

CATS Membership Meeting via Zoom, July 27, 2022, 9:30-11:00 am

Attendance: 50

Speaker: Tom Wild, whose talk was entitled, “Forest Ecology: Why Do the Woods Look the Way They Do?”

This month’s presentation by Tom Wild was recorded to use as one of the modules for the 2022 CATS training class. Mr. Wild reviewed the basic tenets of forest ecology, including species distribution and biomes, canopy structure, and forest succession, emphasizing the factors that create any particular forest ecosystem.

His presentation can be accessed on the CATS online learning platform, Moodle. Moodle contains Tom's presentation, and over twenty others by VDoF experts, university professors and arborists. Members wishing to refresh their tree skills and knowledge may contact Emily Ferguson at emily.ferguson@gmail.com to obtain the Moodle login credentials.

Business Meeting:

Announcements: President Robin Hanes

Robin noted that The Grove held up well after the last big storm.

The CATS nursery, too, is holding up well, although the insect pests have found some of the trees.

This fall’s tree sale will take place on October 1 at the Department of Forestry.

Robin wanted to thank the team doing the watering at the CATS nursery this summer.

Treasurer’s Report: Robin Hanes for Michelle Cormier

There were two \$50 donations this month and one other member paid their dues.

Account balances as of today:

\$5,300	Checking
\$32,000	Money Market

Communications: Penny Kaserlian

The fall 2022 CATS training class is full and has a wait list.

Promotions for the training class were via a mailing to our public email list, which now numbers approximately 1100.

Robin has arranged to have CATS bumper stickers printed.

Projects Committee: Kathy Nepote

It has been too hot to be outside doing projects in July.

The projects committee meeting in September and those on into the fall will be looking at many ways to get involved.

Albemarle County Fair is this week. CATS plans to have a table. Please contact Kendra or sign up via TIF if you are interested in volunteering.

The 2022 training class will be planting at Darden Towe around the dog park on November 5. Contact Kathy if you would be interested in helping.

There is a grant in the works for funding to plant trees at Mint Springs Park and, potentially, also at Riverview Park. Robin will be checking with the City agency in charge of the area at Riverview where the Buddhist group would like to begin planting.

JoAnn added that she and Toine had taken a group of 13-14 year-old Quaker youth to The Grove to weed and that it went well.

Barbara announced that there will be a work day at VDoF before the fall tree sale so the area looks nice. (As an aside: the VDoF at Fontaine is applying to become a certified arboretum.)

Education: Tim Maywalt and Mary Spear

There's a new tree walk tomorrow in Belmont to be led by three newly minted Tree Stewards.

Class for the 2022 training begins on Monday with a welcome letter and background information. Orientation on Zoom happens August 9, and the first field session is August 27 at Ivy Creek.

If people are interested in volunteering to help with the training class, they can look at TIF to see what topics class covers on what dates, if that matters. Last year, more than 40 CATS members volunteered during the training classes.

Part of preparation for the fall tree sale is presentation of the Tree Basics class, which will be virtual during the evening of September 20, regarding selecting, planting, and caring for trees; sign up at the website.

CATS skips membership and board meetings in August.

The speaker for the next membership meeting on September 21 at 9:30 a.m. will be Steven Spurlock, manager of Bremono Trees, a local wholesale nursery.

In answer to the question of whether membership meetings will be recorded, board members prefer to remain live so that CATS folks will be in attendance for the presenters and may also participate in the business part of the meetings.

Respectfully submitted,
Alison Brill