

2020 Citizen Forester Training

March 18, 2020

David Coke



Cross Timbers Urban Forestry Council

- Mission: To increase awareness in urban and community forestry.
- Goals:
 - Promote a sustainable urban forest in our region
 - Provide educational opportunities for tree professionals working for governmental institutions, local arborists, Citizen Foresters, and the public
 - Support municipal forestry programs

CTUFC Fun Facts

- We have about 100 members made up of professional arborists, city and other governmental entity personnel, tree nursery personnel, Citizen Foresters, and other interested citizens.
- Started in 1990 as Re-Leaf Tarrant County. Has gone through an evolution and is now a grass roots nonprofit organization supporting community forests in the 17 county Cross Timbers Region.
- CTUFC supports our urban forests in several ways.
 - Co-host a one-day annual conference attended by a wide variety of tree professionals and people with an interest in trees.
 - Provide scholarships to students studying forestry.
 - Provide for education and outreach concerning trees.
 - Sponsor other tree related activities.
 - Sponsor the Citizen Forestry Program.
- There is a page in your notebook with the names and contact information for the Board Members.

Citizen Foresters

- **Mission:** Develop partnerships between Cross Timbers Urban Forestry Council, regional municipalities, and individual citizens dedicated to restoring, enhancing and protecting the urban forest.
- **Objectives:**
 - Expand the capabilities of municipalities in the CTUFC region to maintain urban forests.
 - Educate and train citizen volunteers to support local municipalities in maintaining public tree health.
 - Develop and maintain a citizen network to promote urban forestry to local governments.

Training Team

- David Coke
- Betty Starnes
- Bobbye Hitzfeld
- Larry Norris
- Sue Ellen Kucharski
- Daniel Nation
- Sherry Latham
- Chris McMaster
- Contact information for these people is in your notebook. Feel free to reach out to them.

Citizen Forester Regions

- We are organized into 3 regions at the present – hoping to have more.
 - Arlington/Grapevine – Patsy Miller and Karen Rice
 - Denton – Mary Morrow and Diane Wetherbee
 - Fort Worth – Bill Sargeant and Lance Dickerson
- Plus Education – David Coke
- Citizen Forester Liaison to CTUFC Board – Bill Sargeant
- Contact information for these people is available in your notebook. Don't hesitate to reach out to them.

Course Structure

- This course is primarily made up of lectures where tree professionals will present information about a variety of topics related to trees and their health and followed by time in the field where we can utilize the information presented in the lectures.
- We practice under expert supervision the activities we will be expected to be able to accomplish as Citizen Foresters.
- We'll figure out the timing of the field training as we go along this year.
- When we are going to be in the field, you'll need to come dressed appropriately. Sturdy leather footwear is recommended. A thorn or a spider is a minor issue when they can't get to your skin but can be a significant one if they can.
- This first day is a bit different.
 - First there is the COVID-19 issue.
 - Today we are focusing on the organization structure, how the training and the program work,
 - We'll be introduced to the volunteer communication, time tracking software we use, and the ctufc.org website.
 - And, I'll lead a discussion about why we are here. What are the Benefits of Trees from your perspective. While providing some opportunity to start to get to know each other.
 - We will delay or forgo our visit to some of Fort Worth's Heritage Trees.

Logistics

- The syllabus you'll see in the notebook file a bit later is the original one. It will change and maybe more than once.
- You will receive an email from me about a week before each session with additional information about that session.
- Be prepared to be flexible. I'll do my best to keep you informed as to the specifics for each session.
- We will start each Session promptly at 9:00 AM. Please arrive (whatever that will mean for each session) early enough to be ready to go at 9.
- Please expect to be engaged until 4 PM.
- We will take breaks. If you need to use the facilities during a talk, please feel free to do so, just do so respectfully.
- We'll break for lunch around noon. You'll have to excuse a bit of noise when the lunches are delivered. We'll start back up promptly at 1:00 PM.
- Our normal lunch break often is partially used to commute to the afternoon field location.

Logistics

- This will probably be more difficult this year, but please do try to get to know each other and those of us helping to put on the class. This is training so you can work together on tree projects.
- During the talks, do try to stay focused on the training. Please keep your microphone muted if you are not talking and limit background noise while your mike is open. After we are back together in the classroom, please be respectful of your fellow students that have hearing difficulties or are easily distracted by background noise.
- We are a team and team members know and respect each other.
- The trees are depending on us being knowledgeable and able to effectively work together.
- We hope everyone will be on a first name basis by December.

Logistics

- Once we can gather in class you will receive a name badge on a lanyard. You will use the same name badge each session. You can either take your lanyard and name badge with you or leave it behind. Your call.
- There will be a name tent with your name on it set up at the beginning of class. Don't take that with you. Expect to be moved around.
- Most of the lecturers will use a presentation and we will provide copies of that presentation in B&W, 3 slides/page, double sided, and room for notes. The full presentations in pdf format will be available on ctufc.org soon after the class in most cases for your post class reference.
- You will be receiving a survey in your email after most sessions. Please respond to it being totally honest in your feedback. We are working hard to be better and need to know what needs to change.

Tour of Your Notebook

- Introduction to your notebook.
 - The notebooks are large, will get in the way and it makes a lot of noise taking things in and out of them. Please take out the presentations before you begin to make notes. Then put away afterwards. Place the notebook on the floor or otherwise out of the way.
- Tour of the notebook file.
- You will find the Citizen Forester Rules in front of Tab 1.

Class Attendance Requirements

- Attendance Requirements
 - Best if you don't miss a minute.
 - And, that you are "present" fully during all the training.
 - Graduate as a Certified Citizen Forester if you miss 1 class or the equivalent of 1 class. (You receive at least 54 of the 60 hours of training.)
 - We will be recording the classes we conduct online with WebEx. You can make those classes up by viewing the Webinar. We will depend on the honor system, but you will need to report that you did that to Larry Norris.
 - Graduate as a Citizen Forester if you attend at least 6 of the 10 classes.
 - You can earn Certification the following year if you fulfill the requirements.
 - You can either make up the classes you missed, or
 - You can provide 25 hours of supervised volunteer effort.
- Your instructors and their employers are giving of their time to provide the training. We owe it to them, and to our publicly owned trees, to give it our best.
- The trees will be the ultimate judge of how well you learned the material.

Keeping Roll

- First, we are required to keep a paper copy of attendance at each of the sessions we hold at WaterWorks. This is a requirement so that in the case of fire we can grab the sheet on the way out the door so we can confirm everyone is out of the building.
- Second, there are attendance requirements and therefore we need to keep good attendance records. We know that occasionally people might need to miss the morning or the afternoon session, so we take attendance at both. Larry Norris will be doing this. Please make an effort to let Larry know you are here.

On-going participation requirements

- To be a Certified Citizen Forester you must contribute at least 20 hours of Volunteer Time and earn at least 5 hours of Continuing Education Time in each calendar year.
- To be a Citizen Forester you must contribute at least 10 hours of Volunteer Time.
- You can go back and forth between Certified Citizen Forester and Citizen Forester.
- If you go two years without achieving at least meeting the Citizen Forester requirements you must repeat the training to participate in the program.

Some of the things we as do Citizen Foresters

- Gathering seeds and acorns and germinating them
- Bumping up/up potting plantings at the Tree Farms
- Planting trees
- Structural Pruning of young trees
- Pruning of mature trees (our feet don't leave the ground and we don't use power equipment of any kind)
- Surveying trees (EAB, drought, general condition, needed pruning, etc.)
- Looking for tree issues (disease, injury, general condition, etc.)
- Lead groups on Tree ID walks or related nature walks
- Working Tree Give Away events and helping people decide which tree to select and what to do with it when they get it home
- Volunteer at the Botanic Garden or other public gardens to help maintain trees

Some more of the things we do

- Give talks educating the public about trees
- Help in the leadership and administration of the Citizen Forester Program, including putting on this training
- Help with our use of software
- Help market the Citizen Forester Program
- Helping at the various Tree Farms with activities there
- Helping Fort Worth manage calls and other administrative activities after major storms
- Advocate for trees at City Council Meetings, private meetings with City, or other organization's officials
- And any other activity that helps the condition of our urban forests.

Tree ID

- We emphasize Tree ID throughout this training. We need to know the species we are examining and working on to ensure we are doing the right thing for that species.
- So, this is one of the most important parts of our training. However, it is also one of the most difficult.
- We are focusing on a list of 24 trees that are commonly found on public lands in north Texas. It is not a comprehensive list of those trees.
- By the end of the training we hope you can easily identify at least half of the trees on the list.
- But, more importantly, we hope you are equipped with the capability to figure out what species a tree is by examining it and referring to a Tree ID book as needed.
- Larry Norris is now going to tell you about one piece of that Tree ID training we will be using each session. We've learned that being tested is one of the most powerful learning tools. If you don't do well, you just don't do well.

Extracurricular Opportunities

- As we go through this year, you will be invited to participate in other Citizen Forester activities, but only after the COVID-19 thread has subsided.
- There is no requirement for you to participate.
- When you do, you will not be expected to lead an activity or rely on your expertise.
- These will be opportunities for you to get more guided experience in the work of Citizen Foresters, whatever that work may be.
- You may also receive invitations to participate in social time. The CTUFC Board likes to gather for social time occasionally and these will be opportunities for you to get to know the Board, current Citizen Foresters, and each other.

Reminder

- Please keep this presentation in mind and that you can refer to it in your notebook and on the ctufc.org web site.
- It can be found in Citizen Forester Resources under General Information.
- Also, please read and familiarize yourself with the Citizen Forester Rules.
- Those will be in your Notebook and on the website.

Introduction to VicNet to the CTUFC.ORG website

Sherry Latham