

September In Review

Jalen Prater

This September, the Memphis Native Tree Works team prepared for fall installations in the Klondike neighborhood and with partners like Overton Park and Burch, Porter & Johnson Law. We also stocked our nurseries to help clients establish pollinator gardens for next year—almost all grown from seed or cuttings collected right here in the Mid-South.

We're excited to announce the launch of our new website: www.memphisnativetreeworks.org where you can explore our mission, services, and learn how to get involved.

INTERNS TIANNA AND OLIVIA



October brings plenty of chances to connect—join us at the Lichterman Nature Center Plant Sale (Oct 4), Flickerfest at Urban Earth (Oct 11), Fall Fest at Cordelia's Market (Oct 19), and the STEAM Festival at Sea Isle Park (Oct 25). Each event is an opportunity to take home native plants, support pollinators, and join us in building a greener Memphis.

● IN THIS ISSUE



Southern Cultured



Leath Street Orchard



Parking Day

Southern Cultured: Partnering for Heirloom Resilience

by Author

This September, the Memphis Native Tree Works team visited Larry at Southern Cultured in Coldwater, Mississippi—a nursery filled with heirloom fruit trees like pawpaw, mulberry, apple, and Meyer lemon. With over 5,000 plants in his greenhouse and orchards lined with Asian persimmons, pears, and Siberian crab apples, Larry is preserving varieties rarely seen today.

We're excited to partner with him to bring persimmon, mulberry, and pawpaw trees back to Memphis, strengthening our canopy and ensuring these unique species thrive for future generations. If you're interested in purchasing some of these plants, follow Southern Cultured on Facebook and support the work of keeping heirloom fruit traditions alive.



LARRY FROM SOUTHERN CULTURED WITH MNTW

LEATH ST COMMUNITY MEETING



Growing Together on Leath Street

by Author

In the heart of the Medical District, our community-led orchard on Leath Street has blossomed into so much more than a food forest—it's become a neighborhood hub for fresh food and connection. What began as a small corner planting has transformed into a thriving space where neighbors gather, share stories, and enjoy fruit straight from the branch. This season alone, figs, persimmons, apples, and peaches have been picked and enjoyed by the community.

This orchard is part of a living regenerative system designed to nourish both people and place. This month, our team spread the word about our initiatives, while listening closely to the voices of residents who call this neighborhood home. With new native plants and a fresh coat of paint, we're working to make the site not only functional, but beautiful.

We extend a special thanks to The Giving Grove for their continued support in maintaining this orchard and helping us provide fresh, seasonal calories to the Medical District. Together, we're showing how food, flowers, and community care can regenerate Memphis—one corner at a time.



DOWNTOWN MEMPHIS AND STREET FAIR MEMPHIS (TOP) ANNALISE AND JEANNETTE (BOTTOM)

Parking Day

by Author

On Parking Day in downtown Memphis, the Pinch District joined forces with Street Fair Memphis and Memphis Native Tree Works to turn ordinary parking spaces into vibrant pop-up parks. Where cars once sat, now native plantings like ironweed, magnolia, sneezeweed, and hydrangea invite pedestrians to slow down, explore, and connect. This shift in street-space usage isn't just symbolic—it's the beginning of reimagining our urban landscape.

Cities around the world have pioneered this movement. In New York City, "Park(ing) Day" installations have raised awareness about reclaiming public space for people, not cars. In Los Angeles, the Pico Boulevard "parklet" program converts parking spots into mini green seating areas, boosting foot traffic to local businesses. Closer to home, Kansas City's "Parklets KC" initiative has seen increased community engagement and enhanced pedestrian experiences along commercial corridors. These efforts show how small conversions can yield big impacts—reducing heat islands, encouraging walking, and creating community gathering places in dense urban settings. Here in Memphis, this is just the beginning. On October 24th, we'll take the next step by installing 15 new planters along North Main Street, filled with native plants chosen for their ecological and aesthetic value. We have 10 spots open for volunteers—if you'd like to be involved, sign up through Volunteer Odyssey. By planting native species, we support pollinators, reduce runoff, and create shade and cooler microclimates. In doing so, we're helping Memphis evolve into a city where streets foster community, connection, and ecological resilience—one planter at a time.

SEPTEMBER 2025

Upcoming Volunteer Events:

- 🌱 October Volunteer Events
- Sign up through Volunteer Odyssey using the QR code below.
- 📍 3158 Steele St.
- 📅 Fri, Oct 18 | 🕒 8:00–11:00 AM
- 📍 369 North Main St.
- 📅 Thu, Oct 24 | 🕒 8:00–11:00 AM
- 📍 21 Flicker St.
- 📅 Fri, Oct 25 | 🕒 8:00–11:00 AM
- Bring water, closed-toe shoes, and a can-do attitude—we'll supply tools and guidance.
- Together, we can keep building a greener, healthier Memphis—one workday at a time.



JEANNETTE, ENOCH, KEVIN (CBU VOLUNTEER), ANNALISE



“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.”
— Helen Keller

WWW.THEWORKSCDC.ORG