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SOUTH CAROLINA URBAN & COMMUNITY FORESTRY COUNCIL

The Acorn

Greenville Conference a Huge Success!

Clark Beavans
City of Rock Hill

The SCUCFC Annual Conference held at the Greenville Marriott on October 30 and 31 provided excellent educational and networking opportunities for a wide variety of participants. The conference drew 100 registrants despite the tumultuous economic conditions that accelerated in the weeks prior to October 30. The volunteers who organized this special event really set a benchmark for excellence. Thanks to all who helped or participated in this conference including our sponsors: Bartlett Tree Experts, Duke Energy Corporation, SC Forestry Commission, Davey Resource Group, Carolina Stalite Company, Head-Lee Nursery, Hutchinson Publishing, Preservation Tree Care, Shady Grove Plantation & Nursery, and Sox & Freeman Tree Expert! The facilities were excellent, the weather was fantastic, and the presentations timely and informative.

Thursday's technical presenters were researchers Dr. Greg McPherson of the US Forest Service, and Dr. Tom Smiley of Bartlett Tree Research Laboratories. Both of these men are at the top of their respective fields, and both presented current research in two critical areas – Dr. McPherson in the area of economic quantification of the benefits of urban trees (and also in capturing carbon with community trees), and Dr. Smiley in the areas of tree growing in urban areas, and tree maintenance in urban areas.

At the Member's meeting/luncheon on Thursday, outgoing Board members were recognized with handmade walnut boxes to thank them for their service. Two new Board members were appointed by the Board and approved by the Membership to fill two unexpired Board terms. Additionally, three newly elected and two re-elected Board members were recognized.

The Council presents two Golden Acorn Awards at our annual conference, one to an individual for Distinguished Service to Urban and Community Forestry, and one to an organization for Outstanding Urban Forestry Program.

The Town of Irmo received the Outstanding Urban Forestry Program Golden Acorn Award. South Carolina Urban Forestry Coordinator Liz Gilland received the Golden Acorn for Distinguished Service to Urban and Community Forestry.



Eddie Bernard presents a plaque to Liz Gilland.



Whitt Cline accepts the award for the City of Irmo.

One unique feature of this year's conference helped participants get out and see how Downtown Greenville makes room for trees. There were two walking tours of the downtown area to choose from - one tour focused on the fantastic new suspension bridge over Reedy Creek, and the other focused on challenges of maintaining the large trees planted along Main Street. For those not wishing to do the walking tours, there was a concurrent session at the Marriott by Dr. Bill Stringer of the SC Native Plant Society on *Native Trees in Southern Landscapes*. Immediately following the conclusion of the tours and concurrent session, groups met at local restaurants for dinner and networking. This provided a unique opportunity for participants to connect with each other and with Board members in a relaxed, informal setting. The selection of restaurants in downtown Greenville made this aspect especially appealing for dining and networking.

Friday was a half-day that featured presentations from Shirley Trier of the Davey Resource Group, Ellen Vincent of Clemson University Horticulture Department, Robert DeMoura of the Angel Oak Village Development, and Bob Head of Head/Lee Nursery. Participants were again treated to excellent information on a variety of tree-related topics.

We are already thinking ahead to next year's conference in Columbia – if you have suggestions or wish to get involved, please contact us at info@scurbanforestry.org !

from the President's Corner



It has been a busy last few weeks with two educational offerings from the Council. Along with Charleston Trees, we co-sponsored a successful one day seminar themed on Canopy Trees in Parking Lots at Magnolia Gardens and Plantation in Charleston on October 28th, with about 80 registrants. This seminar was targeted at site designers to increase exposure of the Council to these professions. We were able to attract over 20 landscape architects and civil engineers, which well exceeded these professions respective attendance at previous Council educational offerings. It is unfortunate that with all the site designers, governmental planners, private and municipal arborists, and interested public present that we were not able to extend the seminar to allow time for all involved to collaboratively share ideas and experiences that would in the end provide more healthy trees in future designs and thus all the benefits of increased shade in parking lots, and discuss how to improve parking lot ordinances to ensure better success. With the amount of interest in the subject and a desire from many to hear from each other, perhaps a sequel is needed in the future. We made Council information available, including membership brochures and past newsletters, in hopes that our membership will not only grow in number, but also in diversity. The following day, I and others made the trip to Greenville for our quarterly board meeting and our annual Conference, which was the following two days, October 30-31. Luther Marchant and the rest of your conference committee did a great job planning this informative conference and showing off Greenville's Main Street and Falls Park. Considering the current economic climate and Halloween we had a very respectable turnout of around 100, which included about 20 students.

I would like to introduce and welcome our newest board members Carroll Williamson and Danny Jones who will be filling vacant board positions and also Lou Ehinger, Bob Longe, Mike Russell, Luther Marchant, and Jimmy Painter who were elected to full three-year terms. I would also like to thank and recognize our two outgoing board members who are stepping down, Sally Krebs with the Town of Hilton Head and Dave Marren with Bartlett Tree Experts, who will be missed and have served the board well in their efforts and knowledge. I made the tough decision to also step down at the end of the year, but will remain on as an ex-officio member to serve out the past president slot next year. Our incoming president, Danny Burbage, is making his second run after 17 years and will no doubt do a great job. Board of director positions are rotated each year and I encourage anyone interested that has not been a part of this board to give it some thought and I welcome any calls to discuss your interests. It is a great experience working with this incredible group of people with diverse backgrounds from around the state who share a love of trees and want to make a difference in their communities and jobs. The benefits, friendships, and conglomerate of knowledge are priceless.

On a more depressing note, I recently attended a lecture by Laurie Reid, an entomologist with the SC Forestry Commission, on what is the latest chapter in the imported exotic bug wipes out native tree saga, which is the spread of Laurel Wilt by the Red Bay Ambrosia Beetle (*Xyleborus glabratus*). Technically the killer is a fungus (*Raffaelea*) that is housed in the mouth of the beetle, which is introduced to trees by the Beetle's boring activity. The infection can be identified by wilting reddish or purplish leaves which turn brown and as dark streaking in the sapwood of the plant. The fungus moves systematically and is like Dutch Elm disease in that it is a vascular wilt disease. The known hosts of the fungus are plants in the Lauraceae family, which include red bay, sassafras, pondspice, pondberry, camphor tree, and avocado. These beetles, native to Asia and about the size of the date on a penny, were first found in traps in 2002 near the port of Savannah GA and soon after reports of dying mature red bays were common in the Hilton Head and Savannah area. Since its introduction, it has continued to spread along the coastal and bordering in land counties to its current extents from Charleston to Miami. While its spread has been assisted by transport of wood, it is believed to be spreading at a rate of 20 miles per year on its own. Once a red bay is infected, mortality may occur in as little as 2-3 weeks. With red bays range in SC being roughly east of I-20, Sassafras covering the entire state, pondberry being federally endangered, pondspice being state endangered, it is seemingly only a matter of time before all parts of the state are impacted. Red Bay's leaves are also the primary food source for Palamedes swallowtail butterfly larvae which is one example of the indirect impact this will have. There is a wealth of information on the beetle, fungus, and dangers of infected wood transport at the forest service website (www.fs.fed.us/r8/foresthealth/laurelwilt/index.shtml). I encourage you to visit this site and become familiar with this pest and do your part to slow its spread.

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Dr. George Sawyer, retired

Edmond Most, Design Works

Mike Russell, Natural Directions, LLC By Russell Consulting

Opal Rousey, Executive Coordinator, *The Acorn* Editor and Designer, ovrousey@wctel.net

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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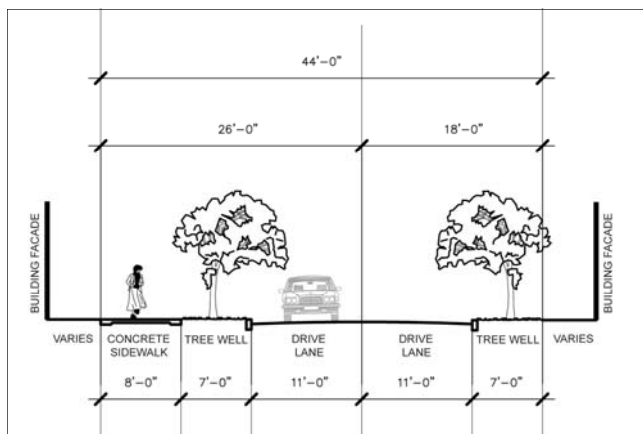
Planning for Planting Strips

Edmond Most
Design Works LLC

An Urban Planner views the urban street tree as an important catalyst when designing desirable streets for sustainable communities. Specifying the right tree for an urban application can be rather challenging. From an Urban Planner's perspective, there are many factors that must be taken into consideration during the species-selection, in addition to the environmental conditions that typically guide the Planner. Examples of these factors are: plant hardiness zones, soil characteristics, and annual rainfall. The following is a recent account of a "street planting strip"; a separate factor that had not been previously taken into consideration when designing in an urban application.

This particular project is located in Charleston, South Carolina in which the design team was tasked with connecting a new community to the existing historic urban fabric. Once the overall design scope was established, the design team agreed upon a road section that included a street planting strip that was seven feet wide. After a soil volume calculation, it was concluded that this was an appropriately sized planting strip to support a large canopy tree for the next 50-75 years. The drawings were prepared in conjunction with the design team, and submitted to the City's planning and engineering department for review and approval. Upon review, one of the municipality's comments included the addition of a twenty-four inch wide trench drain (or under drain) running along the back side of the curb, twelve inches below the surface. The purpose of the under drain is to collect any runoff that may find its way between the asphalt pavement and curb, as it can affect the soil bearing pressure under the curb and may cause it to fail over time.

Fortunately, the design team started with a wide enough planting strip and was able to reduce the under drain to twelve inches in width, therefore accommodating the City's request while providing a planting strip of six



feet in width. In essence, the design team was able to maintain the urban character by retaining the original street tree selection, because of the soil volume needed to be able to support a large tree canopy tree long term. All of this was achieved by over-calculating the size of the planting strip, prior to requests by city municipalities. Had the design team not considered the size of the planting strip in the original scope, the city's request would have ultimately compromised the establishment of a new community's connection to the existing urban fabric.

Project Learning Tree and Community Forestry

By Jimmy Walters, Piedmont Region Urban Forester
SC Forestry Commission

Many in the conservation and education communities have heard of *Project Learning Tree*, the environmental education program of the American Forest Foundation. This curriculum helps educators to incorporate environmental education while teaching practically any subject. There is an Environmental Education Activity Guide for the Pre K-8 grade levels, and modular guides for the high school grades. The mission of PLT is to “use the forest as a ‘window on the world’ to increase students’ understanding of our complex environment, to stimulate critical and creative thinking, to develop the ability to make informed decisions on environmental issues, and to instill the confidence and commitment to take responsible action on behalf of the environment.”

PLT workshops are offered to educators and others who work with young people, free of charge. Workshop participants receive the Activity Guide, which contains 96 versatile activities to fit practically any subject, grade level, or time frame. Many of the activities are related to urban and community forestry issues. For example, “Trees in Trouble” is an activity that teaches students about factors that harm or stress trees. They learn to look for signs of stress and discuss possible causes and remedies. This activity is adaptable to teaching math,

science, social studies, language arts or performing arts. Another activity, “Water Wonders,” discusses the water cycle and the role played by trees. This one can be used to teach the issues involved in managing storm water and runoff, within the context of science, language arts, or social studies. “Democracy in Action” is an exercise in citizen involvement in policy making. It can be adapted to a social studies or visual arts class.

The PLT Secondary curriculum consists of several modules on various broad topics, including Biodiversity, Forest Ecology, Municipal Solid Waste, Forests of the World, Places We Live, Focus on Forests, and Focus on Risks. A module on Biotechnology is being developed. There is also material available that addresses fire in the wildland-urban interface.

To obtain a PLT Activity Guide, it is necessary to attend a 6-hour workshop. Workshops can be scheduled for schools or other groups, including scout leaders or home school associations. The workshops are conducted by local facilitators and are fun and fast-moving. For more information, check the official PLT web site at www.plt.org or call our state PLT coordinator, Jerry Shrum at the Forestry Commission at (803) 896-8892.

3rd Annual Carolina Arborist Workshop

Liz Gilland
SC Forestry Commission

. The Harbison Environmental Education Center was the site for the 3rd Annual Carolina Arborist Workshop on September 11, 2008. Over 90 people attended, in spite of high gas prices and uncertainty about the path of Hurricane Ike.

The program centered on the American National Standard for Tree Care Operations (ANSI A300), the safety standard (Z133.1) and the American Standard for Nursery Stock (Z60.1). Jimmy Walters gave the presentation on A300 and as a surrogate, presented the PowerPoint from Warren Quinn of the American Nursery and Landscape Association on Z60.1. Elden LeBrun of Bartlett Tree Experts gave the presentation on the safety standard. Also on the program was a presentation of the new Best Management Practices for protecting trees during construction by Dr. Kelby Fite, and a very informative lesson on tree hormones by Joe Murray of Blue Ridge Community College.

The workshop ended with an outdoor chain saw safety demonstration by a Husqvarna representative. He demonstrated in dramatic fashion how old, dirty chain saw chaps will not stop a saw!

The workshop was sponsored jointly by the SC Forestry Commission, the SC Urban and Community Forestry Council and the International Society of Arboriculture Southern Chapter.

South Carolina Urban and Community Forestry Council
2008 Annual Report
Compiled 10/08 by Tim Gillette, 2008 U&CFC Secretary

Executive Committee Officers

President - Eddie Bernard
Treasurer - Clark Beavans
Advisor - Liz Gilland

Vice President – Danny Burbage
Secretary - Tim Gillette

Board of Directors - Kathryn Basha, Timothy Edwards, Tom Knowles, Sandra Korbelik, Sally Krebs, Luther Marchant, Dave Marren, Jimmy Painter, Christina Wells

Ex-Officio Members - Don Ham, George Sawyer, Edmund Most, Mike Russell

Executive Coordinator –Opal Rousey

Annual Members Meeting: - The last members' meeting was held on November 8, 2007 at Saluda Shoals Park, Columbia.

Board of Directors Meetings:

January 25, 2008 - Santee State Park
January 25 & 26, 2008 Annual Retreat – Santee State Park
April 4, 2008 - SC Forestry Commission Headquarters
August 22, 2008 – SC Forestry Commission Headquarters
October 29, 2008 – Greenville Marriott, Greenville

Executive Committee Meetings:

January 26, 2008 – Santee State Park
February 21, 2008 – Conference Call
April 4, 2008 – SC Forestry Commission
April 13, 2007 – SC Forestry Commission
July 15, 2008 – Conference Call
August 14, 2008 – Conference Call
October 21, 2008 – Conference Call

Membership - 239 members; 25 Corporate, 73 Governmental, 139 Individuals, 2 Student

Newsletters - There have been 3 issues of *The Acorn*, Volume 17, published (winter, spring, summer). Plans are for a fourth issue to be printed in November.

Accomplishments include:

- Partnered with the ISA Southern Chapter and the SC Forestry Commission to produce an educational workshop targeted toward working arborists, The Carolina Arborist Workshop, which was held on September 11, 2008 at Harbison State Park. There were 85 + attendees.
- Researched partnerships with other associations and groups (ISA & GA Forestry Council)
- Awarded the Heritage Tree Program: A majestic White Oak (*Quercus alba*) that presides over Irmo's Town Park.
- Awarded the Golden Acorn Award Program: Liz Gilland received the Golden Acorn for Distinguished Service to Urban and Community Forestry. The Town of Irmo received the Outstanding Urban Forestry Program Golden Acorn Award.
- Continued the production of the Acorn and the "Tree Sheets". Issues included Fall 07 – Ginkgo, Winter 08 – Fringetree, Spring 08 – Japanese Cryptomeria, Summer 08 - Eastern Red Cedar.
- Extended visibility of Tree Sheets by submitting them to SC Nursery and Landscape Association; SC Landscape & Turfgrass Association; and SC American Society of Landscape Architects magazines.
- Developed and administered a fiscally responsible budget for the Council (\$43,450).
- The 2007 Heritage Tree Award was presented to the Town of McClellanville's *Deer Head Oak* on Saturday, May 10th, 2008, at 10:00 a.m. at the corner of Oak Street and Pinckney Street.
- The Council was a co-sponsor of the Urban Forestry Committee under the Southern Group of State Foresters Summer Meeting in Columbia on June 8 – 11, 2008. Approximately 25 participants from around the southeast were a part of the UF Committee Meeting.
- Co-sponsored the Sustainable Parking Lot Design with Canopy Trees seminar with Charleston Trees on October 28, 2008. 80 attended.
- Discussed and researched the possibility of changing the name of the council.
- Applied for and received a 2008 grant from the SC Forestry Commission for continuation of a contract Executive Coordinator, newsletter publication, and other programmatic efforts.
- Cosponsored with the SC Forestry Commission the i-Tree workshop held in Awendaw in May 2008. Approximately 14 people were in attendance at this specialized training.
- Develop and implement the "Trees: A Community of Relationships" conference in Greenville, SC, October 30-31, 2008. 100 attended.
- Initiated search for future executive coordinator.

South Carolina's HERITAGE TREES

SOUTH CAROLINA URBAN & COMMUNITY FORESTRY COUNCIL

2008 Heritage Tree Award Winner

By Kathryn Basha

The SC Urban and Community Forestry Association announced on Arbor Day, that the 2008 Heritage Tree for South Carolina is a majestic White Oak (*Quercus alba*) that presides over Irmo's Town Park. The White Oak stretches more than seventy feet into the air, with a canopy equally as wide. An ancient tree, it has become the focal point of the town's central park that was transformed in recent years from three acres of weeds and briar-choked trees.

The mighty oak tree brings a legacy of permanence and grace to the newly created park. Park planners have protected its health by keeping as much foot traffic as possible off the tree's roots through the design and construction of a tiered deck that provides multiple levels of seating under her branches. The tree is maintained by the Irmo Public Services Department, which ensures it is annually checked by a certified arborist, trimmed, fertilized and watered as needed.

The SC Urban and Community Forestry Council was established in 1990 with the mission of "fostering stewardship of urban and community forests". The organization sponsors an annual conference and other educational and awards programs to further its mission. The Heritage Tree program recognizes public trees that have historical, cultural or other special significance to a community. Irmo's White Oak was chosen for its demonstration of how public trees provide SC residents with spaces to congregate and enjoy the unique atmosphere of each community.



White Oak at Irmo's Town Park

Choosing the Right Tree for the Right Place

South Carolina Urban and Community Forestry Council

Southern Waxmyrtle

Latin name: <i>Myrica cerifera</i>	Texture: Fine
Common name: Southern waxmyrtle	Growth rate: Fast
Hardiness Zones: 8-11	Light: Part-shade, sun
Height & Width: 15-20'h x 20-25'w	Moisture: Medium
Type: Evergreen	Soil: pH and soil adaptable
Habit: Wispy when natural	Pest tolerance: Medium
Flowers/fruit: Blue berries	Origin: Native to North America

Features: A broadleaf evergreen shrub or small tree with a broad irregular rounded habit when left natural. Trunk is multi-stemmed unless pruned to a singly trunk. New growth in the spring smells like bayberry candles and clusters of waxy blue fruits appear in autumn through winter and attract wildlife. Serves well as a hedge, screen, or naturalistic buffer. Gray bark ages to silver. Plants fix atmospheric nitrogen which allows tolerance of infertile soils.

Siting: Excellent plant for less than ideal soils through prefers moderate amounts of soil organic matter and moisture. Tolerates full sun and half shade situations. Suitable for coastal sites as it tolerates salt spray. Requires a planting strip with a width of at least 4', or should be planted at least 2' from pavement or wall. Plants have a tendency to break in ice storms.

Care: Plant so root flare is visible in loose soil. 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. Apply 3" of mulch over the planted area. Do not allow mulch to touch the trunk. Easy to prune and may be an effective screen (can be pruned up to twice per season) or limbed up as a small tree. Remove sprouts from base unless naturalizing area. Requires pruning to develop strong structure. Berries produced on previous season's growth.

Pests: Low maintenance when cultural requirements are met. *Fusarium* and cankers are lethal pests to waxmyrtle. Caterpillars, mites, and webworms are also pests.

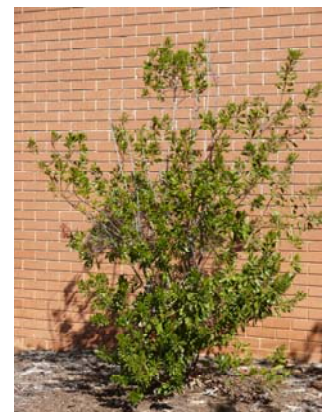


Contact the SC Urban and Community Forestry Council at www.scurbanforestry.org for membership and additional information.

*Soil pH is determined using a professional soil test. Contact your Clemson University County Extension service for assistance www.clemson.edu/extension/. Click on "local offices".

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

Author: Ellen Vincent, Clemson University





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Columbia, SC 29221

Mark Your Calendar

- January 7-8, 2009** **SC Vegetation Management Association Annual Conference**, Radisson Hotel and Conference Center, Columbia, SC. For more information visit www.scvma.net/conference.htm.
- January 7-11, 2009** **2009 Tree, Turf and Ornamental Seminar**, Augusta, GA. For more information contact 770-554-3735.
- January 28, 2009** **SC Landscape & Turfgrass Association Annual Conference** – Columbia, SC. For more information contact 803-787-0996 or www.sclta.com.
- February 5-7, 2009** **SC Nursery & Landscape Association Annual Conference & Trade Show**— Myrtle Beach, SC. For more information visit www.scnla.com.

Visit www.scurbanforestry.org for more information



ACORN PARTNER

The SCUCFC gratefully acknowledges the generous support of this newsletter by Bartlett Tree Experts. If you or your company would like to become an Acorn Partner, contact *Opal Rousey* at 864-933-7985 or ovrousey@wctel.net

To exist as a nation,
to prosper as a state,
and to live as a people,
we must have trees.
- Theodore Roosevelt.