

**Charlottesville Area Tree Stewards
Membership Meeting Minutes
May 15, 2017**

Penny Kaiserlian thanked everyone for their participation in our successful spring tree sale. Debbie Miller also showed her appreciation for all the hard work and requested any comments for improving it.

In June we will be having our annual picnic which this year will be at Jay Gillenwater's home and nursery. Jay is graciously providing the food and drinks. Membership will be getting an Evite to RSVP.

If you haven't done so yet, please complete the liability waiver form, being explicit about the needed information.

Valerie Hung and Mark Rylander presented an introduction to our new CATS website. They demonstrated and explained the various aspects of it. It includes identifying trees, volunteer opportunities, notable trees, upcoming events, and recent news. Available is an application for the training class along with the option to pay with PayPal, signing up for volunteering, and being able to report volunteer hours. We are hoping to launch the website on June 1st.

Linda Knapp, treasurer, reported that our tree sale grossed \$2,545 with a profit of \$1,789.

Reported as of 5/14/2017:

Checking	\$15,485.37
Money Market	5,002.23
Cash	<u>100.00</u>
Total Assets	\$20,587.60

Education - Tom Wild announced that we will be having a field trip to Blandy Experimental Station in October. Our regular membership meeting will be on October 23rd.

Projects – Camille Wilson reported that Trails Day will be on June 6th from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Robin Hanes will be leading invasive removal work at McIntire Park. We will need at least twelve tree stewards to oversee volunteers who will be working on the invasives near the big oak tree. Parking is at the skate park.

With the Train the Trainers program, Phil Stokes will be leading the next one for tree walks. We need to equate CATS with tree education.

Participants are encouraged to be co-leaders.

Triple C Camp which involves middle schoolers will be starting soon. They will be working at Greenleaf and McIntire Parks.

An update on the Monticello Gateway project is that five trees of the seventy-three planted have died. They will be removed along with the seven trees that were not in compliance. Chris Gensic will head this up. Bremono Trees will be replacing them and we're hoping to get three or four volunteers on a Sunday to complete this.

The next potting party will be on Thursday, May 18th at Jay Gillenwater's nursery.

Presently, there are 92 tree steward members plus 26 trainees. Libby Gretz will be standing in for Nadine Roddy in reporting volunteer hours that are due by June 1st. CATS has done 5,000 hours this year.

Our program, Restoring the Mighty Chestnut, was presented by Tom Saielli, the Mid-Atlantic Regional Science Coordinator of the American Chestnut Foundation. He explained the history of the American Chestnut tree and how they are working to create a blight-resistant one. The goal is to restore the four billion trees that succumbed to the chestnut blight. They need many volunteers to help with this along with donations to The American Chestnut Foundation.

Respectfully submitted,

Marty Topel, Secretary