



CENTERS FOR Urban and Interface Forestry



A quarterly bulletin of the Centers for Urban and Interface Forestry | Southern Research Station | USDA Forest Service

Summer 2007

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Name Contest

Help us pick a name for our bulletin by sending ideas to ahermansen@fs.fed.us. The winner will get a free t-shirt.

Introduction

The **Centers for Urban and Interface Forestry (CUIF)** is the result of an integration of two existing centers, formerly known as the Southern Center for Urban Forestry Research and Information in Athens, Georgia, and the Southern Center for Wildland-Urban Interface Research and Information in Gainesville, Florida. This integration combines expertise in urban forestry and wildland-urban interface (WUI) issues for the southern region and nationwide. CUIF is part of the Southern Research Station research work unit SRS-4952: Integrating Human and Natural Systems in Urban and Urbanizing Environments. The urban forestry component of CUIF is now called **Urban Forestry South** and the WUI component is **InterfaceSouth**.

CUIF supports and conducts research, disseminates new and existing information, serves as a clearinghouse of WUI and urban forestry information, builds partnerships and collaborative efforts and approaches, and facilitates and creates links to and between other organizations. CUIF's two Web sites, Urban Forestry South Expo and InterfaceSouth, are useful tools for providing easily accessible information to partners, natural resource practitioners, and the public.

The **Urban Forestry South Expo** Web site (www.urbanforestrysouth.org) is a collaborative effort of the USDA FS Southern Region, Urban and Community Forestry Program (U&CF); the Southern Research Station; University of Georgia, Warnell School of Forest and Natural Resources; and the Southern Group of State Foresters. The Web site is maintained by Southern Regional Extension Forestry and has a variety of urban forestry resources, such as a document library, tree ordinances, classroom activities, presentations, and much more. This site is also the repository for the national U&CF technology transfer library.

The **InterfaceSouth** Web site (www.interfacesouth.org) was developed by and is maintained through a partnership between the USDA Forest Service Southern Research Station and the University of Florida, School of Forest and Resource Conservation. This site includes up-to-date WUI information, such as current news, events, publications, training and outreach programs, and decision support systems. It also includes reference information such as a literature database, a photo gallery, and links to informative Web sites. The site also allows site visitors to sign up for the **Southern Wildland-Urban Interface Network (SWUINET) listserve**, through which they can receive the InterfaceSouth Update, InterfaceSouth Post, and this bulletin.

Partnerships

COMBINING RESOURCES and sharing lessons learned is essential to addressing emerging issues in the South. The Centers for Urban and Interface Forestry actively partners with a variety of organizations—including local, state, and federal agencies, universities, and nongovernmental organizations—to ensure that the research they conduct is relevant, and that information reaches communities that can benefit from it.

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Who We Are

Ed Macie serves as the Regional Urban Forester for the USDA Forest Service, Southern Region, based out of Atlanta, GA, and is the founder of CUIF.

Annie Hermansen-Báez is the center manager for InterfaceSouth in Gainesville, FL, directing WUI outreach and technology transfer activities.

Dudley Hartel is the center manager for Urban Forestry South in Athens, GA, directing all urban forestry outreach and technology transfer activities.

Eric Kuehler is a technology transfer specialist at Urban Forestry South, working closely with Dudley in outreach efforts.

Wayne Zipperer is a research forester in Gainesville, FL. His research focuses on the affects of urbanization on ecosystem patterns and processes, as well as the flammability of natural vegetation and home landscapes.

Cassandra Johnson is a research social scientist in Athens, GA. Her research focuses on cultural dimensions of landscape change, outdoor recreation behavior, and preferences for minority groups.

Mike Bowker is a research social scientist in Athens, GA. His research focuses on economics and nonmarket valuation of natural resources.

Deborah Henderson is the administrative support specialist for InterfaceSouth.

Marilyn Howard provides administrative support for Urban Forestry South.

Future Issues

We hope that you have enjoyed this first issue of our bulletin. Look for future issues that will focus on specific science delivery activities, research projects, and partner activities.

Research

CUIF'S RESEARCH seeks to improve understanding of how people who live in urban and urbanizing landscapes influence and are influenced by natural environments. The areas of key research are to (1) assess human influences on natural ecosystems in urban and urbanizing landscapes, (2) define the relationship of land use policies to ecological and social patterns and processes and how they influence natural disturbances in urban and urbanizing environments, (3) assess how human influences on natural ecosystems affect human-derived benefits from those ecosystems, and (4) develop technology transfer models, tools, and guidelines for natural resource professionals, policymakers, and citizens to address and minimize risk due to changes from urbanization and other human influences on forest ecosystems.

Some of the specific research projects being conducted by Center scientists and partners include the following:

- Analysis of urbanization effects on forest vegetation (Auburn University)
- Flammability of natural vegetation and home landscapes (University of Florida, National Institute of Standards and Technology)
- Cultural dimensions of landscape change in the Florida panhandle (Florida A&M University)
- Urban tree carbon markets (University of Georgia)
- Urbanization effects, ecosystem structure, and function in Florida (University of Florida)
- Hurricane damage assessment protocol (University of Florida)
- Ice Storm damage assessment protocol (University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point)

For more information about these research projects visit:

- <http://www.urbanforestrysouth.org/Resources/Collections/research-technology-transfer-at-urban-forestry-south-1/view>
- <http://www.interfacesouth.org/products/research.html>



Forest Service and University of Florida researchers carefully monitor the rate of fire spread and other factors through four different mulch types.

Training & Outreach Activities

A **KEY FOCUS** of CUIF is to develop resources that help build natural resource professionals' skills for managing resources in urban and urbanizing environments. Here are a few of the projects that CUIF is helping to develop with partners.

Wood to Energy Outreach Program

This biomass community outreach program is being developed through a partnership between the Southern Research Station, the University of Florida, the Southern Region Cooperative Extension Service, and the Southern States Biobased Alliance of the Southern States Energy Board. The program is funded through the US Department of Energy/US Department of Agriculture Biomass Initiative. The goal is to encourage the use of woody biomass for bioenergy production in communities at the wildland-urban interface in the thirteen southern states and Puerto Rico.

Some of the expected products of this program are a US Forest Service general technical report, outreach materials (fact sheets, Web-based products, training curriculum), and a train-the-trainer workshop. The Southern Forest Research Partnership has produced a manual, titled *Sustainable Forestry for Bioenergy and Bio-based Products*, that complements the Wood to Energy materials and includes a variety of fact sheets and on-line learning modules. The train-the-trainer workshop to introduce both companion sets of materials will be conducted in September 2007 (invitation only). All of the Wood to Energy outreach materials will be available on the InterfaceSouth Web site in the fall of 2007. For more information about the program visit www.interfacesouth.org/products/training/files/wood2energy.pdf.

I-Tree Training

The US Forest Service and partners, Davey Resource Group, National Arbor Day Foundation, and Society of Municipal Arborists, released **i-Tree** in August 2006. I-Tree is designed to help urban forest managers account for and manage the urban forest. Urban Forestry South personnel are training state forestry personnel in the use of i-Tree. As part of their support, they develop pilot projects in various southern states to share applications and encourage enthusiasm among program trainees. Upcoming sessions include a three-day STRATUM/UFORE project in Union County, North Carolina, for state urban foresters and volunteers; a two day UFORE project at the University of Arkansas, Little Rock, for state urban foresters and students; and a one day i-Tree training workshop open to the public in Florida this winter. To learn more about this innovative online tool, visit the i-Tree Web site at www.itreetools.org.

I-tree is a loosely integrated suite of four software applications—Mobile Community Tree Inventory (MCTI), Street Tree Resource Analysis for Urban forest Managers (STRATUM), Urban Forest Effects Model (UFORE), and the Storm Damage Assessment application.

Tree Assessment: Incident Command System

In 2005, Urban Forestry South helped coordinate a national effort to provide professional arborists' expertise to communities and their urban forests affected by Hurricane Katrina (Gulf Coast Tree Assessment – GCTA). This partnership for response included the Society of Municipal Arborists, the International Society of Arboriculture, Davey Resource Group, state forestry agencies and their U&CF program, Mississippi State University Extension Service, local communities, and local nonprofit organizations.

Following experiences in ten communities in Mississippi and Louisiana, the U&CF programs in Virginia and North Carolina approached Urban Forestry South with the idea of preparing for future natural disasters by training agency certified arborists. The training and procedures that are developed as part of this project will be compatible with and accepted by the respective state Incident Command System (ICS). By working within the state ICS programs, qualified arborists will be available to communities to provide local assistance following disasters that affect urban trees.

Changing Roles: WUI Professional Development Program

This training program—developed by the University of Florida, InterfaceSouth, the US Fish & Wildlife, and the Southern Group of State Foresters—provides state and federal natural resource agencies with a set of flexible resources to conduct their own training programs aimed toward building skills and tools to successfully tackle WUI issues. To view and download the materials visit www.interfacesouth.org/products/training/changing_roles.html.

Partnerships

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Key partners of **InterfaceSouth** include the USDA Forest Service, Region 8 State and Private Forestry and the National Forests of Florida; the University of Florida, School of Forest Resources and Conservation; Auburn University's Center for Forest Sustainability; and the Southern Group of State Forester's Southern Wildland-Urban Interface Council (SWUIC).

Urban Forestry South works closely with universities, state forestry agencies, state and local U&CF programs, Cooperative Extension Service, and nonprofit organizations. Primary partners for Urban Forestry South include the Society of Municipal Arborists, the International Society of Arboriculture, the National Arbor Day Foundation, and the Southern Group of State Foresters. In addition, they work collaboratively with other U&CF centers in the mid-Atlantic, the Northeast, and the mid-West. In future issues we will highlight activities of our partners in this section.

Upcoming Events

Date	Description	Location	Contact
October 2–3, 2007	Florida Firewise Conference	Florida Hotel and Conference Center, Orlando, Florida	www.ffca.org/cde.cfm?event=155850
October 15–19, 2007	Strategic Conservation Planning Using the Green Infrastructure Approach , Sponsored by The Conservation Fund	National Conservation Training Center, Shepherdstown, West Virginia	www.conservationfund.org/node/239
October 23–25, 2007	Human Dimensions of Wildland Fire , Sponsored by the International Association of Wildland Fire	Fort Collins, Colorado	www.umt.edu/ce/cps/HumanDimensionsofWildlandFire.htm
October 23–27, 2007	Society of American Foresters 2007 National Convention	Portland, Oregon	www.safconvention.org/natcon-07/
November 8, 2007	An Introduction to Urban Tree Inventories , South Carolina Urban Forest Council Conference	Columbia, South Carolina	Eric Kuehler, 706-559-4268
November 8, 2007	Essential Disaster Resources for Communities , South Carolina Urban Forest Council Conference	Columbia, South Carolina	Dudley Hartel, 706-559-4236



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