

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

ARBORETUM

AT JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY



Spring Newsletter

MARCH 2013

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page 1:

From the Director

Page 2:

Catching up with the
Botanical Committee

Page 3:

Jan Sievers Mahon

Page 4:

Understories

Pages 5-7:

Upcoming Events

From The Director

The smell of spring is in the air... the upward bursting-green damp earth, earthworms emerged after a strong rain, the scent of freshly unfurled leaves, and popping flower buds. Spring, an affirmation of life renewing itself and returning brilliantly, fresh, clear and bright.

I am excited to announce that construction has begun on our new Ernst Tree Terrace water feature, an 80th birthday gift to Dr. Ronald E. Carrier, JMU President Emeritus, from friends and family given last year.

This 4'x16' fountain has five spouts and night lights that will soothe and calm any visitor who lingers at the tree terrace for a spot of sanity and splashing delight. Its completion is planned for April with a dedication to follow. Come dip your hands in some cool wetness when the hot weather arrives.

Our new botany intern, Jessie Ward, was tasked with researching some available botanical collection system options. She very

quickly bypassed the systems for sale and directed us to some free software offered through the University of Oxford -- BRAHMS, or Botanical Research and Herbarium Management System, a database management system for botanical researchers and herbaria. This software provides the resources to gather, edit, analyze and publish botanical data. BRAHMS is used by research institutions globally supporting collection management in herbaria, botanic gardens and seed banks along with other botanical research initiatives. BRAHMS also includes the ability to accept GIS (geographical information systems) imports for mapping work in the EJC Arboretum. She has been busy creating our collections using this software; thank you, Jessie!



Jan Sievers Mahon



CATCHING UP WITH THE

Botanical Committee

The EJC Arboretum Botanical Committee Members include Lisa Bauer, Eddie Begoon, Emily Branscome, Mike Hott, Andre Mast, Dr. Conley K. McMullen (Chair), Don Showalter, Dr. Mark Brubaker, and Jan Sievers Mahon.



Example of an identification label



Image of the fallen black oak that was uprooted last summer

The committee members have combined their expertise and consulted with a landscape architect several times regarding plans for garden areas near the pond. A new planting plan has been created for this area.

To enhance visitor educational experience, committee members have organized the EJC Arboretum's labels inventory and located plants needing identification labels, especially wildflowers, where labels had been lost or not previously placed. Many new plant ID labels are now in the display areas of the EJC Arboretum in this continuing effort.

The committee has also moved forward plans to develop children's gardens in strategic locations, beginning with a Soil Builders feature with a grand uprooted black oak that fell last summer as the centerpiece. And with construction underway for the Dr. Ronald E. Carrier 80th Birthday Commemorative water feature on the Ernst Terrace, the committee is working on a design to re-landscape the Ernst Terrace when construction is completed.

Committee members are making plans for a proposed new Monarch Waystation near the Plecker Pond Loop Accessible Trail and creating an inventory of butterfly food and nursery plants for the garden. The butterfly garden will include both upland and wetland nectar plants that will provide habitat and will accent the wet areas near the bald cypress tree by the main pond.



Preview of the Dr. Ronald E. Carrier 80th Birthday commemorative water feature



Did You Know That...

Many wildflowers and herbs that are beloved and growing this time of year have stories reaching back centuries in time :

Forget-me-not -*Myosotis* sp.

European legend tells of a medieval German knight who walked along a river bank with his lady. When the knight bent down to pick the pretty blue flowers, his heavy armor caused him to fall headlong into the river. Before he was swept away he threw the bunch of flowers onto the bank and shouted "Forget me not!" From that time forward this flowering spring perennial became associated with true love.

Lady's Mantle-*Alchemilla mollis*

Dedicated to the Virgin Mary, the dew from this plant was collected at dawn in medieval times and used in alchemists' experiments to make gold from metal. The plant was used to cure women's problems and even rumored to be used to restore a sagging bosom to its former size! This herb has important healing qualities and what remains now from folklore is likely only a portion of the truth. Since this herb is still used today for women's reproductive health and for skin

support, the "sagging bosom" story may be true. A 1986 French study showed that lady's mantle inhibits the breakdown of the skin's elastic and connective tissues.

St. John's Wort-*Hypericum perforatum*

"Wort" means root in Old English, and many common plant names have 'wort' at the end of their name (figwort, lousewort, motherwort, etc.), signifying that the plant has valuable medicinal qualities. Most of these are common medicinals, still used globally. The genus name *Hypericum* is Greek for "above a picture or image," meaning a ghost or evil spirit. This refers to a practice of placing flowers above religious images to keep away evil. This practice was usually performed on Midsummer day, the 20th-24th of June, St. John's Day, or Summer Solstice.

Indian Pipe-*Monotropa*

uniflora American Indian tribes used this plant to treat sore eyes and as a remedy for

spasms and other nervous conditions. The Latin name simply means "one turn, one flower," referring to the nodding form of the flowers.

Jewelweed-

Impatiens capensis

This common shade loving native is also known as Ear-drop, Touch-Me-Not and Silverleaf. Used today as a poison-ivy rash inhibitor and anti-itch remedy, an American naturalist named it the Hummingbird Tree because its nectar and brilliant orange flowers are so attractive to hummingbirds. Early Americans used it as a cure for jaundice and bruises, cuts, insect bites and burns.



Indian Pipe— *Monotropa uniflora*



Jewelweed— *Impatiens capensis*



UNDERSTORIES

No Friend Left Behind

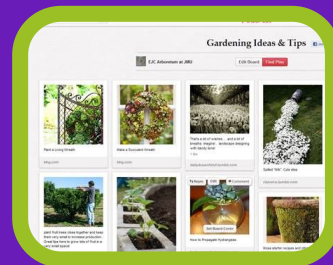
Seemingly at the speed of light, new technology and devices become available. Throw in to that exciting mix the advent of social media, and some people may feel like their heads are spinning and they just can't keep up! Clearly, for those whose computer experiences began in kindergarten computer lab, they're "naturals" and the discovery has probably already been made of how much botanical educational enrichment and fun can be found at the EJC Arboretum's social media sites. EJC arboretum friends who haven't lived and breathed technology over the past few decades and who may just now be trying to learn how to use social media, read on!

The good news is that friends are just a 'click' away from easily enjoying social media! Sites like Pinterest are all the rage! Humor rumor in the web world is that Pinterest is addicting, beware! Without even having to create profiles and login's, by simply clicking links found on the EJC Arboretum's landing page, browsers can go directly to the EJC Arboretum's Pinterest boards. A picture tells a thousand words! Find information that instantly "gels" at boards "Gardening Tips & Ideas" or "Fitness & Health," follow original post links and read to learn more. Every board is anchored in nature and garden themes!



[Arboretum Blog ~ Share Your Visit!](#)
On [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Flickr](#),
and now on [Pinterest](#)!

You'll find the above image on our website. There you can click on the links to access our social media



Screen shot of our Pinterest page. Be sure to check it out by following our link on our website!

Unable to get to the EJC Arboretum to enjoy its beauty literally? Go virtually! Another social media site easily accessible is the Blog. Click to enjoy browsing monthly photo contest submissions and appreciate galleries of seasonal flower photographs. "Like" the EJC Arboretum on Facebook and every EJC Arboretum event post will be news on Facebook friends' walls!

If lectures aren't your thing but you're interested in current nature events, EJC Arboretum followers find that when subjects are Tweet trends on Twitter, the EJC Arboretum is in the mix, making botanical points in succinct, savvy 140-character, minimalist words of wisdom.

So for web fun without login password hassles for EJC Arboretum social media websites, just click from the website, learn a lot, stay connected, and have fun! Anyone interested in additional social media know-how support can attend this coming summer's Brown Bag Lunch Lecture, "No Friend Left Behind." Stay tuned!



2013 UPCOMING 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 [Annual Calendar of Events](#).

EJC Arboretum Monthly Photo Contest. Photographers, amateur or professional, all ages, are invited to participate in our monthly, photography contest. Visit the EJC Arboretum website for entry rules. Congratulations to our January winner, Sammy Monaghan, and our February winner, Daniel Wentling.

Ongoing Art Exhibits in the *FPEC. A variety of artists and media are featured, and the exhibits change every other month. Visitors may view the art in the FPEC during business hours. **FREE**

Current exhibit, through April 30, **Encaustic Painting** by Marilyn Banner. The exhibit features an ancient technique that uses pigments with beeswax under intense heat that fuses each brushstroke and layer to the one beneath. Encaustic paintings maintain a luminosity and vibrancy of color. Originals and prints for sale.

March 21, Small Mammals Lecture and Slide Show, Thursday, noon to 1:30 p.m., *FPEC, JMU professor Katrina Gobetz presents an overview of the EJC Arboretum's small burrowing mammals with a slide show and living specimens! **FREE**, no pre-registration needed.

March 23, Easter Egg Hunt, Saturday, 11:00 a.m., EJC Arboretum Pavilion, for young children with the Theta Nu Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta, Saturday, pre-registration required. Contact the Executive Board of the Theta Nu Chapter to register your child. Cost per child information available at registration at Theta Nu website. http://www.jmu.edu/multicultural/icgc/chapters/zeta_phi_beta.shtml

March 27, Birding Lecture and Slide Show, Wednesday, noon to 1:00 p.m., *FPEC, In partnership with the Rockingham Bird Club, an avifauna notable and photographer of Blue Ridge and Shenandoah Valley avian species, Diane Lepkowski, lectures on songbirds to raptors, giving an annual spring lecture and forum discussion. This workshop partners with guided birding trail walks in April. **FREE**. Please register online at www.jmu.edu/arboretum.

March 29, Good Friday Service, Friday, 6:00 p.m., main lawn of the EJC Arboretum, JMU RISE hosts the annual inter-denominational Easter Good Friday Worship Service.

March 31, Easter Sunrise Service, Sunday, 6:00 a.m., main lawn of the EJC Arboretum. JMU RISE hosts the annual inter-denominational Easter Sunrise Worship Service.

April 2, 3, & 4, Spring Children's Art Workshop, Tuesday-Thursday, either 10:00 a.m.-noon, or 1:00-3:00 p.m., *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.

April 3 & 10, Annual Daffodil Walks, Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m., *FPEC, Exploration Series Tours with the EJC Arboretum Director, enjoying over 50 varieties on exhibit at the EJC Arboretum. **FREE**, no pre-registration needed.

April 6, Guided Bird Walk, Saturday, 8:00 a.m., EJC Arboretum Pavilion, led by a birding expert in partnership with the Rockingham Bird Club. **FREE**. Please register online at www.jmu.edu/arboretum.



February Photo Contest Winner Daniel Wentling



CONTINUED EVENTS

April 7, *Campus Cookies Easter Egg Hunt for JMU students*, Sunday, 1:00-4:00 p.m., Pavilion and Large Lawn, Sponsored by the JMU Office of Residence Life, JAC card required, JMU students with JAC cards search for hidden Easter eggs holding valuable coupons and discounts to area merchants and a free cookie from Campus Cookies!

April 14, *A Latte Jive, Alzheimer's Benefit 5K Run and Concert*, Sunday, 1:00-3:00 p.m., Large Lawn, Sigma Kappa sponsors an annual 5k benefit for the Central and Western Virginia Chapter of the American Alzheimer's Association, "A Walk You'll Remember!" with live music at the 5k conclusion, and runners cool down and enjoy coffee, decaf, tea, and water served free compliments JMU Catering. To sign up please visit: jmu.sigmakappa.org

April 19 & 20, *Arbor Day Trees and Native Plant Sale*, Friday and Saturday, 9:00 a.m. -3:00 p.m., *FPEC parking lot, with an online list of plants offered at the sale. In the prime time of spring, the EJC Arboretum offers a wide selection of wildflowers, contrasting foliage plants like native ferns, with unusual shrubs and trees. To honor those who educate youth, city and county public school teachers receive 10% off tree purchases by presenting a school ID!

April to October 15, *Walk-Up Plant Sale*, Beginning in mid-April and projected to continue until the first hard frost in the region which will be about mid-October, business hours, *FPEC, Shop from a selection usually currently in bloom natives, exotics and cultivar perennials, shrubs, and trees.

April to October 15, *Private Greenhouse Shopping by Appointment*, Beginning in mid-April and projected to continue until the first hard frost in the region which will be about mid-October, 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., *FPEC, Shop from the entire greenhouse inventory of natives, exotics and cultivars perennials, shrubs, and trees, by advance appointment only, with \$50 minimum purchase required. Call (540) 568-3194, or visit the EJC Arboretum website to schedule the appointment.

April 22, *Earth Day Wildflower Walk*, Monday, 10:00 a.m. Walk will be led by Jan Sievers Mahon, EJC Arboretum Director. Walk starts at the *FPEC. FREE, no pre-registration needed.

April 25, *Virginia Historic Garden Week Tour*. Thursday, 1:00 p.m. Tour will be led by Jan Sievers Mahon, EJC Arboretum Director, and will focus on the EJC Arboretum's bulb collection, wildflowers and flowering shrubs and trees. Tour starts at the *FPEC. FREE, no pre-registration needed.

April 23-26, *Virginia Arbor Day Public School Gift Tree Planting Ceremony*, Public school students, faculty, staff and parents gather for an Arbor Day observation and ceremony, to plant a tree at their school and learn about the value of greening Harrisonburg's public school campuses, as the EJC Arboretum grows into its community. Thomas Harrison Middle School hosts this event. Contact Educator, Greg Corder, STEM Academy.

April 26, *Arbor Day in Virginia* event is the *Virginia Native Trees Tour*, Friday, 1:00 p.m., *FPEC. With the EJC Arboretum Director. FREE, no pre-registration needed.

April 27, *Wildflower Walk with The Virginia Native Plant Society*, Saturday, 10:00 a.m., *FPEC, VNPS docent tour guide and wildflower aficionado leads a guided tour through the EJC Arboretum exhibit gardens.

April 28, *third annual RMH Hospice Butterfly Picnic*, Sunday, noon to 3:00 p.m., meets on the Large Lawn. Grieving families and individuals may bring a brown bag picnic and participate. Share in the beauty of a butterfly release, a walk to remember, and live music. For more info, contact RMH Hospice Bereavement Coordinator at (540) 433-4430, or email: Andree.jeannotte.7133@rhcc.com



Photo Credit: Christine Letsky-Anderson



CONTINUED EVENTS

May 10, National Public Gardens Day, Friday, EJC Arboretum, a Shenandoah Valley public botanical garden and native plants preserve is open free dawn to dusk. And plan to shop Spring Celebration Plant Sale in celebration of National Public Gardens Day to support the EJC Arboretum while making home and business landscaping ecofriendly and lovely!

May 10 & 11, Spring Celebration Plant Sale, (formerly Herb and Garden Festival), Friday and Saturday, 9:00-3:00 p.m., wide selection of plants, shrubs and trees, with Saturday activities that may include an "ask-an-expert table" and a butterfly release.

May 11 & 12, Mother's Day Carriage Rides, by twilight, 6:30-9:30 p.m. Saturday evening, and 1-4 p.m. Sunday afternoon, in the EJC Arboretum, carriages leave from *FPEC. Give a special mom a memorable celebration by a carriage ride through the natural beauty of the EJC Arboretum, costs vary per person for adults and children, and per private carriage, phone for cost and to reserve (540) 568-3194 or email turnbugl@jmu.edu.

May 12, 2013, Highland Pipes Concert, (Postponed from St. Patrick's Day) Sunday afternoon, free public performance on Mother's Day, 2:00-3:00 pm, from the Journey Stage Garden lawn area of the arboretum, live performance by piper Fred Holbrook of Massanetta Springs Conference Center.

May 18, Annual Spring Notable Wildflowers Field Trip, to a Reddish Knob location, dress for an expedition to view wildflower species in their natural setting with

JMU Botany Professor Conley K. McMullen as guide. Register in advance online. FREE. Participants drive and meet.

May 24, Wine & Cheese in the Trees, Friday, 5:00-7:00 p.m., Ernst Terrace. An expert from the White Oak Lavender Farm lectures on using lavender for cuisine, while guests enjoy fine wines, and other seasonal beverages. For cost and pre-registration visit the website starting Apr. 24.

June, Storytime in the Understory, 11 a.m. to approximately noon, monthly program begins in June second Tuesdays, and continues through September, Children will develop an understanding of the importance of nature from children's literature selections. Bring a picnic blanket or lawn chairs, and a brown bag picnic lunch for after Storytime.

June or July, Summer Children's Art Workshop, date to be announced on jmu.edu/arboretum, 1:00-3:00 p.m., Children will learn summer trees and flowers of the EJC Arboretum. The workshop offers education on plant I.D. and basic botanical drawing, materials included, \$35 fee.

Mid June through July Summer Brown Bag Lunch Lecture Series, Six Wednesdays except July 4th week, 12-1pm, Pavilion, FREE, no pre-registration needed, enjoy lunch and a great topical lecture. Series lecture topics will post to the EJC Arboretum website in the spring of 2013.

- June 19, Easy and Economical Vertical Gardening with Lee Norford
- June 26, Living Patios, Paths and Bird Baths with Jennifer Rucinski

June 21, Summer Strawberry Full Moon Carriage Rides, Friday, 7:00-10:00 p.m., Enjoy being drawn through the woodlands of the EJC Arboretum by beautiful Belgium and Percheron teams of horses and an experienced coachman on a warm summer night in a romantic convertible carriages leaving from the *FPEC.

June 22, Solstice Under the Stars, Saturday, 7:00-10:00 p.m., Ernst Terrace, Enjoy hors d'œuvres, live music from *Heat of the Night* and dancing, and fine wine. Make it a wild and wonderful Solstice celebration with dancing to live music on the Ernst Terrace. For cost and pre-registration register online starting May 22.

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

Parking: Overflow event parking beginning May 5 until mid-August without a permit can be found at the JMU Convocation Center Lot F (enter from University Blvd.) and Convo Lot G (enter from Driver Drive) and Lot R-5 (enter from University Blvd.). A parking lot map is available online at <http://web.jmu.edu/parking/parkingmap.pdf>.

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*.

