

## **NEWS RELEASE: Oakdale Cemetery Becomes a Certified Wildlife Habitat**

by [Cape Fear Garden Club, Inc.](#) on Monday, February 13, 2012 at 8:14pm ·

**Wilmington, NC:** Oakdale Cemetery, with the help of Cape Fear Garden Club Inc., Gardening for Wildlife Committee, has been designated as a Certified Wildlife Habitat with the National Wildlife Federation. The ceremony will be held Friday, February 17, 2012 at 2:00 PM at the Oakdale Cemetery office, located at 520 North 15th Street, Wilmington, North Carolina.

Oakdale Cemetery met all the requirements of a Certified Wildlife Habitat with the National Wildlife Federation by providing food, water, cover and a place for wildlife to raise their young. The cemetery has a variety of flowering and fruiting trees and shrubs that are suitable for the many forms of wildlife that grace the grounds. It also has a unique water source with Burnt Mill Creek flowing through the heart of the cemetery as well as a tidal and wetland area. There are natural areas of dense vegetation that provide shelter and security for raising young animals. There are also blue bird houses on the property to allow nesting sites. Oakdale is host to many forms of wildlife from insects to any bird imaginable including wrens, cardinals, bluebirds, hawks, woodpeckers, herons, egrets and even a resident spotted owl. There are plenty of fox, raccoons, possum, beaver and even a large deer population that calls Oakdale home. "There is always something stirring on the property, most who are patient and quiet will enjoy the pleasure of nature within Oakdale Cemetery as it is truly a wildlife habitat for Wilmington to enjoy," Eric Kozen, Oakdale Cemetery Superintendent.

There are four basic elements of a Certified Wildlife Habitat. They include food, water, cover, and places to raise young. Food: native plants provide wildlife with nectar, seeds, and berries used by an exciting variety of wildlife. Feeders can supplement natural food sources. Water: all animals need water to survive and some need it for bathing or breeding as well. Cover: wildlife need shelter from bad weather and hiding places – for both predators and prey. Places to raise young: wildlife need special habitat for bearing and raising young.

Oakdale Cemetery, which was chartered in 1852, is open to the public 365 days a year and spans approximately 100 acres. The cemetery was on the Cape Fear Garden Club's Azalea Garden Tour last year. For more information on certified wildlife habitats visit the National Wildlife Federation website: [www.nwf.org/gardenforwildlife.com](http://www.nwf.org/gardenforwildlife.com).

### **CONTACT:**

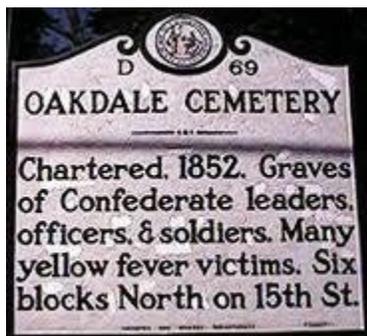
**Cape Fear Garden Club, Inc.**

**Eric Kozen, Superintendent**

**Oakdale Cemetery**

**520 N. 15th Street, Wilmington**

**(910)762-5682**



Oakdale Cemetery, Wilmington, North Carolina