



Annual Report 2009

Georgia Urban Forest Council
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Mission Statement:

The Georgia Urban Forest Council is a non-profit organization that sustains Georgia's green legacy by helping communities grow healthy trees.

Our Vision:

To be a broad-based leadership resource in promoting the importance of trees throughout Georgia by leveraging user-friendly technology, influencing the policy-making process, and providing cutting-edge programming.

About the GUF C:

The Council was founded in 1988 by a group of visionary individuals who recognized the need for an organization to address urban forestry issues in Georgia. Today, the Council is an active group offering education programs and resources and supported by a growing and diverse membership.

Georgia Urban Forest Council achieved the following in 2009:

EDUCATION

First Quarterly Meeting: This program was held in conjunction with GGIA's Wintergreen Show at the Classic Center in Athens on January 22nd. The topics were "What's New in Urban Trees" and "Sustainability in the Urban Forest." Speakers were Dr. Michael Dirr and Dan Whitehead. **68** people registered.

Second Quarterly Meeting: This meeting was held on April 23 at the Milliken Headquarters in LaGrange. The topic was "Understanding the Health of Your Urban Forest." Speakers were David Berle, Professor of Horticulture at the University of Georgia; Rachel Barker, Regional Urban Forester, Montgomery, Alabama; Eric Gansauer, Arborist, Columbus Consolidated Government; and Gary White and Daniel Westcot, Community Foresters, Georgia Forestry Commission. **38** people attended.

Basic Tree Care Workshops: GUF C Board Past-President and Dalton Landscape Director Kris Thomas led a Basic Tree Care Workshop on February 20, with **17** people attending. Also included in this program were a visit to the Dalton Arboretum and a ceremonial tree planting for Georgia Arbor Day.

Advanced Workshops: Arborists Rob Swanson and Jesse Milton conducted two advanced workshops for GUF C, "Advanced Fundamentals of Tree Appraisal" on February 11 in Macon, with **23** attending and "Advanced Fundamentals of Tree Conservation on Development Sites" in Savannah on April 8, with **28** attending.

Homeowner Workshop: "Restoring Your Backyard Ecosystem" with Eric King at the DeKalb Extension Office on April 18, with **15** people attending.

Third Quarterly Meeting: This program, "The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly of Tree Ordinances," was held at the Chattahoochee Nature Center in Roswell, with **89** registered. Connie Head of Technical Forestry Services conducted the program, with roundtable discussions following.

Technical Workshop: "The Elements of Tree Health," with Dr. Kim Coder at the Griffin UGA Campus. **40** attended.

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Fourth Quarterly Meeting: ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2009

The theme for the 19th Annual Conference & Awards Program was “Trees and Transportation: The Urban Forest’s Role in the Safety, Health, and Quality of Life Along Georgia’s Roadways,” and the conference was held November 4 & 5 at the Merle Manders Conference Center in Stockbridge. Highlights included keynote speakers Kathleen Wolf, Ph.D, from the University of Washington, and Eric Dumbaugh, Ph.D., from Texas A & M University, concurrent session speakers, exhibitors, and bike ride to Rex, Georgia. Including sponsors and speakers, **127** people attended the sessions, with **140** at the Awards luncheon. Sponsors included Bartlett Tree Experts; Davey Research Group; Bold Spring Nursery; Sugar Hill Nurseries; Hughes, Good, O’Leary, & Ryan; Chameleon Ways; The City of Stockbridge; National Tree Preservation; Thoms Trees & Plants, Scapes, and Heaven’s Glow Greenhouses. **19** scholarships were awarded to tree boards and nonprofits around the state through funding from the Georgia Forestry Commission.

AWARDS PROGRAM 2009 Awards recipients included former Atlanta Brave Ryan Klesko, for the education program at his Big K Farm, and Dr. Jerry Walker, “Griffin’s Tree Doctor,” who received a Lifetime Achievement Award.

PUBLICATIONS

Four issues of *Tree Talks* were published in 2009 (two print and two electronic), one issue of SHADE magazine covering topics discussed at the previous annual conference, an electronic membership directory, and e-newsletters.

TREE LEGACY GRANT PROGRAM

The Georgia Urban Forest Council, through funding from The Home Depot Foundation, awarded four grants totaling \$50,000 to communities in 2009: Forsyth County, Fayette County Resource Education Coalition, the City of McDonough, and the Decatur Preservation Alliance. These funds are awarded specifically for tree planting projects for environmental purposes.

THE GROVE WEBSITE

In an effort to educate, engage and encourage Georgians to plant trees and protect Georgia’s urban tree canopy, the Georgia Urban Forest Council and the Georgia Forestry Commission have joined forces to create a new Web site and online community called The Grove, GeorgiaGrove.org.

DVD Project

GUFC partnered with Trees Columbus and the Georgia Forestry Commission on a DVD, “**Build Greener! Grow Dollars and Sense with Trees,**” which was completed in 2009. Copies of the DVD are available, and the video is featured on the GUFC website.

MEMBERSHIP

At end-of-year 2009, GUFC had 277 active members, which included individuals, organizations, businesses, and governments.

LANDMARK & HISTORIC TREE REGISTER

Two trees were added to GUFC’s Landmark & Historic Tree Register: a Southern Red Oak and a Tulip Poplar in historic Marietta, both because of their size, age, condition, and proximity to historic sites in the area.

AN AUDIT of GUFC’s financial operations was completed for year ending December 31, 2008.

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