

Spring 2006

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SOUTH CAROLINA URBAN & COMMUNITY FORESTRY COUNCIL

# The Acorn

## Uncertain Times Ahead:

### Federal Funding Removed From Urban & Community Forestry

Federal funding for urban and community forestry in South Carolina will be slashed by nearly 58% after this fiscal year. This funding reallocation appears to be a permanent change, the result of a new national formula for distributing federal urban forestry dollars to the states.

Because South Carolina's population is small compared with other Southern states, the **South Carolina Forestry Commission** (*our state forestry agency*) will receive only \$200,000 – the base funding deemed (by the new formula) necessary to maintain minimum program staffing. For comparison, the South Carolina Forestry Commission received an average of \$473,000/year over the past 5 funding cycles.

The **SC Urban & Community Forestry Council** (*a nonprofit advocacy group who partners closely with the Forestry Commission to deliver resources and educational assistance to South*

*Carolina communities*) has been a regular and sustained recipient of grants from these funds.

Such a drastic and apparently permanent reduction in Federal funding will impact the abilities of the 2 primary players in urban and community forestry technical assistance and resource delivery in South Carolina.

**The most noticeable effect that regular Acorn readers will discover is that the Urban & Community Forestry Grant Program administered by the Forestry Commission will cease to exist, probably in 2007.** According to the Sustainable Urban Forestry Coalition, this program leverages \$3 for every \$1 in federal assistance (nationwide) and provides critical

capacity for state and local programs serving 82.6% of the population. Under the new Federal funding formula, the dollars that would have come to South Carolina will now be funneled to states with larger populations than ours. Population growth rate (South Carolina has one of the fastest-growing populations in the Southeast) is not factored in the new formula.

Further, and equally alarming, the Board of Directors of the SC Urban & Community Forestry Council has been notified that the federal funds formerly utilized to supplement the SCUCFC operating budget will no longer be available. That amounts to \$19,000 - nearly 2/3 of this year's budget.



The Board of Directors is urgently seeking new and alternative sources to replace this funding. Prepare yourselves for a change in how we operate – we must become much more flexible, much leaner, and meaner. In the immediate future the Board will expend an enormous amount of effort

seeking financial support for our mission to foster stewardship of the urban and community forests in our state.

*We believe our work is critical to help maintain the quality of life throughout South Carolina.*

**Do you?**

Stay tuned.

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*Clark Beavens is a SC Registered Forester and the City Forester for the city of Rock Hill, SC*

For more information contact Kristen Colvin at [khill2@clmson.edu](mailto:khill2@clmson.edu)

## from the Chair's Corner

Urban and Community Forestry Council. The name is a bit misleading. We aren't just urban, rural dwellers are powerful members as well. Conventional timberland forests are not our principle interest; in fact for some of us any tree in public view constitutes a community forest. We are non-profit, largely grant funded, and powerfully committed to the stewardship of South Carolina's trees. Why do we join this organization instead of some other? Some researchers claim our attraction for trees is evolutionary, that there is a deep and primal union of trees and people.

Register now! The 2006 SC Urban and Community Forestry Council Annual Conference will be held November 9-10 in Spartanburg, SC.  
[www.scurbanforestry.org](http://www.scurbanforestry.org)

Urban and Community Forestry Council members are a multi-disciplinary colorful array of people dedicated to providing stewardship to SC trees through education, advocacy, and celebration. When you attend annual conferences and workshops, read *The Acorn*, scan the website, nominate a special person or program for the Golden Acorn award, or nominate a dynamic community for The Heritage Tree award, you contribute. Every time you think about a tree issue or speak to others about issues that protect, conserve, and enhance our tree landscapes, you contribute. And for your efforts, the Board of Directors of the SC Urban and Community Forestry Council salutes you. We are proud to be in your circle.

This newsletter is packed with opportunities for you. The amazing 2006 conference committee has created a menu of educational opportunities that include renowned plantsman Michael Dirr and an assortment of solutions based programs and fabulous presenters. Please register early as Council conferences fill to capacity.

Reduced funding for SC Forestry Commission's Urban and Community Forestry Program is detailed for you in another article. What can you do to help the Forestry Commission? Visit our web

page at [www.scurbanforestry.org](http://www.scurbanforestry.org) for a sample letter to send to your legislator. What can you do to help the SC Urban and Community Forestry Council attain sustainability? Encourage your family, work associates, and neighbors to join the Council. Become a sponsor for *The Acorn* newsletter, or an educational program. Contact Kristen Colvin, Executive Coordinator, at [khill2@clemson.edu](mailto:khill2@clemson.edu) for more sponsorship opportunities.

On April 18, 2006 three members of the Urban and Community Forestry Council joined Bob Polomski, Clemson

Extension Consumer Horticulturist on the air of Your Day to discuss community forestry in South Carolina. You can tune into the show featuring Donna London, Liz Gilland, and me by visiting

<http://yourday.clemson.edu/archives/060417.php>.

Scroll down to April 18 and click to listen to the animated discussion.

So again, thank you for your commitment to the stewardship of South Carolina's urban and community forests. And enjoy the trees of late spring and summer.

Cheers,

Ellen Vincent, Chair SCUCF Council



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*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](mailto:info@scurbanforestry.org).

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Mark your calendars now for Tree Solutions 2006, SCUCFC's annual conference held on November 9-10, 2006.

The brand new Spartanburg Marriott at Renaissance Park will be the setting for an urban forestry conference you can't afford to miss. Our goal is for every attendee to return with new information they can immediately put to work on the job.

For arborists, we're featuring presentations on hazard tree liability, medical concerns in tree work, working safely in storm-damaged trees, and much more. Vendors will be on hand to showcase cutting-edge tools and software for managing your business. The ISA certified arborist exam will also be administered, with a half-day review session beforehand.

Our Community Solutions presentation track will include practical information on landscaping in right-of-ways, preserving trees during development, and writing tree protection ordinances. The speakers are developers, municipal employees and community members who can share their real-world successes and failures.

Finally, everyone will want to hear world-renowned plantsman Dr. Michael Dirr lead off the conference with his Thursday morning presentation on Noble Trees. Following his talk, Dr. Dirr will lead a walking tour of Spartanburg tree plantings— a unique opportunity to see some wonderful plant material in the company of one of America's foremost tree experts. Spaces are limited on this tour, so be sure to register early.

Register now at [www.scurbanforestry.com](http://www.scurbanforestry.com) for the advance price of \$125, which includes registration breakfast, refreshment breaks, and the Thursday awards luncheon. ISA, SAF, and pesticide applicator CEUs will be available.



## Search for Golden Acorn Nominees

The South Carolina Urban and Community Forestry Council is seeking nominees for its annual Golden Acorn Award.

This award program was created to recognize and encourage excellence in urban and community forestry, and is awarded in two categories: the Distinguished Service Award and the Outstanding Urban Forestry Program Award.

The Distinguished Service Award recognizes an individual for his or her outstanding contribution to urban forestry, while the Outstanding Urban Forestry Program Award recognizes a local government or organization providing exemplary leadership and vision to a comprehensive urban forestry program.

Do you know an individual or organization that you would like to nominate?

Go to [www.scurbanforestry.org](http://www.scurbanforestry.org) and look under Golden Acorn Awards to find Nomination Forms and other information. The deadline for nominations is 8 September 2006.

# Replant Hope Together

## City Trees Nurseries to Help Reforest Mississippi Towns



Dozens of Mississippi cities are growing urban-friendly trees to help reforest and beautify towns devastated by Hurricane Katrina. Some cities are even creating nurseries to grow trees for "Sister Cities" as a gift of hope. These trees will be made available to plant in public areas over the next three years.

Over 20,000 trees have been donated to the cities participating in the program by the Mississippi Urban Forest Council to establish a local public tree nursery. Volunteers in the community will be responsible for the nursery management. "We are honored to present these trees to the cities of Mississippi as a partner in the recovery efforts. The right tree in the right place can help beautify, encourage economic development, increase property values and reduce future storm damage. It is great to see all these cities work to enhance livability, character and natural assets for an improved quality of life through trees." said Donna Yowell, Executive Director of the Mississippi Urban Forest Council.

The trees will be containerized and grown out for 12-36 months, then planted in public places in towns throughout the state, such as parks, right of ways, boulevards, schools,

historic districts. Some of the trees will be used to replace older trees in declining health or damaged due to recent storms.

"It will take the Mississippi coast and its 60 other counties impacted by Hurricane Katrina many years to reforest our towns. We hope this program kick starts donations of zone appropriate trees and plants from across the country. Many parks, arboretums, schools, public buildings, easements need trees and other plants. Low budgets put these items at the bottom of the list. So, help us "Replant Hope Together", Patsy Spinks, Gulfport, Mississippi.

You can learn more about urban forestry in Mississippi and storm recovery for trees by visiting web sites (<http://www.msurbanforest.com> , <http://www.mfc.state.ms.us>) and (<http://www.treelink.org>) or requesting information through the Mississippi Urban Forest Council.

Every Mississippi city on the coast has been adopted by a Sister City in the state. Some of the cities participating in the Sister City program include: Hernando, growing trees for Pass Christian, the Town of Tunica is growing trees for Waveland, Ellisville for Long Beach, West Point for Bay Saint Louis and Madison County Schools for Pass Christian.

Show your pride in  
Urban and  
Community  
Forestry with the new  
SCUCFC logo shirt!



These shirts are a great wardrobe addition. You'll want to order several for yourself and friends! Each shirt is \$25.00 + \$3.00 shipping. Order forms are available online at [www.scurbanforestry.org](http://www.scurbanforestry.org) or by email at [khill2@clemson.edu](mailto:khill2@clemson.edu).

Get your shirts today!

# What is the Value of a Tree?

## Antoinette Campbell loses an oak: Her a/c bill goes up \$120 a month - the toll on her city is even bigger.

Antoinette Campbell was justifiably shocked when city workers mistakenly chainsawed a 60-foot oak tree last May that shaded the eastern facade of her Washington, D.C., home.

Besides the emotional distress, the error had an unexpected consequence: She noticed her air conditioner began running a couple hours earlier each morning.

Conventional wisdom is that just one shady tree can save a homeowner \$80 a year in energy costs, but Campbell claims her bills skyrocketed once the oak disappeared - up to \$120 more some months.

Yes, humble street trees cool the air, reduce pollution, and absorb storm-water runoff, say forestry experts. But the benefits aren't only ecological, they say. Property values are 7 percent to 25 percent higher for houses surrounded by trees. Consumers spend up to 13 percent more at shops near green landscapes. One study even suggests patients who can see trees out their windows are hospitalized, on average, 8 percent fewer days.

Events around the country for National Arbor Day will highlight the fact that citizens and civic leaders are finally investing in the so-called "urban tree canopy."

But efforts like these aren't a moment too soon. Overall, urban trees in America are threatened, says Deborah Gangloff, executive director of American Forests. "Every city we've looked at, about three dozen, shows a decline of about 30 percent of the urban tree canopy in the past 10 to 15 years," she says. In

some cities, the loss from disease, development, and neglect has been catastrophic. In Washington, D.C., for example, 64 percent of heavily forested areas disappeared between 1973 and 1997 - forest that once covered a third of the district now covers a tenth.

And the creep of suburban sprawl seems unstoppable. In the next 50 years, total American land mass reclassified from forest to urban is expected to equal the size of Montana, suggests US Forest Service data. To reverse the trend, cities like Jacksonville, Fla., San Francisco, Albuquerque, N.M., Des Moines, Iowa, and Indianapolis have ambitious reforestation plans. Los Angeles wants to plant 1 million trees. The Sacramento region has a goal to double the urban canopy in 40 years; Baltimore plans to double its own a decade sooner. Washington, D.C. is partnering with tree-planting groups and nonprofits like the Casey Trees Endowment Fund, an organization with a \$50 million grant to combat the precipitous canopy decline.

The fund's urban forester program trains volunteers like Campbell, who lost her oak, to conduct on-site censuses that, combined, will locate, measure, and identify every tree in the city. The data is crunched by a US Forest Service computer model, which produces a precise environmental and economic value for each tree. For example: A 50-foot American linden at the corner of Potomac Ave. and E Street in the southeast quadrant of Washington stores 1,476 kilograms of carbon and removes 124 grams of sulfur dioxide from the atmosphere each year. To remove that same amount of pollution would otherwise cost society \$5.44 annually. Multiply that by D.C.'s

1.9 million trees and the benefits add up.

Urban trees also reduce the runoff of pollutants into waterways, a problem caused by impervious surfaces like concrete. Foliage slows rain so it gets absorbed better, rather than overwhelming drainage systems, explains Ms. Gangloff. For example, a 2005 study of municipal trees in Boulder, Colo., found that the average tree intercepts 1,271 gallons of precipitation annually, saving the city \$523,311 in storm-water retention costs.

For cities struggling to meet the Environmental Protection Agency's air quality goals and build adequate wastewater treatment facilities, trees offer high return on investment. The Boulder report estimates the city gets a \$3.67 return on every dollar spent on the urban forest.

"It's worth considering the value of these trees when making policy decisions," explains Dan Smith, a Casey Trees spokesman. The value of tree maintenance, for example, can't be minimized, he says, because a 30-inch-diameter tree removes 70 times more pollution per year than a 3-inch tree does. This is why he's unhappy that over the past five years, federal support of urban greening - such as tree-cover analysis, goal-setting, and technical support - has declined.

Like the urban trees themselves, the programs must also be nurtured. And that's nothing to shake a stick at.

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By Ethan Gilsdorf



# From the Forestry Commission

## Up a Tree...

A Tree Worker Workshop was held on February 15<sup>th</sup> at the SC Forestry Commission Pee Dee Region office in Florence, SC. This workshop was co-sponsored by the International Society of Arboriculture Southern Chapter and the SCFC Community Forestry Program to address the growing need for skilled arborists. The interest was certainly there as 78 people came from all over North and South Carolina including tree service personnel, city arborists, and municipal crews. Mr. Hugh Tyer, an arborist from Georgia and Mr. Brian Maxon, an arborist with Bartlett Tree Expert Company were the very knowledgeable speakers. The program included safety and operational standards, ropes and knots, pruning standards, rigging and felling, tree removal, chain saw safety, and cable and rod bracing.



both a written and practical section. An equipment check, a knot tying station, and a work climb was set up in one of the large mature trees directly in front of the office. In order to pass this rigorous exam, each participant must meet and demonstrate industry standards and has to perform required activities within a specified time frame. Paul Minnvera from Clemson joined Brian and Hugh to administer the exam.

Much was learned from the workshop plus many connections were made among the attendees. Good things are happening in arboriculture!

Visit the South Carolina Forestry Commission Website at <http://www.state.sc.us/forest/> for future Workshop information

On February 16<sup>th</sup>, fifteen professional tree climbers took the Tree Worker certification exam. This exam consists of

Lois Edwards, SC Forestry Commission Pee Dee Region Urban Forester

## Town of Heath Springs: Urban Forestry Success Story

Lois Edwards, SC Forestry Commission Pee Dee Region Urban Forester



A Chinese Pistache tree in Autumn

Once in a while you run upon a good ending to a project and it deserves being told so I am going to brag on the Town of Heath Springs, SC. In 2003 the Town of Heath Springs got an Urban and Community Forestry grant to plant trees along the main street in town. The street had just been redone with curbing and sidewalks with a grant from SCDOT but the stores were empty and the town certainly needed something. The Town planted 56 Chinese Pistache trees along the street. The mayor of Heath Springs, Ann Taylor, who is an elderly woman with much enthusiasm and thirst for learning took great pride in the project. She wanted to make sure the tree-planting project was a success and took to heart everything that was told to her to plant and maintain the trees in the correct manner. Don't you love it when someone follows your advice to the letter?!? The result is, 3 years later, each and every tree (that is 100%!!) is still living and growing. The Town of Heath Springs is realizing all the benefits of having a healthy urban forest and is continuing to plant more trees and care for the trees they have. Urban forests are helping our towns and cities all over the state to be more livable places and help revitalize small towns such as Heath Springs.

Note: The Town of Heath Springs has a population of 864.

# Choosing the Right Tree for the Right Place

## South Carolina Urban and Community Forestry Council

<b>Latin name:</b> <i>Quercus virginiana</i>	<b>Texture:</b> Fine
<b>Common name:</b> Live Oak	<b>Growth rate:</b> Medium, long-lived
<b>Zones:</b> 8-10	<b>Light:</b> Full sun to part shade
<b>Height &amp; Width:</b> 60-80'h x 60-120'w	<b>Moisture:</b> Medium
<b>Type:</b> Evergreen to semi-evergreen	<b>Soil:</b> Tolerant of wide variety
<b>Habit:</b> Spreading and rounded	<b>Origin:</b> Southern United States

**Features:** Mature trunks and horizontal branches are massive with age. Deep green fine textured leaves form a rounded canopy. Light below the canopy is often dappled. Old leaves are shed in late spring. Acorns are eaten by songbirds and other wildlife. Bark is strong, dark and blocky on older trees. Spanish moss dripping from branches adds to the mystique of the live oak.

**Siting:** Live oak requires ample above and below ground space. Place in an area with more than 200 square feet of total planting area; in a planting strip at least 7' wide; or place at least 6' from pavement or wall. Roots tolerate all soil textures, even compacted soil; tolerate both acid and alkaline soil pH; yet prefer well-drained soil. Plants are salt tolerant and wind resistant when cultural preferences are met. Live oaks are ideal street trees where space is plentiful. Their roots will heave sidewalks over time. They are superb choices for parks, botanical gardens, estates, and mansions. Select a suitable long term site-they may live 200-300 years or longer.

**Care:** Transplant while small for best success. Plant so root flare is visible in loose soil. Well-drained soil, full or partial sun, and moisture during establishment are ideal. At planting, water the root ball daily with two gallons of water per inch of trunk diameter for two weeks, every other day for two months, and then weekly until established. Modify water recommendations to reflect site drainage and rainfall. Do not over water or saturate the soil. Apply 3" of mulch over the planted area. Do not allow mulch to touch the trunk. Prune while young to develop branch structure. Develop one strong central leader and spaced branches along trunk.

**Pests:** Plants are relatively pest resistant if cultural preferences are met. Live oaks are susceptible to *Phytophthora* root rot (caused by *P. cinnamomi*) under the right conditions. It is unknown at this time whether live oak is a host for *P. ramorum*, (causal agent) of Sudden Oak Death.

Contact the SC Urban and Community Forestry Council at [www.scurbanforestry.org](http://www.scurbanforestry.org) for membership and additional information.

\*Soil ph is determined using a professional soil test. Contact your Clemson University County Extension service for assistance [www.clemson.edu/extension/](http://www.clemson.edu/extension/). Click on "local offices".

Tree selected from the *Urban Tree Species Guide: Choosing the Right Tree for the Right Place*.

Author and Photographer: Ellen Vincent, Clemson University Reviewers: Elizabeth Gilland, SC Forestry Commission & Kathryn Basha, SCUCFC



Charleston, SC Angel Oak

Winner of the SCU&CF 2004 Heritage Tree Award



PO Box 21707  
Columbia, SC 29221

## Mark Your Calendar

September 8, 2006	Nominations for Golden Acorn Awards are due
October 1, 2006	Nominations for Heritage Tree Awards are due
November 9-10, 2006	SCUCFC Annual Conference Marriott Spartanburg at Renaissance Park
November 10, 2006	Certified Arborist Review and Exam SCUCFC Annual Conference

Visit [www.scurbanforestry.org](http://www.scurbanforestry.org) for more information

He who plants a tree  
plants a hope.  
- Lucy Larcom



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