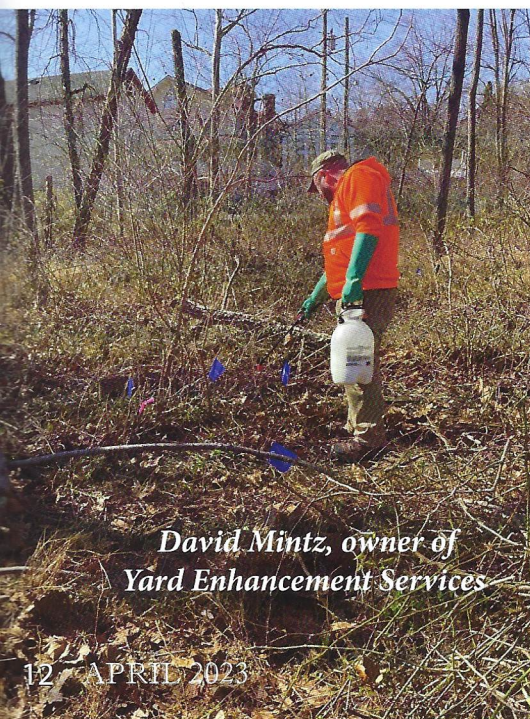


George Decker loading brush onto his trailer



David Mintz, owner of Yard Enhancement Services

CLIFTON TREE RESCUERS

Article & Photos By Margaret Fisher

Eighteen stalwart folks gathered in the Clifton Floodplain Park recently to continue the tree rescuing operation started last spring. In addition to clipping the Japanese Honey-suckle and Oriental Bittersweet vines that strangle and smother trees, the volunteers also started working on the Multiflora Rose infestation that is destroying the understory as well as killing small trees on the Clifton Betterment Association (CBA) properties. Special thanks go to David Mintz, owner of Yard Enhancement Services, who volunteered his time to treat the cut stumps with herbicide to keep them from immediately regrowing, and to George Decker, who brought his trailer to haul the brush to the transfer station.

Several trees were unburied. The areas cleared of invasive roses are looking much better. That still only amounts to maybe an eighth of the perimeter of the parking field, not to mention the equally infested CBA property on the other side of the creek where the barn is. In that area, in addition to the above invasives, there is also a lot of Bush Honey-suckle and Privet that will need to be dealt with in time.

Seeds from invasive species are

carried by birds (and by floodwater) from common areas to private property and vice versa, so if we are ever to get a handle on this plague, it is essential for all Cliftonites to take care of their own land as well as the open spaces. When choosing plants for the landscape, it is just as easy to pick a native Winterberry as a Chinese Privet, for example. And the invasive species we already have in our gardens need to go, however much we feel attached to them. A list of such plants can be found on the Plant NOVA Natives website <https://www.plantnovanatives.org/invasive-plant-management>. The term "invasive" has a legal meaning, not to be confused with a plant that simply grows too exuberantly to be desirable in a garden setting. Plants labelled as invasive are defined as non-native species that, when introduced to the ecosystem in question, cause or are likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health.

To protect Pope's Head Creek and water quality, a wide stream buffer planted with native plants is necessary. The ultimate goal would be to clear out the invasives along the stream and replant with native shrubs and trees.

DIANA & BELLACK
 WWW.DIANABELLACKPHOTOGRAPHY.COM

WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHY & PORTRAITS | VA/DC/MD & WORLDWIDE
 dianabellackphotography@gmail.com