



## Environmental Stewardship Matters

# WINTER NEWS AND TREE TIPS

## NEW TREE ADVISORY BOARD (TAB) MEMBER

Father Rick Robyn was appointed to the TAB at the Board of Trustees meeting in October. Welcome Father Rick! He joins Chiu Yin Hempel, Christopher Gow, Jill Swirbul, Jeff Voss (DPW) and Alan McHugh (Trustee Liaison.)

## OCTOBER – ALWAYS A GOOD TIME TO PLANT

Thus it was a very busy month for the TAB! We organized Larry Weaner Landscape Associates to plant 706 native plants, grasses and sedges inside the flat basin of the **Race Track Nature Preserve (RTNP)**, including:

27 Indian Grass \* 245 Cloud Nine' Panic Grass \* 25 Wool Grass \* 19 Fringed Sedge  
10 Swamp Milkweed \* 25 Flat topped Aster \* 82 Culver's root \* 27 New York Ironweed  
24 Purple Meadow Rue \* 54 Tall Meadow Rue \* 44 Rose Mallow \* 65 Joe-Pye Weed

The TAB applied to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) Trees for Tribes Program. For the third year, we were awarded over 100 native saplings and shrubs. These were planted **on the embankment of the Wee Wah Lake at the DPW depot** in accordance with the BOT's continuing efforts to establish lake- and stream-side vegetative buffers to protect lake health, maintain water quality and improve fish and wildlife habitat essential for the lakes' ecosystem. In so doing, the Village is setting an example for homeowners.

Nutrients washed into our lakes from gardens, roads and other hardscapes by soil erosion and storm water runoff encourage the growth of milfoil and algae, thus adversely affect the quality of our drinking water. The long roots of native plants are excellent at mitigating soil erosion and storm water runoff, whereas exposed earth, leaf debris, blue grass lawn and mulch just won't do the trick!

We also wish to thank the Alex Salm Bequest for additional trees that were planted at the DPW site.

The native plants installed there include:

*(Planted in dry to medium dry soil)*

10 Northern Bayberry

*(Planted in medium dry soil)*

5 Serviceberry/ Juneberry \* 10 Black Chokeberry \* 10 Red Chokeberry

*(Planted in medium to wet soil)*

15 Sweet Pepperbush \* 10 Silky Dogwood \* 15 Winterberry \* 10 Meadowsweet

10 Steeplebush \* 10 Highbush Cranberry

*(Planted in wet soil)*

15 Swamp Rose

*(Trees by courtesy of the Alex Salm Bequest)*

3 River Birch \* 2 Sour Gum \* 1 Red Maple \* 3 Eastern Hemlock

## **PLANT BAYBERRY IN YOUR GARDEN (NOT JAPANESE BARBERRY!)**

Bayberry bushes are a hardy plant with pleasantly scented foliage and berries. They are native to the East coast and throughout the South.

This upright shrub can thrive in areas where many other plants cannot, making it ideal for conservation plantings and for landscaping as hedges, wildlife borders and along roads and driveways (it is highly salt tolerant.) It provides year-round shelter and food source for wildlife as the berries and some leaves remain through the winter. The scented berries were a source of wax for early settlers and is still used in candle making.

**Don't confuse Bayberry with Japanese Barberry**, a fast spreading, highly invasive plant which forms dense stands that shade out/displace native trees and herbaceous plants. This invasive plant provides a prime environment for deer ticks and has been linked to an increased risk for Lyme disease. Tell your landscapers and nurseries there are many native alternatives to Japanese Barberry. Choose native species to create more wildlife habitat, protect local ecosystems and safeguard the health of our families.



***Bayberry***

## DILEMMA OF THE COPPER BEECH TREE

Have you noticed the Copper Beach Tree (a beautiful native) with the “disastrous haircut” at the triangle in front of St. Mary’s? Sadly, this tree, which grows to 50-75 ft, was inappropriately planted years ago under the utility wires and was savaged for necessary line maintenance, leaving the Village in a quandary – leave it as is or cut and replace? Let us know what you think. Email [tptreeboard@gmail.com](mailto:tptreeboard@gmail.com).



***Don’t plant tall trees (e.g., oak, sugar maple, tulip, etc.)  
under or close to utility wires***

## PLANT NATIVE TREES TO REPLACE YOUR DISEASED ASH

The emerald ash borer (EAB), is an exotic beetle that was discovered in the US in 2002. While adult beetles nibbling on ash foliage cause little damage, the larvae (the immature stage) feeding on the inner bark essentially strangle the tree by disrupting its ability to transport water and nutrients.

The most destructive forest pest, the EAB infestation could cost billions of dollars nationwide. State and Federal agencies have made this problem a priority. Homeowners can help by monitoring their ash trees for symptoms of EAB, and by replacing them with other native trees. Hire a certified tree company to handle the inspection and removal because infested timber should not be transported more than 50 miles.



***An EAB-infested ash***

## AN IMPORTANT REMINDER ABOUT FERTILIZERS

Fertilizers containing phosphorus are banned by law in Tuxedo Park, and no fertilizers should be used between November and March because the nutrients would simply wash away into our streams and lakes.

## LET'S ALL CONTRIBUTE TO THE HEALTH OF OUR ECOSYSTEM

A packet of native wild Milkweed seeds has been mailed to you with the compliments of The Tree Advisory Board. Please email us [tptreeboard@gmail.com](mailto:tptreeboard@gmail.com) if you have not received it. Plant the seeds now as they require cold stratification; instructions are on the seed packet. They can also be sown in the Spring, but will need to be refrigerated in the meantime. Milkweed is not a weed but a divine-smelling native plant that captivates children with their silken parachute seed dispersal. The plant is essential for the survival of the Monarch Butterfly: it needs Milkweed to lay its eggs, and the caterpillar only eats Milkweed.



*feeding on Milkweed*

*A Monarch butterfly*

The Monarch, with its striking striped caterpillars, emerald and gold foiled chrysalis, and tiger striped wing patterns, is one of the most beloved of all butterflies. People flock to see Monarch migrations, but we are also responsible for the specie's near-extinction. Loss of natural habitat to human constructions and exposure to pesticides resulting from industrial and agriculture practices are threatening Monarch populations from Canada to Mexico. By growing wild Milkweed and providing the larvae with their primary habitat, we will create a Monarch sanctuary in our own garden.

The Monarch Butterfly is very important to the health of our planet's ecosystem. While feeding on nectar, it pollinates many types of flowers. The butterfly is also a food source for birds, small animals and insects.

**AND...**  
**HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**



## PROGRESS AT THE RACE TRACK NATURE PRESERVE (RTNP)

2018 was a great leap forward for the RTNP. In March, the DPW mowed the entire flat basin to control the residual invasive shrubs and to encourage native plant growth. In June and October, the northern and southern sections (where the highly invasive *Miscanthus* grass had been eradicated) were seeded with native grasses and flowers. The new North Entrance was officially opened in July with a community ceremony and reception (thanks to hosts Claudia Hanlin and Alvin Rodolfo) also honoring the Meadow Stewards, who joined the Founding Stewards in providing generous funding to the transformation of the old Race Track into a Nature Preserve. Visit [www.tptreeboard.org](http://www.tptreeboard.org) for the list of Stewards. We also made significant improvements to the infrastructure of the Preserve, including installing native riprap at drainage sites and cutting new trails to provide varied viewing points. Seeding, planting and ongoing invasive control will continue in 2019.

**To improve the environment, aesthetics and real property value of our community and to provide educational opportunities for our children, please include the RTNP in your year-end giving.**

----- *Please return the reply form below with your donation* -----

**YES!** We/I will support the ongoing ecological restoration of the **RACE TRACK NATURE PRESERVE** by:

- ☐ Becoming a Tree Steward (donor's or honoree's name will be listed on a bronze plaque at the Preserve): **\$5,000 (to create a tangible family legacy)**
- ☐ Purchasing "Native Meadow", an original framed woodblock print created by local artist, Mae Shore **\$500 (a perfect holiday gift)**
- ☐ Planting a tree (donor's or honoree's name will be included in a framed artwork displayed at the Village office): **\$300 (to replenish our aging forest in honor of a person)**
- ☐ Purchasing an original herbarium artwork created by Christopher Gow **\$150 (another perfect holiday gift)**
- ☐ Enclosing a donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*All donations are tax-deductible.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please write the check to "Village of Tuxedo Park," memo it "Gift to Race Track Preserve" and mail in the enclosed envelope to Village of Tuxedo Park, P.O. Box 31, Tuxedo Park, New York 10987. **THANK YOU!***