

JUNE 2014 Summer Newsletter

From The Director

Summer has begun to show its hot and humid face and I feel grateful for the long, cool spring we've enjoyed. It was definitely a "year of the wildflower" here at the Arboretum. The spring ephemeral wildflowers were the largest and showiest that I've seen yet in my seven years as Director. We discovered a Trillium vaseyi, Sweet Wakerobin, near Fern Valley with huge leaves standing over two feet high. This wildflower reminds those young of heart of enchanted forest flowers that could be imagined in a fairytale setting.

Now that the heat has arrived I look forward to our newly-planted Monarch Waystation bursting into full bloom. We have added many new plants there this spring, native and non-native, including several milkweed species. We look forward to this garden becoming an active habitat garden as the plants there mature. Thank you to all the volunteers and Master Naturalists who helped prepare and plant this place for pollinators.

Thank you also to the Tree Stewards of Harrisonburg and the Virginia Master Naturalists who came this spring to help plant chestnut saplings! They planted and caged 12 saplings in several locations and continue to check on them weekly, caring for their watering needs and clearing the understory as needed to bring these young trees the light required to mature.

Remember, when the heat has you beat, the Arboretum is the coolest place in Harrisonburg to come and take a breather, rest awhile, and enjoy restoration recreation.

Happy Solstice!

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Throughout 2014!

- First 25 customers at Plant Sales get 25% off purchases
- 25th registrations at paid programs are free
- \$25 donations qualify for membership in Friends of the EJC Arboretum!



Jan Sievers Mahon

Catching Up With The

Educational Committee

Current members: Teresa French, Tom Lord, Joe Sharrer, Betty Chappell, Sherry Leffel, Caitlin Didawick and Julia Stutzman Coronado



Julia Stutzman

Julia Stutzman Coronado completed two years as Education Coordinator in May and really enjoyed her time at the arboretum. Julia left her position as Coordinator in mid-May to become the JMU Biology Department Academic Advisor. She remains a part of the committee and the board, and plans to continue volunteering with the arboretum.

The Education Committee undertook the creation of an educational brochure that was distributed by committee members to 31 public elementary, middle, and high schools in Rockingham County and Harrisonburg City. The purpose of this brochure was to inform teachers and administrators of the

educational offerings available. An increase in requests for more information and tours is a result of the distribution of these brochures. It is hoped that more teachers will plan visits to the arboretum when they have field trip scheduling.

The Wine and Cheese Lecture series that was started in 2012 by the Education Committee has now had five successful events. The fifth event was held on May 16th and featured guest speakers from Lucas Roasting Company, a local coffee roaster from Broadway, VA. This event includ-

ed wines, cheeses, coffee tasting, a coffee-inspired dessert, and a chef demonstration. This event also featured beer from Starr Hill Brewery, the sponsor for the arboretum's 25th anniversary year Wine and Cheese Lectures. Starr Hill Brewery will provide the feature speaker for the August 29th Wine and Cheese Lecture. Look for registration and more information about this upcoming lecture soon on the Arboretum's events page.



Caitlin Didawick

New Educ. Coordinator, with an Environmental BS. With experience from Leesylvania State Park where she developed childrens programs.



Janis Miller Traas

New Volunteer Coordinator, who comes with 19 years of experience as a horticulture curator at the Virginia Living Museum.

Contributed Photos

EJC Arboretum

Then and Now

A lot can happen in twenty-five years. So it goes that from groundbreaking in 1985 to today, the EJC Arboretum has matured into the beloved destination that it now is. We can all say, *"Much has changed but much has stayed the same!"* The arboretum began as a project with Dr. Ronald E. Carrier's sanction. Dr. Norlyn Bodkin and volunteers worked determinedly after-hours, in the evenings and on weekends to create a 26 acre educational tool with four different features.

The most notable feature then was the woods that are now the Norlyn Bodkin Oak-Hickory Forest planted with native trees and wildflowers. Then there was a forest savannah which we now know as Sycamore Flat. A pond that drained into an exhibit wetland area was the third feature that is now the main pond visitors still love. And fourth was a shale barren garden, the Larkin Smith Shale Barren, the only exhibit garden of its kind in Virginia that showcases endemic species.

Today the Edith J. Carrier Arboretum at James Madison University has grown and evolved into 125 acres, including 35 acres of gardens with all of the above features plus an additional seven designated gardens and an education center. With the Frances Plecker Education Center as a hub, the arboretum now offers visitors an art gallery, a gift shop and a visitor center. And staff enjoys offices that are housed in the Frances Plecker Education Center on the hill overlooking the gardens. The arboretum still relies on volunteers. What was once begun with only a vision and hard work by volunteers, now benefits from dedicated staff who are on JMU's Division of Administration and Finance team, whose efforts are expanded with over 2500 volunteer hours contributed yearly.

Currently as before, the arboretum focuses on native plants and on the educational mission of providing outdoor learning opportunities. Visitors from grade school children (close to 3000 in a year) to tourists, to JMU students and community members eager to learn about plants and nature visit for guided and self-guided tours. More areas in the arboretum are being planted even now, with horticultural displays and tree specimens of varying nativity. And the vision to provide a green corridor and a habitat to an abundance of plants and wildlife is held strongly intact, from then to now and into the future.

Then 1989

Now 2014

26 Acres	125 Acres
Under .85 Miles Of Trails	Over 3 Miles Of Trails
45-85 Year Old Trees	70-100+ Year Old Trees
High Gifts Of \$5,000 To \$25,000	High Gifts Of \$50,000 To \$100,000
Pavilion-first And Only Structure	Frances Plecker Educational Center - 2007
No Paid Staff, Volunteers Only	4 Full Time Staff, 5 Part Time Staff, 2 Student Interns, 3 Federal Work-study Students, + Volunteers

As in the early days, the pond is still a main feature that attracts thousands of visitors each year, with fish, turtles and ducks to delight those who come to stand at the water's edge. And with the adage, *"May the Arboretum be accessible to all!"* It continues to stay open to the public, free, dawn-to-dusk, 365 days a year. This may be one of its best longstanding attributes. May this verdant, multiple-use public garden continue to provide the Shenandoah Valley and beyond, a still oasis to enter into while stepping away from the hurried world. Sometimes some things stay pretty much the same.

Jan Sievers Mahon

Understories

Summer Family Fun

A whole world of imaginative learning lies within the pages of every storybook for young children. The EJC Arboretum offers families in the Harrisonburg community a wonderful monthly program for young children, Storytime in the Understory. This interactive reading program brings themed botany, nature, and environment children's literature selections, sometimes with crafts or other activities, outdoors. Families and young children's caregivers can come to the arboretum with their "little charges" for the Storytime in the Understory program. Storytime parents and caregivers can also bring picnic blankets and picnic lunches to enjoy while stories are being read by readers who entertain bringing character personifications to life. After Storytime many children explore over three miles of forest wonderland trails at the EJC Arboretum with their parents or caregivers. Storytime in the Understory is a great program to teach children environmental literacy. And caregivers and parents get the added benefit of their children getting a great physical workout walking and running through the forest trails helping to ensure good naps once they've returned home.

For more mature EJC Arboretum friends and visitors, the summer annual Brown Bag Lecture Series offers a great line up of lecture topics over the course of six lunch time lecture dates. These free lectures are usually offered at noon in the Pavilion and most people who attend bring their brown bag or drive through bag lunches with them to enjoy while listening to the lectures. Most lectures end in time for visitors to ask questions and interact with the facilitators, many of whom plan hands-on components to their presentations. Children were the focus audience to the first lecture for this summer's series, with Small Mammals of the Arboretum with JMU professor Andrea Pesce on June 18th. Children and adults enjoyed visual hands-on furry critters used in JMU's biology labs. And what would the arboretum be without aquatic life that inhabits its ponds and waterways? Come June 25th for another kid-friendly topic and learn about the arboretum's frog life with JMU Professor Ollie Hyman. Lynn Whitmore the arboretum photo contest's frequent winning photographer gives a hands-on presentation

The Edith J. Carrier Arboretum, a woodland sanctuary on the James Madison University campus, is a public urban garden and forested greenspace that preserves native plant species, provides opportunities for research, and promotes knowledge of the botanical and natural world for people of all ages.



about taking award-winning photographs at the arboretum. Be sure to bring your camera for this July 9th lecture. The following July 16th lecture is Monarchs and Milkweeds with Gail Napora. And the summer free lecture program wraps up July 23rd with Tree Problems and How to Help Trees, with Eddie Begoon. And closes July 30th with American Chestnut Tree Restoration with JMU professor Heather Griscom.

These and other great summer programs are offered by the EJC Arboretum that is open free to the public 365 days a year, dawn to dusk. Visit <http://jmu.edu/arboretum> for more information.

Gail Turnbull

Upcoming Events

2014



For more information or to make reservations for events, go to the EJC Arboretum website 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 events scheduled throughout the year can be found at the website's Annual Calendar of Events link from the home page.

- **Summer Brown Bag Lunch Lecture Series**

At noon, usually in the Pavilion, Wednesdays except July 4th week, free, no advance registration, bring you lunch and enjoy a great topical lecture.

- **June 25th** It's a Frog's Life, with JMU Professor Ollie Hyman. Meets in the FPEC.
- **July 9th** Taking Winning Pictures, with Lynn Whitmore Arboretum Photo Contest Repeat Winner. Meets in FPEC.
- **July 16th** Monarchs and Milkweeds, with Gail Napora.
- **July 23rd** Tree Problems and How to Help Trees, with Eddie Begoon.
- **July 30th** American Chestnut Tree Restoration, with JMU professor Heather Griscom.

- **July 8, August 12, September 9, 2014, Storytime in the Understory**

11:00 a.m. to approximately 12:00 noon. 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. Meets at the Journey Stage Garden.

- **July 12, 2014, Summer Full Moon Carriage Rides**

7:00-10:00 p.m. Saturday evening. Enjoy being drawn through the woodlands of the arboretum by a beautiful Percheron teams of horses on a warm summer night in a romantic convertible carriage.

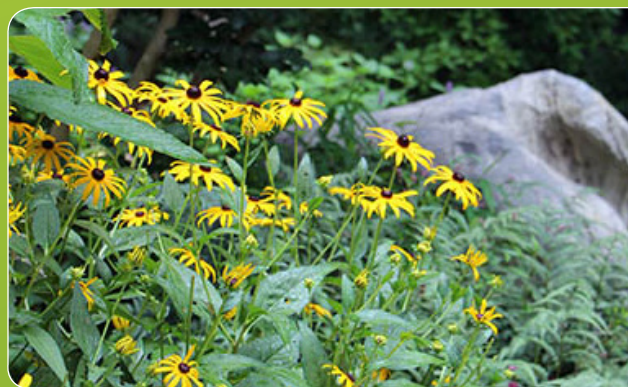
- **July 15, 17, 22, 24, and 29, 2014 Beginning Botanical Illustration Workshop** Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:00-4:00 p.m. with Lynda Chandler, EJC Arboretum Artist in Residence. **\$125** workshop fee does not include supplies. Meets in the FPEC.

- **July 15, 16, and 17, 2014 Children's Art Workshop**

10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon, Children will learn summer trees and flowers of the arboretum with educator Jewel Hertzler. The workshop offers education on plant I.D. and basic botanical drawing, materials included in a **\$35** fee. Meets in the FPEC.

- **August 29, 2014, Wine & Cheese In The Trees Lecture**

5:00-7:00 p.m., Friday, at the Ernst Terrace, Chef demo at 5:30 p.m. Lecture at 6:00 p.m., learn about the Starr Hill Brewery and beer making at this lecture and tasting event. Online Registration opens 30 days before event. Registration fee **\$15**.



- **September 13, 2014, Monarch Migration Tagging**

Workshop Saturday, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon in the FPEC, with 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.

- **September 13, 2014, Fall Annual Remarkable Trees**

Tour See Remarkable Trees in the region. Visit the Lesesne State Forest, a site where American Chestnut restoration research is ongoing. See hybrid and breeding orchards of chestnuts. Learn how forestry scientists are dealing with hypo-virulence in American Chestnut surviving trees.

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

Unless noted, all photography courtesy of **Lynn Whitmore**