

Arboretum Newsletter - Early Spring 2022



Hello and happy New Year from The Arboretum! Even though it's snowy and cold outside, our staff is steaming ahead making plans for educational programming, garden plantings, and conducting inventories, as well as performing winter tasks like pruning and label making.

We're very pleased to welcome Jess Slade, our new Native Plants Collection (AKA the Walk Across Kentucky) Manager and Curator, to The Arboretum. See more about Jess in the article below.

This newsletter provides an overview of the educational programming we will offer through June. In some cases, we don't yet have all of the details to share with you. You can consult the [calendar tab of our website](#) to learn more details as they become available.

Important items to remember for your next visit:

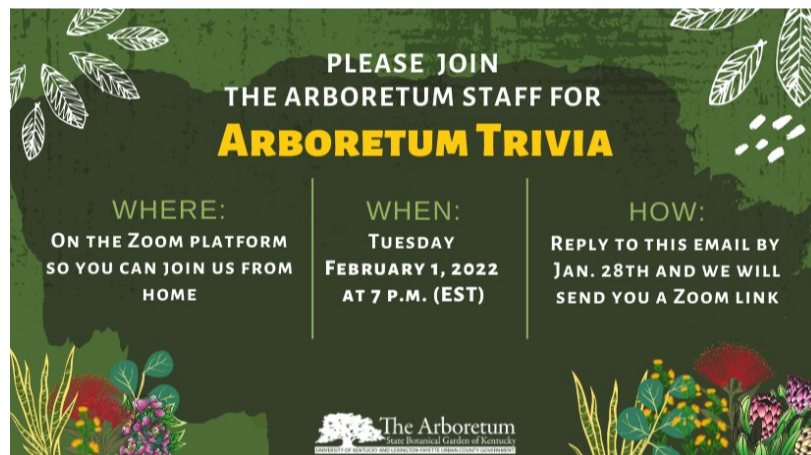
- **Face coverings (a mask or other method) must be worn inside all UK buildings, regardless of your vaccination status.** This applies to the Dorothea Smith Oatts Visitor Center and its restrooms, as well as the outdoor restroom facilities.

- The Visitor Center is operating under **winter hours: 9 am to 4 pm, Monday through Friday.**
- If UK has a delayed opening or is closed for the day, **the Visitor Center and outdoor restrooms follow the same schedule.**
- **Events at Kroger Field** (e.g. football games, concerts, etc.) have the potential to impact your ability to access The Arboretum from Alumni Drive and/or to park here. We will make every effort to provide information on [our website!](#)

Education & Programming

There is always something interesting to see on the grounds at The Arboretum and our educational programming for 2022 reflects topics that may be of interest to our visitors.

FEBRUARY



You're invited to join our staff to play **Arboretum Zoom Trivia** from the comfort of your home! We guarantee you will have fun, meet others who support The Arboretum, and learn more about plants and plant-adjacent information. Don't be intimidated if you aren't an expert! All are welcomed and encouraged to join, regardless of knowledge level.

You can participate with a friend or family member and be on the same team and help each other with trivia questions. If you don't have someone you want to participate with, no worries! This is a great opportunity to meet new friends

who also love plants and The Arboretum.

Pre-registration is required and easy to accomplish. Email us **(by January 28th)** at arboretum@uky.edu and let us know your name (or names if more than one person from your home will participate), a phone number (in case we need to contact you), and the email address we should use to send you a Zoom link. After we receive your email, we will send you all that you need to join us on **Tuesday, February 1, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. (Eastern time zone).**

If you have any questions, please call us on (859) 257-6955 or send us an email at arboretum@uky.edu and we will be happy to assist. We can't wait to see you!



Terrariums are a great hands-on learning experience for kids! Pick up a kit of materials from The Arboretum and your family can assemble the terrarium from the comfort of your own home.

We shared information about our kit of terrarium materials on our social media and have been overwhelmed by the response. Registration for kits is currently full but we would be happy to add you to the waiting list. Email us at arboretum@uky.edu or call (859) 257-6955 to and tell us your contact information (name, email address and phone number), and the number of kits you wish to purchase. If we can offer you a kit, we will contact you.

Cost is \$10.60 (kit plus tax) per terrarium kit. We accept cash, check, Visa or MasterCard. We will collect payment when you pick up your kit. Please remember to wear a face covering when you enter the Visitor Center.

Registered participants can pick up their kit(s) at The Arboretum on:

Thursday February 17th from 9 am to 4 pm

OR

Friday February 18th from 9 am to 6 pm

We will provide a link to an instructional video from The Arboretum staff on how to assemble the terrarium using the supplies and plants provided.



Children love reading a story related to plants or weather as they follow the **StoryWalk** through The Arboretum's Horticultural Gardens. These stories, chosen by Dawn Bailey, our Education Coordinator, and our partner, the Lexington Public Library, not only encourage reading, but help children connect and learn about the nature around them.

The StoryWalk panels will display *Over and Under the Snow* by Kate Messner and illustrated by Christopher Silas Neal through February. **Don't miss your chance to see this story in January and February!**

MARCH



Jesse Dahl, our Senior Horticulturist, will lead you on a **Cabin Fever Tour** of early spring-blooming flowers at The Arboretum on **Saturday, March 26th** starting at 10 a.m. Jesse will guide you to early spring favorites in bloom at the time. We anticipate you will see eranthus, hellebores, forsythia, daffodils, witchhazel, and bloodroot. While there is no guarantee that these plants will be in bloom at the time, these plants *should* be in bloom. With our many acres of cultivated gardens and displays, you might miss one of these beauties when you visit. With Jesse's guidance, you will have access to his insider's knowledge of the gardens and plants.

Pre-registration is required as the tour group will be limited in size. Send an email to arboretum@uky.edu with the name of the program, your contact information (name, email address and phone number), and the number of people who will join the tour. Please be sure to include all information requested.

Email us at arboretum@uky.edu or call us on (859) 257-6955 to pre-register or to ask questions. **This tour is free, but donations are always appreciated!**

APRIL



KENTUCKY CHILDREN'S GARDEN OPENING DATE:

Thursday, April 1, 2022

2022 Season Hours: Wednesday - Saturday | 10 am - 5 pm

Are you ready for the **Kentucky Children's Garden (KCG)** to open?!? We're preparing to open for the 2022 season on Thursday April 1st. We hope you are as ready as Dawn Bailey, our Education Coordinator and KCG Manager, is to once again welcome you for fun and educational programming, planting the raised beds, exploring the stream, catching tadpoles in the pond, watering flowers, watching Percy and Thomas, and playing in the log cabin.

Is a Seasonal KCG Membership right for you?

We offer a **Seasonal KCG Membership** for \$100, with a 10% discount for **Arboretum Friends**. We also offer \$5 off if you were a previous seasonal member and bring your card with you to renew your 2022 KCG membership. And you can receive one or both discounts!

A seasonal membership provides you and your family (up to five people per visit) admission to visit the garden every day we are open in the 2022 season. Your "family" can include grandparents, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, friends of your children--any five people in your group.

[Click here](#) to access the KCG season membership form. You will need to download the form, fill in the information, and return to us with payment (check, Visa or MasterCard). Alternatively, you can download the form and complete it at home, then bring the form and payment to the Visitor Center. We regret that we cannot take payment information over the phone and we do need the form to be completely filled out.

Interested in supporting The Arboretum and becoming an **Arboretum Friend**? Learn all about it on our website by [clicking here](#).

MAY

***Protecting and Connecting Urban Tree Collections
in a Changing Climate***



Claire Hilbrecht, Lead Technician, measures the diameter at breast height (DBH) of a honeylocust in a Lexington neighborhood.

Arboretum staff are collaborating with the Urban Forest Initiative (UFI) and others at UK to better understand the current and future effects of climate change, and how we can adapt our collection management policies to meet future needs. Claire Hilbrecht, UFI Lead Technician, is working on a multi-faceted project involving The Arboretum, the UK Campus and the community of Lexington. Read on to find out what is being offered and how you can participate.

Part 1: Protecting and Connecting Urban Tree Collections in a Changing Climate webinar

Claire has collected data from native trees in our Walk Across Kentucky Collection and our Horticultural Collection, in addition to trees on the UK Campus and in neighborhoods across Lexington, to develop baseline information. She will present **Protecting and Connecting Urban Tree Collections in a Changing Climate** on Wednesday May 11, 2022 at 12:30 p.m. via a Zoom webinar. The presentation will discuss how Kentucky plants

are responding to climate change. Participants will learn how native trees will be affected by climate change and how community members can care for their local tree canopies amidst these changes. Participants will also learn about the work that is being done in Lexington and at The Arboretum to help prepare our tree canopies for a changing climate.

Wednesday May 11, 2022 at 12:30 p.m. (on Zoom)

For more information about the webinar, contact claire.hilbrecht@uky.edu or arboretum@uky.edu

Part 2: Tree Inventory Workshop

This in-person workshop at The Arboretum will teach volunteers to identify common tree species, as well as how to measure and assess tree size and health. No prior tree ID experience is necessary, just a love of nature and a concern for the wellbeing of our shared tree canopy. Participants should bring a notebook and pencil, as well as a tape measure and charged smartphone if they have access to these items, though no materials are required.

Saturday May 14, 2022, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (in-person)

To pre-register for the Tree Inventory Workshop at The Arboretum, send an email to arboretum@uky.edu

Part 3: Community Science Tree Inventories at 12 Lexington Parks

Now, put everything you have learned in the webinar and in the workshop to use! Volunteers are needed to inventory trees in 12 public parks in Lexington as a part of a community science initiative to help prepare our local tree canopies for climate change.

One park from each Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government (LFUCG) Council District has been selected to be inventoried and mapped. Many Lexington parks have significant tree collections that benefit the health and well-being of a broad audience. The LFUCG Parks and Recreation Master Plan consistently highlights walking and hiking trails, natural areas, and small neighborhood parks as areas that are important to and well used by community members. Connecting these tree collections to climate adaptation management strategies will help protect these public outdoor resources in a changing climate so that they can continue to be used and enjoyed by a wide audience across Lexington. Results from tree inventories will be shared with LFUCG staff to help inform adaptation practices such as tree plantings and land management for a resilient landscape.

Dates TBD

To participate in conducting tree inventories at Lexington parks, contact claire.hilbrecht@uky.edu

*The climate change project is sponsored by
the UK Student Sustainability Council. Thank you!*

JUNE



The **Birdhouse Display** in the Horticultural Gardens and Displays is coming back--in a new way! This year's birdhouse entries will be displayed in the Horticultural Gardens for the entire month of June. All birdhouses that are entered will be displayed in the gardens. Due to limited space and ongoing COVID concerns, we will not be able to display any birdhouses in the Visitor Center, nor will we conduct an auction.

We're looking for six volunteers to be part of Jesse Dahl's working group helping with this year's event. Their tasks will be:

1. Help us spread the word to potential birdhouse-makers.
2. Help us install poles for birdhouses submitted.
3. Help us ensure the birdhouses are in good condition during the month of June.
4. Help us with take-down after the display is finished.

If you are interested in being a working group member, send an email to arboretum@uky.edu and look for a birdhouse entry form on our [website](#) in March.

Arboretum Staff News

We welcome **Jess Slade**, the new Native Plants Collection Manager and Curator, to The Arboretum. The Native Plants Collection, synonymous with the Walk Across Kentucky (WAKY) native plant collection and The Arboretum Woods, comprises approximately 80 acres of The Arboretum. It's a big task and we're delighted to have Jess join us.

Jess is a Lexington native who is passionate about Kentucky's native plants and natural areas. Prior to joining us at The Arboretum, Jess worked for the Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves, where she managed state nature preserves across the Bluegrass region. Her work there focused on habitat management for rare species and ecological communities. Previously, she managed the natural areas at the Morris Arboretum in Philadelphia and worked as a horticulturist in public and private gardens in New York City. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Art and Art History from New York University and a Master's degree in Environmental Studies from the University of Pennsylvania.

Jess is especially excited to steward the Walk Across Kentucky native plant collection as she has watched the collection grow and the trees mature since she was a teenager. Having experienced first-hand some of Kentucky's most special natural areas, she hopes to continue expanding the Arboretum's collection to better represent these communities in the collection and educate the public about Kentucky's natural heritage.



Welcome, Jess Slade!

Volunteer Updates

THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS!

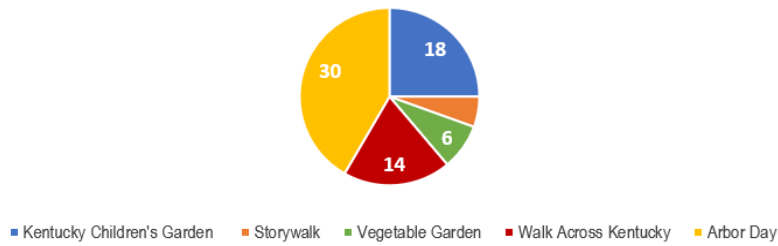
Thanks to our wonderful volunteers for another season of accomplishments and comradery! We have added the second quarter's volunteer roster and their corresponding volunteer hours to the first quarter information shared in our last newsletter. The images below provide a summary of the two quarters. It's clear from this information how much we depend on your willingness to help! All of the staff thank each volunteer for their participation and support.

If you did not log your volunteer hours with a staff member, please contact Heather.ortt@uky.edu so that we can amend our records *and* so we can follow up with staff about ensuring they offer these logs to you.

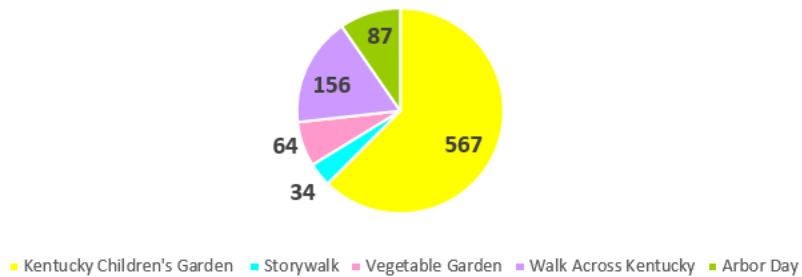
The first chart below depicts the number of volunteers who participated in each area. Our records indicate there were **72 volunteers who actively participated in the first and second quarters of Fiscal Year 2022 (July 1-December 31, 2021)**. It's worth noting that some volunteers participate in more than one area and that some volunteers volunteer for one-time events, like Arbor Day.

The second chart shows that those dedicated volunteers provided **908 hours of assistance from July 1 to December 31, 2021**. Another way to look at these impressive numbers is each volunteer contributed, **on average, 13 hours of assistance** for a grand total of **121 days of assistance in all areas!** We appreciate each hour you invest with us because *you* help us achieve our mission. Thank you!

Number of Unique Volunteers
(July 1-December 31, 2021)



Volunteer Hours
(July 1-December 31, 2021)



2022 VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

We're gearing up for the 2022 season of volunteer opportunities! Our regularly occurring volunteer opportunities in 2022 are shown in the table below. Each person, whether a new or returning volunteer, must complete and submit volunteer forms each calendar year before they can volunteer. We are in the midst of updating 2022 forms and you will be able to find them on the [Volunteer](#)

[tab of our website](#) or in the Visitor Center in February.

2022 Recurring Weekly Volunteer Opportunities			
Day	Time	Where	Start Date
Tuesday	10 am - 12 pm	Horticultural Gardens (rotates each week)	March 22, 2022
Wednesday	10 am - 12 pm	Vegetable Garden	March 23, 2022
Thursday	10 am - 12 pm	Walk Across KY	February 10, 2022
Wednesday through Saturday	10 am - 5 pm	Kentucky Children's Garden (KCG) *	April 1, 2022
Tuesday	9 am - 12 pm	KCG Field Trips *	April 12, 2022
* All Kentucky Children's Garden volunteers must: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Undergo a background check to work with children• Participate in a 1-hour update on Zoom (applies to returning and new volunteers)• Participate in a 2-hour best practices Zoom training (applies to new volunteers)			

If you are interested in volunteering in the Kentucky Children's Garden, we will offer two dates for required training.

Thursday March 10

- 6:30 pm - KCG Volunteer Training Update (required for both returning and new volunteers)
- 7:30 pm - KCG Volunteer Best Practices Training (required for new volunteers)

Tuesday March 22

- 6:30 pm - KCG Volunteer Training Update (required for both returning and new volunteers)
- 7:30 pm - KCG Volunteer Best Practices Training (required for new volunteers)

[Email us](#) to let us know you're interested in volunteering and which session(s) you would like to attend.

Support The Arboretum!

Our Annual Giving Campaign for Fiscal Year 2022 (July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022) is ongoing. If you've already made a donation to this important effort, thank you!

Your support makes possible everything we do. Thanks to your continued philanthropy, Dawn Bailey, our Education Coordinator, will be able to create and deliver programming in the Kentucky Children's Garden and provide learning experiences for our UK Student interns. Your gifts will help Jesse Dahl to maintain the Horticultural Gardens and continue developing the Perennial Teaching Garden. Your support will allow Jess Slade, Native Plants Collection Manager, to develop collection trips to add to our representations of the seven physiographic regions of Kentucky.

By supporting The Arboretum, you provide an immediate impact and allow us to plan for future success.

Your annual gift can support any of our existing gift funds or endowments. A partial sampling of options includes:

- The Dorothea Smith Oatts Visitor Center Expansion and Renovation gift fund and its associated endowment
- The Walk Across Kentucky Native Plants Collection gift fund
- The Horticultural Gardens and Displays gift fund
- The Kentucky Children's Garden gift fund
- The Flight 5191 Memorial Rose Garden gift fund
- The UK-LFUCG Arboretum endowment

Please contact Arboretum director [Molly Davis](#) if you have questions. We would love to help you select the area or need that best suits your interests and goals. All of the staff thank you for considering a donation to The Arboretum.

One Day for UK (OD4UK) 2022 is coming soon!

This spring, The Arboretum will once again be a featured area of need during **One Day for UK**. On this day we will bring together our supporters to share why they love The Arboretum and to pledge their support. Be sure to mark April 21, 2022 in your calendar and stay tuned for more information on how to

celebrate The Arboretum all day long!



Help us reach others!

We hope you enjoy reading our newsletter. If you know of someone who would like to receive it, please ask them to send an email to arboretum@uky.edu to let us know they wish to be added to our listserv.

The Arboretum [website](#) continues to be our primary resource of information and contains a wealth of information.



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November-December 2021 Arboretum Newsletter*

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