



The Council Quarterly

Quarterly Newsletter of the Florida Urban Forestry Council

2012 Issue Three

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MEASURING THE URBAN FOREST WITH i-TREE

Submitted by Erin Givens, Consulting Urban Forester - Legacy Arborist Services



Whether you're a homeowner interested in learning what energy benefits and cost savings your nearby tree is providing or an urban forester looking at the canopy coverage of your city, i-Tree has

six applications that can assist you. These include: i-Tree Eco, i-Tree Streets, i-Tree Vue, i-Tree Canopy, i-Tree Design (beta), and i-Tree Hydro (beta).

Do you want to assess the trees at your favorite park or the urban forest as a whole? **i-Tree Eco** uses field data from complete inventories or randomly located plots throughout the community to quantify the structure of the urban forest (e.g., species composition, number of trees, tree health, and density) and the environmental benefits (e.g., total carbon stored and net carbon sequestered by the urban forest). These values can be used to not only make effective urban forest management decisions, but to develop or refine existing policies and set priorities.

Want to determine the value of the publicly-owned street trees? **i-Tree Streets** is for urban forest managers who want to input their street tree inventory data and get dollar values of annual environmental and aesthetic benefits (e.g., energy conservation, CO2 reduction, stormwater control, and property value increase). i-Tree Streets allows managers to look at the diversity, canopy cover, planting, pruning,

and removal needs of their street trees. It also allows users to evaluate whether the benefits of the street trees outweigh their management costs.

Perhaps you're curious as to the canopy coverage of your city and want to determine whether policies and ordinances are preventing the loss of the green infrastructure. **i-Tree Vue** and **i-Tree Canopy** provide canopy coverage information that can assist with your analysis. i-Tree Vue allows users to assess their community's land cover, including tree canopy, and some of the ecosystem services provided by the urban forest. i-Tree Canopy allows users to estimate tree and other cover classes within their city. Uniquely, i-Tree Vue provides users with a snapshot of the ecosystem services provided by the urban tree canopy and i-Tree Canopy allows the user to define the cover classes.

Alternatively, are you interested in learning the environmental benefits provided by an individual tree? With four simple inputs (location, species, tree size, and condition), users can utilize **i-Tree Design** to gain insight into the greenhouse gas mitigation, air quality improvements, stormwater interception, and the tree's effects on the building energy usage. This can all be done in less than five minutes.

Ever wonder how trees and impervious cover influence your local hydrology and/or watershed? **i-Tree Hydro** simulates the effects of changes in tree and impervious cover and allows users to quantify the impacts of these changes on local hydrology. This application is designed to improve urban forest management by illustrating which management practices improve water quality and reduce the risk of flooding.

As you can see, i-Tree offers numerous applications to assist with managing the urban forest. These applications are free and available for download from treetools.org. Coming soon is i-Tree version 5.0. Version 5 will include web-based data collection for i-Tree Eco and Streets, growth simulation for individual or populations of trees, the ability to survey historical Google images in i-Tree Canopy to assess past canopy coverage, and much more. Release of Version 5 is slated within the next several months.

If you're interested in learning more about i-Tree, then mark your calendar for the Council's second annual Urban Forestry Institute (UFI) being held in Tampa at USF's Patel Center for Global Solutions on March 14-15, 2013. Dr. David Nowak, one of the lead developers of i-Tree, will be speaking at the conference. Visit http://fufc.org/urban_forestry_institute.html for more details to come.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Happy Fall fellow urban foresters and welcome to our third issue of this year's The Council Quarterly newsletter. In this issue, we are providing you with some great resource information regarding tree inventories, preservation and urban forest management plans. As usual, I tend to look at the issues from the municipal perspective. While at a recent workshop with fellow Mayors, our latest (and

new offering to our membership) "In a Nutshell" E-News brief was brought up in regards to the John Land tree. What I found amazing was that only one other person in the room knew what FUFUC was (especially when I'm the Florida League of Cities appointee to the Executive Committee!). What that tells me is that while local foresters, public works staff, parks and recreation staff, etc., may know about and benefit from FUFUC and its programs, the message is not filtering up to the very place decisions are made especially when it comes to funding in the budget. So my new mission is to educate my fellow elected officials on the benefits of membership in FUFUC and the importance of their urban forest and tree canopy.

I also ask that you help to educate your local councils, commissions and upper management. I know that can be a daunting task when we all are struggling with budget cuts, but they need to understand in order to properly care for--and budget for--their tree infrastructure. They must be convinced what a fabulous asset it is. It can be as simple as sticking a copy of our newsletter in their inbox or sending an E-mail link. As I have said before, finding ways to equate the value of the urban forest with cost savings and benefits to the community are probably the best way to get through. I commend the many communities that have the awareness, but know that there are many more that don't realize just how important it is.

I know how frustrating it is for many of you to try get the message through, but I also realize that we all have the same passion and desire to put forth the united effort to assure that one of our most valuable assets--trees--are protected. The problem is that people don't see their worth, you can't eat them (unless, of course, they provide nuts or fruit), you can't drink them (but they provide numerous benefits to our water resources), they tear up our sidewalks, they get in the way of power lines, they fall on our houses, and all the numerous reasons uneducated people don't respect what we all love and respect. Let's all try a little bit harder to send the message. If we keep knocking at the door, eventually someone will answer. Then, slide your foot in and spread the word.

Sincerely,

Mary Lou Hildreth
FUFUC President

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- September 25** Right Tree, Right Place Seminar – West Palm Beach
UF/IFAS Palm Beach County Extension Office
- September 27-29** The Landscape Show - Orlando
Orange County Convention Center
- October 11** Right Tree, Right Place Seminar - Tampa
FUFUC Annual Meeting - Tampa
University of South Florida – Patel Center for Global Solutions
- October 13** Right Tree, Right Place Seminar - Jacksonville
UF/IFAS Duval County Extension Office
- November 30** Great Southern Tree Conference Field Day - Gainesville
University of Florida - Outdoor Demonstration Site
- March 14-15, 2013**.. Urban Forestry Institute
University of South Florida – Patel Center for Global Solutions

FUFUC ANNUAL MEETING

The 2012 FUFUC Annual Meeting will be held on **Thursday, October 11, 2012** from **1:00 to 2:00 p.m.** in Tampa at the USF Patel Center for Global Solutions. All members are invited to attend the annual membership meeting, which follows the RTRP Seminar being held earlier in the day, to learn more about FUFUC's yearly progress and to have an opportunity to mingle with other urban forestry enthusiasts. *Mark your calendar and plan to attend!*

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URBAN FOREST INVENTORY

Submitted by Robert Northrop, Extension Forester – UF/IFAS Hillsborough County Extension

An urban forest inventory is a logical and systematic collection of data that describes the urban forest's structural attributes and composition. These data can be used to evaluate the condition of the trees, shrubs and other vegetation that make up the urban forest or to analyze the health and ecological function of the system.

Urban forest inventories range from complete evaluation of every tree and shrub to sample-based inventories that use statistical analysis to describe the entire system based upon a preselected number of inventory plots which are randomly distributed across the area of interest. Inventories can also combine spatial information, through the evaluation of aerial photography and/or satellite imagery, with on-the-ground measurements. Which system, or combination of systems, chosen to conduct the inventory should be based upon the specific information needed to answer a management question or guide development of government policy.

The following examples will help to illustrate how and why various inventory systems are chosen.

Example 1. A small coastal town wishes to ensure that its evacuation routes will remain open and free of downed trees during a hurricane event. To do this, the town requires detailed information on the location and condition of all the trees along their evacuation routes to guide management decisions on corrective structural pruning and/or removals. This would require an inspection and risk assessment of every tree within the right-of-way along the evacuation routes. This project would require a certified arborist.

Example 2. A large town or small city wants to initiate management of its urban forest and needs to gather baseline information on the present location, condition and composition. Because the information needs are broad and they require an understanding

of the entire urban forest, they would likely undertake a sample-based inventory combined with an analysis of urban forest cover. The statistically-based sampling approach would reduce the overall cost of gathering the needed information--relative to a complete inventory of all trees--while providing the necessary information required for the development of a management plan. The intensity, or total number of sampling plots, would be driven by how accurate and precise the community feels the baseline information needs to be. The greater the accuracy and precision, the greater the number of plots and the higher the total cost. If the expertise and equipment are available, the community would use a geographic information system to evaluate and map urban forest cover. If the expertise and equipment were not available, which is often the case with smaller growing urban centers, the extent of cover could be estimated

manually by using a grid dot overlay on a transparency that is laid over an aerial photograph of the city. By counting the numbers of dots on and off forest cover, a ratio and percentage of forest cover could be calculated manually.

Example 3. A larger municipality, with adequate resources, may wish to evaluate the location, condition and composition of the urban forest and some of its ecological, social and economic values. Such an inventory would likely use a sample-based ground inventory of the urban forest and the engineered surroundings. Using science-based mathematical models, estimates of the ecological services and economic value could be calculated from the inventory data. Detailed geographic information systems could be used for an analysis of forest cover and its distribution across land use categories. Such information could then be used to guide the development of public land use policy relative to urban land development and the maintenance of the urban forest. A further inventory of available tree planting sites, sometimes

known as a Forest Opportunity Spectrum Analysis, could provide information on the feasibility of setting canopy goals within the context of the city's comprehensive land use plan. Keep in mind that as the amount of information desired from the tree inventory increases, the level of expertise required for the professionals conducting the inventory would also increase.

Urban forest inventories, whether for a specific short term project, such as reducing risk along evacuation routes, or long-term comprehensive urban and use planning, are an absolute necessity if the management of our urban forests is to move away from reaction-based intervention so commonly found in our cities today. Sound baseline information and long-term monitoring of urban forest resources is the foundation of a science-based approach to urban forest management, which can lead to an increase in overall benefits and reduction in costs and risk.

Software programs can be used to help manage inventory data. The price of urban forest inventory *software* is variable (free to \$10,000) and should be included in the budget. The USDA Forest Service provides a suite of simple and basic free-of-charge urban forest inventory software tools (<http://www.itreetools.org>). Private companies now offer software with a variety of options (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/fr288>). To learn more about some of these software packages, view the workshop proceedings from the Urban Forest Inventory Systems Symposium on-line at <http://www.forest-ryvideos.net/videos/talks-disc-1>.

Interested in finding assistance with the cost of an urban forest inventory? The Florida Forest Service has historically offered grants to help communities pay for their inventory and software purchase through the Urban and Community Forestry Grant program. The details for applying for future grants are found at <http://www.floridaforestservice.com/forest-management/cfa-urban-grants.html>.

“Which system, or combination of systems, chosen to conduct the inventory should be based upon the specific information needed to answer a management question or guide development of government policy.”





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CITY OF ALTAMONTE SPRINGS URBAN FORESTRY PROGRAM

Submitted by Mike Insley, Park Landscape Management and Operations Superintendent – City of Altamonte Springs



Altamonte Springs was also fortunate to have a Street Tree Analysis performed by Natural Resource Planning Services. This is another excellent tool for helping us direct manpower and equipment. The analysis is most beneficial for budget justifications by providing “Values of Environmental and Aesthetic Benefits,” which come from having an urban forest. These values include electricity saved, storm water intercepted by roots, CO2 reduction, increases in property values, and an average return for every dollar spent on urban forest management.

More than 20 years ago the Florida Forest Service designated Altamonte Springs a *Tree City USA*. Though the City is relatively small with a population of approximately 42,000, its Urban Forest is a priority for City leaders and staff. One of the requirements for becoming a Tree City is that at least \$2 per resident be spent on Urban Forestry programs, and Altamonte Springs spends over \$5 per city resident on these programs each year in an effort to maintain and improve its Urban Forest.

A key element to the success of our forestry program is to maintain an understanding of the current status of the program and continually set goals for the future. We received an Urban Forestry Grant from the Florida Forest Service, which allowed for a new tree inventory performed by the Davey Resource Group using Treekeeper 7.4 software. Treekeeper summarizes information for reports and budget justifications, keeps maintenance records on all trees and

helps to document the condition of a tree when residents call with concerns. Most importantly, this inventory directs us on areas for improvements.

This pie graph is an example of information included in our tree inventory.

The graph shows we have too many Laurel Oaks and Crape Myrtles currently planted. To correct this, other tree species are suggested for landscape design and tree planting programs increasing the diversity in our Urban Forest, which is a high priority in Altamonte Springs. Dr. Ed Gilman, author of *Community Tree Care*, wrote: “Municipalities should strive for diversity of tree species throughout the city. An accepted rule recommends no more than 20 percent of the trees should be from the same genus (an example would be Oak) and no more than 10 percent from the same species (an example would be Live Oak).”

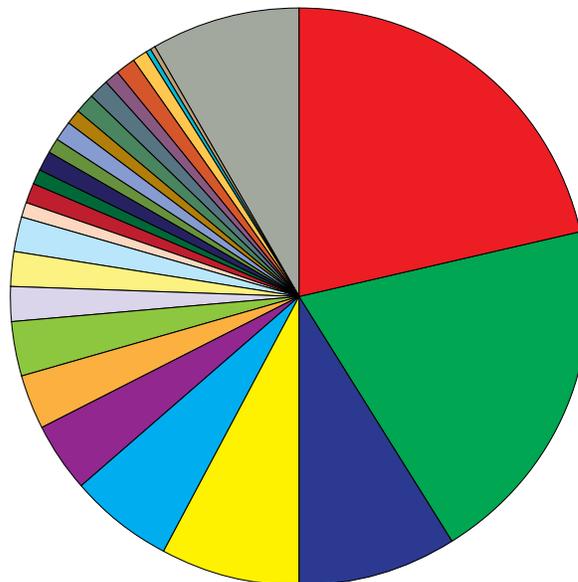
“Most importantly, this inventory directs us on areas for improvements.”

The City has an ISA Certified Arborist on staff to handle calls from residents and to develop and maintain the tree crew work schedules. The tree crew consists of a leader, who is also an ISA Certified Arborist, and two crew members.

A heavy equipment operator occasionally assists by running a front end loader or clam shell truck when needed. The crew is equipped to handle most any job with the necessary tools, including a stump grinder, which was purchased through a Urban and Community Forestry Grant administered by the Florida Forest Service. The crew’s main responsibilities include street tree maintenance, hazard tree removal and assisting the City’s Growth Management Department by inspecting trees when residents submit a tree removal permit or with modifying landscape codes to help improve the Urban Forest. Due to insurance regulations, a private contractor is used if any tree climbing is necessary for a job.

We have several tree programs for improving the City’s Urban Forest. One of the programs is F.A.S.T (Future Altamonte Spring Trees), which works with city residents to reduce empty planting spaces while increasing street tree canopies. Residents call the city arborist throughout the year requesting trees to be planted along their right-of-way. The arborist reviews the planting site and gives recommendations to the resident. With approval of the homeowner and the City, a tree order is placed with a local grower and then in late August and September, eight-foot tall, 30-gallon trees are planted at the approved sites.

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------|
| Oak, Laurel | 22 (22%) |
| Lagerstromia spp. | 20 (20%) |
| Oak, Live | 9 (9%) |
| Palm, Sabal | 8 (8%) |
| Holly, spp. | 6 (6%) |
| Maple, Red | 4 (4%) |
| Elm, Chinese | 3 (3%) |
| Camphortree | 3 (3%) |
| Sycamore, American | 2 (2%) |
| Palm, Queen | 2 (2%) |
| Sweetgum, American | 2 (2%) |
| Privet, spp. | 1 (1%) |
| Chinese Tallowtree | 1 (1%) |
| Magnolia, Southern | 1 (1%) |
| Cherrylaurel, Carolina | 1 (1%) |
| Pine, Slash | 1 (1%) |
| Tabebuia, spp. | 1 (1%) |
| Arborvitae, spp. | 1 (1%) |
| Stump | 1 (1%) |
| Palm, Canary Island Date | 1 (1%) |
| Palm, European Fan | 1 (1%) |
| Goldenraintree | 1 (1%) |
| Redbud, Eastern | 1 (1%) |
| Loquat | 0 (0%) |
| Pear, Callery | 0 (0%) |
| Other | 8.27 (8%) |



Each April, during the City's Arbor Day celebration, two locations are set up for residents to receive one-gallon and three-gallon trees to plant in their yards. Approximately 600 to 800 trees are given away each year helping to increase the City's tree canopy. Arbor Day ceremonies are also held at local schools to teach students the importance of trees and how to plant them.

By understanding the current status of your tree program using tree inventories and tree

analysis, you can set goals to be achieved in the future and make budget recommendations and justifications based on manpower, inventory and equipment needs. Finally, programs can be created which can improve deficiencies in your forestry program through education, plantings and management. Any program will need to be modified and will always require adjustments and/or additions to the ever changing developments, but through these efforts we can all enjoy a more beautiful and healthier environment.



PRESERVING TREES DURING CONSTRUCTION

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

We have all seen examples of unsuccessful tree preservation during construction. It happens more than we like to see. It is obvious that the builder fully intended on preserving the trees in the construction site. The only problem is that good intentions are not enough to save trees.

So, what does it take to preserve a tree in a construction site? One of the first things that need to be done is to plan for the tree conservation. Tree condition, size, and species are important factors determining which candidate trees to save. Exact location and elevation are also needed to pinpoint tree locations on construction plans. Make sure that the tree is worth preserving. One thing that frequently occurs is that larger trees are given priority in preservation plans at the expense of smaller more vigorous trees. Many times the larger trees are over mature and less resistant to the changes that will occur in construction. Don't overlook smaller trees that are more vigorous and will withstand the construction stress a lot better.

Once trees are identified to be preserved, then the real work starts. The hardest part is conserving the roots under the tree from construction damage. We often see what I call a "fence post mentality" when it comes to trees. "As long as the trunk is not damaged, the tree will be fine." The key to preserving trees is managing the root zone under the ground. When a greater percentage of roots that remain intact, the better the chances that the tree will survive the construction. So, how much root should be preserved? The answer is: as much as possible, but the minimum should be at least one foot of radius for every inch of tree diameter. This goes up to one-and-a-half feet of radius for every inch of tree diameter in the case of older larger trees. For example, a ten inch diameter tree would have a root protection zone radius of 10 feet. The square foot area would be 311 sq. ft. Durable barricades should be erected at the edge of the root protection zone. The sturdiness of the barricade depends upon the commitment of the contractor.

Commitment is also important when preserving trees. Once a tree or group of trees is slated for preservation, everyone needs to be committed to the endeavor. All it takes is for one person to move a barricade or clean equipment under the shade of a tree and the effort is compromised.

Communication of the plan helps to build commitment. I was once asked to look at the plans for building a boardwalk around the Treaty Oak in Jacksonville. The boardwalk was to be constructed with very little impact to the tree. The next page in the stack of blueprints had all sorts of lines running under the tree. When I asked what that the lines were, I was told that it was the locations for the trenches to put in the lighting to illuminate the tree. That was an example of poor communication that thankfully was corrected prior to the construction of the boardwalk.

It takes a lot more than good intentions to preserve trees in construction sites. It is not difficult either. All it takes is a little planning, conservation, commitment, and communication.

SMALL CITIES CAN DO BIG THINGS – KEYSTONE HEIGHTS

Submitted by Charlie Marcus, Urban Forestry Coordinator – Florida Forest Service



To a resident of a small town, a tree in their neighborhood provides the same benefits as a tree in a large city provides to a person who lives there. Because a small town tends to be surrounded by more wooded areas, however, local officials often do not recognize this value and consequently do not devote the same attention to their community trees as they would receive in a larger city. It usually takes at least one charismatic leader in the community to generate interest in trees among the residents. Sometimes that leader is a private citizen and other times it's someone from the city government.

In the case of Keystone Heights, a town with a population of 1,400 located between Gainesville and Jacksonville, the leadership comes in part from the very top. Mayor Mary Lou Hildreth brought an adventurous spirit with her when she moved to Keystone Heights from South Florida, and she has since devoted a considerable amount of her energy to improving her adopted city's tree canopy. Through her involvement in the Florida League of Cities, Mayor Hildreth learned about the efforts that other cities were making to improve their urban forests. Although most of those cities were larger, she saw no reason why her city couldn't take the same initiatives. When the League appointed her as their representative to the Florida Urban Forestry Council in 2007, she really caught the spirit from her fellow executive committee members and acquired more ideas for managing trees to implement in her community.

Although they have been a Tree City USA for 21 years, Keystone Heights qualified for the Tree City Growth Award for the first time in 2008 and has maintained that certification each year since. To do so, they have either initiated or expanded activities that go beyond the requirements for Tree City USA certification. An award like this, however, is only as good as the activities that went

behind it and the infrastructure that makes future program activities possible. I have mentioned how the Forest Service uses "SOAP" to measure the capabilities of a local urban forestry program, and Keystone Heights has been using plenty of SOAP during the past four years.

The **S** stands for **Staff**, and Mayor Hildreth has made a concerted effort to increase the knowledge and skills of the city's department of public works employees so that they can better manage their tree canopy. She looks for training opportunities provided by the ISA, Extension, FUFUC, and other entities and enrolls them in these classes. Purchases of additional tools and equipment (most notably, a bucket truck purchased from an electric company) have also helped to increase the tree management capabilities of Keystone Heights's DPW. When additional expertise is needed, she has sought assistance from both public agency and private sector professionals.

The **O** stands for **Ordinance**. Keystone Heights developed a tree ordinance in 1984 to better help them make decisions on tree removals, plantings and care. For the time, that was a bold step for a small town [*Bill Rutherford, are you reading this?*]. At this point, the ordinance is in significant need of revision because over time they have learned what works and what doesn't. To address this situation, the city is using matching grant funds to have an outside consultant prepare a new draft tree ordinance for the city's approval.

The **A** stands for **Advocacy**. Smaller cities sometimes have an easier time of engaging citizen involvement in an activity such as trees. Mayor Hildreth has worked with the Garden Club of the Lakes to hold events such as Arbor Day celebrations and "patriotic" tree plantings, as well as maintaining a

butterfly garden. The club has also solicited funds to support these activities making them a truly effective tree group for the city.

The **P** stands for **Plan**. One area where outside professionals have been especially helpful has been the completion of a city tree inventory, which the city used to develop a tree management plan. A primary purpose of the plan is to reduce city liability by identifying and prioritizing tree pruning and removal tasks. Once the plan was completed, it was used to document the city's need for funds for this purpose when they applied for an ARRA grant in 2010. Those grant funds were invested more effectively because the plan identified which trees needed to be treated first. The plan also identified potential areas that would benefit from tree planting projects. Since then, through a three-phase project, trees have been planted in the downtown business district and on other public properties such as the cemetery. In the future, the inventory records can be fed into the i-Tree software suite to determine the dollar value of the ecosystem services that Keystone Heights's city trees provide.

Keystone Heights serves as a good example of what a smaller city can do with their tree program, but we know there are other Florida towns of similar size that are also doing good things with their trees. The FUFUC, Florida Forest Service, and the rest of the state's urban forestry community stand ready to provide you with support and recognition for your efforts.





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RPG Growers are committed to enhancing the image and quality of field-grown trees through the hardening-off process. Research continues to show that hardened-off field-grown trees are more wind resistant, use water more efficiently at planting, establish faster after planting, and when planted with container trees in a situation of limited water or irrigation will have dramatically higher survival rates.

To Subscribe to the RPG Times Newsletter or to request copies of the Tree Grading, Planting or Pruning Cue Cards contact an RPG member or visit www.rootsplusgrowers.org

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.



REFORESTATION OF PUBLIC LANDS USING PRIVATE MITIGATION

Submitted by Jerry Renick, CEP, Principal - Land Design South

Nearly every town and municipality has implemented a tree protection ordinance to preserve their urban tree canopy, also known as the urban forest. The benefits of an urban forest are well documented. Trees provide oxygen, absorb carbon and carbon dioxide, reduce the heat effect, provide wildlife habitat, and reduce soil erosion, among other benefits.

An example of a local tree protection ordinance is in Palm Beach County, Florida. This program is administered by the Department of Environmental Resources Management (ERM) and is the ordinance developed in the mid 1990s

to protect its native vegetation and trees. This ordinance resulted in an often extensive replacement program that compensated for the removal of native trees. As a result, a development site with numerous large tree removals could end up with an extremely costly tree replacement/mitigation fee imposed by ERM. With each replacement tree (12' height and 2 1/2" caliper) costing as much as \$200 or more and many potential development sites requiring 500 or more replacement trees, one can see how the cost for tree replacement can quickly become a significant financial

burden to the developer. The county's new ordinance allowed for three options in how to deal with the replacement tree issue:

1. Plant replacement/mitigation trees on the project site
2. Pay a specific dollar amount into a county endowment fund (currently

\$200 per replacement tree)

3. Plant the equivalent replacement/mitigation trees at an approved county-owned offsite location.

With project site space limited and the buyout option being too expensive, a cost-effective option for offsite planting

was developed by a local consulting firm, Land Design South. This resulted in a successful relationship with the county parks department allowing for thousands of young saplings being planted at Riverbend Park as part of a massive reforestation program. This was a win, win situation for both the county parks department and developer.

Several years, and many developments later, Riverbend Park reached its planting capacity. Because of its nurtured relationship and successful planting program, Land Design

South was able to provide similar plantings at another county park in the midst of another massive restoration effort.

The down turn in the economy in 2007 created a climate in which ERM was much more interested in accepting the buyout option in lieu of offsite plantings in order to fund its land management activities for its many acres of natural areas and conservation lands.

More recently, in 2011, a new residential development in Palm Beach County is once again in need of this cost effective solution for the development of a heavily wooded project site. The potential tree replacement buyout for this project was hovering around \$550,000. This time, ERM had a sincere interest in retaining the buyout fees from the developer. After significant negotiations between ERM and the developer, an extensive reforestation plan was developed by ERM and turned over to Land Design

"This resulted in a successful relationship with the county parks department allowing for thousands of young saplings being planted at Riverbend Park as part of a massive reforestation program."



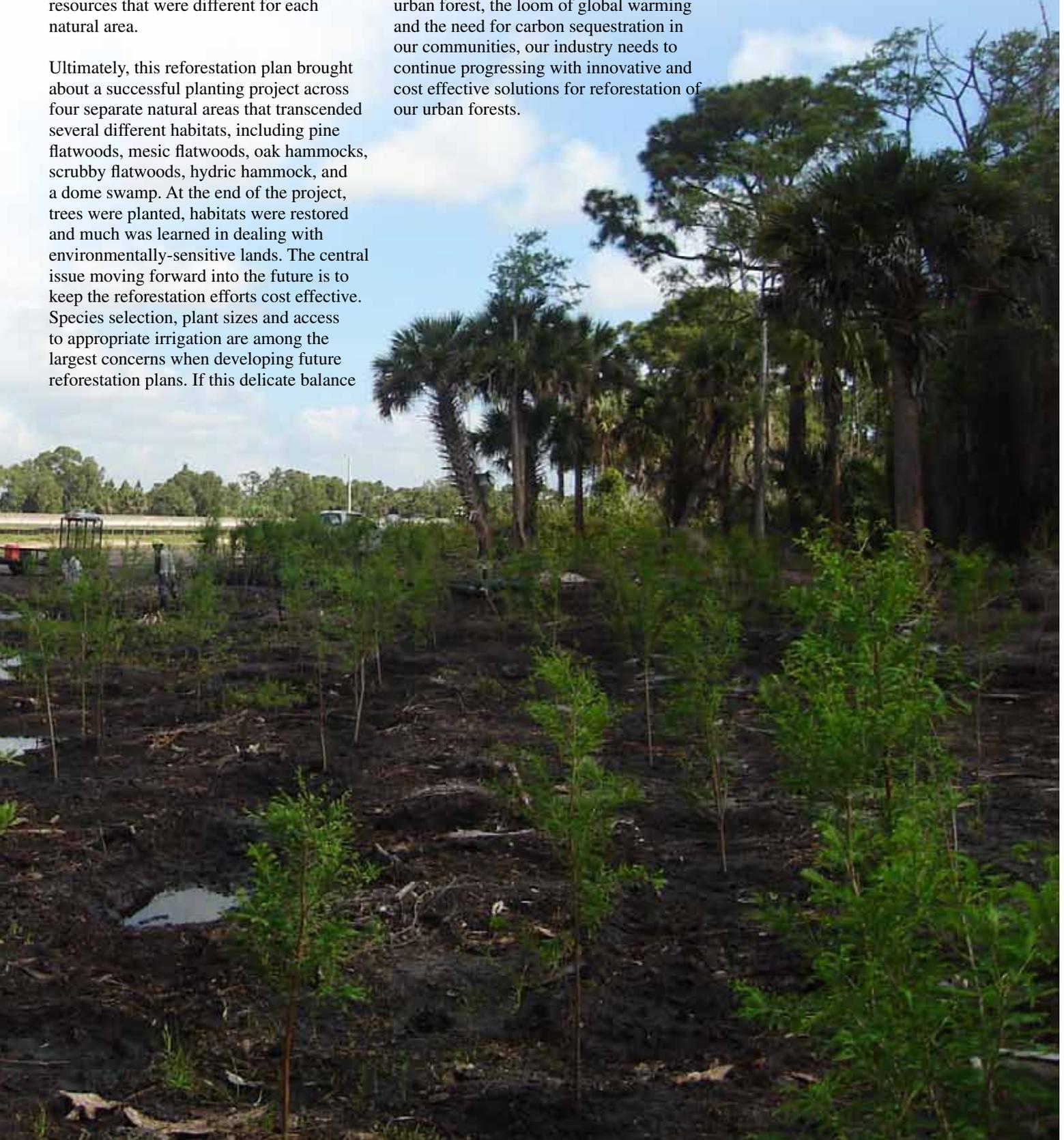
South to implement on four separate natural areas throughout the county. This complicated planting plan required several different planting schedules, coordination with several land managers and irrigation resources that were different for each natural area.

Ultimately, this reforestation plan brought about a successful planting project across four separate natural areas that transcended several different habitats, including pine flatwoods, mesic flatwoods, oak hammocks, scrubby flatwoods, hydric hammock, and a dome swamp. At the end of the project, trees were planted, habitats were restored and much was learned in dealing with environmentally-sensitive lands. The central issue moving forward into the future is to keep the reforestation efforts cost effective. Species selection, plant sizes and access to appropriate irrigation are among the largest concerns when developing future reforestation plans. If this delicate balance

is not sustained, then the reforestation of public lands at the expense of the private development community is in jeopardy.

Understanding the current state of the urban forest, the loom of global warming and the need for carbon sequestration in our communities, our industry needs to continue progressing with innovative and cost effective solutions for reforestation of our urban forests.

For more information contact Jerry Renick, CEP, Principal, Land Design South, (561) 537-4540, E-mail: JRenick@LandDesignSouth.com, www.landdesignsouth.com.



URBAN FORESTRY IN MANATEE COUNTY

Submitted by Charlie Marcus, Urban Forestry Coordinator - Florida Forest Service



When citizen input drives a community's forestry program, the community tends to take more pride in the end results and those results tend to be more enduring. When the citizens actually assume responsibility for the program, their accomplishments are further magnified. This is the situation in Manatee County where the Keep Manatee Beautiful (KMB) non-profit organization has worked to initiate active urban forestry programs in each of the county's seven local governments, as well as the unincorporated portion of the county. Over 300,000 county residents benefit from KMB's urban forestry activities.

As I have described in previous articles, the Forest Service measures the effectiveness of a community forestry program by using "SOAP." That acronym stands for Staff-Ordinance-Advocacy-Plan. Each of these four components significantly contributes to program success.

KMB provides a textbook example of local **Advocacy**. They have established a network of mutual assistance among the city governments by serving as a member of three city tree boards within the county and as a partner on three other city tree boards. Five of these cities reciprocate by providing representatives to KMB's Board of Directors or Technical Advisory Committee.

This cooperation has resulted in six Manatee County cities plus the county itself fulfilling the requirements for Tree City USA certification. Organized citizen advocacy has motivated government officials to allocate the necessary resources, conduct tree planting and care activities, and hold Arbor Day and other celebrations to encourage citizen awareness of the value of their community trees. An organization like KMB naturally attracts volunteers and each of the cooperating governments and tree boards can utilize this pool of local volunteers to carry out their urban forestry

projects and get more trees planted. They also conduct a number of educational campaigns to educate the public on how to properly plant and care for trees.

KMB has also been instrumental in the development of the Urban Forestry Master **Plan** for the City of Bradenton. This plan was originally developed in 1994 and has since been updated in 2005 and 2011 with significant assistance from KMB. The purpose of the plan is to serve as a blueprint for improving the city's forest canopy, and it addresses issues such as designation of responsibilities, identifying planting opportunities, right tree/right place, tree care standards, priority areas for action, and citizen education. The plan is available on the KMB website, and serves as a good example for other communities of a concise but detailed plan of action.

For a plan to be valid, however, it has to be based on current information about the condition of the urban forest. To obtain that information, KMB worked with local governments to complete an urban tree canopy analysis in 2009. They received a grant from the Florida Forest Service and used the funds to contract with a consultant to perform the analysis using digital imagery from 2004 and 2009. The analysis quantified the value of the environmental benefits that cities in Manatee County receive from their urban forests and verified that the dollar value of those benefits far outweighed the costs of maintaining the tree canopy. It also indicates the areas where tree canopy has decreased, usually as a result of development.

To qualify for Tree City USA certification, cities need to have an enforced **Tree Ordinance**. The ordinance needs to be developed and periodically updated so that it encourages the growth of the urban forest, addresses citizen concerns and does not cause an undue burden on property owners and business interests. KMB has worked with local city and county staff to help ensure that their ordinance provisions are reasonable but effective. Code enforcement

officials usually take responsibility for the actual enforcement of a tree ordinance, but an advocacy group such as KMB can provide technical advice and citizen input to accomplish these goals.

Each municipality in Manatee County does have their own **Staff** who are assigned responsibility for managing city trees. They may work in either the departments of public works, parks and recreation, or community development. Or, the forestry department may be an entity unto itself even if the staff are part-time or contracted on an as-needed basis. Regardless, there

is still plenty of opportunity for the staff to work cooperatively with a tree advocacy group like KMB. Promotion, education, resolving trees vs. infrastructure conflicts, and citizen involvement are some of the areas where the government and the tree group can help each other solve problems.

"KMB naturally attracts volunteers and each of the cooperating governments and tree boards can utilize this pool of local volunteers to carry out their urban forestry projects and get more trees planted."

Florida has a number of other Keep America Beautiful chapters who carry out active local urban forestry programs. The City of Miami Gardens (*where the Dolphins play football*) is an example of a large city where the KAB chapter is heavily involved with trees. The Putnam County chapter (*near St. Augustine*) serves a much smaller population, but works just as hard to promote trees in towns. The Florida Forest Service and Florida Urban Forestry Council would like to recognize groups like these and provide assistance to others who may be interested.



JOHN P. WHITE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT ANNOUNCED

Congratulations to Mr. Jason Miesbauer as the recipient of the Fall 2012 John P. White Memorial Scholarship offered jointly by the Florida Urban Forestry Council and Florida Chapter ISA. Jason is a PhD student at the University of Florida. He received his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point, majoring in Urban Forestry and Business Administration. The focus of his research is on tree canopy architecture and storm damage susceptibility. He is also an ISA Certified Arborist.



CORAL SPRINGS TREE ADVOCATE

Submitted by Roy Gold, Mayor - City of Coral Springs

As a tree advocate for the City of Coral Springs over the last 25 years I have had the opportunity to influence the city's urban forestry program as a citizen activist as well as a Commissioner, Vice Mayor and Mayor. During this time, I have seen a steady increase in the understanding and support of how trees impact the health and development of the city environmentally, aesthetically and economically. The environmental benefits are well known, the beauty obvious and the extensive tree canopy in Coral Springs also provides an economic boost by attracting homeowners who value tree-lined streets and well-maintained parks. Numerous programs that I championed and encouraged along with others over the years have helped the City of Coral Springs move closer to reaching its Comprehensive Plan goal of a 30% average tree canopy cover citywide. Following are some of the most important milestones that I with others was able to initiate as tree advocates for Coral Springs.

Tree Preservation Ordinance 1989

The City of Coral Springs Tree Preservation Ordinance is unique in Broward County because it includes language that requires developers to preserve 25% of existing native plant communities when building. As a result, Coral Springs has a large number of small to medium-sized tree stands spread throughout the City. These tree stands provide a valuable natural resource to wildlife and residents alike.

Environmentally Sensitive Bond 1994

In 1994, the City of Coral Springs, encouraged by environmental activists and tree advocates, held a public referendum for the

issuance of a bond towards the purchase of environmentally-sensitive land (ESL) sites in Coral Springs. The approval of this bond issuance led to the preservation of almost 70 acres of environmentally-significant, native plant communities throughout Coral Springs. Today these ESL sites serve as wildlife habitat and outdoor educational classrooms. These four sites of preserved lands today are the cornerstone of the City's urban forest.

Neighborhood and Environmental Committee

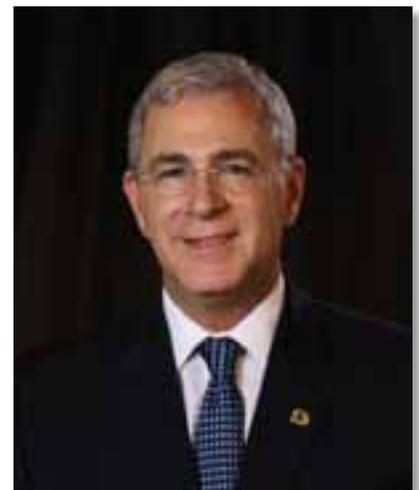
In 1994, the City of Coral Springs established the Neighborhood and Environmental Committee (NEC) to serve as a citizen's advisory committee to the City Commission. This committee was tasked with reviewing environmentally-related issues and providing recommendations for action to the City Commission. The items reviewed have included changes to the Conservation Element of the Comprehensive Plan, code changes to the tree preservation ordinance, the landscape ordinance and guidance on the acquisition and maintenance of open space throughout the City.

Street Tree Subsidy Program 2006 -2012

Hurricane Wilma passed over Coral Springs on October 25, 2005. The storm destroyed an estimated 35% of the city's mature tree canopy. In an effort to restore this tree canopy and to create a more long term sustainable urban forest, the City Commission approved an ambitious street tree subsidy program. Through this program, homeowners are eligible to receive up to \$200.00 in subsidy for every code-required street tree planted on their property. This program, which is currently in its final

year, was accompanied by an intensive educational program to inform residents of the importance of having a functioning and healthy urban forest. Currently this program has led to the planting of over 4,000 street trees such as Live Oak, Gumbo Limbo, Green Buttonwood, and Magnolia distributed throughout the entire City.

In addition to my environmental activism for the City of Coral Springs, I have been involved in numerous other local, regional and national organizations. As chairperson for the Broward Beautiful Community Grant Program from 2001–2005, I coordinated over 300 landscape beautification and tree installation projects throughout Broward County. Currently, as a member of the National League of Cities' Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Steering Committee, I am able to contribute to and learn about national trends and how they can relate back to Coral Springs. And I've only just begun.



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1000 TREES FOR INTERLACHEN

Submitted by Timothy Keyser, J.D. – Keyser & Woodward, P.A.



It started with a speech. Interlachen is a Tree City USA which conducts an annual Arbor Day celebration. I was a guest speaker for Arbor Day in 2008.

I used that occasion to challenge the assembled tree lovers to restore the town's aging and diminishing tree canopy by planting 1000 trees for posterity. The challenge was

enthusiastically accepted by a dedicated group of citizens who have helped in a variety of ways in the years since.

For example, a local tree nursery owner attending the event agreed to donate trees. Others contributed later. Residents and civic organizations volunteered to plant or tend to the trees after planting. A power-line maintenance company supplied mulch. Property owners near planting sites allowed use of their water faucets for irrigation. It was a community effort.

Official authorization for the reforestation took longer than anticipated, but the town council eventually approved planting on town land. The primary planting site is a former railroad right-of-way in the center of the town known as Jenkins Park, which is named after a local Vietnam Medal of Honor hero. The park was, before planting, an almost treeless, grassy desert with a walking trail.

Planting plans allowed native species only. Two distinct patterns were used. First, there was a clustering of diverse species of trees and shrubs, of various ages and size, in close proximity so as to mimic natural forests. In other areas, the traditional pattern of solitary trees with grassy spaces in between was used.

Time will show which pattern is more environmentally beneficial. Preliminary observations indicate faster growth by the clustered trees. The clusters are also more aesthetically pleasing to the eye.

Each planting event involved a mix of experienced and new volunteers of all ages. Proper planting techniques were demonstrated. My law office was the staging area and a vegan organic lunch was provided to all participants.

All planting events were conducted during the summer rainy season to allow the trees to become established before the typical winter and spring droughts. Some tree loss occurred in the clusters because town maintenance crews insisted on mowing grass inside and near the clusters. More shrub planting within and alongside the clusters will hopefully eliminate that problem.

Thus far, an estimated three-fourths of the 1000 trees have been planted. However, I and others do not plan to stop until our small town has more trees in the future than it did in the past.

Every time I look at the growing trees, my heart fills with pride and joy. Planting trees is one action anyone can take that will truly make a difference.

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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, FUFU newsletter editor, at sburch@ocalafl.org.

Thanks for contributing!



**Deadline for
Submission:
November 16, 2012**

CATEGORIES

- OUTSTANDING PROFESSIONAL
- OUTSTANDING TREE ADVOCATE OR TREE ADVOCACY GROUP
- OUTSTANDING PUBLIC EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM
- OUTSTANDING PROJECT
- OUTSTANDING URBAN FORESTRY PROGRAM
Large and Small Communities
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To apply online or for more information about categories, please go to www.fufc.org/awards_information.html

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- Outstanding Professional
- Outstanding Tree Advocate or Tree Advocacy Group
- Outstanding Public Educational Program
- Outstanding Project
- Outstanding Urban Forestry Program / Large Community
- Outstanding Urban Forestry Program / Small Community
- Lifetime Achievement Award

GUIDELINES

- 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 ½ inch capacity). The completed awards entry form must be the first page of the application. The second page of the application should be a 200-word overview of the nomination. (Note: For winning nominations, the overview of the nomination will be used for presentation purposes and to highlight the individual, project or program in *The Council Quarterly* newsletter.) Following the brief overview should be a summary of not more than three typewritten pages that describe the project's, program's or individual's

contribution to urban and community forestry as outlined in the Award Categories.

- Support documentation such as photographs, press clippings, printed pieces, and letters of commendation are encouraged, but shall be limited to 12 additional pages. 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 16, 2012**. Submit the original, one full copy and the three digital photos to:

SEND ALL NOMINATIONS TO:

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Florida Urban Forestry Council
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Orlando, FL 32854-7993

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

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- Supporting @ \$200.00**
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 Advisory Member
 City of St. Petersburg



Jerry Renick
Immediate Past President
 Appointed Position
 Advisory Member
 Land Design South

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Kathy Beck, *Elected Position*
 Member-at-Large
 City of Tampa

Sherie Burch, *Elected Position*
 Utility Forester
 City of Ocala Utility Services

David Crawley, *Appointed Position*
 ASLA / FL Chapter
 URS Corporation

Jeff Farley, *Elected Position*
 Private Arborist
 Professional Tree Care, Inc.

Larry Figart, *Elected Position*
 Member-at-Large
 Duval County Extension

Justin Freedman, *Elected Position*
 Member-at-Large
 Metric Engineering, Inc.

Jennifer Gihring, *Appointed Position*
 Advisory Member
 SJRWMD

Erin Givens, *Appointed Position*
 Society of American Foresters
 Natural Resource Planning Services, Inc..

Steve Graham, *Appointed Position*
 Advisory Member
 City of Melbourne

Eric Hatcher, *Appointed Position*
 FNGLA
 Cherry Lake Tree Farm

Leah Hoffman, *Appointed Position*
 Florida Recreation and Park Association
 Marion County

Julie Iooss, *Appointed Position*
 Advisory Member
 City of Orlando

Guy Murtonen, *Appointed Position*
 Florida Department of Transportation
 Florida's Turnpike Enterprise

Rob Northrop, *Appointed Position*
 Cooperative Extension Service
 Hillsborough County Extension

Scott Souder, *Appointed Position*
 Advisory Member
 Jacksonville Electric Authority

John Springer, *Elected Position*
 Tree Advocacy
 Enchanted Walkabouts

Wayne Zimmerman, *Elected Position*
 Member-at-Large
 Orlando Utilities Commission

Vacancy, *Appointed Position*
 FL Chapter ISA

Charlie Marcus
 Florida Forest Service Liaison

Sandy Temple
 FUFUC Executive Director

