

EDITH J. CARRIER ARBORETUM™

AT JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY



Photo by Frank Doherty

Fall Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2011

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page 1: From The
Director

Page 2: Catching Up
With The

— Finance Committee

Page 3: Jan Sievers
Mahon

— How To Be A
Gardener

Page 4: Understories

— Prelude to a Proposal
on a Romantic Carriage
Ride

Page 5: Understories
Continued

Page 6: Upcoming
Events

Page 7: Continued
Events

From The Director

As the rhythmic hum of cicada crescendo yields to the chirping of crickets and crisp cool mornings, a sense of the seasonal shift to autumn is upon us. Summer brought improvements to the EJC Arboretum, new creations and plantings, and clean-up of overgrown areas. As the cooler weather returns and visitors continue to come to the EJC Arboretum, enjoyment can be found lingering in the herb garden's new rose and vine arbor. Visitors can also hike in the upper EJC Arboretum where the Eagle Scout bridge has been moved to a new trail that winds through the woods and past moss-covered rocks.

We had a good crew of summer workers with us this year and personal gift cards and "THANK YOUs" went out to them from EJC Arboretum Board members, Dr. Ron Carrier, Dr. Mary Handley, Betty Chappell, & Emily Branscome. Kudos also to Grounds Managers, Lisa Bauer and Mike Hott, who made certain the EJC Arboretum weathered the heat by staying on top of the constant watering that was needed this summer!

Look for another bonsai workshop in November, and in the meantime, come see our bonsai display collection in the Frances Plecker Education Center. Plan to take our evergreens holiday décor workshop in December. Visit the website often for updates on our programs or ask to have your email address added to our contact list.

We hope to see you here often! Revel in the brilliant colors of our trees and dance among the leaves as you celebrate fall with the EJC Arboretum!

Warmly,
Jan Sievers Mahon

"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**



Photo of Jan Sievers Mahon, the director
of the Edith J. Carrier Arboretum



CATCHING UP WITH THE

Finance Committee

The EJC Arboretum Education Committee members include Mark Graham (chair), Ronald E. Carrier, Towana Moore, and David Wiens.



Stage Garden
Photo by EJC Arboretum Staff



© Frank Doherty

Photo by Frank Doherty

- * The EJC Arboretum received two empowering \$100,000 gifts that enable us to create two new features: the accessible trail pond loop and the tree terrace, a spacious new elevated patio adjacent to the Frances Plecker Education Center.
- * The arboretum sends out a huge ‘**Thank You**’ to the Estate of Mr. Donald D. Litten for endowing the annual Frances Litten Botanical Lecture series and invitational dinner for years to come.
- * Construction began on the accessible trail that will extend our stage garden trail to the wedding site and loop entirely around the pond and back to the Frances Plecker Education Center. We’re excited and envision that very soon visitors with walkers, wheelchairs, and strollers will enjoy greater access to the beauty of the EJC Arboretum as this portion of our Campaign for Arboretum Accessibility is completed!
- * Additional portions of this project remain still to be funded -- one, a ramp from the pond loop to the EJC Arboretum's original parking lot and informational kiosk, and second, a path from the parking lot to the Pavilion. The Finance Committee welcomes donor support for this project, the ongoing *Campaign for Arboretum Accessibility*.
- * The EJC Arboretum has made giving simple. With the click of a button on the EJC Arboretum's website from the ‘Give Now’ link on the homepage, donations of amounts large and small can be made using any major credit card. To support all projects the EJC Arboretum staff continues to submit proposals for grant funding.
- * Watch future newsletters for information about a new Monarch Waystation butterfly garden.



JAN SIEVERS MAHON

How To Be A Gardener

Lean towards sunshine * Dig down
deep * Make peace with chaos * Grow
amazing zucchinis and too many
tomatoes * Raindance * Rake leaves
and jump in * Hum along with the
bees * Ache, sweat and yearn *
Surrender control * Wear crazy hats,
baggy pants and aprons with huge
pockets * Earn wisened hands *
Cultivate patience * Bathe in moon-
glow * Stay rooted * Blossom wildly *
Have shady and mysterious corners *
Mend fences * Wonder * Get earthy *
Make magic * Share the harvest *
Be thankful



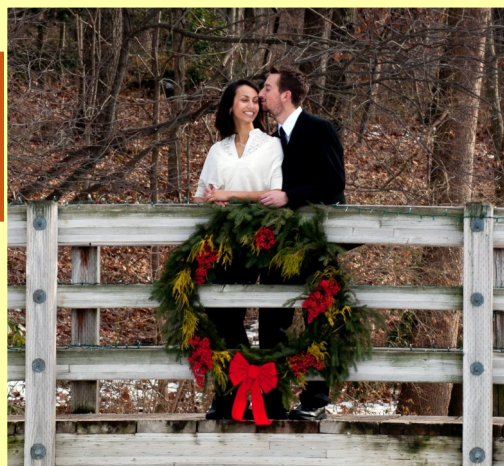
Photos by EJC Arboretum Staff



UNDERSTORIES

Joanne and Zach Koops
on the bridge at the
EJC Arboretum

Photo by Mike Brogan,
MPBrogan Photography



Prelude to a Proposal on a Romantic Carriage Ride

Newlyweds Joanne and Zach Koops experienced a romantic horse drawn carriage ride last winter at the EJC Arboretum, a few days before Zach "popped the question." Joanne shares her memories of their magical carriage ride experience.

The fresh layer of snow crunched underfoot as we made our way to the building on the arboretum grounds to wait for our carriage. As we waited inside the Frances Plecker

Education Center, the comforting aromas of spiced apple cider and hot cocoa tickled our noses.

While we were waiting, we felt an atmosphere of friendship and warmth. It seemed

to us that even from strangers who were in the building with us, feelings of celebration were being enjoyed and shared. We felt cheered as we occupied our time enjoying an art exhibit in the building and sipping a hot beverage. People waiting included everyone from elders to young children. The air was charged with a sense of excitement and romance



Photo by EJC
Arboretum Staff



UNDERSTORIES CONTINUED

while couples in-love, like Zach and I, waited in the mix of carriage riders, for a fairy-tale carriage ride through the moonlit woods.

And then we were approached by an arboretum staff member who said, “Your carriage is ready; please step this way.” It was our turn! Zach grinned and winked at me as I took his hand.

As we walked toward the carriage, I couldn’t help but notice that the horses were incredibly huge! We were amazed. Zach dropped my hand and measured the massive horses. Fourteen...fifteen...sixteen hands high! They would have no trouble pulling the carriage with us riding inside!

The moon was full and bright, and our only light for the ride. We snuggled together under woolen lap blankets, and I took the last few sips of my cider. Gravel crunched beneath the wheels of the carriage as the horses heaved their weight into their harness, their bells chiming merrily. It was so romantic. We laughed and enjoyed stories together as the ride began. But silence soon fell as we realized the unparalleled beauty around us in the moonlit woodlands. The full moon, the starlit heavens, the sparkling snow -- we leaned back and took it all in.



Too soon, the ride drew to its close as we rounded the final bend and were back to where we started. As we climbed out of the beautiful antique carriage, I thought, “Our carriage ride may be over, something to treasure in our memories, but our love story has just begun!”



Families and couples are among those who enjoy carriage rides at the EJC Arboretum



2011 Calendar

UPCOMING EVENTS

For more information or to make reservations for events, go to the [EJC Arboretum website](http://www.jmu.edu/arboretum) (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](#).

- * **Through October 8: Online Bulbs Advance Sale**. Order on the EJC Arboretum website for pick-up October 13-16 at the *FPEC.
- * **October 1: Fall Color and Homecoming Carriage Rides**. 10:00 a.m. -2:00 p.m. \$10 per adult, \$7 per child 7 years & under, \$58 for private carriage. (Carriages seat 6 adults.) Enjoy a horse-drawn carriage through the autumn colors of the EJC Arboretum. Reservations recommended: email turnbugl@jmu.edu or call 540-568-3914.
- * **October 3: Art Exhibit Opens**. Featuring watercolor and pastel paintings by Carolyn Ratcliffe. *FPEC. Throughout the month of October during weekday business hours.
- * **October 13-16: Pick-up Orders from Online Bulbs Advance Sale**. 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. (till 2:00 p.m. Sunday) in the *FPEC.
- * **October 14-16: Fall Plant and Bulb Sale**. 9:00 a.m. -3:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, 9:00 a.m. -2:00 p.m. on Sunday. Choose beautiful and rare bulbs, plants, shrubs and trees to plant in home or business landscapes. In the parking lot and indoors at the *FPEC.
- * **October 22: Children's Harvest Festival**. 1:00 -5:00 p.m. FREE. Featuring dance exhibitions and lessons, crafts, singers, musical instrument performance and demonstrations, story time, trail tours, snacks, seed-collecting trail activity and so much more. Horse-drawn wagon rides are available for

the whole family with \$2 per person ticket purchase.

- * **October 25 -27: Fall Children's Art Workshop**. 10:00 a.m. -noon in the *FPEC. Children will study plant ID and create botanical drawings of leaves and berries found within the



Contributed photos



CONTINUED EVENTS

EJC Arboretum. \$35 fee includes sketch notebook and pencil.

- * **November 1: Art Exhibit Opens.** Featuring JMU student art, including photography by Evan McGrew and the works of other students. *FPEC. Through the month of November during weekday business hours.
- * **November [date TBA, watch the [EJC Arboretum website](#) in the fall]: Festive Holiday Plants and Evergreens Décor Online Sale.** Bring the beauty of fresh blooming holiday plants and the scent of evergreens into your home for the holidays. The EJC Arboretum offers high quality, locally-grown plants.
- * **December 6: Festive Greens Workshop.** Under the guidance of a floral expert, create a versatile holiday décor piece that can be used as a mantle accent or door swag. Register by calling 540-568-3194 when this event posts on the [EJC Arboretum website](#) in late fall.

- * **December 10: [Moonlight Holiday and Winter Commencement Carriage Rides](#).** 1:00-8:00 p.m. \$10 per adult, \$7 per child, \$58 for private carriage. (Carriages seat 6 adults.) Enjoy a holiday carriage ride through the EJC Arboretum drawn by horses adorned with jingle bells! Reservations recommended: email turnbugl@jmu.edu or call 540-568-3914.
- * **December 22-31: Winter Holiday.** The EJC Arboretum offices will be closed. Offices will re-open on January 2, 2012.



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

The EJC Arboretum was voted the "**Best Place to Relax**" and "**Best Place to Propose**" in the annual reader survey by the Harrisonburg Daily News-Record.



Contributed photo
(above)

Photo by Diane Elliot
(right)

