

TPO News, Events and Opportunities



Upcoming Events

January 15 at 10:00 a.m. - Regular Monthly Meeting at CROSSROADS at the foot of Barbee Bridge

TREE TRIMMING CLASS sponsored by the Town of Oak Island, January 15 at 12:00 noon. Pre-register at **OAKILANDNC.GOV** - use the site search for TREE TRIMMING

Planting Season-----
The best months to plant trees here are November, through February

Join or Donate to Tree Peace OKI

at **treepeaceoki.org**

A one year membership is only \$20

Treasurer Needed

Our Treasurer has tendered her resignation effective 12/31/2024 as she has too much on her plate running multiple businesses. Nancy Martin deserves much credit for stepping into the role as we were forming as we could not have incorporated without a full slate of officers.

If you can balance a check book you have all of the skills required for the role, don't be intimidated by the title. It is really about just keeping a couple of ledgers current... we track income by membership dues and donations. And the Treasurer has kept a list of paid members which renews annually (*note to self - pay my 2025 dues at treepeaceoki.org!*).

The annual tax statement for a non-profit of our size is literally the size of a postcard.

If you feel called to make a difference in our beautiful town please come to our January 15 regular meeting and offer your services.

The Great Smoky Mountain National Park

A study in biodiversity x Kim Eierman, founder of EcoBeneficial

The Great Smoky Mountain National Park is one of the most bio-diverse areas in the world, with an estimated 100,000 species including over 4,000 plant species, 1,500 of which are flowering plants. You get the point of all this when you step out of your

continued on page 2

About Us

Tree Peace OKI is a 509 (a) (2) non profit incorporated in the State of North Carolina dedicated to promoting and educating about the value of trees to Oak Island, NC. We may endeavor to influence legislation for that purpose but we may not support any candidates or political parties.

Contact us

We meet the third Wednesday every month at 10:00 a.m. Message us on our Tree Peace OKI Facebook page.

Treepeaceoki.org

Our Officers

Phil Dudley, President

Wendy Morris, Vice President

open, Treasurer

David Merkel, Secretary

Continued from page 1

car in a parking lot and see *Trillium luteum* (Yellow Toadshade) and *Trillium simile* (Sweet White Trillium) by your feet, inches away from the blacktop. And as you scan the parking lot you notice at least a dozen native species growing within three feet of the roadside, which you just saw offered at your local native nursery for \$12 a pot.

Is this a modern day Garden of Eden? A paradise untouched by man? Impossible to emulate in the home landscape? Think again. Be inspired, encouraged, and empowered.

Settlers moved into the Smoky Mountain region in the late 1700s and clear-cut vast acres of pristine forest in order to set up their farms. If that wasn't a big enough blow to the environment, in the early 1900s the area became the playground of logging companies, thrilled to find 500-year-old Tulip Poplars as wide as Volkswagens and ancient Chestnut trees which towered like Redwoods over the landscape. These ecstatic loggers removed an astounding 80% of the primeval forests in the Smokies. They likely would have continued, without the creation of The Great Smoky Mountain Park in 1934, which put a stop to these saw-happy loggers.

A denuded, pillaged landscape in 1934 has become an ecological paradise in 85 years. The current richness of species makes the Smokies the poster child for a healthy ecosystem. When asked why the deer don't devour the fantastic, tasty buffet of spring wildflowers, a park ranger says: "we have deer, but they aren't a problem." This is truly nature in balance where an ecological system benefits from its own checks and balances. Invasive plants and pests exist in the Smokies, but they have not reared their ugly heads to the same degree we see in most of our American landscapes. I winced when I saw a home landscape, just outside the perimeter of the Park, with Running Bamboo overtaking their front lawn. And, I was baffled to see numerous Callery Pears used as a street plantings, in lieu of any of the 120+ beautiful native trees, readily available. A giant red flag, a warning sign – keep this up and the Smokies will look like every other degraded landscape in the U.S.

Visit ecobeneficial.com for the full article

Next month we will look at the hemlock woolly adelgid and efforts to save the eastern hemlock