

## Community Appearance Commission



**Mission Statement.** The Community Appearance Commission (CAC) assists the town Board of Commissioners and the chief code enforcement officer in initiating, establishing and enhancing programs, projects and policies that maintain and improve the physical appearance and quality of life in Pine Knoll Shores.

**Landscape Ordinance.** The Town Landscape Ordinance requires a landscaping permit before removing trees or shrubs with a trunk diameter in excess of 3 inches, measured 3½ feet from the base of the tree. Make sure you or your contractor obtains necessary permits before removing trees, shrubs or clearing a lot for building.

**Tree City, USA.** The Town of Pine Knoll Shores has been certified as a Tree City, USA community for 11 years. The CAC serves as the Tree Board, whose purpose is to foster the short- and long-range management of trees within public street right of way, town-owned property and other public property and to encourage the use of trees to create and maintain a more natural and congenial living environment. Town officials have adopted a public tree ordinance, the purpose of which is to foster the planting, maintenance and protection of trees on land publicly owned by the town of Pine Knoll Shores.

**General Responsibilities.** It is the general responsibility of the CAC to study and evaluate the visual problems and needs of the town. This includes new construction, alterations and additions by property owners and developers. The CAC makes plans and carries out programs that will, in accordance with the powers set forth in the town code of ordinances, enhance and improve the visual quality and aesthetic characteristics of the town. In particular, the CAC strives to assure that any proposed new construction or development makes effective use of existing terrain and environment and preserves to the extent possible the maritime forest and shrubbery indigenous to the town. It also strives to assure that exterior design and materials are used that harmonize well with the natural environment and are compatible with town programs and policies.

**Terms and Meetings.** Members serve three-year terms, and the chairman a one-year term. The meeting of the CAC is the third Wednesday of each month at 9 a.m.

## Garden Club

By Clare Winslow

Garden Club members took a virtual journey through the state of North Carolina, exploring various habitats and ecosystems from the mountains to the sea at their February 13 meeting at town hall. Aquarium Program Coordinator Samantha Bachmann created this exciting journey by describing in detail, and with props, the unique features of each of the four geographic regions of our state—Blue Ridge, Piedmont, Inner Coastal Plain and Outer Coastal Plain (or Ocean).



Aquarium program coordinator Samantha Bachmann.

The westernmost Blue Ridge contains the Blue Ridge, the Smokey and the Appalachian Mountain chains, the Blue Ridge being the second-oldest mountain range in the world. This region boasts the heaviest rainfall in the state, allowing 137 varieties of deciduous and conifer trees to thrive there. It is home to white tail deer, nocturnal Jordan and spotted salamanders, anole lizards, frogs box turtles; which can hide completely within their shell; and 37 species of snakes, including copperheads, timber rattlers, black rat snakes and black racers. Snakes move by undulation and need a rough surface upon which to move. Completely smooth surfaces immobilize them.

The Piedmont contains rolling hills at the foot of the mountains. It boasts 300 waterfalls, is the heaviest populated area in the state and enjoys sunshine for 280 days of the year. Assorted varieties of sliders (spiny, soft shell, yellow belly, red eared), as well as snapping turtles, salamanders, toads, frogs, and heavily-furred river otters call the Piedmont their home.

The next region to the east, the Coastal Plain, is flat, has slow-moving rivers like the Neuse, conifers and deciduous trees, swamps, bull frog tadpoles, mosquitoes, venomous cottonmouth snakes (also called water moccasins), river otters and alligators, ranging from six to nine feet long. Alligator moms help their babies out of their shells and take care of their young, unlike sea turtle Moms, who deposit their

(Continued on page 14)