

# SPECIAL EDITION: Focus on Native Landscaping

Native flowers, shrubs and trees grow naturally in a given area; they are accustomed to the soil, weather conditions, moisture and sun, and are in good position to thrive and reproduce. The Pittsburgh region is classified as Zone 6b, based on decades worth of climate data, and just a few degrees difference can mean a lot in the life and death struggle of a plant.



With the ever-increasing number of threats to our native plants, shrubs and trees, from invasive insects and diseases to deer over-population and the changing climate, **we have never needed to pay more attention to what we are planting and how we are planting than right now.**

We hope that reading some of the basics here will give you more to think about, so we also included ideas for digging

deeper, including our own Woods Management Guide (*see page 5*) and Resources for Creating Native Gardens (*page 8*).

There's a lot of great information for you to learn how to protect our woods for generations to come.

Happy growing!

As you plan landscaping around your home and near your woods, the Conservancy is encouraging everyone in Bradford Woods to plant natives. Non-natives and ornamental landscaping choices are not necessarily bad for our woods, but it does depend on the species and how they have been shown to interact with natives (*see Natives, Non-Natives and Invasives on page 3*).

This Special Edition newsletter is intended to address some of the most basic questions about choosing the right plants for the right place on your property, whether you are planting natives or an occasional ornamental. Here are some things to consider:

- \* What size does that nice little sapling grow?
- \* Is the plant best suited for full sun, shade, or partial shade? Does the plant tolerate road salt?
- \* Will the plant grow well with other plants or how will it compete with the plants around it?
- \* What is its root system (deep tap root or surface roots) and will this interfere with any home systems?
- \* What kind of birds or wildlife will it attract or benefit?

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

**2025 Committees**

Membership  
*Gwen Phillips*

Communications  
*Gwen Phillips*

Fund Raising  
*Rick Sorek*

Speaker Series  
*Ward Allebach*

Conservation and Stewardship  
*Joe Bayer and Ward Allebach*

Community Outreach and Programming  
*Vicki Wiegand & Diana Berendowski*

**Conservancy Web Site**

[www.BradfordWoodsConservancy.org](http://www.BradfordWoodsConservancy.org)

**Conservancy E-mail**

[bradfordwoodsconservancy@gmail.com](mailto:bradfordwoodsconservancy@gmail.com)

## Thank you to Ward Allebach, Conservancy President, 2009–2024

*By Art Kasson, Conservancy President*

In 2024, the Bradford Woods Conservancy celebrated 30 years as an organization. This was a special day and a great milestone for the Conservancy and the community. We celebrated with a tree giveaway on a beautiful October day followed by a presentation of recognition, including several Conservancy members and borough and state dignitaries. The icing on the cake had to be the wonderful hors d'oeuvres and hospitality we received from Station #5. It was an excellent reminder of where we are, where we are going and who got us here to this point.

For 16 of those 30 years, we were lucky enough to be led by Ward Allebach. Ward served as president of the Conservancy from 2009 – 2024, a total of 16 years! Under his leadership, the Conservancy has been able to do many things that were part of the original idea and scope of what the Conservancy could become. The entire Conservancy board and members would like to take this opportunity to thank Ward for his service to his community.

We asked him to reflect on some of his finer moments during his years as president:

“Serving my community with the Conservancy has been one of the greatest privileges of my life. It’s been an incredible experience of learning from my neighbors, understanding each other’s values, and working to foster an awareness of our individual roles in maintaining the beauty of Bradford Woods for generations to come.”



“My proudest accomplishment of the Conservancy has been our My Backyard Woods program, established in 2013, which has reached many hundreds of residents through DCNR property consultations, speaker series and workshops. MBW has helped the Conservancy to expand focus beyond the Bradford Woods Reserve and directly led to the planting of thousands of native trees, shrubs and gardens throughout the community.”

“We have grown Conservancy community events over the years to include one for every season, from Earth Day (Spring), Storytelling (Summer), Tree Give-aways and Nature Walks (Fall), and the Audubon Christmas Bird Count (Winter). My greatest memories of my time as president are thanks to fun events like these, just seeing and getting to know everyone while talking, laughing, sometimes singing, and sharing a mutual love of the special places in Bradford Woods.”

Ward truly exemplifies the principle of leading by example. We can’t recall a workday at the Reserve or setting up for an event like Light-Up Night where Ward hasn’t been on the front lines to help our “team”. Moving forward, we will look forward to his advice and guidance as he continues as part of the Conservancy board as our

***Cont’d on page 5, “Allebach”***

## Benefits of Native Landscaping




Over the past 100+ years, urbanization has transformed our native woodlands with lawns and exotic plants. According to the Audubon Society, the continental U.S. lost 150 million acres of habitat and farmland to urban sprawl, and the trend isn't slowing. Modern obsession with highly-manicured, monocultured lawns has created a green carpet across the country that covers over 40 million acres and no longer supports functioning ecosystems, leaving the remaining natural areas too small to support wildlife.

Native Landscaping uses native plants to create a natural landscape. Because native plants have evolved and adapted to our climate and soil conditions, this helps to make them more resilient, less time-consuming to maintain, and with many benefits for the surrounding ecosystem.

**More Resistance, Less Maintenance:** Once established, native plants tend to be more resistant to environmental risks, also requiring less watering, pest control, fertilizer, and mowing than traditional landscapes.

**Helping Wildlife:** Native plants attract native pollinators, like bees, butterflies and hummingbirds. They produce fruit, nectar, nuts, and seeds that provide food and habitat for wildlife. Without native plants, local bird and insect

## Native plants suited for Bradford Woods

<b>Sun lovers</b>		
• Big Bluestem	• Joe Pye Weed	
• Black-eyed Susan	• Coreopsis	
• Blue Flag Iris	• New England Aster	
• Butterfly Weed	• Prairie Blazing Star	
• Common Milkweed	• Purple Coneflower	
• Great Blue Lobelia	• Rattlesnake Master	
• Ironweed	• Rose Mallow	
	• Goldenrod	
<b>Partial sun</b>		
• Bergamot	• Jack in the Pulpit	
• Blue-eyed Grass	• Lavender Hyssop	
• Calico Aster	• Marsh Marigold	
• Cardinal Flower	• Spiderwort	
• Cinnamon Fern	• Royal Fern	
• Goat's Beard	• Turtlehead	
	• Virginia Bluebell	
<b>Shade lovers</b>		
• Bellwort	• Trillium	
• Christmas Fern	• Marsh Marigold	
• Columbine	• Mayapple	
• Meadow Rue	• Royal Fern	
• Goat's Beard	• Turk's Cap Lily	
• Jack in the Pulpit	• Wild Geranium	
	• Wild Ginger	

*Before you purchase native plants, be sure to know their preference for light exposure, soil type, and size at maturity!*

### EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

**Project Tables**

- Monarch Station
- Nature Arts and Crafts - Woods Life
- Paint a rock
- PA Native plants give away
- Bradford Woods Conservancy
- Storm Water Management
- Audubon Society of Western PA
- Rock Bracelets

Sponsored by  
Bradford Woods Conservancy

Where: The Reserve in  
Bradford Woods  
156 Bradford Road

When: Saturday, April 26  
Time: 10:00-2:00  
\*Free Admission\*  
\*Free Picnic Lunch\*

Questions? Contact : 724-272-4400

**Participate in Activities for all ages**

- **10:00 - 2:00 Visit Activity Tables**  
\*Light Refreshments will be provided.\*
- **11:00 - 12:00 Birds of Prey Presentation**  
**Speaker: Gabi Hughes Wildlife Habitat Educator**  
**Gabi will be bringing a live Kestrel !!!**  
Bring a chair for the presentation!
- **12:00 - 1:00 Free Picnic Lunch**
- **Officer Welling and canine Hank will be strolling around the Reserve to meet and greet everyone.**

**\*Raptors Presentation\***  
Have you ever wondered what makes a falcon a falcon? Or how fast a falcon can fly? Or how falcons hunt? Well join naturalist from Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania (ASWP) to learn answers to these questions and more! This natural history program will cover birds of prey, also known as raptor. The presenter will discuss how birds of prey differ from other birds, how they find food and what raptors are common to western PA.



populations will continue to decline.

**Environmental Benefits:** Most native plants have deep root systems which increase the soil's capacity to hold water, slowing runoff, and reducing flooding and erosion. Native plants improve soil health and tend to be better at capturing and holding carbon, which reduces atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>.

## Tips for Native Landscaping

To maximize success when adding native landscaping, be mindful of the existing ecosystem and the species being added. Conserve existing native vegetation and avoid removing native plants in order to minimize habitat destruction. Practice responsible landscaping by ensuring that you research plants that are native to your area and choosing the right plants for the site depending on conditions, including light, heat, water, humidity, and nutrition.

Be sure that you are adding plants that are native to Pennsylvania. Ferns that are native to Pennsylvania include the royal fern, cinnamon fern, and sensitive fern. Trees that are native to Pennsylvania include the red maple, sugar maple, white pine and flowering dogwood. Perennials that are native to Pennsylvania include the oxeye sunflower, goldenrod, cardinal flower, bee balm, common milkweed, and golden ragwort. The addition of these plants can preserve the natural beauty and biodiversity of our state.

# Privet: One of the Biggest Threats to Our Native Woods

One of the most widespread threats to native tree growth in Bradford Woods is also one of the most challenging to identify because it has so many native look-alikes. *But spring is actually one of the easiest times of the year to identify the invasive shrub, Privet – so, the time is right to make it a target for outdoor cleanups!*

As Privet spreads, it grows in dense thickets that shade out native growth, and for most of the year, it looks a lot like other similar-sized shrubs. But *this* time of year, there are two key give-aways:

1. Like many invasives, Privet is one of the first shrubs of the spring to start growing its leaves. If you see leaves starting to grow on shrubs in your woods when few others have even started, it's likely Privet.

2. Privet grows small, black or dark purple berries which are often untouched by native birds through the winter. Put together with early leafing, there's another easy clue!

If you're able to make privet removal a priority this year, the entire community will benefit. Here's some more from DCNR's Fact Sheet:

### Background:

Privets were originally imported from Japan, China and Europe for use in landscaping around 1860. They are still often used in hedges and landscaping.

### Description:

Privets are deciduous or semi- evergreen shrubs that often form dense thickets. They have opposite or whorled stems that are brown to gray with slightly rough bark. Privets produce white flowers from April to June, which are followed by green drupes from July to March. These fruit gradually ripen to a dark purple or black color in the winter.

### Biology and Spread:

Privets mainly spread to new areas via their seeds. Often times, these are distributed by birds, which have eaten the fruit. Once introduced to an area, privet can regenerate from root and stump sprouts, making it difficult to eradicate.

### Ecological Threat:

Privets can form dense thickets, which reduce light and moisture availability for native shrubs and wild- flowers. This decreases plant diversity and impacts the animals which depend on them for food and shelter.

### Habitat:

Privets are often found in bottom-land forests, fence- rows,



fields and rights-of-way. They seem to prefer disturbed areas with rich soil.

### How to Control this Species:

Once established in an area, privet can be difficult to control or remove.

With smaller populations, hand removal can be used. However, fragments of root that are left behind in the ground can re-sprout.

Larger areas can also be treated with herbicides such as glyphosate. Herbicide can be applied to the leaves, or painted on cut stems or stumps. Once the herbicide is applied, disturbances to the privet should be avoided for approximately one year, in order for the herbicide to travel

through the privet's root systems.

No biological controls are currently known for privet. Studies show that controlled burning does not appear to have a lasting effect on privet populations, so it is not recommended as a control option.

## The Difference Between Natives, Non-Natives, and Invasives

There is probably a variety of species growing in your garden, including native plants, non-native plants, and invasives. Understanding the difference between these types of plants and how to manage them is important for the health of your garden.

**Native Species:** Native species are plants that naturally grow in an area and are important to the health of the ecosystem. You should allow the native species in your yard to continue growing and even add more to help maintain the biodiversity of Pennsylvania.

**Non-Native Species:** Non-native species are plants that do not naturally grow in an area, but they do not prevent the growth of native species. As long as they aren't harming the population of native species, it's okay to allow them to grow, too. But consider replacing them with more beneficial plants if they start to decline.

**Invasive Species:** Invasive species do not naturally grow in an area, and they damage the surrounding ecosystem by not allowing native species to thrive. Invasive species should be removed from your garden as soon as you have the time and resources.

## Our Woods Management Guide, First Edition

For Earth Day in 2024, the Bradford Woods Conservancy completed the first edition of a Woods Management Guide for the community.

The 20-page booklet is intended to be a starting point, providing some ideas, resources, and answers to common questions about how to care for our woods. It covers:

- Woods Management Basics
- Consultation Tips
- The Importance of Native Tree Plantings
- Invasives in our community

You'll also find lists of large and small native trees, including ideal conditions for sun/shade and moisture, and many that

will tolerate harsh growing conditions, like clay soil and salt.

Also, don't miss the center-spread: The Conservancy's 3-point Plan for Protecting your Woods (*which you've hopefully seen in previous newsletters and already pinned to your fridge!*)

There's so much to know and learn about your woods and your property that it can be overwhelming, and it's

understandable that it doesn't always pop right to the top of our To Do Lists. That's why we wanted to make this first edition brief and digestible, with additional volumes to be produced in the years to come.

We'll have copies again at this year's Earth Day in the Reserve (see details on Page 3!) or you can see it on our web site at: [www.bradfordwoodsconservancy.org/woods-management-guide](http://www.bradfordwoodsconservancy.org/woods-management-guide).

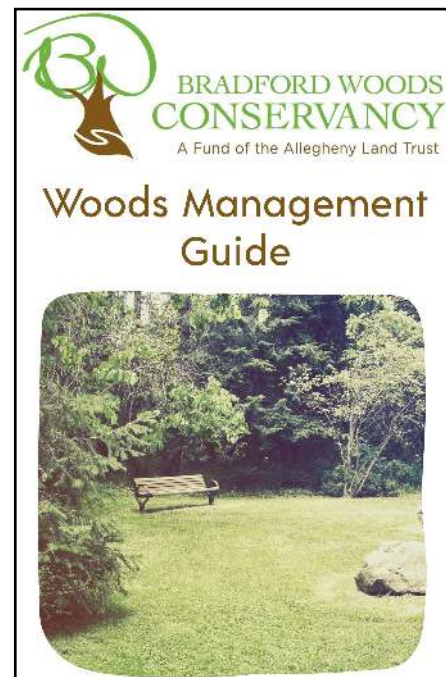
We want this to be a work-in-progress that is updated based on our community and the evolving challenges that we are facing every year to maintain a vibrant, resilient woods for generations to come.

Please let us know what you think!

### *"Allebach", from page 2*

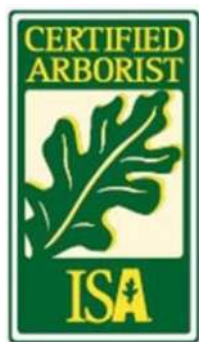
new Speaker Series Chair and continuing the My Backyard Woods program. He has shown both a love of nature and community and has shown that it is possible to live in harmony with nature here in our idyllic home. What impressed us the most about Ward was his ability to reach across the aisle (something we don't see much of nowadays) and really listen to residents on their concerns for their own properties. Living in the woods sometimes calls for tough conversations about water runoff, trees that are overhanging walking trails or homes, trees that should or shouldn't be cut down and how to manage non-native and invasive species. He has handled those conversations with professionalism and a humbleness that is rare.

Please join us in congratulating Ward for his long tenure as president of the Bradford Woods Conservancy and for his continued success in keeping these woods healthy for the next generation. We will be formally congratulating Ward as part of the Earth Day Celebration on Saturday, April 26th.



## Certified Arborists: Why They Matter

An arborist is a person who performs tree care services, which may include tree pruning, removal, fertilization, or even planting. Many also diagnose problems such as how to control insect pests or tree diseases.



If an arborist has enough tree care experience, or a degree in forestry or a horticultural field, they may become an ISA **Certified** Arborist, administered by the International Society of Arboriculture. The ISA's Certified Arborist exam is extensive and covers all aspects of tree care.

The ISA credential lasts only three years. To maintain certification, the arborist must have 30 hours of continuing education

units during that time or retake the exam.

ISA certification is voluntary and doesn't guarantee the arborist will perform tree care services to industry standards. **The certification does indicate the arborist has experience performing tree care services and has passed an extensive examination that covers all aspects of tree care.** It also indicates a certain amount of commitment on the part of the arborist to keep up to date on the ever-expanding research and changes within the tree care industry.

The Conservancy maintains a *partial* listing of local arborists. It is not meant to be a complete list, nor does it represent any kind of endorsement by the Conservancy. It is meant only as a starting point for you. You are encouraged to do some research of your own to find an arborist suited to your needs, budget and schedule.

You can see our list at:  
<https://bradfordwoodsconservancy.org/certified-arborists>

# The Bradford Woods Conservancy: 2024 in Photos



*Center and top center: From our 30th Anniversary at Station No. 5 in October. Below: Conservancy plantings at the Post Office. Clockwise from top right: Scouts at the Reserve in April; DCNR forester in November; tree planting on Lake Loop Trail in May; Audubon Bird Count in October; work day in the Reserve in September; Storytelling in July; Conservancy interns, Earth Day in April; Forest Road plantings; Light Up Night in December; Earth Day raptor program in April.*



# The Conservancy's 5,000 Initiative

## A Greener Future Taking Root

By Rick Sorek

Since 2022, the Bradford Woods Conservancy has been leading an ambitious effort to plant 5,000 native trees, shrubs and plants throughout our community.

To accomplish this, plants have been provided free of charge to residents of Bradford Woods, empowering homeowners to restore and enhance their properties.

The initiative not only beautifies our community but also improves air quality, supports native wildlife, and contributes to the long-term health of our woods and wildlife.

Thanks to the dedication of volunteers and the enthusiastic participation of residents, we are proud to announce that this initiative is now 67% complete!

Ward Allebach, who has led the efforts of the Conservancy for 16 years described the project, explains:

“The need to replant native trees becomes more urgent as aging timber and increasingly severe storms take a toll on our local trees. Many of the oldest trees, which have stood for decades and some for more than a century, are now reaching the end of their natural lifespan, becoming more vulnerable to insects, disease, decay, and high winds.

“This Project to freely provide natives for planting promotes appreciation of our unique community and a deeper understanding of the woods that we share, which we all have a stake in stewarding.”

### A Tradition Rooted in Earth Day & Community Spirit

Twice a year, on Earth Day in April and again in October, the Conservancy has distributed a variety of native trees, shrubs and native plants, ensuring that residents have access to a diverse selection that is suited to our local ecosystem.

*The Finish Line is in Sight – Let's Keep Growing!*

With over 3,350 trees already planted, we are well on our way to reaching our 5,000-tree planted goal.

However, the work is not done! The Conservancy continues to seek support from residents and community members to help complete this ambitious project.

### How You Can Help

Plant a Tree – If you haven't already, mark your calendar for our next tree distribution event on Earth Day in April 2025!

Volunteer – Join our efforts to organize and distribute native

plants at our upcoming events, including Earth Day on Sat., April 26 at the Bradford Woods Reserve.

Spread the Word – Encourage neighbors, friends, and family to take part in this meaningful initiative.

Support the Conservancy – Memberships help fund future conservation projects (see Membership on Pg. 10). Consider and additional donation to our Community Tree Fund, which ensures programs like the 5,000 initiative will continue to thrive.

### New Advisory Board Members

There's no magic to helping out: All you need to do is to show up! In their own words, meet our newest Advisory Board members...

**Nicole Moga** - “I am excited to join the BWC Advisory Board because I am an absolute tree lover! I organized and helped to plant over 100 trees in Troy Hill as a volunteer and worked for a decade on the Tree Pittsburgh staff. My hope is to inspire everyone in Bradford Woods to protect and plant trees.”



**Rick Sorek** - “I wanted to join the effort to maintain the legacy of Bradford Woods as a community dedicated to preserving what is unique - a verdant, vibrant community. The good works of the Conservancy - removing invasive plants, planting annuals, picking up litter or planting trees - makes Bradford Woods a special place,

because thriving trees & plants and a thriving community go hand in hand.

**Lisa Hladio** - “As founder of WoodsLife, I hope to connect with others and the great outdoors in our little corner of the woods! I'm a certified music teacher, experienced camp director, and outdoor educator. Music and my love for the outdoors are the gifts I give to kiddos in my care. As a mother of six “let's play outside!” kids, I'm passionate about helping children grow, knowing they are significant, secure, valuable, and accepted.”



## 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 or visit our Facebook page.

## Online Resources for Creating Your Native Gardens

Growing native plants in your landscaping supports local biodiversity, reduces water use, and can create a beautiful and sustainable landscape. But not all native plants will thrive on your property, so do your research!

There are so many resources about creating native pollinator gardens, rain gardens, butterfly gardens, lawn conversions, and much more. Here are just a few (Google the title!):

- The Conservation Foundation: Creating Native Gardens
- Wild Ones: Creating Your Own Native Garden
- My Home Park: 11 Tips on Starting a Native Plant Garden
- Allegheny Front: Creating Native Habitat, Yard by Yard
- Phipps Conservatory: Small Gardens, Big Impact
- PA DCNR: Native Garden Templates
- NAEC and Latodomi: Lawn to Nature Kits



## Working with Scouts Toward a Better Community

From our beginnings in 1994, the Conservancy has worked collaboratively with so many organizations. From Borough Council, the BW Volunteer Fire Company and the Women's Club to the Audubon Society, the North Allegheny Key Club and the Kiwanis Club.

But maybe none more frequently than the local Scouting America and Girl Scouts troops.

In 2025, Stephen Webber-Plank, a resident of Bradford Woods, will begin his Eagle Scout project to develop a wildflower and pollinator garden in the Bradford Woods Reserve. He will be coached by Conservancy president Art Kasson, who is also an Eagle Scout.

Later in the Spring, Art and Diana Berendowski again will be helping Girl Scouts who are working on their silver awards, for which each scout needs to plan and execute a 50-hour project. Possible projects could be at the Reserve, Lake Loop Trail, our community boards, and other public spaces in the borough. These projects will continue through the summer.

For more than 15 years now, Cub Scout Pack 81 has helped at Conservancy work days by pulling invasive garlic mustard in working toward their Conservation badges, and in recent years they've organized their own event in conjunction with their April Pack meeting, including s'mores around the

Reserve campfire pit.

Daisy and Girl Scout troops have also been earning their own badges through service projects at the Reserve.

These are the kinds of partnerships that help all of us to be better stewards of the community, educate ourselves and our children, and instill positive values of working together toward a better world. Thanks to all of our Scouts!



*Cub Scout Pack 81 earning their Conservation badges in the Bradford Woods Reserve in April*

## Four Easy-Peasy Earth Day Presents for Our Planet... and Ourselves

By JC Kasten

### Not So Fun Facts

Americans use around 50 billion single-use plastic water bottles each year, which is about 13 bottles per person per month. Most of these bottles are used for less than an hour and then are either landfilled or incinerated: the majority never decompose.

Americans use an estimated 500 million plastic straws each day, enough to fill over 46,000 school buses each year.

Americans use over 100 billion single-use plastic bags each year, which is more than 300 bags per person. They are made from oil and fracked gas: they don't biodegrade and instead break down into microplastics.

Microscopic pieces of plastic are now found in our air, soil and water, appearing in the depths of the oceans to Artic Ice. They are also inside our bodies. We are breathing microplastic, eating it and drinking plastic-infused water every day.

Single use plastics are convenient for sure but what is the true cost of convenience?



### Guidelines

Neighbors are encouraged to bring indoor and outdoor plants, annuals, perennials, tubers, bulbs, tropicals, trees, seeds and vegetables to swap.

Please label plants based on ideal growing conditions (sun/shade), common name (ex. daffodil), and type (indoor/outdoor).

All plants must be in containers. Avoid plants widely known as invasive to our native flora (ex. garlic mustard).

Swap as many or as few as you like.  
Take home what you choose. All are free!  
We will be outside behind Station No. 5 (parking lot). Hope to see you there!

## Community Plant Swap

Saturday from 9-11am

May 10, 2025

185 Bradford Rd 15015 (Station No. 5)



Let us please, good people of Bradford Woods, consider gifting our Earth and the children and wildlife inhabiting our beautiful planet by making a commitment to investing in reusable drinking mugs, eco-friendly reusable groceries, produce bags and paper or metal straws.

In a world overrun by single use plastic it may seem like these are tiny, insignificant commitments. But they are not. As Margaret Mead said: ***“Never underestimate the power of a small group of committed people to change the world. In fact, it is the only thing that ever has.”***

## Bradford Woods Founder's Day

Saturday, May 3, 2025, Noon – 3:00 pm at the Bradford Woods Fire Hall

Please join your friends and neighbors for this family-friendly afternoon celebrating the 110th anniversary of the founding of Bradford Woods Borough. The event will feature speeches by local and regional dignitaries, live music, a bounce house and other activities for kids, raffle prizes, and a complementary picnic lunch. Local historians will share facts about and photos of the Borough through the years, and there will even be a cookie table!

Parking will be available at Bradford Woods Elementary School, with shuttle service to the Fire Hall. There will be no parking at the Fire Hall or the Post Office.

The Borough is grateful for the support of our community partners who are helping to plan and host this event, and

to GRB Law, the Presenting Sponsor. Sincere thanks to the talented men and women of these partner organizations:

Bradford Woods Community Church  
Bradford Woods Conservancy  
Bradford Woods Couples Club  
Bradford Woods Elementary Girl Scouts  
Bradford Woods Volunteer Fire Co.  
Bradford Woods Women's Club  
Cub Scout Pack 81  
McCandless Franklin Park Ambulance  
Northland Public Library  
Northern Regional Police Department  
Station No. 5

## 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

## Trees Word Search

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

Alder	Cottonwood	Pine
Apple	Cypress	Poplar
Ash	Dogwood	Redwood
Aspen	Elm	Sequoia
Birch	Fir	Spruce
Buckthorn	Hawthorn	Sweetgum
Cedar	Hazel	Sycamore
Cherry	Larch	Walnut
Chestnut	Maple	Willow
Chinkapin	Oak	Yew

Draw your favorite tree here:

## WoodsLife in Bradford Woods

Welcome to the woods life! This local outdoor organization is bringing summer camp to Bradford Woods all year long. WoodsLife provides opportunities for children of all ages to encounter the beauty of life through camp programs that emphasize experiential learning, community, and growth.

WoodsLife began in the fall of 2024 by offering a unique program called "Kindergarten Kamp" at the Bradford Woods Community Church. Kindergarten Kamp enriches school-year afternoons by providing local students three hours of guided outdoor exploration weekly, extending the school day to include screen-free creative play, nature-based discovery, and relationship-building skills.

Studies show that fresh air and exercise are essential to good health. Research also tells us that play improves cognitive, physical, social, and emotional well-being. Kindergarten Kamp enables students to play and explore nature in a safe and nurturing small-group setting. Developmentally, campers benefit from being outdoors, away from technology, and physically active in the downtime after the school day.

The spring session of Kindergarten Kamp is full and will run March through May 2025. In addition to Kindergarten Kamp, WoodsLife offers day camps for elementary students during school breaks, hosts a monthly women's fire, and hopes to grow even more outdoor programs for the community!



Lisa Hladio is the founder of WoodsLife and mother of six "play-outside" kids. She is a certified music teacher and an experienced camp director and outdoor educator. Lisa is passionate about growing children who know they are significant, secure, valuable, and accepted. She utilizes her love for music and the outdoors with the kiddos in her care. For more information, follow us @WoodsLife on Facebook and @woodslifecamps on Instagram or reach out via email at woodslifeinfo@gmail.com. Get out!

# 2025 Conservancy Calendar

## April

- Spring Community Road Cleanup: April 1-15
- Work Day in the Reserve: Sat., April 12 @ 10 am
- Earth Day in the Reserve: Sat., April 26 10 am - 2 pm
- Lake Loop Trail Work Day: Weds., Apr 30, 4:30- 7:30 pm

## May

- Bradford Woods Founders Day: Sat., May 3
- Spring Plant-Swap: Sat., May 10, 9 - 11 am

## July

- **DCNR Property Consultations: Thurs., July 24**
- Storytelling Night in the Reserve: Fri., July 25, 7 pm

## September

- Fall Community Road Cleanup: Sept. 15-30
- Work Day in the Reserve: Sat., Sept. 27 @ 10 am

## October

- Bird Walks and Tree Give-away: Sat., Oct. 4, 9 am - Noon

## December

- Light Up Night in the Reserve: Sun., Dec. 7 @ 5 pm
- Audubon Christmas Bird Count: Sat., Dec. 27 @ 10 am

## ***Free Property Consults in Your Woods with DCNR Foresters on Thurs., July 24***

During this Consultation with certified foresters from DCNR (the PA Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources), you'll learn about natives and invasives on your property, how to recognize signs of tree decay or disease, and how to attract birds and beneficial wildlife to your property.

Our goal is to assist the community to become stewards of our woods and create a more balanced environment for everyone. Each visit lasts between 45 and 90 minutes, depending on the size of your property and the depth of your questions and concerns.

### **Sign up 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)