



# north carolina urban forest council

May 2024

## NCUFC eNews

Protecting. Sustaining. Advocating.

### Comments from the Chair



Hello, Everyone!

May has flown by and its been a busy month at the Council.

Unfortunately, Melanie McElroy had to step down as our executive director in April due to unforeseen family circumstances. We wish her well in her future endeavors.

However, I am happy to announce the Council has hired **Kim Strazisar as Executive Director**. If Kim's name looks familiar, it's because she has spent the last 15 years working with several NC green industry groups. She is well versed in our mission and programs, and is committed to her role. Kim has jumped in with both feet and we know she will help us reach our 2024 goals, and beyond. Please say hello to Kim at events and know she is here to help you.

And speaking of events...

Take a look below for details and registration for:

- **Certified Arborist Prep Course & Review**, June 12-13
- **Carolina Canopy Workshop** - Developing with Trees in Mind, June 25

Our **15th Annual Great NC Tree Conference** is taking shape and registration will launch in June (see keynote speaker info below!), along with our second Carolina Canopy Workshop in July, and an NC Community Tree Webinar in August.

The Board and I look forward to seeing you this summer at one of our events.

If you have not renewed your **membership** yet, there is plenty of time to take advantage of everything an annual membership has to offer in 2024. In return, your membership helps us further promote the importance of urban forestry across NC.

Finally, June officially opens Hurricane Season. Take advantage of our free **NC Trees & Storms: Readiness, Response, & Recovery** initiative materials. They are great resources for communities, professionals, and residents.

Sincerely,  
Mark

**Mark Livingston**  
Arboguard Tree Specialists, Charlotte  
BCMA/TRAQ/WRRQ/CTSP  
NCUFC Board Chair

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## Executive Director Message



Dear Friends,

By definition, a council is a group of people that gathers for the purpose of giving advice or making decisions. And we have quite the Council! I've seen you - our Board, our members, and our supporters - in action. You are knowledgeable, helpful, and passionate about our mission. I'm honored to be your new executive director and thrilled to be working with you.

My hands-on experience in North Carolina's green industry over the past 15 years began as Communications Director of the North Carolina Nursery & Landscape Association. I then started my own company and consulted and executed communication strategies for the NC Green Industry Council, the NC Landscape Contractors' Licensing Board, the Johnston County Nursery and Marketing Association, and, most importantly, the NC Urban Forest Council. I understand our mission and our place among our fellow industry organizations.

I've hit the ground running since coming on board May 7th. I am working diligently to help carry out our phenomenal programs with our amazing Board of Directors this year. We will then look forward and strategically plan the Council's next steps to grow our organization over the next few years.

I truly believe each member brings important perspective and ideas to our Council. I want to know your thoughts and opinions. Please feel free to reach out to me at ncuvc1@gmail.com or 252-653-6677 any time.

Let's work together to protect and advocate for the trees where we live, work, and play.

Sincerely,  
Kim

Kim Strazisar  
NCUVC Executive Director

## Upcoming Events



# CERTIFIED ARBORIST PREP COURSE & REVIEW

GREENVILLE, NC

12 June, 8:30a-5p **Course**  
13 June, 8:30a-5p **Course**

14 June, 9a-12:30p **Exam (Optional)**



Lunch Provided!



CEUs Available!



**\*The deadline to register with ISA for the Exam has passed, but you can register for the Prep Course and Review until June 10th.**

We will host our next Certified Arborist Prep Course & Review in December 2024.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

# 2024 CAROLINA CANOPY WORKSHOPS

## Developing With Trees In Mind

- Eastern Region: June 25, Raleigh
- Western Region: Fall 2024, TBD

## Managing Tree & Landscape Pests

- Eastern Region: July 22, Wilson
- Western Region: Fall 2024, TBD



funded by:



[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

# SAVE THE DATE!

SEPTEMBER 26-27, 2024  
HICKORY, NC



**KEYNOTE**  
**DR. LES WERNER**

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN -  
STEVENS POINT



**KEYNOTE**  
**DR. BRIAN KANE**

UNIVERSITY OF  
MASSACHUSETTS - AMHERST

*The*  
**Great NC Tree**  
CONFERENCE

Registration for our Great NC Tree Conference will open in June!

## It's Hurricane Season: Use Our NC Trees & Storms Resources



The NC Trees & Storms initiative provides homeowners, tree care professionals and municipalities the information they need to prepare for, respond to, and recover from a tree-damaging storm event.

By practicing the **3Rs (Readiness, Response, & Recovery)**, residents and local experts can take steps to prevent and minimize tree damage, effectively respond after the

storm, and assess the additional steps needed to ensure the health of remaining trees. These basic steps will save homeowners and taxpayers money and promote the health of North Carolina's urban forests and the many benefits they provide.

*The NC Trees & Storms initiative is a collaborative effort between the [North Carolina Forest Service](#), NC Urban Forest Council, and NC State Cooperative Extension Service.*

CLICK HERE FOR OUR FREE BROCHURES, VIDEOS, AND WEBINAR

## Legacy Tree Fund Update



The 2024 Legacy Tree Fund application process will open in the fall this year. Look for more updates in upcoming Enewsletters.

### Not an NCUFC member?

Explore benefits [online](#).

*If you join or renew today, your membership will expire on 31 December 2024!*

### Annual Partners of NCUFC



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**North Carolina Urban Forest Council**  
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Have a story for eNews?  
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