



Trees | Charlotte

the leaflet

WINTER 2016

A Canopy of Knowledge

GROWING FUTURE TREE LOVERS

HIDDEN DANGERS
EMERALD ASH BORER

PLANT A TREE
AND LIVE FOREVER

A LIVING
LEGACY

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PAST EVENTS

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MASTER OF TREES

PARTNER

ROOTED FOR SUCCESS

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A CANOPY OF KNOWLEDGE

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SOCIAL MEDIA

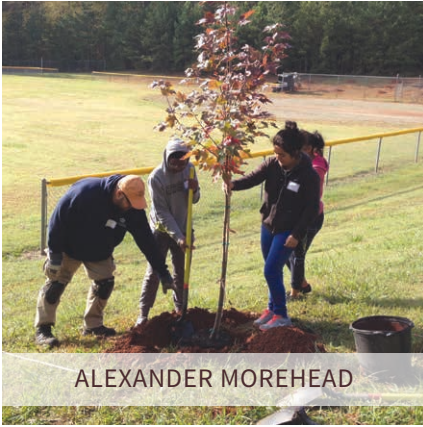
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ALEXANDER MOREHEAD

TreesCharlotte and volunteers planted 135 trees on the campuses of Nathaniel Alexander Elementary School and John Motley Morehead STEM Academy.



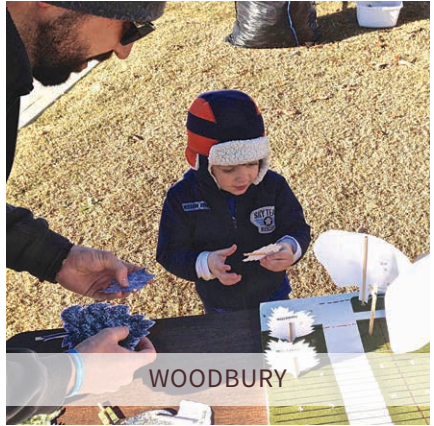
ELON PARK ELEMENTARY

Students and parents learned about the importance of growing Charlotte's tree canopy and planted 246 trees on the campus of Elon Park Elementary.



J.W. GRIER

Joseph W. Grier Academy was the site for a stewardship event with the Tamil Association of the Greater Charlotte Area.



WOODBURY

The North Carolina Wildlife Federation encouraged children to participate in various activities to learn about trees at the Woodbury event.



Fall Photo **CONTEST**

Congratulations to Rachel Rollar, winner of our Fall Photo Contest! She won a free tree for posting on Instagram using the #CLTfalltrees hashtag. Rachel chose a magnolia tree, which was her grandmother's favorite, and donated it back to TreesCharlotte to be planted at an upcoming event.

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MARCH

NeighborWoods
Pre-Application
Workshop

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MARCH

Polo Ridge Elementary
& Flat Branch Park
TreeDay Event

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MARCH

Seedling
Preparation Project

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MARCH

Cochrane Academy &
Devonshire Elementary
TreeDay Event

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MARCH

NeighborWoods
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MARCH

“End of Season”
City Wide TreeStore

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MARCH

NeighborWoods
Pre-Application
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UPCOMING
Events



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APRIL

Olde Providence
Elementary TreeDay

20

APRIL

Seedling
Preparation Project

19

MAY

Tree Canopy
Action Summit V



SATURDAY, MARCH 12

Devonshire Elementary & Cochrane Collegiate Academy TreeDay

Sponsored by Rotary District 7680

328 trees



TUESDAY, MARCH 15

Branching Out at Sycamore Brewing

Partnering with USGBC Emerging Professionals



WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16

Renaissance West Planting

Sponsored by Crescent Communities

150 trees



FRIDAY, MARCH 18

North Carolina Arbor Day
8 School Planting/Education Events
8 trees, 2,500 seedlings



FRIDAY, MARCH 18

Keeping Watch on Air
Opening Reception • 6 p.m.
UNC Charlotte Center City, 320 E. 9th St., Charlotte



SATURDAY, MARCH 19

“End of Season” City Wide Free TreeStore 9 to 11 a.m.

650 trees



SATURDAY, MARCH 19

30th Annual Elizabeth 8k Road Race – “Run for the Trees”

35 trees

www.TreesCharlotte.org/ArborWeek

Arbor Week

JOIN TREESCHARLOTTE FOR OUR EIGHT-DAY CELEBRATION OF TREES

This year, North Carolina Arbor Day is Friday, March 18, but we’re making it a weeklong celebration with a series of events, including plantings, a City Wide Free TreeStore, launch of Keeping Watch on Air, networking and more. Over the course of eight days, we’ll plant or give more than 1,200 trees and another 2,500 seedlings!

Arbor Day is celebrated all over the world and the dates vary based on the planting season. In North Carolina, Arbor Day is held the first Friday after March 15.



Race FOR THE TREES

CHARLOTTE'S OLDEST ROAD RACE
CELEBRATES 30 YEARS

One of Charlotte's historic neighborhoods, established in 1907 and known for its lovely trees, celebrates the 30th anniversary of its road race on Saturday, March 19. The Elizabeth 8K is Charlotte's oldest road race – and many also say that it's one of the most enjoyable, due to the gorgeous scenery, historic homes and lush tree canopy along the route.

Beyond the USATF-certified 8K race, the event includes a 1.5-mile untimed run/walk and the Liz Kids' Fun Run for kids 6 and under. Wheelchairs and baby joggers are welcome. Participants receive a technical t-shirt, refreshments and beer after the race, as well as entertainment from the School of Rock and even an Elvis impersonator, a.k.a, the Big E. Hawthorne Pizza will host the awards ceremony after the race.

TreesCharlotte will also hold a TreeStore, giving away free trees to

Charlotte residents. All you need is proof of Charlotte residency. About 35 trees from different species will be on hand along with tree planting demonstrations.

Organized by a small, all-volunteer committee of Elizabeth residents and supported by the Elizabeth Community Association, the Elizabeth 8K has grown to nearly 800 runners last year – the vast majority from outside of the Elizabeth neighborhood, including participants from 10 or more different states across the country.

As the Elizabeth Community Association's largest fundraising activity, the Elizabeth 8K's proceeds are reinvested back into the community. "We have a long history of tree replenishment and neighborhood beautification initiatives within Elizabeth, which we are committed to

continuing," says Rob Zabel. "However, when I became the race director four years ago, I also saw an opportunity to expand our impact beyond Elizabeth and partnered with TreesCharlotte."

Ten percent of profits from the Elizabeth 8K are donated to TreesCharlotte to help expand Charlotte's tree canopy to 50% by 2050. The Elizabeth neighborhood will also be participating in a NeighborWoods planting on Feb. 27 along with the Grier Heights and Chantilly neighborhoods. The east side community tree planting event is generously sponsored by Wells Fargo.

For more information about the Elizabeth 8K and how to register, visit www.Elizabeth8K.com

Plant a Tree

AND LIVE FOREVER

ONE OF CHARLOTTE'S EARLIEST "TREE HUGGERS"
LIVES ON THROUGH TREES PLANTED IN HIS MEMORY

In 1977, Robin and Jim Cochran lived on Wendover Road – at the time, a quiet suburban two-lane road lined with majestic willow oaks. As part of the City of Charlotte's long-range transportation planning, Wendover Road would be widened to four lanes, requiring those gorgeous trees to come down, similar to what happened along Sharon Road a few years earlier.

Refusing to sit still one Monday morning as healthy trees were being cut down across the street, Jim and his 7-year-old son Webb tied themselves to their precious trees in protest, raising signs that read "Save the Neighborhood" and "Stop Concrete and Car Pollution." The protest drew plenty of media attention – TV crews flocked to the scene and the Charlotte Observer dubbed Jim a "tree hugger."

"The only thing we're trying to do is to not take this lying down," Cochran told an Observer reporter at the time.

"Our objective is to be a symbol to the city and state to start listening to what



people are saying about roads and saving trees."

In the end, public opposition encouraged city leaders to find ways to preserve most of the trees, many which remain to this day, shading the now four-lane road that runs along the Myers Park, Eastover and Cotswold neighborhoods.

Fourth Ward Park

"It was the beginning of people feeling like they had a voice about trees,"

says Robin, wife of Jim, who died in April 2014 after a long battle with multiple myeloma.

"In Charlotte, we're not near the water, but we

have trees. Now we need to preserve our trees.”

Jim went on to serve on the Charlotte Tree Advisory Commission, working with city leaders to preserve and advocate for Charlotte’s urban forest. Among the commission’s long list of tasks was educating the public about how to properly prune crape myrtles, Charlotte’s most prominent street tree, which frequently suffers from “crape murder” – the destructive topping off of the tree, making it

susceptible to disease and injury.

After TreesCharlotte launched in 2012, Jim volunteered with the organization and offered financial support, believing in its mission to expand Charlotte’s tree canopy and educate residents about how to properly care for their trees.

As a result of the Wendover Road expansion, traffic increased near the Cochrans’ home and they moved to the Fourth Ward, which Robin says is much quieter, in spite of being in the heart of Center City.

Since he passed away, a number of memorial trees have been planted in Jim’s honor – a Japanese cherry in Fourth Ward Park with

a brick memorial marker from Charlotte Parks and Recreation that blooms every January, a redbud from TreesCharlotte that is planted in Elmwood Cemetery near Jim’s marker and a Japanese maple at Umar Group Home in Aldersgate in East Charlotte that also came from TreesCharlotte. Jim’s daughter Bonnie lives there, and the tree planted in his honor includes a plaque that reads “Dim’s Tree” for what she called her father.

“Trees are a good way to keep him alive,” Robin says.

“You can give your money to all kinds of things, but trees were very important to him. It’s not like a wall that never changes. Trees keep growing – it’s a living legacy.”



Elmwood Cemetery



Aldersgate



Webb, Robin and Bonnie Cochran

For more information about TreesCharlotte memorial trees, visit www.TreesCharlotte.org/gift.

MASTER

of trees

VOLUNTEER SCOTT FOSTER PUTS HIS TREEMASTER CERTIFICATION TO WORK

In 2014, Bank of America business analyst Scott Foster was determined to find a way for his team to get involved in his company's sustainability efforts. After discovering TreesCharlotte online and reading about the organization, Scott says he found the perfect fit. "I thought it was a great – their purpose and mission was interesting, and it was a great way to get involved," he says.

Scott immediately knew that he didn't want to be a one-time volunteer. He enrolled in TreesCharlotte's TreeMasters certification program, in which volunteers learn about proper planting techniques through hands-on instruction. Although the two-and-a-half-hour course is free, certified TreeMasters must serve as volunteer leaders for a minimum of three planting events each season.

After getting certified, Scott got to work utilizing his new tree planting skills with events at Croft Community School, Sugar Creek Charter School and Garinger High School in the fall of 2014, and

continues to participate in eight or nine events every season – some as a TreeMaster, others as just a regular volunteer.

"TreesCharlotte is a great opportunity for the whole family to spend three or four hours together on a Saturday," says Scott. "The fact that children are welcome offers great exposure for kids to learn about trees." Scott even recruits his teammates at Bank of America to volunteer with him, creating a calendar at work for coworkers to sign up and prepping them for what to expect at the event.

Scott says that he enjoys seeing some of the same volunteers at each planting, which is like a family. "Dave always tells the volunteers that the most important thing is to



have fun and we do," Foster says. "It's structured, safe, and it starts and ends when we're told it will."

He encourages new volunteers to get involved, particularly as TreeMasters. "We all have different talents and interests so if you enjoy teaching and encouraging, TreesCharlotte provides those types of opportunities."

Get Involved

TreesCharlotte is currently recruiting volunteers to plant trees, deliver trees, prepare seedlings and document treasure trees. If you're interested in any of these opportunities, visit www.TreesCharlotte.org/volunteer and fill out the volunteer registration form.

Each year, Panther Creek Nursery sells more than 20,000 trees across the region. It is also one of four North Carolina growers that has partnered with TreesCharlotte to annually provide more than 5,000 container trees.

Panther Creek Nursery owner Bill Adams established the business in 1994 out of a need for large container-grown trees and shrubs to use in his landscape business. Today the family-operated business includes the management team of Alan Erwin, Eric Mizner, Laura Taylor and Brian Pucket, and produces plants and trees ranging in size from 3 to 100 gallons on 58 acres in central North Carolina.

Unlike some other plant nurseries, Panther Creek Nursery uses the pot-in-pot growing method, which results in less transplant shock and helps with a quick root establishment once planted in the ground. The

Rooted

FOR SUCCESS

PANTHER CREEK NURSERY PROVIDES
5,000 HIGH-QUALITY CONTAINER TREES
TO TREESCHARLOTTE

pot-in-pot method uses a socket pot in the ground along with a production pot that contains the tree set inside. The system was designed to provide better growing conditions for nursery production, resulting in better quality plant material, says Alan Erwin, Panther Creek Nursery manager.

The pot-in-pot method also increases availability of trees and larger-size shrubs throughout the year without the stress of field digging and problems of blow-over in a standard container-growing nursery. Combined with controlled-release fertilizer and drip

irrigation, the result is a superior plant, says Erwin.

Panther Creek Nursery specializes in unique varieties of trees and plants, including 15 different varieties of Japanese maples, 10 varieties of redbud and flowering apricot. Overall, it produces more than 250 cultivars.

“Some of the varieties we provide to TreesCharlotte are red maple, dogwood, oak, pistache, cherry, holly, persimmon, sassafras, redbud and Japanese maple,” says Erwin.

“TreesCharlotte has been great to work with. We hope to continue the partnership we have with them to accomplish the goal of putting well-grown trees in the Charlotte environment.”





A Canopy of KNOWLEDGE

TEACHING CHILDREN THE VALUE
OF TREES FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

A tree's branches can be a child's treasured hideout, but not all children know the vital benefits trees provide. TreesCharlotte is helping change that through a partnership with North Carolina Wildlife Federation's Great Outdoors University.

Great Outdoors University, also known as GoU, is a conservation-based experiential education program designed to bring life-

changing experiences to kids ages 6-18 who have limited opportunity to explore the natural world, says Mary Bures, manager of NCWF's Great Outdoors University. Through hands-on activities at neighborhood planting and local school events, the two groups are reaching out to Charlotte children to raise awareness about the benefits of trees.

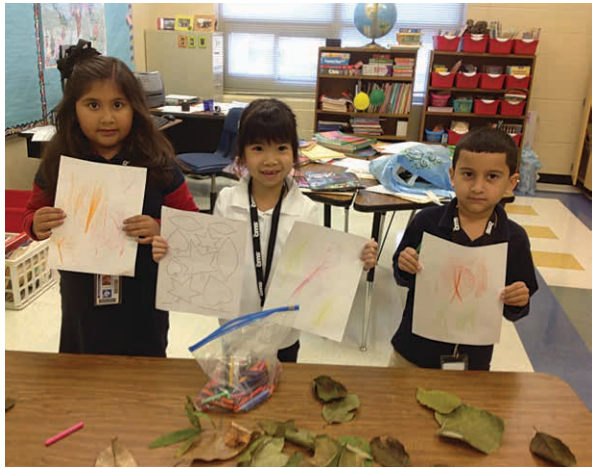
At neighborhood planting events, young participants have the

“By providing a better understanding, youth are better able to appreciate and value trees.”

opportunity to experience GoU's Tremendous Trees program through a variety of activity stations. One such station is Mystery Detectives, in which young explorers examine slices of a tree's trunk to find clues about the tree's growth.

“Providing opportunities for youth and their families to learn through engaging hands-on, mind-on activities about trees is a very important step in helping youth recognize, appreciate and value the important role trees have in our world,” says Bures. Providing children with greater knowledge and understanding is the first step, she says.

In addition to the neighborhood events, TreesCharlotte and GoU have hosted events at schools, including Thomasboro, Lake Wylie and Joseph W. Grier elementary schools, which complements the TreeChampions program and longstanding partnership between TreesCharlotte and CMS. In March, TreesCharlotte plans to visit Polo Ridge, Devonshire and Olde Providence elementary schools.



Science Night at Winget Park Elementary



*Woodbury
NeighborWoods Event*



*Woodbury
NeighborWoods Event*

By providing a better understanding, youth are better able to appreciate and value trees, says Bures. “TreeCharlotte’s work is extraordinary and vitally important to restoring

and retaining Charlotte’s tree canopy,” she says. “GoU is happy to have the opportunity to partner with them to help educate future generations.”

For more information about TreesCharlotte’s education programs, visit www.TreesCharlotte.org/volunteer/youth-focus

Keeping Watch ON AIR

ENVIRONMENTAL ALLIANCE TACKLES
CHARLOTTE'S AIR PROBLEMS

Over the course of a year, one large tree can provide enough oxygen for a family of four and absorb 10 pounds of air pollutants. In the past, Mecklenburg County has been in violation of air quality standards. The urban forest plays a crucial role in reversing this trend, which is why air and trees are the focus of this year's **KEEPING WATCH** series.

Launched in 2014 by UNC Charlotte, the **KEEPING WATCH ALLIANCE** is a coalition of cultural organizations, government entities and universities dedicated to highlighting environmental issues that directly impact Charlotte and educating and engaging the public. The 2014 series focused on plastics and recycling, and 2015 highlighted creeks and water quality.

KEEPING WATCH ON AIR runs from March 18 through May 28 featuring a variety of activities to educate and engage the Charlotte community, including art exhibits, public meetings, a film screening, tree walks and a festival.

Running March 4 through April 23, *Particle*

Falls is an animated light projection on the side of the UNC Charlotte Center City building that reveals the invisible particle pollution in surrounding air. Appearing as a waterfall-like cascade of light, the animation is generated with specialized software that visually translates in real time particulate matter readings from a nephelometer, a scientific instrument that gathers data about air pollution.

When pollution is present, bright bursts of color interrupt the steady flow of blue light. Viewing nights will be held near the site or at a viewing

area to discuss *Particle Falls* and the greater topic of air pollution and trees.

An opening reception for **KEEPING WATCH ON AIR** on North Carolina Arbor Day, will be held on Friday, March 18, from 6 to 8 p.m. at UNC Charlotte Center City. The reception will include an exhibition of work by six different artists and a variety of speakers.

Also at UNC Charlotte Center City, the Air and Trees Festival will be held on Saturday, April 16, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Part of the NC Science Festival, the event will offer hands-on activities, exhibits and demonstrations that educate the public about current challenges to our local air quality and tree canopy.

Over the weekend of May 6 to 8, Charlotte residents can learn more about trees through community and neighborhood walks, called "Jane's Walks."

For more information – including an updated schedule of events – visit www.keepingwatch.org.



Particle Falls



Making the

RIGHT CUT

AVOID DAMAGING YOUR TREES BY USING
PROPER PRUNING TECHNIQUES

In order for mature landscape trees to thrive, routine pruning is crucial. Improper pruning can damage a tree, ultimately shortening the tree's life. TreesCharlotte recommends that pruning of newly planted trees should be limited only to dead or dying branches. All other pruning should be withheld until the second or third year of growth.

WHEN TO PRUNE

Routine pruning that removes weak, diseased or dead limbs can be done anytime during the year. For healthy branch removal, growth and wound closure are maximized if pruning takes place before spring growth.

REASONS TO PRUNE

There should be a reason to remove any branch – the most common are to remove dead branches, improve form, reduce risk, and increase

light and air penetration. Routine thinning doesn't improve the health of a tree. In fact, heavy pruning can be highly stressful for a tree. However, pruning may be necessary for safety reasons, clearance or compatibility with other components of your landscape.

PROPER CUTS

Pruning cuts should be made just outside of the branch collar, which contains trunk or parent branch tissue and shouldn't be damaged or removed. If the limb is large, you may need to decrease its weight first to avoid tearing the bark. Make a cut about 12 to 18 inches from the limb's point of attachment. Then, remove the remaining stub by cutting back to the branch collar.

HOW MUCH TO PRUNE

In general, no more than 25% of the crown should be removed at once – less than that for mature trees. Removing even one large limb can result in significant canopy loss and create a wound that the tree may not be able to close. For this reason, you should minimize live branch loss and wound size.

HIRING AN ARBORIST

If pruning requires working above the ground or using power equipment, hire a professional arborist who can determine the type of pruning necessary and should also have the right safety equipment and liability insurance.

For more tree care tips, visit
www.TreesCharlotte.org/tree-education-resources

A Common Goal

TWO COMMONWEALTH NEIGHBORHOODS COME TOGETHER
TO HOST A NEIGHBORWOODS PLANTING EVENT

Established neighborhoods known for their bungalows and mature trees, Commonwealth-Morningside and Commonwealth Park in East Charlotte also include many older and dying trees and are at risk of eventually losing their precious tree canopy.

Last October, the two neighborhoods partnered with TreesCharlotte and its NeighborWoods program, ultimately giving away 150 trees to residents.

“We’re in an older neighborhood and many of our trees are dying,” says Commonwealth-Morningside Neighborhood Association president Jeannie Fennell.

In order for a neighborhood to be chosen for a NeighborWoods event, TreesCharlotte requires that a minimum number of trees must be given away. So the two neighborhoods worked together to bring in more residents. Participating neighborhoods must appoint leaders to help organize and promote the event along with TreesCharlotte.

“We publicized at neighborhood meetings, put out flyers, sent email blasts and even knocked on doors to let people

know about the event,” says Jeannie.

On a sunny Saturday in late October, residents learned about the tree species available and proper planting techniques. Each household could receive up to three trees, typically six to 10 feet in height, and signed a stewardship pledge form committing to care for them.

“The trees they provided were beautiful, healthy and came in a variety of sizes, because not everyone wants a tall tree,” Jeannie says.

At the end of the event, the few remaining trees were planted on the grounds of Commonwealth Methodist Church, where neighborhood association meetings are held.

The NeighborWoods planting event brought two neighborhoods together, ultimately building a stronger community.

“TreesCharlotte is a wonderful organization,” says Jeannie. “I would definitely encourage other neighborhoods to do it. It’s a win for everybody.”



Interested in organizing a NeighborWoods event for your neighborhood? Encourage your neighborhood leadership to come to a NeighborWoods Pre-Application Workshop on March 1, 14 and 31. For more information, visit www.TreesCharlotte.org/neighborwoods

STEWARDS

of the canopy

LONG AFTER THE TREES ARE PLANTED, TREESCHARLOTTE VOLUNTEERS CONTINUE TO CARE FOR THEM

In order to achieve 50% tree canopy by 2050, TreesCharlotte not only has to plant a half-million trees, but also ensure their survival for decades to come. The TreeSteward program exists for this very reason, enlisting volunteers to monitor the health of and care for more than 14,000 trees that TreesCharlotte has planted since its launch in 2012.

TreeStewards help communicate tree care messages and maintain a sense of community after a NeighborWoods planting event, managing the list of tree recipients in their neighborhood and send reminders regarding proper care and maintenance. Although their role is crucial, TreeStewards don't need expertise in tree care – only to commit to engaging residents in tree care and managing communications with TreesCharlotte.

TreesCharlotte stewardship coordinator Stefanie Hedrick, who started with TreesCharlotte last September, works with TreeStewards following NeighborWoods planting events to assess the health of trees, many in individual yards.

Stefanie contacts the TreeStewards to notify neighborhood residents that she will be visiting their property to inspect the health of each tree planted and note any issues. She also helps answer questions that tree recipients have about how to properly care for their trees.

“We are collecting this data to determine the tree survival rate, the best tree species to give out at events and anything else that would improve the success rate of trees being planted,” says Stefanie.

One TreeSteward will be responsible for up to 75



Stewardship Coordinator Stefanie Hedrick

trees or around 25 houses. Most NeighborWoods events require two or more TreeStewards.

“Getting neighborhood residents to water and mulch around their trees is the biggest challenge,” says Stefanie. TreesCharlotte recommends watering newly planted trees once a week during normal conditions and mulching trees about two to three inches deep.

CHARLOTTE TREE SURVEY

We want to hear from you! The City of Charlotte and TreesCharlotte are developing a master plan that will be a “playbook” for Charlotte’s trees. The plan will guide management decisions and help ensure that Charlotte remains the City of Trees for generations to come. Citizen input is crucial to the development of the plan. Be on lookout for opportunities to share your thoughts about Charlotte’s trees in the coming months.



Bark splitting due to the Emerald Ash Borer

Hidden DANGERS

INVASIVE SPECIES SHOWS THE
IMPORTANCE OF TREE DIVERSITY

by Patrick Anderson,
*Board-Certified Master Arborist
and TreesCharlotte TreeMaster*

In 2013, one of the most destructive tree pests ever recorded in American history, the emerald ash borer, was detected in North Carolina. Emerald ash borer, or EAB, gets its name from two traits: its green iridescent coloring and the fact that its primary food source is ash tree species.

The emerald ash borer is native to Eastern Asia. First discovered in Detroit in 2002, the insect has since spread to 24 states and Canada. The latest research suggests that EAB was imported by way of packing material from China delivered to Detroit.

EAB attacks and, in most cases, eventually kills all species of native North American ash it encounters. It has recently been found attacking a second host, our native white fringe tree.

In North Carolina, EAB has been detected in a number of counties, including Lincoln, Catawba and Iredell, prompting a statewide quarantine.

ASH TREES

The implications of the emerald ash borer are huge. Millions of ash trees have been killed nationwide, and millions more are likely to perish. There are approximately 43 species of arthropods that feed exclusively on ash trees. Decline in ash tree population means these species may face extinction.

The ash tree is a very popular landscape tree in much of the country. Thousands of miles of roadways have been planted with ash trees. Not only are the aesthetic and environmental benefits

lost when an ash tree is killed by EAB, but standing dead ash trees could lead to property damage and personal injury.

METHOD OF DESTRUCTION

Damage is actually caused by the larvae of the emerald ash borer. After adults mate in the spring, they lay eggs on the bark of ash trees. Larvae hatch from their eggs, bore through the outer bark and begin feeding directly on the vascular system of the tree. Their feeding galleries begin to effectively girdle host trees. As populations of insects increase in the tree, more and more of the tree's vascular system is injured. Eventually the tree succumbs to the damage and dies within as little as five years.



D-Shaped Exit Holes



S-Shaped Galleries



Emerald Ash Borer

EARLY DETECTION

Thankfully, there are some telltale signs of the emerald ash borer attack that may be used as detection tools. Emerald ash borers begin their invasion on new hosts in the tree’s crown, usually on limbs ranging from two to four inches in diameter. Looking for areas of bark splitting and woodpecker activity are important symptoms for early detection.

As the EAB infestation progresses, thinning of the canopy becomes more noticeable. Larva feeding creates S-shaped galleries just under the bark that are characteristically packed with frass, or wood excrement. As adult emerald ash borers emerge, they create distinctive D-shaped exit

holes. In advanced stages of infestation, mortality of large limbs combined with trunk sprouts can be observed.

NORTH CAROLINA

Ash tree species constitute about 2% of North Carolina forests. Although that doesn’t sound like much, it represents more than 2 million trees. While this will certainly have repercussions for the future of our forests, we are lucky that ash trees were never heavily planted as ornamental trees in the Carolinas. We won’t be experiencing the mass tree mortality or tree removals that changed the veneer of landscapes in other areas of the country. The emerald ash borer is a reminder

why planting a diverse variety of trees is so crucial.

In Charlotte, we find most ash trees growing along our creeks. From a tree management standpoint, we have the advantage of drawing upon over a decade of EAB management experience nationwide.

There are many control options available for homeowners and landscape managers to cost effectively prevent EAB from attacking and harming trees.

RESOURCES

[EmeraldAshBorer.info](http://www.ncforestservice.gov) is the go-to resource for the latest information on EAB. The North Carolina Forest Service website (www.ncforestservice.gov) has good information and outlines the statewide quarantine. If you have ash trees on your property, a local qualified arborist can assist you with EAB management decisions.

For more information about the emerald ash borer and other ways to protect trees from harm, visit TreesCharlotte.org/tree-education-resources

Patrick Anderson is a Board-Certified Master Arborist with Rainbow Treecare Scientific Advancements and a key contributor to TreesCharlotte as an arborist advisor, founding TreeMaster and consultant on the TreeMaster 2.0 initiative.



A LIVING Legacy

TREESCHARLOTTE ESTABLISHES AN ENDOWMENT FUND TO PLANT AND CARE FOR TREES FOR DECADES TO COME

An old Chinese proverb says that the best time to plant a tree is 20 years ago. The second best time is now.

In the same sense, the time to plan for the future of TreesCharlotte is now. The needs of our urban forest for replenishment and stewardship are permanent. As more trees are planted, it's crucial that they continue to be cared for in generations to come.

"Charlotte's tree canopy is iconic and for all time. The permanence of the urban forest calls for a permanent steward for continuous tree replenishment and tree care," says Dave Cable, executive director of TreesCharlotte.

ENDOWMENT FUND

TreesCharlotte has established the Living Legacy

Endowment Fund to provide support for the operations needed for tree planting and care of our urban forest in perpetuity. The fund goal is \$10+ million.

The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation has made a \$2 million leadership commitment that provides TreesCharlotte with an exciting opportunity: \$1 million of the \$2 million is a 1:1 challenge grant that will match every donation of the first million dollars raised. This endowment allows for other future donations and sponsorships to more effectively accomplish the mission of TreesCharlotte.

Ultimately, once the endowment is fully funded, TreesCharlotte would be able to cover the annual expense of planting trees through the interest earned

“Unless we do something, we'll have fewer trees. We need to take a Charlotte treasure and not only maintain it, but enhance it for the benefit of all.”

rather than raising operating funds year after year.

THE FUTURE OF CHARLOTTE'S TREES

"Look out your window and think what would Charlotte be like with fewer or no trees," says Rolfe Neill, TreesCharlotte board member and co-chair of the Endowment Campaign along with Thrus Morton. "Unless we do something, we'll have fewer trees. We need to take a Charlotte

treasure and not only maintain it, but enhance it for the benefit of all.”

As Charlotte’s population continues to grow – and become denser – the pressure on the environment is increasing. “For livability, it’s important that we plan for trees,” says Rolfe. “Trees are dying – being cut down due to commercial development, billboards and some necessary reasons, but also other careless reasons. The death of trees goes on daily, so that’s why we need to plant a half-million trees, and we will.”

TreesCharlotte continues to plant thousands of trees of every variety each year, and if they’re properly cared for, the hope is that they will outlive us.

Educating Charlotte residents and youth about the importance of trees and proper tree care is an essential piece of TreesCharlotte’s mission. “Our job is to plant trees and maintain them, but also to educate our citizens so they will appreciate the value and become champions themselves,” says Rolfe.

WAYS TO GIVE

TreesCharlotte is a lean, efficient, highly effective collaborative, and the demand to plant trees is nearly endless. It simply boils down to having the proper amount of resources to buy trees and support volunteer planting and tree care efforts. The more you donate, the more trees

TreesCharlotte is able to plant and care for.

We offer a variety of ways for you to contribute to the ongoing mission of TreesCharlotte and help us achieve our goal of 50% tree canopy by 2050. TreesCharlotte is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, and all donations are tax-deductible.

You can donate money by using the envelope included in this newsletter or

online at www.TreesCharlotte.org/support-us.

We also appreciate stock donations, which can be done online or by contacting Donor Relations at Foundation for the Carolinas, which oversees stock gifts, at 704-973-4529 or donorrelations@fftc.org. Naming TreesCharlotte in your will or living trust is another way for your legacy to live on through Charlotte’s tree canopy.



HONORARY GARDEN AT FREEDOM PARK

On ground made available by the Mecklenburg County, the Honorary Garden at Freedom Park will open this spring, celebrating Charlotte’s tree canopy and recognizing TreesCharlotte major donors. Adjacent to the bandshell on the hillside, the circular shaped seating area will feature a large, mature ginkgo tree as the centerpiece, which is known for its display of rich golden leaves in the fall. Pebbles fashioned in circles around the tree will be made to look like tree rings. The names of donors who have contributed \$5,000 or more will be engraved on leaves that will be on large stone slabs surrounding the seating area. Stay tuned for the unveiling, which is slated for early May.

For more information about the Living Legacy Endowment Fund and to learn about different ways to contribute, visit www.TreesCharlotte.org/support-us

Founding

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 by 2050. To contribute,
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TreesCharlotte by the NUMBERS

SINCE ITS LAUNCH IN 2012 UNTIL THE END OF 2015, HERE'S A LOOK AT THE NUMBER OF TREES TREESCHARLOTTE HAS PLANTED BY PROJECT TYPE.



Schools: **5,674**



NeighborWoods: **5,535**



Faith Campuses & Other: **1,417**



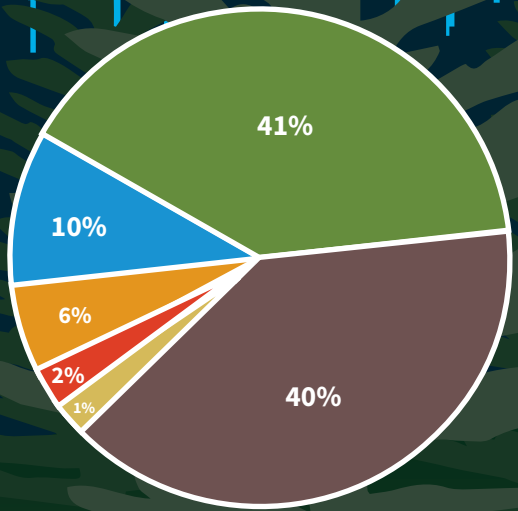
Housing Projects: **914**



Parks: **248**



Stewardship Events: **103**



12,296 SEEDLINGS WERE GIVEN AWAY TO CHARLOTTE RESIDENTS, IN ADDITION TO THE TREES PLANTED AT VARIOUS EVENTS.



86 PROJECTS



6,209 VOLUNTEERS





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