environment and natural resources at Ohio State. The researchers published two related studies: one will appear in an upcoming issue of the journal *Landscape Ecology* and the other appeared in a recent issue of *The Condor*.

The research involved a secretive relative of the American Robin called Swainson’s Thrush (*Catharus ustulatus*). Swainson’s Thrushes winter mainly in Central and South America, and travel through the eastern United States to their breeding grounds in the boreal forests of Canada. The researchers captured up to 91 Swainson’s Thrushes at a woodlot on the Ohio State campus while they were migrating through Columbus in May or early June, 2004 to 2007. They then fitted them with tiny radio transmitters and released them at one of seven wooded sites in the Columbus area. (The radio transmitters were glued to



A researcher attaches a radio transmitter to the back feathers of a Swainson’s Thrush. Photo by Ken Chamberlain, Ohio State University.

back feathers and naturally fell off within a few weeks.) The sites had forest sizes that ranged from about one to 90 acres in size. Using the radio transmitters, the researchers tracked how long the thrushes would stay in the woodlots where they were placed. If they left soon after release, that would suggest that the sites did not provide the food and habitat that they required.

Results showed that at the five largest release sites, all the birds stayed until they left to continue to their migration north. At the two smallest sites (1.7 and 11 acres), 28 percent of the birds moved to other sites in the Columbus region. “The fact that a majority of the birds stayed at even our smallest sites suggests that the Swainson’s Thrushes were somewhat flexible in habitat needs and were able to meet their stopover requirements within urban forest patches,” Rodewald said.

The study revealed that the birds stayed at each site from one to 12 days, with the average being about four days. There was no difference in how long the thrushes stayed across the seven sites. “If our study sites differed strongly in habitat quality, we should have seen differences in how long the birds stayed,” Matthews said. “The fact that the stopover duration was similar suggests that all the sites were meeting the needs of the thrushes as they prepared for the next leg of migration.” The study did find that the later the calendar date, the shorter the thrushes stayed at the sites. That may be because the later-arriving birds would be in more of a rush to reach their breeding grounds,” Matthews said.

Weather was also a factor: birds tended to leave the sites when winds were light, following a drop in barometric pressure. Birds also tended to stay longer if they had lower body mass, suggesting they needed to bulk up more to continue their journey.

While nearly all sizes of woods appeared adequate for the thrushes, they still seemed to prefer larger forested areas, the study



revealed. In one of the studies, the researchers found that in the larger urban woodlots, the thrushes would stay farther in the interior and not get as close to the forest edge. The birds also moved less during a three-day period in the smaller sites, indicating they were more restricted in the area where they could forage for food.

The researchers cautioned that this study was done with just one species, so it is impossible to say whether the results will apply to other species.

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*“The fact that a majority of the birds stayed at even our smallest sites suggests that the Swainson’s Thrushes were somewhat flexible in habitat needs and were able to meet their stopover requirements within urban forest patches.”*

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But the Swainson’s Thrush is one of the more forest-sensitive species, so the fact that it could make do with even small, fragmented woodlots is encouraging. “These findings suggest that remnant forests within urban areas have conservation value for Swainson’s Thrushes and, potentially, other

migrant landbirds,” Rodewald said. “Obviously, larger forest patches are better, but even smaller ones are worth saving.”

The study was funded by the Ohio Division of Wildlife. For further information, contact Stephen Matthews at 614-247-1889 or via E-mail at [Matthews.204@osu.edu](mailto:Matthews.204@osu.edu); Paul Rodewald at 614-292-9795 or via E-mail at [Rodewald.2@osu.edu](mailto:Rodewald.2@osu.edu).

# CITY OF OCALA PARTNERS WITH CSX AND ACT IN BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT



The company has established a goal of planting one tree for every mile of track it has in the country. CSX works through ACT to carry out the program. Locally, Phil Howell of Arbor Plan Consulting Inc. coordinated the project.

CSX's donation supported the installation of 28 trees, sod and irrigation at the Phoenix Heights neighborhood, as well as providing the City of Ocala with an additional 25 trees to use in still-to-be-determined neighborhood improvement projects.

The total cost of the project is \$11,274, which covers the cost of the trees, installation of irrigation, water meters, sod, pine nuggets, and twelve months of water use.



The City of Ocala has joined with CSX Transportation, the Alliance for Community Trees (ACT) and various community groups to do a beautification project at the Phoenix Heights neighborhood off Martin Luther King Boulevard in Ocala.

Volunteers from the United Way, Brady-Owens VFW, Habitat for Humanity, and the City Arbor Day Committee, with help from City of Ocala Public Works, Electric Utility, and Davey Tree Expert Company, planted eight live oak trees, four elms, twelve crape myrtles, and six sable palms. They also did some sodding work to create a small park in this low income development.

The improvements were made possible through CSX's "Trees for Tracks" program.



## Looking for a 'Green' Holiday Gift?

The Tree Note Cards have been produced as a fundraising effort by the Florida Urban Forestry Council, a non-profit, educational and advocacy organization in cooperation with the Florida Division of Forestry. Note Card sets contain 12 cards with four each of three panoramic photographs donated by artist Steve Vaughn. Purchase and use of these unique and beautiful cards supports the Council's efforts and commitment to plant and save Florida's urban forests for future generations.



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# AW, BE A TREE HUGGER: OLD OAKS DESERVE IT

Joy Wallace Dickinson/The “Florida Flashback” Feature (published July 18, 2010) in *The Orlando Sentinel*



*Men standing at the base of the giant cypress tree “Senator”: Longwood, Florida undated picture.*

A recent letter from Paul Barnes of Daytona Beach noting that Florida’s oak trees are our original air-conditioners got me thinking about some of the remarkable trees that abide in Central Florida, despite the onslaughts of time, hurricanes and lightning bolts. (Barnes’ letter was printed in Flashback on June 27.)

Orlando’s department of Families, Parks and Recreation calls attention to some of the city’s oldest trees on one of its “Top Five Lists” online, and offers a downloadable “Significant Tree Map,” showing a loop from Mayor Carl Langford Park on Central Boulevard to Harry P. Leu Gardens. (See [www.cityoforlando.net/fpr/HTML/top5.asp](http://www.cityoforlando.net/fpr/HTML/top5.asp), and check out the other lists, too—they’re fun.)

Early photos of Orlando often show scrub and sand rather than shady streets, and it’s a good bet that we have much of our tree canopy because someone took the trouble to plant these beauties.

## SHADY CAMPAIGN

In 1889, for example, the city awarded a contract to Albert G. Branham & Co. for 400 trees to kick off a campaign for shade, according to Eve Bacon’s history of Orlando.

Residents also “set out trees in front of their properties at their own expense, and C.H. Hoffner, who lived on Lake Conway, offered to bring in oak trees and set them out

and guaranteed them to live, for 50 cents each,” Bacon wrote.

Other great oaks have volunteered to join our landscape, sprouting where an acorn dropped or wandered, some of them centuries ago.

## SURVIVOR OF CENTURIES

Orlando’s oldest tree, according to the “Significant Trees Map,” may have been here before the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock, before St. Augustine was founded—before anyone gave the name “Florida” to this wild and fragrant land.

It’s the Southern live oak in cozy Big Tree Park at 930 North Thornton Avenue. (The more well-known Big Tree Park in Central Florida, in Longwood, is home to the Senator, the 3,500-year-old cypress that’s in the Valhalla of big-tree-dom.)

The Senator’s oak cousin in Orlando deserves plenty of respect, too.

Because live oaks grow out instead of up, they don’t reach the spectacular heights of a cypress or of redwoods in the West. Instead their trunks get bigger, as detailed by a sign near Orlando’s Big Tree. The oak measured 21 feet, 10 inches, in circumference in 1963; now it’s got a girth of 24 feet.

In 1972, lightning hit Orlando’s Big Tree with a triple whammy, and it looked for a while as though its long life was over. The bolt “must have skipped around the giant

tree instead of going down just one side,” a park official told *Sentinel* columnist Charlie Wadsworth. “I am afraid there is a good chance the tree will die,” the official said.

But ministrations of city foresters have kept the old giant going, despite more recent blows. “I’m very old as you can see, so please don’t touch or climb on me,” a sign by its ground-nesting branches reads.

## ‘THE MAYOR’ BY THE MENNELLO

When John Adams and Thomas Jefferson were working on the Declaration of Independence, Big Tree was already an old-timer. Another giant live oak—a beautiful one—goes back to Adams and Jefferson’s time, too.

It’s near Orlando’s Mennello Museum of American Art, where Princeton Street passes through Loch Haven Park on a busy approach to Interstate 4. Dubbed “The Mayor” on the city’s map, it’s about 225 years old and has been through plenty.

We often hear the term “tree hugger” used in a pejorative way. Forget about that. Think about planting a tree. And let’s give these oaks a mental hug, at least. They deserve that much. The Orlando parks department first put a marker by the city’s Big Tree in 1926, but it was holding up its branches for hundreds of years before that, to give anyone who passed by a moment of reflection in the cool shade, as time marches on.

## PAUL BARNES’ LETTER, WHICH INSPIRED THIS COLUMN

*I love Florida—I’ve been a resident since 1961, when I was 18 years of age. I wished I had been born here. Great life, great people at the time and great times in 1960s DeLand.*

*In your column, you said Florida didn’t have air-conditioning, but you were wrong. I bought my first house in 1964 in DeBary. It had a window unit that didn’t work well and was expensive, but it also had a different form of air conditioning: the natural Florida kind, oak trees.*

*Smart builders in Florida built their homes in groves of oak trees. I never used air conditioning in Florida until 1981, when I bought a home in Sanford with central air. The oak trees kept that DeBary home somewhat cool, and the open windows and oscillating fans made the nights cool enough to sleep.*

*Thank goodness for the Florida laurel oaks, water oaks and live oaks—nature’s air conditioners.*

*— Paul Barnes, Daytona Beach*

# COMMISSION GIVES NEW NAME, NEW PURPOSE TO TREE PANEL

## Winter Haven's Urban Forestry Board is expected to oversee the city's trees.

Merissa Green/The Ledger (published July 13, 2010) © 2010 The Ledger. All rights reserved.

**WINTER HAVEN** - City commissioners decided unanimously Monday night to resurrect Winter Haven's Tree Board and give it a new name.

It will now be called the Urban Forestry Board and will be responsible for developing trees in public space, considering issues on the placement and removal of trees, and adopting an official street tree species listing.

Since 2004, the Tree Board had met on an as-needed basis.

But the limited amount of items and the lack of quorum caused the board to lose its effectiveness, city officials said.

City Commissioner J.P. Powell led the charge to reactivate the board. He said it's needed after the city received a recent award for being tree-friendly.

"I've been liaison (to the board) but we haven't had a meeting since I've been on the commission," said Powell, who was elected in September 2007. "With everything that's

going on, we need to give recognition where it is due."

In 2008, the city's staff implemented an Urban Forestry initiative that included a public tree inventory, installing 180 new trees, pruning of existing public canopy, training staff, and acquiring new equipment.



# WHEN EVERYONE WORKS TOGETHER GOOD THINGS WILL HAPPEN

Mike Insley – Urban Beautification Manager, City of Altamonte Springs

The Altamonte Springs Public Works Department and the Urban Beautification Division have different goals they are trying to achieve, but are working together closely to resolve conflicts that can occur when accomplishing these individual goals.

A subdivision in Altamonte Springs called Oakland Estates is in desperate need of new water lines along with road and curb improvements. The road, curb and water lines are old and have been damaged by mature trees along the right of ways, in many situations it was the wrong tree planted in the wrong place. Urban Beautification Manager, Mike Insley, Streets, Sanitation, and Stormwater Division Director, Shannon White, and City leaders shared their concern about how the installation of new water lines would affect the mature trees planted along the right-of-ways in this subdivision.

Stormwater and Urban Beautification met in Oakland Estates subdivision and inspected all the roads to determine problem areas. Mike Insley explained that severe damage could be done to the trees if a traditional installation method such as trenching was



used to install the new water lines and services. Shannon White presented the idea of using an installation process called "pipe bursting" to replace all the water lines. Pipe bursting is a technique where entry and exit points are identified then a bursting tool with an expander is positioned at the entry point. The bursting tool is then launched into the existing pipes. The bursting tool will pound through the old pipe while the expander pushes the host pipe fragments and surrounding soil out of the way so the new pipe that is being pulled from the back of the tool can enter. Because the expander is selected equal to the size of the new pipe, a tight fit is guaranteed. This can all be done with little effect to the tree root. Also, some curbs would have to be replaced to allow better street drainage which was being impeded due to roots rising up the curbs. Therefore, at this meeting it was decided that the existing Miami Curbs would be changed to a Type "F" curb and moved away from the trees root flair. This will allow more area for the root flair and with the new type of curb it will cause less damage to surface roots. Moving the curbs inward

can be done because these streets are wider than required.

Sidewalks and curb issues are typically the major problem between a public works department and forestry or urban beautification division. When divisions are willing to work together, ideas and solutions can be created that are acceptable to everyone.

In a recent issue of Tree City USA Bulletin No. 3 there is a very informative article titled "Resolving Tree-Sidewalk Conflicts." The solutions in this article could be used to resolve tree and sidewalk issues--another common conflict that typically occurs between a public works department and a forestry division.





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## WE HEAR YOU

The FUFEC Executive Committee appreciates your responses to the member survey and will be addressing some of the specific comments which were made. In this issue, the question being addressed is **“What benefits do you enjoy?”**

The most popular benefit of FUFEC membership continues to be *The Council Quarterly* newsletter followed by the Right Tree, Right Place Planting Guide/Poster and educational workshops.

- At the August Executive Committee meeting, the Newsletter Committee discussed creating “themes” for each newsletter. Implementation of this idea is in the works with a plan under development. As FUFEC would like to share information through the newsletter on what is going on throughout the state, submission of articles from the membership is encouraged.
- Minor revisions are underway on the Right Tree, Right Place posters. It is anticipated that several versions of the posters will be reprinted next year at which time the changes will be incorporated.
- The Central Florida Regional Workshop was held recently in Winter Park. Two excellent speakers presented information

on the Sustainable Sites Initiative (Edward Browder) and Urban Tree Diseases and Fungicidal Options (Dr. Edward Barnard). By partnering with allied organizations, FUFEC will be able to provide more educational opportunities for the members. Mark your calendar now for the upcoming Florida Recreation and Park Association Central Region Education Meeting on November 4 in Orlando! Further information is available at [www.fufec.org](http://www.fufec.org).

Additional comments received regarding the benefits of membership included the camaraderie, networking and fellowship, a suggestion to reach out to college-age students who are young, fresh and motivated to help FUFEC move forward, and how to participate in FUFEC functions if you are not on the Executive Committee.

- Three out of eight responders expressed the benefit of camaraderie, networking and fellowship that comes with connections to others in the urban forestry field. In addressing this benefit, a “Partnership” objective is included in the 2010-2015 Strategic Plan. FUFEC plans to enhance communication with the allied organizations represented on the Executive

Committee in addition to working with new and diverse organizations. With the enhanced communication efforts, networking opportunities will be expanded.

- A suggestion was received that FUFEC should consider recruiting college-age students who are young, fresh and motivated to get involved. FUFEC is currently working with college campuses throughout the state promoting the Tree Campus USA program. The Tree Campus USA program recognizes excellence in campus tree management, as well as student and community involvement across the nation.
- One of the most concerning comments was in reference to someone who felt there was no benefit to membership in FUFEC unless you were on the Executive Committee, especially due to the fact that environmental issues are in the forefront. The Executive Committee realizes there is a need for more opportunities for interaction throughout the state for the membership. Whether it will be through additional educational workshops, forming regional chapters or partnering in additional events with allied organizations, is a continuing topic of discussion for the Executive Committee members.

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# FLORIDA URBAN FORESTRY COUNCIL 2010 - 2015 STRATEGIC PLAN

## STRATEGY DIRECTION: EDUCATION

**Major Intent:** *Educate the citizens of Florida, ensuring inclusion of underserved populations, on the value and management of Florida's urban forests.*

### Key Components:

1. Support research and disseminate technical information through educational programs
  - Urban Forestry Institute
  - i-Tree Workshops
  - Trail of Trees
  - Speakers Bureau
2. Timely research-based information is available to the Urban Forestry community through multiple media outlets
  - Newsletter
  - Web Site
  - Posters
3. Tree Campus USA

### Critical Indicators of Success:

1. Creation of an Urban Forestry Institute
2. Facilitate i-Tree Workshops
3. Schedule at least two weeks each year for the Trail of Trees program
4. Creation of an active Speakers Bureau
5. Production of a quarterly newsletter (four issues annually)
6. Ensure web site is updated regularly and provides timely information
7. Produce Right Tree, Right Place Planting Guide/Posters and Trees Love Care! Posters
8. Approach potential colleges, schools and universities to make them aware of the Tree Campus USA Program and recruit their participation in the program

## STRATEGY DIRECTION: SUSTAIN THE FUF

**Major Intent:** *Develop and implement a strategy that optimizes the vigor of FUF through recruiting and retaining membership, financial stability, assessing and serving the needs of membership, governance of the Council, celebration of past successes, and planning for the future.*

### Key Components:

1. Membership Services
  - Regional and Annual Meetings
  - Member Survey
  - Annual Report
  - Website
2. Memberships
3. Sponsorships

4. Grants
5. Additional Revenues - Posters, Note Cards, Merchandise, Newsletter Advertisements
6. 20-Year Celebration
7. FUF Governance
8. Broaden or expand horizons

### Critical Indicators of Success:

1. Improve member services and enhance communication between Executive Committee and general membership
2. Increase membership through high retention and recruitment
3. Diversify funding for FUF through significant contributions from sponsors
4. Apply for and acquire grant funding from various sources
5. Increase sales of posters, note cards and newsletter advertising
6. FUF 20th Year Celebration in 2011 through news articles, web site, annual meeting, and other promotions
7. Recruitment, education and proper functioning of FUF committees
8. Develop new areas of interest in the industry including, but not limited to, tree planting projects

## STRATEGY DIRECTION: PARTNERSHIPS

**Major Intent:** *Enhance existing partnerships with allied organizations, cultivate new partnership opportunities with similar organizations and explore new partnership opportunities with diverse organizations to promote sound urban forestry policies and practices through effective collaborations.*

### Key Components:

1. Enhance existing partnerships with allied organizations
2. Cultivate new partnership opportunities with similar organizations
3. Explore new partnership opportunities with diverse organizations

### Critical Indicators of Success:

1. Improved communication between FUF and allied organizations represented on the FUF Executive Committee
2. New partnership opportunities for FUF
3. Opportunities to share information about the value and benefits of healthy urban forests with diverse organizations

## STRATEGY DIRECTION: AWARENESS AND ADVOCACY

**Major Intent:** *Increase awareness of FUF's mission and advocate for sound urban forestry policies and practices.*

### Key Components:

1. Development and implementation of marketing plan

### Critical Indicators of Success:

1. Documented increase in awareness and advocacy

## STRATEGY DIRECTION: ENCOURAGE THE DEVELOPMENT AND ENHANCEMENT OF LOCAL URBAN FORESTRY PROGRAMS

**Major Intent:** *To recognize, support and promote local urban and community forestry programs and to highlight programs which are the most innovative, successful, accomplished, and citizen-oriented so that other urban forestry programs may utilize or duplicate vestiges of these programs in their own communities.*

### Key Components:

1. FUF provides continuing support for the Friends of Our Urban Forest Awards Program
2. Targeted communities are made aware through FUF of available technical and financial resources
3. Community urban forestry programs incorporate each of the four essential components of a "managing" urban forestry program which include staff, ordinance, advocacy group, and plan (SOAP)
4. Community urban forestry programs actively work to increase their urban tree canopy

### Critical Indicators of Success:

1. The Awards Program is annually supported
2. Increased FUF memberships, particularly by smaller communities
3. Increased percentage of Florida's population living in communities with either managing or developing urban forestry programs
4. Increased number of communities have completed or initiated tree canopy assessments through either on-ground tree inventories or geospatial analysis.



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Would you be interested in further information regarding serving on a Council subcommittee?  Yes  No

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