

LIAF 2026 Seminar

10/28/2026

8:00 – 8:30

Topic: Restoring Native Landscapes – Stephanie Dunn Cadence Landscape Architects



Stephanie Dunn is an Associate with Cadence, a South Florida-based landscape architecture firm, where she brings expertise in Florida's ecosystems and native plants. She lectures throughout Florida on native planting design and regional-specific approaches to creating more resilient landscapes. She holds a B.A. in Architecture from Florida Atlantic University and is a Florida Master Naturalist. Stephanie has served as President of the Broward Chapter of Florida Native Plant Society since 2020 and as Vice

President for the Friends of Kissimmee Prairie since 2023

8:45 – 9:35

Topic: Palm Tree Grading per the Florida Grades & Standards for Nursery Plants – John Conroy



John Conroy is President, founder, and owner of Fish Branch Tree Farm, Inc. He chaired the committee for the last two revisions of Florida's Grades & Standards for Palms. John has also presented at many industry venues on various topics relating to palms. He was awarded the 2019 Educator of the Year and was the 2024 Hall of Fame Inductee for FNGLA. John obtained both a B.S. and M.S. degree in Education from Florida State University. In the 1970's and 1980's he owned

garden centers with landscaping, irrigation and sod operations. John founded Fish Branch Tree Farm in 1988, which has grown to 325 acres, located in Southwest Florida

9:35 – 10:25

Topic: Latest Research on Tree Relocation – Brad Trentham



Environmental Design, Inc. is a specialty source-to-site tree service company providing large-scale tree transplantation, specimen tree supply and installation, custom growing, preservation, and ongoing tree care. Since 1977, EDI has combined certified arborist oversight with patented moving and transplanting technology, proprietary equipment, and decades of experience to deliver source-to-site tree solutions for complex projects worldwide. EDI

works alongside developers, landscape architects, general contractors, owners, and municipalities across the hospitality, resort, golf, commercial, corporate, residential, institutional, public-space, and mixed-use sectors.

10:30 – 11:00

Topic: Battery-Powered Equipment for Commercial Use – Kristen Stricker



Kristen Stricker is a Market Development Representative with Husqvarna Group, specializing in outdoor power equipment for commercial property maintenance. In her role, she works directly with landscape professionals, tree care professionals, municipalities, and other commercial customers to evaluate equipment needs, conduct product demonstrations, and identify solutions for their operations.

Kristen works across Husqvarna’s professional battery and gas-powered equipment lines, with a particular focus on the evolving role of battery-powered equipment in commercial applications, including performance, efficiency, and the benefits of transitioning from gas-powered equipment.

11:00 – 11:30

Topic: Field Grading Palm Trees Using the Florida Grades & Standards - Russell Adams



Mr. Adams is a UF grad with a BS in. He owned and operated the Gainesville Tree Farm for many years. He has nearly 40 years of experience in the landscape field, focusing on inspection compliance, design, installation, maintenance planning and implementation, arboriculture and project management.

Mr. Adams was on the Palm Committee for the 2022 revisions to the Florida Grades and Standards for Palms

10:30 – 11:30

Topic: Safe Application of Pesticides in the Landscape – Leah Davis-Bonsenor LA



Leah Davis-Bonsenor is a registered landscape architect, certified arborist, and certified landscape inspector with more than a decade of experience in landscape architecture, public parks, sustainable design, and project delivery. As a Landscape Architect with Miami-Dade County’s Department of Environmental Resources

Management, she leads design projects throughout the county, from concept development through construction and implementation. Her expertise includes park design, sustainable infrastructure, landscape standards and specifications, consultant management, and construction observation.

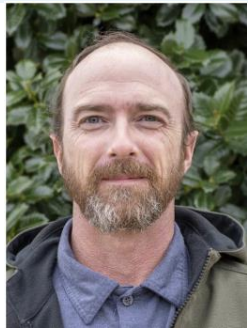
12:40 – 1:50

Topic: Field Grading of Trees Using the Florida Grades and Standards – Henry Mayer



Henry Mayer has been the UF/IFAS Commercial Urban Horticulture Extension Agent IV in Miami-Dade County since 2003. He received his BS in Agricultural Engineering from the Venezuelan Central University (UCV) in 1982. In 2010, he received his MS degree from the University of Florida Soil and Water Science Department. He is a certified arborist, a former member of the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Hispanic Committee, and has the TRAQ and the PPQ certifications. He is a board member of the Landscape Inspectors Association of Florida (LIAF) Miami-Dade Chapter and a former board member of the Florida Urban Forestry Council (FUFC).

Topic: Tree Trimming Demonstration – Jonathan Frank



Presentation Description: Proper pruning during a tree's juvenile stage helps establish strong structure, maintain balanced form, and promote healthy growth. Early pruning also removes dead, damaged, or competing branches, improves air circulation, and reduces the need for more extensive corrective pruning as the tree matures.

2:00 – 2:30pm

Topic: Preventing Excavation Issues – John Segovia Sunshine 811

Presentation Description: Contacting 811 before landscape excavation helps identify the approximate locations of underground utilities, reducing the risk of service interruptions, property damage, injuries, and costly repairs. This free service also supports safer planning and helps excavation work meet applicable requirements.



2:30 – 3:00

Topic: Detecting and Preventing Palm Diseases – Dr. Braham Dhillon UF/IFAS



Presentation Description: This presentation will explain how to identify common palm diseases, recognize early warning signs, and distinguish disease symptoms from other causes of decline. Participants will also learn practical prevention and management strategies to protect palm health and reduce disease spread.

3:00 – 4:00

Topic: Latest Research on Codominant Stem Subordination – Dr. Andrew Loyd



Presentation Description: This presentation will review recent research on codominant stem subordination in trees, including short- and long-term wound response and its effects on tree vigor and structural stability.