

The Polk County Appearance Commission announced its 2012 Beautification Awards during the Polk County Board of Commissioner meeting Monday, July 9. Polk County Appearance Commission Chair Joe Cooper presented the awards to six organizations and individuals who made contributions to the county's appearance this year.



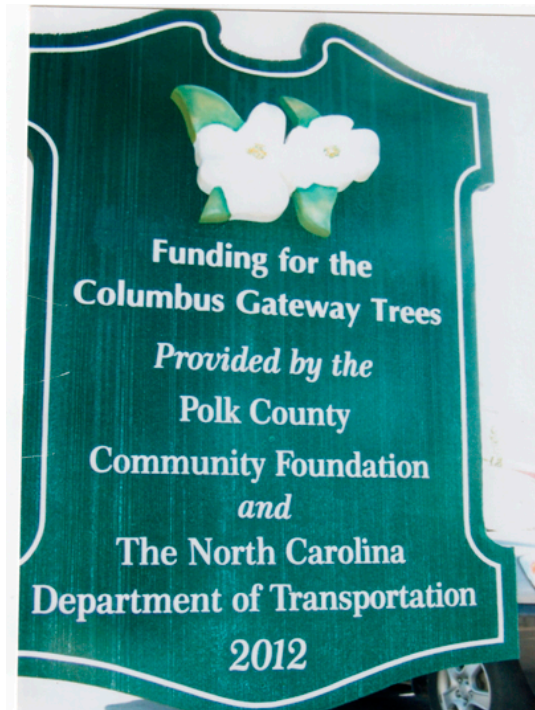
Daffy Jills Garden Club

The Daffy Jills Garden Club received an award for landscape gardening at several public sites, including the Tryon Post Office, the gardens at the Foothills Equestrian Nature Center (FENCE), the flower gardens in front of the Polk County Tourism Office and the landscaping around the base of the Doughboy Statue on East Mills Street by the courthouse in Columbus.



The Town of Columbus

The Town of Columbus received an award for planting the many gateway trees lining the sides of Hwy. 108 (West Mills Street) coming into Columbus, the County Seat. The project required the support of the Polk County Community Foundation and the N.C. Department of Transportation (DOT), with management coordination by Jonathan Kanipe, Columbus Town Manager. Columbus





The House of Flags

The House of Flags Museum received an award for turning the old fire station building on Gibson Street in Columbus into a flag museum that is an educational experience and an attraction for Columbus and Polk County.



County. Bob Lane – Sunnydale

Bob Lane received an award for the complete renovation of the historic log cabin known as Sunnydale, located on South Trade Street in Tryon. Lane, who owned the building, renovated it and then donated it to Tryon Little Theater with an agreement that the building be made available for community events.



Walnut Creek Preserve – Anne Elizabeth Suratt Nature Center
Walnut Creek Preserve received an award for building the Anne Elizabeth Suratt Nature Center at the preserve, a learning center for southern Appalachian forest studies in the Sunny View area of Polk County. Babs and Bob Strickland of Walnut Creek Preserve received the award.

Saluda Community Land Trust (see next page)



BEFORE



AFTER

Saluda Community Land Trust

The Saluda Community Land Trust received an award for removing kudzu in numerous areas of Saluda and greatly improving the appearance of the corner of Ozone Drive and Thompson St., a highly visible site on the most important entry road into Saluda. The kudzu removal project took two years of weekly work with volunteers. The organization also coordinated with the North Carolina Department of Transportation, which owns the property, showing how cooperation between a state agency and a local land trust can greatly benefit a town.