



THE WHITPAIN TOWNSHIP
2009 HERITAGE TREE REGISTRY



THE WHITPAIN TOWNSHIP 2009 HERITAGE TREE REGISTRY

The Whitpain Township Shade Tree Commission seeks to document and record trees of magnificent size, significant age and unusual species. The result of these efforts is the 2009 Heritage Tree Registry. An initial listing of such trees was first assembled in 1987. The first registry publication was in 2001 in conjunction with Whitpain Township's 300th anniversary. This publication, which lists thirty heritage trees, updates the 2001 registry.

Over the past several years, the Shade Tree Commission has:

- Visually inspected each heritage tree
- Properly measured their circumference at 4½' from ground level
- Permanently recorded pertinent information including location, species, owner and history
- Photographed each heritage tree
- Registered champion trees with the Pennsylvania Forestry Association

The Shade Tree Commission has employed a certified arborist from Morris Arboretum to provide an expert evaluation and inspection of Township trees that have been designated Pennsylvania champion trees. Currently, there are four such trees in our community. As a result of this Registry, several more trees will be nominated as champion trees. The Commission has instituted a maintenance program to ensure these trees are properly preserved and protected.

The purpose of this Registry is to identify Whitpain Township's historic, treasured and special trees. By identifying these trees through a widely distributed publication, special care and protection can be afforded to ensure these treasures remain with us for many future years.

WHITPAIN TOWNSHIP SHADE TREE COMMISSION

The Whitpain Township Shade Tree Commission is charged with custody and control of trees in Whitpain Township. The Commission's responsibilities include planting, removing, maintaining and protecting trees located on Township public properties. The Commission conducts programs that increase awareness of the value of trees and provides information for their proper care and maintenance. The Shade Tree Commission also maintains a registry of Township trees of magnificent size, significant age, and unusual species.

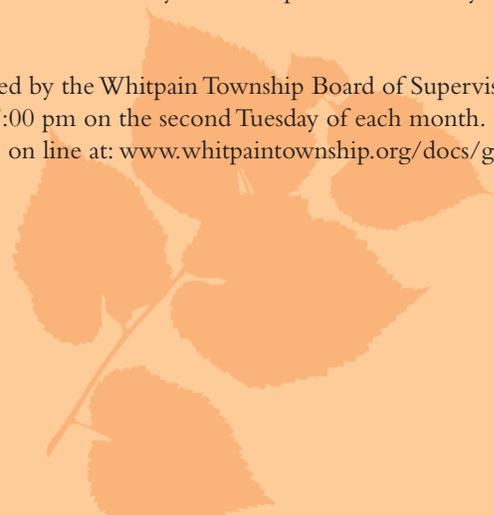
Whitpain Township has been designated as a Tree City USA community by the National Arbor Day Foundation since 1994. This is a national recognition for communities that effectively manage their public tree resources. Every year since 1999 Whitpain has earned the Foundation's Growth Award. This program recognizes communities that encourage environmental improvement and display a higher level of tree care. In 2009, Whitpain Township was awarded the Arbor Day Foundation Sterling Community designation for participating in the Growth Award program for ten consecutive years. Whitpain is one of only eight communities in Pennsylvania to be so recognized.

The Shade Tree Commission consists of three members appointed by the Whitpain Township Board of Supervisors, each serving a five-year term. Meetings are held in the Township Building at 7:00 pm on the second Tuesday of each month. The Commission invites all residents to attend. Additional information is available on line at: www.whitpaintownship.org/docs/gov_tree.html

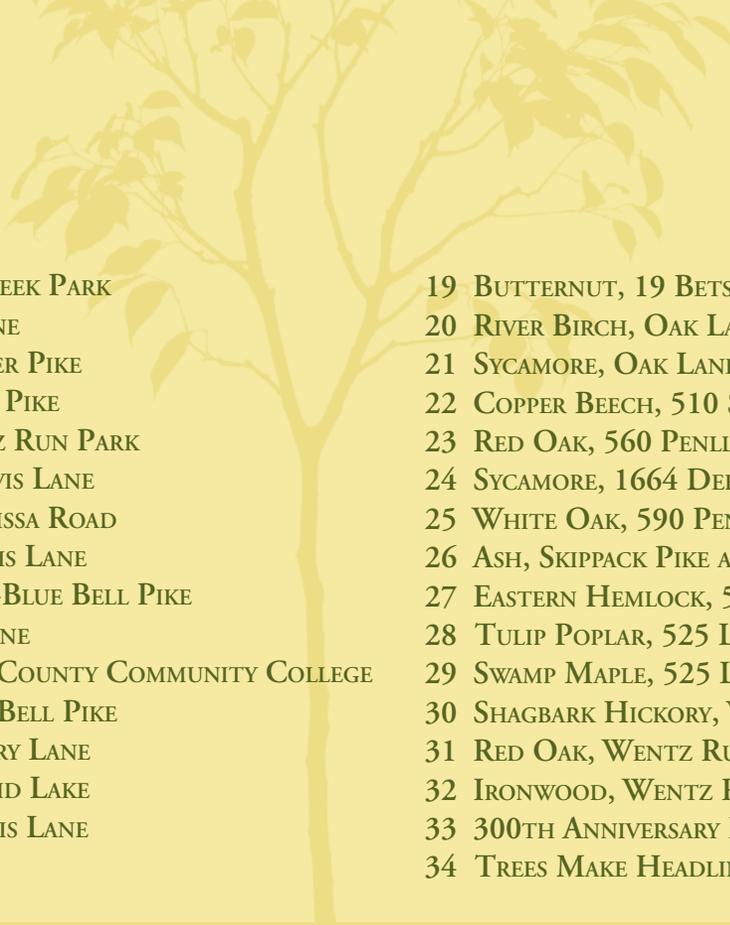
Joseph T. Steuer, *Chair*

Joan B. Knies, *Vice Chair*

Andrew P. Meehan, *Member*



TREE INDEX

- 
- 4 SYCAMORE, PROPHECY CREEK PARK
 - 5 RED OAK, 795 LEWIS LANE
 - 6 WHITE OAK, 1301 BUTLER PIKE
 - 7 SYCAMORE, 630 SKIPPACK PIKE
 - 8 PIGNUT HICKORY, WENTZ RUN PARK
 - 9 OSAGE ORANGE, 525 LEWIS LANE
 - 10 WHITE OAK, 1200 NARCISSA ROAD
 - 11 COPPER BEECH, 525 LEWIS LANE
 - 12 SYCAMORE, 760 PENLLYN-BLUE BELL PIKE
 - 13 SYCAMORE, 560 LEWIS LANE
 - 14 PIN OAK, MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
 - 15 ASH, 515 PENLLYN-BLUE BELL PIKE
 - 16 BLACK CHERRY, 225 KERRY LANE
 - 17 NORWAY SPRUCE, MERMAID LAKE
 - 18 AMERICAN ELM, 353 LEWIS LANE
 - 19 BUTTERNUT, 19 BETSY LANE
 - 20 RIVER BIRCH, OAK LANE DAY SCHOOL
 - 21 SYCAMORE, OAK LANE DAY SCHOOL
 - 22 COPPER BEECH, 510 SCHOOL ROAD
 - 23 RED OAK, 560 PENLLYN-BLUE BELL PIKE
 - 24 SYCAMORE, 1664 DEKALB PIKE
 - 25 WHITE OAK, 590 PENLLYN-BLUE BELL PIKE
 - 26 ASH, SKIPPACK PIKE AND WENTZ ROAD
 - 27 EASTERN HEMLOCK, 560 LEWIS LANE
 - 28 TULIP POPLAR, 525 LEWIS LANE
 - 29 SWAMP MAPLE, 525 LEWIS LANE
 - 30 SHAGBARK HICKORY, WENTZ RUN PARK
 - 31 RED OAK, WENTZ RUN PARK
 - 32 IRONWOOD, WENTZ RUN PARK
 - 33 300TH ANNIVERSARY DEDICATIONS, PROPHECY CREEK PARK
 - 34 TREES MAKE HEADLINES

Cover photo is a Sycamore located in Blue Bell's Prophecy Creek Park. It is the largest tree in Whitpain Township and estimated to be approximately 300-years old. It is a champion tree registered with the Pennsylvania Forestry Association.



SYCAMORE

CIRCUMFERENCE AT 4½ FEET: 22'8"

LOCATION: PROPHECY CREEK PARK

CHARACTERISTICS:

- Identified in 2000 as the largest tree in Whitpain Township
- Located behind the Prophecy Creek Park manor house adjacent to the pond
- Spectacular setting and surroundings
- Recognized in 2009 as a Pennsylvania Champion tree
- Recognized as the Township's largest tree on October 21, 2000 at the dedication of Prophecy Creek Park
- Estimated to be approximately 300-years old
- Preservation maintenance provided by the Shade Tree Commission

RED OAK

CIRCUMFERENCE AT 4½ FEET: 20'9"

LOCATION: 795 LEWIS LANE

(PRIVATE RESIDENCE)

CHARACTERISTICS:

- Recognized and listed as a Pennsylvania Champion tree
- Prized Red Oak with only five other trees identified in Pennsylvania of this magnificent size
- Preservation maintenance provided by the Shade Tree Commission





WHITE OAK

CIRCUMFERENCE AT 4½ FEET: 18'3"

LOCATION: 1301 BUTLER PIKE

(PRIVATE RESIDENCE)

CHARACTERISTICS:

- Identified in 2001 as the most magnificent tree in Whitpain Township
- Featured as Whitpain Township 300th Anniversary tree
- Perfectly shaped, majestic white oak full of character
- Protected during construction of owner's new residence
- Candidate for Pennsylvania Champion status

SYCAMORE

CIRCUMFERENCE AT 4½ FEET: 20'3"

LOCATION: 630 SKIPPACK PIKE
(COMMERCIAL PROPERTY)

CHARACTERISTICS:

- Very visible tree from Skippack Pike
- Survived a plane mishap and significant adjacent construction
- Preservation maintenance provided by the Shade Tree Commission





PIGNUT HICKORY

CIRCUMFERENCE AT 4½ FEET: 11'4"

LOCATION: WENTZ RUN PARK

CHARACTERISTICS:

- Spectacular tree recognized and listed as a Pennsylvania Champion tree
- Most prized tree in Whitpain Township and the largest pignut hickory in the state of Pennsylvania
- Located in an undeveloped section of Wentz Run Park; will be accessed in the future by a walking trail
- Preservation maintenance provided by the Shade Tree Commission



OSAGE ORANGE

CIRCUMFERENCE AT 4½ FEET: 18'10"

LOCATION: 525 LEWIS LANE

(PRIVATE RESIDENCE)

CHARACTERISTICS:

- Recognized and listed as a Pennsylvania Champion tree
- Prized Osage Orange with only one other tree in Pennsylvania deemed larger





WHITE OAK

CIRCUMFERENCE AT 4½ FEET: 19'3"

LOCATION: 1200 NARCISSA ROAD

(PRIVATE RESIDENCE)

CHARACTERISTICS:

- Massive tree located on and visible from Narcissa Road
- Largest white oak in Whitpain Township
- Candidate for Pennsylvania Champion status
- Preservation maintenance provided by the Shade Tree Commission

COPPER BEACH

CIRCUMFERENCE AT 4½ FEET: 15'1"

LOCATION: 525 LEWIS LANE

(PRIVATE RESIDENCE)

CHARACTERISTICS:

- The largest of two copper beech trees listed in the 2009 Registry
- 525 Lewis Lane residence has four listings in the Registry





SYCAMORE

CIRCUMFERENCE AT 4½ FEET: 17'9"

LOCATION: 760 PENLLYN-BLUE BELL PIKE
(PRIVATE RESIDENCE)

CHARACTERISTICS:

- Sycamore trees are abundant and hearty and this is one of six listed in the Registry

SYCAMORE

CIRCUMFERENCE AT 4½ FEET: 17'6"

LOCATION: 560 LEWIS LANE
(PRIVATE RESIDENCE)

CHARACTERISTICS:

- Lewis Lane has the greatest number of listings in the Registry, which supports the rich history of this area of Whitpain Township





PIN OAK

CIRCUMFERENCE AT 4½ FEET: 15'8"

LOCATION: MONTGOMERY COUNTY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

CHARACTERISTICS:

- First 'champion' tree ever recognized by the Whitpain Township Shade Tree Commission
- Located adjacent to the college's athletic fields

ASH

CIRCUMFERENCE AT 4½ FEET: 16'7"

LOCATION: 515 PENLLYN-BLUE BELL PIKE
(PRIVATE RESIDENCE)

CHARACTERISTICS:

- New listing in the Whitpain Township Heritage Tree Registry
- Local ash trees are threatened by borer and other disease





BLACK CHERRY

CIRCUMFERENCE AT 4½ FEET: 10'0"

LOCATION: 225 KERRY LANE

(PRIVATE RESIDENCE)

CHARACTERISTICS:

- New listing in the Whitpain Township Heritage Tree Registry
- First such species inventoried and recorded
- Preservation maintenance provided by the Shade Tree Commission

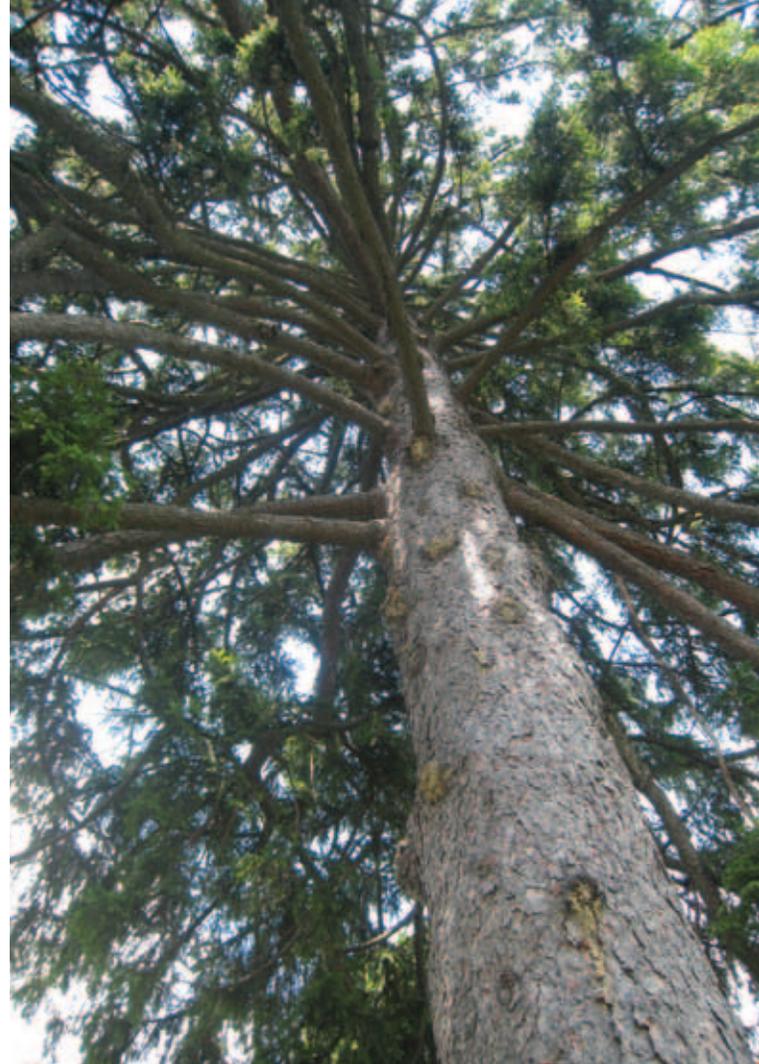
NORWAY SPRUCE

CIRCUMFERENCE AT 4½ FEET: 10'5"

LOCATION: MERMAID LAKE

CHARACTERISTICS:

- New listing in the Whitpain Township Heritage Tree Registry
- Beautiful evergreen very visible from Jolly Road
- First such species inventoried and recorded
- Preservation maintenance provided by the Shade Tree Commission





AMERICAN ELM

CIRCUMFERENCE AT 4½ FEET: 16'6"

LOCATION: CAMP WOODS - 353 LEWIS LANE
(PRIVATE RESIDENCE)

CHARACTERISTICS:

- New listing in the Whitpain Township Heritage Tree Registry
- First such species inventoried and recorded
- Protected during construction of owner's new residence

BUTTERNUT

CIRCUMFERENCE AT 4½ FEET: 10'8"

LOCATION: 19 BETSY LANE
(PRIVATE RESIDENCE)

CHARACTERISTICS:

- Listed as an unusual tree species
- Preservation maintenance provided by the Shade Tree Commission





RIVER BIRCH

CIRCUMFERENCE AT 4½ FEET: 5'7½"

LOCATION: OAK LANE DAY SCHOOL

CHARACTERISTICS:

- New listing in the Whitpain Township Heritage Tree Registry
- The Commission has worked on multiple tree programs with Oak Lane Day School

SYCAMORE

CIRCUMFERENCE AT 4½ FEET: 15'3"

LOCATION: OAK LANE DAY SCHOOL

CHARACTERISTICS:

- The Oak Lane property has been sold to a building developer; the Commission will work within the community to preserve the many unusual and significant trees located on the school's campus





COPPER BEACH

CIRCUMFERENCE AT 4½ FEET: 12'10"

LOCATION: 510 SCHOOL ROAD

(PRIVATE RESIDENCE)

CHARACTERISTICS:

- New listing in the Whitpain Township Heritage Tree Registry
- Nominated by a local resident aware of the Commission's goal to identify heritage trees
- Located in the residence's front yard and very visible from School Road

RED OAK

CIRCUMFERENCE AT 4½ FEET: 16'0"

LOCATION: 560 PENLLYN-BLUE BELL PIKE
(PRIVATE RESIDENCE)

CHARACTERISTICS:

- Penllyn-Blue Bell Pike has four listings in the Whitpain Township Heritage Tree Registry
- The Commission met with the new owners of this residence and apprised them of their tree's heritage status





SYCAMORE

CIRCUMFERENCE AT 4½ FEET: 16'2"

LOCATION: 1664 DEKALB PIKE
(COMMERCIAL PROPERTY)

CHARACTERISTICS:

- Located in western Whitpain Township, where very few significant or magnificent trees have survived the commercial development of this area

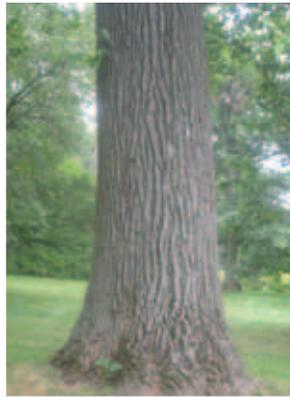
WHITE OAK

CIRCUMFERENCE AT 4½ FEET: 14'0"

LOCATION: 590 PENLLYN-BLUE BELL PIKE
(PRIVATE RESIDENCE)

CHARACTERISTICS:

- Located in the residence's front yard and is very visible from the road
- The Commission notified this residence's new owners of their tree's heritage status





ASH

CIRCUMFERENCE AT 4½ FEET: 12'0"

LOCATION: SKIPPACK PIKE AND WENTZ ROAD
(BLUE BELL FLOWER SHOP)

CHARACTERISTICS:

- New listing in the Whitpain Township Heritage Tree Registry
- Very visible tree located at the corner of the Blue Bell Flower Shop

EASTERN HEMLOCK

CIRCUMFERENCE AT 4½ FEET: 10'7½"

LOCATION: 560 LEWIS LANE
(PRIVATE RESIDENCE)

CHARACTERISTICS:

- New listing in the Whitpain Township Heritage Tree Registry
- This Lewis Lane residence has two heritage tree Registry listings





TULIP POPLAR

CIRCUMFERENCE AT 4½ FEET: 12'6"

LOCATION: 525 LEWIS LANE

(PRIVATE RESIDENCE)

CHARACTERISTICS:

- New listing in the Whitpain Township Heritage Tree Registry
- This Lewis Lane residence is a tree treasure with four heritage tree Registry listings

SWAMP MAPLE

CIRCUMFERENCE AT 4½ FEET: 19'10"

LOCATION: 525 LEWIS LANE
(PRIVATE RESIDENCE)

CHARACTERISTICS:

- Only maple listed in the Whitpain Township Heritage Tree Registry
- Significant in size, ranking as fourth largest tree in Whitpain Township





SHAGBARK HICKORY

CIRCUMFERENCE AT 4½ FEET: NOT MEASURED

LOCATION: WENTZ RUN PARK

(UNDEVELOPED AREA; NOT ACCESSIBLE)

CHARACTERISTICS:

- Several very large Shagbark Hickories were located in this area of Wentz Run Park
- A Morris Arboretum visual assessment indicated that one of these may be a Pennsylvania Champion candidate

RED OAK

CIRCUMFERENCE AT 4½ FEET: NOT MEASURED

LOCATION: WENTZ RUN PARK

(UNDEVELOPED AREA; NOT ACCESSIBLE)

CHARACTERISTICS:

- The undeveloped portion of Wentz Run Park contains many specimen trees, several of which may be champion candidates; seventeen tree species were identified in this area
- As this area of the park is developed with passive recreational improvements, these trees will be identified, measured and documented, including the several very large Red Oak that were noted





IRONWOOD

CIRCUMFERENCE AT 4½ FEET: NOT MEASURED

LOCATION: WENTZ RUN PARK

(UNDEVELOPED AREA; NOT ACCESSIBLE)

CHARACTERISTICS:

- This tree earned its listing as an unusual species
- Also known as American Hop-hornbeam, several of these small, slow-growing trees were identified in Wentz Run Park

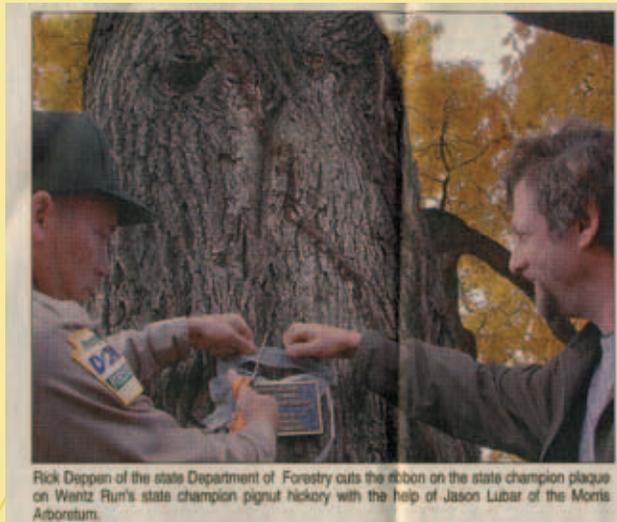


PROPHECY CREEK PARK DEDICATION

In 2001 Whitpain Township commenced a year-long celebration recognizing the 300th anniversary of our community. As part of these activities, the Shade Tree Commission identified the largest tree in Whitpain Township, published its first heritage tree registry, and listed three champion trees with the Pennsylvania Forestry Association. However, the Commission believed that it was not only important to recognize the past, but also to look into the future. Accordingly, on October 21, 2000, the Shade Tree Commission dedicated three trees at Prophecy Creek Park in the field adjacent to the pond. These trees, a Sycamore, Pin Oak and Sweet Gum, have been added to the Registry and designated with a plaque reading:

PRESERVING OUR PAST FOR OUR FUTURE
DEDICATED OCTOBER 21, 2000
THE 300TH ANNIVERSARY OF WHITPAIN TOWNSHIP

TREES MAKE HEADLINES





Shade Tree Commission Co-Chairwoman Mattannei Reichner secures a plaque and affixes a ribbon to the pignut hickory.

Whitpain Township helps its community beautify

By Amanda Rittenhouse
Staff Writer

The Whitpain Township Shade Tree Commission will celebrate Arbor Day this weekend by kicking off the 14th annual beautification program for Whitpain homeowners by distributing trees.

The program will be held April 27 from 10 a.m. to noon outside the Whitpain Township Building. Shade Tree Commission Chairman Joseph Steuer said the commission will provide residents with about 500 trees and a bag of starter mulch to each family taking home a tree.

"Besides preserving and protecting our trees we feel it is important to continue the greening of the township. There is no better way than giving trees to residents who will plant and care for the trees," Steuer said.

Whitpain Township has been named by the Arbor Day Commission as a Tree City USA since 1994 and received the commission's Growth Award every year since 1999. The tree distribution is funded by the township and is part of an initiative to maintain the stat-

us of the township's Tree City USA certification. Shade Tree Commission member and arborist Andy Meehan will provide advice to residents on tree care at the event, Steuer said.

Steuer said the commission will provide four different species such as potted Leyland cypress, green giant arborvitae that range from 4 to 6 feet, bare root red maple trees that range from 7 to 10 feet and flowering cherry trees.

Steuer said residents replied to the program in advance with an incredible response. Though registration is closed Steuer said some trees may be left over at the conclusion of the day.

"We always encourage people to show up on the day of the program in the event people can't make it," he said.

About 175 residents are expected to show and each resident can receive up to three trees, he said.

"Every year we have people come up to us say they have participated every year since the program's start," Steuer said.

In Upper Dublin the township's Shade Tree Commission will also hold an "Adopt a Tree Day" on

May 10 at the township building. The tree giveaway takes place from 9:30 a.m. to noon to the first 50 residents.

Elizabeth Parziale of the Upper Dublin Shade Tree Commission said the trees are offered in May because it is around the time of year that is best for planting.

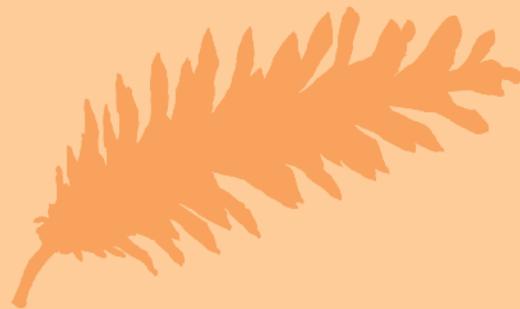
Parziale said the commission will act as a helping hand for people in need of help planting the trees at their homes and will provide a variety of oak and maple trees ranging from 3 to 5 feet tall.

According to Parziale Upper Dublin was dubbed a Tree City USA in 1996.

Parziale said trees provide a service to the entire community.

"The people who are involved in this love trees and the environment. Shade trees cool our township and that is important for a livable environment," she said.

Also in Upper Dublin township, Upper Dublin commissioner Stan Ropski will assist second grade classes at Maple Glen Elementary School celebrate Arbor Day on April 25 by planting a tree paid for by a class' fund raiser in honor of Arbor Day.



October 24, 2007 • www.amblergazette.com

Out on a limb

Whitpain's Shade Tree Commission gets a bird's-eye view of the landscape

By Amanda Rittenhouse
Staff Writer

Whitpain Township, also named by the Arbor Day Commission as a Tree City USA selection, has more than colorful fall foliage growing from its roots. Since 1994 Whitpain township has earned the title of Tree City USA by the National Arbor Day Foundation due to a dedication due to the efforts of the township's Shade Tree Commission. Whitpain Township has also earned the foundation's Growth Award every year since 1999.

By taking photographs of the township's largest and oldest trees from a bird's eye view in a Bell Jet Ranger helicopter, the

Wentz Run Park, Norris Road, Prophecy Creek Park, and a heavily wooded area near Ambler full of oak and sycamore trees to identify tree specimens.

Chair of Whitpain's Shade Tree Commission, Joseph Steuer said that the commission takes care of trees on public properties in the township and educates residents on the importance of trees. Steuer said is important to create a tree registry so that trees like the 300 year old sycamore in Prophecy Creek Park are around forever.

"We want to make sure to preserve and protect trees in the area and let residents know that if we lose a tree like the sycamore we



Joe Steuer, chairman Whitpain Shade Tree Commission, Joan Knies, vice chairman, and Andrew Meehan, arborist, with Bell Jet Ranger at Wings Field.



A view of the Cook Tract from above.



Weritz Run Park, as viewed from above. In addition to the pilot and the Shade Tree Commission members, the recent bird's-eye-view tour of Whitpain included The Ambler Gazette staff writer Amanda Rittenhouse and staff photographer Bob Raines.



Joe Steuer, chairman of the Whitpain Shade Tree Commission beside a sycamore at Prophecy Creek Park that is the largest tree in Whitpain Township at 22 feet, 7 inches.



SHADE TREE COMMISSION
WHITPAIN TOWNSHIP
960 WENTZ ROAD
BLUE BELL, PENNSYLVANIA 19422
610-277-2400

