



Spring Quarter 2009

# 18th Annual Urban Forestry Conference

Plus, 11th Annual Tree Climbing Championship Gearing Up to Crown a New Champion!

Be ready to attend the 18th Annual Urban Forestry Conference to be held in Middle Tennessee. The details will appear soon on our website at [tufc.com](http://tufc.com). Professional points available: ISA, Pesticide, ASLA and Nursery Professional. Also the 11th Annual Tree Climbing Championship is on the way, details to be announced. Check [tufc.com](http://tufc.com) for more information.

## Landmark and Historic Tree Register Featured in Article

See the article on the Landmark and Historic Tree Register in the recent *The Tennessee Conservationist* magazine, [http://tn.gov/environment/tn\\_consv/](http://tn.gov/environment/tn_consv/). This wonderful publication is produced by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation. This article tells a story of the program and the interesting trees in the Register as told by committee chair Tom Simpson. Tom, who is an artful storyteller, is the East Tennessee Regional Urban Forester. Also in the magazine is another great article: "Planting Trees With People in Mind: The Role of Trees in Climate Change."

## Specialty Tree Auto Tag

The Tenn. Tree Tag promotes trees while supporting the cause of urban forestry. Go to [tufc.com](http://tufc.com) and either order the Tree



Tag online or print and mail an order form. If you're not already a member, see our *special half-price new memberships* when purchased with the Tree Tag.

\* 1000 specialty auto tags be pre-sold before the tag is produced. While we plan on reaching this sales goal, each pre-sale fee would be refunded if this goal is not achieved.

## Arbor Day at Signal Mountain

Nolan Elementary fifth-graders stand with their science teacher Wendy Lapinski (front right) and sponsors from Enterprise Rent-A-Car (center back). Students from both Nolan and Thrasher celebrated Arbor Day by planting 15 native trees on their respective campuses. At Nolan, even the kindergartners participated, watching as a tree went into the ground that would one day shade their playground. "Digging in the dirt is much better than math class!" an excited Nolan boy exclaimed.



## Dr. Douglas Airhart: Served TUFC Board for 12 Years!

Professor Douglas Airhart who had served as the TUFC secretary since 1997 rotated off the board in 2008. Douglas teaches Horticulture at Tennessee State University in Cookeville. He received the 2008 TUFC President's Award for his diligence serving as the board's secretary and for his commitment to sound urban forestry practices throughout the state and beyond.



He places an emphasis on quality plant material and proper tree maintenance practices. TUFC director, Jennifer Smith, has commented that in the ten years she worked with Douglas, she cannot remember a time that Douglas did not e-mail her the minutes before she got back to her office from the board meetings. Now that is service!

Douglas' commitment to urban forestry also includes being a cadre for the Municipal Forestry Institute, a founding member of the Cookeville Tree Board, an urban forestry consultant for three Upper Cumberland towns, as well as developing Tennessee nursery grades and standards. He is a certified arborist and municipal specialist with the International Society of Arboriculture and is registered as a proctor and tree worker evaluator.

His work includes many published articles, presentations at regional, statewide and national conferences and workshops, and he is the creator and author of the [tlcfortrees.info](http://tlcfortrees.info), a one stop website for all tree related questions.

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## TUFC Mission Statement

*The Tennessee Urban Forestry Council serves as an advisory body to promote healthy and sustainable urban and community forests in Tennessee by providing leadership and guidance through education, planning, advocacy, and collaboration.*



## Congratulations Arborist Wes Hopper

Wes Hopper received the Education Award from the Southern Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture during their recent conference. Wes who is an arborist from Memphis with his own company, Urban Forestry, is known for teaching other arborist, especially in the important area of safety. Also he holds training workshops and gives the ISA certification exams. His dedication to the field of arboriculture distinguished himself and the state of Tennessee through this recognition award.



## TUFC 2009 Board

### EAST TENNESSEE

Liz Didier - Utility Forester, Knoxville Utility Board

Patrick Haller - SECRETARY, Haller Landscaping and Lawncare, Sparta

Todd Morgan - Program Director, Morristown Community Development Corporation

Jon Nettle - Arborist & Landscape Consultant, Chattanooga

Warren Nevad - Mgmt Consultant, UT Municipal Tech Advisory Svc.

Patrick Walding - IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT, City Forester, Johnson City

### MIDDLE TENNESSEE

Dr. Nathaniel Appleton  
Postdoctoral Research Associate, TN State Univ.

Zach French - SECOND VICE PRESIDENT, Arborist, Tree Solutions Consulting, Nashville

Carl Herbison - Chairman, Dickson Tree Board

Karla Kean - PRESIDENT - TSU Extension, Clarksville

Heather Langford - FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
Sustainable Solutions Group, Nashville

Derrick Lynch, Environmental Systems Supervisor  
Middle TN Electric Membership Corp., Murfreesboro

Gene Nix, Gibson Guitar, Nashville

Hester Rodgers - Chairman, Pulaski Tree Board

Todd Snackenburg, Arborist, City of Franklin

### WEST TENNESSEE

Sharon Burch - Central Gardens Neighborhood Assn., Memphis

Jimmy Ferrell - TREASURER  
Arborist, Ferrell's Tree Service, Memphis

Susan Murray - West TN Chapter, TUFC

Trey Watson - Forester, Jackson Energy Authority, Jackson

### ONE YEAR APPOINTMENTS

Dwight Barnett, Area Forester

Mike Leventhal - Asset Equity Corporation

Thomas Solinsky, SongForest

John Wasmer - ACRT, Operations Manager

### URBAN FORESTRY STAFF

Jennifer Smith - Executive Director, TUFC  
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Bruce Webster - Staff Urban Forester, Division of Forestry  
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Brian Rucker - Asst. Staff Urban Forester, Division of Forestry  
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Tom Simpson - East TN Regional Urban Forester, Div. of Forestry  
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Shawn Posey - West TN Regional Urban Forester, Div. of Forestry  
901-754-5185, [shawn.posey@state.tn.us](mailto:shawn.posey@state.tn.us)

## New and Renewing Membership

### West Tennessee Chapter

Jan Castillo  
Laurie Williams

### Individual

Sharon Burch  
Jan Castillo  
Diana Dubois  
Randy Ellis  
Elizabeth Gassel  
Tracy Jackson  
Rachel Koch  
Aaron Noblet  
Richard Page  
Laurie Williams  
Bill Wyatt

### Non-Profit

Nashville Tree Foundation  
The Dixon

### Government

City of Bristol  
City of Crossville  
City of Hendersonville

### Business

Duck River Electric Membership  
Corporation  
Knoxville Utility Board  
The Ornamentor



**TUFC West TN Chapter promotes Chapter activities and Tree Auto Tag for Arbor Day at the Memphis Botanic Garden. The Chapter will also host a booth at Shelby Farms Park Earth Day April 19 promoting urban forestry and the Tree Tag program.**

## Other News from the West Tennessee Chapter

On March 6th many members of West TN TUFC came together to work with Tim Roberts at the Agricenter International for an Outside Classroom event. Four classes from Carnes Elementary in Memphis attended and learned about topics such as tree planting (Woodland Tree Service), tree climbing (Red's Tree Service), Paper and Other Uses of Trees (International Paper), Fascinating Tree Walk (Preston Padgett), Mystery Box (Master Urban Foresters and Gardeners), Forestry and Conservation (TUFC and City of Lakeland). Everyone had a great time and for many of the students it may have been the first time to be in this type of outdoor educational setting.

## It's Time to Give Arbor Day a Second Chance

Lots of folks snicker at Arbor Day. They laugh. They make jokes about it. They think of it as a Charlie Brown type of day. It is an observance that gets no respect. But maybe Arbor Day deserves a second look for the timelessness it provides. This is especially true as we consider the state of the USA this March, 2009.

First, we're all crazy driven by technology. We have cell phones that can do way more than the comic strip character Dick Tracy's wrist radio could ever imagine. We get emails that inundate us. We send a text message, an email, and expect communication to have occurred, but don't count on it. It's been reported that 50% of emails are misunderstood. Of course, they are. There's no body language, no vocal intonation.

So let us re-consider Arbor Day, the simple act of planting a tree. Doing this gives us a chance to disconnect electronically, to slow down, and to re-connect to the earth. It's a chance to get a little dirty, but perhaps more importantly, a chance to repair the psyche that gets battered daily, and bring us back to our connection to the soil, and plants, and trees.

Second, we see and hear many things that divide us. Conservative ideas, liberal ideas inundate us with conflicting messages, with each side blaming the other for the problems we see today. Both sides try to out shout the other, thinking that they have to be loudest to be heard. Adding to the din and confusion is the idea that compromise is defeat.

So let us re-consider Arbor Day, the simple act of planting a tree. Because, you know what, I have yet to meet someone who doesn't like trees. We can find common ground, and trees just might be part of the solution.

Third, and lastly, we're all battered by bad economic news this March 2009, and the media folks and business and government leaders tell us it's going to get worse. We're worried about our jobs, if we still have them. We're worried about the future of the economy and how it's going to affect our country and our future well-being. These and many more concerns are legitimate worries.

So let us re-consider Arbor Day, the simple act of planting a tree. It gives us a chance to take a break from all the bad news. It will get us out in the yard, away from the TV, away from the cell phone, away from the mad pace we pursue, and slow us down for a little while. Planting a tree gives us a chance to think optimistically about the future, because trees are long lived, often out living us. It connects us through time to the past, as we observe and admire mature trees of today that may have been planted during the Great Depression or during WW II. And using that connection, it gives us faith in the future by saying this tree, this one tree that I plant here today, represents an act of faith that tomorrow will be better, because it will be filled with majestic trees.

Presented by Bruce Webster at Tennessee State Arbor Day Celebration, Avoca Elementary School, Bristol, Friday, March 6, 2009. Bruce is the state staff urban forester, Department of Agriculture, Division of Forestry.



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## Notable Trees of TN Note Cards for Sale

Featuring eight full color images selected from the Notable Trees of Tennessee photographs of historic, landmark, national and state champion trees, they are packaged in sets of four assorted cards with envelopes, two assortments.

Printed on heavyweight vellum, 30% post consumer recycled content, they are ideal for personal correspondence, thank you's to volunteers and supporters, gifts for colleagues and friends. The price will be \$8.00, \$6.00 for TUFC members, tax included. Click here to see the photos featured [www.tufc.com/notecards.htm](http://www.tufc.com/notecards.htm)

## Clarksville Heralds 20 Years as Tree City

Clarksville's Arbor Day ceremony took place at the Swan Lake Sports Complex, a city park. To celebrate 20 years as a Tree City USA, attendees planted a shade grove of 20 trees surrounding a memorial monument.

Shown taking a break from planting are, L to R: Tracy Jackson, certified arborist and Clarksville Tree Board member; Karla Kean, TSU Extension Horticulture Specialist and TUFC President; Kevin Cowling, Deputy Director of Clarksville Parks and Recreation; Clint Patterson, Clarksville City Forester; and John Woodcock, Forestry Management Program Specialist with the TN Department of Agriculture, Forestry Division.



Order your Tree Auto Tag and take advantage of a special on new half price TUFC membership offer!

## Tree Happenings from Morristown

On March 4th, several Morristown Master Gardeners, Tree Board members and residents of the Lochmere neighborhood gathered around the Lochmere lake and fruit tree orchard for a hands on pruning workshop. Dr. David Lockwood, University of Tennessee Fruit Production Specialist, was the guest speaker. Mannie Bedwell, U.T. Agriculture Extension Agent, and Lochmere resident Jean Sawyer helped coordinate the event. Guests brought their hand pruners and saws and practiced on the peach, apple and pear trees in the orchard. Dr. Lockwood also discussed pruning other fruit crops like blackberries, raspberries and grapes. It was a sunny 55 degree day and a good time was had by all.



## Hands-on Educational Opportunity for Students

In celebration of Arbor Day, Knoxville Utility Board (KUB) volunteers presented a hands on workshop for students at Pleasant Ridge Elementary School on proper tree planting techniques. Discussed were proper tree planting techniques, including planting the right species in the right place to avoid future growth into power lines and how to use the Call 811 system to prevent dig-ins on utility lines during an excavation project.

KUB's Vegetation Management Program includes tree-pruning practices approved by the National Arbor Day Foundation. The foundation has named KUB a Tree Line USA Utility each year since 2001 for following proper standards for utility tree pruning. The utility serves more than 198,000 electric customers and maintains more than 5,000 miles of electric lines.



**We need your help to sell 1000 Tree Auto Tags.  
Tell your family and friends.**

## State 2009 Arbor Day Poster Contest

The winning Tennessee Arbor Day Poster was drawn by fifth grader Suzanna Pickering, St. Joseph's School of Knoxville.

This year's theme was "Trees are Terrific in Cities and Towns," and we appreciate the nod to urban forestry!

Her poster has been submitted to the National Arbor Day Foundation's contest as Tennessee's entry.

The Tennessee Department of Agriculture, Forestry Division, thanks the TUFC for their continued sponsorship of prizes.



## News From ISA Southern Tree Climb

Held in Shreveport, LA on Sunday, March 8th, the Southern Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture hosted their Tree Climbing Championship.

Representing the state of Tennessee was Aquilino Amador-Cruz who came in 3<sup>rd</sup> overall. Aquilino works for Davey Tree in Nashville and as the representative from our state's Tree Climbing Championship had his expenses paid by the Tennessee Urban Forestry Council for the Southern's competition.

Tennesseans serving on the crew were Wes Hopper of Urban Forestry and Tim McCrary both from Memphis. Wes had the honor of serving as the head judge to the Master's Challenge.

Also competing was Memphian Thomas Jefferson Cochran who placed 6<sup>th</sup> overall and received the Spirit of the Competition award.

If you are interested in serving on next fall's setup crew or judging staff with the Tennessee Tree Climbing Championship please contact Scott Winningham by phone at (931) 537-6829 or email him at [sawinningham@tnaccess.com](mailto:sawinningham@tnaccess.com)

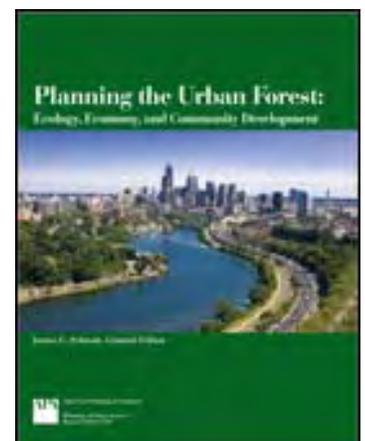


## Planning for Urban and Community Forestry

The American Planning Association, in close collaboration with the International Society of Arboriculture and American Forests, and with the support of the USDA Forest Service, has prepared a state-of-the-art best practices manual about how best to integrate urban and community forestry into long-range and current municipal planning activities in the U.S.

The manual is in the form of a Planning Advisory Service (PAS) report, which was distributed to members of the Sustainable Urban Forests Coalition and more than 1,000 planning agencies and consultants nationwide that are Planning Advisory Service subscribers.

For more information go to: <http://www.planning.org/research/forestry/>



# Calendar of Events

## April - Month Long Celebration

Redbud Celebration in the Upper Cumberland: Spring is coming to the Highlands region of Tennessee and the redbud tree is its herald. Nature and cultural activities during the entire month of April including Nature Fest, Bon Appetite, Crafts, Concert and Hike. When those beautiful crimson buds begin to form folks start thinking of shorts and tees, and the outdoor activities they have been denied for too long during winter. The annual bursting forth of redbud trees, which occurs throughout April, is a cause for celebration and that is just what a host of local organizations mean to do. <http://redbuds.org>. Call (931) 528-0621.



## April

Nashville Tree Foundation's High Tree Party featuring the Big Old Tree Contest winners. This annual event will honor its 21st anniversary of finding the biggest and oldest trees in Davidson County. Trees of any species in Davidson County may be nominated by any person. The trees can be on the property of the nominator, the public, neighbor, friend or stranger. The owner's permission is suggested but not required. Click here for the confirmed date and location: [nashvilletreefoundation.org](http://nashvilletreefoundation.org).

## April 2

West Tennessee Chapter of the Tennessee Urban Forestry Council meeting, Agricenter International, Board Room, 12 noon to 2 pm. Nick Bridgeman: [nbridgeman@lakelandtn.org](mailto:nbridgeman@lakelandtn.org).

## April 6-8

16th Annual Trees and Utilities National Conference, presented by the Arbor Day Foundation, Dallas, TX; (888) 448-7337, [www.arborday.org](http://www.arborday.org).

## April 9

Deadline: To submit Urban and Community Forestry Grants. Grant application and questions: Brian Rucker at [brian.rucker@tn.gov](mailto:brian.rucker@tn.gov) or (615) 837-5439.

## April 16

TUFC Board and Kingston Town Hall Meetings, City of Kingston, [tufc@comcast.net](mailto:tufc@comcast.net), 615-352-8985.

## April 19

Shelby Farms Park Earth Day Celebration, Memphis. Stop by the TUFC West TN Chapter's booth!

<http://www.shelbyfarmspark.org/sfpc/down-earth-celebration/>

## April 30

**Deadline:** TUFC Board of Directors Nominations. Nominations are being accepted for the TUFC Board of Directors through April 30th. Self-nominations are encouraged. For more information, or to make a nomination, contact committee chairman Patrick Walding, [walding@johnsoncitytn.org](mailto:walding@johnsoncitytn.org).

## May 31

**Deadlines:** Landmark and Historic Tree Register nominations, Urban Forestry Awards of Excellence nominations and the Arboretum Certification Application deadline.

## June 11 & 12

The Kentucky/Tennessee Society of American Foresters will be holding their summer meeting in Lakeland, TN. Topics will discuss the Foresters Role in the Wildland Urban Interface and will include presentations on tree physiology, conservation, tree ordinances, urban ecology, and non-native invasives. Nick Bridgeman: [nbridgeman@lakelandtn.org](mailto:nbridgeman@lakelandtn.org).

## August 4

Tennessee Green Industry Field Day at the Tennessee State University Research Center, McMinnville, TN Nursery and Landscape Association, (931) 473-3951, [www.tnla.com](http://www.tnla.com).

## Forestry Resource Assessment Public Meetings

Let your opinion be heard! All public meetings are from 6 pm to 8 pm.

March 24th, Chattanooga, TDEC Development Resource Center

March 26th, Cookeville, Hyder-Burks Agriculture Pavilion

April 1st, Morristown, Morristown Utilities Building

April 6th, Jackson - West Tennessee UT Ag Center

## Tree City USA: Two New in Tennessee!

The Tennessee Department of Agriculture, Division of Forestry and the National Arbor Day Foundation are excited to announce the state's Tree City USA cities. The state assistant urban forester, Brian Rucker, notes that "Tennessee's communities are continuing to recognize the importance of trees within our urban settings and we are glad to welcome both the city of Bartlett and Martin into the program."

To become a Tree City USA, a city must meet these four standards: (1) Have a Tree Board or Advisory Committee, (2) Spend \$2 per resident of the community on a community forestry program, (3) Have a municipal tree ordinance in place, and (4) Celebrate Arbor Day with a ceremony and proclamation.

Tree City USA communities and their years achieved:

Norris 30 years	Brentwood 20 years	Tullahoma 12 years	Lakeland 5 years
Athens 28 years	Clarksville 20 years	Bell Buckle 9 years	Collierville 4 years
Maryville 28 years	Cookeville 20 years	Crossville 9 years	Franklin 4 years
Sevierville 25 years	Chattanooga 19 years	Johnson City 9 years	Livingston 4 years
Jackson 23 years	Sewanee 19 years	Sweetwater 9 years	Rogersville 4 years
Kingsport 23 years	Knoxville 18 years	Harrogate 8 years	Bartlett 2 years
Alcoa 22 years	Cleveland 17 years	McMinnville 8 years	Martin 2 years
Bristol 21 years	Germantown 17 years	Pigeon Forge 8 years	Parsons 1 year
Gatlinburg 21 years	Pulaski 16 years	Morristown 7 years	Pittman Center 1 year
Oak Ridge 21 years	Nashville 14 years	Jonesborough 5 years	

In addition to the Tree City USA designation Bartlett, Bristol, Chattanooga, Clarksville, Cleveland, Crossville, Germantown, Johnson City, Lakeland, Morristown, Norris, Pigeon Forge and Rogersville have received Tree City Growth Awards for expanding and improving their programs!

**Albert Einstein: "Look deep, deep into nature, and then you will understand everything"**

## Sustainable Tennessee 2009 Agenda (Includes Urban Forestry)

Below are excerpts from the section of the Sustainability Agenda which includes urban forestry. For a complete look at the Agenda go to: <http://www.tectn.org/>. Agenda copies have been provided to our state legislature as a tool to help shape state policy.

**LAND AND NATURAL INFRASTRUCTURE:** The State of Tennessee must create a sustainable green infrastructure. The State should develop a comprehensive land use plan, which would include green infrastructure concepts through a public process in order to conserve working farms and forests, wildlife habitat, river corridors for water quality and quantity, and direct growth to less environmentally critical lands. Using the data inventory of the land use plan as a guide, the State should develop a green infrastructure plan that inventories green assets, such as natural areas, parks, forests, **urban forests**, farms, streams or wetlands. It must then identify opportunities for their protection and/or restoration through a coordinated strategy to channel development and redevelopment to the most appropriate locations. Experts in relevant disciplines, including ecologists, soil scientists, community planners and aquatic biologists, should be enlisted to provide initial input.

**Cities across the state should be encouraged to develop, enhance and implement tree ordinances and to set tree canopy goals. Trees and tree canopy are directly related to property values, energy savings, air quality and clean water. Tree ordinances and canopy goals should be a part of a city's comprehensive land use and transportation plan.**



### Tennessee Urban Forestry Council

6820 Cloudland Dr., Nashville, TN 37205  
(615) 352-8985 - [www.tufc.com](http://www.tufc.com)

**Branching Out** is a publication of the Tennessee Urban Forestry Council (TUFC).

#### Newsletter Committee:

Dr. Douglas Airhart, Dottie Mann and Jennifer Smith



The Tenn. Dept. of Agriculture, Div. of Forestry, and the TUFC work together to enhance urban forestry statewide.

*“To plant trees is to give body and life to one’s dreams of a better world.”*

**-- Russell Page**

## Eleven Utilities Approved for Tree Line USA - 2nd Place in US

The Tenn. Dept. of Agriculture, Division of Forestry has approved eight municipal utilities and three electric cooperatives for Tree Line USA status for 2008. Tree Line USA is a recognition program sponsored by the National Arbor Day Foundation and the State Forestry agency for utilities whose practices and activities help to improve the urban forest. East TN Regional Urban Forester, Tom Simpson, who manages this program statewide, notes that Tennessee has the second highest number of utilities recognized behind California! Each utility that receives recognition must meet 3 standards:

1 - Adopt pruning standards that eliminate stubbing or topping, such as lateral pruning. Adopt policies for tunneling rather than trenching near high value trees.

2 - Implement an annual training program of tree care for utility crews. Mail tree care information to all customers at least once each year. Hire an utility forester or arborist or designate someone to serve that capacity.

3 - Spend \$.10 per customer on tree planting projects within the community. Participate in the community’s Arbor Day activities.

The ten utilities receiving this designation for 2008 are:

Dyersburg Electric System, Knoxville Utilities Board, Cleveland Utilities, Clinton Utilities Board, Morristown Utilities, Nashville Electric System

(New in 2008): Johnson City Power Board, Duck River Electric Member Coop., Cookeville Electric Dept., Appalachian Electric Member Coop., and Bristol Tennessee Electric System.



### Zach French, Tree Solution Consulting Services



Board-Certified Master Arborist #4172BT  
Registered Consulting Arborist #450  
Certified Treecare Safety Professional #30  
Member ISA, ASCA, TCIA  
(615) 579-7539 - [tree\\_solution@yahoo.com](mailto:tree_solution@yahoo.com)

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## Notable Trees of Tennessee Exhibit Touring Schedule

Look for Schedule on [www.tufc.com](http://www.tufc.com)  
If you want to host this exhibit, contact  
Jennifer Smith - [tufc@comcast.net](mailto:tufc@comcast.net)