



The Arboretum

State Botanical Garden of Kentucky

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY AND LEXINGTON FAYETTE URBAN COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Quarterly Newsletter

January through March 2023

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Volunteer Spotlight



Top: volunteers John Davis, Bob Klausing, and Liz Hobson help to mulch tree rings and trails; above left, volunteer John Hartman cuts invasive honeysuckle; and above right, volunteers Bob Klausing, Roger Sugarman, Liz Hobson, and Peggy Moody relax after a morning's work.

On most Thursday mornings, **Liz Hobson** rises early to feed Princess, her donkey, then leaves her 50 wooded acres along the Kentucky River in Jessamine County to spend a couple of hours volunteering at The Arboretum in

Lexington. "I do this because I love native plants," she said as she spread mulch around trees on a cool but sunny morning in October. "I have a lot of native plants in my woods, and I love a place [like The Arboretum] that protects native plants." Hobson, who is retired from a career at Kentucky Educational Television, regularly volunteers on Thursday mornings with the Walk Across Kentucky (WAKY) volunteers.

The WAKY is the 65-acre native plant collection that showcases plants and landscapes of the state's seven physiographic regions. The WAKY volunteers number about 20; a dozen or so show up early every Thursday to do what needs to be done. They spread mulch along paths and around trees. They push back against invasive species like bush honeysuckle and Callery pears. They pull weeds and plant plants. This year, they also tagged Monarch butterflies, the endangered species that finds The Arboretum an especially welcoming place to visit.

"We work year-round," said Jess Slade, The Arboretum's Native Collection Manager and Curator. "It does get cold in the winter, but some people like to get out and move around and we're happy to have their help." (The Thursday work sessions are cancelled for freezing temperatures, snow, rain, and holidays). The WAKY volunteers have widely varied backgrounds. Most are retired. Some have been volunteering for years (in Hobson's case, 22 years).

Here are snapshots of some of the people who I talked with as they worked at making short work of the mulch piles on that sunny day in October.

- **Faith Fiene** is a retired geologist. She was in charge of more than 20,000 acres as head of the Environmental Branch of the Kentucky Department of Military Affairs. It was in that role, she said, that "I learned about this kind of stuff from my staff." After retiring, she became an Extension Master Gardener and Master Naturalist and started volunteering at The Arboretum. "It's a convenient place to volunteer," she said.
- **John Hartman** is a retired University of Kentucky plant pathologist. He has been involved with The Arboretum since its inception, and with the land on which it sits for even longer. "When I moved here this was just farmland," he said. "Where the water tower is now I had field plots, growing tomatoes and peppers and checking for their resistance to different diseases."
- **Joan Fukushige** started volunteering in 2022 and has gone back to school for a degree in landscape architecture. "I enjoy being out in nature," she said. "It's so beautiful out here."
- **Bob Klausung** is retired from the city parks department and has a densely landscaped yard that backs up to The Arboretum. "I need to be doing something besides working in my yard, and this is a lot of fun," he said. "It gives me some connections [with other people], too."
- **John Davis** recently retired from a 40-year career as an insurance broker and has been coming to The Arboretum since 1994. "It's for fun and fitness," he said. "What better way to be outdoors, breathe deeply, and get some exercise?"
- **Chad Blair** had been doing telecommunications research and development at a test laboratory in town, a job that ended with the pandemic.

"I'm between jobs and needed to do something to keep me from getting lazy," he said. "I've been coming here for 20 years and really love the place."

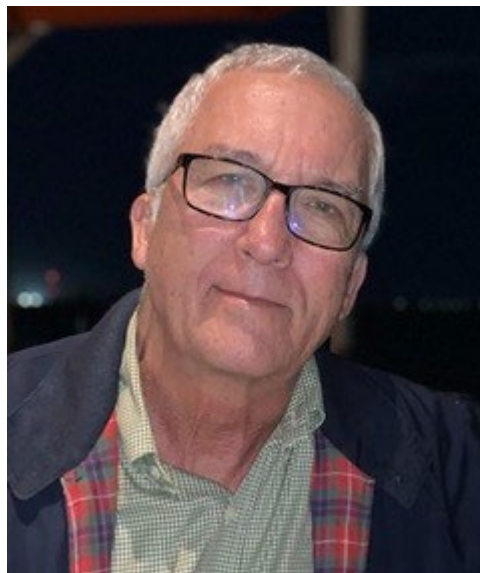


Above: volunteer Dan Patrick prepares to release a just-tagged Monarch butterfly.

While all volunteer opportunities have finished for calendar year 2022, the Thursday morning WAKY group will be the earliest to resume their efforts (in

January 2023) if the weather cooperates. Check our website <https://arboretum.ca.uky.edu/volunteer> in January 2023 to download, fill out, and return a 2023 Volunteer Waiver and Release, a Volunteer Information and Emergency Contact Form, and a UK Standard Media Release Form to us. This is required for all new and returning volunteers. If you have questions, please send an email to Arboretum@uky.edu.

This is the second in a series of articles about each of our four primary volunteer areas--the Kentucky Children's Garden, the Walk Across Kentucky (WAKY) Native Plants Collection, the Horticultural Gardens, and the Demonstration Vegetable Garden. The Arboretum staff thanks all of our volunteers for their efforts in 2022!



Editor's note: A big thank you to volunteer Andy Mead, a retired Herald-Leader reporter who specialized in environmental issues and is a former Arboretum Advisory Board member, who gladly offered his assistance with articles about our volunteers. Thanks again, Andy!

Volunteer and Donor Appreciation Brunch & Arboretum Friends Elections

Saturday February 11, 2023!

Arboretum staff started a tradition of thanking our volunteers from the previous calendar year with an appreciation brunch back in 2018. With the inception of our donor **and** volunteer recognition program in 2020, all donors and volunteers are **Arboretum Friends**. However, the onset of COVID-19 prevented us from being able to thank our volunteers and donors in person for two years. We are

delighted to be able to return in 2023 to an in-person gathering to honor our valued and much-appreciated active volunteers and donors! This is our way of saying thank you for your support and help over the year, and we do hope you will join us on Saturday February 11, 2023 starting at 10:00 a.m. in the E. S. Good Barn.

Donors and volunteers will be able to visit friends and meet others with an interest in The Arboretum and staff will take a few moments to share updates. You will also have a chance to take home Arboretum-themed thank you presents and a potted plant or bulbs selected and grown by Senior Horticulturist Jesse Dahl and his team.

The only thing you have to do is to let us know you plan to attend so we can be sure to have enough food and drinks. You can either send an email to Arboretum@uky.edu with your name, phone number, and number in your group, or call us at (859) 257-6955 with this information.



The Arboretum's

Donor & Volunteer

Appreciation Brunch

Returns!

Please let us thank you!

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 11, 2023
10:00 am at the E.S. Good Barn
1451 University Drive
Lexington, KY 40545

*Please R.S.V.P. to Arboretum@uky.edu or
(859) 257-6955 by Feb. 1, 2023*

All active volunteers are eligible for nomination to the Advisory Board as Friends' representatives. The Arboretum Advisory Board's members includes two Arboretum Friends, and it is time to nominate and elect new representatives to serve for two years. Elections will take place at the Donor and Volunteer Appreciation Brunch on **Saturday February 11, 2023.**

We want to extend our thanks and appreciation to **Zinnah Caluag** and **Kent Barker** who were elected in February 2020 to serve for two years as Arboretum Friends representatives. Because of COVID-19 and our inability to meet in-person and elect new representatives, they have served almost three years.

Nominations are open, now through February 1, 2023, for two (2) Arboretum Friends to serve on The Arboretum Advisory Board for a two-year term starting February 11, 2023.

Schedule and Next Steps

- **February 1, 2023** – Nomination forms are due by this date. They may be submitted via email to Arboretum@uky.edu or mailed to The Arboretum, University of Kentucky, 500 Alumni Drive, Lexington, KY 40503.
 - The fillable nomination form is available on our website at <https://arboretum.ca.uky.edu/friends-representatives>
 - Hard copies are available in the Dorothea Smith Oatts Visitor Center during regular office hours (Monday through Friday, 9 am to 4 pm)
- **February 3, 2023** - Nominations will be announced at <https://arboretum.ca.uky.edu/friends-representatives>
- **February 6 to 10, 2023** – Arboretum Friends who are not able to attend in-person on February 11, 2023 may vote for their preferred candidate at the Visitor Center from 9 am to 4 pm (Monday through Friday). *Note: must show Friends Benefits card to vote.*
- **February 11, 2023** – Arboretum Friends may cast their vote for their preferred candidate at the event. All votes cast in person at the Visitor Center and at the meeting shall be tallied at the meeting and announced at the end of the meeting.

The candidate receiving the highest number of votes will serve on the Advisory Board as the voting representative and the candidate with the second highest number of votes will serve as the second Arboretum Friends representative. Both representatives are expected to attend Advisory Board meetings.

Current Arboretum Advisory Board members

University appointees:

- Stacy Borden - term ends 6/30/2026
- Ned Crankshaw - co-chair - term ends 12/31/2022
- Ellen Crocker - term ends 6/30/2026

- Krista Jacobsen - term ends 12/31/2025
- Tressa Neal - term ends 6/30/2026

LFUCG appointees:

- Jeremy Brann - term ends 1/1/2025
- Hannah LeGris - co-chair - current term ends 12/31/2022 (Ms. LeGris will be re-appointed as co-chair in January 2023)

- Mary Beth McCormac - term ends 13/21/2023
- Tina Nance - term ends 1/20/2025
- Amy Stout - term ends 1/1/2026

Arboretum Friends representatives:

- Kent Barker - term ends 2/11/2023
- Zinnah Caluag - term ends 2/11/2023

WAKY Plant Collection Development

2022 has been a fruitful year for seed collecting and planning to expand and enrich The Arboretum's native plant collection (familiarily known as the "Walk Across Kentucky" or "WAKY"). The native plants team have begun taking collections for a future barrens and glades exhibit in the Pennyryle region of the WAKY and plan to continue collecting through 2023 and beyond. Initial collections include seed from a high-quality prairie and oak barrens community in Hardin County, Kentucky and seed from roadside rock outcrop communities in Clinton and Russell Counties.

To preserve the genetic integrity and conservation value of our native plant collection, plants and seed are wild-collected from natural areas, with permission from landowners, and then propagated on site or in a greenhouse at UK's Horticulture Research Farm for future planting in the native collection. Most native plants have some seed dormancy requirement for germination and our team simulates the natural conditions required for each species to break dormancy by carefully cleaning and stratifying seeds that need a cold moist period to germinate. Some of these seeds are placed in a refrigerator drawer with slightly moistened media while others are planted directly outdoors in trays and pots to meet their dormancy requirements more naturally.

In addition to seed collection from natural areas across the state, The Arboretum has received several generous donations from partners in Western Kentucky including plants from the Mississippi Embayment region and wild-collected seed from the Shawnee Hills. We are especially excited to be growing on "daughter" bulbs of our native Turk's cap lilies (*Lilium superbum*) for future display. A collection of dogwoods (*Cornus* sp. and *Swida* sp.) and willows (*Salix* sp.) that were donated by local botanist Julian Campbell in 2021 were recently accessioned and staff devoted time to clearing invasives from the area around these plants in our Bluegrass swale. Having this collection of various dogwoods

and willows in one place should provide an excellent educational opportunity to compare the differences within these botanically challenging genera.

Finally, 2022 marked the beginning of a partnership with the Kentucky Plant Conservation Alliance and the Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves, to target and grow Kentucky's rare species for both restoration and ex situ conservation at The Arboretum. We targeted three species as part of this partnership in 2022, including snow trillium (*Trillium nivale*), Ozark least trillium (*Trillium pusillum* var. *ozarkanum*), and prairie gentian (*Gentiana puberulenta*).

In total, we have accessioned 98 new taxa for the Walk Across Kentucky native plant collection in 2022. This includes 36 woody taxa, 50 forbs, eight grasses, and three lianas. The native plants team looks forward to watching these plants grow in the coming season and sharing them with Arboretum visitors in the future!





WAKY native plant collection staff at work: top left, Judson Collins collects post oak (Quercus stellata) acorns in Hardin County; top right, Judson cleans blue false indigo (Baptisia australis) seed; bottom left, Prairie gentian (Gentiana puberulenta) seed; and bottom right, Wes Hansen scarifies seed with sandpaper.

Horticultural Gardens and Displays

For several years, we have been in the process of developing a garden conifer collection in the Horticultural Gardens. The Garden Conifer Collection occupies the space between the Fragrance Garden and the Flight 5191 Memorial Rose Garden. The hillside where the collection can be found is ideal for conifers providing good drainage and air movement, while also allowing visitors to see them from different angles.

Most of the conifers are cultivars that have been selected for their slow growth, small size at maturity, and attractive shapes and needle and scale colors. This collection is a great resource for gardeners with limited space in which to plant. Some of the most notable specimens in the collection are the dragon-eye Japanese red pine (*Pinus densiflora* 'Oculus Draconis') and Whipcord western red cedar (*Thuja plicata* 'Whipcord'). They are strikingly attractive plants year-round, and even more so in winter when snow falls. We hope you have a chance to explore the Garden Conifer Collection this winter to see them at their best!



Top: dragon-eye Japanese red pine (Pinus densiflora 'Oculus Draconis'); above, close-up of Japanese red pine (Pinus densiflora 'Oculus Draconis'); and below, Whipcord western red cedar (Thuja plicata 'Whipcord').



Educational Programming

THE KENTUCKY CHILDREN'S GARDEN

The Kentucky Children's Garden (KCG) will open for the 2023 season on **Saturday April 1st.**

You can purchase a **membership for the 2023 Season** for \$100 (the same price as in 2022), with a 10% discount for **Arboretum Friends**. We will also offer \$5 off the price of \$100 if you were a previous seasonal member and if bring your card with you to purchase your 2023 KCG membership--and you can receive one or both discounts!

A seasonal membership is a great holiday gift and provides for up to five admissions per visit to the garden every day we are open in the 2023 season. Your "family" can include grandparents, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, friends of your children--any five people in your group who are ages two and above. Children under the age of two years may visit the garden free of charge.

The KCG 2023 season membership form is available on our website at

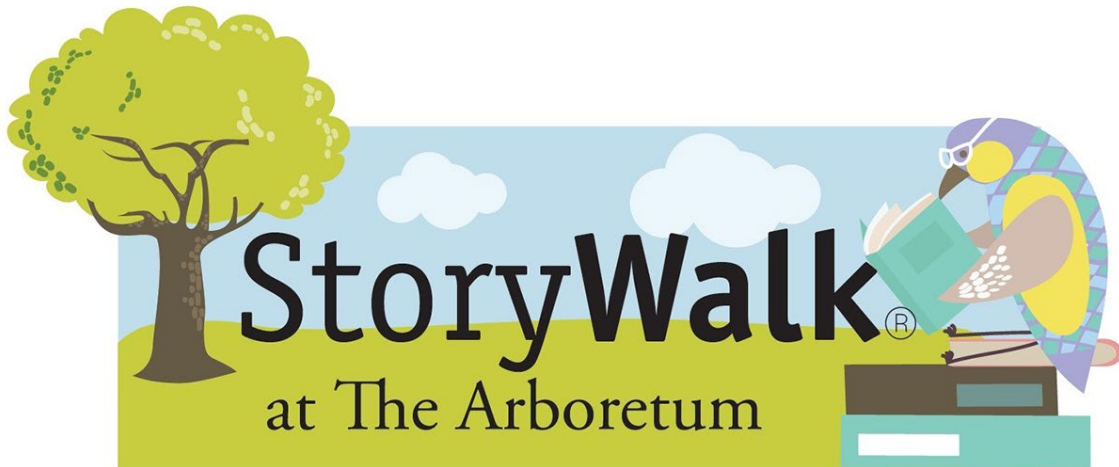
<https://arboretum.ca.uky.edu/content/kentucky-childrens-garden-membership>.

You will need to download the form, fill in the information, and mail to us with payment (check, Visa or MasterCard accepted). 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 credit card information over the phone and the form must be completely filled out.

If you are interested in supporting The Arboretum and becoming an **Arboretum Friend to obtain the 10% KCG season membership discount**, learn more on our website by [clicking here](#).

Please note that the 2023 daily admission price will rise to \$4 per person for visitors ages two and above. Additionally, the cost per person for school field trips will rise to \$5 per person. Thank you for your support of the garden as we strive to continue to offer an educational and fun experience in the midst of rising operational costs.

JANUARY - MARCH



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 environment around them. The StoryWalk is also a great activity if you visit with children when the Kentucky Children's Garden isn't open.

The **StoryWalk** panels will display:

- **January through March 2023 - *Winter Dance***
written by Marion Dane Bauer and illustrated by Richard Jones
-

FEBRUARY



Terrariums are a great hands-on learning experience for kids! For \$10.60 (kit price plus 6% sales tax) you will receive a terrarium kit to assemble at home. Your kit will include a link to an instructional video, where Arboretum staff will teach you how to make the terrarium using the supplies and plants provided.

Pre-registration required as materials are limited. For more information or to register send an email to Arboretum@uky.edu or call us at **(859) 257-6955** with the following information:

- The name of the program (Terrarium Kits for Kids)
- Your name, email address and phone number
- The number of kits you would like to purchase

Registered participants will be able to pick up their kit(s) at The Arboretum's Visitor Center on:

Thursday, February 16 (from 9 am to 6 pm)

or on

Friday, February 17 (from 9 am to 4 pm)

We will collect your payment when you arrive to pick up your kit (or kits). Cash, check, Visa, and MasterCard are accepted forms of payment.

MARCH



The Arboretum will host **Little Sprouts** in March 2023! This fun and educational event series will take place most Wednesday mornings in March at the Dorothea Smith Oatts Visitor Center. Each session has a special theme that begins with a story and hands-on exploration. Next, participants will rotate through craft, science experiment, and planting stations. We will finish by going outside to explore for a short hike (weather permitting).

This program is suitable for children 3 to 5 years of age. The cost is \$4 per child per session and pre-registration is required. You can pre-register by sending an email to Arboretum@uky.edu or you can call us at (859) 257-6955. Please include the program date(s) and session that you want to attend, your name, your child's name (or children's names), your phone number and your email address.

Program 1 - Wednesday March 1, 2023 - Animal Habitats in the Garden
Session 1: 10 am - 10:45 am

Session 2: 11 am to 11:45 am

Program 2 - Wednesday March 8, 2023 - Flower Power

Session 1: 10 am - 10:45 am

Session 2: 11 am to 11:45 am

Program 3 - Wednesday March 15, 2023 - Roots, Fruits, and Shoots

Session 1: 10 am - 10:45 am

Session 2: 11 am to 11:45 am

Program 4 - Wednesday March 22, 2023 - Trees, Roots, and Leaves

Session 1: 10 am - 10:45 am

Session 2: 11 am to 11:45 am

BRADFORD PEAR BOUNTY PROGRAM & REMOVAL EFFORTS

This fall, The Arboretum partnered with UK's Department of Forestry and Natural Resources and with the Lexington Fayette Urban County Government (LFUCG) to help pilot Fayette County's first Bradford Pear Bounty Program. Through this program, residents had the opportunity to receive a free native tree replacement in exchange for proof of removal of a Bradford pear tree from their property. 'Bradford' is a popular cultivar of the Callery pear tree (*Pyrus calleryana*) that has been widely planted in landscapes across the region. Unfortunately, these trees have proven to be poor choices for the landscape due to their weak wood that is prone to breaking during storm events. In addition, through dispersal of the tree's fruits by birds and other wildlife, the species has invaded natural areas across Kentucky, thus displacing native species.

To publicize this program and the impact this species has on our landscapes and natural areas, The Arboretum hosted a Callery Pear workshop as part of our October 22, 2022 Arbor Day programming. We also hosted a pick-up event for native tree replacements. LFUCG arborists will continue this program through the winter by removing up to 75 trees from easements within Fayette County and native tree replacements will be distributed in the spring.

Visitors to The Arboretum may have seen the impacts of Callery pear on our natural areas--they are especially noticeable during the spring while the trees are in bloom. With help from UK's arboriculture team to chip debris, our native plants team recently spent several days removing mature Callery pear trees from our Bluegrass swale. Now that we have removed the seed source from The Arboretum, our team should be able to combat re-emergence of these trees from the seed bank and favor the growth of native species. Overall, this should help to improve the health and biodiversity of The Arboretum's natural areas!



Above photo: a proliferation of Callery pear trees (photo credit: Ellen Crocker); bottom photo, Callery pear removal in progress in The Arboretum's Bluegrass swale.



Happy Holidays!

As 2022 draws to a close, the staff of The Arboretum thank each and every person who this year strolled through the Native Plants Collection, noted a new plant or vegetable in the Horticultural Gardens, attended an educational program or splashed in the stream in the Kentucky Children's Garden, and volunteered to help weed, mulch, prune, plant or be a greeter in the Kentucky Children's Garden. There are countless ways to experience and be part of these 100 acres that comprise a community and state-wide treasure--The Arboretum, State Botanical Garden of Kentucky. Our staff strive every day to maintain, improve upon, and add to the natural and built framework for which we are responsible. If The Arboretum plays a role in your life, in your daily, monthly, or annual activities, we hope you will consider making a year-end gift commensurate with the value you place on it.

Here is how you can make a difference to this special place:

- **You may send a check**, payable to The Arboretum, to 500 Alumni Drive, Lexington, KY 40503. ***All gifts postmarked on or before 12/31/2022***

will be processed and acknowledged as a 2022 gift unless otherwise specified by the donor. A donation form can be downloaded from our website at <https://arboretum.ca.uky.edu/content/forms>. The donation form includes information on Arboretum Friends levels of support, as well as some of the funds you can support.

- **You can make a credit card gift** at UK's Network for Good website at <https://uky.networkforgood.com/causes/4751-the-arboretum>. While three options are provided, you can search for other Arboretum funds and customize your gift. These three funds are featured on the Network for Good:

- the Development Fund
<https://uky.networkforgood.com/causes/5482-arboretum-development-fund>
- the Arboretum Center Fund (to renovate and expand the Dorothea Smith Oatts Visitor Center) <https://uky.networkforgood.com/causes/5050-arboretum-center-fund>
- the Dorothea Smith Oatts Endowment Fund <https://uky.networkforgood.com/causes/5051-dorothea-smith-oatts-endowment-fund>

- **If you have questions or concerns about year-end giving** during Winter Break (Saturday, December 24, 2022 through Monday, January 2, 2023) when our Visitor Center is closed, please email UK's Philanthropy office at Philanthropy@uky.edu or leave a voicemail at **(859) 257-3911**, and someone will contact you within one business day.

- **UK Staff and Faculty** can set up recurring gifts to many worthwhile programs, units, and departments, including The Arboretum, via payroll deduction through their myUK portal <https://myuk.uky.edu/irj/portal>
 - First, click on Employee Self Service
 - Next, click on Giving
 - Next, click on UK Gift - Payroll Deduction
 - You will arrive at the "Manage Payroll Deductions" where you will "Add a new deduction" and click "next page"
 - On the next screen, click on "I want to choose my specific fund(s)."
 - On the same screen, you can "Search fund by name" (type in "Arboretum") or "Filter funds by division"
 - If you select "Filter funds by division" you will next select "UK Colleges", then next select "College of Agriculture, Food and Environment".
 - Three Arboretum funds appear in the drop down menu.

Please know that every gift, no matter the size, means a lot to all of us who care for the collections, provide educational programming, and value The Arboretum. Thank you for your gift of support!

*Happy holidays
and a joyful 2023!*



Photo credit: Betty Hall Photography

Plan Your Visit

- The Visitor Center is open Monday through Friday from 9 am to 4 pm through March 31, 2023.
- **The Visitor Center will be closed for Winter Break from Saturday, December 24, 2022 through Monday, January 2, 2023.**
- If the University closes due to inclement weather, the Visitor Center and outdoor restrooms will also be closed.
- **Please note that the paved path through the Walk Across Kentucky is not salted or cleared of ice or snow.**
- Starting April 1, 2023, the Visitor Center will be open Tuesday through Saturday from 9 am to 4 pm.
- The Kentucky Children's Garden will open for the 2023 season on Saturday April 1st. Admission must be purchased in the Visitor Center.

Stay Connected!

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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October-December 2022 Arboretum Newsletter

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Lexington, KY 40503

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