



THE TOWNSHIP TREEBUNE—2023 Urban Forestry Outreach Events

To increase support and showcase the efforts of the Township's Tree Program, a number of events were hosted in 2023 that provided opportunities for public participation and learning about the benefits of trees. All events were tremendously successful and well received ensuring they will occur again in 2024. Education and outreach is a very rewarding experience for all parties involved. It is our intention to increase the amount of events available to the public which aligns with the goals of the Township's 5 year Urban Forestry Master Plan. Here is a brief narrative of our activities.

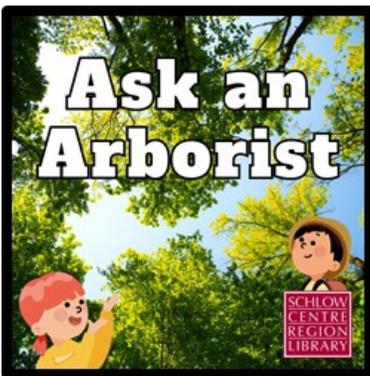
Arbor Day 2023

Always hosted the last Saturday of April, dozens of residents gathered at Tudek Park to participate in our 8th annual festivities. It was a terrific success and our largest event yet. Activities included: arts and crafts, a tree seedling giveaway, a tree walk through the Tudek Memorial Grove, bucket truck rides and the reading of the Arbor Day Proclamation and tree planting. Mark your calendars for next year on Saturday April 27th for the Township's 9th and biggest Arbor Day Celebration yet.



Ask an Arborist at Schlow Centre Region Library Grades K-4

The Township was invited to host a tree-centric outreach event at Schlow Centre Regional Library. The target audience was primarily kindergarten to 4th grade children, however, there were many other ages in attendance. A spirited classroom-style presentation with a number of props and craft activities were included. Discussions included the benefits of trees to our health and well-being, as well as what trees provide in our everyday lives. A tree ring counting exercise was conducted as well as a personal tree necklace decorating activity. The parents were invited to participate in the activity and added to the overall success of the event.



Mount Nittany Christian School - Job Task and Equipment Demonstration Grades 3-5

Students of the Mount Nittany Christian School visited the Township offices to tour of the Police and Public Works departments to meet the members of the team and experience some of our equipment in action. A brief discussion of the Arborist's role within the department was conducted as well as releasing a number the student's paper airplanes from the maximum lift height. The students were excited to see the Arborist's 75' aerial lift in action. The teachers and students were very inspired and are planning to attend our Arbor Day celebration in April of 2024.



Ferguson Township Eco Explorers – The Wonders of Water and Trees Grades 4-8

In July, the Township Arborist teamed up with our Township Stormwater Engineer to host an outdoor educational event for the Township's Eco-Explorers program. Together they discussed the wonders of water and trees and how vital they are to each other. The highlight of the program was a scavenger hunt followed by our Pop Up Arboretum tree walk. The event captured a variety of age groups with active participation from both the children and adults.



SCASD Building Construction Technology - Careers in Arboriculture and Urban Forestry Grades 10-12

In October, the Township Arborist was invited to host a presentation to State College Area High School Building Construction and Technology students to discuss opportunities available in the field of Arboriculture and Urban Forestry. Students affiliated with the other trade classes elected to attend as well. The event included a classroom instruction followed by outdoor demonstrations. A number of professions with a variety of management or labor tracks in the field of trees were discussed, including the Township Arborist's own experiences. A variety of industry tools were demonstrated including; aerial lift, brush chipper, tree rigging devices, climbing harness and ropes, and diagnostic tools. An emphasis on job site safety was also conducted introducing students to equipment inspections, personal protective equipment and jobsite safety protocols. The presentation generated a good deal of interaction and dialogue between the students and instructor. The engagement created a positive atmosphere and was responsible for a successful outing.



The Township's education and outreach program is proving to be a useful tool in educating the public and casting the Tree Program's efforts in a positive light. Our efforts have benefitted hundreds of Township and regional residents. The events of 2023 have laid the groundwork for a more successful 2024, with richer content and, hopefully, a wider audience. Events are currently being arranged for the upcoming year. If your group, neighborhood, or community would like to host a tree-related educational event, please contact the Township Arborist at 814-238-4651 or arborist@twp.ferguson.pa.us.