



2022-23 Annual Report

- Moved into the new year with Strategic Planning Sessions featuring Glenn Harbeck, retired Director of Planning, City of Wilmington, and Camilla Herlevich, retired Founding President of NC Coastal Land Trust, as leaders.
- Started an active year with participation in annual tabling events at Family Fun Night in Airlie Gardens, Native Plant Festival at the NHC Extension Arboretum and Fire in the Pines at Halyburton Park.
- Kicked off our first “2 for 1 Matching Campaign” with pledges from five donors to match \$10,000, a challenge that was met with a total raised by year-end of \$26,000!
- Aided Hoggard High School Student leadership in creating a plan for adding trees and shrubs to campus.
- ACFT President and Vice-President attended Great NC Tree Conference in Greensboro; President received “Volunteer of the Year” Award.
- Advocated successfully against removing tree codes/ordinances for industrial development on the Highway 421 corridor in the County, and held meetings with a group of developers, County planners, and tree experts to create a better method to save groups or groves of trees in a new plan for that corridor. The plan was accepted by the County Commissioners who asked if we could repeat the effort in other developing areas.
- Held the first of four tree plantings in October at Sunset Park, with others following in Pine Forest Cemetery, the Northside, and Love Grove (Archie Blue Park). *TOTAL Trees Planted: 281*
- Pine Forest Cemetery planting was part of the 1898 Commemoration of the Massacre and Coup which happened 124 previous; cemetery was location black residents fled to from the violence.
- First of four tree distributions was held at Legion Stadium in November, sponsored by Arbor Day Foundation and State Farm. Others through Arbor Day were Verizon at Hugh Morton Amphitheater; Texas Roadhouse at their business location, and FedEx in Founders Park in Leland (our first in Brunswick County). *TOTAL Trees Distributed: 3,376*

- President gave educational presentations to Audubon Society, NC Sorosis, and UNCW's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute.
- Planted 21 trees in City and County public spaces in memory of, or in celebration of, family and friends.
- Held Workshop on Proper Tree Planting for Local Landscapers in Partnership with NC Extension Center and Arboretum.
- Held Arbor Day Tree Planting Celebration at Snipes Academy of Arts and Sciences, and Earth Day Educational Event at Wrightsboro School in partnership with New Hanover County Schools.
- Spring tabling events were at Azalea Festival House Tour in partnership with Historic Wilmington Foundation; Earth Day at Long Leaf Park; Family Fun Day at Bellamy Mansion and Museum, and Live Nations Concert at Greenfield Lake Amphitheater.
- Partnered with Historic Wilmington Foundation on two successful Historic Downtown Tree Tours, an ongoing event.
- Held a Tree Watering Workshop in partnership with the City of Wilmington and under a grant to the NC Urban Forest Council with Dr. Barbara Fair from NC State as presenter. This was a plan for summer watering of trees and preparation for the ACFT Tree Stewards Training in the fall of 2023.
- Had a successful fundraising screening of *Call of the Forest* at Jengo's Playhouse in June.
- Strategic Planning Organizational Group formed a Hiring Committee which resulted in finding our first paid Executive Director, Dan Camacho, set to start in September 2023.
- Organizational Group also worked to identify our first office location with partner organizations, NC Coastal Land Trust, and The Nature Conservancy. Occupancy was set for August 2023.

This was an extraordinarily successful year for the Alliance, an organization supported by hundreds of volunteers and led by a hard-working, talented Board of Directors. I am so proud to have been part of its leadership since its inception as a committee in late 2015 and am looking forward to taking a step back as we welcome our new Executive Director in the 2023-24 year and settle in our first true office!

Connie Parker, President