



December 2021

Kristin Griffiths
Chemung County
PO Box 588
Elmira, NY 14902

Dear Kristin:

I want to welcome you to the New York State Urban Forestry Council! We are happy that you have joined our ranks in support of urban forestry in the state. We are a collection of foresters, arborists, tree commissioners, municipal staff, landscape architects, teachers, research scientists, utility workers, urban planners and tree enthusiasts from across the state of New York. We live in hamlets, villages, towns and cities, from Long Island to Niagara Falls, Manhattan to the Adirondacks, and everywhere in between. We all share a common interest in promoting urban forestry in New York.

A few years ago, I discovered the Council at a workshop in Westchester County, and I've been an active member ever since. I think you'll find that our members are professionals and committed volunteers who have a wealth of knowledge to share and are very willing to do it. We partner with NYS DEC and local ReLeaf volunteers to sponsor an annual urban forestry conference, which is held in July. It's an opportunity to share information on the latest trends in community forestry, forest health updates, and grant opportunities, and to gather with new and long-time friends and colleagues.

The Council also has a website, www.nysufc.org, which contains a calendar of events, resource information on tree ordinances, risk tree assessment, street tree selection, planting basics, research studies, grant information, professional organizations, and DEC's Urban Forestry program. There's information about the Council, our by-laws, our annual report and our strategic plan. And we also have a monthly blog that features members, volunteer activities, and research updates, to name a few topics.

I tell everyone that 'tree people' are the nicest people I know. I think once you get to know our members, you will agree. Welcome to our Council – we look forward to sharing our knowledge and experience with you and invite you to share your experience with us!

Sincerely,

Karen H. Emmerich, Past President / Grant Committee Chair