

# Seedling

Winter 2022

**SEEDLING SALE ORDER FORM INSIDE**

**LEGO INITIATIVE**

**BE AWARE OF  
WINTER TIME  
TICKS**

**FAVORITE WEBSITES  
FOR YOU TO VISIT**

**NORTH END SWATARA CREEK STREAMBANK  
STABILIZATION PROJECT**



**PEOPLE • CONSERVATION • RESOURCES**



## Jenna St. Clair, District Manager

As we say goodbye to 2021, it is time to look forward to 2022 here at the Conservation District. We try to use this “quiet” time to prepare for the busy spring and summer seasons, but this mild winter hasn’t slowed things down very much so far.

The Conservation District has been participating in the state and national efforts to reduce nutrient and sediment pollution to the Chesapeake Bay through the improvement of local water quality. This has been a focus of our work since the 1980’s. Innumerable best management practices have been used on local farms with our assistance and by farmers’ own initiative. The PA Department of Environmental Protection has been making an effort to both account for completed work and plan for future improvements by asking counties in the Bay watershed to develop “countywide action plans” to reduce nutrient pollution by 2025.



Jenna meets Santa.

District and county staff, volunteers, and stakeholders worked with a consultant to develop our action plan, Schuylkill Blueprint for a Better Bay. We now continue to work on plan implementation through priority action teams. While the challenges and work are nothing new to us, it has been valuable to assess our progress, strategize future efforts, and gather input from a wide variety of stakeholders.

I welcome your thoughts, ideas, concerns, and questions about the Schuylkill Conservation District and can be reached at (570)622-3742 x3335 and [jstclair@co.schuylkill.pa.us](mailto:jstclair@co.schuylkill.pa.us).

## Flood Maps from Federal Emergency Management Agency available



Wayne Lehman of our staff found this link that shows you the FEMA Flood Maps from absolutely anywhere. Just add your address and check out what you find.

<https://msc.fema.gov/portal/home>





# LEARN VOLUNTEER EDUCATE

Love learning about the environment? Enjoy helping others appreciate our natural resources?

The Master Watershed Steward program is for you!

New training class for Schuylkill and Berks county residents starts March 3, 2022.

Contact us for more information:  
[nkm5342@psu.edu](mailto:nkm5342@psu.edu)

Master Watershed  
Steward Program



PennState Extension



**Conduct a survey on your woodlot to determine the amount of Gypsy Moth egg masses**



Systematically survey egg masses of *Lymantria dispar* ("gypsy moth") in fall and winter to assess the risk of damage next spring and decide whether aerially spraying control agents is worthwhile. Click here for more information from Penn State:

[Guide to Gypsy Moth Egg Mass Surveying \(psu.edu\)](https://www.psu.edu/gypsy-moth-egg-mass-surveying)



# Be Aware of Winter-Time Ticks

**By Kyle Schutt, Insect Management Technician**

- Adult Deer Ticks can remain active with temperatures above 32 degrees.
- It takes prolonged periods of temperatures at or below 10 degrees to start killing off ticks.
- Leaf litter and snowpack can insulate ticks and protect them from the cold temperatures.
- However ticks do have trouble moving when there is snow, because in most cases ticks become covered by the snowpack.
- It is important even in winter to perform tick checks and take precaution, especially if there is no snow and temperatures are above 32 degrees.





# Some of Porcupine Pat's favorite sites for you to visit:



Got to YouTube search  
and type

**"PA Game Commis-  
sion"** to get many wild-  
life videos.

The PA Game Commission  
also has the award-winning  
Wildlife on WiFi program.  
Check it out!

[Wildlife on WiFi \(pa.gov\)](http://pa.gov/WildlifeonWiFi)

[Common-  
treesofPACover2011Print.cdr](http://Common-treesofPACover2011Print.cdr)  
([envirothonpa.org](http://envirothonpa.org))

**Good resource from  
DCNR—Bureau of  
Forestry to help ID  
trees.**

**To ID turtles, frogs  
and more visit:  
[www.paherps.com](http://www.paherps.com)**

To better appreciate  
soils and learn more  
about water visit:

The Soil and Water  
Conservation Society at  
**[www.swcs.org](http://www.swcs.org)**

Check out the Bird Guide at  
**[www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org)**

You will see the birds that  
live around you and also  
hear what they sound like.

Search **"DCNR Find  
Your Park"** to locate any  
type of park from local  
municipal parks to the na-  
tional forest. Good re-  
source!



# SEEDS

## DON'T THROW AWAY OLD LEGOS BRICKS!

The company has a new service called **LEGO Replay** that will wash, sort, and donate your old bricks to charities that work with children. They will even cover shipping. Visit [lego.com/replay](http://lego.com/replay) to print a free shipping label and give the gift of play to a child in need.

© becomingminimalist

**WILDLIFE CRIMES AFFECT US ALL**  
POACHERS ARE THIEVES. HELP US CATCH THEM.



## REPORT WILDLIFE CRIMES

24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year

Toll-Free Hotline: 1-888-PGC-8001

Online: <http://bit.ly/PGCOGT>



Follow the "Operation Game Thief, Pennsylvania Game Commission" Facebook page for current cases.



[WWW.PGC.PA.GOV](http://WWW.PGC.PA.GOV)



[Creativity Week \(squarespace.com\)](http://CreativityWeek.squarespace.com)

## Nurture Creativity. Build the Future.

January 24-30, 2022

[Click here for more info!](#)

## Free Creative Learning Resources!

Free video activities, downloadable project ideas, and even free supplies for the **first 100 schools** that sign-up to participate. \* And the best part? It isn't limited to just 7 days. Every educator will have **free access to digital resources** for cross-curricular creative learning fun all year



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## Good things happening!

### North End Swatara Creek Streambank Stabilization Project



**BEFORE:** Swatara Creek streambank along the North End Fire Company property in Pine Grove. Photos show severely eroded and unstable streambanks before project stabilization.



**AFTER:** Swatara Creek streambank along North End Fire Company property, Pine Grove, showing completion of streambank stabilization project utilizing toe boulders and rock vane deflectors to protect the streambanks from future erosion.



The North End Swatara Creek Streambank Stabilization Project (North End Project) is located within the Borough of Pine Grove along the eastern bank of Swatara Creek. It is directly across and upstream of the 10.5 acre floodplain restoration project — Swatara Creek Floodplain Restoration Phase 1— that was completed in September 2020.

Total funding to design, permit and construct the North End Project was provided through a PA DEP Growing Greener Watershed Protection Grant in the amount of \$201,715.00 and administered by the Schuylkill Conservation District. North End project components included stabilization of nearly 500 linear feet of severely eroded and unstable Swatara Creek streambanks utilizing toe boulders and five rock vane deflectors.

North End Project partners included the Schuylkill Conservation District (Growing Greener Grant Grantee), Clauser Environmental, LLC (design consultant), North End Fire Company (property owner), Flyway Excavating, Inc (construction contractor) and Northern Swatara Creek Watershed Association.



# FAMILY FOREST CARBON PROGRAM

## Improve the Health and Value of Your Woodland

### About Enhancing Future Forests

Had a recent harvest on your land, or planning one in the near future? Enhancing Future Forests shares the costs to remove invasive and unwanted plants to help your next generation of trees grow.

#### When you enroll in Enhancing Future Forests, you receive:

- A **free visit by a forest professional** who provides expert guidance and consultation
- **Professional guidance** on how to remove competing vegetation on your land
- **Funding** to help you reach your goals

### Payments

In addition to the increased value of the timber that will accumulate throughout your time in the practice, Enhancing Future Forests provides funding to help you achieve your goals. The more competing vegetation your enrolled land has, the more payment is sent per acre to treat it. Total payment will range between \$50-280 per acre. Payments are received throughout the contract period, with 70% of the total payment received upfront to support the costs of removal.

### Program Requirements

#### Basic Eligibility Requirements

- Located within eligible project areas
- Between 30 and 2,400 acres
- Land is not within 50 feet of streams, spring seeps, lakes, or ponds
- The land has at least 30% cover of undesirable competing plants
- You have conducted a regeneration harvest in the past 10 years or plan to conduct one in the next 10 years

#### Practice Requirements

- 10-year commitment
- Treat enrolled stands to reduce competing vegetation by at least 85% of pre-treatment value and maintain this level throughout the contract period
- Complete the regeneration harvest as planned, if needed
- Confirm every five years that you are sticking to requirements

"My main objective is to make the place as nice as possible for wildlife. To keep wildlife there, so I can enjoy seeing it."

-JON, PENNSYLVANIA LANDOWNER

1

#### Confirm Eligibility

We're currently operating in MD, PA, and WV for woodlands that meet the requirements above.

2

#### Meet with a Forest Professional

We'll help you schedule a free visit with a forester professional who will walk your land to gather details for enrollment.

3

#### Enroll

You'll receive payment terms and a contract to review before enrollment. Then, we'll send your first annual payment and begin!

Learn more and get started at

[www.familyforestcarbon.org](http://www.familyforestcarbon.org)



American  
Forest  
Foundation



The Nature  
Conservancy  
Protecting nature. Preserving life.





# 47th Annual Seedling Sale to benefit Sweet Arrow Lake County Park



Your seedlings will increase property value, enhance wildlife habitat, beautify the landscape, improve the environment, and can provide a source of income. *Thanks for your support of the lake!*

- **SCOTCH PINE (FRENCH HIGHLAND):** Seed is from French Alpine Region. This hardy tree has short needles that are blue-green. Foliage is brighter blue than other forms; the coloring is retained through the winter. 3 year old seedlings. Size: 10-18."
- **NORWAY SPRUCE:** Fastest growing of all spruces. Develops pyramidal shape and strong graceful branches that are covered with dark green needles. Ideal windbreaker that likes full sun and grows in various soils. Matures at 60 feet and has a beautiful 25 foot spread. 3 year old seedlings. Size: 6-12."
- **RED SPRUCE:** Red Spruce grows at a slow to moderate rate to a height of 60 to 80 feet. Spread 20 to 25 feet. It has a narrow, conical shaped crown. The needles are yellow green in color, shiny and tend to curve upward. The chestnut brown cones are 1 to 2 inches long that hang down. The bark is grayish brown on the surface and more reddish brown beneath. Suitable for Christmas trees. The buds and seeds provide food for grouse, red squirrels, pileated woodpeckers and crossbills. 3 year old seedlings. Size: 6-12."
- **EASTERN RED CEDAR:** Pyramidal evergreen growing up to 50 feet. Medium green needles are flat and scale-like. Grayish to reddish brown bark is considered part of its ornamental interest. 2 year old seedlings. Size: 6-12"
- **WINTERBERRY:** This deciduous shrub grows to 6-15 feet tall and often as wide. It develops a rounded habit through suckering, eventually growing into a sizeable colony of upright stems. The stems tend to be dark brown and often develop a pleasing gray sheen. The three inch long, elliptic, toothed, and pointed leaves vary from light to dark green, taking a yellow hue in autumn. Offers bright red berries in late summer. The berries remain after leaf fall and persist into the winter months to provide food for wildlife. Winterberry prefers evenly moist, acid soils in full sun to partial shade. 2 year old seedlings. Size: 6-12."
- **RIVER BIRCH:** Popular use in the landscape as an ornamental tree due to its beautiful and distinct bark. A medium to fast grower, this tree reaches heights of 70 feet and grows in various soil types. It makes a striking landscape impact when planted in tight groups of three or more. 2 year old seedlings. Size: 1-2 ft.
- **BLACK CHOKEBERRY:** A deciduous shrub that features white flowers, black fruits and bold red fall foliage. Can be planted in either full sun or partial shade. You will get the best flowering and fruiting in full sun locations. The fruit can be canned whole or the juice extracted for jelly making as well as a healthful fruit drink. 2 year old seedlings. Size: 8-15."
- **RED MAPLE:** This maple grows at a moderate to rapid rate and does best in bright sun to partial shade. It will grow in a range of soil types from sandy loam to clay. Better soil will result in a better healthier tree. The tree has a pyramidal shape when young. When the tree matures it will attain a larger more rounded crown and will grow to a size of 40-60 feet with a width of 25-45 feet. Leaves turn a brilliant red during fall and accent any yard. 2 year old seedlings. Size: 4-8."
- **RED OAK:** Very popular landscaping tree for shade on lawns, parks and golf courses. This oak is fast growing and easy to transplant. It is tolerant of urban conditions including dry and acidic soil and has abundant acorns that attract wildlife. Leaves turn a brilliant brick-red fall color and adds color to a forest. This tree has been used in mine reclamation sites for revegetation purposes. 1 year old seedlings. Size: 4-8."
- **WHITE OAK:** Grows 50 to 80 feet. Dense foliage is bluish-green, to reddish-brown in autumn. Grows best in a deep, loamy, well drained soil. Known for their broad, round head and massive, wide spreading branches. An excellent specimen tree needing plenty of room to mature properly. Also the most prolific lumber oak in the Northern Hemisphere. Advantages of white oak are that they are easily transplanted when young and they have a high resistance to ice breakage and oak wilt. Also, a good tolerance of highway salt. They are a long lived tree and require very little maintenance. Native to eastern to mid United States, 2 year old seedlings. Size: 8-15."
- **SILKY DOGWOOD:** Deciduous spreading shrub. Multi-stemmed shrub with dense foliage and rounded form. New stems are reddish purple with fine silky hair. Flexible stems will root where they are in contact with the ground. Clusters of small white flowers in spring, followed by blue berries which ripen to black. Flowers attract butterflies. Fruit eaten by many birds. Leaves and twigs browsed by deer and rabbits. One of the more shade tolerant shrubs for moist soil. Used for restoration and ground stabilization because it readily roots from stems. 2 year old seedlings. Size: 1-2 ft.
- **WITCH HAZEL:** Deciduous shrub with a multi-stemmed habit, spreading and open in shade, upright and pyramidal in full sun. Leaves 3 to 5 inches long, oval to almost round. Bright yellow leaves in early fall are followed by tiny highly fragrant yellow flowers. Seeds and buds are a favorite winter food for grouse. This tree is the source of medicinal Witch Hazel and grows nicely in urban areas with adequate soil moisture. Because it is highly shade tolerant. Witch Hazel is a great species to plant in the shade of a woodlot and can develop an interesting open habit. 2 year old seedlings. Size: 4-8."

**NEW PICKUP LOCATION — WATERFALL RD PAVILION —48 WATERFALL RD, PINE GROVE**

# 47th Annual Seedling Sale Order Form—2022

**Proceeds benefit Sweet Arrow Lake County Park**



- **ORDER DEADLINE:** Order must be received by **Saturday, March 19, 2022** and will be filled while supplies last! No order cancellations or refunds after the deadline.
- **PICK UP:** Saturday, April 23, 2022 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon for a **drive-thru pick up** at the **Waterfall Road Pavilion**.
- **NOTE:** Seedlings are bare root and will be healthy at pick up. No guarantees after this date.
- **INFO:** "Porcupine Pat" at 570.391.3326 or [porcupinepat@yahoo.com](mailto:porcupinepat@yahoo.com) or Kathy Stefanick at 570.345.4963

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Save postage and the environment by providing your email below:

\_\_\_\_\_



ITEM	# PER BUNDLE	# DESIRED	COST/BUNDLE	TOTAL
Scotch Pine	10/bundle		X 15.00 =	
Norway Spruce	10/bundle		X 15.00 =	
Red Spruce	10/bundle		X 15.00 =	
Eastern Red Cedar	10/bundle		X 15.00 =	
Winterberry	5/bundle		X 12.00 =	
River Birch	5/bundle		X 12.00 =	
Black Chokeberry	5/bundle		X 12.00 =	
Red Maple	5/bundle		X 12.00 =	
Red Oak	5/bundle		X 12.00 =	
White Oak	5/bundle		X 12.00 =	
Silky Dogwood	5/bundle		X 12.00 =	
Witch Hazel	5/bundle		X 12.00 =	
			Total Sale =	
			Please be sure to add 6% sales tax =	
			Grand Total =	

- Please make your check payable to SALCA. Mail check and this form to: SALCA, PO Box 143, Pine Grove, PA 17963. (SALCA stands for Sweet Arrow Lake Conservation Association.)
- For more information about Sweet Arrow Lake County Park: [www.sweetarrowlakepark.com](http://www.sweetarrowlakepark.com)

NEW PICKUP LOCATION — WATERFALL RD PAVILION — 48 WATERFALL RD, PINE GROVE



## Master Gardeners of Schuylkill County

[schuylkillmg@psu.edu](mailto:schuylkillmg@psu.edu)

570.622.4225 ext. 23

### "From the Greenhouse Column" by Master Gardener Tom Reed

Happy New Year to everyone! Here is looking forward to a new growing season come spring, but first some things to do.

During the next several months there will be gardening classes online, the Schuylkill County Master Gardeners will be doing a spring gardening series in March, more info to follow. For online classes go to the Penn State Extension website and search for webinars and classes. Many are free and some do have a small fee.

Another item is to ensure all hand and power tools are ready to go when it is time for use. There is nothing more frustrating than trying to start equipment that just sat around all winter.

Properly stow power/gas equipment in accordance with tech manual recommendations. I also will run my equipment several times a month over winter, for about 20 minutes, even though I do use fuel stabilizer. Maintenance on clippers, shears, shovels, and wooden handles should be done now to keep them in ready shape for spring.

Getting seeds and other supplies early would be sound advice. I just ordered vegetable and herb seeds for my place and several items were out of stock already. Plan accordingly, fertilizer prices and pesticide prices are already increasing. I am sure potting mixes will take the same route.

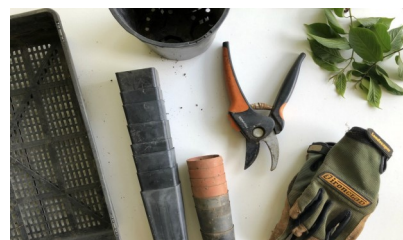
At the end of last year, the PA Department of Agriculture added Japanese Barberry to the noxious weed list and rightly so. Just recently the Callery Pear (aka Bradford) has also been added. This tree has been very popular, and many municipalities have them as street trees. These are extremely invasive plants that will take over a landscape and push native plants out that are habitat for wildlife. When a plant is placed on the noxious weed list it cannot be sold, propagated, or planted in the state.

The Master Gardener Hotline is still available for your questions. Just give us a call at 570-622-4225. You can also join us the first Tuesday of the month with JZ and Jerry on "Step Up to the Mic" on AM 1360 WPPA Pottsville.



## Winter Gardening Tips

Winter pruning is a huge time saver. You can prune the dead and diseased portions from any shrubs during winter and the shrub won't even know it happened because they are dormant. It's much easier to see what's going on when there are no leaves to get in the way. You can even reduce the size of these shrubs by half if needed. Great plants to prune in winter: Burning Bush, Panicle Hydrangea, Potentilla and Japanese Spirea.



Winter sowing can be done in December through March by planting up seeds in recycled greenhouses made from old milk or water jugs. Poke holes in the bottom of a gallon jug. Then cut the jug in half just under the handle. Fill the bottom with soil, add seeds for perennials you want to grow, water well and then duct tape the top back on. Label with a permanent marker and remove the lid. Set them outside and check back with them in the spring. You'll be surprised at how easy it can be!

**Listen to Master Gardeners on WPPA AM 1360 or 105.9 at 10 a.m. on the first Tuesday of each month year round.**



# IT'S IN OUR NATURE

Virtual PAEE Conference  
March 21 - 22, 2022

In Person Regional Events  
March 23

## 2022 Pennsylvania Association for Environmental Education (PAEE) Virtual Conference

**Fee: \$50 for members, \$75 for non-members**  
**Scholarships Available!**

Scholarships equal to the amount of the full conference registration rate and a one year membership to PAEE (up to \$75) are available for 15 Pennsylvania practicing teachers and/or school administrators to attend the 2022 Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Educators Conference. Priority will be given to teachers or school administrators that serve Title I schools, marginalized communities, or otherwise work to grow DEI and environmental justice. The conference will take place on March 21-22. Complete the [Google form](#) by January 22, 2022 to apply.

Questions? Contact PAEE Administrative Coordinator Stacey Widenhofer at [stacey@paee.net](mailto:stacey@paee.net). Visit: [Home \(paee.net\)](http://Home(paee.net)) for more information.

### Schuylkill Conservation District Board and Staff

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- Alexa Smith, Natural Resources Conservationist, 3336
- Kyle Schutt, Insect Management Technician, Cell: 484.331.4499



**The Annual Seedling Sale is now underway. You can help benefit Sweet Arrow Lake County Park by making a purchase. Look for a flyer inside this issue.**



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