

AUGUST 2025

The Native Tree Works Gazette



AN OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE WORKS INC.

August In Review

Jalen Prater

August was a month of steady work and meaningful milestones for the Memphis Native Tree Works team. From pollinator gardens to the nurseries, the Tree Goblins stayed busy with weeding, irrigation, and up-potting—making sure every site is ready for a busy October planting season. One highlight was the re-certification of our Arboretum, a recognition of both ecological value and long-term stewardship. The team also foraged and potted 42 equisetum plants, adding to our

KAYLA FROM MUW (LEFT) WITH
PTTF REP. (RIGHT)



growing native inventory. Volunteers powered much of this progress, contributing over 700 hours of service this quarter through our partnership with Volunteer Odyssey. Their dedication, alongside the crew's daily care, has laid the groundwork for fall planting and for building a greener, more resilient Memphis.

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Pathways to the Future: A Visit to Memphis Urban Wood

by Author

Memphis Native Tree Works hosted students from the Pathways to the Future (PTTF) program with Arkansas Urban & Community Forestry for a tour of our sister organization, Memphis Urban Wood (MUW). The visit gave young leaders a firsthand look at how logs from our city's canopy are transformed into usable lumber, keeping valuable wood out of landfills and putting it back into the community. The teens came with plenty of questions, eager to see how their passion for trees could grow into real careers.

This tour wasn't just about wood—it was about possibility. It showed the students that forestry opportunities exist right here in Memphis, in the heart of an urban wood mill making a difference every day.



PATRICK OF MUW ADDRESSING TEENS FROM PTTF

ANNALISE OF MNTW PAWPAW FORAGING



Pawpaw Season: Pollinators, Foraging, and a Sustainable Future

by Author

In late summer, the pawpaw trees remind us why they're one of the most unique fruits of our region. Their flowers, deep maroon and musky-scented, don't call to bees like most orchard trees. Instead, pawpaws rely on an unusual pollinator crew—flies and beetles, especially carrion flies and dung beetles—drawn in by blossoms that mimic the look and scent of rotting fruit.

This season, Program Coordinator Annalise has been busy harvesting ripe pawpaw fruit and collecting seeds for our nursery. Foraging is more than a seasonal ritual—it's an act of sustainability. By collecting and propagating seeds from wild and cultivated groves, Memphis Native Tree Works reduces dependence on outside suppliers and keeps our nursery stock locally adapted.

At MNTW, each seed gathered is a step toward building a sustainable nursery and a healthier Memphis. With pawpaw season in full swing, we celebrate both the fruit itself and the lesson it carries: resilience comes from working with nature's rhythms, even when they take unexpected forms.



NSS CAMPUS (TOP) AND POLLINATOR GARDEN (BOTTOM)

Rooted in Renewal: Native Plants in North Memphis

by Author

At Memphis Native Tree Works (MNTW), the native plant nursery and landscaping division of The Works, Inc., we are shaping the future of development in Memphis with our all-native planting mandate. This approach cuts down on water use, strengthens ecosystems, and ensures that every project benefits both residents and the wider environment. This fall, the team will bring that vision to life at two major projects: Northside Square (NSS) and Peachtree Senior Living. At Northside Square—formerly a high school in North Memphis now being redeveloped into housing, services, and community spaces—MNTW will install a diverse mix of native trees, wildflowers, and pollinator-friendly landscapes. These plantings will help transform the property into a green, vibrant hub where people and nature can coexist. At Peachtree, an age-restricted senior living community, the focus will be on creating comfortable, restorative spaces with shade, seasonal blooms, and accessible gardens designed to support health and connection for residents.

Both installations are scheduled to begin in October during the native tree planting season, when conditions are ideal for long-term growth and survival. Together, they represent more than landscaping—they are long-term investments in resilience, beauty, and ecological health. By leading these projects, Memphis Native Tree Works is showing how thoughtful, native-focused design can enrich neighborhoods across the city and set a standard for sustainable development in the Mid-South.

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Upcoming Volunteer Events:

- We don't have any upcoming public volunteer dates booked through Volunteer Odyssey just yet—but more are on the way! If you'd like to get involved with Memphis Native Tree Works, make sure to follow us on Instagram [@memphisnativetreeworks](https://www.instagram.com/memphisnativetreeworks). That's the best place to stay up-to-date and be the first to know when new volunteer opportunities open.
- Together, we can keep building a greener, healthier Memphis—one workday at a time.



ANNALISE AND JEANETTE WITH SYLVAMO PAPER AT FLICKER TREE NURSERY



“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.”

— Mahatma Gandhi

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