



President's Report – June 2015

One of the most attractive features of Martin's Point is the thousands of mature pine, wax myrtle and live oak trees that dot our landscape. We're lucky to live in one of only a few communities on the Outer Banks that has this striking feature which, undoubtedly, draws people to want to call Martin's Point home.

As described in our website home page, "Martin's Point is situated on a beautifully wooded, 2½ mile-long peninsula that comprises part of the Kitty Hawk maritime forest." Our HOA Construction Guidelines state that: "Martin's Point is a beautifully wooded area and contains many trees and shrubs that are native to a Maritime Forest."

We must not take this precious natural resource for granted. Continued loss of our shady, maritime atmosphere will irreversibly change the ambiance and the character of our community, which in turn could reduce property values. Only by working together can we preserve our trees and the many practical benefits they provide including shade, privacy, wind protection and homes for birds and other wildlife. Let's not forget also that trees hold the soil and absorb water which helps to prevent flooding and erosion.

Unfortunately, unavoidable storm damage and flooding, disease and other natural causes have killed thousands of Martin's Point trees over the years. Also, lot development by its very nature will require that trees be cleared to make way for homes, driveways, decks and pools. However, it is up to each of us to prevent the clearing of healthy trees when such an act goes beyond what is necessary for building purposes or is taken simply to suit individual desires.

The developers of Martin's Point recognized the value of our maritime forest by developing specific covenants to protect it. Please abide by our covenants which require prior approval for cutting down *all trees of a certain size* on vacant AND developed lots:

In order to preserve a desirable beauty and prevent purchasers of those Lots and lands from the massive destruction of trees, the plan for cutting trees on the Lots shall be submitted in writing and approved by the Association (ACC).

The cutting down of any trees with a trunk diameter of 4" or greater (as measured at a height of 6 feet) requires prior written approval from the Architectural Control Committee (ACC). This requirement applies in all cases, not just new construction. (The lone exception is a tree that presents an immediate threat to the owner's or neighbor's property or a roadway.)

Before taking down any trees with a trunk diameter of 4" or greater (as measured at a height of 6 feet) please send a brief email to either Mary Davis (maryd1@mindspring.com) or Shannon Bracy at Seaside (Shannon@seaside-management.com) that describes the work you want to do and its purpose. Remember also that plans submitted to the ACC for review and approval will not be approved without a tree removal plan as part of the review package. Remember – only we can preserve the character and ambiance of our wonderful community.

Don't forget that our Annual Neighborhood Picnic is being held this Saturday, June 27 at the marina. This is a great opportunity you won't want to miss. All food will be catered and there will be amusements for the kids. Best of all you'll be able to meet fellow members of the Martin's Point community, make new friends and catch up with old ones. Remember to bring chairs or a blanket, alcoholic beverages if you want them and desserts you wish to share.

Hope to see y'all there!