



# north carolina urban forest council

*Protecting, Sustaining, Advocacy*

December 2021



North Carolina  
Urban Forest Council  
P.O. Box 37416  
Raleigh, NC 27627



## CONNECTIONS:

### COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

Hi again. I hope everyone had a good Thanksgiving and has their tree all decorated for whichever winter holidays you're into. I really enjoy spending Christmas with my family, but I'm actually a Zen guy myself. You might not know this, but December 8th is the day for celebrating Buddha's enlightenment. Thankfully a black Friday equivalent isn't a thing with that tradition yet. Interestingly enough though, there's a tree of great importance involved in Buddhism too - The Bodhi Tree. [You can read up on it here](#). So it goes without saying that trees are and always have been very important to lots of folks of all different backgrounds and cultures. I think that's



excellent and say the more the merrier. Since the selection of Ficus trees isn't very extensive at my local Christmas tree lots, and I'm not one to get too fixated, I went with our venerable North Carolina Fraser fir. Y'all be well this holiday season and I hope we see some of you at the Certified Arborist Prep Course in Greensboro this week.

Mark Foster  
*Board Chair, NC Urban Forest Council*  
*City Arborist, City of Asheville*

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## COUNCIL EVENTS

### WORKSHOPS

**Certified Arborist Prep Course & Review**  
Guilford County Extension Center  
*December 15th-16th*  
*8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.*

[Register Here](#)

## PARTNER EVENTS

**2022 Green & Growin' Show**  
Hosted by NC Nursery & Landscape Association  
*January 10-14, 2022*  
*Greensboro, NC*  
Registration Now Open

[Registration & Information](#)

**Green Communities Leadership Institute**  
*January 17 - March 10*  
*Online and In-Person Sessions*

[More Info](#)

**NC Forest Service's Urban & Community Forestry Grant Webinars**  
*January 19th and 21st, 2022*  
*Online Webinar*  
Registration Now Open

[Registration & Information](#)

## Southern Chapter ISA Annual Conference

March 26-29, 2022

Winston-Salem, NC

[More Info](#)

## COUNCIL NEWS



Photo credits: Emelie Swackhamer, Penn State University and Lawrence Barringer, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Bugwood.org

### **BEWARE The Spotted Lanternfly's Holiday Travel Plans**

The spotted lanternfly is on the move! This come as no surprise—the pest has been creeping towards North Carolina since its original discovery in Pennsylvania in 2014. But, a new discovery has us more concerned than ever before. Recently, spotted lanternfly was found less than 15 miles north of the NC-VA state line. They aren't just moving our direction anymore; they are knocking on our door. The concern with the spread of this pest is for very good reason. Spotted lanternfly will impact our agriculture (primarily grapes/viticulture and fruit trees) and ornamental plants (they feed on over 70 species of woody plants, weakening them and excreting excessive honeydew leading to sooty mold buildup). They will also greatly impact business and trade (infested areas are quarantined and businesses must obtain a permit). All that aside, spotted lanternflies are a huge nuisance pest and will affect our daily lives as they cluster on homes, rain honeydew on vehicles, or block or even enter stores. Everyone will know it and no one will like it.

So, what should arborists know and do? These insects will impact ornamental shrubs and trees when they arrive, so it's important to be on the lookout for the different life stages or egg masses. This is especially important for recently moved plant material, which may be a vessel by which this insect spreads. Most importantly: if you see or suspect spotted lanternfly, report it! The sooner we know about an infestation, the greater our chances are of controlling it. To report spotted lanternfly, email the NCDA&CS at

[badbug@ncagr.gov](mailto:badbug@ncagr.gov). Include an image, a size reference if possible, the location where the insect was found, and contact information.

While we wish the spotted lanternfly would stay home for the holidays (or for forever, really), that's likely not going to be the case. Our best chances of managing it is to find it quickly, so everyone should keep an eye out and report it if you see it. It's the best gift you could give the plants of NC!

Dr. Kelly Oten  
Assistant Professor & Extension Specialist  
Department of Forestry and Environmental Resources  
NC State University

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## **Urban & Community Forestry Grant Program Announcement - Request for Proposals Opens January 1, 2022**

The N.C. Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry program is accepting applications for its annual grant program beginning in January. The 2022 Request for Proposals will open January 1, 2022 and will close on March 31, 2022. Grant awards will be made in June 2022.

Prospective grantees may attend one of two informational webinars on January 19 and 21. Visit the [\*\*NCUFC website\*\*](#) to register for one webinar opportunity. Projects should work to attain the NCFS U&CF goal: Conserve and enhance the benefits and sustainable management of urban forests.

The project categories are:

- Advocacy Group Development
- Education & Training
- Tree Inventories & Assessments
- Management Plan Development
- Ordinance Development
- Professional Staff Development

For more information and assistance go to [\*\*NCFS U&CF website\*\*](#) for updates.

**NATIONAL NEWS**



## **'Super Trees' May Help Save Houston ... and beyond**

*Source: Rice University. Written by Mike Williams*

### **It's easy to say "just plant more trees" to mitigate air pollution. But how? Where? And what kind?**

A new study by collaborators at Rice University, the Houston Health Department's environmental division and Houston Wilderness establishes live oaks and American sycamores as champions among 17 "super trees" that will help make the city more livable and lays out a strategy to improve climate and health in vulnerable urban areas.

Best of all for Houston, they're already implementing their plan in the city, and now offer what they've learned to others. The open access study in the journal *Plants People Planet* -- led by Houston Wilderness President Deborah January-Bevers and colleagues at Rice and in city government -- lays out a three-part framework for deciding what trees are the right ones to plant, how to identify places where planting will have the highest impact and how to engage with community leadership to make the planting project a reality.

Using Houston as a best-case example, the collaborators determined what trees would work best in the city based on their ability to soak up carbon dioxide and other pollutants, drink in water, stabilize the landscape during floods and provide a canopy to mitigate heat.

**[LINK TO THE FULL STORY](#)**

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