

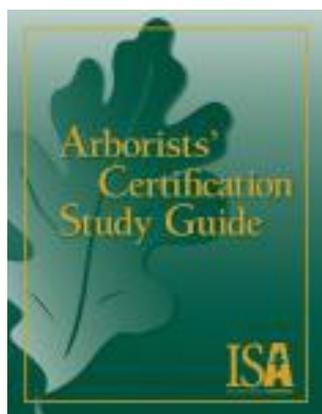
TREE TALKS

Georgia Urban Forest Council



SPRING 2015

Next ISA Arborist Certification Review Course Set for June 16 & 17



Taught by certified arborist Gretchen Musser, this class will be presented at Gwinnett Technical College, 5150 Sugarloaf Parkway, Lawrenceville (Building 900, room 1109). Gretchen will help attendees prepare for the International Society of Arboriculture arborist certification exam with lectures and hands-on demonstrations covering Tree Biology, Tree Identification, Soil Science, Water Management, Tree Nutrition and Fertilization, Tree

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GUFC Second Quarterly Program Looks at Urban Soils

"Urban Soils: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly"
Pre- and Post- Tree Planting Soil Management

May 7, 2015 - 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Athens-Clarke County Library
2025 Baxter Street, Athens, GA
Appleton Auditorium

Dr. Larry Morris, Professor, Forest Soils, Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, The University of Georgia, will

discuss making site corrections before planting trees and ameliorating problems through techniques like PH adjustments and using tools such as augers and back hoes for different situations. Then he will review post-planting soil correction techniques and tools including tree spades and hydrolic injections for problems like compaction.



International Society of Arboriculture, Bugwood.org

Dan Bauer, ISA Board Certified Master Arborist and President of Arbor Equity, Inc. will discuss landscape trees and how they may be growing in soils that do not contain sufficient elements and factors for satisfactory growth and development. Dan's talk will range from topsoil removal on construction sites to the majestic trees in historic landscapes.

Registration: \$40 members, \$50 non-members

Continuing Education credits: 3 ISA Arborist CEUs. 3 SAF Continuing Forestry hours. Certificate of attendance for landscape arborists and others.

[Register here.](#)

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President's Letter



Value for a Lifetime

For many communities, this is the time of year when local governments really start to watch their budgets for shortfalls and opportunities. Many of us work with a July 1st fiscal year, so by now, some areas are running lean, while others have room to spare. Luckily for all of us, the fuel budgets will probably find some relief this year. When I first came to work for government, I was surprised to learn about the “use it or lose it” mentality that emerges near the end of a budget cycle. Not only do operational budgets not roll over into the next fiscal year, but the occasional underuse of a budget can be targeted by politicians for future reductions.

Over time, I not only adapted to our budget cycles, I came to appreciate the opportunity they provide us to look a little more strategically at our operations. With “end of the year” funding, I have been able to buy high end supplies such as a resistograph, AirSpade, aerial lift, and GPS equipment. These purchases are invaluable to our operations. It's with this in mind, that this year, I'm going to advocate for that end of the year funds be used to purchase a Government **Lifetime Membership to the Georgia Urban Forest Council**.

For me, this is a simple value proposition. The annual Government Membership costs \$175. A Lifetime Membership costs \$1,000. That means a Lifetime Membership has a payback in less than six years, which is just a fraction of the 22 years my local government has been a member. In fact, over 87% of our Governmental Members have been with us for more than six years. Had they purchased a Lifetime Membership, their communities would already be saving money.

It's not just a financial value offered with this decision. Membership to the Georgia Urban Forest Council provides our staff with ongoing education, access to grant funding, and opportunities to network with peers across the state. Additionally, the one-time Lifetime Membership frees up future budget capacity to expand our ability to serve our citizens. So this year, I ask you to join me in becoming a Lifetime Member of the Georgia Urban Forest Council.

Andrew Saunders

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

GUFC will be at the Hilton Savannah DeSoto November 4 and 5 for its 25th Annual Conference & Awards Program. It's been 15 years since GUFC has held its fall conference in this beautiful coastal city, and we're looking forward to it! And we're thrilled to announced that renown research social scientist Dr. Kathleen Wolf of the University of Washington will be joining us as keynote speaker. She'll bring us up-to-date on her ever-evolving and always enlightening research on trees, greenspace, and human health, as we look at “The Forest Pharmacy: Nature's Prescription for Healthy Communities.” For a review of Dr. Wolf's work, visit her “Human Dimensions of Urban Forestry and Urban Greening” website at <http://www.naturewithin.info/>. Mark your calendars now. Agenda and registration details posted soon.

Mary Lynne Beckley

Urban Forestry News

- Writer Susan Larson pays tribute to GUFC Board Member and retired Georgia Forestry Commission community forester **Dale Higdon** in an article in the [Gwinnett Daily Post](#). Dale, who recently traveled to Japan this spring, brought back photos of the country's trees, like the ones at right.
- **The ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (TRAQ) program** provides an opportunity for professionals in the arboriculture industry to expand their knowledge through education and training in the fundamentals of tree risk assessment. This qualification promotes the safety of people and property by providing a standardized and systematic process for assessing tree risk. The results of a tree risk assessment can provide tree owners and risk managers with the information to make informed decisions to enhance tree benefits, health, and longevity. The course includes Tree Biology and Mechanics, Tree Inspection and Assessment, Data Analysis and Risk Categorization, and Risk Reporting. The Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (TRAQ) Course prepares the participant to take the TRAQ assessment to become ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualified. The qualification consists of a 2-day educational course followed by a ½ day assessment that includes both a written and field component. It is required that you attend the course and successfully complete the assessment in order to receive this qualification. For more information, [click here](#).
- Congratulations to **City of Rome Municipal Arborist Terry Paige** for becoming TRAQ Qualified. TRAQ is an ISA qualification program that trains arborists how to use the methodologies outlined in the ISA Best Management Practices for Tree Risk Assessment. This qualification promotes the safety of people and property by providing a standardized and systematic process for assessing tree risk. The results of a tree risk assessment can provide tree owners and risk managers with the information to make informed decisions to enhance tree benefits, health, and longevity.
- **Host cities are wanted for the 2015 Society of Municipal Arborists Intern Program.** The SMA Intern Program was created in 2011 through a grant agreement between the USDA - Forest Service, Washington Office and Society of Municipal Arborists. This grant agreement provided funding for a 3-year pilot program to prepare college students for urban forestry careers. The grant program has now been extended. The Grant Agreement outlined three key objectives for the program: 1. Provide a work experience opportunity for developing the skills needed to be a successful urban forestry practitioner. 2. Target sophomore and junior classified degree-seeking urban forestry students and match them with municipal forestry professionals who will provide mentorship through an internship program. 3. Develop a pool of qualified, degreed urban forestry graduates who are competitive candidates for municipal forestry positions. Don't miss this opportunity to help an urban forestry student gain valuable skills and experience, while augmenting your workforce for a summer! Please contact urbanforestry@prodigy.net if you would like to apply to be a host city for an intern this summer. **Application deadline: April 30, 2015.**



Japan's cherry trees and black pines. Photos by Dale Higdon.



Georgia Urban Forest Council Honors Carolyn Crayton with Mary Helen Ray Legacy Award at State Arbor Day Event

At the February 18th State Arbor Day Event at Wesleyan College in Macon, the Georgia Urban Forest Council presented its highest honor, the Mary Helen Ray Legacy Award, to **Carolyn Crayton, founder of Macon's International Cherry Blossom Festival and the Keep Macon Bibb Beautiful organization**. Mary Helen Ray was a pioneer in the urban forestry movement in Georgia and this award was established in 2010 to recognize stewardship, commitment and visionary leadership.

Thank you to special guest **Dan Lambe, President of the Arbor Day Foundation**, who travelled from Nebraska to be with us as we honored Carolyn and also communities, colleges, and utilities who have been recognized as a Tree City USA, Tree Campus USA, and Tree Line USA. **Robert Farris, Georgia Forestry Commission Director**, was also present to help recognize these outstanding groups. Here are some photos of the many groups that were present on this day.



GUFUC President Andrew Saunders and Carolyn Crayton



Arbor Day Foundation President Dan Lambe, Macon Cherry Blossom Festival Founder Carolyn Crayton, Macon-Bibb County Extension's Karol Kelly, Keep Macon-Bibb Beautiful President & CEO Pam Carswell, Middle Georgia State College Arborist (& GUFUC Board Member) Derrick Catlett, and Georgia Forest Commission Director Robert Farris.



Robert Farris, Justin Brooks of Clayton State University, and Dan Lambe.



Dan Lambe, Jeffrey Poston and Mark Wachter of Georgia Power, and Robert Farris.

Interested in learning more about becoming a Tree City, Tree Campus or Tree Line USA? Click [here](#) for more details.

Arborist Certification Review Class, continued from page 1:

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.

REGISTRATION FEE: \$100 GUFC members; \$115 non-members (Lunch and refreshments provided on both days.)

STUDY GUIDE: Attendees should read through the ISA Arborist Certification Study Guide (not included) to prepare for the review and the exam. The Arborist Certification Study Guide is available at www.isa-arbor.org and www.amazon.com. An ISA Certified Arborist exam will be scheduled approximately a month after the review course for those wanting to take it. Attendees will be responsible for completing their own application for the exam.

SCHOLARSHIPS: The **Georgia Forestry Commission** is offering scholarships to cover the cost of registration for tree board members and tree care workers employed by a city, county, school or university who are not ISA Certified Arborists. [Download application here](#). Scholarship application must be approved by the Georgia Forestry Commission before registering for the class.

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

[Register here](#).

Ed Gilman Speaks to February 18 GUFC Program

We thank Dr. Ed Gilman from the University of Florida, for speaking at GUFC's First Quarterly Program at Wesleyan College in Macon, an event in conjunction with the State Arbor Day Event on February 18. Dr. Gilman shared new information about root management, pruning and young tree planting, and spent a good deal of time demonstrating outdoors with everyone on this very chilly day.



Dr. Gilman and his "class"

Downloadable Tree Specs & Details Available

Dr. Gilman, Jim Urban, FASLA, and Brian Kempf and Tyson Carroll of the Urban Tree Foundation have developed an up to date and peer reviewed set of tree planting specifications and details for the green industry, including landscape architects, engineers, architects, contractors, urban foresters, arborists, municipalities and state agencies. [Learn more here](#).

Opportunity for Consulting Certified Arborists

The Georgia Forestry Commission in partnership with the Georgia Urban Forest Council is looking for consulting certified arborists who may be interested in participating in a Community Forestry Assistance Project. The purpose of the project is to provide focused assistance to communities to build sustainable community forestry programs. Some of the objectives of the project are to assist communities to become certified as a Tree City USA, to conduct tree assessments and write storm mitigation plans and to develop effective tree ordinances.

Some examples of the duties of the consulting certified arborist may be:

- Promoting the Tree City USA (TCUSA) program and assisting communities with certification or recertification.
- Developing, training and working with tree boards and other tree advocacy groups and organizing regional tree board roundtables.
- Engaging in opportunities to meet with or speak to community officials, city staff and residents about the benefits of a managed community forest.
- Writing, revising or evaluating tree ordinances.
- Working with city councils and city attorneys to adopt tree ordinances.
- Educating residents, developers, businesses, tree care companies and city staff about provisions of tree ordinances.
- Conducting tree risk assessments.
- Developing tree management or storm mitigation plans.
- Engaging in opportunities to speak to community officials, city staff and emergency managers about the benefits of storm mitigation plans, working with an ISA certified arborist and having an effective community forestry program, as well as, providing information about the Urban Forest Strike Team.
- Conducting tree care and/or tree risk assessment training for municipal tree care workers, tree board members and residents.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Bachelor's Degree in forestry, horticulture, landscape design or agriculture.
- ISA Certified Arborist, Municipal Arborist, or Master Arborist
- Previous or current employment as a community arborist, community forester or consulting arborist.
- Past experience working with elected officials, city staff, residents and volunteers.
- Experience providing timely and accurate reports.
- Experience speaking before groups of various sizes.

Preferred Qualifications:

- Experience promoting the Tree City USA (TCUSA) program and working with tree boards, tree advocacy groups, and assisting with Arbor Day events.
- History of interfacing with community officials to promote the benefits of an effective community forestry program.
- Experience conducting tree risk assessments and tree inventories and skill in developing and writing tree management or storm mitigation plans.
- Demonstrated skill writing, revising or evaluating tree ordinances.
- Experience educating tree boards, municipal officials, and residents about the benefits and provisions of community tree ordinances

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Consultants are needed in various parts of the state. The schedule is flexible but some activities may require weekday availability. The number of hours required will be based on community needs and required activities. The average number of project hours may range from 10 to 40 hours per month. Consultants will be paid on an hourly basis. Consultant will be responsible to provide own transportation. All travel and food expenses will be the responsibility of the consultant and not reimbursable. Consultant will be required to provide a monthly invoice to GUFC documenting activities, accomplishments and hours spent, including travel time.

- Send resumes to: Mary Lynne Beckley, Georgia Urban Forest Council, 315 W. Ponce de Leon Ave, Suite 554, Decatur, GA 30030 or to marylynn@gufc.org
- Questions about the project should be directed to Joan Scales, Georgia Forestry Commission at: jscales@gfc.state.ga.us or 706-552-4442.

The deadline to submit resumes is Friday, May 8th.

Great American Tree Competition

Sponsored by American Grove



Everyone has a favorite tree. It's a landmark to your community, has a compelling story, or makes a huge environmental contribution. It personifies perseverance or is a testament to history. It's grand and noble or small and dignified. Whatever statement your favorite tree makes, nominate it - **in the first annual Great American Tree Competition.**

Help us find the Great American Tree for 2015! Share your enthusiasm for America's appreciation of trees by clicking here and posting the tree that you think should be the Great American Tree!

Guidelines for nominations:

Nominations must include a photo, a description of why the tree is special, tree species, tree size (height and/or diameter) and the tree's location (GPS or address). Nominations may be posted to any of the following: [American Grove](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Pinterest](#), or as an attachment to an [e-mail](#).

All trees, no matter how they are submitted, will be posted to American Grove within their state grove, where they will be voted upon. After winners from each state and/or territory are determined, an "all-star" urban forestry panel will cast its votes and The Great American Tree will be named.

Timeline:

April 30: Contest Begins

June 30: Deadline for Nominations

July 30: State Voting

August 30th: National Voting by Panel

**September 15th:
Announcement of the
2015 Great American Tree!**

Georgians should submit their nominations and vote for their favorite Georgia tree in the [Georgia Grove](#). Only one vote per person will be counted. Even if you don't nominate a tree, help us select the Georgia nominee that will move on to the national competition.

GEORGIA URBAN FOREST COUNCIL 2015

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