

The Acorn

Spring 2014



South Carolina Tree Climbing Academy

May 29, 2014
Irmo, SC

Join us on May 29, 2014 at the Irmo Municipal Building for the South Carolina Tree Climbing Academy hosted by the Southern Chapter of ISA and Trees SC. This hands on tree climbing academy will be led by North American Training Solutions, an expert in the field of arboriculture practices. The course is designed to educate participants about legislation and safety requirements as they pertain to working in trees, as well as provide individual training in climbing techniques. Participants are required to bring personal protection equipment and their regular climbing gear. Topics include: safety, teamwork and communication; overhead belay/tie-in location selection and establishment; tree climbing gear and tools; lines, knots, hitches and splicing; work positioning and fall protection; and work- oriented tree climbing.

CEUs: ISA Certified Arborist (6) and ISA Certified Tree Workers (6) credits are available.

Registration Fees: \$175 Member; \$200 Non-Member (*To be eligible for the member rate, you must be an active member of either the Southern Chapter of ISA or Trees SC.*)

REGISTRATION IS LIMITED TO 12 PARTICIPANTS!

Please visit our website for registration information.

*Thank you to our program sponsors: Bartlett Tree Experts,
Carolina Tree Care, Mead's Tree Service and
Schneider Tree Care.*

Canopy Session: Laurens April 11, 2014

Where: Laurens City Hall
126 E. Public Square
Laurens, SC

Time: 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

Trees SC and Main Street Laurens, USA invite you to attend a two-hour workshop on trees in the urban environment. Information on site preparation, species selection, and proper pruning techniques will be presented.

This is a FREE workshop, but registration is required. Lunch will be included.

Please visit our website for a complete agenda as well as registration information.

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President's Letter



Something we all need from time to time is someone to pay attention to us. Tender Loving Care is something that I just always got from mom, grandma, and nana. We all need some TLC and it seems there is never enough to go around when we need it. It could be a kind word or a pat on the back; maybe a weekend away from the routine with a spouse or best friend. Quality time with family or something in the mail that you were not expecting; climbing a tree just to hang out swaying in the breeze, fishing a stream, or coffee with a friend. TLC feeds our soul and we all need some every now and then. How do we get it? Can we really pay for it and receive it in full? To me you have to give it to get it and to once you have it, well it should be given away.

In our chosen passion which is tree care we give TLC to trees. The trees, in our opinion, need our care, but most of them would be just fine without us. Treating our clients with TLC will also show that we care. TLC for trees means that we must know how trees react in situations and different environments. Then we can develop the best plan to treat or change them to better handle the circumstances of their surroundings. Through workshops, certifications, seminars, colleagues, and personal experience, we learn to decipher what trees need for TLC. It is hard to tell if the trees really appreciate our TLC other than the fact that they look better to us. When the trees look "happy" it makes us feel like the TLC is being given back. A common feeling that most of us share is the awe and infilling of –something- when we are among trees. It makes our spirit fill up. They really do give back.

Trees SC strives to show our members and sponsors TLC. I hope you will join one or more of our events this year and help spread the Trees SC TLC around the state and beyond.

Tim

From the Executive Director

At the beginning of each year, the Trees SC board of directors holds an annual retreat to set the framework for the year to come. This year's retreat lived up to expectations, providing a forum to discuss ways in which we can improve the organization, expand current programs, and create new educational opportunities to further urban and community forestry in the state.



The reoccurring theme during the retreat was that as a statewide tree organization, we should highlight the work that is being done in communities across South Carolina. In the weeks following the retreat, I pondered how we might best do this in a way that would be of interest to you, our members. As with many of my great ideas, my inspiration came from my son's playroom.

Last year for Christmas, he received Little Passports, a child's teaching of geography and cultural lessons. The best thing is that he gets to travel all over the world without having to leave home. My thought was that if he could learn about these various countries, their people and culture, and be inspired to one day travel to far off places himself, why couldn't the same be true for tree lovers right here in South Carolina?

So I came up with the idea of *Passport to Trees*, a segment of our newsletter that will highlight the work our members are doing to further urban and community forestry. It will provide an opportunity to peek inside a community, learn about how they care for their trees, and see first-hand the magnificent trees they cherish most.

But here's the catch-we need your help! Please let us know if you would like to participate in *Passport to Trees*. We won't ask too much, just for you to send us a photo or two and answer some short questions about what you're doing in your own community. Our hope is to begin this in the next issue, highlighting one community each quarter.

Here's hoping you'll help us travel around our state in search of some amazing trees!

Karen

Trees SC Board of Directors

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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 SC Forestry Commission and funded by the USDA Forest Service.

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On the Stump With Danny Burbage

“The first day of spring was once the time for taking the young virgins into the fields, there in dalliance to set an example for nature to follow. Now we just set the clocks an hour ahead and change the oil in the crankcase.”

-E.B. White, One Man’s Meat

I am usually an optimist but, I swear, I can’t decide if spring is half full or half empty. One day is bright and balmy and the next is gray, wet and cold. I don’t like having to melt ice from my car windshield in the morning. I do like driving around midday with the windows down. I hate the way our Live Oaks look; yellow, sickly and sparse. I have to remind myself that, soon, young green leaves will push off the old ones and life will be right again. I love our harbinger of spring, a blooming Saucer Magnolia but I know that Black Gum, Maple, Red Bud and Dogwood will have to show off some color before it’s full on short sleeve weather.

I want winter to end. I’m tired of bare, naked limbs on our trees. I want to smell warmth in the air, see things sprout from the dirt and hear the Weather Channel say, “80 degrees the rest of the month.” But in spring, perhaps more than any other season, patience is a virtue.

In his poem, **In Just Spring**, e.e. cummings writes that spring is “mud-luscious and “puddle-wonderful”. His mud and his puddles are the result of seasonal rain and thawing snow. cummings delights in these wet testaments to the transition between winter and the warmth to come. I think I’ll try his optimistic, observational point of view. Revel in the changes themselves and not just persevere through them as I wait for better things to come. Rather than grouse about them, I pledge to seek out the nuances of the season; to find interest, beauty and wonder in the changes rather than to wish one season would go away and another, hurry up.

Subtleties are the driving forces in this game. New Bald Cypress needles have a slightly lighter and more yellow hue than many of the other emerging greens and they are all the more beautiful for it. Winter weeds muster one last push of growth before retreating for the summer. Pine pollen can be a nuisance when it coats your car and patio furniture but I smile when I first see it. Pollen is a sure sign of the season and an assurance that nature is at work.

Most of us cannot (or better not) dally in the fields as E.B. White suggests but we can do more than change the clocks and the oil. We can celebrate spring by bearing witness to its delicate unfolding. Tweak your observation skills up to high alert. Keep all of your senses susceptible to the nuances of the season and witness the transitions in real time.

Danny Burbage is the Urban Forester for the City of Charleston. If you have a topic for Danny, or if you’d like to discuss one of his previous columns, please feel free to e-mail him at burbaged@charleston-sc.gov.



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The Invasion of Cankerworms

By Clark Beavans, City of Rock Hill



On Thursday, October 10, 2013, the City of Rock Hill and Sox & Freeman Tree Expert Company put on a workshop for field personnel in Rock Hill on banding trees for cankerworms. Attendees were invited from York Tech, Winthrop University, Rock Hill School District Number 3, and the City of Rock Hill – since these agencies maintain large amounts of property with trees and were likely new to banding trees.

The idea for such a workshop came up at a Rock Hill Tree Commission meeting in September, as a way to kill two birds with one stone. Because cankerworms are a new and voracious pest in Rock Hill, the Tree Commission was aware that this would be the first time most folks would

be needing to band their trees, and such a workshop would not only give field personnel a chance to see and experience what is involved in banding trees, but it would provide an opportunity for the City to shoot video for editing into a concise clip that can be posted on the City web site and accessed by homeowners who need the information as well. City Forester Clark Beavans organized the workshop with the help of Peter Herlan, an ISA Certified Arborist with Sox & Freeman Tree Expert Company.

“Peter is from upstate New York, and has dealt with cankerworms over the course of his career as an arborist. He has experience with a couple different banding techniques and also with spraying and injecting trees. There are pros and cons to each management option, as well as little idiosyncrasies for each banding technique related to individual productivity, and he was very good at laying all that out for us,” said Beavans. “And then we went outside and banded a few oak trees.”

The event was hosted by Winthrop University, who was eager to help in any way they could. According to Walter Hardin of Winthrop Facilities Management, there are over 900 trees on campus and the majority of them are oaks. Although it can vary from region to region, the cankerworm species in the upstate of SC are strongly associated with Willow oaks (*Quercus phellos*). The conditions that cause their eggs to hatch are exactly the same conditions that cause Willow oak leaves to break bud and expand. By constructing sticky bands around trees at just the right time of year, the female cankerworms can be trapped before they reach the canopy to lay their eggs. This is by far the most cost effective and environmentally friendly way to reduce the population of cankerworms. The more people who band their trees, the greater the impact on the cankerworm population.

There are 2 species of cankerworm (Fall and Spring) in Rock Hill. As juveniles, they are voracious tree- defoliating inchworms, but as adults they just nondescript moths. They’re a little weird in that adult females do not have wings and must crawl from the ground to the canopy of a tree to lay their eggs near where the leaves will emerge. Therefore, proper timing is critical to successful tree-banding. Because the first freeze triggers the emergence of Fall cankerworm adults, the bands must be on the trees and made sticky around December 1. But it is important to wait as long as reasonably possible BEFORE making the bands sticky in order to allow most of the leaves to fall . . . otherwise lots leaves get stuck to the bands and defeat the trap. Also it is just as important to leave the bands on until the last week in April, so that when the Spring cankerworm females emerge (first warm days in February and March) they are trapped as well. Bands can (and should) be safely removed at the end of April, after the inchworms have made their way into the ground to pupate.

Welcome New Sponsor!



We are excited to announce our newest corporate sponsor, Townsend Tree Service. Through their generous support, as well as the support of our other corporate sponsors, we will continue to meet the growing needs of the green industry by offering an expanded portfolio of educational programs and networking opportunities.

Headquartered in Parker City Indiana, and serving over 30 states, including South Carolina, Townsend provides a wide range of

services, expertise and technology on vegetation management, power line clearance, electric utility line construction, and storm damage relief. For more information on Townsend Tree Service, please visit their website at <http://www.townsendcorporation.com>.

For more information on our corporate sponsorship program, or to learn how to become a program sponsor, please contact our office at karen@treessc.org.

Last Chance to Renew Your Membership for 2014!

We rely on our membership to 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. As a member of Trees SC, you will continue to receive access to scholarships; reduced registration fees for our educational programs; access to our membership directory; and networking opportunities with other professionals and community members dedicated to our state's urban and community forests. Not to mention, you'll continue to receive this newsletter.

Renew Your Membership Today!

Membership Level:

- Student \$15.00
- Individual \$30.00
- Non-profit* \$60.00
- Government* \$80.00
- Corporate* \$115.00

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*2 additional names may be listed; please submit name and contact information for each

All memberships are valid for one year and run from January through December.

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Sitting Down with Dr. Michael Raupp

By Carroll Williamson

During last year's annual conference, TSC board member Carroll Williamson sat down with Dr. Raupp to discuss his opinions on best practices. What follows are answers from this interview.



Let's say you are an urban forester for a city. Can you describe one of your streetscapes?

It would be pretty diverse. One of my real concerns is the lack of biodiversity in urban forests. One of the lessons that we haven't learned very well is that when we overplant with just a few species, that becomes extremely vulnerable, so the next big invasive pest can then just have its way. That will result in a catastrophic loss, just look at the Midwest with the Emerald Ash Borer. The buffer for this is to increase the diversity. We've heard about the 10/20/30 rule (10% of one species, 20% of one genus, 30% of one family). I think this is the right idea, but because many of our insect pests specialize at a family level rather than a species and genus level, we should be looking at ordinal levels and higher for our taxonomic diversity. Trees are also vulnerable based on their particular age. This is an idea that developers and landscape architects maybe don't think about too much. In addition to taxonomic diversity, we should also be looking at age class diversity. We should have an urban forest that has a good mix of veteran senior citizens, middle aged trees, and youngsters that are very vigorous, very much like the human community. My urban forest would look less like Versailles, a classic look, and more like Miami or New York City where we have an enormous diversity of plant material.

Many developers where I work prefer to remove all the vegetation and topsoil when constructing a subdivision. What effect does removing all of the soil microorganisms have on the insect population?

It absolutely starts from the ground up. The less we can disturb those natural soils, the better. These native soils have taken eons to develop. This is not just dirt, but living organisms that have spent tens of thousands of years learning to work together as a community, providing food, nutrients, sustenance, substrate for each other. When we disturb that soil, we are then behind the 8 ball. I know with development construction, I know we have to alter the soil, but the less we do this, the better. The other piece of this puzzle is the biodiversity aspect, and it is not just trees. Trees do not live in a vacuum, but are a part of a complex mixture of lots of other different kinds of vegetation, there are annual plants and perennial plants that are composites of this community of trees and relatives of trees. In terms of ecosystem processes or services, we know that there are many beneficial insects, predators, parasites, wasps that attack caterpillars, and scale insects in tree tops. Even though one stage of that particular beneficial insect may use the scale insect as a host, the other stage of that insect might need a flowering plant nearby. So, by diversifying our landscapes, what we can do is provide not only the hosts or food for those predators, but also the resources that the adult stages need. Now, we can have a complete ecosystem and we can restore some of those ecosystem services because we have provided the food not only for the immature stage that is killing the pest, but also the food source, nectar and pollen in particular for the parasitic wasps and many of the predators at the adult stage. Frankly, I love a landscape with the diversity of not just the woody upright trees, but also this visual effect of having flowering plants. It is the flowering plants that are the other piece of the puzzle to help sustain and maintain those beneficial insects within that woody plant community. I think planting buffer strips, insectary strips, and beneficial insect strips that provide habitat for these natural enemies for the pests up in the trees is very important, because that's how nature works.

Have you ever looked at introducing beneficial insects as part of the installation of a landscape, prior to a pest infestation?

It's a great idea, but I think it is more like a "build it and they will come" approach. If you have these plant resources there, you will have the foundation for these beneficial insects to live. I have tried buying the beneficial

insects and releasing them into landscapes, but unless the requisite plants are there, they will not stick around. The raw materials (the place for them to live) need to be in place for that to become their home and then they can provide these wonderful ecosystem services that they do.

Where have you seen some good examples of where this biodiversity has worked?

I've seen some nice plans and demonstrations where these insectary buffer strips or flowering plant beds along golf courses in what would normally be considered the rough, and I've seen enhanced biological controls in the fairway. So we know it would work. One of the things I am encouraged by is that we see more and more cities incorporating flowering plant beds in with their planter zones and planter beds, and even with their street trees. There was a very nice study done in Berlin, where they were having problems with spider mites in their street trees. They found that simply by planting a variety of herbaceous and flowering plants in these planter boxes, they saw reductions in the populations of the spider mites in the canopies of the street trees because these were acting as refuges for the beneficial insects and predatory mites that would go up into those street trees and eat the spider mites. I think this is a very clever idea and it's also how nature works. If you provide those refuges and those alternative food sources, nectar from pollen for those good-guy bugs, they are going to stick around and help out in the tree canopy. Beds full of flowering plants, in addition to the traditional street trees that we see, help to beautify the cities and increase the interest along your thoroughfares for your outdoor eateries, places where people walk and shop, it's a great idea. The more space you dedicate to plants, the more water infiltration you're going to get, the healthier the soil is going to be, you're going to cut down on drought conditions and restricted root zones. These things all go hand-in-hand.

There is a tendency in urban forestry to find that perfect street tree that shows tremendous resistance to pests. But, last year we had a speaker who warned against planting too many trees that were not attractive to insects at all because it hurt other wildlife further up the food chain that were dependent on insects for their food.

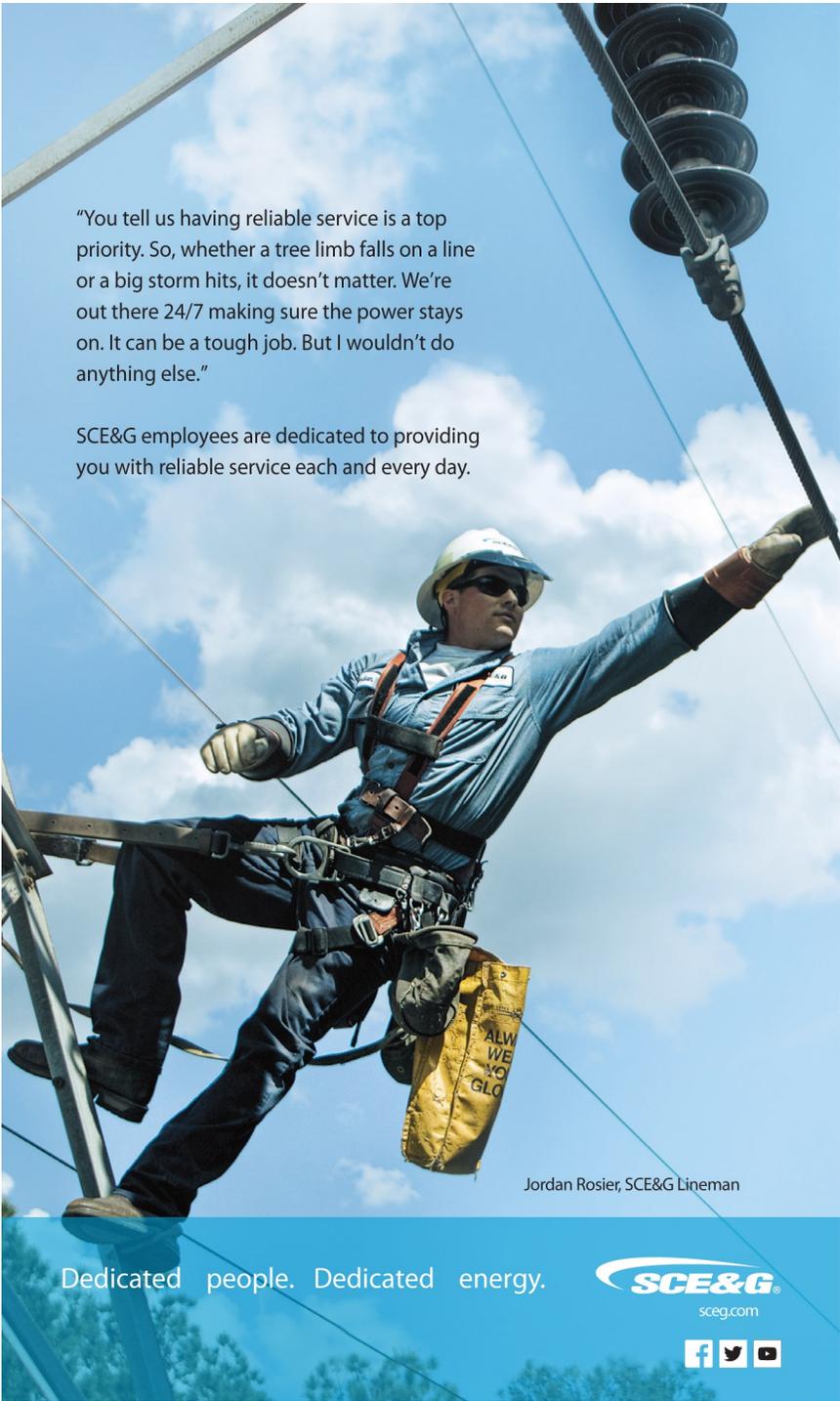
You can't have the good guys without the bad guys. Landscapes that are consistent and full of plants that are totally resistant are maybe not such a good idea. However, there are circumstances where these kinds of plants can play an important role. For example, when we go into deep urban environments like downtown Charlotte or Manhattan, where we don't have developed communities of natural enemies, vertebrate or invertebrate. In these places, I think it's not the worst idea to have a tree that doesn't get pests. For example, in the middle of a city, I think a ginkgo would be a really good tree. In this type of environment, you don't want an elm or linden that might get aphids or spider mites because there simply isn't a natural enemy community to control them and then you get a pest outbreak. In these deep urban environments, your first priority ought to be to find a tree that can survive and provide the other services like carbon sequestration, shade, stormwater infiltration, but doesn't get pests, because there isn't a natural enemy community. Once you start to move out into your parks, wider boulevards, and residential landscapes, that is the place you can bump up the native plantings in the landscape and try to re-establish what mother nature had in mind in the first place, a whole community of things that are working together, eating each other, and hopefully having your good guys like birds, predators, assassin bugs, and ladybug beetles come in and whack down those populations of pests.

Finally, what is your favorite tree and why?

Oh my gosh, favorite tree. That is hard to pin down, it really depends on the time of year. I've got a fond spot in my heart for *Nyssa sylvatica*. I don't know anything else that has that spectacular fall color, glossy leaves, and interesting fruits. During this time of year, my heart always turns to *Nyssa*, although when I go up to New England and see a sugar maple in fall color, that's really gorgeous too. It's just too hard to pin down a favorite. I've got magnificent oak trees. As a kid, I had a red oak and that was my favorite tree in the world because I could climb to the top of that thing and see for miles. On any given day, I might have a different one. I think I love them all, I love them all.

Dr. Michael Raupp is a professor at the University of Maryland, College Park. He shared his presentations, What a Warming World Means for Pest Outbreaks and Reduced Risks and Biologically-Based Pesticides for Managing Insects and Mites, at our 2013 Annual Conference.

Dr. Raupp's views are not necessarily the views and opinions of Trees SC.



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**2014
Forest Resource Institute**

The SC Forestry Commission and Trees SC are hosting *Green Infrastructure: Building Great Communities*, June 11-12 in Columbia, SC. The conference is designed for planners and landscape architects in South Carolina. Meals and hotel stay are included in the \$115 registration fee. For more information, visit www.trees.sc.gov/fri.htm or contact Frances Waite at 843-209-7436.



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3. Visit www.SCDMVonline.net to order your plate online.

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

May 29, 2014

South Carolina Tree Climbing Academy, Irmo, S.C. Be sure to visit our website, www.treessc.org, for a complete agenda and registration information.

June 11-12, 2014

Forest Resource Institute, Columbia, S.C. Please visit www.trees.sc.gov/fri.htm for a complete agenda and registration information.

September 18, 2014

South Carolina Arborist Workshop, Columbia, S.C. More information will be available soon.

October 23-24, 2014

Trees SC: To Preserve, Protect, and Defend, Folly Beach, S.C. More information will be available soon.

Please contact our office if you would like us to promote one of your upcoming programs.



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2013 Annual Report

Trees SC

P.O. Box 1679

Ladson, S.C. 29456

843-814-4620 (O)

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Mission Statement: Trees SC is a non-profit organization that fosters the stewardship of our state's urban and community forests through education, advocacy, and network.

Executive Committee Officers

President – Tim Gillette

Vice President – Drew Smith

Treasurer - Clark Beavans

Secretary - Rachel d'Entremont

Advisor – Lowe Sharpe

Board of Directors - Dexter Allen, Mark Arena, Danny Burbage, Whitt Cline, Lois Edwards, Brad Farmer, Danny Jones, Tom Knowles, Wanda Lilly, Luther Marchant, Jimmy Painter, Mike Russell, Carroll Williamson, Eddie Bernard (ex-officio), Donna Foster (ex-officio), Bob Polomski (ex-officio)

Executive Director– Karen Hauck

Membership - 354 members: 63 Corporate, 104 Governmental, 171 Individuals, 12 Non-Profit, 4 Students

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

EDUCATION

- ✦ Published and electronically distributed 4 issues of *The Acom*, Volume 23 (spring, summer, fall and winter)
 - ✦ Held two Canopy Sessions in Edisto and Beaufort on the care and management of Live oaks
 - ✦ Hosted the South Carolina Arborist Workshop: Insects and Disease on March 7, 2013. The workshop had 100 people in attendance, and was sponsored Bartlett Tree Experts, Carolina Tree Care, CSX, Lewis Tree Service, Mead's Tree Service, SCE&G, Schneider Tree Care, Sox & Freeman, and the S.C. Forestry Commission.
 - ✦ Hosted the South Carolina Arborist Workshop for practicing arborists. The workshop, which was held on September 19, 2013 at Harbison State Forest, had 100 people in attendance and was sponsored by Bartlett Tree Experts, Carolina Tree Care, CSX, Lewis Tree Service, Mead's Tree Service, SCE&G, Schneider Tree Care, Sox & Freeman, and the S.C. Forestry Commission.
 - ✦ Sponsored the Annual Conference at Folly Beach, SC on October 24-25, 2013. Major conference sponsors include Bartlett Tree Experts, Carolina Tree Care, CSX, Lewis Tree Service, Mead's Tree Service, SCE&G, Schneider Tree Care, Sox & Freeman, and the S.C. Forestry Commission.
 - ✦ Partnered with ISA Southern Chapter to host the South Carolina Tree Climbing Academy in Irmo Sixteen climbers attended the workshop, led by instructors from North American Training Solutions
 - ✦ Hosted Nursery Standards: How to Select and Care for Trees in Walterboro
 - ✦ Partnered with Moore Farms Botanical Garden to host Tree Diversity: A Statewide Perspective in Lake City
- Partnered with the S.C. Forestry Commission to host the Forest Resource Institute in Myrtle Beach

Number of individuals reached through education programs: 546

Number of communities reached through education programs: 80

AWARDS PROGRAM

- ✦ Presented the 2013 Heritage Tree Award to the Cherry Hill Plantation Live oak in Beaufort
- ✦ Awarded the 2013 Golden Acorn Awards to Jimmy Walters (Distinguished Professional Service) and Wagener Terrace (Outstanding Community Forestry Program)

FINANCES AND OPERATIONS

- ✦ Contracted with KBH Solutions, LLC to provide executive director services
- ✦ Developed and administered a fiscally responsible budget for the organization
- ✦ Contracted with the accounting firm Burkett, Burkett & Burkett in Rock Hill, South Carolina to file the organization's IRS Form 990
- ✦ Applied for and received a 2013 grant from the S.C. Forestry Commission for continuation of a contract executive director
- ✦ Partnered with the S.C. Forestry Commission to administer a scholarship program to provide financial assistance for individuals to attend the South Carolina Arborist Workshops, the South Carolina Tree Climbing Academy, and the Annual Conference

2013 Corporate Sponsors:

SUSTAINING PARTNERS: Bartlett Tree Experts, Carolina Tree Care, CSX, Mead's Tree Service and Schneider Tree Care
PLATINUM LEVEL: Lewis Tree Service, SCE&G and Sox & Freeman

MEETINGS

Annual Members Meeting: - The last members' meeting was held on October 25, 2013 at Folly Beach, SC.

Board of Directors Meetings:

February 5, 2013 – Wampee, S.C.

February 5-6, 2013 Annual Retreat – Wampee, S.C.

April 26, 2013 - SC Forestry Commission Headquarters

July 11, 2013 – SC Forestry Commission Headquarters

October 23, 2013 - Folly Beach, SC



As the second largest provider of utility vegetation management services in North America, Lewis Tree Service is a leader in safety, responsiveness, and innovation. For more information, please visit their website at www.lewistree.com.

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