

# Fall Native Tree, Shrub and Seeds Give-Away

This fall, the Conservancy will be giving away 400 native trees, shrubs and seeds to our members and Bradford Woods residents!

Please join us at **Station No. 5** on Saturday, Oct. 4 from 9 a.m. to noon where you'll find a total of 100 native trees, shrubs and seeds being given away, including:

Bald Cypress	Dunstan Chestnut
Chokecherry	Eastern Cottonwood
Hemlock	Persimmon
Short Leaf Pine	Sweetgum
Swamp Milkweed	Virginia Pine

Most of these were purchased from the nonprofit Tree Pittsburgh, using the Conservancy's Community Tree Fund, so a HUUUUUGE "Thank You" to everyone who has contributed to that fund! The Chestnuts are donated annually by resident Larry Roberts, and Nicole Moga is providing the milkweed seeds.

Look for raffle baskets from local businesses on the front porch of Station No. 5, so be sure to check them out, too.



*Pics from our 2024 Give-away at Station No. 5.  
This year, we'll be in the back parking lot!*

All raffle donations will go to the Tree Fund.

We'll also be giving away 300 additional trees throughout the month of October, compliments of Pennsylvania's 10 Million Trees campaign. These native trees and shrubs will include:

American Plum	Black Willow
Buttonbush	Common Ninebark
Eastern Red Cedar	Flowering Dogwood
Gray Dogwood	Pawpaw
Red Osier Dogwood	Redbud
River Birch	Silky Dogwood
Sweetbay Magnolia	Winterberry
Witchhazel	

To arrange for pick-up of these trees, and/or with any questions about our event at Station No. 5, please contact Ward Allebach at [allebach@consolidated.net](mailto:allebach@consolidated.net).

Native tree, shrub and plant give-aways like these are intended to give us all a helping hand to create a more resilient woods together for generations to come.

Hope to be seeing you on October 4 at Station No. 5!

## Seed Collection 101: Our Speaker Series on Tues., Sept. 23

As our leaves begin to turn and the air grows crisp, the seasonal changes herald the arrival of autumn. Maybe you didn't know, but the time is also ripe for seed gathering.

On Tues., Sept. 23, the Conservancy's Speaker Series will feature Alliy Gundlach, the Heritage Nursery Seed Technician for the nonprofit Tree Pittsburgh, who will give a presentation on "Seed Collection 101". The program will begin at 7 p.m. at the



**See "Seeds", Page 9**

## Bradford Woods Conservancy A Fund of the Allegheny Land Trust

### Our Vision

*To inspire Bradford Woods residents to explore, experience, and value nature in and around our community*

### Our Mission

*To encourage stewardship, conservation, and restoration of our natural environment by fostering a spirit of community engagement*

### 2025 Advisory Board

Art Kasson, President  
[art.kasson@gmail.com](mailto:art.kasson@gmail.com)

Gwen Phillips, Vice President  
[gwenwildey@hotmail.com](mailto:gwenwildey@hotmail.com)

Joe Bayer, Treasurer  
[jab19@zoominternet.net](mailto:jab19@zoominternet.net)

Vicki Wiegand, Secretary  
[vickig@zoominternet.net](mailto:vickig@zoominternet.net)

### 2025 Committees

Membership  
*Gwen Phillips and Art Kasson*

Communications  
*Gwen Phillips, Nicole Moga*

Fund Raising  
*Rick Sorek*

Speaker Series  
*Ward Allebach*

Conservation and Stewardship  
*Joe Bayer, Ward Allebach & Anna Romanosky*

Community Outreach and Programming  
*Vicki Wiegand, Lisa Hladko & Diana Berendowski*

**Conservancy Web Site**  
[www.BradfordWoodsConservancy.org](http://www.BradfordWoodsConservancy.org)

**Conservancy E-mail**  
[bradfordwoodsconservancy@gmail.com](mailto:bradfordwoodsconservancy@gmail.com)

## Letter From President

Hey Neighbors,

We hope you had a great summer and are getting ready to enjoy the beautiful fall colors we'll be seeing soon! The trees will be putting on their annual show over the next month or two, and we're excited for it.

This summer was a busy one for the Conservancy. We wrapped up a bunch of projects, like visiting DCNR properties, supporting a couple of awesome Scouting projects at Lake Loop and the Reserve, and listening to concerns from the community about the herbicide spraying along the power lines — which unfortunately killed a number of trees and plants.

Of course, the highlight of summer was our annual Storytelling Festival! This year we held it at the Bradford Woods Community Church as part of their Into The Woods event in July. It was a new setting for us, but we had a great turnout with people coming to both share and enjoy stories — and yes, even a visit from the ghost of Thomas Bradford!

Looking ahead, we've got a full lineup of fall activities:

- Fall Speaker Series kicks off Tues., September 23 at the Bradford Woods Community Church.
- Our Annual Tree Giveaway is Sat., Oct. 4 at Station No. 5 from 9 a.m. to noon — don't miss it!
- We'll also have a few workdays at the Reserve and Lake Loop for seasonal maintenance (dates and times TBD).
- Fall Road Cleanup is coming up too, Sept. 15-30, so keep an eye out for details — we'd love your help if you're able to volunteer.

Later this fall, we'll continue with more DCNR visits and wrap up the year with two great events:

- Light-Up Night on Sunday, Dec. 7, 5:30–7 p.m. at the Reserve, and
- The Audubon Christmas Bird Count in Bradford Woods on Sunday, Dec. 28 at 10 a.m. to close out the year.

Now, about the trees turning brown early this year — some of you may have noticed it, too. It turns out that in July, Penn Power hired a

***Ideally, we'd like to see targeted pruning used instead of blanket herbicide spraying.***

subcontractor to spray herbicides in several areas inside and just outside the Borough. You can really see the damage if you drive down Bradford Road or Neely School Road. We get that maintaining power lines is necessary, especially in a wooded community like ours, but the spraying seemed excessive and unfortunately wiped out even smaller trees like Dogwoods — which we were actually

***Cont'd on page 6, "Letter"***

# The Conservancy's Tree Planting Goals and Progress

The Conservancy set a 5-year goal in 2022 to give away 5,000 native trees, shrubs and plants for public and private spaces in and around the community by the end of 2026 – and with a little less than a year-and-a-half remaining, we're closing in.

We set the goal in response to many facts and findings about the woods of Bradford Woods, gathered through research and observations over our decades of serving the community.

A few of our primary concerns:

- **Age, Diversity and Lack of Succession:** A good 75% of our woods are mature oaks and maples, most of which are at or reaching the end of their lifespan. Unfortunately, this lack of diversity makes the woods more vulnerable to disease and pests, and due to a combination of the bullet points below, there are very few native trees growing to take their place when they fail.

- **The Deer Problem:** Continuing development pressure all around our tiny borough is forcing more and more deer onto our wooded properties for habitat. It's not just your landscaping that they are eating, but also native tree seedlings and saplings in our woods – in most places, pretty much everything up to 6 feet tall! Very few survive to maturity.

- **Invasives and Pests:** And guess what the deer don't eat? The weeds, vines, shrubs and groundcovers that don't grow here naturally, allowing many of them to grow aggressively and unchecked as our native plants decline. Once again, this leaves not just our woods but also the birds, animals and insects that they support at greater risk without abundant native food or shelter.

- **The Changing Climate:** As correctly predicted by climatologists decades ago, climate change in Pittsburgh is bringing more rain, especially through more severe storms. The combination of saturated soils, hotter temperatures, and high winds leaves our aging woods more and more vulnerable every year.

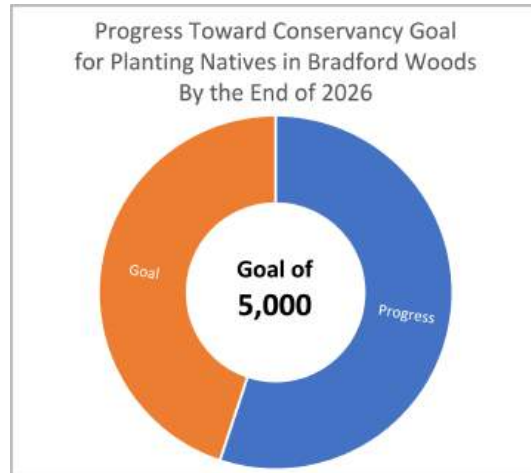
Almost every neighbor seems to have stories of falling trees that have damaged homes and properties - and the costly cleanups that follow.

Our native tree, shrub and plant give-aways are meant to give us all a helping hand to create a more resilient woods together for generations to come. We've also worked hard to educate the community through:

- Events like our work days and Spring Plant Swaps
- Free DCNR property consultations (see adjacent page)
- Speaker Series (see Front Page),

- Educational resources on our web site and all events, and
- The Woods Management Guide that we published last year.

Don't miss our fall give-away event on Sat., October 4 at Station No. 5!



## DCNR Property Consultations: What We've Learned

The Conservancy will be coming around the community again on Weds., October 15 with certified foresters from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for free property consultations.

In addition to advice on a wide range of issues concerning the health and safety of the woods on your property, you'll also get a free copy of the book "The Woods in Your Backyard" and the Conservancy's Woods Management Guide.

These visits can be a huge step toward BW residents learning more about how to protect their homes and their woods. We've been to more than 200 properties in the last 11 years, and we've learned so much about our woods! Here are a few general take-aways that anyone will benefit from knowing:



DCNR Forester Levi Canon during a 2024 visit to Bradford Woods

- **Identifying early signs of invasive and dangerous insects can lead you to early steps that will protect your trees.** The Emerald Ash Borer has already wiped out almost all mature Ash trees; the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid is still spreading and devastating our Hemlock trees; and the

**Cont'd on pg. 11, See "DCNR"**



## Tree-of-Heaven: “Devilishly Invasive”

One of the most challenging invasive trees in Bradford Woods is the Tree-of-Heaven. When given the chance, it not only outcompetes native trees in our woods and is very difficult to eradicate due to the nature of its root system (just cutting them down actually makes them spread more rapidly – see below), but it is a favorite of invasive Spotted Lanternflies. If you’ve seen a tree with hundreds or thousands of them huddling together, it’s probably Tree-of-Heaven.



*Tree-of-Heaven can be difficult to identify due to many native look-alikes. Learn not to confuse them with sumac, black walnut and other common trees in Bradford Woods.*

Read on to understand more about how to protect your woods and, as a bonus, better control those pesky lanternflies!

### Background

Imported from China in the late 1700s and valued as a durable, fast-growing shade tree, Tree-of-Heaven was widely planted in eastern states. The tree began losing popularity by the late 1800s due to its weedy nature, prolific root sprouting, and foul odor. Undeterred, TOH has spread aggressively in the US and become a troublesome invasive.

### Description

Tree-of-Heaven can reach heights of 80 feet and up to 6 feet in diameter. The bark is smooth and brownish-green when young, eventually turning light brown to gray, resembling the skin of a cantaloupe. When crushed, the leaves and all plant parts give off a strong, offensive odor.

**...a cut or injured Tree-of-Heaven can send up dozens of root sprouts, quickly spreading throughout your woods.**

### Look-alikes

Due to its leaf structure, TOH is easily confused with some native trees, such as sumac, black walnut, and

hickory. One way to tell them apart is that the leaflet edges of our native trees all have teeth (serrations), while those of TOH are smooth. The foul odor produced by the crushed foliage and broken twigs is also unique to Tree-of-Heaven.

### How It Spreads

TOH typically grows in dense colonies and are prolific seeders with the potential to produce more than 300,000 seeds annually. Established trees continually spread by sending up new trunks from the roots that can emerge as far as 50 feet from the parent tree.

Importantly, a cut or injured Tree-of Heaven can send up

dozens of root sprouts, quickly spreading throughout your woods. Sprouts as young as two years are capable of producing seed. Helping it to outcompete other natives, TOH also produces chemicals in its leaves, roots, and bark that can limit or prevent the growth of other plants.

### Control

Due to its extensive root system and resprouting ability, TOH has been described as “devilishly invasive”. Chemical treatment timing and following up in the second year are critical to success. Mechanical methods, such as cutting or mowing, are ineffective, as the tree responds by producing more sprouts, which is one reason the tree is often seen growing thick along the Turnpike and freeways. It is best to consult with a Certified Arborist before cutting or treating.

One strategy for controlling TOH is to target the roots with systemic herbicides applied in late summer (until onset of fall color) when the tree is moving nutrients to the roots. Applications to foliage, bark, or cuts on the stem can be effective, but stump herbicide applications will not prevent root suckering and should not be utilized. Herbicides such as dicamba, glyphosate, imazapyr, metsulfuron methyl, and triclopyr have been shown to be effective.

“Hack-and-squirt” herbicide applications with a concentrated herbicide solution applied can be effective. Apply the herbicide solution to cuts made and spaced evenly around the stem.

Well-established tree-of-heaven stands are only eliminated through repeated efforts and monitoring. Initial treatments often only reduce the root systems, making follow-up measures necessary. Persistence is the key to success.

### Conclusion

The tree of heaven is a problem because it reproduces very quickly and aggressively inhibits (and can even kill) native

**Cont’d on pg. 8, See “Tree-of-Heaven”**

## Conservancy Work with Scouts and University of Pittsburgh Interns

The Conservancy was fortunate this summer to work with two Scout-led projects and two summer interns from the University of Pittsburgh working in our Bradford Woods.

### Girl Scouts on Lake Loop Trail

From **Girl Scout Troop 50612**, 8th graders Maggie Kasson, Emma Ochoa, and Zoe Donaldson—students at Marshall Middle School—began planning a restoration project for Lake Loop Trail. The team got approval from their Girl Scout District, consulted with the Conservancy, and formal approvals from both the Borough's Environment & Parks Advisory Committee (EPAC) and Borough Council.

At the August Council Meeting, the girls presented their vision to remove invasive species and replace them with native shrubs and trees. Their project also includes an educational component: signage along the trail and a plan for continued stewardship by future Girl Scout troops.

This work is part of their pursuit of the Girl Scout Silver Award, which requires a minimum of 50 hours of commitment from each. The troop had already participated in a Lake Loop trail cleanup in May, followed by a well-earned pizza celebration (thanks to Jennifer Gelbach!). The project is expected to be completed by Spring 2026.

### Scouting America Project in the Reserve

Also receiving approval in August was Stephen Webber-Plank from **Scout Troop 344**, a 10th grader who is working toward his Eagle Scout, the highest honor in Scouting America (formerly Boy Scouts of America). Like the Girl Scout project, Stephen's proposal went through the approval process with EPAC and the Borough Council. His project focuses on restoration of an overgrown meadow in the Reserve, where he will create a wildflower garden. The planting area near the pond will be marked off in the spring as installation begins. Over the fall and winter, Stephen will

focus on planning and organizing workdays. The project is scheduled to be completed by Spring 2026.

Stephen is receiving mentorship from his father, Donald Webber-Plank, and Eagle Scout coach, Art Kasson. He has also benefited from guidance and insights shared by Conservancy members Diana Berendowski, Joe Bayer, and Ward Allebach, and has already completed several walkthroughs of the project site.



Show your support for the Conservancy by purchasing one of our new hats, which will be on sale for \$20 at our Tree Give-Away on Oct. 4 (See Page 1)



*From Left to Right: Girl Scouts Emma Ochoa and Maggie Kasson, Conservancy Board Member Hilary Faló, and Pitt Intern Mya Hudson-Goodnow on Lake Loop Trail in July*

The Conservancy is proud to support these meaningful projects. They not only enhance our public spaces but also help young people develop skills in leadership, planning, and project execution. We warmly encourage other troops that are interested in similar initiatives to reach out with their ideas for improving and enriching our community spaces.

### Pitt Interns: 5-year Plans for Lake Loop and The Village Natural Area

Mya Hudson-Goodnow, a sophomore Environmental Science major, worked on mapping habitat and potential conservation work on Lake Loop Trail. This map was used to identify priority areas of invasive plant growth, ideal locations for native plantings, and future projects, which will be used to develop a 5-year plan for maintaining and improving the Lake Loop Trail property.

Additionally, Mya has worked on the Forest Road garden at the corner of Edgewood Road, which is jointly maintained by the Conservancy and the Bradford Woods Women's Club.

Ainsley Good, a graduating senior Environmental Studies major, worked on a similar project for the natural area around the former pond in the Village. This project was complicated due to consideration of erosion and stormwater management, as well as overgrowth of invasives in multiple areas. The 5-year plan that Ainsley is working on will help to guide the Village HOAs on priorities and costs, including the long-term costs of inaction, and the Conservancy hopes to collaborate with the Village in the coming years on organizing volunteer cleanups, trail maintenance, and native plantings.

A big "Thanks!" to Mya and Ainsley for helping to make Bradford Woods a better place now and in the future!



## Before the Utility Company Comes Trimming and Spraying...



*If a tree needs pruning, Penn Power policy calls for the property owner to be notified before work is started, either in person or through a door card.*

When a Penn Power contractor sprayed herbicides in Bradford Woods this summer, killing everything under their utility right-of-ways in multiple areas, it set off another wave of questions and concerns among many residents.

The articles here on Pages 6 and 7 are intended to explain some of these concerns, as well as some options for our members and residents who object to these kinds of sprayings and tree cutting on their properties. See:

- Conservancy President Art Kasson's Letter (continued on this page, from Page 2)
- Conservancy Board Member Nicole Moga's experience
- Rick Sorek's research into how you can get on the state Pesticide Hypersensitivity Registry, and
- A re-print/excerpt of a 2016 editorial by Ward Allebach

After reading, we hope that you will research what you can yourself to decide whether to support our efforts to protect the community from potentially harmful chemical spraying.

## PA Pesticide Hypersensitivity Registry

*By Rick Sorek*

Because PennPower's official policies emphasize notification and careful herbicide use, recent events in Bradford Woods raise questions about both compliance and communication by the utility. **Any** resident who is concerned about herbicide use in the utility easement can and should act.

First, you can register on the state **Pesticide Hypersensitivity Registry** to ensure that you receive advance notice of future pesticide applications and can request detailed information.

Second, community members should document damage to plantings and contact PennPower to report their concerns and request that the company honor its promise to notify landowners before vegetation management work.

Finally, residents may wish to collaborate with the Conservancy to monitor the easement and propose alternative maintenance practices—such as mechanical trimming or manual removal of tall saplings—that protect power lines without killing beneficial understory trees and shrubs. By engaging with the utility and citing state regulations, the community can advocate for transparent, environmentally sound vegetation management that respects property owners, protects newly planted trees and preserves the ecological health of Bradford Woods.

As one Conservancy board member put it, "We aren't opposed to line maintenance. We just want respect for our community, our trees and our health."

## President's Letter, From Page 2

encouraged to plant after the last round of spraying.

What's worse is that many residents didn't get any clear notice about this, and we still don't know exactly what was sprayed. We're going to raise this issue with EPAC and the Borough Council to push for better solutions moving forward. Ideally, we'd like to see targeted pruning used instead of blanket herbicide spraying.

As someone who's been helping to organize our tree giveaways and planting projects — our goal is 5,000 new trees by 2026 (article on Page 2) — it's disheartening to see years of hard work undone in one afternoon. But we're staying hopeful and committed to protecting our woods, our water, our wildlife, and our community. At the very least, we believe residents should be informed ahead of time when this kind of work is happening.

We really hope to see you at some of our events this fall. Huge thanks, as always, to all our volunteers and supporters — you're the reason the Conservancy is able to do what we do. Special thanks to our 2025 Board as well — it's been a fantastic group to work with this year.

Let's keep the Woods in Bradford Woods — and stay connected about the things that matter in our community.

Sincerely, Art Kasson  
Conservancy President, 2025-2026

## ***...Know Your Rights, Responsibilities and Possible Responses***

*By Nicole Moga*

In July this year, the vegetation on our property beneath the Penn Power line began to turn brown and dried out. Upon reaching out to our Borough Manager, I discovered that Penn Power had sprayed herbicide a month earlier, in June, and we had not received any notification. This area, located at the edge of our property along Woodland Road, may not have looked significant, but to us, it represented a small chunk of forest that was cleaning the air, providing shade, and serving as habitat for birds and insects.

***My kids eagerly checked the bushes every day for ripe berries and were eating them during the time between the spraying and when we noticed the vegetation dying.***

Unfortunately, Penn Power and their contractors girdled 30 small saplings (including a dogwood which posed no risk to the power line) and sprayed

everything in the vicinity with herbicide. We even had a few native blackberry bushes beginning to grow. My kids eagerly checked the bushes every day for ripe berries and were eating them during the time between the spraying and when we noticed the vegetation dying. Penn Power claims its herbicide cocktails are non-toxic to kids and pets. We weren't given a choice though.

While it's easy to feel upset and frustrated with the company, the trees are gone now, that won't change anything. This wasn't just an unfortunate accident near our home or even

just Bradford Woods; it was a situation occurring throughout the North Hills. Can you imagine how many trees they collectively extinguished that posed no danger to the power lines? Thousands? It adds up. And it's not alright with me.



*Roadside property in Bradford Woods after chemical spraying in June*

My family is filing damage complaints and sharing our concerns with both Penn Power and the PUC. However, I believe the more important issue—one I want to highlight as a member of the Bradford Woods Conservancy and a concerned resident—is that no one should be spraying chemicals on our properties without prior notification. This action exceeds the necessary scope required to maintain the powerline right-of-way, and I don't want this to happen here or to any of you. The Conservancy worries that bare ground created by spraying will be quickly colonized by invasive species and undermining their restoration work. Incidents like this are precisely why neighborhood conservancies are so vital to me. Together, we can raise our voices and advocate for change. It doesn't have to be this way.

***The following is re-printed from a 2016 Conservancy editorial by Ward Allebach. Excerpted and edited.***

A recurring, frustrating issue that affects most property owners in the Borough at one time or another is utility tree trimming. Many of us, understandably, become more than a little aggravated when we suddenly see uninvited guests in our trees.

The reality is that electric utility providers, like PennPower, need to ensure the reliability of electricity delivery to everyone, and the many trees and overhanging branches that could take down their power lines and interrupt service are a constant threat to that reliability.

Unfortunately, as a property owner, knowing this doesn't help, and a big part of the problem is trust:

- Are the utilities dedicated to protecting our properties and their power lines, or are they more focused on the latter at the expense of our trees?
- Will they trim my trees or butcher them?
- Will my view out the kitchen window be ruined?
- Will birds or animals be harmed?

- Do they have the right to cut my trees if I refuse?

I was told by a utility representative that they are supposed to give written notice to homeowners of when they will be trimming and what they will be doing, although based on my personal experience and conversations with neighbors in the community, that apparently does not always happen.

Grievances can be filed with the state and are heard by the Pennsylvania Utilities Commission. The utility can be held responsible to pay for unreasonable damage, but it seems that is a very difficult case to make.

For years now, the Conservancy has worked to raise awareness of the health of our trees on our own properties. We have invited Penn Power to talk in Bradford Woods about these issues, but we have not been able to get it scheduled.

Given the fact that this issue is not one that will ever be going away, we will continue to work to educate ourselves and everyone else in the community about our rights and our responsibilities.



# Never Too Early to be Thinking About our Annual Events...

## Light Up Night

Mark your calendars for one of the Conservancy's most memorable annual traditions: Light Up Night in the Bradford Woods Reserve on Sunday, December 7 at 5 p.m.

Cookies and Cocoa are be served, and there will be tree decorating, carol singing, and even a visit from Santa as our Christmas tree in the Reserve is lit up for the season.



If you've never attended, you really should: Even in the cold, the feeling of community with friends, neighbors, and families makes it a heart-warming way to spend the evening.

All are welcome, but parking is very limited so try to walk, if you can, or park at a nearby friend's home and stroll over. And don't forget a flashlight for going home!

## Christmas Bird Count

If you've ever wanted to learn more about identifying the birds in your backyard, here's a great opportunity!

Join us on Sunday, Dec. 28 at 10 a.m. in the Bradford Woods Reserve for our annual bird count through the community! We'll have a team of experienced birders with us, and it doesn't matter if you are experienced, novice, or just interested. The idea is to get outside and learn a little bit about the birds that visit our wooded community.

Since 2015, the Conservancy has been contributing to the Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count, which is the oldest citizen science event in the world, now going strong at 124 years. The data collected by thousands of people worldwide helps scientists to track long-term bird populations and migration patterns, and has more recently contributed to a greater understanding of the impact of climate change.

If you aren't able to join us outside, you can still participate in FeederWatch from the warmth and comfort of your own home



simply by logging the birds that come to your feeders. Watch from your window for a half-hour, an hour, or whatever time you can spare.

Please contact Ward Allebach at [allebach@consolidate.d.net](mailto:allebach@consolidate.d.net) for more information.

*A little goofing around at a Bird Count in Bradford Woods. Join the fun and learn about our native birds in 2025!*



*Pics from our spring give-away with trees from the PA 10 Million Tree campaign. Top: Conservancy's Ward Allebach with Allegheny County Park Ranger Braden Meiter, who coordinates the tree distribution. Bottom: Another van-load of stakes and tree tubes to protect new plantings from deer and rodents.*

## "Tree-of-Heaven", From Page 4

plants near it. This invasive plant produces an overly abundant amount of seeds, crowds out native species with its dense thickets and secretes a chemical into the soil that is toxic to surrounding plants.

When native plants are hindered or killed, it upsets the balance of the native ecosystem and biodiversity, potentially leading to extinctions of native plant and animal species across the whole ecosystem.

In fact, invasive species have directly contributed to the decline of 42% of the threatened and endangered species in the United States.

The tree of heaven affects people in many ways. Its aggressive root system can cause damage to pavement, sewers and building foundations.



# WoodsLife: Camps for Kids, Outdoor Therapy for Everyone

*By WoodsLife Founder/Conservancy Board Member Lisa Hladio*  
Alongside the start of a new school year, WoodsLife celebrated its first anniversary. Rooted in the belief that folks are happier and healthier when they get outside, WoodsLife's events in Bradford Woods and at North Park have drawn patrons from Mars, Lawrenceville, and everywhere in between.

Since last summer, about 125 campers have explored the outdoors during after-school programs or summer day camps, and 30 adults have ventured to the Bradford Woods Reserve for nature-based therapeutic programming.

As its second year begins, much of our programming will remain the same. Our Fall semester of Kindergarten Kamp is already underway, once again adding 3 hours of screen-free creative play, nature-based discovery, and community building to local kindergarteners' school days. Come November's Fall Break season, Autumn Adventure day camps will return to North Park for a romp through ruddy leaves.

After 2026 begins, keep an eye out for our Spring Break Camp dates. We're already itching for Nature Day Camps next summer, where games, songs, and s'mores meet the Reserve's trails, pond, and meadow.

More Forest Bathing and Sound Bath events are on the horizon as well. Both activities offer a calm moment to reflect and practice mindfulness while soaking in the forest

atmosphere. Both of our sessions of Forest Bathing, as well as our first Sound Bath, completely sold out, and we're just as eager to find more ways to get adults outside as we are school-aged kids.

Thanks to all the borough residents who have supported our mission and programming throughout this first year, and cheers to many more.

For more information, please contact Lisa Hladio at [woodslifecamps.com](http://woodslifecamps.com) or email: [woodslifeinfo@gmail.com](mailto:woodslifeinfo@gmail.com)



*Top: Kids at a recent WoodsLife camp  
Bottom: A Forest Bathing hike in the Bradford Woods Reserve this past summer*

## HELP US GROW OUR COMMUNITY FOREST!

Do you enjoy working outdoors?  
Want to help the environment on your own schedule? Be come a volunteer and join our Plant Posse.

For more information please contact Diana Berendowski [dberendowski@gmail.com](mailto:dberendowski@gmail.com) or visit our Facebook page.

Until we see you next: Get out!

## "Seeds", From Page 1

Bradford Woods Community Church, 4836 Wexford Run Road.

Seed gathering season is the time when many native trees, shrubs, and wildflowers produce seeds ready for collection. It's important because, by gathering these seeds, we can plant natives on our properties which will help to maintain genetic diversity and promote the resilience of our woods. This program will give you insight into how to do it yourself and maximize your chances of successful growing!

Alliy collects all of the tree and shrub seeds for Tree Pittsburgh's nursery program. She manages the seed bank, scouts new collection locations, collects seeds responsibly, and catalogs them. She also cleans and prepares seeds for planting in the spring, leads volunteer groups, and manages the greenhouse.

## BRADFORD WOODS CONSERVANCY MEMBERSHIP DUES & CONTRIBUTION FORM

*Membership is for one calendar year (January through December).  
All contributions are greatly appreciated.*



**Membership / Donation checks should be payable to the ALLEGHENY LAND TRUST, including "Bradford Woods Conservancy" on the Memo line and mailed to:  
Bradford Woods Conservancy, P.O. Box 106, Bradford Woods, PA 15015**

**PLEASE PRINT**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ home or cell? E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

**Annual Dues are \$25 per Household.**    ☐ **Renewal**    ☐ **New Member**    \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### **Additional Contributions**

✓ I wish to make a contribution to the Conservancy's General Fund: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

✓ I wish to make a contribution to the Community Tree Fund (NEW!): \$ \_\_\_\_\_

✓ I wish to make a contribution to the Allegheny Land Trust: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

✓ I wish to make a memorial contribution: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

in memory of \_\_\_\_\_

*Memorials of \$50 or above will be recognized with a memorial plaque on the wall in the Borough Office.*

If an acknowledgement of your contribution should be sent to anyone other than the person(s) named above, please include the name(s) and address(es).

**TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED**                      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ **I AM WILLING TO VOLUNTEER. Best time to call:** \_\_\_\_\_

Opportunities include participation in annual roadside clean-ups, trail maintenance days, staffing tables at Conservancy events, helping with the newsletter and mailings, serving on committees to present programs.

The Bradford Woods Conservancy Fund is administered by the Allegheny Land Trust. All funds are for the purposes of Bradford Woods environmental programs and projects. Contributions are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. A copy of the official registration and financial information for Allegheny Land Trust may be obtained from the PA Department of State by calling toll free in PA . Registration does not imply endorsement.

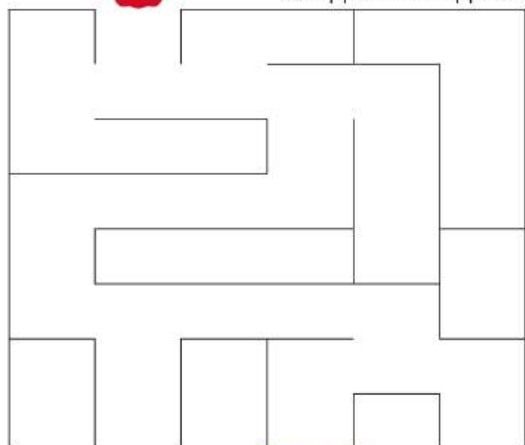


# Kids' Korner

Imagine you were walking through the woods in the fall and found the most unusual leaf you'd ever seen. Color in the leaf to show what it would look like.

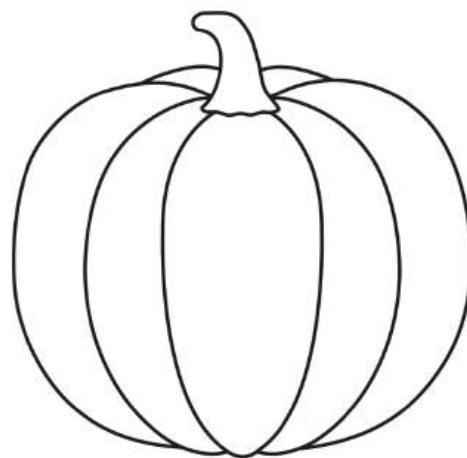
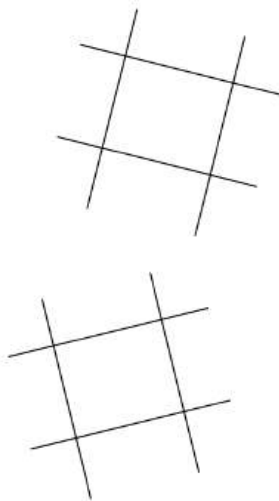


Find your way through the maze to put the apple in the apple basket.



acorn  
apples  
autumn  
crisp  
fall  
hayride  
harvest  
leaves  
pumpkins  
rake

R	L	E	A	V	E	S	T	P
P	P	T	S	E	V	R	A	H
A	P	U	N	V	B	V	A	N
P	S	Y	M	Y	T	Y	M	M
P	I	N	G	P	R	B	L	U
L	R	C	R	I	K	L	M	T
E	C	J	D	O	A	I	Y	U
S	W	E	P	F	C	C	N	A
L	P	E	K	A	R	A	X	S



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## “DCNR”, From Page 3

- The most dangerous invasive plants which are threatening our woods, including Barberry, Privet, Oriental Bittersweet, Japanese Stilt Grass and Garlic Mustard. But there are many more that are thick in isolated areas, including Tree-of-Heaven (see p. 4) and several varieties of Bush Honeysuckle. Learning to identify them is the best step to protecting native growth.
- The best ways to protect your new trees and landscape plantings from deer and other pests.
- The importance of planting “the right tree in the right place” on different properties, referring to understanding how much sun, how much water and what kinds of soil new tree plantings require.

A few more interesting findings:

- A great way to promote forest growth is to place tree tubes or fencing around tree seedlings and saplings found in your woods to protect from deer browsing. Where saplings have already started to grow, they have a higher likelihood of success.
- Keep leaves and/or mulch away from the base of trees; the root flares should be exposed to prevent moisture and mold which decay trunk.
- Brush piles in the woods offer good ground cover and habitat for wildlife; keep piles no larger than the size of a small car.

To sign up for a fall visit, please e-mail Ward Allebach to sign up and join 200+ other neighbors who have had visits in the last 12 years: [allebach@consolidated.net](mailto:allebach@consolidated.net)

# 2025 Conservancy Calendar

## September

- Fall Community Road Cleanup: Sept. 15-30
- Speaker Series: Tues., Sept. 23 @ 7 p.m. (see Page 1)

## October

- Annual Tree Give-away: Sat., Oct. 4, 9 am - Noon
- Free DCNR Property Consultations: Weds., Oct. 15  
*By Appointment (see Page 3)*
- Work Day in the Reserve: Sat., Oct. 18 @ 10 am
- 10 Million Tree Campaign Give-away (see Page 1):  
*Contact [allebach@consolidated.net](mailto:allebach@consolidated.net) for pick-up details.*

## December

- Light Up Night in the Reserve: Sun., Dec. 7 @ 5 pm
- Audubon Christmas Bird Count: Sun., Dec. 28 @ 10 am

**Sign up for our e-mail notification list today to learn more about your woods!**

E-mail: [BradfordWoodsConservancy@gmail.com](mailto:BradfordWoodsConservancy@gmail.com)

*The Conservancy meets quarterly on the third Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the Bradford Woods Community Church. All meetings are open to the public. Please join us!*

Contact us to get on our Conservancy e-mail list for upcoming events, or if you have any questions about Conservancy programs and events. Visit our web site at [www.bradfordwoodsconservancy.com](http://www.bradfordwoodsconservancy.com) or send an e-mail to [bradfordwoodsconservancy@gmail.com](mailto:bradfordwoodsconservancy@gmail.com)



## UPCOMING EVENT!

**TREE GIVEAWAY**  
**OCTOBER 4 from 9am-12pm**  
**Station No.5 185 Bradford Rd.**

Native tree, seed and plant giveaway (funded by your Conservancy) for planting on your property.  
Free to BW residents and Conservancy members!

Look for raffle baskets from local businesses on the front porch of Station No. 5. Raffle donations go to our Community Tree Fund.

