

TREES AT THE POINT

The Environmental Commission just sponsored our first-ever free tree giveaway, and it was a huge success despite the inclement weather over Memorial Day weekend. Many thanks to Lance Lippset for making the Firehouse available for the event! We gave away 18 Sweet Bay Magnolias, and two remaining trees were planted at the south end of Lake Lily.

In addition, Cape May Point residents may have seen our hardworking Public Works employees planting additional new trees on public land. Some of the newly-planted trees are:

A Sweet Gum has been added to the wooded section of Triangle Park. Also, a Black Cherry tree will be planted there this fall. They were chosen due to their ability to support wildlife.

According to Doug Tallamy, a noted entomologist, **“Black Cherry serves as the host plant for an amazing array of butterflies and moths – more than 450 species.”**

The Sweet Gum tree is a larval host to over 30 butterflies and moths, an early nectar source for hummingbirds, and a favorite of the American Goldfinch.

A Red Maple, has been planted in the area on the west side of Lake Lily where vegetation was deliberately destroyed in an act of vandalism this winter. The Red Maple is one of the first trees to flower in March/April, providing crucial nectar and pollen for a variety of bees.

Three Black Gum trees have been added to Pavillion Circle Park. The Black Gum is notable for its brilliant scarlet fall foliage, as well as its significant value to wildlife.

Of course, newly planted trees need continual care. Many thanks to Gladys McGraw, Beth Colasuonno, and Elise Geiger, community volunteers who are watering the new trees weekly!

In terms of maintaining trees on your property, the EC wants to remind owners not to “top” their trees. Cutting large branches or the main stem severely damages the tree by starving it, inviting disease, and/or creating hazardous regrowth.

As a reminder, topping trees on public land, including trees in the right-of-way or dunes, can result in a fine.

The need for homeowners to join the Borough by adding trees to private properties is especially important after the storm we experienced in late February that damaged a large number of mature trees at the Point. **We strongly urge you to plant a tree (or several!).**

The list of trees that the Environmental Commission encourages you to plant may be found [HERE](#).

