

TREE TALKS

Georgia Urban Forest Council



SPRING 2013

Arborist Certification Study Class

Date: June 12 and 13, 2013 (Day One is 9 a.m. - 4:15 p.m. (approx. 7 hours) and Day Two is 9 a.m. - 12:10 p.m. (approx. 3 hours))

Location: Lanier Tech (Forsyth Campus), Room C107, 3410 Ronald Reagan Boulevard, Cumming, GA 30041

Registration Fee: \$100 GUFCC members, \$115 non-members. Lunch on day one and morning refreshments on both days are included.

Those interested in becoming a certified arborist will learn how to register for the exam, where to take the exam, how to use the study guide, and get training in the following **exam content:** Soil Management, Identification and Selection of Trees, Tree Installation and Establishment, Pruning, Safe Work Practices, Tree Biology, Diagnosis and Treatment, Urban Forestry, Tree Protection, and Tree Risk Management.

For more details and to register, go to www.gufc.org.

GUFC Excellence in Urban Forestry Awards Program Seeks Nominations for 2013

Good work is all around us – individuals, organizations, businesses, elected officials, and students protecting and maintaining a healthy urban forest in our communities. Let's show them that their work is appreciated and vital to the environmental, social, and economic health of our towns and cities.

Nominate good work in urban forestry for a Georgia Urban Forest Council Excellence in Urban Forestry Award

this year. Categories include Marketing, Streetscape Revitalization, Greenspace Plan, New Development, New Initiative, Business, Media, Civic Organization, Community, Elected/Appointed Official, Education, Individual Achievement, Student, and Urban Arboriculture. The deadline for submissions is September 6. All award recipients will be honored at the GUFC's 23rd Annual Awards Luncheon on October 24 at the Columbus Georgia Convention and Trade Center and will be presented a limited edition, framed print of a Georgia tree from a commissioned painting by artist Barry Nehr. Download an awards application at <http://www.gufc.org/programs/2013-annual-awards/>.



Forsyth County's Stream Restoration at Midway Park – Outstanding New Initiative 2012

Donate to the Georgia Urban Forest Council and Receive Tree Print of Choice

We rely upon your support! **Please consider making a financial contribution** to the Georgia Urban Forest Council and help us bring urban forestry education to those who need it - the treekeepers in your community. **As a "thank you" for each valued gift of \$35**, we'll send you a **tree print** of a Georgia tree, from a painting by artist Barry Nehr. For details, visit www.gufc.org.



President's Letter



Spring has sprung! After what seemed to be a long winter season, spring literally exploded in what seemed to be one weekend. I am sure it was a bit longer than that, but my family and I went to Charleston for a long weekend on our daughter's spring break and upon our return to the Atlanta area it seemed that all the trees had leaved out while we were gone.

It seems that nature has decided to parallel what I hear so many people say, "life moves so fast," "where did the time go," "it just seems to be passing us by."

Spring is a time for renewal, new starts, and new life. The perfect time to make a commitment to try to slow down our busy lives, reassess and possibly refocus our efforts on something new. It is a great time to renew our interest and support in preserving and expanding our urban forests and other parallel and important environmentally-conscious pursuits. Our mantra is education, education, education. Let us know if there are ways we can renew how the Council can serve you and your colleagues. Help us grow our constituency by spreading the good news and encouraging new members to join. Continue to think of ways to educate our children and expose them to what our urban forests represent and mean to us, bring nature to them and them to nature.

In the spirit of spring, let's slow down, smell the roses and rejuvenate ourselves. Have a happy spring and be thoughtful as you prepare for the remainder of the year.

Rob Ryan

Funds for this project were provided by the Urban and Community Forestry Assistance Program administered by the Georgia Forestry Commission. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political belief, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communications of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-A, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410.

From the Executive Director

Like every good nonprofit, GUFCA is in fundraising mode.

When you click on "**Donate to GUFCA**" at the top of our website homepage (www.gufca.org) you'll learn how easy it is to show your support and make a tax-deductible contribution to this organization. If you choose the optional thank-you gift, we'll send you a tree print from a commissioned painting by artist Barry Nehr. You'll enjoy looking through the gallery of prints assembled throughout the years. It's a wonderful representation of outstanding trees throughout Georgia. When you register for GUFCA's Annual Conference this year (see page 8 for early details), \$10 of your registration fee will be a tax-deductible donation to the **Georgia ReLeaf Program**, which provides tree planting funds to Georgia communities that have lost canopy to storms. ArborJam, the annual fundraiser for Georgia ReLeaf, will now replace the opening night reception at the conference and will be covered by the other part of your registration fee. Great deals on silent auction items from around the state will be featured. You can assist us in gathering together fantastic silent auction items. Trips, trees, tickets, artwork, donated services— items such as these make a great silent auction and will contribute to the Georgia ReLeaf fund, which is open to communities statewide that have lost trees to storms. For more information, visit <http://www.gufca.org/georgia-releaf>.

Mary Lynne Beckley

Three New Georgia Tree City USAs Certified in 2012

By Myrt Phillips, Georgia Forestry Commission

Three new Tree City USAs in Georgia were certified for the year 2012. They are **Louisville, Mountain Park, and Thunderbolt, Georgia**. One hundred thirty eight cities renewed their certifications with 20 Growth Awards. We are still working with two cities on their pending recertifications.



Some of our cities are being quite creative with their Arbor Day celebrations, which adds interest and knowledge for all those involved. The **City of LaGrange** celebrated with members of the Garden Club, Hollis Hand Elementary School, and city staff at the Hollis Hand campus to read a proclamation in honor of Arbor Day. Radio DJ Colman Vice, from station WLAG/Eagle 102 did a live remote broadcast about the Arbor Day celebration, which added a lot of excitement to the event. Students were given a chance to talk on the air, and they learned more about the radio profession. The group partnered with other

professionals to provide additional career information, and the event closed with students helping plant a tree on the school campus.

The **City of Brunswick** held the "Tree-mendous Tree Contest" between Georgia's Arbor Day in February and National Arbor Day in April. The winner and owner of the tree, Mrs. Nan Herst, 94, was awarded the Golden Rake Award, in commemoration of the annual leaf raking required each spring.

Lilburn City Manager, Bill Johnsa, surrounded by local Girl Scouts, read the Arbor Day and Tree City Proclamation on March 12, which was also the 100th birthday of the Girl Scouts of America. "The Golden Eaglet" film, which details the history of GSA, was shown to a packed house in the city hall auditorium, and afterwards, Scouts presented various parts of the Arbor Day program. A beautiful October Glory red maple was dedicated and planted.



Lavonia partnered with the Franklin County Tree Commission, local city officials, Historic Preservation Commission, and Downtown Development Authority to plant a tree in Lavonia Memorial Park. The groups have worked together on past projects such as Century Tree and Millenium Grove programs, and they have plans for current and future projects to beautify their city.

Monroe had an Arbor Day 2012 Celebration in Childers Park, highlighted by an Arbor Day proclamation, Tree City USA recertification, arts and crafts activities, tree planting demonstration, scavenger hunt, tree identification lesson and a nature walk. Many local residents joined the fun.

Statesboro celebrated Arbor Day with two days of festivities that included tree plantings, seedling giveaways, flower pot painting, and the opportunity to purchase seasonal plants and trees.

Many thanks to all our Tree City USAs for their hard work and dedication to trees and their cities!

Community Forest Storm Mitigation Planning

Trees are an important part of our community's infrastructure. They provide us with many valuable and irreplaceable environmental, economic, and social benefits. But, during a storm, our trees are also at risk and can cause significant damage not only to infrastructure but also to personal property.

The Georgia Forestry Commission recently held three workshops in Gainesville, Marietta and Mansfield to help communities develop a personalized Community Forest Storm Mitigation Plan that

focuses specifically on trees and ways to avoid or mitigate the damage they cause during a



storm or other catastrophic event. Community Forest Storm Mitigation plans serve as a guide for assessing current storm readiness, for creating a summary of your community's current forest management program and as a storm mitigation checklist. Presentations from the workshops are available and Georgia Forestry Commission staff are available to assist your community.

A Community Forest Storm Mitigation Planning Workbook and Template are available at this link:

<http://www.gfc.state.ga.us/community-forests/management/trees-storm-safety/>

PowerPoint presentations are available here:

<http://www.gufc.org/resources/presentations/>

Please contact the Georgia Forestry Commission Sustainable Community Forestry Program staff if you need any assistance with your plan:

<http://www.gfc.state.ga.us/about-us/contact-us/forestry-departments/sustainable-community-forestry-program-directory/index.cfm>

Camden Co. Live Oak Added to Landmark and Historic Tree Register



A live oak on the site of Camden County's early courthouse and jail was placed on the Georgia Urban Forest Council's Landmark & Historic Tree Register in December, 2012, for its historical significance. The tree was nominated by Claretha Sullivan and Beatrice Sullivan Taylor.

The town of Jeffersonton was laid out in the 1800's along the Satilla River and the settlement was the location of Camden County's courthouse for seventy years, 1801-1871.

A granite marker made in Dalton, Georgia was hand-delivered with assistance from several Georgia Forestry Commission employees including Chuck Arnold, Ken Masten, Wes Merkison and Mark McClellan.

The Georgia Urban Forest Council's Landmark and Historic Tree list is mapped at www.gufc.org.

Pictured are Claretha Sullivan and Georgia Forestry Commission Community Forester Mark McClellan in front of the live oak with a granite marker and an informational sign made by Claretha to inform visitors about the tree's history.

2012 Tree Campus USA Schools Announced

The Arbor Day Foundation and Toyota congratulate the 191 colleges and universities that received Tree Campus USA distinction in 2012! Together these campuses planted 41,771 trees and invested over \$26.6 million on tree planting, care and management. Because of their commitment to trees, the nearly 2.5 million students who currently attend these schools, and the generations to come, will enjoy the many benefits trees provide to their campus community.

Learn more about the program and see the list of recognized schools at arborday.org/treecampususa.



Tree Campus USA Turns 5-Years Old

Arbor Day 2013 marked the fifth anniversary of the Tree Campus USA program. Large to small, public to private, 2- to 4-year campuses – these colleges and universities have made trees a priority and work daily to plant, preserve, and protect their precious tree resources. See the impact Tree Campus USA has had over the past five years by downloading the 5-Year Anniversary Infographic.

5-Year Tree Campuses

A special acknowledgement goes to those 25 campuses that have consistently applied for and received Tree Campus USA recognition consecutively since the launch of the program in 2008:

- Albany Technical College
- Arizona State University
- Creighton University
- Duke University
- Furman University
- Georgia Tech
- Gwinnett Technical College
- Illinois State University
- Indiana State University
- Indiana University, Bloomington
- Kent State University
- Middle Georgia State College
- Nebraska Wesleyan University
- Oregon State University
- Southeastern Community College
- University of California, Davis
- University of California, San Diego
- University of Maryland
- University of Michigan
- University of Nebraska, Lincoln
- University of North Texas
- University of South Carolina Upstate
- University of Texas, Austin
- Virginia Tech
- Western Michigan University



Gwinnett Technical College in Lawrenceville is one of **eight** Tree Campus USA Colleges and Universities in **Georgia**. See the complete list at arborday.org/treecampususa

Arbor Day Foundation Announces Annual Award Recipients

Nebraska City, Neb. (April 23, 2013) – Fourteen individuals and organizations are recipients of a 2013 Arbor Day Award in honor of their outstanding contribution to tree planting, conservation and stewardship, the Arbor Day Foundation announced today.

This year's ceremony will be held at Lied Lodge & Conference Center, located at Arbor Day Farm in Nebraska City, Nebraska, on Saturday, April 27.

Kemba Shakur, executive director of the Oakland, California, based Urban ReLeaf, will receive the J. Sterling Morton Award, the highest honor given by the Foundation.

Shakur works daily with low-income communities to plant trees, mentor young people and build neighborhood leaders, and Urban ReLeaf has distributed more than 15,000 trees in total. When Shakur saw that no one else was planting trees in her west Oakland neighborhood, she started to plant them herself. She continued planting in her front yard, on her block, in her neighborhood and eventually throughout the City of Oakland.

Shakur has also made long-term research a priority, working directly with the University of California Davis, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, the California Department of Water Resources and the USDA Forest Service.

UPS is the recipient of the Promise to the Earth Award. Working with some of the largest environmental organizations in the world, UPS has supported the planting of more than half a million trees in dozens of countries. UPS also joined a number of public and private groups in donating \$200,000 to fund tree planting for the Flight 93 Memorial Project, a twenty-two hundred acre national park in Pennsylvania commemorating those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001.

Eden Reforestation Projects, a nonprofit based in Glendora, California, is the recipient of the Award for Education Innovation. With operations in Haiti, Ethiopia and Madagascar, Eden Projects have supported the planting of 57 million trees and created job opportunities for 3,500 full and partial season employees. Under the Eden Projects model, seedlings are grown, planted as young trees and nurtured to maturity by local residents trained to act as "guards" for the emerging forests.

The City of Punta Gorda, Florida, is the recipient of the Arbor Day Celebration Award. The community-wide event in this city of 16,000 is a model for tree-planting for cities of all sizes. About 300 Punta Gorda first graders participate every year, gaining exposure to a variety of activities and educational materials about the importance of trees.

Dr. Waddell Barnes is the recipient of the Lawrence Enersen Award. Within months of the tragic tornado that struck Middle Georgia State College, formerly Macon State College, and much of its tree canopy, Dr. Barnes helped develop plans to rebuild the original landscape, gardens and trees. He launched a "Campus ReLeaf" campaign, ultimately raising tens of thousands of dollars despite a challenging economy.

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The Alliance for Community Trees, based in College Park, Maryland, is the recipient of the Public Awareness of Trees Award. ACTrees is committed to improving the urban forest environment in cities and towns. The non-profit group celebrates its 20th anniversary this year, and National Neighborwoods Month in October remains an important community gathering. Last year, more than 800 volunteer events were coordinated by local partners in 290 cities.

Donna Love and Lakeshore Learning Materials are both recipients of the Rachel Carson Award. Under Love's leadership, three certified Nature Explore Classrooms were constructed at Hurlburt and Cannon Air Force bases. Love also worked with the Nature Explore program to set up trainings for personnel staff on other Air Force bases, creating new advocates across the country. As a result of her efforts, the Department of Defense is working with Nature Explore on sixty new classrooms, an impact that will be felt for generations to come. Through keynote addresses and conferences, Lakeshore President Kevin Carnes makes the case that outdoor learning classrooms achieve large-scale impact in spaces large and small, and on a reasonable budget. The inspiration starts at company headquarters in Carson, California, where the company built a Nature Explore classroom at Lakeshore's on-site preschool serving the children of employees, helping to make research-based outdoor learning a part of children's daily lives. The inspiration for outdoor learning has also spread to Lakeshore's network of employees and customers in other states.

Plant With Purpose, a non-profit based in San Diego, California, is the recipient of the Good Steward Award. With projects in the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Mexico, Tanzania, Burundi and Thailand, Plant With Purpose pursues solutions that preserve land for future generations without harming jobs and livelihoods. Their pioneering work to bring clean stoves –designed to conserve energy and wood, while reducing harmful fumes – has already improved lives and livelihoods.

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board is the recipient of the Excellence in Volunteer Management Award. Following a May 2011 tornado, the board led several critical volunteer events to replace the lost trees, with saplings brought in from around the country. Nearly five hundred people volunteered from neighborhood, civic and corporate groups, meeting the goal of 1,100 new trees planted.

Friends of Grand Rapids Parks is the recipient of the Excellence in Urban Forest Leadership Award. In early 2012, the group began working with city officials on the "Urban Forest Project." The project included a crowd-sourced tree map and a review of the city's existing tree ordinance. Hundreds of Grand Rapids residents have already contributed to – and reaped the benefits – of the innovative tool.

The Florida Forest Service, based in Tallahassee, Florida, is the recipient of the Forest Lands Leadership Award. The Florida Forest Service plants millions of trees every year, managing complex ecosystems and serving as a model for state forest agencies throughout the country. The agency has been particularly aggressive in combating forest fires by anticipating disasters and running controlled fires in their place, as well as quickly and effectively replanting native species.

Indiana University Professor Burnell Fischer is the recipient of the Frederick Law Olmsted Award. Hundreds of Indiana communities – both large and small – developed urban forestry programs and hired professional staff as a direct result of his leadership and vision. Dr. Fischer was also instrumental to the growth of the Tree Campus USA program, which provides resources and recognition for colleges and universities that make tree care a priority.

The Lost Pines Forest Recovery Campaign, based in College Station, Texas, is the recipient of the Excellence in Partnership Award. The Lost Pines Forest Recovery Campaign is a multi-year, public-private partnership with the goal of raising sufficient funds to plant more than 4 million trees on public and private land destroyed in the September 2011 wildfire. The partnership is comprised of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Texas A&M Forest Service and the Arbor Day Foundation.

Since 1972, the Arbor Day Foundation has recognized the inspiring and life-changing work of leading environmental stewards and tree planters through the annual Arbor Day Awards. Award winners from previous years include the late Nobel Peace Prize winner Wangari Maathai, Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley, the USDA Forest Service, Enterprise Rent-A-Car and Mary Kay, Inc.



*About the Arbor Day Foundation: The Arbor Day Foundation is a nonprofit conservation and education organization of one million members, with the mission to inspire people to plant, nurture and celebrate trees. More information on the Foundation and its programs can be found at arborday.org, or by visiting us on Facebook at facebook.com/arborday or Twitter at twitter.com/arborday. **For more information, contact** Sean Barry, 402-473-9563, sbarry@arborday.org.*

Urban Forestry News

- Researchers from the University of Toronto and SickKids Research Institute announce that they have successfully mapped the genes in the fungus that causes Dutch Elm Disease. The findings were published in the online journal *BMC Genomics*. Scientists may now find how to prevent the fungus from destroying elm trees in the future. Read more at <http://www.newswise.com/articles/scientists-map-genome-that-causes-dutch-elm-disease>
- The Society of Municipal Arborists (SMA), comprised of 1400 urban forestry professionals worldwide, has chosen Southern live oak (*Quercus virginiana*) as its 2013 Urban Tree of the Year. Details can be found at <http://www.urban-forestry.com/>.
- The National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council announces the posting of the U.S. Forest Service 2013 Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Cost Share grant program. A copy of the application and instructions can be found at www.grants.gov, reference: CFDA 10.675, or www.fs.fed.us/ucf/nucfac. Applications are due to by 11:59 p.m, EST, July 15, 2013.



What a great group! Attendees at GUFCA's February 13 Tree Care Workshop and Arbor Day Luncheon gather for a photo outside the auditorium at Georgia Forestry Commission headquarters in Macon. This busy day included tree planting and tree care instruction and recognition of **Georgia Tree City USA**s who were present.

Save the Date –

Georgia Urban Forest Council's
23rd Annual Conference and Awards Program

October 23-24, 2013

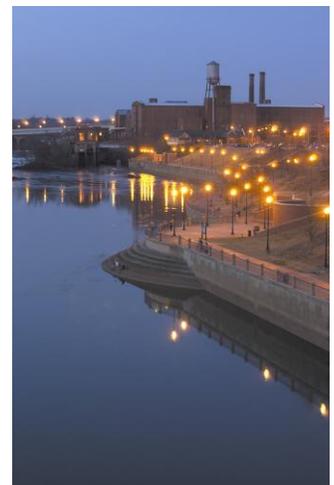
Columbus Georgia Convention and Trade Center

“Tree Canopy and Green Infrastructure:
 Creating Vibrant and Healthy Communities”

A conference for fostering the economic, social, and environmental health of towns, cities, and campuses

Speakers will include **Karen Firehock**, Green Infrastructure Center, Charlottesville, Virginia, **Mark Bays**, Urban and Community Forestry

Coordinator, **Oklahoma**, and other expert urban foresters, landscape designers, land planners, engineers, & nonprofit leaders. **Details in upcoming newsletters and at www.gufc.org.**



Visit www.gufc.org to learn more about GUF C programming and about



GEORGIA URBAN FOREST COUNCIL 2013

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GEORGIA FORESTRY COMMISSION



Many thanks to the Georgia Forestry Commission for funding and for partnership on educational programs throughout the year.



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