

Segment for Week of 26 March 2021

This is Julie Callahan bringing you information on Shore Friendly living and gardening from the Eastern Shore Master Gardeners and Virginia Cooperative Extension.

Arbor day is celebrated the last Friday in April every year. This year we celebrate on Friday, April 30th. In celebration of Arbor Day, there are a few in-person events taking place around the Shore.

National Arbor Day will be celebrated in Cape Charles on Friday, April 30, in Strawberry Street Plaza, beginning at 1:00. Adults and children, alike, will learn how trees benefit homeowners, communities, and the world. They will have the opportunity to test their knowledge on the types of trees found on the Eastern Shore, including those that are native to our area. Members of the Cape Charles Tree Advisory Board and representatives from the Virginia Forestry Service and Northampton County Cooperative Extension will be available to answer questions about what trees to plant and how to prune and care for existing trees. Using the map and guidance provided, individuals and families can go on a “scavenger hunt” to find some of the town’s most special trees.

In addition to Friday’s events, A&N Electric Cooperative is partnering with the Virginia Department of Forestry and the Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation District to distribute tree and shrub seedlings this Saturday, May 1. Last year’s seedling giveaway was unfortunately canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A group of volunteers will be distributing the seedlings at the Eastern Shore Community College in Melfa and at the historic courthouse green in Eastville. Seedlings will be distributed while keeping social distancing in mind, and

cooperative staff will be on hand to answer any questions. The cooperative is asking members of the public who would like to participate in the seedling giveaway to wear a mask and maintain at least 6 feet of distance between themselves and others.

The seedlings will be given away to celebrate Arbor Day with seedlings available from 9 a.m. to noon, or until supplies last. The assortment of seedling species will help benefit native wildlife and pollinators.

While on the topic of Arbor Day, did you know that Onancock, Virginia has been a Tree City Community for the past 23 years? The National Arbor Day Foundation has recognized over 55 Virginia communities with the Tree City USA Award and Onancock is one of them. To be awarded the Tree City Community award, each community needs to meet or exceed the following standards set by National Arbor Day Foundation: establish a tree board or commission; write and pass a tree ordinance; document a \$2 per capita expenditure on tree related matters; and have an Arbor day celebration each year.

The Onancock Tree Board was created in 1990 and is comprised of seven citizens that represent a cross-section of residents (not just tree-related professionals) who share a commitment to protect the town's trees, the desire to educate residents about proper tree care and maintenance, and a forward vision to keep Onancock a tree-shaded town for future generations.

This year, Northampton County has added the first "Tree City" to its list of distinctions. Cape Charles will celebrate this award on Friday, April 30 coinciding with its Arbor Day celebrations.

For answers to Gardening questions call your local Accomack or Northampton County Extension Office. Here on the Shore call either 678-7946 or 787-1361