



SUMMER 2010

WORKSHOP: Tree Risk Assessment and Risk Management

Speaker: Rob Swanson, Certified Arborist, Specimen Tree, LLC
Date and Time: July 8, 2010, 9 a.m. to noon
Location: Macon Museum of Arts & Sciences, 4182 Forsyth Road, Macon

GUFC Third Quarterly Program

Trees and Green Infrastructure
– a Proven Investment in your
Community's Future

Time and Date: August 19, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Location: Georgia Forestry Commission
Headquarters, 5645 Riggins Mill Road,
Dry Branch (Macon) 31020
Speakers: Dudley Hartel, USDA Forest
Service; Gary White and Daniel Westcot,
Georgia Forestry Commission

The 2010 College Tree Canopy Conference

Date: September 28, 2010
Time: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Location: Macon State College, 100
College Station Drive, Macon, GA 31206
Registration Fee: \$50 per person.
Register at www.gufc.org.
Lunch included.



Join us for GUFC'S Summer Programs **Tree Risk Assessment and Risk Management Workshop**

In this three-hour workshop, attendees will learn about Risk Assessment - the process by which whole trees and their parts are systematically evaluated for their potential to fail and do damage and/or injury; Risk Management - the active application of information found in the assessment to limit the liability associated with tree risk; Failure Potential - the likelihood that a tree or part of a tree will no longer function as a living tree within a given amount of time; Load - forces that act on trees causing them to exceed their ability to withstand those forces; and Target - people, as well as things deemed of value, that could be impacted by the failure of the tree and its parts. Registrants will also learn more about Tree Inspection, Tree Decay, Mitigation, Liability and Negligence, among other important tree risk and risk management topics. CEUs: 3 ISA Arborist, 2.5 SAF Forester, 1 Pesticide per categories 23 and 24. Registration is \$30 for members and \$40 for non-members.

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At this program, we'll learn more about: **The Value of Working Forests:** the definition and benefits, including the cost of environmental services studies, the value to communities, and the value of privately managed lands to the public. **An Introduction to Green Infrastructure:** the basics of green infrastructure development with an example from Gainesville, Georgia. This section will focus on "retrofitting" green infrastructure into urban areas and the role of private lands and property. **Tools for Green Infrastructure Planning:** a look at canopy studies, i-Tree Eco use, and other sources of data. **Green Infrastructure along Coastal Georgia:** the coastal redesign project on green infrastructure planning.

Registration is \$30 for members and \$40 for non-members. Lunch is included. CEUs will be available. Register for all Georgia Urban Forest Council educational programs at www.gufc.org.

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President's Letter

The calendar says that the first day of summer is June 21st. Well, I don't know about you, but when the thermometer reaches 90 degrees and higher, it is hard for me to think that summer has not already arrived. My wife and children have been trying to persuade me to take a vacation and head to the beach while they are out of school for the summer. Maybe it is just me, but when you work in the heat all day long, the last place you want to be is sitting on the beach in the hot sun. I would much rather be sitting on the edge of a clear running trout stream in the shaded North Georgia mountains drinking a glass of sweet tea under the canopy of a giant Hemlock.

After attending a very informative seminar recently at the Chattahoochee Nature Center in Roswell, provided by our very own Georgia Urban Forest Council and with Georgia Forestry Commission experts Scott Griffin and James Johnson teaching, my eyes were opened to what we need to be on the lookout for regarding invasive insects and diseases. They hammered home the importance of keeping our trees healthy so that they have a better chance at defending themselves from these new pests. Between our already healthy population of insects and diseases that we face and the infiltration of these new pests, it makes one wonder if somebody has it out for our beautiful forests.

Ironically, while I write this article, I get a phone call from one of my clients with a request to evaluate a State Champion tree for the city in which it resides. (I can't say which one or that would be too obvious). You would hope that the evaluation would be to assure that the tree is healthy and to see if there is anything that it needs, right? Well, like so many people that I run across, the local citizens in this city are trying to figure out a way to "enjoy" this tree even more. They are considering adding a gazebo or benches for a sitting area to get closer to the tree. As we have seen on numerous occasions, their love for this tree could be the final straw that kills it. We will go out as certified arborists to consult and advise these folks on what to do, and more importantly, what not to do to assure the health of this tree. Will they listen or will they keep going down the list until they find someone that doesn't understand proper tree health and give them that sitting area they so desire? Who knows, but we will do our best to save another monarch from being "loved to death."

With the recent forest pests information provided by the Georgia Forestry Commission and the desire of people to interact with trees regardless of the consequences, one wonders if we will have trees and urban forests in our future. This shows the importance of more training and encouraging our younger generation to take over the reins and enter the field of urban forestry to protect our living giants. As always, my phone line is on if there is anything that I can help you with.

Rusty Lee

From the Executive Director

The weather report this morning calls for temperatures to be in the mid-nineties today. Summer has arrived with a vengeance. This is the time of year in Georgia when I am most intensely aware of the environmental, economic, and health benefits we receive from trees. I desperately hunt for that rare parking spot shaded by a tree; I walk my dog only in parks cooled by trees or along tree-lined streets in cooler hours; and even though my home air conditioning system clicks on a little more than I would like it to, I still know that the big canopy trees in my yard are working hard to cool my house as much as they can. Can you imagine summer in Georgia – or anywhere - without trees?

And speaking of saluting the good work of trees, I am pleased to report that AmericanGrove.org has been launched and is growing in popularity. This website, created by the GUFC and the Georgia Forestry Commission, now has pages for all thirteen southern states, and allows everyone to send messages, post videos and photos, and write about their love of trees. From May 3 to June 1, the number of visitors to AmericanGrove.org grew from 423 to 2140. Log on today, create your profile, join a group, and share your love of trees with everyone.

It's the middle of the year, but GUFC still has five more educational programs scheduled. Visit our organizational website, www.gufc.org, for detailed descriptions of all programs and to conveniently register. Do you need to know more about identifying and managing at-risk trees? Do you want to be a part of bringing trees and green infrastructure to your city's overall planning? Are you a college facility manager wanting to make trees a priority on your campus? Are you a homeowner wanting to restore your backyard to its natural, healthy state? We have educational programs for all of that and more. Visit our website and sign up for a program today.

Mary Lynne Beckley

Arboguard Tree Specialists complete tree preservation work for Atlanta Botanical Garden's Canopy Walk

Arboguard Tree Specialists has completed its work as lead Arborist during the construction phase of the Canopy Walk at the Atlanta Botanical Garden. The walk opened to the public May 1st.

Spence Rosenfeld, Arboguard President, commented, "This is the most extraordinary and innovative tree protection and preservation project we've undertaken in our 30 year history. We worked with Garden Management, architects, and contractors for over two years to protect these trees, some of which are native southern specimens over 100 years old."



Arboguard's tree preservation work in progress

"Like Arboguard, we know an important part of the experience at the Garden is the beauty of the native trees that were here long before we were", added Mary Pat Matheson, the Garden's Executive Director.

www.atlantabotanicalgarden.org.

On the Canopy Walk, visitors to the Atlanta Botanical Garden can now tour one of the city's last remaining urban forests--From 40 feet in the Air! The Result: A bird's-eye view of the beauty of the woodland below.

Extending 600 feet from a bluff into the branches of oaks, hickories and poplars, the unique reverse suspension bridge is considered the only tree canopy-level walkway of its kind in the United States.

Said Rosenfeld, "It's important to remember that in our busy urban world, we live among trees. This Walk helps serve as a reminder of why we need to live responsibly and keep them safe, healthy, and beautiful. The Canopy Walk is an example of environmentally sensitive construction. As you can imagine, it's incredibly difficult to build something like this in the middle of the woods."

Examples of steps that were taken to avoid damage to the trees:

- ▶ All impact to trees, roots, and the soil ecosystem was controlled and minimized to avoid damage or disturbance.
- ▶ Critical root zones were mapped, and access and installations were designed to protect roots and soil.
- ▶ Equipment was contained to temporary access roads built from suspended timbers and protective weight dispersion mats.
- ▶ Walkways are suspended over root zones using piers and anchors, or a technique called "root bridging" that uses expanded slate and geo-textile fabric to prevent soil compaction.
- ▶ Trenching for utilities was replaced by "Air Spade excavation" to blow soil away from roots and thread lines beneath them without damage.
- ▶ Hundreds of tons of steel and concrete were required. Through careful planning, design, and construction, this structure shows how we can build while working to protect nature and trees. It all starts with a simple commitment and understanding that much of what we don't see, the roots, must be protected from activities that cut, fill, or compact delicate soils.
- ▶ Rosenfeld stated, "If we take care of trees, they will take care of us, and make the world a better place for ourselves and for future generations."

About Arboguard Tree Specialists: Headquartered in Avondale Estates (Atlanta) Georgia, Arboguard Tree Specialists is the largest independently owned and operated tree Care Company in the southeast US.

Since 1981, Arboguard has been the consistent leader and innovator in natural tree care, preservation, and beautification. They have done so through knowledge, technology, commitment, consistent service excellence and understanding the critical role of trees in improving the quality of where we live, where we work, and where we play.



Arboguard Tree Specialists, Inc.

P.O. Box 477

Avondale Estates, GA 30002

Phone: 404-299-5555

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Contact: Spence Rosenfeld, President

www.arboguard.com

Call for nominations

GUFC's Georgia Urban Forestry Awards 2010

The Georgia Urban Forest Council proudly announces the 2010 Georgia Urban Forestry Awards program. Annually, as part of its mission to sustain Georgia's green legacy by helping communities grow healthy trees, GUFC enthusiastically rewards individuals, organizations, businesses, municipalities, and counties for outstanding work in protecting and enhancing our community forests. It is our goal that this awards program continues to give back to those who have been concerned about a healthy urban forest and also raises community awareness of the importance of these projects.

Outstanding work, whether public or private, is eligible for nomination. Individuals, non-profit organizations, businesses, municipalities and counties, schools, civic groups, and others are welcomed and encouraged to make nominations in more than one category. A nominee does not have to be a member of the Georgia Urban Forest Council. The awards program is open to all who have made a contribution to the urban forest in our communities. Award recipients of this year's Georgia Urban Forestry Awards will be recognized at GUFC's 2010 Annual Conference Awards Luncheon on November 18, 2010 at the Classic Center in Athens, Georgia.

One Grand Award is given to each of the following categories: 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 nominations is September 15. To download a nomination form, please visit www.gufo.org.

Georgia Statewide Forest Resources Assessment and Strategy

The 2008 Farm Bill requires state forestry agencies to complete a Statewide Forest Resources Assessment and Strategy by June 2010. This Assessment will provide a comprehensive analysis of forest-related conditions, trends, threats and opportunities in the state and delineate priorities within rural and urban forest landscapes. Additionally, states must develop long term strategies for investing federal, state and other resources to manage these identified priority landscapes and issues while meeting national, regional and state themes or guidance.

The final Georgia Statewide Forest Resources Assessment and Strategy will be available by the end of June 2010. Thank you to everyone who submitted comments on the draft. For more information, visit <http://www.gfc.state.ga.us/ForestManagement/GAForestResourceAssessmentStrategy.cfm>.

Gary White named SCFP Program Coordinator

Gary White was recently promoted to Program Coordinator of the Sustainable Community Forestry Program (SCFP) within the Georgia Forestry Commission (GFC). Gary is taking over Larry Morris's role in the program after Larry's retirement from the GFC. A major mission of SCFP is to provide technical and financial assistance to help improve livability in cities and communities by managing urban forest resources to promote a healthy ecosystem

Gary has a diverse work history – both within the GFC and outside. He's a West Virginia University forester by training and served two years as a Peace Corps forestry volunteer in Burkina Faso, West Africa. Gary began his GFC career as a Chief Ranger in the Milledgeville District in 1988. He later became a Chief Ranger / Forester in the Gainesville District. Gary also spent several years as a timber buyer in northeast Georgia with Canal Wood.

In 2001 he returned to the GFC to coordinate a pilot project funded by a federal grant as Wildland-Urban Interface Coordinator in White County, where he was instrumental in developing a program within the GFC to address the needs of the changing demographics of the modern Georgia landowner and community with the goal of integrating both forest management and fire protection. In 2004 the GFC established the Sustainable Community Forestry Program, and Gary became the northeastern zone regional forester for this new program.

City of Albany Arbor Day Event Focuses on Median Plantings

The City of Albany held its Arbor Day Event on Saturday, February 20th, 2010 at 9:30AM on the 100-300 Blocks of Ingleside Drive in Albany. With the theme, "Right Tree, Right Place," the plantings took place in the medians with Jim Wagner, an ISA-certified arborist and Georgia Power utility arborist,

in attendance. Completing last year's medians planting, a total 42 trees were planted, including B & B Common Smoketrees, B & B Bottlebrush Buckeyes, 3-gallon "Henry's Garnet" Virginia Sweetspires" and 3-gallon "Myrtle Hollies." Assisting with the plantings were volunteers from Georgia Power's Plant Mitchell, the Albany Police Department, Darton College, Keep Albany-Dougherty Beautiful, City of Albany's Recreation & Parks Department, and Turner Job Corps. Also in attendance were three Albany City Commissioners and the Mayor Pro Temp.



The City of Albany plants trees for Arbor Day.

New Design Manual: Road to a Thoughtful Street Tree Master Plan

This free book details how to design beautiful and functional street tree plantings

This full-color, 91 page design manual will help replace many of the subjective decisions made during street tree design and plant selection with objective criteria. The manual is intended to assist communities and planners in selecting the best trees for their available planting sites (if the sites can support trees), and also to use specific principles of street tree design to most effectively create public green spaces, positively affect traffic patterns, and create healthy living spaces. The design manual presents a matrix of questions to help the user select the best plants for the area, and poses enough questions that issues of spacing, placement relative to travel corridors, and a wide variety of design elements will be resolved. The selection philosophy includes not only whether the tree is hardy enough, but whether it can achieve the design goals in its intended location. A well-placed tree in a well-designed landscape will require less maintenance and yield more benefits for the community. The manual is available online at http://www.myminnesotawoods.umn.edu/wp-content/uploads/2008/12/Street-Tree-Manual.REVISED_20082.pdf. A limited number of CDs are also available for a nominal fee.

To request a CD, contact Gary Johnson at 612-625-3765 or johns054@umn.edu.
(information from www.urbanforestrysouth.org)

Mark your Calendar for: The 2010 College Tree Canopy Conference

This unique conference is for college and university physical plant managers, landscape directors, staff, and administrators who know the value of maintaining healthy trees on their campuses. Learn more about tree

inventory assessments, maintenance, trees and security, and the Tree Campus USA Program.

Special guest speaker: Dan Lambe, The National Arbor Day Foundation. Presented by the Georgia Urban Forest Council

Sponsored by Bartlett Tree Experts; Bold Spring Nursery; The Davey Tree Expert Company; Hughes, Good, O'Leary & Ryan Landscape Architects; Moon's Tree Farm, and Macon State College.

Date: September 28, 2010

Time: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Location: Macon State College, 100 College Station Drive, Macon, GA 31206

Registration Fee: \$50 per person. Register at www.gufc.org. Lunch included.



GUFC Website – Your One-Stop Shop for Urban Forestry Resources

The Georgia Urban Forest Council web page, www.gufc.org, continues to evolve and get the word out to the public about the importance and care of urban trees. Over the first four months of 2010, [gufc.org](http://www.gufc.org) averaged more than ten thousand visits per month. Improvements include a blog for tree discussions, a homeowners section, and an expanded resource page to include presentations from our programs. New content for homeowners include articles on droughts, storms, invasive plant removal, tree planting, tree fertilization, and tree benefits. We also have made the site more useful to members of the urban forestry community with new content/presentations on ordinances, canopy studies, inventories, and storm water. "Who are the LOHAS, and Why Should the Green Industry Care?" and the "Build Greener!" videos are posted. Upcoming projects will include mapping historic and landmark trees and more videos. Our website also includes links to some of the other important tree resources like treelink.org, arborday.org, and treesaregood.com. If you have an article for the website that you'd like to submit for consideration, please send it to neil@gufc.org.

The Grove

Calling all tree conservationists in the South! Join The Grove now to swap tree planting stories with other enthusiasts.

By popular demand, Georgia recently expanded its new social networking platform, The Grove (www.GeorgiaGrove.org), to 12 additional states: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia.

Now, not only do foresters, rangers, parks staff, tree care experts and tree lovers in Georgia have the opportunity to share stories about their favorite trees and tree planting experiences in this online community, but so can anyone by joining The Grove at www.AmericanGrove.org.

The new and improved Grove community still offers tree care information and planting tips, and the popular "tree match tool" to help choose a tree to commemorate a special event, such as a birth, marriage, graduation or holiday. In addition, the site has expanded the capacity of the photo and video galleries, added blogging, event postings, quizzes, contests and challenges. Coming soon, the site will have an "ask the experts" question and answer session featuring Grove members.

The American Grove was launched on National Arbor Day, April 30, 2010. In the first two months after launch, more than 190 members joined and spent an average of more than 7 minutes on the site. Since the site has a regional audience of members generally interested in healthy lifestyles, living green, sustainability and outdoor activities, the opportunities for corporate sponsorship of The Grove are numerous.

Many businesses today have corporate social responsibility initiatives that align with the green message of planting trees advocated by The Grove. Sponsorship opportunities for The Grove include ads and e-mail blasts for periods of 3 to 12 months for \$1,000 to \$3,000 for state group pages, or for \$1,750 to \$10,000 in the main online community. Contact your state's Urban Forest Council for details. These sponsorships maintain The Grove and state urban forest councils and help us to plant more trees to increase urban forest canopy in our vastly urbanizing areas.

Take a look at what's going on in The Grove and on your state's grove group page. Share your photos, post stories about the work you are doing and invite your friends and family to join us as well.

A note to citizens of the Florida Grove sums up how we feel about the online community: "Carry the spirit of The Grove into your everyday life. Plant trees to remember special occasions; plant trees to watch them grow; and plant trees to make the world around you a better place."

This project was made possible by a grant from the U.S. Forest Service, the Georgia Forestry Commission and the Georgia Urban Forest Council.



THE GROVE
plant your legacy

AmericanGrove.org

The Grove is an online community that allows families and friends to share in the experience of building a legacy by planting a tree to commemorate special life moments. Users can share memories by uploading pictures and stories of tree planting experiences.

Visit www.AmericanGrove.org to build your profile today!

Funded by the U.S. Forest Service, Georgia Forestry Commission and the Georgia Urban Forest Council

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Funded by the U.S. Forest Service, Georgia Forestry Commission and the Georgia Urban Forest Council



The First Annual ArborJam is a Success!

ArborJam 2010 raised funds for the Georgia Urban Forest Council and the Georgia Arborist Association and featured barbeque, the famous brews of Atlanta's Sweetwater Brewing Company, a silent auction, and the great sounds of Jackson County Line. 129 people attended this year. Thank you to our attendees, sponsors, and silent auction donors for helping our first annual event to be a success. Sponsors: Gotcha Design, Atlanta Intown, Sylvia Small Communications, Craftsmen Printing, 404-Cut-Tree, Eric King Landscaping, the Beer Connoisseur, Bartlett Tree Experts, and Decatur News Online. See photos at <http://www.gufc.org/arborjam>.



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