

By Deb Frisby

Monthly meetings resume in September

Monthly meetings of the Pine Knoll Shores Garden Club resume at town hall on Wednesday, September 14, at 9:30 a.m., with a presentation by Kyle Frey of Crystal Coast Oysters in Morehead City. He will explain his passion for oysters and oyster farming on the Newport River between Beaufort and Morehead City. Mr. Frey said in an interview on YouTube (“Fork2Farmer: Carteret County Oysters”) that oyster farming is a year-round job on the water that creates ecosystems, filters water and is a carbon trap—important environmental practices that benefit our coastal area. The farm is also the source of some of the fresh oysters that end up in local restaurants, including Catch 109 in Morehead City and Table 9 in Atlantic Beach.



Garden Club officers for 2022-23 (from left): Jean McDanal, recording secretary; Linda Langheld, first vice president; Stacy Bagley, second vice president; Sylvia Brodman, treasurer; Susan King, president; and Gina Harris, first vice president. Not pictured: Jennifer Bryan, corresponding secretary.—*Photo by Mike King*

Club members should have received committee assignments by now for this coming year. The executive board met for a planning session in July to discuss plans for the coming year, including committee restructuring. The goal of combining and clearly defining the responsibilities of the committees is to give all club members opportunities to participate as a member of a committee—either Social, Publicity, Gardens, Membership or Fundraising. It is sometimes difficult to know how to help and feel part of the 50-member club without some direction, and the resulting camaraderie from participating in a smaller committee group allows members to get to meet and know each other better as they collaborate to help the club function smoothly.

The holiday wreath sale is the club’s largest fundraiser. Orders for fresh evergreen wreaths can be made by contacting any garden club member until

November 9. Pickup at town hall or delivery by a club member who takes the order will be November 30. Details and order form appear on page 6 in this issue of *The Shoreline*.

In the garden

If you have wondered what is causing the leaves on some trees around town to turn brown, here is the answer. Ambrosia beetles have shown up in Pine Knoll Shores and are attacking some of our trees. Be on the lookout for this subfamily of weevils that make tunnels in unhealthy trees, filling them with ambrosia fungi that will kill the tree. Community Appearance Commission Chairman Steve Felch said the Red Bay laurels in Beacon’s Reach are experiencing laurel wilt disease, thanks to the beetle. Leaves are turning brown but staying on the trees. Upon examination of the tree trunks, small round holes can be seen. Fungi from the beetles is injected through the holes and is interfering with the transport of nutrients throughout the trees’ vascular systems.



Trees with brown leaves are some of the Ambrosia beetle-affected trees in Beacon’s Reach.—*Photo by Deb Frisby*



Ambrosia beetle damage on the 8th hole at the Crystal Coast Country Club.—*Photo by Steve Felch*

Ordinarily, an accumulation of sawdust on the ground around stressed trees and fungi stems resembling bent toothpicks protruding from the bark are signs that the beetle has invaded your tree, but in this area, the wind and rain are erasing these signs. If you see any indications of this pest, call the town and report it. The only remedy is removing the affected trees in an attempt to reduce the spread.

The Garden Club meets the second Wednesday of each month at town hall with a social time at 9:30 a.m., followed by a program at 10. The business meeting follows the program. Guests are always welcome. Send any questions to PKSGardenClub@gmail.com.