



## Shade Tree News

**The mission:** *To promote a sustainable and productive community forest and shade tree resource that will subsequently improve the quality of life for the residents of the Borough of Dumont NJ.*

### || The Intrepid Dumont Shade Tree Commission ||

This Spring newsletter is being published as Spring is blooming here in the Northeast. We are seeing the tell-tale signs of renewal not just in our gardens and treescapes, but within our communities, as we emerge from what has been a difficult, more than one-year-long pandemic. Our country and world shut down over a year ago in response to the Covid-19 virus. During that time, our communities persevered and worked together to not only survive, but become better stewards of our environment. Through it all, The Dumont Shade Tree Commission (DSTC) and Friends of the Shade Tree (FoTST) have been working under the imposed restrictions to maintain our mission of educating our community about the importance of trees, planting trees, caring for our urban canopy, and providing events to support our community. We are a proud and hardworking group of devoted resident volunteers.

This newsletter highlights some of the events and services that we were able to provide throughout the pandemic. With safety always at the forefront of our minds, we are thankful for the technology that allowed us to continue our monthly meetings to share information and plan our activities. We are thankful for the technology that allowed several member of the DSTC to attend the informative New Jersey Tree Federation seminar to expand our knowledge to help support our urban canopy and the essential wildlife it sustains. We are grateful to our residents who used technology to allow us to host a seminar to teach residents and surrounding community members the importance, history, and mission of the Dumont Tree Nursery on Sunset Avenue. We are indebted to our residents who mastered the technology and provided the musical talent that made it possible for us to provide a Winter Concert safely from their homes to the community at large and around the country. The DSTC was able to continue our tradition of Arbor Day 2021, planting a tree in the Dumont Arboretum and dedicating a bench to one of our own, Kathy Sheridan, who left us way too soon. Most recently, the FoTST hosted two Save the Monarch events providing milkweed plants to the community and engaging a local Daisy Scout troop to educate them about these essential butterflies. This newsletter recaps and highlights our successes.

We hope you enjoy it. We also encourage you to join us if you have time to spare and want to contribute in any way to help support our mission of caring for and planting trees in our community.

#### **Kathy Sheridan Bench at the Arboretum**

Kathy Sheridan was a beloved resident of Dumont for many years and an active volunteer with the DSTC. She was a commissioner from 2013-2018. Her energy, strength, and commitment helped the Shade Tree become a force of change and promote a healthy sustainable world. She left us too soon. Stop by and reflect at her Memorial Bench at the Arboretum.



#### **Arbor Day 2021**

Thanks to many who helped make the 2021 Arbor Day special and possible given the Covid-19 restrictions. It was a day to honor our town and trees. Thanks to Council President Carole Stewart for all her continued support through the years and being there on Arbor Day. Thanks to Councilman Conor Gorman for his heartfelt presentation of the Award of Merit posthumously awarded to Kathy Sheridan. Thanks to Anthony Schiraldi and the DPW crew for their hard work making the arboretum shine for the day. Kudos to Boy Scout Troop 64 and Councilman George Harvilla for their patriotic role in raising the flag, and to Rex Harvilla for leading the Pledge of Allegiance, and making us proud. A shout out to Thad MacGregor - the music was perfect. Thanks to the camera crew - chief videographer Anna Calev, and Kathy Zitelli and Billy Zitelli. Special thanks to Abbie Slaman for doing a masterful job in the control room. Available to watch: <https://www.facebook.com/DumontShadeTree/videos/301023824929092>

## *Dumont Shade Tree Important Dates in 2021*



Regular Dumont Shade Tree meetings are at 7:30pm: Third Monday of each month except for January and February which will be the second Monday. All meetings have been through Zoom during the pandemic. We are able to hold meetings during the warm months, weather permitting, with masks required, at the Gazebo at the Dumont Arboretum on West Shore Avenue.

June 21 | 7:30 Gazebo at the Arboretum

Oct 18 | 7:30 Location TBD

July 19 | 7:30 Gazebo at the Arboretum

Nov 15 | 7:30 Location TBD


August 16 | 7:30 Gazebo at the Arboretum

Dec 20 | 7:30 Location TBD

Sept 20 | 7:30 Location TBD



### Friends of the Shade Tree

 **GARDEN COMMITTEE**  
meetings first Monday  
of every even month

Stay tuned to our Facebook page and subscribe to our email list for event listings and information about time and location. The Garden Committee and Friends of the Shade Tree sponsors:

- House Garden Tours
- Winter Holiday Wreath Crafting
- Terrarium Building
- Informative Lectures
- Arboretum Garden Events

## *Dumont Arboretum Volunteer Opportunities*



Have you had a chance to walk by the Dumont Arboretum on West Shore Avenue between New Milford and West Madison Avenues? The path provides a beautiful stroll. The irises and other flowers are in full bloom. Enjoy the TAKE A BOOK/LEAVE A BOOK lending library. Take a moment to appreciate the pond and waterfall at the south end of the arboretum. Sit on the hand-made wood bench and read a book. Find tranquility and reflect at the Kathy Sheridan Memorial bench.

The Arboretum is a labor of love for many Dumont residents. Fully funded by donations and grants and maintained by residents, it is a place of serenity for all to enjoy. The Friends Garden Committee created public gardens in our Arboretum, with perennials and annuals under and around the shade trees and rose beds.

The Shade Tree Commission and the Friends invite new volunteers to adopt a garden bed along the Arboretum pathway, or to join an existing group garden bed. No money needed, just some time to create beautiful places and make like-minded friends. Maintaining your garden bed can be done on your own schedule, but Saturday mornings are an informal gathering time at the Arboretum from 10 am to noon. If you have any questions, and want to join in, contact the Shade Tree DSTC07628@gmail.com.

Join the Dumont Shade Tree and Friends of the Shade Tree for a rewarding experience.



## Leafy Projects | Around Town

### Dumont Tree Nursery

The Shade Tree Seminar series featured our Tree Nursery this year. Thanks to DSTC President, Ray Slaman for an informative seminar and presentation.

Ray spoke about the importance of the nursery, the process and history of developing the nursery. Well attended online and in person, attendees received CEU credits for attending. We held two raffles; one winner for attending online, another for in person at the arboretum.

The live stream is available to watch anytime!

<https://www.facebook.com/DumontShadeTree/videos/508588273858612/>

Lorraine Mattes of the Alpine Environmental Commission was the winner of the a beautiful young tree at our Seminar on March 20th. We planted an Eastern Redbud tree next to The Memorial Rock on Monument Lane, with Mayor Paul H. Tomasko, the Alpine DPW and Environmental Commission.

Thanks to Steve Isaacson of Closter, second winner of the young tree at our Seminar on 3/20, a Hawthorn tree was donated and planted on Earth Day at Tutor's Link in Dumont. Councilman Conor Gorman was also in attendance. Thank you Steve for asking that this lovely tree be planted in Dumont.

Saplings are raised in the tree nursery and will be available to homeowners for FREE to plant on their property. The program is administered by DSTC; trees available while supplies last.



### HOW TO CONNECT WITH DSTC

Do you want to learn more about how to care for your trees? Follow Dumont Shade Tree Commission!

ON THE WEB:

[www.dumontshadetree.org](http://www.dumontshadetree.org) | [www.fotst.org](http://www.fotst.org) | [www.dumontnj.gov/boards/shade-tree-commission](http://www.dumontnj.gov/boards/shade-tree-commission)

VIA SOCIAL MEDIA:



Facebook:

@dumontshadetree



Instagram:

@dumontshadetree



Twitter:

@dumontshadetree



YouTube:

Dumont NJ "It's All About Trees"

## *PAVING THE WAY TO A GREENER DUMONT*

### *Buy a Brick*



#### Donate a brick~~

- ❖ in honor of someone
- ❖ as a graduation gift
- ❖ in memory of someone special
- ❖ to remember a special event



Bricks are installed by the gazebo in the Arboretum walkway.

Bricks cost \$100 for each installed brick.

Scan the code to find out more information!

For details, go to [www.fotst.org/](http://www.fotst.org/) for order forms and PayPal information.

#### **Deadlines for orders:**

2/14 for bricks to be displayed at Arbor Day

7/4 for bricks to be displayed on Dumont Day

Friends of the Shade Tree is a 501(c)3, NJ Not-for-Profit Corporation Founded in support of the Dumont Shade Tree Arboretum West Shore Avenue, Dumont, NJ

### **2021 Schedule**

July 7  
July 14  
July 21  
July 28

**7:30-9:00 PM**

# Twilight at the Gazebo

## every Wednesday in July

## at the Arboretum

## West Shore Ave.,

## Dumont



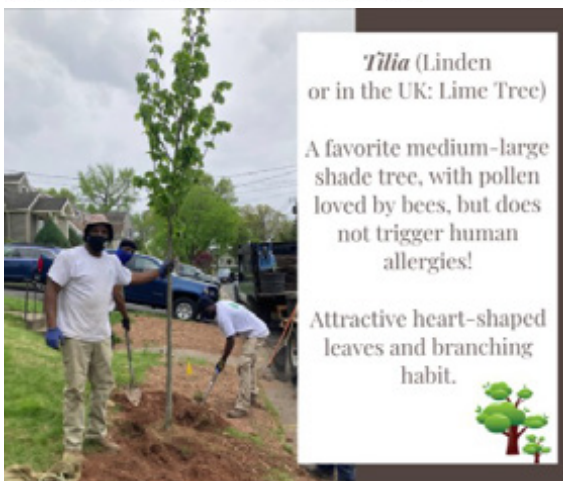
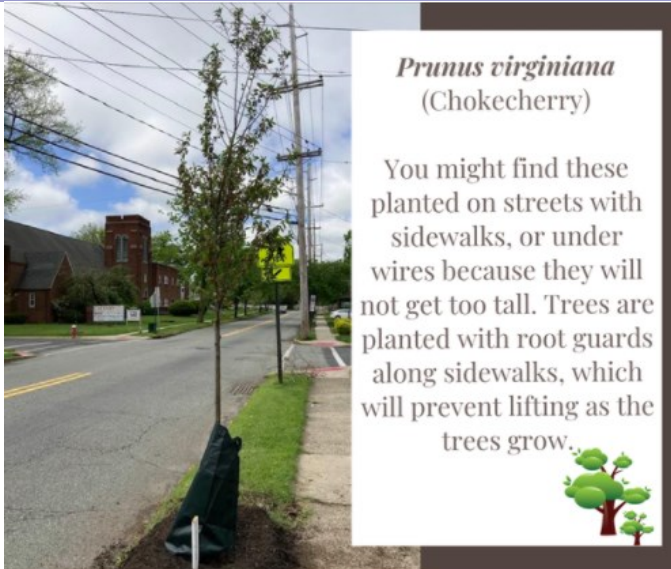
## Adopt-a-Tree Program || Free for Dumont Residents

Homeowners can apply to the Adopt-A-Tree program at any time. The Shade Tree commission will purchase and plant trees at no cost to the homeowner. Adopt-A-Tree is for planting along the curb as a Borough Tree. Planting trees in the Borough Right of Way is the sole responsibility of the DSTC. Property Owners may apply to the Dumont Shade Tree Commission to voluntarily plant a Tree or Trees in the ROW abutting the Private Property. Once planted, the homeowner must agree to water and watch over the new trees.

When applying for the Adopt-a-Tree program, please include the following important information about where you want us to plant the tree: location of any underground sprinklers, overhead wire locations, nearest trees, adjacent sidewalks, driveway or other hard surfaces, and any structures. This will help us determine the right tree to plant. Utility mark-outs will also be ordered prior to planting.

Generally planting is done once in the Spring and once in the Fall. When the trees are planted, they are mulched properly "like a donut or dish, not a volcano!" and a watering bag is provided, so that the homeowner can fill it with a hose or watering can (at least once/week, more during the first hot or dry summer). Then the water will drip slowly down to the roots to encourage a healthy start to the tree. Contact us to let us know you want a tree: [www.dumontshadetree.org/adopt-a-tree](http://www.dumontshadetree.org/adopt-a-tree)

***Limitations and restrictions may apply.*** Planting subject to available nursery stock.





## Dumont Shade Tree Commission Friends of the Shade Tree Monarch Butterfly Day– It's been a busy Spring!

Monarch Butterfly Day. The Friends of the Shade Tree distributed non-invasive milkweed plants free of charge. The milkweed plant is the only plant that Monarchs will lay their eggs on and their habitat has diminished greatly over the last few years. Information was available on how and where to plant the milkweed in your home gardens. Daisy Troop 7812 helped box and hand out the plants! Thanks go out to **Sally Tayeb** who planted, nurtured and delivered over 100 of these precious baby milkweeds to help the monarchs in Dumont.





# Thank you to all the participants in the 2021 Arbor Day Poster Presentation that promoted the theme “WHY WE NEED TREES!”



Arya Martinez, age 6



Meera Naveen, age 10



Jethro Sinclair M. Lalicon, age 6



Maya Naveen, age 10





Sutton Molina, age 6



Ellie Waver, age 5



Kora Molina, age 9



Michaela Molina, age 12



Lorelai Joan Licup, age 9



## Dumont Shade Tree Commission Contact Information



THE BOROUGH OF  
**DUMONT**  
NEW JERSEY

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Dumont, NJ 07628

Phone: Cathy Romeo 201-387-5027

Email: DSTC07628@gmail.com On the web: [www.dumontshadetree.org](http://www.dumontshadetree.org)  
<https://dumontnj.gov/boards/shade-tree-commission>

## Residents Welcome!

DSTC Meetings via  
Zoom

7:30pm — 9pm on third  
Monday each month. May - July  
meet at the Arboretum.



## From the President's Desk:

As we slowly emerge from the devastating effects of the global pandemic, some lessons have emerged; life is fragile, everyone is connected, the actions of each one of us affects all of us. Far too often as Americans we talk about personal rights and individual rights, but far less often about personal responsibilities. It is always easy to parrot the notion that as an American I can do what I want when I want where I want. It seems that "personal liberty" is invoked when someone doesn't want to acknowledge that those liberties infringe on someone else's liberties. We have an obligation, a duty, to take actions that incorporate the good of the community, the good of our neighbors. We wear a mask not only to protect ourselves, but to protect our neighbors. We get vaccinated for ourselves and for those that can't. We are all connected. Sit in your backyard and look around. Do your neighbors have trees that shade your yard? Those trees mitigate flooding so your basement remains dry. Those trees produce oxygen that you are breathing. Do they have the right to chop down their trees? Sure. Do they not also have an obligation to understand the impact of cutting down trees? People invoke the idea that it doesn't matter if I cut down one or two trees. What if your neighbors feel the same and cut their trees down? What if everyone cuts down their trees? Will it affect you? Will it affect the town? The planet? What noted naturalist John Muir said is true, "When we try and pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the universe."

*Ray Slaman, President Dumont Shade Tree*

## The DSTC Commissioners are:

(Commission term ending in parentheses)

- Rachel Bunin (12/31/2021)
- Tom Fisichella (12/31/2023)
- Tanya Zimmerman (12/31/2025)
- Abbie Slaman (12/31/2022)
- Raymond Slaman (12/31/24)
- Sally Tayeb (12/31/2025)
- Connor Gorman  
Council Liaison (12/31/2021)



## Dumont Tree Ordinance:



In continuing the effort to protect the trees in our town, the Borough of Dumont has an amended Shade Tree ordinance; Ordinance 1503 6/21/16. By law, any resident must apply for a permit—\$25.00 fee—through the Building Department before ANY tree greater than 6 inches in caliper or 10 feet in height can be removed within the Borough of Dumont. This ordinance applies to trees on private

property and to town trees. Following the application for a permit, the Dumont Shade Tree Commission will inspect the tree to certify the jurisdiction of the tree and determine if the tree is on private property and therefore can proceed. Failure to apply for a permit prior to removing a tree will result in a fine. Removing or damaging a borough tree will result in penalties. Our goal is to preserve the canopy in Dumont. The canopy protects all Dumont homes during winter and summer by providing shade and absorbing water. For further information on the ordinance contact the Dumont Building Department or the Shade Tree Commission.

## Where have you seen your Shade Tree Commission?

- ♦ Summer Concerts-Twilight at the Gazebo
- ♦ Dumont Day
- ♦ Arbor Day
- ♦ Memorial Day Parade
- ♦ Spring Seminar Series
- ♦ Library and School Programs
- ♦ Wreath-crafting event
- ♦ Tree nursery
- ♦ Heritage Trees



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**Dumont NJ is a  
Tree City USA**