



## 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 Dumont Shade Tree Commission ||

This Fall newsletter is being published as leaves are changing to their brilliant autumn colors in the Northeast. To provide a broader audience and save paper (and therefore trees) the last several editions have been published in a digital format, only. We encourage you to share this newsletter among your friends, family, and neighbors. This newsletter recaps and highlights the Shade Tree activities and projects throughout the season. We hope you enjoy reading about your Shade Tree Commission. 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. Our volunteer community works to maintain the **Dumont Arboretum**. Volunteers at the Arboretum work to maintain the trees keep the garden beds growing. This includes gardening in the beds and keeping the space as a positive place for our residents. The **Shade Tree Nursery**, located just north of the Dumont Arboretum along the railroad tracks is growing trees for our community. Volunteers can work to weed, water, mulch, and maintain the space providing the trees with a safe space to grow. We also organize events such as concerts, and lectures, and special activities for the children of our community. We are always open to new ideas and welcome volunteers who want to join in.

The **Adopt-A-Tree** program plants trees on borough land and we take requests through our website and at our community events. This fall we will plant 15 trees around town. The Tree Nursery program is slightly different in that residents can request trees that will be planted on their private property. The Shade Tree grows our own trees in the nursery, whereas the Adopt-a-Trees are purchased from local nurseries. If you adopt a tree through either program, you must commit to caring for the tree. This means that for the first growing season, you have to water the newly planted tree, every week, if it's not raining. The **Heritage Tree program** identifies those trees that have grown with our community to become mature trees. We are their stewards and responsible to maintain and protect them. Heritage Trees have vital role in the health, vitality, and longevity of a community. More information about these programs are in this newsletter and on our website.

The Shade Tree Commission was proud to sponsor the summer concert series **Twilight at the Gazebo** again this July. The series brought our community together to enjoy local talent under the stars. We also were prominent at **Dumont Day 2021** where the community gathers to celebrate our town. It was a glorious weather day where many of our residents came to Memorial Park to spend a beautiful afternoon. Please continue to enjoy, respect, and cherish the trees.

### Dumont Shade Tree Commission



## *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 were able to hold meetings during the warm months, with long days, weather permitting, with masks required, at the Gazebo at the Dumont Arboretum on West Shore Avenue. Now that the Dumont Borough Hall is open, we will begin using the meeting room (second floor) starting November for our regularly scheduled meetings. See you there!


Oct 18 | 7:30 DSTC Meeting  
Arboretum Gazebo

Nov 15 | 7:30 DSTC meeting  
Dumont Borough Hall

Dec 20 | 7:30 DSTC Meeting  
Dumont Borough Hall

December 6 | Friends of the  
Shade Tree Wreath-making  
event | 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
- Save the Monarch

## *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 rose bushes and 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

In 2017 the DSTC established a tree nursery for the benefit of Dumont residents. This year marks the first season that some of the trees are ready for transplanting. Dumont residents submitted requests to be part of this inaugural planting and will receive a free tree to be planted by the Shade Tree

Commission. We will review the available trees and recommend the right tree for the right spot in their yard. Trees that are available include: flowering dogwood, washington hawthorn, star magnolia, eastern red cedar, pekin lilac tree, tulip tree, and bur oak. These saplings were raised in the



tree nursery and will be available to homeowners for FREE to plant on their property. Sign up for a chance to receive your FREE TREE. Stop by the Arboretum to see some of the mature trees or make an appointment (dstc07628@gmail.com) to visit the DSTC Nursery to see what we've been growing!

The Shade Tree Seminar series featured [our series featured](#) our Tree Nursery.



The live stream is available to watch anytime!  
<https://www.facebook.com/DumontShadeTree/videos/135959938378993>

### Arboretum Garden Trips

Field trips to local gardens are a way for gardeners to learn about what can be done in gardens while having a fun day. Bill and Kathy Zitelli have been organizing field trips for our resident volunteers. One such trip was to Van Vleck Gardens in Montclair. The gardens and house are on 6 acres and most of the plants are labeled. There is a small parking lot, but plenty of street parking. There is no place for picnicking and unsupervised children are not permitted. It is a beautiful place to stroll and enjoy nature. For more information about the house and gardens you can check the website at [vanvleck.org](http://vanvleck.org)

### The Spotted Lantern Fly

The Spotted Lantern Fly is an invasive species that has migrated to our country. It has no natural predators and is devastating to trees and many plants in our area.

The best way for us to combat this invasion is through education and creating an army of people to SQUASH (kill) these flies when you see them. Refer to

<https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/pi/prog/pests-diseases/spotted-lanternfly/>

You should report sightings to the NJ spotted lantern fly hotline:

833-223-2840 or [Sif-plantindustry@ag.nj.gov](mailto:Sif-plantindustry@ag.nj.gov)



### 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*



#### Deadlines for orders:

2/14 for bricks to be displayed at Arbor Day

7/4 for bricks to be displayed on Dumont Day

#### 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.

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

## Dumont Day 2021– Bricks for the Arboretum

These eight bricks were purchased over the summer 2021. We thank those residents who purchased a brick. These are newly installed in front of the Gazebo as part of our Fall 2021 campaign.

Take a walk through the Dumont Arboretum and as you pass through the Gazebo area, you will see how many residents have participated in the program. Proceeds fund the Shade Tree Scholarship for a graduating senior from Dumont High school as well as other leafy projects around town.





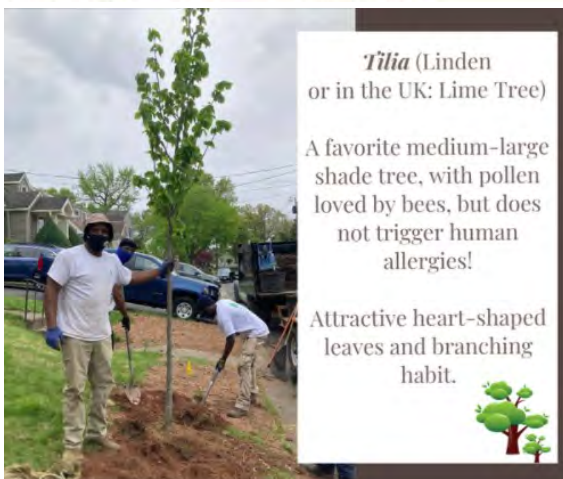
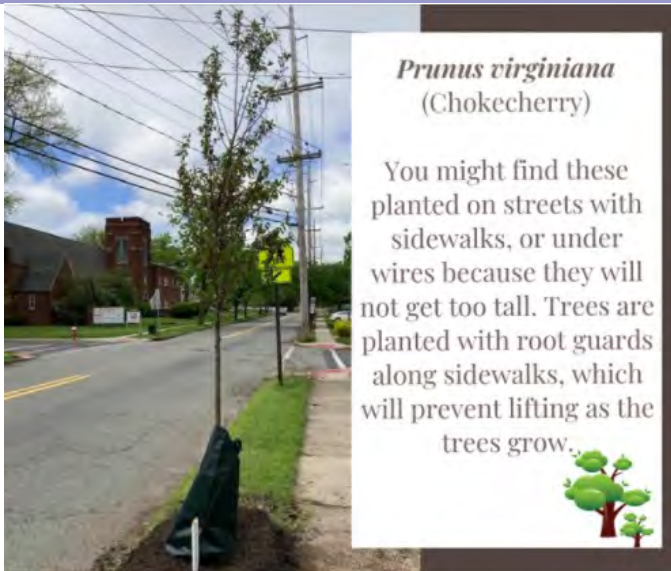
## Adopt-a-Tree Program || Free for Dumont Residents

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.

After applying to participate in the Adopt-a-Tree program we will inspect the location near your home for just the right tree; we will look for 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 (1-3 times per 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 Dumont Day 2021





## Friends of the Shade Tree Save the Monarch



The Save the Monarch event, sponsored by Friends of the Shade Tree, in the spring and was a *flying* success. Photos have been coming in of butterflies that found the planted milkweed around town! The Friends of the Shade Tree distributed non-invasive milkweed plants free of charge. Daisy Troop 7812 helped box and hand out the plants! The milkweed plant is the only plant that monarch butterflies will lay their eggs on and their habitat has diminished greatly over the last few years. Thanks to the volunteers who provided information on and where to plant the milkweed to attendees in their home gardens. Thanks again go out to Sally Tayeb who planted, nurtured and delivered over 100 of

these precious baby milkweeds to help the monarchs in Dumont. Want to keep it going for next year? go to <https://www.saveourmonarchs.org/why-milkweed.html>



### Kudos to Ray Slaman, President of the Dumont Shade Tree Commission



We are bursting with pride that our very own Ray Slaman has what it takes and has become a certified Licensed Tree Expert! The Dumont Shade Tree Commission now has among its members a Licensed Tree Expert (LTE). What does it take to become an LTE? Ray had to study for and then pass the rigorous written and field tests. These comprehensive tests are a comprehensive review of New Jersey trees. Ray had to be able to identify and name

hundreds of trees by their bark, leaves, nuts, and features. In addition, he had to know their common as well as scientific names. Now that Ray is a certified LTE, NJ LTE #710. This will help in the work we do as a Shade Tree Commission and lend credibility for managing and protecting the trees in Dumont.

### OFFICIAL DOCUMENT - BOARD OF TREE EXPERTS

*On Behalf of the Board of Tree Experts, I want to congratulate you on obtaining the designation of Licensed Tree Expert. As a result of passing the LTE Exam of August 28, 2021 your name will be read into the minutes at the September 21, 2021 New Jersey Board of Tree Experts meeting. As you know, the examination is very comprehensive and your achievement in possessing the License is commendable. Congratulations again.* Michael V. D'Errico, Program Manager Licensed Tree Expert #351



Ray Slaman  
Licensed Tree Expert

## Dumont Shade Tree Commission Twilight at the Gazebo Concerts 2021

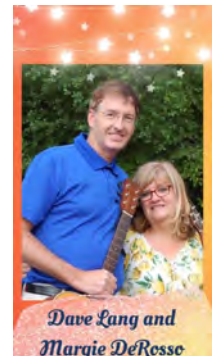


What began 5 seasons ago as simply an idea to bring people out to the DSTC arboretum to enjoy a summer evening has become a beloved Dumont event. We are pleased and humbled by the community support and participation. We simply put out the word that talented performers are invited to come down and share their music, to spend some time with us and join in a community celebration. We were immediately overwhelmed with the level of talent and the generosity of spirit.

We would like to formally and officially say THANK YOU to all the people that made the 2021 Twilight at the Gazebo concert series such a success;

First and foremost thank you to all the wonderful performers who made this year so special; Jake Thistle, George Magno, Tina LaRosa, PD Brody, Betsy Barone, Lee Reiser, Ed Packer, Dave Lang and Margie DeRosso, Thad MacGregor and Carol Hoernlein, and Rob Lange. I am in awe of your talent, confidence, and charisma. Each night was a gem. A very special thank you to Phil Sosinsky who saw me struggling with the sound system the very first year and asked if he could help. And boy did that make all the difference. Phil is a real pro.

Thank you Abbie Slaman for figuring out how to bring our little concert out into the world and managing the video from your control room. Thanks to the Dumont Shade Tree Commission, adjunct members, and volunteers for all the hard work every week of the year. Thanks to the Friends of the Shade Tree gardeners who make the Arboretum the showplace that it is. Thank you to Anthony Schiraldi and the DPW for your partnership and hard work. Thanks to the Dumont Council, our liaison Connor Gorman, and to Mayor LaBruno for all your support. Thanks to Cathy Romeo for managing the Shade Tree Desk at the Borough Hall and to Administrator Chris Tully for all your help. Thanks to Erin Caley who has a wonderful eye for talent, an ear for music, and an overstuffed address book via her EMC music studio who brought all these artists together. And thanks to the community for the support. The central mission of the



## Dumont Shade Tree Commission @ Rock the Block



Unless you have been living under a tree these past 18 months, you have been impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. We hope that your family and friends stayed healthy during these past months and found a healthy way through the pandemic. Our community stayed strong and for that we are grateful. The Dumont Rock the Block events this summer were organized to bring out our residents as we find our way back to a new normal. The events, which occurred over four different days around town, provided



our residents a safe way to come out and be one with our community again. The Dumont Shade Tree commission was honored and happy to be a part of these events. We raffled off two of our Tree Nursery trees to be planted town. Congratulations to the winners who won trees from our nursery, planted by the commission, in their yard, to enjoy for generations to come.



## Dumont Shade Tree Commission and Friends of the Shade Tree Fundraising Opportunities

The Dumont Shade Tree Commission and Friends of the Shade Tree are an intrepid band of committed residents who believe in protecting the urban canopy of trees and working to keep our planet green through gardening, environmentally sound practices, and nurturing and caring for the trees in our community. To do so, we need funding as we often rely on donations to continue our work in town. Here are a few of the ways we raise these necessary funds. We thank you for any support and hope you will join us by not only giving financially but giving of your time and expertise. All volunteers are welcome!

For the month of August 2021, Friends of the Shade Tree will receive a \$1 donation from each purchase of the \$2.50 reusable Community Bag at the Stop & Shop stores located at 600 Kinderkamack Road, Emerson NJ and 20 Washington Ave, Dumont NJ.



Starting in May of 2022, disposable shopping bags will be no longer be provided by supermarkets or stores in the state of New Jersey. Shoppers will have to bring their own bags when they go shopping. This is an effort to protect the oceans and landfills from the abundance of harmful plastics, and combat climate change.

Friends of the Shade Tree has been selected twice now by local Stop & Shop store leadership as the benefiting non-profit in the Community Bag Program! For example, during the month of August 2021, Friends of the Shade Tree received a \$1 donation from each purchase of the \$2.50 reusable Community Bag at the Stop & Shop stores located at 600

Kinderkamack Road, Emerson NJ and 20 Washington Avenue, Dumont NJ. Stop & Shop has selected the Friends of the Shade Tree for the program in December. Please buy a bag! We anticipate that Stop & Shop will continue to select the Friends of the Shade Tree in upcoming months for this excellent program. If you shop in the store, please consider buying a bag.

To do our part, The Dumont Shade Tree commission has created reusable shopping bags that we are selling just above our cost. If you wish to purchase one of the sturdy and practical bags, contact us through our website or find us at one of the many local events such as Twilight Concerts in July, Wreath-making in December, Dumont Day in the Fall, or just contact us!



## Why Shade Trees are Important

- Shade to cool our homes and streets as the climate warms
- Flowers, Leaves & Fall Color to increase the beauty of our community
- Peace and Serenity as our lives become more stressful
- Clean Air & Less Ozone while we work to combat carbon pollution through clean energy initiatives
- Reduced Rain Water Run-Off as we experience more flooding due to climate change
- Safety through intelligent maintenance of our treescapes
- Higher Property Values (but not higher taxes!) as we all work together for better quality of life and more affordability in our community
- Habitats for our birds and other wildlife



## Dumont Shade Tree Commission Contact Information



Dumont Borough Hall | 50 Washington Avenue | 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  
7:30pm — 9pm on  
third Monday each  
month in the Dumont Borough  
Hall. NOTE: from May-August  
we meet outdoors at the  
Arboretum.



### From the President's Desk:

The thing about learning new things is that for a long time you feel like you are just putting on new skates while everyone else at the rink looks like Peggy Fleming. You slip and slide until you get your feet under you, but for a long time you still feel lost. Then you see a new person strap their skates and finally feel like you have indeed learned how to skate. Every one of the Shade Tree Commissioners felt just like that, me included, when we first joined the DSTC. We didn't know enough about trees except that we knew they were important and valuable and beautiful. So, I decided that if I was going to make a difference and really offer something to the community, I should join the ranks of real arborists and study the science of trees, their lives, lifecycle, and threats. NJ established the Board of Tree Experts that sets the guidelines for arborists. I enrolled with Rutgers Profession Ted Szczawinski, learned as much as I could, and added to that my knowledge from 15 years as a commissioner. I passed the written and field test giving me the distinction of Licensed Tree Expert (NJ LTE #710). What I learned during this process, aside from a lot more about trees than I knew before, is that there is so much more to learn. I am just at the beginning of a journey that will take me as far as I want to go. Trees are an integral part of the ecosystem, intimately linked to all the other parts; bees and butterflies, fungi and field mice, and humans. We can't have a sustainable healthy planet suitable for people if we don't recognize the role every creature plays in the cycle. As a Licensed Tree Expert I can more clearly see the role trees play and the role we as humans play in this process. And I can see how we can do better. How we NEED to do better. *Ray Slaman, President Dumont Shade*

### The DSTC Commissioners are:

(Commission term ending in parentheses)

- Rachel Bunin (12/31/2021)
- Connor Gorman Council Liaison (12/31/2021)
- Abbie Slaman (12/31/2022)
- Bill Zitelli (12/31/22)
- Tom Fisichella (12/31/2023)
- Raymond Slaman (12/31/24)
- Tanya Zimmerman (12/31/2025)
- Sally Tayeb (12/31/2025)



### Where have you seen your Shade Tree Commission?

- ◆ 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
- ◆ Rock the Block



TREE CITY USA®

Dumont NJ is a  
Tree City USA  
Since 2009

## 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.