



Summer Quarter 2009

# In Summer, Trees Make a Big Difference

Of course trees *always* make a difference, but as the mercury climbs, remember to sing the praises of trees which give so much and ask so little in return. One of the best ways to do that is to make sure you and your friends order the Specialty Tree Auto Tag. When that 1000th tag is reserved, they start get “planted” on cars across Tennessee.



## Save the Dates

**18th Annual Urban Forestry Conference - Greening Our Communities: The Urban Forestry Approach.** October 22-23, 2009, Lipscomb University, Nashville. Keynote: Alice Ewen Walker of Alliance for Community Trees. Continuing Education Credits: Pesticide, ISA, Landscape Architects & Nursery Professionals. Planners and Engineers may apply for points. Conference brochure being e-mailed.

**11th Annual Tennessee Tree Climbing Championship,** October 24, Nashville.

## Urban Forestry Workshops: Municipal, Utilities and Planning

Presented with the Municipal Technical Advisory Service. Featuring an overview of urban forestry programs, benefits and values; utility pruning concepts, and an introduction to Interface Forestry and the problems and opportunities urban growth and expansion present. Sessions run 8:30 to 11:30 am, Fee \$25.

Aug 4 - Germantown  
 Aug 5 - Nashville  
 Aug 6 - Pulaski  
 Aug 10 - Morristown

## The Tennessee Groves

The Tennessee Groves are a Tennessee Department of Transportation Program administered by TUFC. Kick-Off Ceremony: Tuesday, June 30<sup>th</sup> 1:30 pm EST, Bristol I-81 Southbound Welcome Center. Ceremony Participants: Governor Phil Bredesen, TDOT Commissioner Gerald Nicely, TUFC Program Chair Jon Nettle. The new program is part of the TDOT Tennessee Roadscapes initiative, beautifying Tennessee’s interstates and highways in ways that protect and enhance the natural environment. Through the program, you can purchase trees or flowers to be planted at welcome centers, rest areas and other locations. These plantings may honor or memorialize loved ones, commemorate birthdays or anniversaries, or simply contribute to the natural beauty of our state. You can honor someone with a unique gift, offer a lasting tribute to a loved one, beautify Tennessee’s welcome centers and rest stops, clean the air, and control erosion. A contribution to the program benefits not only you and your loved ones, but also the entire state of Tennessee and its visitors. You may choose one three types of plants. Individual tree species choices will be made by TDOT, depending on what is regionally native to the planting site. Shade tree (includes sugar maples, red oaks and magnolias) Cost \$275; Flowering trees (includes dogwoods and redbuds) Cost \$150; Flowers (includes daffodils, tulips and daylilies) Cost \$25. For more Tennessee Groves Details visit [www.tufc.com](http://www.tufc.com).

## Highlands Red Bud Celebration

The City of Cookeville Tree Board and Red Bud Celebration Committee planned and held their first Highlands Red Bud Celebration, a month long celebration in Putnam, White, Jackson and Overton counties. Highlights: State Arbor Day Poster Contest County Winners were announced and received a \$100 Savings Bond provided by Cumberland Bank and Redbud seedlings from the State Tree Nursery were distributed during featured events. Mark your calendars for 2010 Celebration! <http://redbuds.org>

## New and Renewing Membership

### West Tennessee Chapter

Jack Golio

### Non-Profit

City of Jackson

### Individual

Austin Fesmire  
Jack Golio  
Skip Heibert  
Emily Houston  
Heather Langford  
Lisa Limza  
Nancy Murphy  
Noah Long  
Tom Brashear

### Partner

Nashville Electric Service

### Government

City of Brentwood  
City of Knoxville  
City of Sparta  
Tennessee Valley Electric Coop  
Town of Livingston

### General Donation

Heather Langford

### Business

Cortese Tree Specialists  
Memphis Light Gas and Water  
Potet Tree Service



## TUFC Nominations Accepted

Nominations are being accepted for the Tennessee Urban Forestry Council's Board of Directors. Self nominations are encouraged. For more information and to make a nomination, please contact committee chairman Patrick Walding by June 15th by phone at (423) 975-2681 or email [walding@johnsoncitytn.org](mailto:walding@johnsoncitytn.org).



Check out our website!  
Always something new at [tufc.com](http://tufc.com)

## 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.*



## TUFC 2009 Board

### EAST TENNESSEE

Liz Didier - Utility Forester, Knoxville Utilities 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  
615-352-8985, [tufc@comcast.net](mailto:tufc@comcast.net)  
Bruce Webster - Staff Urban Forester, Division of Forestry  
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Tom Simpson - East TN Regional Urban Forester, Div. of Forestry  
865-908-4434, [tom.simpson@state.tn.us](mailto:tom.simpson@state.tn.us)  
Shawn Posey - West TN Regional Urban Forester, Div. of Forestry  
901-754-5185, [shawn.posey@state.tn.us](mailto:shawn.posey@state.tn.us)

## The Value of Trees...

Views of plants increase job satisfaction. Employees with an outside view of plants experience less job pressure and greater job satisfaction than workers viewing man-made objects or having no outside view. They also report fewer headaches and other ailments than workers without the view.

Nature increases worker productivity. Psychologists have found that access to plants and green spaces provides a sense of rest and allows workers to be more productive.

Landscaping renews business districts. Greening of business districts increases community pride and positive perception of an area, drawing customers to the businesses.

Quality landscaping means quality goods. A study found that consumers would be willing to pay, on average, a 12% premium for goods purchased in retail establishments that are accompanied by quality landscaping.

Employment and tourism boost - Employment opportunities are associated with the creation and long-term maintenance of urban open space, as well as tourism dollars of visitors from parks, gardens and civic areas.

Increases retail activity - Studies have proven that greenery and flowers attract shoppers and residents to urban areas...spurring economic growth.

For more information on the value of trees visit: <http://www.naturewithin.info/>



## How Dyersburg Weathered the Ice Storm

We have all heard the expression: “An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure”. But how many of us practice that? How many utility companies out there actually practice that? Do you wait until a storm comes through and puts half of your system on the ground before you think about it? Unfortunately, many utility managers do just that. Their motto is: “If its not broke, don’t fix it”! But just remember, nature is very unforgiving, and one of the most damaging weapons she has is ICE. She will find your weak spots on your system, and if you do very little maintenance, that might just be your entire system. So you might just get to live your Motto. Cause when nature breaks it, you will get to fix it....

Most of you heard about the ice storm that crippled parts of the mid-west on January 26th thru the 28th and eventually found its way to New England. Most likely many other utility and tree care companies sent crews to assist those utilities greatly affected by it. West Tennessee was right in nature’s crosshairs just like everyone else. In Dyersburg Tennessee we received three quarters of an inch of ice and in some areas around an inch. This wasn’t as bad as Kentucky, which received two inches across much of the State. But how many systems can handle almost an inch? Well, that depends on their maintenance programs. Now I’m not saying you can storm proof your system, or if you do certain things you might be bullet proof. We know that to be impossible. But I do believe you can do certain things to withstand some of nature’s wrath to a point. In late January the Nation heard about the hundreds of thousands of customers without electricity across Arkansas, Missouri, Tennessee and almost all of Kentucky. Many of them three weeks after the storm are still without lights. But we don’t always hear about the utilities that have spent hundreds of thousands of dollars or perhaps millions to upgrade their systems, trim trees (the way they should), and inspect poles. But after a major icing event, you will certainly tell the difference in those utilities that do, and those that don’t. In times like these it pays to be proactive. Over the past 10 years, Dyersburg Electric has spent a lot of money investing in our system. Whether it was trimming trees according to ANSI A300, cutting down 25,000+ trees from our 350 mile system, pole inspections and replacements on a yearly basis, installing steel poles whenever possible, installing heavy duty tree cable or designing a loop feed system. All of these things helped us weather the ice storm that crippled

other neighboring systems. I don’t want to pass judgment on our neighboring systems or brag about our lack of damage. But I can’t help thinking about all of the things we do each and every day to ensure our success to the best we can. I don’t believe in trusting “luck” to protect us during events like this. I’ve just never been “lucky” in anything. So when I say that Dyersburg Electric only had 400 customers out of 12,000 without electricity ( which is less than 4% ), I don’t believe “luck” had anything to do with it. Granted, almost an inch of ice wasn’t the worst of the storm, but we have had plenty of history lessons based on less than an inch of ice. In 1999 and again in 2003, we were hit with a half inch of ice and were devastated. Almost a quarter of our system was on the ground after those two events mainly from falling trees and branches. But now after 10 years of aggressive tree trimming and removal we weathered almost an inch of ice with little damage, and most of that was on service wires. Not a single main feeder breaker operation. Those of our customers that were effected, we had them back up with 24 hours. By day two of the storm, we were sending our line crews to assist neighboring utilities.

I can’t emphasize enough the importance of a pole inspection program. We regularly inspect all the poles on our system, and can get around to each of them about every 8 years. Those that are deemed rotten or damaged, we replace, and in many cases we replace with steel. So much so, that about 25% of our system is steel. So we get the weakest poles out of the system. This helps when added weight (to a point) is put on the lines and poles with ice. We have also installed heavy tree cable on rear lot lines which prevents many falling branches from blowing fuses. Narrow profile construction in addition to the tree cable gives you added protection. The loop feed system gives you the ability to restore power to neighborhoods through a different substation when you do lose a pole on a main line. I think all of these things contributed to the fact we weathered this storm better than any ice storm in our past. So we got to see firsthand the meaning of: “Pay me a little now, or pay me a lot later”. So if you are questioning whether to spend the money upfront, or wondering if its worth it to trust “luck”, I hope I have convinced you otherwise.....We can’t storm proof a system, but you can minimize damage by being proactive. Your customers will appreciate it too.....

By Jack Golio , System Forester , Dyersburg Electric

## Tennessee Yards and Neighborhoods - New Program

How does your yard measure up? A “Tennessee Yard Done Right” is beautiful, earth-friendly *and* saves money. Through the Home Landscape Workshop, Tennessee Yards and Neighborhoods helps homeowners create attractive and healthy yards by working with Tennessee’s environment rather than against it.

What’s the payoff for you, the homeowner? A yard that meets your needs, enhances your neighborhood and helps protect Tennessee’s beauty and natural resources. And by conserving resources, you’ll save money on utility bills and long-term yard maintenance. The workshop will provide guidebooks and diagnostic tools like soil tests and rain gauges plus a “yard” stick to help you measure your progress toward a “Tennessee Yard Done Right”.

A joint venture among the University of Tennessee Extension, Tennessee Water Resource Research Center, and TVA, Tennessee Yards and Neighborhoods is helping landscapes go green! The Home Landscape Workshop will be held in various areas across Tennessee so contact your local Extension agent for information on a workshop near you!

For more information, please contact: <http://utiportal.tennessee.edu/ext/TYN/Pages/default.aspx>



**We need your help to sell 1000 Tree Auto Tags.**



**Be sure to tell your family and friends. Trees make a difference!**

## Recognition Awards given in Chattanooga

Kathy Gilbert of Times Free Press in Chattanooga reported the “Chattanooga Tree Commission Branched out on Earth Day, awarding local citizens, groups and businesses for promoting trees.” “There are people in Chattanooga who value trees and recognize their contributions to our lives,” noted urban forester” Gene Hyde. “The Tree Commission wants to seek out these people who are doing the right thing and recognize them for their efforts.” The Commission members are appointed by Mayor Ron Littlefield. Winners receive community recognition but no monetary reward.

The award categories include: Neighborhood Groups, Citizen Involvement, School Grounds, Special Recognition, Developer, Tree Commission Member, Acorn Award, Forester’s Award, and Arbor Day Poster Contest Winner.

The logo features a stylized black tree with a shadow cast to the right. To the right of the tree, the words "SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS GROUP" are written in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

SSRCx’s Sustainable Solutions Group is a team of LEED® AP professionals experienced in the design, construction and operation of high performance green buildings according to guidelines set by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC)

**Our core services:**

- LEED Feasibility Studies
- LEED Facilitation of all Rating Systems
- Energy Modeling
- New Construction Commissioning (SSRCx core service)
- Retro-commissioning
- Continuous Commissioning ®
- Facility Benchmark Analysis

James D. Qualk • 615.514.6137 • [jqualk@ssr-inc.com](mailto:jqualk@ssr-inc.com)

The logo for SSRCx Facilities Commissioning, with "SSRCx" in a large, bold, black font and "FACILITIES COMMISSIONING" in a smaller, black font below it.

# Calendar of Events

## June 30

Tennessee Groves - A new Tennessee Department of Transportation program administered by the Tennessee Urban Forestry Council Kick-Off Ceremony Tuesday, June 30th at 1:30 pm EST, Bristol I-81 Southbound Welcome Center. Ceremony Participants: Governor Phil Bredesen, TDOT Commissioner Gerald Nicely, TUFC Program Chair Jon Nettle. You are invited.

## July 16

Tennessee Urban Forestry Council Board of Directors meeting and strategic planning workshop. Nashville. For more information, contact Jennifer Smith, 615-352-8985.

## August 4

Tennessee Green Industry Field Day, Tennessee State University Nursery Research Center, McMinnville, 9 am to 3 pm. Exhibits, tours, research demonstrations and lectures. Presented by the Tennessee Nursery and Landscape Association and a host of partners including the TUFC. Free. 931-473-3951, <http://tnla.com>.

## October 22-23

**18th Annual Urban Forestry Conference:** Lipscomb University, Nashville. Tour, Urban Forestry Awards of Excellence, Tree Board Program, Programs with Continuing Education Credits. Keynote: Alice Ewen Walker of Alliance for Community Trees, Urban Forestry National Outlook and Implications for Tennessee.

CEU: Pesticide, ISA, Landscape Architects & Nursery Professionals. Planners and Engineers may apply for points. Conference brochure being sent by e-mail.

## October 24

11th Annual Tree Climbing Championship: Saturday, October 24, Nashville.

Urban Forestry Public Forum: Managing Nashville's Urban Forest - Community is invited to a discussion on the state of the urban forest. This panel-lead discussion is free and is a feature of the Annual Urban Forestry Conference.

## August 4-10 (separate 1-day events, see details)

Urban Forestry Workshops: Municipal, Utilities and Planning, presented with Tenn. Municipal Technical Advisory Service. Featuring an overview of urban forestry programs, benefits and values; utility pruning concepts, and an introduction to Interface Forestry and the problems and opportunities presented by urban growth and expansion. 8:30 to 11:30 am, fee \$25. August 4 - Germantown; August 5 - Nashville; August 6 - Pulaski; August 10 - Morristown.

## November 9-11

Partners in Community Forestry National Conference presented by the Arbor Day Foundation and The Home Depot Foundation, Doubletree Hotel, Portland, Oregon. Tracks: community tree management, trees and development, and trees and community health. <http://www.arborday.org/pcfcall>.

## News from the TUFC Chapters

### West TN Chapter

#### Highlights

- Greater Memphis Greenline: Consultation for Tree Species Selection – Providing advice on tree species for proposed landscaping.
- Shelby Farms Park Conservancy: Educating Volunteers on Proper Tree Planting – Educated and assisted volunteers in tree planting events.
- Tennessee Arbor Day Week – Exhibit at the Memphis Botanic Garden
- Down to Earth an Earth Day Celebration at Shelby Farms – Exhibit Booth
- Wolf River Conservancy: Educating Volunteers on Proper Tree Planting – Demonstration of tree sapling planting and general assistance to the volunteer planting event. Also, chapter member Wes Hopper is looking for a portable saw mill to take cut down trees on site and make wood for board walk.
- Mulch Trees for Protection, not Punishment Campaign – Held throughout May to promote proper tree mulching through garden centers, nurseries and media outlets with fliers based on ISA guidelines.
- Utility Arboretum at Shelby Farms Conservancy – Plan to develop a demonstration to evaluate, showcase and promote trees compatible with overhead utility lines. The site may also be utilized as a demonstration project for utility line clearance training.
- 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Forest Faire – Co-sponsor event in September with the Vollintine Evergreen Neighborhood Association.
- Flowering Tree Sale – Fundraising idea

### Trees Nashville Chapter

Trees Nashville Chapter launched their website [www.TreesNashville.org](http://www.TreesNashville.org). Check it out and do the survey.



**Construction Damage:** Tree root zones need protection during construction. With the parking area and sidewalk placed in the root zone, it would have been advisable to remove this tree and strategically plant another tree further away from the concrete areas.



What is wrong with the care of this tree? Classic mulch volcano, no main leader so a weak crotch is developing and scars from where the tree was staked.



Newly renovated TSU Avon Williams campus in downtown Nashville includes trees in decorative containers to soften up this urban environment.



Members of the Metro Tree Advisory Board promote trees and the tree tag at the Earth Day celebration in Centennial Park. State Urban Forester is supporting his signature wooden bow-tie. Others are Jason Owenbey Linda Miller, Chris Armour, Jan Stinson and Stephan Kivett



[www.TLCforTrees.Info](http://www.TLCforTrees.Info)  
One-Stop Website for Tree Questions

## Couchville Lake Arboretum Trail Opens

Commissioner Fyke joined the Friends of Long Hunter State Park on Saturday, April 25 for a ribbon cutting event to recognize the new Couchville Lake Arboretum Trail - the first certified Arboretum in a TN State Park.

It was a beautiful day and a good group gathered to hear Commissioner thank all the LHSP Friends and take a walk along the Arboretum trail. Kudos to Thurman Mullins, his LHSP team and all the Friends of LHSP for a successful Earth Day celebration and meaningful ribbon cutting event.



Top Photo: Ribbon Cutting.

Second Photo: (L to R) James Mealor (longtime friends of Long Hunter member and former Friends president); Jason Allen, Volunteer Event and Arboretum Coordinator; Long Hunter Park Manager Thurman Mullins; TDEC Commissioner Jim Fyke; and Friends of Long Hunter President Becky Lichford.



Last Photo: Getting away from it all on the trail.





## Urban Forestry Workshops: Municipal, Utilities and Planning

Presented with the Municipal Technical Advisory Service. Featuring an overview of urban forestry programs, benefits and values; utility pruning concepts, and an introduction to Interface Forestry and the problems and opportunities urban growth and expansion present.

8:30 to 11:30 am, Fee \$25

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**We need your help to sell 1000 Tree Auto Tags so that the message gets out there on Tennessee highways and byways.**

**Be sure to tell your family and friends. Trees make a difference!**

**Tree, tree, my favorite tree,  
Oh what you mean to me.**

**My favorite tree is so tall and lush,  
But very hard to the touch.**

**Tree, tree, my tree,  
Oh how you love the breeze.**

**I dream, I play, I laugh, I sway,  
We play almost every day.**

**Tree, tree, my loving tree,  
Why did you leave me?**

**I ran along to come and play,  
but you had already gone away.  
With a stump in your rightful place,**

**sadness swept across my face.**

**Tree, tree, my favorite tree,**

**I'll miss you always, it's true you see,  
No more laughs, no more dreams, goodbye tree,**

**I hope you miss me.**

**- Summer Green**



## Arbor Day in Morristown

Morristown celebrated Arbor Day with a tree planting ceremony at Lincoln Elementary School. Poster contest winners Jose Manuel and Jose Ramos stand with Lincoln Elementary School principal Janet Dalton and Division of Forestry's Rick Martin. Poetry Contest Winner Summer Green's entry appears to the left.



### 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.

## Urban Landscaping - Part I: Bareroot Trees

June 18, 2009, 1:00 - 2:00 pm EST, Free

A best management practice that is increasingly moving from research to the field is bare root planting. Whether from a nursery field to the city street or just from one place in your yard to another, it's the roots that suffer when trees are transplanted. Consider this: Shade tree roots are found primarily in the top 12 inches of soil. Tiny absorbing roots, responsible for most of the tree's intake of water and nutrients, grow horizontally not only up to the dripline, but also beyond it. In fact, there is often a higher percentage of absorbing roots beyond the dripline than within it. An unbelievable 90% of three roots are routinely left behind at the nursery at the time of harvest. In an industry where having a viable root system is the primary determining factor of whether trees survive and thrive in their new location, current practices must be reevaluated. Webcast attendees will learn the advantages and disadvantages of bare root stock, dealing with the narrower planting window (after leaf fall to before budbreak), finding desired species, and selling to and educating the public about bare root trees. For more information and to register, visit the website: [http://acttrees.org/files/Newsletter/bbls\\_09jun18.html](http://acttrees.org/files/Newsletter/bbls_09jun18.html)

*"To plant trees is to give body and life to one's dreams of a better world."*

**-- Russell Page**

### 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)

Tree Inventory  
Pre-Construction Site Assessment  
and Tree Preservation  
Tree Valuation  
Plant Health Care  
Education and Training  
Forensic Investigation  
Expert Witness

## 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)