



Amelia Island Plantation Legacy Tree Program

Friday, October 19, 2012

Poised between ocean and marsh, the Amelia Island Plantation's varieties of maritime forests, each with outstanding tree canopies and abundant wildlife, were recognized master plan components for the community's first planners. Over the first 40 years of development, the Community's irreplaceable natural setting remains a hallmark of that legacy. Recognizing that trees die each year, or can fall over in storms, the Community believes that such a legacy should be preserved and enhanced. This Legacy Tree Program is about adding trees for future forest, replacing trees that have died or fallen in consequence of a storm or other event. **The Legacy Tree Program seeks to replant preferred species that will enhance and improve the quality of the existing maritime forest types**—our beloved tree canopy—assuring their vitality for future generations to also enjoy this special community.

PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM

1. Preserves and protects the natural setting and habitat of our island coastal community.
2. Guides the efforts of committed development and long term community maintenance efforts in an ongoing relationship.
3. Benefits the Community's harmony with the natural environment and the look of the community – thereby enhancing and promoting the investment value that members have made in Amelia Island Plantation.
4. Benefits the variety of natural coastal Florida habitat experienced throughout the community.
5. Celebrates accomplishments in planning, restoring and maintaining the urban forest in our Community.
6. Recognizes the heritage, the vision and sense of stewardship from those who were here in the Community before us. Encourages us to also enhance harmony with our irreplaceable natural settings, thereby continuing this legacy for those who come after us.

THE PROGRAM

Each year, the AIPCA through its Common Properties Committee and the ARB will recommend areas of the common property to be improved. Using these annual recommendations, the AIPCA will develop its annual program to replace and improve the existing forest habitats in the Community. It is AIPCA's plan to lead by example to improve its common properties, thereby encouraging neighbors on private properties to also seek advice or make improvements. All implementation by AIPCA is done in concert with ARB, who is keeper of the Program's standards and preferences.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

WHEN YOU WANT TO IMPROVE YOUR PROPERTY -- AIPCA wants to be your initial resource for help. Ask a representative of AIPCA to meet with you at your property to review tree canopy viability and habitat quality. In a single visit, the rep will identify potential areas of initial opportunity to make your property more robust. Later, working with your landscape architect or arborist, you can establish priorities of need by area, budget and phasing as required. As a reminder, the AIPCA ARB must approve plans in writing prior to implementation. You may contact ARB at phone (904) 277-5103.

WHEN YOU HAVE A CONCERN ABOUT ANOTHER PROPERTY -- Report concerns you have about sparse forest habitats to AIPCA at (904) 491--9850 or email info@aipca.net. AIPCA will ascertain ownership. A representative of AIPCA will make an initial site visit, identify potential areas of initial opportunity to make the portion of the property more robust. Then, unless there is a rules violation which follows procedures for enforcement, the property owner may choose to make improvements by contacting a design professional, set a budget, obtain ARB approval and implement a plan.

WHEN YOU WANT TO REPLACE A TREE THAT HAS DIED -- ARB approves modifications to the exterior of properties including tree removals, replacements or initial installations. Phone (904) 277-5103.

PLANTING THE BEST TREE

AIPCA provides a plant list that encourages members to consider planting the appropriate native plants and trees, when appropriate. The Native Tree List is attached. It is based on early inventory work created years ago by firm that included renowned landscape architect Ian McHarg.

WHAT SIZE TREE SHOULD I PLANT

In our experience, larger trees are not necessarily better trees. Smaller trees can be younger trees, therefore more adaptable to the trauma of transplanting. More important is assurance that your tree will be irrigated regularly, and receive the care it needs from a professional, such as a certified arborist.

PLANTING FOR TOMORROW

AIPCA hopes that you will grow in your appreciation of our special coast habitat, even as your planted trees continue to prosper. Simple enjoyment of nature is cherished in the Community. By planting trees and native forest habitat where these are needed, you heal the Community making it even better for the next generation.

The following list of plant materials is gleaned from several site inventories of native trees that were growing in three general forest-habitat zones within the Amelia Island Plantation properties before development. Each is detailed within the Amelia Island Plantation Master Planning Process Reports and Ecological Reports produced by Wallace, McHarg, Roberts and Todd Architects, Landscape Architects, Urban and Ecological Planners, dated 1971 and 1972. This list is not inclusive of all tree species, but rather indicates the more abundant species noted at that time.

Native Tree List for Amelia Island, Florida

DECIDUOUS TREES

Small

Red Buckeye	<i>Aesculus pavia</i>	8 x 6'	Coarse textured leaves; medium green; red bloom spikes outstanding. Semishade preferred.
Walter's Viburnum	<i>Viburnum obovatum</i>	12 X 20'	White blooms in spring as new leaves emerge. 1/4" red to black fruit in early fall. Prefers irrigation or moist soils. Note: Can be evergreen or deciduous, depending on subspecies. Semi-shade to full sun.
Winged Sumac	<i>Rhus copallina</i>	8 X 5'	Red fall leaf color. Coarse texture, small tree. Full sun.

DECIDUOUS TREES

Medium

Black Cherry	<i>Prunus serotina</i>	35 x 20'	Coppery yellow fall color; fast growth; white flowers in spring; fruit is wildlife food; distinctive ringed bark. Semi-shade preferred.
Black Gum	<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	50 x 30'	Scarlet autumn color; drops leaves early in autumn; can tolerate wet growing conditions, but grows in uplands. Cobalt blue fruit. Part sun to full sun.

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Carolina Willow	<i>Salix caroliniana</i>	35 x 20'	Consistent pale green leaf. Early to bud in spring. Moist soil only. Brittle wood. Full sun.
Persimmon	<i>Diospyros virginiana</i>	35 x 20'	Edible fruit in fall and consistent yellow/ orange color. Full sun. Heavy wood.
Red Maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i>	30 x 30'	Red blooms in spring before foliage; red fall leaf color. Full sun.
River Birch	<i>Betula nigra</i>	30 x 20'	Salmon exfoliating bark. Quick growth; brittle wood. Full sun.
DECIDUOUS TREES			
Large			
Bald Cypress	<i>Taxodium distichum</i>	70 x 30'	Light tan trunks and lacy pale green foliage. Prefers wet soil but can tolerate moist conditions. Full Sun.
Hackberry (Sugarberry)	<i>Celtis laevigata</i>	40 x 30'	Light gray trunks have corky appendages; leaves are olive green; leaves attract butterflies. Part Shade to Full Sun.
Pignut Hickory	<i>Carya glabra</i>	50 x 40'	Retains foliage until late fall; autumn color is yellow; bitter fruit is wildlife food. Full sun.
Sweet Gum	<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	40 x 25'	Purple to red autumn color; sweet gum balls are wildlife food; gray bark. Full sun.

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Sycamore	<i>Platanus occidentalis</i>	70 x 40'	Upright oval form. Old bark peels off leaving patches of green to white smooth under-bark. Leaves are fragrant in the fall; yellow autumn color. Very fast rate of growth. Full sun.
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EVERGREEN TREES

Small

Cherry Laurel	<i>Prunus caroliniana</i>	20 x 10'	Foliage is glossy and highly reflective; crushed foliage has a marischino cherry fragrance. Sun or shade.
Yaupon Holly	<i>Ilex vomitoria</i>	10 x 6'	Upright growth habit and red translucent berries; leaves have a high caffeine content. Sun or shade.
Florida Anise	<i>Illicium floridanum</i>	8 x 6'	Upright oval form with dark maroon-red 1 - 1.5" flowers; leaves are large and fragrant. Requires irrigation and shade to filtered sunlight.
Titi	<i>Cyrilla racemiiflora</i>	10 x 8'	Semi-evergreen with leathery yellow green leaves and 5" drooping white flower racemes. Shade.
Wax Myrtle	<i>Myrica cerifera</i>	10 x 8'	Fragrant leaves used for bayberry scent; also said to deter fleas. Full sun. Grows quickly, wood is brittle; can cause erosion at lake edge as older specimen leans into water & disturbs soil on bank.

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Dwarf Palmetto	<i>Sabal minor</i>	8 x 8'	"Trunkless" palm with fan-shaped leaves growing in both wet to dry soils. Difficult to transplant because of a large horizontal subterranean root system. Slow rate of growth. Grows in semi-shade under other trees; but, will tolerate full sun.
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EVERGREEN TREES

Medium

American Holly	<i>Ilex opaca</i>	25 x 20'	Dull yellow green leaves with spines; female plants have 1/8" red berries on current year's growth. Semi-shade preferred, but tolerates sun.
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Cabbage Palmetto	<i>Sabal palmetto</i>	40'	Very upright form and tropical texture. Grows in semi-shade under other trees. Can tolerate full sun as well.
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Red Bay	<i>Persea borbonia</i>	30 x 20'	Thick dark green aromatic leaves smell like camphor and may be used as a cooking spice. This is not the bay leaf regularly used in cooking. Will grow in sun. If grown in light shade, form of tree is less dense.
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Southern Red Cedar	<i>Juniperus silicicola</i>	30 x 15'	Positive upright pyramidal form but also has picturesque form and twisted branches in windy locations. Full sun, but grows with less dense form in shade.
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EVERGREEN TREES

Large

Laurel Oak	<i>Quercus laurifolia</i>	50 x 40'	Semi-evergreen, slow growing climax succession species. Full sun.
Live Oak	<i>Quercus virginiana</i>	50 x 75'	Outstanding form as it ages. Full sun.
Loblolly Pine	<i>Pinus taeda</i>	60 x 30'	Cones provide significant wildlife food. Full sun.
Slash Pine	<i>Pinus elliottii</i>	85 x 30'	Cones provide wildlife food. Fire-resistant bark. Full sun.
Water Oak	<i>Quercus nigra</i>	60 x 40'	Broad upright oval form. Easy to transplant, reseeds itself easily and often. Full sun. Prone to dieback and weak wood.
Southern Magnolia	<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i>	60 x 40'	From approx. April to June, large white flowers 7-8" across with 6-12 waxy fragile petals; filaments purple, carpellary cone prominent with red seeds. Very fragrant. Full sun.
Sweetbay Magnolia	<i>Magnolia virginiana</i>	50 x 30'	Creamy white flowers 2-3" across, cup shaped, lemon fragrance, in April and May. Full sun or semi-shade.