

Council



Quarterly Newsletter of the Florida Urban Forestry Council

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TREE-MINDED STUDENTS

Submitted by Henrique Ribeiro, Project Manager – Information and Policy Analysis Center, Inc.



The younger generations of today are not always fond of outdoor activities like planting trees or beautifying landscapes. The reason could be due to the significant drop in hours children and teens spend around trees playing outside or in public parks. The popularity of smartphones or other electronic devices makes indoor hours the norm. Increasingly, children and young teens of today are not only indifferent about

trees and nature, but also unconcerned about their well-being. Many never had the opportunity to plant a tree or be around urban forests or any forest for that matter. Slowly the connection these youths have with nature diminishes and trees become nothing more than a swaying natural prop. Instilling a sense of admiration and perception of the environmental significance adherent to trees and Urban Forestry is vital when educating the next generation of global citizens.

Working in the Florida public school system allows you to experience varying degrees of educational needs throughout the state, within a broad range of social contexts. There needs to be greater emphasis on providing experiences in nature for students. Public parks with shady canopies are not in every neighborhood, nor are natural areas close by to newly-developed communities as they should be. Nevertheless, there needs to be a focus toward providing urban forest settings and wooded parks. The real challenge is getting students to understand the importance and relevance of trees for their own well-being.

There is no better way to impact your local community than through inspiring tree-planting programs in private and public schools. It is here we will find Florida's future urban foresters and environmentally-conscious citizens. Schools are always looking for new ways to educate their students while involving their local community. Most likely, administrators and teachers will be very open to ideas. One might think that there needs to be

a complicated level of planning, ample funding and organizational expertise to be able to pull off an event with hundreds of students, but that is not the case.

Although there will be hurdles to jump through, the obstacles are manageable and few. Managing around a school's busy event schedule, getting a school's authorization for a project, and coordinating the best days for a project with teachers rank among the most common challenges. Here are some quick tips on how to get a tree planting/ urban forest project started in your community. Getting a tree project to occur in either a school or in a public park is always a great way to educate our next generation of global citizens.

Communicating Your Idea

Schools are always trying to find new avenues to educate students. Teachers and

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Welcome to summer in the urban forests of Florida. Our focus this quarter is on education and awards that strengthen interest and knowledge about the importance of trees in our lives and communities. Think about some of the most important things you know about and when you first learned about them. My guess is you learned many important things early in school and from your parent(s). Lasting impressions are made at a young age, so getting

urban forestry and tree experiences to grade school children is important to interest them in tree-related careers and tree-related concerns.

For example, my first tree-related experiences came from 4-H, a cooperative extension program for youth, and walking in the woods with my grandpa and Dad. Promoting outdoor experiences and trees also came at a young age. My first appearance in a TV commercial was at 8 years old to promote the 4-H program in Schenectady County, NY where I grew up. Going from a young, green 4-Her to President of the Florida Urban Forestry Council is a lifetime of urban forestry learning, doing, sharing, and leading. Hopefully our articles this quarter will inspire you to share your experiences, and the trees of your community, with others--from youth to elders.

I agree that it is never too late to learn. Please read the motivating examples of sharing the importance of trees through volunteering to provide school tree planting presentations (with actually planting a tree or trees for increasing the urban forest at the school), through the excellent Project Learning Tree (PLT) program across Florida, and the visits from our Florida Treeture and the TreeCircus with Tim Womick that are so popular every year. Being part of our Florida Urban Forestry Council has many benefits and sharing the benefits of trees with others is something we can all do with the help of our Speakers Bureau and by reaching out, or branching out, together. Thanks for promoting the urban forests of Florida!

staff also have to meet statewide educational standards when doing so. In recent years school districts all over the country have been pushing to reinforce STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) to develop leaders in these career paths and to move the country forward in these fundamental areas. When approaching the school be sure to highlight how planting trees with students will supplement their lectures and increase their knowledge about environmental science and support a sense of community building. Each grade (Kindergarten-12) has different standards to be met and taught. These standards are included in a science, math, reading, and writing curriculum. A tree planting project is a perfect opportunity for teachers to connect lectures and lesson plans to trees. Any grade can take advantage of this.

To make the process faster and demonstrate credibility, it is a great idea to present yourself at the school. Usually, the best way is to walk into the school's front office and speak to a secretary or front desk administrator. You must be prepared to give them your quick and simple "elevator speech" of what you are trying to accomplish. This can also be done over the phone if you're not able to visit the school. The conversation might go something like this, "Hello my name is _John Doe_ and I am here to speak to your science coordinator or school principal for a few minutes about a specific educational opportunity I believe your students can benefit from."

School teachers and staff are very busy. The front office secretary might not be able to connect you precisely at that moment to the right person. No worries, you already have your foot in the door. Get the contact information—E-mail and phone number--of

In Support,

John Harris FUFC President

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, *FUFC Executive Director* (407-872-1738).

the person that can help you. Teachers usually have a break period each day where you might be able to meet in person and pitch your project to them. If you are not able to connect with them in person, explain in a phone call or E-mail how they can create an excellent tree-planting opportunity with their students.

You can also speak directly to a school administrator about your plan if you feel comfortable, and in this case, they would communicate directly to teachers on implementing your tree-planting project. Keep in mind, principals are arguably the busiest

people in a school campus, so you may have to approach a teacher if you aren't able to see the principal. It should not take long to communicate your idea and get approval.

Preparing Resources and Materials

To carry out a tree-planting project you will need at least one tree, a few 50-pound bags of topsoil, shovels, and rakes. To acquire these materials you can seek "in-kind" support from your local home-improvement store, local nursery or other business. Schools are not the only ones looking for ways to involve the community in projects benefiting students and youth. Often companies are incentivized to support their community by either going out into the community or supporting community projects. This is often the case with many of the home improvement stores with garden centers and local nurseries. Often you will be asked to fill out a standard "in-kind" form. You may be asked to write up a request letter informing them of your need. Have a printed document handy in either case containing the essential information. This will get the attention of the company whenever you are E-mailing companies for resources or meeting with representatives.

You want to have these communications on file. On this document or through your interactions with the company or business, narrate the "goal" of your project or what the project is trying to accomplish in the community. Always be clear about what you are asking for. Detail how many trees you need, bags of soil and number of shovels and rakes necessary to make this project possible. Provide the date of your project and highlight the value of the program to

their interest and the interest of the students. With this, you should have everything you need for the project. The major takeaway here is to compel the various stakeholders to understand the importance of their support.

Finally, as will be explained, make sure you have the school's tax ID number or EIN

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principal."

number for tax purposes. Generally, public schools are considered by the IRS as government instrumentalities. This makes them tax exempt from Federal income tax. They can receive tax-deductible contributions. Whether or not a company will be able to make a tax-deductible

contribution to your project should not be a deal maker or breaker, but it is a useful benefit for donors. The probability of acquiring the necessary supplies and equipment should be greater with larger entities. After receiving approvals and securing tools and planting materials your next step is the last step.

Finalizing Your Plan of Action

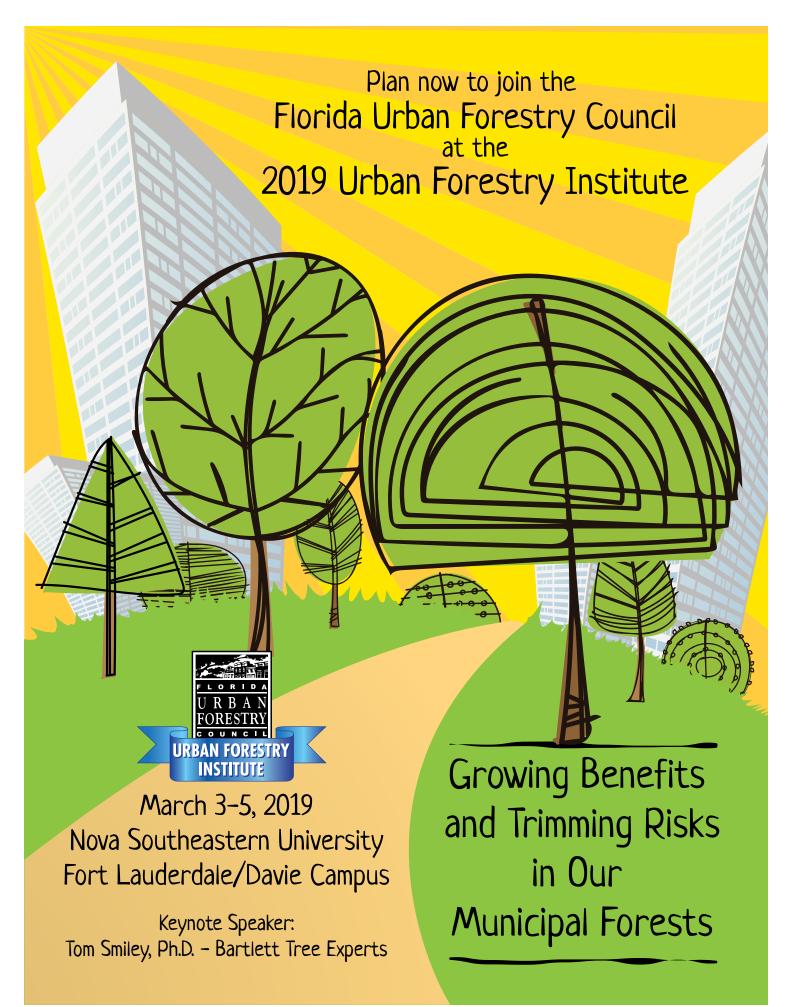
A prepared presentation with talking points will be useful. For example, you can use a PowerPoint presentation with fun facts. Be prepared to talk about how trees impact the environment--to include cities and neighborhoods. Share information about local environmental challenges concerning

trees and urban forests. The introduction should captivate the student's imagination. The project may spark a new life passion. Keep in mind, students of different gradelevels and various levels of exposure to this topic will be watching. Explaining some of the essential functions of urban forests and how they can reverse some of the effects of climate change goes a long way.

Schools are talking about how our climate is changing and how we influence that change. Allowing students to realize that they have the power to do something about it, and providing an actual experience of planting a tree, can impact students for a lifetime. If every school dedicated themselves to raising awareness about how the urban forests can improve air quality, decrease temperatures, improve storm water drainage, and other benefits, perhaps the future generations would be able to enhance the environment in ways we cannot even imagine.

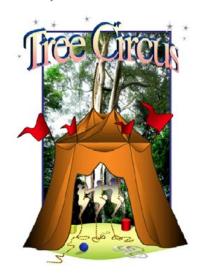
So when you are finally with your group or classroom, either in a large or small setting, remember to think back to what fascinated you about trees and forests. Urban Forestry projects can be the spark that ignites the flame of ingenuity and environmentalism in your community. Ripples of change start with small acts and steps. As the ripples expand they eventually turn into something wide spread and transformational. It can certainly start with you enabling students to plant a tree.





EDUTAINMENT UNDER THE BIG TOP OF TREES

Submitted by Tim Womick, TreeCircus



Teaching trees is more than a transfer of knowledge about plants. To teach you must know, and to know you must have been inspired.

Who inspired you to love trees? The stories of Carl Linnaeus and John Muir who both became fascinated with nature quite young suggests the power of a grandparent-type influence. Just like in the plant kingdom, what happens during a young age can influence a lifetime.

Helping inspire audiences across the Sunshine State with the Florida Urban Forestry Council is the "Treeture" Steward, whose embroidered shirt says, "Trees are cool!" His creator, Judith Blau, has a special saying, "When a child gets a green-heart young, it will grow with them for a lifetime." Indeed, teach your children well.

To teach you must know, and to know you must have been inspired. Alex Shigo inspired me. Dr. Shigo was a long-time United States Forest Service research scientist and author of the book Modern Arboriculture, first published in 1991. The book's aim is "to give you what you need in a way you want it; clear, simple, brief, and practical." Successful teaching is just that: clear, simple, brief, and practical.

Dr. Shigo also wanted everyone to be familiar with the word arboriculture and the science behind it. Arboriculture means the care of trees. It also means the study of how trees grow and how they respond to their environment. Urban Foresters, arborists,

fruit growers, and nurserymen know that plants respond acutely to their environment. Students are like plants in this way.

Successful teaching requires the right environment. Your classroom should be well lit and at a comfortable temperature. If there is a microphone, use it. The more intimate the setting is the better the learning opportunity will be--always, always! If there are only fifteen students in your class, find somewhere other than the gymnasium. My experience reflects better group focus when student proximity is near to me, each other, and away from distraction.

Understanding the student(s) you are attempting to teach is integral. Be it Rotary or garden clubs, homeowners' associations, or a middle-school biology class, the more they feel your empathy toward them, the more they will learn. When possible, I find extreme value in going around the room and having folks articulate who they are and why they are there. Understanding their motivation will make you a better teacher for them.

I'm often asked what I do for a living and my answer, coined from a *TreeCircus* news story, is that I am an "edu-tainer."

The journalist continued by saying my performance-art was a place where entertainment and education collide. Sure, I've been called, "over-the-top" and "zany," but my decades of research and experience show there is nothing like giving someone a hearty, belly laugh while they are trying to digest a thick slice of science.

Teaching trees successfully requires you to know your subject so well you could deliver your presentation of lesson plans without notes. Students can smell uncertainty and easily recognize preparedness. When it comes from your heart there can be no mistake.

To teach you must know, and to know you must have been inspired. I've got a little something to add to Judith's "green heart" thing... "and it's never too late to get your green heart."

About the author: Edu-tainer Tim Womick is the inspiration behind TreeCircus, a high energy, inspiring performance that excites a captive audience about the value of trees. You can learn more about TreeCircus at https://treecircus.org.



STUMP THE FORESTER

QUESTION: When trimming trees for electrical lines, wouldn't it be better to remove a tree rather than have an unsightly tree with an odd shape?

ANSWER: Perhaps, and in many cases, perhaps not. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder. In the eyes of a utility arborist, this is a beautiful question. In general, the tree will remain if the benefits received from a tree outweigh liabilities. In the case of overhead utility lines, the liability would be an electrical hazard. If a hazard can be removed by appropriate pruning techniques, the benefits of a tree can be preserved. If a tree is within a city right-of-way, pruning may be preferred over removal in order to comply with an existing tree protection ordinance. Tree removal may be preferred if the integrity and health of a tree is compromised, if other hazards exist such as with a

declining tree, or if the tree will require persistent pruning, or present a high risk of frequent outages.

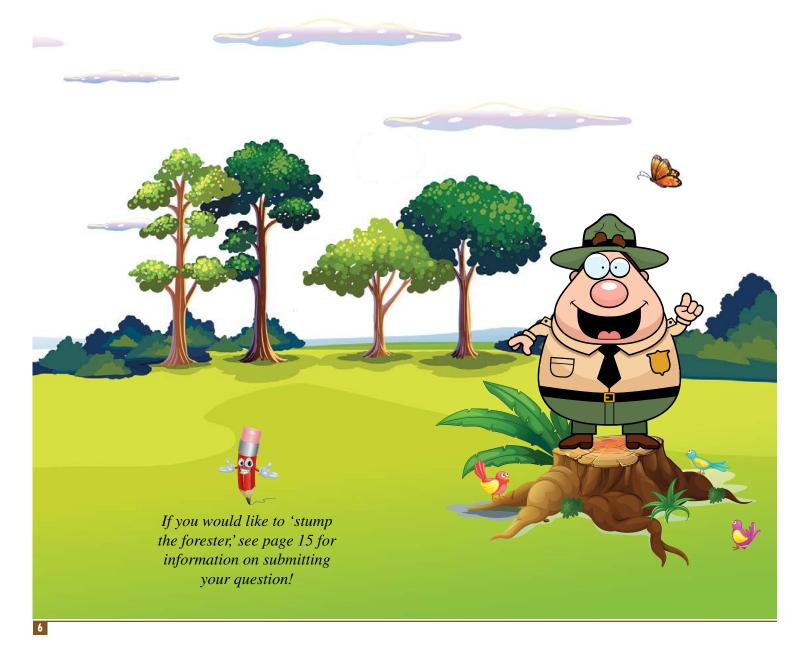
Power-line clearance is a highly specialized type of tree work, with added risks. When performing "line clearance" trimming, the need for public safety and service reliability may require pruning outside the scope of traditional landscape pruning guidelines. Responsible utilities strive to balance safety, electrical reliability, tree health, and tree aesthetics. Their priorities will lean heavier toward safety and electrical reliability. Some, outside the utility, may view aesthetics as a higher priority and would, therefore, prefer to have a tree removed.

Electrical hazards created by tree branches can be alleviated by *directional pruning*. This technique largely goes unnoticed if the pruning corrects the outer edges of a tree's

crown that reach into a utility right-ofway. Natural target pruning is a form of directional pruning that will "train" a tree to grow away from overhead power lines and power equipment. A tree's chemical distribution system, and the utility's electrical distribution system, remain intact and functional.

At best, utility pruning and tree removals can be avoided by planting the *right tree* in the right place years before the crown of the tree reaches the height of utility wires

Answer provided by Joe Anderson, Utility Forester with JEA



CERTIFICATION REVIEW WORKSHOPS

for



ISA Certified Arborist Utility Specialist

ISA Certified
Arborist Municipal
Specialist



CENTRAL FLORIDA

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2018

UF/IFAS Hillsborough County Extension Office 5339 County Road 579, Seffner, FL 33584

SOUTH FLORIDA

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2018

UF/IFAS Broward County Extension Office 3245 College Ave., Davie, FL 33314

These workshops take you through the Study Guide for either the ISA Certified Arborist Municipal Specialist or ISA Certified Arborist Utility Specialist in ONE DAY--introducing all the sections and key information for these certification programs and helping you prepare to take the exam and gain these important

industry credentials. Workshop attendees will select which breakout session they would like to attend: Municipal Specialist or Utility Specialist. Instructors will present sections from the Study Guides and give examples of using the information with their real-world experience.

FUFC is working with the Florida Chapter ISA to schedule Municipal Specialist and Utility Specialist Certification Exams to be held in Central & South Florida for late fall of 2018. Sign up today to begin preparing to become an ISA Certified Arborist Municipal Specialist or Utility Specialist.





Tree of Quarter

LOBLOLLY PINE

(Pinus taeda)

Submitted by Joe Anderson, Utility Forester – JEA



Commonly known as Loblolly Pine, *Pinus taeda*, is one of Florida's native, southern yellow pines. Throughout the southeast the Loblolly Pine is perhaps one of the most important commercial pines for the timber and pulp industry. The pine will not thrive in areas with severe winters, but it has a solid hold with southern climates.

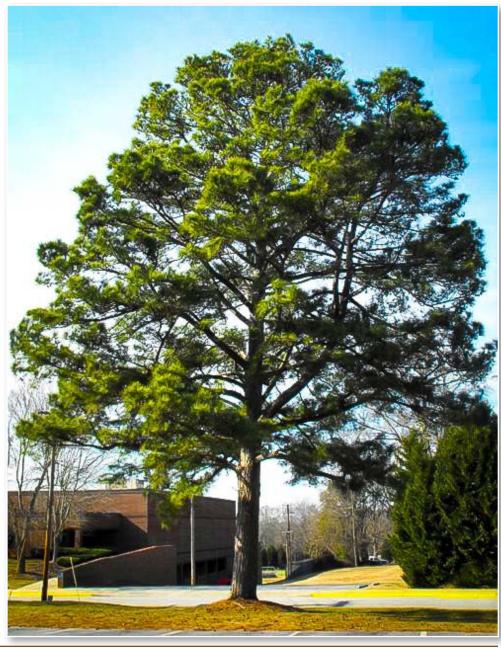
The word loblolly is likely a combination of *lob*, referencing thick heavy porridge and *lolly*, an old British word for thick soup-like gruel eaten by sailors onboard colonial sailing ships. The pine received the name *loblolly* because of its association with wet, soggy, soup-like, bottomlands and swamps. The Loblolly Pine is an early colonizer of abandoned fields and is sometimes referred to as *oldfield* pine. *Bull pine* is a nickname earned because of its mature size.

The Loblolly Pine is one of the fastest growing southern pines which adds to its importance in the commercial timber industry. Its value is not limited to rural landscapes and pine plantations. The Loblolly has earned a place in the urban and suburban scene. Its distinguished large, column-like trunk, attractive reddish brown bark, and its distinct pine fragrance can add value to natural buffers, open lots, or wooded parks. In the urban/suburban community, Loblolly Pines provide shade,

wind and noise barriers, soil stabilization, site occupancy, and a good source for pine straw.

Common Characteristics: As pines go, the Loblolly Pine is a relatively fast-growing tree. Potentially one of the tallest southern pines, the Loblolly can reach heights of 100 feet and diameters of 1-5 feet. The Loblolly can have a lifespan of nearly 100 years.

The Loblolly generally grows a straight trunk clear of lower branches. The long, spreading crown typically has well-developed branching habits. It is a very adaptable tree that can grow on most sites and soils. With proper planting and early irrigation, the Loblolly Pine is a relatively maintenance-free tree.



Needles: Bundles of three, often twisted, bluish-green needles, 5-8 inches long – an intermediate length for southern pines.

Cones: The Loblolly produces a large number of persistent cones per year – 3-6 inches in length. The tree produces both male and female cones. Cones turn brown after pollination.

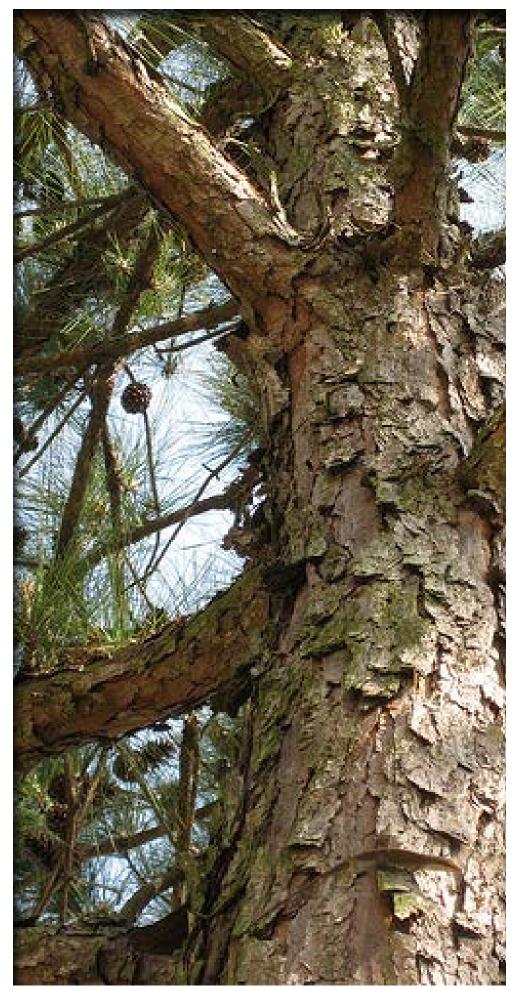
Burk: Reddish-brown, furrowed, with broad, elongated, irregular plates.

Root: Early in life, a tap root of 4-5 feet may develop. Upon maturity, the tree will have a network of lateral roots reaching 35 inches below the surface. This feature makes mature Loblollies resistant to wind throw despite their great height.

Wildlife Benefit: Group stands and tree clusters can provide habitat for deer, turkey, squirrels, and other small fur bearers. Loblolly seeds provide an abundant food source for nuthatches, warblers, and other passerines (perching song birds). Tall pines can provide high perches and nesting sites for birds of prey--hawks, osprey and eagles.

Interesting Facts:

- The urban/suburban forests lend easily to low-density pine stands, or tree clusters that are healthier, more vigorous, less competitive, and less susceptible to bark beetles and other pests than large, rural, homogeneous pine plantations.
- Burnt material from Loblolly Pine increases the nitrogen levels in soil when it decomposes a potential low-cost source for nitrogen in the soil.
- The Loblolly Pine is second only to the red maple (*Acer rubrum*) as the most widespread tree in the U.S.
- Uses include: furniture, plywood, pulpwood, composite board, posts, crates, pallets, essential oils, turpentine, and cosmetics.
- Loblolly Pine is one of the "moon" trees taken aboard Apollo 14 flight to the moon.
- Loblolly Pine can hybridize with Longleaf Pine (*Pinus palustris*).



FLORIDA PROJECT LEARNING TREE ANNOUNCES 2017 AWARD RECIPIENTS

Project Learning Tree®

Florida Project Learning Tree (FL PLT) advances environmental literacy and promotes stewardship through excellence in environmental education, professional development and curriculum resources that use trees and forests as windows on the world. The program is designed for teachers, non-formal educators, and parents and community leaders working with youth from preschool through grade 12.

Each year Florida Project Learning Tree recognizes a business partner, facilitator, and educator who have made outstanding contributions to the program. For 2017, awardees include the Solid Waste Authority of Palm Beach County (SWA) as Partner of the Year; Veronica Frehm as Facilitator of the Year; and Lara Milligan as Educator of the Year. Awards were presented at the annual FL PLT advanced professional development conference, "ConnectiviTREE: Sand Hills to Sandy Shores," held at the Suncoast Youth Conservation Center located in Apollo Beach on November 3–5, 2017.

PARTNER OF THE YEAR:



SWA has been a PLT Environmental Education Center since 2014, training about 50 educators each year using PLT curricula. Most of SWA's education staff are PLT facilitators. SWA staff promotes PLT trainings throughout Palm Beach County and conducts three trainings each year. SWA reaches about 20,000 individuals each year using PLT activities. Since the SWA's new waste-to-energy facility began commercial operation, and the LEED Platinum Education Center opened in July 2015, the SWA has seen an increase in the number of school tours delivered, community presentations, VIP tours, and the number of special events attended!

Willie Puz, Director of Public Affairs and Recycling (who accepted the award) encourages his education team to expand their environmental education training and involvement to help promote the SWA environmental efforts.

FACILITATOR OF THE YEAR:



Veronica Frehm, Director of Education for MacArthur Beach State Park provides at least two Professional Development PLT workshops and at least three Project WILD workshops each year. During these workshops, participants gain in-depth knowledge about the Park's ecosystems and learn activities that will help them teach key environmental concepts back in their schools and educational programs. Veronica believes the educators who have participated in workshops are the true heroes of PLT. Veronica's continued commitment to FL PLT and the field of environmental education is truly commendable. Paul Strauss, Palm Beach County Schools Director of Environmental and Conservation Services said, "Veronica is a knowledgeable, dedicated, vibrant and passionate educator. She is absolutely committed to the PLT curriculum and to environmental education for all age groups....as someone that has been involved with environmental science and nature interpretation over the past 31 years, I have rarely encountered an educational professional with greater skills and abilities."



Educator of the Year:



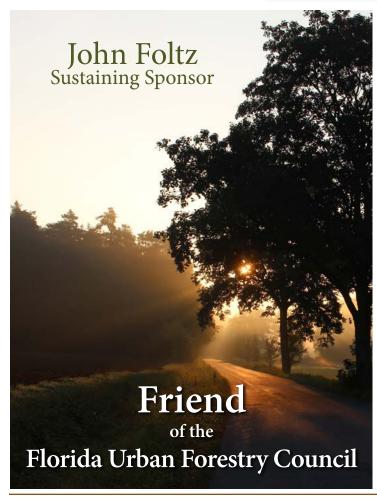
Lara Milligan is the Natural Resources Agent for UF/IFAS Extension Pinellas County since 2012. Her work focuses on wildlife, water, and general environmental education. Lara earned her Bachelor's degree in Natural Resource Conservation and a Masters of Forest Resources and Conservation from the University of Florida. During her Masters, Lara also received a Certificate in Environmental Education and Communication and completed the Natural Resources Leadership Institute.

In addition to her Extension roles, Lara also helps to run Brooker Creek Preserve Environmental Education Center in Tarpon Springs. Lara believes in the value of environmental education and knows first-hand of its beneficial impacts. Lara

uses PLT activities for youth program and teacher training workshops every summer. She is able to use PLT activities with diverse groups, making PLT relevant to all.

To learn more about Florida Project Learning Tree, visit https://www.plt.org/ network/florida/









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2018 FRIENDS OF OUR URBAN FOREST AWARDS PROGRAM

Celebrating achievements in urban forestry should be a part of every program. Awards and recognition will help build integrity into what you do and why you do it. The Florida Urban Forestry Council provides an awards program that can help celebrate the people and programs that help Florida's urban forests remain a great place to live, work, and play.

GUIDELINES

- Nomination can be your own work, the work of your organization or the work of another.
- You may download an application or apply online at <u>www.fufc.org/</u> <u>awards information.</u> <u>php.</u>
- Deadline for entry is October 31, 2018.
- 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. 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.
- If mailing, please submit the original typed application, 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.



2018 Awards Progran

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Nominations must be submitted by October 31, 2018.

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

New and renewed members through July 31, 2018. Please let us know if we fail to mention your name.

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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, FUFC newsletter editor, at andejs@jea.com.

Thanks for contributing!

(Dues are effective for the calendar year of January 1 - December 31) Make check or money order payable to FUFC 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, and/or an interested citizen.)* ☐ 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. Member*ship 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: Address: City: Zip: State: Telephone: (FAX: (E-mail: Amount Enclosed: ______ Date: ____/_ Would you be interested in further information regarding serving on a Council subcommittee? Yes No Area of interest:



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