



NEW YORK STATE
URBAN FORESTRY COUNCIL

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

NYSUFC.ORG



VISION

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

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 the State. It was formed to advise, support, and collaborate with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) Urban and Community Forestry 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 26-member statewide board of directors and an 8-member executive committee. Council members include natural resource professionals, city foresters, nonprofit staff, elected officials, municipal and corporate employees, students, and dedicated community volunteers.



NINA BASSUK RETIRES FROM TEACHING, RECEIVES COUNCIL HEARTWOOD AWARD

The Council's beloved Dr. Nina Bassuk (who prefers "Nina") formally retired from teaching and advising students at Cornell at the end of August, 2022. She will continue directing the Cornell Urban Horticulture Institute and conducting research, especially in the realm of plant propagation, an abiding interest since she earned her doctorate in plant propagation from the University of London in 1980. Nina's particular interest is "cracking the code" for hard-to-propagate hybrid oaks, underutilized hickories, and unusual shrubs. [Read more about Nina's plans for retirement here.](#)

Nina was integral to the founding of the New York State Urban Forestry Council. She provided research-based technical guidance for ReLeaf conferences and workshops; she served for many years as Council President; and she's served for decades on the Council Board of Directors. [See this blog post for more about Nina's abiding pivotal role in the NYSUFC.](#)

Thanks to Nina's research and extension efforts in [bare root transplanting technology](#), tens of thousands of trees have been planted in New York and the greater Northeast that would otherwise not have been. Owing to her research and extension efforts on [CU-Structural Soil](#), there are thousands of trees internationally that were planted in conditions that would not have otherwise supported trees. For her many contributions to the field of urban forestry and arboriculture, and for her service to the Council, the Council bestowed upon Nina the Heartwood Award at her retirement celebration in Ithaca in July, 2022.



Nina at the 2018 NY ReLeaf Conference in Rochester with (from left): Retired FLCC Hort Technician and Instructor Berna Ticonchuk, Monroe County Parks Horticulture Aide Susan Maney, Nina Bassuk, Schichtel's Nursery Sales Manager Jim Kisker, and Ithaca-based Certified Arborist Keith Miller.

RELEAFERS STREAM INTO WATERTOWN: SNAPSHOTS FROM THE 2022 NY RELEAF CONFERENCE

The 2022 NY ReLeaf Conference in Watertown, July 21-23, featured tours of [historic Thompson Park](#), the Watertown Downtown Arboretum, and Jefferson Community College (JCC) campus sustainability projects. An opening reception and a Friday evening picnic gave folks an opportunity to socialize and network during their stay at JCC.

Workshops included Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Tribal Forester Normand Genier speaking on “Responding and Adapting to the Ecological Impacts of EAB in the Akwesasne Mohawk Territory,” Land Resources Technician for the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Angello Johnson on “Black Ash Basketry: A Link to the Past,” Syracuse City Planner Cimone Jordan on “Using Tree Data to Inform the City of Syracuse’s Master Plan,” and “Biophillic School Sites for Syracuse NY,” presented by SUNY-ESF Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture and Director of the SUNY Center for UNESCO Biosphere Reserve Studies Emanuel Carter and Justin Kwiatkowski, Landscape Designer for EDR Companies. [The full conference presentation resources are collected here.](#)

Photos continue on next spread >>



(above) ReLeafers could elect to tour the Jefferson Community College (JCC) campus, including a joint trail with JCC and the City of Watertown, near the Black River. On the tour, folks saw trees planted during two Tree Watertown events, one in the fall of 2012 engaging Girl Scouts in planting tree seedlings, and one in the fall of 2021, involving students from Watertown City School District and Immaculate Heart Central planting bare root trees. Photo by Gloria Van Duyne

(right) NYC Tree Time Director and Council VP James Kaechele and NYSDEC UCF Program Coordinator Gloria Van Duyne visit on a warm July day.



(above) Onondaga Earth Corps (OEC) Advanced Young Adult Crew Members James and Nesha checked out trees in historic Thompson Park, designed by John Charles Olmsted of the Olmsted Brothers firm. Photo Courtesy OEC

(left) The OEC & friends table starts to fill up at the Friday night picnic. Photo by Christina McLaughlin

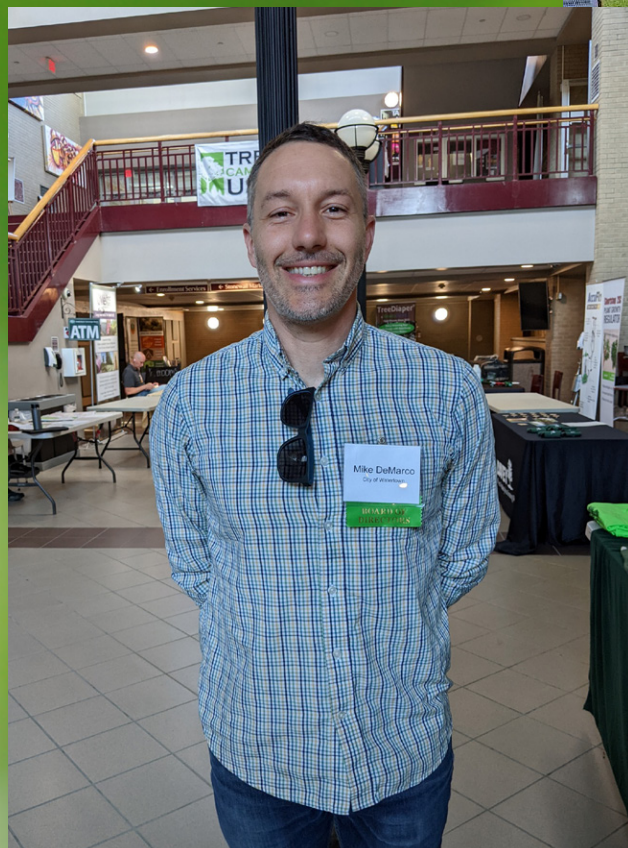




(left) Watertown Planning and Community Development Director Mike Lumbis led the tour of the Watertown Downtown Arboretum. Here, he's alongside the dawn redwood (*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*), planted bare root, in memory of longtime Council champion Brian Skinner.



(above) ReLeafers check out a sugar maple subspecies, black maple (*Acer saccharum* ssp. *nigrum*) purchased with NYSUFC grant funds. Black maples have performed better over decades in Watertown than straight sugar maples (*A. saccharum*). Photo by Karen Emmerich



(left) Longtime Council Board Member Mike DeMarco is, along with his colleague Mike Lumbis, always out in front when it comes to all things urban forestry. Thank you, Mike, for all your efforts in hosting ReLeaf 2022. Photo by Karen Emmerich

NANCY WOLF PRODUCES PART 2 OF HOW IT HAPPENED: NEW YORK RELEAF

Council Cofounder Nancy Wolf's meticulously researched and lively Part 2 of *How it Happened; NY ReLeaf*, subtitled "A Brief History of Urban Forestry in the United States and the Creation of the New York State Program" answers such questions as:



- When did the first two national urban forestry conferences take place, and who were the key players in organizing them?
- How did the name NY ReLeaf come about?
- What was Nancy Wolf's role in getting the Council established? Nina Bassuk's role? How was the Small Business Administration key in the early days?
- How did/do the NYSDEC state UCF program and NYSUFC interrelate?
- What were the contributions of NYSDEC UCF state program coordinators Peter Innes, Peter Frank, and Frank Dunstan? How did former state coordinator Mary Kramarchyk (now Beck) grow the NYSDEC UCF program in her long tenure?

We thank Nancy for the many, many hours she's invested in this important project of historical documentation of our beloved field of urban forestry.



[Read the History of NY ReLeaf Part 2 here](#)

[Read the History of NY ReLeaf Part 1 here](#)

FINANCIALS

Funding for the NYSUFC in 2022 came from:

- A direct grant from the USDA Forest Service at the request of the NYSDEC Urban and Community Forestry program
- Membership dues
- Unrestricted donations from Council members and supporters
- Proceeds from the annual conference and regional workshops
- Sponsorships

The 2022 U.S. Forest Service Grant monies provided funding for:



\$20,000
Day of Training



\$6,500

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



\$10,500

2023 Quick Start Grants and administration



\$8,000
2023 ReLeaf Conference



\$1,500

Scholarships



\$5,500

Tree City USA Reward Grants

\$23,000

Administration/ Executive Secretary

\$9,100

Blog, newsletter, Annual Report preparation and social media promotion

\$3,000

Council website management

\$2,000

Office expenses

QUICK START GRANTS

In 2022, through U.S. Forest Service funding, the NYSUFC was able to offer its seventh year of Quick Start 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 2022, fourteen communities received awards.

COUNCIL TREE CITY USA REWARD GRANTS

In 2022, for the second year, the NYSUFC issued fifteen Tree City USA Reward grants to communities that had been a Tree City USA for at least five years. Awards of up to \$1000 each were used to plant large specimen trees or a grove of trees in a prominent location within the community. The intent of this grant is to encourage municipalities to sustain their community forestry program and maintain their status as a Tree City USA community through a celebratory tree planting. The grants were made possible by a combination of USDA Forest Service grant funds and unrestricted NYSUFC funds.

NYSDEC UCF GRANT PROGRAM

The Council supports the NYSDEC Urban and Community Forestry program's efforts to promote the UCF grant program, which is funded by the NY Environmental Protection Fund. NYSDEC did not offer their regular round of UCF grants in 2022. They were able to offer a one-time funding opportunity for tree planting in disadvantaged communities after loss of ash trees with a federal grant from the US Forest Service and National Association of State Foresters (\$150,000) and support from the State Environmental Protection Fund (\$200,000) for a total of \$350,000.

The regular rounds of UCF grants will resume in 2023 for tree planting and maintenance, tree inventories, and community forest management plans. This competitive grant is based on how well the projects are planned, use of best management practices for tree care, cost effectiveness, lasting benefits, use of partnerships, inclusion of outreach and education, and support from local stakeholders.

TOWN OF PENFIELD'S FIRST ARBOR DAY A ROARING SUCCESS

Last spring, the Conservation Board and the Planning Department of the Town of Penfield (Monroe County) hosted a tree planting event and giveaway in Rothfuss Park, sponsored in part by a \$1000 Quick Start grant from the NYSUFC. We at the Council are really impressed with the event Penfield organized! Town of Penfield Junior Planner Catherine DuBreck GISP provided superb [documentation of the event, including this video.](#)



Town of Penfield Junior Planner Catherine DuBreck takes a quick break alongside the free tree seedlings distributed to residents.

More than 80 people from a range of community groups participated in the event, including Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, the Town Conservation Board, and local environmental groups. The Rochester Museum and Science Center brought a 3D model of a watershed to help educate residents. The event had the support of the Penfield Central School District, which granted permission to display yard signs in front of schools to get the word out about the event.

Penfield planted four red maple trees (*Acer rubrum* 'October Glory') along a portion of the walking trail at Rothfuss Park, and three Town Board members read a proclamation in honor of Arbor Day and Earth Day. In addition to planting four larger trees, the Town Conservation Board used budgeted money to purchase 100 eastern white pine (*Pinus strobus*) and 50 red maple seedlings to give to attendees. The Board reserved 25 of the red maple seedlings for families to plant a red maple grove in the Park. The Town landscape consultant, DPW director, and Parks foreman assisted with the planning for the grove.

The Conservation Board handed out seedlings in a paper bag that included information about the species and instructions for planting. The Board also purchased a small plaque commemorating the event, which has been installed near the new red maple grove. The prospect of Penfield creating a formal urban forestry program and becoming a Tree City USA is quickly gaining momentum. Kudos to Penfield for their truly outstanding Arbor Day event.



Celebrating Penfield's first-ever Arbor Day event included a joyful Town proclamation.



Attendees of all ages learned about proper tree planting techniques.




Junior tree planters were jazzed on event day.

STAYING CONNECTED in 2022


42,487
views of the
NYSUFC Blog


587
average monthly readers for
our e-newsletter *Taking Root*


199
YouTube channel
video views


730
Instagram followers


636
Facebook followers


441
Twitter followers


2022 MEMBERSHIP

In 2022, there were **128** memberships
representing **336** total members:


79
Individuals


10
Non-Profits
(4 members each)


6
Small Businesses
(6 members each)


26
Government Agencies
(5 members each)


4
Corporate
(12 members each)



2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Name	Affiliation
Christopher Anderson	Association of Towns of the State of New York
Dr. Nina Bassuk	Cornell Urban Horticulture Institute
Mark Beamish	Orange and Rockland Utilities
Mary Beck	Urban Forest Advocate (through 7/22)
Brenda Cagle	Village of Red Hook
Joe Charap	Green-Wood Cemetery
Michael DeMarco	City of Watertown
Vincent Drzewucki	CCE Nassau County
Karen Emmerich	Town of Warwick (Tree Commissioner)
Jeanne Grace	City of Ithaca
Ross Hassinger	City of Buffalo
Andrew Hillman	Urban Forest Advocate
Greg Michel	Onondaga Earth Corps
Andrew Newman	NYC Parks
Judy Pangman	City of Oneonta
Paul Paradine	NYSEG
Alicia Ragusa	Alicia J. Ragusa, Esq. Holistic Law Practice
Sophia Rodbell	Bartlett Tree Experts (through 7/22)
Jamie Rogers	North Elba Tree Board (through 7/22)
Michael Sawyer	Buffalo Olmsted Park Conservancy
Jean Zimmerman	Arborist and Author; ReLeaf Region 3

2022 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Name	Title	Affiliation
Stephen Harris	President	City of Syracuse
James Kaechele	Vice President	NYC Tree Time
Glenn Gentzke	Treasurer	Tree Services of WNY LLC
Mike Treglia	Secretary	The Nature Conservancy
Terry Hawkridge	At-Large	Rustic Pines Tree Care
Phil Healey	At-Large	Incorporated Village of Lynbrook
Lori Brockelbank	At-Large	Davey Resource Group
Glen Roberts	At-Large	ReLeaf Region 6

EX-OFFICIO

Name	Affiliation
Danielle Gift	USDA Forest Service Urban & Community Forestry Program Coordinator for New England and New York
Eric Greenfield	USDA Forest Service Forester, Northern Research Station, Forest Inventory and Analysis
Christina McLaughlin	NYSDEC Urban & Community Forestry Partnership Coordinator
Rob Messenger	NYSDEC Chief of Bureau of Forest Resource Management
Martin Mullarkey	Retired Utility Arborist and Educator
Gloria Van Duyne	NYSDEC Urban and Community Forestry Program Coordinator

STAFF

Name	Title
Liana Gooding	Executive Secretary for NYSUFC
Sarah Gugercin	Website Manager and Graphic Designer
Christina B. Smith	Equity, Justice, and Inclusion Consultant
Michelle Sutton	Editor and Social Media Coordinator



KEY PARTNERS

USDA Forest Service

NYSDEC Urban and Community Forestry Program

and

Arbor Day Foundation

American Society of Consulting Arborists

Cornell Urban Horticulture Institute

International Society of Arboriculture

National Grid

New York State Arborists

New York State Nursery and Landscape Association

Onondaga Earth Corps

Society of American Foresters

Society of Municipal Arborists

Sustainable Urban Forests Coalition

Tree Care Industry Association

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