

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

ARBORETUM™

AT JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY



Staff Photo

Fall Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2012

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page 1: From The Director

Page 2: Catching Up With The Financial Committee

Page 3: Understories Fall Garden "Deerterrants"

Page 4: Fall Layering for Bountiful Spring Gardens

Page 5: Upcoming Events

Page 6: Continued Events

From The Director

The two huge storm events this summer, the derecho wind storm and the flash flood, had a big impact on the grounds here. Our staff spent a good six weeks cleaning up downed trees and taking back our gardens from all the silt and flood water erosion damage that occurred in July. The clean-up will continue throughout the winter. Luckily, the 1,000-year flood event only lasted an hour, or the impact here would have been far greater. The silt deposits bring fertile minerals with them, so the soils benefit from one positive outcome.

There is a huge black oak (*Quercus velutina*) that came down about fifty feet from where we planned to place such an uprooted tree as part of our "**At Home in the Woods**" family features for young children. This feature focuses on soil, roots and decay. Having accepted this uprooted tree as a gift from nature, we'll leave it right where it is and create the feature around it. Do not despair when you see it sprawled across the trail, leaving such a large footprint. We'll re-route the trail, and eventually it will fit into the setting perfectly. Young children have discovered it already and delight in climbing along its trunk on the ground. To be awed by a tree and realize its grand nature and heft, I encourage you to take a hop and a step along this tree's girth and discover the wonder.

Fall Greetings,

Jan

"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

CATCHING UP WITH THE

Finance Committee

The EJC Arboretum Finance Committee members include Dr. Ronald E. Carrier, Jan Sievers Mahon, Towana Moore, Weston Hatfield



design concepts

The Finance Committee has been involved in a new project in the EJC Arboretum this summer.

- A water feature on the Ernst Tree Terrace in honor of James Madison University President Emeritus Dr. Ronald E. Carrier's 80th birthday is being funded by gifts from Dr. Carrier's friends, family and JMU. Happy Birthday Dr. Carrier!
- The JMU Development Staff has been working steadily all summer raising the funds in hopes of beginning construction this fall. This gift recognizes Dr. Carrier's legacy of change at James Madison University and offers an additional draw of beauty and calm when visiting the Ernst Tree Terrace in the EJC Arboretum.
- Contributions may be made online at www.jmu.edu/development (click on "give now") or checks may be mailed to: JMU Development Office, 2002 Alumni Dr., Harrisonburg, VA 22807. (Write "Carrier Birthday Gift" or "Arboretum Water Feature" in the memo.)

Existing Conditions



Fall Garden “Deerterrents”

Oh, dear. Deer! Yes, the arboretum has them too. Deterring them is challenging when deer gather into fall herds and are on the move. Inevitably deer wreak havoc and turn carefully-tended landscapes into deer buffets. Deterrents that work in the spring and summer may not help when fall herds come through. Even if each deer only nibbles a taste, and even when nibbling is on ‘deer-proof plants,” a heard in the garden means your prize plants are goners! With shrinking natural feed sources, deer turn to nature’s Plan B, your garden! How do savvy gardeners keep these rutting garden-consumers away, when casual management isn’t an option... or for gardeners who don’t dine on venison, have no hunting license, and won’t hang antlers on a wall? One natural and safe repellent, notably effective and long lasting is Plantskydd, in liquid, powder, or granules, endorsed by Peter Derano,

author of [Creating a Deer and Rabbit Proof Garden](#). Physical barriers and scare tactics can help... if high price tags are OK. Fences high enough to keep deer out need to be 8-10 feet! And scare devices like motion sensor sprinklers can shock a gardener who forgets they’re there as often as the deer! Motion sensitive ultrasonic alarms can be heard by the deer and scare them away, but make pet dogs uncomfortable too waking homeowners with undesirable middle of the night barking. Rotating and combining home-spun methods can help. Organic gardeners may select a “green screen,” a strung line tied with dangling hotel-size bars of soap, or bags cut from nylon stockings of human hair from the salon, or a product like Morganite, a safe, treated



sewage-sludge fertilizer. Some gardeners mount just a low-strung fishing line, which unseen, deer walk into and then startle away. Deer are afraid of change, but moving gran’s lawn chair around may only work a few times. Gardeners who keep active dogs, or field breeds in their yards report having little or no deer problems, often with humorous comments about the deer problems their neighbors have!

(Read more on garden deer deterrents [here](#))



JAN SIEVERS MAHON

Fall Layering for Bountiful Spring Flowers

For easy floral masterpieces next spring try creating lasagna gardens in your containers this season. You can use more of the planting space inside the pot by layering your bulbs at different heights.

Use large containers, at least 12-14" and taller. The larger the container, the better the protection from freezing. Use a good potting soil with good aeration and a thin drain layer at the bottom (broken pots shards or gravel). Start by filling the container one-third full of potting soil, or if it's a very large pot then fill until you have 10-12" of space to the rim. Larger bulbs go on the bottom and later blooming bulbs (tulips or giant flowering onions) are the bottom-most layer. Use at least 5-6 bulbs for each layer, and the bigger the container the more bulbs you will need. Bulbs can sit very close together so, for a good show, lay out 10-12 bulbs or more of each variety. Cover with 2-3" of potting soil and prepare your next layer; daffodils are a good choice. Cover with another layer of 2-3" of potting soil and prepare the top layer of bulbs such as dwarf iris, winter aconite, muscari or crocus; you may even have room to mix this layer with a variety of early bloomers. Cover with another layer of potting soil, leaving 3" of soil at the top. For a spring-blooming show-stopper add annuals such as pansies, sedums or dianthus on top (use small plants so that you don't dig into your layers), or just cover with mulch and, if room, add a layer of leaves for cold protection.

If your porch, deck or patio is exposed to strong winds or extremes you may want to bring pots closer to your house and to each other for added protection. Straw is always a good insulator if you know that your winter exposures are often below 15-20 degrees Fahrenheit.

Use the lasagna garden technique for your bulbs in the fall and expect a springtime marathon of flowers.

Recommended bulbs for deer resistance: Daffodils, Galanthus, Leucojum, Alliums, Eranthis, Muscari, Hyacinthus, Fritillaria, Colchicums, Scilla, and Chionodoxa.

(Read more on bulbs and deer here)



<http://www.dailypress.com/features/family/home-garden/dp-bulb-pg,0,267092.photogallery>

The EJC Arboretum offers a full variety of bulbs for sale at our Fall Plant & Bulb Sales:

At the EJC Arboretum (Frances Plecker Education Center)
Fri. & Sat., Sept. 28 & 29, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Fri. & Sat., Oct. 5 & 6, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. (bulbs only)
Sun, Oct. 7, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. (bulbs only)

At Godwin Field (near Bridgeforth Stadium, convenient for those attending the Family Weekend football game and festivities)
Sat., Oct. 6, 10 a.m. -2 p.m. (bulbs only)

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](#).

- **Monthly Art Exhibits:** *FPEC during weekday business hours. FREE. Sept.: Watercolors by Janet Cardwell. October: Local Young Children's Art. Leena Keefer will display work of young art students. November and December: Artist to be announced.

- **Beginning Sept. 10 until Oct. 8: Online Bulb Sale Order** online at jmu.edu/arboretum and pick up in the *FPEC.

- **Sept. 22: Monarch Migration Tagging Workshop** 10 a.m.-noon in the Pavilion, with Linda Marchman, educator and butterfly farm owner. Enjoy a lecture and various activities (age 7 to adult), along with tagging and releasing Monarch butterflies to start their seasonal migration. (Also available as a class field trip.) Fee is \$20 and online registration is needed. For more details, call (540) 568-3194.

- **Sept. 28-29: Fall Plant Sale** 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. at the *FPEC. Shop a huge inventory of Virginia Native wildflowers and cultivar perennials, shrubs and trees, and spring bulbs just in time for the cooler temperatures of the fall planting season.

- **Oct. 9, 16 and 23: Bonsai Workshop** Noon-1:00 p.m. each session, in the *FPEC. Create a 'wee tree' to enjoy at your home or office at a workshop with EJC Arboretum Grounds Manager and Bonsai Master Mike Hott. \$35 fee covers three sessions, and online registration is available. (For Returning Bonsai Students, sign up for just the final session, for review with the Master of bonsai, registration only \$12).

- **Oct. 5: Private Nursery Shopping Appointments** 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Shop the growing season closeout plant, shrub and tree inventory at the EJC Arboretum. Call 540-568-3194 to reserve a half-hour appointment.

- **Oct. 5-7: Fall Bulb Sale** 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. on Oct. 5-6; 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. on Oct. 7. Choose beautiful and rare bulbs to plant in home or business landscapes. Indoors at the *FPEC. (JMU Family Weekend visitors may also purchase bulbs from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. on Oct. 6 at Godwin Field.)



- **Oct. 16, 17 and 18: Fall Children's Art Workshop** 4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. in the *FPEC. Children will study and create botanical drawings of leaves, their forms and colors, and berries found within the EJC Arboretum, as well as plant identification. \$35 charge includes materials. Registration required: email turnbugl@jmu.edu or call 540-568-3914.

- **Oct. 20: Remarkable Trees Field Trip** led by the Arboretum Director. Departing from Town Hall in Elkton, VA at 8:30 am, and returning around 5:00 pm, a guided tour of the state champion Chinquapin and Bur Oaks of Elkton, continuing over the Blue Ridge Mountains in full fall color to the Fredericksburg area to see the ancient and gnarled Catalpas of Chatham Manor, a Civil War hospital site where over 10,000 wounded were given care. And finally, see the historic Brompton Oak on the campus of Mary Washington University, a tree that witnessed and withstood the first and second battles of Fredericksburg. Field trip fee \$20 includes transportation. Visit jmu.edu/arboretum September 20, to register online.

*FPEC is the Frances Plecker Education Center, found on the grounds of the Edith J. Carrier Arboretum



CONTINUED EVENTS



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



- **Oct. 20: Children's Harvest**

Festival 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. Dance exhibitions and lessons, crafts, singers, musical instrument performance and demonstrations, story time, trails tours, snacks, seed-collecting trail activity with Duke Dog and Gus Bus story time offered at this free fall children's festival. For elementary-age children and younger. Horse-drawn wagon rides are available for the whole family with ticket purchase. More details posted online on Sept. 20. FREE; no registration required.

- **Oct. 27: Fall Color and Homecoming Carriage Rides** 12:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. in the EJC Arboretum. Enjoy a horse-drawn carriage through the autumn colors of the EJC Arboretum. \$10 per adult, \$7 per child, \$58 for private carriage. (Carriages seat 6 adults.). Advance reservations required: email turnbugl@jmu.edu or call 540-568-3914.

- **November: Festive Holiday Plants and Evergreens Decor Online Sale** date TBA at jmu.edu/arboretum] Bring the beauty of fresh blooming holiday plants and the scent of evergreens into your home for the holidays. The EJC Arboretum offers locally grown, high-quality plants.

- **Dec. 5: Evergreens Holiday Décor Workshop** Noon-1:30 p.m.

Create a versatile holiday décor piece, a mantle topiary, that can be used to beautify any holiday home or business with style and fragrance, under the guidance of a floral expert, Abby Long from Blakemore's Florist. Register at (540) 568-3194, late fall when event posts on EJC Arboretum website. Event registration opens online on Nov. 5.

- **Dec. 8: Moonlight Holiday and Winter Commencement Carriage Rides** 1:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

Enjoy a horse-drawn holiday carriage ride during the daytime or under the moonlight. Horse teams are harnessed in jingle bells for this festive holiday celebration. For the cost of a movie ticket, create a holiday memory of a lifetime! Browse the EJC Arboretum website beginning Nov. 8 for cost and reservation information.

- **Dec. 21-31: Winter Holiday EJC** Arboretum offices close at noon on Dec. 21, to reopen on Jan. 2, 2013.

- 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.



Fall Garden “Deerterrents”

Continued...



Bulbs and Deer

A note on use of bulbs and deer; bulbs that are in the Amaryllis family, Narcissus (daffodils), Galanthus (snowdrops), Leucojum (snowflakes) are poisonous to rodents, squirrels, and deer. They contain a bitter chemical called lycorine and no mammal will eat them. Planting these bulbs around your others bulbs may deter animals from dining on your more tasty bulbs.

Many bulbs not usually eaten by deer are Alliums (flowering onions), Eranthis (winter aconite), Muscari (grape hyacinths) and Hyacinthus; also Fritillaria, Colchicums, Scilla, and Chionodoxa. If deer are a problem at your house try planting bulbs noted above to keep your gardens in flower rather than they becoming the daily dining menu.

Another recommendation is to container garden favorite plants including small trees and shrubs, keeping them on an elevated deck, somewhere deer won't go. Deer don't mind exploring a step or two at the front door...so, most front door porches don't count as a safe place for container gardens. For local advice, visiting with professionals in local nurseries or attending local plant sales are resources for deer proofing a garden.

But our “best-bet” suggestion is for gardeners to go online where they can find every possible kind of deer proofing advice and personalize their own deer solutions at web forums like Gardenweb.com. Or preview deer resistant plants that are rated for deer damage extent from “rarely damaged” to “frequently severely damaged” at Rutgers. edu/deerresistance. For gardeners who are really frustrated and just want help, with just a few keywords and a click of the mouse (not a garden mouse, that's another article!) landscape designers (like MosaicGardens.com) can be found who specialize in helping home and business owners create beautiful gardens that are truly deer resistant yet without compromise in either attractiveness, individual taste (pardon the pun) or design preferences. Even if only to look at pictures of gardens designed by pros to be deer resistant, the web is a great resource!

