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# Heartwood Nursery

## Native News

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*Acer rubrum*  
Red Maple



*Acer saccharinum*  
Silver Maple

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## Blossoming Beauties at Heartwood

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### Native Spring Ephemerals: A Beautiful Source of Early Nectar for Pollinators

Many people equate the arrival of spring with the appearance of non-native daffodils, tulips, and crocuses. These early bloomers are called spring ephemerals. They thrive in the gentle sunlight that filters through the bare branches of trees and shrubs in late winter and early spring. Once they bloom and produce seeds, these early emergers die back, leaving no trace before hot summer temperatures begin.

Did you know there are **native** spring ephemerals? Skunk Cabbage, Trout Lily, Mayapple, Dutchman's Breeches, and Virginia Bluebells may all be found growing naturally in our local woodland areas. These native spring ephemerals are every bit as cheerful a sight as nonnative ones. The important difference: Native spring ephemerals are pollinated by native bees, flies, wasps, and ants finding them a crucial source of early nectar.

Virginia Bluebell (*Mertensia virginica*) is one of our favorites. [Read why in our new post on our blog, Walk a Native Plant Path.](#)



**We have trees, shrubs, and perennials for sale now in our retail store. We add more every week and anticipate being fully stocked by April 10.**



*See you Soon!*

## Does Your Non-native Holly Look Like This?

Every winter teaches us something about hardiness. This winter's lesson reinforces that it is always better to plant native species.

Consider these photos, taken March 10 at the nursery. On top and at left are the non-native 'Nellie Stevens' Holly, which many of our Holly customers are familiar with. Nellie Stevens is a hybrid between two non-native deer-attracting Holly species, and is susceptible to winter damage in the Mid-Atlantic area during prolonged severe cold.

Growing next to 'Nellie' is the Native American Holly, showing barely any frozen leaf burn and no deer damage. Which tree would you rather have in your yard?

We know many of our Holly lovers are partial to 'Nellie', as she can be an outstanding specimen year-round and during milder seasonal conditions. This winter-damaged tree will eventually recover on its own, maybe within a year, maybe longer, depending on the severity of the cold damage.

Why do we have 'Nellie Stevens' Hollies at the nursery? Because the [Heartwood Holly Arboretum](#) is a Holly Society of America Certified Holly Arboretum and Test Center. We record hardiness and other observations

every year to be entered into a database to help educate gardeners and the Horticulture industry.



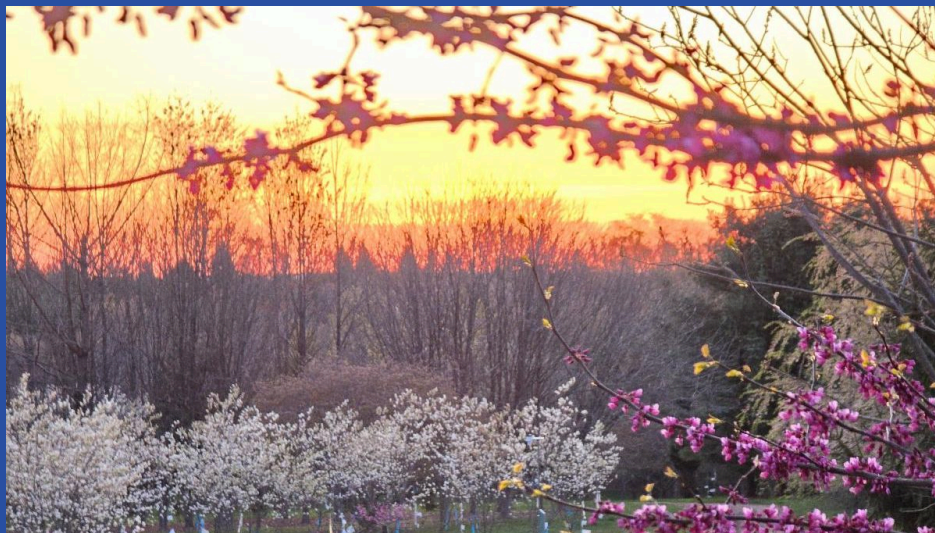
## Planting for the Future in a Stressful World

In unsettled times it's human nature to seek comfort close to home. My Grandfather's favorite saying was "This too shall pass," and then he'd go outside and spend time planting something new on his property.

When we plant a flower or tree we experience hope in the simplest way, anchoring ourselves with the expectation of continued beauty and growth. For me, plants not only bring about an impassioned joy, but also bring a sense of solace in times of distress.

No matter how busy I am, I make the time to visit the gardens and trees around the Heartwood property. I always feel better for doing so. I wish the same for you.

*--Sue Hunter, owner, Heartwood Nursery*



## Vernal Equinox

Friday, March 20 @ 10:46 am EST

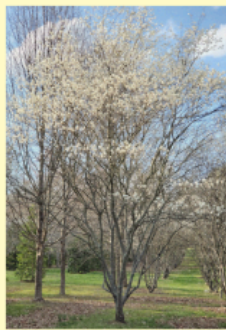
Welcome, New Season of Light and Growth!



Visit our booth at John Rudy Park during the Penn State York County Master Gardener's Annual Native Plant Sale Saturday May 9. Learn more [here](#).



Save the Date ~ Open to the Public



Join us for our 17<sup>th</sup> annual  
***Serviceberry  
Festival***

Friday & Saturday  
June 19 & 20, 2026  
10am - 4pm

Serviceberry Orchard & Grounds Tours  
Serviceberry Tastings  
Children's Nature Activities  
Beekeeping Demonstrations  
Live Music & Magician · Food Trucks

A schedule for this event will  
be posted on our website and  
Facebook closer to the event.

8957 Hickory Road, Felton, PA 17322  
(closer to Stewartstown)

[www.heartwoodnursery.net](http://www.heartwoodnursery.net)



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## Visit Us!

8957 Hickory Road, Felton, Pennsylvania 17322  
(717) 993-5230

Open Year Round  
Monday-Saturday 9 am - 4 pm  
Closed Sunday



Heartwood Nursery, Inc. | 8957 Hickory Road | Felton, PA 17322 US

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