

TREE TALKS

Georgia Urban Forest Council



SUMMER 2013

Let's applaud their work.

It's the time of year again when we think about those individuals, businesses, organizations, elected leaders, and students who have worked hard to keep our urban forests thriving.

If you've been appreciative of someone who's done good work for the urban forest, nominate them today for an **Excellence in Urban Forestry Award**.

Categories include Individual 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 submissions is September 6. All award recipients will be honored at the GUF C's 23rd Annual Awards Luncheon on October 24 at the Columbus Georgia Convention and Trade Center. Download an awards application [here](#).

GUF C THIRD QUARTERLY PROGRAM:

The Next Step for Georgia Tree Ordinances

August 14, 10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., Athens-Clarke County Library, Multi-purpose Room B, 2025 Baxter Street, Athens, Georgia

Join us as we hear why Georgia has been called "the state to follow for innovative tree ordinances."

Professor **Buck Abbey**, ASLA, LSU School of Landscape Architecture, will lead us through a history of tree laws, how tree ordinances fit into other community regulations, and the definition of an urban forestry ordinance. **Ed Macie**, US Forest Service, will give an overview of tree



ordinances in Georgia and where he sees ordinances going, and consulting urban forester **Connie Head** will discuss the process of developing the ordinance, the standards that should be included, and the enforcement of the ordinance. Athens-Clarke County Environmental Coordinator **Andrew Saunders** will be on hand to accompany Connie on discussion of the Athens-Clarke County ordinance as a case study. Bring your questions and get answers from urban foresters who have worked on the most progressive tree ordinances in Georgia. Lunch is included. 3.5 ISA Arborist CEUs. 3.5 Category I SAF CFE credits. Professional development certificates available for all. *Additional parking is available in the Clarke Middle School parking lot located behind library, off of Dudley Street. Questions? E-mail marylynn@gufc.org or call 404-377-0404. \$35 GUF C members, \$45 non-members*

Register [here](#) or at www.gufc.org.

President's Letter



My family and I spent a recent weekend in the North Carolina Mountains. It is amazing what a little higher altitude and a whole lot more forest canopy will do to cool those mid-summer days and positively affect one's well-being and peace of mind. Funny how trees affect us that way. We typically hike in the Pisgah National Forest. There is the common saying "you don't know what you are missing until it is gone." That has come to mind during our last few hikes in the mountains. One big reason the forest has been a cooling and peaceful retreat is the majesty the Hemlock trees provided. The trees are subtle, soft-spoken members of the forest community and blended in with the forest hardwoods, providing cooling shade and habitat. In many ways, you might never have known they were there; they just belonged.

What a difference a relatively short period of time can make. Now as we hike, we look around and all that remains are the skeletons of the Hemlocks, very much visible, not belonging and very disheartening. It brings to mind just how fragile our forests are, both those conserved in National Forests, Parks, and preserves and those we continue to try to grow and expand in our urban areas to reap the benefits trees brings.

We must not take these forests for granted, both where they are plentiful and definitely where they are scarcer. All of our forests are integral to our planet, the environment and our communities. They can and all do play a role in what is being termed "Green Infrastructure." A common definition of Green Infrastructure is being debated, but it is generally thought of as an inter-connected network of green open spaces that provide a range of ecosystem services — from clean air and water to wildlife habitat and carbon sinks. Green infrastructure is about bringing together "natural and built environments" and using the landscape as infrastructure. You can see how forests of all types would fit the bill. Green infrastructure will be the topic at GUFC's upcoming Annual Conference in October, being held this year in Columbus. Please join us and also be on the lookout through the GUFC.org website for other upcoming educational opportunities.

Enjoy the remainder of the summer and stay cool, maybe under the shade of a tree.

Rob Ryan

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

Last fall, the GUFC and the Georgia Forestry Commission convened a planning committee to produce a five year plan (2013-2017) for Georgia's urban forests. This plan identifies important issues, goals, and activities, provides direction, and coordinates efforts in caring for our state's community forests. Four strategic goals were identified: Promoting tree canopy and longevity at the landscape scale through the green infrastructure approach, increasing active participation of local communities to advocate for community forests through education and tree plantings, promoting the development and enforcement of local tree ordinances, and promoting sustainable community forestry by training professionals to implement best management practices. **Join us on August 14th in Athens as we work on goal three: tree ordinances.**

Mary Lynne Beckley

2013 GUFC Annual Conference Set for October 23 and 24 in Columbus

Get ready for the 23rd Georgia Urban Forest Council Annual Conference and Awards Program October 23 and 24 at the Columbus Georgia Convention and Trade Center, 801 Front Avenue, near the beautiful Columbus Riverwalk. This year, we'll explore "**Tree Canopy and Green Infrastructure: Creating Vibrant and Healthy Communities.**"

At this conference, we will concentrate on furthering our knowledge of green infrastructure, learn of green infrastructure successes in communities, and gain ideas on how to get it done. And for the first time, we are rolling our college canopy conference into our annual conference, providing a campus educational track for landscape and tree personnel at colleges and universities. Guest speakers will include **Karen Firehock**, Director of the Green Infrastructure Center in Charlottesville, Virginia; **Dr. Graeme Lockaby**, Center for Forest Sustainability, Auburn University; **Mike Beezhold**, Senior Planner, CDM Smith, and former Watershed Manager, Lenexa Public Works, Lenexa, KS; and many other noted experts. **Mark Bays**, U & CF Coordinator, Oklahoma, will lead us through his journey in saving the Oklahoma "Survivor Tree."



The Columbus, Georgia Riverwalk

Join us for excellent general session talks, concurrent sessions, roundtable sessions, tours, our annual urban forestry awards luncheon, and our annual **ArborJam** event that raises funds for the Georgia ReLeaf Program (ticket included in registration). Click on [agenda here for full list of topics, sessions, and speakers](#).

While you're in Columbus, you can enjoy a host of [cultural and recreational opportunities](#), including museums, biking, walking, and even whitewater rafting!

Registration:

- \$135 for members (includes ArborJam admission and a \$10 donation to Georgia ReLeaf)
- \$160 for non-members (includes discounted GUFC membership, ArborJam admission and a \$10 donation to Georgia ReLeaf)

Register [here](#).

For **conference lodging information**, click [here](#).

Continuing Education Units: 9.25 ISA Arborist **CEUs**. 7 Society of American Foresters CFE hours. Professional development certificates available for landscape architects and all others.



A post-conference whitewater raft ride in Columbus has been scheduled for conference attendees who'd like to participate! The good folks at Whitewater Express will take us down the river on a smooth, two-hour "Classic Run" on October 24 and treat us to a meal on Waveshaper Island. \$30 per person. **If you'd like to register for this fun excursion, click here.** In the raft above, you'll find GUFC Executive Director Mary Lynne Beckley, GUFC member Steve Smith and his wife Ginger, and others who tried it out for us all – it got a thumbs-up for fun!

Forest Service report spotlights fire risk for homes on the edge of wildlands

U.S. Forest Service researchers recently found that about 90 percent of fuel reduction treatments on national forests were effective in reducing the intensity of wildfire while also allowing for better wildfire control.

The [report](#), “Wildfire, Wildlands, and People: Understanding and Preparing for Wildfire in the Wildland-Urban Interface,” synthesizes the latest research and provides examples of what communities in the wildland-urban interface can do to reduce their risk by becoming “fire adapted.” Aimed at community planners, the report also underscores the important roles that homeowners and local, state, and federal governments play in reducing risk and describes available tools and resources.



“The Wildfire, Wildlands and People report reminds us that people can and should take steps to protect their homes from wildfires,” said U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell. “Communities with robust wildfire prevention programs are likely to have fewer human-caused wildfires. In addition, fire intensity is dramatically reduced in areas where restoration work has occurred.”

Between 2006 and 2011, some 600 assessments were completed on wildfires that burned into areas where restoration work had taken place. In most of these cases, fire intensity was reduced dramatically in treated areas. Residents can reduce excess vegetation within and around a community to reduce the intensity and growth of future fires and create a relatively safe place for firefighters to work to contain a wildfire, should one occur.

From 2001-2011, an average of 85 percent of wildfires in the U.S. were human caused. The two areas with the highest percentage of wildfires caused by people are the East (99 percent) and the South (96 percent).

The report is part of the Forests on the Edge project, which seeks to identify areas across the country where timber, wildlife habitat and water quality might be affected on private forests by factors such as development, fire, insect pests and diseases.

The project also seeks to understand where increases in housing density on lands adjacent to national forests and grasslands might affect recreation, wildlife, water resources and other important public benefits.

The mission of the Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. The agency manages 193 million acres of public land, provides assistance to state and private landowners, and maintains the largest forestry research organization in the world. Forest Service lands contribute more than \$13 billion to the economy each year through visitor spending alone. Those same lands provide 20 percent of the nation's clean water supply, a value estimated at \$7.2 billion per year. The agency also has either a direct or indirect role in stewardship of about 80 percent of the 850 million forested acres within the U.S., of which 100 million acres are urban forests where most Americans live.

USDA has made a concerted effort to deliver results for the American people, even as USDA implements sequestration – the across-the-board budget reductions mandated under terms of the Budget Control Act. USDA has already undertaken historic efforts since 2009 to save more than \$828 million in taxpayer funds through targeted, common-sense budget reductions. These reductions have put USDA in a better position to carry out its mission, while implementing sequester budget reductions in a fair manner that causes as little disruption as possible.

Cox Conserves Heroes-Atlanta Seeks Your Nominations

Together with Cox Communications, The Trust for Public Land recently launched Cox Conserves Heroes-Atlanta, a program that honors individuals who work to create, preserve and improve the shared outdoor spaces in our communities. They believe these behind-the-scenes heroes make Atlanta a better, healthier place to live, and by showcasing them, hope to inspire more people to take an active role in neighborhood conservation.

Cox Conserves Heroes-Atlanta is accepting nominations July 15-August 19, 2013. Three finalists will be featured on TV and the web and the winner, chosen by public vote, will receive \$10,000 to award to his or her environmental nonprofit. Runners up each receive \$2,500.

For background about the program: www.coxconservesheroes.com, and to nominate someone: www.coxconservesheroes.com/atlanta.aspx.



Chatham County Live Oaks Placed on Landmark and Historic Tree Register

A single live oak and a group of four live oaks on property owned by the Georgia Department of Transportation and located at Georgetown, Chatham County, Georgia, northwest of King George Boulevard and the SR204 intersection, have been placed on Georgia Urban Forest Council's Landmark and Historic Tree Register. The single live oak is

estimated to be 400 years old, with a spread of 95 feet and a trunk measurement of 89 inches DBH. The group of four live oaks are estimated by an arborist to be 200 years old, with heights of 80 to 97 feet tall, spreads of 85 to 105 feet, and trunk measurements of 43 to 55 inches. All trees are in general good health.

Planted in a square, the group of four trees sits in a 20 acre area of mixed hardwoods, were originally a part of local African-American antebellum and post-bellum communities, and are living connections to those earlier communities. The single live oak is significant because, as Rita Elliott, of New South Associates, who submitted both applications, writes, *"This tree is a living link to the past. Native Americans likely walked by it. African-Americans toiled and rested beneath it. Civil War soldiers skirmished near it. Children throughout the 1800-1900s scrambled up it. We see the same tree they saw, only older and grander. This tree is an important connection to our varied, yet common past...."*

The GUFC Landmark and Historic Tree Registry Committee were extremely impressed with these applications, specifically with the thorough research into the history of these trees and the community support of the nominations.



Group Tree 3 in relation to surroundings.

All trees placed on GUFC's Landmark and Historic Tree Register are listed and mapped on this [link](#) at GUFC's website.

GFC Taking Orders for Seedlings

The Georgia Forestry Commission's [Flint River Nursery](#) has begun taking orders for the 2013-14 tree planting season. Several new additions have been added to the species list. Pear, pecan, Georgia oak, pin oak and select Piedmont 3 loblolly pines are available for purchase now. Current long-term forecasts include more normal rainfall patterns in coming months, so this is an excellent opportunity to plan planting trees from the Flint River Nursery.

Seeking arborist certification? GUFC can help you prepare for the exam.

The Georgia Urban Forest Council will present a two-day arborist certification review course taught by **Consulting Urban Forester and Certified Arborist Connie Head** on October 8 and 9, 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (both days), at the Georgia Forestry Commission headquarters in Macon. Connie will help attendees prepare for the exam with lectures and hands-on demonstrations covering Tree Biology, Tree Identification, Soil Science, Water Management, Tree Nutrition and Fertilization, Tree Selection, Installation and Establishment, Pruning, Tree Support and Lightning Protection, Diagnosis and Plant Disorders, Plant Health Care, Tree Assessment and Risk Management, Trees and Construction, Urban Forestry, Tree Worker Safety, and Climbing & Working in Trees.

Attendees should read through the ISA Arborists' Certification Study Guide to prepare for the review and the exam. An ISA Certified Arborist exam will be scheduled approximately three weeks after the review course. Attendees will be responsible for completing their own application for the exam. The study guide can be purchased at www.isa-arbor.org and on Amazon.com.

Location: Georgia Forestry Commission headquarters, 5645 Riggins Mill Road

Dry Branch, Georgia 31020 (Macon)

Date and Time: October 8 and 9 (8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. both days)

Registration Fee: \$100 GUFC members; \$115 non-members

ISA CEU hours will be available for certified arborists taking the class as a refresher course.

Register at www.gufc.org.

A Walk in the Forest for Metro Scouts

The 5th annual [Walk in the Forest for Metro Atlanta Scouts](#) will be held Saturday, October 19th at the Stone Mountain Educational Annex. This event is designed to help Boy Scouts, Webelos and Cadette Girl Scouts meet most or all of the requirements of the [Forestry Merit Badge](#), [Forester Activity Pin](#) or Trees Badge.

At this event, scouts are divided into groups with fellow Boy Scouts, Webelos or Cadettes to work with professional foresters at various educational stations to learn about the benefits of trees and forests and the forestry profession.

Educational Stations Include: Tree and Wildlife Identification, Forest Products and Sustainability, Managing a Georgia Forest: Silvicultural Basics, Forest Health, Forest Fire Fighting: Prescribed Burning, Maps and Safety, Urban Forestry, Tree Climbing and Careers in Forestry.

This event is funded by various **corporate sponsors** and relies heavily on volunteer support from professional foresters from the Chattahoochee and Oconee Chapters of the Society of American Foresters, educators, nonprofits and federal, state and local government employees.

[A Walk in the Forest for Metro Atlanta Scouts](#) received a prestigious 1st Place National Recognition Award from The House Society of Delegates of the Society of American Foresters, Nov. 2011.

For more information or to register, please visit: <http://walkintheforest2013.eventbrite.com/>

Are you involved with a scout troupe in the metro Atlanta area? Spaces are available in this program – register your group today!

GEORGIA URBAN FOREST COUNCIL 2013

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



Follow GUFC on



Is your community a Tree City USA? In meeting the standards for recognition in 2012, you are showing your residents and those who visit that sustainable forestry is an important part of your community.

The Arbor Day Foundation, in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters is currently seeking your input on the Tree City USA program, its standards and your community's participation. We need your input and ask that you take 10 minutes to complete the survey at the link below:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/RDSXC52>

Your survey answers will only be used by the Tree City USA review committee for the purpose of evaluating the program. Each community that completes the survey will be entered into a drawing for one of several Tree City USA prizes, including additional recognition material or resources. **Please complete the survey by August 5,**