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Anniversary Celebrations!



# WINTER Newsletter

JANUARY 2014

## From The Director

Happy New Year, 2014 has begun! All of us at the EJC Arboretum are excited as we begin celebrating the Edith J. Carrier Arboretum's 25th Anniversary!

It's been 25 years since the butterfly gates and stone columns were set in place and opened inviting the public down a planted driveway at the official opening in April of 1989. Many hands and much labor preceded that eventful spring. And many more hands have been instrumental over the last quarter of a century in both the continued sculpting of the gardens and the process of educating students of all ages, tourists, and community visitors about the native plants and trees that are exhibited in the arboretum.

Our goal this year is to engage a multitude of visitors in our celebrations. We will offer several opportunities to join in the festivities at each program in 2014. The first 25 customers to check in at the payment tables at our annual plant sales will get 25% discount coupons! We will offer our Friends of the Arboretum membership for donations of \$25 throughout the year, instead of the usual \$35 donation. And the 25th person to register for any paid workshop, dinner, or other paid program, receives free registration. In addition at these events, we will plan some extras like plant raffles, butterflies released in groups of 25, and other entertainment surprises. And, we'll offer a commemorative note card set, and wineglasses for sale at the Frances Plecker Education Center and at the JMU Bookstore. We want all of our Arboretum Friends to find a way to join us, and to say, "Yes! 25 years of the EJC Arboretum at JMU is definitely something to celebrate!"

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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



# Roots That Run Deep

*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 plants species, provides opportunities for research, and promotes knowledge of the botanical and natural world for people of all ages.*

The story of the Edith J. Carrier Arboretum at JMU, called a “hidden gem” by Southern Living Magazine, is nothing short of astounding. Had Madison College President G. Tyler Miller with extravagant far-sightedness not purchased 235 acres of agricultural and timber land in 1952, there would be no arboretum now. Imagine such a purchase, when the college had under a thousand students in 1952 and no pressing need to enlarge its campus. Having gained such a spacious new resource, innovative land use became possible.

In 1959 the new Interstate 81 “Harrisonburg bypass” created a physical boundary to the new land from the existing campus so access to it was limited. There waited the forest until 1964 when new JMU Botany Professor, Dr. Norlyn Bodkin with other natural sciences faculty Dr. Gilbert Trelawny and Dr. James Grimm began using the “College Woods” for educational purposes and asking for an arboretum. Dr. Bodkin started advocating in earnest for a campus arboretum in the early 1970s and by 1977 was pushing hard for a living botanical laboratory at newly-renamed James Madison University. In that year after receiving President Dr. Ronald E. Carrier’s “Let’s do it!”, a decision that came from his concern over natural lands lost to development, plans were begun, surveys were conducted, and for an arboretum the first allotment of 26 acres, the first of several land allocations that eventually accumulated to the present 125 acres of woodlands, were set aside.

But even with land use designation in place, it wasn’t until 1984 that JMU Planning and Development approved having an arboretum. Also in 1984 Charles and Dottie Wampler and Chip and Judy Strickler stepped forward with funding and bulldozers and backhoes finally arrived on site to construct a drive access and parking lot that were both completed in 1985. Of the early process Judy Strickler said, “We were a motley crew who gathered to create this arboretum, but we had high dreams and purposes, and we had great support from James Madison University to get it started.” And get it started they did!

In 1986 an “interpretive center,” now called the Pavilion, was built with a drinking fountain for visitors. 1987 saw the arboretum designated a Living Legacy project of the U.S. Constitution Bicentennial Commission. At its start in 1987 as an Advisory Council that was chaired by Judy Strickler and supported founding Director Bodkin, it was decided that the public as well as JMU faculty and students would have free and continual access to the new arboretum. The Council, later reorganized to an Advisory Board, has to the present day continued giving direction and oversight to Director Bodkin’s successors.

New wood chipped trails were skirted with plantings of some 5,200 native wildflowers planted by a team of dedicated volunteers including Emily Branscome, Ron Brown, and Glenna Graves. With the Strickler’s funding and Judy Strickler’s creative guidance, art professor Ken Beer designed sculpted gates which in 1988 were hung on columns of stone donated from Luck Quarry (now Luckstone).

From mere possibilities of fertile land in 1952 until 37 years later after decades had quietly slipped by, the trees of the College Woods waited, continuing to mature and grow. Finally with the main pond completed, opening ceremonies officially drew wide the gates April 28, 1989 to the only official Virginia state on-campus university arboretum!





## Roots That Run Deep

Challenges early in the arboretum's official first years, including reconstruction to stop leakage and enlargement of the original pond, construction of its iconic bridge, as well as placement of porta-potties were successfully met in the early 1990s. In 1992 a threat that the new arboretum would be divided by a proposed city road was successfully opposed by Dr. Carrier who led a groundswell of public support. With its place secure in the city community, in May of 1993 the JMU Board of Visitors passed a resolution granting perpetuity and adding another 88 acres of woodlands bringing the arboretum to its present size of 125 acres. The arboretum hosted Shakespeare Express performances at the arboretum's outdoor amphitheater thereby supporting a performing troupe which birthed the now-famous Blackfriar's Playhouse and the American Shakespeare Center.

Then again, the JMU Board of Visitors in May of 1999 officiated, wishing to acknowledge the years of service given by Edith J. Carrier whom they stated served the university for years with "grace, elegance, wit, wisdom, and affability," and at last gave the arboretum its name in her honor. At the naming

dedication, Edith J. Carrier said of her husband, "He'll never stop supporting the arboretum," and Norlyn Bodkin added, "Because of the Carriers, JMU and the community have a nature preserve in their midst for all time."

Dr. Carrier explained at the Edith J. Carrier Arboretum's naming ceremony in his speech, "An arboretum is always unfinished, is always coming into being." This statement remains true today because with its community's generous support and gifts to the arboretum of volunteerism service and financial donations, and with JMU's support, the EJC Arboretum is continually improved with new facilities, accessibility, and new gardens. These natural preserved lands from 1952 until today have been held dear in the hearts of arboretum friends and supporters. The EJC Arboretum officially from 1989 to today remains its community's treasure. It is in this new year of 2014, that the arboretum team of staff and supporters are excited for the privilege of together-celebrating the arboretum's 25th Anniversary. Watch for an anniversary year of celebratory and commemorative programs and events!

*Gail Turnbull*





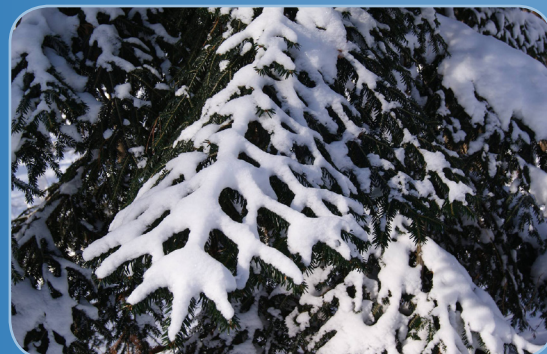
# A Healthful Season In The EJC Arboretum

Celebrate the EJC Arboretum this year as an ideal setting for meeting many of your physical well-being needs. Whether you visit to take an idle stroll or a brisk walk, enjoy a slow jog or a runner's hill workout, the EJC Arboretum's beauty is a place to breathe deeply and find healthful inspiration. The 125 acres here offer a variety of easily accessed wooded trails and open gardens where people have been improving their fitness and serenity and much more for the past twenty-five years.

Though development has changed most of the land surrounding the EJC Arboretum over the past 25 years, the important environmental benefits continue. The arboretum supports species diversity, stormwater contaminant absorption, cleansing and replenishing of the air we all breathe, and mitigating noise pollution. This greenway connects not only human neighborhoods and communities as a lovely pedestrian passageway, but also acts as a forest habitat and corridor for resident and migratory wildlife.

## Consider all that the Arboretum has to offer its visitors:

- Visit with binoculars for morning walks to catch sight of an owl or hawk, which are only two of hundreds of kinds of birds sighted here.
- Explore the upper trails and saunter the ages-old, cross-cultural experience found at the labyrinth. Walk the complete circular contemplative course which, for many who reach its centric end, clarifies unsettled personal issues and resolves some of life's dilemmas.
- If the extreme cold of the early winter continues, glide over snowy wooded trails on cross-country skis or be the first to pack down a snow-covered trail with snowshoes or leave a snow angel for the next passer-by.
- Search with camera ready for the next winning photographic opportunity and enter the EJC Arboretum's monthly photo contest online at [jmu.edu/arboretum](http://jmu.edu/arboretum). For any visitors willing to take the time to pause, observe and actually see, wonderment is just around the next bend or under your nose.
- Then share the love and joy EJC Arboretum friends feel in a different way, with your Valentine. Enjoy a horse-drawn carriage ride and let a beautiful team of black Percherons carry you through the woods in their romantic convertible carriage. Many a marriage proposal was given and accepted in the span of magical moments of an EJC Arboretum carriage ride.



The EJC Arboretum invites all of its friends and visitors to return often and find joy in its quiet woods this winter. The ever-more beautiful and constantly maturing forest is just waiting for you to come and commune within its borders. Experience the most frequent end to EJC Arboretum visits, a huge smile on your face and greater peace in your heart.

Jan Sievers Mahon



# Upcoming Events

2014

For more information or to make reservations for events, go to the EJC Arboretum ([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.

- **February 12, 2014, Terrarium Workshop,**

*Wednesday, noon-1:30 pm*, in the FPEC, Miniature landscape expert, Pam Shank, demonstrates and guides through the process of creating a succulents terrarium. Create a wee world to use as home or business decor. Register online opens 30 days in advance of the workshop.

- **February 9 & 14, 2014, Valentine's Day Horse Drawn Carriage Rides**

*Sunday before, 2-5 pm, and Friday, 5-8 pm*, Romantic horse drawn carriages leave from the FPEC in the afternoon Sunday before, or by moonlight on Valentine's Day, advance reservations recommended. Walk up rides may be available day of. If Friday evening rides sell out, additional rides will be offered Saturday from 5:00 to 8:00 pm, February 15. Call to reserve.

- **February 25, 2014, Frances Litten Invitational Dinner**

*Tuesday, 5:30-7:00 pm*, Festival Conference Center, Ballroom B, by invitation only, a gathering of colleagues and friends of founding arboretum board member and educator, Frances A. Litten.

- **February 25, 2014, Frances Litten Botanical Lecture**

*Tuesday, 7:00-8:30 pm*, Festival Conference Center, Ballroom A, Mr. Bryce Lane, host of "In the Garden with Bryce Lane," a twice Emmy award-winning program offered on UNC-TV, will speak at the eighth annual, 2014 Frances Litten Botanical Lecture. Offered free to the public, held in the Festival Conference Center on the campus of James Madison University. The lecture begins at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 25, 2014. The 2014 lecture, "Inspirations from the Edge: Latest Trends in Gardening," will once again give the public practical tips and information about many exciting and innovative uses of common plants in landscape designs and home gardening. Mr. Lane invites his listeners to delve with him into the science behind plants, how they grow and their best uses. He is known not only for clever originality, but also for his rich sense of humor throughout his presentations. Book sales after the lecture 8:30 pm to 9:00 pm.



Snowball Chunking On The Frozen Pond

- **March 17, 2014, St. Patrick's live Highland Pipes Free Public Concert**

*Monday, 5:00-5:45 pm*, from the Jurney Stage Garden; bring lawn chairs or a blanket and a picnic dinner for a free public live performance of Highland Pipes by piper Jenna Marie Denison and performing Celtic Fiddle Katherine Victoria Hummel.

- **March 17, 2014 St. Patrick's Day Dinner Lecture**

*Monday, 6:00-8:30 pm* in the FPEC\* offered on St. Patrick's Day annually, enjoy fine genuine Irish cuisine and brew with a virtual botanical tour Bicycling and Botanizing the Burren, County Clare, Ireland with Dr. Monroe who shares his bicycling trip to western Ireland where he circled the Burren, a vast area of exposed limestone, rich in botanical diversity, harsh with winds and rain.

- **March 26, 2014, Birding Workshop**

*Wednesday, noon-1:30 pm* In the 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 in the \*FPEC, noon to 1:30 pm, This workshop partners with guided birding trail walks in April or May.

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

