

# TREE ID

April 1, 2025 - St. Petersburg, FL

April 3, 2025 - Davie, FL



**CEUs: ISA CA - 6 BCMA - 6(S)  
FNGLA - 8, LIAF - 4**

## Locations:

**St. Petersburg**  
Boyd Hill Nature Preserve  
3010 31st Street S. St.  
Petersburg, FL 33712.

**Davie**  
UF/IFAS Extension  
Broward County  
3245 College Avenue  
Davie, FL 33314

Registration	Early Registration (Before March 25)	Late Registration (After March 26)	At-the Door
Member	\$145 (Up to 5 guests)	\$165	\$200
Non- Member	\$165	\$185	\$200

\*Late fees automatically calculated during online registration.

Cancellation refunds honored if requested 7 days prior to the seminar;  
otherwise, a credit for a future seminar will be issued.  
Attendee substitutions will be honored.





## Agenda/Boyd Hill:

8:00 am - 8:30 am - Registration and Breakfast

8:30 am - 9:30 am - The Canopy of Central Florida - Alyssa Vinson, Hillsborough County

9:30 am - 10:30 am - Truly Tropical Trees of South Florida - Stephen Brown, UF/IFAS Lee County

10:30 am - 10:45 am - Break with refreshments

10:45 am - 11:45 am - Palm Profiles - Alyssa Vinson, Hillsborough County

11:45 am - 12:45 pm - Lunch (provided)

12:45 pm - 1:45 pm - Tree Trouble: Invasive Trees - Rick Joyce, Deep South Nurseries, LLC

1:45 pm - 3:15pm - Outside Tree ID Tour - Stephen Brown, UF/IFAS Lee County & Alyssa Vinson, Hillsborough County

3:15 pm - 4:00 pm - Tech in the Trees: ID Apps - Andrew Koeser, UF-GREC

4:00 pm - Adjourn and CEUs

## Agenda/Broward:

8:00 am - 8:30 am - Registration and Breakfast

8:30 am - 9:30 am - Common Florida Trees for Subtropical South Florida - Giuseppe DiGiacinto, UF/IFAS Broward County

9:30 am - 10:30 am - Truly Tropical Trees for South Florida - Donna Castro, UF/IFAS Broward County

10:30 am - 10:45 am - Break with refreshments

10:45 am - 11:45 am - Tree Trouble: Invasive Trees - Rick Joyce, Deep South Nurseries, LLC

11:45 am - 12:45 pm - Lunch (provided)

12:45 pm - 1:45 pm - Small Space/Urban-compatible Species for South Florida - Mike Orfanedes

1:45 pm - 3:15pm - Outside Tree ID Tour - Mike Orfanedes, UF/IFAS Broward County & Donna Castro, UF/IFAS Broward County

3:15 pm - 4:00 pm - Tech in the Trees: ID Apps - Andrew Koeser, UF-GREC

4:00 pm - Adjourn and CEUs

# Speakers:

**Stephen Brown, UF/IFAS Extension Lee County** - has been a horticultural extension agent in Lee County for more than 30 years. He provides university-based education to landscapers, pest control operators and the general public. Stephen's specialties are palms, Florida native plants and plant response to hurricanes and surges. He also gives advice on plant identifications, plant selections, insect and disease problems, and just about any other plant issues. Stephen holds a Master of Science in Soil Fertility and Plant Nutrition from the University of Florida, Gainesville.

**Donna Castro, UF/IFAS Extension Broward County**- is an ISA certified arborist, and is PPQ, LIAF certified, Senior GI-BMP Instructor and registered Beekeeper, Donna owned and operated a retail garden center called The Garden Gate in Pompano Beach since 1997. In 2018, she became the Education/Specialist for Agent Michael Orfanedes in Commercial Horticulture at UF/IFAS Extension Broward, where she is able to use many years of horticultural experience to help educate. Donna is a pro-blogger at UF. She loves to write about trees, and sustainable horticulture:

**Giuseppe Di Giacinto, UF/IFAS Extension Broward County** - has served as an Education Training Specialist, since July 2022. Giuseppe is an ISA Certified Arborist who works with Dr. Michael Orfanedes in the Commercial Horticulture Program, assisting Green Industry Best Management Practices (GI-BMP), pesticide trainings, and the Tree Trimming licensing program. He is also a certified and active member of the LIAF. Giuseppe moved to the U.S. from Sicily, Italy, in 2006. He is a graduate of Stony Brook University, SUNY, New York, where he received his B.A. degree in Cultural and Linguistic Anthropology. He pursued his passion working among the archaeological sites and villages in the Mayan region of Southern Mexico. He also taught Languages and Culture at University of Yucatan, in Mexico for 10 years before moving to the United States in 2022. His love and passion for horticulture and its relationship with his previous sociological studies, inspired him to work at UF/IFAS Extension.

**Rick Joyce, Forestry Resources Ecological, Inc.** - has been an active ISA Certified Arborist since 1998. Rick also has the ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (TRAQ) and the Florida ISA Prescribed Pruning Qualification (PPQ). He is a State of Florida Professional Mangrove Trimmer. For over 20 years, Rick has served on the ISA Florida Chapter Board of Directors, including two years as president and is currently the trustee. Rick was also a past President of Coccoloba (Lee – Collier County) Chapter and State of the Florida Native Plant Society. Rick also holds the Florida Dept. of Transportation Tree Appraisal Qualification and the City of Sanibel Native Vegetation Competency Qualification. Rick has actively practiced landscape design, nonnative pest plant control, ecological restoration and arboriculture in the public and private sector. As an adjunct professor, Rick taught landscape design at Florida Gulf Coast University and Florida Southwestern College. Rick and his wife, Cheryl, have owned and operated Deep South Nurseries, LLC in North Fort Myers for over 30 years growing thousands of trees, palms, native plants, flowering plants and fruit plants each year.

**Andrew Koeser, UF-GREC** - is an assistant Professor of Landscape Management at the University of Florida Gulf Coast Research and Education Center in Hillsborough County. Prior to this position and his last stint in graduate school, Andrew worked at ISA Headquarters in Champaign, IL, working his way up to Science and Research Manager in his five years with the organization. Andrew is the immediate past president of the Florida Chapter ISA Board of Directors, Chair of the Education Committee and a member of the Executive and Finance Committees.

**Dr. Michael Orfanedes, UF/IFAS Extension Broward County** - serves as Commercial Horticulture Agent IV for UF/IFAS Broward County Extension in Davie, FL, coordinating educational outreach programs. Mike has been an ISA Certified Arborist for 23 years and directs the county's tree trimmer licensing, pesticide application and Green Industry Best Management Practices (GI-BMP) certification programs. In 2009, his extension program received the Outstanding Public Educational Program award from the Florida Urban Forestry Council (FUFCC). In 2011, Mike was named FNGLA Outstanding Educator. In June of 2019 he received the Florida Chapter ISA's Award for Excellence in Education. Mike is also an ISA exam proctor and an active member of the Landscape Inspectors' Association of Florida (LIAF). He is the recipient of the 2021 Bob Brennan Research, Outreach, Organization and Teaching (R.O.O.T.) Award from the Miami-Dade Chapter LIAF. Mike is a graduate of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign with a B.S. degree in Agronomy and an M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Weed Science. Mike holds the Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (TRAQ) and the Florida Prescription Pruning Qualification (PPQ). Mike has served as president of his homeowners' association, 'The Lakes', in Weston. 'The Lakes' was named one of Florida's Top 100 Forest Stewards by the Florida Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services in 2020.

**Alyssa Vinson, Hillsborough County** - is an avid lover of all things outdoors, spending her time in gardens, on trails and in the water. She is currently pursuing her Ph.D. at the University of Florida and is an ISA Certified Arborist. She serves the community of Southwest Florida in her role as Urban Forestry Extension agent in Hillsborough County. With an emphasis on resilient and sustainable landscape practices, urban forestry, and natural resources conservation her work spans ecology, horticulture, urban forestry, and community development to deliver research-based education to the communities of Southwest Florida. She is the Treasurer for the Florida Chapter Board of Directors, Chair of the Finance Committee and a member of the Education and Governance and Bylaws Committee.