



# The Council Quarterly

Quarterly Newsletter of the Florida Urban Forestry Council

2017 Issue Two

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## MEET THE TREETURES® AND DISCOVER THAT... A LITTLE BIT OF MAGIC, "GR♥WS" A LONG WAY!

Submitted by Judith H. Blau - Children's Author, Illustrator and Product Designer



Since the 1980s, the **Treetures Environmental Education Program** has worked nationally and internationally to introduce an entertaining and educational message of the value of tree planting and tree care to children. Treetures are for all ages, but focuses on Pre-K to 3rd grade. A community of 36 whimsical Treeture characters reveals the important role trees play in keeping the Earth and its ecosystems healthy.

Learning the names and jobs of all the characters provides a science-based understanding of the benefits of trees. Treetures are used to represent the spirit and guardians of trees and their internal processes. The tiny fantasy characters represent different functions of trees. Through biological cooperation and the

*continues on pg. 2*

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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



*Hello FUFC members!*

*Part of our Strategic Plan is to educate communities on the value of managing Florida's urban forests. FUFC hosts two annual programs that do just that.*

*First, the "TreeCircus" program, formally known as "Trail of Trees," introduces students to the value of trees, basic vocabulary of trees, a purpose to plant,*

*and why we should all care about the trees where we live. Tim Womick delivers this program routinely for FUFC. His fast-paced, highly-animated program is "performance art" that invites students to be part of the act. This year TreeCircus reached over 3,000 elementary students across multiple communities in Florida.*

*The second of the Council's annual events is the Urban Forestry Institute (UFI), a two-day conference for professionals and students who work directly or indirectly with the urban forest. This year's focus was on managing urban forests. The keynote speaker was Dan Lambe, President of the Arbor Day Foundation. This conference continues to grow and is a great place to learn about urban forest management, upcoming trends in management, and networking with professionals throughout the state. Many thanks to all who attended the conference and to the supporting sponsors and exhibitors. I would also like to congratulate the UFI planning committee for putting on another successful educational event.*

*I am always impressed with the quality of speakers that participate in our conference. This has to be one of the most challenging tasks of coordinating any conference. Wouldn't it be great if one of the speakers could be a tree itself? Just think what a tree could teach us. Would the tree be a scientist, teaching us about how they can enrich the soils, clean the air and water; or would the tree be an artist, teaching us how to cast shadows and change the look of the landscape just by swaying in the wind; or a musician teaching us songs as the wind goes through the trees and forest. Maybe the tree would be philosopher, or a doctor or even an athlete. Of course a tree could not actually be a speaker, but they have much to teach and we have much to learn. Enjoy this issue of The Council Quarterly on teaching trees.*

*Yours Truly,*

*Linda Seufert*

Linda Seufert

2017 FUFC President

*continued from pg. 1*

rhythm of nature, each must do its job to keep trees healthy.

Travel through cyberspace to green space by visiting the web site, [www.treetures.com](http://www.treetures.com). The site is designed for kids, families and teachers. With the help of a parent, teacher or local advocacy groups, children are encouraged to earn their "green hearts" by meeting and learning about forest friends like *Sprig*, the *Treedom Fighter*; *Chlorophyll* and *Chloropyllis* from the *Sun Beam Team*; *Blossom the Tree Twirler*; and *Humus*, the *Decomposer*. The program includes lesson plans, coloring pages, activities, games, songs, and stories. It features recipes from the "Soup to Nuts Kitchen," as well as instructions on how to plant a tree and how to start a "Magic Treeture Forest Nursery" in your neighborhood or school.

The pilot nursery that began in Eastchester NY has graduated hundreds of trees that now dot the community. The initial pilot trees were planted by 5-year-old Daisy Girl Scouts with the help of Brownies, Cub Scouts, and friends. Treetures slogan, "Because of Me, There Grows a Tree" is printed on certificates and stickers for children who have helped plant trees.

The Treetures Program also offers activities that cover concepts such as capillary action, transpiration, and ecological interdependence. It includes activities that reinforce skills such as spatial relations, measurement, sequence, and decision-making. Supplementing an educator's curriculum with Treetures activities adds the "little extra" sometimes needed to make lessons special and personal. Each activity includes background information for the teacher as well as procedures and resources.

When Treeture costume characters arrive, acting as cheerleaders for environmental

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events, the Treetures program becomes *Tree-Dimensional*. One of the many partnerships that has helped bring Treetures to life for children is through the environmental entertainer, Tim Womick and his Trail of Trees and TreeCircus performances.

Spring is the busiest Treetures season; however, Treetures are used all year to enhance and highlight environmental events or tree-related programs. Various towns, agencies and organizations manage the costumes. The Florida Urban Forestry Council keeps the costume, *Steward, the Street Treeture*, available and ready for action. That character represents the importance of tree planting in urban communities.

Treetures can appear with their traditional furry woodland tails, or their secret leaf tails. This year the Treetures reveal the secret of their “leaf” tails. The “*Once Upon an Acorn*,” story explains that as Treetures move from tree to tree, their tails change to resemble the leaf of the tree they are visiting. You never know if a Treeture is perched on a twig or a near-by branch. On the web site, the leaf tail section, “*Tell-Tails*,” is being developed to help kids identify trees and their leaves.

One goal of the Treetures program is to instill a positive environmental ethic. Treetures offers students the opportunity to realize how important they are in determining the environmental future of their world.

The nonprofit, Treetures Environmental Educational Program, has enjoyed many partnerships during its 33-year history, including USDA Forest Service and the United Nations Environment Programme. The tree planting and conservation program, using the illustrated *Tree Keeper* characters, was created, and is directed by Judith Hope Blau. She is a children’s author, illustrator and toy inventor. Since the first acorn of her program sprouted, she has reached out to young children in order to awaken within them the desire to protect our earth. By engaging children with environmental information and an understanding of the importance of protecting and caring for our Earth, she hopes that future generations of responsible earth stewards will emerge. As a mother and grandmother, she believes that family values should include respect and love for the “home” beyond our front doors.



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# THE WISDOM OF TREES

*Submitted by Joe Anderson and Florida Urban Forestry Council Executive Committee Members*

Broadway plays were on my daughter's bucket list after graduating from the University of Florida in June. It sounds rather strange to say that we travelled all the way to New York City to see Chicago, but we did and it was one of many fabulous shows. The whole city was a class act - a relentless song-and-dance. The hustle and bustle, notable buildings, celebrated monuments, historic landmarks, cathedrals, bridges, museums, were all worthwhile attractions. Though, with all due respect and reverence, the street trees and pockets of urban forests were outstanding - impressive dramas that largely went unnoticed. For a tree person, the beauty of Central Park rivaled the sanctioned points of interest. New York City was the hotbed for so many epic urban forestry stories to include the accidental introduction of the Chestnut blight in 1904, earliest reported case of Dutch Elm Disease (DED) in 1928, and

the epicenter for urban forestry science, public policy, and civic superiority. Perhaps no other American metropolis matched the scale of New York City's efforts to establish and preserve an urban forest canopy. These vagabond shoes were longing to stray right through the heart of it - New York, New York. If urban forestry can make it there, it can make it anywhere.

During this particular trip, nowhere else was the gospel of trees spoken more eloquently than under Central Park's most significant arboricultural attraction of the cathedral-like canopy of American elms (*Ulmus americana*). Ironically, urban isolation provided protection from DED for what is now perhaps the largest, and last remaining, stand of American elms. The canopy of trees provided a grand gathering place for people. The leaves and branches filtered the sun like stained glass, birds were

singing hymns, and each park bench was as if a church pew. The experience was not unlike an inspirational sermon. The trees were a living testimony to the importance of living landmarks in the city landscape. **Be a landmark in your landscape.** Does your city or town have its own arboricultural landmark(s)? Are we identifying them? Are we celebrating them? Are we marketing them? Are we creating and cultivating them? Upon deeper contemplation, I thought about the importance of being a landmark inside a personal and professional landscape. Note, the ideas were inspired when sitting among and observing trees, and not by touring distinguished buildings, acclaimed monuments, tall towers, and spires planted throughout the city. There are lessons to learn when musing among trees.

*continues on pg. 6*



*Photo credit: Ed Yourdon from New York City, USA - Central Park foliage photo-walk, Nov 2009 - © Creative Commons (CC BY-SA 2.0)*

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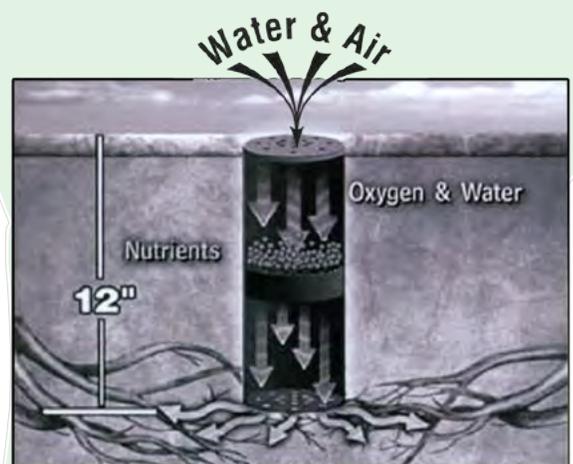
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For example, there is beauty and strength in a tree, but there is boundless grace and enduring power in a forest. **Unite with others and stand as a forest.** The Florida Urban Forestry Council (FUFC) is a perfect example of the virtue and merit of strength in numbers.

With this in mind, *The Council Quarterly* newsletter invited the FUFC Executive Committee members to collectively share a few anonymous scribbles, anecdotes, verse, quotes, and thoughts inspired by trees. These tree truths and reflections unveil a reserved wisdom of trees and forests. Indeed,

they are synonymous to our personal and professional lives. Perhaps they will provide inspiration for a lecture, key address, lesson plan, sermon, or a random conversation about trees and the urban forests. For your contemplation and enjoyment we give you the following:

- "Want green and living thoughts; stand in a green and living wood." – *A hermit*
- "A grateful acorn sprouts up and out, and all about." – *A poet*
- "Babe, just look at the trees and you'll understand that God did not create us to be small." – *Paul Bunyan*
- "Like a tree, we grow from the tip of our branches – the edges of our comfort zones." – *A ballerina*
- "You got to do your own growing no matter how tall your grandparents were." – *Sequoia John*
- "Increase your drip line – Increase your circle of influence." – *A mentor*
- "Trees are silent. It is a way of being. Silence leaves space for others to speak. It leaves space for emotions and landscapes to speak." – *heavy metal musician*
- "Remember your roots. No roots, no branches." – *a gardener*
- "Stand tall, even though others want to chop you down." – *politician*
- "Welcome sunny days. Welcome rainy days. Welcome every day." – *The optimist*
- "Make fresh air not hot air." – *News Editor*
- "Did you ever notice that the most radiant blossoms are not always on the tallest trees?" – *a bumble bee*
- "To obtain the light of the sun simply reach for the stars." – *astronomer*
- "The need for trees is breathtaking." – *Olympic swimmer*
- "Run rings around your past as you grow toward your future." – *Robert The Redeemer*
- "To obtain the fruit, you must go out on a limb." – *an apple picker*
- "Trees challenge us to be our highest self." – *rock climber*
- "Be outstanding – be outside." – *backcountry hiker*
- "The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The next best time is now." – *Chinese proverb*
- "I have written many verses, but the best poems I have produced are the trees I have planted." – *Oliver Wendell Holms*
- "The best place to plant a tree is in the mind of a child." – *Park Ranger*
- "The urban forestry story is as good as gold if properly told." – *Andy O'Brian and the Leprechaun*
- "Trees are good. They don't chase me or eat me. They are content to just stand and watch me run and race." – *Gingerbread Man*
- "A society grows great when old men plant trees. . ." – *Greek proverb*
- "A community grows with its urban tree canopy; and just like trees, if a community is not growing, it is dying." – *Florida Forest Service Ranger*
- "Community trees are the protective walls of a castle. When a part crumbles and falls, you rebuild it, or replace it."  
– *A Round Table knight of the Florida Forest Service*
- "Touch the wind, but let it go. Touch the earth, and hold on tight." – *Douglas Wood*
- "None of us are getting out of this life alive. Thank goodness for offspring and renewable resources." – *a Phoenix proverb*
- "To exist as a nation, to prosper as a state, and to live as a people, we must have trees." – *Theodore Roosevelt*
- "Without trees, aspirin and other pharmaceuticals would simply be placebos." – *Pharmacist*
- "Without trees, the value of your home would sky rocket to rival that of ocean front property in Nevada." – *Realtor*
- "Without trees, Noah would have been swimming with a shark rather than floating on the ark." – *The theologian*
- "Without trees, this planet would have never given birth to earth." – *The philosopher*





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# STUMP THE FORESTER

**QUESTION:** The cross sections, or tree cookies, I use to teach my class about trees always fall apart and don't last long. Can you help?

**ANSWER:** Where do you get a good tree cookie when you need one? You have the recipe down for chocolate chip cookies; your neighborhood Girl Scout can satisfy your craving for thin mints; but when it comes to whipping up a batch of high fiber, multi-ringed tree cookies, most of us are not sure where to turn. The purpose of this article is to tell you how to make tree cookies that not only look good, but will also hold-up in a classroom for years.

"Tree Cookies," Activity 76, in the PreK-8, *Project Learning Tree* activity guide has always been a favorite at workshops. Educators are always rolling out requests for cookies. To meet the demand I found a tree, a saw, and had at it. Ten minutes of work produced what I thought was the finished product — a cardboard box of rough-cut tree slices. Were they pretty? No. Could you count the rings? Sort of, if you looked close.

Through time, and the process of natural decay, the box of tree cookies had been transformed into a box of fungus fragments.

After a moment of thoughtful reflection, I recalled that wood is renewable, recyclable, and unfortunately, biodegradable. The added ingredients of time, trial and error, and humility led to an improved recipe for tree cookies. Tree selection, drying, slicing, sanding, and final finish are the five main steps for making a lasting tree cookie.

**Tree Selection:** My favorite tree cookies are made from pine trees. Pines are plentiful, the annual growth rings are easily seen, the wood is soft, and easy

to cut and sand. I prefer trees about the diameter of an aluminum soda can at their base - between two to four inches in diameter. To keep the tree cookies from all looking the same, select different trees with a variety of growth rates, patterns, and from varied sites. Include suppressed, slow-growing trees and fast, rapidly-growing trees. When cutting small trees and trimming unwanted branches, I use a large tooth pruning saw (available at hardware stores). Bucking (cutting) the stem into three or four foot lengths, or poles, makes for easy preparation for the next step.

**Drying the Wood:** A vital step in the tree cookie recipe is to dry the wood. If you have access to a lumber kiln at a Chip-n-Saw mill, drying the wood when in the pole stage is a good time to do it. Just ask the yard supervisor to place the tree cookie poles in with the lumber being dried. After three or four days in the kiln the poles should be sufficiently dry and much lighter. If you don't have access to a kiln, just go to the slicing step and worry about drying later.

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*"My favorite tree cookies are made from pine trees. Pines are plentiful, the annual growth rings are easily seen, the wood is soft, and easy to cut and sand."*

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**Tree Cookie Slicing:** The next step is to take the poles and slice them into cookies. This means sawing the wood into cookie-shaped segments between one to two inches thick. This is best accomplished by a motor driven saw such as a radial arm saw. However, the same

pruning saw that was used to harvest the tree may be used to slice the poles as well. Whatever method used, always remember **SAFETY FIRST!**



*If you would like to 'stump the forester,' see page 19 for information on submitting your question!*

**Drying the Tree Cookie:** If the wood was not previously dried, dry the cookies now. This may be done by storing the cut cookies in a dry, well-ventilated area with low humidity for three to ten days. Take care to turn them over periodically to allow both sides to dry. Placing them on a driveway on a sunny day also works well. If you need faster results, it is possible to carefully and slowly dry them in an oven set on “warm.” This should be done under close monitoring and supervision. Place the wood cookies on a cookie sheet (of course) or foil and slowly dry for three to five hours, turning the cookies over occasionally.

**Tree Cookie Sanding:** Sanding a properly dried wood cookie may be done by hand or with a mechanical, table-mounted, belt sander. The initial sanding should be done with course paper followed by medium grade paper. Place the sandpaper on a flat surface and sand your cookies until you can observe the annual rings easily. This is a dusty job; if possible, do it outside under the shade of a tree.

**Tree Cookie Finish:** Now your tree cookies need a protective coating if they are to stand up to the rigors of life in the classroom. You may want to keep some cookies uncoated so students can smell the wood. For those that are going to be coated, use clear polyurethane. The polyurethane may be brushed, dipped, or sprayed on. And, with most cookies, the more frosting or finish, the better. Good Luck!

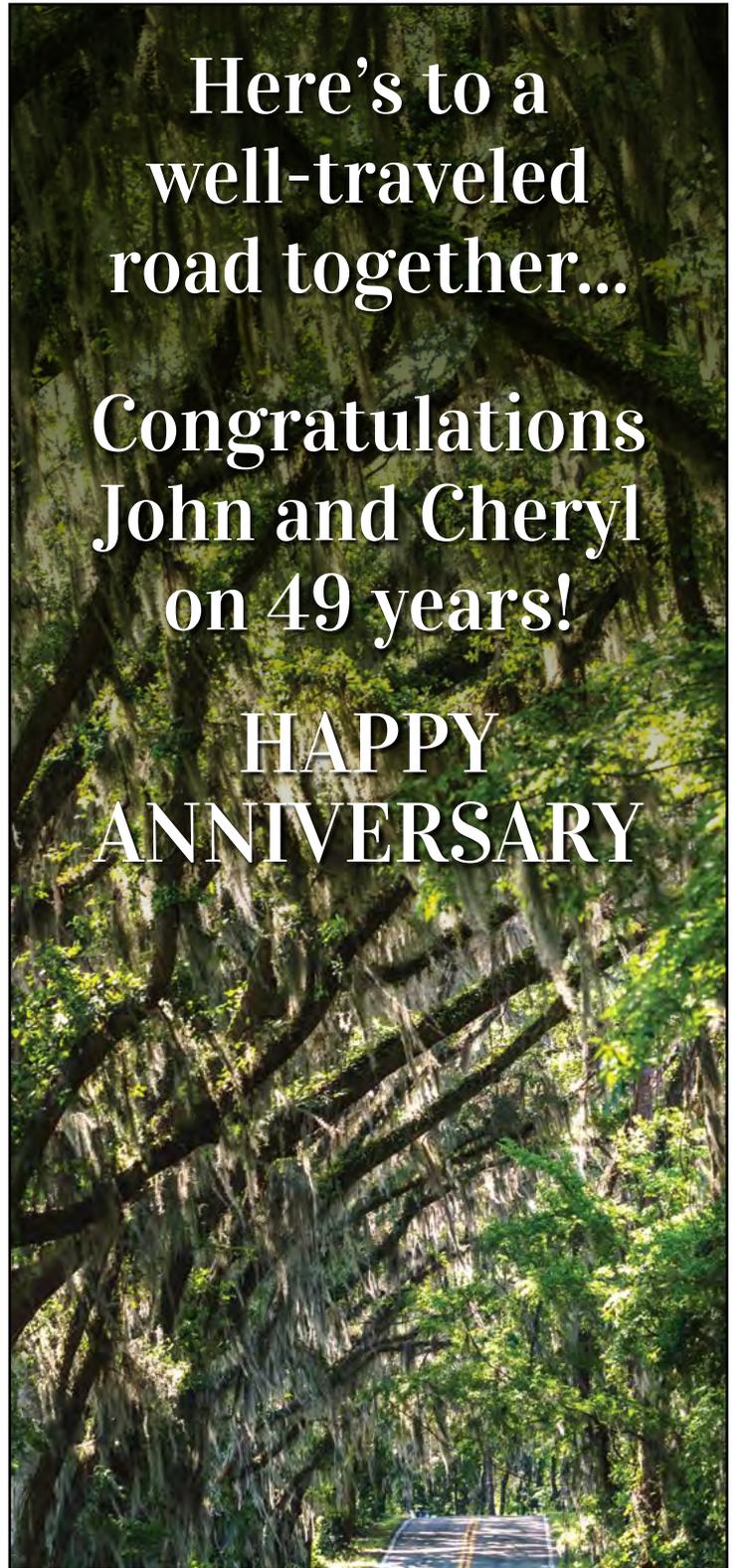
*Answer provided by Joseph “Joe” Mackenzie, Senior Forester,  
Florida Forest Service*



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# Tree of the Quarter

## COMMON ELDERBERRY (*Sambucus nigra*)

Submitted by Joe Anderson – Certified Arborist and Utility Forester with JEA

Common Elderberry (*Sambucus nigra*), also known as American Elder, Florida Elder, and Southern Elder, is a Florida native, sun loving, shrub or small tree. It is a fast grower with a mature height of 15 to 20 feet--rarely over 30 feet tall. It is not a popular street tree, but it can sure surprise any natural buffer, ditch line, or utility right-of-way with a splash of flowery color and the taste of a good berry.



**Habitat** – Nova Scotia to Central America. Thriving in full sun, it will grow in a variety of soil types--wet and dry. A sun-lover, the elderberry does well along the forest edge, and the margins of natural buffers, landscape designs, and disturbed areas such as drainage ditches, ponds, swamps, abandoned lots, pastures, and old fields.

**Leaves** – In Florida’s warm climate, the elderberry can retain its leaves through the winter months, or may be semi-deciduous. Leaves are compound, opposite pairs, variable in size and form, commonly 10-30 cm long, elliptical, or ovate. Apical leaflets often possess a long tapering point. The compound leaf has five to seven leaflets with serrated margins. Leaves have a dark green upper surface with a pale green underside. Leaf veins terminate at leaf tooth – not the nodes between teeth.

**Bark** – Young smooth and light grey bark becomes rough and darker with age-- forming lengthwise furrows. Young stems are often dotted with circular, wart like, lenticels/nodes.

**Branches** – Young branches form soft, pithy (hollow), nearly herbaceous, weak, arching branches. The elderberry is a woody stemmed tree. Many poisonous look-a-likes have herbaceous stems.

**Roots** – Roots can emit a disagreeable odor when disturbed. Root-cuttings propagate easily.

**Flowers** – Ivory white, lacy, flat-top, umbrella-like (corymb), aromatic clusters. Cluster size 10-25 cm in diameter; Peak bloom late spring to mid-summer; Flowers are edible.



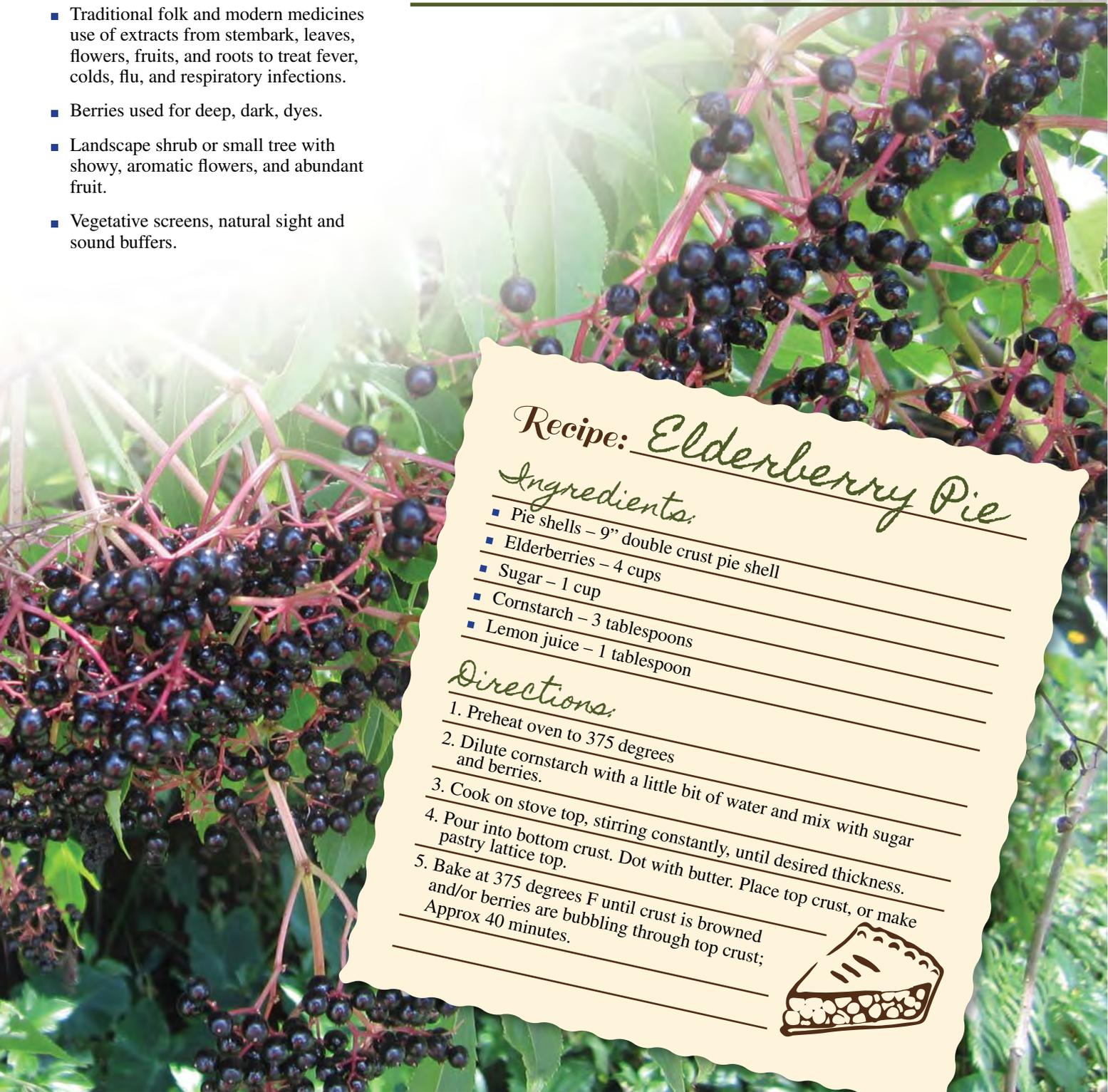
**Fruit and Seed** – Fleshy, glossy, dark purple to black, bb-sized, (3-5mm diameter) drooping berry clusters. Berry stalks are a red-purplish color. Florida's peak fruit period is between mid to late summer. Unripe berries can be mildly toxic. Ripe, dark purple berries are edible after cooking – used in jams, jellies, sauces, syrups, pie fillings, and wine.

**Usefulness:**

- Valuable food and vegetative cover for wildlife. Dense foliage for nesting birds.
- Traditional folk and modern medicines use of extracts from stem bark, leaves, flowers, fruits, and roots to treat fever, colds, flu, and respiratory infections.
- Berries used for deep, dark, dyes.
- Landscape shrub or small tree with showy, aromatic flowers, and abundant fruit.
- Vegetative screens, natural sight and sound buffers.

**Little known facts:**

- Only the purple berries and white flowers are edible. All green parts, to include unripe berries, are poisonous.
- Ripe berries are high in vitamin C and have antioxidant properties.
- Red berries of other species are toxic and should not be gathered or eaten.
- Hollow stems have been used to make flutes and blowguns.
- Propagated through seeds, cuttings, root suckers.
- Heat and cold tolerant.
- Flowers possess both male and female reproductive organs.
- Calcium oxalates found within the bark are the same component found in kidney stones – never a good thing.



*Recipe: Elderberry Pie*

*Ingredients*

- Pie shells – 9" double crust pie shell
- Elderberries – 4 cups
- Sugar – 1 cup
- Cornstarch – 3 tablespoons
- Lemon juice – 1 tablespoon

*Directions*

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees
2. Dilute cornstarch with a little bit of water and mix with sugar and berries.
3. Cook on stove top, stirring constantly, until desired thickness.
4. Pour into bottom crust. Dot with butter. Place top crust, or make pastry lattice top.
5. Bake at 375 degrees F until crust is browned and/or berries are bubbling through top crust; Approx 40 minutes.





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# TEACHING TREES

Submitted by: Joe Anderson – JEA Forester

The best place to plant a tree is in the mind and heart of a child. They are the roots of great ideas and grand solutions that will woo us away from future woes.

## Trees, Children and Waldkindergartens:

Perhaps, Robert Fulghum, in his 1986 book, “*All I really needed to know I learned in kindergarten*,” relates to a larger and broader narrative than was his original intent. In the U.S., kindergarten is a play-based curriculum inside our formal education system. Kindergarten is a German word that means “garden for the children.” The name was coined in 1840 by Friedrich Froebel. The German educator believed that teachers and tutors are akin to gardeners – nurturing and tending to children like plants in a garden.

The Waldkindergarten is a modern cultivar of Friedrich Froebel’s early kindergarten concept. The German word *Waldkinder* translates to “forest children.” Waldkindergartens are outdoor classrooms where the forest is the school. They are especially popular in Germany and gained momentum in the 1950s and 1960s. Waldkindergartens have taken root in the U.S. and are affectionately referred to as Forest Kindergartens. The outdoor classroom enables children to gain independence, self-confidence, stamina, and develop a sense of curiosity, familiarity, and compassion for nature. After all, how can children develop a caring relationship with nature without spending time outside? How, once adults, will they have the wherewithal to navigate a political system that will dictate environmental law – rules and regulations that will either safeguard or compromise our natural and physical environments. Where will children develop the drive to, one day, steer civic duty and responsibility beyond the boundaries of a man-made world?

## Trees, Children, and NDD:

People need a daily dose of green space; and children need the treatment of trees to foster a kinship with all things natural. Nature Deficit Disorder (NDD) is a phrase coined by Richard Louv, in his 2005 book, “*Last Child in the Woods*.” NDD encompasses the signs, symptoms, and negative impacts caused by an alienation from nature. If many of the ills and

dilemmas we face today are the result of NDD, perhaps trees are a plausible treatment. Perhaps the forest – even the urban forest – should be a school of thought.

## Trees, Children, and Arbor Day:

What better way to bring trees into the passionate threads of affection than through the heartstrings of a parent. Plant a tree in the mind and heart of a child and you have effectively tilled the heart and mind of an adult – and in some instances a whole community, or movement.

For instance, Julius Sterling Morton, a Nebraska pioneer, newspaper editor, and avid tree advocate saw the need to put down roots in a treeless Nebraska landscape. His efforts to champion the cause for the planting of trees led to the founding of National Arbor Day in 1872.

It took nearly a decade to gain momentum and not until Arbor Day was linked with children and schools. In 1882, John Bradley Peaslee, Superintendent of Schools, in Cincinnati, Ohio, was inspired by Arbor Day to lead schools of children into Cincinnati’s Eden Park to plant trees. Each tree was dedicated to an American author. Thousands of citizens participated in the event. In the following year, Peaslee repeated the performance. Once Peaslee linked the event with school children planting and learning about trees, Arbor Day flourished and took on a new life. By 1884, Peaslee attempted to stake his claim to fame as the true Arbor Day guardian. In the end, J. Sterling Morton prevailed as the founding father of Arbor Day. By 1895, as U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, Morton initiated high-profile Arbor Day celebrations, to include schools and children, and a new American holiday took root.

## One Tree Per School:

Trees and schools recently came together in Jacksonville, FL with the kickoff of a *One Tree Per School* joint venture. *One Tree Per School* is part of the [#jaxdigstrees](#) celebration honoring the fifteen-year passage of Jacksonville’s Tree Amendment Charter. *Scenic Jacksonville* ([www.scenicjax.org](#)), a nonprofit environmental group, joined

forces with *Greenscape of Jacksonville* ([www.greenscapeofjacksonville.com](#)), Jacksonville’s premier tree advocacy group, City Council, and the Duval County Public Schools (DCPS) to kickoff Phase 1 of the program.

One hundred and sixty (160) elementary, middle, and high schools, would each receive one, 30-gallon tree. Fourteen “celebration schools” would be receiving a 65-gallon ceremonial tree. All trees would be native trees, planted by a tree care professional, and pass the DCPS approval standards. The program was funded by the City’s tree mitigation dollars--outlined in the original Tree Amendment Charter. In the next year, Phase 2 would target schools with adequate open space for additional trees and would involve more student and community interaction.

Not all trees would make the grade. The selected tree species had to be compatible with the intended use of the site--environmental design and management of school facilities. Maintenance requirements, line-of-site clearances, utility right-of-ways, safety, security, existing vegetation, and other specific concerns were qualifying factors. For example, the temptation by children to eat the bean-like seed pods of eastern redbud (*Cercis canadensis*), or the cherry-red seeds of the Southern magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*) may have disqualified the species at an elementary school. The round, rolling, fruit balls of the American sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), and the American sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*), could easily rule out the tree from being planted in close proximity to high foot traffic area.

## Florida Teaches Trees:

There are many ways and techniques to plant trees in the minds and hearts of children. There are tree-mendous opportunities to teach trees and to tutor students about Florida forests.

The mission of the Florida Urban Forestry Council (FUFC) ([www.FUFC.org](#)) is to promote the value, enhancement, and sound management of urban forests through leadership and education. The FUFC

continues on pg. 14

hosts a website, an annual Urban Forestry Institute (UFI) conference, newsletter, an *In A Nutshell* on-line billboard, regional workshops, and a speaker's bureau.

The Florida Forest Service (FFS) ([www.freshfromflorida.com](http://www.freshfromflorida.com)) recognizes that education is a valuable component to their mission to protect and manage forest resources. The FFS offers educational opportunities and materials for educators and students to learn about Florida forests. The *Florida Forestry Teachers' Tour* is one example. Each summer, the *Florida Forestry Teachers' Tour* brings 45 teachers from across the state to Fernandina Beach for four days to learn how forestry and the forest industry work in Florida. The FFS also administers the Arbor Day Foundation ([www.arborday.org](http://www.arborday.org)) initiatives in Florida, to include, *Tree City USA*, *Tree Campus*

*USA*, and *Tree Line USA*. Tree plantings and public education are incorporated into the core standards of these programs.

The University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences ([www.ifas.ufl.edu](http://www.ifas.ufl.edu)) is a great resource when teaching trees. Teaching about trees and forestry is aligned with their mission to deliver unsurpassed programs that prepare students for the critical challenges related to agriculture and natural resources. Urban Forestry agents are available to provide educational programs on urban tree management and to serve as a source of urban tree information to commercial tree companies and Florida residents.

Florida Project Learning Tree (PLT) (<http://sfrc.ufl.edu/plt>) is an award-winning, tree-related, time-tested environmental education

program designed for teachers and other educators, parents and community leaders working with youth from preschool through grade 12. PLT promotes trees and forests as open windows to the world. PLT offers professional development opportunities and curriculum supplements to PLT, including the "Urban Forests" supplement (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/FR/FR16400.pdf>).

Local tree advocacy groups, arboretums, botanical gardens, parks, and nature and outdoor education centers are found throughout the Sunshine State, providing a variety of marvelous methods, tremendous tools, and a parade of programs all designed to teach and plant trees in the mind and heart of children. It is here, in the teaching of trees, that we will find the roots of great ideas and grand solutions that will woo us away from future woes.

## Advice From A Tree

By Ilan Shamir



Dear Friend,  
Stand tall and proud  
Sink your roots into the earth  
Reflect the light of a greater source  
Think long term  
Go out on a limb  
Remember your place among all living beings  
Embrace with joy the changing seasons  
For each yields its own abundance  
The energy and birth of spring  
The growth and contentment of summer  
The wisdom to let go of leaves in the fall  
The rest and quiet renewal of winter  
Feel the wind and the sun  
And delight in their presence  
Look up at the moon that shines down upon you  
And the mystery of the stars at night  
Seek nourishment from the good things in life  
Simple pleasures  
Earth, fresh air, light  
Be content with your natural beauty  
Drink plenty of water  
Let your limbs sway and dance in the breeze  
Be flexible  
Remember your roots  
Enjoy the view!

# Working in Harmony with Nature

**Sumter Electric Cooperative has always placed a high priority on the environment** by working to stay in harmony with nature. Evidence of SECO's environmental stewardship is displayed through the following programs.

## **Sumter Electric Cooperative:**

- was named a *Tree Line USA* utility for the fourth consecutive year by *The National Arbor Day Foundation*. Employee arboriculture training, public education, and maintaining abundant, healthy trees in SECO's service area are common practices.
- installs osprey nesting dishes atop of the utility pole cross arms as needed for these magnificent birds.
- places squirrel guards atop the transformers to protect a variety of animals from danger, particularly squirrels.
- offers net metering to members interested in renewable generation such as photovoltaic systems.
- recycles retired power equipment, scrap steel, aluminum, copper, porcelain, fluorescent lights, ink printer and copier cartridges, plus much more.
- researches and writes *Nature's Reflections*, a special column in the members' newsletter developed to educate the community on the flora and fauna of Florida with eco-friendly topics like xeriscaping and conservation.



# Call for Entries!



## CATEGORIES

- OUTSTANDING PROFESSIONAL
- OUTSTANDING TREE ADVOCATE OR TREE ADVOCACY GROUP
- OUTSTANDING PROJECT
- OUTSTANDING URBAN FORESTRY PROGRAM
- LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

To apply online or for more information about categories, please go to [www.fufc.org/awards\\_information.php](http://www.fufc.org/awards_information.php)

## GUIDELINES

- Nominate your own work, the work of your organization or the work of another.
- Each application must be typed and presented in a standard three-ring binder (no larger than ½ inch capacity). The completed awards entry form must be the first page of the application. The second page of the application should be a 200-word overview of the nomination. (Note: For winning nominations, the overview of the nomination will be used for presentation purposes and to highlight the individual, project or program in *The Council Quarterly* newsletter.) Following the brief overview should be a summary of not more than three typewritten pages that describe the project's, program's or individual's contribution to urban and community forestry as outlined in the Award Categories.
- Support documentation such as photographs, press clippings, printed pieces, and letters of commendation are encouraged, but shall be limited to 12 additional pages. All supporting documents must be attached or secured inside the application. Please, no loose documentation such as videotapes. Each application must include at least three digital photos in order to be considered. Examples include photos of the individual recipient, project logo, etc.
- Deadline for entry is **October 28, 2017**. Apply online, or submit the original, one full copy and the three digital photos to:  
Friends of Our Urban Forest Awards Program  
Florida Urban Forestry Council  
Post Office Box 547993  
Orlando, FL 32854-7993



All submitted materials become property of the Florida Urban Forestry Council. **Please note:** The Awards Committee reserves the right to reassign the entry to another category if deemed appropriate. For questions or additional entry forms, please contact Sandy Temple, Florida Urban Forestry Council Executive Director at (407) 872-1738.

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# Join Us

Our members are the lifelines of our mission.  
Thank you for your continued support.

*New and renewed members through June 30, 2017. Please let us know if we fail to mention your name.*

## SUPPORTING

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Justin Freedman..... (2015)



# 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 Joe Anderson, FUFCC newsletter editor, at [andejs@jea.com](mailto:andejs@jea.com).

Thanks for contributing!



# MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

**Make check or money order payable to FUFCC and mail to:**

Post Office Box 547993, Orlando, FL 32854-7993

Categories (please check one):

- Professional @ \$25.00**  
(Professional membership is open to anyone who is actively working in the profession of Urban Forestry or any related profession.)
- Tree Advocate @ \$20.00**  
(Tree Advocate membership is granted to those volunteers who are members of a tree board, beautification committee or other Urban Forestry volunteer group.)
- Supporting @ \$200.00**  
(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.)
- Government/Non-Profit Agency @ \$100.00**  
(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.)

Name:

Title:

Firm:

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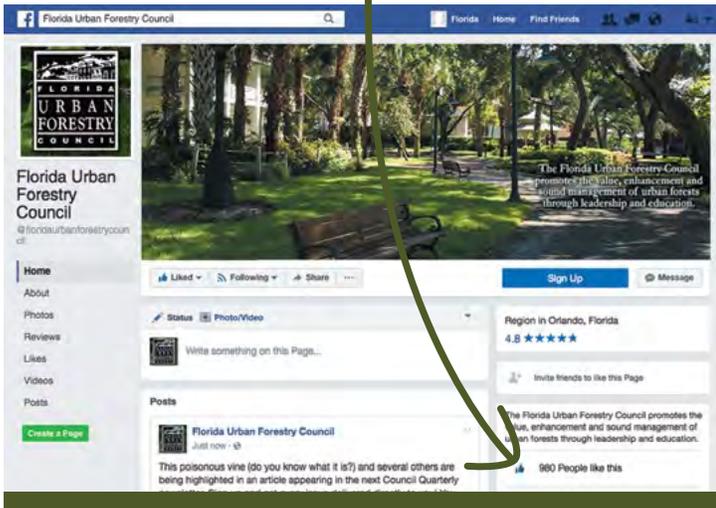
Would you be interested in further information regarding serving on a Council subcommittee?  Yes  No

Area of interest:

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For more information or change of address,  
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 Fax: (407) 872-6868  
 E-Mail: [info@fufc.org](mailto:info@fufc.org)  
 Website: [www.fufc.org](http://www.fufc.org)

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**Vacancy** - Florida Recreation and Park  
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**Vacancy** - Advisory Member (two)

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