

Core Arboretum Newsletter

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Annual Arboretum Festivals

Our Spring Flower Festival and the WV Pawpaw Festival are both in their third year now! These festivals are primarily intended to celebrate two of the Arboretum's spectacular assets—our spring ephemeral wildflowers and our pawpaw trees. We also have live music, food trucks, lawn games, and nature activities for families at the festivals. These festivals draw our biggest crowds of the year, and they have been very successful as “bookends” to our year of programming, since one happens in spring and the other in fall.

Nature Connection Series

Local and regional experts on a variety of nature-related subjects give public talks at the Arboretum each summer as part of the WVU Core Arboretum Nature Connection Series. Starting in early June and continuing through late August, the Nature Connection Series talks happen every Tuesday evening at 6:00 at the WVU Core Arboretum Amphitheater.

Arboretum Events in 2020

Spring Wildflower Walks

April 5, 12, 19, 26

Mountaineer Audubon Bird Walks

April 21, 28; May 5, 12, 19

Spring Flower Festival

April 18

Nature Connection Series talks

Tuesdays, June-August

Moth Night

July

Pawpaw Parties

September

WV Pawpaw Festival

September

Christmas Bird Count for Kids

December

Please see the Arboretum website for more information. All events are free and open to the public.

Tall Trees

The Arboretum has the tallest silver maple (*Acer saccharinum*) trees in West Virginia growing in our floodplain forest. These trees are over 115 feet tall!

Arboretum Volunteering

Volunteers help keep the Arboretum beautiful! We engage volunteers at our weekly Work Day Wednesday events, annual invasive species removal events, annual clean up events, and through direct contact with groups and individuals who wish to schedule volunteer events. Last year, over the course of 60 volunteer events, 475 volunteer sign-ins worked for a total of 1566 volunteer hours for the Arboretum! These volunteers participated in all sorts of Arboretum maintenance and outreach event tasks. Check out the calendar section of our website for information about upcoming volunteer events. Thank you to all of our volunteers!

Moth Night Continues to Grow

Each summer, on a night during National Moth Week, we set up sheets and lights in the Arboretum Lawn Area to attract moths. We invite the public to come see all the moths, and we have a couple of moth experts come to identify the moths. Last July, more than 75 people and more than 95 moth species came to Moth Night!

Arboretum Programming

We have hosted many free educational programs for the public since our last newsletter. Last year, we had over 30 events and more than 2400 sign-ins at these events. We have a full schedule of annual events, and we are also happy to host groups of children or adults for free guided group tours throughout the year. The Arboretum website has more information.

Arboretum Upgrades

We have had several improvements to the Arboretum in the last couple of years. One upgrade is two kiosks along the Rail Trail, one at either end of the Arboretum. These kiosks were built by a local Eagle Scout, Leo Ware. The kiosks are used to display Arboretum maps and programming and invite Rail Trail users to come into the Arboretum. Another recent and ongoing improvement is the replacement of our old benches with new, much nicer benches. The new benches are being built and installed by Morgantown North Rotary. All of the benches around the Guthrie Loop/Lawn Area have been upgraded, and we are working on the rest of the trailside benches. We also have a little free library at the Arboretum now, courtesy of the Literacy Volunteers of Monongalia and Preston Counties. Finally, we are just adding the final signs on our new running loop. The running loop is a series of signs that guides runners (or walkers, of course) on a 1.75-mile loop through the Arboretum. This loop was chosen to make the most of our trail system, not do any trails twice, and to avoid the steepest trails in the Arboretum. It is still a hilly run, but it takes runners on a beautiful tour of the Arboretum and our urban old growth forest. The loop starts at the Coliseum Parking Lot entrance to the Arboretum.

Arboretum Online

Check out the Arboretum online at <https://arboretum.wvu.edu>. We can also be found on Facebook as WVU Core Arboretum, and on Twitter and Instagram as [wvuarboretum](#).

Support the Arboretum

The Arboretum website makes it easy to give online! Use a smartphone camera on the QR code.

