

CATS Membership Meeting via Zoom, March 29, 2023, 9:30-11:00 am

Attendance: 57

Speakers: Joan Maloof, PhD, Founder and Sarah Adloo, Executive Director of the Old Growth Forest Network who discussed the work their and allied organizations are carrying out in the effort to protect old growth forests around the U.S.

In lieu of a summary of the March presentation, a video of that presentation will be posted online soon. The location and when it will be posted may be announced at the membership meeting on Wednesday, April 26.

Business Meeting:

President's Announcements: JoAnn Dalley

JoAnn read a draft of a land acknowledgement that is being considered by the CATS Board of Directors for inclusion in various CATS materials.

***The motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the minutes from the February membership meeting.**

JoAnn reported that she went to a meeting on the Downtown Mall with Steve Gaines, Charlottesville's urban forester, to see the areas where trees have been removed and to hear Mr. Gaines' explanations of why each of the trees needed to be taken down. Anyone wishing to know more about the Mall tree removal is welcome to contact JoAnn.

JoAnn wrote a letter on behalf of CATS supporting reinstatement of \$75,000 to the Charlottesville city budget for invasive species removal. She has heard that the City received many such letters but what the City Council will end up doing is still unknown. If anyone feels moved to speak at a Council meeting on behalf of the line item for removal of invasives, they should do so in their capacity as a private citizen.

Incoming President's Report: Gregg Korbon

No report this month.

Past President's Report: Robin Hanes

Robin announced that the Catalpa at McIntire Park will be where CATS celebrates Arbor Day this year.

The CATS tree sale happens on April 15. There will be 500 trees for sale this year. Any member with a pickup truck who is willing to help move the trees from the nursery to the sale site is urged to contact Robin.

Robin informed the membership of the reduction in rent charged to CATS by the VDoF – from \$100 per month to \$200 per year.

Treasurer’s Report: Michelle Cormier

As of today, CATS’s finances consist of:

| | |
|----------|-----------------|
| \$15,970 | working capital |
| \$25,000 | prudent reserve |

Year-to-date income as of today: \$11,040, including grants from the Caplin Fund for the project at 10th and Page. CATS has also secured grants in the amount of \$3,225 for planting 26 trees at Chris Greene Lake Park.

Year-to-date expenses:

| | |
|---------|--|
| \$1,030 | nursery and tree sale |
| \$1,660 | administration, including donations to Ivy Creek and the Old Growth Forest Network |
| \$500 | technology |

CATS has gained \$710 of donations from the Eventbrite donation button YTD.

Michelle reported that there have been two sizeable donations of \$500 and \$600 so far this year.

Michelle asked anyone wondering about whether they paid their 2023 dues to contact her.

JoAnn added that CATS donated a large white oak and two smaller ones Ivy Creek for their new landscaping project.

Communications Committee: Mary Spear

The next membership meeting is scheduled for April 18. The speaker is Jill Trishman-Marks, Executive Director of the Botanical Garden of the Piedmont. She will talk about the plans and work being done in the Garden.

Tim’s and Emily’s classes are filling rapidly. Please see the calendar at the website and sign up as soon as information is posted or released via an email. This is especially important since our announcements are being included by other organizations as well, such as the Piedmont Master Gardeners, etc.

Mary and her team are trying to reactivate the blog on the CATS website; she requested photos from events if anyone has them and is willing to share. The blog will link to the CATS's social media (with 230 followers on Instagram and 908 on Facebook). The team is attempting to use social media to drive traffic to the CATS website.

New tabling opportunities are listed on TIF. Interested parties should contact Anne Benham.

There will be a CATS advertisement in **C'ville Weekly** the first week of April announcing the upcoming tree sale. CATS will also have a day sponsorship on public radio which will run several tree sale announcements one day that week.

Jean Umiker-Sebeok added that the Charlottesville Tree Commission plans to give away 100 redbuds on April 22 at the Downtown Mall and the IX Park market. Email Jean for volunteering opportunities.

Projects Committee: Kathy Nepote

Kathy reported that the past month has been very busy, with many volunteers stepping up to work on projects. Some of the things that were done include spending a morning educating the new Piedmont Master Gardener class about trees and pruning, pruning at Greenleaf Park, planting 26 trees at Chris Greene Lake Park (which included 20 students from the UVA forestry club), a potting party at the nursery with so many volunteers that there had to be two shifts, thinning 32 trees from The Grove, and consulting at Ivy Creek where the invasives have been removed (which will entail return trips as the remaining landscape matures).

The Committee does not have a lot planned for April because of the tree sale commitment.

Education Committee: Barbara Monfort

Barbara recognized Emily and Tim for their great work in public education.

There was a training on March 19 for folks interested in becoming tree walk leaders. Of 19 attendees, 6 want to mentor, 2 wish to assist other leaders, 10 want to assist in order to learn to learn more about leading, and 1 is uncommitted at this time.

There were two well-attended tree basics classes in March, which also garnered \$80 in donations.

Tree Commission Report: Jean Umiker-Sebeok

Jean wanted the CATS membership to know that the Tree Commission is diligently working on the Charlottesville code rewrite. The Commission believes the new codes will be the most important thing influencing Charlottesville's tree canopy for the foreseeable future. She urged City residents to reach out to the City Council in support of tree protection measures for the new codes.

New and Continuing Matters: JoAnn Dalley

JoAnn reminded the membership that the next membership meeting is scheduled for April 19 and the next board meeting occurs April 3.

She also encouraged folks to read the CATS Code of Conduct that was recently sent to the membership in an email and will be posted on the website shortly.

Respectfully submitted,

Alison Brill