



## ACFT'S Week-Long Earth Day Celebrations!



### Earth Day at Long Leaf Park

On Saturday, April 20th, ACFT joined the biggest Earth Day party in town at Long Leaf Park. A huge shoutout to ACFT's Vice President, Sherry O'Daniell, for orchestrating our table events.

And thanks to volunteers Tammy Agnelli, Margee Herring, Laura McCabe, Connie Parker, Tom

Boland and Cate Cardamone for staffing our table, answering questions, and handing out long leaf pine seedlings. The kids sure loved them!

### Work on Wilmington at Pine Forest Cemetery

Pine Forest Cemetery was part of Work on Wilmington's city wide day of service projects that took place on Saturday, April 20th.

ACFT Board Member Dan Schmidt participated in this event which focused upon tidying up the grounds. In November 2022, ACFT planted 124 trees at Pine Forest Cemetery in collaboration with the Arbor Day Foundation and the Cape Fear Garden Club to commemorate the events of 1898. We're happy to report all 124 trees are doing exceptionally well. This historic cemetery is an exceptionally beautiful place.



### GE Verona Sustainability Event

As a salute to Earth Day, ACFT Board Member, Bill Jayne, and Administrative Coordinator, Allison Childs, joined GE Verona's Nuclear Earth Week



Celebration at their Wilmington plant.

They advised employees on proper tree planting techniques, answered questions regarding the trees GE gave to their staff, and gave away long leaf pine seedlings.

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## Eaton Elementary Earth Week

As part of our commitment to education, ACFT brought their A game to Eaton Elementary on Thursday, April 25th.

Sherry O'Daniell, Tammy Agnelli and Allison Childs sparked the curiosity of fourth and fifth graders by revealing the importance of trees in flood prevention and the endless possibilities of conservation with engaging hands-on activities.



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## Live Oak Bank Sustainability Festival

Thanks to our Executive Director, Dan Camacho, and Board Members Laura McCabe and Connie Parker for showcasing ACFT to Live Oak Bank's employees and their families on Thursday, April 25th.

ACFT provided two Willow Oaks to be included in their raffle and we can't wait to congratulate the lucky winners next week.

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## Family Fun Day at the Bellamy Mansion

Sunday's weather was perfect for an afternoon of fun at the Bellamy Mansion.

Our table featuring our famous twisty tree craft delighted both young and old, thanks to the efforts of Sherry O'Daniell and Tammy Agnelli.



It is our motto that you are never too young to learn about the importance of trees and our environment. It's also our motto that the best time to teach about trees was 20 years ago - and the second best time is now.

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## Heritage Tree Tour- Encore Edition

A Heritage Tree Tour was the perfect way on a perfect day to end our week long celebration of both Earth Day and National Arbor Day, thanks to our partners the Historic Wilmington Foundation and the Wilmington Tree Commission.

On Sunday, April 28th, Jim Gregory and Bill Jayne, presented a fascinating back and forth discussing the history and science behind some

of downtown Wilmington's many notable trees.

# TREE WATERS NEEDED!



On April 23rd and 24th our inaugural group of Tree Stewards dove into action, learning the ropes of operating our watering truck. This dedicated team of volunteers is committed to caring for the 225 street trees we planted between November and February.

We're seeking individuals to assist with watering and mulching to ensure the health and vitality of these newly planted street trees. All necessary training will be provided.

If you are interested in helping out or for more information, please contact [info@actrees.org](mailto:info@actrees.org)

## Summer Saviors: Top Tips to Keep Your Trees Thriving and Healthy

Are you aware Wilmington's growing zone was changed to 8B in 2023 due to warmer conditions? Growing zones, often referred to as hardiness zones, are geographical areas that categorize regions based on their climate conditions, particularly minimum winter temperatures. These zones help gardeners determine which plants are most likely to thrive in their specific

area.

Although the summer solstice falls on June 20th this year, in SENC the summer season for trees begins on May 1st. During the hot temperatures and potential drought conditions, it's vital to give your trees proper care to keep them healthy and vibrant.

## Pointers to Help Your Trees Become the Envy of Your Neighborhood!

**Watering:** Deep watering is key, especially during hot days. This encourage deep root growth and water early or late to minimize evaporation.

**Mulching:** Apply organic mulch around the base to retain moisture, regulate temperature, and suppress weeds. Keep mulch away from the trunk. No volcano mulching!

**Pruning:** Lightly prune to remove dead or diseased branches, improve airflow, and shape the tree. Avoid heavy pruning to prevent stress.

**Fertilizing:** Use slow-release, balanced fertilizer if needed, but avoid during drought to prevent further stress.

**Monitoring for Pests and Diseases:** Keep watch for signs of pests or diseases and act early to prevent serious damage.

**Adequate Air Circulation:** Ensure trees aren't overcrowded to promote airflow and prevent disease. Prune surrounding vegetation if necessary.

**Conservation of Water:** Use drip irrigation or soaker hoses to water directly and conserve water.

**Avoiding Soil Compaction:** Protect against soil compaction by minimizing foot traffic around trees and using mulch.

Following these tips will help your trees thrive in Zone 8b's challenging conditions, enhancing your landscape's beauty and environmental health.

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## Help Us Help Our Trees

Your donation allows us to plant, preserve, protect and plant trees to enhance the quality of life and health for present and future generation in the Lower Cape Fear area.

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