



alliance for

CAPE FEAR TREES

November 2024 Newsletter

Volume 5, Issue 11

President's Note

Hello Tree Lovers!

Tis our busy season and I don't mean the holidays. Tree giveaways, tree plantings and tree stewarding are in full swing from November through January and your ACFT is geared up for all of it.

Read below – and fast! – to catch our first tree giveaway this fall. Expanding our regional impact in partnership with International Paper, via the Arbor Day Foundation, we'll be in Riegelwood this Saturday, November 2, from 9 until Noon.

The following weekend, November 10, we're partnering with Audi Cape Fear and Plastic Ocean Project on a tree planting at the county landfill, where trees add much to ground stabilization, habitat restoration and carbon sequestration.

We've also completed our second class of Tree Stewards assuring our newly planted trees a team of knowledgeable and attentive caretakers.

And, our Advocacy Team is impressively flexing its muscle: weighing in on the City's Technical Standards, which guide construction and development in our city; keeping an eye on and preparing informed responses for rezoning requests; and planning our ACFT Community Meeting in January so everyone feels empowered to protect (what's left of!) our canopy.

We are grateful for the support we receive from our volunteers, donors and grantors. And, we ask humbly that you consider an end-of-year gift as we ramp up our Matching Gift Campaign. The simple truth is our work reflects our resources.

You can read more about all of this below.

Marge Fleming

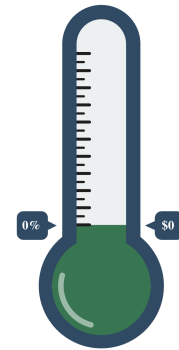
Year-end Match Fundraising Challenge begins!

Our Year-end Match Fundraising Challenge is one of the Alliance's primary fundraising efforts - and essential to our year-round ability to give, plant, care, and advocate for trees.

Thanks to a group of generous donors, every dollar you donate between now and December 31st will be matched dollar-for-dollar.

Please visit www.acftrees.org/donate for several easy ways to make your contribution!

GOAL: \$15,000



Free Tree Giveaway this Saturday (11/2)



Our first event of the year will be a 900 Free Tree Giveaway on Saturday, November 2nd, from 9:30am until noon, at [Riegelwood Baptist Church \(103 NC-87, Riegelwood NC\)](#). Riegelwood is a pleasant 25 minutes drive west on US -74/76.

We'll be giving away 13 different types of trees, mostly in 3-gallon sizes. To see a list of all the trees and their mature heights and sun and soil preferences, [click here](#). We'll also have tree consultants available to help you pick out your perfect tree. If you can, bring a picture of your planting site with you.

We'll also have some free mulch available, so please bring a bag or container.

To learn more about the event, visit our [Events page](#).

Thank you to everyone who signed up to volunteer. We are fortunate to have enough people and have closed signups.

This giveaway is made possible by funding from [International Paper](#) and the [Arbor Day Foundation](#). And thank you to [Riegelwood Baptist Church](#) for hosting this event and being so helpful!

Sunday after next (11/10): Tree Planting Event with Audi Cape Fear and Plastic Ocean Project

Audi Cape Fear has donated \$100 toward trees for every new Audi they sold in September and October. We'll be planting 75 oaks at an idyllic reclamation site along a pond at the NHC Landfill dubbed the "Fearless Forest". We are also doing this project in conjunction with our long-time partners the **Plastic Ocean Project**.



This event will take place on Sunday, November 10th from 11:00 am until 1:00 pm.

If you'd like to **volunteer** for this event, please visit our **Events page**.

We'll also be doing another planting with Audi Cape Fear in January. Stay tuned!

Williston Oaks Project



The Alliance is working with the Williston Alumni Association, **Penderlea Farms**, and Matt Sullivan's AIG students at Williston Middle School on the Williston Oaks Project. These majestic oaks were planted around the time of construction of the two historic Williston High School buildings.

On October 17th, we kicked off the project. Sonja Green, a Williston High School Alumni and Alliance Board member, spoke about the significant history of the school that these trees witnessed. Then the students harvested the acorns, which Penderlea Farms will raise into saplings, to be eventually given away to the surrounding community in a year or two!



To learn more about the project, visit www.acftrees.org/williston Oaks

Thank you to the **Women's Impact Network** for providing funds to support this project.

Tree Stewards 2024 class graduates!

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

Our twenty new graduates attended four classes during September and October and are ready to go out and care for the 219 trees we planted last fall/winter (plus many nearby struggling trees that we adopted). Caring for trees to improve survival in harsh urban environments is an essential component of the Alliance's mission.

Thank you so much to Casey Paulk, Adam Black, Zach LeBlanc, Josh Worsley, Glynn Percival, Zack Parker, and Everett Jones from **Barlett Tree Experts** for teaching those amazing classes!



Advocacy Committee update

By the time you read this, we will have submitted recommendations to the City of Wilmington to improve their Technical Standards Manual. The Manual is currently being updated to keep the City current with industry technologies, materials, and practices. The Manual provides detailed guidance to the development industry on how to implement the requirements of the Land Development Code. This includes design details for new infrastructure, such as streets, sidewalks, multi-use paths, street lighting, street trees, landscaping, etc. The Alliance hopes our recommendations - to encourage low impact development, preserve existing trees over new plantings, and utilize green infrastructure for stormwater management whenever possible - will be incorporated into the Manual. To follow the City's progress on updating the Manual, [click here](#).

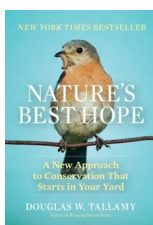
Looking ahead to 2025, the Alliance will host a free Community Meeting on Wednesday, January 15, 6:00-7:30PM at the New Hanover County Arboretum. If you would like to learn about our local rules and regulations for development, and what you can do to help ensure that the unique character of the Lower Cape Fear area is protected and preserved, this meeting is for you! Look for an invitation soon.

Our Advocacy Committee meets monthly on the third Mondays at 3:30pm, usually over Zoom. If you would like to learn more about our advocacy work, or to attend a meeting, please contact Laura McCabe at laura@acftrees.org.

Nature at Work



Dr. Tallamy was just in Wilmington and spoke to a sold-out crowd about Nature at Work principles. He's pictured here with ACFT President Margee Herring.



This is ACFT's campaign to shift urban landscaping from an uninformed reliance on grass and invasives to intentional use of native plants and trees. Native trees are the keystone plant in a sustainable landscape, providing native pollinators with adequate food and habitat, diminishing use of pesticides and irrigation, and sustaining biodiversity and a thriving ecosystem.

This nationwide movement is led by Dr. Doug Tallamy's [Homegrown National Park](#). Visit that website to learn more and join us. We are working to engage developers, HOAs, neighborhoods, communities of faith, business owners and youth.

Your next step: Read Dr. Tallamy's Nature's Best Hope (free copies are [available here](#)) and then email natureatwork@acftrees.org to let us know where and how you want to support this campaign!

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.

October was dry! Please water!

According to the National Weather Service, Wilmington received .13" of rain last month versus the October average of 4.56".

October's average temperature was 66.3 degrees

A green square graphic with white text and a white play button icon. The text reads 'How thirsty is your tree?' with the play button icon positioned over the word 'your'.

versus the average of 66 degrees. However, looking forward, the first week in November will be warmer than usual with highs in the upper 70s (versus the average November high of 66.9).

So even though we received a lot of rain in September, we essentially received no rain in October, and the first few weeks of November are forecast to be hotter than usual, so its likely your favorite tree is very thirsty. Please water!

How to
water a tree
with a hose.



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Help us help our trees

Your donation allows us to 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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