

The Shores is a townhouse community located in Tellico Village's northern end facing north-easterly as peninsula shaped much like an Indian arrowhead. Our community is a part of the much larger Tellico Village. Our townhouse neighborhood was developed by Cooper Homes who, in fact, developed the entire village starting in 1986/1987.

We have 40 individual townhomes (villas) with 24 on the water and 16 located on an elevated one-way street. Our first homes were built in the year 2000 and most were built by 2003. We have an existing planting theme from Cooper Homes that has Cleveland Select Pear trees or comparable in most front yards, depending on frontage with the street. In a few cases, people have a crepe myrtle as well in their front yards. We are seeing a deteriorating condition in some of the oldest pear trees due to age, wind storms, etc. We have lost a handful of pear trees at the end of the peninsula and north side.

As an aside, we also have an entrance fountain with plantings and some homes have evergreens and hollies planted in their planting beds, plus (one) Japanese Maple in their front beds. The entrance is important to us.

During the last couple years we created a committee to study what to do with our aging trees. The plan that got approved was to alternate pear trees, double cherry and forest pansies (1-2-3, 1-2-3, etc.). We lost one or two forest pansies, so we question their viability. We are looking for a better long-term solution and one that can handle heat and wind. We like blooming trees! We are trying to reduce the number of crepe myrtles to reduce maintenance expenses.

We have added double cherry trees (double, double cherry trees) to two unique and formerly barren areas to improve the looks. There are three trees across from our parking lot and three at the west side of our property which (will) acts as a visual barrier to backs of homes outside our townhouse grouping. It is by no means ever going to block views completely. We are happy with these plantings and certainly like the tree varieties so far.

The second area of tree concerns is the land near or below the 820 line towards the water on Tellico Lake. Here the planting theme was imperfect but many homes had a river birch, a redbud and a dogwood variety. In the early years, we had trouble with dogwoods dying from apparently too much sun/heat and some were replanted with crepe myrtles which we have discovered take some maintenance. Again, age and storms have taken their toll on some of these trees and we are trying to figure out what to do.

At the same time most people on the water and even some on the Trace above would like better visibility of the lake. Many do not like river birches because they get so large that the views are blocked. Besides that, they drop a lot of limbs during storms, etc. Part of the problem originally was to let them grow with three or four dominate limbs making the view blocking even worse. The redbuds have run into end of life in a couple cases. Sometimes only one limb of two dies and the other looks marginally OK. I have heard of redbuds that are particularly sturdy in wind. That sounds like what we need.

We have a few indigenous trees here and there, including a surprise, long-needle, Georgia Pine according to the TVA Forester.

We know revitalizing our neighborhood plantings will cost some money and have the ability to do something spread over a couple year period. We need expertise and an independent look at our neighborhood to develop a game plan for the here and now, and the future. We think this would be an excellent project for a horticulturalist team. We would welcome a visit to see in person what we have and how best to address.

As you know we are bound by the TVA rules below the 820 line and at the same time I don't think we want to get much more eclectic than we already are. We also try to involve our residents in decision-making when possible. We would be willing to pay an honorarium for services that makes sense for both parties.

I can be reached at skmathot@gmail.com or (865) 458-5028. Thank you for your considerations, Scott Mathot.