

Seedling

WINTER 2021

**What to do about
lanternflies in winter!**

**2020 CONSERVATION AWARD
WINNERS CONGRATULATED**

Vote for the Pennsylvania River of the Year

**Check for damage to your trees
this winter and try starting your
own seeds this year!**



PEOPLE • CONSERVATION • RESOURCES



Looks like this year we will actually see snow! One fun outdoor activity is to search snow for stories written by local wildlife. Check out bird tracks, little mammal and large animal prints.

Click here to learn more about identifying winter tracks:

[Animal Track Identification: Animal Footprint I.D. Chart | The Old Farmer's Almanac](#)



Jenna St. Clair, District Manager

In order to write this column, I always look at what I wrote the previous year. I really had to chuckle—January 2020’s outlook was certainly different than the outcome. It certainly didn’t go as we planned, but here at the District we were still able to accomplish a great deal.

2020 was our 65th anniversary year. We were able to highlight our programs and activities through a series of newspaper articles in the Republican Herald. We held our 65th Anniversary Birthday Bash event on Sunday, September 27 at Sweet Arrow Lake County Park. Visitors enjoyed free activities, boat rentals, food, live music, and an outdoor ceremony to honor this year’s District award winners.



Almost all of our meetings, trainings, and outreach moved to digital formats. And while most of us would be happy never to hear the word “Zoom” again, virtual programs and formats have made some programming more accessible than ever. Those who couldn’t attend daytime meetings, evening trainings, etc, can now call or log in and participate, or watch recordings later.

Porcupine Pat, Environmental Education Coordinator, has embraced these new outlets in many ways. He posts daily content on Facebook and Instagram. He has also started a web video series called “Toad Talks.” In each episode he interviews guests as only Porcupine Pat can!

I certainly don’t know what the outcome of 2021 will be, but I’m more confident than ever that the Schuylkill Conservation District will continue to grow and adapt to meet any challenges along the way.

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.



“Porcupine Pat” is now on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube



Pandemic times have provided opportunities for creativity when it comes to offering environmental education information and programs to the public. Shifting gears and with the able assistance of fellow staff and consultant Laura DeHart, “Porcupine Pat” found ways to connect via social media. Facebook and Instagram postings are almost daily and cover a wide range of topics including nature hacks to lauds for the work that people do to improve the environment right in our own backyard. If you need more information, contact “Porcupine Pat” at 570.391.3326 or porcupinepat@yahoo.com





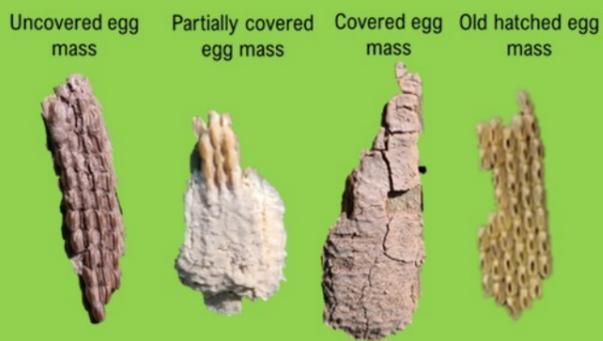
2020 AWARD RECIPIENTS



- **Volunteer of the Year: Jim Eisenhart Jr.** aka “Hiker Jim E.” promotes hiking and trail issues within the county. He hosts a Facebook page “Schuylkill County Hikes” and formed a dedicated cadre of volunteers.
- **Educator of the Year: Janice Blair** of Blue Mountain Elementary East. Mrs. Blair is the favorite fourth grade teacher that you remember for the rest of your life. She has organized memorable field trips for her students and is pivotal in insuring quality education for her students over many years of teaching.
- **Professional of the Year: Chris Bentz**, Chris is an engineer for Alfred Benesch & Company who has served as a leader in assisting Wayne Lehman with his many projects to improve water quality. He managed the West Branch Phase 1 Project where he designed a flow loss abatement project to stop water loss from the West Branch Schuylkill River to the Pine Knot Mine Pool to keep the West Branch from drying up. Schuylkill Headwaters Association worked with him on Reesvesdale AMD treatment system optimization and also currently working with the organization on Otto Primary AMD discharge treatment system optimization. Chris is also an avid outdoorsman, hunter and fisherman.
- **Media Conservation Award: Alfredo Mercuri** hosts a clever and extremely popular podcast entitled “Around the Coal Region Campfire” that addresses issues and features personalities from Schuylkill County.
- **Forest Stewardship Award: The Stewardship Crew at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary --Todd Bauman Director of Land and Facilities** From controlling invasives, creating habitat and making sure the trails and facilities at the sanctuary are available for the thousands of visitors that come through every year. The crew is creating a 25 plus acre area of Cerulean Warbler habitat. The project includes invasive treatment and thinning trees out to get more sunlight to the forest floor for future trees to grow.
- **Conservation Organization of the Year: Berks Nature** engineered the acquisition of a conservation easement on a farm in southern Schuylkill County, ensuring the protection of hundreds of acres of land from future development. At 342 acres, the conservation easement on Dennis and Pauline Fehr’s Wayne Township property makes it the second-largest in the 42-year history of Berks Nature. The acquisition of the Fehr easement adds to the more than 8,000 acres of land that Berks Nature has protected since its inception as the Berks County Conservancy in 1974. Berks Nature has also provided able assistance to the Schuylkill County Conservancy.
- **Conservation Service Award-Business: Clauser Environmental, LLC, Aaron Clauser** is a family-owned and operated environmental and educational consulting firm that serves Eastern Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and surrounding areas. This company was created over ten years ago with a clear commitment to providing the highest quality expert services with a common-sense, muddy hip boots approach. Major assistance has been provided to Wayne Lehman of our staff for his projects.
- **Conservation Service Award-Public: Charlie Mull** is with Schuylkill County Trout Unlimited and also Schuylkill Headwaters Association. Bill says that Charlie has done much for clean water from cleanups to taking care of fish that would be stocked.
- **Youth Conservationist of the Year: Maddison Quick** is a student at Mahanoy Area High School and is acknowledged for her achievement of attaining a “Top Ten” status in the 2020 PA “Virtual Envirothon.”
- **Dr. James S. Shadle Conservation Farm of the Year: Hope Hill Lavender Farm, Wendy and Troy Jochems are the owners.** Visit their farm to experience and learn about the benefits of lavender and lavender essential oil. A number of land conservation measures are employed including hosting bee hives. Veteran owned and operated.

How to control Spotted Lanternfly during Winter

1. Be able to identify egg masses.



2. Figure out where the egg masses are laid- trees, cement blocks, rocks, and any other hard surface.



3. Scrape egg masses into a container with rubbing alcohol or hand sanitizer, you can also smash or burn the egg masses.



4. Continue this process throughout winter, and be on the lookout for nymphs in the spring.





How to preserve snowflakes

1. Set microscope slides, coverslips, and superglue outside when it's 20°F or colder to chill them. ...
2. Place a drop of superglue on the **snowflake**. ...
3. Drop a coverslip over the glue. ...
4. Leave the slide in a freezer for one or two weeks and don't touch it with warm hands.

When snow falls, nature listens

Antoinette van Kleeff





Good stuff here for all ages!

Publications | Soil and Water Conservation Society
(swcs.org)

CLICK HERE



virtual!

2021 CONFERENCE

Opportunities for Action

March 22 - 23

PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATORS



PAEE VIRTUAL CONFERENCE: OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACTION

RICHARD LOUV

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

"Last Child in the Woods"
author

Click here for more information:

[PAEE Conference](#)



RECYCLE A SIX-PACK OF ALUMINUM CANS TO SAVE ENERGY EQUAL TO RUNNING A 14 WATT CFL BULB FOR 120 HOURS.

READ HAPPILY KNOWING YOU DID YOUR BIT FOR THE PLANET.



Earth

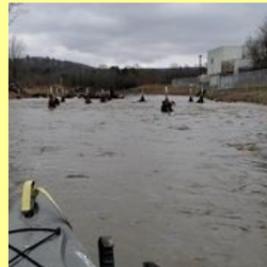
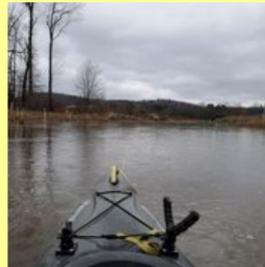
Ten acre constructed wetland staves off Swatara Creek flood waters in Pine Grove

"We're ecstatic, very ecstatic. The whole crew, all of the partners that put this together, are really happy with everything. Best Christmas present we could've gotten," said Bill Reichert, Flood Recovery Manager for the Upper Swatara Creek.

Over the summer, this 10-acre wetland, which cost around \$2.5 million in grants, was created in Pine Grove to help reduce future floods in an area that's seen a lot of devastating ones over the years. This was all designed to divert water from the creek into this area while also creating a wetland for wildlife.

The project passed its first test. Flooding concerns leading up to Christmas throughout our area were a non-factor in this part of Schuylkill County.

"The flooding event that would've happened here probably would've equaled prior events. We probably would've had around 100 homes and a whole number of businesses that would've been flooded. None of that happened, and we're ecstatic about that fact."
(copy from wnep.com)



Game Commission: Hanover Bald Eagle Cam Back For A New Season

This past December, the PA Game Commission announced its [popular Eagle Cam](#), a joint project with partners [HDOntap](#) and Comcast Business, has returned. The Hanover cam is one of two bald-eagle livestreams the Game Commission, HDOntap and Comcast Business are planning this nesting season. No date has been selected for the launch of the Farm Country Eagle Cam.

This is the seventh year for the 24-7 livestream at the Hanover nest. HDOntap Co-Founder Tiffany Sears said the company is excited the action has begun.

"This is one of our most popular live cameras," Sears said. "Since 2015, viewers have enjoyed over 40 million hours of 24-7, live HD video and audio from the nest, as well as daily time-lapse clips on screens worldwide."



The last two seasons have been tough ones for the eagles at the Hanover nest. No chicks have hatched in either. Last season, viewers watched patiently as the pair of adult eagles took turns incubating their clutch of two eggs, but by late March, the eggs still hadn't hatched and were deemed unviable. Eagle-lovers everywhere are hoping this year will be different.

Comcast Business has generously signed on for another year to provide the Internet connectivity for both Eagle Cam livestreams. "Comcast Business is proud to again partner with HDOntap to provide fast, reliable and secure Internet service that will enable nature enthusiasts to continue watching and learning about these amazing bald eagles," said Aaron Mimran, Vice President of Comcast Business for the company's Keystone Region.

"HDOntap is also thrilled to be working again with Raptor Biologist, Zoey Greenberg, on the [Hanover Bald Eagle Blog](#), to help share with viewers educational information, photos and video highlights pertaining to Bald Eagles and specifically the events at the Hanover nest," says Tiffany Sears..

The Hanover livestream can be found on the [Game Commission website](#) and on HDOntap's website, where it can be found on [HDOntap's Live Hanover Bald Eagles](#) page.

"The resurgence of bald eagles in Pennsylvania represents one of the greatest conservation success stories in the country," said Steve Smith, director of the Game Commission's Bureau of Information and Education. "It's a product of decades of planning and hard work by Game Commission staff. We are excited for this opportunity to once again bring this pair into homes and schools across the country through the livestream."

Visit the Game Commission's [Bald Eagle](#) webpage for more information.

Tree Tenders Training offered this January

The [PA Horticultural Society](#) (PHS) will host online [Tree Tenders Training](#) for Monday, January 20 from noon to 1:00 p.m. and Tuesday, January 21 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

PHS's Tree Tenders program works with volunteer-based community groups provides workshops in tree planting and care and volunteer group organization. 5,000 people who have gone on to lead volunteers in planting over 1,300 trees



Visit the PHS [Tree Programs](#) webpage to register and for more information.

For more information on programs, initiatives, upcoming events and more, visit the [PA Horticultural Society](#) website.

Visit DCNR's [Community Tree Program](#) webpage for information on Tree Tender training and the TreeVitalize Program.

2021 Northeast Cover Crops Council Virtual Conference to be held in March 4

The [Northeast Cover Crops Council](#) is now accepting registrations for its [2021 Northeast Cover Crops Virtual Conference](#) on March 4 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

During this annual conference for farmers, researchers, and other food system professionals, you'll connect and exchange information and inspiration.



Join your fellow cover crop enthusiasts for a day of interactive online presentations, posters, panels, and training sessions!



New features this year:

- Video contest! Get filming to highlight your favorite cover crop (s) or an informative project.
- ePosters! Interested in sharing an ongoing project? Prepare a poster for the online poster session.

[Click Here to register or for more information.](#)

The [Northeast Cover Crops Council](#) supports the successful implementation of cover crops to maximize economic, environmental, and social benefits.

Vote Online Now for Pennsylvania's 2021 River Of the Year

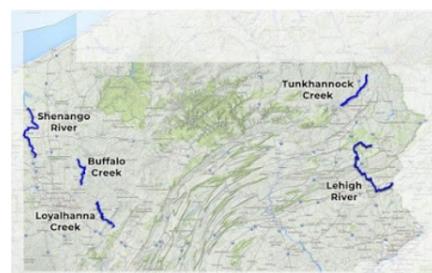
Voting has started to choose the 2021 Pennsylvania River of the Year from among five nominated waterways:

- Buffalo Creek
- Lehigh River (part of the Lehigh River watershed is in SE Schuylkill County!)
- Loyalhanna Creek
- Shenango River
- Tunkhannock Creek.

The River of the Year sponsor organization receives a \$10,000 grant from DCNR and technical assistance to help them with celebrating their waterway.

Each River of the Year winner gets a commemorative poster and organizes special activities, events, and at least one paddling trip. These events aim to raise public awareness about:

- Stewardship needs
- Conservation successes
- Natural, cultural, and economic value of the waterway



Cast your vote on the [PA Organization for Watersheds and Rivers website](#) now through January 22, 2021.



NEWS LEAF

Master Gardeners of Schuylkill County

schuylkillmg@psu.edu

570.622.4225 ext. 23

Keep in that garden mode this winter season — Tom Reed, Master Gardener

2020 saw a larger number of folks getting into gardening, whether flowers, vegetables, or small fruits. With this cold wintery weather, gardening is probably not on your mind. Alas, seed catalogs begin to arrive, and the stirring begins.

Hopefully, you kept records from last year's efforts. A good garden journal does not have to be a formal book, but maps of beds, crops, successes and oops', and plan for crop rotation as a minimum.

Trying to keep all that to memory is not a sound decision. Been there done that experience was a doozy in the following year.

Starting your own seeds is a great way to get children and grandchildren involved in gardening. There is a ton of information out there plus you can contact the Master Gardeners for advice.

If you are ordering from a seed catalog, I would recommend early purchasing. Due to the high number of new gardeners last year some companies ran out of seed for some cultivars.

You can also purchase seedlings/transplants at the various nurseries and garden supply centers throughout our area. A bit of caution though, do not get too anxious to startup and plant too early, old Jack Frost can really do a number on young plants.

Do not forget to check your trees and shrubs for damage. With the leaves off and dormancy this is a good time to look for damage and in some cases prune. Not all are pruned in winter so check a pruning guide or contact Extension before pruning. Damage and disease are the exception take them out when found.

This is the time of the year to look for Spotted Lantern Fly egg masses. Each mass you scrape, bag, or squish, there will be 30 to 50 less of the little beasties!

Even though the Penn State Extension Office and the Master Gardeners are still operating remotely, we can be reached at 570-622-4225 or schuylkillmg@psu.edu.



Winter Garden Hacks



Though the leaves of many plants are dead in winter, there's still life teeming in the garden. Attract winter wildlife to your property by putting out feeders with seed and suet for birds, and dried corncobs for squirrels and chipmunks.



It's best to transplant large shrubs and small trees while they're dormant during the winter months. Don't be afraid to start digging after the last leaf falls, before the ground freezes. These plants will have plenty of time to settle in and get established in their new soil before the spring thaw comes.



Protect plants from winter's worst as the days grow colder, bring your potted plants closer to your home's protective walls. Did you know that clustering them together offers even greater warmth and protection? Drape a freeze cloth or sheet over them for additional protection. For especially cold nights, consider stringing a set of Christmas lights around the vulnerable shrubs. This adds a bit of warmth.



Avid gardeners know that it's not just what you see in a garden that makes it rewarding—it's what you can do. Activity in the garden definitely wanes during the cooler months, but you can still get out there and have fun pruning fruit trees, vines, deciduous shrubs, and ornamental trees.

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



Winter 2021
Page 9

Do you have woods in your backyard?

The [Woods in Your Backyard webinar series](#) teaches land stewardship through nine live (one-hour), online evening lectures -- designed specifically (but not exclusively) for land-owners with 10 or less acres. If you own land that is wooded, have natural areas, are interested in creating new natural areas, and you would like to create wildlife habitat, improve water quality, and enhance aesthetics, then you should join the [Penn State Extension](#) for this informative webinar series!

Sessions run from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday nights for nine weeks beginning on Wednesday, January 27. Registration deadline is Wednesday, January 20.

Sessions are recorded and can be viewed later if a live session is missed. Topics covered in the webinars include:

- Why Backyard Woods are Important
- Importance of Woods to Healthy Watersheds
- Trees and Shrubs for Different Sites and Objectives
- Providing and Enhancing Wildlife Habitat
- Forest Ecology and Woodlot Management Techniques
- Invasive Plant Identification and Control
- Converting Open Land to Meadows and Woods
- Healthy Woods: Common Insects and Diseases
- Getting Started: Mapping Out Your Plan



For more information and to register, visit [Woods in Your Backyard Webinar Series \(psu.edu\)](#) or call 877-345-0691.



Schuylkill Conservation District Board and Staff

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- District Chair:
Scott Graver
- Vice Chair:
Dennis Daubert
- Directors:
Commissioner Gary Hess
Stanley Fidler
Glenn Luckenbill
Dottie Sterner
Eric Leiby
Glenn Hetherington
Russell Wagner

ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS

- Chris Bentz
- Robert Carl, Jr.
- Frank Zukas



STAFF PHONE EXTENSIONS FOR 570.622.3742

- Jenna St. Clair, District Manager, 3335
- Martie Hetherington, Chesapeake Bay Coordinator, 3328
- "Porcupine Pat" McKinney, Education Coordinator, 3326
- Missy Seigfried, Conservation Fiscal Technician, 3324
- Stephanie Lubinsky, Conservation Program Technician, 3329
- Robert Evanchalk, Assistant Parks and Recreation Supervisor (part time)
- Janelle Wilde, Conservation Program Technician, 3327
- Bill Reichert, Upper Swatara Flood Recovery Manager, 3331
- Wayne Lehman, County Natural Resources Specialist, 3333
- Brittany Moore, Agricultural Program Coordinator, 3325
- Ryan Michlovsky, Conservation Program Coordinator, 3330
- Lorie Reichert, Conservation Program Asst., 3316
- Drew Kline, Parks & Rec. Supervisor, 570-527-2505
- 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.



46th 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!*

- **AUSTRIAN PINE:** This is an extremely tolerant pine of adverse soil conditions. This stately tree can be seen in parks, along streets, in residential landscapes, and as farm windbreaks throughout much of the United States. Landscapers use the dark beauty of these trees for backdrops, but it is also an excellent specimen tree because of its leaf pattern. Can grow up to 60 feet high with a 20-40 foot spread. 3 year old seedlings. Size: 10-15."
- **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: 8-12."
- **CONCOLOR FIR:** Excellent ornamental or Christmas tree. Has flat, soft green to deep blue citrus-scented needles. Hardy because it withstands dry periods and high temperatures. 3 year old seedlings. Size: 6-12."
- **EASTERN REDCEDAR:** 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: 3-6."
- **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. 2 year old seedlings. Size: 10-18."
- **WHITE FLOWERING DOGWOOD:** Prolific, large, pure white, overlapping petal-like blooms in spring, dark green foliage in summer, red-purple leaves in fall and glossy red berries that persist into winter make this a lovely ornamental tree for all seasons. It has a short trunk, horizontal branches, and a moderately globe-shaped crown. The dense branching provides shade and nesting sites, fruit and buds are a favorite with dozens of bird species, and the nectar and pollen attract butterflies. Dogwoods prefer acidic, moist, well drained sites with partial shade, but will take full sun. 2 year old seedlings. Size: 4-8."
- **WINTERBERRY:** Winterberry is a deciduous shrub growing 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, for which the common name was derived, 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. 3 year old seedlings. Size: 12-18."
- **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: 4-8."
- **LILAC:** A medium to large hardy shrub with stout, spreading branches developing a somewhat oval to irregularly-rounded crown. The showy flowers are very fragrant and enjoyed each spring. 2 year old seedlings. Size: 8-12."
- **MYRTLE:** Often called Periwinkle. Nursery grown ground-hugging plant growing 3 to 6 inches in height. Extra large leaf with perfect, lilac-blue, blue-violet flowers March-April. One of the best ground covers for partial sun or full shade. Space 6 inches apart. Heavy plants with 10 to 20 runners tied together to form one clump. Do not separate clumps but plant as one unit.
- **DAPPLED WILLOW:** Height and spread reach 3 to 5 feet. This is a beautiful new addition to the list of outstanding shrubs. Its main attraction is the tri-color leaves of white, green and pink. We advise periodic trimming to maintain leaf variegation. Tolerates wet conditions. Leaf color stays better in full sun. Size: 8-10" and sold per pot.

46th Annual Seedling Sale Order Form—2021

All proceeds benefit Sweet Arrow Lake County Park



- **ORDER DEADLINE:** Order must be received by **Saturday, March 20, 2021**, and will be filled while supplies last! **No order cancellations or refunds after the deadline.**
- **PICK UP:** Saturday, April 24, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon. There will be a drive-thru pick up in the Club-house circle.
- **NOTE:** Seedlings are bare root and will be healthy at pick up. No guarantees after this date.

Date _____

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (day) _____ (night) _____

Save postage and the environment by providing your email below:



ITEM	# PER BUNDLE	# DESIRED	COST/BUNDLE	TOTAL
Austrian Pine	10/bundle		X 14.00 =	
Norway Spruce	10/bundle		X 14.00 =	
Concolor Fir	10/bundle		X 14.00 =	
Eastern Red Cedar	10/bundle		X 14.00 =	
Red Oak	5/bundle		X 11.00 =	
Winterberry	5/bundle		X 11.00 =	
White flowering Dogwood	5/bundle		X 11.00 =	
Winterberry	5/bundle		X 11.00 =	
Silky Dogwood	5/bundle		X 11.00 =	
Lilac	5/bundle		X 11.00 =	
Myrtle	5/bundle		X 9.00 =	
Dappled Willow	3 inch pot		X 7.00 =	
			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