

# TREE TALKS

Georgia Urban Forest Council



## WINTER 2011

### TREE MAINTENANCE WORKSHOPS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS PRESENTED IN FEBRUARY, MARCH, APRIL

Presented by the Georgia Urban Forest Council and sponsored by the Georgia Forestry Commission, four "Tree Maintenance Workshops for Local Governments" are scheduled around the state. The instructors are Consulting Forester Connie Head of Technical Forestry Services and Registered Landscape Architect Gretchen Musser of Elements of Land Design. **These workshops are open to the public.**

**February 23, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.**  
**Wetlands Education Center at Gregory Park**  
600 Cedar Street  
**Richmond Hill, Georgia 31324**

**March 8, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.**  
**City Hall**  
465 Riley Road  
**Dahlonega, Georgia 30533**

**March 10, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.**  
**City Hall**  
110 W. Clarke Street  
**Oxford, Georgia 30054**

**April 7, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.**  
**City Hall**  
310 Bedell Avenue  
**Woodbine, Georgia**

Registration Fee: \$65  
Fee includes lunch and materials.  
Register at [www.gufc.org](http://www.gufc.org).  
**For details, see page 7.**

## GUFC FIRST QUARTERLY PROGRAM **Show Me the Money!** **Funding & Other Resources** **for Urban Forestry Projects**

*For the Georgia Urban Forest Council's First Quarterly Program on **February 24**, we're going to college – **Macon's Wesleyan College**, to be exact, which was chartered in 1836 and is the world's oldest women's college. Join us for our first program of the year, in a unique and historic setting.*



At this program, we'll learn about applying for grants through philanthropic foundations, approaching businesses for partnerships, some basic "Dos and Don'ts" of grant writing, a training and equipment loan program for accomplishing tree inventories, and the Wesleyan Arboretum, 100 acres of mixed pine and hardwood forest lying within the boundaries of Wesleyan College's suburban campus. Speakers will include Jennifer Wells, Program Officer, Community Foundation of Central Georgia; Dawn Freelin, Wesleyan College's Director of Annual Giving; David Berle, Associate Professor, University of Georgia; and Dr. James Ferrari, Wesleyan College Biology Department. Wesleyan College is located at 4760 Forsyth Road, Macon, Georgia 31210, and the GUFC program will be held in the Taylor Hall auditorium. Weather permitting, we'll tour a portion of the Wesleyan College Arboretum project, the site of many ecological research projects.

Registration: \$35 members, \$45 non-members. Lunch included. ISA CEUs: 3 Arborist, Municipal, and BCMA Management; 3 SAF Contact Hours. Certificate of Attendance available for all. Register at [www.gufc.org](http://www.gufc.org).

## President's Letter



Hello! I come before you as your President once again. Last year was a wonderful and exciting year to serve you, and I believe 2011 will be even more exciting. Your Board of Directors already has a long list of exciting seminars, quarterly meetings and conferences planned for this year that I am sure will be packed full of valuable information. We had a great conference back in November in Athens, GA and I believe many of us learned more about keeping trees in mind when building and managing commercial sites as well as retail establishments. It was nice to actually have some examples of sites that “did it right.”

I sure hope everyone has recovered from the week-long snow storm we had a few weeks ago. I haven't heard an official name put on it yet, like we have for the “Blizzard of '93,” but I am thinking this one sure deserves a good one. I can't remember snow and ice remaining on Atlanta streets for more than three days much less five or six. Well I guess that is where the phrase, “if you don't like Georgia's weather just wait a few hours” comes from, since a week or so later we reached 60 degrees. It looks like we once again narrowly missed a major ice storm which could have spelled havoc to our trees.

I recently attended the Georgia Arborist Association's State Tree Climbing Championships held January 29<sup>th</sup> at Davidson-Arabia Nature Preserve in Lithonia, GA. It was a great pleasure to see the talent of men and women that competed in the day's events. While having climbed trees some myself, I could completely appreciate the ability these folks had and was amazed at how fast and efficient they made tree climbing and working in trees look. Most of the competitors had youth on their side, but they gave me the idea that maybe I could still climb. I have a feeling that my body is going to think otherwise once I start back. If you have never had the chance to witness a tree climbing competition, I encourage you to find one and make plans to attend. I am sure you, too, will be impressed and amazed at how effortlessly the climbers make it look. I will be in Savannah, GA later this month to attend the North American Tree Climbing Competition as part of the North American Tree Conference. This event is said to attract the top tree climbers in North America, so the action should be impressive.

I am hoping that Spring might not be too far around the corner. The calendar says it will be here on March 20<sup>th</sup>, but I am sure hoping for some Spring-like weather much sooner. I am looking forward to being able to get outdoors and do some camping and hiking soon. My entire family enjoys getting out and spending time mountain biking at the local State Parks around our area and enjoying what Mother Nature has created.

Keep an eye on the GUFC website ([www.gufc.org](http://www.gufc.org)) for our meetings and seminars that will be scheduled and added throughout the year. You will not want to miss out on what is bound to be some new and beneficial information. As usual, if there is ever anything that we can do to help get information to you, please let us know. We are here to help educate the public on the benefits of trees, so let us know how we are doing.

### 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

A few years ago, GUFC had an annual conference entitled “Connect and Collaborate.” I think that phrase applies to fundraising for urban forestry projects as well. Many organizations are looking for funding partners who agree that trees are important to towns and cities and who want to participate in the way that they can – by providing the resources. Everyone - the organization, the foundation or business, and our towns and cities – becomes part of a team improving the environment and quality of life for our communities. For our first quarterly program, we'll hear from fundraising professionals who will give us tips on approaching philanthropic foundations and businesses (*continued on next page*)

*From the Executive Director, continued:*

about partnerships in achieving urban forestry goals. We also learn where communities can access tools and equipment for achieving some of their urban tree inventories. *On another note*, we'll be publishing the 2011 GUFM Membership Directory in a few months. Don't be left out! If you've been notified by membership coordinator Neil Norton that your membership has expired, please take a few minutes to send that in, either electronically or in a stamped envelope. Your membership dollars are deeply appreciated and contribute to the continuing operation of the Georgia Urban Forest Council.

**Mary Lynne Beckley**

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## Winter Tree Care:

### *Help the Trees That Help You!*

*Reprinted from davey.com with permission from the Davey Tree Expert Company*

Trees provide innumerable benefits, including protection and enhancement to your property. Not only do they intercept storm water runoff, conserve electricity usage and improve air quality, your trees can buffer strong winds that blow across your property.

As they help you year-round, it's important to give your trees the proper care and attention they deserve. Now that winter is settling in, follow these tips to help ensure your property remains healthy and will thrive come spring:

**Prune.** Pruning is ideal as the potential for disease to spread is diminished during dormant season. Also, preventative pruning and hazard tree removal should be performed before potential storms of late winter and spring.

**Fertilize** trees. It will help keep them strong, and their beauty will be more abundant when it warms back up.

**Water** your trees during dry spells... even during winter. Evergreens and new plantings are particularly susceptible to drought.

**Assess.** Take a step back and consider the property as one asset. Total plant health care ensures the landscape remains at its best.

If a winter storm causes ice or snow to blanket your property, you can protect your trees through these simple steps:

- Do not shake limbs to try to remove snow or ice. This may cause breakage or damage. Plants are flexible, so knocking the weight of accumulation off may cause them to "snap" back, potentially damaging the circulatory system. Have an arborist examine damaged branches for weakening.
- If a limb breaks off from the weight of ice or snow and remains in the tree canopy, have it removed and the stub properly cut as soon as the weather allows. Hanging branches can be a danger to people and property. In addition, the tree will heal better when properly pruned.
- Be mindful of walking or parking under branches weighed down by snow or ice as they may snap and fall, causing injury or damage.
- If a limb breaks and becomes entangled in a power lines, notify your utility company immediately.

Check out Davey's Talking Trees™ video series for other useful tips.



## New Online Learning Opportunity for Tree Board Members Now Available

Tree Board University, a new online training program, was unveiled at the recent Partners in Community Forestry National Conference. This unique training was designed specifically for members of local planning commissions, parks boards, beautification committees, urban forestry commissions, or other local advisory committees that deal with tree issues.



“Tree Board University is a great place for new tree board members to get oriented to serving on a tree board, or for existing tree board members to gain new insights into how to be more organized, efficient, and effective,” said Paul D. Ries, state Urban and Community Forestry Program Manager for the Oregon Department of Forestry and one of the Tree Board University Curriculum Development Team members. While Tree Board U is designed specifically for the more than 21,000 citizens currently serving on a tree advisory committee somewhere in the US, it is open to anyone.

There are eight courses in the Tree Board University curriculum, which covers partnerships, collaboration, marketing and communications, urban forestry planning, tree board effectiveness, how to manage tree board projects, and much, much more. The course material includes videos, archived webcasts, intensive reading materials, and self-assessment activities. Throughout the curriculum, participants take quizzes and complete assignments prior to moving on to the next course, working at their own pace. Upon “graduation,” Tree Board University participants can print off a completion certificate and are invited to join an online community of fellow Tree Board University graduates. This community of like-minded tree enthusiasts is a place where sharing, networking and additional learning can take place.

Tree Board University is a free training program, primarily thanks to funding provided through the USDA Forest Service upon the recommendation of the National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council (NUCFAC). USDA is an equal opportunity employer and provider. The Tree Board University website is hosted by the Arbor Day Foundation.

To sign up for the Tree Board University courses, visit [www.treeboardu.org](http://www.treeboardu.org).

## Savannah Tree Foundation announces New Executive Director, Karen B. Jenkins

The Savannah Tree Foundation is pleased to announce that former board member Karen B. Jenkins has joined our organization as Executive Director. Karen joined the board of the Savannah Tree Foundation in 2009 after supporting and volunteering with the organization for several years. She brings to the Savannah Tree Foundation a strong background in natural resource management, including her MS degree from the University of Washington’s College of Forest Resources. Originally from Burlington, VT, Karen is a graduate of Whitman College in Walla Walla, WA. Additionally, she served three years as a Peace Corps volunteer in Madagascar.

Karen will be responsible for the Savannah Tree Foundation’s business planning, tree plantings and advocacy work protecting trees throughout Chatham County. The Foundation aims to plant 300 trees in 2011. Applications for small tree plantings between 1 to 10 trees will be considered for our 2010-2011 CommuniTrees Fund grant cycle.

The Savannah Tree Foundation is a 28-year old nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving, protecting and planting canopy trees in Savannah-Chatham County, Georgia. Details about the foundation are available online at [www.savannahtree.com](http://www.savannahtree.com).



# 2010 Excellence in Urban Forestry Awards Spotlight a Diversity of Projects and Individuals

*Each year, the Georgia Urban Forest Council presents these awards to those individuals and organizations that have demonstrated outstanding service toward the preservation and enhancement of our urban forests. Here, we highlight the excellent work that was honored at our November Awards Luncheon in Athens. All award recipients received a framed, limited edition print of a painting by artist Barry Nehr.*

## **Outstanding Student Grand Award:**

**Georgia Military College Biology Club**

*Warner Robins Community Gardens & Interpretive Trail*

Georgia Military College students, under the guidance of instructor Ben White, created community partnerships to install and manage the *Warner Robins Community Gardens & Interpretive Trail* that Warner Robins citizens now enjoy.



## **Outstanding Community Grand Award:**

**Trees Atlanta for their *Neighborwoods Program***

Trees Atlanta has planted and distributed more than 75,000 trees since 1985. With 4,500 citizen volunteers and over 10,000 supporters, this busy organization continues to educate on the vital role of trees to human health and well-being.

## **Outstanding Greenspace Grand Award:**

**Joshua F. Winter, RLA, ASLA for the Walton Lakes TrailNet Project**

Joshua Winter designed the Walton Lakes Trail, the first segment in the South Fulton TrailNet. The 10'-wide multi-use trail was carefully placed in an old-growth, hardwood forest adjacent to an apartment community after working with and understanding the original site features, complying with County regulations and coordinating with County leadership.



## **Outstanding New Development Grand Award:**

**Hughes Good O'Leary & Ryan for the Johns Creek Environmental Campus**

HGOR used native trees and plants in their design of the Johns Creek Environmental Campus (JCEC), one of the largest waste water treatment facilities in the nation. Planting over five hundred and fifty trees and taking advantage of site specific conditions, they created a beautiful, sustainable landscape, an outdoor classroom where visitors can enjoy a view of the Chattahoochee River and wildlife and learn about drought tolerant plant material, rainwater harvesting and re-use irrigation.

**Outstanding Education Grand Award: Carol Salami-Goswick**

As Chairman of the Macon Tree Commission, Carol has shown great leadership in guiding initiatives which include Arbor Day activities, neighborhood workshops, raising funds to help create an urban forestry plan in Macon, and the “Macon Tree Trail” project, with brochures, a downloadable podcast, a web page, and an educational kiosk.



**Outstanding Urban Arboriculture Grand Award: Spence Rosenfeld, Arborguard Tree Specialists for Tree Preservation at the Atlanta Botanical Garden Canopy Walk**

The Atlanta Botanical Garden brought in Arborguard president Spence Rosenfeld to protect the trees during construction of their new Canopy Walk. As a result of his insistence on protecting the critical root zones of the trees, the Canopy Walk is now proof that through innovation in design and construction, one can build and protect trees, too.

**Outstanding Streetscape Revitalization Grand Award: The Housing Authority of DeKalb County for the Johnson Ferry Redevelopment**

The Housing Authority of DeKalb County and NorSouth worked with communities, the PATH Foundation and DeKalb County Government to create this walkable, mixed income, mixed use community, and tree preservation was a priority during development. In Brookleigh Park, for example, 89 trees were relocated and transplanted for streetscape enhancement.



**Outstanding Civic Organization Grand Award: Keep Cobb Beautiful**

Keep Cobb Beautiful (KCB) values community forests and strives to educate its citizens about the importance of trees to both neighborhoods and schools. KCB has planted 320 trees on 21 Cobb County School campuses since 2006. More schools are on the schedule for the next year and there is a growing waiting list!

**Outstanding New Initiative Grand Award: North Georgia Resource Conservation & Development Councils for Tree Planting for Ecosystem Restoration and Green Jobs**

Through American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding received through the Georgia Forestry Commission, five Georgia RC&D Councils are planting trees for ecosystem restoration and to create jobs. The Limestone Valley and Rolling Hills RC&D Councils are working together on projects in northwest Georgia and the Oconee River, Upper Ocmulgee River and Chestatee-Chattahoochee RC&D Councils are working together in northeast Georgia.



**Outstanding Individual Achievement Grand Award:**

**Joe Burgess, Community Forester, Georgia Forestry Commission**  
 Working for the Georgia Forestry Commission for the past 21 years, Joe Burgess has had a tremendous impact on improving Georgia’s urban forests. A dedicated professional, he spends a great portion of his time teaching, facilitating, and guiding others in the mission of sustaining Georgia’s green legacy.



**Outstanding Elected Official Grand Award:**

**Heidi Davison, Mayor, Athens-Clarke County**

Under Heidi's leadership, Athens has gained national recognition for being a great place to live, work, play, and retire. Among other achievements, she has prioritized new environmental protections, including a strong tree ordinance, increased green space, broader stream buffers, restrictions on mass grading, and energy-efficiency requirements on all new government buildings.

**The Mary Helen Ray Legacy Award**

Named in honor of Mary Helen Ray, a pioneer in the urban forestry movement in Georgia, this award was created in 2010 to recognize lifelong stewardship, inspiring commitment, and visionary leadership. *(The first award was presented to two of Mary Helen's children, Peter Ray and Patricia Ray, at the 2010 Annual Awards Luncheon. Pictured at right are GUFUC President Rusty Lee, Peter Ray, Patricia Ray, Trees Atlanta Executive Director Marcia Bansley, and UGA Extension Agent Don Gardner.)*



**GUFUC TREE MAINTENANCE WORKSHOPS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS**

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**Woodbine, Georgia**



**Instructors:** Consulting Forester Connie Head of Technical Forestry Services and Registered Landscape Architect Gretchen Musser of Elements of Land Design.

**Topics covered:** Tree biology; the life cycle of a tree; tree identification; species, tree, and site selection; transport and handling; site preparation; planting techniques; mulching techniques; after-planting maintenance; tree pruning; tree protection; evaluating a tree’s condition; standards and best management practices; resources; field demonstrations; and more.

**Continuing Education Units:** ISA CEUs: 5 Arborist, 5 Municipal, 1.25 BCMA Science, 3.25 BCMA Practice, .5 BCMA Management, 5 TW Climber Specialist. Foresters: 4.0 SAF Category I CFE credits. Certificate of attendance for all.

Registration Fee: \$65  
 Fee includes lunch and materials.  
 Register at [www.gufc.org](http://www.gufc.org).  
**Open to the public.**  
**Sponsored by the Georgia Forestry Commission.**

# Buried Alive: The Problem of Planting Trees too Deeply

By Daniel Westcot  
Community Forester, Sr.  
Georgia Forestry Commission

Tree planting season is in full swing across Georgia. Many communities invest significant amounts of time and money into their community tree planting projects. With such large investments, communities often take great care to ensure the survival of their trees by selecting the right tree for the site and providing proper post-planting care. Unfortunately, if the same amount of care and attention is not given to proper tree planting techniques, all is for naught.

Perhaps the most common tree planting error is planting too deeply. A tree planted too deep in the ground is, in effect, buried alive. Tree roots need both oxygen and moisture to stay healthy and provide the nourishment needed for the growth above ground. Planting a tree too deeply deprives the roots of vital oxygen and moisture and allows the development of pathogens that cause root rot.

Another effect of planting too deeply is the formation of stem-girdling roots. This is caused by oxygen and water deprived roots growing up toward the soil surface in search of air and moisture. As these roots grow and increase in diameter they can wrap around or grow close to the buried stem and put pressure on it. As the pressure increases on the stem it damages the stem tissue, creating a weak point that can fail during high winds or ice storms.

In addition, there are several types of decay and rot that can develop on the stem of a tree planted too deeply. When soil is in constant contact with the stem of a tree, moisture is held against the stem's bark. This moisture allows the insidious growth of pathogens. Trees generally do not show signs of decline from planting depth until a couple of years post planting.



*This tree had eight inches of soil removed from the root ball before the root flare was exposed.*

The problems that correspond with planting trees too deeply are numerous, long-term, and difficult to correct, but can be prevented. In many cases, planting trees too deeply inadvertently occurs when communities plant either containerized or balled and burlapped (B&B) trees. These trees are often carefully planted according to recommended guidelines - with the root ball two to three inches above original ground level. Unfortunately, containerized and B&B trees may come from the nursery with six or more inches of soil on top of the root flare, which is the point on the tree where the stem wood transitions to the roots. Trees have four to six large lateral roots radiating out from the stem. The root flare is considered the true base of the tree and is the point that should be planted two to three inches above original ground level.



*Stem-girdling roots on a tree that was planted too deep.*

Communities can avoid the problems associated with planting trees too deeply by simply instructing tree planting crews on how to properly locate the root flare. To locate the root flare on a containerized or B&B tree, remove soil from the top of the root ball until the root flare is located. If any stem-girdling roots are found during the process of locating the root flare, they should be pruned from around the stem. Once this is done, the tree can be planted so that the root flare is two to three inches above original ground level.

## DID YOU KNOW?

- Congratulations to **Joe Burgess**, Community Forester with the Georgia Forestry Commission, who has been selected to receive a Governor’s Commendation for Excellence in Customer Service. He will receive his award on February 15 at the Floyd State Office Building in Atlanta.
- The 2011 issue of GUF’s **SHADE** magazine will be available in late February. This year’s issue focuses on “Smart Retail Development: Money Grows on Trees!” An electronic version of this issue will be found at [www.gufc.org](http://www.gufc.org).
- **Georgia’s Arbor Day is Friday, February 18.** If your organization has an Arbor Day Event, please send photos and information to [marylynne@gufc.org](mailto:marylynne@gufc.org). We’ll include your event in our next Tree Talks newsletter.
- **For only \$5**, enjoy a “Classic Coder” GUF program online. “The Elements of Tree Health” is a two-hour GUF program with Dr. Coder speaking on chemistry from a tree’s perspective! Go to [www.gufc.org](http://www.gufc.org), click on “Resources,” and from the drop-down menu, click on “Classic Coder.”
- **The Nalley Tree Festival** will be held Saturday, February 12, noon – 3:00 p.m., at Decatur Square in Decatur. The event features children’s activities, musical entertainment, food and beverages, educational displays and interactive activities, as well as booths of artists and crafters and environmental and organic businesses. A seedling giveaway, a tree planting, and the kickoff of the Nalley Tree Campaign round out the event.

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