

***Trees Virginia Newsletter
Eighth Edition
November 13, 2024***



***Our Mission: To enhance the quality of life through the
Stewardship of our Commonwealth's urban and community trees.***



Recent Events and News

- Trees Virginia, in collaboration with the City of Waynesboro and the Department of Forestry, proudly hosted the **29th annual Waynesboro Tree Care Workshop** titled 'Don't Fear the Reaper - Management, Partnership & Restoration Practices for Trees in Urban Spaces' **this past September**. This dynamic event brought together over 170 enthusiastic attendees from across the region for a day dedicated to learning and collaboration in urban forestry. Some participants engaged in an arborist track that provided training on crucial skills such as proper felling techniques and chainsaw safety. The lecture track featured presentations on topics such as outdoor classrooms, historic tree care, young tree pruning, and preservation efforts for eastern ash species, showcasing Trees Virginia's commitment to empowering individuals with essential knowledge and skills. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all who participated, along with our dedicated guest instructors and speakers, for contributing to the success of this event.



Dylan Kerl with Bartlett Tree Experts explains the practice of air spading in the afternoon workshop session. Photo by Joe Lehnen.



Remington Lee, chainsaw safety and proper felling instructor with ArborMaster, and students, analyze the stump after felling is complete. Photo by Delaney Long.

"The Unseen Forest"



Photo: Anna Aquino

Anna Aquino, Landscape Architect and Trees Virginia Board Member, writes about the symbiosis of plants and fungi, and how this relationship is believed to have played a critical role in the proliferation and evolution of vascular plants on earth.

"Close your eyes and imagine a shimmering lake surrounded by autumn trees, sweetly animated by chattering birds and floating butterflies. But do not trust this serene illusion painted by your eyes. There is a subterranean world well beyond our senses, beyond our imaginations..."
Be sure to read her full paper below!

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"The Importance of Comprehensive Planning for Our Community Vision"

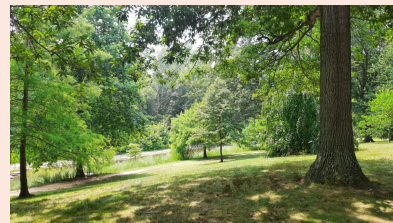


Photo: Trees Virginia

Lemuel Hancock, Director of Community Development in Shenandoah County, and Planner Seat with Trees Virginia, gives us an inside look at creating a comprehensive plan that balances development with forest preservation. He explains that the goals of the recently developed Shenandoah 2045 plan aim to ensure that as the county grows, forests, open spaces, and agricultural lands remain protected. Read his full text below to learn more about a planner's role in forest protection, development, planning for long-term forest health, and designing with forests in mind.

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Fall Reminder: Leave the leaves!

As we embrace the beauty of autumn, let's take a moment to appreciate the **incredible environmental benefits fallen leaves provide when left alone or utilized in designated natural areas**. This simple yet impactful practice not only nourishes the soil but also fosters a thriving habitat for local wildlife, enriching our surrounding ecosystems. By choosing to leave your leaves, you're not just enhancing the health of your garden or yard; you're actively participating in a community commitment to sustainability and the stewardship of Virginia's ecosystems. So, before you consider hauling away those vibrant, fallen treasures, think about the positive ripple effects they can have on the natural world around you. Let's work together to create a lush, vibrant landscape that supports biodiversity and promotes soil health. Read more about this practice and its benefits below in a post from the Xerces Society.

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