



# The Council Quarterly

Quarterly Newsletter of the Florida Urban Forestry Council

2019 Issue Three

The Council Quarterly newsletter is published quarterly by the Florida Urban Forestry Council and is intended as an educational benefit to our members. Information may be reprinted if credit is given to the author(s) and this newsletter. All pictures, articles, advertisements, and other data are in no way to be construed as an endorsement of the author, products, services, or techniques. Likewise, the statements and opinions expressed herein are those of the individual authors and do not represent the view of the Florida Urban Forestry Council or its Executive Committee. This newsletter is made possible by the generous support of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Florida Forest Service, Nikki Fried Commissioner.

## TIPS FOR CHOOSING THE PROPER TREE CARE SPECIALIST

Submitted by Chris Otremba, Senior Forester - Florida Forest Service

Trees are a valuable asset and long-term investment that can increase your property value. In the wake of storms, existing stress factors, and other environmental uncertainties, a tree care specialist can safeguard your return on investment and the portfolio of benefits that trees provide. Could you profit from pruning? Is your investment performing properly? Is it time to liquidate or remove a tree? Perhaps it's time to seek the skills and advice of a tree-care specialist? Here are some tips to help you find the best fit for you.

- 1) Ask questions! Ask for local references. If possible, look at their work. Ask about their experience, education, and qualifications.
- 2) Do they have a Certified Arborist on staff? Certified Arborists, through the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA), have passed the test of knowledge and experience regarding proper tree care and industry standards. You can learn more about ISA certifications at [www.isa-arbor.com](http://www.isa-arbor.com).
- 3) Ask for certificates of insurance, proof of liability, and workers compensation. This is important and should not be overlooked.
- 4) A good tree expert would NEVER recommend topping, de-mossing, injuring a tree with climbing spikes, or other harmful and unnecessary practices.
- 5) Beware of the door-knockers. Reputable tree companies rarely need to knock on doors for business.
- 6) Seek out second opinions. Have more than one company evaluate the situation. Seek out unbiased advice from a professional forester, Certified Arborist, or local tree care specialist.
- 7) Ask the question, "Is removal the first and only solution, or a last resort?"

Here are some helpful tips once you have selected a candidate for completing needed tree work.

*continues on pg. 3*



Photo By TreeMinion15 - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=79467949>

### INSIDE:

Tips for Choosing the Proper Tree Care Specialist.....	1 & 3
President's Message.....	2
Stump the Forester.....	5
Tree of the Quarter.....	6 - 7
An Urban Forestry Plan Comes Together.....	8 - 9
Members.....	10
Request for Articles.....	11

- 1) NEVER pay upfront, NEVER! Unfortunately, complete payment upfront may not guarantee that the work will be completed. Have the work to be performed written in an agreement before the work begins.
- 2) Always get a starting date and finish date in the agreement. The work to be completed needs to be documented. For example, the price of removing a tree may not include the price to haul off the debris. Have everything written down before the work begins with the price for each step of the process.
- 3) Take pictures before, during, and after the work is complete. This will be helpful in case of a dispute or damages occurring from the job.
- 4) If you see something you do not approve of, TELL THEM. Do not wait until the cut is complete and the damage is done.
- 5) Pay the company with a check only after everything on the contract has been completed (including clean-up).

In summary, trees are long-term investments and valuable assets to your property. A good tree company can improve a tree's overall health and safeguard your trees from bad weather and other environmental stresses. When shopping for a tree company, ask questions. Take the opportunity to educate yourself about the basic principles of tree care. Some pruning is simple and can be done on your own. For more information, contact your County Forester with the Florida Forest Service, UF/IFAS Cooperative Extension office, local municipal forester, utility arborist, or local tree-advocacy group.

The Florida Forest Service, a division of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, manages more than 1 million acres of state forests. County Foresters provide forest management assistance on more than 17 million acres of private and community forests. The Florida Forest Service also provides

technical, financial, and educational resources to support the development and continuing viability of local urban forestry practices through a Florida Urban and Community Forestry (U&CF) program. The U&CF program targets the needs of local governments, nonprofit organizations, primary and secondary schools, colleges and universities, and the general public. Urban and community forestry initiatives are accomplished through partnerships with the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Science (IFAS), the Florida Urban Forestry Council (FUFC), and other organizations and entities. To learn more about the Florida Forest Service, to include a complete listing of County Foresters, visit the [FloridaForestService.com](http://FloridaForestService.com).

Register Now! [fufc.org](http://fufc.org)

Florida Urban Forestry Council • Urban Forestry Institute 2020

# Expanding Your Canopy

Wednesday-Friday • March 4-6, 2020

Expanding Your Canopy—in the public realm, on private properties, with utility-appropriate trees, and through known tree benefits. Renowned tree experts and leaders from Florida urban forestry will present information on the current state of affairs with designed soils for pavement and trees, measuring and mapping the tree canopy, expansion through design and regulation, improving safety on urban roadways through planting street trees, selecting and purchasing quality trees, public and private partnerships, Urban and Community Forestry grants, and more.

Don't miss this opportunity to attend the 2020 FUFC Urban Forestry Institute!

Stetson University • DeLand, Florida