

## University of Minnesota - U&CF Program Update, June 2022

### Staff Turnovers in Urban Forest Outreach and Research Lab

Several full time staff have left the UFOR lab this year including Ashley Fuchs, Volunteer Programs Coordinator, and Molly Coddling, Researcher 5. The Volunteer Programs Coordinator position has been filled by Sonja Tosteson ([toste016@umn.edu](mailto:toste016@umn.edu)). Sonja is now the main coordinator for the MN Tree Care Advisor and Tree Steward programs. Sonja will also be managing outreach for MnSTAC including weekly news.

### 2023 MN Shade Tree Short Course

Planning is underway for the 2023 STSC to be held March 14-15, 2023 at Bethel University. The UMN is once again contracting with the Minnesota Nursery & Landscape Association to help with administration of the event.

Several new venue options were explored this year including The Earle Brown Heritage Center, St. Paul RiverCentre, and Mystic Lake. After reviewing quotes from these new potential venues, Bethel was chosen as the best option currently for the STSC.

Your suggestions for potential speakers in 2023 are welcome. Speaker recommendations can be submitted via this online Google form: <https://forms.gle/oi1jPk11Eak3yKP49>

### MN Tree Care Advisor Program

The MNTCA core course was held during April-May this year. There were 22 participants in this year's core course. Course delivery was mainly online via weekly synchronous zoom sessions, as well as one field day at the UFOR nursery on St. Paul Campus. Update trainings via the Tree Essentials classes will begin in July - held at UFOR nursery.

### MN Certified Tree Inspector Program

- Over 330 Tree Inspectors submitted applications for Recertification from the 2022 STSC
- Over 120 new certifications to date in 2022

### 2022 Urban and Community Forestry Field Day at the UFOR Nursery

UMN UFOR will host a field day on Thursday, August 18th. The day will start with light refreshments and concurrent educational sessions in the Plant Growth Facilities classrooms. After morning concurrents, attendees will proceed to the UFOR nursery for self exploration, mingling, and lunch. Those wishing to participate in a tree walk in the afternoon will be invited to do so around the UMN St. Paul Campus.

#### *Concurrent session topics:*

Public Perceptions of EAB Management

UMN Elm Selection Program Update

Trees and Stormwater

The Wonderful World of Phenology

Planting for Pollinators

**2022 MnSTAC Forums to date**

- 01/20/22 - Tree Nursery Industry Update, presented by Shane Brockshus (104 attendees)
- 02/12/22 - Growing Shade Project, presented by Eric Wojchick and Ellen Esch (57 attendees)
- 04/21/22 - Green Communities Leadership Institute, Jeremy Barrick, Karen Zumach, Philip Potyondy, and Kent Honl (40 attendees)
- 05/19/22 - Plant Disease Clinic Update, Brett Arenz (65 attendees)
- 06/16/22 - Integrated Pest Management, Vera Krischik (40 attendees)

**UMN Professor of Urban & Community Forestry Search**

The search committee finalized the position description for the new UCF professor position within the Department of Forest Resources at the UMN. The position will be posted mid-late July, with hopes of review beginning late August. Upon a successful search, the expected start date for the new UCF professor will be either Jan '23 or Aug '23.