

# The Acorn

Spring 2015



## South Carolina Tree Climbing Academy May 21, 2015 Irmo, SC

Join us on May 21, 2015 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: \$225 Member/\$250 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.)

Please visit our [website](#) for registration information.

Thank you to our program sponsors: CSX, Duke Energy, Bartlett Tree Experts, Mead's Tree Service and Schneider Tree Care

## Meet our New Board Members

Please join us in welcoming our three newest board members!

**Amanda Flake** is the Natural Resources Planner for the Beaufort County Planning Department. She received her BS degree in Marine Science and is a certified arborist, tree risk assessor, and a master naturalist.

**Scott Park** is a Principal Planner with Greenville County. He earned his Masters of Science and Bachelors of Science in Environmental Sciences and Biology with emphasis in Botany, respectively. Scott is a certified arborist and an AICP certified planner.

**Terry Smith** is the Senior Division Vegetation Management Specialist with Duke Energy Carolinas, where he has been employed for 34 years. He is a certified arborist and a utility specialist.

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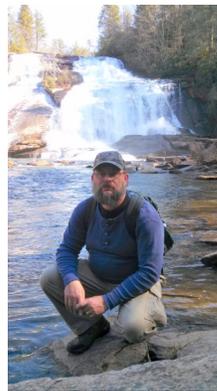
## President's Letter

"You tell us having reliable service is a top priority. So, whether a tree limb falls on a line or a big storm hits, it doesn't matter. We're out there 24/7 making sure the power stays on. It can be a tough job. But I wouldn't do anything else."

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Jordan Rosier, SCE&G Lineman

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I was driving home from work yesterday and noticed a star magnolia in bloom. I know this is a signal that change is on its way. I also know that we are due for one more cold snap to make all those blooms fall off. (After that cold snap is when I plant seeds!) "The more things change the more they stay the same." I don't know who penned it first, but Bon Jovi wrote a song about it. That is the same with Trees SC. We have changed President, Vice President, and Treasurer, and changed three board members. Even though all that has changed, you can count on this organization to advocate and educate the message of proper urban tree management. We will still have our two SCAWs per year and an Annual Conference in Folly Beach. We also have smaller workshops around the state and Canopy Sessions that educate the public about their community tree care. But the more we change and grow, our message will always be the same.

Drew

## A Message from the Executive Director

It is hard to believe that we're already three months into 2015. It seems like just yesterday...

It seems the older I get, the more often I use that phrase. The more time seems to fly by. I know the method of keeping time has not changed. And I know its not because I'm getting old (I have to keep telling myself this). Maybe its because our lives are BUSY with work, family, interests, and commitments. Maybe, as is the case with Trees SC, we have so much going on that once we're through with one thing, we're already on to the next one.

I would like to take a moment and exhale. To stop and reflect on all the amazing things about Trees SC- the people. A big "THANK YOU" to our past president, Tim Gillette, for guiding TSC on the right course over the past two years, and for your continued dedication to the organization. To Drew Smith, our new president, who has some pretty big shoes to fill. To our outgoing board members, Jimmy Painter, Wanda Lily, and Dexter Allen, for your support and guidance along the way. To our new board members, Amanda Flake, Scott Park, and Terry Smith, for jumping in with both feet. And to our members, both long and new, for your continued support for urban and community forestry in South Carolina.

Ok, that's enough of a break. Gotta get back to developing and planning all the great programs we have in store for 2015. Because before we know it...

Karen

## Trees SC Board of Directors

President—Drew Smith, City of Greenville

Vice-President—Brad Farmer, SCE&G

Secretary—Rachel d'Entremont, consultant

Treasurer—Mike Russell, Natural Directions

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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](mailto:karen@treessc.org).

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## On the Stump With Danny Burbage

What we usually mean by the phrase “greater good”, is doing something that may not benefit you personally but it may benefit the human race as a whole. That’s the traditional definition. But here “On the Stump”, we sometimes consider things in different lights and from different angles. Today, we adjust our focus on the term greater good to mean that one good is more desirable than another good. You must make a choice between two actions. Both actions will render good results but only one, not both, can occur. Your challenge is to select the greater of the two goods.

Here’s a simple example of a good vs. better choice. You want to maintain, to the best of your ability, a beautiful, large canopy tree on your property. Among other recommendations, your arborist suggests aerating the soil and mulching as well as fertilizing. This year’s budget will only allow you to aerate and mulch OR fertilize. Both actions will benefit your beloved tree but the budget must rule. Which of these two goods do you choose?

Consider a bit of a stickier wicket. A prominent building in your community is undergoing extensive and expensive renovations. The managers of the building want to remove a large canopy tree that is growing in front of the building. Planted in the 1970’s, the tree has thrived over the decades and its canopy partially blocks views of the façade. The managers do not want the tree to compete with or even complement the renovated architecture. Indeed, they want the architecture to stand alone and be a vibrant invitation for people to venture inside. They are spending millions of dollars to restore this institution to its past glory and want to draw attention to it. If the designers’ efforts are successful, the building could foster a significant boost to the community’s reputation and economy. Nearby, are many more trees just as large, just as healthy and just as attractive. Consequently, removing one tree will not significantly affect the environment or the landscape statement of the area. You concur that it might have been better if the tree had not been planted where it is.

On the other hand, your community has an ordinance that protects trees of this size. You are a champion of community trees and are on record opposing the removal of other healthy trees simply to accommodate construction. A very public hearing will convene to determine the fate of this tree and your testimony will be critical. If you agree that celebrating and taking advantage of the architecture must prevail and the tree can be removed, will an irreversible precedent be set; a precedent that says buildings can be more important than trees? If you argue that the tree must remain, are you saying that beautiful buildings are not important or that natural assets are always better than those created by humans? Are you saving one community asset at the expense of another? The renovated building will be stunning and a source of great civic pride. The tree has served the community well for 40 years by doing all of the good things that trees do. It could continue that service for another 40. Is there a greater good to be found?

“Alice came to a fork in the road. Which road do I take?” she asked.

“Where do you want to go?” responded the Cheshire Cat.

“I don’t know”, Alice answered.

“Then,” said the Cat, “it doesn’t matter.”

*Lewis Carroll, Alice in Wonderland*



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# Why Did this Pine Tree Fall?

## By Mark Arena, Clemson Extension Service

*Clemson Extension Agent, Certified Arborist (TRAQ) and Registered Consulting Arborist, Mark Arena, shares his recent analysis on a tree failure.*



During the late winter of 2013, I received a phone call requesting my services to determine what caused a pine tree to fail and create a road hazard. Unfortunately, the tree was cleaned up and hauled away in an effort to clear the roadway before I arrived. The only remaining evidence known to be on-site was the stump of the tree.

The tree in question was a Loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*). This species of pine is very adaptable to extremes of soil, has a strong value in the pulp wood industry and is of significant economic value in the South. As one ventures from the city to the rural areas of the state, Loblolly pine is commonly found along the roadways either as a volunteer or intentionally planted. They are a fast growing tree and can reach significant heights rather quickly.

A site visit provided the following observations and information. The tree stump measured 44.5 inches in circumference approximately 18 inches above the ground. The upheaved earth located at the base of the tree was minimal. There were neither any visible roots protruding from the soil nor a noticeable root plate. Additional observations noted several trees within close proximity of this tree were in severe decline and a potential risk. It appeared that there was a fire located at the site that burned a portion of the trunk. Plus, there was a small pool of water around the base of the tree. I was informed that both of these conditions occurred after the incident and therefore, were not factors in the tree failure. I estimated the height of the tree to be approximately 55 feet tall based on similar trees of equal circumference in the area. Based on the size of the tree and its location, approximately 22 feet from the road, one quickly understood how this tree could be a hazard.



Site findings were as follows: First, the stump revealed two important facts. It shows fungal staining in the cross section of the trunk (picture #1) and that the below ground portion of the tree (roots) did not produce a noticeable and defined root plate (picture #2). Additionally, the neighboring pine trees were in very poor condition, with only a few branches remaining at the tops of the trees.

Based on these finds, the following summary is made. The colored staining in the cross-section is positive proof that a fungal infection was present when the tree failed. The extent of the disease was significant and encompassing approximately 80% of the trunk. Also, the proximity of the dying neighboring trees suggests that they may have been long-term contributors to the demise of the tree in question, as tree roots often graft together. This allows disease to easily transfer from one tree to another. Finally, the small root plate indicates a compromised root system that was unable to support the tree and caused it to fail.

Based on these observations and findings, I conclude that the tree was diseased and slowly dying. Once the root system reached a point where it could no longer properly support and anchor the tree it, failed.

# Connecting People and Trees (and Cars!)

## By Rachel d'Entremont



Getting a Trees SC DMV-issued license plate on the road was a long but worthwhile project.

If you don't have a Trees SC license plate on your car, you're missing a great opportunity to share your passion for urban forestry. Not only that, it's a great conversation starter. The eye-catching plate on my car often elicits questions and comments from people who have never heard of Trees SC.

The license plate idea first received serious interest five years ago at the Trees SC Board of Director's retreat. After researching the cost and DMV requirements, it was put on the back burner but began to simmer again a year later. The project heated up even more when news came out that the State was considering placing additional restrictions on specialty license plates.

The initial attempt at a design was as a graphic arts class project at a state university; while a wide variety of designs were submitted, none fit with the Board's concept. In January 2012, the Board decided to sponsor a state-wide contest which resulted in over 30 entries. The winning design came from TSC member Chris Thompson of Nature Forms, LLC in Spartanburg. Chris was gracious enough to tweak the design several times to accommodate the intent of the plate. His work-gloved hand holding a small tree under a crescent moon perfectly fits the TSC tag line of "connecting people and trees."

The process took nearly two years to complete, from the initial idea to selecting a design, to modifying the design to meet DMV requirements and the Board's recommendations. But all the time and effort was worth it! The plate was unveiled at the October 2012 conference and as of January 2015, 115 plates are on the road.

The Trees South Carolina license plate is available to all SC residents. The cost of the plate is \$30.00 every two years in addition to the regular registration fee. A portion of the fees collected for this plate will support community forestry programs in South Carolina. For more information on how to get your license plate, visit our [website](#).

## 2014 Heritage Tree Award



On February 19th, we presented the 2014 Heritage Tree Award to the Bald Cypress Grove at Edisto Memorial Gardens in Orangeburg. City horticulturist and Trees SC member, Mike Rast, accepted the award on behalf of the City of Orangeburg. Also in attendance at the ceremony were Superintendent of Parks Jay Hiers and Recreation Director Shaniqua Simmons.

"The Edisto Memorial Gardens are one of the few places one can find the bald cypress in South Carolina and in this case we are fortunate to not have one, but an entire grove of this majestic tree," Awards Chair Lois Edwards said during the presentation. "And we applaud Mike and his team for their minimal approach to caring for this natural environment, taking every step possible to reduce the physical threat of invasion."

*The Heritage Tree Award is sponsored by Bartlett Tree Experts. For more information on the awards program, and to submit a nomination, visit our [awards](#) page.*

# Trees Matter



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# Daniel Island Spotlights Live Oaks

## By Elizabeth Bush



The Daniel Island Historical Society (DIHS) has launched a new campaign to ensure that all of the community's majestic Live Oaks, some of them hundreds of years old, are recognized not only for their beauty and grandeur, but also for the history they represent.

"Daniel Island is a relatively new community," said Brenda Thorn, DIHS President. "The island was primarily used for farming and as a hunting preserve in its earlier days. But about 20 years ago, residential development began. While we don't have any historical physical structures remaining on the island from days gone by, we do have these amazing, grand Live Oaks, which are such an important part of our landscape."

Thorn and her colleagues at DIHS began to ponder ways to incorporate the community's oldest living "residents" in fulfilling their mission to share the island's story.

"We wondered, if these trees could talk, what stories would they tell?" said Thorn. "The stories of our past were created beneath their branches. We have clusters of Live Oaks in a variety of areas on the island - and we believe several can be connected back to some of the island's Colonial-era landowners."

Excitement over the trees has fueled the DIHS Live Oak Campaign from the start, added Thorn, who has become passionate about the cause. The organization is currently conducting an inventory of Live Oak trees that are at least 8 feet in circumference, the minimum requirement for recognition by the national Live Oak Society (LOS). Those 16 feet or greater in circumference are being designated as "Centenarians." Careful measurements and photographs are being taken of each tree, as well as complete longitude and latitude coordinates.

"It does require some work," admitted Thorn. "But it's a labor of love!"

So far, DIHS has registered close to 130 trees with the LOS, including more than 13 Centenarians. There are currently over 7,000 Live Oaks listed as "members" of the national organization, which also includes the Lowcountry's prized "Angel Oak" and "Middleton Oak."

"South Carolina now has a pretty impressive showing in the LOS, thanks to the addition of so many wonderful Daniel Island trees!" said Thorn. "We are proud to have some of the most beautiful trees in the country right here in our community."

Another important part of the DIHS campaign is an opportunity for community members to "adopt" Live Oaks in some of the island's public areas (owned by the Daniel Island Property Owners Association). For an optional donation, the adopter is given naming rights for the tree, and receives two certificates, one from the LOS and one from DIHS. Private owners may also register trees on their properties. Each tree is then listed in a complete "Tree Catalogue" on the DIHS website. For additional information on DIHS, please visit [www.dihistoricalociety.com](http://www.dihistoricalociety.com).





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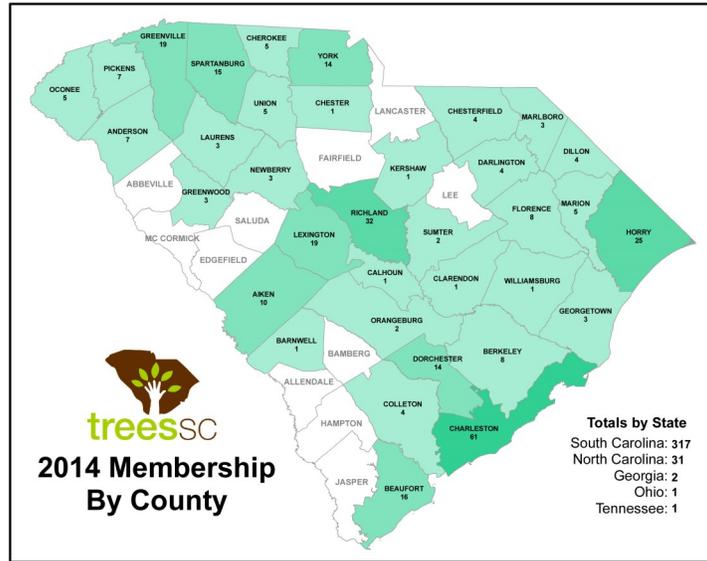
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# Last chance to renew your membership for 2015!



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; 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.

## Membership Level:

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

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Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_

\*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.  
 Dues are not prorated.*

*Visit our website for credit card payment options.*

# MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- March 25-April 16, 2015**      *Rainbow Treecare Scientific Advancements' Spring Webinar Series.* This webinar series cover numerous topics including management of oak wilt in urban areas, plant healthcare, soil applied insecticides, and much more. The webinars are free and offer ISA credits. For more information, visit their [website](#).
- May 21, 2015**      *South Carolina Tree Climbing Academy*, Irmo, S.C. Please visit our [website](#) for details and registration information.
- August 12, 2015**      **2015 Awards Nomination Deadline!** For more information and a nomination form, visit our [website](#).
- September 10, 2015**      *South Carolina Arborist Workshop*, Columbia, S.C. More information will be available soon.
- October 29-30, 2015**      *Trees SC Annual Conference*, Folly Beach, S.C. More information will be available soon.



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## 2014 Annual Report

Trees SC  
P.O. Box 1679  
Ladson, S.C. 29456  
843-814-4620 (O)  
843-553-8772 (F)

**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 networking

### 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, Danny Burbage, Whitt Cline, Lois Edwards, Brad Farmer, Danny Jones, Tom Knowles, Wanda Lilly, Luther Marchant, Jimmy Painter, Derrick Phinney, Mike Russell, Carroll Williamson, Eddie Bernard (ex-officio), Donna Foster (ex-officio), Bob Polomski (ex-officio)

**Executive Director**– Karen Hauck

**Membership** - 370 members: 81 Corporate, 107 Governmental, 169 Individuals, 9 Non-Profit, 4 Students

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### EDUCATION

- Published and electronically distributed 4 issues of *The Acom*, Volume 24 (spring, summer, fall and winter)
- Held three Canopy Sessions (Laurens, Anderson and Charleston)
- Hosted the South Carolina Arborist Workshop: Insects and Disease on March 20, 2014. The workshop had 100 people in attendance, and was sponsored by Bartlett Tree Experts, Carolina Tree Care, 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 11, 2014 at Harbison State Forest, had 100 people in attendance and was sponsored by Bartlett Tree Experts, Carolina Tree Care, Duke Energy, 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 23-24, 2014. Major conference sponsors include Bartlett Tree Experts, Carolina Tree Care, Duke Energy, 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. Twelve climbers attended the workshop, led by instructors from North American Training Solutions.
- Partnered with the S.C. Forestry Commission to host the Forest Resource Institute in Columbia
- Partnered with the S.C. Forestry Commission to host Green Infrastructure Planning Sessions with ten Council of Governments

**Number of individuals reached through education programs: 783**

**Number of communities reached through education programs: 84**

## AWARDS PROGRAM

- Presented the 2014 Heritage Tree Award to the Bald Cypress Grove at Edisto Memorial Gardens
- Awarded the 2014 Golden Acorn Awards to Andy Boone (Distinguished Professional Service), Dr. Pat DeCoursey (Distinguished Volunteer Service) and the Daniel Island Tree Patrol (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 2014 grant from the S.C. Forestry Commission
- 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 and the Annual Conference

2014 Corporate Sponsors:

SUSTAINING PARTNERS: Bartlett Tree Experts, Carolina Tree Care, Duke Energy, 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 23, 2014 at Folly Beach, SC.

**Board of Directors Meetings:**

January 16, 2014 – Wampee, S.C.

January 16-17, 2014 Annual Retreat – Wampee, S.C.

April 24, 2014 – S.C. Forestry Commission Headquarters

July 24, 2014 – S.C. Forestry Commission Headquarters

October 22, 2014 - Folly Beach, SC



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