SUMMER 2017

Awarding the Best in Urban Forestry

It’s summer, so it’s time to spend time thinking about the work of our contacts, networks, friends, and colleagues. A good way to praise their good work for urban trees and greenspace is to honor them at our annual Fall awards luncheon Nov. 8 at Callaway Gardens in Pine Mountain, Georgia. We are now taking applications for nominations for the 2017 Excellence in Urban Forestry Awards. One grand award will be bestowed in Marketing, Streetscape Revitalization, Greenspace Plan, New Development, New Initiative, Business, Media, Civic Organization, Community, Elected/Appointed Official, Education, Individual Achievement, Student, and Urban Arboriculture. Read more at our website here.

THIRD QUARTER PROGRAM AUGUST 10
Trees as Green Stormwater Infrastructure
Norcross Community Center
10 College Street, Norcross

For the third consecutive year, we will spend time talking together about trees as green stormwater infrastructure at our summer program. This year’s event will be held August 10, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Norcross Community Center, 10 College Street. Karen Firehock, Executive Director of the Green Infrastructure Center in Charlottesville, Virginia, will lead us in talks about the valuable role of trees in stormwater management. We’ll also hear from Shane Carpani at GreenBlue Urban, an international company that helps cities with integrating stormwater management into urban tree planting design. Christine McKay, Water Protection Division, US EPA Region 4, will facilitate a panel discussion on challenges and successes in communities regarding trees and stormwater management. Lunch included. 3.25 CEUs available for ISA-certified arborists. SAF Continuing Forestry Education hours applied for. A certificate of professional development will be available for landscape architects and others. Read more and register here.

After attending the program, see City of Norcross’ State Champion American Elm.
President’s Letter

Summer solstice has passed and the heat is on! I hope everyone is doing their best to stay hydrated. During this time of year, worker safety is continually on my mind, and we all need to be aware of the symptoms of heat-resulted illnesses and take care of each other. In general, there seems to be a greater chance of accidents during this time of year. Our hands are slippery with sweat, safety glasses are fogged up, muscles begin cramping too often leading up to poor decisions and unnecessary risks that lead to property damage and injury.

While we are all so thirsty, let's not forget about all those trees we planted in the past 3-5 years. Although this summer has been kind with many cities receiving nearly double the monthly average of rain fall, many areas are still experiencing two to three week gaps with no precipitation. Now is a great time to insure that your root zones have 3-4" of mulch to help retain that moisture, and during dry spells it cannot hurt to add root stimulator in the water tank before driving around and watering stressed trees. Mulching and watering are great tasks that allow workers to take frequent breaks while still being productive.

As planting season is fast approaching, I'm daydreaming of cooler weather. Hopefully we are all making planting plans for late fall through winter. As we plan let us not forget to join forces by donating to Georgia ReLeaf, where 100% of the funds will help provide trees to the storm-ravished coastline and coastal plain.

Derrick Catlett

From the Executive Director

We scheduled one more Arborist Certification Review Class for the year! If you would like to begin preparation to take the exam to become an ISA-certified arborist, register today for our two day course in Grayson on September 19 & 20. Certified Arborists Gretchen Musser and Rob Swanson will lead the classes at the Grayson Senior Center, 485 Grayson Parkway, Grayson, Georgia 30017 (behind City Hall), helping attendees prepare for the exam with lectures and hands-on demonstrations. An ISA Certified Arborist exam will be scheduled approximately one month after the review course for those wishing to take it. Attendees should read through the ISA Arborist Certification Study Guide to prepare for the review and the exam. The Arborist Certification Study Guide is available at www.isa-arbor.com and www.amazon.com. 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. Go to our website at gufc.org, to learn more and register.

Over at AmericanGrove.org, we’re searching for the 2017 Great American Tree. This year’s nominees should be "trees that epitomize the meaning of summer," such as trees that provide cool summer shade, hold tire swings, or bring back summer memories. I hope to see you August 10 in Norcross.

Mary Lynne Beckley
URBAN FORESTRY NEWS

Noted author to speak at GUFC Annual Conference

Author Jill Jonnes will speak about her new book, *Urban Forests: A Natural History of Trees and People in the American Cityscape*, at the Georgia Urban Forest Council Annual Conference, November 8 and 9, at the Callaway Gardens Conference Center in Pine Mountain. Ms. Jonnes’ book is a celebration of urban trees and the Americans who have promoted the benefits of trees and tree planting for our communities. David B. Williams of the Seattle Times wrote of *Urban Forests*, “Through the efforts of enlightened leaders, tree evangelists, scientists and artists, numerous programs have been established to defend our urban forests. In telling their stories and the stories of the trees they love, Jonnes’ book will give readers a new and deeper understanding of the grand urban forest that is not only beautiful but central to healthful living.” A copy of the book (to read before the GUFC conference!) can be ordered here.

Top 12 Non-native Invasive Plants in Georgia

David Dickenson and the Forest Inventory and Analysis Group, under the Georgia Forestry Commission’s Forest Management Department, recently compiled the acreage figures for nonnative invasive plants in Georgia. The “Dirty Dozen List” provides hard numbers showing the growing impact of nonnative invasive plants in Georgia. Find this list at http://www.gatrees.org/forest-management/forest-health/plants/index.cfm.

College Canopy Conference  September 12 at Clayton State University in Morrow

At this year’s College Canopy Conference, we’ll hear talks on the latest research regarding changing urban landscapes and concerns such as the West Nile and Zika viruses; campus sustainability, best practices for tree care and campus communication; tree risk assessment and keeping people safe; establishing a butterfly garden, pollinator garden, or arboretum; and specific challenges for treecare on college campuses. We'll enjoy an interesting trail walk and talk through this lovely campus, including their QR-coded tree plantings, Spivey Hall, the Butterfly Garden, the Pollinator Garden, and Lakeview Discovery and Science Center, which is Georgia Peach Belt Green Building Certified. Lunch included. 4.75 ISA CEUs available. Certificate of Professional Development available for landscape architects and others. See agenda here. Register here.
Registration is now open for Fall Annual Conference at Callaway Gardens

Don’t miss the 27th Annual GUFC Conference and Awards Program, this year at the Callaway Gardens Lodge Conference Center. Keynote speakers include author Jill Jonnes (Urban Forests: A Natural History of Trees and People in the American Cityscape), Dr. Larry Morris, Professor of Forest Soils at the University of Georgia, and Mac Callaham, USDA Research Ecologist and Adjunct Professor at the Odum School of Ecology at the University of Georgia. Breakout sessions will cover issues such as Beneficial Insects in the City, Urban Soils, City Tree Selection, Tree Ordinances, and much more. Tours will include the Cecil B. Day Butterfly Center and hands-on experience evaluating trees. The awards luncheon allows everyone to see the best of the best in urban forestry projects across the state. See agenda here.

Purchase your registration tickets with the orange button below, and remember that lodging is a separate fee. The lodging rate for conference attendees is $139 per night, and the number to call is listed on the ticket reservation page.

CEUs: 10 CEUs for ISA-certified arborists
SAF Forestry Continuing Education hours applied for. Certificate of Professional Development available for landscape architects and others.

READ WHAT PAST ATTENDEES ARE SAYING!

“The City of Rome, a Lifetime Member of GUFC, has long recognized the value of attending the annual conference. Working for a municipality has many financial and political challenges. Meeting face to face with our colleagues across the state provides us with the opportunity to really discuss urban forestry issues and develop working relationships. I can provide several instances where I have used a contact I met at a GUFC conference to move a project along in my community. Physically being in the same place with our friends in forestry is invaluable – you can’t achieve the same results with a webinar. And it’s a lot of fun!” – Mary Hardin Thornton, Executive Director, Keep Rome-Floyd Beautiful

"It is always exciting to visit a new city in Georgia and getting to see how they manage their trees. They always have great presentations and I get to discuss new topics with my colleagues from across the state." – Billy Paugh, Community Forestry Coordinator, Athens-Clarke County Government

Interested in sponsoring this event? Visit this link to learn more.
Consider a Lifetime Membership in GUFC

Tired of membership renewal e-mails or wondering if your membership is up-to-date? A smart value and investment for towns and cities especially, a Lifetime Membership in the Georgia Urban Forest Council is a one-time membership payment of $1,000. Your GUFC membership payment at any level is a donation and tax-deductible and directly helps bring urban forestry education, resources, and leadership to Georgia communities, large and small. With a membership in the Georgia Urban Forest Council, you are part of our team. Thank you!  http://www.gufc.org/membership/

Hurricane, tornadoes devastated South Georgia communities. Let's help them restore their tree canopy.

On October 7 and 8, 2016, Hurricane Matthew pounded Georgia coastal counties with wind gusts felt 50 miles inland, and Savannah and Tybee Island experienced 71-96 miles per hour winds. The Georgia Forestry Commission surveyed the damage and the storm-generated tree debris left, finding the highest amount of damage in Chatham County. But other communities experienced tree loss as well, and urban areas with the greatest canopy suffered the most damage. In Statesboro, for example, over a thousand trees were affected.

In January, 2017, 41 confirmed tornadoes struck the state of Georgia in one 36-hour period. The south Georgia area was especially devastated. The Dougherty-Worth-Turner-Wilcox tornado, for example, was a mile wide and travelled 70 miles. But other communities were affected as well, from Albany and beyond. Over 5000 acres of urban trees were affected.

Click here to watch our video explaining our current endeavors in South Georgia and donate what you can to Georgia Urban Forest Council’s Georgia ReLeaf fundraising drive to restore tree canopy in these communities. Please share on Facebook and through other social media!

Please donate what you can to Georgia Urban Forest Council’s Georgia ReLeaf fundraising drive to restore tree canopy in South Georgia. All funds raised will go directly to providing trees to these towns and cities, and donations are fully tax-deductible.

Click here to make a secure donation online.

Want to send a donation by check? Make the check payable to “Georgia Urban Forest Council” with “Georgia ReLeaf” written in the memo line, and mail to:

Georgia Urban Forest Council
P.O. Box 2199
Stone Mountain, Georgia 30086
Norcross, Alpharetta Participate in Pilot Tree Canopy Projects

The Green Infrastructure Center and state forestry agencies have funded seven states to develop pilot projects to help localities map, evaluate, protect and restore their urban forests for improved stormwater management. In Georgia, the cities of Norcross and Alpharetta are participating. Outcomes from these projects include integrating trees into the locality’s stormwater management program; updated tree canopy and impervious land cover maps; identifying potential planting areas to set future canopy goals, codes and ordinance audits; and methodology for linking urban forest systems to urban MS4 requirements. The projects will be completed by August 2018.

GUFC Invasives Class to be presented in Macon Nov. 30

Back by popular demand! Noted researchers from the University of Georgia's Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health (Tifton, GA) will discuss invasive species in the urban forest, available treatments for invasives plants and insects, alternatives for invasive landscape trees, and more. This class will be held at the covered pavilion at Claystone Park at Lake Tobesofkee, 6600 Mosley Dixon Road, Macon, Georgia 31220. Lunch included. Arborist, forester, pesticide CEUs will be available. Landscape architects and others will receive a certificate for their records. For more info and to register, visit www.gufc.org.

Community Tree News by the Georgia Forestry Commission

The Georgia Forestry Commission has a new electronic newsletter, Community Tree News, for Georgia tree board members from Tree City USA and Tree Campus USA communities. Stay on the lookout for the newsletter, powered by Constant Contact, for the latest information about the opening of the Arbor Day Foundation’s recertification portals, the statewide Arbor Day event in 2018 and useful resources for tree board members. Please contact Susan Granbery if you would like to be added to the contact list.

#HealthyTreesHealthyLives Social Media Campaign

The state forestry agencies in the south are collaborating on a social media awareness campaign to connect trees to human health. You can help us by posting our messages on your Facebook, Twitter and Instagram pages with pictures and #HealthyTreesHealthyLives, or retweet and share posts you see from Georgia Forestry Commission and the Southern Group of State Foresters.
Award Winner! Coastal Georgia's Green Infrastructure and Stormwater Management"

"Coastal Georgia's Green Infrastructure and Stormwater Management" animated video is a semi-finalist in the Student Academy Awards (http://www.oscars.org/saa)! They are currently one of 85 selected from a pool of over 1500 international and national entries! As stated on the website, "The Academy established the Student Academy Awards in 1972 to support and encourage excellence in filmmaking at the collegiate level. Past Student Academy Award winners have gone on to receive 46 Oscar nominations and have won or shared eight awards. They include John Lasseter, Pete Docter, Robert Zemeckis, Trey Parker and Spike Lee." The award-winning video already received two awards: (a) NOAA Gray's Reef Marine Sanctuary "Our Community, Our Ocean" Emerging Filmmaker Competition and (b) Athens-Clark County Ripple Effect Film Project (Best overall - Adult). Click here to view this educational video for all ages.

Five-Year Plan for Georgia’s Urban and Community Forests, 2018 - 2022

The Georgia Forestry Commission and Georgia Urban Forest Council are working with the US Forest Service to hold a collaborative meeting for 30 individuals to help shape the future of urban and community forests in Georgia. We are pulling together a group of partner organizations to attend two planning sessions to collectively create a new Five-Year Plan for Georgia’s Urban & Community Forest (2018-2023). This five year plan will:

1) Provide direction for urban and community forest resources throughout GA over the next five years;
2) Be a tool to educate and communicate with elected leaders and to help guide policy development;
3) Provide a framework for leveraging partnerships and funds across organizations and coordinate our statewide efforts.

Please contact Susan Granbery for more information at sgranbery@gfc.state.ga.us or 678-476-6227.

Webinar: President’s Budget for Urban and Community Forestry and What You Can Do

Alliance for Community Trees recently presented a webinar on the President’s Budget for Urban and Community Forestry. Here is the link to listen and gather information to contact your legislators about the importance of federal funding for Urban and Community Forestry.
Energy Saving Trees, the Georgia Forestry Commission, Georgia Power and Snapping Shoals EMC Bring Lasting Environmental Benefits to the State of Georgia

More Than 2,000 Trees Distributed to Area Residents

Energy Saving Trees, a program of the Arbor Day Foundation, partnered with the Georgia Forestry Commission, Georgia Power and Snapping Shoals EMC to bring valuable social and environmental impact to their customers in the state of Georgia. The program placed 2,167 trees in the hands of area residents, at no cost to promote energy conservation through community involvement.

Through the Energy Saving Trees programs, residents were able to use proprietary, interactive software to determine the best placement for the free trees on their property, taking into account the most beneficial spot for planting resulting in the highest potential for energy savings. Over the next 20 years, this impact of the 2,167 trees distributed is projected to include 4,592,972 kWh of energy saved, 28,405,299 gallons of storm water filtered, 8,816,119 lbs. of carbon sequestered, and 24,076 lbs. of air pollutants absorbed. The environmental value of this project is expected to be nearly a million dollars over the next 20 years.

“This partnership between location corporations, state government agencies and our national nonprofit illustrates the importance of energy savings in our local communities,” said Kristen Bousquet of the Energy Saving Trees program. “Not only were the partners excited about getting the trees into the hands of residents, but the local residents claimed the available trees in record time really illustrating the need for this program in their community.”

Since its inception in 2011, the Energy Savings Tree program has partnered with 48 communities and partners, planting more than 190,000 of trees throughout 37 of the United States.

About Energy Saving Trees

Energy-Saving Trees, a program of the Arbor Day Foundation is a research-based, easy-to-use online mapping tool that takes the guesswork out of tree planting. By entering simple information about your home and yard, the tool calculates where to specifically and strategically plant trees for the greatest energy- and money-saving benefits. Planting the right tree in the right place is key to maximizing the energy-saving benefits that trees provide. When planted properly, a single tree can save a homeowner up to 20% on energy costs. For more information, energysavingtrees.arborday.org
THE ENERGY-SAVING TREES PROGRAM helps people save energy by planting the right trees in the right places to effectively shade their homes. Planting shade trees for energy savings is already helping communities large and small improve energy efficiency, and the benefits will continue to grow as the trees do. Check out the overall projected impact the Energy-Saving Trees program will have on the environment.

TOTAL TREES PLANTED: 2,167

TOTAL HOMEOWNERS ENGAGED: 2,167

4,592,972 kWh SAVED

8,816,119 lbs CARBON SEQUESTERED/AVOIDED

28,405,298 GALLONS OF STORMWATER FILTERED

24,076 lbs OF AIR POLLUTANTS ABSORBED

$65,010 INVESTED IN ENERGY SAVING TREES PROJECT

$748,341 IN COMBINED ENERGY AND COMMUNITY BENEFITS

*Projected 20 year cumulative values

Established Spring 2017
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Thank you to our partners who help us bring vital urban forestry education and resources to Georgia.

Learn more about sponsorship at http://www.gufc.org/sponsorship/.

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