



north carolina urban forest council

March 2022

NCUFC eNews

Protecting, Sustaining, Advocacy



Photo courtesy City Data

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



COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR



leaf & limb



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Greetings NCUFC members,

Spring is here! It truly is my favorite time of the year. What a great time to plan and prepare for the upcoming growing season.

The Council has a lot going on this month and we look forward to seeing our members' smiling faces at many of the upcoming events. To start, the Council is now accepting applications to take advantage of the Legacy Tree Fund program. This program can assist your community with tree planting funds. Please reach out with questions.

The Council is co-hosting the Certified Arborist Prep Course and exam in Greenville on March 9-11. It is also offering the second Carolina Canopy Workshop of the year scheduled for April 13. Do not wait to register.

The ISA Southern Chapter is hosting its annual conference and tree-climbing championship in Winston-Salem from March 26- 29. We are proud sponsors of this event. If you plan to attend please stop by our booth to say hello and inquire about future events in 2022.

Hurray for Arbor Day! It's interesting that National Arbor Day is traditionally celebrated on the last Friday of April.

However most states observe a separate Arbor Day on a date of their choosing based upon the best tree-planting times. In North Carolina, we celebrate on the first Friday following March 15th. This year NC Arbor Day falls on Friday, March 18th. Spread the word, participate in an event, visit a local school, and teach a young person about the benefits of trees!

Jeff Kish
*Board Chair, NC Urban Forest Council
Bartlett Tree Experts, Raleigh*

COUNCIL EVENTS

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

[More
Info](#)

**Carolina Canopy Workshop: Managing an Urban
Landscape
Fayetteville, NC
April 13**

[More
Info](#)

**NC Community Tree Webinar: Tree Preservation
Ordinances for North Carolina Municipalities
Online webinar
April 20**

[More
Info](#)

**NC Community Tree Webinar: Examples of How Trees are
used in Storm Water Control Measures
Online webinar
May 18**

[More
Info](#)

PARTNER EVENTS

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

[More
Info](#)

COUNCIL MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Laurie Reid, Charlotte, NC

As the City Arborist for Charlotte, Laurie’s primary responsibilities include the management and regulation of the public (right of way) trees in Charlotte’s urban forest. She says Charlotte has an amazing urban forest and a long history of protecting and growing the tree canopy. They focus on managing urban trees so they can provide the most environmental and social benefits to the city’s residents while balancing these benefits with potential risks the trees may pose. “I am passionate about community outreach and education as well as increasing, while diversifying, Charlotte’s tree canopy and ensuring we’re planting the right tree in the right place.”

Reid is working to spend less time in front of the computer and more time focusing on the operations work behind managing Charlotte’s street trees. “I enjoy public speaking and teaching and I’m planning to be more intentional

to schedule more education opportunities,” she said.

Laurie has been a member of the Council for several years. She enjoys the conferences and educational opportunities as a way to enhance her arboriculture knowledge and to learn from other cities. Her advice to someone in the urban forestry field is to “Stay curious and ask questions.” She says, “One important lesson I like to share is if you don’t know the answer to a question, don’t be afraid to say you don’t know but that you will follow up with an answer. I found respect is gained with honesty and the perseverance to solve an issue.”

She says it’s hard for her to pick a favorite tree, but right now it’s the white oak. “I love the bark on the white oak as it provides winter interest. Oaks are really important trees for wildlife and they support hundreds of species like caterpillars - which speaks to the bug nerd in me. But I also love redbuds as their early blooms signal spring is almost here and winter is almost over,” she said

COUNCIL NEWS



Photo courtesy Texas A&M

Oak Pruning Consideration

*By Scott Abl, Black Mountain Arborists
March 2022*

It’s that time of year again...the daffodils and crocuses are breaking through the winter-matted leaves and certain spring indicator species’ tree buds throughout our state are swelling up, preparing for budbreak.

Spring in North Carolina is quick to come and quick to fade during these modern climate-influenced seasonal patterns and the appropriate windows for opportunities in tree care are becoming narrower. As a good general rule of thumb, a lot of arborists agree that pruning most trees during the dormant season is preferred to pruning applications that take place during the growing

season. Overall stress and other issues can arise when trees are pruned outside of their “window.” This general rule-of-thumb comes with exceptions and limits for different species. In fact, for spring flowering species, it is preferred to prune immediately following the end of the flowering cycle and for summer flowering species, it is usually preferred to prune during dormancy. These preferences are not exact and each species, condition, location, and individual characteristics should be considered before any pruning application.

[Click here for the full story](#)



Celebrating Arbor Day in the Tar Heel State

This year North Carolinians will celebrate Arbor Day on March 18. It is the 55th celebration of Arbor Day, the tree-planters holiday, in the Tar Heel State. [Click here](#) to find events being hosted by some of our tree care partner organizations. [Click here](#) to access the Arbor Day Foundation's website, then click on the map to see where Arbor Day celebrations are happening in North Carolina and across the country.

NCUFC is celebrating Arbor Day with a robust social media campaign. We're developing social media messages to inspire people and promote the benefits of trees. Share our #TreeQuotes and #TreeTruths throughout the month between NC Arbor Day and National Arbor Day to get more people involved in our efforts to preserve, maintain, and plant urban trees. We are also working with the NC Forest Service, the NC Forestry Association, and other partners to promote and celebrate Arbor Day across the state through social media.

This year marks the 150th anniversary of Arbor Day, celebrated on April 29, in the United States. So this year is special for tree planters.

If you plan on planting a tree to celebrate Arbor Day, see the story below that

has all the information you need to plant a tree.

If you want to plant a tree in honor of Arbor Day but don't have time, consider making a donation to NCUFC's Legacy Tree Fund program and we'll plant a tree for you. [Click here](#) to donate.



NCUFC Accepting Proposals for Legacy Tree Fund Grants

Do you have a tree-planting project that you need funding for?

If so, NCUFC is now accepting requests for proposals for its Legacy Tree Fund program. It provides funding to local governments, community groups, and schools for tree-planting projects that conserve energy, improve air quality, provide many other benefits. Priority is given to storm recovery tree-planting projects in communities impacted by storms, those with an environmental justice focus or that have a significant volunteer/educational component.

The deadline to apply for a Legacy Tree Fund grant this year is May 27 at 5 p.m. The maximum grant request for each project is \$5,000. Approved projects will start Sept. 1, 2022, and must be completed by May 31, 2023. Tree-planting events will generally occur during the fall of each year but can be adjusted to meet an area's planting season.

[Click here](#) for the 2022 Legacy Tree Fund Grant RFP and application.

[Click here](#) for the Legacy Tree Fund webpage.



How To Plant a Tree

Early spring is tree-planting season. Whether you're planting 1 or 100 trees, knowing how to properly plant a tree is vital to its survival. Otherwise you might see your investment whither like a poorly planted or cared-for sapling.

Ready to plant your tree? The first thing you need to do is to determine what you want the tree to do for you.

- A large tree to provide shade?
- An ornamental tree with beautiful flowers, leaves, or bark?
- A tree with dense leaves or needles to act as a windbreak or screen?
- A deciduous tree that cools the house in the summer and drops its leaves in the fall so the winter sun can warm the house?
- A tree that bears fruit for you or attracts wildlife?

[Click here](#) to learn more.

[Click here](#) for our Tree Owner's Manual

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](#)

Alamance Community College Seeks Adjunct Instructors

Alamance Community College is looking for part-time instructors to assist in teaching courses in its two-year degree curriculum programs.

The college is looking for adjunct instructors for:

- Arboriculture
- Agribusiness Technology, and
- Agriculture.

For more information or to apply, [click here](#).

REGIONAL STORY



Growing forests in a growing state: NC's Forest Action Plan finalized

North Carolina's state forests now have the needed federal stamp of approval for their Forest Action Plan, a detailed look at the state's forest lands and a peek at their future.

These include the almost 60,000 acres of forest managed by the N.C. Forest Service, including DuPont State Recreational Forest in Henderson and Transylvania counties, Holmes State Forest in Henderson and the newest, Headwaters State Forest in Transylvania County.

The plan is released on the heels of the U.S. Forest Service management plan that will guide the future of the 1.1 million acres of federal forests in Western North Carolina — the Pisgah and Nantahala.

[Link to the full story](#)

NATIONAL STORY



Photo courtesy Sarah Garvey

Urban Forests May Store More Carbon Than We Thought, Study Finds

Urban forests are little oases of nature, but they don't get a lot of respect. The trees near the road get sprayed with salt and choked with soot; the boulders get tagged with graffiti, the trails through the woods are often littered with candy wrappers, soda bottles and plastic sacks of dog poo.

But despite the abuse, these small patches of forest may play an outsized role in combatting climate change, at least here in the Northeast. Two studies from Boston University find that trees around the edges of urban forests grow faster, and the soil gives off less carbon dioxide, than scientists expected. That means these scruffy edges are surprisingly good at pulling carbon dioxide out of the sky, and storing it underground.

[Link to the full story](#)

MORE INFO



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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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