

Fall 2004

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SOUTH CAROLINA URBAN & COMMUNITY FORESTRY COUNCIL

The Acorn

Green Planning 2004: Integrating Urban & Community Forestry in Planning Crowne Plaza Resort, Hilton Head Island November 10–12, 2004

This year's Annual Conference offers a unique perspective for all attendees as the SC Urban and Community Forestry Council (SCUCFC) and the South Carolina Chapter of the American Planning Association (SCAPA) partner for the meeting November 10th – 12th. The conference will be held on Hilton Head Island at the Crowne Plaza Resort Hotel.

The conference begins at noon on Wednesday, with an Opening Luncheon featuring our Keynote Speaker, Kathleen Wolf, Ph.D., University of Washington. Dr. Wolf is well known for her research in environmental psychology. Her background as a landscape architect and an environmental planner makes her a perfect fit for this year's keynote address.

Wednesday afternoon's program is a general session that will interest everyone. Dr. Terry Ferris, Clemson University, will discuss State Strategies for Quality Growth in South Carolina. The final session on Wednesday will be presented by Mark Buscaino, Director of Urban and Community Forestry, U.S. Forestry Service in Washington D.C. Mark will share his thoughts regarding Urban Forestry Programs—present and future.

Thursday offers the choice of several tracks as well as our annual awards luncheon. The SCUCFC will present one track while SCAPA hosts another. Both tracks will have information that will be of interest to either discipline. Urban Forestry will present sessions from Don McSween, City of Charlotte; Parker Andes, Arborist for Biltmore Es-

tates, who will report on the replacement of some of the Estate's large Tulip Poplars with equally large replacement trees. Jennifer Gulick of Davey Tree Resources will discuss Land Development and Green BMP's for Stormwater Management. Diane Eldridge from Upstate Forever will present an afternoon session as well as Calvin Bailey of the SC Forestry Commission who will discuss the State's wildland-urban interface program and fire management for the Coastal Region.

Also on Thursday morning, SCUCFC Past Chair Sally Krebs will offer a mobile workshop around Hilton Head Island identifying construction practices and how Islanders strive to preserve their natural habitat. John Knott will discuss Ecological Redevel-



opment during Thursday afternoon's mobile workshop. Both workshops will have limited space so sign up early for an excellent presentation and experience. Friday morning's mobile workshop will be a Bike Tour of Hilton Head Island; again this will be limited to the early registrants.

Friday's Urban Forestry Track will include a presentation by SCUCFC Board member Christina Wells, Ph.D., Clemson University who will present research on the Influence of Planting Depth on Landscape Tree Survival. Our final presentation will

be by Donna London, Strom Thurmond Institute, discussing the state of Urban Forestry in South Carolina today.

As with all past conferences there will be plenty of time for mingling and mixing with fellow Urban Foresters and with Planners as well. Following the sessions on Wednesday, a welcome social will be held for attendees. Thursday night features a fast-paced, fun auction to benefit a new Urban Forestry Program and the Planning Student Association at Clemson University.

Along with the many amenities that Hilton Head Island has to offer, this year's conference brings you the advantage of interacting with your fellow Urban Foresters and to meet the Planners that develop and affect your city and county codes. You might even pick up some good information, CEUs, and having a great time in the process!

To receive a special rate of \$99 per night, call the 1-800-2CROWNE and mention SCAPA before October 15th to reserve your room. Registration forms will be mailed to members and are available online at www.scurbanforestry.org, for additional information, call 803-781-9817 or email mleverette@sc.rr.com.

Sponsors of the conference include Davey Tree Resources and the SC Forestry Commission.

Bob Vecchio, SCUCFC Vice-Chair, is the 2004 Conference Chairman.

from the Chair's Corner

What does it mean to be a member of the SC Urban and Community Forestry Council? What is our purpose? Who do we serve? Why should I join or renew my membership with the council?

In December 2005, the SCUCFC will be 15 years old. Since our inception in 1990, we have managed quite well as advocates for urban and community forestry. Because of the efforts of our dedicated volunteers, many of whom are still active with the council, the SCUCFC has effectively pursued its mission of fostering good stewardship of the urban and community forests of South Carolina.

But what does the future hold for us? As a small 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that is highly dependent on Federal funding, what will we do if the current funding should dry up? How can we become more self-sustaining?

Questions such as these are currently on the minds of many state councils such as ours. In the Southeastern Region, thirteen state councils have formed a Southern Council Cooperative (SCC) to create a forum for networking, idea exchange, and finding cooperative solutions to many of the problems U&CF Councils face. In late August, our Executive Coordinator Mary Leverette represented our council at the first SCC workshop in Atlanta, GA. You can expect to hear more about

this at our annual meeting in November.

To help address these questions, I recently formed an Ad-Hoc Committee that will evaluate our council and generate needed recommendations to guide the future development of our organization. I believe it is time to take a fresh look at who we are and who we want to be as a council. Since joining us in March of this year, Mary Leverette has helped us to achieve great strides in membership, organizational, and program development. But, we need you too. The volunteer has always been and will always be the backbone of our organization. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please contact me at jlane@santeecooper.com, or call me at (843) 347-9194 ext. 7389.

I wish you a glorious autumn season filled with color. Why not plant a tree for the autumns to come?

Jeff Lane



www.scurbanforestry.org

The City of Rock Hill has a new section on its website devoted to trees and tree care. Thanks to an Urban and Community Forestry grant, they were able to put together a web version of the *Trees For Rock Hill* booklet. A link to the information is available on our website.

The Center for Urban Forestry Research in Davis, CA in cooperation with the Southern Center for Urban Forestry

Research and Information began an inventory of reference cities in Region 8 this summer. The project includes Charleston, SC and Charlotte, NC. The Charleston project is led by SCUCFC member, Danny Burbage. A link is available on our website.

Visit www.scurbanforestry.org for the latest urban forestry and membership information!

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Mary Leverette, Executive Coordinator, *The Acorn* Editor and Designer
The Acorn is a quarterly newsletter produced by the SCUCFC. We welcome your articles, news items, and photographs that may be of interest to our readers. Items may be sent to SCUCFC, PO Box 21707, Columbia, SC 29221 or info@scurbanforestry.org.
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If a Teacher Learns in the Woods....

Today's students are tomorrow's voters, policy makers, and leaders. They need facts to make informed decisions. The South Carolina Teachers' Tour is a summer program designed to help educators know the facts about how forests affect the social, economic, and ecological character of our great state, so that they can better prepare students to make informed decisions about the future of our natural resources.

For approximately two weeks, twenty-five educators were immersed in the topic of "Sustainable Forestry" and how it relates to forestry practices in SC. Beginning with a three-day advanced Project Learning Tree Environmental Education workshop at Harbison State Forest in Columbia and ending with a four-day tour of forestry in the Pee Dee region of the state, teachers gained a vast amount of knowledge and experiences, along with classroom materials that they can share with their students. Upon completion of the program, teachers submit a Unit of Study to show how they can incorporate the information and materials into their classroom curriculum.

Topics included the history of forestry in the Southeast, tree physiology, forest succession, the wildland/urban interface, urban forestry, forest management techniques, forest certification, economics, career development, endangered species, Best Management Practices and other forestry related topics. Tours included visits to Kalmia Gardens in Hartsville with a discussion of Urban Forestry by Trish DeHond and Dr. George Sawyer,



our host at Kalmia Gardens. Also included were visits to state forestlands such as Sand Hill State Forest, private tree farms, industrial forests, and other forestlands. Tours of wood products manufacturing facilities such as Weyerhaeuser's Particle Board Mill in Bennettsville, Smurfit-Stone Container's paper mill and Ingram Lumber Mill in Florence County gave the teachers a great opportunity to discuss how they can help improve their classroom instruction to best accommodate the technology and skills needed for a career in today's modern industries. The highlight of the tour is always a visit to an actual ongoing harvesting operation sponsored by International Paper, the SC Timber Producers Association, and Joe Young's Low Country Forest Products from Georgetown.

This program was created to show how our society, economy, and environment depend on forest resources, and demonstrate sustainable forest management in action. It is hoped that by engulfing the teachers in an intense study of all the aspects of sustainable forestry practices in our state that they better understand the issues and relevance of South Carolina's forests to the quality of life that exist in our state, and better prepare their students, the next generation of voters and policy makers, to become better stewards of our natural resources.

And how did the teachers enjoy it?

"The program provided the most energetic, enthusiastic and knowledgeable group of presenters and speakers I've ever encountered in a course. The experiences and information I gained will certainly

make me a more informed individual." Mr. Billy R. Jones, Administrator for Richland School Dist. 1

"This was a very enlightening experience!" Ms. Angel Fleming, 5th Grade teacher in Horry County

"I see forests as sustainable natural resources that 'work' to the betterment of our way of life. I've noticed that when I'm going down the highway, I'm 'seeing' the type of growth and seeing the positive effects of trees in all stages of growth." Ms. Ginger Allen, 10th grade Biology teacher at Daniel High School

"I enjoyed seeing firsthand all stages of the importance of trees. I mostly enjoyed the personal stories of those in forestry and



their dedication and love for their careers and its effect on all people and places." Ms. Susan Braddock, teacher at Stratford High, Berkeley Co.

"I have a deeper appreciation for foresters and all the work that they do. Their work is vital to the growth of our society." Yolanda Hill, 3rd grade teacher at Fairforest Elementary, Spartanburg

The SC Teachers' Tour is jointly sponsored by the SC Forestry Commission, the SC Forestry Association (SC Sustainable Forestry Initiative Committee of the SC Forestry Foundation), SC Urban & Community Forestry Council, USDA-Forest Service, and the many forest industries that provided materials, tours, facilitators and experts in their fields.

Jerry Shrum is Environmental Education Coordinator for the SC Forestry Commission.



Arbor Day is For Our Future

J. Sterling Morton and his wife headed west in 1854 to the Nebraska Territory. As lovers of nature, the home they established was quickly planted with trees, shrubs, and flowers. Morton was a journalist and soon became editor of Nebraska's first newspaper. He not only advocated tree planting by individuals in his articles and editorials, but he also encouraged civic organizations to join in. Trees were needed for fuel and building materials, for shade from the hot sun and for windbreaks to keep the soil in place. His prominence increased over the years and he eventually became Secretary of the Nebraska Territory.

Arbor Day was named a legal holiday in Nebraska in 1885 and April 22nd, Morton's birthday, was selected as the date for its permanent observance. Soon states across the nation also approved legislation to observe Arbor Day. The first written documentation of Arbor Day in SC was November 17, 1939 when then Governor Burnet R. Maybank signed a Proclamation for both Conservation Week (November 11 – 18) and Arbor Day. Arbor Day is listed in the SC Code of Law as a *Special Day* to be recognized on the First Friday in December.

One million trees were planted on that first Arbor Day, and we should still participate in what is now a truly American tradition. It's not really too much to ask when you think about it. One special day dedicated to the biological wonders that provide us with so much. Commemorated by everyone from school children to seniors, Arbor Day is a great opportunity to educate people and promote awareness of trees in our communities. The National Arbor Day Foundation, www.arborday.org, 'tree-planting holiday' publishes an educational program booklet for use during celebrations. The International Society of Arboriculture www.isa-arbor.org compiled several recommendations for Arbor Day activities:

A Community could:

- demonstrate tree planting for energy conservation or improved air quality
- create, revive, or clean up a city park
- plan a craft show with items made from trees and other natural materials
- sponsor a local art or National Arbor Day poster contest

A Civic-Organization, Beautification Group, or Garden Club could:

- organize an Arbor Day parade
- visit a school or library and read books about trees to a group of kids
- get sponsors for Arbor Day t-shirts, buttons, banners, posters, etc.
- sponsor a work day when volunteers do light pruning and shrub work for elderly homeowners

A School could:

- participate in the National Arbor Day poster contest
- utilize art projects for greater tree awareness
- buy and taste-test tree products
- teach tree species
- plant trees on school grounds

The greatest activity of all remains the simple act of planting a tree. Planting a tree is the one thing we can do to make our little part of the world a better place. Person by person, tree by tree, our nation's green heritage is kept alive and well. So, the next time you plant a tree, no matter what day it is, remember Mr. Morton's philosophy, "other days repose upon the past, Arbor Day proposes for the future."

Footnote

This article was composed with the assistance of the following publications: Arborist News (December 1992) - Plan Now To Celebrate Arbor Day, Arbor Age (February 1996) - Making The Most Of Arbor Day by Christine Lusey, Arbor Day News Bulletin (March/April 1997) - 125 Years Of Growth, The National Arbor Day Foundation web page (November 1998)- The History of Arbor Day.

Liz Gilland is the Urban Forestry Coordinator with the SC Forestry Commission.



Money For Growing Trees

The South Carolina Forestry Commission, with funding from the USDA Forest Service, is pleased to announce that grant funds have recently been awarded for the 2004 Urban and Community Forestry (U&CF) Financial Assistance and Partnership Grants.

This is a reimbursable, matching grant program to provide funding for projects designed to improve the management, conservation and maintenance of the tree resource in and around SC communities. Grant awards range from \$1,000 to \$10,000 and must be matched by the grantee on a 1:1 basis. This year, 38 out of 49 grant proposals totaling up to \$250,000 were funded.

For more information regarding this program, please contact the SC Forestry Commission, www.state.sc/forest/urban or 803-896-8846.

** denotes new or first-time recipients*

Town of Cheraw

Update tree inventory, provide training and continuing education for staff and develop a community pocket park

City Center Partnership, Inc

Create a downtown pocket park in a vacant lot along Main St. in Columbia

Clemson University - Dept of Forestry & Natural Resources

Using the established SC Champion Tree database, continue follow-up on newly nominated trees, promote the Champion Tree Project, and increase nominations through greater publicity

City of Conway

Develop a master Greenway plan for the historic riverfront corridor and attend SCUCFC Conference

City of Dillon

Conduct a public tree inventory and hire an intern assistant for the City Tree Management Program

Florence County Parks & Recreation

Conduct an educational tree planting demonstration project and educate county

workers regarding tree care and maintenance

City of Florence

To remove and replant trees damaged by severe ice storm and educate the citizens about storms and trees

County of Georgetown

Attend the SCUCFC Conference

***County of Greenwood**

Purchase CITYgreen 5.0 software and train county personnel in its use and attend the SCUCFC Conference

Harbison State Forest

Conduct three, week-long Wood Magic Forest Fairs regarding trees as renewable resources, forest management, forest fires, wood utilization, and the many environmental, social and economic benefits of trees and forests

City of Hartsville

Attend the SCUCFC Conference

Town of Heath Springs

Street tree planting on North Main Street and continuing education of Town employees in urban forestry

***Town of Jackson**

Replace trees due to ice storm of March 2004

***Katawba Valley Land Trust**

Develop a Greenway Plan

City of Lancaster

Street tree planting and continuing education for municipal staff and Tree Board

***Town of Lockhart**

Street tree planting and continuing educational activities for town citizens

City of Manning

Update tree inventory, replacement of trees damaged during ice storm, and educate the public on the benefits of tree cover in the community

City of Marion

Replace trees due to ice storm of March 2004

***City of Mauldin**

Conduct a public tree inventory and develop a community forest management plan

City of Mullins

Replace trees due to ice storm of 03/04 and attend the SCUCFC Conference

City of Myrtle Beach

Attend the SCUCFC Conference

***Palmetto Conservation Foundation**

Create a pocket park in a disadvantaged community

Town of Patrick

Hire an intern assistant for the Community Tree Management Program and attend the SCUCFC Conference

***Town of Rowesville**

Educational tree planting at two community parks

***SC Dept of Health & Environmental Control**

Implement an environmental landscape project, conduct workshops on environmental benefits of trees, and host an Arbor Day celebration.

SCUCFC

Produce quarterly newsletters, host annual conference, and contract services of a part-time Executive Coordinator

Spartanburg Technical College

Conduct a public tree care seminar and attend SCUCFC Conference

***Town of Springdale**

Establish a community forestry program

City of Tega Cay

Arboricultural training & continuing education

USC - Landscape Services

Arboricultural training & continuing education

Liz Gilland is the Urban Forestry Coordinator with the SC Forestry Commission.

Calendar of Events

September 28-30, 2004 - Watershed Leadership Train-the-Trainer Academy, Callaway Gardens Resort Preserve, Pine Mountain, GA. Join this unique workshop designed to train individuals to work more effectively on land-use planning and protection initiatives. Designed to enhance your leadership role in the area of watershed management, and assist you in working with communities on land use planning, TMDL implementation, and Phase II Stormwater requirements. For more information, call 886-902-7300 or visit www.southeastwaterforum.org.



October 13, 2004—SC Getting in Step Workshop! If you are Phase II stormwater community, watershed organization, water utility, water outreach professional, or an entity that provides water outreach, then you will want to attend the *South Carolina Getting in Step Workshop*, October 13. *Getting in Step* is a nationally recognized and US EPA endorsed, six-step program for designing and conducting effective outreach. Not only does this program address Phase II minimum control measures on public education and involvement, it also covers the how-tos of watershed-wide outreach. For more information and to register for the workshop go to www.scdhec.gov/water/html/getinsteps.html. Workshop sponsors: SCDHEC, SC Soil & Water Conservation Society, SC Sustainable Universities, Lake & Watershed Assoc. of SC.

October 21, 2004 – Urban Tree Workshop, Spartanburg Technical College. For more information, contact Jimmy Painter, Horticulture Department Head. (864) 591-3857 or email painterj@stcsc.edu.

October 24-26, 2004 - 3rd Annual Bicycle and Pedestrian Accommodations Conference, Myrtle Beach, SC. Sponsored by the SC Department of Transportation and the SC Division of the Federal Highway Administration. For more information, contact Cathy Rice, SCDOT Enhancement Coordinator at (803) 737-1953.

October 27-29, 2004 - 2004 Southeast Watershed Roundtable & Tennessee Watershed Roundtable, Gaylord Opryland Hotel - Nashville, TN. "*Growth, Development & Water Supplies: Challenges for the Southeast*". For more information, visit www.southeastwaterforum.org.



*Even
if I knew
certainly the world
would end tomorrow,
I would plant
an apple tree
today.*

Martin Luther

Sneezing and Sniffling?

Time to Evaluate Tree Sex

In 1985 the rate of people with asthma and allergies in the US was 12%, in 2004 that rate has increased to 40%. What could be causing this problem? Tree sex, or should we say lack of it.

Remembering the old story of the birds and the bees, the flowers of plants and trees must be fertilized with pollen to reproduce. The female part of the flower captures the pollen from the male part of the flower. Sometimes the flower sexes are together on one tree, monoecious; and sometimes the flower sexes are on separate, dioecious trees. Dioecious tree species and male-cloned cultivars are the majority of trees being planted in public spaces today. Why? Because they do not produce fruit – berries, acorns, seed pods - that litters sidewalks, parking lots, and cars and makes us complain.

With male-only trees rooted in an increasing portion of the landscape, the amount of pollen in the air has greatly increased. This increased amount of pollen can be a contributing factor or a link to the increased number of people who suffer from asthma and allergies. Pollen is an irritant so in addition to triggering asthma and allergy symptoms, it can also cause a rash, sinus conditions, headaches, fatigue, and many other health problems. This is especially dangerous around schools, hospitals, and nursing homes where asthma or other breathing problems are common.

The female counterparts of these trees can be messy at times, but they can actually help to capture and re-

move pollen from the air and may be a better choice for planting near allergy-sensitive people. According to author Thomas Leo Ogren who wrote the now out-of-print book *Allergy-Free Gardening: The Revolutionary Guide to Healthy Landscaping*, planting monoecious trees and shrubs around a home landscape can make a difference for those afflicted with breathing problems.

If you or someone you know is involved in landscape design, maintenance, tree nurseries, tree installation, and/or have breathing prob-



lems due to plant pollen consider using monoecious trees. A listing of these ‘allergy-free’ trees will be posted on the SC Forestry Commission’s website in the coming months at www.state.sc.us/forest/urban.

For more information regarding allergy plants and tree sex, check out Dr. Mary Welk’s book *Allergy Plants that Cause Sneezing and Wheezing* and Thomas Leo Ogren’s book *Safe Sex in the Garden: And Other Propositions for an Allergy-Free World*.



Liriodendron tulipifera

Tulip poplar, a fast growing large shade tree, can grow 15 to 20' over a 6 to 8 year period. As a specimen tree on a large property it has great beauty and in fall can be spectacular. And, as a monoecious tree it is an excellent choice for the landscape for allergy and asthma sufferers.

This large, stately deciduous tree is fairly common in the eastern United States. It sometimes takes a conical form, but when grown in the open it often assumes a broad columnar shape that is its signature form. The distinctive cup-shaped flowers are 1.5 inches across and about 2 - 2.5 inches in length and really do resemble tulips. The handsome flowers are greenish-yellow with orange markings and are held at the branch tips where they can be best admired. Flowers are followed by a brown scaly cone-shaped fruit. The leaves are single squarish-lobed leaves that grow about 6 inches long.

Liz Gilland is the Urban Forestry Coordinator with the SC Forestry Commission.

Jimmy Walters is the Piedmont Region Urban Forester with the SC Forestry Commission.



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Trees for Urban Landscapes: A Honey of a Tree

Sourwood Tree

Oxydendron arboreum

One of the most prized native trees, our native Sourwood Tree is a beautiful, slow-growing tree, among the very best of small, ornamental trees suitable for an urban environment.



The tree is native to a large portion of eastern United States from Pennsylvania south to Florida, and west to Illinois. Despite its southerly distribution it is perfectly hardy north in USDA Zone 5. Its preference for higher mountain elevations in the south may help explain its hardiness.

The Sourwood is one of the few endemic trees that is not found in other continents unless planted, and has no related species. The name Sourwood is derived from the acrid taste of its leaves, but tea made from these leaves is widely used by mountain climbers as a thirst-quencher. Pioneers used the sap as

one ingredient in a concoction used for treating fevers, the bark for chewing to soothe mouth pains, and leaf tea for treating diarrhea, indigestion and dysentery. But the best known by-product of the Sourwood tree is the hard-to-find and extremely delicious honey produced from the fragrant blossoms by honeybees.

A medium-sized tree, the Sourwood is often used in landscapes as an ornamental addition to larger trees because of its brilliant fall foliage which is unrivaled for its intense beauty and the showy late summer flowers. The Sourwood makes a nice specimen tree for small spaces and looks great at the woodland edge or under the canopy of larger trees. It is also known as the Sorrel Tree and Lily-of-the-Valley Tree.

Plant in full sun to partial shade in acid, organic, moist, well-drained soil. It is important to provide adequate irrigation during establishment period or during droughts. It has few pest or disease problems and is easily treated for the ones it



does encounter. And as an added benefit, the Sourwood is a monoecious tree and another good choice for allergy and asthma sufferers.

Size: 25 to 30 feet high and 15 to 20 feet wide

Shape: Pyramidal

Flowers: White Lily-of-the-Valley like flowers in July

Fall Color: Yellow to red to purple, sometimes at the same time



Rate of Growth: Slow (14 to 15 feet over 12 to 15 years)