



alliance for

CAPE FEAR TREES

September 2024 Newsletter

Volume 5, Issue 9

President's Note:

It's back-to-school month for all of us, not just the kiddos. Our next Tree Stewards class begins on September 7th. **Tree Stewards** are a group of trained volunteers who are essential to taking care of the many trees ACFT plants. The more trees we plant, the more stewards we'll need. Please consider joining our team; read more about this training program below. It's also the month we kick off the Community Read of Nature's Best Hope. (More about this below, as well.) Part of the Nature at Work campaign, led in partnership with the New Hanover County Cooperative Extension Service, looks to shift everyone's landscape practices to a more sustainable model. We all have something to learn here! In the meantime, ACFT is diving in and learning more about native tree species that promise a stronger survival rate and greater contribution to our region's biodiversity. And we're studying the Arbor Day Foundation's Tree Captain's program, a program we plan to launch in the near-ish future that assigns oversight and care management for trees on a neighborhood-by-neighborhood basis.

So much to learn! Join us!

Margee

Tree Stewards: registration for the class of 2024 is open!

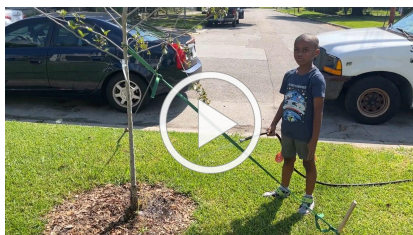
The Tree Stewards are a trained group of knowledgeable volunteers who are essential to taking care of the many trees the Alliance plants.

Learn more about the program in

general at our [Tree Stewards](#) page.

Learn more about the specifics of the 2024 class, including schedule, syllabus, requirements, and enrollment at the [Tree Stewards - Class 2024](#) page.

Our first class is Saturday, Sept 7th and the deadline to enroll is Thursday, Sept 5th.



On Saturday, August 17th, the Tree Stewards and Tree Care Volunteers had another productive and satisfying morning mulching and staking another 55 trees. That brings our summer total to 205!

And the original Jr Tree Keeper made an appearance the following Monday and helped us water. At the end of the video, he offers his opinion on his tree. :-)

We're hiring!

Looking for your next career challenge? Love trees? Want to make the world a better place?

We're looking to hire our next [Executive Director](#).

The Alliance's mission is to preserve, protect, and plant trees to enhance the quality of life and health for present and future generations in the Lower Cape Fear area.

Upcoming Events = Save the Date

Our first big event of the tree planting season will be a tree give-away on Saturday, November 2nd in Riegelwood NC.

Riegelwood is a pleasant 25 to 30 minute drive west along Route 74. For volunteers, it will likely begin around 8am and end around noon. Event sign up details coming soon. If you'd like to be an early bird, email volunteer@acftrees.org.

This 900 tree give-away is funded by International Paper and the Arbor Day

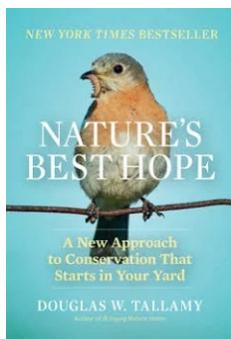
ACFT's Advocacy Committee is up and running!

Public feedback to conserve the West Bank of the Cape Fear River was OVERWHELMING, with >3,000 citizen emails! Thanks to all of you who contributed your voice to this overwhelming show of community unity! ACFT is part of a coalition of ten nonprofits that supports conservation of the West Bank as a nature park. We are reviewing current rezoning and development proposals to identify opportunities to preserve the existing tree canopy when possible. This fall we hope to schedule a community meeting, to share information and ideas about how to preserve the unique natural character of our region, in the face of unprecedented growth.

If you would like to learn more about development activities going on in the city, check out [Wilmington's Development Tracker Map](#).

If you would like to get involved in this aspect of our work, or to learn more, contact Laura McCabe at laura@acftrees.org.

Nature at Work: A community call-to-action for a shift in urban landscaping.



May we suggest a book for your summer reading?

Trees, especially native oaks, are the keystone plant in a thriving biodiverse landscape. So, the Alliance for Cape Fear Trees is taking the lead in establishing this movement.

Start Reading!

Nature at Work officially launches this month with a community read of Nature's Best Hope, Dr Doug Tallamy's seminal work calling for a grassroots commitment to landscaping practices that conserve water, reduce use of pesticides, establish conservation corridors and provide wildlife habitat. The book and its companion version, written for middle-school aged readers, are available at Pomegranate Books, Old Books on Front and Barnes & Noble. The New Hanover County Public Library has print copies, as well as e-books and eAudio versions available for download through the [Libby app](#). Spotify also offers both versions for subscribers. The New Hanover County Arboretum is distributing free copies for those with fewer available resources. [Register here for a free book](#)

Mark Your Calendar!

The Native Plant Alliance is hosting its annual Native Plant Festival this month. Speakers are scheduled on September 18, 19, and 20 at the New Hanover County Arboretum. On Saturday, September 21st, visitors can shop at plant vendors throughout the Cape Fear Region. [Read more about the festival.](#)

Dr. Doug Tallamy will be in Wilmington on October 12 to celebrate Nature at Work and share his insights into the relative ease and undeniable rewards that come from more sustainable landscaping practices. His talk is scheduled for 10:00 AM at Lumina Theater on the UNCW campus. Tickets are \$10 and can be reserved at [Friends of the Arboretum website](#), scroll down to “upcoming events” on the homepage.

This month, the Cooperative Extension Service’s Master Gardeners will also be delivering programs on native gardening at our libraries. Their Nature at Home ambassadors will be presenting at the main library, downtown, on Wed, Oct 2 at 5:30 PM, and at the Pine Valley branch on Wed, Oct 9 at 2:00 PM.

Want to do more for our canopy? Volunteer on a Committee

In addition to Advocacy, we have openings on a number of committees, namely Tree Plantings & Distributions and Volunteer Engagement.

Learn more about each committee and who to contact on our [Committees](#) page.

August was wet - but also very dry. Check & water your trees!

According to the National Weather Service, Wilmington received 14.66 inches of rain in August, which is almost twice its average 8.16 inches. However, 80% of that rainfall occurred during Tropical Storm Debbie from the 6th to the 12th. And we received 1.54 inches on Saturday, the last day of the month, but in between, from the 13th and the 30th, we received almost nothing.

Our soil is predominantly sandy and doesn't hold water well, so your tree, despite its big drinks early and late in the month, might be thirsty! And we still have two relatively hot months ahead...

The first video demonstrates how to determine how thirsty your tree might be. The second video demonstrates how to properly water with a hose. A rule of thumb is 10 gallons per inch of trunk diameter per week. For 2 inch diameter tree, that's 20 gallons, or about 6-8 minutes depending on your hose flow.



How thirsty
is your tree?



How to
water a tree
with a hose.



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Help us help our trees.

Your donation allows us to plant, preserve, protect and plant trees to enhance the quality of life and health for present and future generation in the Lower Cape Fear area.

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