

# TPO News, Events and Opportunities



## Upcoming Events

**July 16 at 10:00 a.m.** - Regular Monthly Meeting at Middleton Park next to Town Hall. Seating is limited please bring a chair if you are able.

## Town Kicks Off a Tree Adoption Plan

At the July Town Council meeting Tree Program Manager, Brice Taylor kicked off a tree adoption campaign where a person, company or group can adopt a tree for \$1,000 or be a Tree Manager agreeing to water a newly planted tree for two years.

Tree loving people think alike! We have put our own Tree Sponsorship plan on hold while we decide the best way to get more trees planted in Oak Island.

We owe a debt of gratitude to Town Manager, Katherine Adams, and Brice Taylor for the focus on right-of-way planting. It was not going to happen under the previous administration(!).

On the official town website go to **Government / Development Services / Tree Preservation - Removal** to see the plan details and to Adopt or Manage a tree.

<https://www.oakislandnc.gov/government/development-services/tree-preservation-removal>

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## Is the Maritime Forest Endangered in Oak Island, NC?

The maritime forest on Oak Island, NC, is not classified as "endangered" per se, but like many coastal ecosystems, it faces threats from human development, climate change, and invasive species.

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## 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.

## Our Officers

Phil Dudley, President

Paula Byerly, Vice President

Eileen Soderberg, Treasurer

David Merkle, Secretary

## Join or Donate to Tree Peace OKI

at [treepeaceoki.org](http://treepeaceoki.org)

A one year membership is only \$20

*Continued from page 2*

Maritime forests, which are coastal woodlands characterized by salt-tolerant trees like live oaks, pines, and holly, are vital habitats for local wildlife and play a crucial role in stabilizing coastal sand dunes.

Oak Island, being a popular tourist destination with development pressures, has seen some loss of its natural coastal habitats over the years. While the area is protected by various environmental regulations, such as coastal zone management and wetland protections, development for residential and commercial purposes, as well as potential impacts from storms and sea-level rise, poses ongoing risks to the maritime forest.

Preservation efforts in places like Oak Island often focus on balancing conservation with development, but the health of maritime forests depends on continued monitoring, restoration projects, and local environmental advocacy.

***{This article written entirely with Artificial Intelligence at ChatGPT}***

## How Has the Live Oak Adapted to the Maritime Forest Environment ?

IT IS THE KING OF THE MARITIME FOREST, ALMOST AS IF EVERY OTHER PLANT SPECIES PREPARES THE GROUND SO THAT THE LIVE OAK CAN GET A START AND THEN GROW TO THE GREATEST HEIGHT AND HOLD ON TO THE SANDY EARTH FOR 600 YEARS.

The leaves of the Live Oak are hard-shelled and resilient to salt spray. They are small and cupped and turn their backs to high winds that would strip the leaves of other trees like maples which we do not see a lot of. New leaves sometimes have a saw-tooth edge that are less appetizing to deer. When the leaves fall in the spring they make a perfect mulch bed retaining moisture and preventing weeds.

*Continued on page 3*



New Live Oak leaves sometimes have a saw-tooth edge which is less attractive to deer.



Laurel Oak left, Live Oak right

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The roots of the Live Oak are deep and broad. You never see a healthy, mature Live Oak toppled over. The roots below ground are as broad and deep as the above ground canopy. Live Oaks thrive in copse and their roots knit together and thus provide a broader base to multiple trees. You can observe large Live Oak copse of two or more trees all over the island. They form one large canopy that looks like one huge tree if you just look at the canopy.

The grain of the Live Oak swirls like a bowl of cooked spaghetti noodles. The grain does not go straight for even an inch. This makes the wood stronger and also gives the tree its gnarly shape like fingers misshapen from rheumatoid arthritis. The USS Constitution's hull was made of southern Live Oak. The grain pattern gave it such strength that in the war of 1812 British warship cannon balls bounced off of her giving her the nickname 'Old Ironsides' .

When you plant a Live Oak tree you are planting a tree that has adapted to our harsh coastal environment like no other. It will protect your roof and provide comfort for hundreds of years.



This Live Oak was planted 65 years ago by the current owners grandfather, it dwarfs the single story home in the Yaupon neighborhood. It should live another 500 years.