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# Heartwood Nursery News

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*The busy buzz of September*



Healthier for the Natural World in Your Backyard

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## Our Pollinator Meadow

Tucked away on the back of the property are 5 acres of pollinator oasis. What was once a hay field, is now a meadow full of pollinator friendly perennials and grasses. This field was never planted, only mowed once a year or once every two years. It is fascinating to see the species that appear on their own thanks to the natural disbursement of seed. Some of the plant species present are Asters, Thistle, Big and Little Bluestem, Common Milkweed, Dogbane, various Goldenrods, Nightshades, and Snakeroot.

This is a practice that anyone can create with little effort on the smallest piece of lawn. You will be surprised by the number of beneficial insects attracted to your yard!



## September Beaut brings Pawpaw Fruit

Pawpaws, *Asimina triloba*, are a native fruit that over the course of the past few years, has certainly resurged in popularity. This native fruit is an excellent addition to many ecosystems. The trees themselves are resilient to deer and the ripe fruit that falls from mid to late September is a nutrition source for many mammals. This tree is also the host for the Zebra Swallowtail Butterfly.

At Heartwood Nursery, we grow thousands of Pawpaws from locally sourced seed. We grow our Pawpaws from seed to help maintain genetic diversity. Trees germinated from local seed ensure optimum adaptability to the provincial environmental conditions. It is best to plant multiple Pawpaw trees together to help mimic their natural growth habit (commonly occurring in groves). This also ensures better conditions for pollination and fruit production. Pawpaw trees perform better when planted from smaller containers. The roots themselves are fleshy and brittle and don't like to be disturbed. The trees planted out in full sun in the grove below (see picture) were in one gallon containers and 15 inches tall. The rocky, clay soil was tilled and worked. Trees are planted no deeper than the soil level in the container, holes are backfilled and mulched with aged, shredded pine bark mulch, the only type of mulch we recommend and use. The trees were deep watered frequently to establish fine root systems. This particular grove of Pawpaw trees is five years old (seven years old from seed), and the tallest tree is around five feet tall. The photos of Pawpaw fruit were taken in our older, more established grove from trees that are twenty years old.

We have a wide range of sizes of Pawpaws for sale at the nursery!



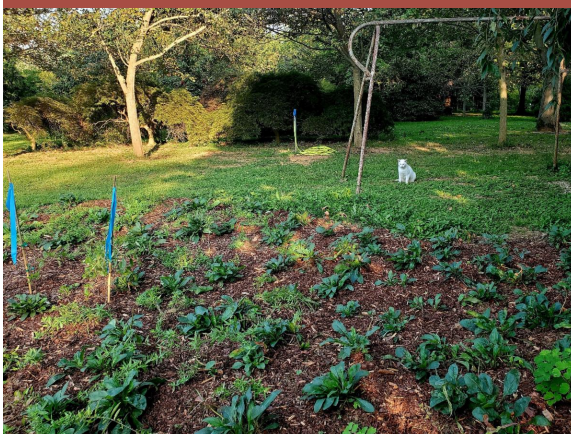
## Update on Children's Garden

A little over a month ago we planted the first stage of our 'Children's Garden'. Some of the species we planted include Penstemon, Coreopsis, Asters, Ilex glabra, Clethra alnifolia 'Hummingbird', Fothergilla gardenii, variegated American Holly and more. We are working on planning the second planting phase and hope to have more progress made by next year's Serviceberry Festival. The second phase will include sensory and imaginary displays for the younger set! Despite the persistent dry conditions this year, plants are rooting in well and are happy!

## During the Planting Process...



## Currently...



## Heartwood Nursery: Holly Society of America Certified Holly Arboretum and Test Center

Did you know that we are a Holly Society of America Certified Holly Arboretum and Test Center? This is a recent (2021) professional

certification that takes years of dedication to achieve. Many of the Hollies were planted 30 years ago. Most were propagated on site at the Nursery by the owner. Hollies are a highly valued part of ecosystems across the world. The US native American Holly, *Ilex opaca*, is a threatened species in the state of Pennsylvania, but with efforts such as increased awareness and education, is now more stable. Fall is the perfect time to plant Hollies and there are many different species to choose from. The fall and winter are also excellent times of the year to view these majestic trees. Berry colors range from light, golden yellow to orange and vermillion, to dark red. All species of Hollies are an excellent source of nutrition for birds and small mammals from September through March. We will be giving a tour of our Holly Arboretum during our winter open house. Details for this will be provided in the future.



## Plant Sales We Are Attending in September

September is a busy month for us!

We will have a booth full of plants at the following locations:

Saturday  
September 14th

Fall Native  
Plant Sale

Saturday  
September 21st

Susquehanna Native  
Plant Sale

Saturday  
September 28th

Wild & Uncommon  
Festival

@ John Rudy Park

@ Conoy East Park  
Pavilion

@ Horn Farm Center



## Upcoming Event at Heartwood

JOIN FARM & NATURAL LANDS TRUST FOR A

# AUTUMN WALK ON THE TREE TRAILS AT HEARTWOOD NURSERY

**Saturday, October 26 | 2:00 – 3:30pm**

**Heartwood Nursery, Felton**

REGISTER at [farmtrust.org/events](http://farmtrust.org/events)

Join us for an enriching autumn walk on the Tree Trails at Heartwood Nursery, led by Heartwood's owner and FNLT landowner, Sue Hunter.

#### Learn About:

- **Fall Native Plant ID**
- **Best Native Trees for Erosion Control and Stormwater Management**
- **Why Leaves Change Colors:** Understand the science behind the beautiful fall foliage.
- **How Trees Predict Spring:** Find out how trees signal the coming of spring during the fall.

Participants will have the chance to bring unknown plant specimens from their properties for Sue to identify and provide recommendations. Please bring your samples in a sealed Ziploc bag. After the walk, visit Heartwood's retail store, which will be open with a variety of items available for purchase.



## HEARTWOOD NURSERY

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