

TPO News, Events and Opportunities



Upcoming Events

December **17 at 10:00 a.m.** -
Regular Meeting at
Crossroads next to Doodles.

**Merry Christmas and Happy
New Year !**

The Demise of the American Chestnut

We will not be roasting chestnuts by the open fire this Christmas though we still sing the praises of the keystone tree that was a huge economic resource for furniture making and home building and a food source for animals and people. The American Chestnut was an integral part of life in much of the country.

From Connecticut to North Alabama it was the dominant tree in the native forests. So dominant that it was said that a squirrel in a American Chestnut Tree in Pennsylvania could travel all the way to Alabama and never touch the ground or another species of tree. A mature tree would grow up to 130 feet tall and 10 feet in diameter and live for up to 600 years!

Three and a half to four billion of these keystone trees were killed by a fungus that traveled here from southeast Asia between about the years 1904 to 1930. Efforts have been made for ninety years to develop a variety of the chestnut that is blight resistant. The objective is to cross the American Chestnut with a blight resistant variety and recross with another American Chestnut repeatedly to retain as much of the original tree as possible with blight resistance.

Advances in bio-engineering have quickened the pace but it takes seven years to grow a fruit bearing tree.

It amazes that this giant of the forest disappeared without a trace visible to the untrained eye 100 years later. Credit the biodiversity of our native forests. All of our trees are important. Here on Oak Island we have a great variety of Oaks, Cedars, Hollies, Pines, and even Sweetgum, the tree the author loves to hate(!).

About Us

Tree Peace OKI is a 509 (c) (3) 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

Judy Reid, Events Coordinator

John Schweikart, Chief Information Officer

Join or Donate to Tree Peace OKI

at treepeaceoki.org

A one year membership is only \$20

Holiday Market Fun

Thank you to the intrepid Tree Peace members that showed up for the Holiday Market December 7 at Middleton park.



Paula and Judy Smiling out from Knotholes on a Cold Market Day

It was a wee bit chilly but we accomplished our mission of awareness and education about the decline of our tree canopy and the need to restore and protect it.

Judy Reid deserves great credit for organizing all of our events. It's a bit like herding cats I am sure but she pulls it off cheerfully.

We gave away a few small potted Live Oaks provided by Pat Young. A couple of Tree Peace OKI t-shirts were 'sold' for donations.

Market days are a great way to build awareness for Tree Peace OKI and our cause.

Renew Your Membership for 2026!

Membership is \$20 per person per year. With your support we are making a difference on Oak Island.

You don't have to wear a whacky tree costume (!) just \$20 per year makes a difference!

Barbee Boulevard Tree Planting

Tree peace OKI donated \$1,000.00 to the town tree fund for the Southport Christian School Outdoor Club to have an opportunity to plant four trees at the intersection of Live Oak Street and Barbee Boulevard on Wednesday December 3.

Thank you to the the Town employees that made this possible especially Brice Taylor, Tree Program Manager, the Environmental Advisory Committee under the direction of Margaret Johnson, and our own Carolina who like rock-stars Cher and Bono needs just one name!!

The trees were planted with great care, the soil was amended, the root ball was broken up, the base of the trees were planted two to three inches above ground level... The children named the trees and recorded the latitude and longitude position for each one.

Thank you also to all Tree Peace OKI members and sponsors. Everything takes money and you all make this possible.



Carolina photo-bombing two young tree-lovers!



Educating about the value of the tree canopy is one of the major elements of Tree Peace OKI's mission. We hit all elements of our mission with the this tree planting activity. Awareness. Education. Preserving and Restoring the tree canopy.

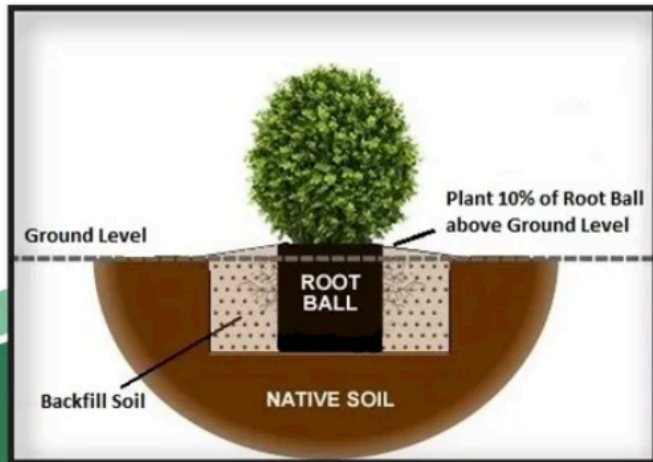
These trees will live 500 to 600 years if they can avoid their biggest threat - a chainsaw. I predict many of the approximately 30 children involved will return to this spot decades from now and tell their children and grandchildren that they planted these trees. That is a special legacy.

SCS Outdoor Club did a fabulous job!

Tree Planting Guide

This is the best planting guide that we have found. Courtesy of Hughes and Hughes nursery Ash, NC. Thanks to Pat Young for providing.

"Plant high, Never die; Plant low, Never grow"



- Always leave your plant 10% above ground level
- Dig hole no deeper than needed
- Dig hole wide to encourage lateral root growth
- Backfill good soil up to crown of root ball

NEW PLANT WATERING GUIDELINES

Large Trees / Shrubs (ball & burlap & palms) 15 Gallons/Week
5 Gallons - 3 Times a week through first growing season

30 Gallon Trees / Shrubs 10-15 Gallons/Week
4-5 Gallons - 3 times a week

15 Gallon Trees / Shrubs 9-10 Gallons/Week
3 Gallons - 3 times a week

3 Gallon & 7 Gallon Shrubs 5-6 Gallons/Week
1-2 Gallons - 3 times a week

- Consistent water through the first growing season is vital for the plant to get established
- These are only guidelines! This will vary depending on rainfall amounts and your soil
- Goal is cool, moist soil
- Too much water will kill a plant faster than not enough
- Fertilize palms in spring and fall seasons with palm fertilizer
- Fertilize shrubs and trees during spring with slow release fertilizer

We will return to Penderlea Farms in January and have trees available to Oak Island members of Tree Peace OKI.

Tree Peace OKI Trees to Brunswick County Habitat for Humanity

We donated and planted a tree at a BCHH house on 'landscaping day' November 21st in Calabash working under the direction of the Brunswick County Master Gardeners. Secretary David Merkle and Treasurer Eileen Soderberg attended the home dedication on Monday November 24.

BCHH completes about eight homes per year and Tree Peace OKI is planning to donate and plant a tree for each one - on the West side of the home if possible to provide shade from our hot summer sun and savings from electric usage to run the air conditioners.

It is very rewarding to see the joy of new home owners getting an opportunity that only the Habitat for Humanity can make possible. All are welcome to attend these events. Dates will be available in future newsletters.

Recognizing our Sponsors!

Live Oak Level Sponsors



Julian Creek Artworks



Oak Island NC



A multi-generation Oak Island family just donated \$1,000.00 to continue our efforts to preserve and restore the tree canopy. Anonymously.

Magnolia Level Sponsors

Adam Powell, AAMS, Financial Advisor, EDWARD JONES

Yaupon Holly Level Sponsors

Pelican Pack and Ship

Francesca Slaughter, Realtor, Keller Williams Innovate

Brunswick Beacon

Paula@Coastal Beauty Salon / Spa

Crossroads - A Gathering Place