



NEW YORK STATE URBAN FORESTRY COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT: 2019

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 (DEC) Urban and Community Forestry (UCF) Program.
- The NYSUFC came together informally in 1992, became formally organized in 1999, and received its 501(c)3 non-profit designation in early 2000.
- The Council has a 33-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. 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.



A NEW TEAM FOR DEC

The year 2019 saw a new team coalesce in the Albany office of the NYSDEC Urban and Community Forestry (UCF) program. **Gloria Van Duyne** became DEC's statewide UCF Program Coordinator, bringing extensive experience from within DEC and from the non-profit sector. In recent years, she served as the DEC Division of Lands and Forests Web and Communications Coordinator and developed web content and outreach materials for the UCF program she now heads. Gloria edited the NYSUFC's *Taking Root* newsletter and has authored articles in DEC's *Conservationist* magazine.

Prior to her time at DEC, Gloria worked as the Executive Director at the Landis Arboretum in Esperance, NY. She has also worked for The Nature Conservancy in the Delaware Bayshore and for New York Parks and Conservation Association (precursor to Parks and Trails New York). While living in Australia for two years, Gloria volunteered with a bird banding group that handled the endangered Eastern curlew, the largest shorebird worldwide. She has a Master's degree from Antioch New England in Natural Resource Management and Not-for-Profit Administration.

"Regional ReLeaf committees, the Council, community tree boards, and a slew of volunteer community groups and partnerships are what keep our programs moving forward," Gloria says. "It is their passion, enthusiasm, generosity, hard work, and mutual support that has helped strengthen urban forests across the State."



Gloria Van Duyne

Andrea Nieves is the NYSDEC Environmental Education Assistant, serving both the UCF and Trees for Tribes programs. She has a bachelor's degree in Biology from Hartwick College in Oneonta, where she lived all four years on Hartwick's rustic Pine Lake Environmental Campus.

"The best thing about Pine Lake was the community," she says. "We had potlucks, contra dances, sauna nights, polar bear plunges, and campfire nights. I lived there over the summers too, working as an environmental field research assistant." In that capacity, Andrea performed a forest inventory, counting and measuring over 3,000 trees. She also conducted water quality studies, experimented with crayfish territorial behavior, studied aquatic invasive species density, and created a data capture and reporting protocol.

For the UCF program, Andrea handles registrations for all the NY ReLeaf workshops, creates brochures and other outreach materials, assists in grant review, and coordinates the Tree City USA program for New York State. In her free time, Andrea plays violin, goes to contra and swing dances, hikes, rock climbs, and practices yoga and Zen meditation.



Andrea Nieves



Christina McLaughlin

Christina McLaughlin is the UCF Partnership Coordinator for NYSDEC. She has a master's degree in Biodiversity Conservation and Policy from the University at Albany, where her thesis centered on landowner knowledge of and opinions about invasive species that affect the Capital Region.

During graduate school, Christina interned through the Student Conservation Association at Huyck Preserve in Rensselaerville. Afterwards, she was asked to remain as a staff person, continuing to manage and grow their education programs. She also started a volunteer program there, positioning her well for her role at DEC, which includes frequent contact with volunteers. Among her responsibilities, Christina oversees and coordinates NY ReLeaf activities, including the annual conference and committees and workshops across all nine DEC regions.

"In my free time, I'm a huge board gamer and table-top RPG [role-playing game] player with a group of friends," she says. "I also love to bake, especially after I've been watching the Great British Bake Off. I also love to travel—my husband Mark and I went to Iceland last year and this year we're headed to Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands."



Dan Gaidasz

Dan Gaidasz worked for 18 years as a DEC forester for Region 4 before transferring to Albany last May to be the UCF Program Technical Coordinator. Dan, a Certified Arborist with a bachelor's degree from SUNY-ESF, is developing trainings and technical materials on a variety of UCF-related subjects, including urban wood waste utilization. "I get to work with a great group of individuals with a variety of talents and experiences," he says. "We are working hard trying to enhance an already robust UCF program while having some fun along the way."

Dan is also a wildland firefighter who has gone out west several times to help fight wildfires. "The technical training from firefighting has provided me opportunities to help on other emergency responses, such as Superstorm Sandy recovery," he says. "This training has also carried over into what I do to help communities prepare for storms and my work as a member of the U.S. Forest Service Urban Forest Strike Team."

Dan lives with his wife Karen and kids Emma and Max on a property with chickens, honey bees, and their dog, Charlie. Dan coaches youth lacrosse and does triathlons, and the family likes to camp, hike, and kayak.

COUNCIL PAST PRESIDENT DAVID MOORE RECEIVES NATIONAL RECOGNITION



David's ADF Award up close.
Photo by Michelle Sutton

About 40 invited guests attended the Arbor Day Foundation (ADF) reception on June 6th, 2019 in the Arsenal at Central Park to honor Council Past President David Moore's recognition as ADF 2019 Trailblazer. The Trailblazer Award recognizes outstanding achievement in arboriculture and/or urban forestry by professionals under 35. At the reception, a video about David's work was unveiled; David gave an extemporaneous, from-the-heart speech; and attendees enjoyed a reception on the Arsenal roof overlooking the southeast corner of Central Park.

The Council, who nominated David, is thrilled that he received the prestigious award and feel it is most deserved. From the ADF press release: "The title of Senior Tree Supervisor at the City of Oakland, California, belies David Moore's age and accomplishments. During his tenure at New York City Parks, David developed a sophisticated system of tree procurement that is a model for urban foresters across the country, and he served as co-chair of the MillionTreesNYC committee. He also served as president of the New York State Urban Forestry Council from 2015-17, where he was highly regarded for his organizational and leadership skills."

Congrats, David! We, your friends at the NYSUFC, look forward to watching your star continue to rise.



David Moore celebrating his Arbor Day Foundation (ADF) Trailblazer Award at the Arsenal in Central Park with his wife Leyla and son Shepard.

STAYING CONNECTED in 2019


39,252
views of the
NYSUFC Blog


4,939
page views of the
NYSUFC website


501
average monthly readers
for our e-newsletter
Taking Root


177
Instagram followers
140 average monthly
impressions, with
20 engagements


470
Facebook followers
Our posts reached a
monthly average of
2,170 users, with
251 engagements


321
Twitter followers
5,449 average monthly
impressions



The Council honored longtime former DEC UCF Program Coordinator Mary Beck (Kramarchyk) with its second-ever Heartwood Award. Photo by Michelle Sutton



Beloved Council President Karen Emmerich (left) is a dynamic leader who also knows how to bring levity to Board meetings. Photo by Michelle Sutton



Council Executive Secretary Liana Gooding (far right) addresses the Council Board. Photo by Michelle Sutton

FINANCIALS

Funding for the NYSUFC in 2019 came from:

A direct grant from the U.S. 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 2019 U.S. Forest Service Grant monies provided funding for:



\$7,000

2020 ReLeaf Conference



\$7,000

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



\$1,000

Scholarships



\$10,500

2020 Arbor Day Grants and Administration



TREE CITY USA®

\$6,500

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



\$1,000

Advocacy

\$500

Board Meeting expenses

\$2,000

Council website management

\$19,000

Administration/Executive Secretary

\$1,000

Office expenses



Recent SUNY ESF grads Amandy Cruty (left) and Nafisa Tabassum attended the 2019 ReLeaf Conference. Photo by Michelle Sutton



A Capital Region ReLeaf Workshop on chainsaw safety attracted 37 participants. Consulting Forester Mike Burns demonstrated how chaps stop the saw. Photo by Christina McLaughlin



SUNY-ESF alum Lew Cutler came from Syracuse and retired doctor Kathy Gaffney came from Long Island to attend the 2019 ReLeaf Conference. Photo by Michelle Sutton

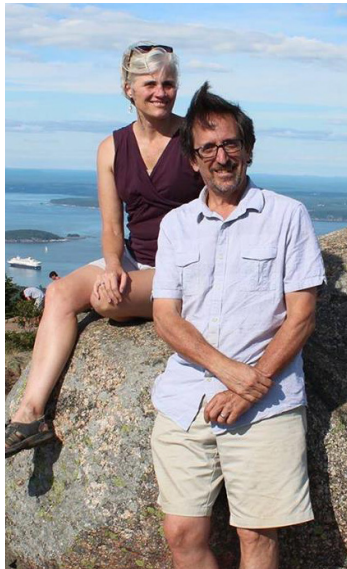
RELEAF CONFERENCE

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 for those who can't otherwise afford to attend.

In 2019 the ReLeaf Conference was held in NYSDEC Region 3 at Mount Saint Mary College in Newburgh on the theme of "Community Forestry in a Rapidly Changing World." Celebrated Hudson Valley-based environmentalist Andrew Revkin gave a stimulating keynote presentation, "Forest

Lessons in a Changing Climate," drawing on his insights from exploring and writing about forests and people from the Amazon to the Arctic to the Adirondacks. National Weather Service Hydrologist-in-Charge David Vallee gave a fascinating plenary talk on "Climate Trends in NYS and their Impact on Flood Frequency," and U.S. Forest Service Climate Change Specialist Dr. Leslie Brandt gave a superb plenary presentation on "Assessing Climate Change Vulnerability of Urban Forests in the Mid-Atlantic Region."

In 2020 the ReLeaf Conference will take place on July 23-25 at Canisius College in Buffalo (NYSDEC Region 9). The theme will explore the various positive impacts trees make on human health—physical and mental—and by extension, to the health and wellbeing of whole societies.



ReLeaf Conference keynote speaker and celebrated environmentalist Andrew Revkin (pictured here with his partner Lisa Melcahey) presented on "Forest Lessons in a Changing Climate." Photo Courtesy Andrew Revkin

ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

In 2019, the Council awarded partial scholarships to three Council members attending the Municipal Forestry Institute, to two Council members attending the Partners in Community Forestry Conference, and to one Council member attending the Society of Municipal Arborists Conference. In total, the Council awarded \$3385, which came from the U.S. Forest Service (\$1,000) and from the Council's Unrestricted Funds (\$2,385).

Davey Resource Group Project Manager Kateri Savory received a scholarship from the Council toward attending the 2019 Municipal Forestry Institute. Photo Courtesy Kateri Savory





The Town of Kent received a Council Arbor Day grant to plant red maples and white oaks around Lake Carmel, where a freak tornado uprooted 40 trees in 2018. Photo by Bill Huestis

Fifth grader Julia Hou from Long Island submitted the winning Arbor Day poster for 2019 on the theme of “Habitats for Bats.” Photo Courtesy NYSDEC



Students planted four pink-flowering dogwood trees on the Hofstra campus in Hempstead, Long Island in celebration of Arbor Day 2019. Photo by Kathy King

ARBOR DAY GRANTS

In 2019, through U.S. Forest Service funding, the NYSUFC was able to offer its fifth year of Arbor Day grants of up to \$1,000 each to small communities or nonprofits. These were 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 2019, nine communities received awards, and the Council was able to award over \$8,500 in grant requests.



An Arbor Day grant of \$1000 helped the Village of Cassadaga and Assembly of Lily Dale celebrate their first Arbor Day in 2019. Photo Courtesy Cassadaga and Lily Dale Tree Committee



Along with showing their support and helping to accept Syracuse’s Tree City USA Award, a team from Onondaga Earth Corps (OEC) shared recent OEC achievements with the awards ceremony audience. From left to right: Syracuse City Arborist Stephen Harris, OEC Crew Leader Shadrach McKinney, Crew Leader Taveon Stenson, Program Coordinator Meqdad Ali (in front), Office Manager Yvonne Chu, OEC Founder Eli MacDonald, and Crew Leader Maurice Harris. Syracuse has been a Tree City USA for more than 29 years. Photo Courtesy NYSDEC

TREE CITY, TREE CAMPUS, AND TREE LINE USA RECOGNITION

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 March of 2019, NYSDEC and partners celebrated the commitment of 144 NYS Tree City USA communities, 5 Tree Line Utilities, and 28 Tree Campuses to our State’s collective urban and community forest.




In 2019, Poughkeepsie received a special recognition for being the first and longest running (40 years) Tree City USA in New York State. Accepting was Ginny Hancock, Chair of the Poughkeepsie Shade Tree Commission. Photo Courtesy NYSDEC



138
Individuals



14
Non-Profits
(4 members each)



9
Students

2019 MEMBERSHIP

In 2019, there were **200** memberships representing **432** total members:



6
Small Businesses
(6 members each)



27
Government Agencies
(5 members each)



1
Medium Business
(10 members)

4
Corporate
(12 members each)

2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Name	Affiliation
Christopher Anderson	NYS Association of Towns
Karen Arent	KALA/Landscape Architect
Dr. Nina Bassuk	Cornell Urban Horticulture 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	PSEG
Glenn Gentzke	Tree Services of WNY LLC
Danielle Gift	Davey Resource Group
Jeanne Grace	City of Ithaca
Ross Hassinger	City of Buffalo
Andrew Hillman	Davey Resource Group
Jennifer Kotary	SUNY-ESF
Christine Manchester	Town of Dewitt
Greg Michel	Onondaga Earth Corps
Andrew Newman	NYC Parks
Judy Pangman	City of Oneonta
Glen Roberts	NYSDEC
Sophia Rodbell	Davey Resource Group
Jamie Rogers	North Elba Tree Board
Mike Treglia	The Nature Conservancy

2019 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
James Kaechele	At-Large	NYC Tree Trust / NYC Parks
L.D. Terry Hawkrige	At-Large	Rustic Pines Tree Care

EX-OFFICIO

Name	Affiliation
Gloria Van Duyne	NYSDEC Urban and Community Forestry Program Coordinator
Eric Greenfield	U.S. Forest Service Forester & SUNY-ESF Faculty
Martin Mullarkey	Retired Utility Arborist and Educator
John Parry	U.S. Forest Service
Rob Messenger	NYSDEC Chief of Bureau of Forest Resource Management
Christina McLaughlin	NYSDEC Urban Forestry Partnership Coordinator

STAFF

Name	Title
Liana Gooding	Executive Secretary for NYSUFC
Sarah Gugercin	Website Manager and Graphic Designer
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

COST-SHARE GRANT PROGRAM

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 grant program, announced in October 2019, will award \$1.2 million dollars for tree planting and maintenance, tree inventories, community forest management plans, and for educating those who care for public trees.

I-TREE TRAINING PARTNERSHIP

In 2019, the Council partnered with New York State 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, including the i-Tree Benefits Calculator. The Council plans to co-sponsor additional i-Tree workshops in 2020.

NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

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