What is Tree-Mendous Maryland?

Tree-Mendous Maryland is the name of a group of programs through the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Forest Service. The namesake program, Tree-Mendous is a discount tree planting program for public lands. Through a contract with Shemin Nursery Tree-Mendous provides quality trees for groups like boy scout troops, churches and schools to buy trees they will plant on public lands (with permission of course!).

Another program is the Gift of Trees, please see the bottom of page 3 for more information.

Tree-Mendous Maryland also encompasses a volunteer program. The goal is to connect volunteers with plantings and plantings with willing volunteers. This program is in a process of renewal, but look for bright new ideas and events in the future. If you are interested in helping out or need help please do not hesitate to contact the new director, Anne Gilbert!

Finally Tree-Mendous Maryland collaborates with the Maryland Forestry Boards. Among all of the great work the Forestry Boards do, Tree-Mendous assists with the annual state-wide Arbor Day poster contest.

Please visit, http://www.dnr.state.md.us/forests/treemendous/ for more information.

Technical assistance and tools are available, for details please call or email the director. At 410-260-8510 anne.gilbert@maryland.gov

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about Tree-Mendous Maryland and Happy Planting!

New Director, Welcome

Anne Gilbert is a graduate of Salisbury University with a B.S. in Biology and a B.A. in Environmental Studies, she has worked for the DNR in the past; with the Park Service for three summers in the MD Conservation Jobs Corps (summer 2012 as a Camp Coach) and most recently with the DNR Forest Service as a seasonal at Elk Neck State Forest. She spent a year in Baltimore City with the non-profit organization Parks & People Foundation. Anne has a passion for sharing her love of the environment and sustainability. In her free time she likes to do running races including mud runs and most recently finished her first triathlon! In addition to other outdoorsy adventures like hiking and camping she enjoys spending time with friends and family, playing board games, watching movies and playing with her new kitten Shenanigans. Anne is looking forward to her new roll with the DNR Forest Service.

Anne Gilbert with an Eastern White Pine before it is planted at the Elk Neck State Forest Arboretum
Tree ID—Winterberry Holly

The Winterberry Holly or Ilex verticillata, was one of the shrubs offered through the Tree-Mendous program this fall. It was ordered fairly regularly, but before I started with the DNR Forest Service I had never heard of this native shrub. Despite the common name “holly” it is a deciduous tree and loses it’s leaves each fall, but gains them back in early spring. Despite losing it’s leaves, the characteristic red berries are present on the leafless stems throughout the winter, looking brilliant against newly fallen snow (creating “winter interest”). The berries are toxic to humans, but the songbirds enjoy them all winter!

This shrub can grow 10-15 ft and can be found from parts of Georgia and Alabama up the east coast, over into Wisconsin and north through Maine to parts of Canada. Winterberry does well in wet soils, but adapts for a wide variety of terrains explaining its wide geographic range in habitat.

Consider this shrub in your next planting to add variety and biodiversity to your yard or favorite public space!

“Winter is Coming”

According to many sources, this winter will be whiter than last year, but not as cold. The Farmer’s Almanac predicts, “Snowfall will be above normal in most of the Northeast.” Although many people are not fond of cold snowy winters I have always found joy in the snow.

The cold temperatures could be good for something though, according to Stanton Gill, Extension Specialist with the University of Maryland Extension, “No doubt, the cold has evidently had some impact on some of the invasive species, but unfortunately not on all.” While the cold of winter is unenjoyable for some of us, it is even less so for our invasive neighbors.

So take heart this winter, as you’re having snowball fights and drinking hot cocoa, some of the invasive bugs are getting knocked back too!

To read more check out the TPM/IPM Weekly Report brought to you by the University of Maryland Extension.

https://extension.umd.edu/sites/default/files/docs/programs/ipmnet/14Mar05L.pdf

Tree Care—Root Collar Excavation

It is very common for trees to be planted too deep. Nurseries sometimes pile extra dirt onto the root ball when preparing them for sale. When trees are planted too low, or mulch is piled high around the trunk (it is best for the mulch not to touch the trunk) it can impede the growth of the tree, in time make it sick and drastically reduce its lifespan.

Trained professional tree care companies can help prevent this by performing a Root Collar Excavation. By doing this they find the root flare and expose it as well as examine the root system.

If your trees look like a telephone pole and do not have a flare at the base, consider an excavation to reduce the stress on the tree, remove the threat of possible girdling roots and most likely save your tree!

Tree Care Tip: Look for small girdling roots at the time of planting, cutting them when they are small will reduce or eliminate future problems.
MUCFC—PLANT Awards

The People Loving And Nurturing Trees (PLANT) is a statewide award program sponsored by the DNR Forest Service and the Maryland Urban and Community Forestry Committee (MUCFC) to recognize communities for their tree planting and tree care efforts. Communities range from schools, homeowner organizations and parks to metropolitan areas, cities and towns. The awards are categorized based on different levels of accomplishments—bronze, silver, gold and green being the highest. The awards are given out annually and applications for renewal are required. To obtain this distinction, communities must complete a number of accomplishments during the award year, which can include holding a one time tree planting event or ceremony (Arbor Day), creating a tree inventory, building a comprehensive on-going planting and maintenance programs and/or sustaining previous programs and events from past years. Past winners include, Ocean City (Green, Since 1999) Salisbury University (Green, since 1998) and Aberdeen Proving Ground (Green, Since 2003). Would you like your community to be recognized? Please send in an application found, http://www.dnr.state.md.us/forests/programs/plantinfo.asp.

Elk Neck State Forest Arboretum

The Arboretum Trail at Elk Neck State Forest, located south of Elkton, Maryland is not only the first arboretum in Cecil County it is the first maintained by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. The specimen trees are all native to Maryland, although not all are native to Cecil County. There are 96 identified trees along the field pathway and in the established forest; 61 specimens were planted and 35 were previously on site. These trees and shrubs represent 52 different species. Each specimen has an informational sign that gives life cycle information, details about the species’ significance in Cecil County and the pros or cons for landscaping purposes.

The 4 acre arboretum was opened to the public in June of 2014 and remains open today for anyone to enjoy. So head on over to the new and beautiful arboretum in Cecil County and practice your tree ID skills today! Visit here for more information: http://www.dnr.state.md.us/forests/StateForests/elkneckforest_arboretum.asp

Gift of Trees

Give the Gift of Trees (GOT) this Holiday season! The Gift of Trees program provides a way for you to help Maryland plant trees without ever lifting a shovel! With only $40 you can honor, celebrate or remember a loved one or event. Most of the donated trees are to honor loved ones that have passed away. This is a lovely use of this program and should continue. We can plant trees to celebrate all of life’s accomplishments as well! You can donate a tree to celebrate a new born baby, graduations, new jobs, anniversaries, cancer survival or a twist on the traditional, give a tree in remembrance of a beloved family pet. Give a gift to celebrate religious holidays—or anything you can think of!

All of the trees donated through this program will be planted on public lands throughout Maryland. You can request a specific place or county for your donation to be planted as well! These trees can be found in our towns & cities, in parks & schoolyards, and along streams & creeks where they will attract birds, improve air & water quality, reduce soil erosion, add beauty to our surroundings, and contribute to our quality of life. Please visit http://www.dnr.state.md.us/forests/treemendous/giftoftrees.asp to donate today!

“The true meaning of life is to plant a tree, under whose shade you never plan to sit.”
-Nelson Henderson
(Second generation farmer)
Spring Forward

Although the Fall planting season is barely gone, I can’t help thinking about the Spring, when the days get longer and the trees start to bud again! Here are a few tidbits about up-coming events with Tree-Mendous to help you hibernate through the winter!

- The Marylanders Plant Trees coupons are still available! They are for $25 off of a $50 or more tree at participating nurseries around the state, these can be planted on private lands. [http://trees.maryland.gov/](http://trees.maryland.gov/)

- Check out the Maryland Grove on the American Grove webpage. The American Grove is “an online community for sharing tree-planting experiences, and knowledge that will encourage others to create thriving community forests.” The Maryland Grove is young and we hope to grow it over time. For now, join the Grove and post your plantings, if you would like volunteers or if you would just like to share your story! Either way we would love to hear about it, Tree-Mendous trees or not!

- Are you interested in seedlings instead of larger trees? Check out DNR’s State Nursery! This will take you to their site! Now providing services to order online! [www.dnr.maryland.gov/forests/nursery](http://www.dnr.maryland.gov/forests/nursery)

- This December, the rules for our annual Arbor Day Poster Contest will be announced! Please keep an eye out for them and encourage any 5th grade students you know to participate this year!

- If you have ideas to include in the next Tree-Mendous Newsletter, please do not hesitate to email or call Anne Gilbert. Thank you!

Now for your homework! Go out and visit a forest this winter, with snow on the ground or not, visit your favorite place or somewhere new and see how trees change in the coldest of seasons. Look for “winter interest” in bark, leaves and berries! Happy Planting!

The State of Maryland’s TREE-MENDOUS program provides high-quality, native trees and shrubs available at reasonable prices for plantings on public lands. The trees may be planted in places such as community open spaces, school grounds, government facilities, and rights-of-way. Get involved in your community and make a lasting impact. Trees improve the health and beauty of any community!

Please visit us online! [http://www.dnr.state.md.us/forests/treemendous/](http://www.dnr.state.md.us/forests/treemendous/)

New buds on a Redbud at Elk Neck State Forest Arboretum. (see page 3)