



The Council Quarterly

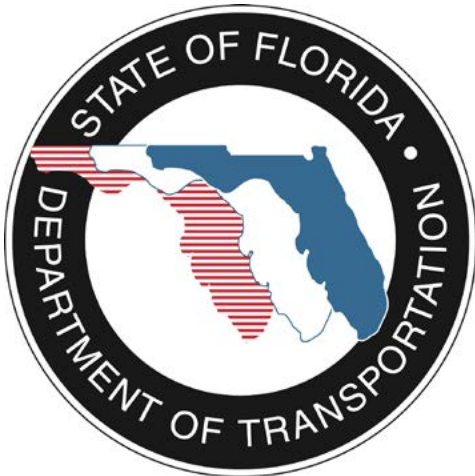
Quarterly Newsletter of the Florida Urban Forestry Council

2015 Issue One

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SEEING THE BILLBOARD THROUGH THE TREES: A LOOK INTO FDOT'S VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM FOR OUTDOOR ADVERTISING

Submitted by Michael McCoy, Director of Environmental Services - Metric Engineering



We have all seen them--billboard signs along Florida's highways, telling us what restaurant, surf shop or local attraction we can find if we "exit now!" So how is it that the landscaping and natural vegetation so prevalent along our roadways stays clear of these signs? Does Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) keep these areas clear? How are public interests for roadside vegetation met in these areas? The answers to all these questions and more are yours when you read on...

Even though they are constructed on private lands, all of the roadside billboards (that we either love or love to hate) along Florida's state roadway system require a permit from the FDOT. These permits are not easy to obtain and require an extensive application and review process, but that is another story--our story about vegetation

and billboards begins once that permit is obtained.

With an outdoor advertising permit in hand, a sign owner is entitled to a "view zone"--typically a 500 foot-long stretch of the roadway leading up to the sign. To fully understand the view zone, we need to utilize the skills we learned in high school geometry class (you see, it did come in handy). The view zone is drawn by making a triangle with one side being the 500 foot-long segment of the road starting from the sign and leading away (in the direction the sign is facing). Now, start at the roadside edge of the sign itself and connect it to the start of the 500 foot-roadway segment, this is the second side of the triangle. To make the final side, connect the far end of the 500 foot segment to the outside edge of the billboard. If you are drawing this out, some of you may note that the edge of the right of way cuts off the top of the triangle, actually creating a trapezoid. For those of you who notice this difference I will re-iterate that I said high-school geometry, so please stop showing off. Within this view zone, FDOT agrees to not install new landscaping that would block the view of the sign (after the outdoor advertising permit is issued).

Further, the owner of the permit can apply for an FDOT Vegetation Management permit, which provides the ability for the sign owner to trim or remove certain existing vegetation, as well as to control the growth of new vegetation, within the view zone. So how does FDOT decide

what trimming and removal of vegetation is acceptable, and who is responsible to do it? I'm glad you asked. The requirements for vegetation management in view zones are provided both by Florida Statute (479.106) and by the Florida Administrative Code (14-10.057). In short, these regulations state that an applicant cannot remove FDOT-installed landscaping (unless the landscaping was installed after their permit was issued), but naturally growing vegetation can be removed or trimmed, provided that these activities do not affect trees that have special significance for ecological, historical, cultural, or aesthetic reasons.

To help ensure that these requirements are met, FDOT obtains input from their district Landscape Architects, as well as utilizing

continues on pg. 2

INSIDE:	
Seeing the Billboard Through the Trees	1 & 2
President's Message	2
Tree of the Quarter	4 & 5
Stump the Forester	6
Florida's Highway Beautification Programs	7
Managing Community Spotlight - City of Newberry	8 & 9
Trail of Trees Comes to Florida Schools	10 & 11
FDOT Bold Landscape Initiative Project - District 4	13
Request For Articles	13
FDOT Bold Landscape Initiative Project - Okahumpka Gateway	16 & 17
FUFC Joins Tree/Landscape Industry to Advise FDOT	19

the support of vegetation management consultants--each holding one or more certifications by ISA (Arborist), LIAF (Landscape Inspector) and FNGLA (Horticultural Professional). Once FDOT verifies that the proposed vegetation management is appropriate, they will issue a Vegetation Management Permit, allowing the applicant to conduct these activities (at their own expense) within FDOT right of way.

To help reach a suitable compromise to maintain important functions of roadside vegetation while maintaining visibility of the sign, FDOT can agree to shift the view zone by as much as 500 feet, split the view zone into several parts, and condition the permit to include restrictions on certain maintenance practices such as herbicides and mowing, require applicants to replant in certain areas, and require mitigation fees for removal of established vegetation.

In the end, FDOT aims to achieve a balance of all of these at times competing interests, as well as adhering to current professional landscaping standards. For more information on this process you can contact FDOT's Office of Right of Way, and while you are on Florida's state roads you can enjoy the view!

FDOT's Vegetation Management Program is administered by Mr. Morris Pigott of the FDOT Right of Way Office.



NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING ANNUAL RATES:

Business-card size advertisement.....	\$75
Quarter page advertisement	\$115
Half-page advertisement.....	\$225
Full page advertisement.....	\$450

To place an advertisement in *The Council Quarterly*, please contact Sandy Temple, FUFCA Executive Director (407-872-1738).

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Along the Road....

Some of the most viewable examples of urban forestry exist alongside the roads, interstates and byways we travel every day throughout the

state. Some of them are quite spectacular and well planned while others seem to appear awkward in their existence and are either struggling to exist or are in conflict with everything around them. Either way it seems that the open roadways of Florida and many other states are now becoming the new artistic canvases for roadside tree planting and there are mixed reviews concerning what should or shouldn't be placed and where. While I can't say that all of the roadway plantings are perfect in form and function, I'll take them any day over a barren grass strip with opposing galvanized guardrails.

Often where you are at in the state drives what you see. Traveling from our most southern parts, I enjoy seeing the local and exotic palms mixed in with some hardwoods and local understory. Even though most of the selections are non-native species, I grew up in South Florida and have always known

them to be part of the landscape and their sight lets me know when I'm getting close to the old home again.

Moving up through I-75, the exits and widened medians are gaining stands of sables and more native ground cover. Sometimes the seemingly excessive use of the State tree becomes a little redundant, but given the remote locations to some of these plantings it makes sense to utilize species that can thrive with little to no maintenance. Wetland patches are also common through the midsection of the state and offer refuge to visible wildlife that seems to ignore the constant drone of an endless passing of traffic.

Once you make it to Gainesville, the "Palmfest" fades and succumbs to a plethora of assorted oaks and pines. The medians seem more expansive and stately due to the broadened openness of the surrounding countryside as the metro areas just touch the major interstates at assorted exits. If the season is right, some strategically placed dogwoods and redbuds will stand out amongst the greenery giving the roadside some diversity in color to which I would prefer more of as more of these plantings increase.

Fortunately the vacant roadways of the past are just that. Road beautification

programs, whether state or metropolitan driven, enhance the places we visit and live in and are important not only to improve the aesthetics of our expansive roadway systems, but keep trees close to where we live and travel providing all the benefits trees bring to our everyday life.

The Florida Urban Forestry Council is becoming increasingly active in providing recommendations on the selection of the trees utilized for roadside plantings across the state. Your support as members and sponsors give us the ability to carry on with this task as well as many others in our mission to promote and educate the public on sound urban forestry practices.

Lastly, I would like to thank you the members and the entire Executive Committee body to allow me the honor to serve as the 2014 President. The experience was greatly enriching and I only hope that my service benefited the FUFCA as much. Please continue with your generous support of this great organization as we continue to move forward and expand our organization in providing the needed resources to our community forests.

Ken Lacasse, Ken.lacasse@secoenergy.com
FUFCA President

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Bob Turner Jr. at 1-856-694-4100

Tree of the Quarter

BALD CYPRESS (*Taxodium distichum*)

Bald Cypress is the largest and tallest tree in old swamp forests of the South. These beautiful trees are draped with ghostlike moss and alive with tree frogs. Although many conifers are evergreen, bald cypress trees are deciduous conifers that shed their needle-like leaves in the fall. In fact, they get the name “bald” cypress because they drop their leaves so early in the season. Their fall colors are tan, cinnamon, and fiery orange. Branches are often draped with clumps of Spanish moss.

Bald cypress trees growing in swamps have a peculiarity of growth called cypress knees. These are woody projections from the root system that project above the ground or water. Their function was once thought to be to provide oxygen to the roots, which grow in the low dissolved oxygen waters typical of a swamp, evidence for this is scant. Another more likely function is structural support and stabilization. Bald cypress trees growing on flood-prone sites tend to form buttressed bases, but trees grown on drier sites may lack this feature. Buttressed bases and a strong, intertwined root system allow them to resist very strong winds; even hurricanes rarely overturn them.

Geologists believe that cypress trees have been growing in the State for about 6,500 years. They can live for hundreds of years.



Some old-growth trees in Florida are over 500 years old. The trees tend to grow in forested wetlands, along streams and rivers, in spring runs and ponds, and in places with still or slow-moving water. Cypresses are the most flood-tolerant of all Florida’s trees, which is why they dominate swamps that have long flood periods.

They are valued for the rot-resistant heartwood of mature trees, and so they have been widely used to make fence posts, doors, flooring, caskets, cabinetry, boats, etc. However, they are not harvested for timber as much because they are slow-growing and there aren’t as many of them left. Also, they usually grow in wetlands, which cause loggers much difficulty. Currently, cypress trees are harvested mainly for saw timber and landscape mulch.

Originally cypress mulch was produced using waste wood from sawmills. However, the increased demand for mulch has led to an increase in harvesting the smaller pond cypress, as well as other cypress previously thought too small for harvesting.

UF/IFAS Extension and the Florida Urban Forestry Council do not recommend purchasing cypress mulch for your landscape. Younger trees harvested for mulch do not have the natural pest resistance of old-growth wood, and cypress trees are needed in our swamps where they serve an important ecological function.

These trees have very important roles in the wild. Since they tend to grow along rivers and in wetlands, they are excellent at soaking up floodwaters and preventing erosion. They also trap pollutants and prevent them from spreading. Frogs, toads, and salamanders use bald cypress swamps as breeding grounds. Wood ducks nest in hollow trunks, catfish spawn in the submerged hollow logs, and raptors like bald eagles nest in the treetops.

Form:

Bald cypress is pyramidal shaped, a moderately fast grower, especially when given regular irrigation. It can reach heights of 60 to 80 feet, but has been known to reach 150 feet and six feet in diameter.

Leaves:

It’s unusual for a conifer to be deciduous, but this one is—it loses its leaves in winter—thus the name “bald.” A magnificent tree, with gorgeous fall color as the needles turn a coppery bronze tone before losing its leaves for the winter. The unique feathery foliage is composed of small individual leaves arranged alternately in tight, flat sprays along both sides of the branchlets.

Bark:

The bark is gray-brown to red-brown, shallowly vertically fissured, with a stringy texture.

Roots:

Cypress trees have the characteristic knobby “knees”—roots that protrude above the soil.

Flower, Fruit and Seed:

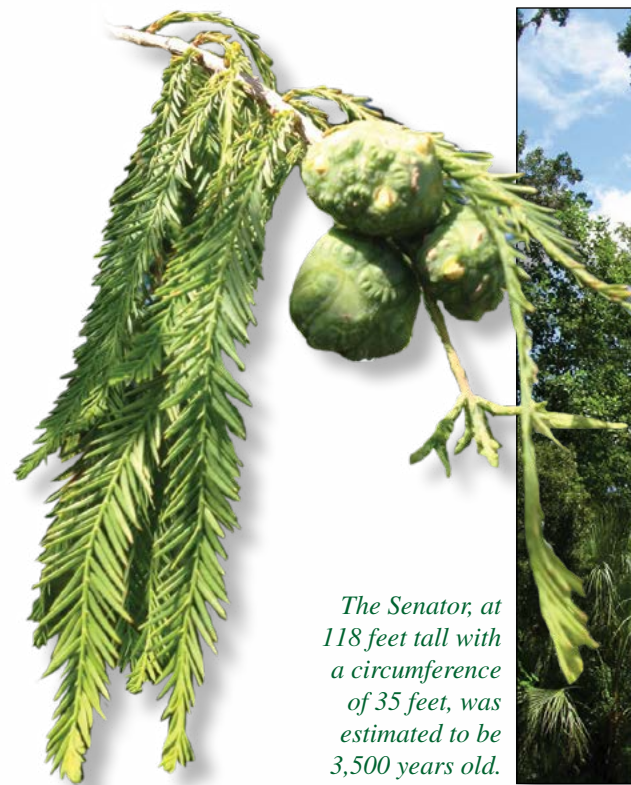
Bald Cypress is monoecious. Conifers produce cones, but this tree’s cones are small and won’t create a litter problem. The cones contain seeds that are popular with squirrels and birds.



The conspicuous staminate catkins of the cypress are one of the first signs of life in the new year. The small, round pistillate flowers develop in round brown cones nearly the size of golf balls. Female conelets are found singly or in clusters of two or three. The globose cones turn from green to brownish purple as they mature from October to December.

Environment:

Cypress can maintain and improve water quality in the environment. The soil and plants in cypress ponds can remove both phosphorus and nitrogen from treated wastewater. While cypress can handle these nutrients and filter them, smaller organisms can still be impacted by wastewater in the environment.



The Senator, at 118 feet tall with a circumference of 35 feet, was estimated to be 3,500 years old.



Cypress ponds are depressions in the ground that can hold more water than just soil. Cypress ponds can absorb runoff from storms and slow or prevent flooding during storm events.

Wildlife:

Cypress swamps are home to many species, including rare and endangered animals. Large mammals take advantage of the plant density and hollow trees of the swamps. The cones contain seeds that are eaten by wild turkeys, squirrels, evening grosbeaks, and wood ducks; they are a minor part of the diet of other waterfowl and wading birds. Large, old Bald Cypress furnishes unique habitats for some wildlife. Bald eagles and ospreys nest in the tops. Yellow-throated warblers forage in the Spanish moss or resurrection fern often found on old trees.

Usage:

Bald cypress makes a fine specimen tree for very large landscapes. They are best suited to wet areas, lake margins, and the like, but as noted above, they will thrive in normal, even dry soils. The feathery pale green foliage is attractive in spring and summer, and again in fall when it turns reddish. A nice shade tree in summer, bald cypress lets the sun shine through in winter.

Bald cypress has been called the eternal wood because it is extremely resistant to decay. Vast swamps have been clear-cut of their cypress for construction of docks, bridges, boats, and buildings. Draining and filling of southeastern cypress swamps

is estimated that the two Bald Cypress trees are hundreds of years old. The location of the trees near the Suwannee River and the Florida Trail will make a great spot for nature enthusiasts to visit.

Little Known Facts:

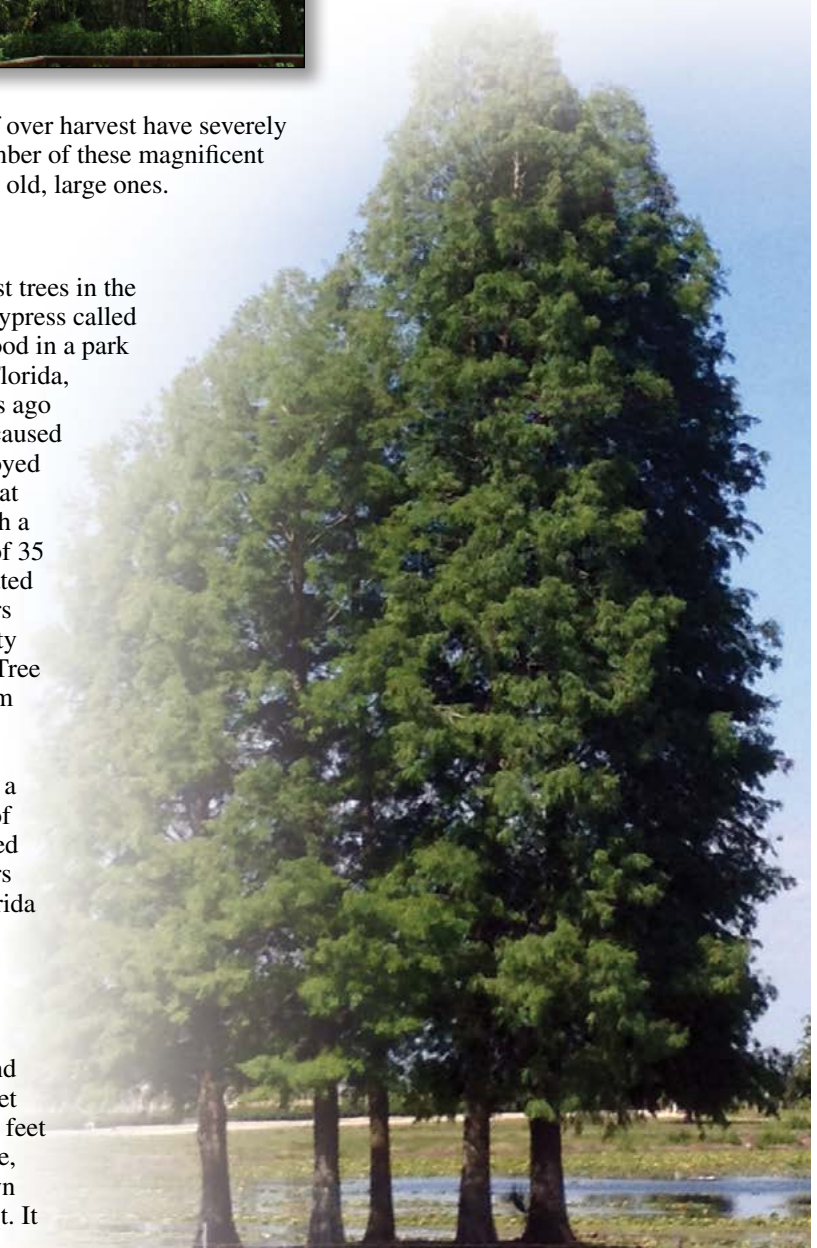
In 2012 Scuba divers discovered an underwater forest several miles off the coast of Mobile, AL below 60 feet of water. The forest contains trees that have been dated to approximately 52,000 years old. The forest contains trees so well-preserved that when they are cut, they still smell like fresh Cypress sap. The team, which has not yet published their results in a peer-reviewed journal, is currently applying for grants to explore the site more thoroughly. It is estimated that they have less than two years before wood-burrowing marine animals destroy the submerged forest.

and centuries of over harvest have severely reduced the number of these magnificent trees, especially old, large ones.

Champion Trees:

One of the oldest trees in the world, a Bald Cypress called The Senator, stood in a park in Longwood, Florida, until a few years ago when a vandal caused a fire that destroyed it. The Senator, at 118 feet tall with a circumference of 35 feet, was estimated to be 3,500 years old. Lady Liberty remains in Big Tree Park not far from the site of the Senator. She is 80 feet tall with a circumference of 32 feet, estimated to be 2,000 years old and is a Florida Challenger tree.

The new co-champion trees are in Hamilton County and stand more than 95 feet tall, measure 45 feet in circumference, and have a crown spread of 50 feet. It



STUMP THE FORESTER



QUESTION: I have a very large old live oak tree on my property. It is being decimated by a heavy infestation of Spanish moss and breaking whole branches. How do I get rid of this parasite and save my tree?

ANSWER: Spanish moss is common throughout Florida. It is not actually a moss but what is known as an epiphyte. Epiphytes do attach themselves to trees but do not harm them, unlike mistletoe, a true plant parasite. Epiphytes have the ability to obtain the

minerals they need from dissolved water that flows across leaves and down branches. They flourish in areas with plenty of light and fairly high humidity. With increasing age, the naturally spreading nature of our open grown live oaks provide an ideal habitat by allowing greater amounts of sunlight to penetrate the interiors branches of the crown. So, with the increasing age of live oak we typically see a higher density of Spanish moss.

Because epiphytes prefer plenty of light, they thrive on weak trees that are already losing their leaves. The presence of Spanish moss on weak or dying trees does not necessarily mean they are the direct cause of the tree's decline or loss of leaves. The true cause of your tree's decline is likely due to soil compaction, root damage, altered drainage, or environmental problems that have compromised its health. Spanish moss may speed the decline of your weakened tree by shading lower leaves and intercepting light needed for photosynthesis that produces the sugars needed for tree health and growth.

Branches and limbs breaking and falling are commonly attributed to the weight of the moss. In fact, Spanish moss weighs very little and is almost never a factor in broken branches. Falling branches are likely the result of the tree's declining health and vigor. The bottom line is that tree damage from Spanish moss is very uncommon and its removal can be expensive for large trees.

The best advice is generally to not attempt to remove these beneficial native Florida plants. If removal is needed consult with an International Society of Arboriculture - Certified Arborist for advice on physical removal and/or herbicide treatment.

Answer provided by Rob Northrop, Extension Forester / Urban and Community Forestry – University of Florida/IFAS Hillsborough County Extension



If you would like to 'stump the forester,' see page 13 for information on submitting your question!

FLORIDA'S HIGHWAY BEAUTIFICATION PROGRAMS

Submitted by Jeff Caster, FASLA, State Transportation Landscape Architect - Florida Department of Transportation



Since 1868 when the Great Seal of the State of Florida was established by the Legislature, the state's economy has relied on the state's natural resources and scenic beauty to attract families and businesses here to spend and invest their time and money. A modern transportation system (also prominently displayed) amongst a paradise of friendly people in a lush landscape continues to be the emphasis

of the Department of Transportation, intending to have the nation's most beautiful highways that attract and grow business.

Nearly 200,000 acres, or 1/2 of 1% of the entire state, is managed by the Department of Transportation. About half of this is unpaved; alive. It is Florida's most visited and visible landscape experienced this year by 100 million visitors and 19.5 million residents. Each year, at the direction of the Florida Legislature, tens of millions of dollars are invested in highway beautification. During the past four years, processes used to plan, design, construct and maintain roadways have been improved to consistently integrate landscape conservation and highway beautification. The returns on investment are growing. This favorable trend is gaining momentum and support from business and government leaders.

Most communities, and the leaders responsible for their urban forests, enjoy the economic and ecosystem services that are available with quality roadside landscape design construction and maintenance. Each of the Department's District Landscape Architects is eager to provide information about sources of funding and technical information necessary for a successful roadway landscape project. Visit MyFloridaBeautiful.com for more information.



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To Subscribe to the RPG Times Newsletter or to request copies of the Tree Grading, Planting or Pruning Cue Cards contact an RPG member or visit www.rootsplusgrowers.org

MANAGING COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT – CITY OF NEWBERRY

Submitted by Julie Iooss, Environmental Horticulture/Irrigation Program Manager – City of Orlando compiled from write-up provided by Wendy Kinser, City Planner and Grants/Special Projects Administrator – City of Newberry



On the western edge of Alachua County in North Central Florida, the City of Newberry sits in the middle of one of the most picturesque, historical and fastest growing areas in the state. Founded in the early 1890s, Newberry was officially put on the map when a post office was established in 1894, followed by incorporation in 1895. Before 1890, families had moved to the area and farmed in the region and also made a living from timbering. However, it was the discovery of phosphate in 1889 that brought the hidden Florida town to life as a booming mining town. The town was located along the route of the Savannah, Florida and Western Railway, that in 1893 was extended southward from High Springs. In 1896 there were fourteen mines operating nearby, and the town had hotels, boarding houses and saloons to accommodate the area's transient and sometimes unruly population. The demand for phosphate ended abruptly in 1914 when war was declared against Germany, the principal customer for Newberry's phosphate. The community turned to agriculture and was particularly successful at producing watermelons. The Watermelon Festival, first held in 1946, continues to be an annual event. In 1987 Newberry's Historic District was officially listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The City of Newberry is a local government serving a community of 5,000. Their vision is to lead the community through a green initiative that emphasizes community partnerships and educational outreach with a focus on today's youth and tomorrow's leaders. In 2009, Newberry's own high school kids initiated/inspired the current Urban Forestry Program, complete with Tree Board, Tree Ordinance, and first designation as "Tree City USA" in 2010. Working with local schools/after-school programs, City-sponsored activities include:

- Forestry, conservation, tourism, and recreation grant-funded informational publications/videos
- Tree plantings for Olympic Development Training Center/Sports complex entrance
- "4th Grade Forester Arbor Day Event" (tree planting/instruction, take-home seedlings, conservation talks, historic schoolhouse tours, ice cream)
- "All-day Green Celebration" (conservation workshops/demos)
- "Tree-Planting Celebration Day"

The City of Newberry's program--with its emphasis on active and ongoing tree planting, care, and maintenance--provides an excellent example for other small cities

when it comes to successfully integrating community partnerships and public outreach activities. The various learning and public participation opportunities offered by the City in conjunction with local schools and after-school programs demonstrate the high degree of importance placed on citizen input. This is evident in the many Advisory groups in such areas as beautification, tree protection and recreation/open space. Newberry's dedication to creating a top-notch program has been evident from the onset of its program, through designation as Tree City USA, management of urban forestry, greenways and trails and conservation-related grant projects, and conducting of annual Arbor Day celebrations and community educational outreach.

In 2010, the City's Tree Board was established by ordinance, along with rules and regulations for tree care, maintenance, planting, removal, protection, placement, and relocation. A particularly important policy for the City is their support and encouragement of a dynamic public involvement process for the planning and design of City parks and events. With Newberry's designation as a "Tree City USA" for the past four consecutive years, the City is proud to promote and engage in a positive community focused urban forestry program that emphasizes citizen participation as a vital process. The City's continuing community partnerships with local schools and with various environmental and conservation related agencies have proved to be a means to maintain student involvement and draw more attention to urban forestry best management practices while increasing citizen involvement overall.

In fact, in fall 2009, it was a group of Newberry's own high school kids who inspired and initiated the community's current Urban Forestry Program. The local high school science teacher Dr. Cynthia Holland contacted the Alachua County Forester, Dave Conser. Together they met with the students and discussed the importance of urban forestry and investigated into the Arbor Day Tree City USA program. The students took the ball and ran with it. They came up with example ordinances (from the Arbor Day Foundation website, the City of Gainesville, Alachua

County, and the City of High Springs), they consulted with City staff, gathered tree management expense numbers, attained example Arbor Day proclamations, and gathered signatures petitioning city leaders to pursue Tree City USA designation for Newberry.

The students developed a PowerPoint presentation promoting Tree City USA for the City Commission meeting. The County forester, Dave Conser, attended the meeting and offered this description: "I remember the students encouraging the young man who was to speak for the group, who seemed a bit nervous. He did just fine. I was struck by the obvious pride that the City leaders had for their young people. The team had done a great job getting all the information together, facilitating the process for the City. There was no way this wasn't going to happen! No one could have been more persuasive. It was a truly heartwarming experience."

Thanks to these Newberry High School students, the City of Newberry was awarded its initial Tree City USA designation in 2010. To top it off, the students won the Lexus Environmental Challenge competition that year for their hard work.

The City's program has demonstrated committed participation of the citizens, City staff and City leaders. The City received a \$20,000 Urban and Community Forestry Grant to install trees at the Newberry-Easton Sports Complex. Newberry not only



planted and managed their trees, but has also expanded their urban forestry efforts into community partnerships, public service educational videos and other educational events. The City's conservation videos are frequently mentioned throughout the North Central Florida area, including Newberry's tree planting demonstration video that airs on public service TV and social media sites. City leaders take a strong interest in the program, staying involved in Arbor Day activities and initiating training of city staff in proper tree care.

Commendable activities and policies of particular note for Newberry include: the Newberry City Commission's continued emphasis on community partnerships

and public education outreach activities involving local schools and after-school programs; the importance that the City places on citizen input—evident through Commission-appointed advisory groups in such areas as beautification, tree protection, and recreation/open space; ongoing support and encouragement of public involvement in such projects as the planning/design process for City parks and events, including Lois Forte Park (formerly Triangle Park) and Newberry Community Center; the City's active and responsive tree maintenance program; and five years of Newberry's designation as a "Tree City USA," complete with regularly-held tree plantings/Arbor Day/Tree City events.



TRAIL OF TREES COMES TO FLORIDA SCHOOLS

Submitted by Julie Iooss, Environmental Horticulture/Irrigation Program Manager – City of Orlando Parks Division

The Florida Urban Forestry Council is honored to have sponsored Tim Womick and the Trail of Trees program throughout the state of Florida this past year. It is one of the most educating and entertaining programs involving trees and our children. Enjoyed throughout the country and in neighboring countries, Tim's program reaches into the hearts and minds of the children leaving a lasting impression.

Trail of Trees is a very special part of a non-profit educational effort known as Tree Family that targets public lands like parks and schools with projects and programs that address a variety of issues to a diverse audience, with emphasis on the value of the "trees where you live." Their program can vary from engaging school children about trees, to encouraging advanced instruction of tree care workers, and lobbying elected officials to continue to develop and refine local tree ordinances. All who participate in Tree Family learn that the caring for the forest where they live is not only good for personal health and the environment, but it is good citizenship, enhancing individual and neighborhood character as well. The focus is to educate children about Arbor Day and the importance of trees in our community.

Few of us reach adulthood without hearing the tale of Johnny Appleseed, the generous tree planting pioneer who traveled America spreading gifts of fruit and conservation education. The historical figure may have died in 1845, but his spirit lives on in the form of an energetic activist, Tim Womick. Traveling America spreading the word about his love of trees to children and adults alike, Tim has a unique and unforgettable presentation style in which he incorporates his African drum, numerous props, volunteers and even a water filled squirt bottle. Kids of all ages are unable to avoid Tim's passion for trees and the environment.

The kids learned basics of biology specific to trees, learned the value of trees and why we should plant more trees. They were encouraged to plant trees and learn to care for the trees where they live. Audiences were exposed to scientific concepts about earth, materials, trees,

water, air--all an integral part of the public education system and important information for elementary school children and beyond. One of Tim's many lessons to be learned is 'Trees give us books, books give us knowledge, and knowledge gives us power.' As educators are searching for ways to make school relevant to students and to curb the number of students who drop out of school, Tim has found that jump-starting students' imagination about the world around them--making school and learning more relevant to them--is the program's desired outcome.

Children are challenged to think about the trees where they live...it is suggested that later they keep a journal focusing on a certain tree, or speak to others about what they think of trees, opening

doors to understanding about our fragile environmental footing and the vital role trees play in sustaining that footing. The objective is to lead people toward a path to better themselves and their communities.

Thanks to the support of people and agencies like Orlando Utilities Commission, City of Sanford, Urban Forestry Organization, Keep Orlando Beautiful, Cherry Lake Tree Farm, A Friend of the Florida Urban Forestry Council, and the Florida Forest Service, schools throughout Orlando, Vero Beach, Clermont, Mascotte, Miami, Homestead, and Hollywood were fortunate to be

a part of the Trail of Trees program and our modern day Johnny Appleseed, Tim Womick. Over 4,600 students and teachers laughed and shouted through maracas shaking, scarf wearing and even a little juggling. Those lucky enough to work closely with Womick during his visit may have even received a tiny silver acorn or a packet of trees to remind them that even the smallest object can grow into something large and magnificent.

The Florida Urban Forestry Council is proud to be a supporter of Tim Womick and the Trail of Trees Program. Various groups in Florida have been involved with him for over 17 years and the Council hopes to continue our support of the program for many years. This takes volunteers and sponsorship in order for

programs of this caliber to reach our youth. Next year we hope to be in the cities and towns from Orlando to Jacksonville. If you are interested in sponsoring this program or having it come to your area, please contact us.

"Remember, Trees are the lungs of the Earth and get your Johnny Appleseed on." - Tim Womick



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FDOT BOLD LANDSCAPE INITIATIVE PROJECT: DISTRICT 4 – BROWARD COUNTY / INTERSECTION OF I-95 AND I-595

Submitted by Elisabeth Hassett, RLA, District IV Landscape Architect - Florida Department of Transportation



The interchange at the crossroads of Interstates 95 and 595 is one of the largest, multi-modal gateways in South Florida with hundreds of thousands of cars passing through the interchange each day. Furthermore, passenger and freight trains travel past this area multiple times a day, while the Ft. Lauderdale/Hollywood International Airport causes planes to pass directly over the site giving passengers a bird's eye view of the recently completed \$5.9 million BOLD Vision Landscape project.

The interchange's design concept integrates the Department's BOLD Vision Landscape initiative which encourages very large

specimen palms and flowering trees to create an immediate bold landscape statement with the purpose of promoting business opportunities and tourism. The trees and palms that were selected for the project's design are the largest and highest quality materials available in South Florida. The species were chosen to offer the tropical look so unique to this area of the country while at the same time one of the design's focus was to lessen maintenance requirements once the plant materials become established.

The concept design proposed an extensive use of stone terracing which is created by four-foot high, modular stone block retaining walls that terrace the roadway side slopes. The terrace walls provide more soil space for the very large root balls of the palms and trees and at the same time allow more rainfall to be captured. It also provided more opportunity for a wider selection of plant types to be used. Even though xeriscape plant species were proposed, a temporary irrigation system was provided to ensure successful establishment of all the trees and palms on the interchange.

In anticipation of the I-95 Express project soon to follow, two wet ponds were added to the landscape project eliminating possible damage to the landscape during the next project's construction. The ponds create a welcomed water feature and further enhance the landscape's tropical appeal.

The BOLD landscape project was completed on April 2, 2014 and the Contractor will be responsible for maintaining the project for three more years.



REQUEST FOR ARTICLES

Please let us know what urban forestry projects you have going on in your neck of the woods. The Florida Urban Forestry Council would greatly appreciate the opportunity to share your information in our newsletter. These articles can include:

- New trends in the industry
- News about tree advocacy groups
- Volunteer projects
- City tree programs
- Letters to the Editor
- Questions for "Stump the Forester"



We look forward to hearing from you on this or any other interesting topic related to the urban forestry industry and profession. Please send any articles or ideas to Jerry Renick, FUFCA newsletter editor, at Jerry.Renick@wantmangroup.com.

Thanks for contributing!


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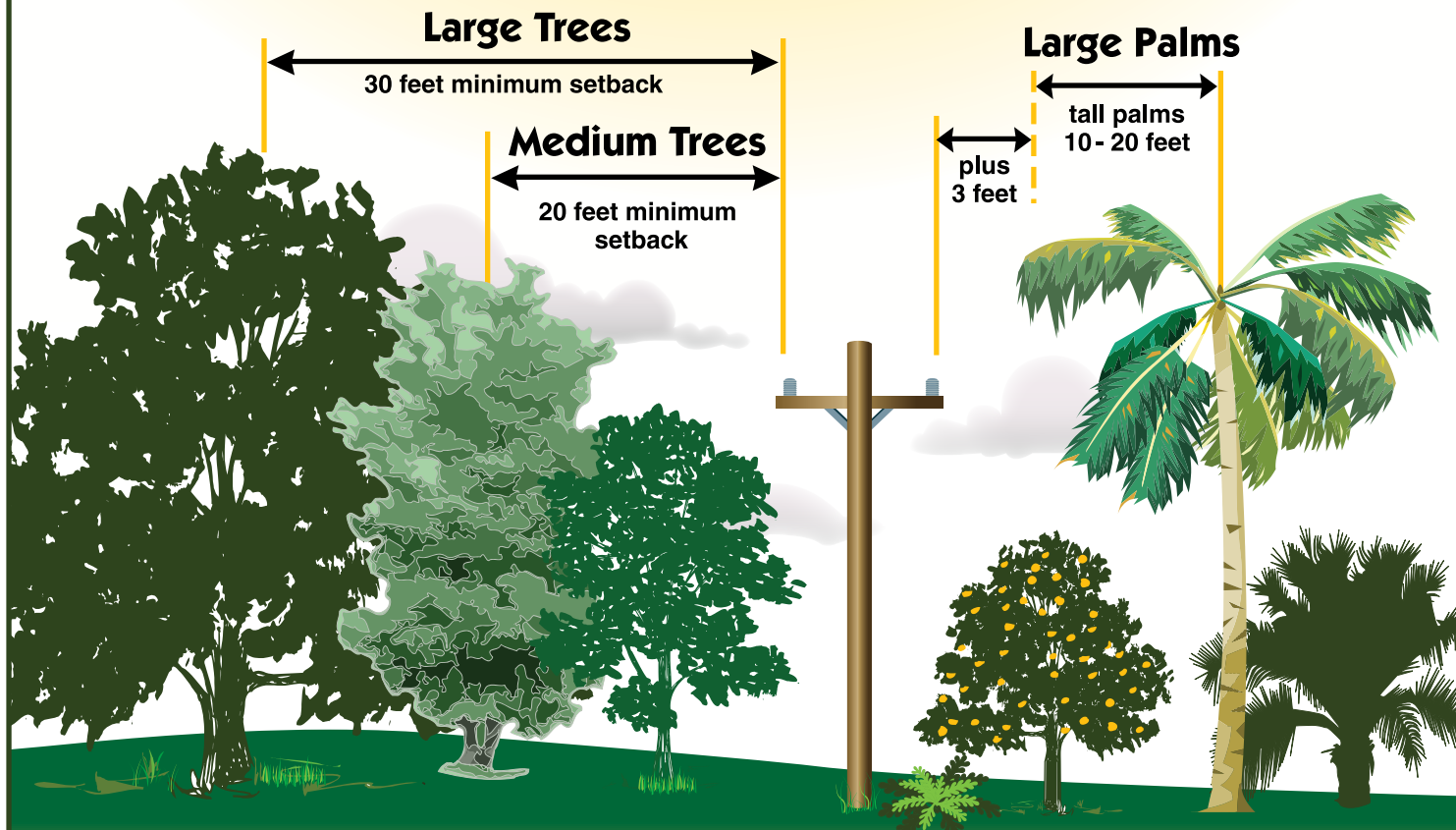


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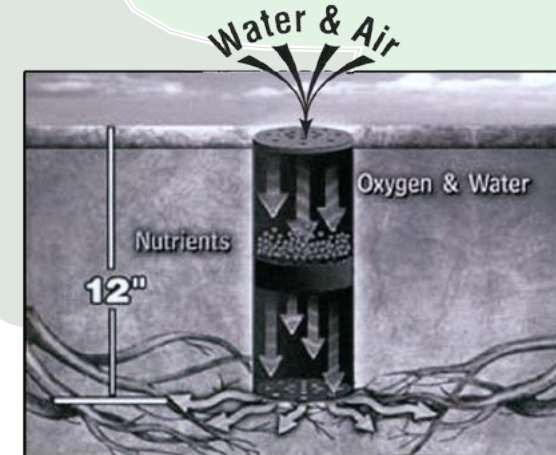
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FDOT BOLD LANDSCAPE INITIATIVE PROJECT: FLORIDA TURNPIKE ENTERPRISE – OKAHUMPKA GATEWAY

Submitted by Guy Murtonen, Environmental Services Manager – Florida Turnpike Enterprise

As part of the Florida Department of Transportation's BOLD Landscape initiative, the Florida Turnpike Enterprise designed and installed the Okahumpka Gateway landscape project located at the northern most service plaza. This gateway project welcomes Turnpike patrons entering from I-75 and sets the tone for the entire

Turnpike system. The Okahumpka project is a great example of the "thoughtful site specific design approach [that] will produce the highest visual impact and distinctive sense of place" that the BOLD program was developed to create.

All the existing trees at the Okahumpka site were retained, 30+ 20'-30' pines and live oaks, and incorporated into the design. The preserving of the existing and upgrading to BOLD created a landscape that visually impacts the area but still integrates the planting with natural sites that are adjacent, a true planting partnership!

With over 60 existing pines and 10 oaks the project site also received:

- 19 Phoenix dactylifera 'Medjool' palms ranging in size 18'-24' CT
- 165 45 gal. Lagerstroemia indica (Natchez & Tuscarora)
- 27 B&B 10'-12' Ilex attenuate 'Eagleston' holly
- 69 5'-6' Viburnum obovatum - Walter's viburnum
- 20 45 gal. Ligustrum japonicum – Japanese privet
- 170 Sabal palmetto – Root regenerated Sabal palms



Okahumpka is just one example of the Turnpike's contribution to the FDOT BOLD program that is creating landscapes that "instantly create a welcoming and enjoyable experience" for all the users of the State's roadways and "the first and lasting impression of the state and individual communities" for all the visitors we host every year.





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FUFC JOINS TREE/LANDSCAPE INDUSTRY TO ADVISE FDOT

Back in November of 2014 the Florida's Nursery, Grower & Landscape Association (FNGLA) created a liaison committee of industry representatives to meet with and advise the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) on tree and landscape issues. The first meeting of the committee took place Tuesday, January 13, 2015 in Ocoee, Florida. FNGLA and their President Sandy Stein and Chief Executive Officer Ben Bolusky head the committee. In the E-mail sent to the FUFC, Ben wrote "FNGLA purposely reached out to three groups inviting each to suggest a representative to serve on the committee to ensure such disciplines are reflected on this important FNGLA committee. We are pleased all three groups accepted the invitation. They are the Florida Association of Native Nurseries (FANN), Florida Chapter of American Society of Landscape Architects (FL-ASLA), and the Florida Urban Forestry Council (FUFC).

The committee's agenda for the inaugural meeting covered general discussion on design, construction and maintenance of FDOT projects. Task teams were formed to work on issues in more detail and begin reporting out at the next meeting to be held sometime in April 2015. All parties agreed that the discussion that took place was positive and were excited about the work ahead.

FUFC will continue to be involved with the committee to ensure an urban forest perspective is heard. FUFC encourages and supports the FDOT in the responsible use of trees along our State's roadways. Trees planted by the FDOT are welcomed members to the State's urban forest and we are glad to offer any assistance to ensure their long-term success.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

(Dues are effective for the calendar year of January 1 - December 31)

Make check or money order payable to FUFC and mail to:
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Categories (please check one):

- Professional @ \$25.00**
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(Supporting membership is granted to those individuals, groups or other entities expressing a desire for a strong supportive role in the Council. Membership will be granted for up to five individuals of an organization or business.)
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(Government/Non-Profit Agency membership is granted to those individuals, groups or other entities actively working in the profession of Urban Forestry or any related profession. Membership will be granted for up to five individuals within the agency.)
- Student @ \$10.00**
(Student membership is granted to anyone who is actively enrolled as a full-time student and who is considering pursuing a career in Urban Forestry.)

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Would you be interested in further information regarding serving on a Council subcommittee? Yes No

Area of interest: _____

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