

Celebrate Arbor Day @ Baber Cemetery -Last Friday in April

Arbor Day, celebrated the last Friday in April in Pennsylvania, was created to remind us of the importance, care, maintenance, protection, and preservation of trees. Trees clean the air, conserve topsoil, protect water supplies, and slow global warming by absorbing carbon dioxide. They provide fruit and nuts for food, materials for building, paper for all uses, and habitats for millions of species that are integral to our ecosystem. Trees are our connection to nature. They are an aesthetic rainbow of colors. They calm our busy minds and provide respite from a hectic schedule.

The Board and Committee members of the Baber Cemetery are committed to preserving, protecting, and caring for its many trees. The cemetery sports a wide variety of trees, some dating back before Pottsville was founded— trees like the eastern white pine, Norway spruce, red oak, white oak, beech, sycamore maple, red maple, chestnut oak, white ash, elm, Norway maple, and sugar maple. Others are more recent growths in the 1900s like the male and female ginkgos, flowering dogwood, Japanese larch, Japanese maple, London planetree, cryptomeria, Japanese Yew, littleleaf linden, magnolia, Japanese mock-orange, and 1 tulip tree. Other trees are very new and part of our tree replacement program begun in 2000 and supervised by Frank Snyder, retired DCNR employee, and Joe Orłowsky, Shade Tree Commission. The new additions are the American sweetgum, callery pear, dawn redwood, eastern red cedar, European hornbeam, homestead hybrid elm, swamp white oak, coffee tree, black gum, and 'red sunset' red maples.

Our Arbor Day tree replacement program plants 10 new trees each year, and removes or prunes 3-4 dead or diseased trees each year. The removal of a large tree can be \$2,000-\$5,000, depending on its height, width, and location. To help offset the cutting and pruning expense, the ten new trees are offered

for sponsorship at \$400 per tree. The sponsored trees can be given as memorials or in thanksgiving for someone or something. On Arbor Day, we hold a special service at the Baber Cemetery, open to the public and free, with representation from the Forestry Service, the Shade Tree Commission, members from Pottsville City Council, and with school students reading poems and essays about trees. Trinity Episcopal's rector blesses each memorial or thanksgiving tree. At the time of the blessing, a memorial sign is placed at the tree. Later the memorial name is transferred to a wooden leaf attached to a wooden tree placed on the wall in the east gatehouse at the cemetery entrance. Anyone can sponsor a memorial tree or give a tree of thanksgiving. We are in need of sponsors for the ten trees.



You can sponsor a tree by completing and returning the form below to the office at 200 S. Second Street, Pottsville, PA, 17901, along with your \$400 check. We are flexible with our tree sponsorship and will accept \$100 down and 6 monthly payments of \$50. Call the office (570-622-8720) to discuss a payment plan. Remember that the Charles Baber Preservation Trust is a non-profit organization and your sponsorship is a charitable donation. Please sponsor a tree if you can. If you cannot, come join us at **2:00 PM on Arbor Day, the last Friday in April**, and enjoy the day. It is a beautiful ceremony and is open and free to the public.

Arbor Day Replacement Trees - \$400 Sponsorship

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address _____

Given in memory of : _____

Given in thanksgiving for : _____

Payment Plan: \$ _____ Payment in full or _____ \$100 down and 6 monthly payments of \$50