



north carolina urban forest council

February 2025

NCUFC eNews

Protecting. Sustaining. Advocating.

Comments from the Chair



Hello NCUFC Members and Friends,

It's hard to believe we're already coming up on March - hopefully that means spring is around the corner! Mother Nature is giving us our typical North Carolina flavor of weather with a nice mix of snow and ice across all parts of the state followed by some warm sunny days. Let's enjoy it while it's here while we [take time to prep trees for future storms!](#)

The Council's Board of Directors met in mid - February for our first quarterly meeting of the year and got a lot accomplished! We welcomed our new Project Coordinator, Kate, who comes to us from the Texas A&M Forest Service, and is bringing some great ideas and energy along! We are moving ahead with planning for our educational events, and approved holding this year's Great NC Tree Conference in Greensboro, so be on the lookout for continued information about these events.

I'd like to remind everyone to [please renew your Council membership for 2025](#). This is a great way to support the work that we do, and saves you money on your registration fees for all of our events! This is more important now than ever, as a large portion of our funding comes from federal grant money through our partnership with the North Carolina Forest Service. With the uncertainty surrounding federal funding freezes and what that may look like in the future, we are appreciative of the support we receive from our members and partners. If you think [this is the right time for you or your organization to increase your support](#) beyond a base-level membership, please reach out so that we can bring you on board. As always we are grateful to Andy Pleninger and his team at the [NCFS Urban and Community Forestry Program](#) for their continued support as well as their assistance in working through this uncertainty

together.

Please see below for additional information about webinar registration, upcoming event dates, and news you can use.

Again, please let us know if you would like to assist with sponsorships, serve on a committee, or volunteer your time. Everybody stay safe out there, and we look forward to seeing you at one of our events soon!

Max Alff
Appalachian State University
BCMA/TRAQ
NCUFC Board Chair

Event News



NC COMMUNITY TREE WEBINAR

March 19 | 3:00-4:00PM

Marketing Your Certifications and Licenses

Presenter: Kim Strazisar,
Executive Director, NCUFC

[REGISTER NOW](#)

NC Community Tree Webinar: Marketing Your Certifications and Licenses

March 19, 2025 3:00-4:00PM EST

Join our Executive Director, Kim Strazisar, to learn how to use your qualifications before, during, and after jobs to help build your business and prevent customer complaints. This includes proper use of the certification/license numbers, improving customer communication during a job, and leaving customers with clear instructions at the end of the job. Together, the tips and guidance in this talk help protect the health, safety and welfare of the public; further efficient green industry standards; and improve business practices. CEUs/Credits are available.

[Register today!](#)

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER FOR THE WEBINAR](#)



2025 NCUFC Membership - Lucky Member March!

We're lucky - and grateful! - to have the support of our members. We want to spread that good luck back to our members in March. Don't miss your chance to win "Lucky Member March" prizes in our March 17 drawing - including a Great NC Tree Conference registration! All members are eligible, so be sure to your 2025 NCUFC membership is current by [renewing or joining](#) us today.

Membership matters! Our members make it possible for us to provide education, training, and connection opportunities. In return, you receive [member benefits](#) including networking opportunities, access to research, financial discounts, and more.

Stay connected. NCUFC keeps you connected to our industry. It takes many voices to protect and maintain the trees where we live, work, and play. It's important to work together as we deal with continuous issues affecting our urban forests, including storms, development, legislation, and industry changes. Please, renew your membership today and stay connected in 2025.

[CLICK HERE TO RENEW/JOIN TODAY](#)



AMY SMITH
BOARD MEMBER



Board Member Profile: Amy Smith

Meet the newest NCUFC Board Member, Amy Smith! Amy is a professor at Purdue University Global and is a Realtor in Asheville, focusing on Green Design and LEED certifications.

"I am so excited to serve on the NCUFC Board. I have been in love with trees and the woods since I was young, and my research in forestry eventually brought me to urban forestry. I think that protecting, preserving, and enhancing urban forests is one of the most critical steps that cities can take to improve sustainability, enhance the quality of life for residents, and promote climate resilience. I want to put my skills to use to help others working on this mission in their cities throughout North Carolina." - Amy Smith

PARTNER with NCUFC



Partnership Opportunities

NCUFC Partners are key to making NCUFC's mission possible. Partners receive benefits that range from complimentary memberships, annual conference registrations and exhibition space, digital marketing, and promotion on the NCUFC website and outreach platforms.

Annual Partners are key to keeping NCUFC running throughout the year, including putting on programming, providing networking opportunities, and supporting administrative costs.

Event Sponsors help support specific events, including Webinars, Carolina Canopy Workshops, Certified Arborist Prep Courses, and our annual Great NC Tree Conference.

NCUFC also has **Marketing Opportunities** if you are looking to promote your business or program.

NCUFC is a non-profit organization that operates with the help of grants. A recent order from the federal Office of Management and Budget placed a pause on federal grants, so partnership support is needed now more than ever in keeping NC tree industry professionals accredited and connected.

[Learn more about Partnership Opportunities and Partner Benefits](#)

SAVE THE DATE

Certified Arborist Prep Courses & Exam

Save the Date for our 2025 Certified Arborist Prep Courses. Each session offers a 2-day course going over topics covered on the ISA Certified Arborist Exam and an optional opportunity to take the exam on the last day of the session. Lunches are included in registration!

June 2-4, 2025 - Wilson County Extension Center, Wilson, NC

December 10-12 - Guilford County Extension Center, Greensboro, NC

Registration will open in April.

The 16th Annual Great NC Tree Conference: Canopy Connections

The 2025 Great NC Tree Conference is scheduled for September 11-12, 2025 in Greensboro, NC.

This year, we are focusing on connections within and between our NC tree care community.

Other News, Events, and Resources

News: NCFS U&CF Financial Assistance Program RFA Status

NC Forest Service Urban & Community Forestry Program released this statement on February 4th:

In light of the Office of Management and Budget's recent order placing a temporary pause on federal grants, loans and financial assistance programs, we are canceling all three 2025-1 Financial Assistance Program Request for Applications (RFA) offerings. All three of these urban and community forestry RFAs are funded with federal grants, and it is unclear to us whether or not the RFAs are impacted by this order. In an abundance of caution, we believe it is best to cancel this RFA offering to allow the USDA Forest Service, the granting agency of these federal funds, the time they need to review the order and inform us as to how we should proceed.

Once we have received guidance from the USDA Forest Service, we will have a clear understanding of if and how this order impacts our urban and community forestry Financial Assistance Program and will share that information with you.

Our next RFA is scheduled to open July 1, 2025. Please complete this six-question [25-1 NCFS U&CF Financial Assistance RFA Questionnaire](#) to share your interest and plans for applying for future RFAs.

Thank you for your patience and for all you do for your communities.

Events: Spring 2025 Bradford Pear Bounty Events

Free registration is now open for Bradford Pear Bounty Events across NC this Spring:

Wilson, NC - March 22, 2025

Wilkesboro, NC - March 29, 2025

Elizabeth City, NC - April 5, 2025

Hendersonville, NC - April 12, 2025

Visit the website for more information: <https://www.treebountync.com/>

Resource: NC Disaster Information Center

NC State Extension has pulled information, resources, and tools together in one website location to assist in continued Hurricane Helene Recovery.

Website: <https://ncdisaster.ces.ncsu.edu/>

Resource: NCDOT Business Opportunities

ATTENTION: DBEs

(DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISES)

THE N.C. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
WANTS TO WORK WITH YOU!



SATURDAY, MARCH 8, 2025

MARCH 8, 2025	Divisions	Address
10:00 AM - NOON	1	113 AIRPORT DRIVE SUITE 100 EDENTON, NC 27932
10:00 AM - NOON	3	CAPE FEAR COMMUNITY COLLEGE, MCKEITHAN BLDG, 4500 BLUE CLAY RD CASTLE HAYNE 28429
10:00 AM - NOON	5	WAKE TECH COMMUNITY COLLEGE, 10908 CHAPEL HILL RD MORRISVILLE 27560 BLDG2 AUDITORIUM
10:00 AM - NOON	7	1584 YANCEYVILLE STREET GREENSBORO, NC 27415
See Date/Time	9	DAVIDSON-DAVIE COMMUNITY COLLEGE, 297 DCC RD, THOMASVILLE, RITTLING CONFERENCE CTR
10:00 AM - NOON	11	416 EXECUTIVE DR WILKESBORO, NC 28697 - WILKES CO. AGRICULTURAL CENTER
10:00 AM - NOON	13	11 OLD CHARLOTTE HWY, ASHEVILLE, NC 28803

SATURDAY, MARCH 22, 2025

MARCH 22, 2025	Divisions	Address
10:00 AM - NOON	2	2815 ROUSE ROAD EXTENSION KINSTON, NC 28504
10:00 AM - NOON	4	NASH COMMUNITY COLLEGE, 522 N OLD CARRIAGE RD, ROCKY MOUNT 27804 CONTINUING ED BLD
10:00 AM - NOON	6	SOUTHEASTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE, 4564 CHADBOURN HWY WHITEVILLE-BLDG D AUDITORIUM
10:00 AM - NOON	8	121 DOT DRIVE CARTHAGE, NC 28327
10:00 AM - NOON	10	2327 TIPTON DRIVE CHARLOTTE, NC 28206
10:00 AM - NOON	12	1710 EAST MARION STREET SHELBY, NC 28151
10:00 AM - NOON	14	381 TOOT HALLOW ROAD, BRYSON CITY, NC 28713 - SWAIN CO. MAINTENANCE FACILITY

EXAMPLES OF CONTRACT WORK:

- MOWING
- TREE CUTTING
- LANDSCAPE PLANTING
- SNOW AND ICE REMOVAL
- RENTAL EQUIPMENT
- EMERGENCY WORK
- ROADSIDE LITTER PICKUP
- TRAFFIC CONTROL
- STRIPING
- PAVING
- CONSTRUCTION
- MAINTENANCE



MEET OUR TEAM AND LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CONTRACTING OPPORTUNITIES THERE ARE FOR FIRMS LIKE YOURS AND HOW YOU CAN DO BUSINESS WITH NCDOT.

LEARN MORE.



DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISES INCLUDE SMALL, MINORITY-OWNED AND WOMAN-OWNED BUSINESSES.

Thank you NCUFC Annual Partners!



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Have a story for the eNews?
Contact us!
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