

# EDITH J. CARRIER ARBORETUM™ AT JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY®

*Dear Friends of the Arboretum,*

There is good news! I am delighted to share with you that the Arboretum has received a very large gift this summer. The Aimee & Frank Batten, Jr. Foundation has gifted the Edith J. Carrier Arboretum \$500,000 for capital improvements to support existing gardens and for the creation of new features. We feel so supported and grateful for such generosity and trust in the Arboretum to move projects forward! We will continue to follow Phase 1 of our Master Plan that focuses on visibility of the Arboretum, accessibility within its borders, and stormwater/streambank infrastructure improvements to the site.

First use of these funds will be directed towards a complete restoration of the Arboretum pond, including the outflow channel running the length of the turf bottoms below the Frances Plecker Education Center; with new wetland emergents planted in the pond and along the channel edges. Additionally, we will use this gift for the next overlay of design and construction at Sycamore Flat where many of the recent streambank improvements have been completed, and where new plantings continue through fall. The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant provides for stream stabilization but doesn't address a host of design needs as a result of the changes in Sycamore Flat area such as access (i.e. bridges), new trail design, construction and beautification, and for new gardens designed adjacent to the newly created channel and trail.

Continued additions to the Children's Garden will be ongoing this fall as well. Other desired applications for these monies include a master plan design and implementation of an irrigation system, improved driveway plantings, and a succulent garden. This gift will allow for an array of new creations and improvements, large and small, throughout the developed areas in the Arboretum. Please join with us as we celebrate the changes!

*Jan Sievers Mahon*  
Director



*Please pardon our mess!*

Sycamore Flat Under  
Construction for  
Stream Restoration

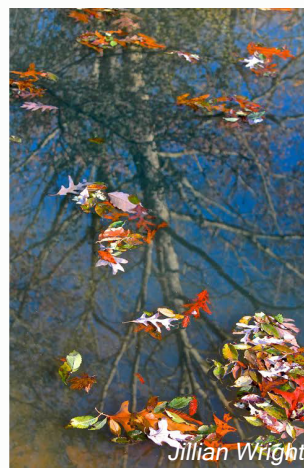
## Fall Photographic Fun!

Think you have what it takes to win a photo contest? Some Arboretum Friends thought so. And they were right! Each month, photography enthusiasts enter the EJC Arboretum's photo contest. Contest rules include stipulating that photos must be taken while at the arboretum, and can be of any scene or object within the arboretum grounds, and must be taken within the specific calendar month for each contest. Contestants range from photo-happy kids at heart, to proud parents of smaller and younger arboretum visitors. Semi-pros honing their macro photography skills compete with JMU students passing through the arboretum, capturing a moment of interest or beauty.

The arboretum monthly photo contest gives anyone a chance to show off seriously worthy landscape and floral photography shots. Contestants enter awesome images monthly. Then, friends and browsers from anywhere on the planet can follow the photo contest and vote for a favorite picture. As seasons change, it becomes obvious that each month's gallery holds a unique and changing collection. The arboretum sets a great value on landscape and floral photography because these kinds of photos let online visitors enjoy the beauty of the arboretum year round even if they cannot visit the arboretum in person.

The Public Relations Committee of the Arboretum Board invites participation in the monthly photo contests this fall once again. Milla Sue Wisecarver, PR Committee Chairperson says, "Give it your best shot!" Enjoy this brief photographic journey into past fall seasons in this newsletter. And join us in looking forward to enjoying the photos that the photo contests in the fall of 2015 will bring!

Follow the contest at the arboretum blog: <https://ejcarboretum.wordpress.com/page/10/> found on the home page of the arboretum website.





## Sea Change in the Arboretum Stream

If you've heard the sound of heavy equipment in the Arboretum lately then you've likely seen many of the changes underway up and down the stream channel here. This summer Shenandoah Streamworks began the grading work that's required to restore the Arboretum stream. Larry Mohn and his crew have been wonderfully flexible to work with as they diligently set out to protect trees and gardens with as little disruption as possible. They have remained responsive to concerns as they arose and problem-solved with a timeliness that is superb. Matched with the keen oversight of Abe Kaufman, JMU's Energy Conservation & Sustainability Mgr., and design guidance by Kyle Ashmun, Project Mgr., of Ecosystem Services, LLC, there is nothing that hasn't been thoroughly thought through on the site. In addition, Eddie Begoon, our arborist & tree consultant was brought on site several times to address tree protection concerns.

Let me share some of the recent changes. The old sediment pond in the back no longer exists. In its place are two wetland cells straddling the newly cut stream channel. Both the lovely treed Sycamore Flat area and the open space above it are now joined as an interconnected large, open floodplain; one-half shaded and the other half in full sun with a grove of shade trees standing tall. The three wetland cells found here act as sediment and nutrient sinks and serve as a natural self-purification process for the waterway. Look for a new, small waterfall area near the stone water fountain circle garden in the Wood Garden; a wonderful resting place for visitors to rest and breath in the healing properties of water. Once newly planted, and the next design overlay is carried out in both Sycamore Flat and the new trail, this area

should serve as a visitor attraction and as an educational tool for JMU and the larger Harrisonburg community.

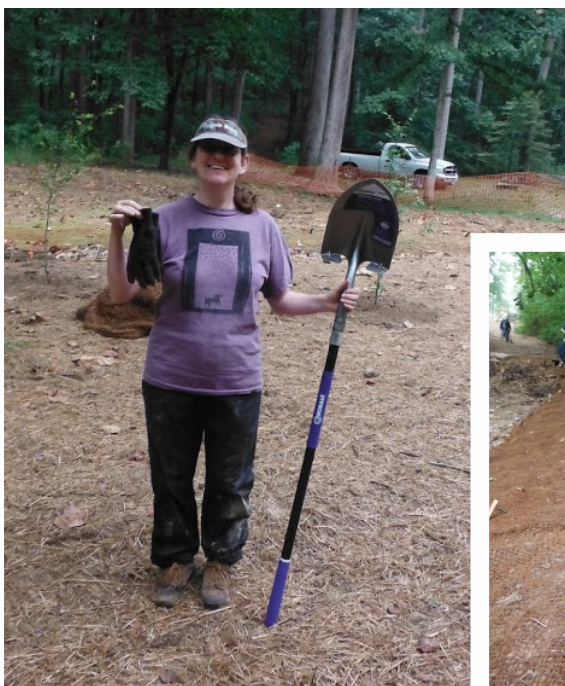
The sculpting of earth that ensued this summer has reconnected the stream to its floodplain, created a meandering pattern of waterflow that is stable, and has protected and enhanced the adjacent forest. Log and rock weirs were installed in the stream and streambanks to provide bank stability, and to prevent undercutting. A riparian grass/perennial seed mix has begun to grow along the streambanks and recently planted are hundreds of woody shrubs and trees and nearly 6,000 herbaceous perennial plugs. Volunteers are helping with some of these plantings. If you are interested in helping plant or care for this new area, please contact Janis Traas at [traasjm@jmu.edu](mailto:traasjm@jmu.edu) or visit our website and click on "get involved."

Restorative stream projects such as this not only serve to reduce sediment load and nutrient pollution on site at our pond but the new stream channel and floodplain will reduce the same buildups downstream into the Shenandoah/Potomac River watersheds. Sediment in the stream drops out instead of leaving

the Arboretum property in the upper floodplain and wetland areas. Another amazing result of this work is the upward movement and return of the water table. As an eroded stream channel cuts more deeply into the earth the water table below it retreats too. Restoring the water channel to its earlier height allows the water table to restore itself to previous levels. Look for continued enhancements at the pond and outflow stream channel this fall. Listen for the sound of heavy equipment to lead you to the latest Arboretum waterway improvement.

*Jan Sievers Mahon*

Director



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## Calendar Events

For more information or to make reservations for events, go to the EJC Arboretum website ([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 Annual Calendar of Events.

### Remarkable Trees Field Trip

Saturday, October 17  
8:00 am - 6:00 pm

This is a 12 mile bicycle trip with a picnic lunch rest stop midway, enjoying the Remarkable Trees of the C&O Canal between Williamsport and Ft. Frederick. Bicycles and round trip transportation are provided for a field trip fee of \$25. The Remarkable Trees Field Trip departs from the Frances Plecker Education Center and will be supported by JMU UREC.

### Children's Harvest Festival

Saturday, October 17  
1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Joining together with Gus Bus and the JMU Duke Dog, the EJC Arboretum presents the Children's Harvest Festival! Among the free activities offered will be free children's crafts, dancers, and musicians.

### Fall Color Carriage Rides

Sunday, October 18  
1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Enjoy a horse-drawn carriage through the autumn colors of the Edith J. Carrier Arboretum.

### Festive Holiday Plants Online Sale

November-December  
*date to be determined a month in advance*

Bring the beauty of fresh blooming holiday plants into your home or office for the Holidays! The EJC Arboretum offers locally-grown, high-quality plants. Visit [www.jmu.edu/arboretum](http://www.jmu.edu/arboretum). Order pick up in the Frances Plecker Education Center, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm after the sale has closed.

### Bonsai Workshop

Tuesday, November 10 and  
Tuesday, November 17  
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

Team up with Arboretum Grounds Manager and Bonsai Master, Mike Hott to create your very own "wee-tree" to enjoy at home or office. \$35 fee covers all materials inclusive to create a Bonsai tree. Workshop will be held in the Frances Plecker Education Center. Register online at [www.jmu.edu/arboretum/bonsai-workshop-registration.shtml](http://www.jmu.edu/arboretum/bonsai-workshop-registration.shtml)

### Thanksgiving Holiday

Wednesday, November 25 - 27

EJC Arboretum offices will close at noon on Wednesday, November 25 and will remain closed to reopen the following Monday, November 30.





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## Calendar Events

### Fall and Winter Children's Art Workshop

Monday, November 30  
Wednesday, December 2  
Friday, December 4  
12:00 pm - 2:00 pm

Children learn botanical drawing and printmaking from artist/educator Jewel Hertzler. Students will focus on drawing winter trees, branches, pine cones and evergreens. They will create a personal stamp and a block for block printing and will create a series of cards. \$35. Online registration.

### Annual Festive Greens Workshop

December  
*date to be determined a month in advance*

Create a versatile holiday décor piece that will beautify any holiday home or business with style and fragrance, under the guidance of a floral expert, Abby Long from Blakemore's Florist. Fee varies depending on supplies ordered when registering. Register at [jmu.edu/arboretum](http://jmu.edu/arboretum). Held in the Frances Plecker Education Center.

### Moonlight Holiday and Winter Commencement Carriage Rides

Friday, December 11  
5:00 pm - 8:00 pm

For the cost of a movie ticket, create a holiday memory of a lifetime! Reserve to enjoy a horse drawn holiday carriage moonlight or daytime ride. Horse teams are harnessed in jingle bells for this festive Holiday celebration. Carriages leave the Frances Plecker Education Center on a 20 minute schedule. For more information when posted, visit <http://www.jmu.edu/arboretum/>

### Winter Holiday

Thursday, December 24 - Friday, January 1

EJC Arboretum offices closed to reopen  
Monday, January 4, 2016

### Volunteer Orientations

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)



Frank Doherty