

INDIAN CREEK NEWSLETTER

January 2023

On the web at <http://www.indiancreeksubdivision.org>

Contact us by email at indiancreeknews@hotmail.com

The Trees of Indian Creek – Eastern White Pine

by Greg Beneze

It is believed that the Christmas tree originated in Latvia in the early 1500s and the tradition was brought to the United States by German settlers in the 1800s. It was originally tabletop size but soon became floor to ceiling size. Christmas trees started to be sold commercially in the United States in 1851. At that time, Christmas trees were harvested from forests. Eventually, conservationists became concerned that the natural supply of evergreens was being decimated, which led to the creation of Christmas Tree Farms. The first Christmas Tree Farm in the United States was started in New Jersey in 1901 and grew Norway spruce trees.



The Eastern White Pine, also known as White Pine, Northern White Pine, Northern Pine, and Soft Pine, is a popular Christmas tree. It is native to eastern North America, from Canada down to northern Georgia and Alabama. When grown as a Christmas tree, the Eastern White Pine is cut at six feet and is usually sheared. It takes 6-8 years to produce an Eastern White Pine Christmas tree, whereas it takes an average of 15 years for other Christmas tree species making it very profitable for Christmas tree growers.

The Eastern White Pine is one of the most important timber trees in the Northeast. Its wood is light, durable, and easy to work; it stains and finishes well. The wood is used for construction, millwork, trim, and pulpwood. It has also been used for doors, moldings, trim, paneling, toys, boxes, cabinet work, and similar items. In colonial times, the long, straight trunks were prized for use as ship masts. The king of England's habit of reserving all the biggest and best of these trees for use in building his navy ships led to the Pine Tree Riot of 1772, which played a role in the events leading up to the American Revolution.

The White Pine is the tallest growing conifer (evergreen) in the eastern portion of North America. While it does not get as large as the west coast Ponderosa Pine, Redwoods, and Sequoias, it is not uncommon for White Pines to grow to be 75-80 feet tall. A White Pine in the Great Smoky Mountains stands 189 feet tall, making it the tallest in the East.

There are not many White Pine trees in our woods, and the few that we have are the survivors of the 1000+ White Pine seedlings planted in the late 80's. After a subdivision work team removed invasive multi-floral rose from our woods, approximately 6000+ one-year seedlings (oak, cherry, ash, pine) were planted. The deer enjoyed dining on these young trees and few survived. The two White Pine trees south of the water tower are from this re-forestation (middle picture below). Can you find the others in our woods?



White Pines can be identified by their clusters of long, soft, blue-green needles that grow in bundles of five. This differentiates them from Red and Jack Pines, whose needles grow in bundles of two. Typically, White Pines will retain needles for three years, but in autumn, 2-or-3-year-old needles will change color and drop, leaving only the current season's growth still attached.

All pines are gymnosperms, which means that they have neither flowers nor fruits. Instead of flowers, they produce male and female cones. The seeds of conifers are not protected by a fruit, they are naked hence the name "gymnosperm" which comes from the Greek meaning "naked seed".



Eastern White Pines are monoecious meaning that both male and female cones occur on the same tree. Cones are produced in the spring with the male cones located near the bottom of the tree and the female cones higher up on the tree. Pines are wind pollinated and the cone placement helps prevent self-pollination.



If you are looking for a great native tree to add to your landscape, Eastern White Pines are popular because of their fast growth rate. In fact, the majority of White Pines will be found in the yards of Indian Creek homes. They are commonly used as windbreaks and screen. And eastern white pines help support a wide range of wildlife providing both food and shelter to several mammal species and a whole host of bird species.

Water News

Water Hydrant Flushing Schedule - 2023

The six water hydrants located in Indian Creek subdivision will be flushed on the dates listed below. Water hydrants are flushed in order to reduce the build-up of sediments in our water system. This is an important process for improving water quality. Our water operator will flush one hydrant at a time and allow it to run for 10-15 minutes (the next in line hydrant is opened concurrently for a brief period to keep water flowing through the system). Water pressure in our system's lines is maintained by the 35,000 gallons of water in our tower, however, pressure in home lines will be reduced during flushing much like when multiple faucets are opened in your homes. Flushing the hydrants will also stir up sediments so please follow the procedures listed below:

- Do not run water during the flushing time period.
- Following flushing, run water through faucets until clear. We recommend this be done by-passing any treatment/filtering system in your home because of the increased sediment stirred up during the flushing process.

Please mark your calendars with the dates listed below. Flushing will be done between 5:30 a.m. and 6:30 a.m. weather permitting. Hydrants will not be flushed in freezing conditions or other inclement weather.

Monday, January 30	Monday, July 31
Monday, February 27	Monday, August 28
Monday, March 27	Monday, September 25
Monday, April 24	Monday, October 30
Monday, May 22	Monday, November 27
Monday, June 26	Monday, December 18

Water Tower Refurbishing Update

In our last newsletter, we informed residents the Illinois Comptroller's Office is requiring ICHWA be registered as a federal non-profit entity before releasing the loan funds which have been approved by the Illinois EPA for our water tower refurbishing project. Our attorney has submitted forms to the IRS requesting a change in our tax status to a non-profit 501(c)(12) entity. We are working with the state agencies to determine if filing is sufficient or if we need approval from the IRS before funds can be released. The company we have contracted with to refurbish our water tower is Maxcor Incorporated, New Lenox, IL.

We have received permits from the IL EPA, county zoning and county health department for our planned chemical processing building. We will be installing a prefabricated chemical processing building next to the water tower to house the chlorine treatment now being done in the water tower base. This is necessary to prevent corrosion in the water tower caused by the chlorine treatment and for safety purposes before the refurbishing work begins. Additional electrical work is also needed to replace some very old equipment. A final estimate is being developed, but we are anticipating the cost to be around \$80,000 which is considerably less than estimates we received in early 2022.

Jim Larson – ICHWA Water Chairperson

Towanda Scouts

Towanda Scouting Organization is excited to host their annual Pancake and Sausage Breakfast again after a two-year break in their tradition (due to COVID). The breakfast will be served on **Saturday, February 11, 2023 between 7:00 am and 1:00 pm at Towanda Elementary School.**

Advance Breakfast Tickets are available for purchase from any Scout and cost:

- Adults ~ \$8 Advance and \$10 at the Door
- Kids ~ Kindergarten – 11 years old ~ \$5 Advance and \$6 at the door
- Pre-K and under are FREE

Volunteers are needed to help in the all-purpose room, dining room, serving coffee and clean up at the school on Saturday, February 11. Another important part of the fundraiser is the sale of meat. Please see the [Advance Meat Order Form](#) ~ The Deadline to order meat is Sunday, January 29, 2023.

We are looking for all past scouters and Scout supporters and community members to help us make this annual fund raiser a success. Four Towanda Scouts will be attending the National Jamboree in July 2023 and they need our financial support! If you have any questions or would like to volunteer to help, please contact Chairman Mickey Lang (309) 660-4323, or Treasurer Virginia Lowery (309) 825-6341 or at vlowery1@hotmail.com Thank you!!

2023 Advance Meat Order *Towanda Scouting Organization*

Friday, February 10, 2:00 – 5:30 pm @ Towanda Community Building ~ OR
Saturday, February 11, 7:00 am – 1:00 pm @ Towanda Elementary School

To order call Mike/Linda Potts (309) 728-2384 – or - Virginia Lowery (309) 825-6341

Place Your Order Today ~ The Deadline is January 29, 2023

WHOLE HOG SAUSAGE	Package Size	# Packages	Package Price	Total
BULK SAUSAGE (\$4.50/lb)	2 pounds		\$ 9.00	\$
LINK SAUSAGE (\$4.50/lb)	5 pounds		\$22.50	\$
BACK RIBS (\$4.50/lb)	5 pounds		\$22.50	\$
COUNTRY STYLE BACON	1 pound		\$ 8.00	\$
ITALIAN SAUSAGE				
ITALIAN BULK (\$4.50/lb)	2 pounds		\$ 9.00	\$
ITALIAN LINK (\$4.50/lb)	5 pounds		\$22.50	\$
OTHER				
BONELESS / SKINLESS CHICKEN BREAST(\$6.00/lb)	5 pounds		\$30.00	\$
BONELESS TENDERIZED PORK CHOPS (\$6.00/lb)	2 pounds		\$12.00	\$
			TOTAL	\$

ORDER TAKEN BY: _____ Pick Up: ☐ Fri ☐ Sat ☐ Unsure

PHONE: _____ ☐ Paid ☐ Not Paid

EMAIL: _____

NAME: _____

Garden Tips

by Helen Leake



It is time to winterize the power equipment, such as the mower and weed eater. Change the oil and lubricate the moving parts. You can either drain the fuel system, mix a gas stabilizing additive to the gas tank, or let it run until it is out of gas.

You might have some electrical garden tools. They can be put to bed for their winter nap, but save the electrical cords. You might need them for the Christmas decorations.

We have been seeing more and more battery operated garden tools. They are lighter weight, easier to handle and sometimes cheaper. Great gift for that loved one that can't get around as good as they used to. One important thing is they should be recharged before storing them for the winter. Some of the batteries will not recharge after being run completely run down.

All of the garden tools should be cleaned before storing, but sometimes that has to wait until spring.

Last December, I bought my yearly poinsettia. When I got it home, I poked a small hole in the bottom of the foil wrapper and placed it in a saucer to catch the excess water. I enjoyed it the rest of the year.

In January, I removed the foil wrapper and enjoyed the bright color and treated it the same as the other plants. It is from Mexico, so it likes sunshine and not to wet soil.

In February, when the other winter resting plants were starting to show some new growth, I cut the plant back to about 6 inches. I placed the pretty red leaves into the compost pile. Yes, the plant looked pretty sick for awhile. But in a couple of weeks it started showing new growth. I started to fertilize it like the other plants, and kept it near a sunny south window. I could have placed it outside for the summer, but it was too windy this year.

Now its leaves are starting to turn red. It is interesting to watch them go thru all the change. I know it won't be as pretty as the store bought, but to me it will be pretty. Try it.

It is the time of the year that we see more cyclamen plants, they are native to the Mediterranean area, such as Greece and Turkey. Their colors are in the pinks, red, and white. Cyclamens grow from a bulb, but we usually see the plant in full bloom. The leaves are dark green etched with patterns in silver, it is an attractive plant even when not in bloom.

When you select the plant try to get one with several unopened buds. The plant likes cool nights. You can put them in a north facing window or they also like a south window with filtered light. You need to keep the soil moist, and it is best to water them from the bottom saucer or from the edge of the pot. Keep the water off of the bulbs. When it gets too dry, the stems will droop and look like it is dead. Give it a drink and it will perk up again. Remove the flowers and stems that have withered to make room for more flowers. Do not let it form seed heads and it should continue to bloom.

Move your clay and concrete pots and statues into a protected location to prevent them from cracking over the winter.



The Towanda Home and Community Education (HCE) group will meet on Monday, January 9, 6:30 p.m. at the Towanda Community Building. The Major program will be "Online Shopping" presented by Linda Conder. Members and guests are invited to answer the questions: "Do you do online shopping and what do you buy?" The minor lesson will be on Republic of Italy - Agriculture.

The January Community Service Project is to bring large cans of men's shaving cream for the Home Sweet Home Mission. Guests are cordially welcome. For more information about Towanda HCE, contact Cindy, 309-824-4797.

The McLean County HCE has a January cultural enrichment program: tour of the McLean County History Museum on Monday, January 16, 10-11:30 am. Lunch on your own will follow at a downtown eatery. For more information and to RSVP by January 4, contact Debi Stoppkotte, 309-825-8458. You never outgrow your need to learn new things. Join us for the latest information on a variety of topics. For more information about McLean County Home and Community Education, contact Joann Hart, 309-310-9205.



Happy New Year! It's a new year and the Towanda District Library is proud to announce that the hours of service and the number of staff members have been expanded! Starting January 4, 2023, the hours will be:

Monday 10-4
Tuesday 1-7
Wednesday 10-4
Thursday 1-7
Friday 10-4
SATURDAY 10-2 (Yay! Saturday Hours!)

The library's new employees, Brenda, Bridget, and Piper are excited to meet everyone! Programs are being held weekly for children and parents and new materials are frequently being added to the library collection. Check our website and Facebook for information. www.towandalibrary.org

What programs and materials would you like to see at the library? Call (309) 728-2176 or come into the library (301 S. Taylor St.) and let any staff member know!

Postal Rate

USPS postal rate increase effective January 23, 2023 (1st class stamp \$0.63)

Classified

Businesses:



John Hermann
Financial Advisor
The Greater Illinois Financial Group
Prudential Advisors
1907 Jumer Dr, Suite D, Bloomington, IL 61704
T 309 808-5212 F 309 808-5230 C 309 287-5972
john.hermann@prudential.com

Jerrod Ingram
Real Estate Agent - eXp Realty

- Thinking about selling your house?
- Considering buying a house?
- Contact me today!
 - Cell - (309) 360-9020
 - Email - jerrod.ingram@exprealty.com
 - Website - jerrodingram.exprealty.com



For Sale:

2003 GMC Sonoma pickup truck with 61,000 miles.
One gallon of Res-Up and 2 quarts of Crystal Clean used in water softeners and tannin removal systems.
Contact Fred Walk at fwalk@frontiernet.net or 309-830-2188 for additional information.

For Hire:

Caden Lueschen is available for snow removal. Please call Brett at 309-728-2353 or Dallas at 309-826-1868.

Lydia Lueschen is available for babysitting. She has completed a babysitting course along with being CPR certified. Please call or text her mom - Dallas Lueschen- at 309-826-1868.

Aubrey Thomas is available for childcare and pet care. She has taken the Safe Sitter course and is experienced with taking care of several animals. Aubrey is a Junior at NCHS. Please call or text her at 309-532-7522.

Bailee Harmon is available to pet sit, babysit, and to do other household chores such as water plants/flowers and cleaning. Please contact Bailee at (309) 530-8279 or her mom, Hallie Harmon at (309)530-5360.