

# TREE TALKS

Georgia Urban Forest Council



## FALL 2010

### **GUFC ANNUAL CONFERENCE & AWARDS PROGRAM**

**NOVEMBER 17-18**

**REGISTRATION:** Just \$99 for everyone! Full-time college student rate also. **The Classic Center** is located at 300 N. Thomas Street, Athens, Georgia 30601. Register at [www.gufc.org](http://www.gufc.org).

**LODGING:** The **Hilton Garden Inn**, across the street from the Classic Center, has designated a block of hotel rooms for GUFC Conference attendees, at the rate of \$109 per double or king room. Conference attendees can make hotel reservations at this rate by calling **706-353-6800**. The address for the Hilton Garden Inn is 390 E. Washington Street, Athens, Georgia 30601.

**SCHOLARSHIPS** to the GUFC Annual Conference are available for Tree Boards and 501 (c) 3 nonprofit organizations. These are reimbursed scholarships, so you must pay the registration fee and attend the conference; immediately following the conference you or your organization will receive a \$99 reimbursement check. To download a scholarship application, visit [www.gufc.org](http://www.gufc.org).

**SPONSORSHIPS** of this conference are available. Visit [www.gufc.org](http://www.gufc.org) for more information.

## **GUFC 2010 ANNUAL CONFERENCE Smart Retail Development - Money Grows on Trees!**

*Research has proven that consumers spend more time and money at businesses with landscaping that includes trees. Many retail districts, however, struggle with incorporating trees into their development and also providing visibility for merchants or retaining healthy trees.*



The 20<sup>th</sup> Georgia Urban Forest Council Annual Conference, November 17 and 18 at Athens' Classic Center, will bring developers, property owners, business owners, city arborists, landscape architects, tree boards and others together for frank discussions on shopping/tree issues with a focus on ideas and solutions. Topics will include *Commercial Properties That Did It Right, Healthcare for Trees in Retail Areas, The Role of Trees in Stormwater Management in Retail Areas, Tree Selection and Design in Retail Areas, Trees and Signs can Co-Exist, Why Consumers Want Trees, Tools of Tree Conservation, Retrofitting Existing Shopping Centers with Trees*, and more. Don't miss this unique educational conference on topics rarely addressed. We'll also feature outstanding individuals and organizations at our Annual Awards Luncheon. We'll open with a bike ride and tree planting and close out with a tree tour on the University of Georgia campus. **Registration, lodging, scholarship, and sponsorship information are at left.** A detailed hour-by-hour agenda is posted on the GUFC website at [www.gufc.org](http://www.gufc.org). 7 ISA Arborist CEUs will be available. Forestry contact hours applied for. CEU certificates for Georgia Landscape Architects and all others will be available. Above photo courtesy of Site Solutions.

## President's Letter



As I write this article, it seems that Fall is finally in the air. With the night time temperatures in the high 40's and the day time highs in the 70's, it sure is a nice break from the 90 degree days that we all experienced this past summer. Even though I work outside around the trees every day, it seems like it's not until this time of the year that I actually get out and enjoy what Mother Nature has provided for us.

This time of year, it seems every weekend is full of outdoor activities. My two sons are in Boy Scouts, and their schedules are loaded with camping opportunities from now until Spring. Both of them will be attending the "Walk in the Forest" in November at Stone Mountain Park. This is an opportunity for Boy Scouts to work on the Forestry Merit Badge; the Webelos will work on their Forestry Pin, and the Girl Scouts will also work on advancements for themselves. For the Forestry Merit Badge, my oldest son had to create a field notebook that, among other things, had to include a collection of at least 15 tree species and a description about them. I have enjoyed watching him learn about the different trees that we have found and especially those that he was not already familiar with, like the Gingko and Sassafras trees. I encourage each of you to teach a youngster or even an adult about the benefits of trees and introduce them to your profession or to at least your passion so that they too may "fall" in love with trees.

If you have not already, make plans to attend the GUFCA Annual Conference to be held in Athens, GA this November 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. I encourage you to register now at [www.gufc.org](http://www.gufc.org) and join us for a great visit to a wonderful city. We hope to at least create dialogue between city officials, developers, property managers and tenants on ideas and suggestions about designing retail developments that meet city and county tree ordinances and still allow for the visibility that property managers and tenants are looking for.

For those of you that are not familiar with the American Grove and Georgia Grove websites, both created by our very own Georgia Forestry Commission and the Georgia Urban Forest Council, I ask that each of you visit [www.AmericanGrove.org](http://www.AmericanGrove.org) and join this site and our state grove group as well. Not only will you enjoy the conversations and information that is shared, but if you join before November 30<sup>th</sup> you will help the GUFCA in winning \$1000! Unlike Facebook, old friends that you haven't seen in 30 years won't be looking you up, but you will meet others that share the same desire to promote trees throughout our wonderful state.

### Rusty Lee

*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, 14<sup>th</sup> and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410.*

## From the Executive Director

Have you ever talked with a business owner who was concerned about trees barring his sign from public view? Has your city struggled to make trees and businesses co-exist? We plan to address many shopping/trees issues at the GUFCA Annual Conference November 17-18 at the Classic Center in Athens. "Smart Retail Development: Money Grows on Trees!" will feature commercial properties that incorporate trees in their design; tree selection and design, as well as healthcare, for trees in retail areas; what consumers want; tools of tree conservation; and much more. We'll honor individuals and groups with the Excellence in Urban Forestry awards, talk with exhibitors with products and services for the urban forest; and close things out with a UGA campus tour of trees. Registration is now open at [www.gufc.org](http://www.gufc.org). **Attending the GUFCA Annual Conference is a wonderful way to increase your knowledge, meet new tree enthusiast friends, and get inspired for the coming year. I hope to see you there.**

Mary Lynne Beckley

# City of Atlanta Receives Municipal Forestry Accreditation from the Society of Municipal Arborists

*Atlanta is first municipality in Georgia; fifth in the nation*

ATLANTA --- The City of Atlanta is the latest community to join a prestigious group of municipalities to be accredited by the Society of Municipal Arborists (SMA.) SMA Accreditation is the highest honor for municipal urban forestry programs, obtained by following a professional approach to tree management.



SMA Accredited programs have a certified municipal specialist on staff, have an approved Local Forest Master Plan, are Tree City USA growth award recipients, show private contract preference for accredited tree care companies, adhere to industry standards for safety and performance, and adhere to SMA's Code of Ethics.

"The SMA accreditation is yet another example of the City of Atlanta's commitment to excellence," said Mayor Kasim Reed. "I commend the members of the city's Arborist Division and the Office of Parks for their dedication and willingness to sharpen their skills and achieve the highest professional standards for the benefit of the citizens of Atlanta."

The City of Atlanta is the first municipality to be accredited in the state of Georgia, and fifth nationwide, joining the cities of Aspen, Colorado; Glencoe, Illinois; Arlington, Texas; and Downers Grove, Illinois. The SMA accreditation is renewable every five years.

To obtain SMA accreditation, the Department of Planning and Community Development met the following requirements:

1. Program must have at least one ISA Certified Arborist (ISA certification requires a 4-hour comprehensive examination) on staff, with an ISA Certified Municipal Specialist preferred (a specialist is a higher level designation that requires passing an additional two-hour exam focused exclusively on municipal arboriculture).
2. Program must have a Forest Master Plan approved by appropriate local body.
3. Program must be a current Tree City USA (this criterion must be maintained annually to maintain accreditation).
4. Program must have a National Arbor Day Foundation Growth Award, in at least one of the past five years.
5. Program must show preference to Tree Care Industry Association Accredited tree care companies when private arborists are contracted.
6. Program must incorporate American National Safety Institute (ANSI) Z133.1 safety standards.
7. Program must incorporate ANSI A300 tree care performance standards.
8. Program must pledge adherence to the SMA Code of Ethics and to promote SMA objectives.

With a growing appreciation for the value of green infrastructure, communities across the nation are taking steps to maintain their trees, which unlike other parts of a city's infrastructure, actually increase in value. A healthy urban forest provides many benefits for cities, including beautification, reduction of the urban heat island effect, reduction of stormwater runoff, reduction of air pollution, reduction of energy costs through increased shade over buildings, improved wildlife habitat, and mitigation of overall urban environmental impact. In addition, research has shown that city trees can improve real estate values, attract shoppers, improve worker productivity, reduce crime, reduce hospital stay, and improve children's school performance.

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## **City of Atlanta Receives Municipal Forestry Accreditation from the Society of Municipal Arborists Continued from page 3**

“This accreditation recognizes the dedication that Mayor Kasim Reed and the city’s arborists have given to the City of Atlanta and the care of its urban forest,” said SMA President Gene Hyde. “By adhering to accreditation standards and following best management practices, your urban forest will continue to grow in value and benefit the citizens of Atlanta for generations to come.”

### **About the City of Atlanta’s Arboricultural Programs**

The City of Atlanta Arborist Division is housed within the Department of Planning and Community Development, led by Commissioner James Shelby. The Arborist Division is responsible for trees located on private property. There are three field arborists (two permanent), conducting 3,500 – 4,000 site inspections annually. Six members of staff are International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Certified Arborists. Of those, there is one ISA Municipal Specialist. He is one of five in the state of GA. One staff member is a Certified Tree Risk Assessor.



The Office of Parks is housed within the Department of Parks, Recreation & Cultural Affairs and has two ISA Certified Arborists on staff. The Office of Parks is responsible for trees located in city parks and other public space.

### **About SMA**

The Society of Municipal Arborists ([www.urban-forestry.com](http://www.urban-forestry.com)) is a not-for-profit international organization of municipal arborists, urban and community foresters, members of tree boards, tree wardens, consultants, municipal officials, and students who are involved in the professional management of trees where over 114 million people live, work, and play. SMA leads the world in building the confidence, competence, and camaraderie of the family of professionals who create and sustain community forests.

For more information about this and services of the City of Atlanta visit their website at [www.atlantaga.gov](http://www.atlantaga.gov) or watch City Channel 26.

## **A Walk in the Forest for Scouts**

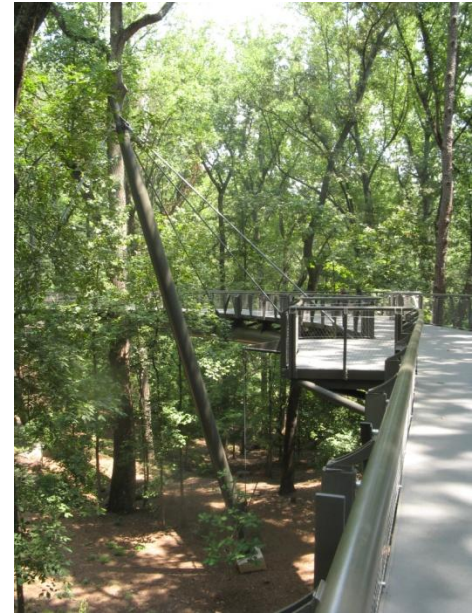
On Saturday, November 13, The Chattahoochee Chapter of the Society of American Foresters and Stone Mountain Memorial Association are hosting a one-day event at Stone Mountain Park for Metro-Atlanta Boy and Girl Scouts to help them earn the Forestry Merit Badge, Webelos Forester Activity Pin, Earth Connections Badge and a portion of the “Breathe” Leadership Journey or Wildlife IPA. Scouts will work with local foresters to learn about the benefits of trees and forests and the forestry profession. A Walk in the Forest will include nature walks and educational stations on Tree Identification, Trees and Wildlife, Watersheds, Forest Fire and Safety, Forest Products and Wood Samples, Forest Insects and Diseases, Urban Forestry and How to Plant a Tree. **Sponsored by the Georgia Forestry Commission and various corporations, this popular event is completely full this year!**



## GUFC Members Enjoy Ramble and Talk at Atlanta Botanical Garden's Canopy Walk



On August 10, Arboguard Tree Specialists President Spence Rosenfeld (upper right photo) and Atlanta Botanical Garden's Woodland Garden Curator Jamie Blackburn (lower left photo) led GUFC Members on a morning talk and tour of the tree preservation at the ABG's new Canopy Walk. Attendees of the tour saw firsthand the spectacular results of the innovative arboricultural techniques, as well as the planning, design, and construction that all worked to protect the trees in Storza Woods for this exciting project.



Did you know that the GUFC website is loaded with presentations on urban forestry topics? Visit [www.gufc.org/resources/presentations](http://www.gufc.org/resources/presentations) to learn about such topics as

- Trees and Transportation
- Greening a City's Infrastructure
- Inventorying Your Urban Forest
- Basic Tree Care
- The Science of Trees and Human Health & Well-being
- Trees, Urban Design, and Stormwater Management ...

and many more!

# GUFC's First Annual College Canopy Conference Launches Unique Educational Opportunity

GUFC's First Annual College Conference on September 28 at Macon State College was an enjoyable and informative day for attendees, who ranged from college and university physical plant managers, landscape directors, and grounds crews to community volunteers, arborists, landscape architects, nursery managers, and others who know the importance of healthy campus trees. Topics covered included the importance of tree inventories, best management practices, trees and security and the Tree Campus USA program. Special guest speakers included Dan Lambe and Mary Widhelm from the Arbor Day Foundation who explained the required standards and definite benefits of the Tree Campus USA program which began in 2008.



Representatives from a wide range of Georgia colleges and universities were in attendance, including Augusta State University, Gainesville State College, Wesleyan College, Georgia Southwestern State University, University of Georgia, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, Mercer University, Kennesaw State University, Gwinnett Technical College, West Georgia Technical College, Dalton State College, Shorter University, Georgia Perimeter College, Emory University, and the conference host, Macon State College.



Many thanks to the sponsors of this conference - Arboguard Tree Specialists; Bartlett Tree Experts; Bold Spring Nursery; Davey Resource Group; Hughes, Good, O'Leary & Ryan Landscape Architects; jB+a, inc.; Moon's Tree Farm, and Macon State College and our partner, the Georgia Forestry Commission.




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## Here's what attendees are saying about GUFC's first annual College Canopy Conference:

*"Great opportunity to network and build awareness about Tree Campus USA and best management practices...."*

*"Hats off to GUFC and the sponsors, also to Macon State College, for an informative conference."*

*"I enjoyed the conference and learned a great deal about the Tree Campus USA program as well as the importance of a thorough tree inventory ..."*

*"Hope to come back next year!"*

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# Emerald Ash Borer Found in Tennessee – What Does This Mean for Georgia?



A destructive, exotic insect that attacks and kills ash trees, has been discovered near Knoxville, Tennessee. Because the emerald ash borer (EAB) pest is federally-regulated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, a mandatory quarantine has been implemented in the area. The quarantine prohibits the movement of ash firewood, logs, seedlings, or any ash wood product.

“If this destructive insect reaches our state boundaries, Georgia stands to lose a significant ash resource,” explains GFC’s Chief of Forest Management James Johnson. “While no EAB have been discovered in Georgia yet, this

Tennessee find is too close for comfort.”

White and green ash are the most common ash species found in Georgia. White ash is established in moist upland and lowland forests in the mountains and piedmont, and is a valuable timber tree used for furniture, veneer, interior finish, baseball bats, railroad ties, tool handles and fuel. Green ash is found throughout the state, but mostly in lowland areas. While its wood is considered inferior to the white ash because it is more brittle and less resilient, green ash is used for some of the same purposes as white ash. Carolina ash, pumpkin ash and blue ash are also found in Georgia but are much less common. All species of North American ash appear to be susceptible to EAB. Georgia has ash trees growing on approximately 1.35 million acres of forest land, with an estimated stumpage value of \$364 million. About 2.9 million ash trees are found in Georgia’s urban and community forests and have a value of \$725 million.

“The Georgia Forestry Commission and other cooperators currently have around 120 EAB traps to detect the pest scattered throughout the state, and similar trappings has been conducted for the past four years,” says Johnson. “Movement of infested firewood is one way EAB is spread. The GFC has worked closely with state parks to help educate visitors about the very real dangers of moving forest pests via firewood.”

There are several signs to look for when identifying EAB. Adult beetles are metallic green and about one-half inch long. The larvae are segmented and creamy white in color and feed inside the tree between the wood and bark. Woodpeckers like to feed on EAB larvae, so heavy woodpecker damage on ash trees may be a sign of an infestation. Once the larvae mature into adults, they chew their way out of the tree, leaving “D” shaped exit holes in the bark. Tree canopy dieback will begin in the top third of the tree and continue until the tree is completely dead. Depending on the level of infestation, tree death usually occurs within three to four years for larger trees. Additional information can be found at <http://www.emeraldashborer.info/>.

Detecting this problem early is critical to the health of your trees as well as the health of Georgia’s 24 million acres of forest land. If you suspect EAB has infested trees in Georgia, contact your local Georgia Forestry Commission office or call 1-800-GATREES.

*(photo by David Cappaert, courtesy of www.bugwood.org)*

**If you suspect EAB has infested trees in Georgia, contact your local Georgia Forestry Commission office or call 1-800-GATREES.**

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**STATE VS STATE**  
competition

The State Grove Group that gets the most new members from **Sept. 1 - Nov. 30** wins **\$1,000** for its nonprofit forestry council.

**Invite your friends to join today!**



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