

December 15, 2021

ZOOM CATS Membership Meeting

Attendance. 43

President: Barbara White

Barbara welcomed everyone to our last membership meeting of 2021. This meeting will include an introduction of the Board members to be voted on for 2022 and summaries of all activities and accomplishments of the past year.

President-elect: Robin Hanes

Robin introduced nominee for President-Elect JoAnn Dalley and nominee for Secretary Alison Brill. She then turned the voting process over to Mary Spear who with the help of Tim, set up voting on Zoom. Both nominees were elected unanimously.

President's End of the Year Report: Barbara White

Barbara congratulated newly elected Board members and thanked the 2021 Board members.

She then listed a summary of Administration Accomplishments:

Developed a code of conduct for CATS Members

Created a Finance Committee to assist the Treasurer

Completed the update of the Organization Document and CATS By-Laws

Participated in the Trees Virginia Tree Steward Symposium via ZOOM with several members attending. Three CATS representatives gave presentations.

June pot luck picnic held at Emmanuel Episcopal Church adjacent to a Landmark White Oak Tree

Celebrated CATS Founder's Day in person October Membership meeting. Having been planted earlier, a hackberry tree was dedicated and a plaque was installed with names of the Founders and First Board Members.

Memorial Tree-A donation was received from a member of the public with a request to plant a tree in memory of Beryl Solla, a professor of Art at PVCC. A Southern Magnolia was planted adjacent to the PVCC Art Department building and a Tree Steward member volunteered to visit the tree regularly for watering and maintenance

Improved the CATS logo with improved color formatting

Continued to provide membership and committee meetings on ZOOM

Communications: Penny Kasierlian Martha Orton

Public mailing list grew to 938 in December with 62 new people from out of state now taking ZOOM classes.

Promotions: Because there were few in-person events to promote in 2021, there was no advertising and only one table event in Fluvanna County. However, this loss was made up with outreach through social media and email promotions for our Training Class, free ZOOM classes, walks and tree sales. Because Martha and Robert Orton gave monthly donations to Charlottesville Community Engagement, CATS received much community outreach including shout-outs to nine CATS events which resulted in 954 to 1,475 views per topic.

Martha continues as liaison between all the Virginia Tree Steward groups and Trees Virginia. She keeps members informed and updated with activities/ opportunities of Trees Virginia

Facebook: Martha highlights CATS events and draws attention to relevant articles about Trees. Through her efforts, our Facebook followers have increased from 720 to over 940.

Website: Bill Sublette wrote 11 lengthy blog posts with photographs for the home page of the Website. Penny updated with news of free tree walks and classes, the Fall Training Class, Information on upcoming member meetings, minutes of meetings, and library news. A “Donate” button was added to the front page.

Email Blasts: Libby Gretz sent 16 blasts to the CATS membership, and Penny K sent 12 mailings to the public mailing list

Despite COVID-19, there were 128 paid members in 2021

Treasury: Michelle Cormier

Michelle transferred our accounting to QuickBooks early in 2021.

In the year 2021-	Grants	\$7,685.00
	Donations	5,500.00
	Dues	2,560.00
	Tree Sales	5,770.00
	Expenses	<u>19,000.00</u>
	Surplus	7,000.00
	Balance	\$28,790.00

Education: Tim Maywalt Mary Spear

Major accomplishments:

CATS completed the revision of the Tree Steward Training class to a hybrid format. This format includes on-line sessions that students take on their own time but with a schedule to follow. Following the online sessions is an in-person field exercise to complement the previous two class sessions. 32 students registered and 26 students graduated.

OLLI Class Spring 2021. A very successful class titled “Tree Blindness” was developed and presented by the following members: Phyllis Johansen (team leader), Martha Orton, Rachel Keen, Tom Wild, Kathy Nepote, and Allen Ingling. Topics were: Trees and Forests Ecology, The Social Life of Trees, Benefits of Trees to Humans, Trees Effect on Mother Nature, Threats to Trees, and Solutions to Threats.

Membership Meetings: Education hosted 11 guest speakers for members’ continuing education.

Tree Basics: 12 classes offered via ZOOM which attracted wider audience, including those outside the immediate area

Tree Walks: 4 individual walks 2 x week. One for the public and one for CATS members only.

SmugMug: After research, set up for CATS members

Notable Trees and Arbor Day: Robin Hanes

2021 saw a loss of several Notable Trees:

White Oak at Emmanuel Church. This was the first Landmark Tree and some said it was 400 years old. The June membership picnic was held at this site before the tree came down.

Branchland Pecan Tree-the tree was diseased and removed.

Landmark Pin Oak at Albemarle County office- in fall of 2021, much of the tree broke away and fell over. The trunk will remain to show the enormous size of the tree that was said to "glow".

Landmark Tree Bur/Post Oak at Maplewood Cemetery-Was celebrated at Arbor Day 2021 and later lost much of the tree to disease.

Arbor Day Celebration-Walker School. Led by Camille Wilson and teacher Nancy Smith.

Students participated by talking about individual trees located on the school alee. Local television covered this event.

Projects: Kathy Nepote

2021 Projects (many reoccurring)

Pruning: John Warner Parkway.	Monticello Gateway
Crozet Park	Berkmar Drive
Azalea Park	CATS Grove
Coal Tower	VDOF

Invasive Clearing

North East Park	Jackson Burley School
Azalea Park	Jackson- Via School
CATS Grove	Schenks Branch

Ste Maintenance

CATS Grove.	Ivy Creek
Greenleaf Park	Jackson-Via School
VDOF	Barracks Road

Tree Planting

Jackson-Via (3)	Pleasant Valley
Chestnut nuts at Tufton Farms	
Memorial Tree (1)	10 th & Page (13)
Darden Towe (37)	

Special Project-10th & Page Street: Kendra Hall

Driven by a donation of \$2500 from the Caplin Foundation in early 2021, outreach was made in this area with the objective being to increase tree canopy. Due to several different factors, this project got a slow start but the neighborhood has responded and 13 trees have been planted to date with additional plantings planned for early 2022. The CATS Board has authorized an additional \$1500 to keep the momentum of this project moving forward as CATS and CTC coordinate efforts towards the 2022 ReLeaf Charlottesville Project.

Tree Nursery

Planting parties held spring and fall

Spring tree sale for members only-304 trees sold

Fall tree sale at Tufton Farm-285 tree sold

Trees Virginia Mini grant received-covered purchase of soil, pots, trees and other supplies for nursery and tree sales

Membership dues are due in December. Libby will be sending out email to members.

Report hours on Track It Forward

Barbara handed off the gavel of President to Robin.

In accepting the Presidency, Robin gave a tribute to outstanding volunteers over the years-Allen Ingling and Kathy Nepote. Robin expressed deep thanks for all the tireless help and workmanship that Allen gave so generously in setting up the nursery's structure as well as building a soil bin, gates, watering mechanisms, hoses, and in general making our nursery a nurturing and protected environment for our little trees. She also pointed out how he rigged up a watering truck in order to get water to many of our tree plantings and that he used his licensing to dig holes for the Belmont projects.

Kathy serves on Education and Projects committees, chairing Projects. She is at every project, bringing tools and whatever else is needed for that particular day. And no one leaves a project without some of Kathy's homemade wholesome cookies and other delicious treats. She is ready to help whoever needs another hand.

Allen and Kathy's commitment to Tree Stewards has always been unwavering

Next meeting:

January 26, 2022

Special Projects: 10 and Page Street Tree Plantings: Kendra Hall