

EDITH J. CARRIER ARBORETUM™

AT JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY®

A Positive Legacy

Dear Friends of the Arboretum,

What better way to begin a new season than to take a major step forward? I am delighted to announce that thanks to generous supporters, we now have a permanent source of support for the Edith J. Carrier Arboretum at JMU! An endowment created last spring has just reached the \$25,000 needed to begin generating funds that the arboretum can put to work. Now, JMU alumni, parents, donors and friends can give a gift that keeps on giving year after year.

The endowment gives the arboretum economic sustainability, secures an outdoor living classroom for generations of students of all ages from every kind of educational agency, endlessly protects habitats for native flora and fauna, and promises visitors an unlimited future of restoration recreation opportunities. Longevity being part of the appeal because the gift can outlast the giver, endowment giving can be deeply satisfying for the donor as well.

Annual gifts ensure the present. Endowment gifts will be invested to ensure the future. To celebrate this milestone in the life of the Arboretum, please visit our website [Donate](#) page, and look for the Arboretum Endowment, "Give Now" button. Be sure to designate your gift as Arboretum Endowment. To know more, please [contact me](#).

Many Thanks,

Jan Sievers Mahon
Director



Thank
You to
Arboretum
Endowment
Donors!

Volunteering at the EJC Arboretum

Have you ever strolled through the arboretum and wondered how the gardens are planted and maintained, or who leads those school tours? Oftentimes the answer is “volunteers.” You could join them! Working closely with our staff, arboretum volunteers enhance our ability to care for gardens and serve visitors.

With 125 acres and dozens of plantings to care for, the Arboretum’s full and part-time staff have their hands full. Garden volunteers are invaluable in helping plant, water, mulch and weed. There are many more ways to get involved. Bird lovers can fill feeders and monitor nest boxes. Or if you enjoy interacting with visitors become a tour guide or help with educational programs.

If you have a specific interest like herbs or butterflies, you can focus your efforts in one area. For example, long-time volunteer Betty Forrest loves Virginia’s shale barrens and maintains our Shale Barren garden, while local Tree Stewards helped plant and now monitor a trial stand of American, Chinese and hybrid Chestnut trees. Organizations and school groups volunteer too, often taking on projects like trash patrol or invasive species removal.

Our volunteers come from all walks of life and have all levels of experience - from students to retirees, from novices who want to learn to master gardeners and master naturalists, from avid home gardeners and birders to teachers and nature lovers. Whether you want to expand your horizons or have a passion

that you want to share, you can find a place at the Arboretum.

To become an EJC Arboretum volunteer, you must be at least 18 years of age and attend a twenty minute orientation, held in the Frances Plecker Education Center. Sign up on the website or contact the Volunteer Coordinator at 540-568-3194 or traasjm@jmu.edu.

Janis Traas
Volunteer Coordinator



Above – (Left to right) Dwayne Martin, Chip Brown, Jan Mahon, Karen Craun, Mark Briehl, Jean Gerber, Carl Droms. Planting in the Sycamore Flat stream restoration area.

Right – Mark Briehl

Far Right – (Left to right) Jean Gerber and Karen Craun



Razzle Dazzle your Green Thumb and your Taste Buds

"How beautiful it is to do nothing, and then rest afterwards."

—Spanish Proverb

Looking to simplify your garden work and still keep your favorite edibles close at hand? Four new berries are a must-grow in your small gardens or containers. Try BrazelBerries introduced by Tom Brazelton, owner of Fall Creek Farm and Nursery in Oregon. Introduced three years ago these three dwarf blueberry plants and one dwarf red raspberry are the result of 40+ years of breeding. These easy-to-grow plants with flavorful berries and colorful foliage will dazzle your eyes, your taste buds and your green thumb. They can be grown in small beds or containers (20-24" or larger), and maintained for years while producing high yields of berries at your back door.



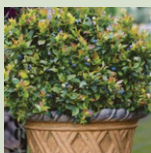
The BrazelBerry red raspberry introduction, 'Raspberry Shortcake' grows only 3' high and is ideal for containers. Mounding and thornless with hanging berries, it doesn't need a pollinator and grows best in zones 5-9.



The three BrazelBerry blueberry introductions are 'Blueberry Glaze', 'Peach Sorbet', and 'Jelly Bean'. 'Blueberry Glaze', the smallest of the three, has small leaves and can be grown as a low hedge (dwarf boxwood size) bordering your herb garden or driveway, or in containers. Fruits are small and black, reminiscent of wild blueberry in appearance and flavor.



'Peach Sorbet' and 'Jelly Bean' are bred to be dwarf (18-24" x 18-24") but prolific fruiting shrubs. The award-winning 'Peach Sorbet' produces medium-size fruits and is aptly named as the spring foliage will delight with brightly colored peach, pink, and orange leaves. In most areas the leaves remain evergreen in winter.



'Jelly Bean' produces a robust crop of large, sweet berries. Bright green foliage can be tinted with bright red edges and tips in cooler weather. The foliage of both 'Peach Sorbet' and 'Jelly Bean' turns a rich eggplant purple in winter and in our zone 6 area only a protected porch is needed for overwintering.

All of these berries are self-pollinating and need full sun. All set fruit on the previous year's canes. Like any berry plant they will need pruning, fertilizing and protection from the birds. If grown close to the house or in containers less time is needed for these yearly tasks. Growing plants close to home may be the only deterrent needed to protect their crop from wild and hungry interlopers.

The blueberry plants will need acidification of their soil, both at planting and as ongoing maintenance. A simple tip: spread spent coffee grounds across the top of the soil to provide an acidifying boost to your plants. Whether you grow these edibles as small hedges, in raised beds or in containers may your cares melt away when popping tasty sweet morsels in your mouth spring into summer.

Jan Sievers Mahon

Director

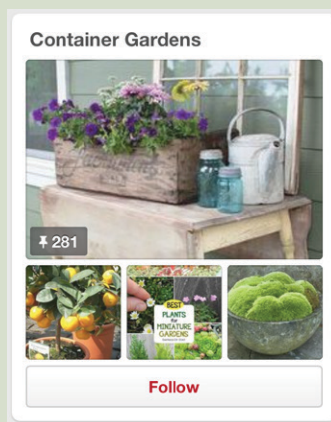
Botched & Bungled ... or Blooming & Beautiful?

Gardeners everywhere enjoy adding to the beauty and productivity of their gardens during the warm, languid months of summer. But unlike other kinds of gardening activities that are anchored seasonally and outdoors... container gardening with the mobility and diversity this kind of gardening offers, is something to enjoy any time, indoors or out.

To be kept informed with how-tos, design tips, information to help with selecting the best containers and how to use a container's proportions to suit specific plantings, over wintering, keeping container gardens evenly watered, and so much more... follow the arboretum's Pinterest "[Container Gardens](#)" board.

This informative resource is available 24/7 from any device with internet access. Enjoy successfully growing containers of vegetables, fruit bearing trees, color rich flowering plants and shrubs like the pros. With the information on the arboretum's Container Gardens board, your container gardens won't be botched or bungled, just blooming and beautiful!

Gail Turnbull
Assistant Director



Look us up on Pinterest as [EJC Arboretum at JMU](#) and Follow our Pinterest Board "[Container Gardens!](#)"



Container Gardening Essentials

Choose the container size carefully. Consider breakability, ease of placing or moving, heat/cold insulation, the container material's input to soil pH and toxins (especially for food-use plants), and moisture retention, investment, longevity, and environmental footprint to both manufacture and transport the container. Tip: Larger is usually better. Watering is needed less often, plants can grow bigger root system.

Drainage is essential. Plan generously concerning drainage. Water with nowhere to go in a container can cause plant death. Tip: A coffee filter or any mesh screen over half inch holes for smaller containers, inch size holes for large containers will keep water draining.

Temperature extremes. Roots can overheat or freeze causing plant death. Soil and the water in it, can freeze and expand and cause container damage. Tip: Before hard freezes, cluster containers in SW facing sheltered areas. Or, place smaller container gardens in a large cardboard box and fill with straw or packing peanuts to mid trunk height of woody growth. Or create a circle of chicken wire around the container garden and fill with fall leaves or straw to the top.

Calendar Events

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's Annual Calendar of Events.

Tree Whispers Exhibit

Weekdays throughout July & August

Photographer Annette Naber shares her fascination for trees through her photos. Her images contain subtle nuances, bold colors, and unique combinations of lines and shapes found in nature. She seeks to capture Beauty in both the ordinary and extraordinary manifestations of nature. Annette's photographs reflect the treasures of the Appalachians and the diversity of natural settings discovered in her travels. The Tree Whispers photo exhibit celebrates the unique beauty of trees. Exhibit in the Frances Plecker Education Center.

Storytime in the Understory

Tuesday, July 12

Tuesday, August 9

Tuesday, September 13

11:00 am - 12:00 pm

A monthly program that begins in June second Tuesdays, and continues through September 13. 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.

Passion for Mothing A FREE Summer Brown Bag Lunch Lecture Series Event

Wednesday, July 13

12:00 pm

Deborah Davis, artist and painter of native moths, shares about her love for these fuzzy, winged, nocturnal creatures, how she captures them causing no harm, and paints beautiful paintings from photographs she takes of her temporary captives. Held in the EJC Arboretum Pavilion, free, no advance registration needed, carry in a brown-bag lunch and enjoy lunch break and a great topical lecture.

The Engineering of Moths and Butterflies, with Gail Napora

Friday, July 15

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

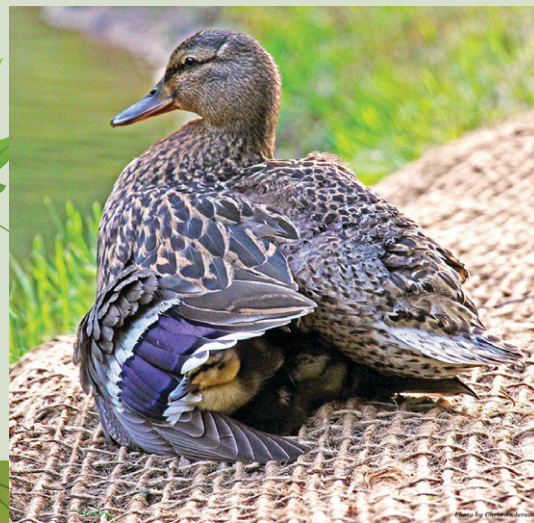
Held in the Frances Plecker Education Center, Free. Starts in the FPEC then goes outdoors to the Monarch Waystation Garden. Registration opens online 30 days before the program date.

Natural Waterways Acidification A FREE Summer Brown Bag Lunch Lecture Series Event

Wednesday, July 20

12:00 pm

Scientist and JMU Faculty Dr. Dan Downey shares about harm caused to local waterways from acidification and how science is working to solve negative impacts to aquatic environments. Held in the EJC Arboretum Pavilion, free, no advance registration needed, carry in a brown-bag lunch and enjoy lunch break and a great topical lecture.



May 2016 Photo Contest Winner-
Chris Anderson

Join in the Photo Contest at
<http://www.jmu.edu/arboretum/monthly-photo-contest.shtml>



Calendar Events

Collage on Canvas with Artist in Residence Lynda Chandler

Monday, July 25 - Thursday, July 28
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

All materials are included for all four days. This is a class beginners can enjoy as it does not require previous drawing experience. The trees of the EJC Arboretum will be the focus of this project. Using information from the reference library or online, students will create a collage on a 12"x12" canvas with computer printed images or drawings as desired. The instructor, Lynda Chandler, Artist in Residence, will have a prepared example for this workshop for inspiration. This workshop requires registration online at the Events page of the arboretum website, and pre-payment to the EJC Arboretum. \$140 per student. Held in the Frances Plecker Education Center.

Ducks Unlimited A FREE Summer Brown Bag Lunch Lecture Series Event Wednesday, July 27 12:00 pm

Neal Roth, Senior Regional Director, shares on wetlands conservation in the region and leads a conversation with questions and answers on how Ducks Unlimited works to mitigate human impact to native waterfowl and their environments. Held in the EJC Arboretum Pavilion, free, no advance registration needed, carry in a brown-bag lunch and enjoy lunch break and a great topical lecture.

Fishy Fish A FREE Summer Brown Bag Lunch Lecture Series Event Wednesday, August 1 12:00 pm

Thom Teears with Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries shares information about native fish commonly found in regional streams and ponds, rivers and lakes and the challenges natives face with invasive and detrimental kinds of competitive fish, crayfish, bacteria, and more. Held in the EJC Arboretum Pavilion, free, no advance registration needed, carry in a brown-bag lunch and enjoy lunch break and a great topical lecture.

Wine & Cheese in the Trees Lecture

Friday, September 9
5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Arrival at 5:00, Demo at 5:30, Lecture at 6:00 pm, Enjoy a lecture featuring antique and heritage varieties of apples and the cider-making process. This event includes fine cuisine, wines, international cheeses, two beverages of choice, and culinary demonstration tastings. \$20 per person.

Fall Plant and Bulb Sale

Friday, September 23 & Saturday, September 24
and new hours
Monday, Sept 26 – Saturday, Oct 1
9:00 am - 3:00 pm each day

A wide selection of beautiful and easy to grow bulbs, perennials, trees & shrubs just in time for fall planting. Held in and around the Frances Plecker Education Center and Tree Terrace.

JMU Family Weekend - Bulb Sale at Godwin Field

Sat Oct 1, 10:00 am until kickoff
Pick up the Purple & Gold bulb collection
at Godwin Field before the football game.

Wonderground Workshop

September
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm
date to be determined a month in advance

Held in the Frances Plecker Education Center and on the arboretum grounds. Take a peek into the microscopic world of terrestrial bacteria! Be a child scientist for the day and collect and then examine ground samples from the arboretum grounds. Elementary school age children will learn how to use a microscope to view and identify the bacteria that live in the soil. Dress for the weather on the day of the workshop. This educational children's workshop is free. A parent or caregiver is welcome to attend with their child. Online Registration opens 30 days before event.