



FALL 2009

Social Media for GUF and GFC

We've entered into a new world of digital communications including several new virtual communities. We hope you'll join us and invite your friends and partners to participate in these "real-time" conversations. These new communications tactics allow for a faster exchange with GUF members or potential members and are collaborative and authentic. Here are some of the new tactics:

- Email newsletters from the GUF
- RSS Feeds
- Social networking (The Grove – GeorgiaGrove.org)
- Twitter (Follow us at GaUrbanForest)
- Facebook (Join the GUF Fan Page)
- YouTube
- Blogging (The GFC Sustainable Community Forestry Program started a blog in June at <http://gfcommunityforestry.wordpress.com/>)

Research shows social media growth is real. In fact, 120,000 blogs are created every day and the number of blogs will soon outnumber Websites. Blogs are now more popular in Google search than magazines and newspaper outlets.

GUF Website Expands

Check out all the great educational materials we've now posted on our website. On our homepage at www.gufc.org, click on Resources, then Presentations. You'll find valuable information on Basic Tree Care, Tree Ordinances, Tree Banks, Trees and Stormwater, Tree Protection, Tree Risk Management and more. We also now have a page on Best Management Practices and for Homeowners, too.

GUF's 19th Annual Conference & Awards Program presented November 4 and 5 in Stockbridge

TREES AND TRANSPORTATION | The Urban Forest's Role in the Safety, Health, & Quality of Life Along Georgia's Roadways

Kathleen Wolf, Ph.D., Research Social Scientist, College of Forest Resources at the University of Washington and **Eric Dumbaugh**, Ph.D., Department of Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning at Texas A & M University, will give keynote talks at **GUF's 19th Annual Conference** at the Merle Manders Conference Center, 111 Davis Road, Stockbridge, Georgia, November 4 and 5. Topics covered in the general and concurrent sessions will include research on traffic safety and street trees; understanding misguided engineering perspectives; guidance on working with the Georgia Department of Transportation (DOT); trees and parking lots in towns and cities; the relationships between transportation, traffic safety, and community design; greening a city's infrastructure; the Atlanta Beltline Arboretum; Complete Streets; using the Silva Cell and other solutions for street trees; and tree inventory techniques. This is an outstanding opportunity for natural resource professionals, planners, engineers, municipalities, counties, nonprofits, tree boards, and others to gain cutting-edge knowledge on these topics and to network with others who are concerned about a healthy urban forest in our communities. CEUs will be available for arborists and foresters. CEUs will be available for arborists, foresters, and certified planners. Professional development certificates will be available for landscape architects and other professionals. For a complete schedule and registration details, turn to **page 3**.



President's Letter



Sir Winston Churchill said, “We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give.” I am fortunate to serve with a group of people that embody the spirit of giving and service. Each year our volunteer board dedicates valuable time and resources toward our goal of helping communities grow healthy trees. I believe our efforts have made the world a greener, healthier place. But I believe Churchill was referring to the power of giving as life changing for the person doing the giving—giving as its own reward.

I can only speak from personal experience, but as I look back on what I count as my life's defining works and greatest accomplishments, outside of family, it's what I have done through volunteer organizations. And those came out of someone asking me to participate. Whether it was college yearbook editor or soccer coach, someone asked me to help and I had to decide if that was a road I was prepared to travel. Now as look back

I am most grateful I took the road less traveled. Some years ago, **Dan Whitehead** asked me to join the board of the **Georgia Urban Forest Council**, and now I am president. And the journey continues.

Thank you to all the people that have supported the **GUFC** over the years and to those coming on board for the first time. We value your time. We value your insight. We value your dedication. And if Sir Winston Churchill is right, you have enriched your own lives in the process.

Eric King

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 beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication 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

In addition to providing continuing education credits for arborists, foresters, and Georgia landscape architects, **GUFC** recently became registered to be a provider of certification maintenance credits for the American Planning Association. Good community planning always involves a healthy urban forest! Our **19th Annual Conference** “Trees & Transportation” on November 4 and 5 in Stockbridge just gained approval for providing credits for planners, and we will endeavor to have as many of our future programs as possible provide credits as well. This conference, with keynote speakers Dr. Kathleen Wolf, from the University of Washington and Dr. Eric Dumbaugh from Texas A & M University, is a not-to-be-missed educational event for natural resource professionals, engineers, planners, municipalities, counties, nonprofits, volunteers, and others to come together to learn and share cutting edge information about the importance of street trees, good community design, and a green infrastructure for the safety, health, and quality of life in our towns and cities.

Speaking of good programming, we'd like the **GUFC website** to be the go-to source for educational resources, and this is evidenced by the growing number of presentations that we've added to the “Resources” section. Thank you to all of our fine instructors who have generously allowed us to share their information with the online community. We're also continuing to build our “Homeowner” page with practical tips for maintaining healthy trees in our own yards and links to other organizations that provide excellent information as well. Many thanks to Neil Norton for continuing to work on these pages throughout the year.

I hope to see everyone at an upcoming **GUFC** program. Check our website this Fall for a listing of 2010 educational offerings. We are adding lots more programming to our 2010 lineup, so there's bound to be a workshop or community event in your area!

Mary Lynne Beckley

Register Today! The 2009 GUFC Annual Conference & Awards Program



TREES AND TRANSPORTATION | **The Urban Forest's Role in the Safety, Health, & Quality of Life Along Georgia's Roadways**

November 4 and 5, 2009

Merle Manders Conference Center
Stockbridge, Georgia

AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4:

12-2 p.m.: Check-in/Registration

12:30 – 1:30 p.m.: *Exploring The Beauty of Trees: the Unique Vision plus some Helpful Tips* - A photography workshop with Kathryn Kolb

12:30 – 2 p.m.: *Tree Board Roundtable*

A great opportunity for community tree board members to discuss issues and challenges and share successes and ideas.

2:00 -4:00 p.m.: OPENING SESSION WITH KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

• **Kathleen Wolf, Ph.D.**, Research Social Scientist, College of Forest Resources, University of Washington
Trees & Urban Streets: Research on Traffic Safety and Livable Communities

Street trees are an important element in any city's urban forest. Placement of trees and landscape features within the public right-of-way is often perceived by transportation officials as a safety risk. Yet there are many community benefits that result from having quality roadside landscape and street trees. Within urban environments, transportation mobility and accessibility needs must be balanced with the welfare of city dwellers. This presentation will review the many issues surrounding urban roadside landscape. It will summarize both the quantified effects of roadside landscape and propose workable solutions for safe and livable urban communities.

• **Eric Dumbaugh, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor, Program Coordinator, Graduate Certificate Program in Transportation Planning, Department of Landscape Architecture & Urban Planning, Texas A & M University
Urban Trees & Traffic Safety: Why Urban Trees Aren't the Threat the Traffic Engineer Thinks They Are!

Engineering concerns about traffic safety are often a major barrier to the adoption of urban street trees. This talk will outline the engineering perspective surrounding the hazards posed by streets trees, and present empirical evidence demonstrating that these concerns are misguided. It will conclude by discussing design strategies for balancing street trees and traffic safety.

4:00 – 4:30 p.m. Break with exhibitors

4:30 -5:30 p.m. Concurrent sessions :

• *Your Street Trees & The Georgia Department of Transportation: What We've Learned* – Kris Thomas, City of Dalton Landscape Director

This session will offer guidance in working with your Ga. DOT representative in maintaining quality roadside landscape and street trees.

• *Community Panel - Savannah, Columbus, Thomaston: How Street Trees have Improved the Safety, Health, and Quality of Life in Our Community*

Representatives from these communities will discuss the improvement in their towns and cities through their focus on street trees.

• *Tree Inventory Techniques* - Shirley Trier, Davey Resource Group

This session will cover the use of a tree inventory for maintenance of your community forest and the tools and techniques for accomplishing it.

5:30 – 6:00 p.m.: Break with exhibitors

6:00 – 8:00 p.m.: Opening night buffet reception; book signing with photographer Kathryn Kolb

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5:

7:00 – 8:00 a.m.: Check-in/Continental Breakfast

8:00 – 10:00: General session with KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

• **Kathleen Wolf, Ph.D.**, Research Social Scientist, College of Forest Resources, University of Washington
Parking and Trees in Cities and Towns

Parking lots occupy about 10 percent overall of the land in U.S. cities, and can be as much as 20 to 30 percent of downtown core areas. Large surface parking lots can contribute to drainage and flooding problems, increase urban heat islands, become visual eyesores, and encourage people to abandon mass transit, thereby accentuating air quality problems. This talk will explore how parking lots can be regulated, designed and built to reduce impacts, and create more livable communities.

• **Eric Dumbaugh, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor, Program Coordinator, Graduate Certificate Program in Transportation Planning Department of Landscape Architecture & Urban Planning, Texas A & M University

Safe Urban Form: Understanding the Relationships between Transportation, Traffic Safety, and Community Design

Most of the contemporary features of contemporary community design, such as disconnected residential subdivisions and traffic-oriented arterial roadways, were adopted in an effort to address traffic safety. This talk will detail the historical evolution of these ideas, and examine the empirical evidence on which they are based. It will conclude by outlining how to balance safety and aesthetics through an integrated approach to transportation and community design.

10:00 - 10:30 a.m.: Break with Exhibitors

10:30 - 11:30 a.m.: Concurrent sessions

- **Greening a City's Infrastructure: Priority Levels to Achieve Environmental Health and the Best Economic Return** – Nancy Hodges, LEED AP, Associate, Ecos Environmental Design, Inc.

The learning objectives of this session include integrating the relevance of economics, safety, and environment in city infrastructure; understanding the impact of green space and green infrastructure planning and design on the health and quality of life in the urban environment; and understanding economic, health, and environmental return associated with certain design standards for roads, trees, and bike/pedestrian facilities.

- **The Atlanta Beltline Arboretum: Neighborhoods and Trees** – Greg Levine, Trees Atlanta

Atlanta's Beltline is a 22-mile loop of old railroad tracks being planned for conversion to a greenway in downtown Atlanta. The greenway will connect 40 city parks and 45 neighborhoods for pedestrian and cyclist use and will feature over 1,200 acres of new Greenspace, built in tandem with a new mass transit route. Trees Atlanta is involved with creating the twenty-two mile **Atlanta Beltline Arboretum**, linking trees and neighborhoods.

11:30 – noon: Break with exhibitors

A Walk in the Forest for Metro - Atlanta Scouts

On Saturday, November 7, 2009, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., the **Chattahoochee Chapter of the Society of American Foresters (SAF)** and **Stone Mountain Memorial Association** are hosting A Walk in the Forest for Metro-Atlanta Scouts to help Boy and Girl Scouts earn the Forestry Merit Badge, Webelos Forester Activity Pin, Earth Connections Badge or Wildlife Interest Project Award. Scouts will work with local and Georgia Forestry Commission foresters to learn about the benefits of trees and forests and the forestry profession. A Walk in the Forest will include nature walks and 30-minute educational stations on Tree Identification, Trees and Wildlife, Watersheds, Forest Fire and Safety, Forest Products and Wood Samples, Forest Health - Insects and Diseases, Urban Forestry and How to Plant a Tree.

This event is free. Field notebooks, lunch and patches are included. Registration is required. Scouts can RSVP to **Alina Ruiz** at a.ruiz@stonemountainpark.org or 770-498-5629 by October 1, 2009.

Noon – 1:30 p.m.: Georgia Urban Forestry Annual Awards Luncheon

1:30 – 2 p.m.: Break with exhibitors

2:00 – 3:00 p.m: Concurrent sessions

- **Complete Streets: Building Roads that are Safer and for All** – Philip Pugliese, Outdoor Chattanooga and National Complete Streets Coalition

Learn about the movement across the country to “complete the streets” and build roads for all users in mind – bicyclists, public transit, cars, and pedestrians of all ages and abilities.

- **The Silva Cell and Other Solutions: Allowing our Street Trees to Grow and Thrive** - Brenda Guglielmina, DeepRoot

This session will introduce attendees to The Silva Cell, a subsurface integrated tree and stormwater system that holds unlimited amounts of soil while supporting traffic loads beneath paving and hardscapes. Brenda will also discuss suspended pavement and soil trenches, bioinfiltration and rain gardens which use trees and soil for pollutant removal, and the many environmental benefits of growing large trees as green utilities.

3:00 adjourn

\$99 for two days!

Register at www.gufc.org.

Registration fee does not include lodging. The Holiday Inn in Stockbridge is offering GUFCA conference attendees a \$109 rate for the evening of November 4. To reserve a room, call 678-782-4000.

Continuing education units: Earn up to 7 ISA CEUs, 7 SAF Contact Hours. APA/AICP CM credits available. Certificates will be available for other certification programs.

The event will take place at the Confederate Hall Historical and Environmental Education Center. Vehicles without an annual park pass will be required to pay the entrance fee at the Park Gate.

If you are interested in teaching at one of the educational stations, donating a tree for the tree planting station, serving lunch or helping with registration, please contact **Susan Reisch**, Urban & Community Forestry Coordinator, Georgia Forestry Commission at 678-476-6227, sreisch@gfc.state.ga.us.

This event was funded by a grant from The SAF Forester's Fund, Wells Real Estate Funds, Timberland Investment Resources, Forest Investment Associates, Georgia Forestry Association, Trees Plus, Ltd., Trees to Forest Consulting, Barneycastle Forestry Services, 404-CUT-TREE, International Forest Co., The Georgia Urban Forest Council, John Baston, Chung-Hong Fu, Michael Kelley, Katie Robie and Dale Higdon.

2009-2010 Urban & Community Forestry Grant Program Georgia Forestry Commission

During June, the Grant Review Committee met to review the 48 applications that the **Georgia Forestry Commission** had received for the Urban & Community Forestry Grant Program. With requests totaling over \$616,000, the committee selected 37 projects to receive the \$431,558 that was available in funding from the U.S. Forest Service. The projects selected are located throughout the state and cover a wide range of issues including tree inventories and ordinances, management plans, certified arborist services, tree board formation, and community planning. To obtain more information about the U&CF grant program go to www.GaTrees.org.

Organization	City	Description
Athens-Clarke County	Athens	Create a user-friendly website for the ACC Community Tree Program.
Atlanta Botanical Garden	Atlanta	Create and conduct Woodland Education Programs
City of Berkeley Lake	Berkeley Lake	Complete a Urban Forest Assessment and Planting Plan
Coastal Georgia RC&D Council	Richmond Hill	Provide arborist services to communities in the coastal region
College of Coastal Georgia	Brunswick	Complete a forest resource and canopy assessment
Dalton Public Works Dept	Dalton	Map and inventory Dalton's street trees
City of Fayetteville	Fayetteville	Complete a tree inventory and management plan
City of Gainesville	Gainesville	Develop an arborist training and certification program
GA Assc. of Conservation District Supervisors	Athens	Create a Community Forestry Training Program for Conservation District Supervisors
Georgia Envirothon Council	Athens	Redesign website to facilitate better outreach and recruitment
GA Piedmont Land Trust	Suwanee	Create a showcase project that will demonstrate new approaches to suburban landscapes
Historic Oakland Cemetery	Atlanta	Complete an urban forest assessment
City of Jefferson	Jefferson	Provide professional expertise to coordinate community forest management program
City of Jesup	Jesup	Employ a Certified Arborist to provide services to local community
Macon State College Foundation	Macon	Employ a certified arborist to evaluate campus trees and develop a management plan
City of Pine Lake	Pine Lake	Conduct a comprehensive tree inventory for the city
Rolling Hills RC&D Council	Cedartown	Provide a services of a Certified Arborist to a nine county region in northwest Georgia and create a regional urban forestry website
City of Sandy Springs	Sandy Springs	Complete a tree inventory, assessment, and survey of Lost Corner Preserve
Savannah Tree Foundation	Savannah	Build a dedicated corps of volunteers by redeveloping its website and expanding its "Forestkeeper 1st Saturday" volunteer program
City of Smyrna	Smyrna	Complete Phase II of the tree inventory and Management Plan
City of Suwanee	Suwanee	Conduct an inventory of all city trees to provide data for an Urban Forest Management Plan
City of Sylvania	Sylvania	Creation of a tree ordinance using the services of a certified arborist
City of Tifton	Tifton	Complete the second phase of tree inventory data collection for the City's tree management program

Organization	City	Description
Trees Atlanta	Atlanta	Create management plans for schools along the Beltline using student classes
Trees Columbus, Inc.	Columbus	Produce 6 Public Service Announcements highlighting components of a tree-friendly development, right-of-way tree planting, and residential tree planting.
University of Georgia Physical Plant Division, Grounds Dept.	Athens	Complete Phase II of GIS tree inventory for the Campus Arboretum and develop an accompanying tree care plan
Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper	Atlanta	Provide assistance to Lumpkin County in writing ordinances related to tree protection, water quality and erosion and sedimentation control
Wesleyan College	Macon	Estimate the functional value of Wesleyan College's forest through its provided ecosystem services using UFORE
City of Young Harris	Young Harris	Create the Children's Interpretive Walk at Corn Creek Preserve
Marietta Tree Keepers	Marietta	Develop a program to educate residents about the importance of their existing tree canopy & replanting for the future
Atha Road Elementary School	Monroe	Planting trees to provide shade on the school grounds
City of Jefferson	Jefferson	Planting trees to provide shade at Hughley Park
Northwest Georgia Family Crisis Center, Inc.	Dalton	Provide a healthy environment for victims of domestic violence by planting trees at the Center's playground
Pelham Elementary School, Pelham City Schools	Pelham	Plant 60 shade trees on three playgrounds
TG Scott Elementary School PTA Board	Macon	Planting shade trees around two playgrounds
Wheeler County Board of Education	Alamo	Plant sixty trees on the school campus

Announcements

- On September 9, Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack announced an additional \$89.3 million of Forest Service projects to be funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The Sustainable Community Forestry Program of Georgia Forestry Commission received \$897,000 for the **Community Tree Planting for Ecosystem Restoration and Green Jobs: Georgia's Growing Green Project**. The funding will be used to restore ecological health by planting and caring for trees in watersheds, stream banks, parking lots, streets, housing developments, brownfields and schools primarily in communities across north Georgia where the highest net changes in unemployment rates exist.
- AMERICAN FORESTS, the Washington, DC-based nonprofit, has announced the online nomination form for the program: *America's Historic Tree Register*. American Forests made the first reference to historic trees in their magazine in 1917, where they have solicited and received historic tree nominations for many years. To learn more, go to www.Americanforests.org.
- Remember, GUFC also has a tree register – **THE GEORGIA LANDMARK & HISTORIC TREE REGISTER**. The primary purpose of the GUFC register is to locate, document and compile a record of all of the significant trees across Georgia and to raise public awareness of the importance of trees to Georgia's rich history and heritage. Trees recognized in this register fall into two categories: 1) **Landmark** – trees that are an integral part of an individual community and its heritage; and/or 2) **Historic** – those trees in Georgia that are important to the culture and history of the state or nation. To learn more about the GUFC Landmark & Historic Tree Register, see a list of registered trees, and download an application, visit www.gufc.org.

Third Quarterly Tree Ordinance Program Draws Attendees From Around State

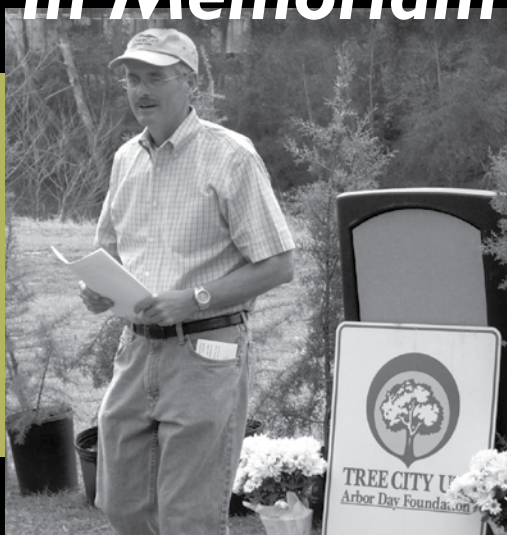
89 people registered for THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE UGLY OF TREE ORDINANCES: Achieving Your Community Forest Vision, GUFC's Third Quarterly Program on August 19 at the Chattahoochee Nature Center in Roswell. At this program, Consulting Arborist **Connie Head** of Technical Forestry Services led attendees through the tools and techniques for tree ordinance development and revision. After lunch, roundtable discussions included topics such as boundary tree issues, ordinance applicability, ordinances and tree risk, the relationship between ordinances and land use planning, parking lots, enforcement, tree banks, canopy cover standards, saving specimen trees and terminology. Roswell Mayor **Jere Wood** was a special guest and described the benefits of a good tree ordinance and greenspace for his city. Photos and a copy of Connie Head's presentation can be found at www.gufc.org.



Is Your Urban Forest Storm-Ready?

Georgia Forestry Commission (GFC) is preparing for storm season by training the **Sustainable Community Forestry Program (SCFP)** staff to assist communities after a storm strikes as part of an organized Urban Forest Strike Team. First however, GFC can help get your community storm-ready by helping to write a community forest management plan. The UFST of certified arborists arrives about 6 weeks after the storm and analyzes each tree, street by street using your community management plan, a Risk Assessment Protocol, tree inventory and GIS. The data collected is used to assist FEMA with debris management. Contact your local GFC Forester for more information.

In Memoriam



Pete Ranalet making a presentation at the 2008 Macon Arbor Day Ceremony on the Ocmulgee River.

Peter Ranalet died Wednesday, August 19, 2009. He was a forester, a member of the Georgia Forestry Association, and a past member of the Georgia Urban Forest Council during his time as urban forester for the City of Macon. Born August 6, 1953 in Trieste, Italy, Pete is survived by his wife, LuAnn Ranalet and children, Christina Ranalet and Louie Ranalet of Monroe County. The Georgia Urban Forest Council offers its sincerest condolences to the Ranalet family upon their loss.

**GUFC'S 19TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE & AWARDS PROGRAM,
TREES & TRANSPORTATION:**

The Urban Forest's Role in the Safety, Health, & Quality of Life Along Georgia's Roadways

NOVEMBER 4 & 5, 2009

STOCKBRIDGE, GA

(See page 3 for details.)

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FALL 2009

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