

CATS Membership Meeting via Zoom, May 18, 2022, 9:30-11:00 am
Attendance: 45

Speaker: Steven Matthews, Associate Professor, The Ohio State University School of Environment and Natural Resources. Professor Matthews spoke on “The Climate Change Tree Atlas: A Tool to Explore Potential Responses of Central Virginia’s Forests.”

Along with partner individuals and organizations, Professor Matthews is a key contributor to The Climate Change Tree Atlas, a vast data repository that exists to assist land managers, foresters, national park administrators, timber harvesters and the like in their planning for trees and forests into the future in light of climate change (<https://www.fs.fed.us/nrs/atlas/tree/>). The data include historical and current tree movements; information on shifting weather patterns; evidence of changing pests; data on increased and decreased moisture, temperature, and weather pattern extremes; and allied data to predict the likely success of 125 species of trees in the Eastern U.S. as ecosystem stressors continue to impact the planet.

The data compiled by the Climate Change Tree Atlas shows that climate change has already altered the makeup of Eastern forests. The growing season is now about 2 weeks longer than in the past century, for example, and is predicted to extend by another 10-30 days by the end of this hundred years. The data can be manipulated to model which tree species might be most adaptable to altering ecosystem conditions, or to improve conditions for native species to survive, or to illustrate the possibility of future tree colonization, or in any of numerous ways to better understand and plan for the success of forests into the future.

Professor Matthews demonstrated one way the data can be manipulated with the Sugar Maple and Balsam. Using approximately 20 characteristics of each species, such as abundance over time, resistance to fire, drought tolerance, shade tolerance, altitude range, pest resistance, etc. he illustrated the likelihood of each species’ colonization in the future (the Sugar Maple’s is high while the Balsam’s is low). Examples specific to Central Virginia from the data include predicted species changes such as: the Chestnut Oak, abundant today and predicted to only slightly decline; the Birch, not abundant presently and will likely decline; and the Water Oak, abundant further south and will potentially colonize northward into Virginia.

Business Meeting:

Announcements: President Robin Hanes

Robin thanked everyone who helped and attended the Arbor Day celebrations this year. She encouraged folks who were not able to be there on the actual day to visit the four trees which CATS members planted at Sojourners Church, in addition to the big American Elm there, and to hike up to the Boundary Oak at Mint Springs Park.

The annual picnic is June 15. Invitations will arrive by email. Members should contact Kathy Nepote if they can come. Please let Kathy know about any mobility issues and which of the proposed times work best.

The plan is to begin at the Airport Oak in Earlysville inside the fence for a closeup and personal visit to The Tree. Afterwards, members will gather at Chris Greene Park at a reserved shelter.

The City of Charlottesville is studying the Fifth Street Extended corridor due to safety issues. Trees are generally thought to have a calming effect.

Treasurer's Report: Michelle Cormier

CATS is keeping a prudent reserve of \$20,000.

In addition to the prudent reserve, CATS has:

\$7000	savings account
\$6500	checking account

In May, CATS spent \$1,187 filing taxes. This includes the accountant's fee.

May has been a quiet month, but CATS did receive two \$50 donations via PayPal.

At this point, the SurveyMonkey situation is that CATS has been able to cancel its subscription but not to obtain a refund of the \$1,260 fee. CATS is awaiting SurveyMonkey's final decision. If the decision is not in CATS's favor, the organization will still be in good shape financially.

Communications: Robin Hanes for Penny Kaiserlian and Libby Gretz

Neither Penny or Libby could attend the membership meeting today. Penny asked Robin to relay that there is not much current news as far as the Communications committee is concerned.

Libby asked Robin to remind members to enter their volunteer hours into TIF. Hours totals are due at the end of May.

Projects Committee: Kathy Nepote

Kathy noted that with the warmer weather there are few projects.

Two days were recently spent at Pleasant Grove at the experimental Chestnut plot, helping to tend the young trees.

There have also been two potting parties at the CATS nursery.

Saturday, folks may meet at the CATS nursery to weed the smaller trees. The weather is predicted to be hot – please bring water.

See TIF for an upcoming invasives control project.

Robin is asking for used pots that are 2-3 gallons, no smaller. Please leave them by the nursery gate, or at her house, or leave them at 1709 E Market St, on the porch.

Education: Tim Maywalt and Mary Spear

There is no monthly speaker in June because of the annual membership picnic.

June 14 at 7:00 via Zoom, Rachel Keen will present her talk (premiered at OLLI) on the Social Life of Trees. Sign up to receive the Zoom link.

Additional tree walks will be announced in upcoming emails.

The Committee is continuing its work on preparing for the Fall 2022 Tree Stewards class. There will be separate emails asking people to volunteer to help with the class. It's fun to do, and essential to making the class successful.

Watch your email for more new workshops.

Upcoming talks (first presented at OLLI) continue in July with Tom Wild. Members can sign up on the website – look for “Take a Class” and sign up using Eventbrite.

*** Please note that there is no membership meeting in July. ***

Respectfully submitted,
Alison Brill