



## CONGRATULATIONS MERCHANTVILLE!

The City of Merchantville was selected as the 2024 William J. Porter Community Tree Project Award Winner. NJ Shade Tree Federation Education Committee Chair Liz Stewart presented the award to Lynn Geddes of Merchantville Shade Tree Commission on October 17, 2024, at the NJ Shade Tree Federation's 99<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference.

The William J. Porter Community Tree Project Award is intended to provide up-front funding for a small project to benefit the tree resource in your community. The Federation review committee noted that this year's applications feature an exceptionally diverse range of project scopes and priorities. Thank you to all the NJ towns & organizations who applied.

The Federation recognized Merchantville Shade Tree Commission as the 2024 winner and is pleased to share the following details of the application written by Lynn Geddes and Kerry Mentzer on behalf of the Merchantville Community:

*Following the Miyazaki Method, the environmental groups in our town, led by the Shade Tree Commission, plan to plant a tiny forest. Because of the size of our town (0.6 sq. miles), coupled with limited funds and the limitations of the streetscape's narrow curb strips and overhead lines, planting a tiny forest along our bike path would fulfill the goals of increasing the tree canopy, creating habitat, increasing native plants, and adding nature to a perimeter edge of our borough. The bike path is a well-used area of the Borough and awareness will be raised on a large scale. We plan to monitor and log the forest's progress with updates on our Facebook pages. The site is within walking distance of our school and will open the door to multiple opportunities for projects and learning.*

The review committee noted that Merchantville's project transforms an underutilized, mowed public green space into a pocket of biodiversity. Their chosen location, a highly trafficked public recreation space (bike path) in proximity to the school, allows community members of all ages to access, learn, and enjoy their new tiny forest as it grows. NJ Shade Tree Federation is proud to support Merchantville's efforts.

## CONGRATULATIONS GRACE TEMPLE!



Grace Temple was selected as recipient of the 2024 William J. Porter Arboriculture Scholarship. NJ Shade Tree Federation Education Committee Chair Liz Stewart presented the award to Grace, a Rutgers undergraduate student majoring in Ecology, Evolution, and Natural Resources, on October 17, 2024, at the NJ Shade Tree Federation's 99<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference.

The William J. Porter Arboriculture Scholarship is awarded to encourage studies and careers in Arboriculture and Urban Forestry.

The review committee noted that Grace's application was exceptional. Grace's essay demonstrated a curiosity about the urban trees and spaces observed and voiced the kinds of critical questions that generate positive change. Grace's intentions to continue learning, advocate for the under-represented, and educate others are recognized with great appreciation. The NJ Shade Tree Federation is proud to help support Grace Temple's Urban Forestry studies.



## **WILLIAM J PORTER AWARD OF ACHIEVEMENT HONOREE - BRIAN MCDONALD**

Every year, the NJ Shade Tree Federation has the privilege of acknowledging someone who has made great contributions to tree management, arboriculture, ecology, tree care, and/or urban forestry. This distinctive honor is made by the presentation of the William J. Porter Award of Appreciation. It is fitting to acknowledge our new honoree with the namesake of another person who has made countless achievements in the environment which specifically supports the tree industry.

During the NJ Shade Tree Federation's 99<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, The William J Porter Award of Achievement was presented to Brian McDonald. Brian is distinguished in his field. He is a proven leader. He strives to educate, promote the tree industry and adds professionalism to all that he does. He takes the time to answer questions with integrity and patience.

He has served in the Peace Corp, on station in Mexico where he assisted rural communities in sustainability. He has served as a Horticulturalist for

Burlington County and as a forester for the State of Delaware.

Brian currently serves as an Assistant Regional Forester for the State of New Jersey. On behalf of the NJ Shade Tree Federation, it is an honor to award him with this honor.

Congratulations Brian!