



The Council Quarterly

Quarterly Newsletter of the Florida Urban Forestry Council

2019 Issue Three

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TIPS FOR CHOOSING THE PROPER TREE CARE SPECIALIST

Submitted by Chris Otremba, Senior Forester - Florida Forest Service

Trees are a valuable asset and long-term investment that can increase your property value. In the wake of storms, existing stress factors, and other environmental uncertainties, a tree care specialist can safeguard your return on investment and the portfolio of benefits that trees provide. Could you profit from pruning? Is your investment performing properly? Is it time to liquidate or remove a tree? Perhaps it's time to seek the skills and advice of a tree-care specialist? Here are some tips to help you find the best fit for you.

- 1) Ask questions! Ask for local references. If possible, look at their work. Ask about their experience, education, and qualifications.
- 2) Do they have a Certified Arborist on staff? Certified Arborists, through the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA), have passed the test of knowledge and experience regarding proper tree care and industry standards. You can learn more about ISA certifications at www.isa-arbor.com.
- 3) Ask for certificates of insurance, proof of liability, and workers compensation. This is important and should not be overlooked.
- 4) A good tree expert would NEVER recommend topping, de-mossing, injuring a tree with climbing spikes, or other harmful and unnecessary practices.
- 5) Beware of the door-knockers. Reputable tree companies rarely need to knock on doors for business.
- 6) Seek out second opinions. Have more than one company evaluate the situation. Seek out unbiased advice from a professional forester, Certified Arborist, or local tree care specialist.
- 7) Ask the question, "Is removal the first and only solution, or a last resort?"

Here are some helpful tips once you have selected a candidate for completing needed tree work.

continues on pg. 3



Photo By TreeMinion15 - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=79467949>

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



At this time of year, we are thinking of moving forward to winter, with seasons changing, school for youth progressing, and the push in most businesses to finish what can get done before the holidays and the end of the year. We at FUFC are also finishing up work for our year, and this includes the final year in our Five-Year Strategic Plan for educating, informing, and leading urban forestry advocacy in Florida. We have put together the draft for our next five years too, and The Council Quarterly has presented a good summary of our committees and their activities to share with everyone. If you are

interested in participating at a higher level in FUFC, you can join a committee and be part of what we do. You do not need to be elected to the Executive Committee to be in one of our working committees, but you will need to contact Sandy at the FUFC office and sign up.

Our tree care and urban forestry messages are branching out through different channels on the Internet, inside our monthly In a Nutshell e-news bulletin, on the pages of The Council Quarterly newsletter, at our workshops, exhibits, and during our UFI conference. Hopefully the FUFC provides you with new ideas, opportunities for education, and connections to support, improve, and increase the urban tree canopy in your community. We'll continue to be a resource for our members, providing information and motivation for maintaining, managing, and advancing urban trees in urban forests.

In Support,

John Harris
FUFC President

NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING ANNUAL RATES:

Business-card size advertisement: \$75

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Full page advertisement: \$450

To place an advertisement in *The Council Quarterly*, please contact Sandy Temple, FUFC Executive Director (407-872-1738).

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- 1) NEVER pay upfront, NEVER! Unfortunately, complete payment upfront may not guarantee that the work will be completed. Have the work to be performed written in an agreement before the work begins.
- 2) Always get a starting date and finish date in the agreement. The work to be completed needs to be documented. For example, the price of removing a tree may not include the price to haul off the debris. Have everything written down before the work begins with the price for each step of the process.
- 3) Take pictures before, during, and after the work is complete. This will be helpful in case of a dispute or damages occurring from the job.
- 4) If you see something you do not approve of, TELL THEM. Do not wait until the cut is complete and the damage is done.
- 5) Pay the company with a check only after everything on the contract has been completed (including clean-up).

In summary, trees are long-term investments and valuable assets to your property. A good tree company can improve a tree's overall health and safeguard your trees from bad weather and other environmental stresses. When shopping for a tree company, ask questions. Take the opportunity to educate yourself about the basic principles of tree care. Some pruning is simple and can be done on your own. For more information, contact your County Forester with the Florida Forest Service, UF/IFAS Cooperative Extension office, local municipal forester, utility arborist, or local tree-advocacy group.

The Florida Forest Service, a division of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, manages more than 1 million acres of state forests. County Foresters provide forest management assistance on more than 17 million acres of private and community forests. The Florida Forest Service also provides

technical, financial, and educational resources to support the development and continuing viability of local urban forestry practices through a Florida Urban and Community Forestry (U&CF) program. The U&CF program targets the needs of local governments, nonprofit organizations, primary and secondary schools, colleges and universities, and the general public. Urban and community forestry initiatives are accomplished through partnerships with the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Science (IFAS), the Florida Urban Forestry Council (FUFC), and other organizations and entities. To learn more about the Florida Forest Service, to include a complete listing of County Foresters, visit the FloridaForestService.com.

Register Now! fufc.org

Florida Urban Forestry Council • Urban Forestry Institute 2020

Expanding Your Canopy

Wednesday-Friday • March 4-6, 2020

Expanding Your Canopy—in the public realm, on private properties, with utility-appropriate trees, and through known tree benefits. Renowned tree experts and leaders from Florida urban forestry will present information on the current state of affairs with designed soils for pavement and trees, measuring and mapping the tree canopy, expansion through design and regulation, improving safety on urban roadways through planting street trees, selecting and purchasing quality trees, public and private partnerships, Urban and Community Forestry grants, and more.

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STUMP THE FORESTER

QUESTION: Why do leaves change color in the fall?

ANSWER: As the photosystem of a tree slows, or shuts down completely, chlorophyll – and the green pigments they possess – fade or disappear entirely. The subsequent yellow, orange, red, and brown pigments remain and are revealed. This may be an answer to the question, but it's not the complete answer.

Every forester, arborist, tree care professional, science teacher, and perhaps every mom and dad, will likely have to answer this question at some time. The question can be answered on many different levels. One of the most intriguing answers came from a seasoned park ranger who said that, “trees change color so that they can be heard.” He meant that our world is a world of wonder – a world full of natural oohs and aahs. Unfortunately, much of it goes unnoticed, or overlooked. Lions have their roar; storms have their thunder and lightning; songbirds have their solos; flowers have their splashing hues; and the moon has its glow. Trees don't want to be left out, or taken for granted. The life processes that take place within a tree throughout the spring and summer is phenomenal and almost unbelievable – yet they go largely unnoticed and unappreciated. On the other hand, the changing autumn colors of the leaves of trees can be striking and spectacular.

On the broadest perspective, leaves change color in the fall because the balance of nature has changed. Even slight changes to this balance can have a profound and changing influence over our natural ecosystems. The color change in fall foliage is influenced in part by the

relationship between daylight hours and the photosynthetic process. Following the fall equinox, daylight hours (photosynthetic hours) decrease as the northern hemisphere tilts away from direct rays of the sun. Many of the deciduous, broadleaf trees cannot sustain the same rate of photosynthetic activity. The shortened daylight hours trigger the formation of a corky barrier wall between leaf stalks and the twigs that support them (abscission layer). The barrier seals off the flow of water, nutrients, and other elements needed for chlorophyll cells to survive and thrive within the leaf. The photosystem of the tree slows, or shuts down completely. Chlorophyll – and their green pigments – fade or disappear entirely. The subsequent colors of yellow, orange, red, and brown pigments remain. Carotene photosynthetic pigments create yellow and orange colors. Water-soluble anthocyanin pigments are responsible for red colors. A combination between yellow and red pigments can create shades of orange. Tannins display the brown colors. Surprisingly, the vivid autumn colors (pigments) are within the leaves all year – hidden, or overcome by the levels of the green pigments of active chlorophyll.

The color change in fall foliage is influenced in part by the photosynthetic process – a process that cannot function without available water. From a tree's perspective winter months are drought months. The water may not be available to sustain the same rate of photosynthesis as in the spring and summer. In the northern latitudes and higher elevations, precipitation in the form of snow and ice are unusable by the tree. As a result, trees simply stop the photosynthetic process by dropping the mechanism (leaves) that carry it out.

Not all trees change color. It's not always necessary to arrest the photosynthetic process entirely. Green chlorophyll remains active in the leaves of semi-deciduous and evergreen trees. The photosynthetic process, and the subsequent need for water, can be conserved by reducing the volume of leaves during the fall and winter months. These trees will drop a portion of their leaves, but not the entire crown. Reducing the surface area of a leaf can limit the photosynthetic process too. Semi-deciduous and evergreen trees have evolved with relatively small surfaces areas with smaller leaves, as opposed to deciduous, broadleaf trees. Consequently, they don't participate in the striking display of vivid autumn colors.

Our world is a world of wonder, a world full of natural oohs and aahs, and a world of questions to be answered. Reach out to a professional forester, local arborist, or tree care specialist with your questions and interests regarding trees and the benefits they provide.

Answer provided by Joe Anderson, JEA Utility Forester (and collaboration with the FUFC editing staff)



If you would like to 'stump the forester,' see page 11 for information on submitting your question!

Tree of the Quarter

AMERICAN SYCAMORE
(*Platanus occidentalis* L.)

Submitted by by David A. Fox, PhD –
Lecturer, University of Florida, School of
Forest Resources and Conservation



Early American settlers would likely have been very familiar with this forest giant as they traveled from the eastern seaboard to the Mississippi River. This tall, stately tree with large bright green foliage provides shady relief on a hot summer day and is found mixed with upland hardwoods along intermittent streams or as a floodplain pioneer in its native range. Most Floridians would likely never see sycamore in that setting but only as a widely-planted landscape tree in urbanized areas of north and central Florida. People tend to have a love-hate relationship with sycamore: We love the fast-growing tall, strait trunk that provides deep shade all summer while lamenting the seemingly acres of large leaves to be raked each autumn.

Size and Form:

Sycamores are considered fast growing and can achieve heights over 100 feet under ideal conditions. Heights in urban settings typically range between 40 and 70 feet and will easily produce a straight trunk if not topped; they typically require very little pruning. Because they produce large crowns, sycamores should be planted at least 40 feet away from overhead wires and are best established in parks or large lawns.

Habitat:

Found in floodplain forests on alluvial soils of the eastern US associated with sweet-gum, oak, hickory, gum, cypress, beech, maple, birch, elm, ash, and cottonwood.

Range:

Sycamore occurs in 36 eastern states from Maine to Northern Florida and west to eastern Texas up the Mississippi valley to southern Wisconsin. In Florida, native sycamore is limited to the Apalachicola, Choctawhatchee, and Escambia River basins in the panhandle but is widely planted in urban landscapes.

Leaves:

Deciduous, simple, alternate, 4 to 10 inches wide often wider than long, having 5-inch petioles and palmate venation. Bright green in color aging to yellow in fall. The leaves have 3 to 5 sharp pointed lobes in a rough star shape.

Twigs and branch:

Twigs are brown and zigzag along their length with leaf-like stipules encircling the twig. Smaller branches are relatively weak and prone to breakage in wind or ice storms.

Bark:

Gray to white, rougher when mature around the lower trunk and smooth higher up. Bark on the upper trunk exfoliates exposing inner bark which creates an attractive pattern reminiscent of military camouflage, having various tones of green, tan, gray, and white.

Flowers:

Inconspicuous and appear with the leaves in the spring.

Fruit and Seed:

Technically a globe-shaped cluster of achenes, the fruit is a single seed on a long bristle that, when clustered together, look like a 2 to 3-inch fuzzy ball hanging from a thin stem. These clusters fall apart over

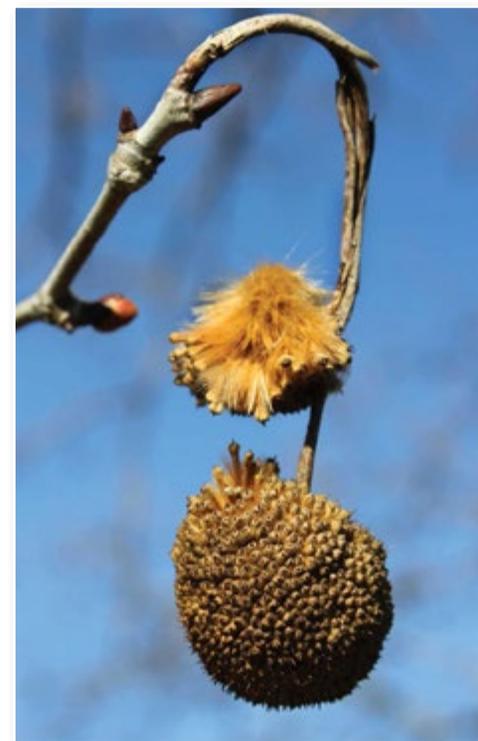
time, releasing the seed in late summer and fall.

Environment:

In the urban setting, sycamore grows best on loamy to sandy, well-drained, moist soils but will tolerate wet compacted conditions. They are extremely flood tolerant but not drought-tolerant or salt-tolerant. In the wild, sycamore is a pioneer species that enjoys full sun but has intermediate shade tolerance. Planting one under a larger tree will result in a crooked trunk as the sycamore seeks light.

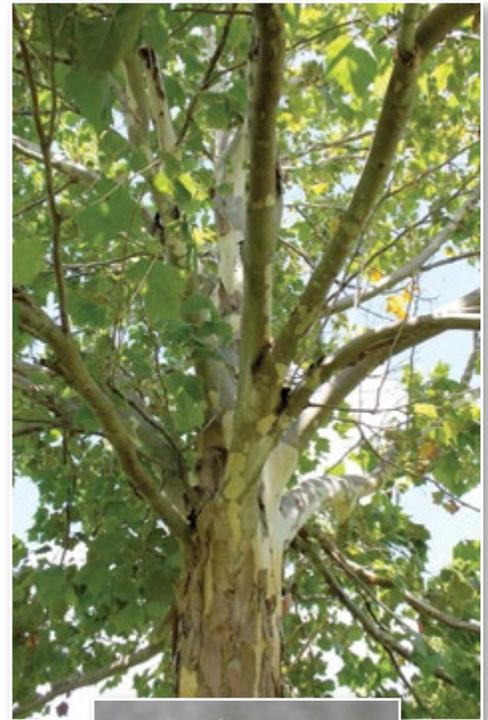
Usage:

The wood is used for furniture-making, rough lumber, and particleboard but is most often harvested for paper pulp. Sycamore is sometimes grown under short-rotation intensive plantations using coppice regeneration for pulpwood in large river flood plains. Sycamore can be planted on strip-mined land and along eroded stream banks for restoration.



Little Known Facts:

- The American sycamore is native to small areas in the mountains of northeastern Mexico.
- An early American common name for sycamore was “buttonwood tree” because of the ball-shaped fruit clusters. Colonial businessmen routinely gathered around a sycamore and The New York Stock Exchange formally began in 1792 when the “Buttonwood Agreement” was signed. (from the book American Canopy by Eric Rutkow, 2012)
- Hundreds of tree seeds orbited the moon in the command module during the Apollo 14 mission of 1971. Upon return to earth, the seeds were planted and reared by the US Forest Service; no discernable differences were found between the so-called “moon trees” and trees from seeds that never left the earth. The moon trees were later distributed to various state forestry agencies to be planted during the bicentennial celebration in 1976. One such moon tree, an American Sycamore, was planted on the University of Florida campus in Gainesville and is indiscernible from any other sycamore planted nearby. Other sycamore moon trees were planted at Cape Canaveral, Keystone Heights, and Tallahassee. (https://nssdc.gsfc.nasa.gov/planetary/lunar/moon_tree.html)
- Because the wood grain is intertwined, logs are difficult to split. As a result, sycamore can be used for durable butcher blocks.
- The London Plane Tree (*P. acerifolia*) is a hybrid of Oriental plane (*P. orientalis*) and American sycamore. London Plane trees are less susceptible to ozone damage and are a favored street tree in locations of higher air pollution.



References:

NRCS Plant Guide: American Sycamore

(https://plants.usda.gov/plantguide/pdf/cs_ploc.pdf)

NRCS PLANTS Database (<https://plants.usda.gov/core/profile?symbol=PLOC>)

UF/IFAS Extension Publication ENH643 (<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/ST/ST48400.pdf>)

USFS Fire Effects Information System

(<https://www.fs.fed.us/database/feis/plants/tree/plaocc/all.html>)

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AN URBAN FORESTRY PLAN COMES TOGETHER

Submitted by Joe Anderson – JEA Utility Forester and FUFC Executive Board Member

“I love it when a plan comes together” was a frequent quote by the cigar-chomping, A-Team leader-hero Colonel John “Hannibal” Smith, throughout the 1980’s TV series *The A-Team*.

The TV Special Forces unit was offbeat and fictitious, but the gravity and potency of the iconic quote is not. I pity the fool that has never experienced the heart-felt pleasure of a plan that, over time and struggles, comes together to a hard-earned, triumphant end.

Originally, the television action-adventure series was not expected to be a hit—but it caught on. The series still prevails in popular culture. Urban forestry has its own special force unit in the Florida Urban Forestry Council (FUFC). For those actively involved, urban forestry is a series of concepts, practices, necessities, and urgencies not without their own action and adventure. Arboriculture and forestry, in the urban and suburban environment, are challenging, perhaps controversial, and not always a hit—but it’s catching on. To prevail in popular culture, the FUFC will have to team up and follow through with a heroic work plan.

So what are we talking about? What’s the plan and what’s the purpose? Most recently,

we (FUFC) have been talking about the completion of the current, 2015-2020 work plan. This is the last chapter of a five-year Strategic Plan. The purpose of the Strategic Plan is to create a vision for Urban and Community Forestry in Florida and its communities, so that the resources will be allocated resulting in optimal urban forests for the benefit and enjoyment of Florida residents. The plan has been developed by the Florida Urban Forestry Council in cooperation with the Florida Forest Service.

Four strategic goals are identified in the Strategic Plan. The goals prompt the FUFC to actively educate, grow, advance, and communicate the people, places, programs, and purpose of urban forestry throughout Florida. More specifically:

- 1) Educate the citizens of Florida, ensuring inclusion of underserved populations, on the value and management of Florida’s urban forests.
- 2) Grow FUFC through increasing membership, partnerships, and funding opportunities.
- 3) Advance the development and enhancement of urban forestry programs throughout Florida.
- 4) Communicate the FUFC mission through a variety of media platforms.

Metaphorically, each goal personifies a tree’s primary limb that branched out into further objectives and action plans – which create the secondary branches and twigs that form the canopy and crown of our tree of work. The activities, tasks and accomplishments are the abundant leaves, flowers and fruits that result from the work.

To meet the required action thresholds, the Executive Committee has assembled subcommittees that operate as individual strike teams dedicated to a particular task or activity. The boundaries are not always clearly defined as the roles and responsibilities will often overlap and reinforce each other. They include the administrative, education, communications, membership, marketing, and awards committees. The canopy of work for the term 2015-2020 is nearly complete and will continue to include:

Administrative Committee:

- The functioning of the FUFC, Executive Committee, and subcommittees in the completion of work.
- Bi-monthly Executive Committee meetings, teleconferences, and workshops to facilitate progress of subcommittee work.

Education Committee:

- The annual Urban Forestry Institute (annual conference).
- Regional workshops – centering on urban forestry related topics.
- Youth Education Programs - TreeCircus presentations.
- Development of the FUFC Speakers Bureau.
- Updates to the FUFC Right Tree, Right Place planting guides/posters.



Communications Committee:

- Adoption of a social media plan to foster the creation of posts and messaging.
- Social media posts and messaging for recruitment, sponsorship, and FUFCC programs and events.
- Publication and posting of *The Council Quarterly* newsletter.
- Update the FUFCC web site (www.fufcc.org).
- Develop and post the monthly *In A Nutshell* e-bulletin.
- Update, produce, and distribute printed educational and promotional material.
- Creation of media spots for TV, radio, and print.

Membership Committee:

- Release of a membership survey.
- Participation in tradeshows and local events.

Marketing Committee:

- Enhancement of existing partnerships and cultivate new partnerships with allied organizations.
- Identify and diversify revenue sources to support programs and events.

Awards Committee:

- Acknowledgement and celebration of outstanding urban forestry individuals, groups, projects, and programs.

The Strategic Plan can be found in detail, online at http://www.fufcc.org/strategic_plan.php.

FUFCC Executive Committee members have stepped up to serve as Florida's A-Team with regards to Florida's urban and community forestry initiatives. The FUFCC

cares about trees in your community. Do you? Are you a member of the Florida's FUFCC A-Team? Did you know that by joining the FUFCC you will help fund education and research to prevent and reverse urban deforestation throughout Florida? Membership adds your voice with hundreds of other concerned Floridians who are working together for a tree-filled future. Like the fun-filled characters of the *A-Team* television series, FUFCC members are excited to be working together on an action-adventure mission where heroes are never killed or rarely seriously injured. Our 2020-2025 Strategic Plan is coming together and near completion. We love it when a plan comes together.

Working in Harmony with Nature

Sumter Electric Cooperative has always placed a high priority on the environment by working to stay in harmony with nature. Evidence of SECO's environmental stewardship is displayed through the following programs.

Sumter Electric Cooperative:

- was named a *Tree Line USA* utility for the fourth consecutive year by *The National Arbor Day Foundation*. Employee arboriculture training, public education, and maintaining abundant, healthy trees in SECO's service area are common practices.
- installs osprey nesting dishes atop of the utility pole cross arms as needed for these magnificent birds.
- places squirrel guards atop the transformers to protect a variety of animals from danger, particularly squirrels.
- offers net metering to members interested in renewable generation such as photovoltaic systems.
- recycles retired power equipment, scrap steel, aluminum, copper, porcelain, fluorescent lights, ink printer and copier cartridges, plus much more.
- researches and writes *Nature's Reflections*, a special column in the members' newsletter developed to educate the community on the flora and fauna of Florida with eco-friendly topics like xeriscaping and conservation.



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Our members are the lifelines of our mission.
Thank you for your continued support.

New and renewed members through November 30, 2019. Please let us know if we fail to mention your name.

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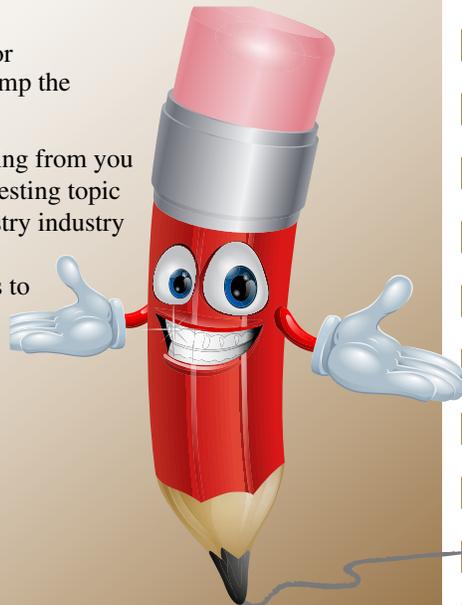
REQUEST FOR ARTICLES

Please let us know what urban forestry projects you have going on in your neck of the woods. The Florida Urban Forestry Council would greatly appreciate the opportunity to share your information in our newsletter. These articles can include:

- New trends in the industry
- News about tree advocacy groups
- Volunteer projects
- City tree programs
- Letters to the Editor
- Questions for "Stump the Forester"

We look forward to hearing from you on this or any other interesting topic related to the urban forestry industry and profession. Please send any articles or ideas to Joe Anderson, FUFC newsletter editor, at andejs@jea.com.

Thanks for contributing!



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

(Dues are effective for the calendar year of January 1 - December 31)

Make check or money order payable to FUFC and mail to:

Post Office Box 547993, Orlando, FL 32854-7993

Categories (please check one):

- Professional @ \$25.00**
(Professional membership is open to anyone who is actively working in the profession of Urban Forestry or any related profession.)
- Tree Advocate @ \$20.00**
(Tree Advocate membership is granted to those volunteers who are members of a tree board, beautification committee or other Urban Forestry volunteer group, and/or an interested citizen.)
- Supporting @ \$200.00**
(Supporting membership is granted to those individuals, groups or other entities expressing a desire for a strong supportive role in the Council. Membership will be granted for up to five individuals of an organization or business.)
- Government/Non-Profit Agency @ \$100.00**
(Government/Non-Profit Agency membership is granted to those individuals, groups or other entities actively working in the profession of Urban Forestry or any related profession. Membership will be granted for up to five individuals within the agency.)
- Student @ \$10.00**
(Student membership is granted to anyone who is actively enrolled as a full-time student and who is considering pursuing a career in Urban Forestry.)

Name: _____

Title: _____

Firm: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip: _____

Telephone: (____) _____

FAX: (____) _____

E-mail: _____

Amount Enclosed: _____ Date: ____/____/____

Would you be interested in further information regarding serving on a Council subcommittee? Yes No

Area of interest: _____



FLORIDA URBAN FORESTRY COUNCIL
 Post Office Box 547993
 Orlando, FL 32854-7993



For more information or change of address, please contact the FUFUC:

Phone: (407) 872-1738

Fax: (407) 872-6868

E-Mail: info@fufc.org

Website: www.fufc.org

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2019 FUFUC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

OFFICERS:



John Harris
President
 Appointed Position
 FNGLA
 Earth Advisors, Inc.



Joe Anderson
President Elect
 Appointed Position
 Advisory Member
 JEA



Erin Givens
Vice President
 Appointed Position
 Advisory Member
 Orlando Utilities
 Commission



Steve Edgar
Treasurer
 Appointed Position
 Society of American
 Foresters
 Long Leaf Forest Service,
 Inc.



Gayle Lafferty
Secretary
 Elected Position
 Member-at-Large
 City of Vero Beach

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Alexis Alvey, *Appointed Position*

- ASLA/FL Chapter

Kathleen Brennan, *Appointed Position*

- Florida League of Cities

Greg Brown, *Appointed Position*

- FRPA
 Hillsborough County

Jody Buyas, *Appointed Position*

- Advisory Member
 City of Orlando

David Fox, *Appointed Position*

- Advisory Member
 UF/SFRC

Elizabeth Harkey, *Elected Position*

- City Arborist
 City of Sanford

Julie Iooss, *Appointed Position*

- FL Chapter ISA
 Retired – City of Orlando

William “Bill” Lester, *Appointed Position*

- Cooperative Extension Service
 Hernando County Extension Office

Mark Miller, *Appointed Position*

- Advisory Member
 City of Apopka

Daisy Morales, *Appointed Position*

- Advisory Member
 Orange County Soil and Water
 Conservation District

Ricky Peterika, *Elected Position*

- Member-at-Large
 Dark Moss LLC

Gregory Polidora, *Appointed Position*

- Advisory Member
 FP&L

Brad Radecki, *Elected Position*

- Member-at-Large
 City of Orlando

Carolyn Cheatham Rhodes, *Elected Position*

- Member-at-Large
 Pinellas County

Darryl Richard, *Appointed Position*

- FL Department of Transportation
 FDOT - District One

John Springer, *Elected Position*

- Tree Advocacy
 Enchanted Walkabouts

David Watford, *Elected Position*

- Utility Forester
 SECO Energy

Mark Williams, *Elected Position*

- Member-at-Large
 City of Fort Lauderdale

Ian Wogan, *Elected Position*

- Private Arborist
 True Tree Service

Vacancy - Advisory Member

William Liner

- Florida Forest Service Liaison

Stephen Lloyd

- Florida Forest Service

Sandy Temple

- FUFUC Executive Director