



alliance for

CAPE FEAR TREES

July 2024 Newsletter

Volume 5, Issue 7

Board Elections

The end of June marked the end of our fiscal year - and with that came the annual election of new officers & board members.

Our new officers are:

- President: Margee Herring
- Vice-President: Laura McCabe
- Treasurer: Michael Murchison
- Secretary: Donna Hurdle & Sherry O'Daniell

Our new board members are: Bob Elkins, Karen Hanson, and Craig Ten Brink.

Welcome!

Our retiring board members are: Bill Jayne & Joshua Shields. Thank you both for your years of service and many contributions to our young and growing organization. Bill has graciously agreed to serve as a Senior Advisor!

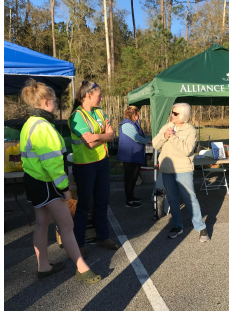
And lastly, Connie Parker, who founded the Alliance, is retiring as Board President. However, she'll remain on the board as Immediate Past-President. It's difficult to put into words how much Connie has meant to the Alliance over these last nine years. Our community is so much better off thanks to her selflessness, perseverance, and hard work!

A note from Connie

Little did I know when I became a member of the Wilmington Tree Commission 12 years ago that it would transport me back to the woods I loved growing up and move me forward to help create the Alliance for Cape Fear Trees. As I step down from the leadership role I have



enjoyed since 2015, it is with pride for all we have accomplished in growing and protecting our urban forest, with a bit of melancholy for the closeness to the tree people I will miss, and with excitement for what the future holds. I am thankful for the wonderful people I have met, and the lasting friendships made. I will stay on the Board of Directors as the Immediate Past President for the coming year – and will to be a resource for the new leadership. I look forward to working with Margee Herring as the new President of the Alliance and to enjoying the energy and enthusiasm of Dan Camacho, our Executive Director.



One of my favorite short poems, *The Caring Tree*, expresses what working with Tree People has meant to me:

*Just as a tree is held together by its roots,
the world is held together by people who care.
They nurture, foster, and help others to grow, to heal, and
to prosper.
The Tree of Caring reminds us to be thankful for those who
care and to pass on the care
That we have received to others who need it.*

Thank you for continuing to care about the trees and our Alliance!

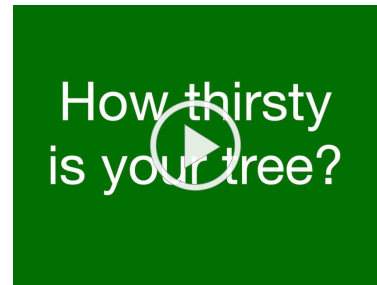
Best wishes to all for the future,

Connie Parker, Past-President

June was dry - water your trees!

According to the National Weather Service, Wilmington received 2.63 inches of rain in June, which is about half of our normal 5.67 inches. And even after the downpour this morning, your trees could still be very thirsty.

Please go out and take a look your trees and water any that appear to be struggling. 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.



Tree Stewards begin watering!

Just in time in early June, our volunteer Tree Stewards began watering the 225 trees the Alliance planted this past fall & winter.

We also went out twice in June, early on Saturday mornings (to beat the heat) to stake and mulch trees. The latter is really important as an aid in watering and helping trees stay hydrated.

Thank you to the City of Wilmington and their Urban Forestry Department for letting us use their truck and supplying the water.

We also got a new battery water pump to make things a lot easier. Thank you to International Paper for the grant to purchase the new pump.

In our last picture, you'll see that caring for trees is contagious. When we were out a few weeks ago, this little guy insisted on helping - and we deemed him our first Jr. **TreeKeeper!**

We'll have a new Tree Steward class in the fall if you're interested joining our team and taking care of trees. Visit our [Tree Stewards page](#) to learn more and get on the waiting list. Or if you are interested in just helping us water and mulch right now, send an email to dan@acftrees.org. We need fill-in assistants all the time!



Kicking off our community campaign: Nature at Work

ACFT, together with the New Hanover County Arboretum, is launching a campaign to foster more sustainable and biodiverse landscaping practices throughout our region. It's called "Nature at Work", and is inspired by the book, *Nature's Best Hope*, by Dr. Doug Tallamy.



May we suggest a book for your summer reading?

The Nature At Work campaign is about building a collaborative and comprehensive movement to shift residential and commercial landscapes from a reliance on lawns and invasives to native plants and trees. There will be more in the coming months as we ramp up this campaign, including a community-read of Nature's Best Hope in September. If you're inclined to "read ahead" grab an e-copy or audio download from the New Hanover County Library which has generously made 100 copies available for digital readers. Hardback copies are also available at the library and Pomegranate Books; both also carry the young reader's version of Nature's Best Hope, suitable for middle-schoolers. Once you read it, we promise, you'll find true inspiration for re-considering our collective landscape.

Advocacy

In June, ACFT was proud to join ten other local nonprofits in advocating for environmental conservation and historic preservation of the [west bank of the Cape Fear River](#).

The public input deadline was June 28th, and we expect that New Hanover County received massive public support for conservation over riverfront development.

ACFT is forming a new Advocacy Committee to respond in the future to issues such as this. We aim to proactively support responsible tree ordinances that sustain and grow our urban tree canopy. We invite concerned community members to join this effort. If you are interested in serving or learning more about our Advocacy Committee, please contact Laura McCabe at laura@acftrees.org.

Introducing the "Live Oak Circle"

At the end of June, the Alliance launched the "Live Oak Circle" for donations of \$1,000 or more (in annual giving). This level provides sustaining support that allows our organization to enhance our shared urban tree canopy, and therefore our community's quality of life and health. This group of our most generous donors bolsters the operations of ACFT, strengthens our efforts to educate, advocate, preserve, and plant. To learn more and donate, please visit our [Live Oak Circle](#) page.



Follow our new LinkedIn page!

In addition to [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#), the Alliance has a new [LinkedIn](#) page (we lost our old one to bureaucracy). If you're on LinkedIn, follow us, and [invite your network](#) to do so also. We're trying to build more of a presence in the business

community and every little bit helps.

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.

[Donate](#)

[Visit our Website](#)

Follow our Socials!



Alliance for Cape Fear Trees | 7 Beaugard Drive Suite 2 | Wilmington, NC 28412 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!