

ARBORETUM

AT JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY



The new Carrier Family Fountain at the Ernst Tree Terrace

Summer Newsletter

JUNE 2013

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From the Director

Happy Summer Solstice Greetings to you!

We have celebrated two dedications recently in the Arboretum. The Carrier Fountain on the Ernst Terrace was dedicated on June 13th by family and friends. It is a pleasure having such a calming feature now on the Ernst Terrace, and visitors now have somewhere to make wishes and cast coins into a pool beneath flowing waters!

In addition, the Journey Stage Garden was just dedicated June 22nd by friends and family in memory of a JMU art graduate and artist, Ann O'Connor Journey, class of 1983. Her loved ones gathered for the dedication and stayed afterward for the annual Solstice Under the Stars, a dinner and dance on the Ernst Terrace. A memorable and fun night was had by all with plenty of dancing and good cheer.

The Arboretum is happy to announce that it is home to an active den of foxes! It is a secret where on the 125 acres these furry friends are found so the young fox family can remain safely undisturbed. JMU biology professor, Dr. Katrina Gobetz, is capturing live den photos and videos with a remote camera of the new kits born this winter. Foxes are omnivores, like humans, and will eat grasses, roots, carrion, fruit & berries along with insects, fish, birds, mice, rabbits, and squirrels & chipmunks. These four-legged dog family members will be well-fed canids in the arboretum forest and could be our natural groundhog control too.

"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
Presidential Emeritus



Jan Sievers Mahon



CATCHING UP WITH THE

Educational Committee

Current members: Barbara Wheatley, Betty Chappell, Joe Sharrer, Sherry Leffel, Teresa French, Tom Lord, and Julia Stutzman

Julia Stutzman completed her first rewarding year as Education Coordinator and Education Committee Chair, and realized successes leading the Education Committee, launching new programs, and executing current programs that are under her management.

The Wine and Cheese Lecture series that was started last spring by the Education Committee has now had three successful events. The Ernst Terrace beside the Frances Plecker Education Center has become an even more beautiful location for tastings and lectures with its new Dr. Ronald Carrier commemorative water feature. Speakers from White Oak Lavender Farm were guests at the spring lecture in May, and lavender ice cream tasting was included in addition to wines and cheeses. The next event will be held this coming August with a guest speaker from Showalter's Orchard. This lecture will feature hard cider tasting from the orchard.

Tom Lord supported the new arboretum website educational birding pages by managing sightings records, writing species profiles and networking the Rockingham Bird Club to give arboretum educational birding lectures and guided walks.

The Education Committee also gave input last fall on the large-scale sign text written by the Education Coordinator and sign design by JMU graduate and graphic design intern Natalie Kress. These signs cover educational topics like decomposition, tree roots, and oak-hickory forests, among others, and hopefully will be placed around the arboretum in the coming year.



Wine and Cheese Lecture



Jan Sievers Mahon

Did You Know That...

Children and Herbs Make Great Garden Companions

Growing herbs with children is a great way to introduce children to gardening. Herbs are easy to grow, grow well in containers, and have a presence in the garden all year long. Try some ideas below that teach young ones that herbs are a part of their everyday meals and can be part of special treats too.

*Engage children in picking, rubbing, smelling fresh lemon thyme, lemon balm, or lemon verbena from your garden to be used in fresh fruit smoothies; blend banana, juice or coconut milk, frozen fruit such as blueberries, raspberries or peaches (or fresh-picked fruit) and ice. Add a dollop of honey and your fresh herbs all blended together make for a colorful, delicious and healthy drink.

*Pick fresh pansies, violets, and borage in bloom, or rose petals or herbs' flowers such as sage, thyme, or rosemary and place them in water-filled ice cube trays for freezing to use later in summer drinks or teas. Try adding chopped dried cranberries, apricots, or blueberries for color and sweetness. Use this same technique for mint leaves and thyme and basil leaves. Leave in the freezer trays or store in labeled freezer bags after frozen to use in smoothies, soups, or pastas. Use Popsicle forms with juice and add fresh flowers and herb leaves for fun flavor combinations for healthy frozen treats.



Photo courtesy of Ruthie with Food Blog

*Plant a pizza garden with your child with plum tomatoes and pepper plants planted in the back or middle, along with parsley, thyme, basil and oregano in the front or around the taller plants. Onions can be included along with any other pizza toppings that your children may love like spinach, garlic or cherry tomatoes. Harvest veggies and herbs in summer to make your own home-made pizzas. Substitute fresh fruit chopped with mints, lemon thyme or lemon balm, mixed with honey and whipped cream and/or chocolate sauce to make a perfect pizza dessert that your children will love!

Happy herb growing, happy harvesting, happy eating!



Photo courtesy of My One Percent Blog



UNDER STORIES

For families whose kids are weary of hearing: “Shush! ... Sit down! ... Quiet! ... Don’t touch! ... Be still! ... the EJC Arboretum offers wonderful alternatives! Little “sprouts” who delight in getting hands in the dirt can enjoy a free group tour, “Throw and Grow Seed Balls,” where they make a soil seed ball, take it home, toss it in a garden, then watch as it sprouts and grows into a micro wildflower garden. For those who would rather have a pencil in their hands than dirt, there are botanical drawing workshops for kids each season, where kids create their own botanical journal. Even kids at heart can learn tree identification while enjoying miles of nature trails by either reading signs along the trails to learn, or using any portable device with internet access to learn by taking web audio tree tours now at the arboretum website.

Arboretum visits are even more fun for kids arriving with quarters in their pockets who love watching koi that look like giant goldfish, rising with gaping mouths kissing the surface to compete with the ducks for feed pellets from the dispenser! Twenty five cents never bought so much fun!



Photo courtesy of Brian Ripley



Photo courtesy of East Lansing Public Library

More than sunshine and fresh air are enjoyed for families bringing picnics to Storytime in the Understory, a monthly outdoor story reading featuring nature topics, second Tuesdays at 11:00 a.m., June through September. All can attend summer brown bag Wednesday lunchtime lectures at noon in the Pavilion where experts share tips and gardening how-tos for trending topics.

The annual free Children’s Harvest Festival is another children’s program with activities stations demonstrating art, dancing, music instrument performance and creative writing in nature, and games and challenges for tree seed harvesting. Seeds collected are used by Virginia Forestry nurseries to grow trees for waterway plantings.

Visit the arboretum website, jmu.edu/arboretum, for these and more children’s programs.



UPCOMING EVENTS

2013 Calendar

For more information or to make reservations for events, go to the EJC Arboretum website (www.jmu.edu/arboretum) or contact us at 540-568-3194.

Also, a complete listing of all events scheduled for the next 12 months can be found at the website. Annual Calendar of Events

- **June 26 Summer Brown Bag Lunch Lecture Series, Living Patios, Paths and Bird Baths** Wednesday, noon to 1:00 p.m., in the Pavilion, Jennifer Rucinski, Mast Landscape Group, learn to use moss growing recipes, and how-tos for growing mosses and steppables needed to fill spaces in brick and stone paths, cover mortar in slate or brick patios, or create a feel of antiquity for new garden benches and statuary.
- **July 10, Summer Brown Bag Lunch Lecture Series, Succulents... Gardening Outside the Box**, Wednesday, noon to 1:00 p.m., in the Pavilion, Julia Stutzman, EJC Arboretum Education Coordinator, succulents bring color and interest to any landscape design, especially with new and exciting presentations like succulent topiaries, wreathes, plantable bridal bouquets and even kissing balls.
- **July 17, Summer Brown Bag Lunch Lecture Series, Down to Earth Dirt Deli**, Wednesday, noon to 1:00 p.m., in the Pavilion, Sandy Greene, bring a brown bag lunch to eat for this lecture because the soil horizon parfait and subterranean sub sandwich that will be created from soil ingredients aren't edible! Learn all about the



Photo courtesy of Frank Doherty

Earth's soil layers and explore soil quality and management practices.

- **July 24, Summer Brown Bag Lunch Lecture Series, No Friend Left Behind**, Wednesday, Noon to 1:00 p.m., in the *FPEC, Gail Turnbull, Arboretum Assistant Director, highlights the arboretum's social media sites and shares how following can be a fun way to increase gardening know-how.
- **July 31 Summer Brown Bag Lunch Lecture Series, Early Colonial to Victorian Garden Design**, Wednesday, noon to 1:00 p.m., in the Pavilion, Nate Miller, Landscape Architect shows period examples and plant samples of early American gardens.
- **August 30, 2013, Wine & Cheese in the Trees**, Friday, 5:00-7:00 p.m., Ernst Terrace, a business and culinary expert from Showalter's Orchard and Greenhouses, of Timberville, Virginia, lectures on hard cider production, varieties and culinary uses while reserved guests enjoy fine hard ciders, international cheeses and other

seasonal refreshments. A JMU Catering chef will start the evening's programs for a chocolate tasting.

- **September 14, 2013, Monarch Migration Tagging Workshop**, Saturday, 10 am – noon, in the *FPEC, Linda Marchman, educator and butterfly farm owner, enjoy a lecture and various activities, for children age seven to adults, along with tagging and releasing Monarch butterflies to start their seasonal migration. For more details, call (540) 568-3194.

**FPEC is Francis Plecker Education Center, found on the grounds of the Edith J Carrier Arboretums at 700 University Boulevard Harrisonbrug, VA 22807*

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



Parking: Overflow event parking beginning May 5 until mid-August can be found on the JMU Convocation Center Lot F & G, and Lot R-5 (enter from University Blvd.) A parking lot map is available online at <http://www.jmu.edu/parking/parkingmap>

