

The Acorn

Winter 2009



The South Carolina Urban & Community Forestry Council Is Now Trees SC!

Winston Churchill told us, “There is nothing wrong with change if it is in the right direction.” When our organization decided to change its everyday name to Trees SC, it was with the intent that the change would propel us in a direction where we saw need. We want to be more inclusive and welcoming to those outside the traditional arboricultural, landscape, design and planning disciplines. We want to encourage garden clubs, civic organizations, environmental groups and other energized community members to join us in our efforts in **connecting people and trees**. Our vibrant new logo depicts the direction we feel we should be heading. We want to be the advocate for the entire state of South Carolina, and we want to connect all of its people with its trees. We have always been about these things, but we will give this notion equal emphasis with the more detailed and technical aspects of arboriculture and community forestry. We’re not changing paths. We’re just broadening our path so that we can touch more South Carolinians along the way.

Trees SC Co-Sponsors the Arbor Day Poster Contest

Trees SC, along with the Coastal Discovery Museum, is sponsoring the annual Arbor Day National Poster Contest. This year’s theme is “Trees are Terrific...and Energy Wise!” The contest, which is open to all 5th graders in the state, educates children about the importance of planting and caring for trees, and the crucial role they play in conserving energy.

Following in-school activities, students from throughout South Carolina will be eligible to participate in a state-wide competition with the winner advancing to the national level. The deadline for submissions is March 1, 2010.

For more information, please contact us at karen@treessc.org or by phone at (843) 814-4620. You may also visit the Arbor Day Foundation’s website at www.arborday.org.

Our New Website

In an effort to better serve our membership, we have redesigned our website to bring you the latest trends and information on urban and community forestry. Our website, www.TreesSC.org, will provide resources on proper tree maintenance and pruning techniques, research on urban forestry, a calendar of events, and links to other organizations dedicated to protecting our natural resources. The site will also have past issues of *The Acorn*, our *Tree Sheets*, and our *Fact Sheets*.

Help Us Go GREEN!!

In an effort to be more “green,” Trees SC is now offering *The Acorn* electronically. If you are interested in receiving an electronic version of our quarterly newsletter, please send us an e-mail at karen@treessc.org and simply put “Electronic Acorn” in the subject line.

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President's Letter



In the early stages of my career, I took a job as a landscaping crew leader on one of the resort islands near Charleston. On my third day, my supervisor pulled me aside and said, “Look, your work is great but don’t share your personal philosophies and don’t rock the boat.” At that point, I had not conversed with anyone about anything but pittosporum and pine trees so I was a little shocked at the admonition. I can only speculate that someone else who worked on the island had heard of my advocacy of some issues in an earlier decade. The take away message here is that people remember when you advocate.

Advocacy can take many forms and advocacy for community forestry is no different. Whether in casual conversation you mention to your coworker all of the reasons you decided to plant a tree on your property, or if you actively promote proper tree planting and care, you are an advocate. Most of us have, at least, one opportunity a day to champion the cause of urban forestry. Program that thought into your brain’s “tickler file” and don’t be shy about seizing an opportunity when it arises.

I was pleased to see so many of you at our extraordinary annual conference in October. Several times during the breaks I took the time to “tree-people” watch. All of you were engaged; talking with each other and learning from each other. It was a great scene- advocates engaged! I took information from one conversation I had and from one speaker, and introduced those concepts at a major streetscapse meeting I attended the following Monday. **Education, Advocacy and Networking** is how we say we will accomplish our mission to “Foster the stewardship of urban and community forests.” It was all there at the conference.

I sincerely thank you for allowing me to be your president this year. It has been a privilege and, quite frankly, a lot of fun. We’ve experienced some changes (becoming Trees SC and hiring an executive director among others). But what strikes me most is that our core values have not changed since our beginning 20 years ago. We are a grass roots organization dedicated to **connecting people and trees**.

Your outgoing president,
Danny

From the Executive Director

As we come to the end of another year, I reflect on all of our recent accomplishments. We sponsored two exceptional educational programs, the Carolina Arborist Workshop and our Annual Conference in Columbia; we changed our name to better represent our mission and to broaden our audience to include community members as well as professional; and we grew our membership to include several non-profits throughout the state. The success of Trees SC is dependent on its membership, and I urge you to renew your membership today.



In early 2010, we will introduce our newest educational program, The Canopy Sessions. These lunch and learn sessions will be held quarterly throughout the state and will address issues relevant to the local community and its residents. We are looking for host cities to help make this program a success; please contact me if you are interested.

I have enjoyed serving as your executive director over the past 11 months and I am proud of the work we have accomplished. I look forward to continuing to partner with our membership and organizations throughout the state to ensure the vitality of South Carolina’s urban and community forests.

Karen

Trees SC Board of Directors

President—Danny Burbage, City of Charleston

Vice-President—Mike Russell,

Natural Directions, LLC

Secretary—Tim Gillette, City of Tega Cay

Treasurer—Clark Beavans, City of Rock Hill

Timothy Edwards, S.C. Dept. of Transportation

Tom Knowles, University of South Carolina

Luther Marchant, Schneider Tree Care

Robert Longe, Bartlett Tree Experts

Jimmy Painter, Painter's Landscaping, Inc.

Danny Jones, City of Rock Hill

Carroll Williamson, City of Columbia

Louis Ehinger, SCE&G

Sarah Robinson, PalmettoPride

Ex-Officio

Don Ham, The Laurus Group

Eddie Bernard, The Town of Mt. Pleasant

Dr. George Sawyer, retired

Advisor—Liz Gilland, S.C. Forestry Commission

Karen Hauck, Executive Director

The Acorn is a quarterly newsletter produced by Trees SC. We welcome your articles, news items, and photographs that may be of interest to our readers. Items may be sent to Trees SC, PO Box 1679, Ladson, S.C. 29456 or karen@treessc.org.

Funds for this project were provided by the Urban and Community Forestry Grant Assistance Program administered through the S.C. Forestry Commission and funded by the USDA Forest Service.

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Trees SC Welcomes Its Newest Board Members

This fall, we held an election for board members that will serve a three-year term beginning in 2010. Returning members include Danny Burbage, Timothy Edwards, and Tom Knowles. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to our two newest board members, Rachel d'Entremont and Mark Arena.



Rachel d'Entremont is planner with the City of Aiken and is responsible for the enforcement of the City's landscaping and tree preservation regulations. She received her degree in Music Education from Westminster Choir College and is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners. In her spare time, Rachel likes to read, sing and tinker with her 1928 Model A Ford Roadster. She has been a member of Trees SC since 2005.



Mark Arena is the lead agent with the Clemson University Extension Service and is responsible for managing the local Extension office and providing technical support to the green industry. He received his Masters in Ornamental Horticulture from the University of Tennessee and is an ISA Certified Arborist. In his spare time, Mark enjoys camping, visiting botanical gardens and traveling.

At the end of 2009, Don Ham and Christina Wells will rotate off the board. We would like to thank them for their commitment and dedication to Trees SC and the urban forests throughout our state.



Member Spotlight

Scott Park

Occupation: Planning Services Officer, Florence County and the Florence Area Transportation Study

Education/Training: Master's of Science in Environmental Sciences, ISA Certified Arborist

What Trees SC means to me: In my line of work, it is important to have a professionals experienced with maintaining, restoring and growing our state's forests. Trees SC may have a new name, but the benefits of this professional organization are found in the breadth of its long-standing membership.

A Member Since: 2008

Interested in being in the spotlight? Please send your information to karen@treessc.org.

Honey Hill Development Becomes A Firewise Community

By Frances Waite, SC Forestry Commission

Seventy-six homes were destroyed by a fire that started on Earth Day 2009 in Honey Hill, a planned community outside of Ridgeland, SC. This wildland fire was the worst wildland-urban-interface (WUI) fire in the state's history. The WUI is an area where either an individual or a group of homes have been developed adjacent to or within traditional forestlands. When a wildfire occurs in the forest, it can threaten those homes and properties.

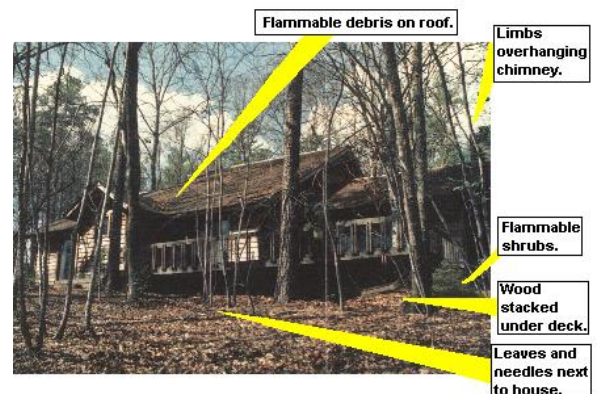
To help citizens protect their homes in the WUI, a national program, Firewise USA, was developed. Firewise USA addresses issues in communities at risk for wildland fire and provides guidance to residents living within an interface area. Part of this guidance includes an analysis of risks associated with living in the WUI. After this analysis, the community decides which elements of risk to mitigate or reduce by implementing specific Firewise principles (see list below).

Recently, Honey Hill was honored as a Firewise USA Community. During the process of becoming a Firewise USA Community, the Firewise Board along with assistance from the SC Forestry Commission, US Fish & Wildlife, and the Town of Ridgeland Fire Department, developed a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). The CWPP helps a community reduce the risk of wildfire and identifies strategic sites and methods for fuel reduction projects across the landscape and jurisdictional boundaries. In addition to helping reduce the risk of a wildland fire, the benefits of having a CWPP include National Fire Plan funding priority for projects identified in a CWPP.

In addition to the CWPP, the Honey Hill Homeowner's Association held a "How to Have a Firewise Home" workshop aimed at enlightening residents on ways to reduce risks on their own property. Additionally, the SC Forestry Commission conducted a controlled burn to minimize forest vegetation as a demonstration of how to reduce the amount of available fuel in adjacent woodlands near homes. Both the education-oriented workshop and the hazard mitigation burn prepared residents for this important national designation and taught homeowners how to protect their investments, their homes, and how to effectively remove nearby flammable vegetation.

Honey Hill residents are implementing some methods recommended by the National Fire Protection Association's Firewise Communities team to improve your "home ignition zone." The home ignition zone includes the house and surrounding area within 100 feet. The following steps can be taken to reduce a home's vulnerability:

- Use non-combustible construction materials, such as stucco, brick, and fiber cement siding.
- Consider using Class-A asphalt roof shingles, clay tile, or slate roofing materials.
- Prune all trees so the lowest limbs are six to ten feet from the ground and remove dead or overhanging branches.
- Within five feet of the home, use nonflammable landscaping materials, such as rock, pavers, annuals, and high-moisture content perennials.
- Select low-growing plants with high moisture content which are free of resins, oils, or waxes that burn easily.
- Remove leaves and pine needles from gutters and around your home and attachments, such as decks and fences.



The SC Forestry Commission has assisted and certified six planned communities as Firewise USA. For more information about the Firewise Program in South Carolina, call the SC Forestry Commission's Statewide Firewise Coordinator, Mike Bozzo at (803) 896-8810 or visit www.firewise.org.

Outstanding Contributions to Urban and Community Forestry Are Recognized Through Annual Awards

During the annual conference in Columbia, Trees SC presented its 2009 Golden Acorn Awards to individuals and organizations that make outstanding contributions to urban forestry throughout the year, as well as its 2009 Heritage Tree Award to a tree with historical and cultural significance. For more information on our annual awards program, please visit our website at www.TreesSC.org.

Distinguished Volunteer Service in Urban & Community Forestry—Mary Lou Jones



Mary Lou Jones works with teachers, students, garden clubs, and non-profit organizations to increase knowledge about the importance of trees and the role they play in the community. Mary Lou created an urban forestry school-based program that teaches students and teachers proper planting and maintenance techniques. Last year alone, over 1,500 Greenville County students learned the value of trees through her program.

Distinguished Service in Urban & Community Forestry—Dr. Judy Caldwell



Judy Caldwell recently retired from Clemson University where she was professor of Urban Forestry and taught the Urban Tree Care class, the primary class in urban forestry. Her dedication and commitment extended from the classroom to the community where she worked with Clemson's City Council to create new policies regarding urban forestry. She educated councilmembers about tree protection practices and urban forestry issues, and wrote grants to secure funding for tree planting projects.

Outstanding Community Forestry Program- Tree Committee of the Town of McClellanville

McClellanville is a small coastal fishing/shrimping village of 460 inhabitants, and is home of the estimated 1,000 year-old Deerhead Oak, SC's Heritage Tree of 2007. Understanding the value of its trees, McClellanville created its Tree Committee over ten years ago. Since its inception, the Tree Committee has developed a plan for its urban forest, drafted a tree ordinance for the Town, encouraged Town Council to incorporate tree maintenance as an annual budget item, and developed a public tree inventory with nearly 900 trees. Additionally, the Tree Committee assists homeowners with tree issues and provides public education in the form of urban forestry management reference material and demonstrations on tree planting, care, pruning and mulching.



Outstanding Municipal Forestry Program—The City of Charleston

The City of Charleston's Urban Forestry Division has had the task of managing the City's trees for nearly 50 years. The initial vision was simply to plant trees and address storm debris, but it has blossomed into a program that promotes canopy coverage and young tree corrective pruning. The success of the program relies not only on the dedication of its 13-person staff, but on creating partnerships with citizens and non-profits to achieve the goal of a healthy and well-managed urban forest. The Urban Forestry Division maintains an inventory of all trees located on public property, manages the Street/Park Tree Planting Program, and maintains an urban forest of more than 35,000 trees. The City of Charleston has been designated a Tree City USA since 1981, and its historical Angel Oak received the inaugural Heritage Tree Award.



Heritage Tree Award—Clemson University Centennial Bur Oak



This massive tree, which serves as a campus landmark, a favorite meeting location, and a reminder of the school's history, is purported to be more than 100 years old. It is believed that this tree was a sapling on the land that Thomas Clemson IV included in his 1883 will that would become the Clemson campus. The tree was named the Centennial Bur Oak when Clemson celebrated 100 years of existence in 1989. It is the largest bur oak in South Carolina and has been carefully protected as the campus grew. The tree has been cited in the 2009 University Preservation Master Plan and a the book, *The Nature of Clemson: A Field Guide to the Natural History of Clemson University*.



2009 Annual Report

Board of Directors - Danny Burbage (President), Mike Russell (Vice President), Clark Beavans (Treasurer), Tim Gillette (Secretary), Eddie Bernard (Past President), Lou Ehinger, Robert Longe, Timothy Edwards, Tom Knowles, Luther Marchant, Jimmy Painter, Carroll Williams, Danny Jones, Sarah Robinson, Christina Wells, Liz Gilland (Advisor)

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

Executive Director– Karen Hauck

Membership - 243 members; 21 Corporate, 74 Governmental, 147 Individuals, 1 Student

Accomplishments include:

- Contracted with KBH Solutions, LLC to provide executive director services.
- Partnered with the ISA Southern Chapter and the SC Forestry Commission on the Carolina Arborist Workshop, an educational program targeted toward working arborists. The workshop, which was held on September 17, 2009 at Harbison State Forrest, had nearly 100 people in attendance and was sponsored by Mead's Tree Service.
- Researched partnerships with other associations and groups (ISA & GA Forestry Council).
- Presented the 2008 Heritage Tree Award to the majestic White Oak (*Quercus alba*) that presides over Irmo's Town Park.
- Awarded the 2009 Golden Acorn Awards to Mary Lou Jones (Distinguished Volunteer Service in Urban & Community Forestry), Dr. Judy Caldwell (Distinguished Service in Urban & Community Forestry), the Tree Committee of the Town of McClellanville (Outstanding Community Forestry Program), and the City of Charleston (Outstanding Municipal Forestry Program).
- Awarded the 2009 Heritage Tree Award to the Centennial Bur Oak on the Clemson University campus.
- Included "Tree Sheets" in all issues of *The Acorn*, volume 18. Species included the Persian ironwood, Yaupon holly, White oak and Chinese pistache.
- Developed and administered a fiscally responsible budget for the Council (\$68,555).
- Contracted with the accounting firm Burkett, Burkett & Burkett in Rock Hill, South Carolina to file the organization's IRS Form 990.
- After thorough research and discussion, the Board elected to begin "doing business as" Trees SC, and developed a new logo and tagline to go with the new "dba" name. The official name as listed with the IRS and the SC Secretary of State is still the South Carolina Urban and Community Forestry Council, Inc.
- Contracted with Helium, Inc. to create a new logo and brand for Trees SC.
- Applied for and received a 2009 grant from the SC Forestry Commission for continuation of a contract executive director, newsletter publication, and other program expenses.
- Sponsored the Annual Conference in Columbia, SC on October 29, 2009. Major conference sponsors included Bartlett Tree Experts, SCE&G, and the SC Forestry Commission.
- Restructured the membership to coincide with the calendar year.
- Launched a new website that provides resources to professionals and the general community.

Choosing the Right Tree for the Right Place

Trees SC

Chinese pistache

Latin name: Pistacia chinensis	Texture: Medium to fine-textured
Common name: Chinese pistache	Growth rate: Medium
Zones: 6-9	Light: Full to mostly sunny
Height & Width: 40'-50h x 25'-35'w	Moisture: Tolerates dry soils, no wet feet
Type: Deciduous	Soil: pH and soil adaptable
Habit: Oval	Origin: Native of China

Features: The Chinese pistache is regarded as a medium, or ornamental understory, shade tree. It typically will not reach the towering heights of large shade trees like most native oak, hickory or maple. Maturing into an oval crown, the Chinese pistache has dark green foliage that turns bright orange/red in the Fall, providing excellent color.

Siting: Full to mostly sunny conditions are preferable for full canopy development. Tolerant of poor soils, Chinese pistache is a suitable alternate for the over-planted Crape Myrtle and survives in new construction environments such as parking lots and around new structures where post-construction backfilled soils offer little in the way of available nutrients. The medium to fine-textured foliage allows filtered sunlight to penetrate through to the canopy and produces light shade on ground, patio or deck surfaces below. Select sites far enough away (15' or so) to allow for future growth.

Care: Plant so the root flare is visible in loose soils. Water thoroughly initially and as needed until roots are established. Mulch after planting and fertilize frequently with light applications. Chinese pistache is tolerant of hot, dry conditions. Some pruning may be helpful in early years of crown growth. Otherwise, little effort is typically required for full oval or rounded mature canopy.

Pests: Few, decay resistant with genetic resistance to insect and disease problems.

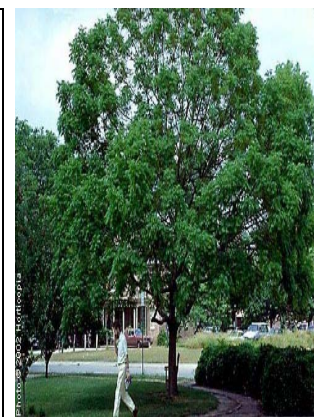


*Soil pH is determined using a professional soil test. Contact your Clemson University County Extension service for assistance at www.clemson.edu/extension/. Click on "local offices".

Tree selected from the *Urban Tree Species Guide: Choosing the Right Tree for the Right Place*. Sources include the *Texas Superstar TM*, *The Tree Guide* at arboday.org, and *The Ortho Library*.

Author: Danny Jones, City of Rock Hill

Reviewer: Danny Burbage, City of Charleston





PO Box 1679
Ladson, SC 29456

Renew Your Trees SC Membership Today!

Help us spread the message of the importance of trees, celebrate our special trees in South Carolina, and be an advocate for urban and community forests. Membership is open to anyone concerned with the protection of our state's trees. Trees SC members receive:

- access to scholarships
- our quarterly newsletter, *The Acorn*, that features the latest news and trends in urban forestry
- reduced registration fees for our annual conference and workshops
- a copy of our membership directory
- networking opportunities with other professionals and community members dedicated to our state's forests

All memberships are valid for one year and run from January through December. Dues are not prorated. Your membership and all donations are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

Membership Level

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student | \$15.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual | \$30.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Non-profit* | \$60.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Government* | \$80.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate* | \$115.00 |

- I'd like to receive *The Acorn* electronically for a discount of \$5.00 per member.

Amount Enclosed _____

Name and Title

Address

Phone Number

E-mail

1. _____ 2. _____

* 2 additional names may be listed

Please make checks payable to Trees SC, PO Box 1679, Ladson, SC 29456.
For more information or to renew your membership on-line, please visit www.TreesSC.org.