

apples— how 'bout them?



Apple blossoms pull in the pollinators this time of year. In a few months, it's the apples that attract. If you've walked the trails and seen the trees, you may have wondered: How old are they? Are they from the original farm? What kind are they? Do they taste good?

Sixteen years ago, Day of Caring volunteers from York County United Way began to hack their way through decades of overgrowth to “free a tree” in an old orchard along the Barrier Beach Trail. Recently, “Team Lorax” volunteers upped the efforts there and elsewhere. And over the past year or so, special projects associate Tom Karb has mapped most of the trees, both the freed ones and those still encumbered.

The vast majority of the 700-plus apple trees on the property have grown from seed; they bear fruit of uncertain ancestry. A precious few may date back to the heyday of Laudholm Farms. Tom is in touch with specialists to investigate their provenance.

Feel free to do a taste test when fruits appear, staying on the trail of course, but please no harvesting. Let's leave the bulk of the crop for wildlife.



Visit wellsreserve.org/apples for more information and an interactive map