

HENDERSONVILLE TREE BOARD PROJECTS 2022

With a renewed economic up-tick during 2022, housing developments were a frequent topic of discussion at Hendersonville Tree Board meetings. The Tree Board advises City Council on tree preservation and protection on new developments, and because of the number of new developments presented during the year, the Tree Board decided to examine and update sections of the City Code and regulations in regards to existing trees and proposed plantings. By the end of the year, a grant request was proposed to help fund a Tree Canopy Survey in order to have concrete numbers as the City continues to grow. Loss of tree canopy and general loss of trees in the City's Urban Forest coverage appears to be significant – something the Tree Board wants to address. Along with the popular Bee City USA programs, the Tree Board organized other events and projects this year, which helped focus residents' interest in trees.

Winter 2022-23 -- Yarn-Bombing Project. During four winter months, seven trees near the Historic Train Depot on Maple St. were wrapped in decorative, colorful yarn by the STEAP organization. This art installation was approved by the Tree Board.

Fall NeighborWoods projects -- Several NeighborWoods projects were successfully completed this fall: **Druid Hills** (40 trees), **Wolf Chase** (16 trees), **Blue Ridge Villas** (15 trees), **Oklawaha Village** (13 trees). Most participants planted their own trees, but for the large job in Druid Hills students in West Henderson HS Key Club were lined up to help. Tree Board member Mary Davis procured the volunteers. **In all, 84 trees were added to our City's tree canopy.** Through the NeighborWoods program, the Tree Board supplies free saplings to property owners who have signed up for the program, promising to plant and maintain their trees for long-term successful growth.

October 20 – Film Screening -- “My Garden of 1,000 Bees.” Thomas Auditorium, Blue Ridge Community College. Presented by Hendersonville Bee City partnering with BRCC this outstanding documentary film by exceptional wildlife filmmaker Martin Dohrn was enjoyed by approx. **145 attendees.** Phyllis Stiles, founder of Bee City USA, introduced the film. Brannon Basham and Jill Jacobs of Spriggly's Beescaping fielded the Q&A session afterward. Carolina Bee Farm provided a honey-tasting and SkyTop Orchard provided apple cider. Conserving Carolina, Henderson County Beekeepers, Spriggly's Beescaping, and Bee City USA Hendersonville provided information tables. Door prizes of native plants were doled out.



October 8 – Native Tree Walk Along the Oklawaha Greenway. Co-sponsored by Hendersonville Tree Board and Friends of the Oklawaha Greenway. Tree Board member Mark Madsen led the walk and board member Glenn Lange distributed Tree Board brochures. Several of the 15-18 attendees indicated interest in the NeighborWoods program.



Mid-Sept.-Oct. 7 – Symbolic Monarch Migration. Bee City USA Hendersonville invited local classrooms, youth organizations, and individual students to join this international program. Seventeen participated.

Sept. 22 – “A Monarch’s Migration” program. Bullington Gardens. Estela Romero, monarch educator and journalist who works in monarch overwintering sanctuaries near her home in Angangueo, Michoacán, Mexico, and Kim Bailey, local educator and farmer/owner of Milkweed Meadows Farm in Fruitland, NC, present up-close and personal views of the monarch’s remarkable life cycle and epic migration to a **sold-out** crowd. Organized through Bee City USA Hendersonville.

Sept. 2-5 – North Carolina Apple Festival. Main Street, Hendersonville. Bee City USA Hendersonville shared a booth with Cooperative Extension Service and Henderson County Beekeepers. One volunteer estimated attendance at the booth at 140-ish people per hour, even though Sunday was rained out entirely.

August 27 – Bee Bold Festival. Bold Rock Cidery, Mills River. Hendersonville Bee City USA had a booth to distribute information ... this well-attended event celebrated bees and pollinators that help make apples for Bold Rock Cidery cider.

June – Hendersonville Pollinator Month. Many events by local organizations were presented during the month to educate and celebrate pollinators. *The Laurel of Asheville* magazine ran a special article. Activities were wide-ranging and well attended. For example, attendance at Sideways Farm and Brewery Sunday Brunch Market on June 5 was “huge,” according to Hendersonville Bee City USA coordinator Patrice German.

May 27-28 – Garden Jubilee on Main St. A booth was provided for educational purposes during this popular annual event. Pollinator Alley was a highlighted section related to Bee City USA and other vendors. **400 free seed packets** of pollinator-friendly flowers were distributed at the Hendersonville Bee City USA booth.

May 6 – Arbor Day Celebration. A healthy red maple sapling was planted along the Oklawaha Greenway near 7th Ave. parking area. Gene Carr, president of Four Seasons Rotary and Rotary member Tiffany Ervin were joined by Public Works staff Kevin Rhodes and Mark Stierwalt and NC Forest Ranger Kristin Kelly, several Tree Board members, and Mayor Volk. The Arbor Day proclamation was read, Gene Carr spoke, Kelly honored the City with noteworthy praise, and the tree was planted in lovely soil, just before the rain scattered the crowd. News coverage was good, including a WLOS reporter. The moment was captured on the 6 o'clock news that evening.



April 20 – 30 Trees Planted along Oklawaha Greenway near its intersection with 7th Ave. E.

April 9 – Dedication of Garden Memorializing Wes Burlingame at the kiosk on Oklawaha Greenway at intersection with Patton Park connector. This event honored and memorialized former long-time Tree Board member who died in late 2019. The Burlingame Native Plants Garden at the kiosk is planted in his memory.

March 30 – NeighborWoods planting at Wolf Chase. Nineteen trees were delivered to the Property Owner’s Association at Wolf Chase development for planting throughout the development.

March 10 -- Educational Program – Bees and Trees: What Pollinator-Friendly Trees and Shrubs to Plant This Spring and Why. Henderson County Library auditorium. Phyllis Stiles, founder, Bee City USA, described the need for more trees in urban environments and which pollinator-friendly ones are best to plant this spring, not only to support wildlife but to help alleviate the threats of global warming. About 50 people, with questions and interest, attended this visually informative program open to the public at no charge.



Feb. 6. -- Guided Tree Walk Along the Avenues. On a chilly, windy day, Mark Madsen led a walk along West 3rd and 4th Avenues with a resolute, enthusiastic group of attendees to learn about our urban trees in winter. Starting at the Henderson Co. Schools Admin. Building on 4th Ave. W, the walk focused on the majestic trees in this historic neighborhood of older homes and landscaping. Invasive ivy, privet, and others were pointed out as well as both good and bad pruning practices seen along the way.