

The Acorn

Winter 2014



Bald Cypress Grove at Edisto Memorial Gardens Awarded 2014 Heritage Tree



During the annual conference on Folly Beach, Trees SC presented the 2014 Heritage Tree award to the Bald Cypress Grove at Edisto Memorial Gardens in Orangeburg.

One of the few places one can find the Bald Cypress in South Carolina is the Edisto Memorial Gardens in Orangeburg. This unique garden is home to a large number of century-old bald cypress trees, which borders the North Fork and Edisto River. The grove of trees range in size from 80-100 feet in height and several exceed 5 feet in caliper. This area has over 100 large specimen bald cypress trees, which are owned by the City of Orangeburg and cared for by the Parks and Recreation Department.

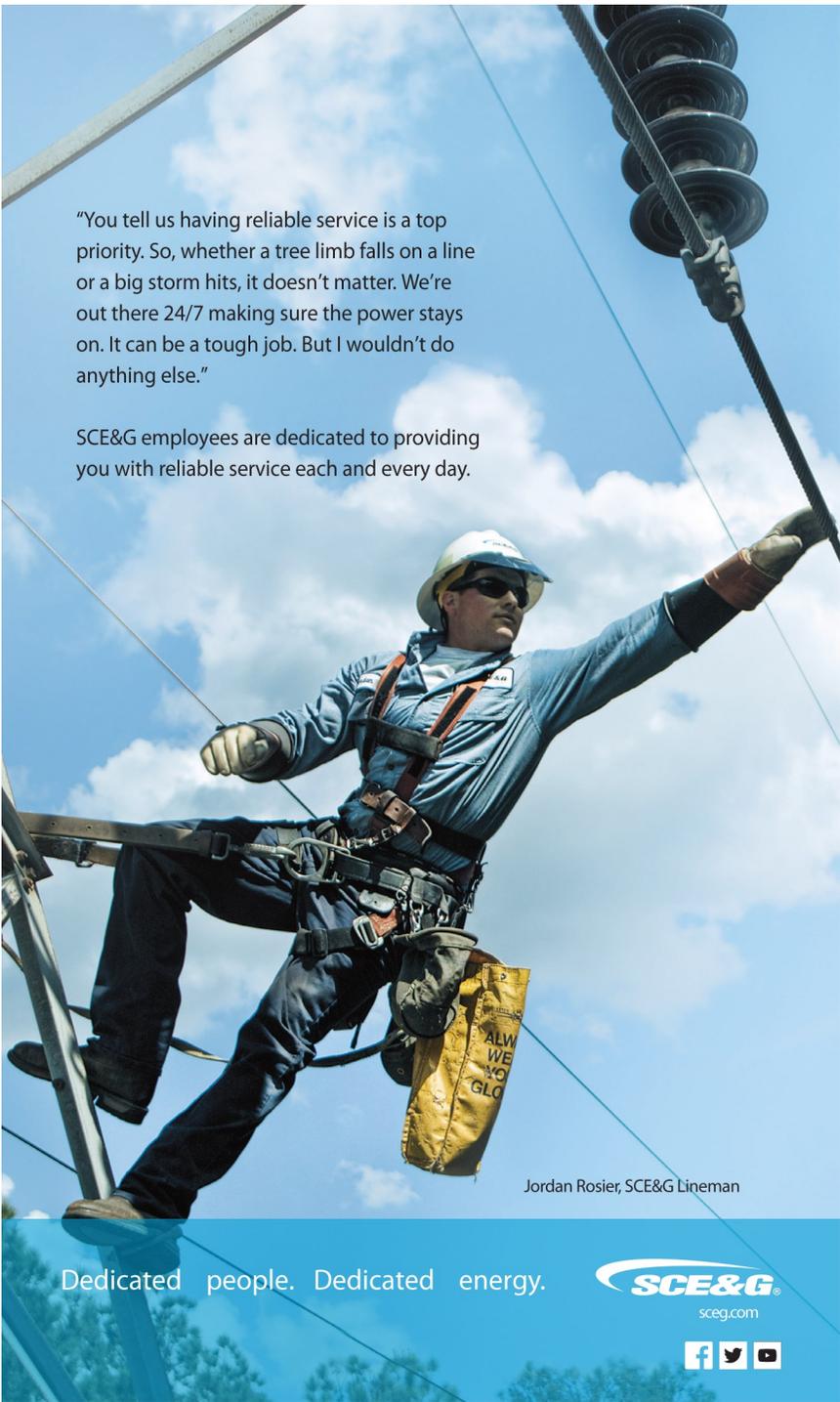
These trees have become a symbol of the foresight of city and community leaders who saw the intrinsic value they offered the community. These trees form the backbone of the Edisto Memorial Gardens. They have quietly sheltered the different aspects of the Gardens and create a framework for all the beauty encompassed in this beautiful place.

SAVE THE DATE! SC Arborist Workshop March 5, 2015

On March 5, 2015, we will be holding our SCAW: Insects and Disease workshop at the Harbison Environmental Education Center in Columbia. Topics include common insects that damage the landscape, liability and pesticide application, when and how to fertilize, and soils. Details will be posted to our website soon, and registration material will be made available in January. ISA and Pesticide credits will be offered.

In This Issue

President's Letter	2
On The Stump	3
2014 Golden Acorn Awards	5
Arbor Day Around SC	6
Renew Your Membership	7
Plant Healthcare Seminar	8
Mark Your Calendar	11



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President's Letter

Now that I am in the last month before I become the "past president", I must say that it has been a privilege to serve as your president for the last two years. This has been my second stint as president. Trees SC has progressed tremendously within the last several years— increasing educational opportunities and reaching new heights in outreach and professionalism. It is a much different organization than it was the first time I was president many years ago and being president this time has been made much easier with the dedication of the wonderful group of folks that make up the board including the executive director. Also, there are many volunteers other than the board that pitch in and do what needs to be done. I am thankful that the work horses pulling this Trees SC cart can see the path and know where to go without much tugging on the reins.

I believe that there are great new avenues to be explored as we move forward into the next few years. There are areas of education, membership and outreach to be discussed and investigated. I see new partnerships forming to help prepare and invigorate novice tree workers and bring young individuals to arboriculture that are eager to gain knowledge and excited about our profession.

I am confident that our incoming president and executive committee, accompanied by board members, will strive to propel Trees SC to new heights for arborists in South Carolina and surrounding regions. Thank you for allowing me the honor of being your president.

May the Forest be With You in the coming Year and beyond.

Tim

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

Our reverence for trees dates back thousands of years. Early humans could look up into the canopies of trees and marvel at their longevity. People could see their strength as they bent but did not break during storms. They could see that trees are equal partners in nature along with streams and mountains and soil. People could sense that the world’s trees are part of an ongoing and eternal force as the trees shed and sprouted leaves in season and grew new limbs to replace those it lost.

Perhaps the most ancient and universal human myth involves the **Tree of Life**. Represented in the folklore of many cultures, this tree seeks to explain the relationship between humans and the divine. Trees of Life are referenced in Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Cosmic Trees can be found in Haitian, Finnish, Lithuanian, Hungarian, Indian, Chinese, Japanese, Siberian and northern Asian Shamanic folklore.

The branched candlestick known as the menorah, one of the most ancient symbols of Judaism, has links to the **Tree of Life**. It is said that the form of the menorah was given to Moses by God. It was to have six branches with cups shaped like almond flowers with buds and blossoms. In Proverbs 3:18, wisdom is characterized as “a tree of life to them who take hold of her.”

Buddhists, Hindus and Jains believe the Bodhi tree, or Sacred fig (*Ficus religiosa*), is indeed sacred. Native to Nepal and India, this is the tree under which Siddhartha Gotama sat when he gained Supreme Enlightenment or became Buddha over 2,000 years ago. To this day, the tree is planted at shrines so that people may meditate under its canopy. Buddha was asked to whom people should pay respects when he was away, and he replied that they should pay respects to the Bodhi tree in his absence.

The Sakaki (*Cleyera japonica*) tree is sacred to many Japanese because of the significant role it plays in their creation story. Today, in homage to that story, mirrors are hung in the Sakaki tree at Shinto shrines. That sounds kind of familiar at this time of year.

Some nomadic tribes in the Near East tattoo the image of a tree on their abdomens to encourage fertility.

In India, women hang red handkerchiefs on certain trees close to wells to conjure away sterility.

Symbolic “marriages” between humans and trees (the person touches the tree trunk for a period of time) have been recorded in parts of India, among Sioux Indians in North America, and among some sub-Saharan African tribes.

Trees have always been part of we, humans’, intimate circle of natural friends. For millennia, we have counted on them for protection, sustenance and even inspiration. It does not surprise me that some societies worshipped trees. Along with water, trees suggest a natural flow of life and, unlike water, trees seem less transient and more rooted to place. No wonder then that they have become a part of human mythology and icons for what is good in the world.

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 burbage@charleston-sc.gov.



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2014 Golden Acorn Awards



Andy Boone, Distinguished Professional Service

Andy Boone is the owner and president of DendroDiagnostics but before starting his own company, he worked with the SC Forestry Commission. He was charged with helping protect the state forests from pine beetle infestations and assisting local governments analyze and remediate urban tree problems. Andy taught local practitioners the appropriate scientific methods for determining the real cause of an urban tree issue, and he was the first to teach that a large number of urban tree issues originate with the roots or surrounding soils, and that insect problems are often secondary symptoms. Andy is a member of ISA, SAF, Trees SC, and the SC Forestry Association, and is a certified arborist, a SC registered forester, a SAF certified forester, and an USFS certified forest pathologist and entomologist.



Daniel Island Tree Patrol, Outstanding Community Forestry Program

Daniel Island residents love their trees, and in 2011, formed the Daniel Island Tree Patrol to help maintain the more than 5,000 trees planted by the City of Charleston. Volunteers were recruited by the Daniel Island neighborhood association and in the fall of 2011, training sessions with the City of Charleston's urban forester were held. The Tree Patrol, as they dubbed themselves, performed pruning on the trees, focusing on structural pruning in an effort to promote stronger, more sustainable canopies that will require less work and liabilities in the future. The Tree Patrol has a strong relationship

with the City's urban forester, submitting a complete report so that the work can be inspected and recorded in the city's data base.

The Daniel Island Tree Patrol demonstrated great vision when they realized that community trees will be stronger and perform better when they are properly monitored and maintained. Much to their credit, the volunteers matched their vision with verve. Their unwavering dedication, sweat equity, and organization have made this program a success for the last three years.



Dr. Pat DeCoursey, Distinguished Volunteer Service

Dr. Pat DeCoursey serves as the director of the W. Gordon Belser Arboretum, located in Columbia. She has given an enormous amount of energy, dedication, volunteer hours (over 10,000 hours) and her own personal funds over the years to make the Belser Arboretum a huge success story. Her enthusiasm and relentless drive is evident to anyone who visits the Arboretum. Through her own personal efforts and determination, she has created a true living and learning gem in the heart of one of Columbia's older neighborhoods. She has also coordinated the development of facilities including an outdoor classroom, a mile-long trail with self-guiding signs, and many other exhibits. Dr. DeCoursey is also a key player in the university's Tree Care Advisory Committee, which organizes tree care programs and activities on the Columbia campus. Her dedication and involvement with student and community volunteers assists the university in maintaining a Tree Campus USA designation, which it has held since 2009. This past year, Dr. DeCoursey organized volunteer projects at the Arboretum involving hundreds of students and community members, totaling over 1,700 hours of service.

Congratulations to this year's recipients. Be on the look out for information on the 2015 Awards Program this spring.

Arbor Day Around Our State

Arbor Day began in 1872 with its first celebration taking place in Nebraska. As the holiday grew in popularity, other states began holding their own celebrations. Understanding the ideal conditions for planting vary from state to state, Arbor Day celebrations were held at different times of the year. In 1934, our state legislature declared the first Friday of December as South Carolina's Arbor Day.

Arbor Day is a time for people to celebrate trees and embrace the benefits they provide our homes, schools and communities. Each year, municipalities, businesses and communities celebrate Arbor Day in their own special way. Here is a look at some of the celebrations from around our state:

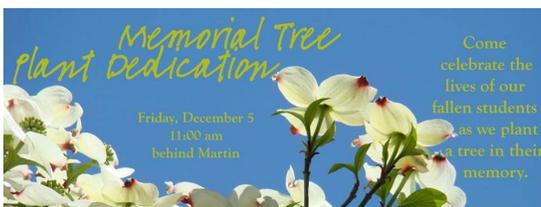


A large crowd was present to observe Arbor Day in the **Anderson County community of Iva**. Participants included over 100 students from area schools, including Starr, Iva and Flat Rock Elementary schools, Iva Middle School, and Crescent High School. Elementary and middle school students presented choral selections, a group of middle school students presented Arbor Day poems, and the Mayor Pro Tem read an Arbor Day proclamation. The Keynote Speaker was Dr. Mason Gary, Anderson District 3 School Superintendent, who told of his long-time tree planting program on his family farm. Earlier in the day, Crescent High students completed the planting of a red maple and an Arizona Cypress (to be used as a living Christmas tree) at Flat Rock Elementary school. Retired SC

Forestry Commission County Ranger Whit Chamblee shared the history of Iva's tree planting and Tree City USA participation, which he helped to initiate in 1984. Retired Urban Forester Jimmy Walters gave a challenge for the future: keep up the Tree City USA program, plant more trees, and learn about tree care!



Members of **The Garden Club of Charleston** celebrated Arbor Day at their newly adopted Philip Simmons Memorial Garden, which they have restored and now maintain. They shared a brief history of America's Arbor Day including that in 1970, President Nixon proclaimed National Arbor Day, which today is celebrated in all 50 states. The Garden Club of Charleston dedicates Arbor Day each year to the loving memory of its recently deceased members. Three camellias were planted on site in celebration.



Clemson University celebrated Arbor Day with a "Memorial Tree Plant Dedication" hosted by the Student Government Sustainability Committee. A Cherokee Princess flowering dogwood was planted in memory of the following students who passed away this year: Kenneth Davis, Virginia Gilliam, Tucker Higgs, Andrew O'Neill, and Kendall Wernet.

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2015!

Membership Level:

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

PRIMARY CONTACT:

Name/Title: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

*ADDITIONAL MEMBERS (Two additional names may be listed; please submit name and contact information for each)

Name/Title: _____

E-mail: _____

Name/Title: _____

E-mail: _____

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

Plant Healthcare Seminar

February 12, 2015

Trees SC, in partnership with Rainbow Treecare Scientific Advancements, is hosting a Plant Healthcare Seminar on February 12, 2015 at the Harbison Environmental Education Center in Columbia. This one-day workshop will provide an introduction to the plant healthcare technician's role in the landscape and an overview of common pests, diseases, and treatment strategies for woody shrubs and trees. ISA and Pesticide credits will be available. *Sponsored by Duke Energy, Bartlett Tree Experts, Carolina Tree Care, Mead's Tree Service, Schneider Tree Care, Lewis Tree Service, SCE&G, and Sox & Freeman.*

AGENDA

8:00 am Registration

9:00 am Introduction to Plant Healthcare and Integrated Pest Management Definitions

9:15 am How Diseases, Arthropods, and Abiotic Disorders Affect Plants

9:30 am Pest and Disease Monitoring, Diagnosis, and Prevention

9:55 am Break

10:05 am Application Methods Commonly Used to Treat for Tree and Shrub Insect Pests

10:30 am Practical Management Protocols for Common Landscape Insects and Diseases of Trees and Shrubs

12:00 pm Adjourn

Registration: \$30 Trees SC Member/\$40 non-Trees SC Member

For more information and to register, please visit our website, www.treessc.org.



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February 4-6, 2015

SCHI 2015 Trade Show and Seminars, Myrtle Beach, SC. Please visit www.scnla.com for more information.

February 12, 2015

Plant Healthcare Seminar, Columbia, SC. More information will be available soon.

March 5, 2015

Spring SC Arborist Workshop, Columbia, SC. More information will be available soon.

March 7-10, 2015

ISA Southern Chapter Annual Conference, Mobile, Alabama. Please visit www.isasouthern.org for more information.



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