



## NEW YORK STATE URBAN FORESTRY COUNCIL

### ANNUAL REPORT: 2018

[NYSUFC.ORG](http://NYSUFC.ORG)

## THE VISION

... that every New York State community recognize the value of trees and maximize their use to improve the community's quality of life.

## THE MISSION

... to engage in public, private, and volunteer partnerships doing planting, management, and education leading to robust urban and community forests throughout New York State.

## WHO WE ARE

- The New York State Urban Forestry Council (NYSUFC) is the largest urban forestry advocacy group in New York State. It was formed to advise, support, and collaborate with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Urban and Community Forestry Program.
- The NYSUFC came together informally in 1992, became formally organized in 1999, and received its 501(c)3 nonprofit designation in early 2000.
- The Council has a 34-member statewide board of directors and an eight-member executive committee. Council members include natural resource professionals, city foresters, non-profit staff, elected officials, employees of corporations, students, and dedicated community volunteers.
- The Council's Five-Year Strategic Plan can be seen at [nysufc.org](http://nysufc.org). It elaborates on the following four goals:

**Goal 1** Strengthen board structure and membership in order to fulfill the vision and mission of the Council.

**Goal 2** Identify and promote the environmental, economic, and social benefits of trees in the urban forest.

**Goal 3** Provide tools for urban and community forestry outreach, training, and education.

**Goal 4** Provide planning and management tools rooted in best management practices and current research.



## STAYING CONNECTED in 2018



**34,202**

views of the  
NYSUFC Blog



**4,251**

page views of the  
NYSUFC website



**105**

Instagram followers,  
our first year!



**429**

monthly readers for our  
e-newsletter *Taking Root*

**123** people on average  
clicked links in  
the newsletter



**371**

Facebook followers, **863**  
average monthly users  
and **273** average monthly  
users engaged with posts



**291**

Twitter followers,  
**5,843** average monthly  
impressions and **106**  
average monthly visits  
to our Twitter page



In 2018, the Council redoubled its efforts to advocate for federal urban and community forestry funding. ReLeaf participants filled out specially designed Council postcards to send to their Members of Congress, and delegations of regional ReLeaf committees visited key legislators.  
Photo: Michelle Sutton



With the help of a Council scholarship, Onondaga Earth Corps Director Greg Michel (at left) went with a team of OEC staff and advanced crew members—Nick, Amanda, Taveon, and Tyrell—to the 2018 Partners in Urban Forestry Conference in Irvine, California. At the conference, Taveon Stenson presented about the structural pruning work advanced OEC crew members do in partnership with the City of Syracuse. Photo: OEC

# FINANCIALS

## Funding for the NYSUFC in 2018 came from:

A direct grant from the USDA Forest Service at the  
request of the NYSDEC UCF program

Membership dues

Unrestricted donations from Council members and supporters

Proceeds from the annual conference and regional workshops

Sponsorships

## The 2018 USDA Forest Service Grant monies provided funding for:



**\$7,000**

2019 Annual Conference  
(Mount Saint Mary  
College, Newburgh, NY)



**\$6,000**

Online publication and social  
promotion of monthly  
e-newsletters and weekly blog posts



**\$1,000**

Scholarships



**\$10,000**

2019 Arbor Day Grants  
(+ \$1,000 Arbor Day  
Grants administration)



TREE CITY USA®

**\$8,000**

Tree City/Tree Line/Tree Campus  
USA recognition ceremony  
and other support of  
ReLeaf Committee activities



**\$1,000**

Advocacy

**\$500**

Board Meeting expenses

**\$500**

Council website management

**\$18,350**

Administration/Executive  
Secretary

**\$1,000**

Office expenses





Jahlaya Johnson (left) and So'Unique Harrison from Onondaga Earth Corps attended ReLeaf 2018. Photo: Michelle Sutton



Onondaga Earth Corps staff and crew members enjoyed good weather for the ReLeaf 2018 Friday night picnic in Rochester's Genesee Valley Park. Photo: Michelle Sutton



NYC Parks Foresters Leanna Kirschen (left) and Ariane Trani at ReLeaf 2018. Photo: Michelle Sutton



From left: FLCC Horticulture Technician and Instructor Berna Ticonchuk, Monroe County Parks Horticulture Aide Susan Maney, Urban Horticulture Director Nina Bassuk, Schichtel's Nursery Sales Manager Jim Kisker, and Ithaca-based Certified Arborist Keith Miller attended ReLeaf 2018. Photo: Michelle Sutton

## RELEAF CONFERENCE

The Annual NYS ReLeaf Conference is created through a partnership between the NYSUFC, the NYSDEC Urban and Community Forestry Program, and the local, volunteer-driven ReLeaf host committees. Attendees come from across the State and beyond to network and attend workshops and tours designed to help them better manage the community forest and enhance its ecosystem benefits.

To the fullest extent possible, the Council offers scholarships for the ReLeaf Conference—and for attendees to the annual Municipal Forestry Institute and Partners in Community Forestry Conference—for those who couldn't otherwise afford to attend.



At ReLeaf 2018, Rochester Institute of Technology Sustainability Initiatives Manager Harshita Sood gave a phenomenal tour of the campus through the lens of sustainability. Photo: Michelle Sutton

Freeville community members plant their first tree, a swamp white oak (*Quercus bicolor*), at their first-ever Arbor Day event, funding in part by a Council grant. Photo: Village of Freeville



## ARBOR DAY GRANTS

In 2018, through USDA Forest Service funding, the NYSUFC was able to offer its fourth year of Arbor Day grants of up to \$1,000 to small communities or non-profits. These are intended for inaugural Arbor Day celebrations and the formation of shade tree committees within municipalities—activities meant to kick-start a community forestry program. In 2018, 13 communities received awards, and the Council was able to award over **\$10,960** in grant requests in 2018.

North Collins kindergartners helped heel in swamp white oak trees planted during the Town's first-ever Arbor Day celebration, funded in part by a Council grant. Photo: Town of North Collins





## DEPARTURES IN A SEASON OF CHANGE

In 2018, three extraordinarily talented people left their positions within NYSDEC Urban and Community Forestry (UCF). Longtime NYSDEC UCF State Coordinator Mary Kramarchyk took a position with the Diocese of Albany; Urban Forestry Partnerships Coordinator Sally Kellogg took a position with the Long Island South Shore Estuary Preserve; and Urban Forestry Volunteer Coordinator Mary Martin moved to a civil service position with the NYSDEC Division of Water in the Floodplain Management section. The Council is deeply indebted to these dynamic women and wishes them well in their new opportunities!

## HONORING MARY KRAMARCHYK

The Council will continue to strive and succeed because of all you have done. We love you and will miss you. Our communities' trees thank you, and it's because of you and your determination and love of trees that many of them have been planted and cared for. Thank you, Mary.

—Brian Skinner

We owe so much to you in helping to build the urban forestry program here in NY! In a similar vein to the experiences of other Council Board members, I came to a ReLeaf workshop in Westchester, not knowing a soul, and met you, Brenda Cagle, and Nancy Guski. You were all so much fun, and encouraged me to attend the annual conference in Canandaigua. That was ten years ago, and I have learned so much and met so many wonderful people over the years—all thanks to your outreach at that event. Thank you so much for welcoming me into the group!

—Karen Emmerich

Our very best wishes to Mary! Her professionalism and enthusiastic dedication has always sustained the “Yes, we can” spirit in our volunteers. Thank you, Mary, for guiding our fledgling Newburgh Shade Tree Commission through its very first Arbor Day. State conferences, Region 3 ReLeaf workshops, Arbor Day poster jurying ... you've made “urban forestry” part of the vernacular here in the City of Newburgh.

—C. Kippy Boyle



Left to right: Sally Kellogg (photo: NYDEC), Mary Kramarchyk, and Mary Martin. Photos: Michelle Sutton



## 2018 MEMBERSHIP

In 2018, there were **195** memberships representing **444** total members:



**114**  
Individuals



**27**  
Students



**12**  
Non-Profits  
(4 members each)



**31**  
Government Agencies  
(5 members each)



**5**  
Small Businesses  
(6 members each)

**1**

Medium  
Business  
(10 members)

**5**

Corporate  
(12 members each)

## 2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Name	Affiliation
Christopher Anderson	NYS Association of Towns
Karen Arent	KALA/Landscape Architect
Dr. Nina Bassuk	Cornell Urban Hort. Institute
Mark Beamish	Orange and Rockland Utilities
Jeffrey Bell	NYSEG
Vincent Biondo	Town of Babylon
Lori Brockelbank	Davey Resource Group
Brenda Cagle	Town of Red Hook
Joe Charap	Green-Wood Cemetery
Michael DeMarco	City of Watertown
Sharon DiLorenzo	Capital Roots
Larry Ferrandiz	PSE&G
Glenn Gentzke	Tree Services of WNY LLC
Danielle Gift	NYC Dept. of Parks & Recreation
Jeanne Grace	City of Ithaca
Ross Hassinger	City of Buffalo
Andrew Hillman	Davey Resource Group
James Kaechele	NYC Parks
Jennifer Kotary	NYSDEC
Greg Michel	Onondaga Youth Corps
Andrew Newman	NYC Parks
Judy Pangman	City of Oneonta
Glen Roberts	NYSDEC
Jamie Rogers	North Elba Tree Board
Brian Skinner	Lewis Tree Service
Mike Treglia	The Nature Conservancy

## 2018 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Name	Title	Affiliation
Karen Emmerich	President	Freshwater Environmental Consultants
Steve Harris	Vice President	City of Syracuse
Art Traver	Treasurer	Wendel
Brian Liberti	Secretary	City of Rochester
Vincent Drzewucki	At-Large	CCE of Nassau County
Phil Healey	At-Large	Inc. Village of Lynbrook
Mike DeMarco	At-Large	City of Watertown
L.D. Terry Hawkridge	At-Large	Rustic Pines

## EX-OFFICIO

Name	Affiliation
Mary Kramarchyk	NYSDEC Urban Forestry Program Manager
Eric Greenfield	USFS/Instructor at SUNY ESF
Martin Mullarkey	Retired Utility Arborist and Educator
John Parry	USDA Forest Service
Rob Messenger	NYSDEC Bureau Chief, Private Land Services
Mary Martin	NYSDEC Volunteer Coordinator
Sally Kellogg	NYSDEC Urban Forestry Partnerships Coordinator

## STAFF

Name	Title
Sarah Gugercin	Website Manager and Graphic Designer
Liana Gooding	Executive Secretary for NYSUFC
Michelle Sutton	Editor & Social Media Coordinator



## KEY PARTNERS

NYSDEC Urban and Community Forestry Program *and*

American Society of Consulting Arborists

Arbor Day Foundation

Cornell Urban Horticulture Institute

International Society of Arboriculture

New York State Arborists

New York State Nursery and Landscape Association

Onondaga Earth Corps

Society of American Foresters

Society of Municipal Arborists

Tree Care Industry Association

USDA Forest Service

The Council supports NYSDEC Urban and Community Forestry Program efforts to promote the Cost-Share Grant Program funded by the NY Environmental Protection Fund. The latest round of the program awarded \$2.24 million dollars for tree inventories, management plans, maintenance, and planting.

The Council also supports NYSDEC efforts in conjunction with the Arbor Day Foundation to promote the Tree City USA, Tree Campus USA, and Tree Line USA programs. In spring of 2018, NYSDEC celebrated the commitment of 128 NYS Tree Cities, 8 Tree Line Utilities, and 28 Tree Campuses to our State's collective urban and community forest.

The Council has also partnered with NYS Arborists and Davey Resource Group to host i-Tree workshops for municipal workers, tree commissioners, and others interested in learning about the i-Tree suite of tools available from the U.S. Forest Service. The first workshop, focused on the i-Tree Benefits Calculator, was held December 13, 2018 in Delmar, NY. It was a success, and the Council plans to co-sponsor additional i-Tree workshops across the State in the coming months.

## DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

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## MADE IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:



Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation



**nationalgrid**  
HERE WITH YOU. HERE FOR YOU.



*This publication is dedicated to  
the memory of longtime volunteers  
and beloved Council leaders,  
Brian Skinner and Pat Tobin*



National Grid Senior Arborist Brian Skinner served the Council in nearly every conceivable way for 18 years, including as Board Member and Vice President. He received numerous awards from his colleagues, including the first-ever Heartwood Award, established by the Council in his honor.

Brian said, "I most appreciate the way that the Council has helped the state legislature better understand and appreciate the workings of community groups, professionals, and volunteers in our urban forestry efforts across New York State. This has resulted in many positive things, especially in increasing the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) grants and getting greater community participation in both grants and the ReLeaf conferences." Photo: Michelle Sutton



Pat Tobin served as the Chair of the Village of Fayetteville Tree Commission (FTC) from 2002 until her passing. With Pat's leadership, the FTC started its bare root planting program, obtained state funding for tree pruning and a tree inventory, began hosting summer interns, and much more. Pat and the FTC made Fayetteville's community forestry program one of the most progressive in New York State. A longtime NYSUFC Board Member, Pat served the Council in myriad ways for decades and was Council President from 2006-2009, yet was one of the most self-effacing folks the Council has known. Photo: Michelle Sutton

"Brian was one of the first people I met when I joined the Council and attended my first ReLeaf conference. He was sitting outside a college dorm surrounded by other foresters, telling stories and radiating camaraderie. I felt like I had finally found my place amongst other tree lovers. Brian was always warm and welcoming, and an enthusiast for citizen-led tree plantings. His inspired "10,000 Trees and Growing program" at National Grid continues to fund our underwire plantings in Schenectady. Brian's legacy lives on through the thousands of trees and lives he touched."

—Betsy Henry

"Brian was truly selfless. You could count on him for anything at any time. I appreciated his leadership, mentorship, camaraderie, and humor. He was also always helping students get job opportunities, and he took a sincere interest in the students and their development in vegetation management. I'm really going to miss him and his easy way with folks; his patience seemed to have no bounds."

—Eric J. Greenfield

"Whether she was the Council president, advocate, board member, or a fellow urban forestry friend, Pat was always gracious, dedicated, friendly, and caring. She had a common sense approach that served our Council well. Everything was going to be ok if you walked in the room and Pat was there. I will really miss her."

—Brenda Cagle

"With her glowing smile, Pat always lifted up others around her and never had an unkind word to say of anyone. She saw the good in all people and encouraged upcoming professionals like me to be all they can be. She was always a leader when it came to public policy and could be counted on to lead advocacy efforts in Albany, a role that took expertise and dedication that she possessed more than anyone."

—David Moore