

CATS Membership Meeting via Zoom, July 19, 2023, 9:30-11:00 am EST

Attendance: 40

Before the meeting, the membership discussed whether recording the membership meetings is viable. There are several complications, both technical and related to speakers' preferences, so this issue remains open and, most probably, *ad hoc*.

Members were reminded that there is no member meeting in August.

Speaker: Professor Carolyn Copenheaver, Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation, Virginia Tech. Her talk was entitled, "Tree-related Microhabitats: Indicators of Biodiversity."

Professor Copenheaver's expertise is in tree-related microhabitats and what these observations indicate regarding biodiversity in the tree's area. Relatively new to the U.S, these methods are more widely used in Europe to identify species richness in order to put conservation efforts into the most biodiverse sites. It is a way to measure biodiversity quickly and easily without an army of experts. Observations of different numbers and types of tree cavities, injuries, deadwood, and deformations, and the presence of epiphytes, nests, and other features yield macro level data that are immediately relevant.

Business Meeting:

**President's Announcements:** JoAnn Dalley

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

JoAnn announced that a documentary film about the efforts to bring back the American Chestnut, *Clear Day Thunder*, will be shown July 27 at PVCC.

Two CATS members have signed up to become trainers in the Project Learning Tree program, an environmental learning program for children pre-k through 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

JoAnn wanted everyone to know that the tee-shirts are now stored at Alison's house. Contact her if you need any.

Kathy did a very nice interview with *C'ville*; JoAnn thanked her for that.

JoAnn mentioned as a matter of interest that the Master Naturalists have adopted a land acknowledgement similar to the one CATS has adopted.

**Incoming President's Report:** Gregg Korbon

No report.

**Past President's Report:** Robin Hanes

No report.

**Treasurer's Report:** Michelle Cormier

Current finances:

Checking: \$5,029

Money market: 40,138

Income YTD: \$21,640

Expenses YTD: 14,572

Surplus: \$7,071

Donations last month amounted to \$800. Otherwise, activity in June was minimal.

**Education Committee:** Barbara Monfort

Barbara reported that the new training class is full and ready to go. Classes begin in August. An email will be sent out asking for volunteer assistance with the field trips.

Upcoming tree walks include Preddy Creek, American Chestnut in Nelson County, Darden Towe, and (hopefully) a fall walk at Phil Stokes' place.

**Communications Committee:**

Mary Spear was not in attendance so there was no report this month.

However, Anne Benham requested volunteers for the tabling event at the Albemarle County Fair at the end of the month.

JoAnn added that members should take a look at CATS on Instagram and Facebook to see comments about tree walks.

**Projects Committee:** JoAnn Dalley for Kathy Nepote

Volunteers are needed Saturday for basic weeding at the VDoF. On September 20, there will be a more involved spruce-up session there prior to the fall tree sale.

July and August are not a time for many projects, but check TIF periodically to stay current on opportunities.

JoAnn noted that Kathy is now CATS liaison to Charlottesville's Project ReLeaf.

The September member meeting may be moved to a different Wednesday because of the annual Day of Caring. Stay tuned.

Phyllis will email her volunteers soon about the fall tree sale to take place October 7. If other members who have not volunteered at the tree sale want to get involved, please email Phyllis.

The nursery is in need of additional redbuds, which are extremely popular at CATS sales. Contact Robin regarding donations.

**Tree Commission Report:** Jean Umiker-Sebeok

Jean reported that the Tree Commission has submitted to City Council their list of changes to the zoning code rewrite.

Charlottesville's comprehensive tree list update is nearing completion. Among other changes, it includes new requirements for developers that encourage greater species diversity.

Jean's committee is working on trying to understand why previous efforts, plans, studies, etc. regarding Charlottesville's urban forest management have not resulted in increased tree canopy. They are interviewing both former C'ville employees and people from other Virginia municipalities to gain insight into what works and what does not.

The Tree Commission is focusing on coalition building with other organizations in and around Charlottesville to build a collaborative network geared toward boosting the City's efforts. Charlottesville alone lacks the budget needed to reverse the continued decline of its tree canopy.

Respectfully submitted,

Alison Brill