

E D I T H J . C A R R I E R

# ARBORETUM

AT JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY®

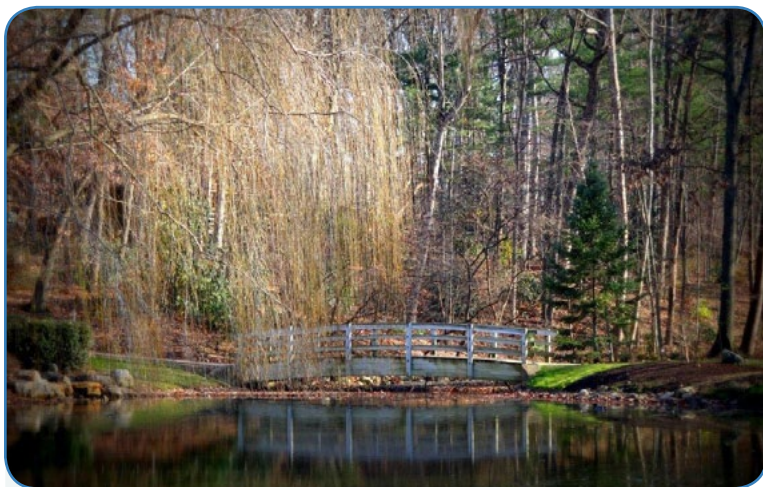


Photo By Crystal Joy

## Winter Newsletter

JANUARY 2013

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## From The Director

It's a New Year, Happy 2013! Despite cataclysmic predictions for 2012 and with only a few downed trees and shifted topsoil from extreme storms last year, the arboretum is fully intact and everything accounted for, with no end in sight. Nature, to which we humans are inextricably bound, lives on.

While the forest is resting in dormancy, we are planning new projects in the New Year that include a planting plan for our main pond area and new signs. The Arboretum has been in great need for some good gateway welcoming and informational signs, as well as way-finding and educational site signs for some time. We were able to bring our vision into reality last fall as Natalie Kress, a newly graduated graphic design student, embarked on and will complete a signage study this winter. We will bring her design ideas into fruition in 2013. I offer many thanks to Natalie for her excellent work, the Education Committee for their steady and superb feedback, and to Dr. Carrier who made it all possible by funding this "senior project." We are grateful.

Also coming to completion this winter is a new planting design done by Oasis Design Group, of Baltimore, Md. Their designers are addressing our parking lot entries, the main pond viewshed, and the arboretum's lowlands. In coming years we plan to add many new landscaped features with new plant specimens, woody shrubs and perennial plantings there. Listen to the stillness of the trees; the sound of winter...

"This piece of land, this arboretum, is dedicated to stabilizing and balancing the lives of those who visit it. This space is also dedicated to the needs of ordinary people who seek renewal... who simply need an infusion of nature to better handle their days."

—Dr. Ronald Carrier, JMU  
President Emeritus



Jan Sievers Mahon

# Applause for the EJC Arboretum



Photo by Frank Doherty

The EJC Arboretum draws visitors of all ages and from places far and near. Here's our annual sampling of what some of our visitors have shared with us during the past year.

- “Gem of a place! This is truly a hidden oasis in Harrisonburg, on JMU’s campus.”
- “A magnificent place for a walk and education. The paths are not steep, the various flora are indicated and the grounds-keeping is superb.”
- “We really enjoyed the short walk around the pond, watching turtles, fish, and admiring the weeping willow and other pretty flowers. The highlight for the kids was watching hummingbirds buzzing in and around a stand of flowers.”
- “Thanks for providing a bit of wilderness to romp around in the gardens.” -- Jill Ceni, Windsor Ontario
- “Peaceful, tranquil, beautiful. I needed this!” -- Jo Ann Simkins, Peoria, Illinois
- “Absolutely gorgeous.” -- Hal & Eileen, Huntersville, North Carolina
- “Tranquility! Love the ducks, turtles, flowers, plants. Beautiful.” -- Barbara King, Wicomico, Virginia
- “The trails were long but really fun. The flowers really complemented the field. I got to release a butterfly. It was male.” -- Chloe Allen, North Burke, Virginia
- “I like it here.” -- Jeter, age 7, from England
- “Absolutely beautiful! A little slice of heaven on earth.” -- Robin Purvis, Fredericksburg, Virginia
- “Green everywhere!” -- Jayne from California
- “Gorgeous place! Keep earth beautiful.” -- MK, Chicago, Illinois
- “Tres beau site! Bravo!” -- Fabienne Leblanc, Nicolas et Sylvain Allard, Cantley, Quebec

## Photography Competition

Make your next visit to the EJC Arboretum one filled with the excitement of a little competition!

The EJC Arboretum is pleased to announce a photography contest starting January 2013.

For “shutter-bugs” who enjoy the arboretum, be sure you have your camera with you for each visit. Then submit pictures every month. It’s simple! It’s fun for everyone!

Capture the incredible beauty at the arboretum in every season, then participate by submitting up to three photographs every month, month-by-month, from landscapes to macro images.

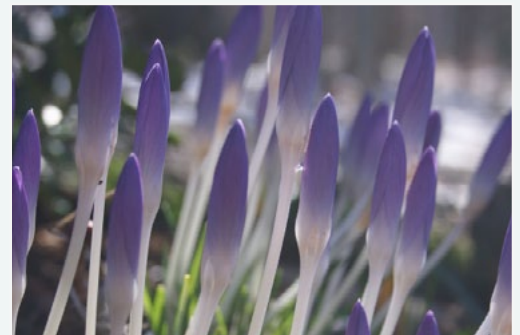
Submitted pictures will be viewable to the public at the arboretum’s blog, where visitors can register then vote each month for a favorite photograph.

Even professional photographers can enjoy the contest process because this is a

contest that lets novices compete with pros as they watch how their images compare to others. The voting will be fun, interactive, and will result in a finalist’s most-popular photograph being chosen each month! And winning photos will be featured at the arboretum’s website and multiple social media sites.

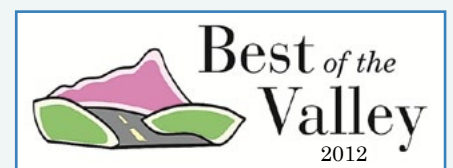
Photographs need to be high resolution and suitable for both web and print use and must be taken at the arboretum. The photos submitted for the contest have to be pictures taken within the current month, and each entry must be the work of the person submitting the photo.

To learn about how to participate and begin submitting contest photographs, visit, [jmu.edu/arboretum](http://jmu.edu/arboretum). Then, follow the link to the photo contest from our home page! The winner each month will have his/her photo will be featured on the EJC Arboretum website, and throughout the arboretum’s social media outlets, [Facebook](#)/[Flickr](#)/[Twitter](#)/[Pinterest](#) with photo credit!



Bloodroot Photo by Frank Doherty

The EJC Arboretum was voted the “Best Place to Relax” and “Best Place to Propose” in the annual ready survey by the Harrisonburg Daily News-Record.



JAN SIEVERS MAHON

# A Bounty of Birds Around Your Home

Most gardeners want to see more feet-a-hopping, wings-a-flitting and chirps-a-sounding from songbirds in their garden. Some gardeners have already carefully placed feeders, suet, birdbaths and nesting boxes throughout their yard without much of a songbird turnout.

Planting an abundance of green cover trees, shrubs, and perennials that feed and shelter birds is a way to attract more birds. Consider plants that may not already be in home and business landscapes. Some of the best food and shelter trees for birds are oak, maple, ash and dogwood, birch and hawthorns. If you want to feed yourself, as well as the birds, include Serviceberry with its late spring harvest, and Filbert (Hazel) trees. Remember to include a few cone-bearing trees, or conifers. Keep in mind that many birds build their nests five to eight feet off the ground so evergreen shrubs like bayberry, boxwood, laurels, hollies and junipers make excellent shelter plants. If you already have a grove of trees near your home, be sure to let the leaf litter accumulate under the trees to provide good habitat for ground-feeding birds.

Consider plants that bear fruit across seasons. Viburnums, brambles and elderberry provide fruit in summer, while chokeberry (Aronia), pyracantha and hawthorns fruit in fall. Producing fruit, through the winter and prized by birds are the deciduous hollies (Winterberry,) of which you can find many cultivars. Other winter fruit-bearing shrubs to consider are New Jersey Tea and Bearberry. There is less need to fill your feeders when there is an abundance of seeds and berries provided by your garden plants.

Perennials to include to attract birds are goldenrods, asters, sunflowers, black-eyed susans, red columbine, butterfly weed, and cardinal flower. These along with coneflowers, coreopsis, scabiosa daisies and native ornamental grasses provide an ample collection of seeds, insects, and nesting material to keep a garden's feathered friends breeding and thriving. And as plants mature, their holding capacity is increased adding to the variety of species of all kinds that a bird habitat supports. Worth mentioning is that having more species of birds attracted to a garden which is landscaped for birds, can kick start a bird watching interest!

Visit our new Birds of the Arboretum page!



# 2013 Calendar

For more information or to make reservations for events, go to the [EJC Arboretum website](http://www.jmu.edu/arboretum) ([www.jmu.edu/arboretum](http://www.jmu.edu/arboretum)) or contact us at 540-568-3194. Note that within selected calendar items there is a link to more information and to the registration page for the event. Also, a complete listing of all events scheduled for the next 12 months can be found at the website's [Calendar of Events](#).

- **Feb. 4-14, Valentine's Day Online Indoor Blooming Plant Sale.** Shop from a selection of indoor blooming potted plants online in advance from the EJC Arboretum website. Walk in Feb. 10-14 business hours to pick up your order in the \*FPEC .
- **Feb. 10 & 14, Valentine's Day Horse-Drawn Carriage Rides,** afternoon rides the Sunday before Valentine's Day, 1:00-4:00 p.m., by moonlight on Valentine's Day, 4:00-8:00 p.m. Advance reservations recommended. Email [turnbugl@jmu.edu](mailto:turnbugl@jmu.edu) or call 540-568-3914. \$10 per adult, \$7 per child, \$58 for private carriage. (Carriages seat 6 adults.)
- **Feb. 13, Winter Miniature Landscapes Workshop,** noon-1:30 p.m., \*FPEC. An annual workshop creating a desktop, coffee table, or window sill miniature landscape with Pam Shank, owner of Landscapes in Miniature. Register to make your own "wee world". \$35 fee. Visit the EJC Arboretum website for details and to register online.
- **Feb. 26, Frances Litten Invitational Memorial Dinner,** 5:30-7:00 p.m., Festival Ballroom. By invitation only, a gathering of EJC Arboretum friends, donors, faculty, volunteers and staff past and present gather with Litten family members, honoring the legacy and memory of colleague and friend, Frances Litten, educator, flower show judge, and early EJC Arboretum board member and volunteer. Lecture presenter's book and prints sales and signing 4:30-5:30 p.m.
- **Feb. 26, Frances Litten Lecture,** *Seeing Trees: Discover the Extraordinary Secret Lives of Everyday Trees*, 7:00-8:30 p.m., Festival Conference Center, FREE. Nancy Ross Hugo, author of *Remarkable Trees of Virginia*, will speak about her new book, *Seeing Trees*, and share her passion for seeing the intricate beauty of their under-appreciated structures. Using images captured by and co-lecturing with fine art photographer Robert Llewellyn, the evening includes a slide show that will be perhaps the most beautiful images the Litten Lecture Series has yet offered. See pictures that reveal the intimate beauty of trees, rather than focusing on their statuesque grandeur. Book and print sales and signing at close of lecture.
- **March 5, 12, 19, Bonsai Workshop,** noon-1:00 each session, \*FPEC. With EJC Arboretum Grounds Manager and Bonsai Master Mike Hott, create a 'wee-tree' to enjoy at home or office. \$35 fee covers all materials inclusive to create a Bonsai tree. Or \$12 fee for final session only for "wee-tree tune-ups" for prior workshop members. Visit the EJC Arboretum website for details and to register online.
- **March 17, St. Patrick's Day Dinner Lecture,** 1:00-3:00 p.m., \*FPEC. Enjoy Irish cuisine and brew, and a virtual botanical tour to a new region of the globe with a guest lecturer. A per person cost covers 3-course dinner, tax, tip, beverages, and a libation of choice. Advanced reservations required seven days in advance. To reserve, call 540-568-3194. 1:00 p.m. cash bar opens, dinner served 1:30 p.m., lecture 2:00 p.m
- **March 17, St Patrick's Live Highland Pipes,** 3:00-4:00 p.m., from the lawn area of the EJC Arboretum, FREE. Performance by piper Fred Holbrook of Massanetta Springs Conference Center.
- **March 23, Easter Egg Hunt,** 11:00 a.m., starting point is EJC Arboretum Pavilion. For young children, with the Theta Nu Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta, pre-registration required. Cost per child information available at registration at Theta Nu website 30 days before event date.
- **March 24, A Latte Jive, Alzheimer's Benefit 5K Run and Concert,** 1:00-3:00 p.m. Sigma Kappa sponsors an annual 5k benefit for the Central and Western Virginia Chapter of the American Alzheimer's Association, on the EJC Arboretum grounds, "A Walk You'll Remember!" Live music at the 5k conclusion, when walkers and runners can also enjoy free coffee, decaf, tea, and water served free, compliments of JMU Catering. Automatic rain date April 7 announcement to post on Sigma Kappa website, [jmu.sigmakappa.org](http://jmu.sigmakappa.org).
- **March, 26, 27, 28, either 10-12:00 or 1:00-3:00 p.m., Spring Children's Art Workshop** in the \*FPEC. The workshop offers children's education on plant identification as well as basic botanical drawing, all materials included in a \$35 cover charge. Advance online registration needed.
- **March 27, Birding Workshop,** noon to 1:30 p.m., \*FPEC, FREE. In partnership with the Rockingham Bird Club. Diane Lepkowski, an avifauna notable and photographer of Blue Ridge and Shenandoah Valley avian species, lectures on songbirds to raptors, giving an annual spring lecture and forum discussion. This workshop partners with a guided birding trail walk April 6, 2013, 8:00 am leaving from the Pavilion, led by expert Greg Moyers.
- **March 31, Easter Sunrise Service,** 6:00 a.m., EJC Arboretum on the main lawn. JMU RISE hosts the annual inter-denominational worship service on the large lawn, free, open to the public.

\*FPEC is the Frances Plecker Education Center, found on the grounds of the Edith J. Carrier Arboretum at 780 University Boulevard, Harrisonburg, VA 22807