

# Tree, shrub program helps environment

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Special to The Odessa File

WATKINS GLEN, April 26 -- The Schuyler County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) held its annual Green Arbor Program distribution of bare root seedlings and transplants on Saturday, April 23 and over 130 residents purchased 11,500 trees and shrubs for conservation plantings this year. In addition, dozens of bluebird boxes made by the District were purchased.

Trees are the unsung heroes of our environment, says the SWCD, noting in a press release that "they add value to property, conserve energy, lessen noise pollution, provide food for wildlife, stabilize top soil, with an added benefit of being a carbon sink. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, 'One acre of forest absorbs six tons of carbon dioxide and puts out four tons of oxygen while the net cooling effect of a young, healthy tree is equivalent to 10 room-size air conditioners operating 20 hours a day.'"



The Green Arbor Program is set up to meet the needs of all county landowners, whether they have a small parcel or hundreds of acres. Species adapted to Schuyler County site conditions are selected to provide a variety of conservation uses. "We continue to offer this program for residents because of the enthusiasm of local folks for planting trees and shrubs; we love to see people of all ages working to protect our natural resources," said Rebecca Collins, District Technician.

Established in 1940, the Schuyler County Soil and Water District provides farmers, homeowners, organizations and municipalities with technical assistance to help conserve natural resources and be good stewards of the land. Services include conservation practices to protect water quality, erosion and sediment control, land drainage, assistance in obtaining state and federal permits, conservation education, map making and much more.

Any Schuyler residents who want to be added to the Soil and Water District mailing list so they can receive a tree order form in the mail in January, or to learn more about soil and water programs, can visit the website [www.schuylerswcd.com](http://www.schuylerswcd.com); or the Facebook page[www.facebook.com/SchuylerSWCD](https://www.facebook.com/SchuylerSWCD)

**Photo in text:** John Leidenfrost and Martha McKinney of Hector pick up bluebird nesting boxes made and sold by the Soil and Water District. (*Photo provided*)