

# TREE TALKS

Georgia Urban Forest Council



## SUMMER 2014

### Let's honor great work in urban forestry!

Each year, 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. 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. 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 are honored at the Annual Conference Awards Luncheon on October 22 at the Classic Center in Athens.

Click [here](#) to download the **2014 Awards Application**. The **deadline for entries is September 5**.

## Tour of Waddell Barnes Botanical Gardens Highlight of GUFC Program August 21

At this program, we'll spotlight stormwater projects around the state that involve trees and green infrastructure, such as the rain gardens at Macon's Mercer University and the Town Green in Rome, Georgia. What works? What doesn't? What are the preferred trees to plant for these types of projects? Speakers sharing their expertise will include landscape architects Brad Jones of Jacobs Engineering, Pond and Company's Andrea Greco, and Todd Fuller of HGOR.



After lunch (provided), we'll get a guided walking tour of the **Waddell Barnes Botanical Garden**, which grew to life with strong community commitment after the devastating 2008 middle Georgia tornado that destroyed 90% of the trees and plantings of the original gardens. We'll enjoy learning about the many distinct sections: Asian Shade Trees, The Chinese Garden, the Evergreen Oak Grove, the Fragrance Garden, the Heritage Garden, the Native Mesic Grove, the Native Sub-Xeric Grove, the Native Wetland Grove, the Scholars Garden, the Spring Garden, and the Summer Garden. Click [here](#) to read more about these gardens.

**Date and Time:** August 21, 2014 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Location:** **Middle Georgia State College**, 100 College Station Drive, Macon, Georgia 31206, in the **Math Building Auditorium**.

[Click here for campus map.](#)

**Registration:** \$40, member; \$50 non-member

**CEUs:** 3 ISA Certified Arborist CEUs and 3 SAF Forestry CFEs, category 1 will be available.



## President's Letter



*Poor Mr. Sad Face* – that’s what we called a certain rising fifth-grader at our Young Scholars camp last week. Each summer, Rome Municipal Arborist Terry Paige and I are invited to make educational presentations to several community camps and we always talk about trees. When we discussed the Emerald Ash Borer and passed around the vial of preservative fluid containing the nasty pest, one particular 11-year-old boy looked horrified. When we told the class that the Emerald Ash Borer has killed millions of Ash trees and the wood from Ash trees is used to make Louisville Slugger baseball bats, utter sadness came over his sweet, young face. Well, you have to find out about bad stuff at some point - at least he was in a loving environment. It’s easy to think that bad stuff only happens to other people, or that boring insects only kill other people’s trees . . . but not those fifteen Chinese Pistache trees you got Special

Encroachment Permit No. 12-2009-011-115 from the Georgia DOT to plant and used \$2,400 raised by a neighborhood association to purchase. Not those trees! Well, believe me, it was Mr. and Ms. Sad Face around here for weeks when we figured out that an army of Ambrosia Beetles attacked and killed our beloved right-of-way trees. Remember the Kübler-Ross model from college? Also known as “five stages of grief” – that series of emotional stages experienced when faced with the death of someone or the death of some tree? The five stages are denial, anger, bargaining, depression, and acceptance. As of the writing of this commentary, we have moved into the “acceptance” phase and plan to host Arbor Day 2015 at the site.

So all of this got me thinking about how doggone hard it is to be a farmer . . . how insects have destroyed crops and livelihoods throughout history (think of the Boll Weevil). And all that got me thinking about the Smith-Lever Act of 1914. That’s right - 100 years ago, on May 8, 1914 President Woodrow Wilson signed legislation that created the Cooperative Extension System! Extension agents are great resources in our communities and good partners for Urban Forestry. Our local extension agent, Keith Mickler, has long been educating the community about the Emerald Ash Borer. The University of Georgia has created a website in observance of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Cooperative Extension at <http://100years.extension.uga.edu/content/extension100.html> . On that site, you can see a picture of a commemorative tree planting on UGA’s campus celebrating the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Act. The people in the photo are planting a native Yellowwood tree outside the Hoke Smith building, which is significant because it is the headquarters building for the Georgia Extension Service and named for the co-author of the 1914 Smith-Lever Act, Georgia Senator Hoke Smith. Mr. Lever was from South Carolina. Much of the mission of the Smith-Lever Act is aligned with the goals of the Georgia Urban Forest Council. By working together to foster the transfer of knowledge from research into practice on farms, in businesses, and in families we can all help preserve Georgia’s Green Legacy. Please make plans to join us in Athens for the 2014 GUFC Annual Conference and Awards program on October 22 and 23 at the Classic Center, and we’ll walk over to see the Yellowwood tree together!

**Mary Hardin Thornton**

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

These next few months are scheduled with some excellent programs from the Georgia Urban Forest Council, including the College Canopy Conference and our 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference and Awards Program, but I also wanted to mention that the **2014 Partners in Community Forestry Conference** will be held in Charlotte, North Carolina November 5-6. The Arbor Day Foundation has been presenting this conference for seven years now and it’s grown into “the” meeting of the year for the urban forestry community. I encourage you all to attend this conference if you haven’t already; the sessions you attend and the people you’ll meet will surely inspire you as you do your own good work for trees. More information can be found at [www.arborday.org](http://www.arborday.org).

**Mary Lynne Beckley**

# Three Georgia Groups to Receive Georgia ReLeaf Funding this Fall

To help restore the many environmental, economic, and social health benefits that trees provide, the Georgia Urban Forest Council (GUFC), in cooperation with the Georgia Forestry Commission (GFC), established the **Georgia ReLeaf** program to bring urban forests back to life by planting trees in **public areas** such as parks, schools, main streets, and business districts. Two nonprofits and one community have been selected to receive funding this year:



- **The Savannah Tree Foundation** to plant trees with veteran volunteers on the front lawn at the National Museum of the Mighty Eight Air Force.
- **Trees Atlanta** for tree planting at the Atlanta VA Medical Center.
- **City of Mansfield** for replanting canopy cover lost to the April 2013 tornado.

**We look forward to seeing the progress of their good work.**

Thank you to our 2013-14 Georgia ReLeaf contributors, including –



**John Zedd**

**Sixty attendees** enjoyed GUFC’s “Watershed Restoration, Tree Inventories, and Public Health” presented at the Atlanta Botanical Garden on May 14. Many thanks to speakers Na’Taki Osborne Jelks, Co-chair of the West Atlanta Watershed Alliance; Shannon Lee of the Conservation Fund; David Egetter Ecologist with the US EPA Region 4; Ramachandra Sivakumar of the Georgia Tech College of Architecture; and James E. Dills with the Georgia Health Policy Center.



Pictured (clockwise from top right): James Dills, Na’Taki Osborne-Jelks, Ramachandra Sivakumar, David Egetter, and program attendees.



## GUFC College Canopy Conference to be held at Berry College

September 17, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Berry College, in the Krannert Center  
2277 Martha Berry Highway, NW  
Mt. Berry, Georgia 30149 (Rome)



Are you responsible for trees on a college campus? This year's college canopy conference on the beautiful Berry College Campus, will assist you in your work. Both technical and administrative tracks make up this year's conference: *Why Trees Fall Down; Critical Root Zones on Construction Sites; Pests and Diseases plus Management Plans, iTree for Tree Inventories, and Trees and Sustainability Plans*. A Berry College canopy tour, led by Dr. Martin Cipollini and Georgia Botanical Society's Richard Ware rounds out the day.

This conference is for physical plant managers, landscape directors and crews, arborists, college administrators and anyone responsible for the healthy urban forests of college campuses. This conference is an excellent opportunity for networking with your colleagues from colleges and universities, public and private, across Georgia. [For directions, click here.](#) See [map of Berry College here.](#)

4.5 ISA Certified Arborist and Municipal Specialist CEUs will be available, as well as up to 5.5 SAF Continuing Forestry Education hours. Certificate of Attendance available for landscape architects and others. Lunch included.

Registration fee: \$50

Register [here.](#)

## Get your Community Forest Ice-Storm Ready! GUFC's 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference Slated for Oct. 22-23



With this year's weather adventures still on our minds, we're planning ***Ice Storm 2014: Lessons Learned in Urban Forestry – Preparing for Nature's Next Big Event***, two days of educational sessions aimed at preparing communities and their urban forests before, during, and after storms. GUFC's signature educational event will present *a general overview of how this storm affected communities; how to be better prepared through making storm mitigation plans; performing tree assessments before the storm happens; working with staging areas for debris and wood utilization; communicating with the media; understanding declared vs. undeclared events; working with FEMA, GEMA, and strike teams; making scenario assessments; and learning more about the damage and recovery of iced trees*. Join us for excellent general session talks, concurrent sessions, tours, and our annual urban forestry awards luncheon.

**10 ISA CEUs available. 7 SAF Forestry CFE hours, category 1, and 4.5, category 2. Certificates of attendance available for landscape architects and others.**

**Registration:**

\$135 for members (includes a \$10 donation to Georgia ReLeaf) [REGISTER HERE.](#)

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

**Need lodging for the annual conference?** A block of rooms has been reserved for GUFC at the **Classic City Hilton Garden Inn**, 390 East Washington Street in Athens. **\$119** - Standard King or Two Queen Beds. Call 706-353-6800. *This conference room rate is good until 10/1/14.*

# **Agriculture Secretary Vilsack Announces the 2014 National Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Grants to Support Climate Resilience and Green Infrastructure**

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced the 2014 USDA Forest Service's National Urban and Community Forestry Challenge grant recipients. The grants provide funding that will help enhance urban forest stewardship, support new employment opportunities, and help build resilience in the face of a changing climate. Close to 80 percent of the U.S. population lives in urban areas and depends on the essential ecological, economic, and social benefits provided by urban trees and forests. Climate and extreme weather events pose threats to urban trees and forests requiring increased investment in management, restoration and stewardship.

"Our urban and community forests provide clean water, clean air, energy conservation and other important benefits for the health and economic well-being of communities across the country," said Vilsack. "The grants announced today will help catalyze investment and strengthen stewardship of our urban forests to maintain their many contributions amid new risks from climate change."

In the United States alone, urban trees store over 708 million tons of carbon and can help further reduce emissions by lowering electricity demand for summer air conditioning and winter heating. Well maintained urban forests can help address climate and extreme weather impacts through reducing runoff, buffering high winds, controlling erosion, and minimizing the impacts of drought. Urban forests also provide critical social and cultural benefits that may strengthen community resilience to climate change through promoting social interaction and community stability.

The grant proposals were recommended by the Secretary's National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council and will address urban forest resiliency to extreme weather events and the long-term impacts of climate change; strategies for bolstering green jobs; and opportunities to use green infrastructure to manage and mitigate stormwater and improve water quality.

Today's announcements were made in connection with the one-year anniversary of President Obama's Climate Action Plan and support the plan's objectives of maintaining the role of forests in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and preparing communities for the impacts of a changing climate.

Over the past year, USDA has announced numerous initiatives in support of the President's Climate Action Plan including the availability of over \$320 million for renewable energy and energy efficiency investments and the launch of the first ever Regional Hubs that will help farmers, ranchers and forest landowners get the information and data they need to make informed decisions in response to a changing climate. USDA has also led efforts to address risks and support recovery from severe wildfire and drought and has provided over \$740 million in assistance and disaster relief to support communities and producers impacted by drought thus far in 2014. In addition, through the 2014 Farm Bill, USDA will invest \$880 million dollars towards renewable energy production such as wind and solar, advanced biofuel production, energy efficiency for rural small businesses and farms as well as research and development for fuels and products that replace petroleum and other energy-intensive products.

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The 2014 grant recipients are:

**Category 1: Making Urban Trees and Forests More Resilient to the Impacts of Natural Disasters and the Long-term Impacts of Climate Change**

**University of Florida, Mobile Tree Failure Prediction for Storm Preparation and Response;**

Federal Grant Amount: \$281,648

This proposed modeling system will assist urban forest managers in predicting tree failure during storms by developing a data collection model and a mobile Geographic Information Systems (GIS) mapping application to quantify tree risk in communities. The results and a best management practices manual will be made available to all researchers and professionals through the International Tree Failure Database, providing the standardized data needed to enhance our understanding of wind-related tree failure.

**Category 2: Green Infrastructure Jobs Analysis**

**Jobs for the Future, Jobs for the Future Green Infrastructure Jobs Analysis**

Federal Grant Amount: \$175,000

Jobs for the Future will conduct a labor market analysis that will build a business case for important green infrastructure investments in our communities. This will include strategies for expanding green infrastructure job growth in both the private and public sectors.

**Category 3: Utilizing Green Infrastructure to Manage and Mitigate Stormwater to Improve Water Quality**

**University of South Florida, From Gray to Green: Tools for Transitioning to Vegetation-Based Stormwater Management**

Federal Grant Amount: \$149,722

Many communities lack systematic strategies to transition from the existing conventional (gray) drainage systems to green infrastructure. This project will provide natural resource managers, planners, and engineers with decision-support tools to aid the strategic planning process for transitioning to green infrastructure systems that emphasize trees and urban forests.

**University of Tennessee, Storm Water Goes Green: Investigating the Benefit and Health of Urban Trees in Green Infrastructure Installations**

Federal Grant Amount: \$200,322

The contribution of trees to storm water management is not well understood. Project will demonstrate the role of trees in bio retention areas and provide recommendations regarding system design and tree species selection to maximize bio retention area functionality and tree health.

**Center for Watershed Protection, Making Urban Trees Count: A Project to Demonstrate the Role of Urban Trees in Achieving Regulatory Compliance for Clean Water Research**

Federal Grant Amount: \$103,120

Project will assist storm water managers with how to "credit" trees for runoff and pollutant load reduction in order to compare with other best management practices. A proposed design specification model for urban tree planting will address crediting, verification, cost-effectiveness, and tree health.

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For more information about the National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council, please visit [www.fs.fed.us/ucf/nucfac.html](http://www.fs.fed.us/ucf/nucfac.html).

The mission of the U.S. Forest Service, an agency of the Department of Agriculture, 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. Public lands the U.S. Forest Service manages 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.

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## News

- **New South Associates and the Georgia Department of Transportation** present the book, *Tell Me Tree*, written by Rita Folse Elliott and illustrated by Carol Schwartz and the 4<sup>th</sup> grade educational curriculum, "Under the Live Oaks," based on investigations at an archeological site in Chatham County. The live oaks at this site have been listed on Georgia Urban Forest Council's Landmark and Historic Tree Register. Read more [here](#).
- **Here's a quick and easy way to help support GUF:** Shop at **AmazonSmile** and Amazon will make a donation to the Georgia Urban Forest Council: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/58-2028386>
- **Tickets are now available** at [AtlantaAudubon.org](http://AtlantaAudubon.org) for the **Backyard Wildlife Sanctuary Tour**, Sept. 13 from 9 AM - 2 PM. There are five stops along an 18.5 mile route between Dunwoody and Peachtree Corners. Tickets may be purchased online or by mail. AAS is also running its **Annual Birdseed Sale** in conjunction with the Sanctuary Tour. Birdseed may be picked up the day of the Sanctuary Tour. Alternate pick up times are available for those who cannot attend the tour. [Click here](#) to go to the AAS website and [order form](#). All proceeds benefit education and conservation programs of Atlanta Audubon Society.
- **The Savannah Tree Foundation** will present its **6th Annual Fall Frolic** at the Ships of the Sea Maritime Museum, Oct 7, 6:00 pm – 9:30 pm. Celebrations will include the annual Founders Awards, a live and silent auction, and more. This year's event will be bigger and better than ever as they celebrate STF's work on a new canopy study. Dr. Bill Dudley, former Director of Naval History for the U.S. Navy, will share his experience with Georgia live oak in the restoration of the USS Constitution. Before the official Fall Frolic celebration, Dr. Dudley will offer a lecture about Georgia live oak and the ships of the U.S. Navy. The lecture is free and open to the public. All Fall Frolic proceeds benefit the work of the Savannah Tree Foundation. Lecture begins at 6:00 pm. Fall Frolic begins at 7:00 pm (tickets required). <http://www.savannahtree.com>.
- **Neil Norton** has been appointed the interim executive director of the [Georgia Arborist Association](#). Neil is an ISA certified arborist and is tree risk assessment qualified. He has an MBA and a background working with non-profits, including the Georgia Urban Forest Council and Trees Atlanta. Neil will be giving an overview of the new ISA TRAQ (Tree risk assessment qualification) program at GAA's September 9 program. Neil continues to work as a consultant to the GUF, on membership and the American Grove website.
- We send congratulations to **Gary White**, recently promoted to Management Chief of the Georgia Forestry Commission! Best wishes to Gary in his new position.

GEORGIA URBAN FOREST COUNCIL 2014

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