

EDITH J. CARRIER  
**ARBORETUM**  
AT JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY

*Dear Friends of the Arboretum,*

Happy Winter! The Arboretum is a perfect place to re-create yourself this winter. Whether a vigorous run through the woods is your pace or a contemplative stroll through the labyrinth the grounds here have something to offer every visitor. Are you in search of a “keeper” photograph to capture or out to spot some winter birds in your sights? Come and enjoy some restoration recreation here in the still time of the season.

Thank  
You to  
Arboretum  
Endowment  
Donors!

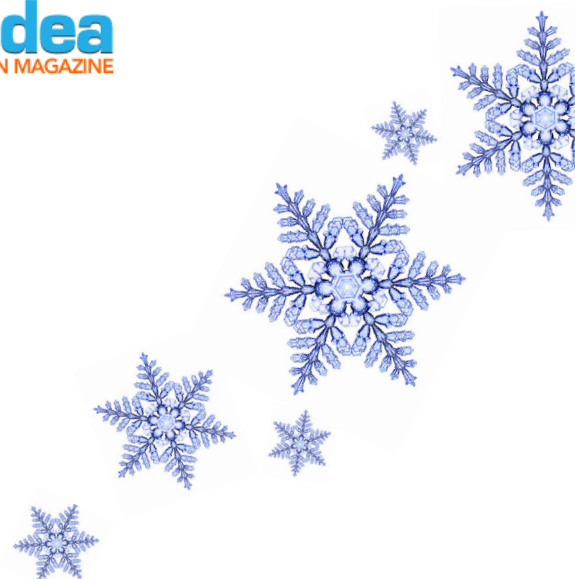
I'm very happy to share that VacationIdea, an online magazine, included the Edith J. Carrier Arboretum in their 25 Best Things to do in Virginia article in December. See the list at <http://vacationidea.com/destinations/best-things-to-do-in-virginia.html>. This distinction means that we are included with four other major garden destinations in Virginia (Maymont, Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, Norfolk Botanical Garden, and Monticello). We are honored!

A recent generous gift from a donor interested in helping us get more landscape art in the Arboretum will allow us to commission and install a wooden carved archway entrance to our At Home in the Woods Children's Garden this year. Made from fallen wood from the Arboretum, this addition will be a delight to visitors and provide a gateway presence at the entrance to the children's garden. Do stop by and enjoy your local gardens and woods.

Cheers,

*Jan Sievers Mahon*  
Director

**VacationIdea**  
DREAM VACATION MAGAZINE



## Be A Friend

***"This is amazing! Out of all the places that we've been, this is the favorite!"***

*LeeAnna Mitchell*

If you love the arboretum, like the visitors who left comments above in the arboretum guestbook, you might want to become more than just a visitor, and become a friend. By making a charitable contribution of any amount to the arboretum, visitors become appreciated supporters of a public garden that is open to the public for free, 365 days a year, dawn to dusk.

Those willing to bump-up their gifts to just \$35 or more, however, officially become a Friend of the EJC Arboretum. These are donors who are friends... friends with benefits! With at least a \$35 contribution Friends of the EJC Arboretum receive discounts at arboretum plant sales on plant purchases. And they can get discounts at nearly 300 gardens nationwide through the American Horticultural Society's Reciprocal Admission Program. AHS member public gardens offer our Friends discounts on admission, parking, and in some cases gift shop purchases and program fees. Also, to support America's public gardens, Better Homes & Gardens magazine gives a free one-year digital or print magazine subscription for those who give a \$35 or higher gift to the arboretum.

Won't you become a Friend of the EJC Arboretum today? Visit the arboretum website today at [jmu.edu/arboretum](http://jmu.edu/arboretum), and use the "Give Now" icon on any page to make your easy online contribution. Start receiving benefits throughout 2017 for the kind support you give to the EJC Arboretum now.

**GIVE  
NOW**



*Friends are lining up to support the EJC Arboretum.*

***"Love this place! Have visited here several times, and every time is a new adventure."***

*Gary Teatro*





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## Investigate Your Invasives: Financial Assistance Available for Eradication

Are *Ailanthus* (tree-of-heaven), Japanese honeysuckle, and garlic mustard encroaching into your understory or already invading your property, threatening to choke out your trees, shrubs, and perennials? Do you have at least an acre of land with a 100 ft. stretch of edge? You may be interested in a new opportunity to assist with your invasive chokeholds. Blue Ridge PRISM (Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management) has a new program and mission to assist small private landowners with invasive plant removals and to restore native habitats. The organization was established in 2014 and is supported by the Shenandoah National Park Trust. It is funded by RCCP (Regional Conservation Partnership Program), through the USDA, with a 5 year contract that offers compensation and assistance to landowners to offset costs of the removal/eradication of invasive trees, vines, and perennials. You must apply for the awards and complete the process, beginning with the approval of a site plan and then moving to removal inspections, before any funds are distributed.

PRISM is focused on a 10 county area (Albemarle, Augusta, Clark, Green, Madison, Nelson, Page, Rappahannock, Rockingham, and Warren), all adjacent to Shenandoah National Park and spanning 2.8 million acres. It is the first Cooperative Weed Management Area (CMWA) in Virginia. The approximately 100 CMWA's currently in existence in this country are mostly out west.

PRISM will be distributing \$640K to private landowners assessed proposal-by-proposal based on national per acre costs for removal of 12 invasive plant species. The Terrible Twelve are: tree-of-heaven, autumn olive, Chinese privet, garlic mustard, Japanese honeysuckle, Japanese stiltgrass, kudzu, mile-a-minute vine, multiflora rose, oriental bittersweet, porcelain-berry, and wavyleaf grass. Your proposal must include at least one of the first ten plants on the list. Fact sheets on each of these plants can be found at: <http://blueridgeprism.org/invasives/>. To apply for assistance or for more information on how to get involved go to: <http://blueridgeprism.org/>

You are invited to attend the next information session at the Edith J. Carrier Arboretum (Frances Plecker Education Center) on Wednesday, Feb. 1 from 6 - 8 p.m. and meet other landowners and have your questions answered. Get started now with your proposal in preparation for the spring flush of greenery that will return soon and vigorously move ever-expansively on to your property.



*Japanese hoyneysuckle.*



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## Arboretum Volunteers Help Staff Stem Alien Invasion!

The 125 acre Edith J. Carrier Arboretum is home to native species common to the region as well as ornamental plants suitable for Shenandoah Valley gardens, but invasive plant species have also found their way onto the grounds and are becoming pests in some areas. This is where experienced volunteers can help. Because we don't want to impact native vegetation or specimen plants by using herbicides, the best way to combat these plants is to pull them by hand. And that means we need a well-trained weed patrol who recognize the noxious plants and will pull them on sight.

It's difficult for many people to think of plants as invaders, mainly because we don't think of plants as moving. But some plants advance quickly.... by creeping tendrils or underground roots, and especially by scattering offspring, primarily seeds, which sprout in any available opening. Invasive species tend to grow quickly, tolerate marginal habitats, and outcompete surrounding vegetation for light, water, and nutrients.

There are over 100 invasive species on the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation's list, but only a small group are major problems at the Arboretum. These include: garlic mustard, Japanese stilt grass, burning bush or winged Euonymus, crown vetch, English ivy, oriental bittersweet, periwinkle (*Vinca minor*), Japanese honeysuckle vine and several non-native shrub honeysuckles.

Some, like garlic mustard, seem to be scattered throughout the Arboretum, popping up wherever seeds have landed and taken root. Since this is a biennial, it often goes unnoticed the first year and is only spotted when it sends up a flower stalk in its second year.

Others, like English ivy, are spreading vegetatively in a few spots and require some serious grubbing to root out. After removal these locations need to be monitored because any small pieces of root left behind underground may cause the infestation to recur.

If you would be willing to pull weeds or monitor areas for signs of invaders, please let us know. We'll be happy to train you and provide you with the tools needed for easy removal!

Please contact Janis M. Traas, our Volunteer Coordinator, at:  
540-568-3194  
[traasjm@jmu.edu](mailto:traasjm@jmu.edu)



*Garlic mustard in the Arboretum.*



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## Calendar Events

### Blue Ridge PRISM Meeting

Wednesday, February 1, 2017

6:00 - 8:00 p.m. in the Frances Plecker Education Center

Learn more about a funding opportunity through NRCS for invasive species removal in Augusta, Albemarle, Clarke, Greene, Madison, Nelson, Rapahannock, Rockingham, Page and Warren counties. The dollar amount available to an eligible landowner could be as high as \$22,000 over a three-year period. Join us for presentations about the Blue Ridge PRISM – the first cooperative weed management area in Virginia – and the Regional Conservation Partnership Program funding opportunity.

### Valentine's Day Holiday Carriage Rides

Sunday, February 12, 2017, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Tuesday, February 14, 2017, 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Create a Valentine's Day celebration that goes beyond ordinary in a luxurious vis-à-vis carriage, drawn by Rocktown's Classic Carriage horses. Enjoy a romantic moonlight or afternoon carriage ride in a woodland garden setting in Harrisonburg's favorite place for marriage proposals. For reservations and price details, please call the Arboretum office at (540) 568-3194.

### Terrarium Workshop

Wednesday, February 15, 2017

Noon - 1:00 p.m. in the Frances Plecker Education Center

If winter has you down, enjoy making a decor piece, a "wee world," to bring cheer to any home or office. An arboretum expert will lead the workshop to guide you through the process of creating a fern moss ball of your own. While creating a Kokedama, you will also learn about the compatibility of moss balls with moisture loving, low light plants like ferns. Leave understanding the maintenance of a Kokedama for longevity and pleasure for years to come. The \$35 program fee includes everything needed to create a Kokedama glass terrarium. Register online.

### Volunteer Opportunities

Want to help out around the Arboretum? Orientation sessions at the Frances Plecker Education Center are held 3 times a month. Sign up on our website at [www.jmu.edu/arboretum/volunteer-at-the-arboretum.shtml](http://www.jmu.edu/arboretum/volunteer-at-the-arboretum.shtml)

### 11th Annual Frances Litten Botanical Lecture

Tuesday, February 21, 2017

7:00 p.m. in the Festival Conference Center

Join us for a free talk with an accompanying slide show with Dr. Lytton John Musselman, about collecting and preparing food from wild plants, his labor of love. Explore a broad survey of Virginia plants that can be served at your table, and even take home recipes for delicious cordials and aperitifs he makes from native plants.

### Birds of the Arboretum Talk

Wednesday, March 15, 2017

Noon - 1:00 p.m. in the Frances Plecker Education Center

In partnership with the Rockingham Bird Club, bird expert and photographer Diane Lepkowski will present an informative review and slide show of birds found in the arboretum, an important migration "rest stop." Come learn the "how-tos" of equipment and technique, and hear Lepkowski recount humorous and insightful experiences of bird watching for enjoyment.

### St. Patrick's Day Concert

Friday, March 17, 2017

5:30 - 6:15 p.m.

Come enjoy Celtic music performed by Kate Hummel with Melodious Strings. Dress for the forecast, and bring lawn chairs or a blanket and a carry-on nonalcoholic picnic dinner. Free performance, no reservation is needed. Plenty of free parking in Convo Lot G.

