

Delaware Forest Service offers “Trees for the Bay” in partnership with DNREC’s rain barrel program

DOVER (March 28, 2013) – In partnership with DNREC’s Division of Watershed Stewardship’s rain barrels program, the Delaware Forest Service is inviting residents of Delaware communities within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed to “buy a rain barrel ... get a free tree” through the Forest Service’s new “Trees for the Bay” program.

For each purchase of a discounted rain barrel on Wednesday, April 17 in Kent County and Thursday, April 18 in Sussex County, Delaware residents who live in eligible zip codes will receive a voucher worth \$125 toward the purchase of a qualifying tree(s) at participating nursery and garden centers. Additional rain barrel purchases to qualifying residents will be eligible for additional vouchers, while supplies last on a first-come, first-served basis.

Available through DNREC’s Nonpoint Source Program, the heavy-duty plastic rain barrels are for sale to Delaware residents at a discounted price of \$59 each. Tree vouchers will be available to Chesapeake Bay Watershed residents when purchasing rain barrels at these pickup locations:

- **Kent County:** Wednesday, April 17 between 10 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., or until all barrels are sold, at the DNREC State Fair Building, located off Route 13 in Harrington on the north end of the Delaware State Fairgrounds just past the Centre Ice Rink.
- **Sussex County:** Thursday, April 18 between 10 a.m. and

4:30 p.m., or until all barrels are sold, at the DNREC Division of Watershed Stewardship's Lewes Facility, next to the Lewes boat ramp, located at 901 Pilottown Road, Lewes.

Vouchers are available only to those who reside in the following Delaware communities, which are located within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed:

| <u>COMMUNITY</u> | <u>ZIP</u> | <u>COMMUNITY</u> | <u>ZIP</u> |
|------------------|------------|------------------|------------|
| Bethel | 19931 | Georgetown | 19947 |
| Blades | 19973 | Greenwood | 19950 |
| Bridgeville | 19933 | Harrington | 19952 |
| Clayton | 19938 | Hartly | 19953 |
| Delmar | 19940 | Laurel | 19956 |
| Ellendale | 19941 | Marydel | 19964 |
| Farmington | 19942 | Seaford | 19973 |

Vouchers must be redeemed by Sunday, May 5 at these participating nurseries and garden centers:

- **Bess Buds**, 34593 Sussex Highway, Laurel, 302-875-2507
- **Jeff's Greenhouse and Gift Shop**, 7781 Main Street, Bethel, 800-276-3420
- **Barton's Landscaping/Lawn Co.**, 20689 Sussex Highway, Seaford, 302-629-9645

Vouchers are **not** redeemable for the following tree species (which are not recommended and/or considered invasive species): ash, northern red oak, Leyland-cypress, hemlock, Japanese black pine, Australian pine, American elm, Norway maple, Tree of Heaven, Paulownia, mimosa, white mulberry, Chinese elm, any white-barked birch and any species or variety of pear.

The Delaware Forest Service and DNREC's Division of Watershed Stewardship both recognize the important role trees play in

cleaning our air and water while enhancing the quality of life for Delaware residents. Trees reduce soil erosion and sedimentation, remove excess nutrients, and filter harmful pollutants before they make their way into the tributaries, streams and rivers within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

The Delaware Forest Service's Trees for the Bay program is underwritten by federal funds designed to help communities meet the water quality goals outlined in the Chesapeake Bay's Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP). For more details, visit http://www.dnrec.delaware.gov/swc/wa/Pages/Chesapeake_Wip.aspx

For more information about the Forest Service's Trees for the Bay program, please visit <http://delawaretrees.com/trees-for-the-bay>, or contact Kyle Hoyd, Delaware Forest Service, at 302-698-4578 or email kyle.hoyd@delaware.gov.

For more information about DNREC's discounted rain barrel program, please call Sharon Webb, Division of Watershed Stewardship, Nonpoint Source Program, at 302-739-9922, or email sharon.webb@delaware.gov.

Contact: Joanna Wilson, DNREC Public Affairs, 302-739-9902, or John Petersen, Delaware Forest Service, 302-698-4552.

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