

Tree Board Annual Report to the Town Council

2013, Weaverville, N.C.

Mayor Root and Council Members:

It is our pleasure to report on the following Weaverville Tree Board activities during 2013:

The Tree Board planted 73 trees. Sixty-nine of the trees were planted with cost-sharing funds provided by Duke Energy Progress and Walmart.

Four dead or dying trees were removed. It was necessary to remove approximately 100 trees near the bottom of Highland St. for reasons of security and construction next to the Greenway. With the exception of 2 oaks, these trees were all yellow pines and wild cherries. Every effort was made to preserve desirable trees in proximity to the Greenway.

Tree Board activities in 2013 included:

- On January 31, all 6 members of the Tree Board attended a training seminar at Mars Hill College titled "The Role of the Chestnut in Appalachian Life". It was conducted by Dr. Charlotte Ross, North Carolina Humanities Council Road Scholar.
- On February 12, the Board provided a presentation by Alison Arnold, open to the public and attended by 55, titled "Twelve Most Common Concerns for WNC gardeners."
- All 6 members of the Tree Board attended Asheville Greenwork's Community Tree Conference in Asheville on Friday and Saturday, March 15-16.
- The Board organized and executed an assembly at Weaverville Elementary School on April 4th to explain the Arbor Day poster contests. Speakers were from the American Chestnut Foundation and Asheville Greenworks.
- For the Arbor Day poster contest, fifth graders created a "trees superhero". Costumes were fashioned for the top two winners by Asheville Greenworks, who will add them to their permanent cast of characters visiting area schools.
- The Arbor Day poster contest for third and fourth graders was centered on information they had learned about the chestnut tree.
- The Weaverville Arbor Day ceremony was held in Town Hall on Sunday, May 19, 2013. The "trees superheroes" were presented in costume. The Town received its 23rd Tree City USA Award and 20th Growth Award.
- Three experimental chestnut trees were planted in the Main Street Nature Park and will be evaluated periodically by the American Chestnut Foundation.

- A tour was arranged for the Board and community members of an experimental chestnut orchard of the American Chestnut Foundation and was conducted by orchard keeper Jim Hurst on April 27.
- A "learning box" was procured from the American Chestnut Foundation to be used as a teaching aid at Weaverville Elementary School and to be available for loan from Town Hall to Weaverville residents.
- A tour, attended by 33 community members, was conducted of the gardens of Peter and Jasmine Gentling, home to perhaps the largest Dawn redwoods in the world.
- A planting bed at the I-26 entrance into Weaverville was landscaped with a river birch and 3 Limelight hydrangeas. A Tree City USA sign will be placed in the bed.
- The Board applied for and received a grant for \$500 from the Walmart Foundation for the Tree Board's cost-sharing program.
- The Board applied for and received a grant for \$2000 from Duke Energy Progress for the Tree Board's cost-sharing program.
- The Town's list of approved trees was updated and revised.
- A series of "Tree Facts" was continued in the Weaverville Focus.
- The Town's annual street tree survey was conducted on September 7, 2013.
- A web page of Tree Board information is being created on the Town's web site.
- The portion of the application for the Town's 24th Tree City USA Award and 21st Growth Award has been completed.