

**HENDERSONVILLE TREE BOARD CONTINUES TO SUPPORT THE  
COMMUNITY’S LOVE OF TREES,  
ESPECIALLY DURING THE 2020 PANDEMIC**

**Bee Mural Project.** *October 26 through Dec. 3 -- Creation of the Bee Mural.* The Bee Mural Initiative began two years ago when we learned about muralist Matt Willey, who lived in Asheville at the time, and his project to paint 50,000 bees around the world to promote and educate about the importance of bees and pollinators. Under the auspices of the City’s Bee City USA program, the Tree Board was designated as the coordinator of the initiative to bring Willey to Hendersonville to paint a mural. Partnering with the City’s Sustainability Board, efforts were made to find a wall for the mural, promote fundraising, and create community involvement. All the effort culminated with Willey’s arrival in town and the process of painting the mural began. The Hands On! Children’s Museum stepped up to partner by providing the exterior wall of their building for the artwork. It is viewable from the City’s Azalea parking lot on Third Ave. E. between Main St. and King St. A grant was received to help plant a pollinator garden near the mural ... and the initial planting of the beds began. The “hibernation” of the project to over-winter until spring was announced in early December. The muralist will return to complete the project in late March or April 2021.



**Tree Plantings.** *NeighborWoods Tree Planting Project at Cambridge West.* 13 trees, including serviceberry, magnolias, dogwood, and sweet gum, were delivered to this small condominium complex on Fourth Avenue West. The groundskeeper planted and will maintain the healthy new trees.

*September 19 -- NeighborWoods Tree Planting Project at Oklawaha Village.* A successful distribution of 34 trees to residents of the new Oklawaha Village on North Main Street was held, along with a training-session tree planting, which all participants attended. Tree Board member Debbie Roundtree, in cooperation with Hendersonville

Housing Assistance, worked with residents to deliver the trees. Following construction, landscaping was rather bare, so families were happy to accept trees through the Tree Board's NeighborWoods program to improve their new neighborhood.



*NeighborWoods Tree Planting Project at Laurelwood.* In this well-established condominium complex on 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue West, older trees were aging out, so 10 young trees were chosen by residents to help keep the canopy healthy. Participants in the NeighborWoods program promise to care for and maintain the trees they receive. The trees are provided at no charge and are chosen from a list of best-trees for the urban forest.

**Pollinator Month Activities.** *June – Pollinator Month.* Kim Bailey., coordinator for Pollinator Month activities, worked with businesses and other locations to create a calendar of events during this pandemic year's reframed Pollinator Month scenario. More than a dozen activities were hosted – both in-person events, such as self-guided tours of gardens and natural area locations, and online/virtual events, such as a virtual movie showing of "The Pollinators," online classes by Gardens that Matter, and an online sale of pollinator-friendly plants with curbside pickup.

**Garden Jubilee.** *May 22-25.* A perennial favorite annual event sponsored by Hendersonville TDA, the Garden Jubilee format was changed this year due to COVID-19 restrictions. Hendersonville's Bee City USA program participated by hosting an information tent located at Sideways Farm and Brewery in Etowah, one of the many Garden Jubilee sites scattered around the county. A pollinator-friendly plant sale, on location and online, was held to raise money for the Bee Mural project. News coverage and public attendance and participation resulted in more than \$5,000 raised.

**Educational Program.** *Monday, Feb. 24 – Public program, Henderson Co. Library, 6 p.m., "Micro Climate Change and the Urban Forest."* Eric Bradford, Director, Asheville GreenWorks, was the speaker and presenter of an effective Powerpoint program. About 15 attendees were interested, engaged, and asked questions. This in-person event occurred before Covid-19 virus hit America.



**Tree Board Member Wes Burlingame Memorialized.** Wes Burlingame served on the Tree Board from 2013 until 2018 as a valuable, active member. He oversaw numerous planting events, including the planting of 34 trees at Bruce Drysdale Elementary, 84 trees at Bearcat Loop, and assisted many, many participants in the City’s NeighborWoods program by helping them pick proper trees and how to plant and maintain trees for healthy growth. He owned Laurel Springs Nursery, where he grew specialty and native plants for 30 years. Wes died September 2019.

**Unpredictable-Tree Contest.** *January 15-31 – Contest to guess when the Star Magnolia on Main St. will bloom.* This fun contest, open to the public, ended before it began – but accomplished its goal! Due to media attention to this contest, the public was made colorfully aware of one of the beautiful trees along Main Street, and, thus, to the small urban forest that graces downtown Hendersonville. However, due to unseasonably warm weather, the Star Magnolia had opened several blossoms before the Jan. 15 start of the contest. For a few weeks in early 2020, the handsome Star Magnolia at the corner of Third Ave. W. and Main St. was a “star.”

