



north carolina urban forest council

February 2022

NCUFC eNews

Protecting, Sustaining, Advocacy



Photo courtesy Mohan Reddy

COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

North Carolina Urban Forest Council
P.O. Box 37415
Raleigh, NC 27627





leaf & limb
HEALTHY TREES. HAPPY PEOPLE.

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Wow, February already!

I know our trees are bare and leaves are down. In just a few weeks the first breaths of spring will show. Personally I can't wait, and it's always a reminder to me that it's time to sharpen my axe and prepare for the upcoming growing season. I encourage all to do the same.

Please mark your calendars and register for some upcoming events. Want to learn more about invasive pests that we will inevitably be managing in our state, including Spotted Lantern Fly and Emerald Ash Borer? This and a lot more will be discussed at our first workshop on February 24th titled "[Urban Pest Management Update](#)".

March 9th we will be hosting a [Certified Arborist Prep Course](#) followed by the exam in Greenville, NC.

North Carolina is also pleased to host the upcoming ISA Southern Chapter Tree Climbing Championship and [Annual Conference and Trade Show](#) in Winston-Salem. The events will run from March 25th to 29th. Stop by our booth to say hello. If you are planning to attend, there are volunteer opportunities available to receive a discount. Contact Leslie Moorman (ncufc1@gmail.com) if you are interested.

Have a great month, and let's all do our part to keep North Carolina green and shaded!

Jeff Kish

Board Chair, NC Urban Forest Council

Bartlett Tree Experts, Raleigh

COUNCIL EVENTS

**Carolina Canopy - Urban Pest Management Update
Davidson, NC
February 24**

**More
Info**

**Certified Arborist Prep Course & Exam - March 2022
Greenville, NC
March 9-11**

**More
Info**

PARTNER EVENTS

**ISA Southern Chapter Conference
Winston-Salem, NC
March 26-29**

**More
Info**

COUNCIL MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Jason Smith, Jacksonville, NC

Jason is the Park Maintenance Supervisor for the Jacksonville Recreation and Parks in Jacksonville, NC. His role is to evaluate the maintenance needs for landscape plantings and tree care. He plans work according to the needs and wants of the Director of Park Facilities, City Management Team, elected officials, civic organizations as well as internal customers. He oversees the landscape maintenance, tree care, and turfgrass management of all city-owned property as well as DOT Right of Ways within the city limits, among many other tasks. “There is never a typical day for me,” said Jason. “One phone call can change everything, and I must be able to be flexible with the needs of anyone.”

He says urban trees and plants in general provide so many benefits by providing shade, helping with storm water management, as well as noise reduction, pollution reduction, and wildlife habitat. “Not to mention the health benefits of green space for others to exercise, play or just to have a place to relax and enjoy the scenery. Urban tree management in Jacksonville is important because we are growing at such a fast pace.” White oaks are his favorite trees because they grow in most U.S. states. “The bark has a unique color and can be used in medicine that most people don’t realize,” he said.

A NCUFC member for 6 years, Jason enjoys going to the Council’s in-person workshops and conferences. “I am able to meet others that are within this industry but come from different backgrounds and experiences,” said Jason. “I have been able to take the knowledge that has been given and apply it at the City of Jacksonville.” His tip for someone in his industry would be, “Be willing to change! Just because you learn something a particular way in college or past experiences doesn’t mean that it’s the best way or the same now.”



NC Trees & Storms: Readiness, Response, & Recovery

The NC Urban Forest Council, the North Carolina Forest Service, and the NC State Cooperative Extension Service recently launched **NC Trees & Storms: Readiness, Response, & Recovery**. The initiative provides homeowners, tree care professionals and municipalities the information they need to prepare for, respond to, and recover from tree-damaging storm events.

By practicing the 3Rs (Readiness, Response, & Recovery), residents and local experts can take steps to prevent and minimize tree damage, effectively respond after the storm, and assess the additional steps needed to ensure the health of remaining trees.

[Click here for the full story](#)



Crapemyrtle pruning

*By Mark Livingston, ISA Board Certified Master
Arborist, Arborguard Tree Specialists*

As a professional arborist, I frequently get asked “how should a Crapemyrtle be pruned?”. There is a lot of misinformation and improper methods that are perpetuated about Crapemyrtle pruning.

Everyone is familiar with ‘crape murder’ and has seen or know someone who has severely topped a crape myrtle. Severely topping a Crapemyrtle is not proper pruning. Many believe ‘topping’ is required to promote flowering, some prune because the plant is too large for a desired space, and some do it just because they see their neighbors doing it and feel that they need to do it as well. Typically, only light pruning is needed, if any.

Choosing the right cultivar for the right location will eliminate the need for size maintenance pruning. Crapemyrtles come in dwarf as well as small, medium, and large tree selections. When given an ideal location these tree types should be allowed to develop their natural style without chopping off their tops.

[Click here for the full story](#)



Proper Pruning Promotes Healthy Plants

Valentine's Day is almost here. It's a time to show the loved ones in our lives how much we care.

Trees need love too. Proper care can mean the difference between a healthy tree and one that dies a couple of years old.

Pruning is an art and a science: it takes somewhat of an artistic eye to develop good plant form while it also requires an understanding of plant biology to make the right cuts.

Prior to pruning anything, ask yourself why you are doing it? How will the

plant respond if I cut it in a particular manner? When should I prune it? How much should I remove? There are many resources available to help you answer these questions and many more. For more information on pruning decisions, check out our [Tree Owner's Manual](#).

[Click here for the full story](#)



[Celebrating 150 Years of Arbor Day](#)

Arbor Day, April 29, 2022, is rapidly approaching, and this year is special. It marks the 150th anniversary of the first Arbor Day celebration in the United States. In January 1872, Nebraska newspaper editor J. Sterling Morton proposed the first tree-planting ceremony to be held at the State Board of Agriculture. The event was held on April 10. Residents across Nebraska joined in the effort to plant trees in their communities, resulting in the planting of an estimated 1 million trees! Today, Arbor Day is celebrated in all 50 states.

This year, Arbor Day is celebrated on March 18 in North Carolina. In the Tar Heel State, Arbor Day is celebrated on the first Friday after March 15.

Are you planning an Arbor Day celebration or tree planting? If so, tell us about it. Email us at ncufc2@gmail.com.

[Click here](#) to visit the Arbor Day Foundation's Arbor Day Celebration page.

[Click here](#) for the NC Forest Service Arbor Day page.

Want to plant trees in honor of Arbor Day 2022? Consider a donation to the NCUFC Legacy Tree Fund, which provides financial assistance to communities across North Carolina for tree planting projects. [Click here](#) to donate.

[Deadline for Urban & Community Forestry](#)

Grant Program: March 31

March 31 is the deadline to apply for funding through the Urban & Community Forestry (U&CF) Grant Program operated by the NC Forest Service. The program provides cost-share grants to North Carolina governments, public educational institutions and organizations for U&CF projects located within the boundaries of a North Carolina incorporated municipality. Each year, Requests for Proposals are accepted, and projects of merit that meet the goals and objectives of the program are awarded grants as funding is available.

[Click here to learn more](#)

NATIONAL STORY



Two-thirds of trees planted by city of Ann Arbor not thriving, study finds

ANN ARBOR, MI — Jefferson Street resident Danny Maier says he's always been a tree lover and that partly goes back to his days working in a tree nursery.

“I’ve been around trees my whole life,” he said, noting ironically his grandfather also used to run a lumber company, something Maier jokes he’s still trying to make up for.

Since it seemed a lot of neighborhood trees the city of Ann Arbor was planting along streets in recent years were dying, Maier decided to do some investigating this past year.

Through a Freedom of Information Act request, he obtained a city list of over 1,100 trees planted in his ward over the last five years — the 5th Ward on the city’s west side.

[Link to the full story](#)

MORE INFO



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Today!

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Have you ever wondered how to get your hands on our fabulous NCUFC t-shirts, trucker caps, and other awesome NC urban forest merch? Well your opportunity has arrived!

Our Online Merchandise Shop is...



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NCUFC Members receive a 15% discount on purchases.
Email **ncufc1@gmail.com** for the code!!

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Do you have a story idea?
Or, are you willing to write a story for
the newsletter? If so, [contact us](#).

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