

# Sherwood Forest Friends

## 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

This has been a challenging year for all of us, in many ways. New officers and committees began the year with programs planned and initiatives set. Then Covid -19 forced us to think creatively about how we pursue our mission.

This is what *preserving our natural and cultural resources* looked like in 2019-2020:

- SFF conserved seven lots to preserve green space and help ensure lower density for the future.
- Programs for the year included only one in-person gathering, For the Birds, in February at the Cove, where at least 35 people learned about the care and feeding of our winter birds.
- Dr. Stephan Martin's Dark Sky presentation in March was moved from the Cedar Mountain Community Center to our website.
- The 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Earth Day was celebrated online.
- We could not take our May Day field trip to the NC Arboretum, but we provided it virtually, along with others, such as a 360' tour of the Smithsonian, a tour of the Vatican Palace and a number of famous gardens.
- The Blue Ghosts came and we helped you learn about them and celebrate them with safety and etiquette tips and poetry on our website!
- To replace in person gatherings SFF held contests: Build a Birdhouse, along with the Cedar Mountain Community, and Mountain Visions photo contests, both big successes.
- Family and children's activities included the Sherwood Forest Family Quiz, Paint A Pumpkin and Trick or Treating on the Robin Hood loop, all following Covid-19 guidelines.

In addition to accepting donated land and programming:

- SFF accepted \$133,000.00 from the fundraising committee to purchase the Trexler lot on Trout Lake with plans to transfer it to the HOA green space, following a positive member vote in December.
- SFF started the process of becoming Dark Sky certified by the International Dark Sky Association, approved by the HOA Board of Directors.
- SFF expanded our footprint as a non-profit. We have partnered with Blue Ridge Community College's non-profit print shop for our printing needs. We are receiving donations from Amazon Smile. We are now members of the North Carolina Center for Non-Profits and we are members of the South Carolina Environmental Law Project. Pisgah Astronomical Research Institute, a Dark Sky Park, is supporting us in our effort for certification.
- SFF has created a Board Manual for Directors, gathering all our history, forms, organizational chart, programs, conserved lots and by-laws in to one book. This is a working document, to be added to as we move forward.
- SFF's membership during this year ranged from 80-86 members, and we end the year with a balance of \$21,000.00 in our account, including gifts in memoriam, in tribute and gifts marked for land conservation.

Our goals for 2021 are to top 100 members, return to our popular Summer Series of events, present our scholarship again, offer interesting and informative programming, hopefully in person, and help conserve land when possible.

None of this would be possible without the generosity of our members and givers. We learned this year that we can do a lot together! Thank you!

Carol McCullough, President

Lelia Duncan, Treasurer

Gwenne Hayes-Stewart

Mary Wickham

Kirk Friedland, Vice President

Greg Allikas, Past President

Clint Owings

Susan Wilkinson

Libby Brown, Secretary

Caroline Chambers

Diana Refsland

