

## Dunellen Shade Tree Commission News

The Dunellen Shade Tree Commission had a very busy and productive year and thought we would share our accomplishments

Back in March of this year the Mayor and Council approved giving the old retired Fire Chief's vehicle to the Commission so that it could be used to water newly planted trees, shrubs and flowers. The Commission transitioned the Ford Expedition by adding new magnetic signage and installing a 50 gallon water tank with hose. It can be seen around town being used for pruning trees, transporting mulch and watering trees. The vehicle is shared with the Department of Public Works in order to get the most use out of the vehicle. It is a pleasure since the trees no longer have to be watered by carting around many 5 gallon pails of water in personal cars.

On April 24th the Borough celebrated its 14<sup>th</sup> Arbor Day Celebration by planting 3 cherry and 2 plum trees on North Washington Ave in front of Washington Memorial Park with the help of Boy Scout Troops 29 and 119. There were eight scouts and two parent volunteers who assisted Sue Butterworth, Cate Walsh, Erica Grun and Cindy Beam with the planting. It was a great success and a lot of fun!

A complete inventory including picture of all Borough street trees was completed using students from Dunellen High School as part of the practicum program. The inventory is used to identify trees in need of maintenance, pruning or removal as well as provide an overview of our shade tree canopy. In addition it allows an easy way to identify where trees are needed for future planting plans.

In September the Shade Tree Commission had a booth at the annual Dunellen Street Fair where informational handouts were provided along with free tattoos, pencils and rulers. In addition, the Commission taught visitors how to plant a tree by offering free seedlings planted in a biodegradable pot that could be taken home and placed in a larger pot or directly in the ground. A total 82 of the 98 free seedlings were given away.

Because of the great success the Commission set up the same booth at Dunellen's Annual Harvest Fest in Washington Memorial Park where an additional 51 seedlings were given away.

Just this past month there were 23 trees planted using grant funds and DSTC budget. There were 8 different species (Crimson Maple, Sugar Maple, Thundercloud Plum, Okme Cherry and Zelkovas) planted on 11 different streets in all corners of the Borough. In addition, two trees were planted at Columbia Park in memory of a lost family member. The total amount of trees and shrubs planted by the DSTC since its inception has reached 716!!

In addition to these events members of the DSTC attended various training which is required to keep our Shade Tree Certification with NJ Shade Forestry. We also continue participating in the Adopt-A-Station Program lead by NJ Transit where the DSTC maintains the two corners of the embankment along South Washington Ave.

Yes it was a busy year it was also very exciting. Congratulations to all the members and keep up the great work. Take time to thank the dedicated volunteers of the Dunellen Shade Tree Commission

Ken Baudendistel

Cindy Beam

Sue Butterworth

Cate Walsh

Robert Rios

There are two open positions, so if you would like to become a member and be part of the action contact the Dunellen Shade Tree Commission by calling 732-968-3211, or visit them on Facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#!/pages/Dunellen-Shade-Tree-Commission/159893800710284>



Arbor Day Celebration 2015



Street Fair Booth



Harvest Fest Booth