



SOUTH CAROLINA  
**URBAN &  
COMMUNITY**  
• FORESTRY COUNCIL •

# NEWSLETTER

WINTER/SPRING 1992  
VOLUME 1, NO. 1

## Can You Afford Urban Forestry?

*by Danny Burbage, Chair*

In a time when there are so many pressing social issues many of us undergo some personal turmoil trying to decide which of the many important crusades we want to make our own. Pro-life, pro-choice, the homeless, abused children, recycling; the list seems nearly endless. With all these societal questions begging for more and better answers, one might ask himself or herself, "Can I afford to commit any more of my already dwindling time to the cause of urban and community forestry?" Can you afford not to? Can you afford not to, when:

- Three out of four Americans now live in an urbanized area?
- These urban areas are expanding at a rate of 3,500 acres daily?
- You as a taxpayer are part-owner of your community forest and have a vested interest in it?
- For every 4 trees that die or are removed, only 1 is replanted?
- One acre of trees provides oxygen for 18 people and will absorb the amount of carbon dioxide each year equivalent to that produced by a car driven 26,000 miles?

Trees properly placed around buildings can reduce cooling costs up to 30% and heating costs from 20% to 50%. Thus, trees can reduce the burning of fossil fuels for energy.

A good service organization is multi-layered so that interested persons can make varying degrees of contributions depending on their schedules and levels of enthusiasm. The South Carolina Urban and Community Forestry Council is organized to give good service to our fellow South Carolinians. To insure that there is an exchange of people at the top level, each member of the Board of Directors is elected by the general membership to a three year term and can succeed that term only once. Committees are chosen from the general membership so that any willing person can help to put together our annual conference or work on our newsletter or any number of tasks performed by our committees. By attending conferences and workshops sponsored by the Council we learn "what's new" and what's "old and still working well" in urban

(see CHAIR'S MESSAGE, page 4)

## What's in a Name?

Our Council newsletter is in need of a "NAME". How would you like to show your creative flair by "naming" the newsletter? The sky is the limit! Give it some thought and send your ideas to the editor by May 1, 1992. Mail your entry

to: SCU&CF Council  
P.O. Box 21707  
Columbia, S.C. 29221  
Attn: Steve Scott

## Board of Directors News

Recent events have resulted in one new Director and one vacancy on the Board of Directors. Mark McCain was elected Director to replace Robert Phillips at the Annual Members Meeting in November. Mark is the Director of Public Works for the City of Columbia.

Nancy Succop resigned in January to move to Virginia. Nancy accepted a position as Landscape Architect on the Mt. Rogers National Recreation Area. She may be contacted at **Jefferson National Forest, Mt. Rogers National Recreation Area, P.O. Box 303, Marion, VA. 24354, tel. 703-783-5196.**

We wish to thank Nancy and Robert for their many contributions in establishing the Council and wish them well. We also welcome Mark and look forward to working with him.

**The Board is currently searching for interested persons to fill a vacancy on the Board** created when Nancy left. The person must be employed as a zoning official. Interested persons should contact Danny Burbage or Steve Scott.

## America The Beautiful South Carolina Success Stories Part 1

by Debbie Price

### Camden Tree Foundation

In Camden, a community of 6700 where the steeplechase is the best known event of the year, a small group of citizens have formed the *Camden Tree Foundation*. Through the energetic leadership of President Brenda Sullivan, the group has raised funds for planting trees in city parks, on historic properties and along busy streets.

Through the America the Beautiful grants, the non-profit group was able to take on a larger task, beautifying the two main entrances to town. The first trees were planted just before the fall steeplechase - 140 red maples along the roads leading to the track. The planting drew such public response that the *Camden Tree Foundation* was able to raise funds for planting 50 oak trees on the other entrance, instead of 16! Now as the second road is being planted, donations continue to come in.

The *Camden Tree Foundation* works closely with the city and the state highway department in coordinating these projects. But since these local governments cannot provide labor to water and maintain the trees, the *Camden Tree Foundation* also contracts with a local nursery to care for the

trees during the establishment period.

### City of Clemson

The *City of Clemson* has teamed up with horticulture and landscape architecture students at Clemson University to develop a streetscape plan and plant trees along the highway leading into town. As part of their course work, students studied the site and developed landscape plans for a two-mile stretch of road. The plans were evaluated by professional urban foresters and landscape architects, and adjusted as necessary.

Once the plans were completed, the students submitted a request for an encroachment permit to the local engineer of the highway department. Students are now working with city employees to plant trees and are quite enthusiastic about seeing their designs implemented!

### Columbia Green

*Columbia Green*, a private nonprofit group dedicated to horticultural awareness and beautification, has teamed up with the City of Columbia to plant trees. *Columbia Green* has provided coordination and public relations activities, while the city has

provided labor and equipment to plant the trees.

The project is part of *Columbia Green's* Gateway Beautification, which began with planting perennial flowers in highly visible downtown areas. "America the Beautiful" funds have enabled them to proceed with phase two, planting trees. So far, 150 bald cypress and 50 crape myrtle trees are in the ground. When spring arrives, the project will be completed with the planting of palmetto trees lining the road to our state capitol.

To kick off the tree planting, *Columbia Green* sponsored a press conference where they gave the trees to the city as a Christmas present. The event was attended by 75 representatives of private businesses, economic development groups, and local governments. The conference resulted in TV, radio and newspaper coverage.



*Debbie Price is the Community Action Forester with the S.C. Forestry Commission located in Columbia. She works with volunteer and civic groups and administers urban forestry grant programs.*

Editors Note: Part Two of this article will appear in a future issue of the newsletter featuring Florence, Lowcountry ReLEAF, and Hartsville's Trees for Tomorrow.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **MARCH**

**20** - Arbor Day in North Carolina.

**28** - Board of Directors Meeting, SCU&CF Council, 10am, SCFC Office, Columbia.

### **APRIL**

**10** - Arbor Day in Virginia.

**24** - National Arbor Day.

**24-26** - People-Plant Relationships: Setting Research Priorities, East Rutherford, New Jersey. Contact: Joel Flagler, 327 Ridgewood Ave., Paramus, NJ, (201) 599-6166.

**25** - Earth Day Marketplace, State House Grounds, Columbia, SC. Contact: Kim Ehrman, SC Dept PRT, (803) 734-0156.

**29-30** - Governor's Community Improvement Conference, Sheraton Hotel & Conference Center, Columbia, SC, Contact: Dolly Gibson, SC Clean & Beautiful, (803) 734-0141.

### **MAY**

**9** - Third Annual Conservation Day, Riverbanks Zoo, Columbia, SC. Contact: Deborah Slice, (803) 779-8717.

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## Two Publications That Make a Difference *by Clark Beavans*

Even though education is one of the Council's primary objectives, I think we are kidding ourselves if we believe the SC Urban and Community Forestry Council by itself can educate all South Carolinians on the broad spectrum of technical, specialized tree-related issues.

However, information is power. The most effective way for the Council to help members become informed is to provide members with a way to find the information they are seeking. In other words, the Council can help members tap a few sources of excellent, general information for their everyday consumption. These publications will help members develop better, more specific questions that can either be addressed directly or referred to a more specific source of information.

If I could choose two sources of information for every family in South Carolina, they would be the *TREE CITY USA BULLETIN* from the National Arbor Day Foundation and *URBAN FORESTS* magazine from the American Forestry Association. These two periodicals contain the best available information, hands down, for people interested in urban and community trees.

*TREE CITY USA BULLETIN* is an eight-page bimonthly newsletter. Each issue is devoted

entirely to a specific topic, such as "How to Write a Municipal Tree Ordinance." The format is simple, well illustrated, and very readable. They usually include an excellent list of other sources of more specific information for those interested in digging further. It is available for \$10 per year from **Friends of Tree City USA, the National Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Avenue, Nebraska City, Nebraska 68410.**

*URBAN FORESTS* magazine has expanded from a four-page bimonthly newsletter (the old *Urban Forest Forum*) to a twenty-four page bimonthly magazine chocked-full of the latest information on community tree issues across the nation. It provides ideas and examples of projects, problems/solutions, meetings and events happening in communities all over the United States. The latest, most up-to-date information on tree planting techniques, tree protection, and other research is covered in an understandable and direct format. Amazingly, this publication is still provided free of charge! Contact: *URBAN FORESTS*, the American Forestry Association, P.O. Box 2000, Washington, D.C. 20013-2000.



*Clark Beavans is the Rock Hill City Forester and is currently serving on the Council Board of Directors.*

**CHAIR'S MESSAGE, from page 1**

forestry. Just being a member of the South Carolina Urban and Community Forestry Council makes a statement that you care about the quality of life in your community and every other community in our beautiful and historic state. BE ASSURED that at whatever level of the Council you choose to participate, you are welcome and that your input is valued. Come network with us for

the benefit of the South Carolina community forests. If you are unable to serve on the Board of Directors or a committee, please write us or call. Let us know your thoughts, your feelings or any situations where we might be of service. Any time you spend will benefit you and the 3-1/2 million other South Carolinians who enjoy the natural beauty, the cooling shade and the clean air given to us

by our community trees. And don't forget; your time will benefit a population of South Carolinians who are unable to speak for themselves - the trees.



*Danny Burbage is Superintendent of Grounds Maintenance, Urban Forestry, Department of Parks, City of Charleston. Danny is currently serving as Council Chair.*

## COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP GROWING

*by Clark Beavans, Membership Chair*

I bet most of you are wondering what in the world is happening with the Council. This newsletter may be the first contact you have had from us since the Conference in November. We have certainly intended to update you before now, but the process of organization has consumed much more time and energy than anybody ever thought it would. Let me assure you, we ain't just sitting around and waiting for things to happen! But we have lagged in letting you know what's happening.

So...Steve Scott reports that membership applications continue to trickle in steadily, averaging 3 or 4 per week. As of February 5, we have received 110 completed membership applications! If you have not filled one out, please take a minute to complete the application below and send it in. Or give it to a friend, neighbor, or co-worker.

A quick and dirty analysis of Council membership reveals that 57 live in the Midlands, 27 in the Lowcountry, and 26 in the Upstate. Remember, quick and dirty is not scientific. It looks like many of us are civil servants, government employees, educators, or civic group representatives. There is a significant number of private business owner/operators represented (nurserymen, landscapers, consultants) as well. This is a very quick and filthy analysis, since I can't even give you numbers to go with these categories. Some people left this blank and there is a fair amount of overlap, some people work for one organization and represent a different organization (a civic group, for example) on the Council. What can we tell from the existing membership data? Well, we are certainly a diverse group of people. We're spread out all over South Carolina. We do have one thing in common, though. We care about our future and the future of our community trees. I think we're on the right track.

### South Carolina Urban and Community Forestry Council Membership Application Form (Please fill out both sides)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title or Job \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate any committee(s) you might have an interest in serving:

- Membership Committee \_\_\_\_\_
- Public Information/Public Awareness Committee \_\_\_\_\_
- Conference Committee \_\_\_\_\_
- Finance Committee \_\_\_\_\_
- Planning Committee \_\_\_\_\_

Mail or return Application to:  
 S.C. Urban & Community Forestry Council  
 PO Box 21707  
 Columbia, SC 29221

see reverse side

# Winter Characteristics of Woody Landscape Plants

by Tom Knowles

When we think of the winter landscape around us, oftentimes we conjure up images involving words such as: gray, brown, bleak, dull, cold, wet, dormant, etc. The colors of fall are long gone and most woody plants are still "sleeping" this time of year (at least the above ground parts). Now it seems that we are waiting for the soon-to-be arrival of spring for plants to put on their show once again. But...the show goes on!

There are many interesting winter characteristics that woody plants exhibit which make them quite attractive in this "off" season. Some plants, such as camellias, are in their glory throughout the winter months, while others display a more subtle appearance.

Trees and other landscape plants display their winter characteristics through their shape, texture, fruit, bark, trunk, branches and stems, and other morphological features.

As spring approaches here are a few interesting plants to use that will provide aesthetic value for next winters landscape:

**D= Deciduous, E= Evergreen**

## SHRUBS

1. Winged Burning Bush - *Euonymus*

*alatus* (D), A large shrub, up to 20 feet tall, the winged euonymus develops into a flat topped, medium textured plant which is very effective in winter due to its winged branches. The branches are green, then turning brown to gray as it ridges out into its corky wings. *E. alatus* is also well known for its outstanding fall color.

2. Oakleaf Hydrangea - *Hydrangea quercifolia* (D), A very coarse plant in winter with thick, pubescent branches which offer a striking effect. The stems are brown and exfoliate with age exposing a darker brown beneath. The plant will send off stolons and multiply. Will reach 8-10 feet high.

3. Oregon Grape holly - *Mahonia aquifolium* (E), Perhaps its most notable characteristic is that its fruit looks like grapes and may stay on the shrub until December. The flowers are fragrant and can bloom as early as February. A medium-sized shrub, the leaves turn bronze color in winter.

## TREES

1. Chinese Elm - *Ulmus parvifolia* (D), Also called Lacebark Elm because of its beautiful exfoliating bark which ranges in color from green and orange to

brown. Its branches are very fine textured and often droop downwards. Has been known to hold its fall color to late November.

2. Goldenraintree - *Koelreuteria paniculata* (D), A coarse textured tree in winter with its seed pods persisting late into the winter months. The seed pods resemble chinese lanterns and contain the hard black, pea-like seeds.

3. River Birch - *Betula nigra* (D), Valued in winter for its gracefulness and fine texture. This tree looks tremendous with its thin branches drooping against a gray winter sky. The bark is reddish brown to cinnamon brown and exfoliates with age. The branches hold catkins which drop the seed in spring.

If the old saying "beauty is in the eye of the beholder" holds true, then we should all behold the splendor of the winter landscape around us.



Tom Knowles is the Superintendent of Grounds Maintenance at the Governor's Mansion Complex in Columbia and is currently serving on the Board of Directors and as Public Awareness Committee Chair.

**If** you want to learn more about trees, or learn how to encourage your community to plant and maintain trees, please join us.

**Please indicate below any and all categories that apply to your current employment, profession, or place of residence.**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> employed as a municipal arborist or urban forester.    | <input type="checkbox"/> employed by the S.C. Dept. of Highways and Public Tra    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> employed as a commercial arborist.                     | <input type="checkbox"/> employed as a builder or land developer.                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> employed as a utility forester.                        | <input type="checkbox"/> member of a Tree Board or Tree Commission.               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> employed as a municipal or county planner.             | <input type="checkbox"/> elected state, county, city, or town official.           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> employed as a zoning official.                         | <input type="checkbox"/> member of a citizen tree planting organization.          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> member of a community improvement volunteer group.     | <input type="checkbox"/> employed in a county or city public works dept.          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> employed as a nurseryman or tree grower.               | <input type="checkbox"/> member of a historical preservation or environmental grp |
| <input type="checkbox"/> registered landscape architect.                        | <input type="checkbox"/> reside in Piedmont of South Carolina                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> employed by the S.C. Forestry Commission.              | <input type="checkbox"/> reside in Midlands of South Carolina.                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> employed by the Clemson Cooperative Extension Service. | <input type="checkbox"/> reside in Coastal Plain of South Carolina.               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> registered forester.                                   |   |

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION -see reverse side

## S.C. Urban and Community Forestry Council Board of Directors

Danny Burbage - CHAIR  
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724-7416

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S.C. Forestry Commission  
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556-1924

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942-8716

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This newsletter is produced by the South Carolina Urban and Community Forestry Council through the Public Awareness Committee. Comments and articles for consideration in future editions should be submitted to the Editor, Steve Scott, SC Urban and Community Forestry Council, P.O. Box 21707, Columbia, S.C. 29221.



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