

Honorary Membership Nomination Narrative

Nominee: Edward Gilman, Ph.D.
Nominee's Address: 1549 Fifield Hall, Post Office Box 110670
City/State/Zip: Gainesville, FL 32611
Phone: (352)273-4523
Nominator: Florida Chapter ASLA

Dr. Edward Gilman has countless achievements of national or international significance or influence. He has provided notable service to the profession of landscape architecture. Florida Chapter ASLA is proud to nominate Ed Gilman, a Professor of Urban Trees and Landscape Plants at the University of Florida, to be an Honorary Member of the American Society of Landscape Architects.



It's often said that most scientists are poor communicators. Ed is a great scientist *and* great communicator. Landscape Architects, urban foresters, arborists, and homeowners who have been to his lectures or have relied on his articles or books know this about Ed. Since the beginning of his career, Ed has observed, documented, studied, and researched the science of trees. Frequently, and through multiple media, Ed explains how trees respond to the built and natural environment. He's solved many of the mysteries of why only some trees live long, growing strong and straight. He's figured out why some trees remain firmly in place after hurricanes. At the University of Florida research farm, the day to day work is dirty and laborious. Ed enjoys every minute. Everyone is always welcome to share the fun, and learn from his experience.

Like NPR and Google for most people, Ed Gilman is the first source landscape architects rely on for facts and data about trees. Searches for information about tree pruning, tree roots, woody plants, urban forestry, or landscape plants usually end with discovery of one of Ed's numerous publications. Debates among landscape architects about the best practices for tree selection, tree planting, or tree pruning, will typically end when Ed's authoritative website is quoted. Thirty five years of science backs up his colorful, informative, and definitive series of publications and lectures.



Ed Gilman has a 45% research: 50% extension teaching: 5% classroom teaching assignment. A new online arboriculture class is available to all world-wide. He works with arborists, consultants, landscape contractors, growers, urban foresters, planners, landscape architects and others engaged in tree selection, growing, planting and management issues. Research includes tree pruning, anchorage, roots, irrigation, and fertilization. Ed's team of researchers provides service to the industry and to citizens worldwide by incorporating a wide variety of research-based information into educational programs, demonstration sites, publications, and Web site for our target audiences.

Landscape Architects *everywhere* (and their most informed clients) rely on Ed's interesting and informative books:

- 2013. Structural pruning: a guide for the green industry. Urban Tree Foundation. Visalia, CA.
- 2013. Your Florida guide to shrubs, second edition. University Press of Florida, Gainesville, FL.
- 2012. Illustrated guide to pruning, third edition. Delmar publishers, Albany, NY.
- 2004. Landscape plants for the gulf and south Atlantic coasts. University Press of Florida, Gainesville, Florida.
- 2002. Best management practices: Tree pruning. International Society of Arboriculture, Champaign, IL.
- 1997. Trees for urban and suburban landscapes. Delmar Publishers, Albany, NY.
- 1996. Florida Plant Guide. Betrock Publishers, Davie, FL.
- 1997. Your Florida guide to bedding plants. University Press of Florida, Gainesville, FL.

Throughout the world, Ed's contribution to the body of knowledge has been recognized. His honors include: International

- 2007, Richard Harris Research Award, International Society of Arboriculture, Champaign IL.
- 2005. Author Citation Award, International Society of Arboriculture, Champaign IL.

Regional

- 2008, Outstanding Arboriculture Researcher, Southern Chapter International Society of Arboriculture.

State

- 2011, Stephan Spurr Award, Florida Division, Society of American Foresters.
- 2009, Bok Award, Florida Chapter International Society of Arboriculture.

Twenty-one other publications by Ed (in English and Spanish) are listed on the University of Florida Environmental Horticulture website. This does not include the 674 [Southern Tree Fact Sheets](#).

Ed and a team of expert colleagues developed a modern, up to date and peer reviewed set of details and specifications in AutoCAD and PDF formats for the green industry. These are designed specifically for landscape architects, engineers, architects, contractors, urban foresters, arborists, municipalities and state agencies. All are open source, free and can be edited by the user. Based on decades of scientific research, these details and specifications are being relied on by government agencies and private consulting landscape architects from California to Florida. There are details and specifications for planting, staking, planting soil modifications, inspection, correction, irrigation, and tree protection. Standard tree planting language was established through publication of the ANSI A300 transplanting standard most recent addition.

For a number of years, Jason Grabosky, PhD worked closely with Ed. Now a professor at Rutgers University, Jason "*fondly*" recalls Ed's "*tenacity*", and suggests that Ed has a "*singular resolve to improve the state of landscape tree production quality*", and that Ed, "*continues to have a profound impact on the landscapes from now to at least 2070, and likely further.*"

Jim Urban, FASLA knows that "*while most landscape architects rely on ideas supported by Ed Gilman's work, many are unaware of his influence. Few people in our field have matched Ed's generosity to share his work; and his passion for solving problems and answering questions related to plants in the landscape.*"

Nina Bassuck, PhD, at Cornell University has known Ed for 35 years. Nina believes, "*Ed has a gift of being able to translate technical information for an audience of practitioners. He feels strongly about doing this. After all, why do we do all our work if it is not meant to get out and be used? Ed's work has served the profession of landscape architecture.*"

Terril A. Nell
522 Feedrock Road
Brevard, NC 28712

February 2, 2016

To: Board of Directors, American Society of Landscape Architects

It is my pleasure to enthusiastically endorse Ed Gilman to be an honorary member of the American Society of Landscape Architects. Ed's accomplishments have changed the nature of tree production, planting practices, pruning and care throughout Florida. And, with all of his efforts, he has provided a framework that allows landscape architects to be assured of size and structure of trees selected for landscapes.

When Ed was hired by the University in the mid-1980's, our faculty viewed that we were adding a new faculty member who would focus on trees in the landscape. We were so wrong! Ed was not going to be someone who just did research on trees and shared information through scientific and extension publications. He made a conscious decision to help tree producers to grow better trees according to grades and standards, assist landscape professionals and landscape architects to be successful in the selection and maintenance of trees in landscapes. And, ultimately, these guidelines have resulted in the people of Florida having long lived trees that beautify residential and commercial properties. In addition, he volunteered to teach an undergraduate course in Arboriculture.

Throughout his career, Ed believed that the best way to share information was with hands-on demonstrations. In other words, if you see the results, you will understand and use the information. He shared these concepts in his class and the students were excited about the opportunity to learn. Then, with the Florida Nursery Grower Landscape Association, the University of Florida established the 'Great Southern Tree Conference' and Ed was the person who designed the demonstrations and orchestrated the two day on-site, hands-on training program for all landscape tree professionals, including landscape architects. This annual event drew 300+ professionals from throughout the southeast for the first 5 – 8 years. And, with the Florida Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture and the Florida chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects, he provided additional workshops throughout the state. Truly, the industry was transformed through these demonstrations and presentations.

Ed has been far more to the arboriculture industry than a person who gives talks and provides on-site demonstrations. He has written books on tree pruning and maintenance, scientific journal articles and extension publications. Each year at his annual evaluation, my primary comment was 'how can I help you do more'? He did it all – publish, speak, share, demonstrate and respond to questions posed by industry professionals and Florida residents.

For all of his accomplishments and the service to landscape architects and other landscape professionals and growers, Ed is very deserving of being honored as an honorary member the American Society of Landscape Architects.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Terril A. Nell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "T".

Terril A. Nell
Professor and Chair Emeritus
Environmental Horticulture Department
University of Florida

Urban Trees + Soils

James Urban, FASLA, ISA

February 8, 2016

Florida Chapter ASLA
Emily O'Mahoney
Suite 101
1907 Commerce Lane
Jupiter, Florida 33458

RE: Edward Gilman – Honorary ASLA member

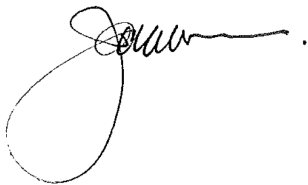
Dear Emily:

This letter shall serve to support the application by the Florida Chapter to nominate Dr. Ed Gilman for honorary membership in the ASLA. I have known Dr. Gilman for over 20 years in my work researching issues with urban trees and soils. I have worked with him on committees and conferences. We correspond frequently on a wide range of issues that relate to successful installation of trees in the landscape. I depend on his knowledge on these topics and he is incredibly generous with his time and wealth of information, all of which relates directly to the profession of landscape architecture.

Ed is one of the leading researchers into issues of trees in the built landscape. His work with nursery standards, pruning, tree staking, wind resistance has found its way into the literature and practice of landscape architecture across the United States. He is a renowned author and speaker on his topics and has reached many landscape architects at the national and chapter levels. He is referenced in Landscape Architecture Magazine. His book on pruning is a primary reference in many offices of landscape architecture. He was critical to the development of Florida Grades and Standards, a ground-breaking approach to nursery stock standards that is credited with making Florida one of the best locations to purchase quality trees. This standard was developed in collaboration with the landscape architecture profession. Its influence is spreading across the country.

Please give the application of Dr Gilman's nomination a favorable review and accept him into the ranks of those who have made significant contributions to our profession.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James Urban', with a large, stylized loop at the beginning and a horizontal line extending to the right.

James Urban, FASLA, ISA

March 2, 2016

Board of Trustees of the American Society of Landscape Architects

Dear Board Members,

It is my great pleasure to write this letter to support the selection of Edward Gilman as an honorary member of ASLA. I have known Dr. Gilman, "Ed", professionally for eight years as a colleague in the Environmental Horticulture Department at the University of Florida where he is a senior faculty member. Dr. Gilman has the deepest respect from all members of our department and his research and expertise is highly valued throughout all plant science departments in IFAS, (Institute for Food and Agricultural Sciences), and in many similar institutions throughout the world.

Before I knew Ed personally I knew him by name as a student in the landscape architecture program at UF and in professional practice. Every student in landscape architecture and all my fellow professionals have used many of the hundreds of plant identification publications he has produced for his extension and research programs, and for good reason, they are the most comprehensive sources of information on plant material in Florida and the southeast.

I can recall giving a presentation at a recent FLASLA conference where I included several images from Ed's research on proper tree installation. One audience member strongly disagreed with the research and indeed declared his research to be inferior to knowledge gained in the field. The response from other LA's in the audience was immediate and forceful. They fiercely objected and made it clear they did not agree with his characterization, declaring Ed to be a highly respected researcher with many supporters. Their swift condemnation was clear evidence of the respect landscape architects hold for Dr. Gilman.

But his influence goes far beyond the state of Florida; his research on trees in particular is used nationally and internationally. My doctoral research on walkable urban streets led me to the west coast where I surveyed streets in various towns and cities. My study centered on Form-Based and municipal codes for streetscapes that included tree ordinances. Based on the number of documents that referenced Ed's research I believe it is fair to say that he is recognized as a national leader and foremost authority on trees in urban areas. If given the opportunity I would not hesitate to vote yes, and urge you to do the same. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Gail Hansen de Chapman, PhD
Associate Professor
Environmental Horticulture Department
Center for Landscape Conservation and Ecology



February 22, 2016

Board of Trustees
The American Society of Landscape Architects
636 Eye Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001-3736

Dear Trustees:

On behalf of the 1,800 members of the Florida Nursery, Growers & Landscape Association (FNGLA), please accept this letter in very strong support of the nomination of Dr. Ed Gilman to be an honorary member of the American Society of Landscape Architects.

A widely respected professor at the University of Florida, it is no exaggeration to state that Dr. Gilman virtually singlehandedly revolutionized the tree industry in Florida. Thanks to his stellar scientific research and exceptional outreach to growers, Gilman truly schooled and educated an entire generation of urban tree and landscape plant growers. Unfearful of embracing a “radical” approach, he emphasized to growers what is below the soil line is more important than the canopy’s appearance! His talks were consistently among the best attended, most sought-after opportunities to hear and learn from the true guru of Florida trees.

Ed Gilman is one of those truly rare professionals who can simultaneously see the big picture and instinctively identify needed details. He has an exceptionally shining track record of consistently delivering his talented expertise and practical knowledge to his many audiences, including many landscape architects. When Ed Gilman commits to something, one is assured it is not only meaningful, it also can be “taken it to the bank” because it will be achieved.

Dr. Gilman is an educator, advocate, bridge builder, cheerleader and facilitator. His professional insights and instincts are invariably and squarely on point. He excels in the core areas of communications and customer service, working diligently to nurture and maintain relationships with industry professionals. Gilman’s enthusiasm is routinely and easily transferred to the countless many he has helped. Within Florida’s nursery and landscape industry, Ed Gilman is as close to being universally recognized as any professional can be. He is a genuine and proven asset as he really does “talk the talk” and “walk the walk.”

It is with great personal pleasure and professional confidence I offer this letter in support of Dr. Ed Gilman’s nomination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ben Bolusky', written in a cursive style.

Ben Bolusky
Chief Executive Officer