



# The Council Quarterly

Quarterly Newsletter of the Florida Urban Forestry Council

2018 Issue One

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## PLANTING TREE-MINDED PEOPLE IN URBAN SOIL JACKSONVILLE'S CASE STUDY

Submitted by Joe Anderson – JEA Forester

Planting an acorn can be the beginning of something BIG. With a little Florida sun, water, and space to grow, an acorn can create a mighty oak. The expansion of a city's tree care program is just the beginning of something big too. When tree care specialists take root in urban soil, it can be the beginning of great work to combat a daunting task of maintaining an urban forest. If a city is to prosper at all, both the acorn and city stewards must land in fertile soil with favorable conditions and with the space to grow.

The City of Jacksonville (COJ) is the most populous city in the state of Florida, home to approximately 850,000 residents. Miami and Tampa are perhaps the first and second largest metropolitan areas and may easily champion a higher population density per square mile, but overall they have half the population of COJ. The secret to such a sizable population is indeed ample land area. Jacksonville's urban districts, suburban neighborhoods, and rural communities stretch close to 800 square miles--a city fabric that is stitched together with roads, utilities, parks, and right-of-ways, blanketed by a cool, green canopy of trees.

The stewardship over such an expansive collection of trees is a daunting task for any custodian or municipal forester. Perhaps the trees themselves may offer some practical guidance and insight. By observing trees, I learned that it is only natural to increase

your drip line. There are long-term benefits when doing so. When applying the concept to Jacksonville's dilemma, perhaps an urban forestry program should seek to expand its professional influence, or span of control (drip line), over time. Easier said than done. Constraining timelines, budgets, and a slew of competing issues, will limit the capacity of any individual charged with the stewardship of such a complex and expansive tree canopy. COJ's solitary urban forester was never without allies. Deputies can be petitioned from foresters, arborists, and other tree-related disciplines found from other city departments, tree contractors, Cooperative Extension agents, the Florida Forest Service, utility arborists, and tree advocacy groups. Still, in the end, the stewardship of city trees is ultimately his or hers. Fortunately, the goals of allied organizations overlap from time to time, but they are burdened with their own visions and missions. In Jacksonville, a single urban forester can be overburdened in a sea of trouble. Indeed, there's a need to plant more seeds.

If we are going to plant seeds, we will need to prepare the soil with a little "S.O.A.P."--Staff, Ordinance, Advocacy, and a Plan. One of the goals of the Florida Urban Forestry Council is to assist Florida communities to reach a *managing* status with regards to their trees and urban forests. At the *managing* level, a community will have an active urban forestry program with

four primary elements illustrated with the acronym S.O.A.P. They include a professional **s**taff, enforceable tree **o**rdinances, active citizen **a**dvocacy, and an urban forestry **p**lan. Communities that do not have all four elements are at various levels of a *developing* community.

Further, Jacksonville is a long-standing *Tree City USA*, a designation awarded by the Arbor Day Foundation and the National Association of State Foresters. To qualify as a *Tree City USA* a community must establish four standards:

1. A Tree Board or Department – legally responsible for the watchful eye over city trees; delegating tasks to professional foresters, arborists, department, or some combination of.

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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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Welcome to 2018 and a new year for Florida's urban forests. Opportunities to improve the designs, plant choices, and maintenance for trees in our landscape abound after the storms of 2017. The FUFUC has a timely education agenda to assist in this work. Our 2018 Urban Forest Institute (UFI), on February 5-7, focused on the preparation and response following natural disasters. The UFI conference brought international researchers

and experienced contractors together to share their recommendations and investigations to help improve the effective management of trees and landscapes in Florida. You are welcome to share your experiences with us too.

As the FUFUC President, my goal is to expand the support for the FUFUC and urban forests across the depth and breadth of Florida's Green Industry. This Council is made up of leading Green Industry professional organizations and individual members (citizen tree advocates and professionals) who are community leaders in advocating the values of trees and urban forests. FUFUC works to understand and communicate the importance of trees for sustainable and resilient communities in Florida and to educate professionals and citizens in managing and maintaining them to be more valuable.

One recent example for the importance of trees is how many communities were spared greater levels and costs of damages by the urban forest canopies buffering the winds and flood waters from Hurricane Irma. We cleaned up much vegetative debris across Florida and are still cleaning up in many communities. **Our trees took the brunt impact of winds, whereby significantly reducing the amount of damage to buildings and homes.** Trees are an important part of community infrastructure and can pay us back the investment made for planning, planting, and maintaining them many times over. As a Landscape Economist, I am very involved with calculating the costs and benefits of trees. The more we learn about trees, the more we learn about our need for trees throughout our lives.

Thanks for continuing to be part of FUFUC and supporting our organization. Together we are expanding and increasing the importance and the values of urban forests in Florida.

In Support,

*John Harris*  
FUFUC President

2. A Tree Care Ordinance – Established laws that empower a city to have and enforce local tree-protective rules and regulations, to include, but not limited to, regulatory permits and mitigation policies.
3. A Community Forestry Program supported by an annual budget.
4. An Arbor Day Observance and/or Proclamation celebrating the value of trees and achievements and benefits of the *Tree City USA* program.

It should be no surprise that the *Tree City USA* requirements mirror the elements of S.O.A.P. Certainly, a community that reached a *managing, developing, or Tree City USA* status should seek out opportunity for growth. Like a tree itself, once established its canopy, its dripline, and its circle of influence should expand over time. With it, all the benefits brought to municipal parks, right-of-ways, byways, and quality of life will spread and swell.

The foresight to install a tree protection ordinance into law was essential to COJ's ability to plant, nurture, and expand its professional tree-care staff. Jacksonville has two tandem ordinances that exhibit its tree-protection rules, regulations, and policies:

1. COJ Charter Laws – Standards for Tree Protection, Conservation, and Mitigation
2. COJ Landscape and Tree Protection Ordinance

Tree mitigation is governed by sixteen provisions within COJ's Tree Protection Regulations. Tree replacement is a common form of compensation for the removal of protected trees. In lieu of replacement, an applied fee may be levied that contributes

## NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING ANNUAL RATES:

- Business-card size advertisement: \$75
- Quarter page advertisement: \$115
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- Full page advertisement: \$450

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to tree protection and related tree fund expenses. Over the years, tree funds have grown to several million dollars. The dollars were never intended as a city reserve, or as a savings account. According to local mandates, the funds were to provide for the provision of trees, incidental landscaping, and tree-care operations—the essential elements needed to nourish and expand an urban forest program.

In response to a recent challenge by the Public Trust Environmental Legal Institute of Florida, alleging a lack of transparency, accountability, and implementation of practices that would foster a resilient and sustainable urban tree canopy, City Hall agreed to take several steps aimed at improving the stewardship of its tree canopy and applicable funds, to include:

1. Establishment of a seven-member tree commission - an advisory board to promote the conservation and enhancement of COJ's Tree Canopy.
2. The promise of two additional tree professionals to be added to the City's rank and file.

3. To improve the database and transparency regarding tree fund expenditures.
4. To increase enforcement and penalties for violators of tree protection ordinances.

In January 2018, a newly-formed tree commission was created as an advisory group to encourage and enhance efforts to conserve and improve Jacksonville's urban forestry program. The seven-member team includes one member designated by the City Council President; the Director of Public Works, or designee; three members of the general public appointed by the City Council; and two members appointed by the Mayor. Appointed members are to possess specialized knowledge about trees, the Tree Protection Ordinance, and the impact of construction and urban activities on trees. They might include landscape architects, professional developers, urban planners, attorneys, botanists, certified arborists, foresters, or horticulturists.

Two tree professional positions--an Urban Forest Manager and City Arborist--have been added to the City's rank and file.

Working under the direction of a Senior Urban Forester, they will help oversee the stewardship of COJ's urban tree canopy and the tree fund dollars.

The balance of Tree Fund dollars is now accessible and openly documented on a <https://jaxdigstrees.org> website. The website also includes tree permit information, details of City planting projects, tree inventory web tool, and promotion of community interaction.

The recent enhancement of local, tree-related statutes provides an enriched political, social, and cultural soil needed to support Jacksonville's tree canopy. It increases the drip line--a circle of influence--around the stewardship of COJ's trees. What would have resulted if trees had no protection is not exactly clear-cut, but the likelihood for tree loss, or canopy reduction is clear. With a little Florida sun, right conditions, and space to grow, COJ's newly planted tree commission, and tree care professionals will take root in the urban soil. It can be the beginning of great work to combat a daunting task of establishing a sustainable and resilient urban tree canopy.



## OUR TEAM

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## Working in Harmony with Nature

**Sumter Electric Cooperative has always placed a high priority on the environment** by working to stay in harmony with nature. Evidence of SECO's environmental stewardship is displayed through the following programs.

**Sumter Electric Cooperative:**

- was named a **Tree Line USA** utility for the fourth consecutive year by **The National Arbor Day Foundation**. Employee arboriculture training, public education, and maintaining abundant, healthy trees in SECO's service area are common practices.
- installs osprey nesting dishes atop of the utility pole cross arms as needed for these magnificent birds.
- places squirrel guards atop the transformers to protect a variety of animals from danger, particularly squirrels.
- offers net metering to members interested in renewable generation such as photovoltaic systems.
- recycles retired power equipment, scrap steel, aluminum, copper, porcelain, fluorescent lights, ink printer and copier cartridges, plus much more.
- researches and writes **Nature's Reflections**, a special column in the members' newsletter developed to educate the community on the flora and fauna of Florida with eco-friendly topics like xeriscaping and conservation.



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# CANVASSING FOR CANOPY AND THE FLORIDA URBAN FORESTRY COUNCIL



The Florida Urban Forestry Council promotes the value, enhancement and sound management of urban forests through leadership and education. But why is the Council not more involved in lobbying state and local governments to promote tree advocacy?

The Florida Urban Forestry Council (FUFC) is a statewide, non-profit organization with a diverse membership of municipalities, arborists, utility foresters, community tree board members, tree advocates, volunteers, horticulturists, landscape professionals, and interested citizens who care about trees in their communities.

The FUFC is a collection of interlocking pieces that completes a larger, complicated puzzle of urban forestry. Our parcel is shaped by the terms--to include lobbying limits--of the Internal Revenue Code. A tax-exemption applies to the FUFC because we are organized and operate exclusively for an educational purpose. The limit of power is a basic requirement of the tax-exempt status. We risk losing the tax-exempt status and gaining the burden of certain excise taxes if lobbying and other political activity rules are violated.

The loss of the 501(c)(3) tax deductible status would be a fatal blow to the leaves and branches

of our organization. Without it, we are like a tree that loses a significant portion of its absorbing roots. We are unable to absorb the funds and contributions of corporate sponsors, individual donors, and matching programs that seek out, and depend upon, the availability of tax deductions.

*“Though our lobbying activities may be limited, do not underestimate the influence and power of our educational prowess.”*

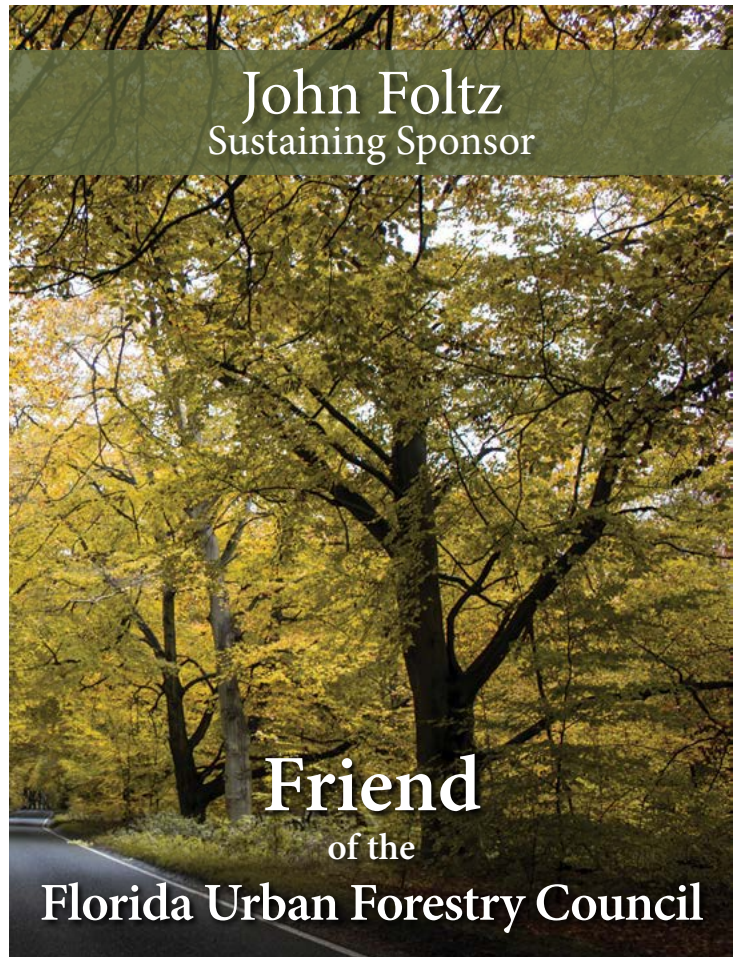
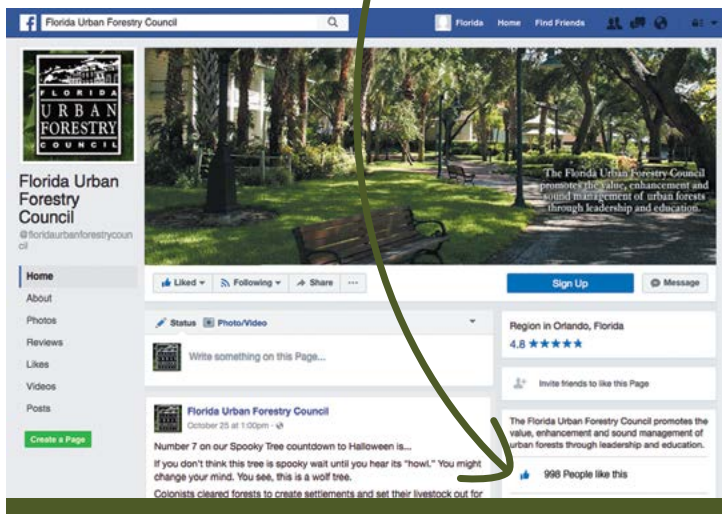


Though our lobbying activities may be limited, do not underestimate the influence and power of our educational prowess. The urban forests do not simply need the support of the public. Urban forestry practices and policies are sustained through the support of an *informed* public – thus the persuasive power of education.

# Like Us!



*How high can we go?*



# STUMP THE FORESTER

**QUESTION:** Who is responsible for trees or branches that fall over a property line from an adjacent property?

**ANSWER:** In the urban/suburban neighborhood, neighbors are often co-owners of a tree. Though property boundaries have set parameters, trees do not. Biologically, trees are engineered to grow, to take up space, and branch out beyond our makeshift perimeters. Where the tree is rooted is not near as important as its reach across boundary lines. As a general rule, the portions of a tree that cross, or fall, on your property are yours. Property owners can prune limbs that extend into their property, but they must do so responsibly. Since a property owner may be responsible for only a portion of a tree, they cannot bring harm, injure, or destroy the tree. If a tree is growing on a shared boundary, the tree may be considered common property. Ownership and responsibility is shared by those on each side of the line.

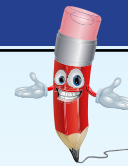
The concept holds true for trees that branch out into municipal and/or utility right-of-ways. Municipalities and/or utilities can exercise reasonable care

when clearing the way for safe sidewalks, roadways, lines-of-sight, electrical conductors, and other utility assets. In the wake of a storm, municipalities are responsible for trees that cross, or fall, within the path of roads, sidewalks, right-of-ways, and other public venues. Utilities are authorized to address tree hazards that hinder the restoration of essential services—such as electricity. This is not to suggest that they own the tree or storm debris. Property owners are responsible for trees and debris that find their final resting place on their lot.

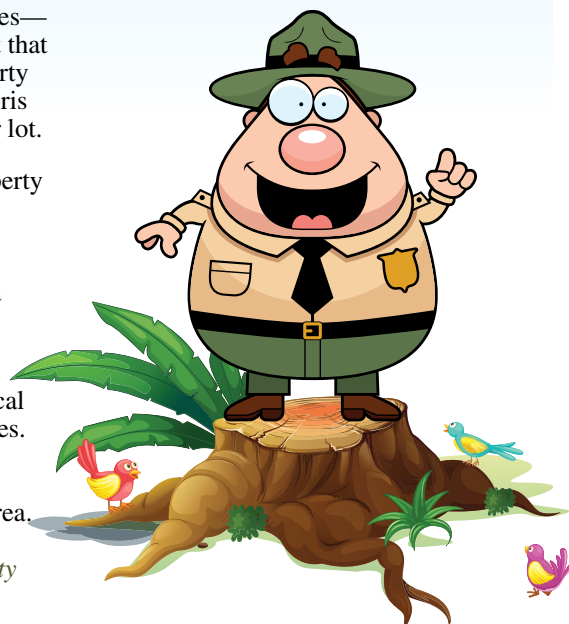
If there is sufficient evidence that a property owner knows, or knew, of a pending tree hazard (dead, declining, defective, or unsound tree), they may be liable for damages that could have been prevented through reasonable care or diligence.

Tree-related ordinances and municipal codes are useful when understanding local rules and regulations regarding tree issues. For an in-depth answer to any particular case, consult a certified arborist, urban forester, or tree care specialist in your area.

*Answer provided by Joe Anderson, Utility Forester with JEA*



*If you would like to 'stump the forester,' see page 15 for information on submitting your question!*



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# PLANTING, PROTECTING, PROMOTING, AND POLITIC?

Submitted by Anna Dooley, Executive Director – Greenscape of Jacksonville



The Mission of Greenscape of Jacksonville is to enrich our city by **planting, protecting, and promoting trees.**

We have faithfully pursued and met our goals for over forty years and are credited with over 350,000 trees added to the local canopy. Our first action item in our mission statement is **planting** and the record speaks for itself. As residents of the largest city in the country (by area) the planting opportunities are endless as old trees decline and existing canopies succumb to new developments that often reduce urban landscapes to asphalt heat islands. We have found many school campuses to be lacking the installment of trees – our “all natural, no energy cost” air conditioning units. Children, teachers, and administrators often suffer through the great Florida sun during recess and outdoor assemblies. “Planting the love of trees” in the hearts of our students--our youngest citizens--results in not only the planting of thousands of trees at schools, but fosters a more pleasant and successful learning atmosphere. The plantings we execute in public parks are welcome additions that supplement limited city budgets for park improvements. Right-of-way and street trees transform roadways and walkways into a welcome path for numerous neighborhoods.

So, we plant trees--a lot of them! How do we **protect** our trees? In the year 2000 as a result of a grassroots effort led by Greenscape and Citizens for Tree Preservation, over 197,000 registered voters voted yes to minimum standards for tree protection, conservation and mitigation in Duval County. Never in the history of Duval County had so many people voted in favor of any issue or any candidate. The measure was approved in all 268 precincts. Jacksonville’s citizens voted to require builders and developers to mitigate for removal of certain large trees, mostly hardwoods, long leaf pines and Sabal palms. Mitigation could be satisfied by planting replacement trees or paying into a city administered trust fund. Monies in that fund are designated for organizations such as Greenscape, as



well as the City Forester to plant trees where needed. But recently we have been faced with a serious challenge to not only the tree canopy of Duval County, but to canopies throughout the entire state of Florida. Local tree protection ordinances have come under fire in Tallahassee by a pending flaw to state law with House Bill 521 and Senate Bill 574 which were originally designed to strip away the power of local tree ordinances. Cities and counties have developed their individual ordinances to balance development and environmental considerations and protect their precious tree canopy. What works in Jacksonville is different from what works in Miami or other Florida cities. We are not all alike in our canopy and its needs. It is our view that this action is a pre-emption of local government and places the trees we all value in peril. We are actively working to defeat these bills. To learn more visit [JaxDigsTrees.org](http://JaxDigsTrees.org) or go to Facebook and Instagram [@JaxDigsTrees](https://www.instagram.com/JaxDigsTrees) or [@DefendFloridaTrees](https://www.instagram.com/DefendFloridaTrees). Contact your legislators, talk to your local government officials and make all aware of this threat. It is quite possible that by the time you

receive and read this article, we have been successful with having the bills indefinitely postponed or withdrawn from consideration entirely.

Lastly, Greenscape **promotes** trees--all of the time! We have an Annual Arbor Day Festival and Tree Giveaway that also offers educational exhibits and speakers, as well as crafts and activities for the whole family. We have produced numerous printed materials that are distributed to schools, clubs, and at forums where we serve as the “Local Lorax.” We **do** speak on behalf of our trees and our community. We encourage you to join your local tree advocacy group and lend your voice for the protection of trees in your community. Local tree protective ordinances give trees a voice and a legal standing. We recognize the important role trees and the rule of law play in all our lives. Vibrant cities cultivate thriving urban forests that boost public health, safety, sustainability, and economic growth. Trees may not be the only answer, but they are a critical element to better living in company with the laws of nature.



Special Recognition: Greenscape of Jacksonville was the recent recipient of FUF’s 2017 Friends of Our Urban Forest Outstanding Project award for “The Greening of the Arc.”

# Tree of the Quarter

**SABAL PALM**  
(*Sabal palmetto*)

Submitted by Jim E. Davis, Multi-County Extension Director



Sabals are a slow-growing palm species. Most transplants are dug up from other locations within the Sunshine State. In its natural setting, it can take sabal palms as long as 15-30 years for it to produce a visible trunk. The sabal palm is one of our tallest native palm species, aside from its southern cousin the Royal palm. Sabals can grow quite high. It is not uncommon to see sabals reach heights of over 70 ft. tall.

**Habitat:** Sabal palms can be found through the lower Southeast in states such as Texas, Alabama, Mississippi, and South Carolina. Sabals can grow in a variety of habitats. They can adapt in sandy soils, dunes and upland ecosystems. They are also found growing naturally along rivers, lakes and marshes. Sabals grow in full sun or part shade.

**Wildlife Benefit:** This is a palm that is often undervalued for its wildlife benefit. Birds such as mockingbirds, blue jays, crows, and other frugivores devour the fruit. It is estimated that between 10 to 25% of the diet of raccoons are fruit from sabal palms. Bear and deer also eat fruit that fall to the ground. Native pollinators such as our native bees, flies and beetles gravitate to the flowers. It also frequented by one of our most valuable pollinators, the European honeybee.

**Trunk:** The trunk of a sabal palm is solitary and does not branch. It can be smooth or some palms may retain the old leaf bases, or commonly referred to as “boots.”

Linnaeus, the father of modern nomenclature, cleverly labeled palm trees as the “Princes of the Landscape.” Most Floridians would agree. Rarely is there a place in Florida that one can go and not see a palm tree. One of the stateliest of our princely palms is our very own sabal palm or *Sabal palmetto*. The sabal palm is the state tree of Florida, as well as South Carolina. The sabal was designated the Florida state tree in 1953, and in 1970 the legislature mandated that the sabal palm replace the coconut palm on the state seal.

This beautiful native palm tree has a place in history and should have a place in your landscape. The sabal palm was widely used by early pioneers and Native Americans, such as the Seminoles, Choctaw and Houma. Sabal palms are gaining popularity as an ornamental landscape plant. They are drought tolerant after establishment and can tolerate cold temperatures to about 15° F.

The sabal palm is indeed a special tree. Actually, it is not really a tree at all. It is a monocot, much like grass. Do not let it fool you though. The sabal palm is the toughest of plants, being able to survive harsh weather such as tropical storms and hurricanes.







**Flowers:** Hundreds of little creamy-white flowers on a branched inflorescence are produced from April to August.

**Leaves/Petiole:** Sabals have unique costapalmate leaves. Leaf blades can reach a length of three to four feet. Petioles average three to six feet in length and are unarmed or smooth.

**Fruit:** Black, fleshy pear-shaped fruit, about ¼" in diameter, is produced in the fall and mature during the winter months. Each fruit contains one palm seed.

**Roots:** The roots are usually not a problem. Roots from mature palm trees can extend

out to over 50 ft. from the base of the palm. Avoid applying any turf fertilizer on or near the root system. This may exacerbate a nutrient deficiency and may be harmful.

**Companion Plants:** Saw palmetto (*Serenoa repens*), gulf muhly grass (*Muhlenbergia capillaris*), American beautyberry (*Callicarpa americana*), and blue stem palmetto (*Sabal minor*)

**Interesting Facts:**

- A 40 ft. sabal palm can easily be over 100 years of age.
- Early pioneers used the heart of the palm to make swamp cabbage. Swamp

cabbage was prepared over a fire with meat seasoning or used raw. This process, however, kills the palm.

- Seminoles used the berries to treat sicknesses such as headaches and fevers. Leaves were also used to make thatch houses, fiber and arrows.
- The petioles were used in stickball or *Toli*. This game created by Native Americans goes back over 400 years and resembles modern day lacrosse.
- Palms are in the palm family or (Areca-  
ceae).
- Wood was used for warf pilings and broom handles.
- The sabal palm is also referred to as the cabbage palm, cabbage tree and blue palm.
- When transplanting, sabal palm roots die all the way back to the trunk.
- It can take as long as eight months after transplanting for sabal palms to generate new root growth.

**Sites referenced:**

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/st575>

<https://www.fs.fed.us/database/feis/plants/tree/sabpal/all.html>

[https://plants.usda.gov/plantguide/pdf/cs\\_sapa.pdf](https://plants.usda.gov/plantguide/pdf/cs_sapa.pdf)

[http://hort.ufl.edu/database/documents/pdf/tree\\_fact\\_sheets/sabpala.pdf](http://hort.ufl.edu/database/documents/pdf/tree_fact_sheets/sabpala.pdf)



# 2017 FRIENDS OF OUR URBAN FOREST AWARDS PROGRAM

The following is a summary of the winners for the 2017 Friends of Our Urban Forest Awards Program. This program that the Council supports each year provides an opportunity for all involved and associated with the urban forestry industry to share with others their successes--whether it be as an individual, group, a project, a program, and more. Please visit our web site for more information ([www.fufc.org](http://www.fufc.org)). Again, thank you to all who participated in the 2017 awards program and congratulations to all of our winners!

**TIM SHAW**  
*OUTSTANDING PROFESSIONAL*



**T**im Shaw is the creator and owner of Southern Tree Farm--the nursery branch of Shaw's Tree Service, LLC--a full service tree company serving Jacksonville since 1982. Tim has dedicated his talent and dreams to nurture a local nursery equipped to fulfill all of Jacksonville's tree-care needs from tree selection, site preparations, tree planting, and tree care throughout the life of a tree. This is essential when building a sustainable and resilient urban tree canopy.

For over four years, Tim has been a steadfast ally with Jacksonville's tree advocates when supplying quality trees, at a reduced rate, making urban/community tree projects possible. Uniting with JEA utility and Greenscape of Jacksonville (Jacksonville's premier tree advocacy non-profit), Tim has supplied a four-year average of 645 quality, shade trees per year for a running total of nearly 2,580 trees to support various coordinated tree planting activities and programs. This alone is outstanding and deserving of recognition.

**TREE STEWARDS JACKSONVILLE**  
*OUTSTANDING TREE ADVOCACY GROUP*



**T**he City of Jacksonville operates the largest urban park system in the United States, with more than 337 locations covering more than 80,000 acres. Because of budget limitations parks are often underfunded and necessary maintenance activities cannot be routinely scheduled. Hence younger park trees grow without being pruned. Structural defects such as included bark and co-dominant stems are going unchecked. Trees should be structurally pruned at a young age while defects can be corrected. The Tree Steward program was created to utilize volunteers to become tree advocates in their community.

The Duval County Tree Stewards have cultivated a partnership with the City of Jacksonville Parks Department pruning young trees in Jacksonville parks twice a month. The trees pruned are typically less than 20 feet tall. They are pruned to: remove co-dominant stems, improve structure, remove rubbing and crossing limbs, use the appropriate technique making smallest wound possible and increase park user safety. From June 2015 through November 2017, the Duval County Tree Stewards were able to prune over 1500 trees. If left unpruned the trees would need more costly and invasive maintenance in the future to mitigate any defects.

Tree stewards are trained to provide valuable volunteer services to the community at a time when Urban Forest maintenance budgets are being reduced. They will be able to plant and prune (train) young trees so that they may grow to be healthy productive contributions to Jacksonville's urban canopy. With the help of the newly trained Tree Stewards, Jacksonville is becoming greener "one tree at a time".

**W**antman Group, Inc.'s (WGI's) Land Design Services Division worked in collaboration with

Harries Heder Collaborative for the Palm Beach County Art in Public Places Division to create the "Windows on the Floating World: Blume Tropical Wetland Garden." The tropical oasis was developed to provide visitors with an opportunity to walk on water, adding a new interactive experience to Mounts Botanical Garden. By incorporating artist's installation pieces into an intimate garden setting, the design encourages exploration and discovery by allowing the program to unfold through a series of unique experiences. The design provides educational messages that fulfill Mount's mission statement and a key portion of their master plan.

All of the existing specimen trees on site were preserved and incorporated as integral elements of the design. A specimen bald cypress, Shumard oak, and mature coconut palms mark multiple garden entries which lead visitors to a custom designed walkway that appears to float on the water's surface. The floating walkway creates display windows featuring a season rotating exhibit of Florida-friendly aquatic plants that play a role in the garden's educational outreach program, Ambassadors of the Wetlands. The program allows Palm Beach County students to learn about the importance of wetlands and their ecological functions.

**MOUNTS BOTANICAL GARDEN:  
WINDOWS ON THE FLOATING WORLD  
OUTSTANDING PROJECT**



**THE GREENING OF THE ARC  
OUTSTANDING PROJECT**



**T**he Arc Jacksonville, a community leader in serving adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, opened The Arc Village in May of 2016. This site is a national model for independent living for the people it serves. Upon opening it was at capacity for support services available for up to 121 residents. The Village is a ground-breaking concept that allows individuals to enjoy the satisfaction of working and living independently in a community designed to serve their needs.

Although the facility is fantastic, the site and grounds were lacking trees. Minimal landscaping was in place around the homes and recreational facilities. Greenscape had an opportunity to apply for a grant through the HDR Foundation and subsequently was awarded \$8,650 for the project. Greenscape developed a plan to install 70 trees.

Greenscape also brought the Late Bloomers Garden Club into the project. The Garden

Club donated 20 six-inch live oaks. These trees were strategically placed around the neighborhood, instantly transforming the environment.

On Saturday, May 6, 2017, volunteers gathered for the planting. The most gratifying moments were when the residents, staff and families joined Greenscape, HDR, and Late Bloomer volunteers as the remarkable change in the environment took place. The addition of 90 trees created a true neighborhood that will encourage outdoor activities and socialization.

The project was a learning opportunity for the Village residents and it has enhanced their understanding and appreciation for the environmental contributions of the trees. It was also a learning opportunity for all others involved as our understanding of those individuals was greatly enlightened.

## UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA'S URBAN FORESTRY PROGRAM OUTSTANDING URBAN FORESTRY PROGRAM



**T**he tree canopy at the University of Central Florida is an invaluable asset, especially given the campus's size and functionality. It serves many purposes including student comfort and safety, aesthetics, carbon sequestration, and storm water interception and filtration. UCF is one of the largest universities in the nation, hosting a student population of over 65,000, and over 22,000 staff and faculty as of 2017. The campus is 1,415 acres, 800 of which are considered natural lands, which are maintained as natural Floridian ecosystems. Currently, there are 319 acres of natural lands protected under conservation easements by the St. John's Water Management District. Water conservation, pollution removal, canopy cover conservation, erosion control, and aesthetic appeal are the five ultimate goals driving our urban forestry program. The Landscape and Natural Resources Department is committed to creating green spaces that provide utility for our natural environment, create outdoor comfort for our students, support sustainability initiatives, and promote a sense of place on campus.

The UCF urban forestry team implements the campus's urban forestry initiatives.

This team includes 7 individuals, four of which are ISA certified arborists. They all work within the Landscape and Natural Resources Department (LNR), which has forty-two grounds crew, a landscape architect, four superintendents, and three biologists.

The UCF Urban Forestry program is young, but outstanding. The productivity is remarkable given the small size of our arbor team. The program will continue to grow and to explore new and exciting urban forestry techniques. We will continue to develop and apply innovative urban forestry techniques and will expand our community impact through new educational initiatives and partnerships.

**E**ven though Meg Niederhofer has been retired as Gainesville's City Arborist since 2010 after a 22-year career, many Gainesville City residents still think of her as the "City Tree Lady." Her career achievements include making sure that the City of Gainesville had a

comprehensive urban forestry program, which included the review of development proposals, inspection of construction sites for compliance with regulations to protect and replant trees, revision of the urban forestry portions of the Land Development Code, as well development of a planting program that established thousands of young trees throughout town and helped lead Gainesville to its thirty-four year designation as a "Tree City USA."

Thanks to Meg, Gainesville's updated tree ordinance was adopted in 2013. The Waldo Road Greenway, Archer Road plantings, neighborhood treescapes, and the planting of native trees in all City parks are some of Meg's enduring planting projects.

Meg's impact on urban forestry was not just limited to Gainesville. Meg was instrumental in the formation and "early days" of the Florida Urban Forestry Council (FUFC) dating back to the early 1990's. Meg chaired the Awards Committee for nearly 10 years and was also a speaker and moderator at many of the FUFC annual conferences.

After retiring Meg continued to volunteer on the City's Tree Advisory Board. Even after her Tree Advisory Board term expired, she still continues to attend Tree Advisory Board meetings and regularly attends City Commission meetings to speak and advocate for trees. Her dedication has never wavered. She has a deep passion and commitment for the urban forest.

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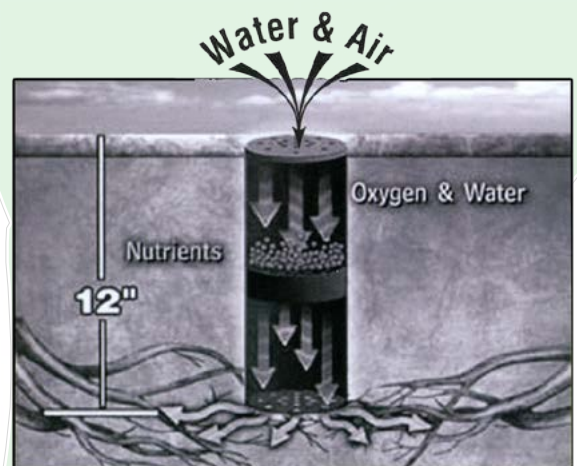
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# Join Us

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

*New and renewed members through March 31, 2018. Please let us know if we fail to mention your name.*

## SUPPORTING

### A FRIEND OF THE FLORIDA URBAN FORESTRY COUNCIL

*Jeff Foltz  
John Foltz  
Andrew Wiltz  
Jennifer Wiltz*

### ORLANDO UTILITIES COMMISSION

*Erin Givens*

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Eric Hoyer  
Kari Hurst  
Charlie Marcus  
Jay Vogel*

### SECO ENERGY

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April Hurst  
John LaSelva  
Tracy Powell  
David Watford*

### URBAN FORESTRY ORGANIZATION

*Daniel Adams*

## PROFESSIONAL

*Lyle Adams  
Russell Adams  
Alexis Alvey  
Kathy Asony  
Jack Baggett  
Lori Ballard  
Byron Bozarth  
Kathleen Brennan  
Steve Burke  
Richard Cervi  
Carolyn Cheatam-Rhodes  
Phil Christman  
Paul Cliff  
Beverly Cline  
Rachel Comte  
Riley Coy  
Sean Creedon  
Karen DeMaria  
Cynthia Domenech-Coogle  
Harry Doyle  
Sheila Dunning  
Jamie Frank  
Diana Gilman  
Joe Gross  
Ruth Hamberg, RLA ASLA AICP  
Beth Hamer  
Seth Hawkins  
Lisa Hickey  
Sherisha Hills  
Jeremy Hockenbury  
Phil Howell  
Raymond Jarrett  
Ann Koenig  
Benjamin Koubek*

*Daniel Lamarre  
Shane Largent  
Jonathan Lee  
Larry Leggett  
Chuck Lippi  
Tyrone Lowery  
Mark McClellan  
Drew McLean  
Antonio McLeod  
Michael "Mickey" Merritt  
Chris Miller  
Scott Montgomery  
Eric Muecke  
Ira Padgett  
Kimberly Pearson  
Gregory Polidora  
Herb Poole  
Jim Rauch  
Todd Reich  
Buck Rollings  
Joe Samnik  
Reuben Sardinias  
Julie Schelb  
Jarvis Sheeler  
Carla Shelton  
Dawn Sinka  
Jerry Slagle  
Brenda Thibodeaux  
Jordan Upcavage  
Tom Wilde  
Mark Williams  
Greg Wright  
Kevin Wyko  
Elvis Zelaya*

## TREE ADVOCATE

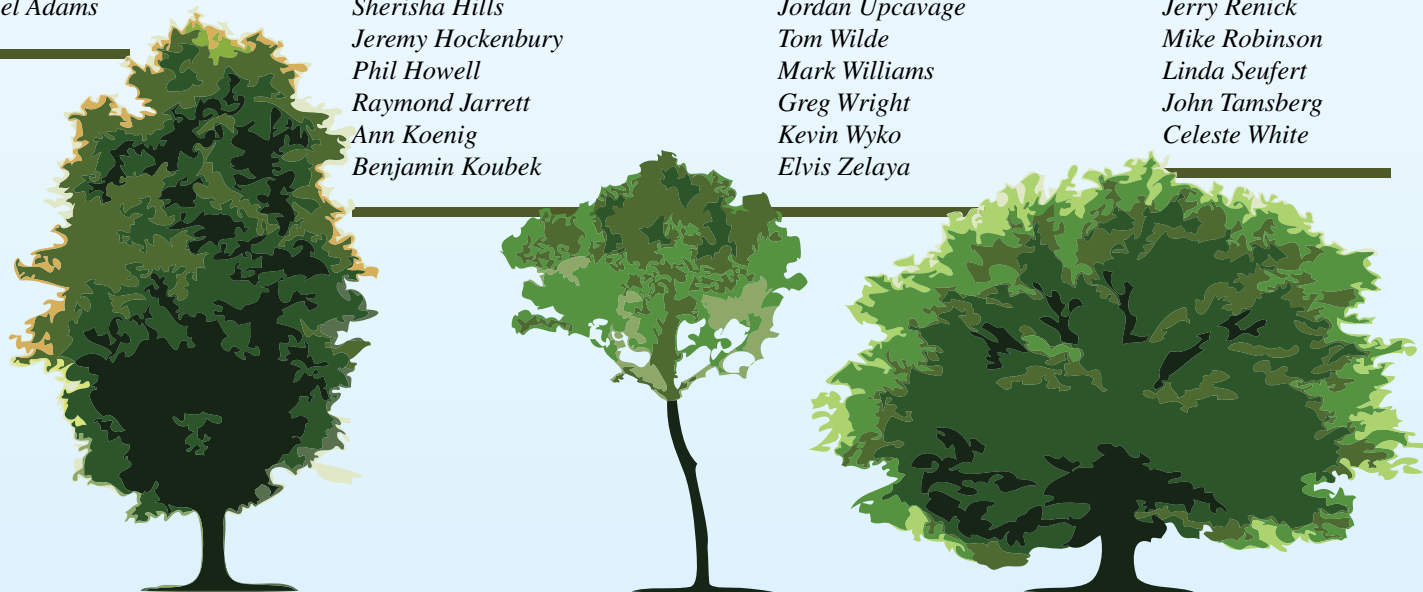
*Marguerite Beckford  
John Springer  
Cindy Warren  
Michael Weber*

## STUDENT

*Shaleen Miller*

## HONORARY

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



**FUFC PAST PRESIDENTS**

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

**REQUEST FOR ARTICLES**

Please let us know what urban forestry projects you have going on in your neck of the woods. The Florida Urban Forestry Council would greatly appreciate the opportunity to share your information in our newsletter. These articles can include:

- New trends in the industry
- News about tree advocacy groups
- Volunteer projects
- City tree programs
- Letters to the Editor
- Questions for “Stump the Forester”

We look forward to hearing from you on this or any other interesting topic related to the urban forestry industry and profession. Please send any articles or ideas to Joe Anderson, FUFC newsletter editor, at [andejs@jea.com](mailto:andejs@jea.com).

Thanks for contributing!



**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

*(Dues are effective for the calendar year of January 1 - December 31)*

**Make check or money order payable to FUFC and mail to:**

Post Office Box 547993, Orlando, FL 32854-7993

Categories (please check one):

- Professional @ \$25.00**  
*(Professional membership is open to anyone who is actively working in the profession of Urban Forestry or any related profession.)*
- Tree Advocate @ \$20.00**  
*(Tree Advocate membership is granted to those volunteers who are members of a tree board, beautification committee or other Urban Forestry volunteer group.)*
- Supporting @ \$200.00**  
*(Supporting membership is granted to those individuals, groups or other entities expressing a desire for a strong supportive role in the Council. Membership will be granted for up to five individuals of an organization or business.)*
- Government/Non-Profit Agency @ \$100.00**  
*(Government/Non-Profit Agency membership is granted to those individuals, groups or other entities actively working in the profession of Urban Forestry or any related profession. Membership will be granted for up to five individuals within the agency.)*
- Student @ \$10.00**  
*(Student membership is granted to anyone who is actively enrolled as a full-time student and who is considering pursuing a career in Urban Forestry.)*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Firm: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

FAX: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

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

Area of interest: \_\_\_\_\_



FLORIDA URBAN FORESTRY COUNCIL  
 Post Office Box 547993  
 Orlando, FL 32854-7993



For more information or change of address, please contact the FUFUC:

Phone: (407) 872-1738  
 Fax: (407) 872-6868  
 E-Mail: [info@fufc.org](mailto:info@fufc.org)  
 Website: [www.fufc.org](http://www.fufc.org)

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 FNGLA  
 Earth Advisors, Inc.



**Joe Anderson**  
*President Elect*  
 Appointed Position  
 Advisory Member  
 JEA



**Erin Givens**  
*Vice President*  
 Appointed Position  
 Advisory Member  
 Orlando Utilities  
 Commission



**Steve Edgar**  
*Treasurer*  
 Appointed Position  
 Society of American  
 Foresters  
 Long Leaf Forest Service,  
 Inc.



**Linda Seufert**  
*Secretary AND  
 Immediate Past President*  
 Advisory Member  
 City of St. Petersburg

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

**Alexis Alvey, Appointed Position**  
 ASLA/FL Chapter  
 Keith and Schnars

**Kathy Beck, Appointed Position**  
 Advisory Member  
 City of Tampa

**Kathleen Brennan, Appointed Position**  
 Florida League of Cities

**Jody Buyas, Appointed Position**  
 Advisory Member  
 Keep Orlando Beautiful

**Jim Davis, Appointed Position**  
 Cooperative Extension Service  
 Sumter & Hernando County

**Steve Edgar, Appointed Position**  
 Society of American Foresters  
 Long Leaf Forest Service, Inc.

**Elizabeth Harkey, Elected Position**  
 City Arborist  
 City of Sanford

**Julie Iooss, Appointed Position**  
 FL Chapter ISA  
 Retired – City of Orlando

**Ian Jurgensen, Elected Position**  
 Member-at-Large  
 City of Orlando

**Andrew Koeser, Appointed Position**  
 Advisory Member  
 UF/IFAS - Gulf Coast Research and  
 Education Center

**Gayle Lafferty, Elected Position**  
 Member-at-Large  
 City of Vero Beach

**Mark Miller, Appointed Position**  
 Advisory Member  
 City of Apopka

**Daisy Morales, Appointed Position**  
 Advisory Member  
 Orange County Soil and Water  
 Conservation District

**Gregory Polidora, Appointed Position**  
 Advisory Member  
 FP&L

**John Springer, Elected Position**  
 Tree Advocacy  
 Enchanted Walkabouts

**David Watford, Elected Position**  
 Utility Forester  
 SECO Energy

**Mark Williams, Elected Position**  
 Member-at-Large  
 City of Fort Lauderdale

**Vacancy - Advisory Member-at-Large (x2)**

**Vacancy - FRPA**

**Vacancy - FDOT**

**Lou Shepherd, Liaison**  
 Florida Forest Service

**Sandy Temple**  
 FUFUC Executive Director