

**People for Trees, Inc.**



[www.peoplefortrees.com](http://www.peoplefortrees.com)

*"Save a tree today, and we'll all breathe a little easier!"*

**Since 1997 "got shade" January/February 2011**

Mission Statement: to promote the importance of protecting and maintaining a healthy, native tree canopy! *People for Trees, Inc.* is a 501(c)(3) non-profit group that began in 1997 as a grass-roots effort by citizens concerned about the destruction of our tree canopy due to development.

|   |
|---|
| <b>PEOPLE FOR TREES, INC. HAS RECEIVED THE</b>                |
| <b>SARASOTA COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AWARD (2003)</b>   |
| <b>KEEP SARASOTA COUNTY BEAUTIFUL AWARD (2004 &amp; 2005)</b> |

Meetings: Monday, February 7, at 7PM at the George Mullen Activity Center, Sumter Blvd.

Program: Land Conservation: Is it always about conserving/preserving land?

March 7: *"Eco-Tourism and People for Trees: Perfect Together!"* Our last meeting: May 2.

All are welcome to join us and learn what YOU can do to help protect and maintain our native tree canopy.

Refreshments, tree & plant raffle.



Look at the beautiful Sweetgum trees, in all their "fall glory", that we planted in the summer of 2009 during Phase II of our North Salford Street Tree Planting Project! Combined with the trees planted during Phase I in 2008, a total of 305 trees were planted along Salford Blvd., (north of Price Blvd.) through a joint partnership between People for Trees and the City of North Port.

- *Street trees can increase the property values of the neighboring homes anywhere from 5%-15%.*
- *Neighborhoods with street shade trees can be up to 11 degrees cooler than neighborhoods without trees.*
- *Trees provide a sense of "home" in a community and people feel more at ease when in shaded areas of trees.*
- *Street trees are an effective traffic-calming "device" along busy streets.*

**Note to self: Plant a tree in 2011! We make it easy!**

[www.peoplefortrees.com](http://www.peoplefortrees.com) or [treelady12001@yahoo.com](mailto:treelady12001@yahoo.com) or 941-426-9752



Did you know.... That North Port's tree ordinance does NOT require any type of replacement or mitigation for trees removed for development that are less than 30" in diameter?

## Upcoming Events- Save the dates!

Annual Red Cedar Tree Sale going on now! \$12/each or buy 6 get one FREE!

**March 5:** FREE Florida-friendly Tree & Landscape Clinic, 11AM (Location TBA)

*Stop wasting your time and money on plants that just don't work in Florida!*

*Learn what to plant for a yard that is more compatible with our environment.*

**April 16:** "It's "Tree-mendous for Kids!" at the North Port Library! Games, activities, literature connections to celebrate trees, glorious trees! 10-12. (Our Arbor program postponed from January) Then, a Native Tree Program for adults at 1PM. Tree planting demo, PowerPoint, tree sales, refreshments.

**April 30:** Our 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Tree Festival/Community Center, Pan Am Blvd. 10-2

*Plenty of native trees for sale, 3-gallon containers for only \$12 each.*

*Sweetgum, Elm, Bald Cypress, Red Cedar, Southern Magnolia, Longleaf and Slash Pines.*

*Attend one of our Tree Workshops and you can purchase our trees for only \$10 each!*

**May 7:** Annual Tour of Florida-friendly yards. Garden Party at tour's end in honor of Mother's Day!

*Take mom around North Port to see beautiful examples of yards that are "Florida-friendly".*

*Refreshments at each stop. \$5 per person!*



### Hey Kids! Join the adventures of the "Eco-Kids" Club!

It's an environmental club that since 1999 has fun and exciting activities every month for children to explore and discover the great outdoors of Florida. Open to all children accompanied by an adult.

Advance registration is *not* required. All programs are 10 AM-12 NOON.

*(Sorry- The program previously scheduled for January has been rescheduled for April.)*

**February 12:** Insects/Bees/and Butterflies!      **March 19:** Reptiles: Snakes and Turtles!

**April 16:** "It's Tree-mendous!" at the North Port Library.

**April 23:** Fossil Find in the Myakkahatchee Creek      **May 21:** Eco-Kids Kayak!

Visit [www.peoplefortrees.com](http://www.peoplefortrees.com) for further details/locations for each program.

**Myth:** Remove trees to protect homes and buildings during a hurricane or storm.

**Fact:** A house that is surrounded by NATIVE trees will be afforded more protection during storms and hurricanes than a house without trees because trees provide a superb barrier against winds.

Even in those few cases when a tree has fallen during a storm, the damage incurred is minimal compared to what might have occurred had the tree *not* absorbed most of the wind energy which ultimately caused it to fall.



*For more information about how trees can protect your home, visit [www.treesarecool.com](http://www.treesarecool.com)*

*During Hurricane Charley, this Longleaf Pine took the brunt of the wind's force leaving the roof of the home untouched!*



### **NATIVE TREES FOR SALE!**



#### **SPECIAL! 3-gallon trees for only \$12!**

Call for availability (941-426-9752) Trees located at 3597 Froude St. North Port

**#1 choice: The Sweetgum.** A fast-growing shade tree. Deciduous, beautiful orange leaves in the fall.

**Southern Red Cedar**-evergreen. Great for wildlife and privacy.

**Southern Magnolia.** Slow growing, stately tree. Waxy leaves, beautiful white flowers.

**Florida Elm.** Small leaves, turn a beautiful yellow in the fall. No Dutch Elm disease here. Upward branches

**Laurel Oak** - Similar to a Live Oak, but has smoother bark.

**Bald Cypress** - Deciduous, beautiful orange color in the fall. Can tolerate wet areas very well.

**Dahoon Holly**-Evergreen. Red berries.

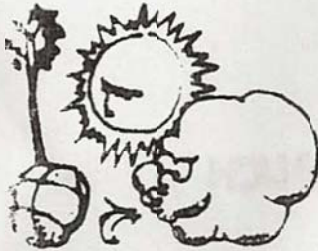
### **QUICK TREE FACTS!**

- ❖ Businesses on tree-lined streets experience increased sales as shoppers will linger longer
- ❖ Children perform better in school if they are able to spend time in green settings!
- ❖ Neighbors spend more time outside and have more opportunities to meet one another in areas that have trees!
- ❖ Crime rates are significantly lower in green communities!
- ❖ Urban areas without trees become "heat islands", concentrations of concrete and asphalt traps and releases heat during the day and into the night. That's why it's hotter in cities than the outlying suburbs!

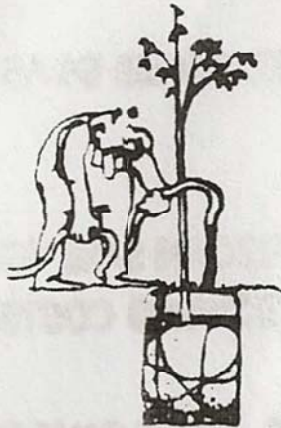
**....So... why do we continue to create voids in our canopy when land is developed! We should insist that a 35% tree canopy AT A MINIMUM be retained when land is cleared for development, mitigation paid for when it's not!**



## To Kill a Tree



• Leave a tree out where the sun and wind will dry out the roots or root ball. Do not water the tree after planting.



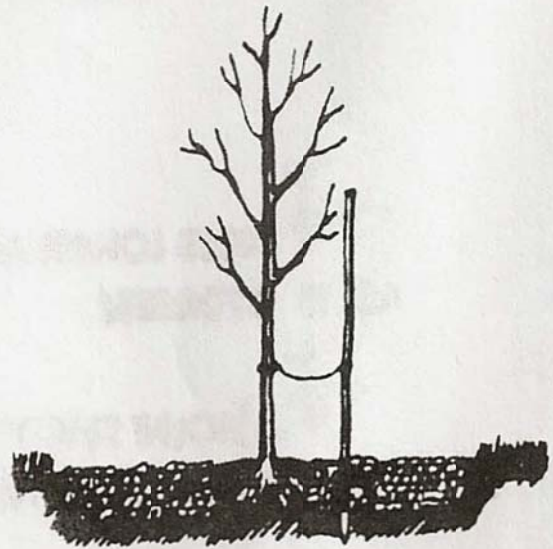
• Plant the tree in a saucer-like depression and a narrow hole, deeper than the original ground line it had in the nursery. Then watch it smother and drown!



• Pack the soil tightly around the roots.



## To Save a Tree



- Prepare the site by digging or rototilling an area 12 inches deep and five times the diameter of the planting ball (less if this would damage roots of a nearby tree.)
- Gently remove wires, nylon cord, or plastic from the planting ball. Loosen pot-bound roots and cut any that circle severely.
- Place planting ball in the hole on top of firm soil.
- Plant at depth of original ground line it had at nursery.
- Backfill with native soil or spread soil amendments throughout the entire planting area.
- Water the soil to settle it instead of packing.
- Water an area beyond the root ball to encourage root spread.
- Stake loosely only if necessary, but no longer than one year.

• TREE CITY USA BULLETIN No. 14 • National Arbor Day Foundation

We recommend using Melaleuca mulch available from Forestry Resources, Sea Oats Nursery (Englewood), Native Plant Nursery (Sarasota) and now at Lowe's Home Improvement Centers!



*Did you know...* one baby will contribute about ONE TON of disposable diapers to a landfill that will take about 500 years to degrade! Solution? Use cloth diapers!

Contact: Earth To Baby ([info@earthtobaby.com](mailto:info@earthtobaby.com))

*Did you know...* the average DOG DROPPING contains 3 million fecal coliform-twice that of human waste! Solution? Pick up after your pets! Visit [www.tbep.org/help/scoop.html](http://www.tbep.org/help/scoop.html)



## Happy Gardening!

By Valerie Ollinger, Florida Master Gardener, People for Trees Board of Directors

Are you willing to have a less manicured, more natural yard? Here are ten tips, in random order, for replacing natural habitats cleared by development and for making wildlife welcome again in your neighborhood. They are ALL important.

- 1- Limit the amount of your lawn.
- 2- Increase vertical layering of plants.
- 3- Provide snags and brush piles.
- 4- Provide water.
- 5- Plant native vegetation.
- 6- Provide Bird/Bat houses and bird feeders.
- 7- Remove invasive exotic plants.
- 8- Manage pets.
- 9- Reduce pesticide use.
- 10- Expand the scale of habitat provided.

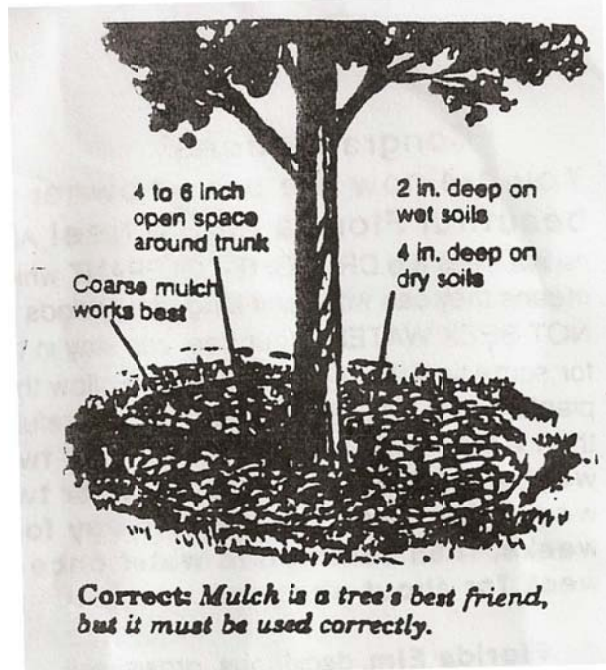
Begin by replacing some lawn with ground covers and islands of vegetation around your trees, to provide cover and food for wildlife. Feeders and birdbaths need to be close to shrubbery in order to attract birds. They like to be able to escape quickly if attacked by predators. Small ground dwelling animals also benefit greatly from islands of vegetation and wild creatures are attracted to small ponds and the sound of running water. Water features can be an attractive addition to your landscape.

Native plants provide better food and cover and require less care. They are also more resistant to pests and require less maintenance. Reducing pesticide use in your yard assures that you don't kill off all the valuable beneficial insects that the birds eat. Let them do the work of pest control.

A butterfly garden is one of the easiest and most colorful ways to improve your yard. Butterflies need both larval food for the caterpillars to chow down on, and nectar plants for the adults.

There are many books and flyers available and web sites with details of what to plant to make your own yard a paradise for wildlife. Visit the Extension Service Help Desk at the North Port Library, Tuesdays 1:30 to 3:30pm. I am there every week and will be glad to answer your questions. Or phone me at 423-4207 and leave a message. I'll call you back as soon as I can.

*(PS Valerie will give you a Florida-friendly yard consultation with your \$30 People for Trees membership!)*





## ***The People for Trees "Environmental Heritage Center".***

**By Alice White, chair**

The members of People for Trees, Inc. have had a vision to create a truly, unique environmental center. Imagine being able to educate people about southwest Florida's natural beauty in a setting that can only be found in our pine flatwoods! Picture children being encouraged to get in touch with nature with exciting exhibits and interactive displays that showcase our various eco-systems. Think about the fun of being able to explore tree houses and run along a tree canopy walk!

- ❖ An after-school program for children that would be nature-based!
- ❖ Special Saturday programs designed for kids to discover and explore the world around them?!
- ❖ The perfect place for our **Florida-friendly workshops and our annual Tree Festival.**
- ❖ A **native tree nursery** to promote proper tree planting and care.

Initially we were interested in a 63-acre parcel of land located in the western part of North Port and had partnered with the Lemon Bay Conservancy. It made perfect sense as this parcel would provide the residents of North Port with a gateway for the 500+ acres just purchased by Sarasota County. There were countless discussions and many "dog-and-pony" shows with the North Port City Commissioners, City Manager, Planning Directors, Economic Development Manager, and the Land Acquisition Manager. Also the Sarasota County Commissioners, their Environmentally Sensitive Land Committee and their Parks & Recreation Director. The Gulf Coast Conservation Foundation, Vision North Port and its Eco-Tech Institute Committee. But I learned that land conservation is not really about conserving land as much as it is about providing landowners a "way out" after they have gotten what they could from the land. There was absolutely no support for what we're trying to do so we're going to start with a 3-5 acre parcel of land and build from there. Let's do this and leave the bumbling bureaucrats behind!

Visit our website ([www.peoplefortrees.com](http://www.peoplefortrees.com)) to donate or contact us directly at [treelady12001@yahoo.com](mailto:treelady12001@yahoo.com)



### ***MORE QUICK TREE FACTS***

- >>A well-treed community can save at least \$725,000 a year in energy costs!
- >One tree absorbs 400 gallons of water!                      >One hundred trees capture 250,000 gallons of rainwater
- >Outside temperatures around trees are reduced by as much as 15 degrees.
- >Trees increase a home's property value anywhere from 5-9%.
- >A shaded roadway's life will be extended by at least 12%.
- >Shoppers spend 15% more in areas that have shade and businesses in shaded districts pay more than 7% in rent .
- >One tree produces \$625 in oxygen per year, enough for four people.
- >A 100-foot width of trees can reduce sound by 6-8 decibels.

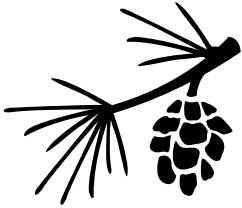


## ***YOUR support enabled us to do all this during 2010:***

- March:** • “Butterfly Garden in a pot” with the Girl Scouts
- April:** • Earth Day Festivities at Vineland Elementary (Englewood) and Atwater Elementary (North Port).  
• North Port Community Outreach Expo  
• Sarasota Schools PALS Award (Outstanding Innovative Project at Cranberry Elementary School)  
• 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Tree Festival held at the North Port Community Center
- May:** • Butterfly/Native plant Garden re-installed at Lamarque Elementary School (a partnership with Home Depot)  
• Participated in the Girl Scout Council’s “Green Day”  
• \$300 NPHS Senior Scholarship Award  
• Provided stage greenery for the NPHS Graduation Ceremony  
• Annual “Florida-friendly” Yard Tours of North Port
- Summer:** • Drain markers installed at Lamarque and Imagine Schools in North Port
- September:** • Provided “Doo the Right Thing” literature at the opening of the North Port Paw Park  
• 7<sup>th</sup> Annual “Eco-Kids Blast!” in Dallas White Park
- October:** • “Bats!” at the Eco-Kids Club program  
• The inaugural “Tour de North Port”, a fundraiser bicycle ride to benefit our plans for an environmental center.



- November:** • Woodland Middle School recognized as the first “Green School” in Sarasota County. The ten trees we planted on the school’s campus during our 2009 Tree Blitz was a contributing factor in the school receiving this award.  
• Took part in the Warm Mineral Springs Community Gardens Grand Opening  
• Science Fair judging at Atwater Elementary School  
• Led a hike along the Myakkahatchee Creek (Eco-Kids Club)
- December:** • Science Night at Toledo Blade Elementary School  
• Decorated our street trees along Salford Blvd. and the gazebo at our Tamiami Trail Tree Walk with red velvet bows.  
• Red Cedar tree sales with the NPHS Interact Club (benefits their “Adopt-a-family for Christmas” project)



*People for Trees, Inc.* is the tree canopy and environmental advocate in North Port and have been since 1997. Please consider a membership so that we can continue to do what we do. For less than \$1.00 a month, you can support our programs and efforts to maintain and protect our native tree canopy. Dues are payable every January.

### MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Choose your level. All donations are tax-deductible. We are a 501 (c)(3) non-profit group.  
Fed. ID# 59-3669626

#### People for Trees, Inc. Officers 2009-2011

Officers - Chair: Alice White, Vice-Chair: Linda Massey, Treasurer: Matt West, Secretary: Valerie Ollinger  
Board of Directors: Bonita Goldman, Allain Hale. Youth Member: Cody Huntley

( ) Pine Needle. \$10.00 per household. Renewals and basic member benefits include newsletters, notification of mulch deliveries, workshops, tree discounts.

( ) Pine Cone. \$20.00 per household. Includes a 3-gallon Florida tree.

( ) Longleaf. \$30.00 per household. Includes a Florida-Friendly Landscape consultation and a 3-gallon Florida tree for you PLUS \$10 towards planting a tree in the community.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/St/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ /Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Mail check payable to **People for Trees, Inc.** Mail to: 3597 Froude St., North Port FL 34286  
[treelady12001@yahoo.com](mailto:treelady12001@yahoo.com) (941) 426-9752

You can also sign up or renew your membership at: [WWW.PEOPLEFORTREES.COM](http://WWW.PEOPLEFORTREES.COM) Click on the **Membership** link in the top right corner of any page.



Board Member **Doris Doersam** recently stepped down from her duties as Recording Secretary. Doris is a CHARTER MEMBER of People for Trees, Inc. having attended that very first meeting back in October 1997. We plan on planting a tree (of course!) in her honor along our Tamiami Trail Tree Walk. Thank you, Doris, for your years of dedication and support!

The **Secretary** and **Treasurer** positions are available. Become a People for Trees Officer or Director on our Board! Board meetings are held monthly. The only requirement is that you have plenty of ideas to share about how to protect and maintain our tree canopy. Contact Alice White at [treelady12001@yahoo.com](mailto:treelady12001@yahoo.com).

