A new and lethal disease affecting only queen palms (*Syagrus romanzoffiana*) has emerged in Florida. There are more questions than answers about this problem, but below is a summary of information that has been gathered to date.

The sporadic death of queen palms in one county in Florida was first brought to our attention in 2003. Recent conversations throughout the southern half of the state where queen palms are grown indicate the problem was observed in other counties at approximately the same time, which means we cannot blame the 2004 hurricane season for the spread of the problem. While initially less than 1% of the queen palms died in a single landscape, there are now sites where upwards of 5-10% of the queen palms have died. No other palm species are affected. Most of the queen palms observed have been in the landscape for five or more years – i.e., it is affecting established palms and not necessarily new transplantings.

Initial analysis of the situation in 2003 was wrong. It was presumed at that time the problem was a disease caused by the fungus *Thielaviopsis paradoxa*, in part because of the extensive rot found in the trunk just below the bud. So, for those of you who have read an article entitled “Why are queen palms dying in Palm Beach County?” that information should be discarded. This is the nature of science – a constant learning process. However, we have recently had the opportunity to examine queen palms in the early stages of the disease.

We are fairly certain that the problem is a disease as no insects are observed in association with symptomatic palms, nor are...
A Message From the President

Hello again

As I sit here composing this Presidents message I am hoping that all my brothers and sisters who work as arborists are happy, healthy and safe.

You see I have just printed a compilation of statistics which was e-mailed to me from my good friend Tim Walsh. Tim and I had some discussion at the ANSI Z133 committee meeting in mid-April about his research on the accident data for our industry. No matter how many times I see the numbers it is still shocking. Reading the reports is quite upsetting. Mostly because it becomes obvious to me that the vast majority of these events could have been avoided if only the arborist had been exposed to proper training. Simply purchasing a copy of the ANSI Z-133, reading it and applying what lies between its covers would save many lives and prevent needless injury.

In my travels as a safety instructor, I have been astonished at the number of arborists that have never heard of the safety document for this industry. I am not saying that these folks are ignorant fools, blindly making their way through their daily life as an arborist. Not at all. I’m saying we are doing a poor job of exposing them to what might just save their lives. Now many of us are saying “Well that’s not me, I train myself and my employees”. Don’t get me wrong, I commend those that provide training. But what about the folks that aren’t getting it? For what ever reason. Too busy, not busy, too expensive, “I already know what I need to know to Get-R-Dun”. We unfortunately work in an industry where many” trade secrets” are held close to the vest. Arborists generally don’t share with the other Arborists in their community for fear of losing the edge.

What can be done to expose more arborists to the knowledge many of us are already applying? How do we reduce the numbers of accidents? Simply providing associations or training and assuming that “They will come” isn’t working. Unfortunately, we need to lead the horse to the water and make him drink. Perhaps the time has come to step up and be counted as professionals and be licensed to practice our craft. Just like plumbers, roofers, cosmetologists, and massage therapists. To name just a few. I for one am ready to embrace this possibility. This will take time. Unfortunately some of us don’t have a lot of that based on statistics. I have had the pleasure of having students that I have instructed come to me and say that some particular technique that I showed them made their job as an arborist better in one way or another. I wonder how I would feel if someone told me myself and my employees”. Don’t get me wrong, I commend those that provide training. But what about the folks that aren’t getting it? For what ever reason. Too busy, not busy, too expensive, “I already know what I need to know to Get-R-Dun”. We unfortunately work in an industry where many” trade secrets” are held close to the vest. Arborists generally don’t share with the other Arborists in their community for fear of losing the edge.

In my local community I am putting together a luncheon for the local arborists to come and meet one another away from the workplace. My hope is to foster an environment in which we can learn from each others experience. We can become exposed. I believe we all have something to add, no matter our experience level. I challenge some of you to do the same. Expose yourself. Well… you know what I mean. Let me know how it goes.

Be Safe,  
Bruce
In the News

Ironically, Membership Committee Needs Members

The Florida Chapter membership committee needs your help. We need your ideas for attracting new members and better serving existing members.

If you can serve, please contact Chuck Lippi at clippi@bellsouth.net or 904-794-4200 or Dave Reilly at david.reilly@tampagov.net.

Alice the Amorphophallus is Open for Sniffing and Seeing

She's fully open and odiferous. She began opening in late May, in anticipation of our Corpse Flower party. Alice put on quite a performance. The waves of stench began right around 6:00 pm. She's still stinking up the place and she's quite beautiful, so come out to Fairchild to see our girl Alice!

The “Titan Hotline” has been set up to provide blooming and odiferous updates. Please call 305.667.1651, ext. 3350.

For continuous updates, photos, blog, statistics and “Alice’s Webcam”—where you can watch her grow, sometimes at the rate of six inches per day—please visit www.fairchildgarden.org. Fairchild is open 9:30 am – 4:30 pm.

2005 Education Schedule

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nutritional deficiencies implicated in the problem. Symptoms are as follows. The lowest (oldest) 2-3 leaves turn brown but do not break or hang down. The next 2-3 youngest leaves in the canopy will turn varying shades of yellow. The yellowing leaf symptoms alone are not indicative of the disease as these symptoms would be similar for natural senescence, especially when potassium deficiency is present. What makes the disease different from natural senescence is that usually within two months of initial symptoms, the entire canopy has turned brown, as if freeze-dried in place. The leaves do not break or hang limply parallel to the trunk, they simply turn brown in place within the canopy.

Closer examination of the yellowing leaves and the next green leaf in the canopy should reveal what we believe is the initial target of the pathogen – the leaf petiole at the point where it is bending out of the canopy. We have observed initial areas of discoloration (brownish-red color) at this point that then seem to spread in both directions on the petiole, toward the trunk and toward the leaf tip. The petiole is not rotted, but simply discolored. Cross-sections through the petiole reveal internal discoloration. Cross-sections must be done with a sharp saw and not with a crushing tool such as a clipper, as the crushing motion will discolor tissue also. Leaflet tips, even on lower green leaves, exhibit drought symptoms.

The bud of the palm is not killed until sometime probably a week or so) after the canopy turns brown. When cross-sections are made through the crown of a dead queen palm, the bud is still clean and white, but older leaf and inflorescence bases are discolored and usually rotted. The symptoms and their development suggest a pathogen, probably fungal, that is producing a toxin.

The pathogen is unknown at this time. We have isolated “potential” pathogens and will shortly be conducting pathogenicity tests. For the latter, we will first try to inoculate healthy queen palm seedlings. But, since the disease seems to be primarily associated with mature queen palms, this may not be successful. Furthermore, we may not have isolated the “real” pathogen yet or, as with the pathogen that causes Lethal Yellowing disease, the pathogen may not be culturable.

Without knowing the exact cause of the problem, no management recommendations can be made at this time, except that diseased palms should be removed immediately and destroyed. Based on the location of the disease throughout the southern half of the state, it would appear that the pathogen is spread by wind. Removing the palm removes the potential source of the disease. Until more is known about the problem, it would not be recommended to plant a queen palm back into the diseased site.
Dying lower leaves do not break or droop and hang parallel to trunk.

Cross-section through discolored petiole exhibits internal discoloration.

Cross-section through canopy area exhibits clean, non-affected bud but discolored and rotted old leaf and inflorescence bases.

Attendee Recommendations Being Incorporated into Upcoming Educational Series

By Joe Samnik, Education Chair

The Florida Chapter continued its history of excellence in educational offerings with recent seminars on, Tree Ordinances, Advanced Tree Pruning, and Hazard Tree Evaluations.

An important by-product of these exceptional offerings was comments from the attendees. These comments had the following common denominators:

1) Start early, end early – avoid rush hour traffic.
2) Creature comforts and good food – people learn on their stomachs.
3) Fewer speakers, more presentation time – less is more.
4) More emphasis on commercial arboriculture – climbing techniques, safety, ANSI series, cable and bracing.

These comments will be incorporated into our upcoming educational seminars, showcasing The Coast Series being offered in The Gold Coast (West Palm Beach) on October 27th, The Space Coast (Melbourne) on October 28th, The Sun Coast (Tampa) on November 3rd, and The Lee Island Coast (Ft. Myers) on November 4th, 2005.

If you have an idea for educational offerings, or would like to serve on the education committee, please contact me at 727-786-8128. Our next education committee meeting will be held on Monday, July 11th in Sarasota, Florida. Contact Norm Easey (941) 342-0153 for details.

Your education committee consists of Dr. Ed Gilman, Mike Marshall and Norm Easey. Please do offer them your thanks and appreciation for their commitment to the Chapter’s educational excellence.
Phytophthora species in forests around the world – most of which has been stimulated by the “sudden oak death” situation in northern coastal California and southwest Oregon. Despite the fact that the pathogen (P. ramorum) was shipped around the nation last spring (2004) on infected/infested nursery stock (primarily camellias) from commercial ornamental nurseries in southern California, there is no evidence to date that the pathogen has “escaped” and/or established in eastern forest environs. The recent, and not so welcome, news is that this little event has now been repeated; a 2005 “shipment” of potentially contaminated nursery stock from the same California source has just been reported (January of 2005). Surveys are still being conducted nationwide to monitor the spread and/or potential introduction of the pathogen. These surveys have and will continue to include locations in Florida and other states where the pathogen was received from California on ornamental camellias. You can bank on some measure of hype and activity, should the pathogen be detected in natural environments. So far, despite thousands of samples – the pathogen has not been detected in such habitats in the eastern U.S.

There is considerable activity re P. ramorum and “sudden oak death” in Europe. Red oaks (Q. rubra) are infected with the pathogen in parts of the Netherlands, and there is one reported “sudden oak death” infection on southern red oak (Q. falcata) in the UK (southern England?).

Yes, there were some mavericks in the group. One presenter raised the question, “Is the current intensive response to the situation justifiable and sustainable?” Another, claimed that P. ramorum cannot be blamed for the sudden oak death because studies have not controlled for (taken into account) the presence of mosses, which he claimed could be the problem. He wanted to blame the sudden oak death problem on “worldwide forest decline.” What’s my take? I think that the latter of these two presenters is a bit of a “loose cannon” (to say the least, he was a brave man to so challenge the “establishment” – and on the establishment’s turf at that). I’m always glad to see folks challenge the “conventional wisdom” (you can’t fathom that, can you?), but I think the fellow needs a lot more data before his alternative view of the situation can rise to a level of substantial credibility. As

for the national/international “current intensive response”, I think that appropriate regulatory action (such as that taken by Florida and many other eastern states in the spring of ’04) is more than justified. We simply do not know enough about the pathogen and its potential in eastern oak forests to be cavalier about its movement. Good monitoring, regulation, and research will provide better information in the future. We in Florida’s Forest Health Section are evaluating possible actions that we can take to augment our local information and understanding.

On another note, in one of my earlier communiqués to Division of Forestry personnel, I indicated that I would be hiking through the “vast beech forests” of northern Florida with a fellow pathologist (Bill Jones) from the U.S. Forest Service. Well – I did, and I was impressed with Florida’s beech forests. There are a lot more beech in the sunshine state than I would have guessed. Some of our Florida Foresters participated in this venture, as we searched for evidence of “beech bark disease” and its associated insect vector/wounding agent (the introduced European beech scale, Cryptococcus fagisuga). Good news for a change – we found no evidence of the scale’s presence, or of beech bark disease! We did find an abundance of the native “beech borer” and limited presence of a species of Neospectria (Nectria), one of the fungi associated with the disease (a native of little consequence without “assistance” from the introduced scale).

Interestingly, European beech (Fagus sylvatica) is one of the tree species that, in Europe, has been identified as a host for P. ramorum, the “sudden oak death” pathogen. If you remember your taxonomy or dendrology, you will recall that the genera Fagus and Quercus are both members of the Fagaceae family, as are tanoaks (Lithocarpus spp.), another of the known host genera for P. ramorum.

I knew you arborists just couldn’t wait to hear. Stay tuned!
Changes Being made at TREE FUND

By John P. White

My job as TREE Fund Liaison is to function as a communication pipeline between the ISA Florida Chapter and the TREE Fund Leadership. This is a two-way street, and you, the members are an important part of this process. I’d like to hear from you regarding how you feel about TREE Fund activities. Please do contact me if you have questions or suggestions that pertain to the TREE Fund. I can be reached via e-mail at john.white@cherrylake.com. It is vitally important that we have good communication between all members of this team.

On that note, I am passing on some current information and news about the TREE Fund. The following notes are excerpts from a recent letter from the President of the TREE Fund Board, Al West.

- In regards to moving the TREE Fund offices to Chicago (from the ISA Headquarters in Champaign, Illinois), the decision is based on several factors…we are seeking a cooperative arrangement within the green industry and/or the general non-profit communities. The availability of those opportunities was a factor in our choice of Chicago, which has the second largest concentration of non-profit organizations in the country…a concern is that the TREE Fund is perceived as part of the ISA (not true)…the challenge is the need to expand our visibility and name recognition with other green industry stakeholders…currently, the TREE Fund relies almost exclusively on the membership of our two parent organizations – the ISA and TCIA – to support our mission…there is an old saying in fund-raising: “You can’t keep going back to the same well and expect continued support at a consistent level.”…we must cultivate new sources of support…therefore, the TREE Fund is taking advantage of the opportunity presented by the vacancy in the Executive Director (ED) position to move its location and to spread its branches to reach out to other organizations within the green industry…regarding the current offices in Champaign – The TREE Fund board feels we need a location where its members and committees can easily and economically convene. Flying in and out of Chicago airports is both convenient and economical. We plan to advise our new ED to try and find offices convenient to O’Hare Airport…space is at a premium in the ISA building, and the offices now occupied by the TREE Fund are not adequate for our needs…an additional element in our decision to move meshes with the importance of having a highly skilled and competent ED that could provide the professional leadership and guidance to bring the TREE Fund to its full potential…the TREE Fund has retained the services of Richard I. Goldbaum, Ph.D., founder and principal of his own consulting firm, Transitions in Leadership. Dr. Goldbaum (Dick) was hired as an independent contractor to provide interim ED services from January 1, 2005 through June 30, 2005. He was also retained as an independent contractor to conduct the executive search, with the goal of having the new ED hired by early to mid June…this process has proceeded and over 50 resumes were received. The final interviews will take place in Chicago, most likely at the Morton Arboretum. Dr. Goldbaum will coordinate the process, but will not have a vote on who is offered the position. The decision will be made by the Transitions/Search Committee: Ken Ottman, Tom Talkacz, Tim Gamma, Gary Watson, Mike Neal, Jerry Morey and Al West…

So, there you are – The TREE Fund in transition, which will be underway for the next 12-18 months. It is important to understand that during this time, all TREE Fund activities will continue to occur. We still have our same fund-raising goals – the ISA Chapter Challenge, TREE Fund Gala Auction (in Nashville) and Tour des Trees. These and other events are critical in keeping the TREE Fund true to its mission of UNLOCKING THE SECRETS OF TREE CARE.

See you all at Innisbrook. I look forward to working with you all during our Silent Auction and other events at TREES FLORIDA! 🍃
Certified Arborist Numbers
Growing in Florida
and Nationwide
Certification Committee Report

By Norm Easey, Florida Chapter Certification Liaison

Arborist Certification in Florida is growing rapidly. Florida now has 1099 Certified Arborists, and we are adding more and more with every exam. Globally there are:

- 17,481 Certified Arborists
- 444 Certified Tree Workers
- 853 Utility Specialists
- 70 Board Certified Master Arborists
- 57 Municipal Specialists
- 25 Exams given in May

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Send your request to Norm Easy at floridaisa@aol.com
Propagating Sago Palms

by Chuck Lippi

Sago palms (Cycas revoluta) are sending up their new growth about now and I am often asked each year at this time asking about the flowers of the sago palm. The sago palm, a gymnosperm, is not really a palm but rather more closely related to a pine tree than to a palm. Sago palms are dioecious which means there are male plants and female plants. The male can easily be distinguished by the 12 to 18-inch floral spike that arises about this time from the center of the plant.

The male spike or cone is quite obvious but does somehow cause embarrassment for some homeowners who ask if they can cut it off. It is actually not a good idea to remove the male flower until it has started to senesce or dry up. If the male display is truly disconcerting to a homeowner, a towel or boxer shorts could be thrown over it.

There is some anecdotal evidence too that removing the male spike can cause the mature sago palm to form a forked or split head which is usually not desirable. A male flower can appear once a year and can even be followed by a flush of foliage growth the same season.

A female flower, on the other hand, may appear only once every two years and often is not followed by a flush of foliage growth during the same season. The female sago palm has a low, round dome in the center where the seeds are produced. But be careful! The sago palm seeds contain two carcinogens, macrozamin and cycasin, which are dangerous to handle and can be absorbed through the skin. Use impermeable gloves if you want to work with the sago palm seeds.

Sago palm seeds germinate slowly and irregularly because they have a thick waxy coat and a little-understood dormancy pattern. Recommended seed treatments can include either an acid bath, a gibberellic acid (plant growth regulator) bath or both.

It is easier to try to propagate the “pups” or smaller sucker plants that sprout from the base of the mother plant. After removing a small sago “pup” from the mother plant, let the base air-dry for a week in a shady area before planting it. If possible, plant the small sago in a pot with a good potting soil such as Jiffy Mix, Redi-Earth or Sam’s Best Potting Mix. Some growers prefer plain washed sand. You may have to use stakes or straps to hold the sago in the pot so the base remains in contact with the soil. Keep the potted sago in a bright place out of direct sunlight until it roots. Don’t let it dry out but don’t over-water it either.

There is one last thing while I am talking about sago palms. As I drive through some neighborhoods, I see sago palms that have been severely pruned so only the new flush of growth is left on the plant. Excessive pruning will weaken any plant making it more susceptible to pest and disease problems. For sago palms (and regular palms, too) do not remove any leaves until they are dead. Green leaves provide food for the plant. Removing a palm leaf that is still green will weaken a plant and possibly begin a downward spiral of nutrient deficiency problems.

Male sago palm

Female sago flower
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<td>Priceless Florida – Natural Ecosystems and Native Species</td>
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Form Revised: Dec. 7, 2004
**Consultant’s Corner**

This is a new regular feature for information of interest to those doing consulting work.

**Gallo V. Heller:**

Be Very Cautious

*By Joe Samnik, Samnik & Associates, LLC, “Expert Tree Consultants”*

Gallo V. Heller is the Florida landmark case for self-help for trees and tree parts encroaching into and onto the property of others.

Gretchen Gallo asserts that certain trees growing on her neighbors’, David and Beverly Heller, land have damaged her property. Specifically, that Heller’s Ficus and Melaleuca trees damaged Gallo’s roof and house, caused sidewalks to crack, shaded certain vegetation causing it to die, and caused a pet dog to contract a severe allergy.

The rule at common law and the majority rule in this country, which is followed in Florida, is that a possessor of land is not liable to persons outside the land for a nuisance resulting from trees and natural vegetation growing on the land. The adjoining property owner to such a nuisance, however, is privileged to trim back, at the adjoining neighbor’s own expense, any encroaching tree roots or branches and other vegetation which has grown onto his property.

Gallo V. Heller is not a carte blanche authorization to trim trees or parts of trees, such as roots, at property lines. There seem to be certain criteria involved with self-help which include: 1) ample notification to the owner of nuisance tree(s) that action is pending and needed, 2) do not trespass onto another’s property, 3) the self-help cannot cause irreparable harm to the nuisance tree or damage to property, and 4) the peace must be kept.

When dealing with a client who is asking you to prune trees or parts of trees belonging to a neighbor, on a property line, it is always best to recommend that an attorney be consulted before self-help action is initiated.

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**Chapter Bucks!**

*Do you recruit new ISA members?*

Now you can be rewarded for your efforts to the grow the Florida Chapter by taking advantage of our new CHAPTER BUCKS PROGRAM!

All you need to do is recruit a new member then send us an email with their name and your name and address. When we get confirmation from International that they have joined we will send you a coupon that you can redeem for a $25 discount to any Florida Chapter sponsored class, (does not include the Trees Florida Conference). It’s just that easy!

Send your recruit’s name and your name and address to Norm Easey at floridaisa@aol.com.”

---

**Florida Chapter ISA**

Florida Chapter ISA
7853 South Leewynn Court
Sarasota, FL 34240

**Chapter Bucks Coupon**

This certificate entitles 


to

Authorized by __________________________
Number __________________________
Expires __________________________

Not redeemable for cash. Redemption value not to exceed $25.

FLORIDA CHAPTER INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF ARBORICULTURE
## 2005 Certification Exam Schedule

The FLORIDA CHAPTER of ISA is pleased to announce our revised 2004-2005 schedule of Certification Exams and Study Guide Review sessions. See the chart below for the site nearest you. This schedule is subject to change as additional tests and review sessions may be added.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Exam / Class</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Proctor or Instructors</th>
<th>Last Date to Register</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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<tr>
<td>May 14, 2005</td>
<td>Exam</td>
<td>Duval County Extension 1010 N. McDuff Avenue</td>
<td>7:30 am to Noon</td>
<td>Larry Figart and Rebecca Jordi</td>
<td>April 29, 2005</td>
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<td>Jacksonville, FL 32254</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 11, 2005</td>
<td>Class</td>
<td>Trees Florida 2005 Westin Innisbrook Resort 36750 US</td>
<td>9:00 am to 4:00 pm</td>
<td>Norm Easley, Mary Edwards, Chuck Lippi, Dave Leonard, Rick Joyce</td>
<td>May 27, 2005</td>
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<td>Hwy. 19 North Palm Harbor, FL 34684</td>
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<td>June 12, 2005</td>
<td>Exam</td>
<td>Westin Innisbrook Resort 36750 US Hwy. 19 North</td>
<td>7:30 am to Noon</td>
<td>Greg Charles &amp; Loren Westenberger</td>
<td>May 27, 2005</td>
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<td>June 17, 2005</td>
<td>Class</td>
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<td>Sam Hand &amp; TBA</td>
<td>June 3, 2005</td>
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<td>June 18, 2005</td>
<td>Exam</td>
<td>Maclay Gardens State Park 3540 Thomasville Rd.</td>
<td>8:30 am to 1:00 pm</td>
<td>Sam Hand &amp; Perry Odom</td>
<td>June 3, 2005</td>
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For an application to any of the Exams, call the ISA Office in Champaign, IL at 888-472-8733. To register for the Review Class call the Florida Chapter ISA at 941-342-0153. To purchase an ISA Certification Study Guide, call the Florida Chapter ISA at 941-342-0153.

---

### Arborists, Don’t Miss this FREE Workshop!

#### Electrical Hazard Awareness Program (EHAP) Workshop

**hosted by:**

![TCIA](image)

**with a grant from OSHA, U.S. Department of Labor,**

**and with help from local host partners:**

**Florida Urban Forestry Council**

**and Florida Power & Light**

**June 27, 2005**

Signature Grand • 6900 State Road 84 • Davie, FL 33317  
8:30 am - 4:30 pm (Check-in at 8:00 am)

*Food & beverage cost: $15 -- 6.5 ISA CEU Credits*

Register online at www.treecareindustry.org/ehap or call TCIA at (800) 733-2622

This material was produced under grant number 46A4-HT33 from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, U.S. Department of Labor. It does not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the U.S. Department of Labor, nor does mention of trade names, commercial products, or organizations imply endorsement by the U.S. Government.
Arborist Code of Ethics

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

International Society of Arboriculture-Florida Chapter

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