



SUMMER 2011



LEARN ABOUT BATTLING INVASIVES AND PLANTING NATIVE TREES AT GUFC'S THIRD QUARTERLY PROGRAM - AUGUST 10 IN ATHENS

The Georgia Urban Forest Council will hold its Third Quarterly Educational Program on Wednesday, August 10, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the **Lyndon House Arts Center**, 293 Hoyt Street, Athens. Speakers include Jamie Blackburn, Atlanta Botanical Garden's Curator of Woodland Garden, Brian Arnold of the Georgia Exotic Pest Plant Council, and Landscape Architect Eric King. Registration: \$35 members, \$45 non-members. **More details on page 8.**

Photo by Chuck Bergeron, UGA, Bugwood.org

Invasive Species Affect Urban Forests in Georgia

By Karan A. Rawlins and David J. Moorhead

Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health, University of Georgia

Invasive species of many kinds are having a negative impact across Georgia. They can infest or damage trees or change the composition of a forest across a large area very quickly, sometimes before we even know they are present.

Some invasives, like insects and diseases, can dramatically impact specific tree species. The chestnut blight fungus, (*Endothia parasitica*) which was first reported in New York City in 1904, has virtually eliminated the American chestnut from eastern hardwood forests, although roots from trees cut or killed many years ago continue to produce sprouts that survive to the sapling stage before being killed. The fungus is widespread and continues to survive as a nonlethal parasite on chinkapin, Spanish chestnut, and post oak. No effective control has been developed for chestnut blight, even after decades of intensive research. Current research is targeted toward finding a blight resistant species.

Never move firewood or untreated wood products! Pests such as the emerald ash borer, (*Agrilus planipennis*) which was found in the firewood below, are quickly spread when people carry firewood or untreated wood products to new locations. These pests can be difficult or impossible to detect from a visual examination of the wood. To be safe, always use locally harvested firewood and local or treated wood products.

Asian longhorned beetle (*Anoplophora glabripennis*) is native to China and other nearby Pacific Rim countries and was introduced to America through solid wood packing material imported from China. Domestically, movement of infested tree-based materials, including logs and firewood, can easily spread this insect. It is known to attack at least 18 species of hardwood trees including maple, birch, horse chestnut, poplar, willow, elm, ash, and black locust.



Continued on page 3

Photo: Troy Kimoto, Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Bugwood.org

President's Letter



Did I miss something this year or does it just seem like we skipped spring all together? I don't know if it's the fact that I am getting older and my memory might be slipping, but I just cannot remember having spring-like weather this year. It seems like we went straight from winter to mid-summer with temperatures in the mid-to- high 90's for the last few weeks. The meteorologist on TV said that we were in for a "normal" summer weather pattern, but unfortunately "normal" for the South means 90 degree days until fall.

What a better time to be thinking about the benefits of trees than when the weather gets this hot. My wife is on me every summer (she actually gets the summer off since she is a teacher) to take the kids and head to the beach. I guess I have to do my fatherly duty and take them to see the sand and ocean, but I'll tell you I would much rather be sitting on a stream bank in the North Georgia mountains under the shade of some large oaks or hemlocks instead of sitting in the sun all day. When you work in the hot sun all day, the last place you want to relax is back in the sun. I had never really thought about it before, but it shows how important the trees are to our everyday well being when you plan your day or your vacation around them. My family recently spent the day at Stone Mountain Park and we actually planned the day out by doing the activities that were in the full sun early in the morning and then those activities that had shade trees nearby were saved until the late afternoon when the temperatures reached their peak.

Along with the excessive heat wave that the state is currently experiencing, we also seem to be back in the drought conditions as well. Years ago, the theory used to be that the large trees had a substantial enough root system to fend for themselves so you should focus your outdoor watering on your turf and garden, but that theory has changed a little. We now know that it is easier (not necessarily fun) to replace damaged turf or shrubs than it is to replace a 100-year-old oak tree. Someone once said that it is easy to replace a 100 year old oak tree - just plant a new tree and wait 100 years. I don't know about you, but I prefer to take care of what I have now instead of waiting for that shade to be replaced. Keep a close eye on your trees during this time of year and supplement irrigation when needed and/or add mulch to the critical root zone to help the tree retain much needed moisture. We take trees for granted, possibly because we have so many, but walk out into an area with no trees and sit for a while and see which is more comfortable.

Be on the lookout though the GUFC.org website for some great educational opportunities coming up. It is hard to believe that this year is almost half way over and that our Annual Conference will be here in just a few months. Like the old saying goes, "time flies when you're hugging trees."

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, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410.

From the Executive Director

In June, GUFC presented a workshop, "Tree Health in Retail Areas," with speakers and certified arborists Rob Swanson and Jesse Milton. Close to 50 people attended this workshop, a diverse group that included city arborists, consulting arborists, commercial arborists, code enforcement officers, grounds managers, community tree board members and many others - even two college students interning for the summer! The presentations, questions and discussions were excellent. As all of our programs do, this dynamic three-hour workshop reinforced my belief that urban forestry councils, with their focus on teaching proper practices, are **vital** to the health of our trees and, thus, to improving and maintaining good quality of life for our communities. The Georgia Urban Forest Council has such an outstanding network of smart, thoughtful people working together to sustain Georgia's green legacy, and we welcome your participation. Learn more about GUFC membership at www.gufc.org.

Mary Lynne Beckley

Invasive Species Affect Urban Forests in Georgia, continued from page 1:

Widespread mortality of Red Bay trees has occurred in coastal and adjacent inland counties from Charleston County, SC to St. Johns County, FL. The culprits are an Ambrosia beetle (*Xylosandrus crassiusculus*), first discovered in 2002 in at the Port of Charleston. Laurel wilt fungus (*Raffaelea lauricola*) is carried and spread by the beetle. Georgia Forestry Commission Forester Chip Bates was one of the first to detect this damage. This photo shows him standing by a red bay tree killed by laurel wilt, (*Raffaelea lauricola*). The rate of spread is estimated at 20 miles per year and impacts native sassafras trees as well.



Photo credit: James Johnson, Georgia Forestry Commission, Bugwood.org

Cogongrass (*Imperata cylindrical*), an invasive grass from Asia, is considered "the seventh worst weed in the world." It was introduced, accidentally, into Alabama in 1911 as seed in packing materials from Japan. This species is wide-spread in Florida, Alabama and Mississippi and is starting to spread in Georgia, South Carolina and Tennessee. Cogongrass can displace entire communities of native plants and pose a fire threat. Cogongrass fires are hotter, faster and higher than native grass fires. Cogongrass is easily spread by root fragments. Eradication is difficult, expensive and could take years. In early 2011, there were over 480 cogongrass spots found scattered in 45 counties across Georgia. Each spot has or will be treated by the Georgia Forestry Commission at no cost to the landowner. These sites will be monitored and retreated until they are eradicated. Approximately 55% of these known spots are now negative for cogongrass following the treatment. Anyone spotting a possible cogongrass infestation should report it immediately to their county forester or extension agent or call 1-800-GATREES.



Photo credit: David J. Moorehead, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org

Many other invasive plant species are a threat to urban forest in Georgia such as Chinese privet, (*Ligustrum sinense*) which can completely dominate a forest understory, shading out native species, competing for resources and even reducing recruitment of new trees. Privet and other invasive plant species infestations start as individuals and small scattered groups.

Learn about the invasives found in your area and those that may be future threats by checking the invasive plant list from the Georgia Exotic Pest Plant Council and Pest Plant Councils in adjacent states. Go to the Southeast Exotic Pest Plant Council web site at www.se-eppc.org for links to Georgia and other state councils. You can also find links to invasive plant identification and

control information on this site. Your county extension agent can help with identification of unknown species and help determine management options including possible herbicide treatments.

Survey your property for invasives and record their location, and extent. Then develop a control program which involves treatment methods and schedules, follow-up and restoration. Unfortunately, it is rare that a single treatment will solve the problem so be prepared to monitor and take appropriate action as required. If you are going to be doing activities or treatments that will cause soil disturbance, introduce materials from off-site watch out for invasive hitchhikers. Check clothes, animals, equipment and vehicles for seeds and pieces of invasive plants. These can drop off and

begin growing to start an infestation in another location. Begin projects in un-infested areas first and work on infested areas last, cleaning equipment thoroughly before moving to another area.

A few online resources for information on Invasive Species in Georgia:

<http://www.se-eppc.org/>

<http://www.invasive.org/>

<http://www.invasiveplantatlas.org/>

<http://www.invasive.org/silvicsforinvasives.pdf>

<http://www.gainvasives.org/>

<http://www.cogongrass.org/>

Get Your Nominations In!

Nominate an individual, organization, or business making great contributions to the urban forest for a 2011 **GUFC Excellence in Urban Forestry Award**. Annually, as part of its mission to sustain Georgia's green legacy by helping communities grow healthy trees, GUFC rewards individuals, organizations, businesses, municipalities, and counties for outstanding work in protecting and enhancing our community forests.

Grand award recipients of this year's Georgia Urban Forestry Awards will be recognized at GUFC's 2011 Annual Conference Awards Luncheon on November 3, 2011 at the **James Madison Conference Center in Madison, Georgia**. Download our award application at gufc.org, and get your nomination in! **The deadline for nominations is September 15.**



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Tree of Merit - Chinese Fringetree (*Chionanthus retusus*)

By Bill Haws, Forestry Administrator, City of Savannah Park and Tree Department

One of the most enjoyable and rewarding aspects of urban forestry is making the annual rounds to visit wholesale tree nurseries to select and tag trees for planting. Those foresters who order a specific list of trees by phone or through a broker are missing an opportunity to discover hidden treasures in the form of tree species or cultivars that are new or overlooked. One small species that is well worth the search is Chinese Fringetree, *Chionanthus retusus*. Originally introduced from Asia in 1845, the USDA Hardiness Zone for this tree ranges from 5 to 9B/10A (Gilman).

While the native Fringetree, *Chionanthus virginicus*, may be better known, Chinese Fringetree has consistently provided superior performance in Savannah, Georgia. The southern type of Chinese Fringetree can be grown as a standard in tree form, with a mature height and width range of 15 to 25 feet. This superb tree has many desirable attributes. In the spring it is an absolute showstopper, displaying an explosion of cascading lacy white blooms on new terminal shoots as foliage emerges, whereas the native Fringetree flowers on older wood, prior to leaf emergence. During the growing season, rounded leaves are thick and leathery, with a lustrous dark green color which persists late into the year, slowly changing to yellow in December, occasionally even into January.



Chinese Fringetree has proven to be more tolerant of a wider range of site conditions than traditional ornamentals. It grows well in full sun to partial shade, can handle occasional drought or wet feet, has few pest problems, and can thrive in the heat. One potential criticism from a management standpoint is that once established, annual terminal shoot growth in an optimal location can approach two feet or more. This can lead to an imbalanced crown if uncorrected. Periodic pruning is necessary to maintain shape and form of specimen trees; however, the effort is well worth the reward.



Individual seedling-grown Chinese Fringetrees have a unique character which makes them a fine choice for use as a specimen ornamental. *Chionanthus retusus* 'Tokyo Tower' is a new introduction from Japan with a narrow, upright growth habit (15-20' height x 5-7' width) that offers a great option for those smaller planting spaces that don't quite accommodate a larger tree.

Chinese Fringetree blooms

Mark your Calendar for GUFUC's

2011 College Tree Canopy Conference

Date: Tuesday, October 11, 2011

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

Location: Math and Science Building, **Emory University**, 400 Dowman Drive, Atlanta, GA 30322

Doing More with Less: Managing the Resources of your Campus Urban Forest

GUFUC's College Canopy Conference, now in its 2nd year, is for college and university physical plant managers, landscape directors, grounds managers, staff, and administrators who know the value of maintaining healthy trees on their campuses. This year's conference will address campus urban forestry concerns relevant to these challenging economic times. Session topics include:

- Technology and techniques for preserving and maintaining campus trees
- Innovative Service Learning Programs and Fundraisers
- How Do We Do More with Less? (Panel Discussion)
- Using a Consulting Arborist on Projects
- Tree Preservation on Construction Sites
- Emory's No Net Forest Loss
- Tree Campus USA
- Optional End-of-Day Guided Tours to Lullwater Forest, the Emory Quadrangle and Baker Forest



Over 75 individuals attended last year's College Canopy Conference at Macon State. The 2011 conference will be held at Emory University in Atlanta.

Registration Fee: \$50 per person. Register at www.gufuc.org. Lunch included. CEUs available.

Sponsorships Available – call 404-377-0404 or e-mail marylynne@gufuc.org

Forest Service Seeks Nominations for NUCFAC

The **USDA Forest Service** is seeking nominations to fill three positions on the **National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council (Council)**. The Council serves in an advisory capacity to the Secretary of Agriculture and the Forest Service's Urban and Community Forestry Program and related natural resources. The Forest Service will be accepting nominations that will serve as representatives for the following three positions:

1. **Position 6:** A member representing forest products; nursery, or related industries;
2. **Position 8:** One of two members representing academic institutions with an expertise in urban and community forestry activities; and
3. **Position 15:** A member representing a community with a population greater than 50,000 and has experience and is active in urban and community forestry. They may not be officers or employees of any government body.

Please submit the nomination(s) to: nucfac_ucf_proposals@fs.fed.us. Nominations must be received by August 29, 2011. The subject line should read: 2011 May NUCFAC Nominations. **For additional information, visit <http://www.fs.fed.us/ucf/nucfac>.**

URBAN FORESTRY NEWS

Urban Forestry Degree Available

After many years of planning, Oregon State University (OSU) is unveiling a new urban forestry undergraduate degree program. Effective this summer, OSU students can work towards a new Bachelor of Science degree in natural resources with a major option in Urban Forest Landscapes. To learn more about this degree visit



<http://catalog.oregonstate.edu/OptionDetail.aspx?id=935>. A parallel degree through the OSU Horticulture Department will follow in the coming years. This new degree option has been the result of a long cooperative effort between the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) and OSU, and two of the three new college courses behind it were supported in part by a USDA Forest Service Western Competitive Grant award to ODF to address urban/rural interface issues. Even more exciting is the fact that this new Urban Forest Landscapes option should soon be available online to distance education students through OSU's award-winning E-campus program (<http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu>). Please spread the word to anyone you know who may be

interested in an online urban forestry degree.

iTree Design

iTree has received an upgrade. The new version, iTree v4.0, includes upgrades to existing applications as well as innovative online tools for iTree Design and iTree Canopy. iTree Design will link with Google Maps to show users how tree selection, size, and placement affect a specific home's energy use. iTree Canopy provides an aerial view using Google Maps to better assess tree canopy in an area. Natural resource planners can use iTree Hydro to model watershed-scale effects on local hydrology and water quality. iVue also boasts several enhancements such as the ability to overlay maps on Google aerial images. To learn more about the updates to the iTree, visit

<http://www.itreetools.org/index.php>.

Trees and Energy Efficiency Brochure

Georgia Forestry Commission has a new brochure, "Making Your Home More Energy Efficient By Planting Trees," available that includes the solution to reducing your home's energy use in the summer. Step-by-step instructions are provided on how to determine the best placement of trees in your yard, and a list of beneficial, energy-saving trees is also given. The brochure was developed in cooperation with Georgia Power but the information can be utilized by any utility. Contact Susan Granbery for copies for your community, or give Susan a call at 678-476-6227 if you would like to print your own and we will provide you with template copy. To view the brochure online, visit

<http://www.gfc.state.ga.us/Resources/documents/MakingYourHomeMoreEnergyEfficient-ByPlantingTrees.pdf>

GFC is Blogging!

The Sustainable Community Forestry Program of the Georgia Forestry Commission has a Blog. Follow them at <http://gfccommunityforestry.wordpress.com>

SHADE Magazine – Advertising Opportunities Available!

Additional copies of Georgia's SHADE magazine are available for distribution to your City Councils and Elected Leaders. Contact the GUFCA for copies. If you're interested in advertising in SHADE, please contact the GUFCA for a rate sheet and to discuss opportunities. **800-994-4832 (toll free) 404-377-0404 (local)**

marylynne@gufca.org.



New Tree Apps

Leafsnap - Developed by researchers from Columbia University, the University of Maryland, and the Smithsonian Institute, this free iPhone or iPad application helps to identify tree species based on photographs of their leaves.

Dirr's Tree and Shrub Finder - Created by Timber Press, this app provides an extensive tree and shrub directory for anyone from landscape designers to plant enthusiasts. Based on Dr. Michael Dirr's *The Manual of Woody Landscape Plants*, the app is searchable by 72 criteria and contains the latest information on woody landscape plants. (continued)

New Tree Apps (cont'd)

Mulch Tools - Created by Colorbiotics, Mulch Tools allows users to input the measurements of an area to be landscaped and then provides the user with the amount of mulch needed to complete the job. Users can also choose to view the exterior of their home in order to experiment with different colored mulch to get a better idea of how the finished product will look.

The American Grove Update

On June 13th ten more states joined the American Grove (www.AmericanGrove.org) including Alaska, California, Colorado, Idaho, Maine, Minnesota, Montana, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Washington.



Tree Board University

This unique online training will help you learn more about trees, about people, and about serving in a citizen advisory role in your city, town, or village. There are eight courses you can take at your own pace. Each course includes videos, multi-media presentations, reference documents, and online links to additional information. Upon completion of the eight courses, you will be able to join an online social networking community, where you can post questions and interact with other like-minded Tree Board members from across the USA. To learn more about enrolling, visit

<http://www.treeboardu.org>.

Taxonomic Name Resolution Service

Taxonomic Name Resolution Service (TNRS) is an online tool where users can input scientific plant names for standardization. This system will tell users if submissions are currently accepted names or synonyms (out-of-date names), and automatically fixes spelling errors. TNRS saves time and prevents errors which may occur when using a manual for name correction. If a name submitted cannot be resolved, the system will provide a list of possibilities and tools for research and selection of a preferred name. Check out this tool at <http://ohmsford.iplantc.org/tnrs-standalone/index.html>.

High Resolution Panoramas

A new camera has been created based on the Mars Rover Pancam, which is known for its high resolution photos. The new camera, created by Randy Sargent of the GigaPan system, allows users to take thousands of photos which will then be stitched together into a panorama. These high resolution panoramas (up to 100 gigapixels) can be uploaded to the www.gigapan.org for viewers to see highly detailed smaller areas of the panorama. Many conservation and urban forestry groups are already using this tool to record details of an area and to study those details later.

Windbreaks

The purpose of a windbreak is for protection of structures and homesteads, as well as to cut down on noise and visuals. Go to www.unl.edu/nac/agroforestrynotes/an36w03.pdf to read an *Agroforestry Note* which provides some basic designs, including example tree species and spacing along with pictures of real windbreaks that represent the three primary ranges of density for which windbreaks are designed.

August 10, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. GUFCA THIRD QUARTERLY PROGRAM:

“Planting Native Trees and Battling Invasives”

What are the benefits of planting native trees?
What invasive species are found in Georgia, how did they get here, and what destructive impacts do they bring?
Also: Succeeding with Succession: Managing the Wild Landscape

Speakers:

Jamie Blackburn, Curator of Woodland Garden, Atlanta Botanical Garden;
Brian Arnold, Georgia Exotic Pest Plant Council;
Eric King, Registered Landscape Architect, King Landscaping

Location:

The Lyndon House Arts Center, 293 Hoyt Street, Athens 30601

Registration Fee:

\$35 members, \$45 non-members Lunch included.
3 ISA Arborist CEUs. 3 SAF Forester Contact Hours.
Certificates of Attendance for all.
Register at www.gufc.org.



Thank you to attendees and sponsors of GUFC’s 2011 ArborJam fundraising event at Sweetwater Brewing Company on May 10. We’d like to shine a spotlight on the companies that supported GUFC on this event.

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Continued on next page

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The 21st GUFC Annual Conference
and Awards Program
November 2 and 3, 2011
The James Madison Conference Center
Madison, Georgia

**MANAGING
THE FEAR FACTOR:
TREES, PESTS, STORMS,
AND THE LAW**

Details soon at www.gufc.org.

Photo credit: Joseph O'Brien,
USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org





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