

### **Tree Vitalize Basin Naturalization Project**

The Warrington Environmental Advisory Council (WEAC) naturalized the water detention basin on the corner of Billingsley Drive and Stump Road on October 5, 2013. This work was completed with the help of the Central Bucks High School South's National Honor Society students. The WEAC was successful in securing a grant from the Tree Vitalize Watersheds program under the supervision of the Bucks County Conservation District.



This grant enabled the WEAC to purchase 100 native trees and 20 native shrubs to plant in this basin. These trees and shrubs will absorb the rainwater runoff that enters the basin and will help to clean the polluted water that enters the basin, as well as reduce flooding downstream. The Eureka Quarry donated most of the stone that was placed in front of the inflow channels. Warrington Township Public Works staff installed the stone. The stone will redirect the water in the basin and allow vegetation to absorb the water. It will also hold the water in the basin longer. This will help to lessen flooding downstream. A naturalized basin, such as this one, provides habitat for birds and other wildlife. This basin will continue to be maintained by the WEAC and the Township Public Works staff.

### **Improving Open Space Around The Township**

The Environmental Advisory Council and Open Space Task Force provided native trees and shrubs, as well as rain barrels for sale at Warrington Community Day. These items were sold to members of the community at a 50% discount off of the wholesale price.



This discount was available through a grant (Water Resources Education Network WREN) funded by the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania, Citizen Education Fund, and was obtained through a Growing Greener Grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. In addition, bird houses and bat houses were sold. These were assembled by volunteers from the Central Bucks High School South, National Honor Society.

### **Open Space Planning**

Open space planning continued forward with regular monthly meetings of the Open Space Task Force and Environmental Advisory Council with support from the Villanova University Sustainable Engineering Program. Maps have been assembled that informed the public about green infrastructure and the benefits of maintaining it in both public and private spaces. Several draft interpretive signs have already been developed that will help transform the Igoe, PorteR, Wellings /Lower Nike trail into an outdoor learning experience.

### **WREN Grant Approved**

The Township is receiving a \$3,900.00 Watershed Education grant funded by the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania Citizen Education Fund through a Growing Greener grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. The grant application was written by members of the Environmental Advisory Council with support from the following partner organizations: Villanova University Sustainable Engineering Program, and the Warrington Open Space Committee. The goal of the project is to inform Warrington municipal officials and residents about green infrastructure and the benefits of maintaining it in both public and private spaces. Interpretive signage will help transform an existing trail in Lower Nike Park into an outdoor learning experience. In addition, the partners will provide materials, including rain barrels and native plants, to the public at 50% of cost during our Annual Warrington Day event.

### **Articles for Link**

Members of the WEAC provided multiple educational articles for the Link; Articles included: Insulating Your House; Winterizing Your Car, Benefits Of Tree Planting, The Importance Of Bats, Naturalizing Detention Basins, Natural Lawn Care; Turning Down The Thermostat; and Tips For A Healthy Yard.

### **William Penn Oak Tree**

On August 13, 2013, the Board of Supervisors recognized Girl Scout Kaitey-Aryn Hollowell of Girl Scout Troop 7542. Ms. Hollowell completed her Gold project to permanently preserve, propagate, maintain and sustain the William Penn Oak Tree located at 10 Folly Road (The "Old Schoolhouse"). Warrington Township's Environmental Advisory Council and Howard Eyre, a certified Horticulturist from Delaware Valley College supported the project.



Ms. Hollowell and a group of volunteers collected over 650 acorns from this tree and other William Penn Trees in the area. In addition, they prepared and planted 150 "good" acorns in a raised bed, nurtured and cared for those acorns during the winter. Working closely with the Pennsylvania Forestry Association to feature the William Penn Oak Tree on their website and produced a brochure detailing the tree. Cleaned and mulched the area around the tree in the spring; designed an informative sign at 10 Folly Road describing the history of the tree. The saplings planted were sold to benefit the Warrington Historic Society. Ms. Hollowell completed over 130 service hours, utilized over 50 volunteers and received \$300.00 in donations to finish her Gold project.

### **12th Annual Community Service/Earth Day Event**

This year's Community Service/Earth Day occurred on May 11, 2013 at several different locations throughout the Township. The largest of the projects took place at the Twin Oaks Day Camp and the adjacent Igoe Porter Wells (IPW) Parks. Other locations included four naturalized detention basins in different locations within the Township. Approximately 250 volunteers participated. They included members of the Central Bucks South High School National Honor Society, Environmental Club and Key Club;



the Central Bucks South, East and West German Honor Societies; various Scout Troops and involved citizens. Volunteers worked to assemble twelve rain barrels using 55 gallon drums. With the assistance of the Warrington Township Public Works department, 30 camp bunkers in the day camp were painted. Volunteers used 30 gallons of paint to accomplish this task. Volunteers also beautified and planted ten flower beds throughout Twin Oaks Day Camp and IPW Park. Some of the annuals planted included Portulacas, Salvias, Petunias and Marigolds. Many of the plants were generously donated by Gro'n Sell and Sunlit Farms Nurseries. Just after planting, "Mother Nature" watered them! Drive down Folly Road and see the burst of color at both park entrances. The Rain Garden and Butterfly Garden as well as three naturalized detention basins constructed during previous Earth Day events, were maintained.



Many volunteers manually removed weeds, invasive plants and mulched. A new activity added to this year's event was the construction of Blue Bird and Bat houses. Volunteers constructed 14 blue bird houses from kits purchased by the Township from the Pennsylvania Game Commission. These houses will be placed in our local parks, in detention basins and in open space areas in the Township this winter. There were also 8 bat houses constructed by volunteers.

Eagle Scout candidate Daniel Rogus, was also hard at work during the event. Mr. Rogus and the WEAC submitted, and were awarded a grant from the Bucks County Conservation District to naturalize a detention basin on Morning Walk Drive and Evening Walk Lane.



This funding was approved through the TreeVitalize Watersheds program for \$5,225.00. In the months leading up to the event Mr. Rogus developed a planting and grading plan for the basin. He also solicited donations from local businesses in order to complete the job. Very generous donations were made by Lewis Nurseries, Eureka Stone Quarry, Lowes and Home Depot. When the planting was complete, Mr Rogus, with the assistance of Boy Scout Troop 139 and the WEAC, planted 140 trees and 40 shrubs in the basin.

The WEAC would like to give a special thanks to some local businesses that generously donated food and made monetary contributions to our Earth Day event. Because of their extreme generosity, all of the volunteers were able to eat both breakfast and lunch! These contributors included Giant Foods, Wegman's, Illg's Meats, WAWA, Panera Bread, Chick- Filet-A, Soprano's Pizza, Chickie and Pete's, Chef Ray's Catering, Village Bagel, Huntington Bank and the TreeVitalize Watersheds program, and the Plant One Million campaign, managed by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, with funding from Aqua PA supported by the Bucks County Conservation District

### Eagle Scout Recognition

Warrington resident Joshua Jordan was recognized by the Board of Supervisors at their May 14th meeting for earning the rank of Eagle Scout. Mr. Jordan earned his Eagle Scout rank after successfully completing his Eagle Project which was originally presented to the Board of Supervisors in a meeting last year.



Joshua is a member of Troop 24, has earned 29 merit badges, and currently holds the position of Assistant Senior Patrol Leader. He completed his Eagle Scout project by naturalizing an existing detention basin at Greenridge Drive and Guinea Lane with cooperation from Warrington Township's Environmental Advisory Council and the Bucks County Conservation District.

## Building Blue Bird Houses

The Environmental Advisory Council (EAC), with the help of the Public Works Department held a workshop on December 27, 2013.



Fifteen students from the Central Bucks South High Schools' National Honor Society (NHS) constructed thirty Blue Bird nesting houses. These Blue Bird nesting kits were purchased from the Pennsylvania Game Commission. Paint for the houses was donated by Sherwin-Williams of Warrington.





