

Georgia Tree Council, Inc. Year-End Report 2020



ISA-CERTIFIED ARBORIST® EXAM COURSE

January 28-29, 2020

Statesboro, GA

Speakers: Rob Swanson, Certified Arborist; Susan Russell, Certified Arborist; Seth Hawkins, GFC
12 registered (only 4 in attendance)

FIRST QUARTERLY PROGRAM

And State Arbor Day Event

BACK TO BASICS: Proper Planting, Proper Pruning, and What Does Not Work

February 12, 2020

Georgia Sports Hall of Fame, Macon GA

Speakers: Jim David, Ocmulgee National Historic Park; Seth Hawkins, Community Forester, GFC;
Dan Bauer, Arbor Equity; David Shostak, Arborist, City of Alpharetta.

71 registrations

SECOND QUARTERLY PROGRAM

Trees, Your City's Character, and a Sense of Place

May 27, 2020

Webinar

Speakers: David Floyd, ASLA, Site Solutions; Rich Deckman, Arborist, City of Marietta; Richard Littleton, State Agronomist, Georgia Department of Transportation; Alfie Vick, University of Georgia College of Environment and Design.

36 registrations

How Do I Become a Certified Arborist?

Rob Swanson, Certified Arborist; Seth Hawkins and Joan Scales, SCFP – Georgia Forestry Commission

Informational Webinar

June 18, 2020

28 registrations

THIRD QUARTERLY PROGRAM

Readiness, Response, Recovery: Is Your Urban Forest Prepared for Upcoming Storms?

August 12, 2020

Webinar

Speakers: Rob Swanson, Certified Arborist; Mark McClellan, Stewardship and Legacy Coordinator, GFC; Seth Hawkins, GFC; Joan Scales, GFC

52 Registrations

CAMPUS TREE CONFERENCE

September 17, 2020

Webinar

Speakers: Ellen Bauske, PhD, UGA Center for Urban Ag/Dept. of Plant Pathology; Bodie Pennisi, Professor of Horticulture, UGA CAES, Griffin; Dan Bauer, Arbor Equity; Karina Leung, Center for Sustainability, Agnes Scott College, Decatur; Joan Scales, GFC.

27 registrations

ISA-CERTIFIED ARBORIST® EXAM COURSE

October 6-27, 2020

Seven webinar sessions

Speakers: Rob Swanson, Certified Arborist; Susan Russell, Certified Arborist; Seth Hawkins, GFC
23 registrations

ANNUAL GEORGIA TREE CONFERENCE

November 4-5, 2020

Embracing the Challenge: Doing our Part Today to Preserve Tomorrow's Urban Forest

Two-day webinar

4 scholarships awarded for nonprofits, tree boards, and others to attend annual conference (Savannah Tree Foundation, Newborn Tree Board, University of North Georgia)

76 in attendance

GEORGIA RELEAF committee selected five communities for funding in 2020: City of Clayton, Habersham Gardens, Town of New Hope, city of Fort Oglethorpe, Piedmont Park Conservancy. A total of \$11,120 will be distributed.

A SPECIAL SOUTHWEST GEORGIA RELEAF funding opportunity created in partnership with the Georgia Forestry Commission. GFC/GTC will work with the following communities in planning projects: Adel, Tifton, Albany, Warner Robins, Flint River SWCD, Lee County, and Colquitt.

Other programming and projects:

- GTC continued to manage the nation-wide **American Grove** website, including administration, upgrading, troubleshooting, hosting, and domain renewal. American Grove presented the sixth annual "Great American Tree Competition" on American Grove. With no further funding available, the American Grove website has been disabled.
- GTC continued to work with GFC on the **Community Forestry Assistance Program** (circuit rider arborists).
- The first annual **GTC STARS** list was launched: young people under the age of 40 who exemplify Service, Teamwork, Attitude, and Results in their work for urban forestry. *Renata Cambraia de Paiva, board member Trees Columbus; Michael Glisson, Macon-Bibb Co.; Travys Harper, Trees Atlanta; Seth Hawkins, Georgia Forestry Commission; Jake Henry, Savannah Tree Foundation; Randell Hunt; Georgia Power Company; Maegan Mullinax, ARCT Services; Mercedes Parham, Board President, Trees Columbus; Zoe Rinker, Savannah Tree Foundation; Lindsay Walker, City of Sandy Springs.*

Fundraising efforts:

- Raised \$780 for GTC operations on **Georgia Gives Day**
- Raised \$7747 in donations (**Georgia Power's donation coming**) for Georgia ReLeaf in 2019.
- Raised \$15,497 raised in year-round sponsors and conference supporters (\$4747 to Georgia ReLeaf)
- Raised \$5230 in membership dollars (at time of report – more to come in before Dec. 31)

Other:

- GTC/GFC created "**Tree Ordinance Central**" on the GTC Website to assist communities in writing or revising their community tree ordinances.

- GTC was chosen as a community project by the **Leadership DeKalb Class of 2020**, and their final report was on raising awareness of the Georgia Tree Council through creative marketing, social media, and networking.
- GTC donated a tree and participated in the planting for City of Milton's Arbor Day Event and board member Mary Hardin Thornton's mother's memorial tree planting event in Rome (Jan/Feb.)
- GTC/GFC participating in **Georgia Arbor Day Proclamation Signing** at Capitol in February
- GTC continues to maintain its **Standards For Excellence** certification and holds **the Platinum Seal of Transparency** from **Guidestar**.