



**TCA**  
TREE COMMISSION  
ACADEMY



**Ohio** | Department of  
Natural Resources

Division of Forestry  
Urban Forestry





Dear Ohio Communities,

The trees that line your streets and inhabit your parks are an incredible resource. They increase the home values in your community and make your town a desirable place to live and work. Trees intercept millions of gallons of rainwater and reduce energy needs saving your residents millions of dollars in infrastructure costs. Street trees also contribute to society by reducing domestic violence and crime and the associated costs of these social issues. Trees even support children's social and educational development...the future of our country.

Trees, like the rest of your community infrastructure (roads, sewers, lights, buildings, and equipment) require proper planning and maintenance to grow and deliver all potential benefits. The planning and administration of your urban forest is essential if it is to reach its full benefits and provide a meaningful return on your investment.

Tree Commission Academy, the first of its kind in the nation, is a unique educational opportunity designed to give the citizens who are responsible for planning and managing your community trees the skills and knowledge they need to be successful. While designed for volunteer tree commissioners, professional foresters and public staff have found TCA extremely valuable. Drawing on nearly 100 combined years of expertise in supporting and training Ohio tree commissions and managing the urban forests, we believe we have developed the class you have asked for. We are excited to offer your community this unique experience.

Sincerely,

Lisa Bowers  
Region 1

Ann Bonner  
Region 2

Alan Siewert  
Region 3

Stephanie Miller  
Region 4

Wendi Van Buren  
Region 5

Lola Lewis  
Region 6

2010

Arbor Day Foundation

*Education Innovation Award*



## Class Tracts

**Urban Forestry**

**Human Relations**

**Arboriculture**

**Municipal Government**

## TCA is Designed For You!

Tree Commission Academy was developed to bring to neighboring communities and is designed to offer flexibility for busy volunteers and community decision-makers. Students may take all four classes consecutively at the same branch location or opt to complete classes as your schedule allows.

## Prerequisites for Admission

### Freshman Class

Candidates for admission into the Tree Commission Academy must meet one of the following requirements:

- A current member of a tree commission, tree board, or other advisory board created by ordinance or resolution and charged with tree management responsibilities for a community in the State of Ohio. **or**
- A resident of a community that is being considered for appointment to a tree board or other advisory board created by ordinance or resolution and charged with tree management responsibilities for a community in the State of Ohio. \*Such candidates must have a letter of recommendation from the mayor, trustee, or other official who is responsible for making such appointments. **or**
- A mayor, council member, trustee, or other elected official of a community in the State of Ohio. Current mayors are invited to participate as our guest, no fee is required. This offer is for mayors only and is non transferable. **or**
- A manager, administrator, service director, or public staff person, other administrative employee of the community. **or**
- An individual receiving special dispensation from their regional urban forester. This individual must demonstrate that their participation will benefit an Ohio Community or the residents of the State of Ohio.

### Sophomore Class

Successfully completing all of the courses in the Freshman Class. Associates Certificate upon completion.

### Junior Class

Successfully completing all of the courses in the Sophomore Class

### Senior Class

Successfully completing all of the courses in the Junior Class. Bachelors Certificate upon completion.



## Freshman Year

### **MUNI 161 Ordinances I**

How to read and write ordinances (township resolutions) for public trees and tree commissions. Trees and public responsibility in Ohio Revised Code.

### **ARB 121 Tree Biology and its Significance**

Tree anatomy, physiology, and function.

### **UF 101 Introduction to Urban Forestry**

Introduction to theoretical urban forestry, planting, pruning, and removal. Why and when these activities need to be done. Introduction to the economical, environmental, and social benefits of urban forestry.

### **PEO 141 Marketing Urban Forestry**

Mission statements and goals. Introduction to techniques for marketing your program to a number of local stakeholders. What has been done to market the importance of trees and the community's programs? Introduce Tree City USA and Arbor Day, explain why they are important to a tree program.

### **UF 102 Scheduling**

Annual, long-term, and project timetables for your community tree program.



The net cooling effect of a young, healthy tree is equivalent to ten room size air conditioners operating 20 hours a day.

U.S. Department of Agriculture



## Sophomore Year

### **PEO 241 Tree Commission / Municipal Relations**

Understanding the needs and concerns of elected officials, public employees, and other public entities. Techniques for working with them to achieve your management goals.

### **ARB 221 Urban Soils**

Soil structure and how it relates to tree growth. How urban soils offer special challenges in management strategies.

### **ARB 222 Tree Selections I**

Tree selection based on site constraints, management needs, and function. How to select the right tree for the right spot and plant it correctly.

### **ARB 223 Tree Maintenance**

Planting aftercare, mulching, young tree training, and pruning. A major focus will be on the first 10 years of a tree's life.

### **UF 201 Intro to Inventories**

Introduce tree inventories, their importance, how to collect them, how to use them. Finding an inventory program that's right for your community. Advantages and pitfalls of using volunteers. Aftercare and maintenance of your inventory.



Shoppers are more willing to pay for parking, goods, and services in business districts with trees than areas without trees.

University of Washington



## Junior Year

### **MUNI 361 Contracting**

Introduction to writing and understanding contracts for public tree work. Common terms and phrases. Bid falls, bidding process, and the law.

### **ARB 321 Destructive Pests**

Introduction to destructive insect, disease, and abiotic events. Control issues from an urban forest management perspective.

### **ARB 322 Introduction to Hazard Tree Identification**

Assessing the structural integrity of a tree and legal implications of public hazard trees.

### **PEO 341 Volunteer Use and Management**

Understanding volunteers, why they volunteer, how to find them, how to utilize them, what they do well, and their limitations.

### **ARB 323 Tree Selections II**

Develop a master-planting plan for your community. Special planting circumstances such as downtowns and business districts.



Community trees reduce pollution by absorbing gaseous pollutants, binding soluble pollutants to their surfaces, intercepting large particulates on bark, and sequestering CO<sub>2</sub> in woody tissue.

Center for Urban Forest Research



## Senior Year

### **MUNI 461 Budgeting**

Developing and implementing a tree budget process for your community. Schedule for submitting budgets. Dealing with budget cuts and surplus to meet objectives.

### **UF 401 Strategic Planning**

Developing a mission statement for your tree program, setting goals and objectives, and identifying tactics to achieve your mission.

### **UF 402 Master Plan - Senior Project**

Begin to bring together all of the skills developed over the past courses to develop a comprehensive master plan for your community. Present your community forestry Master Plan at a special event for you, your classmates, and your local officials.



Researchers have found trees and vegetation help reduce the storm water management loads by decreasing the volume of runoff. Trees in full leaf can intercept up to 36% of the rainfall that hits them.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency



## Tree Commission Academy Instructors



**Ann Bonner, CA, Urban Forester  
REGION 2**

Urban Forester since 1995  
BS Environmental Science, Ohio State University, 1992  
ISA Certified Arborist

Ann is a specialist on environmental protections issues and has extensive experience meeting the unique challenges of tree commissions in the Appalachian foothill of southeast Ohio.



**Lisa Bowers, CA, Urban Forester  
REGION 1**

Urban Forester since 2000  
BS, Horticulture, Ohio State University, 1983  
ISA Certified Arborist

Lisa has extensive knowledge and experience working with ordinances and land use and development issues. Lisa has a strong desire to promote, advocate, and educate the public and private sectors in the proper practices of Arboriculture.



**Lola Lewis, CA, Urban Forester  
REGION 6**

Urban Forester since 1994  
BS, Agriculture Science/Forest Science. Penn State University, 1994  
ISA Certified Arborist

Lola has extensive experience in developing and managing committees and not-for-profit organizations. She is especially skilled in facilitating, negotiating, unifying, and finding common ground among a variety of urban forest stakeholders.

The ecological value of America's urban forests is worth \$4 billion annually, in terms of clean air & water.

American Forests



## Tree Commission Academy Instructors

### **Steph Miller, CA, Urban Forester REGION 4**



Urban Forester since 1998  
BS Forestry/Urban Specialty, Purdue University, 1992  
ISA Certified Arborist, Municipal Specialist

Stephanie has broad background in Utility arboriculture and urban forest planning. She enjoys assisting communities and especially values the trusted relationships between the Ohio Division of Forestry and the towns and village of this great state.

### **Alan R. Siewert, BCMA, Urban Forester REGION 3**



Urban forester since 1990  
BS Urban Forestry, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, 1984  
ISA Board Certified Master Arborist, Municipal Specialist, Certified Tree Worker

Alan possesses a strong background in arboriculture and tree care as well as brings a unique perspective to managing urban forest systems. He is an internationally known speaker and writer and enjoys sharing his knowledge with others.

### **Wendi Van Buren, CA, Urban Forester REGION 5**



Urban Forester since 2003  
BS, Environmental and Plant Biology, Ohio University, 1995  
ISA Certified Arborist , Municipal Specialist

Wendi has extensive experience in urban forestry marketing and volunteer coordination and management. Her background ranges from small villages to some of America's largest cities.

Healthy, mature trees add an average of 10% to a property's value.

USDA Forest Service



## Ohio's Urban Forestry Program

**Ohio's Urban Forestry Program** was created in 1979 within the Ohio Department of Natural Resources to promote trees and other vegetation as tools to enhance the quality of life within our cities and villages.



Our purpose is to provide community officials and allied agencies with the organizational and technical ability to effectively manage the trees along streets, within parks, and on public grounds. Through a statewide network of regional urban foresters, we help communities manage their urban forest resources to meet their local needs.

Through this program, we envision an improved quality of urban life for all Ohio communities. We believe this can only be achieved when comprehensive urban forestry programs - organizations within the community infrastructure that have the authority and ability to effectively manage its urban forest resource - are integrated and on par with other community services.

Ohio's Regional Urban Foresters have assisted Ohio's cities and villages to maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of their community tree care program. Direct, one-on-one assistance to elected officials, city staff, volunteers, and citizens is a unique and effective feature our program offers that has allowed many communities to achieve a variety of urban forest management goals.

Visit the Ohio Division of Forestry's website for additional details about our program or contact your Regional Urban Forester for assistance.



[dnr.ohio.gov/cj/urban](http://dnr.ohio.gov/cj/urban)