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Protecting Florida's Last Old-Growth Pines

By Justine E. Hausheer, science writer for The Nature Conservancy

[Originally published at Cool Green Science](#)



Jean Huffman cores a longleaf pine.
Photo © Justine E. Hausheer / TNC

"Jean, I have this tree I want to show you," says Sticky.

We're bouncing along a deeply grooved sand road half overgrown with grass and palmettos on Florida's Tiger Creek preserve, with Lake Wales Ridge conservation program manager Steve "Sticky" Morrison at the wheel of the UTV. To our right, a scorched palmetto clearing still smokes from yesterday's burn. Eventually we sputter to a halt next to a broad, flat-topped longleaf pine hidden behind palmetto thicket.

"Oh yeah," says Jean Huffman. "This is gonna be old." Huffman, a fire ecologist at Louisiana State University and Tall Timbers Research Station, is on a mission to archive the last of Florida's old longleaf pines. Overlooked or unnoticed by land managers, these pines store a wealth of data within their rings. But they're also

at risk as land managers reintroduce fire into the landscape.

Old Pines in Danger

The Conservancy's [Tiger Creek preserve](#) is perched on the Lake Wales Ridge, the remnant of an ancient island that runs down the Florida peninsula like a gnarled spine. Once covered with forests of longleaf pine and saw palmetto, most of ridge's sandhill habitat is in bad shape after decades of extensive logging and fire exclusion. Land managers are actively reintroducing fire to restore the landscape, but unfortunately this return to the natural cycle can be a deathblow to the few ancient longleaf pines that remain.



Saw palmettos and pines at Tiger Creek.
Photo © Justine E. Hausheer / TNC

We climb out of the UTV and wade through the palmettos, skirting bleached

[Protecting continued on page 5](#)

A Message From the President



Ten Reasons to Celebrate the Florida Chapter

At the Florida Chapter Board retreat in February, CEO Norm Easey handed out a list of our 2014 accomplishments. It wasn't discussed at length, so I thought that I would like to highlight some of the reasons

that I am proud to be a member of the Florida Chapter.

1. **Certification** - During 2014, we welcomed 110 new Certified Arborists, 5 Municipal Specialists, 3 Utility Specialists and 6 Tree Worker Climber Specialists to the Florida Chapter. I am proud to be a certified arborist and I think any of us that are certified in any category should be proud of our accomplishments as well. Certification increases the professionalism of our industry.
2. **Education** - Last year, we held 18 educational seminars in 13 Florida cities. Our stellar educational programs are a huge value to our membership and we are grateful to the Education Committee for their work in creating them. The quantity and quality of classes and CEUs is outstanding.
3. **Tree Climbing Championship** - Last year, we held two Florida Chapter Tree Climbing Championships (so our climbers could participate in the International TCC during the spring this year). A total of 63 climbers competed at the two events. We are proud that our Florida Chapter winners went on to compete at the International TCC events, respectively. The Chapter has also made the Outdoor Tree School a popular tradition for arborists and allied attendees, holding it on the Friday before each Florida Chapter TCC; very few chapters offer this kind of opportunity.
4. **Trees Florida Conference** - This annual event offers great educational opportunities as well as networking among our peers. I think that we all missed having it this year due to the ISA International conference being in Orlando, and we will be happy with its return in 2016.
5. **Continuing with that thought, hosting the ISA International Conference** during 2015 was a wonderful opportunity for us to show Florida to the world of arborists! And for members like me, this was my first International Conference (and hopefully not my last!).
6. **Trees are Cool license plate** - Does any other ISA Chapter have a specialty license plate? It is a great way

to fund research and promote our industry. Sales of the plate are also a large revenue source for us. We are revitalizing our effort to market the plate, due to the fact that the Florida legislature has discussed reducing the number of specialty plates in the last few years. If you haven't bought yours yet, now is a good time to do so!

7. **Florida Chapter book store and lending library** - What a valuable resource to members! So many pertinent titles, and brought directly to us at most seminars and events so that we can shop before purchasing. The lending library is available to Chapter members so you can access additional study materials for exams, or peruse a new title before purchasing.
8. **eTree news and The Florida Arborist newsletter** - Don't you love getting these newsletters? The monthly newsletter is concise but packed with information and events. It is a great way to keep in touch with the Chapter. And the articles in the Florida Arborist written by professionals are in-depth sources of information and education. I know many that keep the newsletter for reference later.
9. **UF Arboriculture Endowment** - We have been fortunate to have Dr. Ed Gilman, one of the premier professors and researchers in the world, right here in Florida. Our Chapter is financially able to fund an endowment to permanently have a professor of arboriculture at UF. This is probably just a dream to many other ISA Chapters in the world.
10. **Our CEO and staff** - Many ISA Chapters are run by volunteers alone. We are privileged in the Florida Chapter to have a professional CEO, Norm Easey, who understands our industry and who is a dedicated representative of our Chapter. And our pleasant, efficient and helpful staff (Jan and Patty) provide so many services that we take for granted. Norm and staff are the backbone of our Chapter and keep our organization running smoothly each and every day.

I could go on and on! I bet you have a list like mine. Let's celebrate what is good about our Florida Chapter.

Celeste White
President, Florida Chapter ISA

The Florida Chapter ISA Is Now a Member Of The Florida Green Industry Coalition.

Learn more about it here.

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Protecting continue from page 1

cow bones strewn amid the blooming yellow sandweed. As we reach the tree, Huffman and Jennifer Navarra set to work.

A plant ecologist at the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Navarra loops a tape measure around the wide trunk, shimmying it up until it's level with her chest. She's measuring the diameter at breast height, or DBH, which dendrochronologists use as an approximate gauge of the tree's size.

As Navarra records the GPS location of the pine, Huffman crouches at the tree's base and begins digging through a thick layer of brown, compressed needles. She explains that this layer of organic material, called duff, shouldn't actually be here. In a healthy ecosystem with frequent fire, this organic matter would burn off before it could accumulate, leaving a protective layer of sand between the pine's roots and the blaze. But without fire, the needles build up and eventually the tree's feeder roots grow into the duff. When well-intentioned land managers reintroduce fire, the highly flammable needles burn



Huffman and Navarra core a longleaf pine.
Photo © Justine E. Hausheer / TNC

hot, scorching the roots and eventually killing the trees. Digging down for more than 3 inches, Huffman eventually reaches the white sand

underneath. "That is one of the reasons why so many rare old growth trees have been killed with the reintroduction of fire," she says, "but these trees are a very rare and valuable resource that needs special care and planning."

Navarra adds that the death of old growth longleafs is never intentional, but with thousands of acres that are long unburned, it's difficult for land managers to identify and protect the old trees. To complicate matters, it's nearly impossible to identify these old trees by sight. Although longleaf pines can live to be more than 300 years old, they essentially stop growing horizontally after

Protecting continued on page 6

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Protecting continued from page 5

the first 70 to 100 years, topping out at heights of between 80 to 110 feet. “These trees aren’t big and dramatic



Pines and palmettos.


Photo © Justine E. Hausheer / TNC

looking, and people just don’t notice that these trees are really old,” says Huffman. “I didn’t either, at first.”

Archiving Old-Growth Trees

Dusting needles off her hands, Huffman begins drilling a core, slowly grinding the blue bore into the trunk. After reaching the approximate center of the tree, she gently coaxes a thin, 5-millimeter core of wood out of the bore. “Oh no, it’s rotten,” she says. Huffman quickly counts the pale rings, the wood nearly glowing with resin. The pungent bite of pine sap fills the air even several feet away. “It’s probably more than 200 years old,” she says, counting by tens until she reaches the rotten wood at the end of the sample. “It’s common for the oldest trees to be rotten in the middle, which means I can’t accurately date them.” Huffman then carefully slides the core into a long, white straw, sealing off either end with masking tape. Back in the lab, she will sand down the surface of these cores and count each ring, yielding a final age. “It’s one thing to just say a tree is old,” says Huffman, “but when you can tell a manager that a specific tree is more than 200 years old, it changes how they feel about them.” Data from this and other cores Huffman has collected across the state will help her identify and protect old growth longleaf pines. She is also using these cores to help build a regional growth chronology and fire

[Protecting continued on page 8](#)



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history for Central Florida, as covered previously on Cool Green Science. “I am really on a mission to preserve this historical record,” she says, “because these trees hold all of this information but they are disappearing really quickly. No one is archiving them.”

Aside from their valuable data, land managers have another reason to protect their old growth pines — the trees are essential to bringing fire back to the sandhill. Navarra explains that pine needles are incredibly flammable and actually help move fire across a



Tree rings on a longleaf pine core.
Photo © Justine E. Hausheer / TNC

landscape. “Logging actually changed fire ecology,” she says, “because if you remove the pines then it becomes really difficult to get fire to carry.” Morrison says that even parts of the partially-restored Tiger Creek preserve are still difficult to burn, because there are no pines and therefore much less fuel than there used to be.

Huffman hopes that her work will motivate land managers to seek out and protect old longleafs.

“Old pines are the record of our history in the south, and they should be like historic buildings,” she says. “They help us envision what the landscape used to be like.”

Next issue read about how Jean Huffman is reading ancient longleaf pine stumps to take Florida’s fire record back hundreds of years farther.

(Ancient Tree Stumps Shed New Light on Fire in Florida
June 29, 2015 | by: [Justine E. Hausheer](#)) ❖

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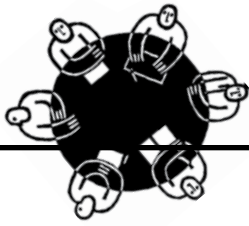
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Florida Chapter Board Updates

BOARD SHORTS:

Welcome to the Board!



The Florida Chapter board approved and welcomes Dan Marsh of Florida Power & Light as the new Utility Arborist Representative. Thank you, Dan, for agreeing to fill the spot through the end of 2016.

Looking forward to June 2016



With the ISA International Conference now behind us, focus will turn to planning the 2016 Trees Florida Conference and Trade Show. Chairperson Kim Pearson will be working on this event which will take place in South Florida.

Florida Chapter ISA Emergency Recovery Plan



In an effort to establish an emergency recovery plan that would enable Florida Chapter ISA to continue functioning in the event of a catastrophic emergency, the Board approved Mr. Rick Joyce as Chapter Financial Trustee.



John White Scholarship Program Changes



The Board voted to approve changing the amount of the John White Scholarship offered each semester to \$1250 (offered for the fall and spring semesters). Joint committee members from the Florida Urban Forestry Council already voted to approve the change. The Florida ISA vote finalized the decision and future scholarships will be at the value of \$1250/semester.



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News From International

Results of the General Membership ISA Board Election

Voting ended on June 30, 2015 for the general membership election of three ISA Board of Directors positions - and the results are in! Congratulations to the following ISA leaders who were elected to serve three-year terms on the ISA Board of Directors beginning in August 2015:



Dennis Swartzell
Western Chapter



Jim Flott
Pacific Northwest
Chapter



Gordon Mann
Western Chapter

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A History Lesson in Two Parts

I. Extinct Tree Grows Anew From Ancient Jar of Seeds Unearthed by Archaeologists

Stephen Messenger,
www.treehugger.com, October 5, 2013

For thousands of years, Judean date palm trees were one of the most recognizable and welcome sights for people living in the Middle East -- widely cultivated throughout the region for their sweet fruit, and for the cool shade they offered from the blazing desert sun.

From its founding some 3,000 years ago, to the dawn of the Common Era, the trees became a staple crop in the Kingdom of Judea, even garnering several shout-outs in the Old Testament. Judean palm trees would come to serve as one of the kingdom's chief symbols of good fortune; King David named his daughter, Tamar, after the plant's name in Hebrew.

By the time the Roman Empire sought to usurp control of the kingdom in 70 AD, broad forests of these trees flourished as a staple crop to the Judean economy -- a fact that made them a prime resource for the invading army to destroy. Sadly, around the year 500 AD, the once plentiful palm had been completely wiped out, driven to extinction for the sake of conquest.

In the centuries that followed, first-hand knowledge of the tree slipped from memory to legend.

Up [until recently](#), that is. During excavations at the site of Herod the Great's palace in Israel in the early 1960's, archeologists unearthed a small stockpile of seeds stowed in a clay jar dating back 2,000 years. For the next four decades, the ancient seeds were kept in a drawer at Tel Aviv's Bar-Ilan University. But then, in 2005, botanical researcher Elaine Soloway decided to plant one and see what, if anything, would sprout.

"I assumed the food in the seed would be no good after all that time. How could it be?" said Soloway. She was

soon proven wrong. Amazingly, the multi-millennial seed did indeed sprout -- producing a sapling no one had seen in centuries, [becoming the oldest known tree seed to germinate](#).

Today, the living archeological treasure [continues to grow and thrive](#); In 2011, it even produced its first flower -- a heartening sign that the ancient survivor was eager to reproduce. It has been proposed that the tree be cross-bred with closely related palm types, but it would likely take years for it to begin producing any of its famed fruits. Meanwhile, Soloway is working to revive other age-old trees from their long dormancy.

II. 10 Years Later, "Methuselah" Palm Grown From 2,000 Year-old Seed is a Dad!

Melissa Breyer, www.treehugger.com, March 27, 2015



Break out the cigars! Long the only lonely representative of its kind, the Judean palm is now reproducing and giving researchers a unique glimpse back in time.

Talk about perseverance, not to mention the mastery of nature's design when it comes to plants. Decades ago a 2,000-year-old seed was plucked from an archaeological excavation near the Dead Sea. After many years

[History continued on page 15](#)

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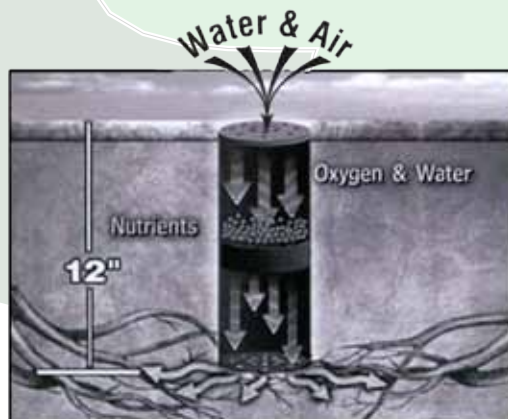
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lingering in a researcher's drawer in Tel Aviv, Elaine Solowey, director of the Arava Institute for Environmental Studies at Kibbutz Ketura in Israel, [decided to give germination a go](#). Ten years later, and "Methuselah" (why don't all plants have names?) is thriving. And not only thriving, but reproducing. Mazel tov!

Methuselah is a Judean date palm, a variety that was wiped out sometime in the 6th century, making the lonely male long the only one of its kind. Genetic testing reveal that Methuselah is closely related to an ancient variety of date palm from Egypt called Hayany – which corresponds with the legend indicating that dates came to Israel with the Exodus, Solowey says.

"It is pretty clear that Methuselah is a western date from North Africa rather than from Iraq, Iran, Babylon," she tells [National Geographic](#). "You can't confirm a legend, of course."

But she can confirm that the maturing palm, which in now 10 years old, can procreate. "He is a big boy now. He is over three meters [ten feet] tall, he's got a few offshoots, he has flowers, and his pollen is good," Solowey says. "We pollinated a female with his pollen, a wild female, and yeah, he can make dates."

Solowey continues to work with palms and has grown other date palms from ancient seeds found in archeological sites around the Dead Sea, as well. "I'm trying to figure out how to plant an ancient date grove," she says. And if she can reach her magical green thumb back into time and succeed in bringing forth a modern grove of ancient trees, it might provide for a unique insight into history.

"We would know what kind of dates they ate in those days and what they were like," she says. "That would be very exciting." ❖



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FLORIDA CHAPTER TREE CLIMBING CHAMPIONSHIP SEPTEMBER 2015

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FCTCC Arbor Fair Chair: Bonnie Marshall, bmarshall@speedling.com
FCTCC Climbing Chair: Adam Jackson, ajackson@valleycrest.com
FCTCC Setup: Danae Jackson, danaeljackson@gmail.com
FCTCC Education: Kim Paulson, treeladyoffice@aol.com

We all look forward to seeing Florida's best climbers compete for the opportunity to represent the Florida Chapter at the International Tree Climbing Championship in Texas in Spring, 2016.

Climbing registration and Volunteer registration is now closed.
Sponsors are greatly appreciated at our annual event! Monetary and/or Gear donations are accepted. [Click here for sponsor forms.](#)

Interested in exhibiting at a booth at our event? **Magnolia Park requires a payment of a \$25 vendor fee and requires a certificate of insurance from your company.

[Click here for exhibitor form](#)
[Click here for exhibitor contract](#)

2016 ARBORMASTER CLIMBING KIT PRIZE PACKAGE

The Florida Chapter ISA is pleased to announce the 2016 ArborMaster Climbing Kit Prize Package for the Tree Climbing Champion (TCC), held in conjunction with the chapter's 2016 Tree Climbing Championship (TCC) event.

This climbing kit is being offered to each chapter champion (both man and woman, if applicable)! The package is intended to help equip the Chapter representative(s) for the International Tree Climbing Championship (ITCC) Competition.



GET GEARED UP!

Each prize package includes:

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Loren Westenberger Workday Chairperson Needed!

DO you have a desire to help non-profits with quality tree care? You can help the community by organizing the Loren Westenberger Workdays throughout the state. ISA members donate their time, talents and equipment to provide arboricultural services to needy non-profit-owned properties throughout Florida. Examples of eligible sites include churches, schools, arboreta, parks, garden clubs, etc. There can be up to three workdays per year, one each in North, Central and South Florida. These events are usually held in February.

Thanks to Jay Sockriter, who was our most recent chair, for organizing past workday events including Chinsegut Hill in Brooksville, Camp Ithiel (New Covenant Church) in Orlando and Nehrling Gardens in Orlando.



VOLUNTEER Work Days are organized by the Chair and the Work Day Committee. Tasks of the committee may include marketing the workdays to non-profits, reviewing the applications and visiting the sites, planning the arboriculture work to be completed and requesting volunteers and companies to perform the services. Workdays can be a great day of camaraderie and fun and you will be leaving your footprint on an organization that may not be able to afford proper tree care.

The Florida Chapter ISA Workdays are named after Loren Westenberger, past Florida Chapter ISA president and owner of Westenberger Tree Service in St. Petersburg. Loren was passionate about trees and frequently donated his time and talent to local churches, shelters and other such organizations who needed tree care.

If you are interested in volunteering to chair or be on the committee, or need more information, please contact Celeste White at ctwhite@ufl.edu or 407-254-9210 or the Florida Chapter ISA office at floridaisa@comcast.net.

ISA
FLORIDA CHAPTER

Loren Westenberger
Volunteer
Work Day



TreesAreCool specialty plate
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Mushrooms

by George Harrison – Les Harrison is the UF/IFAS Wakulla County Extension Director



Mushrooms have been a focal point in the backdrop of fairy tales for hundreds of years. There is something mysterious, maybe even magical, about these forest apparitions that makes them so appealing to fantasy. Solving the mushrooms mystery requires some very close observation.

There is much to learn about the fungus among us.

Technically, fungi are not plants, as they do not contain chlorophyll, along with several other differences from the plentiful flora. For many, native mushrooms are the easiest to identify. There are numerous examples of fungi growing in and on a variety of media in this region.

Most fungi are unseen. Yeast is a beneficial microscopic fungus which makes bread and rolls possible. Athlete's foot is another fungus causing discomfort to the human foot.

What is commonly identified as a mushroom is, in reality, only part of the fungus. The section protruding out for all to see is known as the fruiting body. The fruiting body is the section which produces the spores for the next generation of mushrooms. This portion is the final stage of the mushroom's life and may take only a few hours to complete.

Many of the native mushrooms are classified as having gills. This is the finned section under the cap and is the location of spore development. Spores are usually distributed by the wind or in water when they reach maturity. Only a small percentage find an ideal location for growth and development.

Some mushrooms, such as the stinkhorn, use insects to spread the spores. Flies are attracted to this fungi's foul odor and relocate the spores on their bodies as they travel to their next meal. Most local mushrooms are white to a brown earth-tone in color, depending on the species and the stage of life. A few produce bright colors which are influenced by the growing media.

The common species names for the local mushrooms usually indicates someone's perception of the fruiting body. "Toadstools" could seat the small amphibian, and a "Bishop's Nose" could be considered a compliment to a prominent proboscis.

There is a local mushroom known as the "Death Angel" which gives the potential results if eaten. Harvesting and consuming wild mushrooms is strongly discouraged.

Occasionally, mushrooms are seen in an arc or circle, which is identified as a fairy ring. Fables tell of the mythical beings dancing at the site the night before. The truth is more mundane. The mushrooms are growing in the remains of a tree's trunk or roots which are buried in soil.

At least the mushrooms existence is carefree, unlike the homeowner who has the urge to eliminate the fungal growth from their pristine landscape. ❖

2015 OUTDOOR TREE SCHOOL
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 ISA CEUs: CA: 5.5 TW: 5.5 BCMA: S-.75, M-4.75

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 Master's Challenge SUNDAY September 20, 2015

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Photo: Brian Bixler. Arborist: J. David Driver (the X man).

"Zombie Flies" May Control Fire Ants

June 17, 2015

by George Harrison - Les Harrison is the UF/IFAS Wakulla County Extension Director



Fire ants are nearly impossible to completely eradicate.

Of the many nuisances that plague the county, fire ants may be at the top of the list. Their ability to survive and colonize is remarkable. Every effort to destroy the mound seems to end in relocation—even hurricanes cannot sweep these pests away.

Finally there is hope for controlling the population of these stinging insects, though they may sound like something from a 1970s horror movie: zombie flies.

The red imported fire ant, *Solenopsis invicta*, is the reigning champ for taking and holding territory. The species name *invicta* was aptly chosen, as it means unconquerable in Latin.

Since first arriving in Mobile, Alabama around 1900, this aggressive arthropod spread rapidly through the warmer regions of the southeastern U.S. Allegedly arriving on a boat load of bananas, fire ants quickly demonstrated their ability to be a pest on many levels.

Fire ants have shown little preference for their nest locations, thereby posing a problem for the unlucky owner of their selection. Urban, suburban or rural, just so long as there is food and moisture to consume and nest construction materials.

Agricultural producers have spent billions of dollars over the past century to eradicate or control fire ant damage to crops and livestock. Fields, pastures, fence rows and even idled equipment, offer perfect nesting sites for these ever-colonizing insects. Likewise, city and town dwellers

[Zombies continued on page 24](#)

MEMBER BENEFITS

Compare the benefits!
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Benefits for joining International ISA:

- Arborist News publication
- Arboriculture & Urban Forestry publication
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- ISA job bank
- ISA member directory listing
- True Professionals program
- Online *Find a Tree Care Service* tool

International Society of Arboriculture MEMBERSHIP

Benefits for joining the Florida Chapter:

- Quarterly *Florida Arborist* newsletter
- Discounts on Florida Chapter seminars and online learning
- Discount on annual Trees Florida Conference and Trade Show
- Discounts on Florida Chapter merchandise
- Access to Florida Chapter lending library
- Florida Chapter awards program

JOIN BOTH!

- Receive all benefits listed above as well as receive deep discounts on certification and recertification fees



JOIN TODAY!

visit www.FloridaISA.org

Thank you

to everyone who worked so diligently on the various aspects
of being the Host Chapter of the

2015 ISA Conference and Trade Show!



Trade Show Treasures



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ISA Exec Jim Skiera



Chillin' Out

2015 ISA Conference and Trade Show!

How best to describe Florida's very first ISA Conference and Trade Show?

- A whirlwind of events?
- A bounty of educational opportunities?
- Global networking with arborists from Chapters near and far?
- Tradeshow treasures?
- All of the above!

We pause to take a collective breath and reflect upon what kind of experience the ISA International Conference and Trade Show was. From the opening ceremony, through the varied educational opportunities, detouring to the Trade Show and TREE Fund auction and finally rounding out the event at the Chill Out social at Sea World, the conference was... well... IT WAS GREAT!



e-

We would like to thank the Florida Chapter membership for attending; Chapter members made up 29% of the conference attendees (more chapter participation than any other conference - what a success!) Thank you to the many speakers who shared their knowledge with us. Thanks to the directors and staff from ISA headquarters; Florida got to connect with you as real people and not just as voices on the phone. Thank you to our off-site educational locations; Epcot and Leu Gardens welcomed us with open arms. Many thanks to the hard-working local committee, led by Conference Chair Don Winsett. A special thank you goes out to Kim Pearson and her yellow-shirted "Minion" volunteers for rolling out the red carpet for all attendees. Yes, they were "Happy to Help Everyone". Thanks to the Florida Chapter staff members who worked diligently behind the scenes. Thank you to all our sponsors for helping make our Chill Out social the success that will be talked about for years to come - The Brickman Group, ValleyCrest, ArborJet, Dow AgroSciences, Forestry Resources Ecological, Legacy Arborist Services and Zimmerman Tree Service.



It was great seeing everyone in Orlando.



And... let's not forget our other two events during this International year! We had a great ITCC event in Tampa during the spring. Thanks to our Florida TCC Chair Adam Jackson and his many volunteers that put a lot of sweat equity into a wonderful climbing event. And a special thanks to our 2015 Florida Chapter competitor, Mike Cross.

Lastly, we look forward to the third and final event of 2015! The TREE Fund's Stihl Tour des Trees will take place October 25-31, 2015. Riders will take off at the starting line in Orlando, roll down the Gulf Coast, traverse the Everglades, and come to a final stop in Fort Lauderdale. Let's support our Team Florida riders Scott Davis, Eric Hoyer, Andy Kittsley, Tammy Kovar, Steve Morton, Charles Theurer and Bill Veach. Donate to TEAM FLORIDA below.



[Click Here to Donate to TEAM FLORIDA!](#)

~ the Florida Chapter ISA

**It was great, it was grand.
We couldn't have done it without your helping hands!**

Zombies continued from page 21

have endured innumerable problems caused by fire ants. Everything from lawns and flowerbeds to electrical junction boxes are subject to becoming a base of operations for these tiny conquistadors.

Treatments and control methods have ranged from limited effectiveness to ridiculous and dangerous. Grits and



Photo: [National Geographic News](#)

gasoline are examples of the latter. Contrary to the popular myth, fire ants that eat grits will not explode. The corn-based product may cause them to relocate their nest, thinking the food is an attack, but they will set up shop nearby. Gasoline will damage the fire ant colony, but also the water table when it leaches down. If ignited, it poses as much of a threat to the igniter as to those ignited.

Ironically, an imported predatory fly may hold the answer to controlling, if not eliminating this seemingly unconquerable pest.

A member of the Phorid genus has shown a particular affinity for parasitizing red imported fire ants, which results in the ants gruesome death. This tiny fly, barely visible to the human eye, lays an egg on the ants thorax. When it hatches, it eats into its host and migrates towards the head.

The maggot develops on muscle and nerve tissue in the head. Ultimately, the larvae completely devour the ants brain. The ants head pops off when the Phorid fly is ready to pupate and begin the reproduction cycle again.

Luckily for other insects, only fire ants are on the menu for this particular fly. These flies have been released around the southeast, but results are still coming in. Maybe, just maybe, this invading hordes day are numbered.

To learn more about fire ants and their control in Wakulla County, visit <http://wakulla.ifas.ufl.edu>. ❖

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Consultant's Corner

by Joe Samnik, Samnik & Ballard



STOP THE MUSIC

The taking of a person's property is very serious business. So important is this matter that Article V of the Bill of Rights spoke to the matter; "...nor shall private property be taken for public use without just compensation".

People have died defending this right.

Of course that was a long time ago and while we still have those who defend that right, most have forgotten it exists. Time, it seems, heals all memory problems even if it relates to people dying to defend our collective rights.

In the matter of Eminent Domain the right was extended to Section 73.071(3) (b) which governs the awards for business damages. How did we get from dying with the flag in our hands to business damages? Great question. The answer is that in some situations the taking of private property for public betterment includes property owned and operated as a business. The question then arises as to what happens to the owner's income stream after the property is taken.

Say you run a business that produces a crop, like strawberries. Your land is taken so that a road can be widened. You are compensated for the strawberries that were growing on that land -period. Is that just compensation? Well, yes and no. You did get paid for the loss of the berries. But what of the

future crops that would have produced an income but not for the road widening? Do you, or should you, get paid for that lost income?

You don't need to fret with the answer. Yes, you should get paid for future lost profits provided that you own an ongoing business for five years on the remainder of the property not taken. Such damages are not available when the business is located wholly within the condemned property. Go figure.

But wait, there's more. In the case of growing crops the revenue comes from the property itself rather than from a business operated at that property. This being the case, there is no business conducted on the remainder which can suffer damage.

While I'm certain that the framers of the Bill of Rights did not envision strawberries in their critical thinking, we should. We should also remember that we as arborists are not qualified to determine business damages. We are qualified to present the data to the financial expert who can then defend his or her business damage number.



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2015 Certification Exam Schedule

The FLORIDA CHAPTER of ISA is pleased to announce our 2015 schedule of Certification exams. See the chart below for the site nearest you.

Date	Exam/ Class	Location	Time	Proctor or Instructors	Last Date to Register	Cost Member/ Nonmem
Sept. 26, 2015	Certified Arborist Exam	UF-IFAS Bay County Extension 2728 E 17th Panama City FL 850 784 6105	9:00 am to 1:00 pm	Perry Odom & Julie McConnell	Minimum 12 business days prior	\$150/ \$250

This schedule is subject to change as additional tests and review sessions may be added. Visit www.floridaisa.org for updates.

For an application form to register for an Exam call the ISA Office in Champaign, IL at 888-472-8733. To purchase an ISA Certification Study Guide, call the Florida Chapter ISA at 941-342-0153 or fax an order form to 941-342-0463.

The ISA Illinois must receive your application & exam fees A MINIMUM OF TWELVE BUSINESS DAYS prior to the exam date. NO EXCEPTIONS! (ISA Illinois is closed New Year's Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and the day after, and Christmas Day). First-time applicants can apply online at www.isa-arbor.com.

PREPAYMENT IS REQUIRED VISA/MC/AMEX accepted. US FUNDS ONLY



Florida Chapter ISA - 2015 Education Schedule

*The schedule below is tentative and subject to changes.

Date	Seminar/Class	Location (s)	Open for Registration
September 9, 2015	Pruning with Dr. Ed Gilman	Sarasota	Register Online
September 15, 2015	Pruning with Dr. Ed Gilman	Ft. Lauderdale	Register Online
September 18, 2015	Fall Outdoor Tree School	Apopka	Register Online
October 13, 2015	Pruning with Dr. Ed Gilman	Orlando	Register Online
TBD	Arboriculture Triple Play	Orlando	

Welcome!

New Florida Chapter Members

Here are the individuals that joined the Florida Chapter during the second quarter of 2015. If you see a name from your area of the state, look up their phone number online* and give them a call. Introduce yourself and find out what aspect of arboriculture the new member is involved in. Let's make the Florida Chapter friendlier. We're all working in different ways for the same goals. Get to know other Chapter members. You might make some helpful connections for the future.

Michael Anderson, Port Orange, FL
 Alec M Baker, Boynton Beach, FL
 Broroniae B. Baker, Coral Springs, FL
 Sharon Michelle Bruce, Daytona Beach, FL
 Benjamin Burns, Crawfordville, FL
 Adrian Cabrera, Winter Garden, FL
 Jason Ryan Cantrell, Largo, FL
 Christopher Cawley, Miami, FL
 Caroline Rose Chomanics, GOTHA, FL
 Christopher D. Cianfaglione, Sarasota, FL
 Paul Eichler, Saint Petersburg, FL
 Terrance Kalie Russell Elkins, Dunedin, FL
 Neil Christian Greishaw, Tampa, FL
 Robert E. Haught, New Port Richey, FL
 Matthew Hudon, Marco Island, FL
 Daniel R Hutcheson, San Antonio, FL
 Danae Jackson, Port Orange, FL
 Toby Gibson Jenkins, Tampa, FL
 Joshua T Joslin, Quantico, VA
 Aaron Kesler, Tarpon Springs, FL
 Ryan W. Klein, Gainesville, FL
 Rhys A. Lucero, Saint Petersburg, FL
 David Mahnken, Orlando, FL
 Stephen W. McKenzie, Pinellas Park, FL

Felipe Monroy, Orlando, FL
 Gonzalo S Ocampo, Lake Worth, FL
 John Roberts, Gainesville, FL
 Nicholas Sardina, Miami, FL
 James Lucas Skinner, Melbourne, FL
 Jason Scott Skinner, Melbourne, FL
 Brad Smith, Winter Springs, FL
 Luis F. Soberal, West Palm Beach, FL
 Ryan William Sollars, Lithia, FL
 Robert John Spano, Bonita Springs, FL
 Daniel Stagg, Ocala, FL
 Joshua Michael Taylor, Clearwater, FL
 Perry Tollman, Altamonte Springs, FL
 JB Toorish, Mount Dora, FL
 Donald Benjamin Turner, Lakeland, FL
 Jonathan Turner, Vero Beach, FL
 Stephen Bee Underwood, Margate, FL
 Scott Joseph Vinci, Melbourne Beach, FL
 Cory Wilson, Tallahassee, FL
 William A Wood Jr, Beverly Hills, FL
 Travis Yarusso, Dunedin, FL

*Go to <http://www.isa-arbor.com>, then go to "Members Only" and log in. Then go to ISA membership directory. If you do not know your log in for members only, contact ISA headquarters at (888) 472-8733. Once you log in, you can update your address, check your CEU's, edit or verify Certified Arborist information and search the membership list.

Letters to the Editor

We welcome your thoughts about Florida Arborist articles, about your Florida Chapter, or about tree issues in general.

Email your letters to:
floridaisa@comcast.net

or mail to:
 Florida Chapter - ISA
 7853 S. Leewynn Court
 Sarasota, FL 34240

Please remember:
 Letters should be no longer than 300 words.
 We reserve the right to condense letters, or to edit as necessary.



An invitation to all members
 to attend a

Board of Directors Meeting!

Call 941-342-0153
 for specific times and locations

Up-coming 2015 Board Meeting - Dates & Locations

September 25, 2015 - Orlando

Arborist Certification Committee Report

By Norm Easey, Florida Certification Liaison

There is currently one ISA certification exam scheduled in Florida within the next six months. [Click here for the specific dates.](#) The ISA Certified Arborist exam is also now available at Pearson Testing Centers throughout Florida. See the ISA International web site www.isa-arbor.com for more information about the various ISA arborist credentials and how to earn them.

Florida Chapter currently has 1885 Certified Arborists.

The Florida Chapter would like to congratulate the following 34 individuals for earning their certification as Certified Arborist, Board Certified Master Arborist, Municipal Arborist Specialist, and Utility Arborist Specialist during the second quarter of 2015:

Certified Arborist

Jorge Ivan Balarin, Miami, FL
 Thaddeus Bielecki, Weston, FL
 Matthew Dean Blansit, Clearwater, FL
 Benjamin Burns, Crawfordville, FL
 James M. Caudell, Sarasota, FL
 Dale Montgomery Davis, Coral Springs, FL
 James Anthony William Dumas, Coral Springs, FL
 Randall Jay Ebbe, Venice, FL
 Barbara Lee Edmonds, Bronson, FL
 David Gewurtz, North Miami Beach, FL
 David Hardy, Miami, FL
 Robert E. Haught, New Port Richey, FL
 Jason Kelly, Palm Bay, FL
 Aaron Kesler, Tarpon Springs, FL
 Elizabeth Kirchoffer Pectol, Clearwater, FL
 Daniel Christopher Lewis, Lake Worth, FL
 Stephen W. McKenzie, Pinellas Park, FL
 Adam Mengel, Palatka, FL
 Dagoberto Monrroy-Castillo, Orlando, FL
 Walter Flavio Morales, Naples, FL
 Aaron Brent Petersen, Pinellas Park, FL
 Donald J. Quier, Oakland Park, FL
 Victor Paul Sawyer, Loxahatchee, FL
 Joshua Decater Shields, Tallahassee, FL

Stacy Sollisch, Boca Raton, FL
 Ramiro Ramos Solorzano, Orlando, FL
 Kevin Strobel, Jr., Stuart, FL
 James Alexander Suckow, Palatka, FL
 Stephen Bee Underwood, Margate, FL
 Scott Joseph Vinci, Melbourne Beach, FL
 Ricky K. Whidden, West Palm Beach, FL

Board Certified Master Arborist

Jonathan S. Frank, Boca Raton, FL

Utility Specialist

Christopher Johnson, Rockledge, FL

Municipal Specialist

Jeffrey Blaine Aker, Zephyrhills, FL



Are you thinking about becoming certified?

[Visit the International ISA website](#)

To access the certification application handbook with further information.



Florida Chapter ISA Tree Climbing Championship and Field Day

Saturday, September 19, 2015

Magnolia Park - 2929 S. Binion Road - Apopka, Florida 32703

Exhibitor Form

Company Name _____ Contact Person _____
Street Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ FAX _____
Email Address _____

Please list the names of the individuals (**and tee shirt size**) who will be representing your company (Registration for two representatives per exhibitor booth for Saturday only).

Name on badge 1: _____/Tee shirt size _____ Name on badge 2: _____/Tee shirt size _____

Please make checks payable to **Florida Chapter ISA** and mail to: 7853 S. Leewynn Ct. - Sarasota, Florida 34240

Tree Climbing Championship & Field Day Exhibitor Information

All Exhibitors will receive on-site signage and recognition in the Field Day program. Exhibitors will be provided sufficient outdoor space for one (1) large truck or two (2) small devices, or an outdoor display.

- ☐ Outdoor Exhibitor space for Equipment/Trucks/Displays \$ 250.00
(payable through a monetary payment, appropriate gear or prizes, or combination of both)

***Exhibitor SETUP from 8:00 to 9:00 am on Saturday, September 19, 2015. Trade Show opens at 9:00 am.**

***Exhibitor BREAKDOWN is when competition ends or 30 minutes before sunset.**

***Exhibitors who will be selling products will be required to provide Orange County Government with an insurance certificate naming them as also insured.**

NOTE: PLEASE SEE EXHIBITION RULES ATTACHED TO THIS FORM or at www.floridaisa.org

I have read the terms and conditions of this Application and the attached Florida Chapter ISA Tree Climbing Championship & Field Day Exhibition Rules and agree to them accordingly.

Printed Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

Monetary Payment

Payment: ☐ Charge to Visa, MasterCard, or Discover ☐ Check Enclosed (payable to **Florida Chapter ISA**) Check # _____

Card Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____ CV Code _____

Exact name on card _____

Card billing address _____

Card billing City/State/Zip _____

Your receipt will be emailed to you (please provide email address above).

In-Kind Equipment, Gear, or Prizes

If you would like to include gear or prizes for the TCC as part of your payment or in addition to your exhibitor space registration, please describe your item(s) below and include a monetary value (**required**). **Please contact the Florida TCC Field Day Chair prior to shipping items: bmarshall@speedling.com**

Please send item(s) to: Florida Chapter ISA - 7853 S. Leewynn Ct. - Sarasota, Florida 34240

Florida Chapter ISA contact: 941-342-0153 - floridaisa@comcast.net - or FAX to 941-342-0463

Tree Climbing Championship & Field Day event contact: Bonnie Marshall at bmarshall@speedling.com



**2015 Florida Chapter ISA
Tree Climbing Championship and Field Day**
Saturday, September 19, 2015
Magnolia Park - 2929 S. Binion Road - Apopka, Florida 32703

Sponsor Form

Name _____
Company _____
Street Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone (____) _____ FAX (____) _____
Email Address _____

Levels of Sponsorship

☐ Platinum...\$1,000 ☐ Gold...\$500 ☐ Silver...\$250 ☐ Bronze...\$...\$100

*Sponsorships are payable through a monetary donation, appropriate gear or prize donation,
OR a combination of both. Mark your sponsorship level above then mark your donations below.*

Please see complete description of sponsorship levels on reverse side of this form.

Platinum sponsors – receives recognition for sponsoring all five (5) categories listed below

Gold sponsors – receives recognition for sponsoring ONE category from the list below. Gold sponsors, please choose the category you wish to sponsor.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Rescue | <input type="checkbox"/> Belayed Speed Climb |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Secured Footlock | <input type="checkbox"/> Throwline |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Work Climb | |

Monetary Donation

Payment: ☐ Charge to VISA, MasterCard, or Discover ☐ Check Enclosed (payable to Florida Chapter ISA) Check # _____
Card Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____ CV Code _____
Exact name on card _____
Card billing address _____
Card billing City/State/Zip _____
Your receipt will be emailed to you (please provide email address above).

In-Kind Donation of Equipment, Gear, or Prizes

If you would like to donate gear or prizes for the TCC as part of your sponsorship OR in addition to your sponsorship, please describe your donation below and include a monetary value (**required**). Please contact the Florida TCC Field Day Chair prior to shipping items: ronlitts@gmail.com

Email address (for receipt): _____
Please send donated item(s) to: FL ISA – 7853 S. Leewynn Ct. – Sarasota, Florida 34240

PLEASE SEND THIS SPONSORSHIP FORM TO: Florida Chapter ISA – 7853 S. Leewynn Ct. – Sarasota, Florida 34240
Phone: 941-342-0153 FAX: 941-342-0463 Email: floridaisa@comcast.net

International Society of Arboriculture Florida Chapter

Our Mission: "To Promote and Improve the
Scientifically Based Practice of Professional Arboriculture"



Arborist Code of Ethics

Strive for continuous self-development by increasing their qualifications and technical proficiency by staying abreast of technological and scientific developments affecting the profession.

Not misuse or omit material facts in promoting technical information, products or services if the effect would be to mislead or misrepresent.

Hold paramount the safety and health of all people, and endeavor to protect property and the environment in the performances of professional responsibilities.

Accurately and fairly represent their capabilities, qualifications and experience and those of their employees and/or agents.

Subscribe to fair and honest business practices in dealing with clients, suppliers, employees and other professionals.

Support the improvement of professional services and products through encouraging research and development.

Observe the standards and promote adherence to the ethics embodied in this code.



Florida Arborist
Florida Chapter ISA
7853 South Leewynn Court
Sarasota, FL 34240