



alliance for

CAPE FEAR TREES

October 2024 Newsletter

Volume 5, Issue 10

President's Note

Hello Tree Lovers!

We are coming into our key seasons for tree planting; our temperate autumn and mild winters provide the ideal time and climate for getting trees in the ground. With that in mind, we have two events scheduled early next month and will need volunteers to sign up this month. If you've not volunteered before, give it a try. Our plantings and giveaways are fun and fulfilling events. And couldn't we all use more of each? Read more below.

Our current Tree Stewards class will deliver another 20+ solidly trained tree-people to our ranks. We should all be grateful to these volunteers who are committing to care for our canopy. Their tree-tending this summer helped 225+ trees withstand the heat. Read more and consider joining our next class.

Two years from now, we might have another 200 young and native live oaks to plant! In partnership with Penderlea Farms and Williston Middle School, the ACFT is launching a native nursery of Williston Oaks. You can find more info below.

And our Advocacy Committee continues to amplify where we can preserve, protect and plant more trees for our collective health and well-being. Read more below about their areas of focus so you can be equally up-to-date.

Finally, we are all mindful of our neighbors to the south and west. Those of us in the Cape Fear region know well the destruction a hurricane can deliver, and can only hope those in the path of Hurricane Helene will discover the inner resilience and collective recovery essential to moving on.

Thank you for your support of ACFT,

Volunteer at our first event of the season!



Our first event will be a 900 tree give-away on Saturday, November 2nd in Riegelwood NC (made possible by [International Paper](#) and the [Arbor Day Foundation](#)).

Come volunteer with us! It is very fulfilling to see happy and excited people carrying away new trees to their forever homes! We have volunteer opportunities for all abilities and interests!

Riegelwood is a pleasant 25 to 30 minute drive west along Route 74. The event begins at 9:30 am. Volunteers will need to be there at 8:30 am and it should end by noon.

To learn more and sign up, visit our [Events page](#).

Save the date for our 2nd event of the season

[Audi Cape Fear](#) is donating \$100 toward trees for every new Audi sold during September and October. And we'll be planting those trees on Sunday afternoon, November 10th. ***Volunteer sign up details coming soon.***

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](#) - and we've extended our application deadline to Monday, October 7th.

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.

Tree Stewards 2024 class in progress

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

We held our first two classes in September. The first class focused on biology, anatomy, species, culture & identification. The second class (pictured) focused on planting techniques.



Thank you so much to Casey Paulk, Adam Black, Zach LeBlanc, and Josh Worsley from **Barlett Tree Experts** for teaching those informative classes!

Williston Oak Project



The Alliance will be working with the Williston Alumni Association, Matt Sullivan's AIG students at Williston Middle School, and **Penderlea Farms** to harvest acorns from the magnificent oaks in front of the historic Williston High School buildings. Penderlea Farms will raise these legacy saplings and the Alliance will give them away to the public in a year or two.

More info to come next month after we've harvested the acorns!

Advocacy Committee update

Our Advocacy Committee meets monthly to evaluate projects and issues. If you are interested in learning more about this work, please contact Laura McCabe at laura@acftrees.org.

On October 3, the New Hanover County Commissioners will hold a joint Public Meeting with the Planning Department, to review public input on their Comprehensive Plan 2050. You can find more information about how to attend this meeting [here](#).

Wilmington is updating its Technical Standards Manual to remain current with industry technologies, materials, and practices, while also providing guidance for land development code requirements. Committee members are reviewing drafts of the first four chapters; members of the public are also welcome to do so through October. You can view the standards [here](#).

NC's Big Tree Conference

Our area was well represented at the NC Urban Forest Council Conference, held in Hickory September 25-27, as Hurricane Helene was barreling north. The Alliance for Cape Fear Trees was recognized several times during the state-wide conference. Our 2023 Tree Stewards Program was the first pilot of this program statewide, in partnership with the Urban Forest Council. The Alliance was also included in the presentation by Andy Pleninger, NC Forest Service, as an example of collaborating organizations.



Pictured: Sally Thigpen [Wilmington Parks Department], Laura McCabe [Alliance for Cape Fear Trees], Kevin Cassel [New Hanover County Arboretum], Amy Mead [Brunswick County Extension], and Tom Boland [Wilmington Tree Commission].

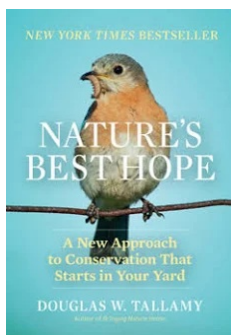
Sally described Wilmington's tree ordinances, as part of a panel discussion that also included presenters from Charlotte, Raleigh, Cary, Durham and High Point.



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



Doug Tallamy



May we suggest a book for your

Have you gotten your free copy of Nature's Best Hope yet? 1000 copies are available for a community read as part of our Nature at Work campaign. The goal is to shift the community's collective reliance on grass and invasive/non-native plants and move toward a more sustainable model of landscaping relying on native plants and trees.

To register for your free copy (courtesy of the Friends of the Arboretum), [click here](#). You may pick up your book at the Arboretum's gift shop, 6206 Oleander Dr, Monday through Friday, 10 AM to 4 PM. Copies are also available at the NHC Public Library which also offers [e-books](#) and eAudio versions available for download. And, of course, wherever books are sold.

Author Doug Tallamy will be in Wilmington on October 12 (10 AM at UNCW's Lumina Theater) to share his insights into the rewards of sustainable landscaping practices. Tickets are \$10 and can be reserved [here](#).

For more information about Wilmington's Nature at Work

summer
reading?

campaign, visit the [website](#). It's exciting to learn how easy it is to make relatively few changes, yet have a remarkable impact. Get on board with us!

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.

September weather was average

According to the National Weather Service, Wilmington received 8.53" of rain last month versus the September average of 8.69". Last year, we only got 3" of rain in September.

The average temperature last month was 75.7 degrees versus the September average of 75.3 degrees. The average high last month of 83.7 degrees was also the average high for Septembers.

So September was average - but it can still be hot. That said, it is always a good idea to keep an eye on your trees this time of year as we transition to fall.



How thirsty
is your tree?



How to
water a tree
with a hose.



Reading this newsletter on our website or Facebook or Instagram? - but would prefer to have it sent directly to your email inbox. [Sign up for our newsletter](#).

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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