

Hedgerows

Summer 2010 Published by the Washington Township Land Trust

Support Local Land Conservation

Help Washington Township “Go Native”

by Keith Hayes

The Washington Township Land Trust has created a program to reintroduce native trees to the local environment. To continue what was started last year, we will need your help.

If we do this now, there will come a day when we can walk among American Chestnut trees, Persimmon Trees, and even meander through a Pawpaw patch. The choice of plant material to reintroduce is endless, but we plan to start with these few trees.

This year we will be planting the Persimmon, last year we planted the Paw Paw. Our first planting site was the Mill Pond Park which is situated along the South Branch of the Raritan River in Long Valley; this 24 acre park is along Patriots Path and is easily accessible behind the old Welsh Farms property. We will continue to use this site for the Persimmon trees. If you would like to be part of “Going Native” we ask that you sponsor a tree or trees. Sponsors will be listed on our website and also in our LaTourette Grist Mill in downtown Long Valley.

To sponsor a tree, we request a donation of \$35.00. The trees will be planted in appropriate locations throughout the park. The Persimmon is highly valued as a food source for wildlife.

(continued on page 4)



Local Junior Girl Scout Troop 94067 plant a bayberry bush (June 12) in the Fairview Avenue meadow that WTLT is currently working on in Mill Pond Park.

Mill Pond Park Troop Hike and Planting

by Keith Hayes

Saturday, June 12th, was a beautiful sunny, summer day and the Mill Pond Park quickly filled up with local girl scouts of all ages. Junior troop 94067 started the day with a planting on the Fairview Ave property. They chose to plant a bayberry bush because it is a native plant, it is deer resistant and it provides berries for wildlife during the early winter months. The shrub will thrive in its new location. A brief discussion on the Bayberry was given by WTLT president Keith Hayes.

When the planting was done, various troops also joined in for a hike of the Mill Pond Park trails. The girls hiked both the Mill Pond trail and the Frying Pan trail, covering about a mile and a half. They walked with individually decorated walking sticks and all seemed to wear the brightest colors in the spectrum—they were a very colorful sight. Along the way, they learned about the extremely large White Ash tree, the Pawpaw tree, Poison Ivy and many other native plants. However, the favorite activity seemed to be collecting as many terrestrial snails as possible; these small tan shelled snails are very common along the beginning of the trail system.



Keith Hayes explaining aspects of the Bayberry Bush to Jane Bainbridge and members of Troop 94067.

(continued on page 2)

MISSION STATEMENT

The Washington Township Land Trust was organized to protect and preserve the ecological, cultural, and historical integrity of the areas that contribute to and enhance the rural character of Washington Township and its environs. The Trust also promotes public interest in conserving land for open space uses in harmony with the natural environment and acquires interests in land by purchase or donation. It also manages land and property easements for the benefit of the public and educates the public to be stewards of the land.

2010 OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Keith Hayes
908.876.4603

VICE PRESIDENT

Karen Richards
908.441-2194

TREASURER

Chris Steffan
908.832.9603

SECRETARY

Susan Penney
908.832.6910

NEWSLETTER

Paul Krylowski
908.832.6936

MILL OFFICE

12 East Mill Rd.
Long Valley, NJ 07853
908.876.5986

Hedgerows © 2010 Washington Township
Land Trust



Drawing of the Third Annual 50/50 Raffle

by Chris Steffan

The drawing for the 50/50 raffle was held on April 17th at the annual wine tasting. Our winner, Judy Beck, was quite surprised when she returned to the wine event after giving a family member a ride home. Judy received \$887.45 as her half. This was a bit lower than in past years but, considering the economic climate, still a good return on a \$10.00 ticket. We wish to thank everyone who supported this fund raiser and hope that you will consider 'taking a chance' when we run our next raffle.



Steve Sturges of Peapack Fine Wines, draws 50/50 winner Judith Beck's ticket during the 2010 Wine Tasting Event.

17 April, 2010 Wine Tasting

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who attended our annual Wine Tasting on April 17th. Without the participation of our members and supporters these events could not be a success. I would like to give special mention to the following people who could not attend but chose to send a donation.

- Mr. & Mrs. Toby Bainbridge
- Ms. Linda Canny
- Mr. Fred Haffner
- Ms. Cecelia Illing
- Mr. & Mrs. Jason Lance
- Mr. & Mrs. Charles Parke
- Ms. Mary Pittaro
- Mr. & Mrs. Murray Reed
- Mrs. June Scheller
- Mr. & Mrs. Tracy Tobin
- Ms. Elsie Watson
- Mr. Robert Weissman
- Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Wharton



The Wish List

WTLT is looking for a storage shed we can place at Mill Pond Park for maintenance equipment (push mower, weed wacker). We need one about 6'x 8' in size. If you have a shed you'd like to donate, please contact us via e-mail at obadiah1750@hotmail.com or Chris at 908-832-9603. Thank you.



I will speak for the Board of Trustees by saying how much we appreciate the support everyone has given us over the years through donations, participation in our events, maintaining membership and helping with projects. We look forward to continuing our relationship with *all* of you.

Thank You!

Chris Steffan



Myrica pensylvanica

The northern bayberry is native to the northern United States and is extremely common along the Atlantic shoreline. The shrub is very adaptable, being salt spray tolerant and urban tolerant. The ideal situation is a sandy soil in full sun, but it will grow in a variety of conditions.



Bayberry is a deciduous to semi-evergreen shrub. The leaves are dark green and can be up to 4" long; they have a strong aromatic scent when crushed. The shrub will normally grow about 8 to 10 feet high with an equal spread; it can grow taller. Bayberry tends to sucker from the roots and will establish some large colonies when growing in ideal conditions. It also grows readily from seed.

The flowers appear in late spring and are rather small and inconspicuous; these are followed by the well-known waxy bayberries. To produce berries, both a male and female plant are required. The berries last well into winter and are an excellent food source for many native birds. The berries will feed wildlife well into the following spring and therefore are a very important winter food source.

Mill Pond Park Hike and Planting (continued from page 1)

At the end of the Mill Pond trail, the hikers could view the historic Obadiah LaTourette Grist Mill building across the river. They were given a brief history lesson on the mill and the stone dam from Chris Steffan. She explained how before the dam broke in the big storm of 1938, the pond covered almost the entire park; until then, this water was diverted through the building to turn the turbines and water wheels to power the various pieces of equipment. At the end of the Frying Pan trail, Keith

The wax coating on the berries has been used for centuries to make scented candles. While it looks to be a lavender grey color, the wax is actually a pleasant light green color; the berry itself, under the waxy coating is almost black. The wax is removed by boiling the berries, the wax will rise to the surface and the berries will sink. Once cool, the hard wax can be removed from the top of the water. It takes thousands of berries to make substantial amounts of wax, but a few handfuls will yield enough wax to experiment with.

The shrub is one of the easiest to grow and has no serious insect or disease problems, it is deer resistant. It is adaptable as a small tree or a hedge, it is extremely drought tolerant and does not benefit from the application of fertilizers – it is the perfect environmentally correct plant.

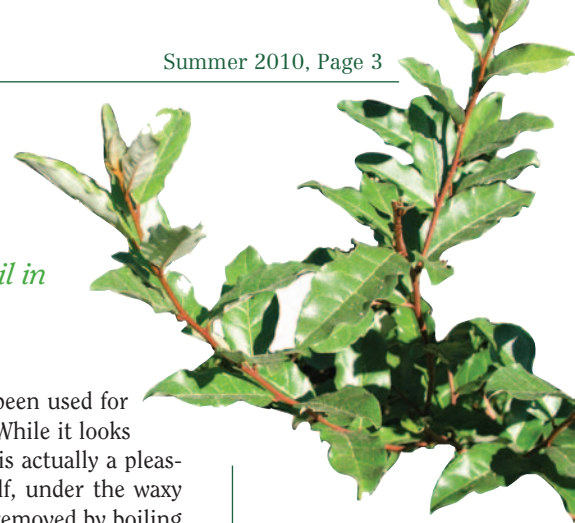
Being a native species, easy to grow, maintenance free and a favorite of wildlife, it is amazing that every yard in New Jersey does not have a few of these. Thanks to local Junior Girl Scout Troop 94067, the Land Trust now has one in its park on Fairview Ave.



Chris Steffan (right) and troop leader Diane Draghi discuss width and depth required for planting.

Hayes pointed out the frying pan that hangs about 15 feet high in one of the Spruce Trees. The frying pan has been there since the WTLT bought the property; it seems to date from the 1970s. Who put it there has always been a mystery to us.

It seemed to be an enjoyable day for all and the Land Trust looks forward to the next visit by the local scouts. We hope that many return with their friends and families to visit the trails often.



Northern Bayberry
Myrica pensylvanica

Hardiness Zone: 4, 5 & 6

Mature Height: 6-12 Feet

Mature Width: 6-12 Feet

Features: Dark green foliage, aromatic when crushed, and persisting well into autumn; clusters of gray, waxy berries on female plants; fruits persist into winter and are also aromatic.

Culture: Full sun to partial shade; tolerates wet sites, dry sites, low fertility and salt; prefers slightly acid soil.

Mature Form: Often broader than tall due to suckering

Native To: United States

Soil Conditions: Dry, Moist, Well-Drained, Wet

Tolerance: Dry Sites, Salt, Soil Compaction, Wet Sites, Wind

Uses: Border, Massing, Screen, Specimen

Foliage Color: Green

Fall Foliage Color: Green

Additional Notes: Since male and female flowers are on separate plants, both are needed to produce the waxy berries (berries will be produced on female plant only). Berries are used to make bayberry candles.

Berries favored by Yellow-rumped Warbler

Source: University of Illinois Extension web site

Help Washington Township "Go Native" (continued from page 1)

Please help us go native and consider sponsoring a Persimmon tree. Contact Chris Steffan by e-mail at obadiah1750@hotmail.com or fill out this form and send it to:

WTLT
P.O. Box 4
Long Valley, NJ 07853-0004



See the Spring 2007 issue of *Hedgerows* for Keith Hayes article on the American Persimmon. www.wtlt.org/newsletters



"Go Native"

I would like to participate in the Land Trust's "Go Native" tree planting program. Please use the enclosed donation for planting of Persimmon trees in Washington Township.

Enclosed \$ _____ (All donators are listed on www.wtlt.org) please do not list my name

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

E-mail (For WTLT use only) _____

Mark your Calendar!

Next wine tasting will be April 30, 2011 at the same location, Schooley's Mountain Park Lodge.
Hope to see you there!



Washington Township Land Trust
PO Box 4
Long Valley, NJ 07853-0004

Nonprofit Organization
PRSR STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Long Valley, NJ 07853
Permit No. 99